

Ewelme Watercress Beds

Local Nature Reserve

Workday report Sat 3 & Tues 13 November 2018

11 volunteers. Back channel - start made on the area between the bridge and the ford. Channel clearing of the Street beds continued – some of cress that was removed placed in bed outside centre; Bluebell bulbs planted amongst saplings at tom of meadow; further work on trimming hedge alongside Mill weir; started tidying beds outside Suffolk House; various planters filled with soil in preparation for planting. Big turnout (19) by Wallingford GG on 13th and lots achieved. 100 wild Daffodils planted, lots of channel clearing and general tidying and a “planter” constructed out of old tyres.

Next workday – Wed 21 November 2018

1. **Meadow** – run mower over part of meadow with box on
2. **Suffolk House** – tidy these beds removing all non-watercress and cutting overhanging vegetation from banks
3. **The Street beds** – Check for material on concrete bund and transport to compost area
4. **Hedge along The Street** - minor tidy up to complete this task
5. **Back Channel earth bund**– complete cutting and tidying
6. **New shed path** – continue with realignment/leveling
7. **All Beds** – pull all non watercress, remove mud and distribute on adjacent banks below ford or compost areas above ford
8. **Compost heap opposite centre** – sieve and bag more soil and stack at front of centre
9. **Weirs** –weirs below road bridge need replacing - completion needed
10. **Lower site** – remove vegetation from brick wall below mill and check for repairs required plus reinstate channel along road side transferring good cress to upper site
11. **High Street beds** – re-instate side channels esp. those alongside gardens
12. **Material alongside back channel** – check for material left on the meadow side of channel which should be transported to compost area
13. **Ride on mower fix new belt** – start up an run to charge battery and drive along meadow paths to flatten lumps
14. **Pond below road bridge** – clear, by pulling/digging bulrush plants and forming channel through and remove area of growth from old dug-out area

Copies via email to local volunteers, Conservation Volunteers and Managers. Also available on line at

<http://www.ewelmewatercressbeds.org/>

Tom Stevenson –20 November, 2018