

Information for visitors on improvements to Danby Wood

This site, once a chalk pit, is owned by Norwich City Council and managed by Norwich Fringe Project, often with the help of volunteers.

We have received funding from the Greater Norwich Growth Board to help make biodiversity and access improvements to the wood.

Woodland management work – January 2015

There is a variety of woodland trees, some were planted and others self-sown.

Our aim is to increase the diversity of the wood by developing a better age structure of the trees. To achieve this, a mixture of young and older trees will be selectively thinned. Thinning younger trees will give larger trees more space to develop and mature. In turn, through the selective thinning out of some older trees more light will reach the woodland floor allowing young saplings and smaller trees to develop, and create a diverse age structure to the woodland.

As well as the positive environmental impact removing select trees will have, we also intend to sell some of the timber to raise further funds for future investment in Danby Wood.

We will also remove some ivy from certain trees. It provides food and shelter for insects, birds and other wildlife, so some will be left. However, it can also have a negative effect on trees by hiding health problems and increasing weight on a tree, which makes it more likely to collapse.

Why manage the woodland?

Woodlands that are actively managed tend to be better for wildlife than neglected woods.

In neglected woods, the trees are often of a uniform age and structure, the canopy is often closed and many species below are shaded out. A healthy woodland has a range of ages and heights of trees within it, with canopy gaps and rides and edges providing a range of habitats for a wider variety of wildlife.

General management – February 2015

With the help of volunteers, we will be looking to improve the old boundary hedgerow by the playing field.

Other work will include cutting back the overhanging vegetation and creating drainage channels for water runoff.

Access improvement works – February/March 2015

The final phase of the work will be improving the main path through the wood by redressing it with crushed concrete.

For a short time, while we carry out this important conservation and improvement work, the wood may appear unsightly, but it should all be completed by March 2015 and will quickly recover.

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