

# Ragleth Meadows Management update

- An 'activity report for 2020' containing both text and photos was sent to the NT. Control of docks, thistles, hog-weed and bracken, plus reintroduction of a hay cut were key activities.
- Management of all 6 small meadows is continuing with very encouraging results of both plants and butterflies. The Six Spot Burnet Moths and Marbled Whites have now been recorded and are believed breeding on all the meadows though numbers are still small.
- The NT meadow had 1kg Hay rattle broadcast last autumn to try and reduce the vigour of the dominant grasses and this has germinated really well and evenly. Local green / brown hay was also spread on bare areas which had been disturbed by the activities of badgers. A 2nd year hay cut is planned for the end of July '21 which will spread the seed even further. The steep part of the meadow is now being managed as wood pasture with 15 oak seedlings planted in protective sleeves to protect them from our Badger-faced sheep which are periodically grazing the area. New and replacement fences were erected to prevent neighbours sheep getting into the meadow and NT's Ragleth Wood.
- The 2020 turf scraping on one of the Dryhill meadows, followed by local seed and green/brown hay has been successful in removing the dominant rhizomatous matted grasses - though a high rabbit population has so far kept the seedlings that germinated eaten off to absolute ground level - ugh!
- An interpretation board has now been put up on the public footpath leading past one of the Dryhill meadows on the route to the eastern end of Ragleth Hill. The next three or four weeks will see the meadow at its best.

John Bacon  
July 2021