



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 84

13 December 2018

What we've been doing

4 December 2018 Wildmoor Heath/Footpath 18

We cleared pine, birch and gorse from the heathland, and burned on a bonfire.

On a previous task at Wildmoor, volunteers found the highly uneven ground very difficult to negotiate. This area was somewhat easier to traverse. One volunteer brought a walking pole, which was found to be of benefit on previous visits.

Some volunteers have been experimenting with cleaving wood with a view to constructing post and rail fencing. Trials at this site showed that it is virtually impossible to split Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) trunks using a froe, hammer and wedges. Traditionally, sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) is used for fencing, this is clearly because it splits so much more easily.

We had a very good turnout of 18. The weather was sunny but quite cold.

11 December 2018 Long Hill Park

This area of mostly Scots pine woodland had previously been cleared of vegetation by machinery. One part of the group planted the cleared area with trees: rowan, silver birch, field maple, English oak, beech, hornbeam, guelder rose, holly, alder, hazel and willow. A total of 500 tree whips were planted out.

The other volunteers cleared rhododendron from areas which were not accessible to machinery. Where possible, all other native trees were left in place. Cleared material was burnt on a bonfire.

23 people attended. The weather was sunny but cool.

Coming up next

18 December 2018

Garth Meadows

Vegetation clearance. Meet at Larks Hill car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=487188&Y=170752&A=Y&Z=106&ax=487156&ay=170801>

1 January 2019

Nine Mile ride

Rhododendron clearance. Street parking in Madingley:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=486834&Y=166202&A=Y&Z=106>

Christmas dinner

The BCV Christmas dinner is at the Golden Retriever on Tuesday 18 December, meet about 19:00 for a 19:30 start.

Downshire Way roadworks

Work to upgrade Downshire Way to a dual carriageway between the Horse and Groom roundabout and Twin Bridges roundabout is scheduled to start in 2019. These works could affect three of our sites: Frog Lane, Friendship Way and Bill Hill.

Further details at: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/roads/roadworks/a322-downshire-way-dualling>

What's on

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers (BEC)

Hazel coppicing at Westmorland Park

Sunday 23 December 2018:

Meet onsite at 10:15:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=488603&Y=170622&A=Y&Z=110&ax=488653&ay=170817>

[BCV have a task at Westmorland Park on 8 January 2019]

Friends of Nightingale Triangle

Regular maintenance session:

Saturday 5 January 2019

10:00 – 15:00

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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