

<b>Meeting</b>	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>Report Title</b>	Great Western Community Forest Project
<b>Agenda Reference</b>	12
<b>Author</b>	David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

### Officer's Recommendation

1. To note the report.

### Background

The Trees for Climate – Great Western Community Forest (GWCF) project was agreed at Full Council in August 2021 (Min Ref: FC085A). The trees are to be planted at Tadpole Field. Initial outlay costs will be met by the Council and reimbursed by the grant provider by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. A maximum of £12,255 is required which is fully grant funded.

There are 1,300 trees to be planted. They will be planted over several volunteer planting days led by HWPC Staff & Councillors.

### Archaeologist Report

The County Archaeologist requested that a full geophysical survey be carried out, and this was undertaken by Archaeology Surveys Ltd in late December. The survey highlighted two pit like anomalies, and a response to the ridge and furrow in Tadpole Field, which the surveyor thought showed a change in ploughing direction from east-west to north-south at some point. The main findings were that the field is mainly ridge and furrow, which is extant, and other than that, only one or two weak anomalies outside of the area to be planted.

The full report was sent to the County Archaeologist (and the Parish Council) on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Swindon Borough Council received confirmation from the County Archaeologist on 14<sup>th</sup> January that they were happy to report there are no constraints for the proposed planting from an archaeological point of view, and no further work required. This clarification was needed to progress to the next stage, inclusion on the Forestry Commission Public Register. This is due to be completed on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

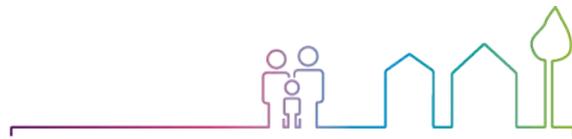
### Tree Planting Event Dates

The GWCF Team has ordered the trees and they are due for delivery later this month – to be stored in its compound at Stanton Park. Providing no issues arise from the consultation on Public Register, tree planting can take place soon after this date. Swindon Borough Council will be working closely with Haydon Wick Parish Council to identify potential for community involvement.

### Dates For Community Tree Planting Events: (Dates/Times can be flexible)

- 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - 9-12pm and 1pm-4pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - 9-12pm and 1pm-4pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - 9-12pm and 1pm-4pm

Email sent to Swindon & Cricklade Railway on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to see if the Parish Council could use some of the car parking space for volunteer parking. No response has been received to date.



Can any Councillors connected to the railway help with liaison and explain our project and why we require access to their welfare facilities? We had hoped that by working with the railway and introducing new groups to the area will help to raise awareness of this unique asset in our parish.

As a contingency an email has now also been sent to Oakhurst Primary School to see if parking can be agreed there. Our last resort is to use our Community Bus as a shuttle service to and from Tadpole Field but that requires more resources and cost.

We are uncertain how popular these events will be so plan to run a registration system on Eventbrite and/or contacting the Head of POST directly to get an idea of the uptake.