



A new future: the plans for improving Winnall's river habitats are well established while (below) volunteers have already begun clearing scrub.

Winnall taking shape

The appointment of two experienced teams of experts has heralded a new phase in the development of Winnall Moors Wildlife Reserve in Winchester. The project continues to benefit from strong support from the Environment Agency, Natural England and The National Trust, demonstrating the importance of this project for the region's wildlife and public access to wetland areas. The plans for improving river habitats on the reserve

are well developed and should ensure that the reserve is suitable for the wide range of aquatic plants, invertebrates and native fish species that chalk streams are prized for. By controlling where the water is channelled within the reserve, the Trust will be able to keep the old water meadows and wet woodland from drying out – making them better for wildlife and securing their long-term survival. The project now has more equipment for cutting the hay in the new meadows, allowing reserve staff to continue using traditional methods of management that maintain the meadows' rich flora.

Elsewhere, plans for improving public access and providing a wider range of information about the site are being carefully combined to maintain a balance between the needs of people and wildlife. These project plans will be submitted in support of an application for further funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Trust hopes to hear whether it has been successful by early summer 2008.

If you are planning a summer visit, look out for details of the popular guided walks (details in the wildlife diary and on www.hwt.org.uk); they are a

great opportunity to explore the whole reserve with the aid of experienced staff and volunteers. All the guided walks start at The National Trust's Winchester City Mill, which has free entry for Wildlife Trust members.



Why not help out?

Volunteers are playing a major part in the development of Winnall Moors. The Friends of Winnall Moors and the Worthies Group of volunteers have been clearing scrub, including areas to provide suitable habitat for the rare green-flowered helleborine to re-establish itself (colonies had been previously recorded at this site). The Friends meet on a regular basis and new members are always welcome to join work parties, which take place during the week and at weekends.

● For further details please contact Mark Langford, Reserves Officer, on 07831 692 963, or email MarkL@hwt.org.uk



Your magazine

The next edition of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Natural World will be published in November 2007. You are welcome to contact the Editor at any time to discuss submissions to the magazine at SallyH@hwt.org.uk. The next edition of the Trust Diary of Events will appear in November 2007 and will cover the months of December to March 2008 inclusive. We regret that only submissions with a SAE can be returned. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Trust. Printed on environmentally friendly paper. © Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust 2007.

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