

## Why Oyster is committed to planting native trees



Commercial tree planting uses monoculture, meaning that all the trees are the same species. They are a crop like wheat. These timber crops are essential to the world economy, and timber is much more environmentally sustainable than plastic. Growing wood commercially is ecologically sustainable because after it is harvested it is replanted and the next crop grows over 25-35 years.

However, commercial monoculture tree plantations support very little biodiversity and the little they support is displaced when the trees are harvested. Some companies make the claim that for every tree they use three are planted. Though this claim is technically valid it refers to replanting commercial crops, which would have happened anyway.

Oyster's approach to tree planting is holistic, as put forward in their Sustainability Report: *planting trees to create wildlife habitat, combat climate change and make a greener world.*

To create wildlife habitats we are working in association with Tree Appeal planting multi-species tree plantations because ecosystems require the biodiversity of trees.

In association with Tree Appeal we plant up to thirty different species of native broadleaved trees comprising berry and fruit-producing hedgerow trees and larger species such as beech and oak that produce nuts. These trees are planted in wildlife reserves and school grounds, where they play an instrumental role in education.



In most school locations the trees are planted by the children themselves and the trees become part of their outdoor classrooms.



Tree Appeal's *Trees For Schools* initiative is essential because we are not only sponsoring the growing trees, we are growing minds for the future. Outdoor learning is also proving to be beneficial for children with learning difficulties and autism.

Trees are the longest-living organisms on our planet and because they are in multi-species plantations our trees are not harvested. They provide wild habitats for hundreds of years.

Habitat creation protects our precious biodiversity and creates ecological legacies for future generations.

Planting native broad-leafed trees significantly mitigates climate change because, on average, one tree will convert 380kg of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere into wood biomass, locking up carbon for hundreds of years (carbon sequestration).

But trees deliver many other sustainable benefits:

- Helping to deliver national tree-planting targets
- UK habitat creation
- Mitigating UK biodiversity loss
- Clean air
- Flood prevention
- Education - growing trees, growing minds!
- Making the world a greener place
- Creating an ecological heritage for many hundreds of years

We must protect our valuable biodiversity, as it is only by example that we can bring influence globally.