



JEDBURGH COMMUNITY TRUST

Preservation Proposal for The Capon Tree

Summary

This proposal has been co-ordinated by Jedburgh Community Trust, as a legally constituted body, on behalf of the following:

- Jedburgh Community Trust
- Jethart Callants Club
- Jethart Callants Festival
- Jedburgh Community Council

The plan also has the support of other organisations in the town including Jethart Ex-Callants association, Jedforest Pathways and Jedburgh Events Forum.

The tree is on land owned by Lothian Estates who are supporting the ongoing work to preserve it.

The intention is to carry out the following works related to the Capon Tree:

- Remedial works to preserve, support and protect the tree
- Installation of a new gate at the entrance to the site
- Creation of a wildflower meadow in the area under and adjacent to the canopy of the tree
- Installation of information boards relating to the history and significance of the tree
- Installation of up to three wooden benches

This work will be of benefit to the town of Jedburgh by:

- Preserving this nationally recognised ancient tree
- Maintaining and enhancing the tree's importance to the town of Jedburgh in relation to its role during Festival week each July (Jethart Callant's Festival).
- Enhancing its attraction as a site of interest both for the people of Jedburgh and for visitors to the town.

Details and costings for the work, and contributions to be made by the above organisations, can be found below.

The Capon Tree

The Capon Tree is a Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), between 500 and 1000 years old, and one of the few remaining trees from the ancient Jed Forest. It has been recognised as a Heritage Tree and Tree of National Special interest in the Ancient Tree Inventory of the Woodland Trust, listed as one of Great Britain's 50 greatest trees by The Tree Council, and recognised as an important historic tree by the Borders Forest Trust.

It is a "classic" ancient tree, with a wide girth, hollow trunk and the upper crown of the tree retrenched, allowing nutrients to be utilised in keeping the tree alive.

The tree has both historic and contemporary significance. It is reputed to have been a Trysting /gathering point during the 16th century, where local men would meet before skirmishes (often cross-border raids) and gather to resolve disputes. The Capon Tree and historic Border skirmishes are celebrated annually at the Jedburgh Callant's Festival. Each July on Festival Day the Callant leads his mounted cavalcade to Ferniehirst Castle and on his return stops at the Capon Tree, taking a sprig of oak and wearing it in the lapel of his jacket.

The Capon Tree is also considered to be one of Great Britain's 50 greatest trees, as seen in the below link.

The need for remedial work

In July 2021 the Capon tree suffered severe damage when a supported/propped limb collapsed. This raised concerns about the future of the tree, in particular the question of how well the exposed remaining limb would stand up to wind loading and/or storm damage.

Progress to Date

In March 22 the JCT appointed Heritage Tree Services to undertake a condition survey of the Capon Tree and provide recommendations of how the Tree could be best preserved, retained and protected to prolong its life and maintains its position and role with the Jedburgh community.

The Survey was prompted by the collapse of a supported/propped limb of the tree and drawing into question how well the exposed remaining limb would be to wind loading or potential storm damage.



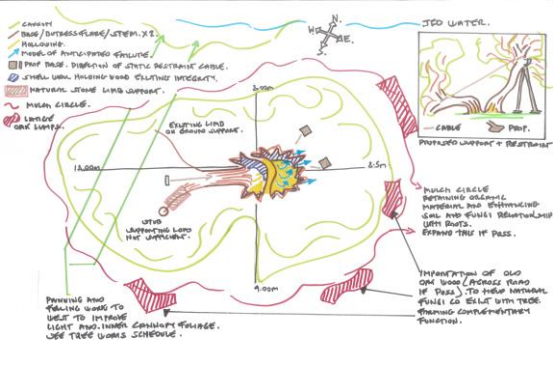
Funding was secured from the Cheviot Community Fund to a value of £1,789.20 representing 90% of the cost of undertaking the technical report. A copy of which is appended to this report.

PROPOSAL & RECOMMENDATIONS

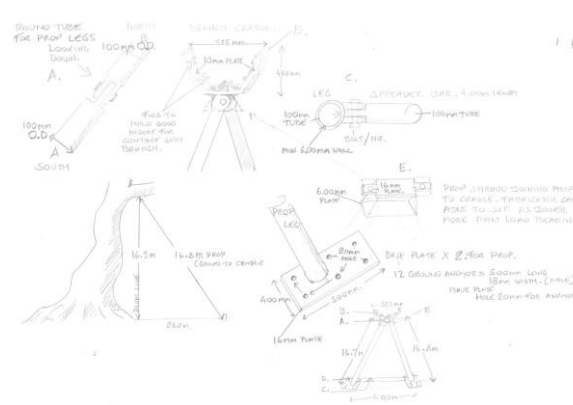
The report laid out measures that should be adopted to help preserve the Capon Tree and these are described below. Also contained within this proposal are some additional visitor enhancements to help preserve the Capon Tree within the culture of Jedburgh and the Jethart Callants Festival.

Recommendations from Tree Heritage Trust

1. Supply and install prop to the eastern stem to exact specification –



2. Supply and install a static cable and two non-invasive shrouded supports to hold
3. Supply and install phased composted Oak woodchip over three years.
4. Supply and install old bark-delaminated lumps of wood approx. 0.5 to 1.5 tonne pieces, scattered around outer area of the root zone
5. Ensure organic material, leaves and wood debris are left where they fall to build complementary soil relationships that greatly benefit the rooting zone
6. Carry out works to nearby trees as proposed within section 5 of the report to increase light onto the tree.
7. Install wood fencing as proposed within section 6 of the report to screen the tree from road salts.



Overview of enhancement works

Additional enhancement works

1. Install new gate entrance onto site of the Tree
2. Create wild flower meadow surrounding the canopy of the tree.
3. Install information board to explain the significance of the capon tree to Jedburgh to visitors.
4. Install up to 3 wooden benches.

COST ESTIMATE TO UNDERTAKE THE WORKS

The estimated cost to undertake the works has been developed from Quotation from Heritage Tree Services who are seen as experts and knowledgeable in this field and as such no further quotes were sought for the specialist elements of the work. Local resources would be managed and supervised by Heritage Tree Services to deliver the majority of the proposed works. Where the work can be undertaken by laypersons these works will generally be by volunteers using materials gifted to the JCT or bought locally at preferred rates. An estimate of the cost is include for comparison purposes.

	Element of Works	Cost Estimate (excl vat)	Notes	Reference
Heritage Tree Services Recommendations				
A	Items 1,2 and 6 – supply and install props and ties, and clear adjacent trees	£8712.50	Details of quotation is contained in HTS Ltd proposal dated 24 th June 22	Copy of Quotations attached
B	Item 7 - 30m of screen fencing	£1473.33	Materials - £883.33 (100/3 of price for 100m) Labour 32hrs @£20/hr = £640.00	Material quotation attached from Colin Roberson Timber Ltd
C	Item 3,4 and 5 – provide compost to root zone	£1350	Materials – donated by Lothian estates – cost to supply £500.00 Volunteer labour @£50 per day – 17 days - £850	
	SUB TOTAL	£11,535.83		

Additional Enhancement Works				
D	Item 1 – Install New gate	Already completed	Works were undertaken in advance of the Jethart Callants Festival	No claim for this work (£1500 of volunteer work and materials already completed)
E	Item 2 – Create wild parkland area	£1350	Material/Seeds etc £250.00 Volunteer labour @£50 per day – 22 days - £1100	
F	Item 3 – Information Board	£1444.56	Greenbars quote for boards Volunteer design work @£150 per day - 4 days - £600	Quotation from internet, to be confirmed
G	Item 4 – supply 3 Timber Benches	£590.00	Robertson Timber Quotation	
SUB TOTAL		£3,384.56		
TOTAL INVESTMENT		£14,920.39		

COST SUMMARY

As noted elements of the work will be undertaken by volunteers and as such the Total Investment sum where funding is required can be reduced.

Volunteer Contributions

Item C	= £850
Item E	= £1100
Item F	= £600
Total Contribution	= £2550

Net Funding required **£12370.39 excluding VAT**

£

POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

- JCC Contribution £1000.00 -
- JCT Contribution £2000.00
- Jedburgh Events Forum £300
- Fallago Environment Fund £7000
- Common Good Fund £3000.00