

DofE volunteering at Stockbridge Meadows

3 months

Peter Brierley and Adam Gilbertson

What we have done



Introduction- we looked around the nature reserve and the assessors showed us some of the history of it along with some of the jobs that we will be doing.

First working session- we planted partly grown plants into ground in the wild flower meadow and we also cut down a dead rose bush that had grown over part of the flower meadow. We pulled out a patch of stinging nettles that was growing on the flower meadow. We picked up some metal fencing that had been left there along with some wooden posts.

Second working session- we did the same thing as the first but scattered wildflower seeds mixed with sand so that the seeds would spread more evenly.

Third working session- we picked up more fencing and also pulled out the rest of the patch of stinging nettles.



Fourth working session- we went into the river and pulled out some reeds that were blocking and slowing the flow of the river as well as picking up any rubbish we found in the river. We also cut and pushed out a tree that had fallen over the river.



Fifth working session- we went into the pond on the left hand side of the boardwalk. This had become fully filled with reeds so we used a scythe to cut them, then raked them out of the pond and onto the land. This opening up of the pond was to improved the habitat for amphibians and invertebrates.

We also cut a tree that had fallen over the river which took the rest of the time. This had blocked the view of the river from the boardwalk.

Sixth working party- we shoveled gravel into a wheelbarrow and then tipped it into the river. Then we raked the gravel around the bottom of the riverbed and also pulled it down stream. The gravel will provide improved habitat for fish and invertebrates and help to prevent silt build up on the riverbed.



Things we learnt

- Planting the plants and sowing the seeds in the meadow increases the biodiversity of the meadow and attracts insects.
- We removed the reeds and the tree in the river to help improve the flow of it so the silt moves and doesn't build up harming habitat for invertebrates.
- We picked up the fencing to stop animals from getting stuck in it or hurting themselves on it.
- We also realised that working in the river and outside was fun.

Thank you

We would like to thank the Melbourn Parish Council, Keith Rudge, Les Brierley and Maureen Brierley for their support for our volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.