

BLACK POPLARS (*Populus nigra betulifolia*) IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

**A survey co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biological
Records Centre - 2006**



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The black poplar (*Populus nigra betulifolia*) has experienced a surge in interest in recent years, mainly due to the work and enthusiasm for these magnificent trees by Edgar Milne-Redhead MBE. Milne-Redhead was an enthusiastic and experienced naturalist, whose career started at Cambridge University, which was also the beginning of his passion for black poplars. He worked tirelessly in raising awareness of this magnificent tree and inspiring others along the way to become equally passionate about this tree. It is due to his efforts and his inspiration of others to fight the cause of the Black poplar, that this fantastic tree may be saved. He was awarded a MBE in recognition of his work towards the conservation of black poplars in 1996.

The last major survey of Cambridgeshire black poplars was about ten years ago as part of a national survey promoted by the Daily Telegraph.

This survey showed there were approximately 120 trees in Cambridgeshire, and that many of these were coming towards the end of their lifespan. It was therefore timely to carry out another county-wide survey to determine which were still standing, and also to find any newly planted trees to add to the records and obtain an accurate picture of the status of black poplars in the county.

Habitat and distribution

The black poplar, also known as the water poplar, is Britain's rarest native timber species. It is thought that there are only about 7000 of these trees left in England and Wales, and of these only about 600 are female (Cooper, 2006).

Their favoured habitat is wetlands, and they are more likely to be found along the edge of river banks and in other low-lying, wet areas. They are not found in Scotland or the more northern parts of England, as they prefer the milder climates of southern England and Europe.

Threats

This tree is in decline and nationally rare, which is due to a number of factors:

- Natural reproduction is very rare

Black poplars are dioecious, meaning individuals are either male or female. Therefore for reproduction to occur, the two sexes need to be close to one another.

This problem is further exacerbated by the fact that for germination to occur, seeds need very specific conditions, the seeds need to fall on to bare ground that is free from competition but remains wet, (but not flooded) from June-October. If flooding or drought occurs then the seeds will no longer be able to germinate. The seeds are also only viable for a short time, two weeks at most.

- Native black poplars are no longer being planted commercially

Hybrid poplars are being planted instead of native black poplars as they are faster growing and produce straighter, better quality timber.

- Only a small proportion of mature trees are female

At the time black poplars were being planted commercially, male trees were favoured by landowners because female trees produce large amounts of fluffy seed in June, which made the land look very untidy and also got into crops, making them less saleable at market.

- Habitat loss

The loss of wetlands, which is black poplars' main habitat, has led to further loss of this tree species. The drainage of winter flooded meadows has also had an impact, resulting in the loss of suitable habitat for germination.

Black poplar uses

Black poplars are traditionally important trees and in the past have had a number of uses:

- Marking parish and county boundaries

Black poplars were often used to delineate parish and county boundaries due to their distinctive and dramatic shape.



Line of black poplars, demarcating a field boundary - Bassingbourne

- Timber uses

Black poplar timber has been used in a number of ways such as:

- Flooring, particularly around fireplaces, due to its fire resistance.
- Wagon construction, particularly for making the wheels due to its shock absorbing properties.
- The timber is also lightweight and light in colour, therefore making it a popular choice for furniture and clogs.

- Important habitats

Black poplars are also important habitats for a variety of fauna, including:

- Invertebrates, such as beetles and moths.
- They provide important nesting sites for owls and bats.

Throughout the country there is also folklore and legends surrounding these trees, including the belief they have important healing properties. For example, in Lincolnshire in the early twentieth century it was common practice to tie a lock of hair to a black poplar branch to cure ague, a shaking fever.

Even today, modern herbalists believe that black poplars can be used to treat conditions such as arthritis and bronchitis.

Recognition

Black poplars are large trees, growing up to 30m in height and 3-4m in diameter. There are a number of key characteristics that can be used to help recognise these trees:

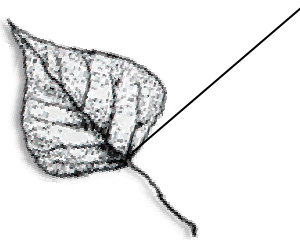
- Their lower branches arch downwards and then sweep up at the tips.
- As the tree gets older, the trunk leans and has large swellings/ burrs on it.



Characteristic burrs on the trunk

- Leaf shape is triangular, with the tip elongated to an acute point and the leaf margins have rounded teeth, with the underside being slightly hairy. Not every leaf will necessarily be the same, and on native black poplars, many of the leaves will be rhomboid.

The rhomboid shape of the leaf, i.e more diamond shape of the leaf is a key factor in distinguishing between native and non-native black poplars



Leaves from black poplars at Basingbourn

- The bark is deeply fissured and is dark grey to deep brown in colour.
- The twigs are cylindrical and young growth is often hairy.
- Winter buds are sticky and yellow/ brown in colour with the buds turning out from the twig.
- Male catkins are red and appear in March/April. Female ones are lime green and the female trees also produce white fluffy seed in June.

THE SURVEY

Method

The survey had two parts to it; collecting all the existing records of black poplars and launching the public survey, secondly it was necessary to confirm the records we received, some of which were ten or more years old, still existed and these trees were still standing.

Existing records were collected from two main sources: the Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood and the data from the 1994 Daily Telegraph survey, held by Huntingdonshire District Council. Secondly, a public survey was launched, asking the public to let us know of any black poplars they knew of.

All existing and new records were then visited to ensure all the existing records were still standing and to confirm any new records were native black poplars. A standard form was developed for use by everybody checking trees, which asked for a variety of information about the trees. (See appendix 2 for a copy of the form)

Data recorded included:

- Location of the tree (including grid reference, using a GPS where possible)
- Size (height and circumference at 1.3m)
- Sex
- Form (standard, coppice or pollard)
- Health (complete, damaged but alive or dead but still standing)
- Age (young, mature or over-mature)

Any further notes or comments were also recorded.

Public survey

As well as launching a public participation survey asking people to contact the records centre if they knew of any black poplars, we held two training sessions; one in Huntingdon and one in Cambridge. The aim being to train volunteers in the identification of black poplars so they would then be able to carry out some of the data verification. In total eleven people volunteered to help with verifying black poplar records.

The public survey and appeal for people to send in their records was extremely successful, especially after local radio and television stations promoted the survey. We were inundated with phone calls and emails about black poplars that people knew of, and many of these did indeed turn out to be native black poplars. The vast majority of which had been planted in the last ten years, which was extremely encouraging. A big thank you must go to everyone who took the time to contact us about their black poplars!

Engaging the help of volunteers and the wider community had the additional benefit of promoting black poplars and their decline to a wider audience.

RESULTS

The full results table can be seen in appendix 1.

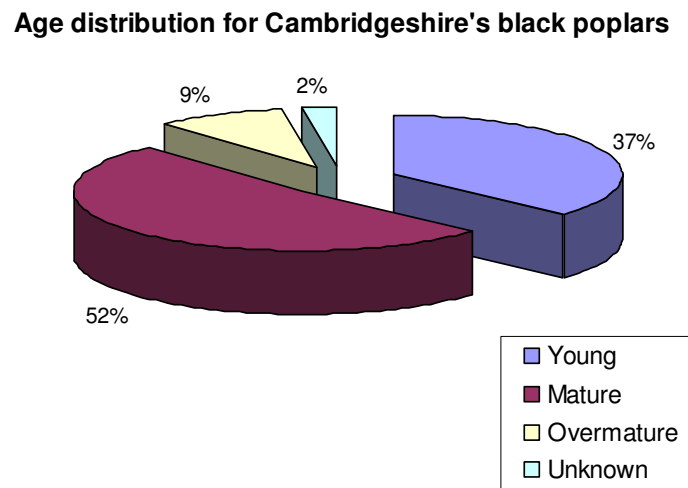
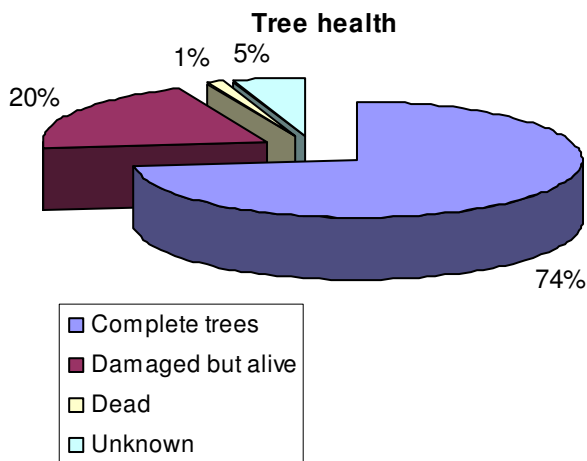
Results summary

The data set before the 2006 survey showed the county had records of trees in 110 locations throughout the county, the records centre's 2006 survey found that there are now records of trees in 102 locations. Trees at 16 points across the county have been lost, including trees at Chippenham, Girton and Woodhurst. However it is not all bad news as there are new records of trees at 8 locations throughout the county, including St. Neots, Haddenham, and March. Maps 1&2 show the known locations of black poplars before the 2006 survey, and after it. It is important to note that these maps only show the distribution of the trees and not their abundance, as some of the points

represent more than one tree (see table in appendix 1 for more details on precise abundance).

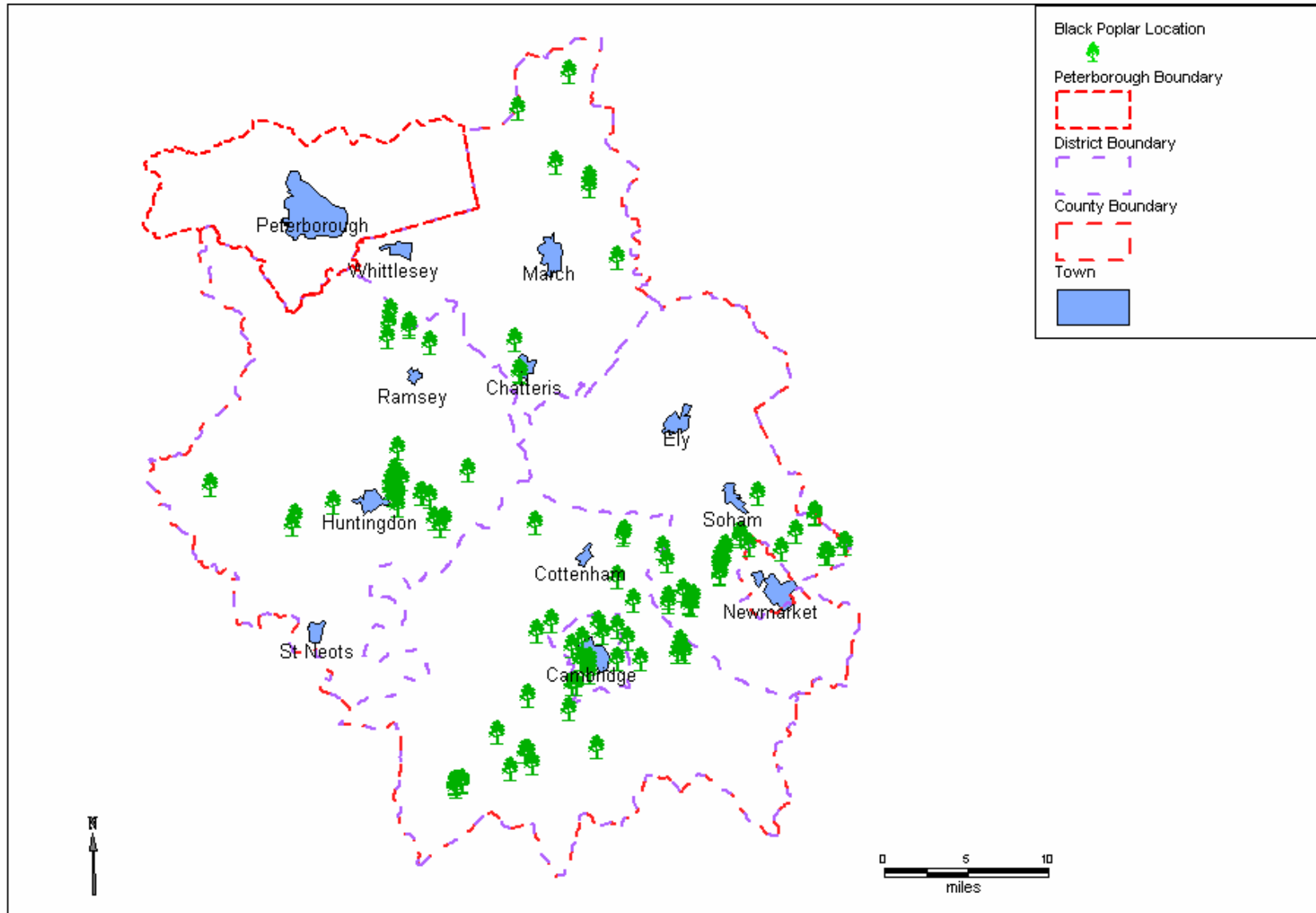
The results from the 2006 survey show that the majority of the young trees have been planted within the last ten years and it is promising to see that over a quarter of the trees surveyed were young trees, showing a healthy young population.

Of the trees surveyed only 4% were known to be female, however more than 30% were unknown due to their age or time of year they were surveyed, so there may be more females than it currently appears. However, there are still significantly more male black poplar trees than females.

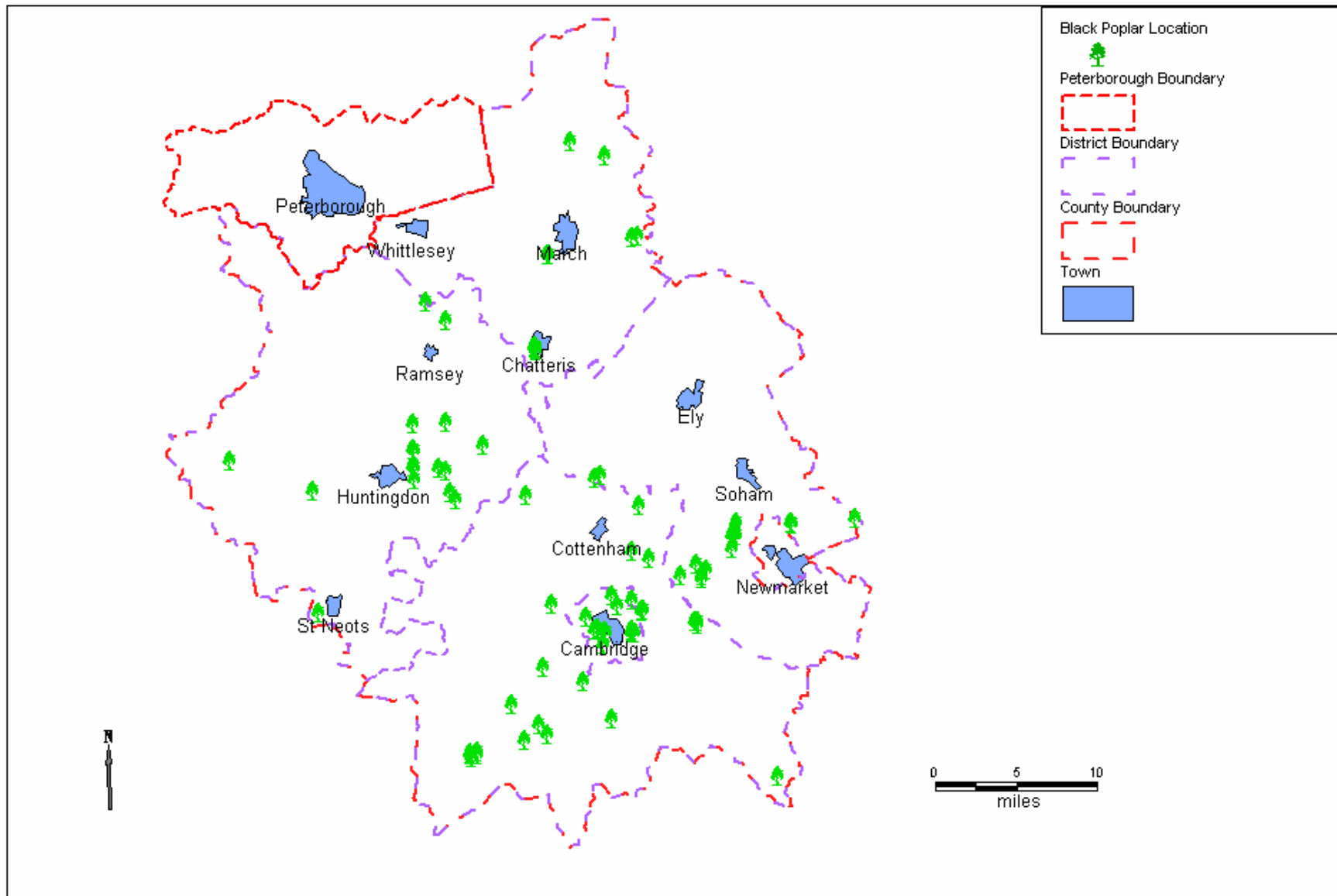


In terms of tree health, the results were quite positive as the two graphs show. Nearly three quarters of the trees are complete and in good health with no damage. It is also promising to see a large number of young trees, suggesting a good number of trees to replace the county's older specimens.

MAP 1: Distribution of known black poplars before 2006 CPBRC survey



MAP 2: Distribution of black poplars after CPBRC Survey, 2006



CONCLUSION

Despite the fact that in the results section, we said that the number of locations trees are found in had gone down, there are still some encouraging signs. People are aware of the decline of Britain's rarest native timber tree and new trees are being planted throughout the county. It is also encouraging that several of the people planting black poplars are aware of the sex imbalance problem and as a result are planting female trees.

As maps 1 and 2 show, the distribution of black poplar trees has altered and although trees have been lost, young trees have also been planted at locations where there were previously no records of black poplars, e.g. St. Neots and in the south-east corner of the county at Castle Camps. The maps also highlight where there are gaps in the distribution, particularly to the north and west of Ely and also the north west of the county. One possible reason for the gap in distribution is that this is moving into Fenland area, an area where the predominant land use is agriculture. This area has a history of agriculture and it is possible that black poplars amongst other trees have been felled in this area to make way for arable farming.

Another possible reason is that there is just less of an interest in black poplars and they are being under-recorded in this area. Therefore there is just less knowledge as to where they actually are.

However, with the Great Ouse running through Huntingdon, Ely and the north east of the county, and also the river Nene coming through Peterborough, there is suitable habitat for black poplar planting in these areas.

It can be seen from the results that of all the trees surveyed during the CPBRC 2006 survey only 4% are known to be females, which reflects the imbalance of the sexes seen throughout the whole country. However there are a number of trees of unknown sex, as many were too young at the time of the survey to determine their sex and the people who planted them were unsure. It is also important to remember that the imbalance of the sexes is not the only factor affecting the ability of black poplars to be able to reproduce naturally. For germination to occur the seeds need very specific conditions, they need to fall on wet bare soil, which remains bare for several days. Due to land use changes, these conditions only occur very infrequently

now. The other big problem is that the seeds are only viable for a short period of time, two weeks at most.

The results on tree health are much more positive. Nearly three quarters of the trees surveyed are complete, i.e. no damage, and in good health. This combined with a good percentage of young trees (more than 25%) and about 50% of the population being mature trees suggests the black poplar trees in Cambridgeshire are in good health and have a good age structure.

Again there were a number of unspecified trees in terms of age and health because they were viewed from a distance and it was difficult to determine their health and age.

In summary, this survey suggests that the Cambridgeshire black poplar population is fairly healthy with a good age range of trees, including a good young population of trees. In comparison to some other eastern counties, Cambridgeshire cannot compete with Suffolk and Buckinghamshire who have a national stronghold of black poplars in the Dedham valley and vale of Aylesbury respectively.

The sex imbalance is still great, and this is a problem with the black poplar population as a whole, including in Suffolk and Buckinghamshire. However it will take time to address this and as already discussed, there are factors other than just the sex imbalance preventing the black poplar from reproducing naturally. It is highly likely that planting and awareness raising, which hopefully this survey has helped to do and will always be important for the black poplar's survival.

Appendix 1: Full results of black poplar survey, 2006

Many of the trees in the following table of results are not on public land and therefore should not be assumed that there is access to all of these trees. However, the following trees are on public land and can be easily accessed should anybody wish to see a black poplar.

- Bassingbourne - TL323451 (A row of seven trees along a field, one of which is next to the road and can be seen clearly)
- Botanic Gardens, Cambridge
- Cherry Hinton, Cambridge - TL485572
- Hobsons Brook, Cambridge - TL454560
- Cow Hollow Wood, Waterbeach* - TL500645
- 9 Acre Wood, Haddenham* - TL445724
- Gaultwood, March - TL399945

*These trees were only planted in about 2005, therefore while they are still so young, they may be difficult to identify.

Locality	Grid	Tree Sex	Estimated height	Girth	Tree Health	Comments	Tree Form
Bassingbourn- North End	TL324449	Unknown	15m		Complete	Viewed through binoculars. Mature	Coppice
Bassingbourn	TL330454	Unknown	15-20m		Damaged but alive, has no crown	Viewed through binoculars. Overmature	Standard
Bassingbourn	TL323451	Unknown	15-20m	Varying 300-500cm	Complete	7 plus dead stump. Mature	Coppice
Bassingbourn- North End, running along field edge	TL323453	Unknown	15m		Complete	Viewed through binoculars. Mature	Coppice
Bassingbourn (North end) Off Guise Lane	TL330452	Unknown	15m		Damaged but alive, has no crown	Viewed through binoculars- overmature	Standard
Broughton Fields east of double bend by ditch off Kings Ripton Road. Broughton	TL266778	Unknown	20m		Complete	Mature, viewed through binoculars	Pollard
Low Road, Burwell ¹	TL585668	Male	30m	800cm	Damaged but alive	Mature	Standard
Burwell, adjacent to priory wood	TL583668	Unknown	15-20m		Complete	3 saplings plus mature tree, viewed through binoculars	Standard
Burwell, garden on river bank,	TL584673	Female	20m	500cm	Complete	Mature	Standard
Burwell, Boundary ditch opposite track.	TL583671	Unknown				Line of 4 possible trees along same boundary. Need, landowners permission.	Standard
Burwell (next to communication tower across large ditch)	TL581668	Male	25m		Damaged but alive	Mature. Can't get to it for proper look- on power station land.	Standard
Burwell (opp. side of river from footpath)	TL586681	Unknown	15m		Complete	Mature	Coppice
Burwell, near dismantled railway, Crownall farm	TL582655	Unknown			Damaged but alive	Overmature, lost a large limb	Standard

¹ Those records in blue are new records that have been found during the CPBRC 2006 survey

Locality	Grid	Tree Sex	Estimated height	Girth	Tree Health	Comments	Tree Form
Adams Road, Cambridge	TL437588	Unknown	7m	50cm	Complete	Planted from Dalham Tree in 1988	Standard
Adams Road Sanctuary (Cambridge) on the right hand path around site about 100m down.	TL437588	Too young to identify	140cm	3cm	Complete	Very recently planted probably 2004	Standard
Adams Road Bird Sanctuary, Cambridge	TL437588	Male	15m		Complete	Planted in 1982, mature	Standard (crown work)
Botanic Garden (Cambridge)	TL456573	Male	20m	500cm	Complete	Mature	Standard
Botanic Garden (Cambridge)	TL457572	Male	20m	300cm	Complete	Mature	Standard
Stourbridge common (Cambridge)	TL468598	Male	15m	350cm	Complete	Mature	Standard
Hobson's Brook (Cambridge)	TL454560	Unknown	20m	500cm	Damaged, but alive	2 trees, Over mature	Pollard
Coe Fen (Cambridge)	TL44901 57580	Unknown	12m		Complete	Mature	Standard
Paradise LNR adjacent to Paradise Car Park (Cambridge)	TL446574	Male	10m	150cm	Complete		Standard
Hopkins Close, Chesterton (Cambridge)	TL462608	Male	20m	250cm	Complete	Mature tree. Very nice tree- good example	Pollard (lopped)
Industrial Estate, east of Newmarket Road Park and Ride (Cambridge)	TL494594	Male	10m	250cm	Complete	Mature	Pollard
Grounds of Greenland innovation centre nr Fen Ditton (Cambridge)	TL494594	Male	10m	300-400cm	Complete	Mature	Pollard
Edge of Park and Ride, near to Esso garage in planting around park and ride (Cambridge)	TL492593	Male	10m	350cm	Complete	Mature	Recently Pollarded, shredded
Edge of park and ride near to Esso Garage (Cambridge)	TL493594	Male	10m	200cm	Complete	Mature	Pollard

Locality	Grid	Tree Sex	Estimated height	Girth	Tree Health	Comments	Tree Form
Fen Ditton (Cambridge)	TL482605	Male	16m	450cm	Damaged, but alive	High canopy work, mature	Standard
Fen Ditton (Cambridge)	TL483605	Male	10m	200cm	Complete	Cutting from Bentley Road, canopy work.	Standard
Fen Ditton, by River Cam (Cambridge)	TL482604	Male	15-20m	600cm	Complete		Canopy work high pollard
Fen Ditton (Park and ride near to Esso Garage)	TL492593	Male	10m	350cm	Complete	Mature	Pollard
Cherry Hinton, Cambridge	TL482572	Male	8m	118cm	Damaged, but alive	Along footpath near to gym	Pollard
Cherry Hinton, Cambridge	TL482573	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Dead	Along footpath near to gym	N/A
Cherry Hinton, Cambridge	TL483573	Male	10m	155cm	Damaged, but alive	Along footpath near to gym	Standard
Cherry Hinton, Cambridge	TL483573	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Dead	Along footpath near to gym	N/A
Cherry Hinton, Cambridge	TL485572	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Dead	Along footpath near to gym	N/A
Cherry Hinton, Cambridge	TL485572	Male	15m	170cm	Complete	Along footpath near to gym	Standard
Cherry Hinton, Cambridge	TL485572	Male	12m	157cm	Complete	Along footpath near to gym	Standard
Cherry Hinton , Cambridge	TL485572	Male	12m	143cm	Complete	Along footpath near to gym	Standard
Cherry Hinton Cement works (By Holiday Express Inn)	TL482574	Male	10m	147cm	Complete	On opposite side of path around 10 very young saplings, probably self planted	Standard
Cherry Hinton Cement works (By Holiday Express Inn)	TL482574	Male	10m	147cm	Complete	Can't access this tree, but very similar age etc. to other tree at this site	Standard

Locality	Grid	Tree Sex	Estimated height	Girth	Tree Health	Comments	Tree Form
Millennium wood, Castle camps	TL626430	Unknown-too young	1-5m		Complete	Young- planted in 2000	Standard
Catworth New Bridge, B660	TL085742	Female	20m	4m	Damaged but alive	Overmature	Standard
Fairway, Chatteris (field behind the Sportsman social club)	TL388852	Male	12m	200cm	Complete	Mature	Standard
Fairway, Chatteris (field behind the Sportsman social club)	TL388853	Male	10m	150cm	Complete	Mature	Standard
Fairway, Chatteris (field behind the Sportsman social club)	TL388851	Male	12m	100cm; 100cm; 300cm	Complete	Mature	Pollard
Old railway footpath, Chatteris	TL386854	Male	15m	100cm	Complete, damaged but alive	50 trees in a line. Young/ mature	Standard
Old railway footpath, Chatteris	TL386853	Male	15m	100cm	Complete	5 trees in a row. Young/ mature	Standard
Cottenham	TL489697	Unknown	15-20m		Complete	Seen through binoculars. Mature	Coppice
East of Manor Farm, Ellington	TL167712	Unknown	15-20m		Damaged but alive	Over mature. Viewed through binoculars.	Standard
Rummers Farm, Elm Friday Bridge	TF421057	Unknown	15m		Complete	Mature. Viewed through binoculars.	Standard
Opposite Waldersey House, Elm Friday Bridge	TF455042	Unknown	15m	3m	Complete	Mature.	Standard
9 Acre Wood, Haddenham	TL445724	Unknown	3m	<5cm	Complete	5 in a group all the same	Standard
Lakes Drove, Aldreth nr. Haddenham	TL452727	Unknown-too young	3m	<5cm	Complete	Line of 6, young (~2yrs)	Standard
Harlton Lord's Bridge Observatory	TL395538	Unknown	5-8m	60cm	Complete	5 trees: Mature/young	Standard
Hauxton, by stream in wood at back of works	TL434524	Unknown	20m	500cm	Complete	Mature, in woodland at back of works	Pollard

Locality	Grid	Tree Sex	Estimated height	Girth	Tree Health	Comments	Tree Form
Hartford Marina, Houghton	TL268723	Female?				Replanted cutting from parent on site	
Houghton Hill Farm south east of Wyton Base fence off B1090, Huntingdon	TL291734	Unknown				Seen in distance	
North of Hartford Hill Farm B1090 2nd track, Huntingdon	TL266753	Unknown	12m		Damaged but alive	Mature/ overmature, seen through binoculars	Pollard
North of Hartford Hill Farm B1090 2nd track, Huntingdon	TL267751	Unknown	12m		Damaged but alive	Mature/ overmature, seen through binoculars	Pollard
Old A141, Huntingdon to Wyton Crossroad, Huntingdon	GPS TL26544 73571 14.8m accuracy	Unknown	8-10m	500cm	Damaged but alive	Over mature	Pollard
South of Cobwebs on Hartford Hill Farm A141 Huntingdon	TL268734	Female	12m		Damaged but alive	Over mature, viewed through binoculars	Pollard
South of Cobwebs on Hartford Hill Farm A141 Huntingdon	TL268734	Unknown	12m		Damaged but alive	Over mature, viewed through binoculars	Pollard
Claverley House, London Rd. St. Ives	TL309703	Female	25m	387cm	Complete	Excellent tree	Standard
Hill Rise Plantation St. Ives	TL299731	Male	16m	320cm	Damaged but alive		Standard
North end of Filberts walk, St. Ives	TL303710	Male	30m	367cm	Complete		Standard
Kennett Cottages	TL703685	Male	15m	2 stems 500cm each	Damaged but alive	Over mature	Pollard

Locality	Grid	Tree Sex	Estimated height	Girth	Tree Health	Comments	Tree Form
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Landbeach	TL482652	Unknown	Average for line about 10m	120-200cm	Complete	One set line	Mix of standard and pollard
Lode (in back garden on banks of river)	TL531628	Suspect male but unknown	20m	600cm	Complete	Mature. V straight tall tree with long linear grooves- Some unusual characters	Standard
Meldreth station	TL377466	Unknown	20m	500cm	Complete	Back of station car park. Mature	Standard
Gaultwood, March	TL400945	Unknown	5m	15cm	Complete	Approximately 12 years old.	Standard

Locality	Grid	Tree Sex	Estimated height	Girth	Tree Health	Comments	Tree Form
Gaultwood, March	TL399945	Male	7m	20cm	Complete	Approximately 12 years old.	Standard
Gaultwood, March	TL399945	Male	8m	45cm	Complete	Approximately 12 years old.	Standard
Pightle' Millenium Green, St. Neots	TL173592	Female	6m	5cm	Complete	Young tree, 4 years old planted from a Bedford Tree	Standard
Pightle' Millenium Green, St. Neots	TL173592	Male	6m	5cm	Complete	Young tree, 2 years old planted from a Bedford Tree	Standard
Pightle' Millenium Green, St. Neots	TL173592	Female	12m	26cm	Complete	Young tree, 6 years old planted from a Bedford Tree	Standard
Pightle' Millenium Green, St. Neots	TL173592	Male	6m	5cm	Complete	Young trees, 2 years old planted from a Bedford Tree	Standard
Pightle' Millenium Green, St. Neots	TL173592	Male	5m	13cm	Complete	Young tree, 5 years old planted from a Bedford Tree	Standard
Pightle' Millenium Green, St. Neots	TL173592	Male	6m	5cm	Complete	Young tree, 2 years old planted from a Bedford Tree	Standard
Pightle', Millenium Green, St. Neots	TL173592	Male	6m	5cm	Complete	Young tree, about 2 years old planted from a Bedford Tree	Standard
Wyboston Lakes, St. Neots	TL174577	Female	6m	5cm	Complete	Young, about 4 years old and planted from a Bedford tree	Standard
Wyboston Lakes, St. Neots	TL174577	Male	6m	5cm	Complete	Young, about 4 years old and planted from a Bedford tree	Standard
Over, Ivy House, Fen End	TL378707	Female	20m	~300cm	Damaged but alive	Over mature	Standard
Orwell	TL364501	Unknown	15-20m		Complete	Mature, viewed through binoculars	Standard
Wells Bridge, Ramsey Forty Foot by 40 Foot Drain	TL298880	Male	20m	400cm	Damaged but alive	Over mature	Standard
Ramsey Mereside (Hunts-Cambs. Border)	TL279899	Male	20m		Complete	Over mature, covered in ivy, in a ditch. Spiral leaf galls	Standard
Shepreth, near the station along station road	TL391482	Unknown	20m	300cm	Complete	Mature	Standard

Locality	Grid	Tree Sex	Estimated height	Girth	Tree Health	Comments	Tree Form
Shepreth Mill Trout Farm	TL399471	Female				Botanic Gardens have taken cuttings from it	
Snailwell	TL641679	Male	20m		Damaged but alive	2 overmature trees along field boundary. Seen from a distance	Standard
Snailwell Meadow SSSI	TL639681	Male	15m		Complete	Mixture of young and mature, approx 25 trees in row, viewed from a distance	Standard
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Female	25m	150cm	Complete		Standard
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Male	25m	165cm & 122cm	Damaged, but alive	Looks unhealthy and has a yellow secretion from new leaf growth	Standard (forked)
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Male	10-15m	62cm	Complete	Young tree, also has yellow secretion from new leaf growth	Standard
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Male	25-30m	218cm	Complete		Standard
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Male	25-30m	188cm	Complete		Standard
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Male	25-30m	147cm	Complete		Standard
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Male	25-30m	300cm	Complete		Standard
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Male	25-30m	150-200cm	Complete		Standard
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Unknown	6m	10-50cm	Complete	Young sucker coming off a tree that has fallen across the ditch	
Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	TL556634	Male	15m	100cm	Complete		Coppice

Locality	Grid	Tree Sex	Estimated height	Girth	Tree Health	Comments	Tree Form
Swaffham Bulbeck, Field edge	TL551626	Male	25m	500cm	Damaged but alive	Over mature	Standard
Swaffham Bulbeck, Field edge	TL552628	Male	25m	500cm	Damaged but alive	Mature	Standard
Swaffham Bulbeck, Long Meadow	TL546640	Male			Complete	Mature, viewed from a distance	Pollard
Upwell Christchurch	TL483962	Unknown	12m	2m	Complete	Mature	Coppice
Upwell Fen, Christchurch	TL488964	Unknown	15m		Complete	Viewed through binoculars, on private land.	Coppice
Waterbeach (Cow Hollow Wood next to Railway carpark)	TL500645	Unknown	2m	30cm	Complete	Young tree. 2 young trees on edge of ride near to bend on road	
Whittlesford	TL462487	Unknown				In private woodland could not see tree from footpath.	
Great Wilbraham, down track near to school	TL547580	Male	25-30m	800cm	Complete		Pollard
Little Wilbraham, across fields from the school	TL545583	Unknown				Viewed from a distance	Standard
Little Wilbraham, across fields from the school	TL548583	Unknown				Viewed from a distance	Standard
Little Wilbraham, across fields from the school	TL548583	Unknown				Viewed from a distance	Standard

Table showing locations of trees which have disappeared since last survey

Locality	Grid	Comments
337, Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside	TL279897	Been removed
Bassingbourn, off Guise lane	TL330453	Tree no longer present
Bassingbourn	TL324452	
Bassingbourn	TL377466	
Burwell FP4	TL602696	
Burwell FP4	TL693697	
Pecks Yard, Ramsey St. Marys	TL259903	
River Mill Flats, London rd. St.Ives	TL313710	
Waterbeach	TL482964	
Waterbeach	TL489697	
American Cemetary, Madlingley	TL404598	
Fulbourn-Teversham	TL505572	
Newton TF	TL323449	
Cottenham	TL482604	
Horningsea FP6	TL482652	
Horningsea FP6	TL498629	
Willingham	TL401705	
Chippenham	TL619734	
Chippenham	TL656697	
Chippenham	TL674716	
Chippenham	TL675714	
Dane Hill	TL685675	Outside county border
Houghton Hill Farm south east of Wyton Base fence off B1090	TL291734	
Kennett	TL641679	
Kennett	TL685677	
Kennett	TL687675	
North of Hartford Hill Farm Huntingdon	TL261746	

Appendix 2: Black poplar recording form

Black Poplar Volunteer Recording Form:

Surveyor's details:

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Tel no. or email

Tree details

Tree number (CPBRC number)	Date surveyed
Tree location:	
.....	
Grid Reference (6 fig)	
Name and address of landowner	
.....	

Trunk circumference at 1.3m

Estimated height of tree.....

Tree form:

Coppice Pollard Standard

Tree sex:

Female (green/yellow catkin with fluffy seed) Male (red catkin)

Tree health

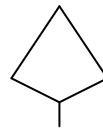
Complete Damaged, but alive Dead (still standing)

Tree age

Young Mature Over mature

CHECK LIST OF KEY BLACK POPLAR IDENTIFICATION POINTS

- Lower branches arch down, then sweep upwards
- Heavily fissured bark, often with bosses on trunk
- Trunk leans
- Leaf deltoid in shape with blunt teeth
- Young stems are hairy



Do you consider this to be a native black poplar?

Yes No Not sure

Contact information:

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