



# Caring for the Cotswolds

## Winter 2024 Update



**Cotswolds  
National  
Landscape**

© Stephen Mason, volunteers ready to plant trees at the inaugural tree planting day at Weavers Field.



# Project Updates

To start off 2024, Cheltenham Borough Council lead a volunteer group for the first phase of reinstating an area of traditional orchard in Weavers Field, Warden Hill. The group planted 20 new fruit trees of Gloucestershire Apple, Cherry and Plum varieties!

This conservation and education project was strongly supported by Caring for the Cotswolds and awarded a £2,500 grant in December 2023.

©Stephen Mason

Those involved on the day ranged from enthusiastic children from 3 local schools, to the spirited residents of Warden Hill, and regular 'Green Space' volunteers.

They were joined by a member of Gloucestershire Orchard Trust, who educated the group on why they were planting certain varieties and the importance of orchards.

This inspiring project has now been recognised in the Gloucestershire Echo and on BBC Radio Gloucestershire!

More community planting, as well as management of the existing Plum trees, is scheduled over the next couple of months; and the search is on for an original 'Warden Pear' tree, from which the neighbourhood got it's name...



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# Improving Access

Ambitious works to improve Horsley's most beautiful and well-used walking routes has begun! The plans are focused around four key routes, containing ten sites in need of urgent TLC - including replacing broken or unsafe stiles and steep, slippery steps.

We were pleased to support this initiative in our most recent funding round with a £2,500 grant.



Site 1 before:  
Unstable steps, degraded stile,  
overgrown



Site 1 after:  
New fencing, steps, stile and  
handrail

Local contractors have made a start on site restorations with a new stile (pictured) going in, as well as a new pedestrian gate...and there are no signs of slowing down! All works on the footpaths is estimated to be completed in the next 1-2 months to be followed by a celebratory 'Village Community Walk' in April.



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# New Year, New Grants

We have re-opened Caring for the Cotswolds and are currently welcoming new applications!

Our grants can range from £500 up to £2,500, supporting projects within the Cotswolds National Landscape following one or more of our themes:

- Conservation of Habitats and Species
- Education
- Improving Access
- Heritage and Landscape



**Applications will close at midnight on 15th March, with awards confirmed in early May!**



Re-opening early in the year means that we've adjusted our grants cycle so that we can make awards in the spring. With more stable weather, projects can get started sooner and reach and engage with more people in the process.



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# A New Welcome

We send our welcomes to the first new business member of the new year - **Cotswolds Photographer.**



Capturing the timeless beauty of the Cotswolds, Cotswolds Photographer offers prints and full scene wallpaper that enhance well-being by immersing you in the tranquil charm of this picturesque landscape.

As always, we send our thanks to our incredible business members, who are committed to keeping the Cotswolds a special place to live, work and visit.

Without your donations, we would not be able to support these amazing projects, all of which would have greatly struggled to get off the ground without a Caring for the Cotswolds grant.

With thanks to:

[Go Cotswolds](#)

[Cotswolds Farm Park](#)

[Cotswolds Distillery](#)

[Country Walkers](#)

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