



Broadland Tree Warden Network

Low Farm Wood, Postwick Lane, Brundall, Management Report

By

Richard Farley, Broadland Tree Warden

March 2022

This report is supplemental to my previous reports to Brundall Parish Council on the progress of the management by the Broadland Tree Warden Network of Low Farm Wood, located to the north of Postwick Lane in Brundall, almost opposite the Brundall Country Park. This report should be read in conjunction with the aims and objectives set out and agreed in the “Low Farm Wood Management Plan” dated 2 May 2020.

During February 2022 the Network completed the thinning of Phase 2 of the project and commenced operations in Phase 3. All logs in excess of 75mm in diameter have been stacked to form habitat piles and all other arisings from Phase 2 have been processed through a chipper with the chippings laid on footpaths to improve the surface.

The Network’s work was seriously tested by the three gales that Brundall experienced on 19th, 20th and 21st of the month. Having opened up the wood there was concern that the strong winds could bring other trees down but I am pleased to report that the only damage was boughs torn from two trees and that was soon made safe again.



Due to the north-south ground slope in the woodland, manually hauling the chipper up the hill is somewhat challenging and it was necessary to enlist the assistance of three willing volunteers. Between the five of us we eventually managed it.

With the slope in our favour, just the two of us were able to return the machine to the collection point.

Obviously, manually hauling the chipper up the hill to phases three and four will be even more challenging and we are seeking other means such as a tractor and trailer.

The machine has worked admirably. It has been reliable and most efficient and Travis Perkins have given us excellent service.

Using a chipper is most tiring. The noise and vibration rapidly take their toll on the fittest of operators and the machine can be very dangerous, even in the hands of experienced and certificated personnel.

The arisings that remained adjacent to the newly formed eastern entrance have also been processed through the chipper. That released space to complete the planting of the southern boundary hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* hedge as shown opposite.



At the start of March we plan to carry out the planned planting in zones one and two and the following whips (between 0.4 and 1.2m) are being planted.

Species	Qty	Unit (£)	Total (£)
Wild service <i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	1	4.00	4.00
Rowan <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	2	2.00	4.00
Alder buckthorn <i>Frangula alnus</i>	3	0.80	2.40
Common hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>	30	0.65	19.50
Hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulis</i>	7	2.00	14.00
Copper beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Purpurea'	3	2.50	7.50
Sweet chestnut <i>Castanea sativa</i>	15	2.00	30.00
Spindle <i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	10	0.65	6.50
Common walnut <i>Juglans regia</i>	10	2.00	20.00
Wild pear <i>Pyrus communis</i>	5	2.00	10.00
Small leaved lime <i>Tilia cordata</i>	10	2.00	20.00
Wayfaring tree <i>Viburnum lantana</i>	10	0.80	8.00
Guelder rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i>	10	0.80	8.00
Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	20	0.50	10.00
Tree shelter 0.6 m	69	0.90	62.10
Tree shelter 1.2 m	38	1.45	55.10
Tree shelter stake 0.9 m x 25 mm pointed	85	0.45	38.25
Tree shelter stake 1.35 m x 32 mm pointed	25	0.80	20.00
Bamboo cane	20	0.20	4.00
Spiral guard	20	0.26	5.20

That is a total of 136 plants plus accessories at a total cost of £348.45 supplied by the Network from its Broadland District Council tree planting budget.

We have planted some common snowdrops *Galanthus nivalis* along the eastern edge of zone 1 of the woodland and we trust that they will spread in future years to enhance the woodland floor. They will complement the English bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* we planted last year.

At 28 February 2022, following the chipping of the southern east-west footpath, the labour donated to the project totalled 823 man hours of which 806 was Broadland Tree Wardens and 17 a local volunteer. That would equate to a value of £12,090.00

It may be of interest to note that, of the Broadland Tree Warden labour, 128 hours was spent using chainsaws and 308 hours using a chipper.

We continue to receive very favourable comments from members of the public and there has been a marked increase in the number of people visiting the wood.

So, the Network continues to be very pleased with progress to date, although much work has yet to be completed. I shall continue to give the Parish Council regular progress reports and we would welcome visits from Members who wish to view the progress for themselves. We are normally on site between 08:00 and 14:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will be pleased to explain what we have done and why we have done it.

Richard Farley
Broadland Tree Warden for Brundall