



the
tree
council

Savills

Volunteering Impact 25-26

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In this report

We are hugely grateful to Savills for your ongoing support, helping us achieve our mission of creating a greener, tree-filled future for communities across the UK.

In this report we're pleased to share with you what your practical support at volunteering days has helped us achieve in the past twelve months - thank you.



**WORKING TOGETHER
FOR THE LOVE OF TREES**



THANK YOU

Thank you to Savills for your incredible ongoing support. In addition to being a Tree Partner, supporting tree planting projects across the UK, you have also provided a tremendous 757 hours of fantastic practical support to schools, community projects and public parks over the past 12 months.

Your team's enthusiasm, commitment, and willingness to volunteer their time has made a genuine difference. Whether planting trees, caring for young trees, protecting older trees or supporting our wider conservation work, every hour the Savills team has given has helped us restore nature, strengthen local communities, and create greener places for future generations.

Corporate partnerships like ours are about much more than financial support—they are about people coming together with a shared purpose. Seeing your team roll up their sleeves, embrace the challenges in every weather, and contribute with such energy has been inspiring for our team, volunteers, and the communities we work with.

The trees planted and habitats cared for over the past year will leave a lasting legacy, helping to tackle climate change, support biodiversity, and improve people's wellbeing for years to come.

Thank you for being such a valued partner. We are proud of what we have achieved together, and we look forward to building on this success in the years ahead.

Sara Lom

Sara Lom, CEO

BESPOKE VOLUNTEERING DAYS

As well as joining us at Tree Partner days in London, Manchester and Edinburgh, we were pleased to organise volunteering days for Savills at the following locations:

Elder Park, Glasgow

Supporting the restoration of Elder Park's onsite tree nursery, weeding newly planted hedgerow whips and learning about the impact climate change is having on the park's trees.

The New Forest, Hampshire

Developing tree ID skills, learning about tree health, & testing The Tree Council's new Tree Survival app to gather tree and hedgerow data in support of Tree Council & Defra research project.

Diamond Wood Community Academy, Leeds

Weeding and mulching the School's overgrown willow learning dome, moving mulch, building and filling containers, tidying storage areas and litter picking.

Wythenshawe Park, Manchester

Clearing invasive rhododendrons to protect the park woodlands and the wildlife and biodiversity that the trees support. Learning about seed gathering and tree ID.

Dulwich Picture Gallery, London

Replacement planting of young trees in the Outdoor Sculpture Garden, planting hedgerow whips to gap up around the perimeter of the garden, and creating a spring bulb display to boost the garden's biodiversity.

William Torbitt Primary School, London

Planting trees to create a new woodland glade, helping to develop a new nature trail and creating a new wildflower meadow in the school grounds.



VOLUNTEERING IMPACT

Savills volunteers provided the following practical support to schools and community projects in 25/26, helping to plant and care for trees across the UK.



**139 Savills
volunteers**

from offices across the UK



**2,768m² habitat
restored**

by removing non-native
invasive species



**757 hours of
volunteering**

outdoors in nature



**80 trees assessed for
tree survival rates**

testing new tree establishment
app & contributing to national
research



**1,820 trees, fruit trees
and hedgerow whips
planted**



**30m² of wildflower
meadow created**

to improve biodiversity



973 trees cared for

weeding, watering and
mulching



**2 nature trails
created**

to support outdoor learning in
primary schools

*"We all thoroughly enjoyed
spending the day in nature
and getting stuck in. Do
keep us posted of any other
volunteering days, we'd love
to do it again!"*

VOLUNTEER TRAINING & TREE KNOWLEDGE

Savills volunteers had the opportunity to learn new skills and develop their knowledge and understanding of trees and nature.

Tree planting

Young learning

Tree care

Biodiversity

Tree survival
assessment

Invasive non-
native plants

Propagation

Formative pruning

Tree ID

Ancient and
important trees

Seed gathering



PROTECTING THE QUEEN OAK

We were pleased to dedicate a small amount of Savills' funding to provide vital support to the Queen Oak in the New Forest, after the Savills team visited the Queen Oak during a Tree Council volunteering day.

The future of the ancient Queen Oak is now looking brighter after intervention by the community, in partnership with The Tree Council, New Forest National Park Authority, The Tree Management Company, and an arborist specialising in ancient trees, to install a range of bespoke measures that should have a huge impact on the tree's ongoing health and resilience.



Rhys Williams from Savills' Wimborne office, alongside The Tree Council and key stakeholders

Estimated to be around 650 – 700 years old, the Queen Oak sits by the roadside in an area of high visitor traffic within the New Forest. The Queen Oak, and similarly aged trees, become precious nature reserves as they age – full of micro habitats like bark cracks and nesting holes, supporting hundreds of rare and unusual species.

Opposite is the King Oak – another ancient tree – that, although still standing, was declared dead two years ago, after nearly seven centuries of life. Its demise was hastened by vehicles and visitors compacting the soil around its base, reducing the vital flow of water, nutrients and oxygen from roots to tree.

The local community was determined the Queen Oak should not suffer a similar fate and installed dragon's teeth, small wooden posts around the base of the tree, to stop vehicles parking on the verge and damaging this Site of Special Scientific Interest.

It's a simple measure that can have a huge impact.

As well as preventing vehicles from parking near the tree and causing compaction, the Queen Oak will benefit from careful pruning of neighbouring competing trees, with bracing applied to support its ancient branches – reducing future vulnerability to storm damage.



"This sort of collective action is exactly what is needed to protect these astonishing trees. It needn't be expensive or time consuming, and sometimes very simple actions can deliver significant results. In 2025, in consultation with more than 50 tree sector partners, The Tree Council published a report making ten recommendations to Defra for the future protection of the UK's most important trees – with soil compaction among the most common issues.

A key recommendation is that financial support, from both public and private sources, should be available to the custodians of important trees. This project has put into practice exactly what The Tree Council report suggested, safeguarding the Queen Oak with volunteer goodwill, community effort and financial support from this group of partners.

We hope this sets a model that can be replicated in future, not only with those trees still in need all over the New Forest, but also all over the country."

Jon Stokes MBE, The Tree Council's Director of Trees, Science & Research

The Tree Council's **involvement to support the Queen Oak** was widely covered in the media, beginning with an exclusive in the **Sunday Times**.

BBC Breakfast then sent the cameras in, speaking to The Tree Council's Director of Trees, Science & Research, Jon Stokes MBE, alongside community partners; the New Forest National Park and the Tree Management Company.

The story was also picked up by **BBC online**, as well as sector media, such as **Forestry Journal** and regional media, like the **Southampton Daily Echo**.

This collaboration is a great example of how The Tree Council brings partners together to support the UK treescape - thank you to Savills for the part you played. We hope to secure further funding to enable us to support more of the UK's ancient and important trees.





Wythenshawe Park / Manchester



Wythenshawe Park / Manchester



Elder Park, Glasgow



Elder Park / Glasgow

RUSS / London



Dulwich Picture Gallery / London

Dulwich Picture Gallery / London



Diamond Wood Community Academy / Leeds

William Torbitt School / London



Craigmillar Park / Edinburgh



Craigmillar Park / Edinburgh



Dulwich Picture Gallery / London

William Torbitt School / London



The New Forest / Hampshire



Harlington School / London



The New Forest / Hampshire



FOR THE LOVE OF TREES

Thank you to all the fantastic volunteers from Savills who provided enthusiastic practical support to community planting projects and schools across the UK last year.

We look forward to continuing working in partnership with Savills in 26/27, both through your support as a Tree Partner and also through organising volunteering opportunities for your team in Manchester, Bristol, Hampshire and London.

Thank you for supporting us in our mission to create a tree-filled future for everyone.



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