

Come and join us and help plant tree whips into the newly built hedgerows on **16th December 2007 at 10 am** at the Silverwood Heights entrance. The hedgerows have been built to follow the ancient lines and will eventually provide a useful habitat and food source for local wildlife.



Meeting to discuss trees and planting sites



Marking out the hedgerow positions

The Hedgerows are constructed in an “A” shape by mounding the earth. Eventually new growth will form and with the whips in place the hedge will be created. We hope to follow the planting session with some well-earned mince pies and a glass of mulled wine.



Constructing mounds for hedge



You need a big bucket and spade for this job

In Autumn the 'friends' were busy clearing back the bracken to allow the wild flowers to flourish and to make space for tree planting this winter. Initially the slashing and bashing of bracken was done by hand. Within weeks it created a growth spurt of new grasses and plants in the area opened up.



Friends bashing and clearing the bracken



The site being cleared for planting

Unfortunately due to the sheer magnitude of the task the big boys toys were called upon. Once the saplings are planted, it will be back to clearing around them by hand. As the bracken has been weakened this year, it should be a lot easier to manage next year.



Bracken and bramble on the southern slope in summer



Strips being cleared for access and planting



Before (summer) taken at the top of the field



After clearance (winter) the patch of bramble removed.

Another seed collecting event held this November will provide a useful stock to replant any gaps in the hedges. Children gather by the new gates under a field maple. A quick shake of the tree had the “keys” falling into the collection bags.



Seed collecting 2007



All tooled up, Friends meet for the battle of the bracken

As the field becomes clearer young trees, that have self-seeded from the nearby hedgerows, are found, previously hidden in the bracken. If left to go wild the bracken would eventually overtake the whole field, in a 100 years or so these self seeded trees would grow large enough to block out the light and suppress the bracken and a natural woodland would be formed.



A small tree appears from the bramble



Site plan with the majority of trees planed on the southern slope

December will see the start of phase one of the tree planting. Some 4000 trees will be planted during the winter months. If you live in the Yeo Valley area and would like to take part in this exciting project, please feel free to come along. To join the Friends of Yeo Valley Community Woodland contact John Rowe, the Council's Assistant Parks and Amenities Manager on 01271 388326, or email john.rowe@northdevon.gov.uk