

# The Native Black Poplar at Roydon

(*Populus nigra* "Betulifolia") The Roydon Tree Warden Group



“This tree is a real treasure. We first realised it was unusual after it shed a limb one winter. With the support of the farmer and Countrycare we were able to get it pruned, to save it. It has led us, that is the Roydon Tree Warden Group, on a hunt throughout the parish to find more of them. We have found 30 – all female. That is amazing – there are only 500 females across the whole country.

Our original tree has been declared as a ‘Great British Tree’. We feel honoured to be in the company of trees like the ‘Robin Hood Oak’.”

The native Black Poplar is one of Britain’s most endangered trees with a UK population of just 10,000.

The timber, which is springy and light, is highly resistant to fire and has been used for a variety of purposes. It is the only Poplar that provides structurally useful timber, commonly found in old Essex timber framed buildings. Floorboards, clogs and arrows that were found on the Elizabethan galleon, the Mary Rose, were made from this wood.



Alan Burgess  
Tree warden and local artist



Top left:  
Roydon Heritage  
tree

Left and right:  
Tylers Cross field  
specimens

These are in the process of being pruned to reduce the risk of them breaking.

