

Headbourne Worthy, Footpath 7 Improving the Footpath at School Lane Sunday 2nd September 2007 – extra monthly task



Worthys
Conservation
Volunteers

The task for the day was to improve the top end of the footpath (FP7) running down from School Lane to St Swithun's Church – the path had become channelled and eroded by run-off water from the road, making the surface uneven and difficult to tread.

Requested by David Pearcey of Headbourne Worthy Parish Council and organised by David Molloy (also the task leader) of Hampshire Path Partnership (HPP), a small group of four volunteers turned up at 10am on a warm and sunny day.

A mechanical digger was hired by Bob Chisnell for the day, and certainly did a tremendous job of levelling the ground, for 30 metres down the path. A run-off channel was excavated to one side to carry away any excess water typical after a torrential downpour. Further down School Lane on either side of the footpath, existing run-off ditches were also repaired, being widened and deepened and



Before: eroded footpath.



Mechanical digger .. makes easy work!



Repairing run-off ditch.

vegetation removed, this time using hand tools of mattock and spade. The mechanical digger was also used to help shift path grit onto the path ready for raking in – grit was brought in so as to raise the footpath just a few centimetres to avoid any further erosion of the footpath.

All the excavation work was completed by lunch time, at which point we took a well earned break ...

After lunch David M. and Bruce went about to flatten and compact the raised footpath using a mechanical compactor loaned from HPP. We made good time finishing by 2.30pm.

In the meantime, David P. put his attention to clearing the area around a bench, situated some 50 metres along the lane, of small trees and scrub, re-opening up the panoramic view to the river valley and church below and surrounding wildlife habitats – wow, what a fantastic view!

Later in the month a 'finger post' will be installed at the head of the footpath, when the group will also be working on improving the wildlife habitat at St Swithun's church. Weather: sunny and warm, 20°C. *Bruce Graham.*



After: raised path with channel to one side.