



Wick Farm Cottage, Rankers Lane,
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30th September 2026

Dear Neighbours,

September update for Lower Chew Forest (Wick Farm)

New office for the Avon Needs Trees team

The ANT team is now working from the cottage - the first building you see on your right as you come up our drive from Rankers Lane. We are excited to be based on site and to have swapped a tower block in Cabot Circus for the beauty and peace of Lower Chew Forest!

Community site tours - Sunday 15th November

We would like to welcome you to a walking tour of the 'new' elements at Lower Chew Forest. Join us to have a look round the renovated farmhouse and garden and see the location of our first woodland cabin, ending up with tea/ coffee and biscuits at our new office. We have two 1 hour 45 min sessions starting at 10am and then 12:15pm. Please sign up on Eventbrite using the QR code or the following link communitytourLCF.eventbrite.co.uk

If you have any problems booking a space, please email contact@avonneedstrees.org.uk and we can send you a link or sign you up at our end.



Sauna launch

Toka Saunas is aiming to launch at Lower Chew Forest later in October at its pilot, temporary location (here, just off Hunstrete Lane). Founded by Compton Dando resident, Tyler Curley-Smith, the sauna will be able to be booked by locals, visitors, and indeed guests at Lower Chew Forest.

To follow the build and be among the first to hear when things are ready to launch and sessions are bookable, go to their website www.tokasaunas.com or find them on Instagram @toka_sauna

Echo Wood

There are still trees available in our living artwork, a collaboration with Luke Jerram. If you sponsor a bird cherry, crab apple or oak tree you will be invited to plant your tree with us. We have planting days coming up next month. For more information go to our Echo Wood page (echo-wood.co.uk).

Hedges and tree work at Lower Chew Forest

The roadside hedges along the boundaries of the Lower Chew Forest will be cut back early this autumn. We have decided to remove the row of Lawson cypress trees next to the cottage. These trees are non native conifers with little wildlife benefit. Because of how they've been managed over the years, they're likely to drop limbs in the coming years. Due to the higher footfall around this area this is a safety concern. We plan to remove them before work begins on planting the 14-acre orchard and to replace them with a native hedge which will be far more manageable and support more wildlife.

NEW: A Lower Chew Forest website

In addition to Avon Needs Trees' main website, the new Lower Chew Forest website will be a one-stop shop for all things Lower Chew Forest. It's where you'll be able to book self-catering holidays in our farmhouse and cabins, and it'll also have a What's On section, plus profiles of the brilliant nature and outdoor practitioners and conservation experts we're in talks with to stage their own activities with us. Building in a time-buffer, we hope the site will be live by this December if not sooner. We'll bring news of the Lower Chew Forest Instagram channel soon, too.

Local producers and outdoor practitioners

We're already having some great meetings with local outdoors professionals, creatives, producers, and farmers and would love to hear from you, too. Do you run something with a natural connection to Lower Chew Forest that you'd like to host here? Wildlife or conservation related walks, talks and courses, heritage craft sessions, green skills, traditional music or storytelling activities, wild wellbeing? We'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch via contact@avonneedstrees.org.uk

Farmhouse and cabin launch

We hope to welcome our first self-catering guests to the farmhouse in mid-December, and to our first cabin potentially slightly sooner. We'll have more of an idea of dates in our October update, as the cabin's finishing touches and renovations at the farmhouse will almost be completed then.

As ever, please get in touch via contact@avonneedstrees.org.uk and your message will be forwarded to the relevant person.

Warm regards,

Vicki, Kerry and the ANT team