

REPORT on Conservation Task Sunday 15th May

Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway line Footpath 502

Jonathan led 11 volunteers including 2 children on this task to consolidate work we had started in the Spring, to clear a section of scrub from around the underbridge at grid ref. 480347.

There were three main tasks during the afternoon including litter picking, removal of roots and scrub clearance.



Two members spent the first half of the afternoon at Broadview relocating a log pile and joined the main group later.

At the bridge site, after a safety talk, a couple of people including new member Anita were deployed down the railway line to collect more rubbish.

Three or four members took mattocks and forks in hand to remove suckering roots of dogwood, bramble and seedling trees.

The roots were left in a pile nearby to potentially attract wildlife such as slow worms to colonise. The removal of these roots was seen as essential if the clearance was to be effective long term.



The remainder cleared scrub and small trees from the fourth quarter of the clearing which we had not had time to remove on the previous visit.

Time was then spent in clearing and storing the cut material in an unobtrusive location nearby.

The grassland glade was already showing signs of a more diverse flora than the more shaded parts of the railway line. Eggs and bacon, vetches and barren strawberry were in evidence amongst the grass.