

Kings Worthy, Path 502
Bird/Bat Box Fixing and Path Clearance
Sunday 20th August 2006



**Worthy's
Conservation
Volunteers**

We had a dual task today. The intention was to split into two parties, one to fix as many bird and bat boxes as possible, and the other to clear brambles, overhanging branches etc. from the edges of the disused railway path for the protection of horse-riders and walkers.

We met in the customary place on Worthy Down Lane (near the vets) at 1-30 pm in pleasant weather. Twelve members and one dog turned up, including a new member Lizzie Laird. Bruce was a little unwell and not able to attend. David his brother, was to convey our good wishes to him.

After the signing the attendance sheet and the formalities of reading the risk-assessment we split into our respective parties. Nick led the bird/bat box party and Michael led the clearance and rubbish picking party.



Bird/Bat Box Fixing

The bird/bat-box group, consisting of Martin, Ruby, David and Nick started at the station bridge (480351) by erecting the tawny owl box between the bridge and the old platform. We then moved along the path towards the camp bridge (481346), putting up three bird boxes along the way. The rest of the boxes were put up along the embankment between the camp bridge and the old junction (481338). Most of the boxes were sited so that they faced the fields on either side of the path, and the bat box was put up close to one of the pillboxes. Thanks go to Martin for doing most of the work and climbing the ladder!

Leader: Nick Eacott.

Scrub Clearance

The clearance party consisted of about 8 participants who enjoyed a happy 3 hours till we broke up at 4-30 pm, walking southwards along the track making extensive inroads into overhanging trees and branches, bramble and other obstructions. It also proved necessary to clear already cut material dumped unceremoniously by "other parties" along the track edges, so as to render the area a little safer.

Whilst working we encountered a horse-rider, a group of a family cyclists and some walkers, all of whom remarked in a very positive way about the improvements which our group have made to the railway path over the past several years. We did of course indulge in a little promotional flag-waving whilst in conversation with the passers-by!

Returning to Worthy Down Halt and our vehicles we encountered the bird-box group who proudly pointed out their achievements, all beautifully fixed to trees along the track.



Several members of the clearance party also undertook the less than pleasant task of collecting rubbish and, in the process filled a number of waste bags for subsequent disposal.

Every body returned home tired, but satisfied with the progress made.

We were so enthusiastic and engrossed in our work that no photos were taken by the clearance group. Perhaps our exhausted appearance is best left unrecorded!!

Leader: Michael Edwards.