



Broadland Tree Warden Network

Low Farm Wood, Postwick Lane, Brundall, Management Report

By

Richard Farley,
Broadland Tree Warden for Brundall

Low Farm Wood



November 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.

Regretfully, no work was carried out in the wood between 19 August and 11 October, partly due to the annual holidays of our Tree Wardens, but mainly as a result of the Council being unable to insure us for chainsaw operations as originally agreed, despite the fact that we are both qualified users.

I have now obtained my own personal chainsaw user insurance but will be the only Tree Warden operating a chainsaw on the site, greatly increasing the amount of time it will take to complete the project.

On 6 October, together with John Fleetwood whilst unable to work in Low Farm Wood, we cleared the dead and dying fruit trees from the planned orchard area in the Country Park and set out the site for planting.

On 19 October we had a site meeting with the Deputy Clerk to the Council and the developer of the all-weather football pitch to discuss the wayleave required for the laying of the transformer cable. In order to ensure that the required tree removal/surgery was carried out with the minimum of unnecessary damage we cleared the area ourselves that day.

On 22 October we tidied a tree at the front of a property on the new development on Berryfields prior to resuming the thinning at Low Farm Wood

So, we basically lost nine weeks from our planned schedule.

We have cleared an area at the north-west corner of the site to give a better view of a fine boundary ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and created a second pathway through the top of the wood in order to afford a better experience for visitors.

Due to a mechanical failure when we last hired the chipper in August, we failed to clear all arisings leaving a large quantity still to be processed. That quantity needs to be cleared to allow us to efficiently carry out the thinning work, so that is something we must consider during November. We estimate that here will be at least six full days' work requiring us to work two days, then a day's break, then another two days followed by another day's break before completing the task in another two days. It is a very tiring operation and, as we are both not as young as we used to be, could be dangerous if we attempt to work continuously. We plan to commence on a Monday with an early delivery of the chipper, completing the task the following Monday with the chipper being collected the following day.

Since resuming work on the project our two Tree Wardens have given 24 man-hours, comprising 12 hours chainsaw work and the remainder using hand saws. That brings our total Network Tree Warden man-hours given to the project to 1,234. Using a value of £40 per man-hour, that results in the value of our work to date being £49,360.



Richard Farley
Broadland Tree Warden for Brundall.