

Improving **Black Brook Nature Reserve** for wildlife:

How the restoration work is progressing now and in the future

What we've achieved so far

- 1 This area was cleared and replanted eight years ago. Around 2,500 broadleaf trees are now well established and are well on their way to becoming the woodland of the future.
- 2 The largest area of planting so far with almost 5,000 broadleaf trees. Most of the trees here are thriving – although a small patch seems to have been a favourite place for red deer to nibble their way through! In future this area will provide ideal habitat for woodland birds.
- 3 The first area to be restored to moorland in 2002/03. Now a fantastic area of wet peaty ground with pools of sphagnum moss and rare plants like cranberry. As well as an impressive display of cotton-grass in late spring, this is also a favoured area for red grouse.
- 4 This area was cleared most recently. Cotton-grass has been given an opportunity to thrive and heather and bilberry plants are already becoming established. In a few years we hope this area will attract moorland species like the rare moorland bumblebee and green hairstreak butterfly.

The next five years (from 2012)

- 5 This is the first area to be felled as part of the current programme of works. Hidden in-between the conifers are open-ground loving plants like bog asphodel, devil's-bit scabious, water avens and heath spotted orchids. Once works are completed, these plants will have light and space to enable them to thrive and spread.
- 6 These areas will form the largest area of broadleaf woodland recreation across the reserve. Wetter areas will be replanted with water loving trees like willow, aspen and alder.
- 7 This area will be felled and replanted with broadleaf trees such as oak, willow, alder and birch within the next three years.
- 8 These trees are less likely to fall over due to natural causes, so will be retained throughout Phase I.
- 9 Whilst the conifers have little commercial value, we want to see them put to good use. We have improved the existing forest road so that timber lorries can take away the timber, which will be used mostly as woodchip for fuel.
- 10 We have installed a deer fence here to protect the new woodland planting. Once the young trees are established, and have grown out of the reach of the red deer, we will remove the fence.
- 11 This circular trail will take you around the new woodland planting - you are very welcome to call in and see how things are progressing.

