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Leeks & Bury Hill Wood & Melton Recreation Ground.

Tree planting suggestions

For:

Melton Parish Council

Date of Report: MARCH 2021

Contact details.

Client: Melton Parish Council		
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Local Authority: East Suffolk Council		
Address: East Suffolk House, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT	**Contact:** Mr. Nick Newton The Arboriculture and Landscape Manager	**Contact details:** Website: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk Telephone: 0333 016 2000 Email: customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Arboricultural Consultant: AlisonK - Arboriculture		
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Contents

Terms of reference

Melton Parish Council has commissioned AlisonK-Arboriculture to prepare a short report outlining scope for planting at Leeks and Bury Hill wood and Melton Recreation Ground together with broad suggestions on tree species.

Scope of the work:

The following information has been requested for each site:

Melton Recreation Ground:

- Identify suitable locations at the Recreation Ground for two memorial trees and advise on species to be planted.

Leeks and Bury Hill wood:

- Identify any tree protection required eg Gengards or other protective measure to promote the understory – location, size and number should be identified.

Melton Recreation Ground - tree planting suggestions.

Suggested locations:

There are several locations across the recreation ground where memorial tree planting could be carried out and many more areas where additional tree planting would be beneficial (such as starting to replace an aging line of lime trees along Melton Road) or to create or 'bulk up' screen planting on a boundary.

In addition: With the intended re-alignment of the car park shape, future planting opportunities exist for tree planting around its new edge.

Suggested planting locations for various tree species are shown in **Appendix BB3b: Melton Recreation Ground - suggested planting location plan.**

Potential limitations on planting locations.

Locations shown in Appendix BB3b have been added purely on their above ground suitability for planting. No areas were checked for underground services. The presence of underground services may affect a final decision on the position of a new tree.

Melton Recreation Ground - Species Choice:

The tree species choice available from plant nurseries is wide and varied however, to retain the 'natural feel' of Melton Recreation Ground, native trees species have been suggested (especially round the margins and boundaries). More ornamental tree species in the form of native tree cultivars are appropriate in the centre of the site.

Memorial trees could come in the form of larger growing trees suitable for an avenue situation or individual planting, where space allows. In other areas, such as the fenced play area and around the pavilion smaller tree species are more suitable. No precise locations have been identified in this report as tree choice can better inform one of several suitable locations. **Appendix AA3a/C8a: Suggested tree species list** contains a tree species list with a selection of both larger and smaller tree species, suitable for planting on the soil conditions at recreation ground.

Leeks and Bury Hill wood - suggested planting locations and tree establishment methods.

Scope for planting.

In both the wetter, low lying areas and dryer parts of Leeks and Bury Hill wood, there are many open areas with the potential to establish new planting. Despite these open areas having suitable conditions however, there is little evidence of the natural regeneration of young trees (under three years old) which would be expected. Getting planting established in these areas would undoubtedly benefit the future health and longevity of the woodland.

To this end and bearing in mind the size of the woodland and the task in re-planting, it is suggested works be phased and priority given to areas which would see most benefit. For this reason, it is suggested that planting efforts are initially focused on areas within the dry woodland and upper slopes.

Pressures on the existing woodland environment:

With the decision to plant on the dry woodland areas comes with several potential issues for which suitable solutions will need to be found for planting to be successful.

This area has the easiest access (compared to the wet woodland areas) and therefore sees high human activity (possibly higher than in previously due to the pandemic rules and lock down). Numerous desire-line paths have developed in addition to the permissive paths on the dryer parts of the woodland. The most used footpaths can be seen in **Appendix C8b: Leeks and Bury Hill wood - suggested planting location plan.**

Possible threats to tree establishment:

High human activity is not necessarily a direct threat to establishing young trees however, if a planting enclosure obstructs a path then it is likely that the fence will not survive for long. There is also some evidence of vandalism currently in the woodland with one fire damaged oak tree and a couple of trees damaged by sharp tools. New planting may also attract this type of unwanted attention.

Addressing potential issues from human activity:

Consultation with the local community and other woodland users may help reduce or circumvent some foreseen problems. Explaining the reasons for work may help encourage people to use the permissive paths and reduce complaints from disgruntled woodland users whose preferred routes you want to block. Initially it may be more productive to keep all enclosures clear of all but the least used paths - as are the seven enclosures shown in Appendix C8b. Once some areas are established and planting successful, it may be easier to gain acceptance for more. Reducing acts of vandalism is harder to control as it is often sporadic and cannot be foreseen.

Existing biotic factors:

Two major biotic factors are thought to be key in terms of achieving successful planting:

- The abundance of browsing animals (the main culprit likely to be muntjac deer) feeding on the young growth before trees can establish.
- Large areas of invasive plants including bracken and bramble which have developed in open areas. Dense areas of bracken is known to be especially detrimental when establishing new tree planting.

Tackling these two biotic issues is seen as key in getting new trees established. Active management of both will be needed on a regular basis for planting to be successful and can be achieved in the following way:

Protecting planting from browsing damage.

Protecting new trees can be achieved by planting into deer and rabbit proof enclosures made of post and wire fencing or by using purpose built Gengards. Built enclosures can be of any size to suit the planting area required. Gengards form a 2.4 metre square enclosure and could be a cost-effective alternative to fencing as they could be relocated after a few years to a new site. NB. Gengards may still be available from New Woods Forestry on 01362 821 082 (I have however, tried to contact the firm recently without successful to date).

Seven areas suggested for creating enclosures (G2 to G8) have been highlighted as they have good potential. These are shown in **Appendix C8b: Leeks and Bury Hill wood - suggested planting location plan.**

Individual and smaller groups of trees can also be protected by post and wire fencing however this could work out to be more costly in terms of construction time and materials.

The use of tree shelters (Tubex) to protect Individual trees as a cost-effective alternative. This should also be considered inside enclosures where there is bracken present as it shows where trees are when managing bracken.

Management of Invasive plant growth.

Management of bracken is not achieved easily and **regular cutting by hand (twice a year for some years)** within planting enclosures is the only practical option on a site like Leeks and Bury Hill wood.

Areas of brambles may need controlling within enclosures to ensure planting is not completely overwhelmed. it is however also sometimes possible to use brambles as an effective extra, natural protection around individual tree planting in a tree shelter by managing brambles to create an enclosure ring around the new planting.

Leeks and Bury Hill wood - Species Choice:

Larger growing tree species included in the planting list mirror the existing larger tree population on site. Sycamore have not been included as these are the one tree species which is relatively successful in reproducing currently across the woodland. It is suggested that smaller native tree and shrub species form the bulk of the planting in enclosures to help re-establish a balanced ratio between the existing larger trees and the somewhat lacking shrub layer in the woodland. Species suggestions are listed in **Appendix AA3a/C8a: Suggested tree species list.**

Additional suggestions:

Planting ratios and distances:

1.5 metre spacings are suggested for planting between trees within enclosures for all smaller and tree and shrubs species (with each species planted in groups of 3 or 5). The suggested planting distance between larger growing tree species is 3 to 5m spacing.

Enclosures construction:

It is suggested that planting enclosures are constructed as soon as possible, through the springtime ready for planting towards the end of the 2021. Initial management of undesirable vegetation withing enclosures can then be carried out through the summer before planting.

Woodland management plan:

Establishing new planting may go some way, over time to redress the current lack of field layer and improve the vertical structure. However, considering the increasing pressures the woodland faces in terms of environmental challenges in climate change and increasing pests and diseases, it is suggested that a formal woodland management plan is commissioned. Adopting a formal plan could help provide a clear approach to the overall future management for Leeks and Bury Hill wood, whilst helping to balance the needs and desires of the local community.

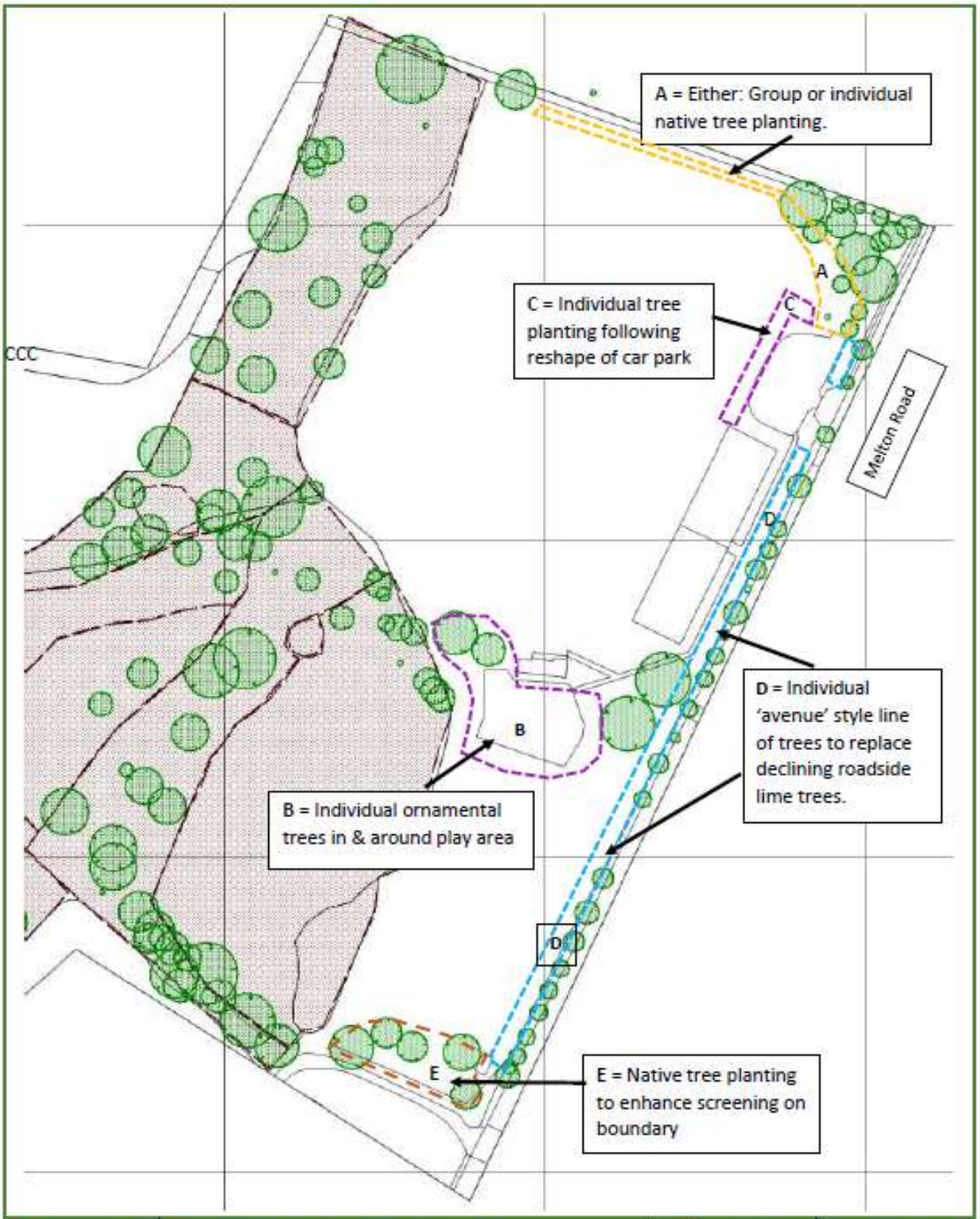
Appendices

Appendix AA3a/C8a: Suggested tree species list.

Appendix BB3b: Melton Recreation Ground - suggested planting location plan.

Appendix C8b: Leeks and Bury Hill wood – suggested planting location plan.

Project: Melton Recreation Ground and Leeks & Bury Hill wood.		**AlisonK - Arboriculture** 33 Timperleys, Hintlesham, Ipswich, IP8 3PS. T: 01473 652552 M: 07425389786 E: ali@alisonK.co.uk
Appendix AA3a/C8a: Suggested tree planting list - by location.		
Client: Melton Parish Council	**Date:** March 2021 **Compiled by:** Mrs A. K. Martin	
Location relating to Appendix A: Suggested planting Locations	Species	**Comments:** General: .
Location: Melton Recreation Ground: Appendix BB3a: Suggested planting location plan		
Native mix of smaller trees and large shrubs	Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	Whip planting mix of smaller and mediums sized native species suitable for **Area A and E in Appendix A.**
	Spindle (Euonymus europaeus)	
	Field maple (Acer campestre)	
	Holly (Ilex aquifolium)	
	Hazel (Corylus avellana)	
Commemorative tree planting suggestions	Species.	
Larger growing trees	Dodoens elm (Ulmus 'Dodoens')	Tree species considered suitable Especially suitable for avenue trees of **Area D in Appendix A,** or in **Area A** as individuals.
	Clusius elm (Ulmus 'Clusius')	
	Elm 'New horizon' (Ulmus 'New Horizon')	
	Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus)	
	English oak (Quercus robur)	
	Pin oak (Quercus poultries)	
	Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip tree)	
	Small leaf lime (Tilia cordata)	
	Silver lime (Tilia tomentosa)	
	Aesculus indicia (Indian horse chestnut)	
Medium size trees		
	Field maple (Acer campestre)	Suitable tree species for **Areas A and C shown in Appendix A.**
	Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus)	
	Sweet gum tree (Liquidambar styraciflua)	
	Wild cherry (Prunus avium and cultivar 'Plena')	
	Zelkova serrata (Japanese elm)	
Small trees and large shrubs		Trees and shrubs listed in this section are a suggested starting point for species selection and many other suitable cultivars may be available.
	Crab apple cultivars (Malus spp)	These trees species would be especially appropriate in Area B around the Play area and pavilion.
	Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	
	Malus sylvestris (Crab apple)	
	Malus floribunda (Ornamental apple)	
	Malus 'Golden Hornet' (Ornamental apple)	
	Malus 'John Downie' (Ornamental apple)	
	Amelanchier lamarkii (June berry)	
	Cockspur thorn (Crataegus prunifolia)	
Location: Leeks and Bury Hill wood. Appendix C8b: - Plan of larger areas suitable for new planting.		
Larger growing native trees		Lager tree species suitable for all **Areas G2 to G8 on Appendix C8b: Leeks and Bury Hill wood - Larger areas** suitable for new planting
	Beech (Fagus sylvatica)	
	English oak (Quercus robur)	
	Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris)	
	Small leaf lime (Tilia cordata)	
	Sweet chestnut (Castania sativa)	
Native mix of smaller trees and large shrubs	Native species in this section are suggested to form the bulk of the under-planting in order to help re-establish a shrub layer to the woodland.	
	Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	Planting mix of smaller and medium sized native species suitable for all **Areas G2 to G8 on Appendix C8b: Leeks and Bury Hill wood - Larger areas** suitable for new planting
	Spindle (Euonymus europaeus)	
	Field maple (Acer campestre)	
	Holly (Ilex aquifolium)	
	Hazel (Corylus avellana)	
	Yew (Taxus baccata)	


A = Either: Group or individual native tree planting.
C = Individual tree planting following reshape of car park
A
C
CCC
Melton Road
D
D = Individual 'avenue' style line of trees to replace declining roadside lime trees.
B
B = Individual ornamental trees in & around play area
D
E
E = Native tree planting to enhance screening on boundary
Project: Melton Recreation Ground.
Scale: Not to Scale
Title: Appendix BB3a: Suggested planting location plan.
Client: Melton Parish Council. Plan produced by: A K Martin
Date: March 2021
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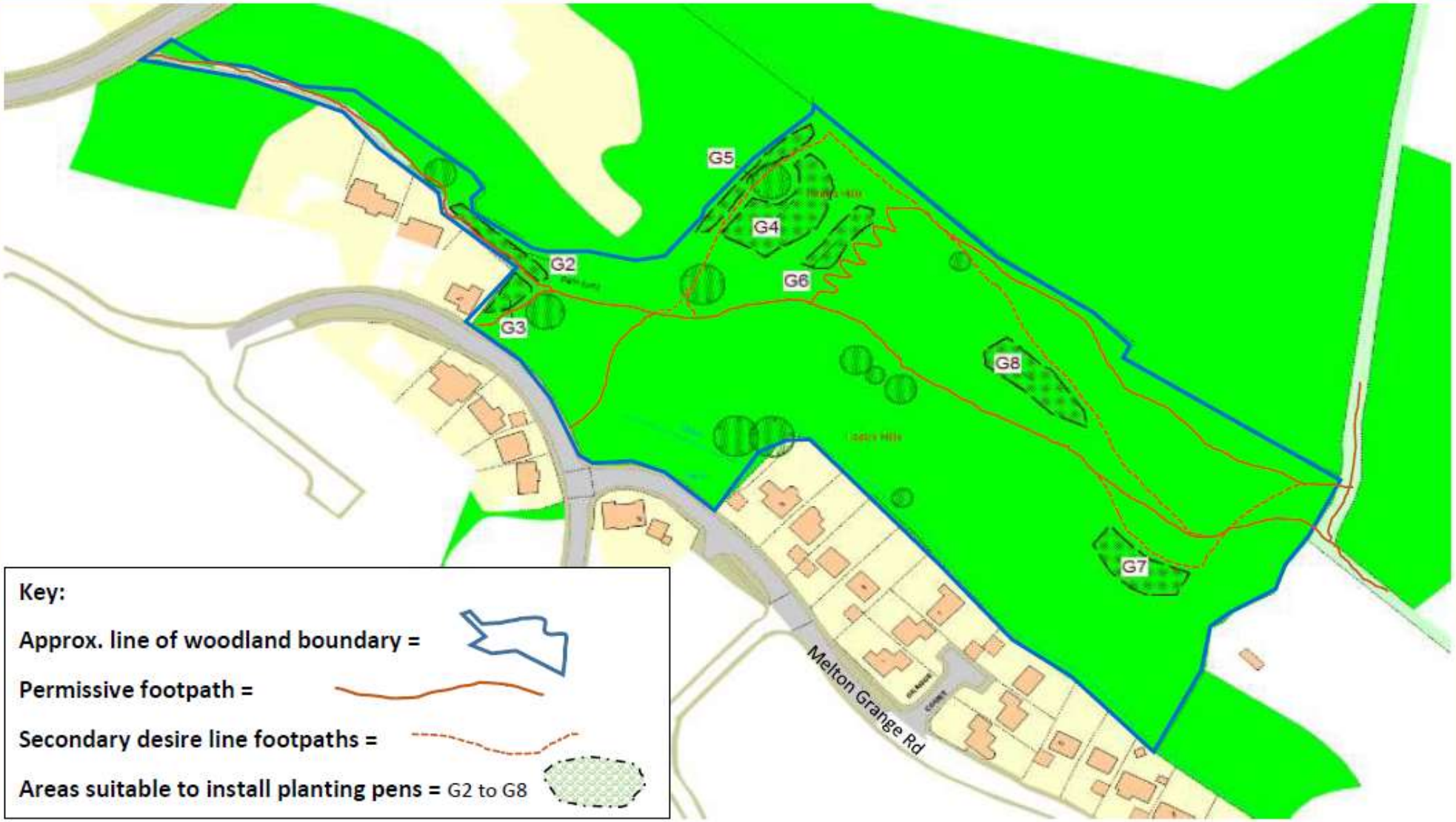

Project: **Leeks & Bury Hill wood** – Suggested tree planting.

Title: **Appendix C8b:** Leeks and Bury Hill wood: Larger areas suitable for new planting

Client: **Melton Parish Council.**

Plan produced by: **Mrs A K Martin.**

Scale	Not to scale
Date:	March 2021

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