

An Orchard on this site has been in existence for at least two hundred years. In the 1840s it covered the area of the existing Meadow and Orchard and at that time was owned by Jonah Whitfield who also owned Morton Mill across the road as it passed over Morton Bridge.

In the 1990s 2 old apple trees remained in the top corner. It was then planted up with several apple and 2 plum trees. It has been managed by Avon Wildlife members, Scouts and others. In 2007 Sustainable Thornbury Grow Your Own Food group were asked if we would like to manage it on behalf of South Glos. Council.

In later years we have become Sustainable Thornbury Orchard group and now come under the auspices of South Glos. Community Spaces Team. We have a formal Volunteer Agreement with them which means we are covered by their insurance and take part in their First Aid and other relevant training courses. This Agreement is renewed annually in March.

This year 7 members of Sustainable Thornbury Orchard group have taken part in the twice monthly work parties and two others have been involved with admin. 20 names are on our email list. Marian Stephens leads on fruit production and John Mills leads on wildlife habitats.

The map enclosed shows when and where the fruit trees were planted.

This is for local residents to eat.

We also have areas set aside as wild life habitats.

During 2016 our area of care has been extended to cover the meadow in front of the Orchard by Gloucester road. Under guidance from John Mills and South Glos. John Morris, with funding from Bug life this has been planted with Yellow Rattle and other Wild flower seed.