

Task Day Programme – January to March 2021

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 January to March 2021

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). 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, 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:

Sunday 3rd January (subject to sufficient volunteers!)

Thursday 7th January

Sunday 17th January

Thursday 21st January

Sunday 31st January

Thursday 4th February

Sunday 14th February

Thursday 18th February

Sunday 28th February

Thursday 4th March

Sunday 14th March

Thursday 18th March

Sunday 28th March

We may also have a tree planting day in this quarter.

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

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