

**Headbourne Worthy, St Swithun's Churchyard
Wildlife Habitat and Footpath Improvements
Sunday 21st October 2007**



The objective of today's task was to continue with making improvements to the habitat at St Swithun's Church and local footpaths, carrying on the good work done in September.

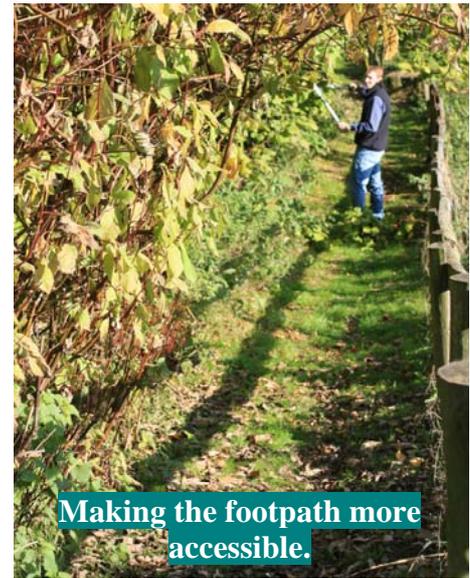
Five member volunteers were present.

Michael first investigated the area to the west of the church for unusual plants, but nothing of particular interest was noted.

The group then tackled the footpath leading from School Lane to the church, widening the path by chopping back scrub and removing nettle, and raising the canopy of overhanging branches.

It was not possible to install the fingerpost at the top of the footpath as planned, as the sign had not yet been delivered – a task for next time.

After a short break the group continued to clear the area to the north of the church, removing nettles and other undesirable plants, which will hopefully help other more interesting species to better prosper next year.



On further inspection of the site, it was again pointed out that the stream running either side of the church urgently needed work to replace the faggots previously put in by HIWWT – it is believed these were originally put in to encourage otter by increasing the flow of water.

This will be put to St Swithun's Church PCC, as a suitable activity for the group.

All in all it was a successful afternoon.

Weather: sunny and mild.

Bruce Graham.

Future Activities:

Tuesday 13th November, 7.30pm – Meeting, Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road

Sunday 18th November, 1.30pm – Disused Railway (Footpath 502)

Sunday 25th November, 10am – Winnall Moors (working with HIWWT)

Tuesday 11th December, 7.30pm – Meeting, Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road

Sunday 16th December, 11.30am – Ancient Tree Hunt, plus Lunch