



Welcome to the

Suffolk Tree Warden Network



Dear new Tree Warden,

Thank you for joining the Suffolk Tree Warden Network!
In joining our network, you have become part of one of the largest network of local tree champions in the United Kingdom.

The Suffolk Tree Warden network (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation as of November 2023) operates as a democratic, open organisation where all members have an equal say in its matters. As a member, you will have the opportunity to voice your opinions, and vote in our Annual General Meetings. Over the year, there are also regular members' meetings, events and training sessions which you will be welcome to join. We are always keen to hear your feedback, positive or negative, as this is what helps us continue to grow and improve.

Your work as a volunteer Tree Warden can involve as much or as little as you have the time and energy for. There is no requirement for you to do a minimum number of hours per week, nor should you feel pressured to participate in activities that are not of interest to you – we are here to encourage you to focus on what you're passionate about.

To start you off in your role as a Tree Warden, this welcome pack includes various guidance, information and ideas which you may find useful.

Please let us know if there is anything else you need – we're always happy to help.

Best wishes,
The Suffolk Tree Warden Network Team





Walks, talks and training events

Many Tree Wardens enjoy getting involved with their communities through organised walks, talks, and training events.

Some of these activities may be put on by organisations for the Tree Wardens to attend, such as hedge laying training courses through the Tree Council, or tree identification courses.

We also encourage Tree Wardens who are interested to organise their own events in their parish. For example, a walk around the local woodland to identify the trees there, or a community tree planting day.

There are plenty of resources available to guide you should you choose to organise your own event, some of which can be found on the page of helpful links at the end of this welcome pack.



Tree nurseries

Another activity that some of our Tree Wardens enjoy getting involved with is our tree nursery programme.

Community tree nurseries can be done on any scale: some have just a few trees that they propagate annually from their garden; some have polytunnels where they can propagate tens of trees at a time. Regardless of the scale of your local tree nursery, we encourage Tree Wardens to get involved if they can – not only is it a rewarding project, but it also helps us provide local tree species, and even bulk up some of our rarest tree species!

The materials and equipment to start community tree nurseries are available through the Suffolk Tree Warden network. If you would like to get involved, please contact us and we can put you in touch with the right people.





Tree surveying and recording



Surveying and recording your parish's trees is an excellent way to help you understand and recognise your local treescape, collect vital information on tree health which can allow careful monitoring of tree diseases, and create records of rare and interesting trees in your area.

Accurate tree records can allow you, your communities, and local authorities better plan future planting efforts, as well as track tree diseases. For example, recording ash trees whether dead or alive can help us track and understand ash dieback, and could contribute important data to projects such as the Living Ash Project.

You do not need to be an expert to help us survey and record trees, and we will provide any guidance you need to get started in your parish.



Rare trees:

Black poplar, Service, and more

The Suffolk Tree Warden Network has some exciting projects working with Britain's rarest tree species.

The black poplar is a wetland tree species which was once common across Britain's floodplains. Due to habitat loss and lack of planting efforts, the remaining trees in our landscapes are sparse, and very rarely reproduce via seed. The STWN has been working alongside the Otter Trust and Forestry Research to survey and genetically test Suffolk's remaining black poplar trees, and has been able to incorporate verified native saplings into local planting schemes across the county.

We also hope to carry out similar work with elm trees, to increase the distribution of elm trees which are resistant to the Dutch Elm Disease. True service trees are also being included in our efforts, with two of only ten native UK service trees being located in Suffolk.

Our rare tree saplings are available to Suffolk Tree Wardens to plant in local schemes for free, subject to availability of saplings on an annual basis.



Suffolk Tree Warden Network



Resources and guidance
for Tree Wardens



Tree/hedgerow planting:

Planting trees and hedgerows:

- Tree council video guide [here](#)

Protecting young trees:

- Tree council guide document [here](#)

Positioning fruit trees:

- RHS website page [here](#)

Tree seed gathering and propagation:

- Tree Council tree seed planting guide [here](#)

Tree species handbook:

- Tree Council handbook [here](#) (advanced)

Event planning:

Planning events as a tree warden:

- Tree Council event planning guide [here](#)

National tree week activity ideas:

- Tree Council activity booklet [here](#)

**Find more resources at the
Tree Council's Guidance Hub**

