

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

### **Work report to Whixall Parish Council meeting 10 April 2024**

#### **Reporting Period 11 Mar – Apr 24**

The reduction in available volunteers, currently only Martin Spenser and Tim Lamb, has meant a limited amount of work has been carried out during this reporting period. The brush cutting tasks in the front and back meadow have now been completed and the cuttings have either been burned or re-distributed into hollows in the adjoining wooded area between the meadows.

On investigation, it was found that a large collecting pool of water was starting to form from run-off coming into the north east section of the woodland area from the land at Plantation House. There was concern that this water was possibly polluted with horse manure and could make its way down the side ditch into the pond area – adding to further concerns for the wildlife in the ponds. With this in mind Martin and Tim have dug channels away from the ditch to distribute the water into the deeper woodland where it would eventually seep into the ground without any adverse effect.

The pond area is still flooded in many areas and no useful work can be achieved at this moment. However, using Martin's portable pump they have managed to pump some flood water out of the covered pond next to the compost heaps. The water was re-distributed and directed over the pathway and into the light wooded area on the other side. Whilst this may seem a futile task, considering the amount of flood water in the main pond area, it has at least allowed a slight reduction on level in this individual pond and has enabled some of the outlying patches of ground to partially dry out. We are, however, at the beck and call of the weather which is dictating what work can be successfully achieved.

Graham Turnbull  
Marlot Conservation Group  
8 April 2024