
Task Reports 2002 September

1 September – Clayfield Copse – Philip Allen

I did not get to Reading Station until nearly 10, as Laurence did not turn up at the tool store, like he said he would when he asked me to lead the task the night before, it took me 50 minutes to load the van with all the tools for the task of dam building & large sycamore felling. I explained what we were doing & left Keith with the spades, squash & most of Friends of Clayfield Copse to continue to deepen the pools, while I drove the van round to the corner where we were helping Richard fell & de-limb the sycamores by keeping people away from the chainsawing area. By the time of a late tea break the pond digging party had had enough so went home or joined us taking out the smaller sycamores in the other area. The wild flower meadow had been cut down to playing field height by the Council's mower gang but the field of seedling trees had fortunately been spared.

8 September – Wildmoor – Neil Frankum

Today's task was chopping down / pulling up birch and pine regrowth on one of the drier parts of this nice heathland reserve. Richard, the BBOWT reserves Officer followed behind us with a can of herbicide to make sure that none of the cut trees regrew. New volunteer Dolores gave us another touch of the Spanish influence that was quite common last year. We finished the day off with a walk around the site.





15 September – Heathlake – Neil Frankum

On arrival at the site, Lisa pointed us in the direction of a very large patch of rhododendron. This was duly attacked by everyone else, whilst I set about lighting the bonfire which was to consume all we cut, and some of the stacked rhododendron that we had cut on our previous task here as well. A roaring blaze was soon in evidence, and the rhododendron disappeared with a lovely crackling sound. The large lake nearby ensured that the fire was well and truly out

before we left site – the ash pile was under about an inch of water! We got a bit lost on the way back, so Nigel and I ended up in the pub closest to the worksite, and the others ended up in a different pub, somewhere else!

22 September – Waterloo Meadows

Most people were away for the weekend so this task had a small turnout for the afternoon only.

29 September – Warburg Reserve – Richard Coles

It was a fine sunny day for making a clearing among the hazel coppice. This was Peter's first task with us, and he has been out with us ever since. Alisdair was there too, **and had lots of things to burn**. We started off in a small clearing, which eventually became a bigger clearing, but the coppice was very dense. Coppicing was more interesting this time, because we were separating out stakes and heatherings for hedgelaying. The day became very hot, and everybody was tired out by half three, so we called a halt. We stopped off at a pub on the way home, and it was still warm enough to sit outside.

