

# GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL FORESTS 2015 UPDATE

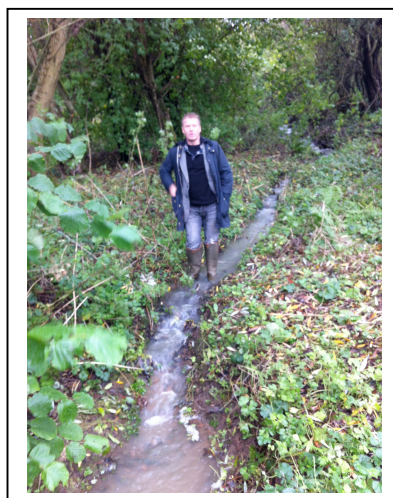
During 1998, 1999 and 2000 Glastonbury Festival revelers were offered the opportunity to pay for a tree to be planted on their behalf in a bid to significantly improve the local environments, and in some ways reabsorb the carbon footprint created by their time at the event. About 1700 trees were planted locally every year and now 17 years later the trees and resulting 'Glastonbury Festival' woodlands are thriving. From 2001 to 2003 further planting took place within the Joe Strummer Forest on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. This site is also doing well and a further report on this will be coming shortly.

The woodlands are maturing and flourishing, creating homes for wildlife, wild places for people to visit, educational opportunities, pollution solutions, soil stabilization as well as sequestering carbon dioxide and producing oxygen.

## Filnore Woods in Thornbury, South Gloucestershire



Volunteers recently clearing a glade



This multi-use community woodland of native local trees was planted in the winter of 1998 and spring 1999. Mainly ash and oak with hazel, cherry, birch and shrubs, this stunning site is multi-use forestry at its best providing:

- a diverse range of habitats housing abundant wildlife
- a wild place for people to visit
- opportunities for education The site is well managed by South Gloucestershire Council and enjoys:
- The support of a 'friends of Filnore Woods' group who undertake voluntary management and are involved in the upkeep and development of the site.
- Regular walks and talks from experts on-site for spotting invertebrates, bats, owls and dawn chorus events.
- Monitoring of invertebrates, birds and wild flower surveys. Upon visiting you will find:
- well serviced footpaths
- self-guided walks
- diverse wildflowers
- Interpretation boards with information leaflets.

Members of the community are openly welcomed to visit and get involved with areas designed to appeal to teenagers, organize school visits and even 4 x 4 visits for less mobile and disabled members of the community. You can view pictures and find out about the latest events and activities on the blogspot –

<http://filnorewoods.blogspot.co.uk/>

## Great Breach Wood, Butleigh, Somerset

The 'Festival woodland' section of this larger woodland is dense hazel planted in 2000 within an existing 19<sup>th</sup> Century oak and ash woodland. The hazel woodland is managed by Somerset Wildlife Trust predominantly for wildlife and is a valuable habitat for the local warbler population. It is currently left 'unmanaged' to provide wildlife sanctuary within a wider habitat that provides high canopy and open glades to maximize diversity.

## Black Rock, Cheddar Gorge, Somerset

In partnership with Somerset Wildlife Trust the trees on this site were planted after clearing a larch monoculture plantation. The aim was to replace this coniferous plantation with native broadleaf trees to offer woodland with a greater potential for biodiversity. The site is 70% ash and 30% mix of hazel, oak and shrubs. The site is located on a steep slope in the Cheddar Gorge.

- The trees now tower above our heads and have been successful in their role to stabilize the soil. The course and fine tree roots form a dense network that binds the soil together on the slopes and plays a major role in minimizing soil loss and helping to prevent hazards such as landslides, rock fall and erosion.
- The woodland also provides a valuable habitat for the areas diverse wildlife. The woodland is planted within a site of special scientific interest and a Special Area of Conservation for protected species like bats and dormice. The site itself provides an important habitat for dormice and by expanding the broadleaf native woodland their habitat has been expanded.





## Castle Cary Primary School, Somerset

A small copse of native trees was planted in 1999 in the school grounds of Castle Cary Primary School. The trees have now matured and continue to provide:

- Habitat diversity in the school grounds attracting and housing wildlife.
- Enrichment of the learning curriculum providing an excellent learning resource for science, surveys, maths and English.
- A place to play and stimulate the imagination.
- Shelter for sunny days in the school grounds.

## M32 Corridor, Bristol

The M32 corridor approaching Junction 3, the Junction 3 underpass and Easton Way in Bristol were planted with trees from the Festival and Levellers Tour during 2000. The site is located in the heart of the city and in the centre of a major motorway junction roundabout. The M32 corridor and Junction 3 underpass woodland includes a mix of oak, beech, field maple, field hazel, lime, sweet chestnut and wild cherry along with bushes and shrubs. There is an active management plan undertaken by Bristol City Council, taking thinnings every 5 years and keeping the site in pristine condition. Easton Way central reservation planting is a double row of London Planes, which have grown to 10m tall with a good diameter. The site has been thinned 4 times since planting.



Junction 3 Underpass



Easton Way

The planting has been extremely successful in fulfilling its objectives of transforming what was formerly a miserable, scary and noisy motorway area into a pleasant wooded location.

- This site gives a distinctly wooded feel when entering the city and makes a significant aesthetic contribution to the city's landscape. The woods also provide a significantly more pleasant environment for the local residents and people who commute via this route regularly.
- The site is valued and regularly used by members of the community; people are often found sitting on benches in the underpass and enjoying the space.

- A local food initiative has established 2 raised beds growing vegetables on site and have planted fruit trees.
- The wooded landscape provides significant noise attenuation for surrounding residents. It is so successful that during thinning local people commented that with the removal of just a few trees they become more aware of the noise pollution from the busy motorway. As well as reducing the noise of the motorway and carriageway the traffic is also hidden from view. Research has shown that psychologically noise is less disturbing if its source is not visible. This has proven to be the case with this planting site.
- The trees provide a wildlife corridor and a habitat for nesting birds and insects. The thinnings taken from Easton Way are put back into the site. The thinnings taken from the M32 corridor and Junction 3 underpass are taken to Bristol City Council's biomass plant @ Blaize nursery and is used as fuel wood and converted to green energy.

### **THE FIRST GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL TREE PLANTED ON WORTHY FARM IN 1998**

