#### The Healing Wood Project

This is the creation of a small woodland by the community on the village rubbish dump next to Greyhound Lane.

In the past the dump had been covered over and trees planted but dry conditions and continuous dumping had seen these, sadly, fail.

In Winter 2020, the ditches on two sides of the site were dredged and the spoil spread over the surface. This exposed a lot of plastic, asbestos, bricks, glass and metal.

Starting in late spring 2021 and meeting regularly since, volunteers have picked up many tonnes of waste which has been taken to the West Suffolk waste site. They have created a new entrance with slope, created and mown a path and then worked with families and children from Hopton school to plant trees.

In September 2021 Suffolk County Council agreed to support the project as a Healing Wood.

Richard Rout, Deputy Leader of the Council said in a press release "The site in Hopton is particularly exciting as it will look to establish a community woodland on an area which was formerly used as a village tip and whilst rural, has fantastic accessibility. It is also a brilliant example of the expertise we have in our communities and the opportunities of partnership working."

In 2022 volunteers fenced and gated the main entrance, watered the site through a long hot summer and kept the path and seating area cut back. An audit of trees in the autumn made the work worthwhile when it was found a large number (possibly 95%) had survived. This winter saw more trees planted and the hedging work completed. A new noticeboard should be in place soon and there may even be a grand opening!

There is still work to do. All the trees need mulching and volunteers to water in the summer will be very welcome.

We hope these photographs show the way the site has changed

## A photo diary of the Healing Wood

March 2021 Ditches have been cleared and re-profiled and the spoil spread across the surface.













April and May 2021 Volunteer clearing days









## Creating a new access slope





### Family Tree Planting day. December 2021







Hopton School planting Oak trees December 2021





Mulch mats January 2022





## Dr John's bench being put in place March 2022carved and installed by the woodcarver at 'Heaven'







...and a recycled plastic bench to remind us of all the plastic waste we removed!!



## Volunteers working on gates and an entrance fence.





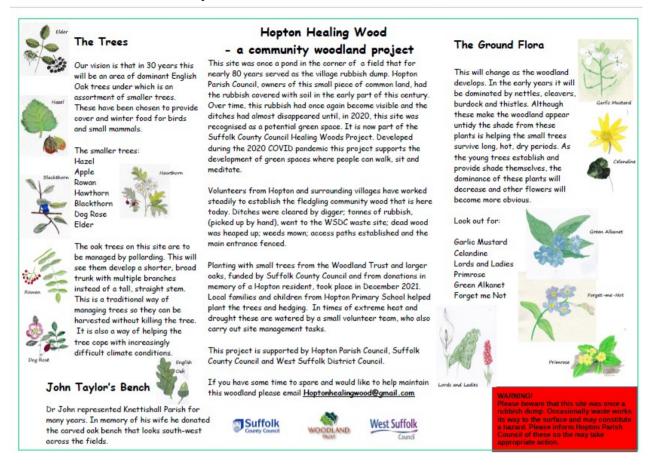


Spring and early summer 2022





# An information sign has been made to go at the entrance January 2023



#### Further planting January 2023

