

UK BLACK POPLAR CONSERVATION GROUP



NATIONAL CONFERENCE Friday 29th January 2010 Green Park Conference Centre, Aston Clinton.

Dear Black Poplar Enthusiast

Black Poplar Conservation Group Meeting. 29th of January 2010

Many of you will have seen the results of the recent Forest Research investigation into the genetic diversity of native Black Poplar (*Populus nigra* ssp. *betulifolia*). This paper raises some interesting points and proposes several recommendations in the interest of Black Poplar conservation. As practitioners of Black Poplar conservation it is important we are aware of these recommendations and their implications. Therefore we decided that it would be a good opportunity for the group to get together again to discuss the research and the points that it raises. We are fortunate enough to have the authors of the report Sam Samuel and Joan Cottrell coming to talk us through the research.

Building on the report we are delighted to welcome Ken Adams, BSBI county recorder for Essex, who has been at the forefront of Black Poplar conservation for many years. Ken will be offering guidance on how to manage trees, organise a county based recording programme, how to recognise potential new clones and what to do with these clones in order to assess their genetic diversity. Once identified new clones can be incorporated into future planting schemes. Now that Sam and Joan have found such a low number of individual clones, it is important that we identify and capture as much genetic diversity as possible for future conservation effort.

In addition to these talks there will be a chaired discussion period where we are hoping to go a long way towards safely developing the mechanisms we need to implement the recommendations of the Forest Research report. This has always been a practically based group and it would be a great achievement if we could come out of the conference with a clear idea of how we are going to practically coordinate our efforts to further Black Poplar conservation. We would be very grateful if you could read the report so that you can better contribute to the discussions. The conference will also provide an opportunity to catch up with other projects and initiatives throughout the country, some of which you may be able to contribute to. Many of you may want to bring along literature or presentations that you might want to display for the interest of other delegates. Please contact us if you would like to do so.

The UK Black Poplar Conservation Group and Annual Conference is hosted by Aylesbury Vale Green Spaces Team, Haydon Mill, Rabans Lane, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8RU.
Tel/fax: (01296 427972) Email: mdodds@aylesburyvale.gov.uk

The conference will be held at the **Green Park Conference Centre, Aston Clinton nr. Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 5NE. 01296 633800**. Directions to Green Park are available from the website;

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/green_park/centre.page

Please contact me if you experience any problems accessing this information.

The meeting will cost £20 to cover lunch, refreshments and hall hire. Booking is essential as places are limited. To book please return the attached form by 15th of January to Matt Dodds, Green Spaces Team (Biodiversity), Rabans Lane, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8RU, or email to mdodds@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk. Cheques should be addressed to Aylesbury Vale District Council and sent to the above address. If you would like to pay by B.A.C.S or credit card or for us to invoice, please contact us to arrange.

If you have any questions please phone on 01296 427972. We would be delighted if you would like to pass this invitation on to any other people you may feel would be interested in attending.

Matt Dodds

Aylesbury Vale District Council

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Itinerary

11 – 11.30am	Arrive, Tea and Coffee
11.30 – 11.45am	Introductions – Alan Holmes
11.45 - 12.30am	The genetic diversity of Black Poplar in the United Kingdom and the implications for conservation – Joan Cottrell and Sam Samuel (Forest Research)
12.30 – 12.45am	Questions
12.45 – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30 – 2.00pm	Mapping the distribution of Black Poplars on a county level and the identification of new clones – Ken Adams BSBI
2.00 – 2.15pm	Questions
2.15 – 3.15pm	Discussion covering; clone exchange, identification of new clones, forest reproductive materials regulations, re-designing existing stool beds, avoiding the spread of Poplar scab.
3.15 – 3.30pm	Wrapping up

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Name

Address.....
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Phone number

Email address.....

Dietary requirements

Fee enclosed

Number of bookings

Receipt required

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