Roman Park Credenhill

Tree Planting Project 2020-21

Background

The Roman Park formerly part of the Ecroyd Estate was purchased on 30th April 1981 for the sum of £21,000 by Credenhill Parish Council; the land is covenanted for the use of Playing/Sports/Recreation Fields. The Roman Park at the time was farmland and has over the years had several projects completed to increase its useability as a local amenity for the residents of the Parish of Credenhill; now a large village with circa 840 homes and circa 2500 residents. The park now contains the following:

- Play Equipment for a variety of age groups.
- Adults Grass Football Pitch
- Junior Grass Football Pitch
- Tarmacked Multi Sports Surface
- Air-Conditioned Changing Rooms

As shown on the below aerial view of Credenhill, the Roman Park (outlined in green) is on the rural south westerly edge of the Village with approximately half of its boundary open to arable farmland and the remaining bordered by housing.

Scope of Project

The Parish Council is working on a project to upgrade the park and provide modern sports and play equipment. As part of this project there is a desire to improve the biodiversity of the site by using natural features to help break up the various areas and to enhance the existing features within the site. The site already has an abundance of strategically placed trees around the boundary which were planed soon after the land was purchased and the whole site is covered in grass.

This document will focus on:

1. the next phase of Tree Planting on the site.
    a. Locations
    b. Variety
    c. Ongoing maintenance

2. How we can make effective use of the Tree Council Branching Out Fund

3. How we can incorporate young people in the project

Current Situation

The site has mature trees along the whole length of the north west and south west boundary as well as approximately half of the north east boundary. These trees were planted in the 80's and no further trees have been planted. Two of the mature trees have been recently removed due to their condition; the remainder are in good general healthy condition with 1 showing early signs of decay. All trees are positioned far enough into the boundary so as not to encroach on neighbouring land and gardens.

The following varieties are present:

- Birch
- Silver Birch
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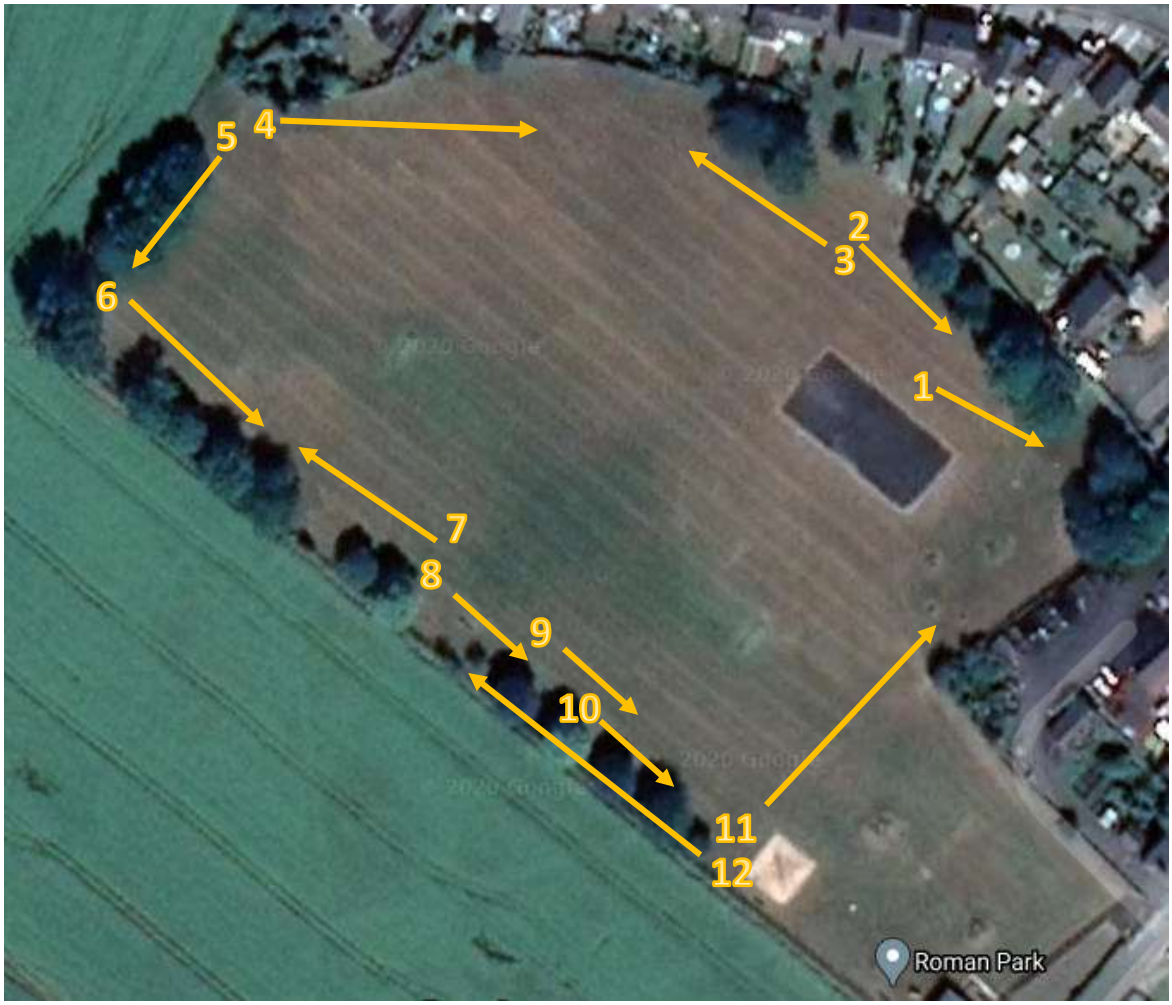
The below arial view of the Park shows the location of the trees, each number denote the position and direction of view of each of the pictures on the following pages of the report.



Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

Picture 5

Picture 6

Picture 7

Picture 8

Picture 9

Picture 10

Picture 11

Picture 12

Next Phase of Tree Planting

The next phase of tree planting will be to infill the gaps in the existing tree lines and to connect the tree line to the rear of the properties on the north side of the park. Based on the existing spacing the park will require 16 further trees to be planted.

The below arial view shows the proposed tree locations in relation to the existing tree lines:

Trees will offer a number of benefits to the site:

- A natural shield between adjacent homes and the activities on the park.
- A natural barrier to the wind from the open Arable farm land.
- Will encourage more wildlife into the park
- In-filling the boundary will create a natural route for birds and insects to flourish.
- More shaded areas around the park for users.
- A natural walkway around the perimeter, possibly in future to include a formal path or exercise route.

What Variety?

We have a Horse Chestnut tree sapling in a pot grown from a cutting from the tree on the village green which has been donated by the family of the late Gordon Bachelor in his memory.

15 further trees will need to be ordered from a Nursery

Where From?

Size/Age/Cost?

How to involve young people?

15 Trees:

- St Mary's Primary School – 1 Tree Per Class Reception, Yr1, Yr2, Yr3, Yr4, Yr5, Yr6 - 7 Trees
- Young Magna – 1 Tree
- Scouts
    - Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Explorers – 4 Trees
    - Rainbows/Brownies – 2 Trees
- Credenhill Nursery – 1 Tree
- Bachelor Family to be invited to plant the memorial tree for the late Gordon Bachelor.