

Task Day Programme – October to December 2020

Knighton Community Woodlands Group a voluntary organisation that manages woodlands for the benefit of wildlife and our members. In coming together to share and learn woodland skills, we manage woodland sustainably and allow our members access to affordable woodland products, such as firewood and timber.



Please note that this programme is subject to change – always contact us before going to a wood to ensure that a task day is going ahead as planned.

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. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year, we increase the variety of habitats and allow more light to the woodland floor.

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 work on trees 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 we provide 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!

Task Days October to December 2020

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

The cut timber is extracted from the woodland and stacked ready for further processing into products such as stakes and beanpoles, or for seasoning as firewood.

We will be coppicing hazel and thinning birch, and extracting the timber products, from 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm on the following task days:

Thursday 1st October

Sunday 11th October

Thursday 15th October

Sunday 25th October

Thursday 29th October

Sunday 8th November

Thursday 12th November

Sunday 22nd November

Thursday 26th November

Sunday 6th December

Thursday 10th December

Sunday 20th December

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

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