

Task Days Programme – January to March 2019

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 for January to March 2019.



It is a common misconception that unmanaged woodland is always best for wildlife. In fact, different species have different needs. By managing woodlands through traditional practices such as coppicing, we can make woodlands more open and benefit a range of flowering plants, birds, insects and other species. 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.

At this time of the year we are concentrating solely on harvesting one coupe (i.e. one area) of a woodland through coppicing hazel and thinning birch trees (i.e. reducing their number). By coppicing hazel trees we 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 in the areas that we cut. We are also thinning birch trees to favour the hazel coppice and the other trees in the wood - oak, rowan, beech, willow and ash.

All of the following task days are going to be spent on coppicing and thinning and extracting the woodland products. All task days will run from 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm.

Sunday 6th January
Thursday 10th January
Sunday 20th January
Thursday 24th January
Sunday 3rd February
Thursday 7th February
Sunday 17th February
Thursday 21st February
Sunday 3rd March
Thursday 7th March
Sunday 17th March
Thursday 21st March
Sunday 31st March

Please note that these dates are subject to change and that factors such as bad weather can prevent task days from going ahead. We also sometimes need to adjust the programme to meet the requirements of volunteers and woodland owners.

**For more information please contact woodland@tveg.org.uk or 01547 520374
<http://tveg.org.uk/wordpress/what-we-do/woodland-project>**