

# friends of WARTON CRAG LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## A Mosaic of Habitats

Rides and glades are important features in the woodlands at Warton Crag. Every few years we need to cut these areas back again to maintain the ideal conditions for the butterflies. No management would result in brash taking over to an extent it would shade out these vital habitats. Each year our butterfly monitors survey these areas and feed this into a database. <https://ukbms.org>

The Friends of Warton Crag did a great job clearing this area which wasn't pleasant due to a mix of bramble and blackthorn. However we were not on our own! Another keen group of conservationists joined us, our herd of conservation grazing cattle. They are on the crag throughout the year, and carry out a vital role to help crush down the heavy undergrowth and eat off some of the brash that shade out the important limestone plants. The weather conditions were very foggy and it was a very 'Gorillas in the mist' moment when the herd appeared. They are very inquisitive and were keen to see what we were up to.



Save the date Saturday **15<sup>th</sup> January**. We will be working alongside the Wood bank to extract wood from the lower woodland of the LNR. Volunteers that attend are welcome to take wood home.