Saving Boddington Hill Fort

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Chiltern Society
We care for the Chilterns
Chiltern Society Wendover Woods Conservation Group

First Work Party April 2009
Wendover Woods
How did we start?

ÅForestry Commission and Chiltern Society set up joint conservation venture under a Memorandum of Understanding.

ÅPriority given by Forestry Commission to several areas in need of conservation including Boddington Hill Fort.
The Task
Basic decisions

- Local advertising by CS for new volunteers both within society and non-members in the locality. Leafleting and local papers.
- Appoint a Group Leader.
- Decide on days and timing to attract maximum number of volunteers. Work on the premise that half days would attract a variety of people.
Choose to work mid week, not week ends.
Provide coffee and biscuits. Expect everyone to stop work for short break and socialise.
Vary the tasks, intersperse long term projects with other activities.
Tactfully assess skills of new group during first small tasks.

Provide training in use of hand tools, first aid, safety procedures.
First small task - clearing laurel
Eastern Ditch and Bank
Decide what to do with the brash and arisings.

- Make habitat piles
- Use to barricade the inner part of fort and prevent cyclists and walkers eroding the area.
- Make dead hedges.
2010
Work parties in November and December 2010
Eastern ditch cleared of small trees and brash
2011 western side of fort
Almost 50% of volunteers are women
Western Bank

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Western Bank
2012

Å English Heritage change Boddington Hill fort status to Low Risk.

Å Volunteers are allowed into the middle of the fort to continue clearing the brush and saplings. This work continues........

Å The outer bank and ditch can now be managed by the Forestry Commission by a few days brush cutting annually.
And by 2013 there were work parties of more than 25 volunteers!
Lessons learnt at Hill fort lead to ..

• clearing Grimm’s Ditch (Baldwin’s Wood) and the fort/castle in Rook Wood
• Volunteers assisted with the clearance and mapping of the World War One practice trenches on Berkhamsted Common (Chiltern Society volunteer Norman Groves leading the group)
Thank you - Any questions?