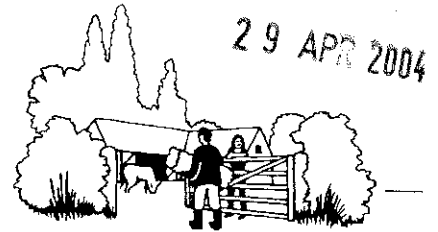


# MILLENNIUM FARM TRUST

providing opportunities for those with learning difficulties



Mr. Paul Bunton,  
Community Woodland Project Manager.  
The Woodland Trust,  
Autumn Park,  
Dysart Road,  
Grantham,  
Lincolnshire NG31 6LL

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

Dear Paul,

Sincere apologies for the delay in submitting this report on the outcomes and benefits of the £2,000 grant awarded to Millennium Farm Trust in December 2003.

Nightingale Glade, Nowton Park underwent some coppicing by MFT team under the supervision of the park rangers in December - January 2003. Approximately one third of the area has been coppiced and another third will be done in the winter of 2004. Coppicing techniques were demonstrated and explained by the rangers as was the purpose (to create dense young woodland area to provide cover for nesting birds). Identification of hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, oak and hazel was also demonstrated. The site has been visited in the spring to determine growth of new shoots and observing for damage to them by deer and rabbits. Tools used included bow saws and loppers in addition to a saw bench.

Specific training and coppicing has also taken place at Old Hall East Bergholt a separate report is enclosed.

## **Expenditure:**

**Training monies** ( allocated £600)

Coppicing training £120.00

First Aid Training £144.77

Copy invoices will be sent.

*This leaves £335.23 for additional coppicing training for three MFT farm workers and 2 support workers ( who were not able to attend on recent training days), also a brush cutting training day and a manual handling training session.*

**Tools and protective equipment** (allocated £600)

A competitive supplier has been found and an order is being submitted

**Brush cutter** (allocated £350)

A suitable one yet to be purchased

**Brush cutter training** (allocated £200) this was to have taken place in March but the trainer has had to postpone it until summer- early autumn.

**Trailer and lockable cabinet** (allocated £250)

\_ones seen so far not suitable for our needs ; still looking .

The idea of weatherproof information boards showing the tree throughout the seasons in respect of leaves, buds, bark, tree shape, blossom, nuts ,seeds, etc was considered to be a useful learning resource for members of the public who visit Nowton park and MFT members. The team is involved in producing pictures of oak, elder, hawthorn, silver birch, hazel, sycamore and ash.

All those who have participated in the coppicing work and training are much more aware Of the reasons for and benefits of coppicing and have also become more competent in the use of the relevant tools and knowing when to use loppers and when to use a saw. Increased observation has resulted from deciding which trees need cutting and in which season. A tape of a discussion on coppicing at Old Hall East Bergholt is enclosed. We are awaiting the development of photos.

Thank you very much for your support in enabling MFT to extend the skills of the team and purchase tools and equipment.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette Shrubshall  
Chairwoman.

P.S. Have also enclosed our latest newsletter  
& brochure .

MARCH 2004

MILLENNIUM FARM TRUST  
Coppicing Work at Old Hall.

Work has started on a 200 metre length of overgrown hedgerow (mostly hawthorn) forming the boundary between one of our fields and a sewage works. The hedge screens the chain link fence and the works from view from the field and the public footpath along the far side of the field.

Four working sessions, spread over two days, totalling 8 hours, have so far been carried out with instruction from Richard King our resident green woodworker and hedge layer. About an hour was spent on learning about coppicing from books and looking at other examples around our farm. The use of protective clothing (goggles and gauntlets) and the correct use of the tools (bow saws and loppers) was also discussed and demonstrated.

The farm workers involved have been Miriam Newell, Alex Fejer, Alex Quin and Alan Bartram working in two teams with Philip Mellor and Ian Coles. All the team members have used loppers and bow saws trimming side branches and cutting the main stems on both standing and felled trees. The felled trees have been processed into lengths of firewood and brush for use as a dead hedge to protect the stools. Trees larger than three inches diameter are being left for others to fell.

So far the team have been familiarising themselves with the use of the tools in this new situation. Additional practice will be acquired over the coming weeks but the work will probably not be completed until next winter.

Ian Coles

P Mellor

MFT Support Worker and  
Old Hall Committee Member