



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **104**

3 October 2019

What we've been doing

24 September 2019

Wykery Copse

The important wetland habitat at Wykery Copse is a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and therefore has a fenced boardwalk rather than a footpath, to discourage people and dogs from encroaching on the sensitive wet ground. Unfortunately, some of the posts of the boardwalk had rotted in the wet ground, and the boardwalk therefore has to be removed and replaced with a more durable recycled plastic version.

A large pile of pieces of wood had already been removed by another group, and these were loaded into the trailer for disposal. The group then continued with demolition of the boardwalk using a spike and crowbars. The timber removed was then carried to the gate at the entrance, for loading into the trailer. Some of the better pieces of wood were donated to Jealotts Hill Community Landshare, and some were given to neighbours of Wykery Copse or to members of BCV.

We all found it very hard work, the distance to walk to collect the timber got longer and longer, and there was no variety of jobs to ease the repetition of the same task.

A very healthy looking frog was found near the boardwalk. Leaves of wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) were present: these are pleasantly astringent to chew, although large quantities should not be eaten, since they contain oxalic acid.

There were 19 volunteers present and we were happy to welcome a new volunteer. There was heavy rain beforehand, but it was then dry until about 11:00, when heavy rain started.



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1 October 2019

Hayley Green woods/Westmorland Park

The task was to dig a pond on the site of previous bonfires, close to the entrance to Hayley Green Woods. The first step was to remove the bonfire charcoal: this was mostly moved further up the banks of the pond site. A lot of digging was then required to clear the site. The material dug out was barrowed up the hill and spread among the herbage. There was a large amount of rubbish, including the remains of a mattress and numerous bottles and jars, which seemed to be of some considerable age. More than 12 bags of rubbish were cleared. The soil was removed down to the clay level, presumably the natural subsoil.

Other volunteers dug out an information board near the Lake. This was a difficult job, since the posts for the board were embedded in concrete. A new metal board was then installed, although unfortunately the old holes could not be used, as they were in the wrong position.

The weather forecast for the day was very bad: heavy showers at least with the possibility of torrential rain. In fact, although there was a heavy shower at coffee time, there were bright periods as well. We were protected from the worst of the rain under the trees, but all the foliage and the ground were very wet.

19 volunteers attended, a good turnout considering the weather forecast.



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Coming up next

8 October 2019

Westmorland Park

Hazel coppicing.

Meet at the designated car park for Westmorland Park. There is usually ample room here.

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=488656&y=170824&z=106>

15 October 2019

Englemere Pond

Wetland management.

Park in the designated car park. There is usually just enough room here.

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=490131&Y=168568&Z=110>

Housing development at Jealott's Hill

There are plans to build 4000 new homes at Jealott's Hill in Warfield, currently the site of an agricultural research station run by Syngenta. Around 1400 of the new homes would be affordable. This development would require amendment of existing green belt boundaries.

<https://www.bracknellnews.co.uk/news/17910717.plans-1-400-affordable-homes-jealott-39-s-hill-warfield/>

What's on

Wildlife in Ascot

Conservation work at Blackmoor Pond

Saturday 5 October 2019

10:00 – 13:00

Habitat improvement, including building of a stag beetle loggery. Access from Bowyer Walk and Sutherland Chase near SL5 8QT

Bracknell Forest Society

70 years of the New Town: an exhibition of photographs, maps and documents

Saturday 5 October – Sunday 6 October 2019

Bracknell Town Council offices, Brooke House, 54 High St, Bracknell RG12 1LL

Nightingale Triangle Project

Work party

Saturday 12 October 2019

10:00 – 15:00

Street parking in Firlands

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on **Bees and neonicotinoids** by Dr. Ben Woodcock

Monday 21 October 2019

start 19:30

South Hill Park

For details see:

<http://www.bfnathistsoc.org.uk/>

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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