Townsend Way Community Woodland report for AGM 4th June 2019.

Townsend Way woodland continues to thrive with the tree canopy lifting at least another metre this year making way for secondary undergrowth to develop…The cleared area of woodland in the old copse looks very healthy with a generous covering of Ramsons and Bluebells responding to the new light fall.

The hazel whips we planted last year look to have escaped the attention of the Muntjac so far and are healthy. There are lots of flowers on the Wild Service trees and Spindle trees. The rides are becoming less entangled with bramble due to constantly cutting back the blackberry rods but the scalloped areas we created two years ago are growing back rapidly, mainly with Blackthorn which is creeping from the established woody areas and will need to be maintained to keep habitat.

We are in negotiation with The Malvern Hills Trust (MHT) to mow the memorial meadow with traditional scythes and this should commence after the 14th July which is the Woodland Trust recommended date for allowing wild flower seed to set and fall before the grass is cut.

We have (With MHT permission) carried out some experimental laying of osier type willow to hopefully promote the generation of easily accessible whips for basket making projects in the future. We wait to see if this is fruitful.

Work on the pathways to make the woodland more accessible in all weathers will hopefully commence later this year.

Dave Munday TWCW project lead.