

Heathland Restoration work at Dudmoor Farm

February 2016

Work to enhance high quality heathland habitats at Dudmoor Farm is to commence during mid-February. The work will be undertaken by contractors and is limited to land immediately to the east of the disused railway line.

The work will involve removal of pine, rhododendron, birch and willow. Some gorse will be cut and allowed to regenerate to provide a dense structure favoured by Dartford warbler. Selected mature tree specimens have been selected for retention. The work is to be phased over 2-3 years with this year's work focussing on heathland situated between the old railway line and the historic boundary bank, an area just over 1 hectare.

The management objectives of the work are:

- To restore high quality heathland habitats. The mosaic of heathland habitats in this location have become degraded by scrub, tree and some rhododendron encroachment.
- To benefit rare and protected species of conservation concern, such as sand lizard and smooth snake as well as more widespread reptile species. All six native reptiles currently occur in the areas to be restored, but work is needed to reverse potential declines and to increase the availability of good quality habitat.
- To retain the mixed woodland fringe along Dudmoor Lane to benefit more widespread bird species. Some work to remove overhanging limbs will be undertaken as part of a rolling programme of management. This is to improve emergency access for Dorset Fire and Rescue Service.

The work is funded by Natural England through an Environmental Stewardship Scheme. The works are covered by a Felling Licence which was granted in November 2014 (application ref: 018/268/14-15)

If you would like to speak to somebody about the work being undertaken or would like further information, please contact:

Helen Powell, Natural England 078 333 87913