



Press Release

For immediate release

12 July 2010

Offenders help out with conservation work

Offenders on Community Payback have helped out with valuable conservation work at Burlish Top Nature Reserve, Stourport-on-Severn.

Offenders carried out the work to pay back for the crimes they have committed. Several work parties with around eight offenders and a probation supervisor in each, worked for over 270 hours at the site to complete the work.

The offenders were given basic landscape training and were shown how to use the correct tools. This enabled them to clear a large area of scrub vegetation that was threatening to engulf the rare acid grassland species. The offenders wear high-vis jackets so that the public can see the work that is being done and how they are paying back for their crimes.

Burlish Top is a local nature reserve between Kidderminster and Stourport, it attracts over 60,000 visitors a year and is recognised by Natural England as the highest quality acid grassland site in the county. The West Midland Region has also recognised these acid grassland habitats as being one of their priorities for conservation.

Probation work in partnership with Wyre Forest Countryside Service at the project. Paul Allen, Countryside and Conservation Officer for Wyre Forest District Council said:-

“The work was done in a very professional manner and in keeping with a site that has high public usage. The quality and quantity deserves nothing but praise from me and the District Council Ranger Service Team and I would not hesitate to use Community Payback workers again and recommend them to others”.

Jan Breen, Probation Community Payback Manager in Kidderminster said:

“The Community Payback workers did an excellent job at the nature reserve. The reserve is well visited by members of the public who will benefit from the work they have done there. We look forward to helping out with similar conservation projects”.

If you have a project in your area that you think probation may be able to help with please call our Community Payback team 01562 820071 or fill in a form on-line to nominate a project www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk Projects must benefit the community and must be work that can be done safely and not take paid work from others.

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