

Owmby beck

Date: Wednesday 9th March 2016

Location: Owmby Beck – Grid reference – TA 07028 03955 (www.gridreferencefinder.co.uk)

Times: 10.00am - 3.00pm

Details: Originally this was a site that was worked on by the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project nearly 10 years ago, in 2006!

In 2006 12 wetland shelves were excavated, totalling over 500m of created wetland habitat. A variety of shelf design ensured that conditions were suitable for a greater number of marginal plant species and created a variety of different habitats for amphibians, invertebrates and water vole

Since then it has very successfully naturalised but is in need of a bit of help. The success of the vegetation growth on the banks has meant that the stream is almost completely shaded all the way along. There has also been a slow build-up of silt, especially where the stream runs under a road and then turns sharply to the left.

Back in October last year the group went back to the site and started managing some of the bank vegetation to allow light to reach the stream, and light raking of the stream bed to loosen and wash some of the unwanted silt away. The idea is to leave areas of shade but also allow light in to parts of the stream to create conditions for instream vegetation which is essential for aquatic invertebrates.

The volunteer day will follow on from this to continue down the stream, and also include a 'stream dip' to look at the important invertebrates that form such an important part of this delicate ecosystem.

Please wear suitable clothing i.e. long trousers and long sleeved top and bring waterproofs just in case! . Suitable footwear is essential - ideally waders if you've got them! Otherwise wellies or sturdy pair of walking boots.

No previous knowledge or experience needed, just your enthusiasm! Get in touch if you're interested via Facebook or email william.bartle@lincolnshire.gov.uk