

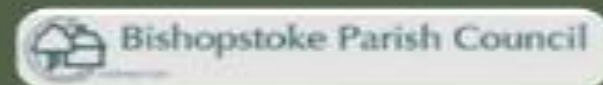
# The Tree and Bee Network

Connecting people and nature through the creation of resilient and sustainable landscapes



For further information visit [eastleigh.gov.uk/treeandbee](http://eastleigh.gov.uk/treeandbee) or email [treeandbee@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:treeandbee@eastleigh.gov.uk)

Funded and delivered by Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Local Area Committee and local partners



Helen Brown Treescapes

# Project Overview

The Tree & Bee network, encompassing the Parishes of Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath. We are delighted to be working with the local schools as well as individuals and businesses who live in these areas.



We are pleased to report volunteer numbers are increasing as more people want to get involved with the project – be that working on Council owned green spaces, within school grounds or within their own privately owned gardens.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Each enhanced green space enriches the local area and adds to a mosaic of chemical free, ecologically diverse and bountiful places for both wild and human residents to enjoy. Through careful and targeted planting, the landscape is also becoming more resilient to climate change, more rich in biodiversity and providing locally grown organic food.



# PROJECT OVERVIEW




The Tree and Bee Network aims to connect existing areas of woodland and the biodiversity they contain by creating a mosaic of living stepping-stones and corridors through the landscape – allowing wildlife to move between them.

The ‘stepping-stones’ take different forms, varying from a stacked planter in hard landscaped areas to planting individual trees or creating hedges and edible forest gardens where medicinal herbs grow alongside edible flowers, fruit trees and bushes.

We are also championing existing ‘grandparent trees’ and ensuring we conserve them both as biodiversity hotspots - but also for the ecosystem services they provide, such as improving air quality, slowing down rainfall run-off , acting as wind breaks and providing much needed shade during hot weather.

The project also provides an opportunity for people to connect with each other through the love of nature and working towards a common goal of growing local, organic food and creating a more healthy environment in which to live.



# Expanding the Tree and Bee Corridor into the wider landscape to create a network

School grounds

Roundabouts

Allotments and private gardens

Community gardens within new housing developments

Reinstating and bolstering existing hedgerows with native edible species

Mapping and incorporating veteran trees as biodiversity hotspots and sources of local seed

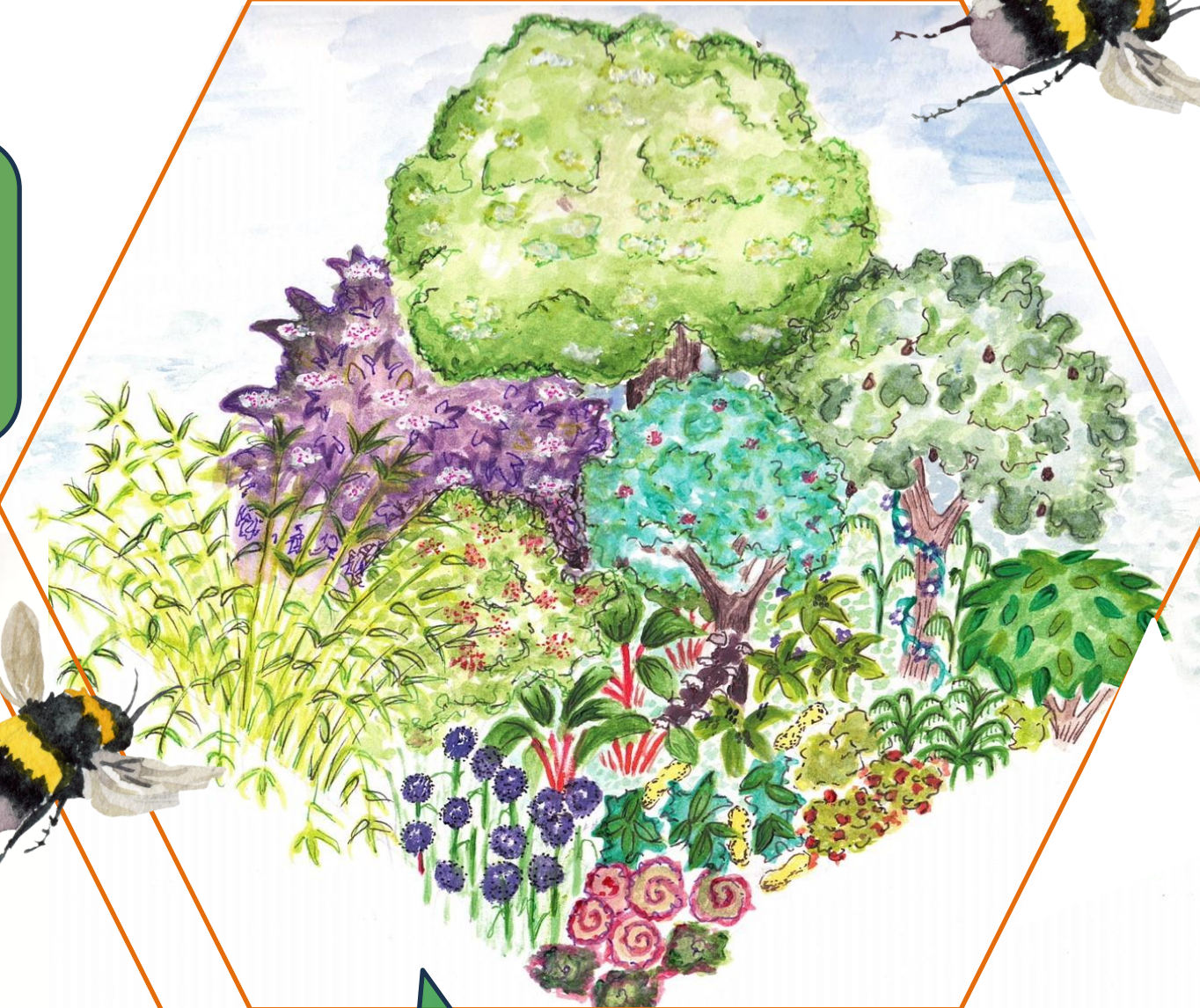
Promoting natural regeneration

# Examples of how the green 'stepping-stones' are being planted to create the Tree and Bee Network



Planter with edible pollinator plants

Tree with underplanting of edibles and/or pollinator plants

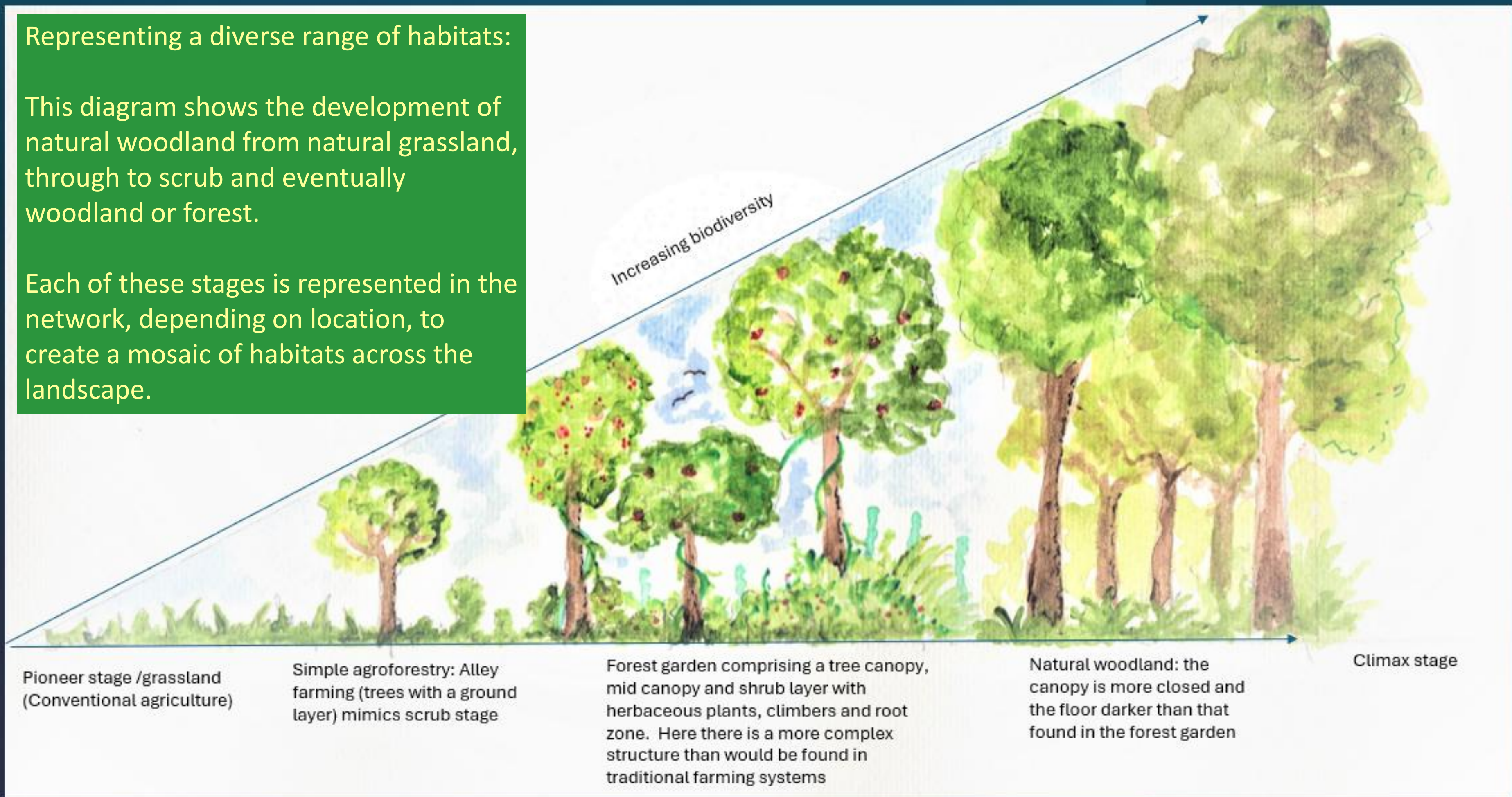


A forest garden structure

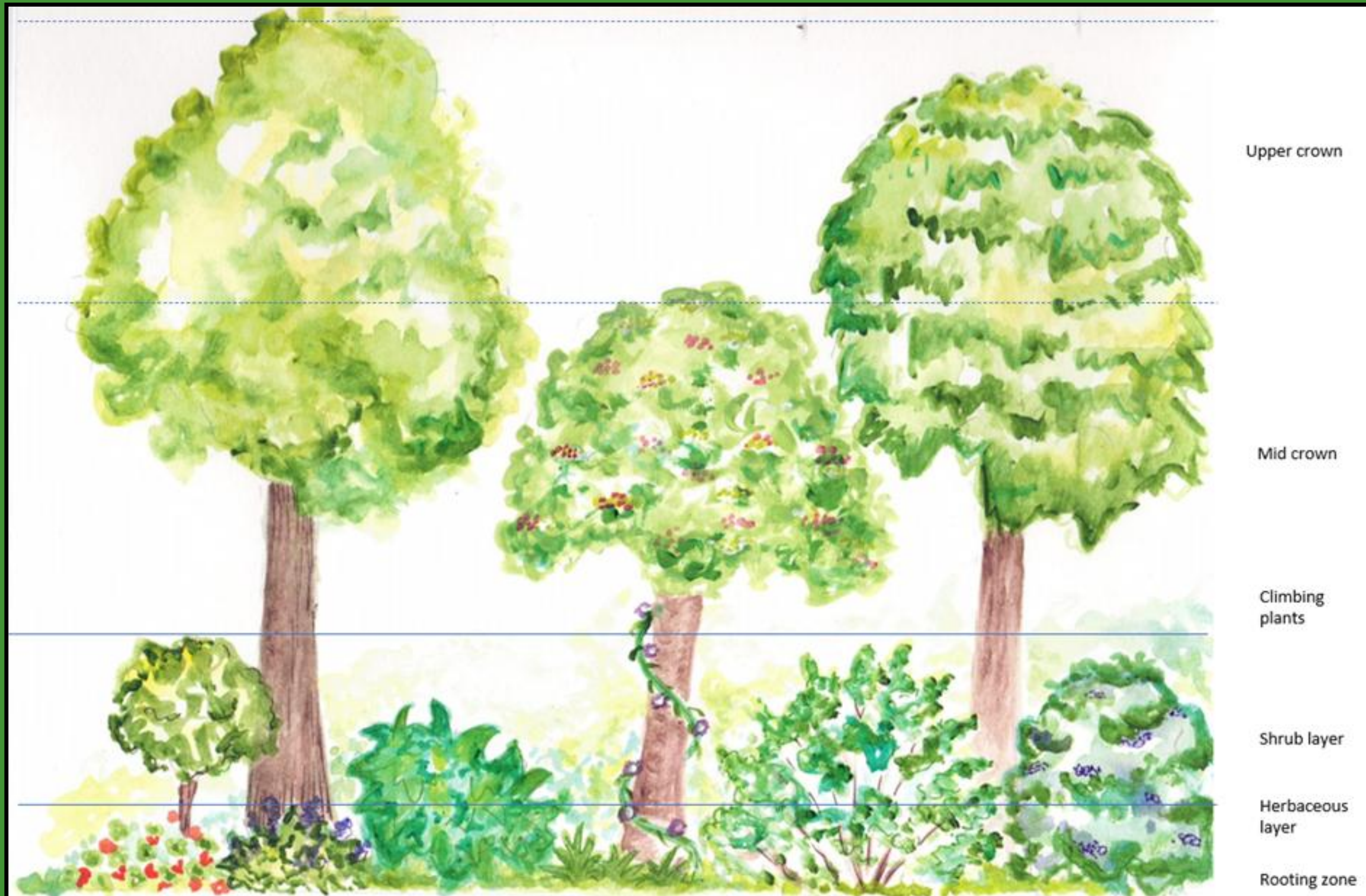
Representing a diverse range of habitats:

This diagram shows the development of natural woodland from natural grassland, through to scrub and eventually woodland or forest.

Each of these stages is represented in the network, depending on location, to create a mosaic of habitats across the landscape.



The **forest garden, or tree garden** has the same structure as our native woodland with an upper and lower crown, shrub and herbaceous layer, but we plant trees which produce fruit and nuts such as apple, plum, Amelanchier and hazel. Climbers bind the layers together.



# Examples of what can be grown in the Forest Garden

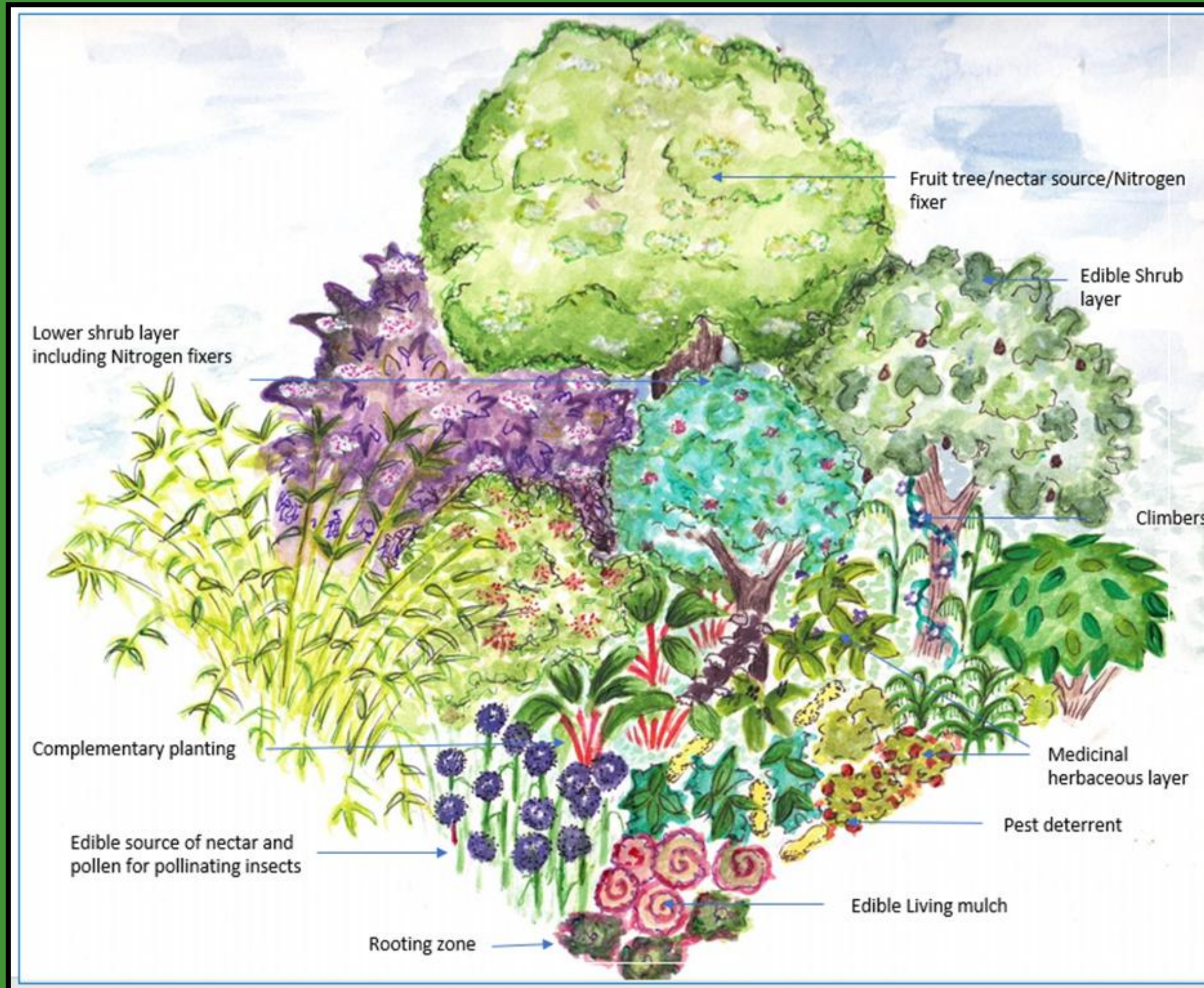
## Shrub layer

### Bay

Cob nut, Elder  
Eleagnus, Hazel  
Hibiscus,  
Sea buckthorn  
Tayberry  
Black currant

## Herbaceous layer

Bronze fennel  
Globe artichoke  
Herbs  
Edible flowers  
(lavender, dahlia,  
nasturtium, hibiscus  
marigold, primula  
rose etc)  
Pumpkin, squashes  
Salad



## Upper/lower canopy

Apple  
Asian pear  
Cherry, Damson  
June berry  
Pear, Plum  
Quince

## Climbers

Hardy kiwi  
Blue passionflower  
Chocolate vine  
Thornless bramble  
Grape

## Rooting zone

Rooting veg  
Artichoke  
Garlic  
Onion

## **Plant screening**

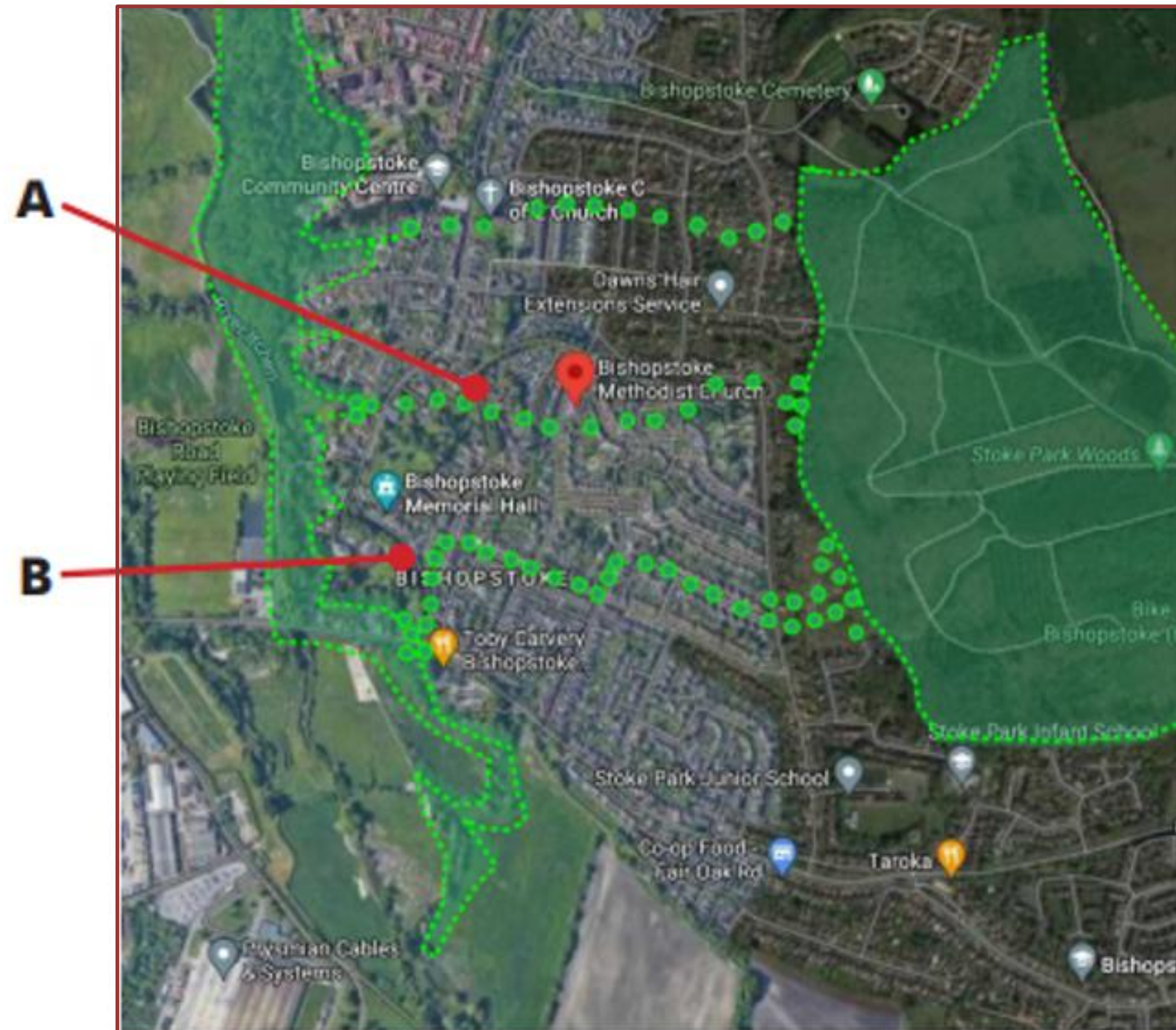
The forest garden is a finely tuned system of plants which are carefully selected for their compatibility.

Plants are also screened for their invasive potential and for this reason some are avoided such as hop and some species of bamboo. We therefore ask that you don't put plants from your garden into the forest gardens without checking with us first.

## **Plant risk assessment**

Some plants may have poisonous parts such as foxglove and honeysuckle and for this reason they will not be included in the planting guild.

Currently we have Tree & Bee sites in Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath:



Map data ©2021 Google

- Existing woodland
- Notional planting sites which would form a corridor to link existing areas of woodland

A - The network comprises a series of planting sites on green spaces in residential areas, allotments and parks, school grounds and privately owned gardens. Local businesses are also invited to join us. Collectively the sites form corridors which link to form the network.

B – Existing Corridors in the landscape are also potential planting sites such as along footpaths, roads, cycle paths and rivers.

# Tree & Bee gardens in Bishopstoke

## Volunteering

We are delighted to have more volunteers who have joined us to help nurture many of the Tree & Bee Gardens in Bishopstoke and we are Extremely grateful for their help in making Bishopstoke a greener and more biodiverse place to live.

However, we still need more help with the Bishopstoke Tree & Bee Gardens which are currently looking for guardians.

If you live near any of these highlighted areas and would you like to get involved with planting and harvesting? Please get in touch!

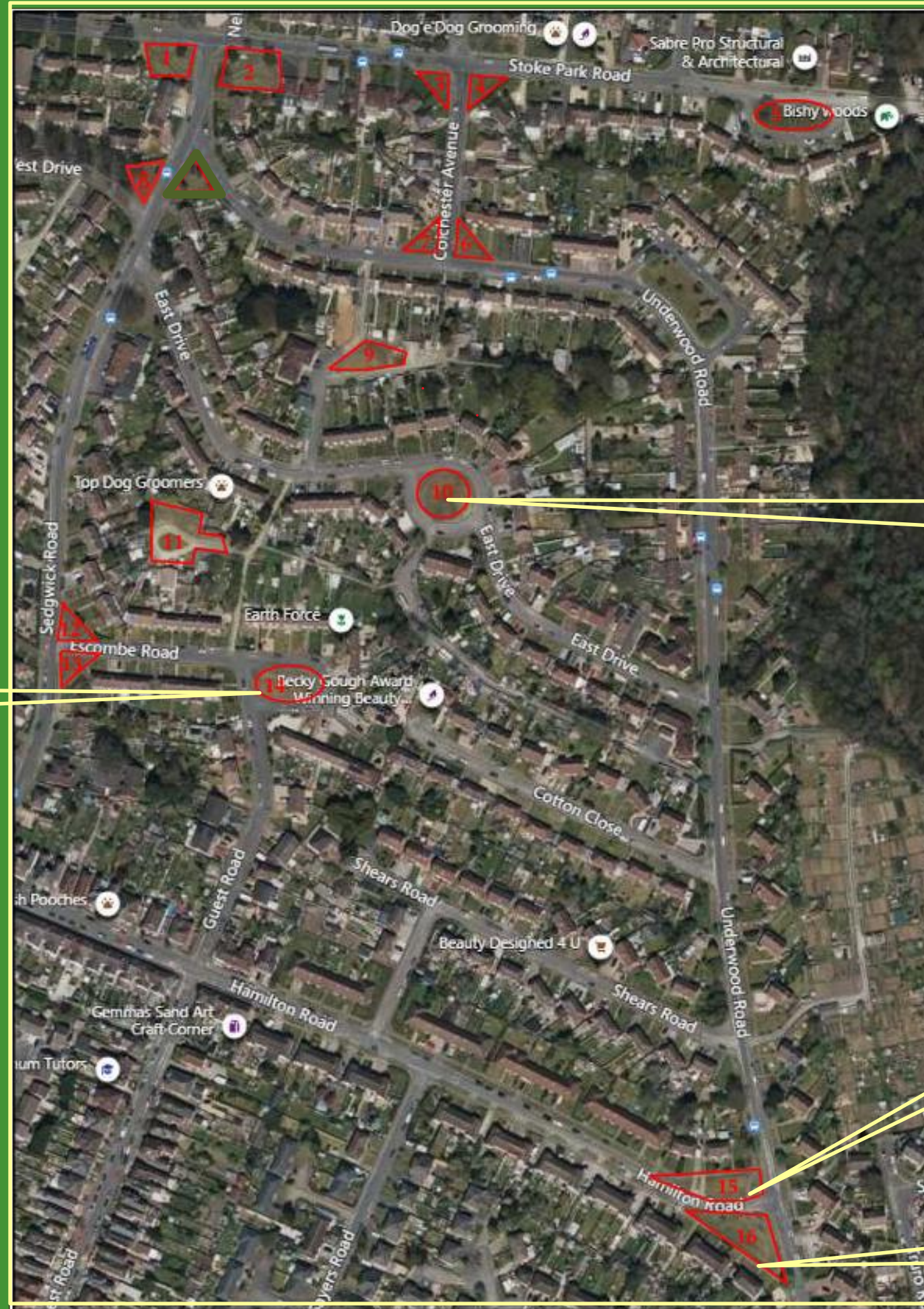
Garden 14  
Escombe  
Road

Garden 10  
East Drive

We will introduce you to the rest of the team and help you learn how to nurture the garden for wildlife and grow organic food for yourself and your community

Garden 15  
Hamilton  
Road/Underwood  
Road

Garden 16  
Hamilton  
Road/Underwood  
Road



## The Bishopstoke Tree & Bee Gardens (continued)

Gardens 15 & 16  
Hamilton  
Road/Underwood  
Road

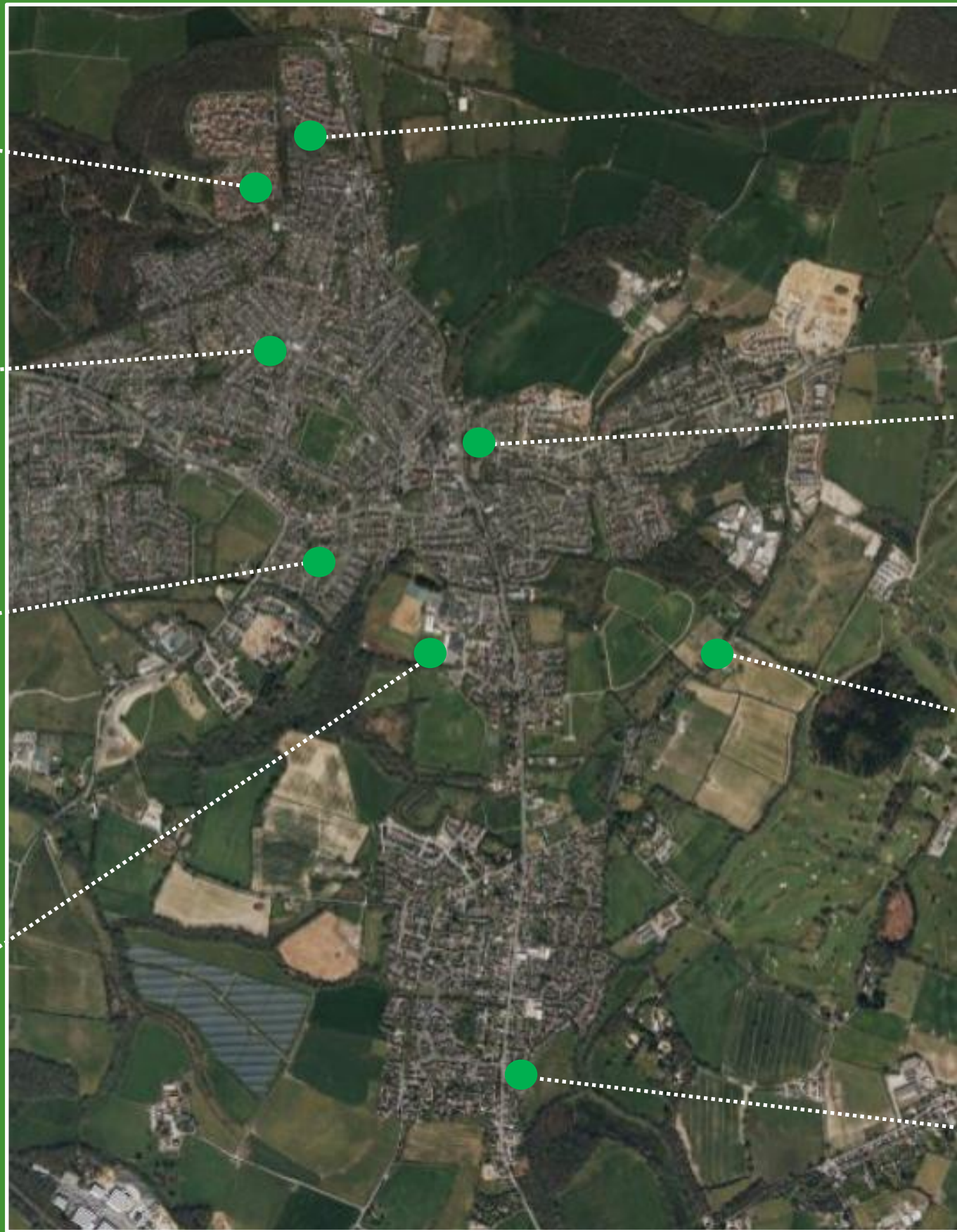
Pupils at Stoke Park  
School helped to  
design the logo and  
signs which you  
may have seen  
waymarking the  
Tree & Bee  
gardens....



Otter Close Play  
area

Please contact  
[treeandbee@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:treeandbee@eastleigh.gov.uk) or  
[admin@bishopstoke.org](mailto:admin@bishopstoke.org) for more  
information

# Fair Oak and Horton Heath Tree & Bee sites



Stoke Heights



Sandy Lane Shops



Dean Road



Fair Oak Junior School



Upper Barn Copse



Eastleigh Rd/Fair Oak Rd verge



Knowle Park Allotments



Horton Heath Community Centre

Creating the connected landscape

What are the benefits of the Tree & Bee Network?

# Benefits of joining the network

- Biodiversity net gain - creating resilient and sustainable green spaces for wildlife which are chemical free and rich in fodder and over wintering sites
- Meeting sustainability targets for local business eg improved air quality and carbon off-setting
- Tree planting helps to **moderate the local climate** - providing shade in summer and cooling air temperatures, , intercepting and slowing rainfall run off, reducing flood risk and absorbing air bourn pollutants
- Growing organic food: Addressing food insecurity
- Promotes positive mental health through emersion in nature, deeper community and inter-community relations, physical exercise and proactively
- Creating a sense of place and more beautiful surroundings in which to live
- Optimising growing space – vertical and horizontal greening of buildings and within the forest gardens
- Low maintenance and cost effective



## Moderating the local climate and becoming more resilient to climate change

Creating absorbent landscapes by relaxing mowing regimes allows grass to grow longer and reduces soil compaction. The natural seed bank of wildflowers pushes through which increases rain fall absorbency and reduces run-off.



Existing and newly planted trees increase rainfall take up and provide shade during periods of hot weather and help to absorb atmospheric pollutants.



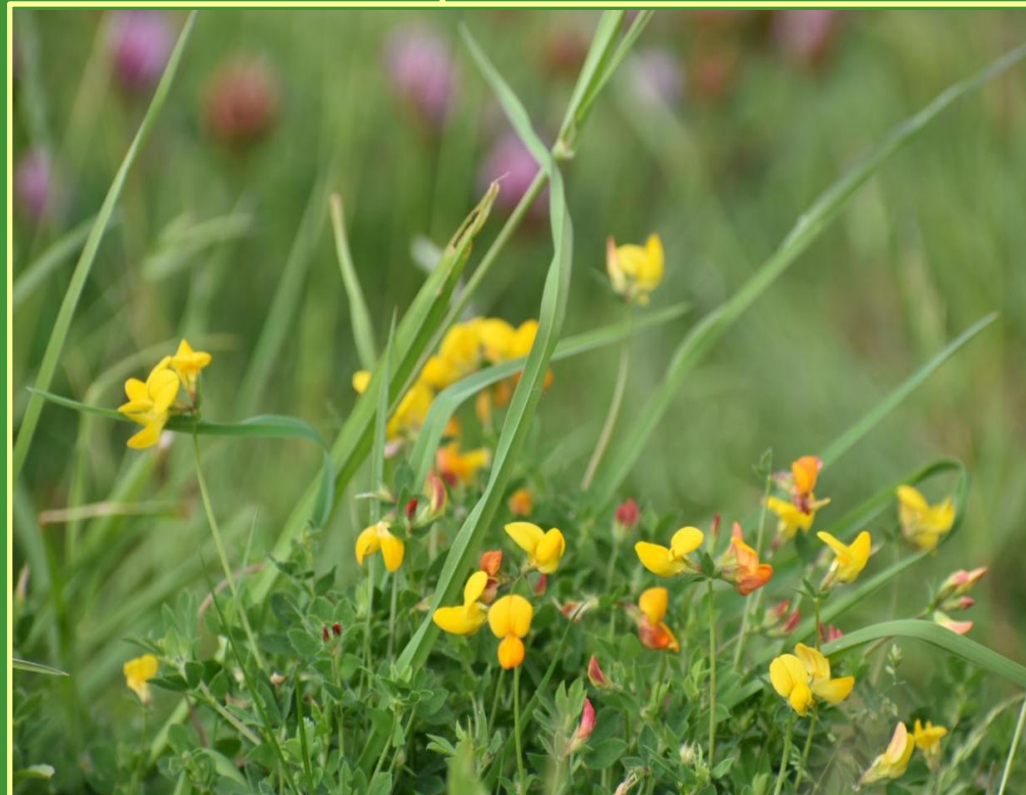
**Addressing food insecurity:**  
The gardens are beginning to provide organic fruit for the volunteers to pick – if they can beat the bird to it!

Photographs by Diane Gabriel

**Biodiversity net gain/Wilding** – creating a nature rich environment is also more relaxing for us to be amongst.



Relaxing the mowing regime allows the wildflowers and long grasses to grow through, providing pollen, nectar and shelter for insects and pollinators while the uncut grass seeds create a living bird table in the autumn and an overwintering habitat



for insects including bees.

Photographs by Diane Gabriel

Would you like to join us? Here's how you can get involved.....

Funded and delivered by Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Local Area Committee and local partners



Bishopstoke Parish Council

FAIR OAK AND HORTON HEATH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE #CO2Neutral2030

Helen Brown  
Treescapes



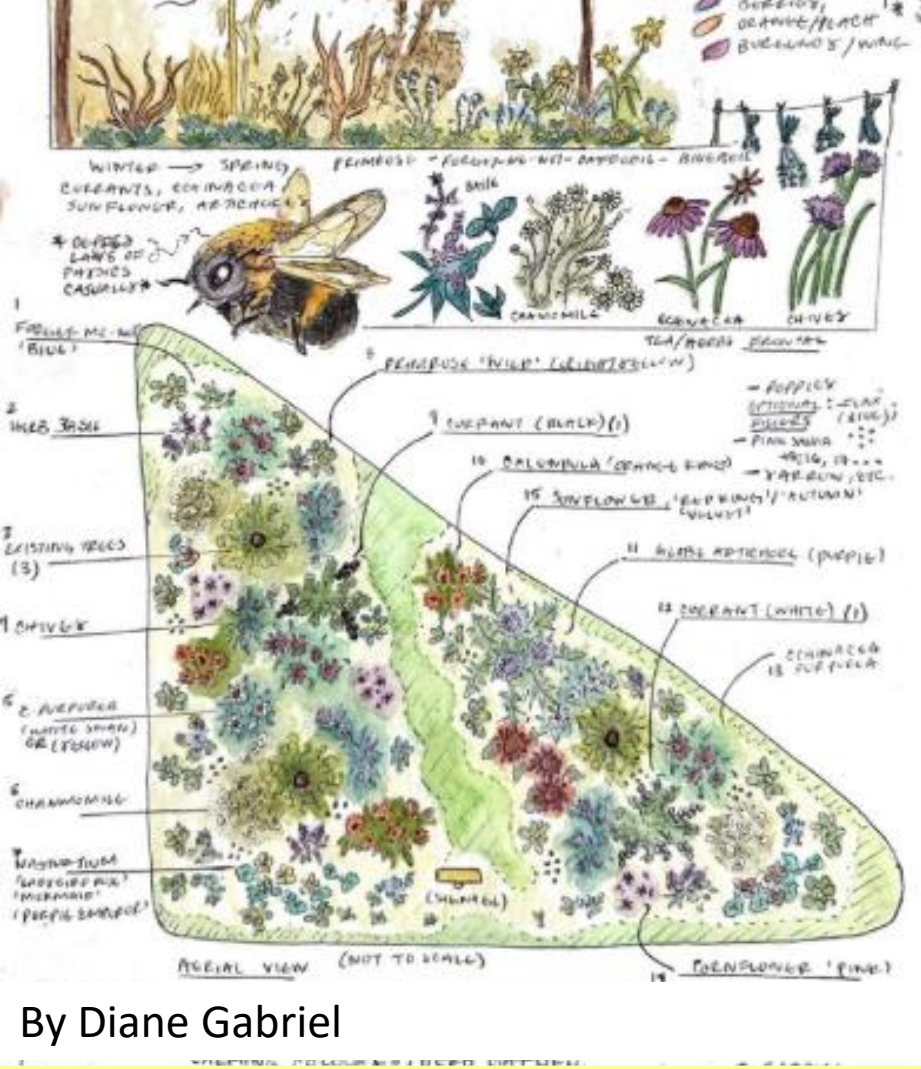
**Are you interested in helping to look after the gardens and enjoy the bounty they will provide?**

We are looking for volunteers to help with planting, watering and a spot of weeding in return for picking fruit, herbs and other edibles to enjoy yourself. You might also be interested in creating a wildlife friendly garden or even planting a mini forest garden in your own front garden?

**Alternatively, you may like to adopt a tree for yourself or on behalf of someone else?**

We would like to invite you to adopt a tree, either for yourself, as a gift or in memory of someone else. There will be no cost to you but, in return, we would ask you to look after the tree and take care of it during times of drought for example, to make sure it is appropriately watered and remains in good condition. We are here to help you and will provide expert advice if any of the forest garden plants need attention or replacing.





Come and join us – become a guardian of one of the gardens and meet old and new like-minded friends and get fit working outside with nature!



Networking with Nature and your neighbours in your own garden...

This photograph was taken by a local volunteer who would like his garden to be part of the Tree & Bee Network.

Do you have a garden or hedge you would like to improve for nature?

We can help you design and plant your hedge with any of these species:

Hawthorn

Crab apple

Dog wood

Spindle

Wild privet

Holly

Field maple

Oak

Guelder rose

Look out for these signs!

Designed by pupils at Stoke Park School, they act as way markers to show where the Tree & Bee Gardens are located





# THE TREE & BEE NETWORK

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND NATURE

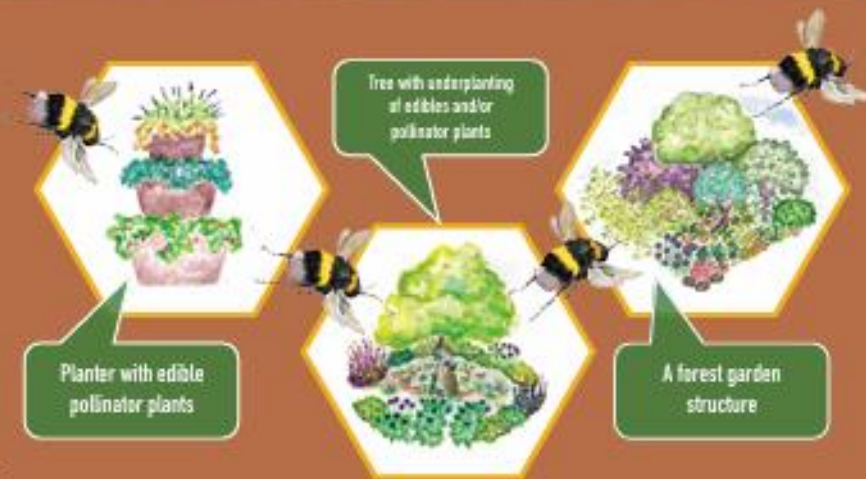


... we also have a QR coded poster which you may have seen around – if you are a local business or group and would like to display one, please get in touch!

## WHAT IS THE TREE & BEE NETWORK?

Modern pressures on the natural landscape over the last 100 years have caused dramatic changes. Where we once had extensive meadows and woodland through which wildlife moved freely, we now have fragmented green islands in the built landscape which are often isolated by roads and buildings.

The 'Tree & Bee Network' seeks to connect these islands by wilding and planting on existing pockets of open space, school grounds and garden. This green network allows bees, insects and wildlife to forage freely through a nature rich infra structure which is more resilient to climate change.



# Questions and Answers

## What are the benefits to local residents?

Residents living close to the forest or tree gardens will benefit from locally grown, organic food and will have the opportunity to get involved with the management of the gardens, bringing them closer to nature and immersing them in the physical health and psychological benefits that are associated with gardening.

## What are your views?

As a resident living within easy reach of a forest garden planting site, we would love to hear your views to make sure the forest gardens are tailored to your needs. For example, would you like to include cooking apples in the garden, or quince? Would you like to have both black and red currant bushes available, tayberry or loganberry?

We will provide information and guidance on how to use the produce from the garden – such as sharing delicious recipes and learning techniques of food preparation like pickling and fermenting! You may also have some recipes and tips you would also like to share.

The background features two stylized trees with dense foliage in shades of green and blue. Three bees are depicted in flight around the trees. Various flowers are scattered throughout the scene, including purple bell-shaped flowers, white flowers with yellow centers, and a large yellow flower. The overall aesthetic is vibrant and nature-themed.

**We would love to hear your views to ensure the gardens are designed for you and your community**

**For more information or to get involved,  
please email:**

**[treeandbee@eastleigh.co.uk](mailto:treeandbee@eastleigh.co.uk)**

**[admin@bishopstokepc.org](mailto:admin@bishopstokepc.org)**

**[siobhan.strand@fairoak-pc.gov.uk](mailto:siobhan.strand@fairoak-pc.gov.uk)**

Funded and delivered by Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Local Area Committee and local partners

 Bishopstoke Parish Council



 EASTLEIGH  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**WE CAN  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**  
#CO2Neutral2030



Helen Brown  
Treescapes