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www.avonneedstrees.org.uk

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7th November 2025

Dear Neighbours,

Update from Lower Chew Forest (Wick Farm)

Thanks for attending the community art drop in session last month and helping us to decorate the 365 candle bags that were used to create a “night glow” of our new living artwork Echo Wood. This project is a collaboration with artist Luke Jerram, well known for his beautiful sculptures of the sun, moon and earth which have been exhibited in Wells’ and Bristol’s cathedrals. Echo Wood will sit at the heart of Lower Chew Forest. You can find more information about the project and opportunities to sponsor a tree at echo-wood.co.uk



We are busy preparing for the planting season and the big push to create a new woodland in the western block of the site, between Ranker’s Lane and Lord’s Wood. We are installing a deer fence around 90 acres so that we can protect our young saplings from deer damage. Where possible the fence will follow hedge and boundary lines. For example, where our land adjoins Lord’s Wood. We will be installing self closing gates at the points where public rights of way intersect the fence as well as new access points. This has worked really well at our Great Avon Wood site near Pensford.



Landscape Recovery



Avon Needs Trees is a registered
charity in England and Wales.
Registration number: 1184386
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Over the winter, hundreds of volunteers will join to help us plant 70,000 trees - we hope that you might also like to plant trees with us. You can find details of how to register by following the "Get Involved" link on our home page avonneedstrees.org.uk

The first tree planting day is Wednesday 26th November and we will then be on site Wednesday through to Saturday each week. All our days run from 10:00 to 3:00 but you are welcome to join us for a couple of hours if you would like to do a taster session. Given that much of the planting will take place a good distance from the barns, we have put up temporary event shelters so that volunteers can eat their lunch and store their bags in the dry. We are also installing temporary parking to accommodate our volunteers and other visitors to this part of the site. The parking area consists of parking mats so that up to 26 cars for volunteers, staff and visitors can park in the western block.

You may have seen that renovation works have started on the farmhouse at Wick Farm and will continue through the winter. As discussed in our spring update letter and drop-in session at Wick Farm earlier this year, a planning application will be going in soon for a very small number of mini-cabins to help us repay our purchase loan. We will write to you again soon with more about this.

Given that there is a lot happening on site, we would very much like to invite you to join us on the morning of Sunday 23rd November at 11:00 a.m. for a tea/coffee and a walk around the western block. This will give you an opportunity to ask any questions, to see the deer fence, shelter and parking area and also the location of the Echo Wood artwork. Please register on Eventbrite via <https://bit.ly/498DrDw> or by using the QR code below. If have seen this letter via a village whatsapp or webpage and would like to be added to our contact list to be emailed directly with updates about Lower Chew Forest, please email us on contact@avonneedstrees.org.uk

Warm regards,

Vicki Cracknell

Outreach Coordinator



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