

Ewelme Watercress Beds

Local Nature Reserve



We care for the Chilterns

Workday report - Wed 18th January 2012.

More pond excavation carried out; area next to Blackthorn thicket cleared ready for shrub planting; extensions to pipe outside Suffolk House fitted; start made on split willow in hazel thicket.

Next workday – Sat 4th February 2012.

Please be careful around compost areas and piles of dead material as our Hedgehogs, from Tiggywinkles, will be preparing for hibernation

- 1. Trout Pond extension** – we are planning a dipping platform so need to mark it out and carry out further excavation to ensure deep water is alongside platform
- 2. Path alongside Trout Pond extension** – the slope here is very slippery – even out slope with dredged spoil (may need retaining wood)
- 3. Entrance alongside road bridge** – moles have destroyed this area so make good
- 4. Meadow** – run “big bertha” alongside lower path in flower meadow for tree planting
- 5. Suffolk House** – fix pipe to supply water to top beds
- 6. Blackthorn thicket** – our “biodiversity man” recommends we cut approx one third of the blackthorn at ground level then remove the trunk and pile the top back on the stump to prevent browsing
- 7. Stream between beds and top of Trout pond** – Install weir
- 8. Willow Tree in Hazel copse** – trunk is badly split and needs felling
- 9. Purging Buckthorn** – remove nettles with a view to opening an alternative route to allow the existing path to recover
- 10. Earth and Concrete Bund** - Remove any arisings present
- 11. Saplings round top meadow** – continue to clear weeds and growth from their vicinity. Also saplings by the road bridge.
- 12. Bank west of Blackthorn thicket** – keep nettles cut for proposed planting and tidy up planting area
- 13. Paths upper and lower sites** – tidy by raking mole hills if present
- 14. Trout Pond** – check outlet weir as it is still leaking.

Reminder list – feel free to use these as “fill-in” jobs

- Hand weed shrub areas

Copies via email to local volunteers, Conservation Volunteers and Managers. Also available on line at <http://www.ewelmewatercressbeds.org/>

