

OakUpy The UK - Info (Public)

This info doc is for general circulation, it may be that all the information given is not specific to your individual circumstances, if that is the case, please address questions to the initial contact through which you have heard about this project and they will endeavour to answer your questions.

It was reported in March that 750,000 2 year old oak saplings are due to be destroyed. The saplings were grown in response to government indications that they will subsidise land owners to plant trees. However, the demand has not materialised yet and the nurseries cannot keep these unwanted trees. So, they will be going to the mulcher unless the nurseries can sell them this summer/autumn, at a discounted price of £300 per 1000 (including £50 delivery charge across the UK). 1000 is the minimum order to gain the cheapest prices (delivery prices increase marginally for above £600 orders). This is an appeal to find homes for these saplings. Let's OakUpy the fields, the streets, the parks, the gardens, the wastelands, anywhere it is feasible! Oak is a great carbon absorber and a wonderful habitat for many species. It is also extremely grand and beautiful. The saplings are pendunculate (English) oak from British seed stock of varied parentage.

This project is being undertaken nationally by Extinction Rebellion. Many people will know XR as the rebels who have held up the traffic and caused chaos for many travellers last year. Many may disagree with our methods and that is understandable. But our reasoning is that we cannot see another way to bring the issue of the climate emergency into the political and social spotlight and raise it up the agenda to its rightful position at the top. We do what we do in a serious and caring effort to highlight the very damaging consequences of the climate emergency caused by rapid destruction of the natural world, pollution, rampant fossil fuel use and overall unsustainable consumption. We are not young, middle class upstarts with no idea about how hard life is for the majority of working people, we are a broad spectrum of people who really care about our, our children's and our planet's future. We do not only undertake the rebellious course of action that we are most known for, we are involved in many things: less assertive campaigning, local politics, committees trying to address local air pollution and much more. We also have planting and public space gardening groups trying to improve local areas by planting and growing things. It is these groups who have decided they would like to try and save as many of the saplings as possible. Mostly, we are buying the saplings from our own funds and we are happy to pass them on to you. But if you feel that you would like to donate to our cause and /or our costs in this project, it would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know and we will let you know where you can donate. You can wait until you have received your trees if you would like. However, if people would like large orders we will have to ask that you cover the costs of your orders. It may be that you will need to consider having your own delivery or teaming up with others in your area and sharing a delivery. We can help facilitate this. Get in touch and we will provide details and a discount code.

The saplings will come bare rooted sometime in November. If you are picking up from us, we will let you know where you can collect them in due course. They will need to be planted within 7 days of the initial delivery or temporarily potted or "heeled in". They could be temporarily potted in groups but should not be left like this over the next growing season as the roots may entangle and be damaged as you try

to separate them. The saplings will vary in height but all will be less than 100cm and can be as small as 30cm.

If you can let your contact know how many you want, they will pass your order up the line so it reaches the regional coordinator and they will collate the overall order. If you have friends, neighbours or further contacts who may like a sapling or more, include them in your order and pass the trees on. If you know of a vacant site that would benefit from being OakUpied, let your contact know and maybe they could mobilise some volunteers to plant it.

Think creatively, these trees don't have to go in your gardens. The trees can go anywhere, public spaces or in the wild. Perhaps you can plant one to commemorate those that have lost their lives to Covid 19 or the diligence of the NHS. If a school takes one/some, perhaps they could use the moment to start a conversation about a new start or a green recovery. Don't put them where they might get mown or trimmed and don't put them within 15m of a building. They are best planted out in the autumn/winter when the soil stays moist and the trees are dormant. The following summer, they might benefit from watering during dry periods too, if you can. We will supply a short planting and aftercare guide.

These are beautiful English oak, we would love to see some pictures of your planting, please send your pics to your local XR group by email. If you would like to name and label your tree/s with your name and where you are and be in the photo with your tree/s, we would love that too, but no pressure if you don't want to.

If you feel inspired to try and do more about the climate crisis, please join XR, you can take as little or as much part as you like. By just signing up, you will be adding your weight to the number of members, by giving a small regular donation, you will be helping enormously. Anything else you can do, will be fantastic and you certainly don't have to be arrested. There's lots more info on the website, www.extinctionrebellion.uk. It is totally up to you though, we will not bother you if you just request some trees.

It would be great to hear from you.