



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) outstanding scilly

nature access beauty heritage

Wet Feet & Whomping Willows

By Nikki Banfield, Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Communications Officer

In November 2014, the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust successfully bid for funds to deliver work in the AONB Management Plan for the first time. Since then, the Trust has been the recipient of a “Grant in Aid” agreement and continues to deliver targets set out in the AONB Delivery Plan

The Plan includes delivery of environmental education activities, on the ground access improvements (such as path clearance, repair, boardwalk installation and maintenance), new signage and interpretation and a certain amount of AONB funding enables this to happen.

However, the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust also carry out a huge amount of work across our AONB, for the benefit of nature and people, outside of this funding. One such example of this is the work that is currently taking place on Higher & Lower Moors.



Before Large unruly Willow with lots of dead wood



After: Coppiced Willow, & newly planted trees

Higher & Lower Moors are both Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); they are two of the twenty six SSSI's on the Islands, 24 of these being managed and looked after by our small local independent charity, the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust.

The Trust Ranger Team are currently carrying out rotational Reed bed Management and Willow coppicing in both locations;; the most recent area to be worked on being the Willow stand between the Seaward Hide and Porth Hellick Beach at Higher Moors.

Head Ranger, Darren M., Tweeted during the work “Year 2 of rotational coppicing of Grey Willow at Higher Moors SSSI underway this week. Creating an un-even aged stand, enhancing structural diversity and aiming to improve biodiversity”

The reasoning behind rotational management is two-fold; firstly, to lessen the visual impact and secondly, to create even more diversity and habitat types. However, this type of management can, on occasion, still look quite drastic when first implemented; especially when areas have not been managed for a period of time as is the case here.

We are looking forward to seeing the benefits of the work carried out across the Moors in the spring and subsequent months.



@ScillyAONB

@ScillyWildlife

More information regarding this and other Land Management work carried out by the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Ranger Team can be found on our website.

Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust registered charity number 1097807
www.ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk

