

# Marston Marshes Tree Works

This autumn, we shall be carrying out major willow pollarding work at Marston Marshes.

Pollarding is a traditional technique for managing willows that involves lopping off branches from the tree trunk. The following year, the tree grows a new crown of branches. Many of the willows at Marston Marshes have already been pollarded several times during their lives.

Pollarding may appear to be destructive, but it actually prolongs the life of the tree. If they are not pollarded, willows often split apart or collapse due to the weight of their own branches. This is already starting to happen to some of the larger willow trees at Marston Marshes.

Pollarding also helps wildlife by encouraging the tree to produce fresh, bushy growth that is ideal for insects and nesting birds. Old pollard willows are extremely valuable for wildlife as they develop features such as rot holes, cracks and crevices that are used by insects, birds, roosting bats and other small animals.

Notices will be displayed on site when tree works are taking place. We aim to ensure that our work does not affect your enjoyment of Marston Marshes and you can help us by:

- Observing any health and safety signs and keeping away from areas where the contractors are working for your own safety
- Keeping your dog under close control, especially when you pass near to areas where the contractors are working

For further information please contact:

Paul Holley - natural areas officer, Norwich City Council  
Telephone 0344 980 3333

Matthew Davies – project officer, Norwich Fringe Project:  
Telephone: 01603 423303