

**Kings Worthy Primary School
Trail Blazing, Tree Planting and Pond Clearance
Sunday 16th March 2008**



On a mild but damp afternoon, half a dozen volunteers and 2 children met at Kings Worthy Primary School to work on the woodland trail, plant native tree saplings and continue bramble clearance from the pond enclosure.

The Edwardian Hinton House used by the junior section of the school is due to be sold to finance a purpose built extension of the main building. As part of the sale, about a quarter of the house's grounds will be included. This area has now been demarked by a close-boarded fence and as a result, the current route around the wooded grounds has been truncated. So the group set to work to widen an existing narrow pathway to make a new circuit.



The school had received about 30 tree saplings from The Woodland Trust. The weather and ground conditions were ideal for planting. Several volunteers dug holes, incorporated composted bark mulch, planted the trees and protected them with spiral guards against the teaming rabbit population. There were encouraging signs of wildflowers nearby with primroses, bluebells, teasels and some cowslips in evidence.

The pond enclosure was again tackled to ensure there was easy access for the children. Frog spawn and tadpoles were in evidence in the ponds. The school has won a grant from Tesco / Wessex Salmon and Rivers Trust to carry out more work to the marshy area: re-lining and additional gravel surfacing will be carried out, to ensure that the children are able to access it more easily.

If you are interested in joining some of our activities or finding out more about Worthys Conservation Volunteers please contact Nick Eacott (884870) or have a look at our website:

www.worthysconservationvolunteers.org.uk

Weather: mild and damp, 8°C. *Charlotte Smith* – Task Leader.

Upcoming task and event dates for 2008

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| 20 April | Worthy Down Halt platform clearance |
| 18 May | Fete preparation and Anniversary celebration |
| 15 June | Path 502 – task to be decided |
| 20 July | Butterfly Survey, Top Field |
| 17 August | Litter pick with St Mary's Church group |