

Working party on the Clumps – March 13th 2011

This was the last scheduled working party on the Clumps until later in the year because of the fear of disturbing ground nesting birds. 8 volunteers set out on a dull Sunday morning to finish work on the last of the 5 Clumps (#4). We finished clearing holly from around the Clump and made a start clearing holly and shrubs from the area connecting the 2 Clumps. Unfortunately time beat us and we will have to return later in the year to complete the job.

We have made a fantastic difference to the area around the Clumps by opening them up and making them visible to all who pass. There is a brief description about the Clumps on our Information Board adjacent to the Clumps.

Our volunteers have put in a staggering 171.5 man hours so far, so a big ‘thank you’ to all who came along to help without you we could not have done so much clearing.

We will return later in the year to complete the job and to maintain the Clumps – just because we have cleared them does not stop nature from regrowth.

Working party on the Clumps – February 27th 2011

8 volunteers set out on a bright sunny Sunday morning to work on the last of the 5 Clumps (#4). By the time we had finished (3 hrs later) it was raining!



Before

After

The next working party, Sunday 13th March hopes to complete the work on Clump #4 and tidy up the area between Clumps #4 and #5. Please come and help if you can. Meet at Common end of Forge Road at 10am.

Working party on the Clumps – February 13th 2011

9 volunteers braved the heavy rain which was forecast but did not arrive until we were packing up. We have moved from working on the 3 small Clumps to one of the two large ones (Clump #5). See ‘Features’ in main menu.

Clump #5 has now been cleared of holly and its outline can clearly be seen



Before



After

Working party on the Clumps – January 30th 2011

11 volunteers turned out on a bright but cold Sunday morning to continue working on the 3 clumps. There was one large section of holly left to clear.



Working party on the Clumps – January 16th 2011

11 people (3 were first timers) turned out to help clear the Clumps on this our fourth working party. Our objective was to clear Clump 3. This was achieved in 2 hours.



Before



After



Working party on the Clumps – January 2nd 2011

8 brave souls ventured out on Sunday 2nd January to carry on work on the Clumps started in December. The main objective was to continue clearing around the first and second clump. The following pictures speak for themselves.



Before



After

Work on the Clumps continues – December 12th 2010

The work on the Clumps continues – only six people were able to work on the Clumps this time. Work started to the west of the previous work (see below – photos by Kevin Bennett).



Before starting



after only 3 hours work



Steve, David, Trevor, Marian, Chris & Kevin

First working party on the Clumps – November 28th 2010

The 'CLUMPS' are on that part of the Common owned by the National Trust, and their Gardens and Landscape Manager, Neil Harris, is someone who cares about the local area and the value that the Common has for our community. He has agreed to cooperate with the Friends of Naphill Common in a project to clear around at least one of the Clumps and restore it as an attractive feature. There are five clumps in all and, if the project is successful, we may extend our efforts to some others.

On a cold and frosty morning 8 intrepid workers set off for the clumps, just up from the Umbrella tree.



Hi ho! Hi ho! It's off to work we go.

With warm clothing, hand tools provided by both individuals and those owned by the Friends of Naphill Common and lots of enthusiasm we set to work in clearing mainly holly from around one of the clumps and from around the wooded area as seen when coming up the hill from Bradenham past the Umbrella tree.

The photographs shown below were spotted at Pam Smith's recent exhibition. They show the Clumps as they were just over a hundred years ago: circular banks lined with trees, located in open grassland. Since then the inexorable spread of scrub and trees has engulfed them and today it is difficult to pick them out from the woodland. They were once significant and popular features of the Common, even to the extent of being photographed and made into post cards. It occurred to us that it would be good to restore one or more of them to their former glory. We have not been able to identify, with any certainty, which of the clumps in the photographs are those on the ground. Maybe time will tell.



Copies of black and white photographs courtesy of Pam Smith

The following images show what a typical view of a Clump is today.



The edge of a clump before clearing and an old man resting on the now cleared clump



The working party from left to right – Philip Hussey, Ron Collins, Peter Davis, Trevor Hussey, Kate Davis, Marian and Chris Miller, and behind the camera Kevin Bennett



A restored view looking up from the Umbrella tree.