



Project Overview

Vision

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) will see communities, charities, schools, youth groups, councils and landowners planting trees across the four nations to create a lasting legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, that will enhance our environment and the landscape for generations to come. This vision is captured in the QGC call to action, "Plant a Tree for The Jubilee".

Approach

The Platinum Jubilee offers a unique opportunity for people to unite in celebration of Her Majesty's lifetime of service. All across the United Kingdom, people will be encouraged to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee", encouraged to plant healthy trees so that they thrive and grow to maturation. The emphasis here is on quality not quantity – our aim is to plant the right tree in the right place and at the right time.

Led by an Executive Team and supported by the charity Cool Earth, the Queen's Green Canopy will see all counties of the UK being invited to create a network of individual or specimen trees, tree avenues, copses and woodlands. Planting new trees may take the form of:

- A Platinum Jubilee Avenue of medium-sized or large trees. Ideal for cities, large estates, new housing developments and parishes.
- A Platinum Jubilee Copse on private land or land allocated by the County or Council.
- A Platinum School Tree - schools in the UK will be offered a tree for the students to plant (provided free of charge).
- Platinum Jubilee Community planting project for youth groups, Parishes, Residents Associations. Community planting packs are available through the Woodland Trust or community groups may wish to purchase trees from approved suppliers.
- Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees with historic links will also be conserved through dedication to The Queen's Green Canopy.

The majority of the work will be channelled through one of the following workstreams:

- Stewardship – to encourage a model of stewardship that ensures local communities take responsibility for afforesting public spaces.

- Conservation – to protect ancient woodland through a programme of permanent, living tree dedication.
- Urban Greening – to create prominent tree displays in towns, cities, and deprived urban communities, including majestic avenues.

The dual impact of the climate emergency and the Covid-19 pandemic are at the forefront of our planning and make this project particularly resonant.

Timeline

To build interest and maintain momentum in the lead up to the official Platinum Jubilee celebrations planned for June 2022, a phased campaign will be planned. This will comprise:

1. Soft launch (executed December 2020)
2. Official Launch – RHS Virtual Chelsea Flower Show (17-21 May 2021)
3. Community engagement phase (May 2021-October 2021)
4. Planting phase: (October 2021-April 2022)
5. Platinum Jubilee Official National Celebration Weekend (3/4/5/6 June 2022)
6. Planting phase: (October 2022-December 2022)

Partners

Collaboration is central to the QGC. We are proud to partner with the following charities, social enterprises and Government Departments to help us plant and protect trees across the UK.

Cool Earth

Cool Earth is the international climate charity working alongside communities living in the world's most threatened rainforest. Building on the successful Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) project, Cool Earth are the hosts of The Queen's Green Canopy, enabling the initiative through the provision of necessary infrastructure.

The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is the largest woodland conservation charity in the United Kingdom, with over 500,000 supporters. The Woodland Trust works in support of a UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife. In addition to sharing their expertise, the Trust has committed three million free saplings to schools and communities across the UK as part of the QGC initiative.

The Royal Horticultural Society

Committed to inspiring a passion for horticulture, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is the UK's leading gardening charity. The launch of the QGC coincides with the start of the RHS's virtual Chelsea Flower Show. The RHS will also be supporting the QGC during the physical event in September. As Patron, The Queen typically visits the flower show alongside Members of the Royal Family.

Trees for Cities

Trees for Cities (TfC) is a national charity operating in towns and cities across the UK with the goal to create healthy, accessible, functional and resilient urban forests for today and for future generations. TfC will support the delivery of the QGC programme in urban areas, helping to target places of greatest social and environmental need.

The Forest Canopy Foundation

The Forest Canopy Foundation (FCF) is made up of independent private sector forestry companies who manage an innovative scheme, combining public and private finance and landowner interest to achieve woodland planting that all can be proud of. The FCF will provide expert advice for companies wishing to participate in the QC initiative, particularly those who wish to do extensive planting.

DEFRA

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are the Government department responsible for safeguarding our natural environment, supporting our world-leading food and farming industry, and sustaining a thriving rural economy. Trees planted as part of the QGC initiative will contribute to the UK Government's tree planting and woodland creation commitments.

There are many other excellent tree planting and forestry organisations and charities that we have reached out to. We believe that people taking action in the places where they live and work is a powerful force for change so through all of our partnerships we look to achieve local impact.

Outcomes

1. Stewardship

What distinguishes the QGC from many tree-planting initiatives is the emphasis on stewardship. We believe that when you plant a tree you cannot merely plant that thing in isolation, but must also steward the environment around it, and within it, so that the larger world at that one place becomes more coherent, and more whole.

The goal is to plant many trees well in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. The emphasis however is on quality not quantity. It is expected that each county will have at least one significant planting, such as a new majestic avenue or new woodland/copse in Her Majesty's name. The QGC website will display advice on how to plant, when to plant, and a list of accredited Plant Healthy tree nurseries which will supply disease and pest free trees.

Ultimately, the QGC will lead – not by simply supporting existing projects but by actively shaping new ones. To achieve this goal, we will invest in technical training and green apprenticeships. Ability, local knowledge and experience are all important.

Outputs

- To create a model of stewardship that advises on how to plant, when to plant, and what recommended soil type to use.
- To create a pilot tree planting and forestry training programme for unemployed young people aged between 16-24 through specialist environmental college Capel Manor College.
- To build confidence and technical know-how through tailored volunteering programmes.

2. Conservation

Ancient woodland, rare habitats, woodland floors and veteran trees are all irreplaceable. These natural wonders deserve protection, not merely for the sake of combating climate change, but also because of the great abundance of life thriving under the ancient canopy.

By dedicating 70 ancient and veteran trees to Her Majesty The Queen, we will encourage trusteeship of these precious habitats, channeled towards the maintenance of the natural environment.

Our aim is to pass on to future generations – and if possible to enhance – the natural landscape and ecology of which we are the temporary trustees. Such dedications are a source not only of enjoyment but also of pride: they create new landmarks to which visitors make their way because they can see the significance behind them. Dedications provide a foundation both for a celebratory approach to trees and a conservationist approach to the land.

Outputs

- Through the dedication of trees in honour of Her Majesty The Queen, the QGC will create the incentives to conserve, rather than to deplete, the natural resources on which we collectively depend.
- Each dedication will be marked by a special commemorative plaque and will be uploaded onto a map of the UK to track all QGC projects over the two-year period.

3. Urban Greening

Another focus of the QGC will be planting in cities and the most disadvantaged urban communities. The QGC will partner with Trees For Cities to work collaboratively on urban

greening projects. Now more than ever, people want to address the ills associated with congested, concrete-ridden neighbourhoods. From draping plants and skygardens, to pocket parks, to tactical urbanism, many cities have been eager to showcase new, unconventional and innovative solutions to urban sprawl

These are all small-scale projects, but they are meaningful, and could, if replicated more widely, change the face of the country for the better. Here, our long-term goal is to inspire more urban tree-planting, not just because trees are beautiful, but because cities realise that trees are an important part of resiliency, health, and happiness. This is something the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated compellingly, as we seek solace from the nature around our homes and in our cities.

Outputs

- To plant trees in urban areas, including majestic avenues with mature trees through business and on local authority parkland.