

**THE WORTHYS CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**      **20<sup>th</sup> November 05**  
in partnership with parents from Kings Worthy Primary School and the Scouts.

**TASK: To clear a route through the school woodland for use by the children.**

Present:            1 Scout leader, 3 Scouts and 1 parent.  
                         6 school parents and their 5 children.  
                         12 conservation volunteers and 2 children.

While the Scouts were dispatched to clear the former vegetable patch of the remains of an old beech tree, the other volunteers were stationed along the route of the overgrown path.

The entry point was totally overgrown and needed brambles and undergrowth removed before the remains of the path could be rediscovered. A wide pathway was then cleared beneath the canopy of the woodland area. Scrubby elders and buddleias some of which were already dead due to a lack of light, were removed and the branches of retained trees were pruned back to improve the access. Cut material was stacked in the less accessible areas of the site.



Further along the route an old pedestrian gate to the school football pitch was rediscovered and one family took it upon themselves to clear the way leading from the gate. The overgrowth of brambles was dense but clearance revealed the ramp down to the pitch. Further work will be needed by the school to make this safer for use.

Once the path within Hinton House grounds had been cleared sufficiently, the task of barrowing the woodchips began. With a team of barrows, shovellers and rakers the paths were soon steaming and smelling wonderfully of pine resin!



The vegetable patch meanwhile had been cleared of beech stumps and trunks, the huge sections were in fact fairly rotten and once the mattocks were brought into play, easier to dismantle and move. The area was raked over to remove the build up of dead vegetation. It will need rotovating and further weed removal before being rabbit proofed and used again for veg. growing.

The path through the woodland will be used, probably this week, by the cross country enthusiasts who meet every Wednesday at 8.15am. Making the path useable in winter will mean groups can be brought out for nature study, orienteering and other curriculum based work. The site isn't suitable for unsupervised play!



Many thanks are due to everyone who took part and helped make it a really effective event.  
**THANK YOU.**