



Newsletter: June 2020



The Green Field seen from The Drive

The current situation

The site is open, and people are free to walk round. However, someone has been cutting back the vegetation in the wild area. Please do not do this. Work to create paths, clear rubbish and unwanted growth will be planned once we have completed ecological and tree surveys to identify what to keep and what can be removed.

The ivy provides a habitat for some wildlife. Barnet's tree department has surveyed the trees and reported that the ivy on the trees is not a danger to the trees.

It's very unfortunate that we have had to put work on hold until the situation with corona virus eases. The Committee is continuing to plan despite the current restrictions.

To contact the Committee, some of whom live within sight of the site, please email FoFWOS@gmail.com

Friends

The Friends of Finchley Way Open Space is constituted as a not-for-profit community group. Membership is free.

The Constitution states that we should hold four open meetings a year for Friends and anyone else who is interested. We had to cancel the spring meeting but still hope to hold a meeting this autumn. Obviously this will depend on any restrictions in place at the time. We will keep you informed.

In the meantime, we hope that our monthly newsletter distributed on the 10th of each month will keep you up-to-date on progress.



New poster at entrances

Animals and plants

We have had reports of Tawny Owls being heard on the site and possibly some young owlets. If you see or hear them, please let us know. There are also reports of bats.



Tawny Owl in flight

Thanks to the Friends who identified the photos in the last newsletter as *Arum maculatum*, common names Jack in the pulpit and Cuckoo pint, among others. It will have red/orange berries in the autumn. It is highly poisonous if eaten.

As we suspected, there's general agreement that the bluebells are Spanish or a hybrid of native and Spanish and therefore we will plan to remove them as non-natives.

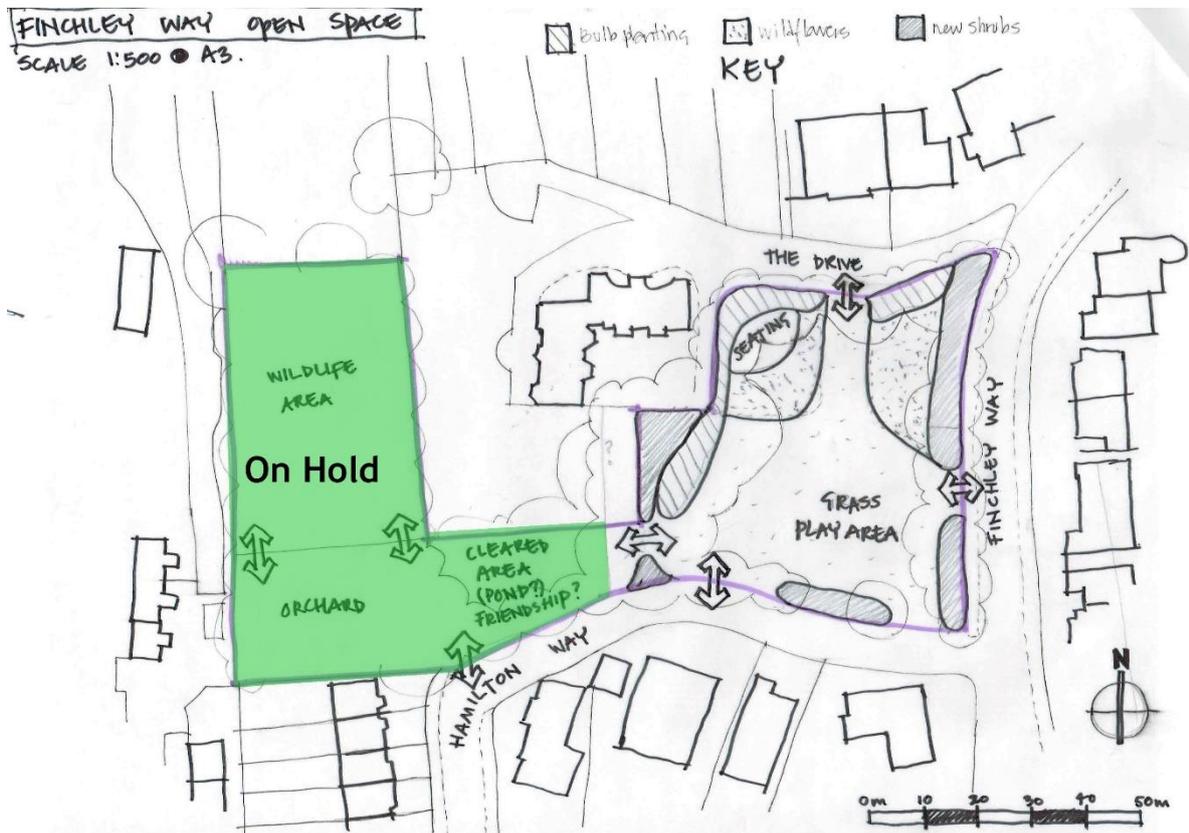
There are not many flowering plants to see this month, so we have included photos (on the last page) of leaves from some of the trees growing on the site - can you identify any of them? (Sorry no prizes.)

The Plan

The committee have been looking at ideas for the long-term future of the site. We had hoped to present our thoughts at the Friends meeting but the lockdown has prevented any meetings.

In the meantime the sketch below shows our initial ideas. Please email in your thoughts to FOFWOS@gmail.com

Until we have an agreement sorted out with Barnet Council, we can only work on The Green Field, the grassy area, and not on the overgrown areas of The Copse or The Orchard.



In relation to planting an urban orchard on part of the site, we have been in touch with The Orchard Project. As a charity themselves they are only able to provide support on a fee paying basis. They can give advice on the suitability of the site, design of the orchard and tree selection. They also run training days.

Volunteering

There are volunteering opportunities to organise events and publicity once we can have gatherings. No previous experience is necessary. We can provide support to get you started.

We also need volunteers to write short pieces and take photos for the newsletter.

If you would like to join the Committee, at the moment we are meeting using online conferencing. If you would like to volunteer please contact Suzanne and Alan via our email at FOFWOS@gmail.com

Fund raising

Membership of the Friends is free, but we can accept donations from individuals and businesses in cash or by cheque or bank transfer.

The Friends group has a bank account with NatWest. For details of how to donate please email Suzanne and Alan at fowos@gmail.com

We are preparing to fundraise using the crowdfunding platform Spacehive. More details of our appeal, what we hope to fund and how to donate once we have launched it.

Social Media

There is a Facebook open to all FOFWOS members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1385689341590473/>

Please log in to see what's happening and post photos and messages for Friends, some of whom still prefer not to go out at the moment.

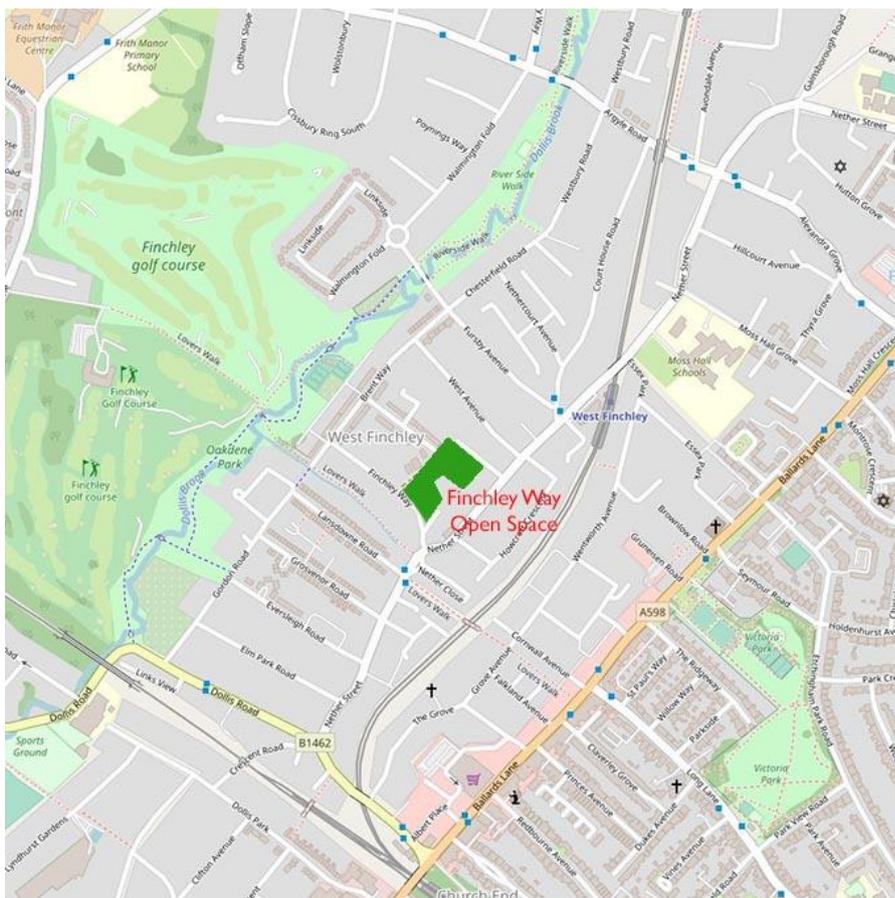


A fine example of ? tree (clue it's No.3)



Beetle attack?

Location of the site



Thank you for your support

Contributors - Suzanne King, Alan Douglas and Arlette Garcia

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1



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4



5



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8