

Sita's Black Poplar Nursery

Landfill tax funding from SITA has been used to set up one of two local Black Poplar nursery sites with stool beds. This has helped to preserve the genetic information from the small existing population. In the nursery cuttings have been grown on for new planting projects.

Thought to be England's most threatened native timber tree, Black poplar is found across lowland England but is rarer in Northern England. It is typically found along floodplains, rivers and by other water bodies. It has deeply fissured dark-brown bark which can appear almost black, and produces fluffy white catkins in the spring. The timber of the Black Poplar is strong, lightweight and resistant to shocks and splintering.

There are so few wild black poplars left that it is unlikely that they will pollinate each other, instead the large numbers of cultivated trees will pollinate them. This means that there are hardly ever any new truly wild black poplars.

Roughly 5% of the national population can be found in the Cheshire region but the old, scattered trees are no longer regenerating naturally. A Local Biodiversity Action Plan Group has been set up to work on conserving the local population and continues to work to identify and map black poplar trees within the area, and also to expand the population by planting cuttings in suitable locations.

Work undertaken has included:

- Construction of two nursery beds and Griffin Wood and Maypole.
- Collection and cuttings of black poplar
- Labelling of the cuttings and recording
- Weeding and maintenance of the nursery beds by Friends of Griffin Wood
- Removal, transport and recording of the successful cuttings
- Meetings and liaison with other members of the local group.

The work started in April 2007 at Griffin Wood with the construction of a nursery bed and the first cuttings were lifted in November 2009. New cuttings have been taken and these will be planted out over the next few years. All plantings are recorded with the local group.



April 2007



November 2009

With grateful thanks to SITA Environmental Trust.