

Stoke Park improvement work 2018 to 2020

Information on the improvement works at Stoke Park.

Revised plans

A public meeting was held on 4 July where the landscape restoration plan was discussed:

The proposed revisions are approved by Natural England and Historical England and can be seen on the [Stoke Park Restoration Works Sept to March 2018 Revised Plan](#).

What are the main changes?

- 1) A method statement has been produced which sets out the required measures to avoid harm to great crested newts and other protected wildlife. The removal of scrub will now largely be done using hand held motor tools instead of large machinery.
- 2) Reduce the amount of thinning in secondary woodland to 30% instead of 50%. This will mean 70% tree canopy will remain to enable grazing. There will be a second thinning in around 10 years which is standard forestry practice and follows experience elsewhere of re-establishing pasture woodland. It will also allow us to see the impact of ash dieback which has been identified in some of the younger trees.

The revised plan shows how the thinning and grazing will provide views of the historic landscape, but without showing too much of the M32. These views cannot be guaranteed as it is still dependent on the level of ash dieback and growth of hedgerow and scrub.

- 3) Keeping 10% of scrub instead of 5%. The revised map shows patches of bramble and thorn scrub to be kept as a wildlife habitat. Some of this scrub is being retained to provide habitat for great crested newts found at the dew

pond. Going forward, areas of scrub will be managed in rotation to follow the Countryside Stewardship Agreement and achieve Rural Land Register units.

- 4) To avoid harm to great crested newts, scrub clearance works will start in late September and be completed by the end of October. Depending on progress, we may need to delay the removal of all agreed scrub until September / October 2019.
- 5) Reinststate an additional historic fence line from Barn Wood to Duchess Pond. This will help improve grazing management and scrub growth.