

## Greno Woods Update

April 2024

### 1. Forestry

All forestry operations were completed by the end of February. Tree planting over part of the clear-felled area was carried out at the beginning of March, with the rest of the area being left to regenerate naturally over the coming years.

Species planted included hawthorn, blackthorn and crab apple at the woodland edge, with sessile oak, rowan and wild cherry planted in other areas.

Following the forestry work, work has begun to reinstate the areas and paths damaged by the machinery. Unfortunately, due to exceedingly wet weather this damage was considerable. Whilst some progress has been made, some areas (particularly those in Hall Wood) require more work. This will be carried out as soon as the area dries out a little as it is currently too wet to support the machinery required. Currently all Rights of Way are open again, although a couple remain in very poor condition.



Tree planting in areas where diseased larch have been removed

### 2. Woodland Management Plan

The Trust are working with the Forestry Commission to agree a Woodland Management Plan for the reserve. This will form a subset of the works outlined in the full management plan as it covers only woodland management. Once agreed, this plan will form the basis of a Countryside Stewardship funding application for the woods.

### **3. Birds, birds, birds**

30 pied flycatcher boxes have been installed in areas of upland oak wood near Greno Knoll and along the TPT ready for the coming breeding season.

Our resident ecologist Anna will be working with a team of volunteer bird surveyors in order to survey the bird life in the main body of Greno Woods this spring. The surveyors will be carrying out a “MacKinnon Lists” survey which will measure bird species diversity across the woodland.



**Installing nest boxes for Pied Flycatcher**

### **4. Bracken control and sapling support**

A new gate (made from sweet chestnut taken from our sweet chestnut coppice by our very own coppicing group) has been installed at the top of the heathland compartment. This gate will be used to improve access to the heathland to allow the mechanical (rather than chemical) control of bracken. Our target is to return 1 hectare of bracken bed to heathland by 2028.





Work to support establishing woodland (mostly to remove old tree tubes and to clear bracken from young saplings) is planned for April and May this year.