



## Broadland Tree Warden Network

# Low Farm Wood, Postwick Lane, Brundall, Management Report

By

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Broadland Tree Warden for Brundall

Low Farm Wood



July 2022

Postwick Ln

Holmesdale Rd

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.

I am delighted to report that we have now completed approximately 60% of the thinning of 60% of the wood, having now reached the south of the northern "F" segment.

June 2022 saw the Network giving 60 man-hours to the project, comprising 22 hours with the chipper and 38 hours on chainsaw work. That brings our total Network Tree Warden man-hours given to the project to 1,051 which at £15 per hour totals £15,765.

The first week of June saw the completion of the latest chipper exercise with two days and 22 hours spent clearing as much of the remaining arisings as possible. However, two considerable piles were left until the next time we hire the machine. That latest chipping operation took 93 man hours over eight days (including the end of May) and was most challenging.

We did not resume thinning/felling until 8 June but since then the operation has been most successful. Indeed, we are very pleased with our progress having now reached the northern "F" segment of the wood. That is a landmark we have been looking toward for some months. We still have two days of chainsaw work remaining before we can say that we have completed the current stage of the project, but having now reviewed our anticipated remaining workload we anticipate completion of the project in the first quarter of 2023 as the northern "F" segment contains mostly pole sized trees that should not require as much chainsaw and chipper work

That said, we now have a mountain of arisings to process through the chipper before commencing thinning of the next phase and that mountain is probably as large as all the arisings we have processed to date. It is always difficult to estimate how long chipping will take but, based on past work and allowing for hot weather (the protective clothing makes us very hot and therefore fatigue sets in much quicker) we estimate that it will take three weeks to clear all current arisings.

It is most noticeable as one walks through the wood that the southern section is definitely showing the benefit of thinning the canopy. A variety of grasses and other ground plants are thriving where, before, there was just bare earth. We look forward to seeing some of the wild flowers we have planted when they are in season.

We continue to receive very favourable comments from members of the public but, as in May, the number of people visiting the wood has not increased as much as we expected.

We were concerned that the Jubilee bank holiday may see further cases of mis-use of arisings and habitat log piles but we are delighted to report that our fears were unfounded. However, the summer school holidays are rapidly approaching and we will need to ensure that interference in our work is kept to a minimum. We shall also need to exercise added caution when using machinery as there will inevitably be an increase in visitors, some of who may not be aware of approaching us while we are working.

I have previously suggested that the Parish Council holds an "open day" at the wood when we can explain to parishioners just what we are doing and what we aim to achieve. However, time is now running out if we are to stage such an event this year. Perhaps the Parish Council would like to inform us if they wish to hold such an event.

Richard Farley  
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