

# Project Newsletter No. 6 – March 2001

## *Essential diary dates for the next few months.*

### Footpath Improvement - March 11th

This is the work that was planned for our January and February sessions, and was unfortunately postponed due to frozen ground conditions and snow. I hope that the weather will be better (warmer) and we will be able to make a start work on widening the footpath across the grassland, at the top of the site. Due to the success of the trials performed last year, there is little need to install a formal surface to the path, and the work will only entail removal of the adjacent turf and small amounts top soil.

Should it be desired that funding be sought for a surfaced path later, our time spent on this project will serve as essential preparation work and can be used to offset the final cost.

In order to minimise the visual impact while this is carried out, I intend that we should 'tidy up as we go', by using any removed turf and topsoil to repair and improve elsewhere on the site. In order to make this as easy as possible please bring a **wheelbarrow** (if you have one) as well as **spades** and **work gloves**.

### April 8th

At present, I am attempting to arrange another site visit similar to last year. However, due to the present Foot &

Mouth epidemic, access to the countryside is severely restricted for the foreseeable future and it is impossible to make any definite plans in advance.

At present, it seems prudent to continue work on the ridge during this time, especially as we have lost two months to the weather. Therefore, we will continue our work on the path and will hopefully be able to put away our spades by Easter!

I will definitely arrange a site visit as soon as the FMD situation is resolved, and the countryside re-opens.

### Woodland Work - May 20th

For this session, we will be clearing some more areas of dense Bramble from various locations on the site, as per last year. Once again, the cuttings will be used to block feint paths elsewhere.

In addition, we should have time to assist the young trees within the woodland (especially the many Hazels that have 'appeared' over the winter), by removing any competing vegetation from around the bases.

Please bring **gloves**, **secateurs** and/or **loppers**.