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| A logo of a tree with roots  Description automatically generated | Stapleford Tree Project: frequently asked questions |

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| **FAQ** | **Answer** |
| What are the benefits of planting a tree on my property? | There are many benefits! Here are just a few:   * Trees improve air quality, they also provide shade from solar radiation and reduce noise. * Trees reduce wind speeds and cool the air. * Trees boost wildlife. One mature oak can be home to as many as 500 different species. * Trees reduce water pollution and help prevent soil erosion. * Trees muffle sound, absorb dust and wind and reduce glare. * Research shows that within minutes of being surrounded by trees and green space, your blood pressure drops, your heart rate slows and your stress levels reduce. |
| How can I get involved? | Please email [sophiberridge@gmail.com](mailto:sophiberridge@gmail.com) if you would like to be more involved. It would be great to have your help! |
| How can I make a donation to support the project? | The Parish Council have kindly said that you can make a donation to them and they will pass it on to the project. Just email the SPC clerk at [clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk) and she will give you the donation details. Please put TREE PROJECT in your reference when making your contribution. |
| What size are the saplings you will provide? | The saplings we will provide are about 20-60cm tall. They will look a bit like a twig essentially! They are easy to transport and establish more easily than more mature trees. This also means that they can be more self supporting and can reach an adult’s head height in about eight years (depending on the species). |
| Why can’t I have a more mature tree for my garden? | If you would like to plant a more mature tree by all means do purchase one yourself. Due to budget constraints and other factors we can only offer small saplings at this time but they often tend to establish more easily anyway. |
| What if the tree I receive fails to grow? | Let us know! It might not look like its growing for the first few months (especially if you plant in the autumn) but that may just mean that it is a deciduous tree and it’s establishing its root system. Give us a shout in the spring if it fails to leaf. |
| Where are the trees from? | We are aiming to source our saplings from the Woodland Trust whose trees are sourced and grown in the UK. |
| What choice of tree do I have? | We will offer you a small choice of native saplings that are suitable for our soil type here in Stapleford. Native ones suitable for our soil type include:Beech, Small Leaved Lime, Yew, Field Maple, Wild Cherry, Holly,  Silver Birch, Whitebeam, Sycamore, Wild Service, Mountain Ash, Crab Apple, Hawthorn, Spindle, Hazel, Dogwood, Purging Buckthorn, Wayfaring Tree. We won’t be able to offer you all of these though! |
| When should I plant my tree? | It is best to plant your tree(s) in the autumn. Newly planted trees require a lot of regular water for the first few years and are more likely to receive this over the autumn-spring period. Keep an eye on them if the season is very dry though as you may have to do some additional watering. |
| Can I plant my tree in a pot/container? | Whilst growing trees in pots is ideal for a smaller garden you have to consider the long term care they will require. If you have limited space please refer to the Woodland Trust [‘British Trees for Gardens’](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2021/11/british-trees-to-plant-in-your-garden/) guide. |
| Will trees get too big if not regularly pruned? Who will undertake pruning? | When we supply your tree we will let you know how big it will grow and you can decide if, and how, you would like to prune it. We are here if you need any advice or you can consult a professional arborist. |
| Will a tree damage my property? | It shouldn’t. Most trees near buildings don’t cause any damage but, in some cases, tree roots can be linked to subsidence. Trees and subsidence only become a problem under certain conditions – namely on clay soils (we are mainly on chalk). See [this link](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/subsidence-and-trees/#:~:text=That%20said%2C%20there%20may%20be,%2C%20flooding%2C%20or%20leaking%20drains.) if you have further questions. |
| I can’t plant a tree in my garden but can I be involved with caring for trees in our community? | Please [do fill in the form](https://forms.gle/YtbAXQ3uUaP6ExDNA) and let us know. We are currently looking at the best places to plant trees in public spaces in Stapleford and we can involve you in this! |