



Tree conservation questions – want to know more?



www.didcot-trees.org.uk

Why are big trees useful?

- They help reduce climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide
- Their roots stabilise soil and help prevent flooding
- They provide homes for lots of wildlife important for the health of our planet

How many types of wildlife or species live in a big oak tree?

- 2,300 different species

How many years does it take for an acorn to grow into a mighty oak?

- 100 years. Oaks can live 1,000 years if not damaged or cut down, blown over, struck by lightning or diseased

What is the tree canopy and why does it matter?

- The canopy is the leaves and supporting branches. A bigger canopy means more carbon dioxide absorption, and more animals, plants and fungi living in and under the tree

What stops a tree from falling over?

- Its roots, which extend as far outwards under the ground as the canopy extends above it

Is there a big tree near where you live?

- If you're not sure, look at the "destinations" pages of the Didcot Trees website

How many big oaks are there in Didcot?

- Didcot has 500 oaks that are over 100 years old. The biggest is in Edmonds Park and is 340 years old, so it started growing in 1680, in the times of King Charles II

What is the oldest tree in Didcot?

- A yew tree outside All Saints Church in Lydalls Road. It is at least 1,000 years old – some experts say 1,200 and some say 1,600 years old

Does planting new trees afterwards make up for mature trees that are cut down to make way for new roads and houses?

- Not for at least 50 years, until the combined canopy of the new trees has grown to the same size as the old. And even after 50 years the species living in the trees will still not be nearly as plentiful as those living in the old trees – this will take up to 200 years

What are the biggest threats to our trees in Didcot

- Some trees get diseased or simply grow old and die, of course, but the biggest threat to Didcot's trees is getting cut down to make way for new roads and houses

What can you do to help conserve our trees?

- Learn more about them / get a leaf identification app on your phone / find out what trees are growing around you. Find a tree walk or a wood to explore on the Didcot Trees website. Understand why planting a new tree for every one cut down isn't good enough. Object to planning applications that involve cutting down trees. Join a tree conservation organisation such as the Woodland Trust.