

## **CEE Report March 2023.**

### **Tree Plantation.**

A price has been agreed with the contractor to trim/cut back the bramble growth from the A388 edge to the area where the trees are growing in order to prevent their gradual “creep” in among the trees. He is also going to cut back the blackthorn shrubs which have appeared spontaneously on the southernmost end of the plantation and are threatening to prove a barrier to access to the trees.

The trees growing in the southern half of the plantation are especially sturdy and most are now some 2 metres in height and will need very little attention from now on. The conditions seem to have especially favoured the birch and hawthorn. Although rather marshy the soil cover seems to be deeper than at the northern end. Some of the trees here have struggled to establish themselves as well as their southern neighbours, possibly because of the thinner soil cover. This, of course, was an unknown quantity before the dense bramble cover was removed in 2020. However, many are growing well, and we had no alternative site for planting. A small number of crab apples, rowan, hazel and goat willow have been recently added to fill in some of the spaces.

Cllr Malcolm Fletcher.