

Summary

For today's work party we enjoyed beautiful weather, although we were grateful to have shade for much of the work. We accomplished three tasks. One task was to complete the inspection of whips, a process started at the last work party. Excess vegetation was removed from around the whips, and guards and canes were taken from established whips (most likely some of those planted in winter 2011/2012) and from dead whips. Sadly a lot of those planted in winter 2012/2013, mainly towards the north-western corner, had not survived, although a good number of hazel and a few oaks were thriving. A few rowan's planted this winter were growing, and around the western boundary a variety of species were doing well. An unofficial entrance along that side was blocked.

Another task was cutting back encroaching vegetation (nettles, brambles, etc.) along some of the paths. We managed a substantial part of the western path (north of the cutthrough from the wood chip pile) and also the southern end of the main path. There will be more of this to do next time, when we plan to deploy our new brush-cutter.

Finally, it is disheartening to report a sizeable amount of litter, including much broken glass, from a recent party in the wood. Some of our volunteers tackled the unpleasant job of dealing with this.