

silverback

arboricultural consultancy

5 year management plan for The Centenary Fields, Frampton Cotterell

1.0 Instructions/Scope

- 1.1 I have been instructed by Frampton Cotterell Parish Council, to prepare a 5 year management plan for the tree situated at The Centenary Fields, Frampton Cotterell
- 1.2 This report is based on a ground level assessment of the tree. Except where stated, all dimensions are estimated. I visited the site on the 21st July 2012. The weather was sunny with good visibility.

2.0 Report Limitations

- 2.1 Trees are living, dynamic organisms which can be affected by external conditions and may occasionally fail without warning. It is therefore not possible to state with certainty that any tree is completely safe.
- 2.2 No internal decay devices, or other invasive tools to assess tree condition, were used. No soil excavation or root inspection was undertaken.
- 2.2 Tree condition can change rapidly over time and this report is therefore valid for a period of 12 months from completion.

3.0 Assessment of previous 5 year management plan

- 3.1 The main aims of the previous 5 year management plan were to increase the amenity value of the wooded areas situated in the Centenary Field, Frampton Cotterell. The main objectives were:
- To thin the existing trees and raise the canopy of the retained trees to create public access.
 - To remove the majority of the Aspen and Poplar species trees
 - To create a 5 year coppice rotation of the Hazel and Goat Willow
 - To undertake planting of new trees and shrubs to increase the bio-diversity of the area.
- 3.2 The thinning and crown raising of the trees has increased the possibility for the public to walk amongst the trees, however the removal of trees has allowed more light to reach the ground and encouraged weed and grass growth between the trees. It is considered that as the trees grow and increase in size they will eventually attain full canopy cover which will then suppress weed and grass growth
- 3.3 The large Aspen, Poplar trees have been removed however there is still an issue with regrowth generating from the roots of the felled trees. Strimming has reduced the amount of re-growth which has been able to establish. It is however considered that ongoing strimming is necessary to, hopefully, remove all the re-growth.
- 3.4 The few Hazel stools which have been coppiced are exhibiting good regrowth. It would appear that not all the Hazel and Goat willow bushes have been included in the coppice rotation. It is considered that those shrubs not previously coppiced should be coppiced as part of second year management proposals within the new management plan.

- 3.5 A number of new trees have been planted in various locations around the site. Ongoing management is essential to ensure the establishment of these trees. On inspection it was found that some of the new plantings are becoming overgrown with grasses and weeds. It may be a good option if a small area around the new planting is cleared of vegetation and the area wood chipped to prevent the regrowth of weeds or grass.
- 3.6 It was noted that grass cuttings are still being dumped around the trees in area 2, 4 and 5. This can be detrimental to the health of the trees. As the grass cuttings rot down toxins contained within the grass are released and leach into the soil and can be taken up by the tree roots. Dumping of grass trimmings should be avoided around the trees and ideally should be removed from the site or a suitable area found for their disposal.
- 3.7 It is considered that the execution of the recommendations in the previous 5 year management plan has fulfilled the aims set out in the plan. It therefore seems sensible to continue the ongoing management along similar lines, retaining the initial objectives and adapting where necessary.
- 3.8 It has been requested that minimal maintenance works are recommended for the first year and repeated bi annually, with larger works such as felling, new planting and other enhancements to be undertaken in the other years.

4.0 Objectives for the next 5 years

- 4.1 The initial aims contained within the first management plan are considered to be still relevant and works will be recommended to continue towards achieving these goals. However ongoing works are creating opportunities for further enhancement of the site.
- 4.2 Ongoing strimming of the poplar and aspen suckers will, eventually, stop them re-growing.
- 4.3 Footpaths could potentially be re-routed or created to pass through the trees within areas, 2, 4, 5. This can be achieved by strimming, and woodchipping the path. Access along the new paths would however be restricted due to the uneven surface but they would offer an option for more able people whilst the main paths offer access for everyone. There is also an opportunity to create a clearing or glade within area 2. This would create an area within the trees for picnicking or just sitting. A bench could be situated there.
- 4.4 There is a large section at the end of area 1, 4 and 5 which at present is just long grass and self set Poplar saplings. This could be planted with new native trees and shrubs or possibly be used for the planting of a community orchard.
- 4.5 Further tree planting has been recommended in a number of areas to increase the diversity and age range. Shrubs and wild flowers could also be considered to increase the year round interest of the site.
- 4.6 Dependent on the view of the Parish Council, signs giving tree names and species could be placed on trees within groups or notice boards similar to the informative board by the entrance from Mill Lane could explain traditional uses of the trees and the management of coppices. This work could potentially be undertaken by the local Tree Wardens

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August 2012

5 Year Management Plan for The Centenary Field
Frampton Cotterell 2012

Area No	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1	Remove the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, check ties and supports.	Coppice 50% of hazel and goat willow, starting with shrubs which have not previously been coppiced. Strim grass and aspen suckers. Selectively thin trees by upto 20% selecting damaged, suppressed trees for removal, crown lift retained trees to 2m. Introduce a shrub layer and woodland flowers.	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, Introduce new tree planting. Trim back from footpaths where necessary, Potentially re-route footpath through trees	Coppice 50% of hazel. Strim grass and aspen suckers Introduce a shrub layer and woodland flowers. Plant shrubs which offer fragrance and colour near footpath edges	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base. Trim back from footpaths where necessary. Introduce new tree, shrub flower planting
1A	Remove the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, check ties and supports. Crown lift/cut back over footpath where necessary	Coppice 50% of hazel, starting with shrubs which have not previously been coppiced. Strim grass and aspen suckers. Selectively thin trees by upto 20% selecting damaged, suppressed trees for removal, crown lift retained trees to 2m. Introduce a shrub layer and woodland flowers.	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, Introduce new tree planting. Trim back from footpaths where necessary, Potentially re-route footpath through trees	Coppice 50% of hazel, Strim grass and aspen suckers Introduce a shrub layer and woodland flowers. Plant shrubs which offer fragrance and colour near footpath edges	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base. Trim back from footpaths where necessary, Introduce new tree, shrub flower planting
2	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, check ties and supports. Cut back re-growth from felled trees. Stop the dumping of grass cuttings	Coppice 50% of hazel, starting with shrubs which have not previously been coppiced. Strim grass and aspen suckers. Selectively thin trees by upto 20% selecting damaged, suppressed trees for removal, crown lift retained trees to 2m. Potentially create a glade in centre of trees. Introduce a shrub layer and woodland flowers.	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, Introduce new tree planting. Trim back from footpaths where necessary, Potentially re-route footpath through trees,	Coppice 50% of hazel, Strim grass and aspen suckers Introduce a shrub layer and woodland flowers. Plant shrubs which offer fragrance and colour near footpath edges or around glade	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base. Trim back from footpaths where necessary, Introduce new tree, shrub flower planting

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Area No	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
3	Remove aspen suckers. Cut back from bench and footpath	Thin the blackthorn growth but retain shelterbelt. Remove weak and dead trees.	Thin the blackthorn growth but retain shelterbelt. Remove weak and dead trees. Cut back from bench and footpath (if necessary)	Thin the blackthorn growth but retain shelterbelt. Remove weak and dead trees.	Thin the blackthorn growth but retain shelterbelt. Remove weak and dead trees. Cut back from bench and footpath (if necessary)
3A	Strim aspen suckers, Remove dead oak tree to remove fire hazard, cut back branches from wheel and bench	Crown lift to 2m, selectively thin damaged and suppressed trees. Replant Introduce a shrub layer and woodland flowers.Plant shrubs which offer fragrance and colour near wheel and bench	Strim aspen suckers, cut back branches from wheel and bench	Strim aspen suckers, cut back branches from wheel and bench if necessary. Shrub, wild flower planting	Strim aspen suckers, cut back branches from wheel and bench if necessary
4	Strim Aspen suckers and weeds.	Strim grass and aspen suckers. Selectively thin trees by upto 20% selecting damaged, suppressed trees for removal. Crown lift retained trees to 2m. Introduce shrub layer and woodland flowers. Potentially plant community orchard or new trees	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, Introduce new tree planting. Trim back from footpaths where necessary, Potentially re-route footpath through trees	Strim grass and aspen suckers Introduce a shrub layer and woodland flowers. Plant shrubs which offer fragrance and colour near footpath edges. Inspect new trees and replace where necessary	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base. Trim back from footpaths where necessary, Introduce new tree, shrub flower planting
5	Remove aspen suckers and weeds, cut back from footpath. Stop the dumping of grass cuttings	Strim grass and aspen suckers. Selectively thin trees by up to 20% selecting damaged, suppressed trees for removal, crown lift retained trees to 2m. Introduce woodland flowers. Potentially plant community orchard or new trees	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, Introduce new tree planting. Trim back from footpaths where necessary, Potentially re-route footpath through trees	Strim aspen or blackthorn. Replace dead or damaged trees. Strim grass and aspen suckers. Cut trees and shrubs back from footpath (if necessary)	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, Introduce new tree planting. Trim back from footpaths where necessary, Potentially re-route footpath through trees

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Area No	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
6	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base, check ties and supports.	Coppice 50% of hazel, starting with shrubs which have not previously been coppiced. Strim grass and aspen suckers Introduce woodland flowers. Plant shrubs which offer fragrance and colour near bench	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base,	Coppice 50% of hazel, Strim grass and aspen suckers Maintain new shrub layer and woodland flowers. Plant shrubs which offer fragrance and colour near footpath edges	Strim the aspen suckers. Strim grass from around new planting and woodchip around base,

