



Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Review of tasks performed 2019

BCV performed 50 tasks throughout 2019.

The first task was on 1/1/19 at Nine Mile Ride (Madingley). 11 volunteers attended.

A task at Shepherds Meadow on 11/6/19 was cancelled, because the meadow was waterlogged. Some of us met up for a walk at Shepherds Meadow that day: the meadow was in fact under water in some places.

The last task was on 17/12/19 at Edmunds Green/Lane.

Attendance

Average attendance at tasks in 2019 was 19.5, which is very encouraging.

The highest turnout for 2019 was 25 volunteers, on 8/1/19 at Westmorland Park, and on 17/12/19 at Westmorland Park/Edmunds Green/Lane.

Highest attendance for 2018 was 24 volunteers.

New volunteers

A total of 13 new volunteers attended tasks in 2019. Of these, 8 attended 1 task, and 2 attended at least 2 tasks.

Of the 13, 3 were corporate volunteers, who all attended only 1 task each (this is as would be expected for corporates).

2 new volunteers have become regular attendees. 1 attended regularly for some weeks, but has now moved to another area.

Sites

Most frequently visited sites were:

Westmorland Park/Hayley Green Woods	8 visits
Lily Hill Park	6 visits
Wildmoor Heath	4 visits
Long Hill Park	3 visits
Garth Meadows	3 visits
Bill Hill	2 visits
Cabbage Hill	2 visits
The Parks	2 visits
Ambarrow Court	2 visits
Wykery Copse	2 visits

Noteworthy incidents

Unfortunately 2 volunteers suffered injuries requiring attention in hospital, although both were discharged and are recovering well.

Support from residents

On a number of occasions we have received unprompted expressions of support and gratitude from local residents, which is very gratifying. At our task on 17/12/19 at Edmunds Green/Lane, a local resident joined our group for the day.

Unfortunately our task at Caesars Camp on 29/10/19 went down very badly with local residents in Northcott, who objected to our parking in their street. We may have to rethink parking for this site. It should be said that we were entirely within our rights.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on 4/6/19 at Lily Hill Park.

Least favourite task

12/3/19 saw us trying to plant trees at Ambarrow Court in unforgiving ground full of bricks in a cold and persistent rain. Most volunteers gave up before lunch time.

Activity day

Our activity this year was flint knapping at Lily Hill Park on 9/4/19. A good time was had by all, although flint knapping is harder than it looks.

Chairman's 20th anniversary

On 23/7/19 our chairman celebrated 20 years as a member of BCV with a meal and drinks at the Downshire Arms/Old Manor. Mr Chairman generously bought fish and chips for all comers.

Christmas

Our Christmas meal was on 17/12/19 at the Golden Retriever.

Wykery Copse

Some BCV volunteers have been carrying out extracurricular conservation work by building dams to improve water retention at Wykery Copse.

Post and rail fencing

Members of our group are engaged in a project to build post-and-rail fencing, using material sourced from Bracknell Forest sites and traditional techniques. The wood used is sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) which cleaves easily. Work on this project is continuing.