

Ewelme Watercress Beds

Local Nature Reserve



We care for the Chilterns

Workday report - Sat 6th Dec 2008.

A lowish turnout from the Green Gym but the bulk of the brash burning was achieved. Most of the work involved in the construction of the wooden ramp between the concrete bund and the Nellie Bridge was carried out by Roger and Vernon. The remaining volunteers were occupied planting the hedgerow plants along the northern boundary of the meadow and extending the clumps of shrubs along the southern boundary. In addition a final cut of the meadow was carried out in an attempt to reduce the vigour of the coarse grasses, Nettles, Dock and Meadowsweet.

Next workday – Wed 17th Dec 2008.

1. **Channel clearance** – still a little of this for the really keen. Location to be confirmed. All arisings should be transported to the nearest environmental compost heap.
2. **Weeding/tidying from Ford to Centre** – a regular job to maintain our prestige beds. [Leader DD](#)
3. **Earth and Concrete Bund** - Remove any arisings present – some near Suffolk House.
4. **Lower site** – Still need to replace logs alongside the sluice at the lower end of the site and wire together to make disturbance more difficult.
5. **Trout Pond** - The weir at the lower end of the pond is leaking quite badly and needs repairing. Now getting quite urgent as water level is below weir crest level.
6. **Bypass channel** – continue to clear overhanging vegetation and watercress, forget-me-not etc – NOT crowfoot
7. **Composting area** – need a level area as bins keep falling over. May need to clear more Blackthorn and build wooden (pallet) bins
8. **Concrete bund/Nellie bridge** – complete construction of wooden ramp between the two.

Tom Stevenson – 13 December, 2008

Copies via email to local volunteers, Conservation Volunteers and Managers.

Also available on line at <http://www.ewelmewatercressbeds.org/>

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

- Remove fools watercress from “mill pool”
- Brick wall in same area needs de-weeding
- Check on removal of great reedmace from trout pond job for RAF if they are willing – a team from RAF Benson will attempt this on 10 January 2009
- When area of interpretation board below mill, alongside road cleared prepare “viewing area”
- Gate at lower entrance to be erected
- Interpretation boards to be installed
- Clear area beyond bramble at end of butterfly patch – leave teasel – not yet!
- Re-build broken fence between centre and Chris