

# **Hayley Wood - Woodland Management**

## **Tree thinning in the coppice plots**

Woods that were once structurally complex are now generally much simpler, which is causing a decline in woodland wildlife. To restore structural diversity to this wood selected trees are being felled in the coppice plots, allowing more light to reach the ground. Trees are also being felled along the main ride to maintain and enhance this area of valuable grassland. Other parts of the wood are left to become mature woodland.

Some of the tree stumps left after felling will send up new shoots. Along with the coppiced hazel and ash, this young growth provides valuable habitat and feeding areas for a wide range of wildlife, from insects to woodland birds and bats. Increasing light levels will also improve the flora, such as oxlips and orchids.

Although at first the works carried out may seem destructive, regeneration will be swift and native flora and fauna will benefit. Timber will be removed when ground conditions are suitable for vehicle access.