

Burton Conservation Volunteers

Task List 2017



[Burning brush from coppice at Burbage Common after sorting useful material](#)

Date 8-1-17

NF

Leics

Place Staunton Harold to Breedon-on-the-Hill

Task Seven-mile circular walk

Volunteers 13

Results An excellent walk on a clear fine day, with a choice of café or pub at lunchtime

Date 15-1-17

SCC Staffs

Place Chasewater

Task Heathland management

Volunteers 18 inc. 2 D of E

Results Working on the old trotting track, to clear scrub from a recently discovered heathland remnant. V wet, so tarp shelter rigged up for lunch.

Date 22-1-17

H&BDC

Leics

Place Burbage Common, Hinkley

Task Hedgelay and coppice.

Volunteers 13 x BCV, 2+1 local = 16

Results A late start, due to my map-reading, so we concentrated on coppicing, lots of good material produced and rest burned. Good public feedback.

Date 29-1-17 NF ESBC Staffs
Place Branston Water Park
Task Reedbed management
Volunteers 15 inc. 3 D of E
Results The bank by the VC, created by BCV in 2004, was coppiced and a large area of reedbed cleared of scrub, habitat piles made using standing and lying deadwood.

Date 4-2-17 Staffs
Place Little Forest a developing woodland teaching resource
Task Site survey
Volunteers 2
Results A basic wildlife and site survey, to help write the management plan for LF as part of its development and as part of Patricks master's degree.

Date 5-2-17 SDDC Derbys.
Place Repton
Task Lay boundary Hedge
Volunteers 14
Results A badly overgrown hedge, in desperate need of management, good start, brash stacked by hedge for chipping by others

Date 11-2-17 Staffs
Place Bridge Brewery
Task Xmas party
Volunteers Lots
Results A successful celebration, the buffet and skittles, were a perfect combination for getting people to mix.

Date 12-2-17 SDDC Derbys.
Place Repton
Task Finish hedge
Volunteers 18
Results Site a bit crowded, and cold and wet, so put up big tent for lunch, some vols pruning community plantings and cutting back alongside the brook. Large trunks, so lots of axe work, the beat up with quicks. Looked good when finished

Date 15-2-17 NF Staffs
Place Trinity, George St Burton
Task Wildlife talk
Volunteers 1 + 1 SWT
Results A double act with Shaun Rimmer from SWT, giving a talk to the Civic Society, about Branston Leas and the wonderful Washlands Walk out there

Date 18-2-17 NF SWT Staffs
Place Branston Leas
Task Assist SWT tree planting
Volunteers 4 plus lots of locals
Results A successful planting not counting in the volunteer total as it was an SWT event, on the developing Branston Leas Nature Reserve

Date 19-2-17 NF ESBC Staffs
Place Branston Water Park
Task Reedbed management
Volunteers 18 inc. 3 D of E
Results Continuing the scrub clearance in the reedbed SBI

Date 24-2-17 NF Staffs
Place St Johns Ambulance
Task First Aid training
Volunteers 4
Results 4 successful candidates, keeping a good ratio of 1st aiders in the group

Date 26-2-17 SCC Staffs
Place Chasewater
Task Heathland management
Volunteers 18 inc. 1 D of E
Results Large area of scrub cleared, despite wet, muddy conditions. Good patches of heather recorded and signs of fallow deer.

Date 5-3-17 NF TRT Leics
Place Ashby Leisure Centre
Task Tidy and enhance Gilwiskaw Brook
Volunteers 10 BCV inc. 1 D of E + 1 local + 1 TRT = 12
Results First half of the bank cleared and litter picked, filling a skip. Footpath cleared

Date 6-3-17 Staffs
Place Little Forest
Task Prep for open day
Volunteers 2
Results Clear and open up paths and crown lift, visibility splay improved for minibus.

Date 7-3-17 Staffs
Place Little Forest
Task Prep for open day
Volunteers 2
Results Brushcut the parking area, bays for displays etc. prepped.

Date 8-3-17 Staffs
Place Little Forest
Task Open day
Volunteers 3 + visitors and Sherrats Wood bus team
Results A successful day, with Fairtrade refreshments, lots of interest shown in the new woodland teaching area project.

Date 11-3-17
Place Birmingham
Task Attend F o E Conference
Volunteers 4
Results Good to keep up to date with what is going on and stay involved.

Date 12-3-17 NF TRT Leics.
Place Rear Ashby Leisure Centre
Task Continue work on Gilwiskaw
Volunteers 16 BCV inc. 3 D of E, 2 local (under16) +1 TRT = 19
Results Continued with brook clearance (met with locals to reassure them that it would be sensitive) planted oak standards along the banks, further reassuring locals, and filled another skip with litter and rubble from the brook.

Date 19-3-17 H&BCD Leics
Place Burbage Common Hinkley
Task Replace rotten fence
Volunteers 11 BCV, 2 local + 1 H&BBC = 14
Results 65M of fence and kissing gate replaced and hedge cutback, good feedback.

Date 12-4-17 NF ESBC Staffs
Place Morrisons Supermarket
Task Assist with ESBC community 'Spring clean'
Volunteers 3 inc. 1 D of E
Results Again not a BCV project, but a significant input, particularly through providing contacts with the local Ahmadiyya community. Lots of litter collected.

Date 16-4-17 NF SWT Staffs
Place Branston Leas
Task Assist with SWT small mammal survey
Volunteers 3
Results A fascinating walk and some valuable data, not counted as vol numbers.

Date 19-4-7 NF TRT Leics.
Place Ashby Leisure Centre
Task Install benches and interp. boards
Volunteers 4 BCV inc. 1 D of E + 1 TRT = 5
Results 2 benches and 1 interp board installed, plug plants and seeding of realigned brook course, gen tidy up of paths etc.

Date 23-4-7 Derbys.
Place Barton Blount Hall
Task Open up choked watercourse
Volunteers 10
Results A very overgrown watercourse in a Capability Brown landscape. Some cutback along the brook and others started de-silting between the ornamental bridges.

Date 30-4-7 Derbys.
Place Barton Blount Hall
Task Continue watercourse work
Volunteers 16 inc. 2 D of E
Results Brook vegetation clearance completed, a block of wild raspberry was brushcut, giving access to some rhododendron, in need of cutting back, de-silting showed a potential silt trap system, that could be utilised to avoid future build-up.

Date 1-5-17 NF Staffs
Place Yoxall Lodge
Task Promotional stand
Volunteers 3
Results A positive day, lots of interest

Date 13-5-17 NF Derbys.
Place Coton in the Elms
Task ‘Coton and Mease Valley’ walk 9 miles; NFWF
Volunteers 2
Results A successful walk, well supported and a boost to a local pub.

Date 17-5-17 NF Staffs
Place Washlands
Task ‘Reap What You Sow’ nature walk 1½ miles; NFWF
Volunteers 1
Results A very wet walk, to look at a previous BCV project

Date 20-5-17 NF Staffs
Place Washlands
Task ‘Washlands to Walton’ walk 12 miles; NFWF
Volunteers 5
Results A popular regular BCV walk well attended

Date 23-5-17 NF Staffs
Place Shobnall Fields
Task ‘4 Parishes’ walk 6 miles; NFWF
Volunteers 1
Results A well attend walks and good feedback from walkers

Date 25-5-17 NF Staffs
Place Washlands
Task ‘Woodlands and Washlands’ walk 3 miles; NFWF
Volunteers 1
Results A popular walk, and some people from earlier walks targeted it.

Date 15-6-17 Staffs
Place Little Forest
Task Woodland management
Volunteers 8 Molson Coors + 2 BCV = 10
Results A corporate team working on the new outdoor teaching area.

Date 16 to 25-6-17 Somerset
Place Exford
Task Camping holiday
Volunteers 14 individuals at different times = 99 days
Results An excellent holiday, with something for everyone, walks, sightseeing and loads of orchids!

Date 1-7-17 NF B&DWG Staffs

Place Jacksons Bank

Task Wildlife walk

Volunteers 2

Results A good turnout and nice to have some very young ones along. Thanks to Lynn for leading it

Date 2-7-17 NF Staffs

Place Allotment

Task Social BBQ

Volunteers 12

Results A positive social and 'thank you' to the volunteers.

Date 6-7-17 NF Staffs

Place Alfred pub

Task AGM

Volunteers 13

Results A good opportunity to celebrate the years achievements and have a social.

Date 9-7-17 NT Derbys.

Place Salts Wood, Kedleston Hall Estate

Task Himalayan Balsam clearance

Volunteers 10

Results First session for the National Trust, a good start, but a huge job. We focused on the large wood, as the smaller wood was too boggy and had lots of hung up trees.

Date 13-7-17 Staffs

Place Little Forest

Task General Woodland Maintenance with students from de Ferrers Academy.

Volunteers 4+1DF + 1BCV = 6

Results A good opportunity to show the site to some of the students who may be involved later. Planting area prepped for Burton & S. Derbys college memorial birch trees and gen. clearance. Basic tool skills shown to students.

Date 14-7-17 Staffs

Place Little Forest

Task General Woodland Maintenance

Volunteers 3+1 DF + 1BCV = 5

Results A good start to the project, a storytelling log circle was set up and this made an excellent place for a fire with marshmallows as a treat, at the end of the day.

Date 16-7-17 NT Derbys.

Place Salts Wood

Task Continue Balsam work

Volunteers 10

Results A good clearance of the large wood, despite challenging environment, sadly a nest that we inadvertently slightly disturbed last week, then left, had been totally trashed by what looked like a tractor turning.

Date 17-7-17 Staffs
Place Little Forest
Task Plant commemorative trees
Volunteers 3 inc. 2 B&SDC
Results Five birch trees grow from seed at Burton & S. Derbys College, were planted, as a memorial grove, along with a commemorative plaque.

Date 23-7-17 NT Derbys.
Place Water Wood Kedleston Hall
Task Balsam clearance
Volunteers 11
Results A difficult site due to badger holes and hidden brash and the dense wood making it difficult to navigate round. Lots of balsam cleared despite this.

Date 29-7-17 NF B&DWG Staffs
Place Washlands
Task Lead Wildlife walk 4-5 miles
Volunteers 2
Results An excellent walk, with lots of interest and a chance to let people know about what is happening in the area.

Date 30-7-17 NF TRT Leics
Place Money Hill Farm, Stretton-en-le- Field
Task Balsam clear
Volunteers 11
Results Another difficult site, on the Mease SAC, with a tricky walk to the site in a dense wood. Lots cleared, but still lots more.

Date 6-8-17 SDDC Derbys.
Place Appletree Meadow Etwall
Task General maintenance
Volunteers 8 local+10 BCV = 18
Results A very positive day, lots of locals out, giving a genuine community feel. Paths cleared and blockages removed from the watercourses.

Date 13-8-17 NF SDDC Derbys.
Place Coton Park
Task Open up butterfly transects
Volunteers 10
Results A circular transect was cut back and future work assessed and the BCV stile firmed up. An inspection of previous BCV projects showed the site was progressing

Date 27-8-17 NF Staffs
Place Morrey
Task Open up field pond
Volunteers 16
Results A large pond that was badly overgrown, full of sedge, reedmace and flag iris, we were able to work our way in and once the water got deeper, we could break up the root mat, allowing us to remove a large floating island of veg.

Date 28 August-1st September

Staffs

Place Little Forest

Task Open up the woodland

Volunteers 61 + 10 BAT + 5 BCV + 1 LF = 77

Results A team of young people lead by Burton Albion Trust, doing community projects in the summer holidays, spent the week helping to mulch paths, dig the toilet pit, and set out logs for a storytelling area.

Date 3-9-17

NT Derby.

Place Kedleston Park

Task Clear Flight Pond

Volunteers 12

Results V. overgrown pond, with one side very difficult to access. Brushcutter needed to form paths, then steady cutting inlets and linking them, to enable chunks to be cleared. Definite impact in the end, so worth the struggle.

Date 10-9-17

NT Derby.

Place Kedleston Park Bottom Pond

Task Restore silted up pond

Volunteers 12

Results Shallow silted pond, part of the surface water run-off from the Hall, shallow so we were able to clear a large area, and survey back to the main watercourse.

Date 17-9-17

NF Staffs

Place Weaverslake

Task Manage a plantation wood with local residents

Volunteers 12 BCV + 4 local = 16

Results Good to have 4 locals out, we will be concentrating on different blocks of wood each session, thinning and edging paths with windrowed brash



[A wonderful display of dragonflies to enliven the lunch break](#)

Date 24-9-17 NF Staffs

Place Weaverslake

Task Continue woodland management

Volunteers 13 BCV + 1 local = 14

Results Focus on tidy up from last time and opening up the SUDS ditch, including a silt trap area. Locals starting to see the overall vision for the site.

Date 29th Sept-1st October 17

Herefordshire

Place Broome Cider Farm

Task Coppice hazel hedge

Volunteers 9 x 2 = 18

Results A long section of overgrown hedge coppiced and product sorted and stacked. Excellent hospitality as usual.

Date 8-10-17

NF CGPC Derbys.

Place White Lady Wood

Task Upgrade wood as a Nature Reserve and WW1 memorial

Volunteers 17 BCV inc. 1 D of E, 3 local = 20

Results Following a long consultation and advisory period we were working with Castle Gresley PC, to enhance a nature area and create a WW1 memorial. 2 benches fitted with stoned surrounds and 10 fruit trees planted and scrub cleared for memorial area. Long section of scrub laid as hedge and beaten up with quicks and paths cleared. A real buzz on site at the end of the day.

Date 15-10-17

SCC Staffs

Place Chasewater

Task Heathland restoration, cutting and treating scrub

Volunteers 15 inc. 1 D of E

Results A large area of scrub cleared and used as habitat piles, hidden in the wood, to avoid vandalism. Problems with level crossings continued. Happily, the toolstore crossing was actually clear, but the Chasewater crossing was blocked! So we had a long walk carrying tools to the site

Date 22-10-17

SCC Staffs

Place Chasewater

Task Continue Heathland work

Volunteers 12 inc. 1 D of E

Results Lots achieved on a windy day (lucky no big trees) the exposed site meant the scrub was stunted and difficult to spot and clear. However, so much was achieved, we had to start a new habitat pile.

Date 29-10-17

Lichfield DC Staffs

Place Beacon Park

Task MAD day hedge work

Volunteers 10 BCV 2 local + 1 ranger = 13

Results Long stretch of hedgeline cleared and the shrub bed behind was pruned. Rotten fence and litter cleared for removal by others. Planted wildflower plugs. Apple tart from local fruits, for lunch.

Date 5-11-17

Place Beacon Park

Lichfield DC Staffs

Task Continue hedge work

Volunteers 11 inc. 1 D of E, 3 local + 1 ranger = 15

Results We finished the hedgeline/shrub bed, removed lots of epicormic growth and ivy, laid newish hedge and prepped area for new hedge by car park and pumpkin soup, as I got Halloween and bonfire night the wrong way round

Date 12-11-17

NF Staffs

Place Yoxall Lodge

Task Coppice work

Volunteers 14

Results Small sycamore halo thinned round large oaks and a start on coppicing very old hazels, to let in light and encourage the bluebells. Large habitat piles were built to encourage woodland wildlife.

Date 19-11-17

Leics

Place Burbage common Hinkley

Task Heathland restoration

Volunteers 7 BCV, 8 local + 1 = 16

Results Low BCV turnout, balanced by good local support. Fire area prepared by others, so we were able to concentrate on the clearance and the fire. Lots of scrub cut back and burned. A huge amount of squirrel damage, worthy of a case study.

Date 20-11-17

NF Staffs

Place Washlands

Task Lead walk for Living Landscapes Project

Volunteers 1+1 = 2

Results An opportunity to pass on local knowledge of the area to the project.

Date 25-11-17

NF Leics.

Place Ratby

Task Assist with NF planting

Volunteers 1

Results An interesting and rewarding day helping volunteers plant their special trees, with National Forest staff.

Date 26-11-17

NF Staffs

Place Yoxall Lodge

Task Continue coppice within an ancient woodland

Volunteers 14+1 site owner = 15

Results Lots of thinning, it will be interesting to see the results when the bluebells are out next Spring.

Date 3-12-17

Staffs

Place Chasewater

Task Heathland restoration

Volunteers 12

Results Difficult tangled scrub, but plenty cleared and excellent soup from Lynn

Date 10-12-17 Cancelled

Place BWP

Task

Volunteers

Results First cancellation of the year, but heavy snow would have made felling too dangerous

Date 17-12-17

NF Staffs

Place BWP

Task Reedbed management

Volunteers 10

Results Continuing the scrub clearance, inc. a large patch of seedlings, that have flourished, due to low water levels and lack of competition from the low reed growth.



[Rescuing an overgrown pond near Morrey](#)

Another successful and productive year for the local environment and for all the volunteers who have taken part. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this achievement

