

Worthys Conservation Volunteers

Report of the task of Sunday 17th April 2005, by Bruce Graham

Upper Broadview Shrubbery Improvement II

Volunteers Present

Bruce Graham, Task Leader
Martin Bown, and Rosie, the Springer spaniel
Connie Martyn
Michael & Maureen Edwards
Matt and Becky Wilkinson
Jonathan, Charlotte, Morgan and Imogen Smith

Description

On another good day, free of rain and with sunny intervals, eleven volunteers gathered on Upper Broadview, OS grid reference 449365E 133457N, at 2pm. Tools were gathered, WCV Information 'A' Board was erected on Tovey Place, and pre-task briefing including risk assessment was held. All volunteers signed the Participants List.

The objective for the day's task was the continued improvement work to the shrubbery. The group split up along a stretch of the shrubbery further down from where the group left off last time.

Improvement work proceeded as follows:

- cutting back of invasive species such as bramble and clematis;
- removal of elder and self-seeded ash and pruning of laurel overshadowing the front and lower level of the border and to encourage better growth of holly and other trees species;
- some thinning & light pruning of snowberry, garden rose and cotoneaster to encourage stronger and broader growth;
- some crowning of hawthorn where this was considered appropriate; and
- removal of old fence posts remaining from when the shrubbery was originally planted.

Cuttings were deposited out of sight at the back of the shrubbery. A habitat pile of logs was created.

Late on in the afternoon a couple from Cedarwood at the back of Broadview arrived, and in viewing the work that had been completed at the back of their garden expressed concern - indeed the lady was a little upset - that a large gap had been created, offering potential easy access to their property. It was at this place that three large elder trees had been removed. Reassurance was put to the couple that the remaining holly and other shrubs would soon bush out, indeed providing a much better protective and secure screen. The couple were advised to contact Kings Worthy Parish Council (KWPC) if they wanted to pursue this. In response to the couple's concerns, to discourage access, the group piled some of the more prickly arisings in the gap. KWPC were duly notified of the incident.

The session was completed at about 4.30pm. Work on two-thirds of the length of the shrubbery has now been completed; a further visit in the autumn should ensure satisfactory completion. Benefits of the improvement work have included a better habitat for birds and insects, as well as a more interesting site for visitors.

Many thanks to all participants.



Working on the shrubbery



In the thick of it



Having a well earned tea break



Sawing



Habitat log pile

Addendum

A meeting was requested by KWPC and held on Thursday 28 April 2-3pm to discuss the 'gap' and Broadview in general. Present were Rosemary Sign and Colin Arnett of KWPC, myself (Bruce Graham) of WCV, and Alison Angell of BTCV. KWPC were grateful to have been informed of the incident. In respect of the gap created in the shrubbery, whilst it was unfortunate that this had upset one of the neighbours, the shrubbery would in a short period of time fill out, and no specific objection was raised by KWPC. However, it was requested by KWPC that the gap be cleared of some of the more evident cuttings and the habitat pile more securely fastened, i.e. logs nailed together, to deter fly tipping and the possibility of log fires being started.

KWPC were very encouraging and supportive of the work of the group, including proposed schemes such as meadow headlands, although existing contractual arrangements make this difficult in the short term. Specific commendation was given to Michael and Maureen for their excellent hedgerow survey.

Bruce Graham