



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 60

23 February 2018

What we've been doing

20 February 2018

Nightingale Triangle

Leader: Jon Munday

Ranger: Colin Griffin (Bracknell Forest Natural History Society/BFNHS)

This was a continuation of work done at the BFNHS task session on Saturday 17 February. A large amount of material, mostly holly and *Rhododendron ponticum*, was left over from the previous session, and volunteers worked to burn this material. We then continued the clearance of *Rhododendron* and holly and burned this material on the bonfire. A large group of 14 volunteers attended; we were very pleased to welcome a new volunteer. Several volunteers from BFNHS and local residents attended. The weather was overcast.

Previous visits

The last BCV session at this site was on 6 February 2018. The group again cleared *Rhododendron* and holly.

Nightingale Triangle project

This patch of woodland in Harmanswater is bounded by Firlands, Nightingale Crescent and Bagshot Road. The site had become heavily overgrown with invasive species such as *Rhododendron ponticum*. BFNHS is working with the Council's landscape contractors, Continental Landscapes, and local volunteers to improve this woodland. Unusually for BCV, BFC rangers are not involved in this project.

Further events so far planned for this project are:

Residents and volunteers task (all invited):

Saturday 17 March 2018 10:00 – 15:00

BFNHS are planning to organise further events, to build on the enthusiasm generated so far.

Coming up next

27 February 2018

Popes Meadow

Hedgelaying.

Nightingale Triangle: flora and fauna

These are preliminary remarks gleaned from visits to the site: some of the identifications need confirmation.

Trees at the site include a number of oaks, perhaps English oaks (*Quercus robur*); although at least one Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) is present. There are many Scots pines (*Pinus sylvestris*); at least one large Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) and birches (*Betula* sp.).

There is at least one young yew tree (*Taxus baccata*). Oddly, there does not seem to be any hazel (*Corylus avellana*). There is a fine beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*) near the Bagshot Road. Some alien shrubby species, perhaps naturalised from nearby gardens, are present: these include snowberry (*Symporicarpos albus*) and *Kerria japonica*. An *Amelanchier* sp. may be present, but this needs checking. *Rhododendron ponticum* grows all too luxuriantly; there is a small amount of Portugal laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*).

A number of rather spindly examples of the native soft shield fern (*Polystichum setiferum*) are present, these may do better as the light improves.

There is widespread growth of the silver-leaved variety of yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* ssp. *argentatum*) near the Firlands entrance. Although yellow archangel itself is a valuable ancient woodland indicator plant, this subspecies is of garden origin.

Nuthatches were very vocal during the BCV task. Jays are also present, very noisy and obvious at this time of year. The woodland at this site looks like it would be a suitable habitat for tawny owls and great spotted woodpeckers.

Warfield Environment Group (WEG)

WEG has been nominated as a good cause in the Bracknell Forest Council recycling incentive scheme and will receive a share of £1000 based on the number of recycling reward points donated to the Group between now and Monday 30 April 2018. You can donate your recycling reward points to WEG by visiting:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/recycling-incentive-scheme/good-causes>

WEG will use the money to improve the local environment and increase biodiversity in the area, by buying more trees, shrubs, bulbs and seeds, and materials to build bird and bat boxes.

See poster:



BFC good cause
poster_070218.pdf

What's on

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Conservation task: tba

Wildmoor (Edgbarrow woods)

Sunday 25 February 2018 meet at 10:15 at the Edgbarrow car park

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on "**Conservation in Conversation**" with the Hawk Conservancy

South Hill Park Recital Room

Monday 3 March 2018 19:30 (£3 fee for visitors/£1 for BFNHS members)

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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