Castlemorton Environmental Group



Native Black Poplar Project Update March 2025

Native black poplar is said to be our rarest native timber tree and is an iconic feature of our local landscape. In late 2024 we put out an article asking whether people would be interested in being involved in a black poplar project. Our aim was to encourage planting native black poplars in Castlemorton and neighbouring areas. We were pleased with the response and as a result we have:

- Distributed 32 'truncheons' of black poplar for planting at 12 locations in Castlemorton and Welland.
- These include two female black poplars sourced from Herefordshire, with the rest of the plants being from our local male clone on Castlemorton Common.
- Taken about 80 'pencil cuttings' of black poplar for growing on ready for planting in two years time.
- Have a 'waiting list' of people who would like to take trees next winter.



Truncheon ready for planting



Pencil cuttings for growing on

We are planning the next stage of the project which could include:

- Monitoring the results of the planting and making good any losses.
- Obtaining more planting material for next season and perhaps expanding into neighbouring Parishes.
- Sourcing more females for planting and different male clones so that we increase the resilience of the local population.

We would like to thank Malvern Hills Trust who provided most of the truncheons and cuttings and Tony Norman for his advice and providing the female black poplars.