

Proposal to enhance wildlife habitat and support bees and other insects at the heart of Freshford village  
Friends of Freshford. October 2020

The intention of this plan is to outline a beginning of ongoing changes to address the serious decline of bees and the loss of biodiversity and as part of a wider response to the climate and ecological emergency.



## Notes from the meeting 15-10-2020

Representatives of the Parish Council, Friends of Freshford and Freshford Primary School.

### Northern Edge

- The protected hedge along Freshford Lane needs to be maintained 'for wildlife'. Is there a group who can take this on like the Freshford Station Garden? It should be enhanced by some additional planting and old man's beard controlled.
- Orchard trees on small to medium rootstock along Freshford Lane hedge starting at 5 bar gate until boggy area.
- Boggy area: alders and coppiced willow and maybe a pond? (compensating for the culverted stream).
- The 'hole' in the hedge is a 'natural willed opening' and would benefit from wooden low impact steps, enhancing access onto the Tynning. A safety barrier opposite is required.

### Central slope

- One oak on the steep bank
- Leave grass longer between paths. Keep paths mown. But encourage biodiverse grass in between. Enhance this with yellow rattle / small areas of wildflower seeds. Reading The Chalkhill Environmental appraisal, it suggests mowing twice a year (September/October and March), removing cuttings. But also leaving tussocky grass at a range of heights. (Habitat Aid suggests tussocky grass cut every 2 or 3 years).

### NW Corner

- Native tree/ shrubs in an arc starting 1/3rd in from the section left of the 5 bar gate (hazel, spindle planted NW corner, to replace 2 x mature ash trees that probably will need to come down and be laid onto the grass for wildlife).
- 'Alan Dodge' path doesn't look viable, particularly due to no access to road
- Leave the War memorial as a separate project, bar some native bulbs.

### Southern Edge

NB The woodland to the south of the Tynning is on the Priority Habitat Inventory (see Chalkhill Ecological Appraisal July 2015)

- What was agreed for the memorial trees 1 x lime and ?
- Humps along northern edge of Sharpstone Lane enhanced with bulbs and wildflowers (Habitat survey done by Julie Fitzgerald shows most of the Tynning biodiversity is on the humps). These will require adequate entrance points.
- Upright flowering, wildlife friendly native trees underplanted by bulbs (and humps?) along Southern Edge of Sharpstone Lane with an additional passing place to mitigate too much reversing and loss of sightline.
- Turn Sharpstone Lane into a Pedestrian Priority zone (cars still allowed just pedestrians have priority).

### Eastern Edge

- Plant mixed native hedge along Church Lane border.
- Makes more sense for school to move their safeguarded area to the top eastern flat area (useability and access through apple trees via new steps).
- Wooden step required near eastern end to allow easy access onto road and up to Boer Oak seat.
- Hump on corner near Boer Oak to be heightened /enhanced with small native shrubs for safety.

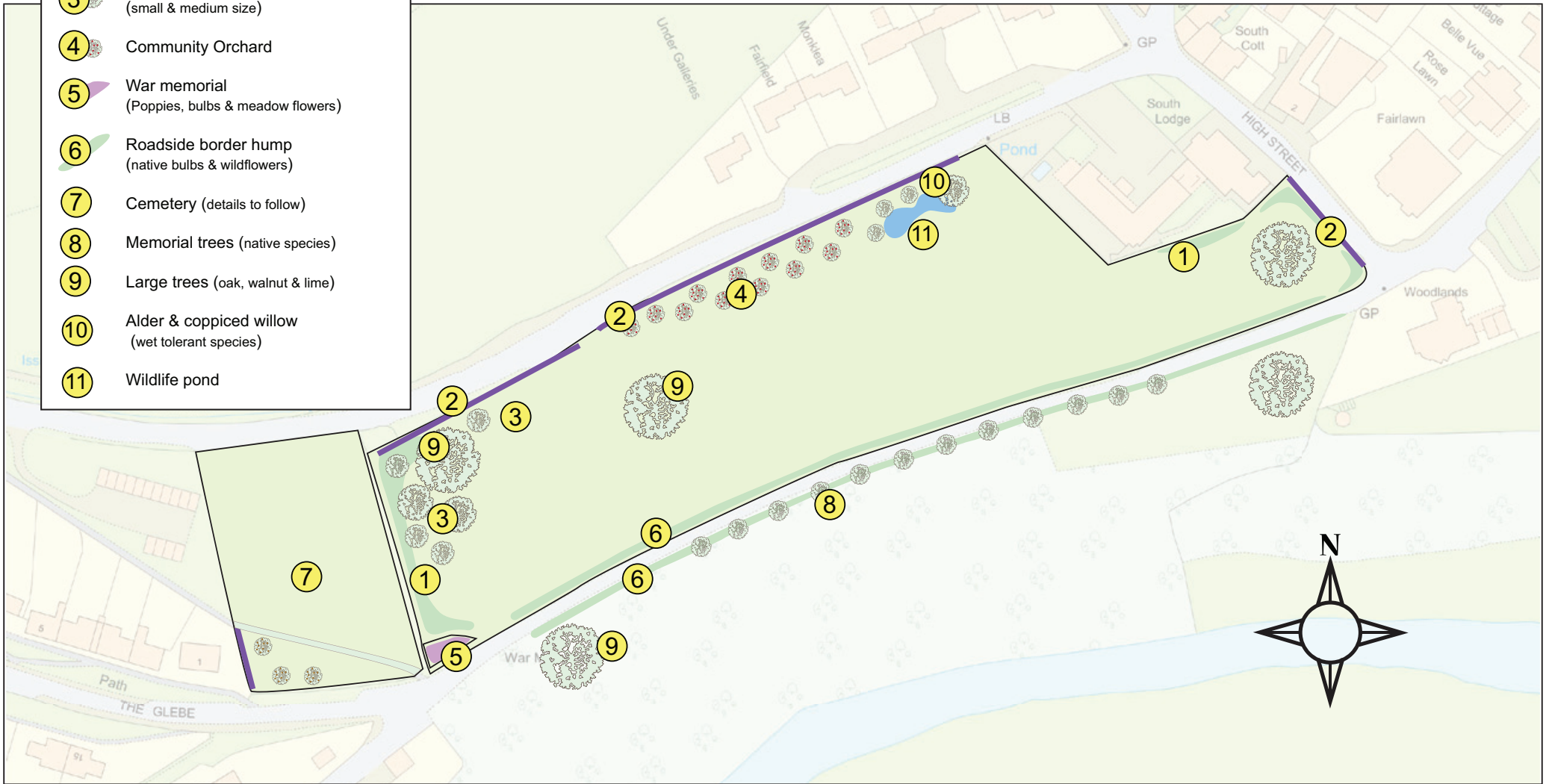
### School

- Looking for 'flexibility' - more ways to learn in nature
- Diversity is good - more habitats. Support the orchard near Freshford Lane hedge.
- The school is up for involvement in anything planting/researching.
- Liability (falling out of trees and pond)- what is the issue, how can we do it safely?
- Review moving the school safeguarded area to near the Boar Oak. School can put in steps up. It would work better for school to have a flatter area away from the boggy area.
- Would like a hedge along Church lane boundary near oak
- Once we have a plan come to the school and talk to each class about what the plan is and why (educate, and engage by ensuring the school and the individual children are "in the story". Include their ideas.

# The Tying, War Memorial and cemetery

## KEY

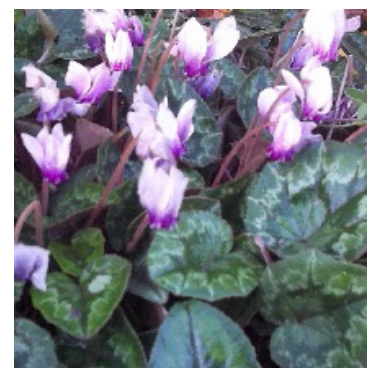
- ① Plant native bulbs & / or wildflowers
- ② Hedgerow (plant or restore)
- ③ Native tree planting (small & medium size)
- ④ Community Orchard
- ⑤ War memorial (Poppies, bulbs & meadow flowers)
- ⑥ Roadside border hump (native bulbs & wildflowers)
- ⑦ Cemetery (details to follow)
- ⑧ Memorial trees (native species)
- ⑨ Large trees (oak, walnut & lime)
- ⑩ Alder & coppiced willow (wet tolerant species)
- ⑪ Wildlife pond



Bulb planting  
Sowing wild flower seeds  
Wild flower plug plants

Shady areas under the trees will be most suited to bluebells and wood anemones whilst the raised edges of Tynning Lane can be host to native daffodils, lesser celandine etc.

The wholesale price of bulbs is likely to be around £150 - £200 per 1000. For an area as large as the Tynning we need to be thinking in thousands rather than hundreds.



# Bulb planting on the Tynning. Oct 2020



## Roadside humped border Tying Lane



The hump of earth and grasses that runs alongside the edge of Tying Lane offers a habitat for wild flowers and grasses and at the same time appears to discourage cars from driving over the grass. By duplicating this on the other side of the lane (leaving, of course, the passing place) there may be no need for wooden bollards to prevent driving and parking on the grass. Both humps can be planted up with *native* bulbs and *native* perennial wild flower and grass seeds. A mown strip to the side of the hump could provide a footpath if needed and breaks in the hump allow pedestrians to step easily out of the road.

It may be possible to source subsoil from building excavations and low fertility soil can be purchased. This may be a job best suited to the spring as it is becoming increasingly wet and muddy in the autumn. Bulbs can, in the mean time, be planted on the existing hump.



### LOW FERTILITY SOIL

[CALCULATE SHIPPING](#)

£74.99 (£69.99 INC VAT)

- Bag Size: 700 litres
- Screened to: 10mm
- Typical PH: Between 7.0 & 8.0
- BS Certification: BS3882:2015 'Low Fertility Specification'

Delivery charges (if applicable) are calculated at the basket stage and are based on your delivery postcode. You can see these charges prior to confirming your order and entering your payment details.

[ADD TO BASKET](#)



## Above the school

- Hedgerow planting along the High Street field edge
- Native bulbs and wild flowers around the edges
- Nesting boxes in the oak



## The war memorial

The small area around the war memorial could be seeded with poppies and other meadow flowers to provide nectar and habitat for bees and other insects as well as a beautiful display throughout the summer and early autumn.

This project would be carried out in consultation with the British Legion.



Suggested bee-friendly floral mix including poppies, for 3 months of colourful display:

25 annual & perennial species including *Agrostemma githago*, *Ammi majus*, *Centaurea cyanus*, *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*, *Chrysanthemum segetum*, *Coreopsis lanceolata*, *Gypsophila elegans*, *Lathyrus odoratus*, *Linum perenne*, *Lupinus perennis*, *Papaver rhoeas* and *Salvia horminum*



## Large trees

The celebratory planting of three major trees (such as oak, walnut and lime) on the Tynning area would mark our commitment to nature, particularly in light of the significant losses of ash trees that are expected in the near future.



Small leaved lime (Linden)  
*Tilia Cordata*



English Oak  
*Quercus Robur*



Walnut  
*Juglans Regia*



## Freedom Hive, Nesting boxes, Hedgehog habitat etc

The Freedom hive is inspired by traditional log hives but weighing only 17kgs, can be hoisted easily into trees or put on a tripod stand.

The hive body is a 12 sided cylinder with a volume of 55 litres. It is not intended for the harvesting of honey but as safe and natural habitat for bees.

The sides of the hives are comprised of three layers: wood/compressed shavings/wood to give thick warm insulation with an inspection board on the base and a thick cedar board on the top from which the bees will build their comb downwards.

<https://beekindhives.uk/the-freedom-hive-2/>



## Community involvement

There are many ways in which to engage all ages and groups in nature projects on the Tynning and beyond.

Positive publicity and signage

Volunteer Days

Apple Day

Festival of wild flowers, bees and trees

School wildlife learning opportunities

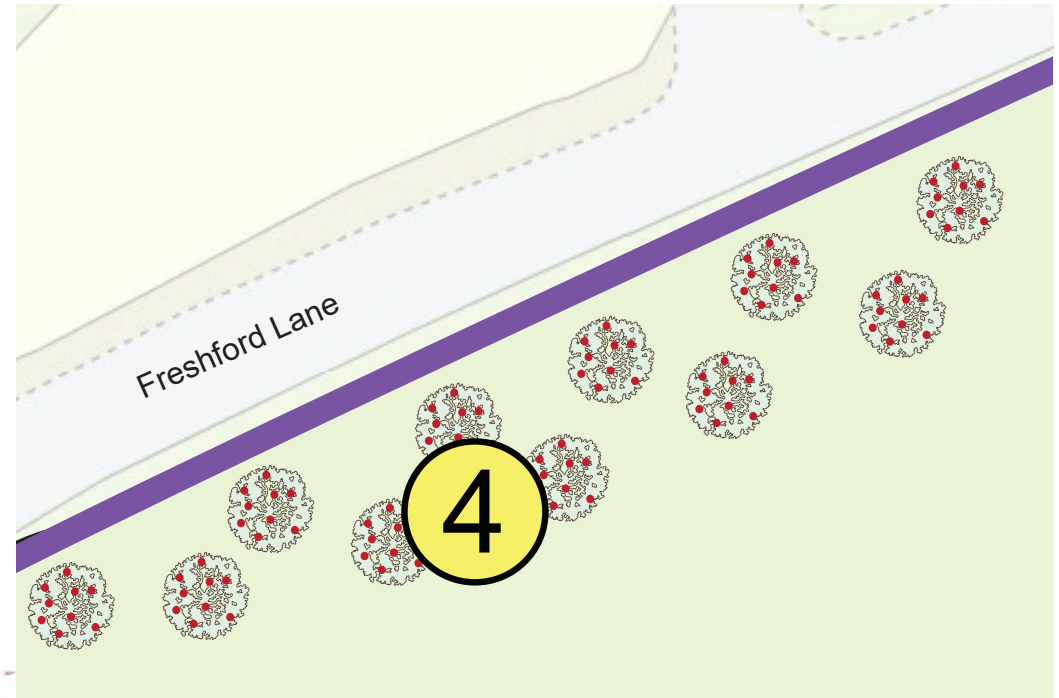
Sponsor a Tree (each group within the village could sponsor a tree (Brownies, WI, Horticultural soc., Freshford Primary School, Football club etc.)

Memorial trees



## Community Orchard

We see the proposed community orchard utilizing a portion of the flat, lower part of Tying Field. A small orchard is envisaged comprising local apple varieties alongside plum and damson trees. These trees would provide much needed pollen and nectar for bees early in the spring, and fruit for wild birds and the community to harvest throughout the summer and autumn. The planting and care of the trees could be a community project, involvement of the school children would be welcomed, and the harvesting of the fruit each autumn would naturally coincide with the annual village Apple Day.



<https://www.kentdowns.org.uk/our-projects/orchards-for-everyone/>



<http://www.commoncause.org.uk/ringmer-community-orchard>

## Freshford Cemetery

Plans for the cemetery will include removal of ash saplings from old graves; allowing the grass to grow and observing the existing diversity; mowing wide flowing paths for access; sowing bee-friendly annual flower seeds, bulbs and native perennials and above the path a seating area, hedgerow planting between the wall and the path on the west boundary and some nut trees (hazel, filbert, almond).

