
Chair's update 3 July 23

Training

Jim completed his chainsaw training and passed his independent assessment - we now have three qualified chainsaw operators (Jim, Ken, Nick)

Restoration Plan and Thinning

A meeting has been proposed in July to look at completing thinning work in Compartment 5a and commencing it in 5b and 1b, would anyone like to attend with Nick?

Tree planting

After our search through the brambles in Compartment 4b, I emailed LCTC (6/5/23) with our findings and suggested that we would be able to plant up to 12 oak trees if purchased by LCTC.

Compartment markers

Alan Webster is kindly making permanent Compartment Marker Posts using oak posts which we have (see example), we need to add some red/white paint.

Purchase of Materials

Ken and I did an audit of timber sizes used throughout the site and compared it with what we have in the pump house, the idea is to get and keep in stock timber of all sizes that we will use over the next year or two. Ken got it priced by the council's local suppliers and, I believe, purchase was agreed at last week's council meeting. A supply of new fence rails are already in the pump house. We have been asked to consider carefully the use of weld mesh, due to slip hazard. A roll has already been purchased, Rob Astley seems happy for us to do a test on one of the small bridges.

Tree Safety inspection

You'll recall Ken and I (and Robert) did a basic tree inspection course and we are now using it to assess the safety of trees across the site, once completed a report will be sent to LCTC.

Washed out path goat field

LCTC are looking again at this with a view to major improvements to the drainage. Ken and I looked at it with Rob Astley last week and advised that the water that does the damage originates off site, from road run-off above goat field.

Ash dieback

The ash dieback felling at the town end of Goat Field was postponed this spring due to concerns about nesting birds, it should be done this autumn/winter.

Meadow

The majority of plants survived but haven't thrived during the very dry spring, I brought water several times and weeded out any docks and tree seedling, Sonia brought and planted some corn cockles and watered those too, many are now putting on some growth. I'm hoping for a better show next spring and summer.

Letter from the Council (10/3/23)

The letter was to clarify responsibilities for work we can do with and without consent. The letter is on the website but, to summarise, the Council's consent is needed for felling trees over 10cm diameter, major works, changes in infrastructure. We don't need consent for anything on our Annual Work Plan, repairs and maintenance and renovation of the leaky dam.