Caring for the woodlands

Male narrator

(SOUND of birdsong)

Some areas of The Gnoll are an ancient woodland meaning the woodland has been here since at least the 1600's and is irreplaceable. There are also some old trees planted by the owners of Gnoll House such as Beech, Hornbeam, Horse Chestnut and Norway Maple.

Where possible we are leaving the native woodland at The Gnoll to its natural processes, such as leaving deadwood. Did you know deadwood is an important habitat for many creatures? Insects and ground-dwelling mammals find food and shelter in fallen wood. Birds and bats use the cracks and holes in standing deadwood for feeding, nesting and roosting.

At times we do need to manage the woodland. Some trees sadly get sick and diseased and need removing for our safety, especially near the paths. At times, we also need to intervene to keep the woodlands healthy by removing non-native species, such as Himalayan honeysuckle, Cotoneaster and Buddleia, that compete with trees and other woodland plants for nutrients and light.

On the walk from the Visitor Centre up to Mosshouse Reservoir you will pass an area thick with native Birch and Willow trees that have replaced a small plantation of non-native Western Hemlock. This ever changing woodland is alive with birdsong in late Spring.

(SOUND of birdsong)