

Greno Woods Update

September 2024

1 Bird Survey 2024

Preliminary analysis of the data collected during 2024 bird survey show that at least 48 species of bird were recorded on the reserve this breeding season. Whilst wood pigeon and blackbird made a good showing, the prize for “most common bird”, was once again taken by our beloved Jenny wren. The survey also showed good numbers of blackcap, chiffchaff, song thrush, wood pigeon and willow warbler. Tit species were well represented, along with woodland specialists such as great spotted woodpecker, bullfinch and nuthatch.

Data captured by the acoustic recorders added 20 species to the list, including nightjar, woodcock and pied flycatcher, as well as confirming the presence of the 34 species recorded by the surveyors. A final check of the audiofiles is being carried out, as a couple of the species recorded are unexpected and need to be verified, so the full results of the survey are not yet confirmed.



Wren, our most common bird

2 BiffaAward Resistance and resilience funding

In July a 35k grant from BiffaAward was confirmed. This grant will be used to increase the resilience of the reserve, allowing it to better protect wildlife in the future.

Work funded by this grant started over the summer. Work to control a number of invasive non-native species - Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, yellow archangel and sycamore - was carried out, as was work to repair the boundary fence on the Woodhead Road. Rides and firebreaks across the reserve were cut back to lower the risk of fire spreading (admittedly a low risk this summer).

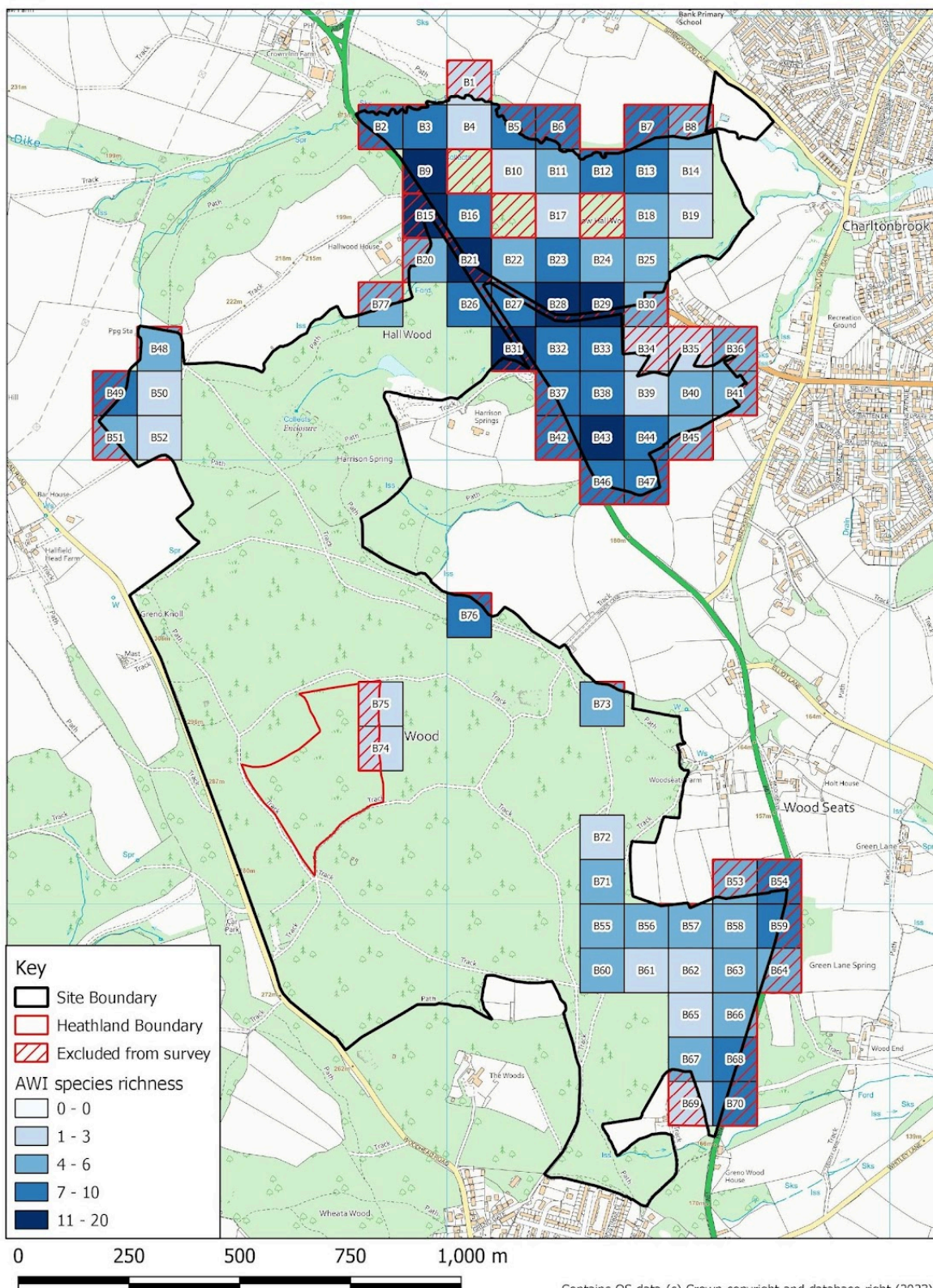
3 Ancient Woodland Indicator Monitoring - results from 2023

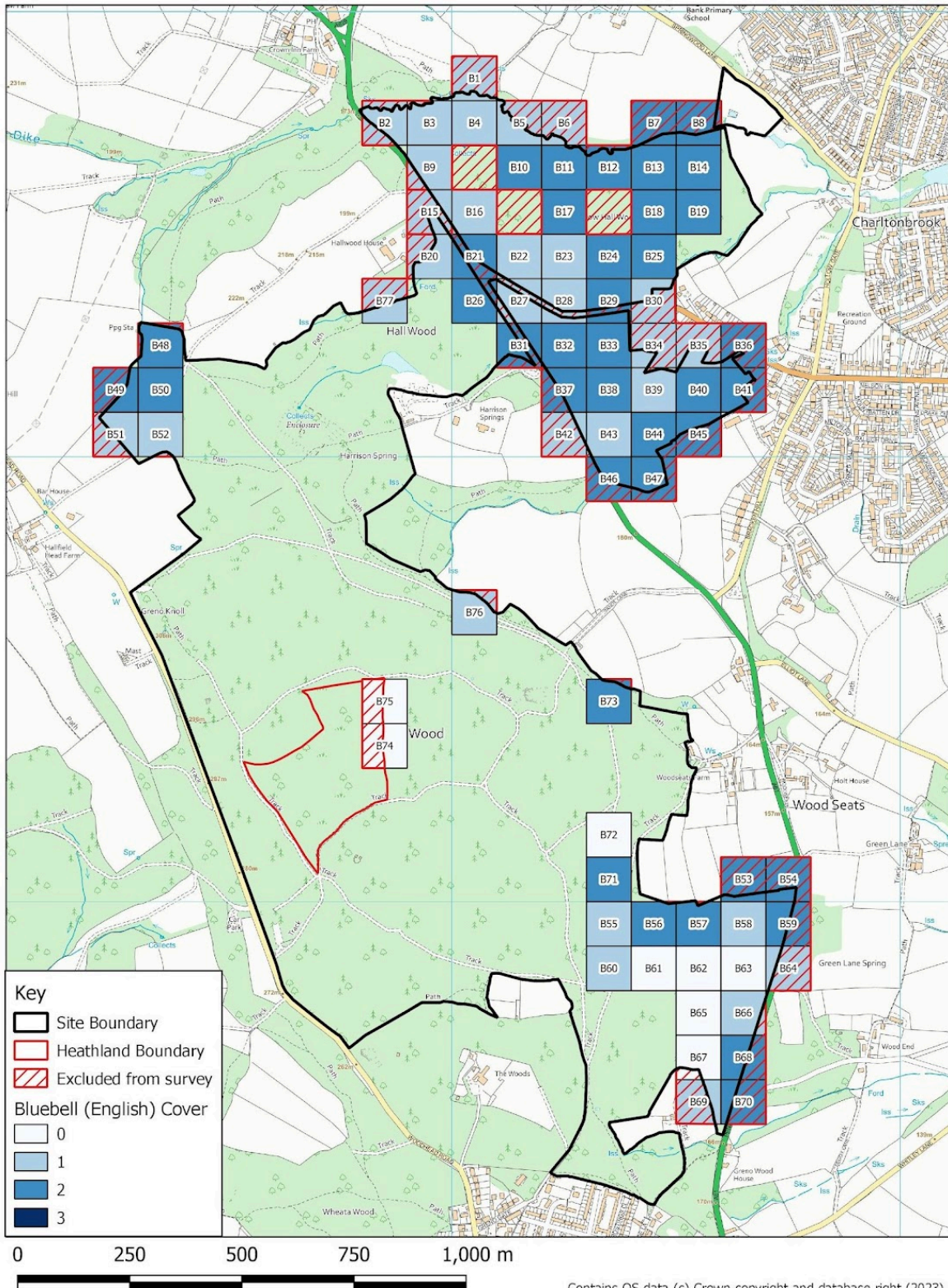
Monitoring was carried out at Greno Woods to assess the cover and richness of ancient woodland indicator plants in May 2023. Only squares currently known to contain AWIs and areas where they may spread due to management were targeted for survey.

This was the first year that monitoring of the AWI species at Greno Woods has taken place - 19 species were found across the reserve. As such, the overall species richness attribute target of ≥ 10 species set in the management plan was met.

The species richness score was ≥ 4 in 76.6% of woodland survey squares, which is just short of the target of 80%. For Bluebell, there was a cover score of 2 or more in 50.6% of squares, which meets the target of 50% set in the management plan.







4. Farewell to Rachel



Its with great sadness but many thanks that we bid farewell to our Ranger Rachel this August. Rachel has been the Greno Ranger since 2015, and was a familiar face at a wide variety of events and volunteer work days, and was often to be seen walking the paths litter picker in hand. Rachel has left us to train as a geography teacher and we wish her every success.