

Summary

This was the first work party of the autumn/winter season, when we no longer need to take account of nesting birds. We focused on removing some sycamore near the middle of the main path, both saplings and moderate sized trees that could be tackled with hand tools. This yielded a number of poles and stakes for path edging at a future work party. We also removed a branch that had fallen across the main path. Although above head level for most people, on balance we thought it was a hazard. Also on the subject of hazard removal, we tamped some mud onto the steps at the southern entrance, bringing them flush with the wooden supports.

Of particular concern is an excessively muddy stretch of the main path near the middle, about 15 metres long. It is not clear why it remains muddy, even after relatively dry weather, but one possible cause is the recent removal from the area of a couple of large diseased trees, which perhaps used to consume any excess water from the soil. As an experiment, we dug a slight ditch on one side of the path, to see if this will help the water drain away, although it is likely that any proper solution will require more major work. A good number of barrow-loads of wood chip were spread along this stretch, although it tends to sink down when walked on.