Planting our first trees at Downs Land!



23rd November 2025

The plan

Weather allowing, the plan was to plant over 400 trees, starting with a triple hedge running parallel with the Cornish hedge next to Clodgey Lane. In time, the hedge will give us protection from the prevailing wind, traffic noise, and hopefully particulates from passing vehicles.

It felt like a big job - would we have enough volunteers? We tried to get the message out with the help of the Falmouth Packet, posters, and verge signs. In the end, over 40 people joined us over the course of the day!

Josh and Nick from Plant One Cornwall demonstrated the method of planting saplings, and trained volunteers in the use of tools, keeping a patient and watchful eye on the wielding of mattocks, mallets and spades.



Downs Land tree planting - 02

Step-by-step

1) Clear the grass with a mattock. Dom was a legend and did LOADS of this!



2) In goes the tree, pressed down to avoid air pockets!



3) Add a sleeve for protection, and a stake for support.



Step-by-step

4) Add plenty of mulch...



5) ... and repeat!

We soon found ourselves working in small groups, quickly devising our own imaginative ways of varying tasks efficiently and collaboratively.



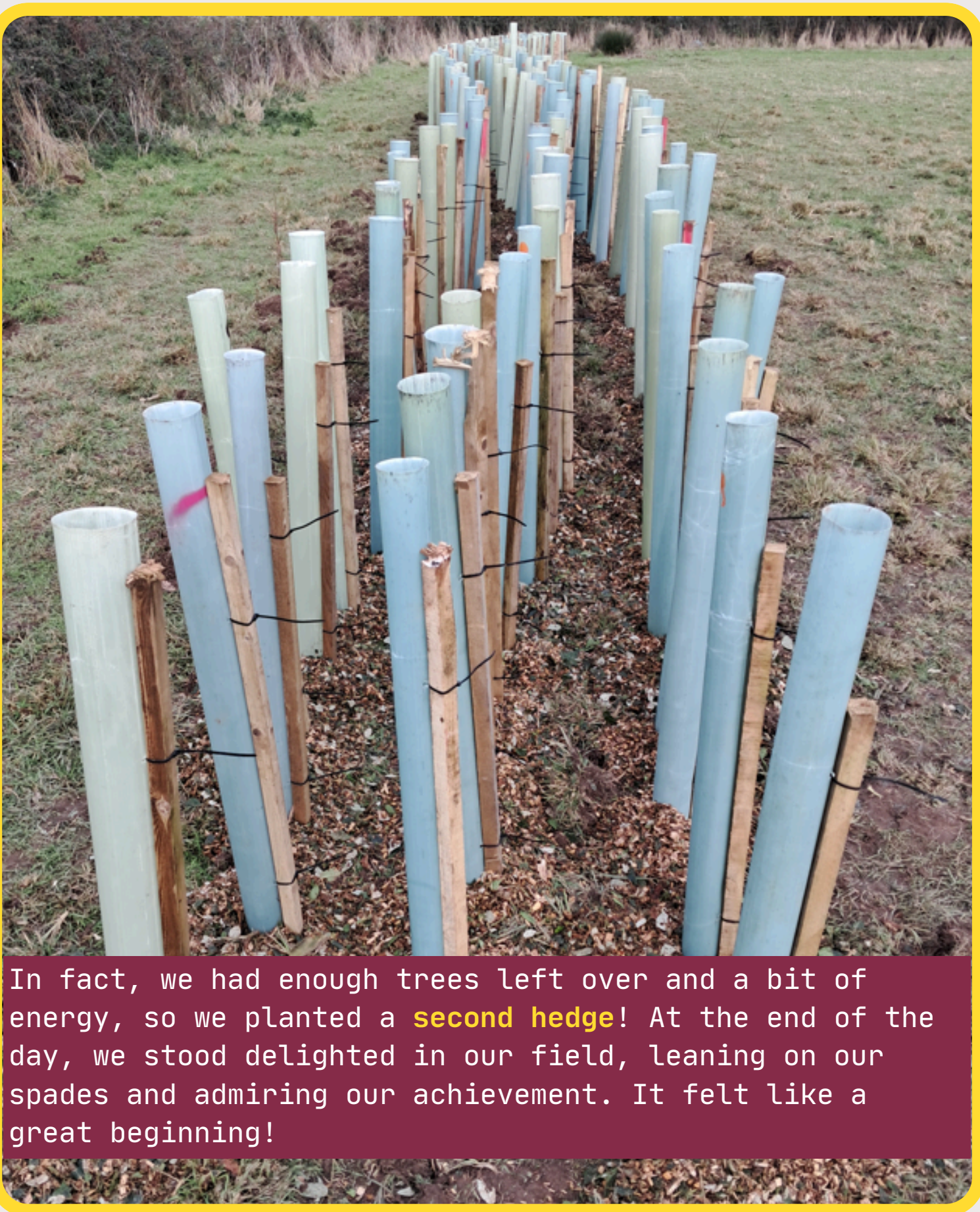
It doesn't matter how old you are...





We had a really productive day, but more importantly, a thoroughly enjoyable one. There was so much enthusiasm for the activity of planting, and pleasure in meeting others who recognise the site's great potential for the whole of our community.

The finished product:



In fact, we had enough trees left over and a bit of energy, so we planted a **second hedge**! At the end of the day, we stood delighted in our field, leaning on our spades and admiring our achievement. It felt like a great beginning!

Thanks!

A **H-U-G-E** thanks to everyone who turned up to help, support and find out about the site and the work that is happening on it.

And of course, we couldn’t have done it without the support of **Plant One Cornwall**, who helped us so much on the day, the **Woodland Trust**, who supplied the trees, and **Expertrees Ltd**, who supplied the mulch!



Find out more...

Helston Downs Land is a project of the Helston Downsland Charity. You can find out more about the project on the charity's website: www.helstondownsland.org.uk

You can also email us at: m.benyon@helstondownsland.org.uk

Our partners on the day:

The Woodland Trust: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Plant One CIC: www.plantonecornwall.com

Expertrees Ltd: www.expertreesltd.co.uk

Acknowledgements

Words: Gary Matthews

Photos: Katharine Lewis and Plant One

Design and editing: Jules Lewis