



Sweffling
Yew Tree Farm

Making a valuable difference to our environment



At Yew Tree Farm we revitalised a 1-hectare plot where we replanted an old Poplar plantation that was felled. Chris and Monica who own the land were keen to create a natural woodland area alongside the banks of the River Alde. The new wood is visible from the Bruisyard Village Hall so that local residents can see the process evolve over the years. We have planted almost 400 trees on site and this is the blueprint of how our projects will be run in the future.

Thanks to Chris and Monica's kindness and understanding, they have let us find our feet with them on this project.

"It has been a pleasure to create this project with them, they are thoughtful, ambitious and unencumbered by bureaucracy."

Monica Petzal & Chris Maloney

"We first made contact with the Sicon Foundation in Autumn 2020, after they had reached out to Parish Councils in Suffolk offering to provide and plant native trees for environmental benefit.

Our time expired poplar plantation had been felled over the summer, as the trees were dying on the inside and threatening to fall on unfortunate passers-by. They had been planted in the 1960's for the matchstick trade and should have been harvested 20 to 30 years later, but the market had collapsed, and they grew ever, threatening the powerlines and choking most other species on the land. Now we needed help with something to take their place, for the benefit of local wildlife, and to look (and feel) much better for the village.

We contacted Natasha immediately, and she responded 'by return'. The Foundation moved quickly and we had several successful meetings before Christmas with Natasha, Richard and Jane, exploring the land and logistics. Since we were then all novices to large scale tree planting, we brought on board the remarkable Marina O'Connell who

has a wealth of knowledge about trees and the land. <https://apricotcentre.co.uk/meet-the-consultancy-team>

Soil samples were taken from several parts of the site. Marina then specified the native trees, appropriate to different parts of the site and precisely how, where and with what soil additions and protection they should be planted. Parts of the site often flood, and it was important to specify correctly, so that the trees can survive. Sicon sourced everything locally, with the trees coming from Botanica. <https://www.botanicaplantnursery.co.uk>

Sicon will be responsible for looking after these trees and we will allow them access both to do so and to enjoy the fruits of their labour. It has been a pleasure to create this project with them, they are thoughtful, ambitious and unencumbered by bureaucracy."

- Monica Petzal & Chris Maloney



400
Trees planted



65
Holes dug



9
Bug hotels

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