

# Burton Conservation Volunteers

## Task List 2016



[Kings Bromley Warf; providing hedgelaying training for CRT volunteers](#)

**Date** 3-1-16

**Place**

**Task** Walk

**Volunteers**

**Results** Cancelled due to bad weather

**Date** 9-1-16

**Place** Whistledown Wood

S Derbys

NF

**Task** Advisory survey

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** An interesting developing site, we did a walkover survey with committee members and then submitted a report with recommendations.

**Date** 10-1-16

**Place** Bank Walk Horninglow

E. Staffs

NF

**Task** Weed BCV planted hedge and start phase 2

**Volunteers** 13

**Results** Hedge doing fine, so 'Bee World' areas grubbed over and long stretches of the channel cleared.

**Date** 22-1-16

**Place** Uxbridge Arms

**Task** Xmas Party

**Volunteers** lots

**Results** A good evening with lots of people attending and enjoying the buffet and chance to get together.

**Date** 24-1-16

**Place** Kings Bromley wharf

Staffs

**Task** Prep hedge for two day hedgelaying training course for Canal & Rivers Trust

**Volunteers** 20 inc. 1 D of Ed

**Results** We mainly concentrated on prepping the hedge (100M) for the training courses, but a couple of new vols. wanted to learn, so they had a chance at laying. We sourced plenty of stakes etc. from the hedge, to supplement those provided by CRT

**Date** 25-1-16

**Place** Kings Bromley wharf

Staffs

**Task** Hedgelaying training course for Canal & Rivers Trust (CRT)

**Volunteers** 5 x BCV + 12 x CRT

**Results** High proportion of well supervised special needs, so lucky we had trimmed and prepared plenty of the hedge. All aspects of hedging covered and 40M completed. Welfare truck was a big help.

**Date** 26-1-16

Staffs

**Place** Kings Bromley wharf

**Task** Hedgelaying training course for Canal & Rivers Trust

**Volunteers** 5 x BCV + 5 x CRT

**Results** A positive day most sections completed recommended CRT to beat up with whips, surplus material stacked for collection by CRT

**Date** 27-1-16

**Place** Branston Leas LNR

Staffs NF

**Task** Site survey

**Volunteers** 1 x SWT 1 x BSBI, 1 x BCV

**Results** Important data collected and shared

**Date** 28-1-16

**Place** Derby

**Task** Theatre

**Volunteers** 8

**Results** A good social night

**Date** 30-1-16

**Place** Branston Leas LNR

Staffs NF

**Task** Plant bluebells with SWT

**Volunteers** 4 BCV attended

**Results** A good mornings work and a chance to do a quick wildflower survey of the site afterwards.

**Date** 31-1-16

**Place** Bank Walk

Staffs NF

**Task** Continue creating a wildlife area

**Volunteers** 13

**Results** Wet weather limited work on muddy ground, to' we were able to rotavate the 'Bee World' site and the warm wet weather require a hedge weeding. Volunteers were at last starting to see a positive change, rather than just 'catching up'.

**Date** 14-2-16

**Place** Branston Water Park (BWP)

Staffs NF

**Task** Reedbed management in the SBI

**Volunteers** 15 BCV + 3 CPO + 1 supervisor

**Results** Water levels worryingly low, probably due to pumping at the adjacent gravel pit. Loads of scrub to fell as the reedbeds have been neglected for some time. A team from Community Payback were encouraged to join us and got a lot out of the work.

**Date** 20-2-16

**Place** Birmingham

**Task** Friends of the Earth Conference

**Volunteers** 3

**Results** Having recently affiliated with FoE it was good to meet people and tell them what we do, so that we can see where we can effectively work together

**Date** 21-2-16

**Place** Appletree Meadow Etwall

S. Derbys.

**Task** Lay hedge and maintain wildlife site

**Volunteers** 14 BCV (inc.1 D of Ed) + 1 local + 1 SDDC

**Results** A section of hedge alongside the cycle track was laid making a good entrance feature, a French drain was installed across a wet path, plus general maintenance

**Date** 28-2-16

**Place** Burbage Common Hinckley SSI

Leics

**Task** Coppice wood and lay hedge

**Volunteers** 15 BCV + 3 local

**Results** Working with local volunteers to try to set up a local group that can continue in the future. Around 30 M of rough hedge laid 'scallops' created alongside the path.

**Date** 5-3-16

**Place** Burton Washlands

Staffs NF

**Task** Litter pick

**Volunteers** 2 plus lots of locals to assist ESBC initiative

**Results** A large area cleaned up and also highlighting problems to other orgs.

**Date** 13-3-16

**Place** Branston Water Park

Staffs NF

**Task** Reedbed management in the SBI

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** Good steady progress, with lots of birch and willow felled and stacked as habitat piles. There was evidence that CPO are continuing as well, so we contacted them to say no more until nesting is over, though there is lots still to be done

**Date** 27-3-16

**Place** Barton Blount Hall

S. Derbys

**Task** Create potential 'Therapy Area' by restoring garden and coppice areas

**Volunteers** 16 BCV + 1 local

**Results** A 'Capability Brown' landscape, so care needed. Sections of watercourse cleared, a number of hazels were coppiced and also layered to give future regen material. A number of existing mature apple trees were cleared of ivy and lightly pruned. A further team cleared a large amount of non-native species in the woodland.

**Date** 8-4-16

**Place** Bank Walk

Staffs NF

**Task** Plant fruit trees and beat up hedge

**Volunteers** 1

**Results** a mix of 6 apple and pear trees planted and protected as part of a Co-op grant

**Date** 13-4-16

**Place** Allotment tool store

Staffs NF

**Task** Tool inventory

**Volunteers** 4

**Results** An important job done enabling us to assess tool requirements and repairs and also some important planting and clearance on the allotment.

**Date** 23-4-16

**Place** Globe Theatre London

**Task** Cultural/social day

**Volunteers** A mixed group

**Results** An excellent day out

**Date** 24-4-16

**Place** Washlands

Staffs NF

**Task** RA walk wash to Walton

**Volunteers** 5

**Results** An enjoyable walk and important RA

**Date** 29-4-16

**Place** Beaumont College Lancaster

Lancs

**Task** Upgrade special needs college nature area

**Volunteers** 6 x BCV + 6 x Staff

**Results** Good staff support meant that all the planned tasks were completed on the first day, which was fortunate, as the Sunday was a write-off due to bad weather. Work included defining a woodland path, creating a 'maze' through dense bramble areas and scalloping areas of wild raspberry to give more edge.

**Date** 14-5-16 to 26-5-16

**Place** Various

**Task** National Forest walking Festival

**Volunteers**

**Results** BCV organised 3 walks and were heavily involved in 4 others, some of which highlighted previous BCV work

**Date** 22-5-16  
**Place** Bank Walk Staffs NF  
**Task** Continue developing the site and clearing Himalayan Balsam  
**Volunteers** 9  
**Results** Not much Balsam evident, but watercourse cleared for later flowerings

**Date** 29-5-16  
**Place** Barton Blount Hall S. Derbys  
**Task** De-silt watercourse and cut back Rhododendron  
**Volunteers** 15 inc. 1 D of Ed  
**Results** A large section of watercourse cleared and dug out laurel stumps from last time were winched out and coppiced hazels (doing well) cleared

**Date** 2-6-16  
**Place**  
**Task** AGM  
**Volunteers** 12  
**Results**

**Date** 3 to 5-6-16  
**Place** Castleton Derbys.  
**Task** Friends of the Earth conference  
**Volunteers** 3  
**Results** A very interesting and informative weekend camping and good contacts made

**Date** 10 to 19-6-16  
**Place** Red Bank Farm  
**Task** Camping holiday  
**Volunteers** 6  
**Results** A smaller than usual group tho' we still had an interesting week round the Lancaster area

**Date** 23-6-16  
**Place** All Saints Church Staffs NF  
**Task** Recruiting evening for iTrees project  
**Volunteers** 2 x BCV + 15 others  
**Results** Groups recruited for iTrees, a tree survey project in Burton

**Date** 26-6-16  
**Place** Bank Walk Staffs NF  
**Task** Weed BCV hedge and gen maintenance  
**Volunteers** 12 inc. 1 D of Ed  
**Results** Lots of weeds due to warm weather, tho' little H Balsam

**Date** 29-6-16  
**Place** Brewhouse  
**Task** Civic Soc. Awards  
**Volunteers** 2  
**Results** A commendation for the ongoing Bank Walk project

**Date** 2-7-16

**Place** Branston Leas LNR

**Task** Assist with SWT walk

Staffs NF

**Volunteers** 2 x BCV + 14 others

**Results** A lovely morning walk and a good awareness raising about the site

**Date** 2-7-16

**Place** Stretton

Staffs NF

**Task** BCV promotional stall

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** Bit of a rush to get set up after the walk, positive feedback and contacts

**Date** 17-7-16

**Place** Haunton Grange by the River Mease SAC

Staffs NF

**Task** Clear Himalayan Balsam from SAC area

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** A hot and humid day, lots cleared, but a mammoth task remaining

**Date** 22-7-16

**Place** Bank Walk

Staffs NF

**Task** Work with de Ferrers school students

**Volunteers** 3 x BCV + 6 students + 2 teachers

**Results** A good working session introducing students and staff to the project

**Date** 22-7-16

**Place** Derby

**Task** Oddssocks outdoor theatre trip

**Volunteers** Minibus load

**Results** An excellent and fun social night out

**Date** 24-7-16

**Place** Haunton Grange by the River Mease SAC

Staffs

**Task** Clear Himalayan Balsam from SAC area

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** A huge task floods had flattened but not killed the HB so new techniques were developed, to deal with the dense mats of HB that had formed

**Date** 28-7-16

**Place** All Saints Church

Staffs NF

**Task** iTrees training day

**Volunteers** 3 BCV + 18 mixed

**Results** An excellent 6 hour training day in procedures for the project

**Date** 30-7-16

**Place** home

Staffs NF

**Task** train extra iTrees volunteer

**Volunteers** 1

**Results** good day and helped reinforce what I had recently learned.

**Date** 31-7-16  
**Place** Measham alongside the River Mease SAC Leics. NF  
**Task** HB clearance  
**Volunteers** 11  
**Results** Areas that we cleared last year were not too bad, but still loads to clear, last week's techniques to counter flood flattening worked well again

**Date** 7-8-16  
**Place** Coton Park LNR S. Derbys NF  
**Task** general maintenance and install sleeper bridge  
**Volunteers** 15  
**Results** Lots of different jobs done bridge installed and saw a kingfisher plus lots of dragonflies

**Date** 8-8-16  
**Place** Greenwood Days nr Staunton Harold S. Derbys NF  
**Task** Scything course  
**Volunteers** 1  
**Results** A very interesting course, there is more than you would think to scything properly and maintaining the scythe

**Date** 14-8-16  
**Place** Coton Park LNR S. Derbys NF  
**Task** Finish the bridge and steps and install a stile  
**Volunteers** 12  
**Results** Concentrated on the structures all completed inc. steps to the bridge

**Date** 6-9-16  
**Place** RSPB Churnet Valley Reserve Staffs  
**Task** Woody debris and stream rehab course; Tutor Nick Mott SWT  
**Volunteers** 2  
**Results** A fascinating course on 'soft' methods of flood control.

**Date** 11-9-16  
**Place** Coton Park LNR S. Derbys NF  
**Task** Various maintenance tasks  
**Volunteers** 12  
**Results** Lots of important small tasks caught up on. Bridge repaired and paths cleared

**Date** 14-9-16  
**Place** Barton village hall Staffs NF  
**Task** Promotional talk  
**Volunteers** 1  
**Results** A well received talk highlighting 23 years of BCV work

**Date** 12-9-16  
**Place** Various Staffs NF  
**Task** iTrees survey quality checks  
**Volunteers** 1+1  
**Results** A good start, but it will take a few sessions to complete

**Date** 17-9-16  
**Place** Various Staffs NF  
**Task** iTrees survey quality checks  
**Volunteers** 1+1  
**Results** Steady progress Vicki and I work well as team

**Date** 18-9-16  
**Place** Burbage common Hinckley SSSI Leics.  
**Task** Maintain an existing pond  
**Volunteers** 15 BCV + 2 local  
**Results** A large area of water was opened up, improving the pond as habitat for dragonflies and creating pond dipping areas for children's events/school visits.

**Date** 25-9-16  
**Place** Norton Bog Chasewater SSSI Staffs  
**Task** Heathland restoration  
**Volunteers** 9  
**Results** Low turnout for us, but lots of scrub cleared, apparently the wrong trees, they had been marked for contractors, so the site manager was impressed with what was achieved with hand tools

**Date** 26-9-16  
**Place** Various Staffs  
**Task** iTrees survey quality checks  
**Volunteers** 1+1  
**Results** Steady progress one more session needed as we had difficulty gaining access to a school site that then proved to be a 'challenge' due to dense tree cover.

**Date** 29-9-16  
**Place** BWP Staffs NF  
**Task** Reedbed management in the SBI  
**Volunteers** 2 x BCV + 10 x Molson Coors  
**Results** Following a successful corporate volunteer day last year, the same team were keen to repeat it, plenty of enthusiasm and plenty of scrub cleared.

**Date** 1-10-16  
**Place** Globe Theatre London  
**Task** Social theatre visit  
**Volunteers** mixed  
**Results** A fabulous performance of 'Imogene' (an update of Cymbeline) and a good day out in London

**Date** 2-10-16  
**Place** Bank Walk Staffs NF  
**Task** Continue maintenance and seed 'Bee World' area  
**Volunteers** 8 BCV inc. 2 x D of Ed + 1 local  
**Results** 'Bee world' rotavated and seeded, general maintenance and great display of Red Admiral butterflies, to reinforce the validity of what we have been doing. A wooden plaque was not available on the day, so it was installed later.



**Date** 3-10-16

**Place** Various

Staffs NF

**Task** Finish iTrees quality checks

**Volunteers** 1+1

**Results** A good day and the final check done

**Date** 5-10-16

**Place** Shine special school Mickleover

S. Derbys

**Task** Design and build a safe play area

**Volunteers** 3 BCV + 1 Shine

**Results** A good start made on an enclosed quadrangle, winding paths set out and de-turfed, some Astroturf off-cuts made a good surface as an experiment. Area for sandpit levelled using spare turf, also mounds to guide path users and 'break up' an otherwise bare grassed area. Instructions left to finish off.

**Date** 7/9-10-16

**Place** Broome Farm Hereford

Herefordshire

**Task** Willow coppice

**Volunteers** 13 x 2

**Results** Lots of overdue willow pollarding done around the site, unfortunately my attempts at a willow sculpture were frustrated as it was crack willow. Excellent hospitality and cider as usual

**Date** 16-10-16

**Place** Norton Bog Chasewater SSSI

Staffs

**Task** Heathland restoration

**Volunteers** 13

**Results** A lovely site, deer rutting areas and woolly milk cap fungus, loads cleared.

**Date** 21-10-16

**Place** Hilton hotel St Georges Park

Staffs NF

**Task** State of Nature in Staffordshire Report

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** An interesting presentation by SWT and important for BCV to be aware of what is happening and how to react.

**Date** 23-10-16

**Place** BWP Reedbed SBI

Staffs NF

**Task** Reedbed management

**Volunteers** 15 inc 2 D of Ed

**Results** We are making inroads into the scrub most now small to medium trees.

**Date** 30-10-16

**Place** Beacon Park Lichfield

Staffs

**Task** Lay hedge with local volunteers

**Volunteers** 12 BCV + 6 Local

**Results** A good start on a difficult hedge and a good group to work with. Steady progress and a section staked and bound before we left. Pumpkin soup and apple pie with ingredients from the allotments as it was MAD day.

**Date** 6-11-16

**Place** Beacon Park

Staffs

**Task** Continue hedgelaying

**Volunteers** 12 BCV + 7 local

**Results** We finished the hedge and although due to it being so degraded, it did not look 'classic' it was massively improved. Great group to work with

**Date** 13-11-16

**Place** BWP reedbeds SBI

Staffs NF

**Task** Reedbed management

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** Lovely day, started with tidying loose ends from last time, then continued felling. Some trunks cut at stake height ring-barked and used as ready fixed posts

**Date** 20-11-16

**Place** Burbage Common Hinckley SSSI

Leics

**Task** Heathland management

**Volunteers** 11 BCV + 2 local

**Results** An acid grassland part of the site, so clearing and burning mainly gorse, but some other small trees

**Date** 26-11-16

**Place** Branston Leas LNR

Staffs NF

**Task** Bluebell planting

**Volunteers** 3 BCV and loads of others

**Results** Two thousand bluebells planted in a short time due to an excellent turnout by the Ahmadiyya community, who also provided delicious hot snacks

**Date** 27-11-16

**Place** Norton Bog Chasewater SSSI

Staffs

**Task** Heathland management

**Volunteers** 13

**Results** Two areas of newly recorded heath de-scrubbed and significant areas of what we believe to be Chaseberry opened up. Arisings made into compact habitat piles and the area looked like a proper Heath when we left

**Date** 4-12-16

**Place** Warf Lane Chasewater SSSI

Staffs

**Task** Heathland management

**Volunteers** 11 BCV + 6 local

**Results** An LDC site, so lots of scrub cut and they like to burn; up till 2pm then fire allowed to burn out safely, a noticeable improvement to the site

**Date** 11-12-16

**Place** Norton Bog Chasewater SSSI

Staffs

**Task** Heathland management

**Volunteers** 11 BCV + 1 local

**Results** two areas inc. the one we should cleared 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. comprehensively cleared, brush piles concealed to avoid arson. Allotment grown pumpkin soup and apple pie and as it was Christmas mince pies

**Date** 12-12-16

**Place** Bank Walk

Staffs NF

**Task** Maintain and beat up hedge, open up watercourse

**Volunteers** 2 BCV + 7 Kerry Foods

**Results** A keen team from Kerry Foods out for the first time with us. The evergreen hedge was beaten up with whips purchased with a donation from the Oddfellows and a long stretch of watercourse cutback and cleared.

**Thanks to everyone who has helped out with a varied calendar of work, over the year, through good and bad weather and making it a pleasure to work together**



Watch this space! Early days of a new SWT nature reserve at Branston Leas

