

Hob Hey Wood Friends Group Update for FTC Amenities Meeting 13/04/2021

No volunteer days since November 2020.

Individuals have worked solo to perform tasks such as litter picking, sycamore removal, redundant barbed wire removal, and step sweeping.

We have continued to promote the wood on social media. Due to lockdowns, we saw an increase in visitors to the wood in 2020 and a big increase in interest in the wood (hopefully, more volunteers!)

On March 8th, Tom Blundell and I planted the disease-resistant elm tree that we won in the competition run by the Tree Council to win one of 30 such trees. Elms in the wood are still being killed by Dutch elm disease and this resistant tree will hopefully start a colony of disease-free elms that the white-letter hairstreak, a rare butterfly that lives in Hob Hey, can thrive on.

The work to replace the rotten boardwalks on the northeast path is ongoing. The contractor has cleared the old boardwalks, removed the required trees, and is ready to put the stone onto the path. Hopefully will be completed soon.

Our first volunteer day for 2021 is April 18th. We need to comply with the 'rule of six' so can have only six volunteers. Hopefully, this requirement will cease in May and we can continue with the programme of work to improve the wood.