

# Lower Chew Forest

A forest by the people, for the people

Creating permanent local woodland





# Who we are



Avon Needs Trees (ANT) are a Bristol-based charity formed in 2019 that creates new, permanent woodland throughout the Avon catchment to tackle the climate and nature crises.

[AvonNeedsTrees.org.uk](https://AvonNeedsTrees.org.uk)







Current projects:

**Great Avon Wood**

113 acres, up to 40,000  
trees near Pensford

**Hazeland and Pudding  
Brook Wood**

Two sites in Wiltshire,  
planting complete

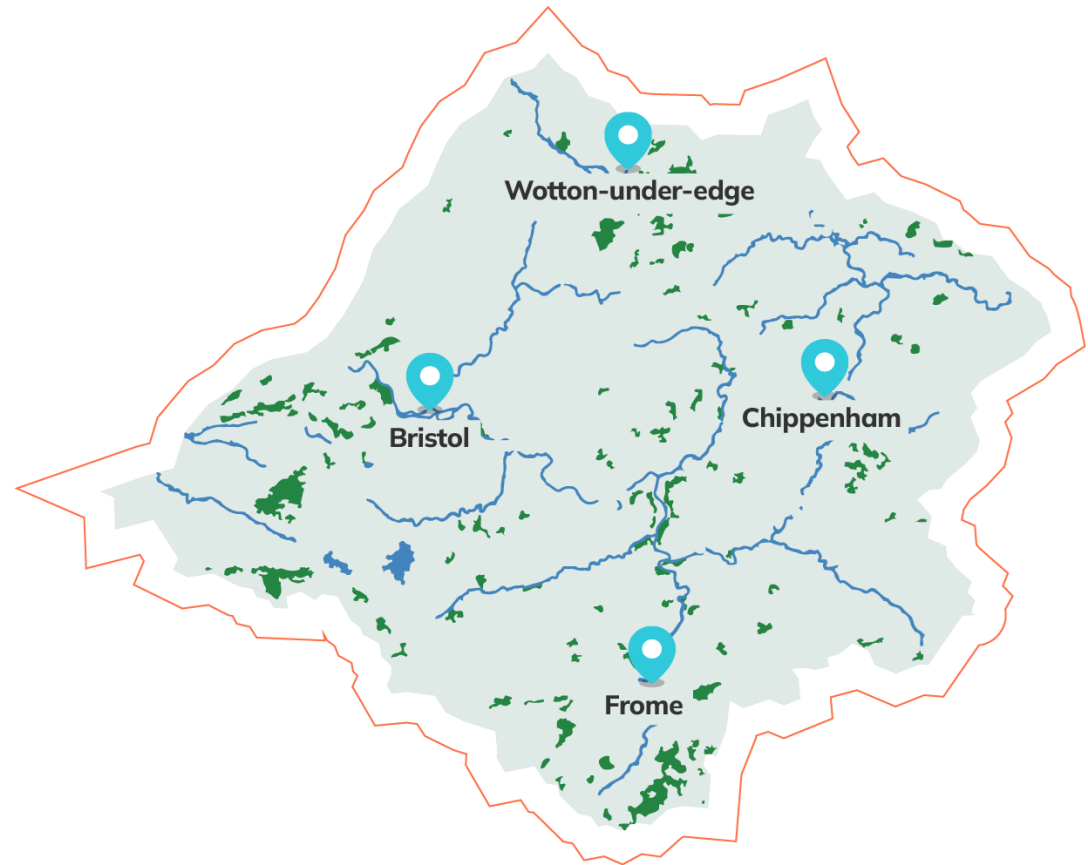
**Ed Woods**

Near Shepton Mallett,  
planting complete

# Why does Avon need trees?



- Over recent centuries the Bristol-Avon catchment area has lost most of its woodland.
- Currently, the West of England's tree cover rate is 7.8%, far lower than the UK average of 13.2%.



# Why do trees matter?

- **Trees sequester carbon**, but ongoing maintenance is needed for long term impact. That's why we create permanent woodland.
- 41% of UK **species are in decline**. Woodland creation, as part of a mosaic of habitats, and especially in identified Nature Recovery Networks, will allow nature to thrive and recover.
- We work with the Environment Agency to identify locations where woodland creation will provide **natural flood defences**.
- Volunteering to plant trees, or just spending time in our spaces, improves **health and wellbeing**.

# Lower Chew Forest

What it is and why it matters



# Lower Chew Forest



- ANT is currently fundraising to buy the land and trees to create the Lower Chew Forest.
- Lower Chew Forest will be located at Wick Farm a 422-acre site near Compton Dando

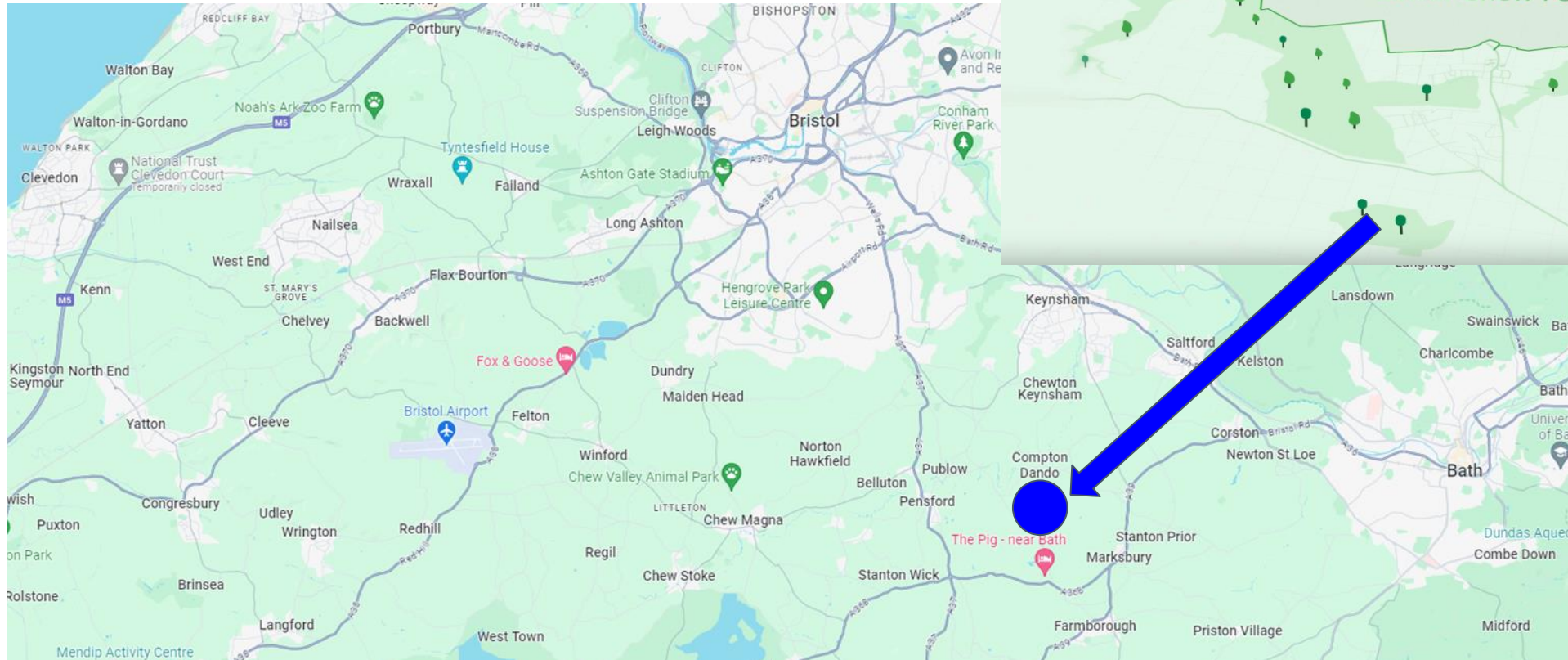




# Lower Chew Forest Location



Lower Chew Forest is located near Compton Dando, in between Bristol and Bath. It borders existing patches of woodland providing incredible opportunities for creating new habitat corridors.







## Lower Chew Forest objectives

Restore habitats  
Regenerative farming  
Connectivity  
Natural flood management  
Soil and river health  
A place for people





What do we plan to do?

Planting 100,000 trees

Connect existing woodlands

Species-rich grassland creation

Creating wetlands and leaky dams

Planting 5 miles of new hedgerows



# Landscape scale impact



**+ Plant a new 100,000 tree woodland**



**+ Create new wetland habitats**



**+ Plant new species-rich grassland**

- Lower Chew Forest is the biggest woodland creation project in the South West of England in a generation.
- There are so many benefits:
  - Application of natural flood management measures
  - Biodiversity uplift
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Improved soil quality and stabilisation
  - Enhanced water and air quality
  - Climate resilient agriculture
  - Public education and engagement



ANT will plant the Lower Chew Forest with the help of its growing team of 1,000 volunteers

Free education and wellbeing events as well as our skills course to help people into the green economy

Hoping to create more on-site opportunities and public access





# How you can support us

Partnership opportunities

# Let's make Lower Chew Forest happen.



Individual donations are via Crowdfunder via [avonneedstrees.org.uk](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/lower-chew-forest) or

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/lower-chew-forest>

Individual and business partnerships start at £10,000.

- Contact us for more information



# Thank you