

HarCOG report to Harwell Parish Council October 2023 – M Ricketts

(after the report, on p4 there's a brief history of the project on the ground, and on p8 by meetings with links to HPC minutes etc.)

There have been a number of work-party visits during the summer, to water the trees in the weeks when there wasn't so much rain, and to try to keep the hedge-line and around the trees weed-free. One week a bowser-full was also used on the hedge-line.

In June a photo was taken of each tree, with the intention of putting on the web with a little bit of information about each tree. This is still tbd.

August: The intention was to remove any fruit that appeared so as much energy as possible went into the roots, but a few escaped notice until they'd grown - Farleigh plums and Mirabelle plums:



Also in August Gerry did a tour with his mower, view here is from by the Fig:



The mowing regime needs more consideration and planning than it has had this year.

October: The trees have plastic guards and only the apple Bountiful appears to have had any animal damage so far – it wasn't covered at the base; the Juniper is the only one showing signs of inadequate watering:



Also the line of polypropylene rope supported by canes around the hedge has been deteriorating and the agreed replacement with natural hessian rope on 2"x1" posts was finally done:



There was enough left over to mark the area of the wild hedge, which was planted early in the year:



There are still 5 sponsors hoping to have a tree and we have a short list of varieties; sites have yet to be finalised.

Nature Notes:

There were pyramidal orchids near the hazels in June:



In October the Knot Grass moth was seen



And there was evidence of mice or voles in the compost area and this, most likely a field vole, having taken up residence under the waste bin:



Project Summary with dates of main work on the ground

Early 2022 Sustainable Harwell Group applied for a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund of £8450 and was awarded the full amount.

2nd / 3rd April 2022 Hedge planting:



Day 1 team (at the end of the day – some missing):



Day 2:



The hedge planted:



First watering of the hedge –
12th June – with newly-
purchased bowser:

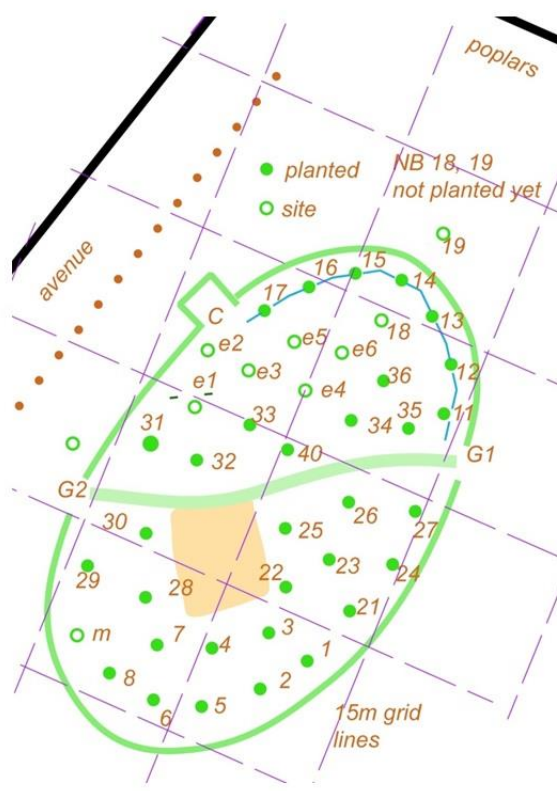


Tree Planting – 4th December 2022 – some tree sponsors came and planted their trees and attached the slate label:



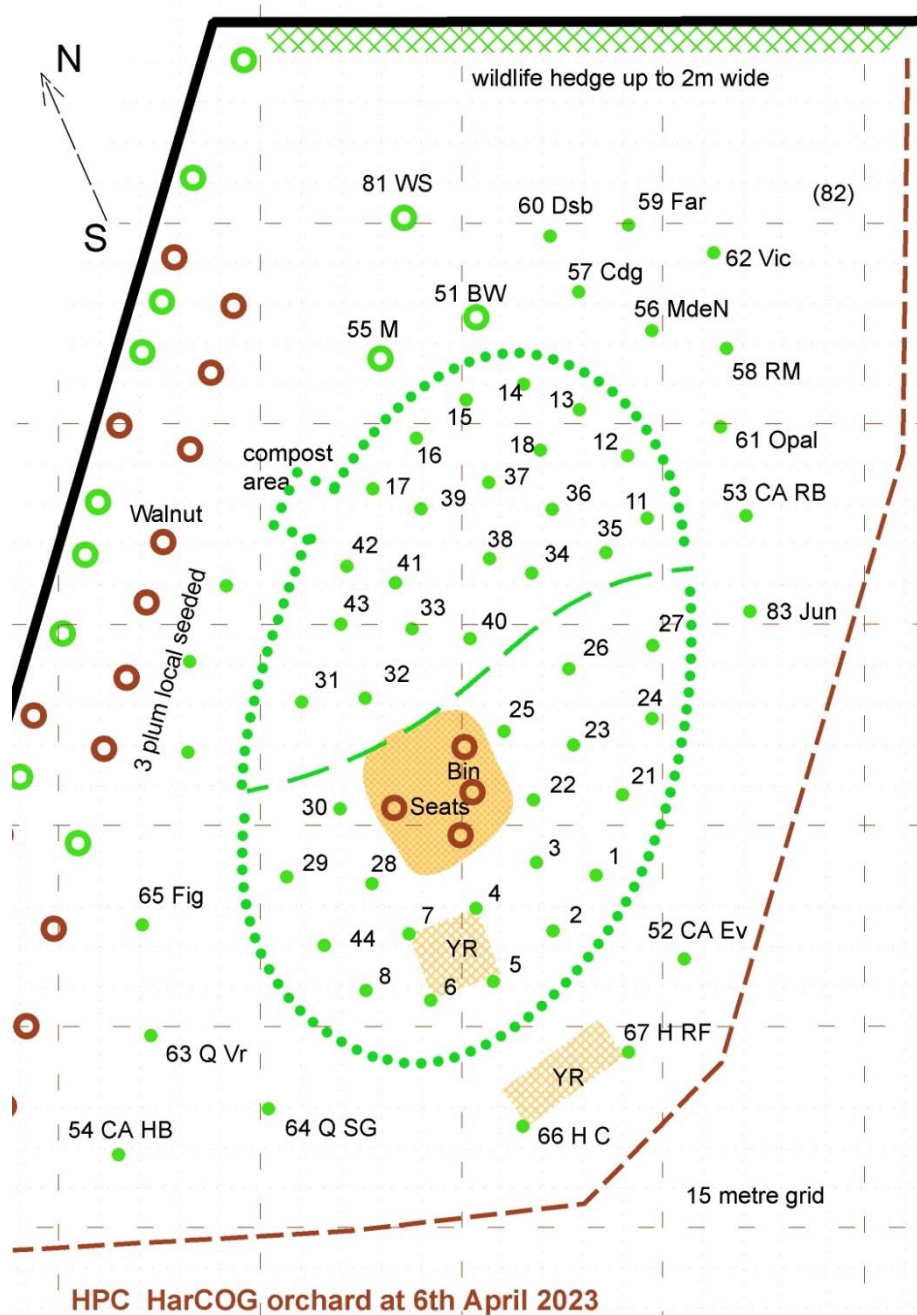


See also report in [Harwell News 237](#) for December 2022 with photos. Below is the plan



Fruit	Variety	Number
Cherry	Early Rivers	1
Cherry	Merton Glory	2
Cherry	Amber Heart	3
Cherry	May Duke	4
Cherry	Napoleon (Bigarreau)	5
Cherry	Stella	6
Cherry	Penny	7
Cherry	Morello	8
Pear	Conference	11
Pear	Beth	12
Pear	Beurre Hardy	13
Pear	Williams Bon Chretien	14
Pear	Doyenne du Commis	15
Pear	Jargonelle	16
Pear	Winter Nellis	17
(Pear)	Black Worcester	18)
(Pear)	Black Worcester	19)
Apple	Egremont Russet	21
Apple	Lord Lambourne	22
Apple	Ribston Pippin	23
Apple	Tydeman's Early Worcester	24
Apple	Beauty of Bath	25
Apple	Blenheim Orange	26
Apple	Bramleys Seedling	27
Apple	Cox Orange Pippin	28
Apple	Isaac Newton's Tree	29
Apple	James Grieve	30
Apple	Laxton Superb	31
Apple	Pitmaston Pineapple	32
Apple	Worcester Pearmain	33
Apple	Ashmeads Kernel	34
Apple	Tydeman's Late Orange	35
Apple	Court Pendu du Plat	36
Apple	John Downie - crab	40

There were spaces still to be filled within the hedge (e1 to e6 and m, above) plus demand to sponsor trees and in January 23 [a revised plan](#) was put to Lands listing additional varieties proposed and to be put within the dotted brown line below. In addition 3 Victoria Plums were donated by a Rowstock resident – these were put close to the avenue to the west. The overall plan is:



YR marks 2 areas where Yellow Rattle seed was scattered on bare patches of ground, though it has yet to be seen growing – this would reduce the vigour of the grass and encourage wild flowers.

2023 Feb / March Additional tree-planting, here the fig:

No 82 on the plan not yet planted – due to be a Juniper.



History of orchard project within HPC main and committee meetings:

2020 [Annual Parish Meeting](#) mention of rec projects including wildflower/ orchard area

2021 May 20th [APM](#) reported that “The Council had set up an Environment Committee which would start meeting soon; the membership would include non-Councillors and in particular members of Sustainable Harwell”

2021 June 21 [Environmental Committee](#) first meeting, need to work with Sustainable Harwell

2021 November 29 [Environment Committee](#) Orchard plan proposed – see [doc](#) with minutes

Plan went to Lands 23rd November and HPC [14th December](#)

Proposal for an Orchard committee went to [HPC 2022 Feb 8th](#) and approved

2022 February 28 [Environment Committee](#) agenda only online

2022 May 5 [HarCOG first meeting](#), revised ToR recommended

2022 June 9 [HarCOG mtg](#) agenda only online

HPC June 14 amended ToR discussed, [July 12](#) approved.

2022 July 28 [HarCOG mtg](#) review hedge-planting and agree mulch purchase

2022 September 29 [HarCOG mtg](#) agree layout of trees, and approve purchase from HFT

2022 October 27 [HarCOG mtg](#) approve revised tree purchase cost, planning planting

2022 November 15 [HarCOG mtg](#) planning for tree-planting weekend

2022 December 15 [HarCOG mtg](#) review tree-planting on 2nd to 4th Dec.

2023 February 9 [HarCOG mtg](#) agreed trees for further planting

2023 March 16 [HarCOG mtg](#) Wildlife hedge to be planted on 18th.

2023 May 4 [HarCOG mtg](#) bench delivered for adding to picnic tables

2023 June 20 [HarCOG mtg](#) agenda only online (draft minutes)