

Report for Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund 2017-2018

Shropshire Wildlife Trust – Local Wildlife Site Restoration and Improvement – CF/1718/13

Caer Din Bank

The work on this site went well. The idea was to reduce the amount of encroaching scrub on the unimproved grassland at Caer Din. Large lichen-covered hawthorn shrubs were mostly left untouched since this age of tree produces berries for various bird species (including over wintering thrushes) and the lichens (amongst other species) are of ecological interest. Where shrubs were in dense clusters, then one or two individuals were selected and removed, thereby increasing the amount of light reaching the grassland. Mostly hawthorn in dense bracken was left since the shading here reduces the bracken cover which otherwise smothers the grassland.

There were initial problems with getting on to the site as the weather was either too wet, so that conditions were impossible for work, or there was too much snow covering the ground. However, the farmer cut the required amount of mostly hawthorn scrub and burnt it at specific locations. Matthew Ellison also asked a friend with a drone to carry out 'before' and 'after' monitoring of the scrub.



Various images showing where hawthorn scrub has been cut on grassland

Cwm Frydd

Unfortunately, this part of the project did not get off the ground. Although the farmer, Mervin Mullard had every intention of carrying out the work, the weather was against him. A combination

of torrential rain and several snowy episodes made it impossible to take machinery on to the site. The slopes of Cwm Frydd are very steep, making the work potentially dangerous in severe weather.

Coronation Meadows

The meadow was cut and baled in good time last year and we were very pleased with the contractor and the work done. Hayton's Meadow, Shropshire's Coronation Meadow is a very important site.



Images showing the meadow in the summer and the meadow in winter with the hay removed