

## Introduction

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, and 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.

## **Progress during February**

February was another difficult month as, for most of the time, we were preparing the Brundall Community Orchard site. In fact we only managed one day in Low Farm Wood and spent much of that time tidying vandalism.

We worked in the wood on 21 February, the week after the school half-term, and were most disappointed on arrival to find that approximately 30% of the new planting we have carried out had had the guards and grow tubes pulled from them and thrown about. We can only deduce that it was youngsters who were responsible during the good weather we had in half-term week.

Whilst we located and replaced the discarded planting accessories, some of the young trees had inevitably been damaged, although we don't think that any will be lost. It is very frustrating when one freely gives their time and effort for the benefit of the community, just to have it treated in such a manner.

On a more positive note, we are pleased to report that we replaced some dead hawthorn whips on the southern boundary and planted 2 apple trees and 2 hazel in the wood. In addition, Richard constructed a rustic bench from the boughs of a large fallen oak. Hopefully it will provide a resting place for our visitors.

## Site Visit from Catherine Dew, District Ecologist at Broadland District Council

On 9 January we had a site meeting with Catherine Dew, the newly appointed District Ecologist at Broadland District Council. Catherine was eager to view the most ambitious project our Network and undertaken to date and we, in turn, were most be grateful and greatly encourage to receive her positive comments regarding the ecological benefits/impact our work has had to date. Catherine's advice for the future was simply to carry on as we have been doing.

## Man Hours Given to the Project

During January our two Tree Wardens gave just 12 man-hours to the project, comprising 6 hours chainsaw work and 6 hours using hand saws. That brings our total Network Tree Warden man-hours given to the project to 1,492. Using a value of £40 per man-hour, that results in the value of our work to date being £59,680.

Richard Farley Broadland Tree Warden for Brundall.