

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

### **Work report to Whixall Parish Council meeting March 2025**

Reporting Period 7 Feb – 11 Mar 25

The weather has been kinder to us this work session with some longer periods of dry sunny days. Although the ground throughout the Marlot is still very wet and boggy in parts, we have been able to do some good clearing work on the front meadow. We have concentrated on clearing a lot of the willow along the ditch bank as well as the large outcrops of willow in the main front meadow area. We have also cut back the willow along the western boundary fence to stop the encroachment over the back pathway. The wet ground has also caused a larger willow in the pond area to collapse and this has been cut down and made safe. There has also been work in digging out the smaller goat willow on the meadow – removing the roots to stop any grow back.

From the cut willow we have been processing it into logs, stakes for terrace fence posts and batons to lay along several muddy path areas in order to stabilise the ground. The rest of the brash will be chipped and use to cover the pathways throughout the Marlot. There is a considerable amount to process and it is expected that will take most of March's work period to complete.

We also took the opportunity to brush-cut and weed around the Platinum Jubilee hedge. The intention with the hedge is to see how it develops over the spring and summer before doing any trimming or cut back. Martin also checked and cleared out the bird boxes in the woodland area. He has also brush-cut pathways through the heavy ground growth to each birdbox to make access easier for Natural England volunteers when they carry out their checks during the nesting season. Martin is liaising directly with Natural England on all bird box issues.

With the fine weather we have seen a gradual uplift in visitors to the Marlot and we take every opportunity to “meet and greet” them and give them a flavour of the Marlot. The information leaflets are a great boon and are appreciated. With the addition of a forthcoming new bench at the entrance and our intentions to wildflower seed the area we hope to make the Marlot more inviting to those who visit.

Graham Turnbull  
Marlot Conservation Group  
11 Mar 25