

December 2016

Giles, Bill & I surveyed the site after our committee meeting at the beginning of the month – The result is shown below. I have also included some information on Bat Boxes.

I had been advised that the cycle-way is likely to be used as a bat fly-way and yesterday we found some evidence. One of the men working in the gas compound told us that in the summer he found a bat on the floor and put it on top of one of the Dormouse boxes – it flew away. I intend to organise some surveying in the summer.

We made a fine start on coppicing in Pearl's Patch despite the weather.

Noel, Bill & I checked our Dormouse boxes and found evidence of use – a couple of Tit nests (probably Blue) and three with small mammal nests. Some were definitely Yellow-necked mouse – they chew up dry leaves. One had un-chewed Oak leaves and another had green leaves picked from the tree also not chewed. These are less obvious but there is an outside possibility that this could be Dormouse. I won't hold my breath but we'll continue to monitor.

Bob

Work programme Winter 2106/7

Nesting boxes

- Check bird boxes – put up new & fallen boxes
- Re-visit Dormouse boxes to repair & improve access
- Erect Owl box (in Nick Kent's)
- Check bat boxes – see attachment (Batboxes_yourquestionsanswered)
- Second mow as much of all flat verges as required/possible (Zones E, H1 &)

Zone A1

- By gate – remove English Elm trees between gate & wall [Dutch Elm victims]
- Plant 'hedge' between gate & wall
- (CAT scan needed to trace cables underground etc. – organised)
- On roadside verge – from Lamp-post 14 Westwards –
- remove large Hawthorn
- coppice Ash
- clear lower branches
- increase bays

Zone A2

- Clear overhang etc. along cycle-way. (Await contact from Wales & West Utilities who need access

Zone B1

- First-cut mowing from bus-stop Eastwards
- Clear road sign

- Clear lower bank back to tree/scrub line

Zone B2

- Remove 3 x Hawthorn (opposite grass dump)
- Remove scrub
- Fell large trees (include in 5yr plan)

Zone B3

- Extend Orchid patch Eastwards up track (include in 5yr plan)
- Clear Hawthorn/Holly at bottom of track
- Coppice Hazel on verge
- Trim Hawthorn half-way & remove scrub up track

Zone C1

- Extend Primrose Patch (include in 5yr plan)
- Coppice Ash trees between Lamppost 18 & L/Post 9
- Treat stumps – (eco-plugs?)

Zone C2

- Remove scrub by L/post 20 (inc. Apple trees)? (include in 5yr plan)?

Zone D

- ⌚ Mow both sides of footpath (First-cut with shredder between path & hedge)

Zone E (include in 5yr plan)

- Mow verge
- Remove Aspen sucker
- Remove “crab” apple trees x2
- Pollard mature Ash trees
- Remove Alders/Field Maples
- Coppice Hazel
- Clear overhanging Hawthorn by telegraph pole (opposite old school)
- Clear sight-lines & footpaths

Zone F (this is outside Local Nature Reserve)

- First-cut Mow verge

Zone G

- Keep overhang back inside safety barrier(include in 5yr plan)

Zone H1 (Garden Club Corner)

- Second mow

Zone H2

- Open up new bays esp. just East of corner

- Remove Cotoneaster, Lonicera etc.
- Widen existing bays esp. opp. L/posts 18/19 (include in 5yr plan)
- By manhole cover remove Hawthorn (include in 5yr plan)

Zone H3

- Remove Field Maple stump (include in 5yr plan)
- Trim back hedge
- Treat Hawthorn stumps
- Clear large scrub/stumps (include in 5yr plan)

Cones and signs

- Overhaul and repair/replace as necessary