

# Burton Conservation Volunteers

## Task List 2015



[Ashby canal; providing hedgelaying training for Canal & Rivers Trust volunteers](#)



**Date** 4-1-15

**Place** Netherseal

**Task** Walk section of National Forest (NF) Way

**Volunteers** 14

**Results** An excellent 10 mile walk to Branston Water Park, starting off the New Year and continuing our sectional walk along the National Forest Way.

**Date** 11-1-15            S. Derbys        NF

**Place** Coton Park

**Task** Manage nature reserve

**Volunteers** 17+1

**Results** Mainly birch scrub in the meadow area was cut back and regrowth re-cut and the paths opened up.

**Date** 18-1-15            LDC        Staffs

**Place** Darnford Park

**Task** General management

**Volunteers** 15+1

**Results** A busy day, lots of general 'tidy up' jobs, crown lifting areas, stacking fallen/felled wood, and removing redundant tree guards.

**Date** 24-1-15

**Place** Uxbridge Arms

**Task** Christmas party

**Volunteers** lots

**Results** A cracking night, with a slide show of the last 21 years and a good buzz all night.

**Date** 25-1-15

**Place** Branston Water Park

**Task** Continue NF Way walk

**Volunteers** 14

**Results** A muddy but very successful 8 mile walk taking us up to Jacksons bank

**Date** 27-1-15        Notts

**Place** Idle Valley Notts. Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve

**Task** Coppice management course

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** A National Forest supported course with a chance to see how others are managing their reserves and learn from professional coppicers.

**Date** 31-1-15            E. Staffs        Staffs

**Place** 4 Oaks Farm, Hadley End

**Task** Coppice degraded hedge

**Volunteers** 9

**Results** First session on a 100 M farm hedge on the Needwood Plateau, just outside the National Forest boundary, that has overgrown into a line of trees and so no longer functioning as a hedge.

**Date** 1-2-15                    E. Staffs                    Staffs

**Place** 4 Oaks Farm, Hadley End

**Task** Coppice degraded hedge

**Volunteers** 15

**Results** Unseasonably fine weather continued and work to clear barbed wire was completed and wire returned for re-use. Slow going on the large stems, despite chainsaw, due to the tangled crown, two brush fires to cut down on dragging.

**Date** 4-2-15                    E. Staffs                    Staffs

**Place** 4 Oaks Farm, Hadley End

**Task** Coppice degraded hedge

**Volunteers** 7

**Results** Steady progress, fires still hot, logs loaded onto trailer, some whips planted.

**Date** 7-2-15

**Place** Globe Theatre

**Task** Social

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** A good performance of 'The Changeling' at the Sam Wanamaker Theatre, part of the Globe Theatre. A slight problem was that due to the size and steepness of the theatre, certain parts of the stage were out of sight. A good day out and well worth experiencing the theatre

**Date** 8-2-15

**Place** Allotment

**Task** General maintenance

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** Beds cleared and new ones dug, plus tidy of the tool store

**Date** 13-2-15                    E. Staffs                    Staffs

**Place** 4 Oaks Farm, Hadley End

**Task** Coppice degraded hedge

**Volunteers** 5

**Results** Steady progress in the rain, some whips planting started

**Date** 14-2-15                    LDC                    Staffs

**Place** Darnford Park

**Task** General maintenance and prep hedge for laying

**Volunteers** 4 + 6 + 1

**Results** Long walk to and from site took too much time, but lots of small jobs done and the last section of hedge cleared ready for the Sunday

**Date** 15-2-15                    LDC                    Staffs

**Place** Darnford Park

**Task** Lay hedge and general maintenance

**Volunteers** 12 + 4 + 1

**Results** Another fine day took the trailer over the park to the hedge, saving a lot of time. All the fence dismantled, and the last section of the hedge laid, all stakes and binders were coppiced from on the site, fence reassembled and all brash cleared, including from the ditch and stacked as habitat piles.

**Date** 18-2-15            NF Leics

**Place** Ashby Canal

**Task** Hedgelaying training for C&RT

**Volunteers** 6 + 7

**Results** A bit of a muddle at the start, then a very successful day with all aspects of hedgelaying covered

**Date** 20-2-15            E. Staffs            Staffs

**Place** 4 Oaks Farm, Hadley End

**Task** Coppice degraded hedge

**Volunteers** 5

**Results** Last of the tall stems felled, but still plenty of tidying up to do and the last bit of planting to finish, including some locally sourced seedlings.

**Date** 21-2-15            E. Staffs            Staffs NF

**Place** Bank Walk

**Task** Brush cut

**Volunteers** 4

**Results** Just a small team to prepare the site for a full work party the following day and so that we could use the brushcutter without lots of people on site.

**Date** 22-2-15            E. Staffs            Staffs NF

**Place** Bank Walk

**Task** Continue hedge planting

**Volunteers** 13 + 3 local

**Results** Phase 2 of the hedge planting completed and dense scrub opened up.

**Date** 25-2-15            NF            Leics

**Place** Coleorton Brook Ashby

**Task** Upgrade brook course

**Volunteers** 4 + 4 Siemens vols. + 1 TRT

**Results** An excellent local team to work with; a large area cut back and brash burnt on a fire. Some arisings were made into 'faggots' to be dug into the banks of the brook, to divert the flow and start a 'natural' reprofiling of the watercourse.

**Date** 26-2-15            E. Staffs            Staffs

**Place** 4 Oaks Farm, Hadley End

**Task** Coppice degraded hedge

**Volunteers** 6

**Results** A wet day making the banks slippery, despite this we completed the job, all whips planted and protected and the site cleared.

**Date** 1-3-15            E. Staffs            Staffs NF

**Place** Branston Leas

**Task** Plant trees and bluebells

**Volunteers** 15 + 2 + 1 SWT

**Results** A rough weather day, but we were still able to plant 300 tree whips, 2,000 bluebell bulbs and a number of fruit and Black Polar trees, on Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's newest nature reserve

**Date** 6-3-15            E. Staffs        Staffs    NF

**Place** Bank Walk

**Task** Finish planting

**Volunteers** 3

**Results** The last few whips that were left from the weekend were planted and it was a good opportunity to chat to locals and get very positive feedback about the project.

**Date** 6-3-15

**Place** Ashfield House

**Task** CVS Volunteer Awards

**Volunteers** 6

**Results** Richard Sanville won the IT award, for his creation of and work on the excellent BCV website.

**Date** 7-3-15    Staffs

**Place** Stoke University

**Task** Invertebrate Fair

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** An interesting day, with lots of useful information that will help to improve our work, when enhancing habitats. Good to see some new faces and renew some old acquaintances.

**Date** 8-3-15            NF        Leics

**Place** Coleorton Brook Ashby

**Task** Continue the improvement to the brook

**Volunteers** 15 + 2 TRT

**Results** Lots achieved all along the brook, coppicing and clearing areas, removing and recycling old fencing, making and installing more bank reprofiling faggots plus a load of litter cleared into the skip.

**Date** 14-3-15            E. Staffs        Staffs        NF

**Place** Burton Mail Centenary Wood

**Task** Promote the Defibrillator

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** Positive publicity all round

**Date** 15-3-15

**Place** Jacksons Bank

**Task** NF Way walk

**Volunteers** 9 (Mothers Day)

**Results** Another enjoyable 10 mile walk, with some fantastic wetlands as we completed the NF Way, finishing at the National Memorial Arboretum.

**Date** 19-3-15            NF        Leics

**Place** Coleorton Brook

**Task** Continue upgrade of site

**Volunteers** 4 + 6 + 1 TRT

**Results** Working with another group from a local firm, 2 benches were installed, large area of scrub cleared and burnt, more faggots were made and dug into the banks of the brook, to divert the waterflow, causing meanders to form.

**Date** 22-3-15  
**Place** Allotment  
**Task** Prep. for planting  
**Volunteers** 13  
**Results** A good dig over and last crops harvested

**Date** 29-3-15  
**Place** Allotment  
**Task** Prep for planting  
**Volunteers** 11  
**Results** Continuing the clearance and creating new beds

**Date** 5-4-15                    E. Staffs                    Staffs    NF  
**Place** Uppermill Farm  
**Task** Weed BCV plantings  
**Volunteers** 13  
**Results** An exceptional display of butterflies suggested that previous work was paying dividends. Weeded around and beat up the BCV planted fruit trees, continued work on restoring the entrance garden of the old farm, 3 bags of litter left by the bin for collection by others.

**Date** 19-4-15                    E. Staffs                    Staffs    NF  
**Place** Uppermill Farm  
**Task** Risk assessment walk for National Forest Walking Festival  
**Volunteers** 7  
**Results** An enjoyable and productive walk, with a new route following the river.

**Date** 26-4-15                    NF                    SDDC  
**Place** Appletree Meadows Etwell  
**Task** General management  
**Volunteers** 11 + 2 + 1 SDDC  
**Results** Opened up paths to 'lost' fruit trees and re-staked them and continued to open up and dredge the watercourses. One watercourse required the winch to remove a willow that was firmly rooted and blocking an outflow.

**Date** 2-5-15                    Lancs.  
**Place** Beaumont Collage Lancaster  
**Task** Upgrade wildlife area for special needs college  
**Volunteers** 8 + 2  
**Results** A variety of tasks carried out, to improve the nature area at a special needs college, inc. opening up around the pond scalloping areas of wild raspberry and clearing degenerate cherry trees.

**Date** 3-5-15                    Lancs.  
**Place** Beaumont Collage Lancaster  
**Task** Upgrade wildlife area for special needs college  
**Volunteers** 8 + 2  
**Results** Finished off jobs and opened up a path to a nature area.

**Date** 17-5-15

**Place** Alrewas

**Task** Cakes and Ale Walk

**Volunteers** 10

**Results** Start of a new walk, covering the first 10 miles to Castle Ring

**Date** 21-5-15

E. Staffs

Staffs NF

**Place** Dallow Lock

**Task** NF Walking Festival; 4 Parishes Walk

**Volunteers** 7

**Results** A new 6 mile walk well received all opted to do the extra optional mile.

**Date** 23-5-15

E. Staffs

Staffs NF

**Place** Uppermill Farm

**Task** NF Walking Festival; Washlands to Walton Walk

**Volunteers** 2 + 7

**Results** A lower turnout this year for our 12 mile walk nevertheless we had a good walk and visited Branston Leas, where Shaun gave a talk on the site.

**Date** 24-5-15

**Place** Allotment

**Task** General maintenance

**Volunteers** 9

**Results** A chance to tidy up and carry out some plantings

**Date** 25-5-15

Staffs

**Place** Wyevale Garden Centre Shenstone

**Task** Bank holiday wildlife 'expert'

**Volunteers** 1

**Results** A new venture, answering customers' questions on wildlife subjects

**Date** 27-5-15

**Place** Uppermill Farm

**Task** NF Walking Festival Walk; Reap What You Sow

**Volunteers** 2 + 5

**Results** A short walk, well received, highlighting a previous BCV project

**Date** 30-5-15

**Place** Globe Theatre

**Task** Social

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** An enjoyable day out; an excellent production of 'The Merchant of Venice'

**Date** 31-5-15

**Place** Allotment

**Task** General maintenance

**Volunteers** 10

**Results** A chance to do some general work, cutting back weeds on spare areas for the general good and clearing paths in the orchard...

**Date** 4-6-15

**Place** Cottage Tavern

**Task** AGM

**Volunteers** 14

**Results** Not so many as usual, but a good social to celebrate the groups achievements.

**Date** 6-6-15 Derby

**Place** Chellaston

**Task** Construct boardwalk

**Volunteers** 5 + 2 'Friends group' + 2 DCC

**Results** Our first days work for Derby City Council, building a boardwalk on a steep muddy bank, as part of converting a capped tip, to a local nature reserve.

**Date** 7-6-15 Derby

**Place** Chellaston

**Task** Construct boardwalk

**Volunteers** 12 + 2 FG + 2 DCC

**Results** Lots of general cutting back as well as completing the boardwalk frame.

**Date** 9-6-15 Derby

**Place** Chellaston

**Task** Construct boardwalk

**Volunteers** 2 + 2 FG + 2 DCC

**Results** Completed the job, still fine 6months later, good local feedback

**Date** 12-21-6-15

**Place** Drybrook, Forest of Dean

**Task** Camping week

**Volunteers** Lots, some coming or going throughout

**Results** A good social and some excellent walks and visits to Broome Farm.

**Date** 26-6-15 E. Staffs Staffs NF

**Place** Kingfisher Trail

**Task** Install Willow sculptures

**Volunteers** 3 + 16 de Ferrers School + Mayor

**Results** A lovely project, working with BCV, de Ferrers School supported their Arts students, making 7 willow sculptures, that BCV installed along the Kingfisher Trail

**Date** 28-6-15 NF Leics

**Place** Measham

**Task** Himalayan Balsam clearance for TRT

**Volunteers** 9

**Results** A good start on a on a badly infested new section of the river Mease

**Date** 5-7-15 NF Leics

**Place** Measham

**Task** Himalayan Balsam clearance

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** Loads cleared, but too much to clear in 2 sessions, so we also did some experimental cuts, to see if Balsam control can become more effective in the future.



**Date** 11-7-15  
**Place** Stretton village hall      **Staffs** **E. Staffs**  
**Task** Promotional stall  
**Volunteers** 1  
**Results** A positive day and some potential contacts.

**Date** 12-7-15  
**Place** Allotment  
**Task** General work  
**Volunteers** 8  
**Results** Looking good despite early slug problems.

**Date** 19-7-15              **NF**      **SDDC**  
**Place** Coton Park  
**Task** General maintenance  
**Volunteers** 13 + 1 SDDC  
**Results** Lots of different tasks cutting back meadow path and starting high path

**Date** 21-7-15              **E. Staffs**      **Staffs** **NF**  
**Place** Bank Walk  
**Task** Balsam clear  
**Volunteers** 2  
**Results** Found a couple of hidden pockets of balsam, so well worth going back.

**Date** 26-7-15              **NF**      **SDDC**  
**Place** Coton Park  
**Task** General maintenance  
**Volunteers** 13 + 1 SDDC  
**Results** We continued the path clearance and post installation; sleeper bridge installed, but needs handrail. Gate area cut back and crownlifted.

**Date** 30-7-15  
**Place** Markeaton Park Derby  
**Task** Oddsocks play  
**Volunteers** 10  
**Results** A very good play and social night out

**Date** 2-8-15  
**Place** Castle Ring  
**Task** Cakes and Ale Walk  
**Volunteers** 8  
**Results** the second (10.5 miles) section to Penkridge

**Date** 9-8-15  
**Place** London  
**Task** Social  
**Volunteers** 12  
**Results** A good day out and a chance for people to do their own thing.

**Date** 15-8-15            E. Staffs            Staffs    NF

**Place** Uppermill Farm

**Task** Lead walk for Lichfield Wildlife Group

**Volunteers** 1 + 17

**Results** The 'Woodlands and Washlands' walk was well received and a chance to display BCV projects and to encourage people to appreciate walks on their 'doorstep'

**Date** 16-8-15

**Place** Allotment

**Task** Sort and prepare the tool store container for painting

**Volunteers** 15

**Results** A good start on a major job now that the container is officially ours.

**Date** 22-8-15            E. Staffs            Staffs    NF

**Place** Branston Leas

**Task** Support B&DWG walk

**Volunteers** 5 +12

**Results** An informative day, good contacts made and a chance to comment on the future site management

**Date** 23-8-15

**Place** Penkridge

**Task** Cakes and Ale Walk

**Volunteers** 13

**Results** Another successful 8 mile section of the walk, despite a wet finish.

**Date** 30-8-15            E. Staffs            Staffs    NF

**Place** Bank Walk Horninglow

**Task** Weed and prep. for Phase 2

**Volunteers** 14 inc. 2 x D of Ed

**Results** Start of Phase 2, funded by a £2K donation from The Co-op, general tidy and weed last phase. Good to see how successful the earlier BCV plantings have been.

**Date** 6-9-15            NF            SDDC

**Place** Coton Park

**Task** General maintenance

**Volunteers** 15 + 1 SDDC inc. 2 x D of Ed

**Results**

Lots of bits tidied up, all way markers installed, once we found the short cut to the old BCV installed bridge, we were able to establish a maintenance path to it.

**Date** 13-9-15            E. Staffs            Staffs    NF

**Place** Bank Walk

**Task** Continue Phase 2 prep.

**Volunteers** 14 inc. 2 x D of Ed

**Results** Finished weeding the BCV hedge, cleared 100M of brook (found even more Balsam) and a large area of bramble and scrub cleared, leaving plenty as continuous habitat and opening up around trees from a previous local project.

**Date** 27-9-15

**Place** Allotment

**Task** Continue painting

**Volunteers** 10

**Results** Good progress with the painting, despite having to clear bramble and piles of soil from alongside the fence, so that we could reach through to paint the container. Others tidied up and found plenty of veg. to harvest.

**Date** 4-10-15 **Staffs** SCCC

**Place** Norton Bog Chasewater

**Task** Clear scrub from heathland SSSI

**Volunteers** 14 inc. 1 D of Ed

**Results** Good start on a new site, clearing scrub and stump treating using sealed, sponge applicators, with low concentration and a blue dye.

**Date** 8-10-15 **E. Staffs** **Staffs** NF

**Place** Horninglow Green and Bank Walk

**Task** Plant trees on the Green and clear Bank Walk

**Volunteers** 1 + 8 Molson Coors

**Results** A good team looking for a positive project, helped to plant 2 standard trees with metal guards on a local green and then help on Bank Walk.

**Date** 11-10-15 **Staffs** SCC

**Place** Norton Bog Chasewater

**Task** Clear scrub from heathland SSSI

**Volunteers** 12 + 1 Friend of Norton Bog

**Results** Good steady progress made as most people knew what to do, big difference made.

**Date** 17-10-15

**Place** Broome Farm nr. Ross-on-Wye

**Task** Coppice old hazel hedge

**Volunteers** 14

**Results** A very overgrown hedge, requiring steady dismantling, due to the tangled nature of the canopy. Steady work all day with a fire to burn brash, some useful material stacked for potential craft work, rest cut for firewood.

**Date** 18-10-15

**Place** Broome Farm nr. Ross-on-Wye

**Task** Coppice old hazel hedge

**Volunteers** 15

**Results** We continued where we left off, but leaving large stems for Mike the farmer to fell later with his chainsaw. The hedgeline was completed and the light flooded into the orchard behind the hedge.

**Date** 22-10-15 **Staffs**

**Place** Churnet Valley RSPB reserve

**Task** Phase 1 habitat survey training

**Volunteers** 3

**Results** A very technical presentation, but worth attending and lots learned

**Date** 25-10-15

**Place** Allotment

**Task** MAD day and finish painting

**Volunteers** 13

**Results** A little bit left, but rain stopped play after the barbeque and traditional MAD day pumpkin soup. Beds were cleared and dug over and minor tool repairs done.

**Date** 1-11-15 **Staffs** SCC

**Place** Nr. Sailing Club Chasewater

**Task** Clear scrub from heathland SSSI

**Volunteers** 14 inc. 1 D of Ed

**Results** A new site, so shrouded in mist, it took ½ hour to locate the work area, which was very bumpy due to tussocky grasses and sedges. Within another ½ hour the sun was out and everyone was stripping off layers! Clear and dab scrub like Norton Bog and a good start made

**Date** 8-11-15 **Staffs** SCC

**Place** Nr. Sailing Club Chasewater

**Task** Clear scrub from heathland SSSI

**Volunteers** 15 inc. 1 D of Ed + 1 F of NB

**Results** An excellent days work with a startling difference to the site.

**Date** 14-11-15 **NF** **Leics**

**Place** Conkers

**Task** Management planning software training

**Volunteers** 1

**Results** A course sponsored by the National Forest Co. introducing a new software designed to facilitate producing management plans for new and existing woodlands, particularly useful for Forest Schools.

**Date** 15-11-15 **Staffs** LDC

**Place** Warf Lane Chasewater

**Task** Clear scrub from heathland SSSI

**Volunteers** 11 + 4 CPCG + 1 LDC

**Results** Good to be back on this site and see that our work, on previous visits to the area, have had a positive effect. The fire was already started by CPCG volunteers, so we were able to clear 2 large areas of scrub as well as crownlifting a few significant trees, to enhance the overall site. Lots of litter cleared

**Date** 22-11-15 **Staffs** LDC

**Place** Warf Lane

**Task** Clear scrub from heathland SSSI

**Volunteers** 10 + 7 CPCG + 2 LDC

**Results** 2 fires going to minimise the distance to drag brash, work continued from last week and went so well a new section was started. As a new experiment, some oaks and birch were felled at 6-7' high and then ring-barked, to provide extra habitat as standing deadwood.

**Date** 28-11-15      **Leics**

**Place** Victoria Park, Leicester

**Task** Take part in Climate Change march

**Volunteers** 8

**Results** Our first joint venture with Friends of the Earth, on a chilly and windy day. Took the minibus to minimise our carbon footprint and good contacts were made, as well as supporting an important cause.

**Date** 6-12-15      **NF**      **SDDC**

**Place** Appletree Meadows

**Task** General maintenance

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** A bit of a mix up so no locals, so we saved the hedgelaying until later. Bridge repaired, 3 sections of watercourse opened up and paths cut back,

**Date** 12-12-15

**Place** London

**Task** Social and last minute present buying

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** Another good day out and a chance to visit different places for interest and shopping.

**Date** 27-12-15      **E. Staffs**      **Staffs**      **NF**

**Place** Uppermill Farm

**Task** Lead walk for Burton Rotary

**Volunteers** 1 + 20

**Results** A walk for Rotarians to see the benches, that they sponsored some years ago, still in situ and the grazing project still working well. Excellent hospitality afterwards



Watch this space as the reserve develops! Early days of planting on a new SWT nature reserve at Branston Leas on a windy day