

NOTIFICATION OF WOODLAND WORKS AT CHERRY HINTON HALL – 2016

Woodland works are proposed in Cherry Hinton Hall this autumn in the wooded area immediately surrounding the pond, to the north-east of the Hall site.

These works are planned to occur in conjunction with the pond restoration works sometime this October/ November.

The aims of the woodland works are:

- 1) To support the pond restoration's objective to enhance the biodiversity value of the area.
- 2) To facilitate access for the pond restoration works to occur
- 3) To meet our duty of care regarding safety in relation to hazardous trees.
- 4) To use the opportunity produced by the above aims to create, through new planting, resilient and sustainable woodland cover for the long term.

The woodland works are split into two phases:

- 1) Tree works (pruning/ felling)
- 2) Planting

Maintenance works are planned to occur in conjunction with the pond restoration works this October/ November. Planting will occur after the pond restoration works have been completed in January/ February.

The woodland works are set out on the two attached schedules:

- 1) Tree works (item reference 885)
- 2) Planting (item reference 899)

The schedules show the work proposed for each tree (or group of trees) with an associated map at the end to identify its location. The tree works schedule has been colour coded to show the works of greatest visual impact. Prior to the work starting each tree to be removed will be identified with green barrier tape.



The woodland work proposed will:

- 1) Facilitate access at the northern end of the pond for the dredging works by removing a small group mixed broadleaves.
- 2) Reduce long term damage to the pond edge by removing adjacent developing groups of self-set ash and sycamore.

Self-set trees regenerate naturally by seed, in some contexts they grow in an inappropriate place such as in this situation adjacent to the pond edge. As sycamore ultimately grow to over 20m, their continued growth in this location will damage new pond edging and lower light levels reaching the pond.

- 3) Improve the light level reaching the water by removing adjacent groups developing self-set trees and coppicing adjacent hazel stools.

Increased light levels to the pond will increase the amount and diversity of aquatic plants and invertebrate life.

- 4) Removing hazardous and diseased ash trees.

The mature ash ear-marked for felling are infected by Honey Fungus, a root decay fungi. In recent years we have experienced a number of whole tree failures as a result of this disease. As part of our duty of care affected trees will be removed or where possible veteranised.



Honey fungus

- 5) Improve insect, bird and bat habitat by veteranising hazardous trees.

Veteranisation generally involves a reduction in height or part of a tree and pruning techniques to mimic natural fractures so as to simulate the characteristics of an old tree. This is intended increase its value as habitat for wildlife irrespective of its chronological age.



Coronet cutting

- 6) Improve the age structure and tree species diversity of the woodland area through new tree planting so to ensure its longevity and resilience.

The woodland currently is dominated by mature ash trees. It is vulnerable both to disease that target ash and sudden natural decline due to its even-agedness. Oak, beech, hornbeam, small leaf lime and field maple are to be planted. These are all high canopy species reaching 20m in maturity and will help ensure character of the woodland is sustained in the long term.



Oak, hornbeam, small leaf lime and field maple

- 7) Allow successful establishment of the new tree planting by coppicing areas of understory and reducing competition for light.

Coppicing will involve cutting understory trees down to short stumps from which shoots grow giving rise to subsequent generation multi-stemmed trees, which can be re-coppiced at intervals. Understorey trees in the woodland

consist of woody plants which are distinctly lower than the high canopy or overstorey.



Coppice

Further information

Additional information on the proposed pond enhancement can be seen on the plan produced by Ebsford Environmental.

For general information about the masterplan proposal at Cherry Hinton Hall please contact the project manager Anthony French (Senior Asset Development Officer):

anthony.french@cambridge.gov.uk

For specific information about the pond restoration works please contact Guy Belcher (Biodiversity Officer) :

guy.belcher@cambridge.gov.uk

For specific information about the tree works please contact Kenny McGregor (Arboricultural Officer):

kenny.mcgregor@cambridge.gov.uk