

# Report for Brightling and Dallington Parish Councils

## Planting of Black Poplars in the Parishes, Springs 2020 and 2021

### Background

In Spring 2020, twenty-seven rare *Populus nigra ssp betulifolia* (Black Poplar) whips were planted in the two parishes of Brightling and Dallington to enhance the natural environment of the parishes and be of benefit to future generations.

This species is dioecious, male and female flowers are on different plants, and is one of the rarest trees in Great Britain and Ireland with only about 7,000 trees known of which only some 600 have been confirmed as female.

When I showed our records of the clone data to an expert in Black poplars the data were queried, so samples of our trees were sent to Forest Research in Scotland for genetic analysis. It was discovered that Wakehurst Place had incorrectly numbered the various gene lines and many of our trees had erroneous gene information associated with them. Multiple databases belonging to the Sussex Black Poplar Partnership have had to be updated and the updates communicated to bodies around Sussex, and I have notified each of the landowners affected in our two parishes.

This report carries the updated clone line information and ***any existing records should now be destroyed or deleted to avoid future confusion.***

### Planting-out, Spring 2021

In January Wakehurst Place kindly provided a further six saplings (representing all five genetic clones known in East Sussex) labelled with correct information about the clone number and the location of the specific mature donor tree.

Following appeals in the Messenger magazine and posted on the parish websites a total of three landowners across the two parishes came forward with suitable sites for planting. After visiting each site to assess its suitability I worked with the individual landowners to prepare the sites, plant and stake the six saplings, protect each one from rabbits and deer, and mulch to suppress weed and grass growth.

All the materials for planting and protection were sourced by me and I was reimbursed at cost for materials used.

Black Poplar saplings are particularly sensitive to drought and the weather from mid-Spring 2021 onwards has been very dry. The landowners of all thirty-three trees (2020 and 2021) have been contacted to ask them to keep an eye on their trees and ensure they remain well-watered.

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On a following page is a table with the full details of the plants and their locations for the parish records. An explanation of the fields in the table is given below.

<b>Parish Tree Ref#</b>	An identifier for each tree; first letter of the parish name followed by a sequential number
<b>Plant Code</b>	<p>A code used by Wakehurst Place and which I've adapted for all the Black Poplar saplings: -</p> <p>The first two digits are the place of origin and the following letter is the gender; 10 = Hastings (Male), 13 = Rushlake Green (Female), 18 = Ripe (Male), 28 = East Chiltington (Male), 30, 31 and 32 = Robertsbridge (Female), 35 and 36 = Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham (Male, and the last two digits are the clone number (set by Wakehurst place)</p> <p>The 3 unidentified plants from Wakehurst Place with unknown provenance are coded WUa through WUb</p> <p>The 9 plants donated in 2019 with unknown provenance are coded 2019Ua through 2019Ui</p>
<b>Source Tree</b>	Mature source tree number as shown in the Plant Code
<b>Source Tree Location</b>	Location of the source tree as determined from the Plant Code
<b>M/F</b>	Sapling gender
<b>Clone #</b>	Clone number as given in the Plant Code
<b>Grid Ref.</b>	The Grid Reference of the planted sapling's location
<b>Planted Address</b>	The name of the property where the sapling is planted
<b>Planted in Parish of</b>	Parish where planted
<b>Planting Date</b>	The date of planting the sapling
<b>Notes</b>	Additional useful information

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Parish Tree Ref#	Plant Code	Source Tree #	Source Tree Location (where known)	M/F	Clone #	Planted Grid Ref.	Planted Address	Planted in Parish of	Planting Date	Notes
B1	31F27	31	Robertsbridge	F	27	TQ7047121477	Hunters Farm	Brightling	12/02/2020	
B2	31F27	31	Robertsbridge	F	27	TQ7094522941	Fern Hill	Brightling	21/02/2020	
B3	31F27	31	Robertsbridge	F	27	TQ7131523560	New House Farm	Brightling	16/02/2020	
B4	35M28	35	Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham	M	28	TQ7042621421	Hunters Farm	Brightling	12/02/2020	
B5	18M34	18	Ripe	M	34	TQ7131423578	New House Farm	Brightling	16/02/2020	
B6	WUa	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ7043121459	Hunters Farm	Brightling	12/02/2020	This could be one of 1x13F32, 2x18M34, or 2x36M28
B7	WUb	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ7092422918	Fern Hill	Brightling	21/02/2020	This could be one of 1x13F32, 2x18M34, or 2x36M28
B8	2019Ud	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ7040321443	Hunters Farm	Brightling	12/02/2020	
B9	2019Ue	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ6326521178	Greenwood	Brightling	22/02/2020	
B10	2019Uf	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ6328321197	Greenwood	Brightling	22/02/2020	
B11	2019Ug	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ7135323895	New House Farm	Brightling	20/02/2020	
B12	13F32	13	Rushlake Green	F	32	TQ 70149 21892	Swallowfield Farm	Brightling	07/03/2021	
B13	30F27	30	Robertsbridge	F	27	TQ 72089 21780	Mountfield Park Farm	Brightling	11/03/2021	
B14	10M25	10	Hastings	M	25	TQ 72016 21749	Mountfield Park Farm	Brightling	11/03/2021	
D1	13F32	13	Rushlake Green	F	32	TQ6530718616	Stream Farm	Dallington	16/02/2020	
D2	13F32	13	Rushlake Green	F	32	TQ6586220184	Highlands Rose Farm	Dallington	14/03/2020	

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Parish Tree Ref#	Plant Code	Source Tree #	Source Tree Location (where known)	M/F	Clone #	Planted Grid Ref.	Planted Address	Planted in Parish of	Planting Date	Notes
D3	13F32	13	Rushlake Green	F	32	TQ6647518251	Herrings Farm	Dallington	26/02/2020	
D4	35M28	35	Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham	M	28	TQ6541719515	Barn Cottage	Dallington	18/02/2020	
D5	31F27	31	Robertsbridge	F	27	TQ6534118592	Stream Farm	Dallington	19/02/2020	
D6	18M34	18	Ripe	M	34	TQ6541319517	Barn Cottage	Dallington	18/02/2020	
D7	10M25	10	Hastings	M	25	TQ6542119516	Barn Cottage	Dallington	18/02/2020	
D8	10M25	10	Hastings	M	25	TQ6539219517	Barn Cottage	Dallington	18/02/2020	
D9	10M25	10	Hastings	M	25	TQ6537219517	Barn Cottage	Dallington	18/02/2020	
D10	10M25	10	Hastings	M	25	TQ6539418510	Stream Farm	Dallington	16/02/2020	
D11	WUc	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ6587620192	Highlands Rose Farm	Dallington	14/03/2020	This could be one of 1x13F32, 2x18M34, or 2x36M28
D12	2019Ua	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ6532318694	Stream Farm	Dallington	16/02/2020	
D13	2019Ub	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ6532218630	Stream Farm	Dallington	19/02/2020	
D14	2019Uc	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ6539618524	Stream Farm	Dallington	19/02/2020	
D15	2019Uh	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ6638919481	Wish House	Dallington	22/02/2020	
D16	2019Ui	-	Unknown	-	-	TQ6664418287	Herrings Farm	Dallington	26/02/2020	
D17	13F32	13	Rushlake Green	F	32	TQ 64815 17405	Little Bucksteep, Churches Green	Dallington	08/03/2021	
D18	18M34	18	Ripe	M	34	TQ 64807 17422	Little Bucksteep, Churches Green	Dallington	08/03/2021	
D19	28M28	28	East Chiltington	M	28	TQ 64799 17410	Little Bucksteep, Churches Green	Dallington	08/03/2021	

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End of report.

Doug Edworthy, 09 May 2021