

Battle of Britain Memorial Woodland

**Project leader
Paul Neary**

**Parish Clerk
Moya Monachan**

The Battle of Britain Memorial Woodland planted on the South West Border of the old RAF Fighter Command Air Station at Tangmere, Chichester West Sussex.

Background

The area contains a large amount of concrete residue from the days when it was an active airfield. It is currently a scrub land area of approximately 1800 square meters in a triangular formation. The outline plan is to clear the site reclaim the soil and remove the waste concrete and make good with topsoil as necessary. The land is owned by the parish council and marked by a pole and strand wire fence. The east edge of the site would be planted with native hedgerows to make a walkway from the Haleybridge Walk to an entrance to the Military Aviation Museum's memorial garden. This scheme has been outlined to the following groups and has the active support of

- the allotment holders,
- most of the residents in the neighbouring houses,
- the parish council environment committee, the two community wardens, the museum trust and staff.

The principal outcome of the plan is to create an environment made up from English native Woodland trees and hedging as a perpetual memorial to those service personnel who served at RAF Tangmere.

In addition it will create opportunities for:

- wild life to prosper in a managed woodland setting and provide a green a pleasant walkway.
- provide a link to the bridle path south to Oving and the coast, and north to the South Downs parkland

What we have achieved so far

Funding for this plan has been donated by Tangmere Parish Council, Chichester District Council, and Woodland Trust. This funding has allowed the conservation volunteers to carry out some groundwork clearance and complete the first stage of the tree planting programme. The project leader has applied to the Breathing Spaces Big Lottery scheme and to Woodland Trust for further funding to complete the ground works and tree planting programme during 2007.

What can you do to help?

Can you help us to complete this project? We are seeking advice and financial / material assistance to mark the site with a suitable stone tablet which recognises the contribution made by RAF Tangmere to the history of English life. We would also welcome suggestions for marking the completion of the scheme such as a formal opening ceremony.

Paul Neary Project Leader. March 2007.

If you want any more information please contact me by email pneary@tinyonline.co.uk