

Ewelme Watercress Beds

Local Nature Reserve

Workday report Sat 2 July 2016

A great turnout for our extended workday with 20 volunteers including some enthusiastic kids plus 8 from Sonning GG. Most work was concentrated on channel clearance along The Street but in addition a good start was made on clearing overhanging vegetation down the back channel. Patches of the meadow were cut. Sonning GG cleared material from bund between the bridge and the mill plus more mud clearance. We were most grateful for two visits by students from Wallingford School's Community project on 6th and 7th July who carried out some channel clearance and meadow material removal.

Next workday – Wed 20 July 2016

1. **High Street beds** – re-instate side channels esp. those alongside gardens
2. **Meadow** – transport cut material to compost sites, continue selective cutting (see TAS) and path sides need trimming back where overhanging path
3. **Material alongside back channel** – material has been left on the meadow side of channel and should be transported to compost area
4. **Back channel** – cut back overhanging material and remove will for burning
5. **High Street beds** – remove fools cress and other non watercress plants
6. **Nellie Bridge** – replace chicken wire
7. **Beds below Mill** – remove silt where possible and reinstate channel as before.
8. **Road side below bridge** – cut nettles from between fence uprights
9. **Interpretation boards lower site** - clean
10. **Watercress Centre** – repair leaking gutter and install water butt
11. **Upper site** - level earth bund at east end and cut-back/keep-trimmed the invasive cultivar opposite Thatchings
12. **Compost heaps** – bag up sieved material for disposal/sale
13. **Nest boxes** – erect those stored in tool store
14. **Meadow and banks** - Weed around all new saplings above Centre
15. **Pond below road bridge** – clear, by pulling/digging bulrush plants and forming channel through

Copies via email to local volunteers, Conservation Volunteers and Managers. Also available on line at <http://www.ewelmewatercressbeds.org/>

Tom Stevenson – 18 July, 2016