

Press Release

DATE 18/11/2010

Dunster calls for volunteers for tree-planting marathon

Local residents are being encouraged to head to Dunster Estate on 25 November to take part in a UK-wide attempt to plant 3,000 new trees.

To coincide with National Tree Planting Week (Nov 27 to Dec 5 2010), The Crown Estate is hosting a total of 15 events at its rural estates across the country and is inviting members of the public to help them plant new woodland and tackle climate change. Dunster Estate will be planting an orchard of 55 trees with the help of the local community and scouts.

The events will celebrate 250 years of The Crown Estate and, in particular, the close working relationship the organisation's rural estates have built up with local schools and communities.

Andy Wells Head of Countryside Management at The Crown Estate, said: "This event will provide a fantastic opportunity for people to get active, enjoy the great outdoors and do something positive for the environment."

"Environmental sustainability is at the heart of our approach to stewardship, and we hope that local communities will get involved and learn more about how they can enjoy and conserve our native woodlands."

Kevin Sulley (chairman of the local parish council) commented: "This is an excellent initiative, and one that I hope the local community will fully support. The parish council fully endorses this scheme and has worked hard with The Crown Estate on this community project."

"Our forests and woodlands are an important part of our natural heritage, and a vital resource in the global battle against climate change. Events such as these which educate people about environmental issues and help them access and enjoy the countryside should be encouraged. We hope that the fruit grown from these trees will help promote healthy eating for the children in the area as well as providing a great resource to the local community."

To kick start the marathon tree planting, school children from Stapleford Abbots Primary school planted a selection trees at the end of their playing field with the help of The Crown Estate rural team.

To further help mark the occasion, The Crown Estate has commissioned a comprehensive primary school education pack on the role of trees in combating climate change, ahead of the UN International Year of Forestry (2011). The resource, with supporting interactive materials, reflects the principles of the national curriculum and is available from the New Year.

Ends

For further information call Andie Hill at Quatro PR on 0207 566 7967 or email @quatro-pr.co.uk

Notes to editors
The Crown Estate

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- The Crown Estate is committed to working in partnership with the UK and devolved Governments, local authorities and a wide range of other stakeholders to safeguard the long-term interests of the environment and the communities with which we work.
- The Crown Estate includes:
 - The marine estate consists of around half the UK's foreshore, the beds of tidal rivers and estuaries and almost all of the seabed out to the 12 nautical-mile territorial limit around the UK. It also includes the rights to explore and utilise the natural resources of the UK Continental shelf (excluding, oil, gas and coal).
 - The rural estate is one of the largest in the UK with almost 146,000 hectares (360,000 acres) of agricultural land, forests, minerals and residential and commercial property in England, Scotland and Wales (excluding the Windsor estate).
 - The urban estate includes retail property in Edinburgh, London's West End and major towns and cities around the country as well as residential ownerships around London.

National Tree Planting Week

National Tree Week (27 November to 5 December 2010) is a celebration of the beginning of the tree planting season, and has been held since 1975.

[.treecouncil.org.uk](http://treecouncil.org.uk)