

Marlot Conservation Group (MCG)

Work report to Whixall Parish Council meeting 12 April 2023

Period – 3 March – 11 April 2023

There has been limited work during this period due to volunteer illness, holidays and bad weather. The early part of March saw work continuing on the meadow ditch. This was a case of getting right into the ditch and clearing vegetation and silt using hand tools.

Approximately three quarters of the meadow side ditch has now been cleared. There were also numerous clumps of willow along the sides and bank of the ditch that had to be cut down and cleared. This willow has been cut up into batons and will be used to line the pond pathways with a lattice of willow before wood shreds are laid over to form a more substantial pathway. Unfortunately, the weather has been so wet that the willow arisings in the front meadow are still yet to be burned off and this will have to wait until we have a longer period of dry weather.

Whilst illness and volunteer availability has curtailed actual work down on the Marlot, Martin has been active at home working on things that will benefit the site. He has reconditioned a small electric water pump and has tested it down at the Marlot – this should prove useful should we need to redistribute excess water from the ditches or the ponds. He has also taken considerable time at home to build a wooden picnic table from the remnants of the two old wooden tables that had been removed from the Marlot in the winter. Using the good wood from both he has managed to reconstruct a new table and has painted it and it now is situated on the woodland pathway.

I have been contacted by two branches of Shropshire Wildlife Trust regarding visits and talks about the Marlot. The Oswestry branch has asked if I can give a presentation at one of their meetings in late May and the Market Drayton branch will be visiting the Marlot on 24th June and have asked that they are accompanied by a member of the MCG to give a more detailed and personal viewpoint of the site and its history. Hopefully we can encourage other groups to visit and take an interest in the Marlot, as this is what makes all the volunteer hours and work worthwhile.

Graham Turnbull
Marlot Conservation Group
11 April 2023