

NNCWT - Pigneys Wood

Report to Knapton Parish Council – 4th May, 2010



As most of you are aware, from previous reports both in the press and the village newsletter, North Norfolk Community Woodland Trust, the owners of Pigneys Wood, were successful in their bid for Lottery Funding and have been awarded the sum of £47,350 for planned improvements to the sites infrastructure.

I am now pleased to report that the groundwork's involved have, in the main, been carried out, with the completion of a 500 metre long, 4 metre wide, track from the car park to the old barn for the use of heavy vehicles and to enable vehicles of the emergency services to reach a central point within the wood in the case of accidents and emergencies and in the case of fire.



All of the 450 metres of easy access footpaths have been widened to allow two wheelchairs to pass without the need to leave the path and for the convenience of groups of walkers moving in either direction.

A new scrape has been created for the use of migratory and wading birds and the 'old' scrape is being provided with a dipping platform for the use of student groups and children. The new scrape will be screened by a high bund, 80 metres in length, from the barn to the dyke, the reverse side of which ie the side facing the scrape, will be sculpted to provide a vertical face in the hope of attracting Kingfishers to nest. The bund will also provide a screen to afford a degree of protection for birds using the scrape and those nesting on the ground from free running dogs. A gate is also being installed to reinforce this protection.

It is not generally realised by the general public that it is against the law to allow dogs to run freely in a designated nature reserve during the nesting season and, despite signs to this effect, it has been brought to our attention that a number of irresponsible owners continue to allow their pets to roam at will during this sensitive period. If they disturb



ground nesting birds the fine can be substantial and they will be barred from using the wood. If the practice becomes widespread a blanket ban for all dog walkers will be imposed in the areas concerned. It cannot be right for the irresponsible few to spoil it for the many. For the information of all concerned, dogs must be kept on a lead when in a designated area, from March 1st until July 31st. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Further improvements include the installation of a reinforced 'hard standing' for heavy vehicles and a revamped picnic area next to the car park. A large new notice board will be installed in the picnic area replacing a number of smaller units and will display up-to-date information on a variety of topics of interest to users of the wood. Two 20' shipping containers have been purchased and installed to provide secure storage for tools and a small tractor. Additionally we are creating three signposted walks within the wood and three or four butterfly reserves. All project related work is expected to be completed by the end of September when an opening ceremony, to which members of the public are invited, will be held. The date will be announced later.



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As will be appreciated this project has involved a considerable amount of work and effort in administration and organisation to say nothing of the physical demands of implementing the various works involved and it has to be remembered that this is in addition to the normal maintenance operations that are routinely carried out. For this we must give thanks to our contractors, volunteers and Trustee/Directors, all of whom have worked hard to achieve the desired result in the provision of a valuable community asset which all members of the public can enjoy.



We are always pleased to see new volunteers, so, if you would like to join our group, please contact 'Pip' Thomas on 01692 500 990, who will provide you with all the necessary information. We usually work in the wood every alternate Saturday for 2/3 hours starting at 9.30 am. You will find the company enjoyable and entertaining and the work interesting and educational in delightful surroundings. Tools are provided. All are welcome, including children, provided they are accompanied by a responsible adult. We look forward to seeing you.

Peter Kaye, Trustee/Director

Knapton, May 2nd, 2010.