

## Proposed tree plantings on Froyle Recreation ground

Froyle Wildlife volunteers would plant bare rooted trees with stakes, guards and mulch around the base. Small young trees will transplant better and after several years will outperform large planted trees. So this will not be an instant effect project but one that should benefit wildlife in the future as well as adding interest for people.

**Native trees provide food and shelter for local wildlife and give seasonal interest throughout the year. From cascades of blossom in spring to a blaze of autumn leaf colour and fruits.**



Several trees have died in recent years leaving gaps on the eastern edge of Froyle rec (see photo) that could be filled. The tree species proposed are Wild Cherry, Whitebeam and Rowan, these would be purchased from British grown stock. Planting would then be done November 2020 at the earliest. Information about these tree species is on the next page, amended from Woodland Trust.



Permission is sought from Froyle Parish Council to approve the new tree plantings. The approx. tree locations are shown on the above images after consultation with Ian MacNabb and Nick Whines. Costing for 6 trees from Mill Farm Trees, Winchester would be about £270 for 2.4m to 3.0m bare rooted standards plus £30 for stakes, guards and mulch.

Barry Clark 6th August 2020

Froyle Wildlife Registered Charity Number 1171997

### **Wild cherry, *Prunus avium***

Wild cherry has beautiful clouds of blossom in spring and its bright summer fruits that bring a splash of vivid colour in summer. Its warm autumn leaves fade to a deep crimson, giving a warm glow.

Height: 18-25 metres high.

Estimated growth rate: 20-40cm per year.

Soil and conditions: wild cherry grows best in full sunlight and fertile soil. It won't tolerate waterlogged soil.

This species makes a wonderful addition to any wildlife area. The 'avium' in the Latin name refers to birds which eat the cherries as soon as they are ripe (the cherries are very bitter so not edible to us). The spring blossom also provides an early source of nectar and pollen which attracts a whole range of insects. See photos and more information at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/wild-cherry/>

### **Rowan, *Sorbus aucuparia***

It's a wildlife magnet and pretty tree for every season. Rowan has silvery-brown bark and fern-like leaves which turn a lovely burnt red in autumn. In spring you'll find clusters of creamy-white flowers followed by vibrant, orange-red berries in autumn. Don't be fooled by its delicate appearance – rowan can grow at altitude hence its other common name, mountain ash. Its bitter, raw berries are rich in vitamin C and can be made into a delicious jelly for meats and cheeses.

Height: maximum height of 8-15 metres.

Estimated growth rate: 20-40cm per year.

Rowan is very slim and makes a perfect specimen tree. You'll often see it planted in streets and parks.

Soil and conditions: a hardy species and will grow in most soils but prefers light, well-drained and humus-rich soil.

The flowers are a pollen and nectar source for bees and other pollinating insects, while the berries are eaten by birds, especially blackbird, thrushes, redstart and redwing. See photos and more information at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/rowan/>

### **Whitebeam, *Sorbus aria***

The whitebeam's fruit is a favourite of garden birds. It's uncommon in the wild but is a popular ornamental tree in parks, with lovely blossom. When the leaves first unfold they look like magnolia flowers. They fade to a rich russet colour before falling in autumn.

Mature height 15 metres

Soil and conditions: a hardy deciduous species and will grow in most soils.

The flowers are pollinated by insects and the berries are favoured by birds. The leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of a number of moths. See photos and more information at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/whitebeam/>.