

Report on Nature Trail Project

Here is the plan for the nature trail below the telephone mast. This is based on planting 20 mixed deciduous trees, 8 rubbing plaques of local wildlife, interpretation boards and signage. This will all be done in harmony with the surroundings, as far as possible.

CDE have offered assistance and Kate Ponting will see to the planting, aided by her team of volunteers, members of the parish and the school. (All this depends on the covid situation.)

We will plant a mixture of two year old whips (sweet chestnut, oak, small leafed lime) in February/March as recommended by John Wilding, CDE forestry expert, to enhance the landscape and encourage wildlife. Trees will be staked and protected by guards so as to protect against grazers (deer, rabbits). These will also act as mini-greenhouses to encourage growth. Whilst Clinton will undertake the initial hedge work before planting, we will need a programme of maintenance so as to allow the trees to establish.

We will provide two information boards and some rubbing plaques. A brown recycled-plastic seat will be placed on the trail with a lovely view over the village (plastic needs little maintenance and should last well). One board will be placed by the seat and the other hopefully on the Pound (after discussions with Clare James). David White, wildlife expert photographer, has agreed to supply images of wildlife relevant to that area.

Councillor Fiona Ward 19/10/2020