

Downs Meadow Action Plan

Due to the current ownership dispute work on Down Meadow has been delayed. As soon as the dispute has been resolved, we will resume the bi-monthly management team meetings. The current plans are as follows:

2020

August.

- Cut a section of the grassland.

Over Winter

1. Create log piles across Down Meadow from felling/pruning of trees to create habitats for insects, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.
2. Creation of Reptile hibernacula (a trench filled with a layer rubble below log piles topped with turf) to provide subterranean spaces for reptiles and amphibians to overwinter
3. Put up bat boxes.
4. Thin out some of the trees in the central area to allow more space between trees.

2021

April

- Resume evaluation/logging of plants are on Down Meadow.

May

- Bracken. This should be bruised (pushed over) when it starts to grow as it is harder for the bracken to recover from bruising (clean cuts are easier for the plans to recover from).
- Plant evaluation/logging
- Ask the owners of the SSSI wildflower fields if we could have a bale of their green hay

June

- Bracken bruising
- Plant evaluation/logging
- Close cut + scarifying area for wildflowers
- Add green hay from local wildflower meadow

July

- Bracken bruising
- Plant evaluation/logging

August

- Bracken bruising
- Evaluate what plants are on Down Meadow
- Plant Yellow Rattle
- Cut a section of the grassland (3 sections 1 per year).

The majority of the work can be done using volunteers, but we will need further funding to cut down trees and to buy bat boxes and for the annual cuts.