

GLEADLESS VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP PRUNING WORKSHOP by S.O.F.I. LEES HALL POND SITE 21st JAN 2001 (and/or 28th)

First, Richard and Darrell will give a site description from a horticultural perspective and explain the basic principles of orchard maintenance and pruning, with reference to a handout.

We would like to demonstrate techniques and then help volunteers to learn basics and hence gain confidence.

Numbers may mean we should split into teams after this point.

How much we can achieve on the day will depend on weather and how many people attend, for how long.

PRIORITIES

1. Remedial pruning: Remove dead, dying and diseased wood.

Thin and re-shape trees to promote ventilation and light. Extra pruning secateurs, saws and loppers would be useful. but must be sharp and clean-cutting.

2. Clear and mulch round trees in concentric circles at the drip-line.

More mulch material could be gathered from nearby vegetation. Forks, spades, rakes, scythes and slashers useful.

3. Access to older trees. If there is enough time and personpower, it would be good to clear the undergrowth beneath the older trees nearer the golf course. This heavier work may suit some people more than others, but would make a good way to end the day.

Heavier tools, such as saws, billhooks and mattocks may be needed for this task.

We will bring a basic range of tools, enough for 6-8 people.

Looking forward to it. Hope we get decent weather!