

WCV Task 15th January 2006 - Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Line

The first task of the year saw us doing further clearance work on the disused Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Line. Approximately 12 of us met outside the vet's at 1.30pm before proceeding to the site.

After a safety briefing from Jonathan we split into two parties. Michael, Maureen and Bruce tackled the dogwood at the railway bridge glade with mattocks and a fork. Maureen in her enthusiasm managed to break the fork – and it was not an old one!!

The rest of us, including potential new volunteer, Nicholas Eacott, went in search of a site for a second bench. After much debate we settled on a west-facing one a few dozen yards south of the bridge. We then set about clearing the scrub from the embankment to open up the view and disposing of the arisings, nearly all out of sight, down the embankment nearby. Gradually a pleasant view of fields, pastures and an old sewage works opened up. However, with judicious placing of the bench, the latter should be largely obscured. The task ended with Bruce's brother David on a mission to uproot a stump which had defied all attacks with bowsaws. I am pleased to say that the mission was accomplished.

By the end of the day sufficient had been cleared for the installation of a bench although, no doubt, we will find ourselves having to clear the regrowth in the summer.