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PRESS RELEASE – 26th November 2020

Volunteers Needed to Work on New Local Orchard

Avon Needs Trees is looking for volunteers to help them plan, plant and maintain an orchard of 50 fruit and nut trees at Hazeland, near Calne.

ANT bought the 34 acres last summer and is now preparing to plant almost 10,000 woodland trees – plus a small community orchard to benefit visitors to the site.

“We know the orchard is going to need extra special care,” says Nikki Jones, Chair of Avon Needs Trees. **“We’d like to hear from local people who either already have experience, or who would like to learn about how to care for an orchard.**

“We’re also interested in hearing from the community about varieties they would like to see grown. Information on local, heritage trees would be particularly useful.”

Avon Needs Trees is interested in hearing from all sections of the local community. Orchard work days will be planned for weekends

and weekdays, to accommodate volunteers with different commitments.

For more information, those interested should email orchard@avonneedstrees.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

1. Photographs available on request.
2. Avon Needs Trees is a charity established to create new, permanent woodland across the Bristol-Avon catchment area.
3. Hazeland is ANT's first purchase. The charity is currently fundraising to buy another 19 acres at Seend, near Melksham.
4. The Bristol Avon catchment area has **less than 6% woodland**. This leaves land prone to soil erosion (and therefore carbon loss), part of the habitat loss that is causing a biodiversity crisis, and all towns and cities have lost natural flood management, putting them at increasing risk of flooding.