

## **Ourboretum**

Ourboretum is a campaign that launched in July 2020 spearheaded by BBC Radio Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds Conservation Board to help replace the trees in Gloucestershire that are dying from the incurable ash dieback disease. We want to create a community legacy – an Ourboretum – in the form of trees, nurtured and grown from seed by communities across Gloucestershire.

### **Ourboretum has three objectives**

#### **♣ Engage communities**

To engage community groups, families, schools, and individuals to help collect seeds, and start planting micro nurseries. The trees they grow will be transplanted in the future to approved Ourboretum sites.

Together, they will create a legacy Ourboretum.

#### **♣ Plant trees**

Ash dieback will have a significant impact on the Gloucestershire and surrounding landscape. This project aims to help by replacing some of the trees that will be lost with new trees (beech, hazel, oak).

#### **♣ Increase understanding**

Trees are an important aspect of our landscape, and one element of the complex system that helps with climate change, carbon emissions, air purity, water intake, biodiversity and even our health. They play a crucial role for our wildlife and we want to ensure they remain a key part of the Gloucestershire landscape for generations to come.

### **Growing and planting trees**

We are encouraging participants to grow up to five oak, beech or hazel trees from acorns, mast and nuts collected locally from their garden, school grounds, local park or the countryside whilst out for a walk. The three species have been selected as they are best suited to Gloucestershire and can be easily grown from seed at home.

Guidance will be provided as to how to collect and sow the tree seeds in micro-nurseries in gardens, school grounds or on the balcony and how look after them until large enough to be planted. We will also be asking people to record the species and where the seeds were collected from to establish an element of traceability.

Once ready to be planted, collection points will be set up and the trees planted by volunteers, farmers and land managers. We also hope to organise some planting events so people can plant their own trees.

The trees will be planted following the principle of ‘the right tree in the right place’ in towns, villages and in the wider countryside in hedges, fields and parklands where we have the permission of the land owner. Trees will be planted in a tube or with a spiral guard to protect them from rabbits and deer, as single specimen trees, in small groups and perhaps as a copse or small woodland.