

South Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers

Workday Report for 23-02-2022

	Team members
Team 1	Lead: Bob Parry Volunteers: Susan Maguire, Ray Maguire, Jane Forde, Jane Pryce, John Lynch, Phil Gibbs, Tim Howard, Steve Livesey

	Work sites	Metres cleared	Hours worked	Preparation hours
Team 1	Rotherfield Greys	n/a	31.5	4

There was a good turnout of nine volunteers for this workday. Originally it had been planned to brush cut some of the permissive paths on the Greys Court Estate, but with seasonal die-back there seemed little need at this time. Instead, it was decided to replace some failed waymark posts and to remove a large tree on FP 330/17 which had fallen in the recent storm Eunice, completely blocking the path where it enters a kissing gate at SU 7259 8280.

Two members of the team took charge of clearing the tree, using a chain saw and pole pruner. Meanwhile, other members of the team replaced a waymark post at the junction of FP 17 with a permissive path. The original post had been partly pushed over and the timber was cracked. Other volunteers did some light trimming of FP 17. A second waymark post was installed opposite the visitors' welcome booth on the drive to Greys Court (NT). Another volunteer checked and adjusted gates and latches on the Estate, while Susan (the Chiltern Society local area secretary) introduced a new volunteer to surveying the path network.

Tim Howard reports on the challenge of the tree removal:

After a quick assessment I changed my chainsaw guide bar from 13" to 16" while John used the pole pruner to remove some of the smaller branches and do some trimming of a hazel that was supporting the tree. The pole pruner was used at other stages to cut more of the hazel, particularly stems under tension from the tree, and some holly that was in the way.

The tree had two main stems and a third one which was much smaller, maybe only 3 m long. The stems were above each other with the minor one on the bottom. I cut each stem first from the root plate end, starting from the lowest one, then the lower of the two main ones. A rope was attached to the upper stem, near the root plate as a precaution in case the root plate would have moved towards me. Each of the main stems was a greater diameter than the length of my chainsaw bar so were partially cut to approximately one third of their diameter from one side before severing cuts were made from the opposite side.

Work finished at 12.15, leaving insufficient time to install two further waymark posts for which a return visit will be scheduled. Eight volunteers repaired to The Cherry Tree Inn for a pleasant lunch.

Summary Clearance and Waymark Posts:

Number of volunteers:	9
Volunteer hours:	31.5
Parish:	Rotherfield Greys
Parish Number:	330
Path Number(s):	17, 7

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Tree removed:	1 (SU759 8280)
Waymark Posts:	2
New or replacement:	Replacements
Locations	SU 7251 8285, SU 7265 8342

Bob Parry



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Beginning work on the tree



Work in progress



Work in progress



Tree cleared from path



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