

## **Marlot Conservation Group (MCG)**

### **Work report to Whixall Parish Council meeting 13 September 2023**

#### **Reporting Period 4 July – 10 Sep 2023**

Unfortunately this reporting period has seen limited work down at the Marlot. This has mainly been due to the unavailability of MCG members due to holidays, illness and other commitments and has not been helped by the variable and uncertain weather conditions which has made work days unviable.

In the sessions that we have managed we took the opportunity to weed and clear the creeping willow patches which had become very overgrown. They are now clear and work will start in the autumn to re-configure and re-new the fencing around this unique plant. We also cleared and weeded around the Queen's Jubilee hedge as it too had become overgrown – the hedge plants now have a chance to re-establish themselves and bush up.

At the request of Natural England we also cut back the willow that had encroached over the boundary fence along the access pathway down to the Mosses. The willow had grown so thick that it was obstructing much of the path. A simple task which morphed into a bigger task than expected due to the height and thickness of the overgrowth and also due to an unexpected downpour. Arising and cuttings were moved into the Marlot and placed beyond the front meadow tree line.

Also during this period we carried out two major path strims, both in the front and back meadows and also in the pond area. We would like to have carried out more paths strims but member availability and weather defeated us.

We have had a good flow of visitors to the Marlot over this period as evidenced by the amount of Marlot information leaflets that have been taken from both boxes. We have been re-filling the boxes every weekend (10 per box) and they have been disappearing fast. We are now down to the last 15 (as of 10 Sep) and the MCG will be requesting at the September Parish Council meeting that another print run of 200 leaflets be acquired from the printers from whatever funding is available. This is our only way to give visitors information about the Marlot and has been a great success and well received.

Graham Turnbull  
Marlot Conservation Group  
10 Sep 2023