
Task Reports 2002 July

7 July – Pound Copse – Neil Frankum

This was the first round of our annual campaign to reverse the smothering tide of bramble in this tiny wood. Luckily we seem to be winning and the amount of bramble to be dealt with is slowly reducing. Alisdair spent the afternoon barrowing some more woodchip to fill in a few of the bits of the path that we hadn't quite covered adequately on our last task here.

14 July – Dinton Pastures – Neil Frankum

Today's task was arranged to coincide with an open day at Dinton. It was also a joint task with Windsor & Maidenhead Conservation Volunteers. The task was to repair some erosion on the bank of Black Swan Lake. Unlike previous years we were not using old telegraph poles. This year it was some large tree trunks which were staked into place on the bank. The gap behind the logs was then backfilled to give a firm bank. We were so



Knocking in posts to hold our log revetment in place in the lake at Dinton Pastures.



efficient that the work was completed by 2-30pm. We then went to look at all the other stalls on site. It was possible to go pond dipping, look at the sun with Reading Astronomical Society, watch ex BeC member Andy Noyes turning bowls on his pole lathe, and take part in many other activities. I also went for a cycle round the site to see last years handiwork. Most of it was still in place, although it looked like one of the posts had been heavily leaned on, and the telegraph pole moved. The day was finished off perfectly, sitting in the sun with a pint in the Wheelwright's Arms.



Above left, left & below right – joint task with WMCV at Dinton
Below left – Finished revetment at Dinton 14/7.



21 July – Dinton Pastures – Philip Allen

This was the second of two consecutive revetment tasks at Dinton Pastures but this time by the sailing club and a more overcast day. (the first had been a joint task with Windsor & Maidenhead Conservation Volunteers as part of Dinton's Party in the Park which attracted thousands of visitors but few ventured as far as us in the heat) Laurence turned up at the tool store as I was about to leave and disappeared to find out about the sailing taster day once Lucy had left for California after showing us the materials for the task. Richard, Alistair & Neil soon arrived so we could begin to replace the damaged stakes that were meant to be holding the telegraph poles against the bank and re-securing with more underwater nailing.

James & Rodney also turned up before lunch. We were also installing 3m long coir fibre rolls with holes in the top to be planted in the spring with reeds to stabilise the bank. This was no mean feat as three of us had to drag each of them off the rangers' trailer over the footbridge & along the path (giving way to kids on bikes & dog walkers); through the scrub; down the bank; over the telegraph poles & along the uneven slope between knee high & chest high water and to position them in the correct place without allowing the rolls to touch the water else they would instantly quadruple their weight &



become unmanageable. We decided the rolls should be staked into place so I drove back to the ranger's yard to find all the bits of chestnut paling & other stake material I could, which was not enough, so also used branches of willow. The back filling the space between the rolls & the bank using the road chippings provided was a slow process wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow full from the pile of chippings 30m away kept disappearing without making any visible impact.

28 July – Waterloo Meadows – Neil Frankum

A small turnout on what was probably the hottest day of the year. Haymaking and trying to spot the Harvest Mice nests in the tussocks of grass between the trees in the Halls Copse area of the site.
