

Marlot Conservation Group (MCG)

Work report to Whixall Parish Council meeting 12 October 2022

Period 6 September – 9 October 2022

A short report this month due to limitations on the amount of work that can be conducted during this late summer/early autumn period and the availability of MCG members. The meadows still have some wildflowers visible and the MCG has been waiting for these to return to seed before carrying out any preparation and clearing work. The main work has been to keep the pathways in both meadows and pond area clear and walkable. This has meant a couple of full day sessions strimming all paths and clearing the cuttings.

We have also conducted a further site inspection last week to determine the work that is required for the autumn and winter periods. This will mainly be brush-cutting both meadows in lieu of having the cattle on for grazing. It is intended to fully clear the meadows of all growth, burning some arisings and composting the softer growth. The MCG will continue to dig out a patch of goat willow – continuing on from the area previously cleared early this year. This seems to have been successful and limited willow growth has returned. The pond surrounds will also be cleared of all growth to enable access to the ponds for reed mace clearing. This will start in late autumn/early winter, initially by hand, but it is intended to approach Natural England to see if there is a possibility of assistance with diggers (this will be dependant on their work programme and personnel availability).

Work is continuing with the development of the A5 8 page leaflet – it is currently with the MCG for comment, having been worked on by Councillor Harris' graphic designer friend. I have discussed the future procurement of a picnic bench and seating bench with the Parish Clerk and will be passing her details and recommendations of online companies to purchase the items from. It would be useful to have an update from Councillor Rawlinson on any progress of the “wish list” of infrastructure requirements (directional finger posts and notice board backing board) as discussed at the WPC/MCG meeting. The draft Marlot Strategy has been received from Councillor Mercer and is currently under consideration by the WPC/MCG team.

Graham Turnbull
Marlot Conservation Group

9 October 2022