



EST. 2023

WeSEE Trees CTN May 2023 update

WOW, UWE Volunteer Day!

Our first volunteers helped out on site on Monday 24th April 2023.



☀️ W.O.W what a day we had on Monday 24th April! ☀️

We welcomed our first volunteer group on site. Occupational Therapy students from University of West of England, opted (thanks to encouragement from Lauren De Gelas) to choose WeSEE Trees as their volunteer W.O.W day project. We even had one student travel all the way from Hereford to join us!

They got stuck right in, putting up a shelter (as the day's weather was not particularly great.... including a massive hailstorm at one point! 🌧️), rigging up a camping toilet, courtesy of Della Green so no one would be caught short! We also discussed plans for a compostable toilet on site in the future!

They did a huge litter-pick (only half of which is pictured!), and strimmed as much as they could of the knee-high nettles! Nettle tea was also tested.



Big thanks to the muscles on site who managed to secure the broken fence and hopefully deter further entry! 💪

North Somerset Council had already installed a wooden fence near the houses to ensure the rear of the site was secure. So we're good to start progressing site set-up.



To top off an awesome day we had an inaugural tree planting for the community orchard area, with a pear tree donated by Della and secured in by Andy, the Climate & Community Development Officer at Weston-super-Mare Town Council , who's been supporting the project to ensure its success 🙌



So lovely to see what can be achieved when many people come together!

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Planning application submitted on 9th May to determine if prior approval is required for the siting of a steel storage container (courtesy of the SEEMonster project) with a double door opening at one end on Land East Of The Maltlands. Planning Portal Reference: [23/P/0952/AGA](#)

Plant Healthy - pilot group scheme

A Plant Healthy Certification checklist meeting was had with Moor Trees in Devon on 12th May. We are one of 5 community tree nurseries in the SW who are part of this group pilot scheme. As part of our successful BioSecurity Grant application (we received £1,982.37 from The Fellowship of the Trees as part of funding provided by **Trees Outside Woodland Partners**; The Tree Council, DEFRA, Forest Research and Norfolk County Council). We have been given the opportunity to share learning / resources / certification for Plant Healthy accreditation. This will hopefully set the tone for the future success of the CTN>.

[More info on Plant Healthy online](#)

Volunteers - the lifeblood of the group 🌹

So far we have a posse of 8 + volunteers who've met up on site, come along to meetings to discuss future plans, and showed real enthusiasm for the project. We want you to let everyone you meet know about what's going on, so they can share the project far and wide and extend a warm welcome to as many interested members of the community as possible. We also have an "online To Do list" in the form of Trello which is proving a useful way of keeping track of all that needs doing.



What's happening next?

- ☐ Securing appropriate insurance to cover all aspects of the group.
- ☐ BioSecurity Grant funding -resource set up
- ☐ Documenting and recording progress of seed/tree growth, and processes around the CTN.
- ☐ Putting together a Wishlist of startup bits and bobs, i.e water butts
- ☐ Looking at available funding opportunities
- ☐ Application to the Forestry Commission to become an approved forest reproductive material (FRM) supplier.
- ☐ Thursday 22nd June 2023 - Plant Healthy site visit
- ☐ Saturday 1st July 2023 - Ten o'clock Talk @ Hub Zero / The Sovereign by WeSEE Trees
- ☐ Online e-learning modules available via Plant Healthy

Maltlands, W-S-M, BS22 8QS
[///apples.museum.bunk](http://apples.museum.bunk)
weseetreesctn@gmail.com



[Weston tree and plant group \(wsmtrees.co.uk\)](http://wsmtrees.co.uk)

PS: We've started pricking out some of the seedlings into the root trainers we received as a successful Copse In A Box recipient. Currently these are being cared for in a home garden, until site set-up has progressed further. We need water on site to help nurture the seeds / saplings. We have been gifted one water butt - but this needs to be

connected to some rainwater collection set up - possibly utilising the shed we've been given, which we hope to install in the coming weeks. Volunteers will definitely be required for the shed installation!

