



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **90**

14 March 2019

What we've been doing

5 March 2019

Wykery Copse

Wykery Copse is a rare surviving example of ancient wet woodland. The site has not been managed for some time. We started work at the NE edge, adjacent to Butler Drive, where the stream flows out of the copse. The aim of the task was to expand the area of wet habitat around the stream. A dam was created at the outlet of the stream, using split chestnut obtained from Tarman's Copse. Faggot bundles were added to create a weir.

Other volunteers worked towards the boardwalk which bisects the copse, clearing dead wood from the sides of the stream and making habitat piles with the cleared material. Bluebell leaves were present in profusion, and primroses were in flower. Wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) leaves were present. Frogspawn was found in the stream: it is unusual to find this in flowing water. Two deer were spotted, fairly small animals with white rumps, which may have been roe deer. We had a good turnout of 20. The weather was sunny and warm for the time of year.



Volunteer working on the dam

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Footnote

On Sunday 10 March, one of our volunteers visited Wykery Copse. The dam was holding about 3.5 inches of water, and 2 mallards had taken up residence.

12 March 2019

Ambarrow Court

The weather was not kind to us at Ambarrow: wet and windy from the start. We placed faggots in the pond to allow planting on top. Tree whips were planted around the edge of the pond: the ground was very difficult, full of bricks and pieces of masonry. This was probably demolition debris from the large house which used to be situated here. Some volunteers worked on cleaning benches and tables. Initially sandpaper was tried, but this was ineffective because of the wet surfaces, so later wire brushes were tried. Considering the unpleasantness of the weather, we had a reasonable turnout of 15 volunteers. Unfortunately, most volunteers left around 13:00 in the face of unrelenting cold and wet conditions.

Coming up next

19 March 2019

Lily Hill Park

Bird box building. Meet in the main (north) car park:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=488766&Y=169407&A=Y&Z=110>

26 March 2019

Popes Meadow

Pond clearance. Use the designated car park:

<http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=484437&Y=169922&A=Y&Z=110>

What's on

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Gaultheria removal at Savernake Park

Sunday 17 March 2019

start 10:15

Meet at Savernake Park car park

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk: "**Saving the Hazel Dormouse**" by Ian White of the People's Trust for Endangered Species

Recital Room, South Hill Park

Monday 18 March 2019

19:30 – 21:30

Cost for BFNHS members £1, visitors £3

See event poster:

<http://www.bfnathistsoc.org.uk/2019MarHazelDormouse.pdf>

Wildlife in Ascot

Blackmoor Stream conservation work

Friday 22 March 2019

14:00 – 16:00

Location TBC, volunteers are asked to e-mail ascot.wildlife@gmail.com

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

On-site mobile phone: **07986 707 448**

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