

As there has been a delay on the decision about the leyandii. It is suggested that we start moving forward with Down Meadow in the following ways:

Over Winter this year

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.

April

- Evaluate what 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 plants to recover from).
- Evaluate what plants are on Down Meadow

June

- Bracken bruising
- Evaluate what plants are on Down Meadow

July

- Bracken bruising
- Evaluate what plants are on Down Meadow

August

- Bracken bruising
- Evaluate what plants are on Down Meadow
- Plant Yellow Rattle
- Ask the owners of the SSSI wildflower fields if we could have a bale of their green hay
- 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 funding to cut down trees and to buy bat boxes and for the annual cuts.