

Knighton Tree Allotments Trust Task Days Programme Autumn 2017

KTAT Knighton Tree Allotments Trust is a voluntary organisation that manages woodlands for the benefit of wildlife and our members. In coming together to share and learn woodland skills, we aim to manage woodland sustainably and to allow our members access to affordable woodland products - such as firewood and timber. This is our programme of task days over Autumn 2017.

It is a common misconception that untouched woodland is best for wildlife. In fact, by managing the woodland through traditional practices such as coppicing, we increase the variety of habitats and increase the richness of wildlife. In ensuring that the trees that we fell for fuel or timber are re-grown or replaced with new plants, we are creating a sustainable supply of woodland products.

Trees need to be coppiced (cut back almost to ground level then re-grown) or felled when they are dormant and we need to be careful not to disturb nesting birds. For these reasons, most woodland work is carried out in autumn and winter. Summer is a time of clearing up from our winter work, keeping newly planted trees free from weeds and cutting cordwood (4 foot long pieces of wood) into logs.

Volunteers work at their own pace and KTAT provides all the tools and training needed. We go out to various local woodlands one day a week, usually alternating between Thursdays and Sundays, and volunteers choose how much of the day to stay for. So come and learn new skills while helping wildlife.

Sunday 17th September – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Thinning the birch in a young woodland – reducing the amount of birch to increase the light available to other species such as oak, beech and rowan. The trees will be felled and then cut into sections with the wood being stacked for seasoning. We will also continue to cut the wood felled last season into logs.

Thursday 21st September – 9.15am to approximately 2.30pm

Thinning the birch in a young woodland – reducing the amount of birch to increase the light available to other species such as oak, beech and rowan. The trees will be felled and then cut into sections with the wood being stacked for seasoning. We will also continue to cut the wood felled last season into logs.

Sunday 1st October – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

With the official start of the cutting season, we will commence the coppicing of hazel trees in a young woodland. By cutting the trees back to almost ground level we can harvest a crop of wood products and encourage trees to vigorously re-grow from the remaining stool – ready for future harvests. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor. We are also thinning birch trees to favour oak, rowan, beech and ash.

Thursday 5th October – 9.15am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel trees in this young woodland. By cutting the trees back to almost ground level we can harvest a crop of wood products and encourage trees to vigorously re-grow from the remaining stool – ready for future harvests. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor. We are also thinning birch trees to favour oak, rowan, beech and ash.

Saturday 7th October – approximately 9am to approximately 5pm

Chapel Lawn Woodland Fair

Knighton Tree Allotments Trust is having a promotional stand at this woodland event in order to raise public awareness of our work and to sell some of our woodland products. Come along and help spread the word while learning about all things 'woodland'!

Sunday 15th October – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

We will be thinning a stand of self-seeded ash trees. The trees are all the same age which makes them more vulnerable to Chalara dieback of ash. We will be thinning them in order to ensure good airflow which reduces the growth of the Chalara fungus. The most vigorous specimens will be favoured as they

are the most likely to be able to survive the infection. The felled trees will be cut into cordwood and seasoned for firewood.

Thursday 19th October – 9.15am to approximately 2.30pm

KTAT has been asked to cut back what was once a hazel hedge but is now a row of small hazel trees. This will effectively become a very narrow hazel coppice strip. The first cut will result primarily in firewood with the subsequent coppice stools allowing us to grow anything from peasticks and beanpoles to more firewood.

Thursday 26th October – 9.15am to approximately 2.30pm

Please note that this is an additional workday that does not fit in our usual pattern of alternating Thursdays and Sundays. This day has been added as we are able to access this woodland on this date.

We will be cutting the remainder of the large larch trees felled in 2013 into logs. The sawlogs will be cut into 20cm (8 inch) lengths using a chainsaw with the resulting 'rounds' then split with axes. The logs will be stacked in our drying shed to season.

Sunday 29th October – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel trees in this young woodland. By cutting the trees back to almost ground level we can harvest a crop of wood products and encourage trees to vigorously re-grow from the remaining stool – ready for future harvests. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor. We are also thinning birch trees to favour oak, rowan, beech and ash.

Thursday 2nd November – 9.15am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel trees in this young woodland. By cutting the trees back to almost ground level we can harvest a crop of wood products and encourage trees to vigorously re-grow from the remaining stool – ready for future harvests. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor. We are also thinning birch trees to favour oak, rowan, beech and ash.

Sunday 12th November – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

We will be thinning a stand of self-seeded ash trees. The trees are all the same age which makes them more vulnerable to Chalara dieback of ash. We will be thinning them in order to ensure good airflow which reduces the growth of the Chalara fungus. The most vigorous specimens will be favoured as they are the most likely to be able to survive the infection. The felled trees will be cut into cordwood and seasoned for firewood.

Thursday 16th November – 9.15am to approximately 2.30pm

KTAT has been asked to cut back what was once a hazel hedge but is now a row of small hazel trees. This will effectively become a very narrow hazel coppice strip. The first cut will result primarily in firewood with the subsequent coppice stools allowing us to grow anything from peasticks and beanpoles to more firewood.

Sunday 26th November – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Location and task to be confirmed.

Either:

We will be thinning a stand of self-seeded ash trees. The trees are all the same age which makes them more vulnerable to Chalara dieback of ash. We will be thinning them in order to ensure good airflow which reduces the growth of the Chalara fungus. The most vigorous specimens will be favoured as they are the most likely to be able to survive the infection. The felled trees will be cut into cordwood and seasoned for firewood.

Or, if we have finished thinning the ash:

Coppicing hazel trees in a young woodland. By cutting the trees back to almost ground level we can harvest a crop of wood products and encourage trees to vigorously re-grow from the remaining stool –

ready for future harvests. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor. We are also thinning birch trees to favour oak, rowan, beech and ash.

Thursday 30th November – 9.15am to approximately 2.30pm

Location and task to be confirmed.

Either:

KTAT has been asked to cut back what was once a hazel hedge but is now a row of small hazel trees. This will effectively become a very narrow hazel coppice strip. The first cut will result primarily in firewood with the subsequent coppice stools allowing us to grow anything from peasticks and beanpoles to more firewood.

Or, if we have finished cutting back the hazel:

Coppicing hazel trees in a young woodland. By cutting the trees back to almost ground level we can harvest a crop of wood products and encourage trees to vigorously re-grow from the remaining stool – ready for future harvests. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor. We are also thinning birch trees to favour oak, rowan, beech and ash.

Sunday 10th December – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel trees in a young woodland. By cutting the trees back to almost ground level we can harvest a crop of wood products and encourage trees to vigorously re-grow from the remaining stool – ready for future harvests. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor. We are also thinning birch trees to favour oak, rowan, beech and ash.

Thursday 14th December – 9.15am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel trees in a young woodland. By cutting the trees back to almost ground level we can harvest a crop of wood products and encourage trees to vigorously re-grow from the remaining stool – ready for future harvests. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor. We are also thinning birch trees to favour oak, rowan, beech and ash.

Thursday 28th December – 9.15am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel trees in a young woodland. By cutting the trees back to almost ground level we can harvest a crop of wood products and encourage trees to vigorously re-grow from the remaining stool – ready for future harvests. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor. We are also thinning birch trees to favour oak, rowan, beech and ash.

Dates for your new diary: The first KTAT task days of 2018 will be on **Sunday 7th January** and **Thursday 11th January**.

For more information please contact woodland@tveg.org.uk or 01547 520374

<http://tveg.org.uk/wordpress/what-we-do/woodland-project>