

Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group Hedge restoration 2010 / 11



Getting Started. The old hedge line is just beyond Dave and Colin

The Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group has been looking for projects in to improve the biodiversity of the countryside around the village. Our first habitat management project was to restore a hedgerow with permission from Wessex Water to help improve an interconnecting network of wildlife supporting hedgerows. A 60m stretch just north of the Pumping Station was chosen to see if the group could manage a project of this scale.

The group received a grant from the **Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)** to purchase 300 hedging species including Hawthorn, Hazel, Blackthorn and Guilder rose and 4 trees including an Oak, Ash and a wild cherry. **Wessex Water Environmental Group** kindly paid for the stock proof fence to be replaced and supplied a new wooden gate.

The old hedge line was almost non existent in some places with about 20 dead elms and few clumps of Hawthorn and Blackthorn. We removed the dead Elm s and the few remaining trees were layered to thicken up the base of the hedge.



Plenty of orders, not much work.



Planting the new hedge species.

The work took about a four weeks during January and February 2011, not always in the best of weather. Nothing was wasted, the dead elms were cut into suitable lengths to be used to fire a big wood burning pottery kiln that the Dorset Pottery Group are rebuilding on a farm near Weymouth, having moved all the bricks up from a pottery in Devon last year. All the brushwood was cut up to add to the refuge for small mammals built by some of the children in Sutton Poyntz as part of their wildlife group activities.



Work finished.