

Task Day Programme – January to March 2020

KTAT Knighton Tree Allotments Trust is a voluntary organisation that manages woodlands for the benefit of wildlife and our members. In coming together to share and learn woodland skills, we aim to manage woodland sustainably and to allow our members access to affordable woodland products - such as firewood and timber. This is our programme of task days for January to March 2020.



Please note that this programme is subject to change – always contact KTAT 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.

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 woodland work 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 KTAT provides 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!

At this time of the year we are concentrating solely on harvesting through coppicing hazel and thinning trees (i.e. reducing their number). By 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. By coppicing a different part of the woodland each year we will be increasing the variety of habitats and allowing more light to the woodland floor in the areas that we cut. We are also thinning some trees to favour others – for example the hazel coppice – and to increase the diversity of trees in a wood.

Sunday 5th January – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

Thursday 9th January – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

Sunday 19th January – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

Thursday 23rd January – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

Sunday 2nd February – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

A few trees have been felled in this woodland as part of a thinning process. The felled trees need to be cut into cordwood (4-foot lengths) and the brash (small tops and side branches) put into small piles as habitat for wildlife. The cordwood will be carried out of the wood and stacked to season for firewood.

Thursday 6th February – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

A few trees have been felled in this woodland as part of a thinning process. The felled trees need to be cut into cordwood (4-foot lengths) and the brash (small tops and side branches) put into small piles as habitat for wildlife. The cordwood will be carried out of the wood and stacked to season for firewood.

Sunday 16th February – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

A few trees have been felled in this woodland as part of a thinning process. The felled trees need to be cut into cordwood (4-foot lengths) and the brash (small tops and side branches) put into small piles as habitat for wildlife. The cordwood will be carried out of the wood and stacked to season for firewood.

Thursday 20th February – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

Sunday 1st March – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

Thursday 5th March – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

Saturday 7th March - 9.30am to 3pm

Introduction to Woodland Management Training Course, Day 1, Knighton

This 3-day introductory course is for those who would like to know more about the management of small woodlands and growing woodland products such as firewood. It offers both a classroom-based introduction to woodland management (Day 1) and woodland-based practical training in safely using hand-tools for woodland management (Days 2 & 3). You can attend Day 1 only (£33), Days 2 & 3 only (£66), or all 3 Days (£99). No previous experience necessary. For more details please see tveg.org.uk or email woodland@tveg.org.uk, telephone 01547 520374.

Saturday 14th March - 9.30am to 3pm

Introduction to Woodland Management Training Course, Day 2, Beggar's Bush

Please see Saturday 7th March for details.

Sunday 15th March – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

Thursday 19th March – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

Saturday 21st March - 9.30am to 3pm

Introduction to Woodland Management Training Course, Day 3, Beggar's Bush

Please see Saturday 7th March for details.

Sunday 29th March – 9.30am to approximately 2.30pm

Coppicing hazel and thinning birch. The cut wood will be extracted from the woodland and stacked for seasoning.

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

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