

Friends of Little Budworth Common

UPDATE ON THE COMMON – MAY

What's going on?

You will have noticed that the contractor's machinery has now gone from the common, and that work has stopped – yet there are untidy, bare areas along with piles of stumps in short, not what was promised! Work scheduled to be completed by the end of April was disrupted by the weather; as a result, although all scheduled trees have been felled, there is still some scraping of bare areas, removal of stumps and reshaping of banks to take place.

When is that going to happen?

The contractors will return in early Autumn to complete this work.

Why can't they get on with it now?

To do so would be to disturb nesting birds and heathland fauna, and would also contravene the conditions of this important SSSI.

So does nothing get done for ages?

Far from it – the monthly working parties organised by the Friends of the Common will be removing birch seedlings, repairing structures and generally helping the Ranger with the management of the Common, prior to the landscaping work being completed.

And then?

Over the next 2 or 3 years, existing heather will be cut and seed collected to sow on the new areas; in addition some transplanting of heather will be done. Some weed treatment will occur.

And then?

It'll look great – and preserve a rare habitat. Did you know that pied flycatchers have been seen on the common?