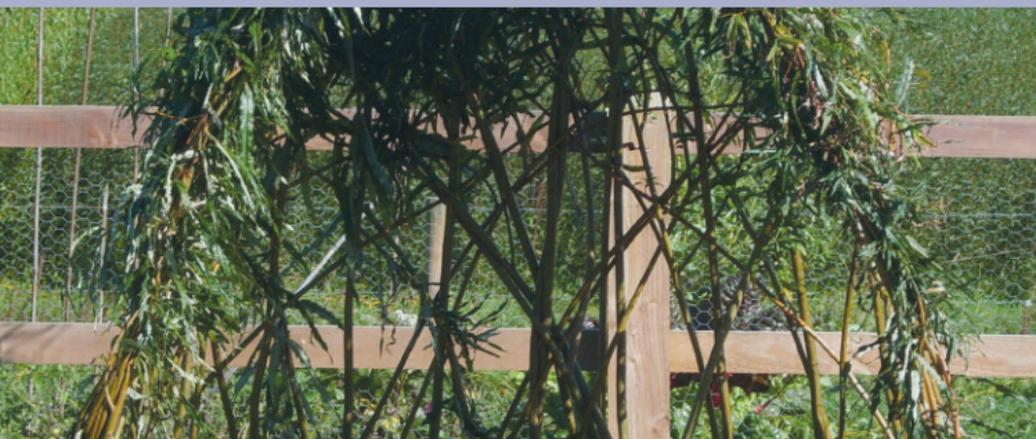




'Working sensitively with the environment



to continue a traditional rural business.



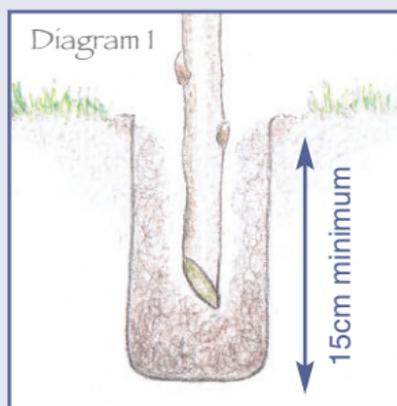
ARBOURS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Creating Your Own Living Willow Structures

✦ You will need basic tools such as a spade, string, marker pegs, garden gloves, pruners and bio-degradable garden ties (or fine willow to tie-off – some included) and mulch (optional).

✦ After finding a suitable position for your structure, snip each rod's base diagonally to ease planting. (Diagram 1)

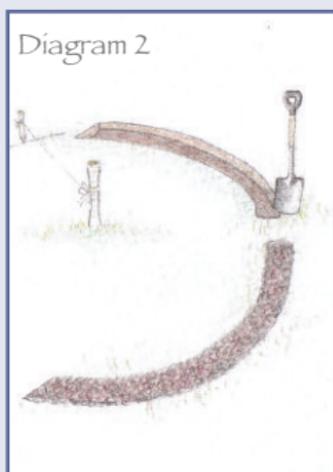


The Basics ...

✦ Mark out the base, use a peg attached to some string to 'scratch' a semi-circle into your turf. 2.4m diameter is large enough for a 6ft bench. (Diagram 2)

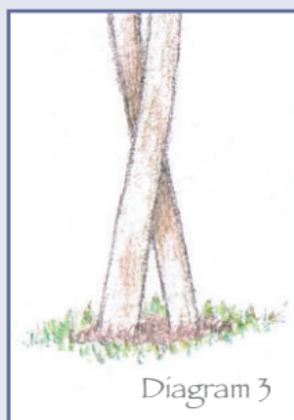
✦ Use a spade to clear a 30cm wide strip of excess turf from your base – leave the doorway space intact. Add some compost to the cleared base, if desired.

✦ Starting at the 'doorpost' push two long rods into the ground close together, to a minimum depth of 15cm. Continue pushing single large rods into the prepared ground every 20cm. Finish at the other 'doorpost' with another two long rods close together.

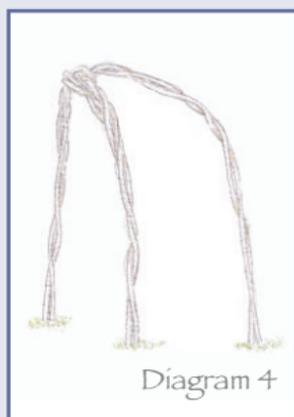


THE BASICS...

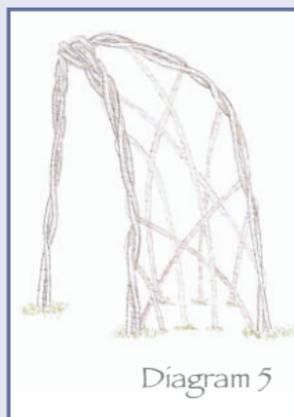
✦ Take one pair of doorpost rods and twist around each other. Repeat for the other side and gently bend each pair towards each other to make the front curved shape, twist again and secure, at the required height, to complete the entrance arch. (Diagram 3)



✦ It is suggested to put an additional two rods for support at the back of the semi circle, to increase the structures strength and give you the initial shape (Diagram 4).



✦ Bend the remaining willow rods towards the centre of the front arch and tie off to create a semi-circular structure. (Diagram 5) Excess length can be twisted around itself to keep it neat, or trimmed off later.



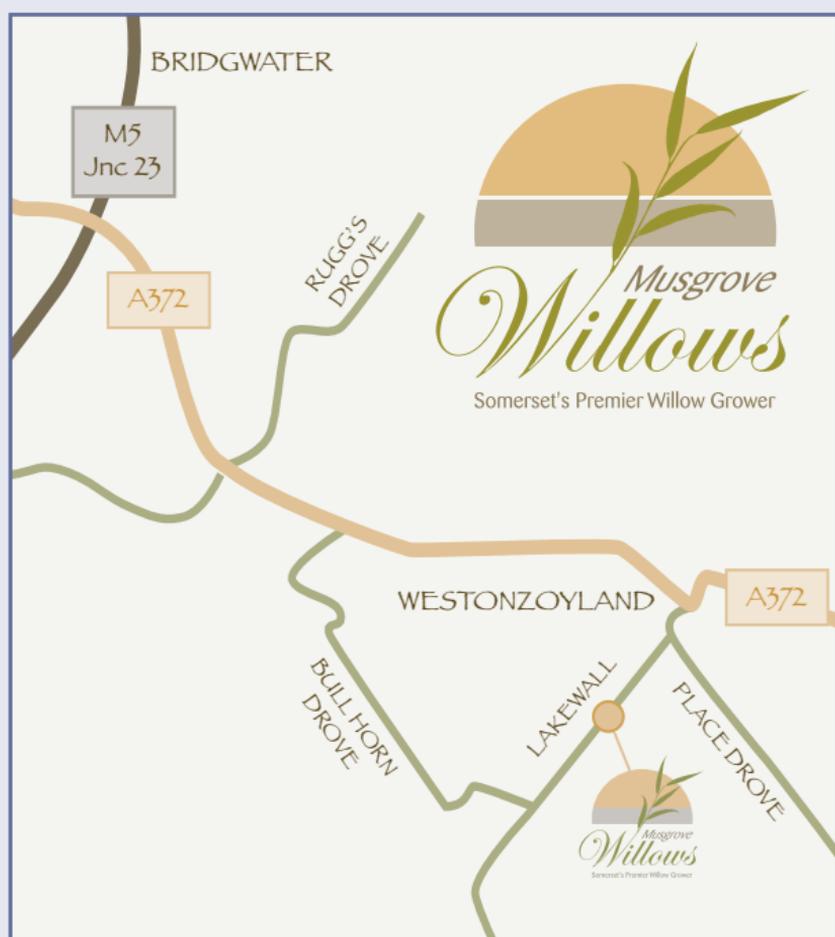
✦ Next add the medium length willow to weave into the frame. Push two rods into the ground at 45 degree angles, halfway between the larger rods. (The greater the angle the greater the side growth) Then simply weave them into your structure in a lattice or diamond pattern. Tie off the ends, as before, trim where necessary, then water well and leave to grow and thrive. (Diagram 6).



INFORMATION

If you require any more information we are happy to recommend some excellent books, all of which are available to buy from Musgrove Willows at very competitive prices. Or, even better, why not come and join us in the beautiful Somerset countryside for one of our popular willow craft courses? Our courses will enable you to learn many different weaving methods. Please visit our website to find out more about what Musgrove Willows has to offer you.

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