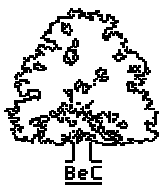


# Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

**Newsletter No. 192 - November / December 2007**



**Longhill Park – 16<sup>th</sup> September**

Neil Frankum

This was our first ever task at this site in northeast Bracknell. The site was a former landfill site that has been landscaped & turned into a park. We were cutting back trees to widen a footpath through the site. The cut branches were stacked up ready for the council rangers to come back later & turn it all into woodchip. No bonfires on this site as there is the risk of methane still being given off from the landfill, & we didn't want to risk blowing up the site!

Above – Aimee trimming the trees encroaching onto the path at Longhill Park. Aimee will be leading her first task for us in November.



Above left – Nigel, John & Aimee. Above middle – Aimee felling a tree. Above right – John clearing up some of the brashings.  
Below left – before. Below right – after.



**Padworth Common – 30<sup>th</sup> September**

**Neil Frankum**



Above – this area was covered with scrub at the start of the task. You can see the impact many pairs of hands can make.

We were working on the southern half of the site, adjacent to where we've worked previously. Gorse and birch scrub has been invading the heathland over the last few years, and we were working to reverse the trend. There were a total of seventeen volunteers out on task today from at least five different nationalities, including our first ever Russian and Chinese volunteers. Lots of pairs of hands made light work of the birch and gorse scrub, and judging by the size of the piles we made a big impact.



Above – clearing scrub at Padworth.

**Highwood – 9<sup>th</sup> September**

**Neil Frankum**

Today's task was spent clearing scrub that was invading the tiny remnant of heathland that can be found in the middle of Highwood in Woodley. A reasonably big impact was made, and judging by



the abundant heather on the area we've cleared on previous tasks, it should have a positive effect on the site. We had a nice bonfire to consume the cut brushings, and after applying some of my engineering skills we were able to make sure the fire was out before we left the site.



Above left – Stuart & Nigel look on as James tends the fire. Above right – Stuart, Nigel & Richard dousing the fire.

**Englemere Pond – 19<sup>th</sup> August**

Neil Frankum



Above left – Phil digging out the ditch. Above right – Nigel nailing on the boards.

We had two construction jobs to do on this task at Englemere Pond. The first was on the entrance from the A329. The existing access path crosses a ditch as it comes in to the site. The side of the path had collapsed into the ditch, making access awkward. Our job was to dig out the side of the path, extend the existing drainage culvert, build a revetment and then backfill with hogging. The revetment was built with boards recycled from the old boardwalk at Wildmoor that we had replaced earlier in the year. Unfortunately the bag of hogging that had been delivered was not big enough, and we ran out. However, Carl remembered that there was an old abandoned path that used to run

out to a floating pontoon. This had a generous amount of hogging that we redistributed to finish off the new entrance. The second job was to dismantle an old footbridge that was starting to rot. A nice new footbridge was built in its place.



Above left – The almost finished revetment with the drainage culvert appearing at the bottom. The posts were trimmed later in the day. Above middle – the dismantled old bridge. Above right – the new bridge under construction, with everyone enjoying a well earned tea break in the background.



Left – Carl & the new footbridge.

Right – Peter, Carl, Nigel, Richard & Phil (apologies about the glare of the hi-viz jacket. I was going to take another picture without the jacket, but the batteries in my camera chose that moment to die!)



**Snelsmore Common – 23<sup>rd</sup> September**  
**Pound Copse – 2<sup>nd</sup> September**  
No task reports.

**26<sup>th</sup> August**  
No Task.

**Socials**

**Pub – Sundays after task**

If everyone feels up to it we sometimes adjourn to the pub after task. We'll usually decide where we are going on task, when we've found out what everyone wants to do.

**Cinema Trips / Other socials etc**

These get arranged on an ad hoc basis - turn up on task, contact one of us, or sign up for the Email mailing list to find out the details.

**Xmas Meal**

Contact Aimee to register interest for this year's Xmas Meal. Further info will be forwarded later.

**Social Reports**

**Cinema - Bourne Ultimatum**

Good action movie, tying up all the loose ends from the previous films in the series.

**Cinema - Atonement**

This film didn't live up to the hype. Not really helped by the fact that they had the wrong lens on the projector for the first 10 minutes making the characters look like very fat dwarves!

**Cinema - Michael Clayton**

Before seeing this there were comments that this film would just be a promo for George Clooney. Those of us that went were pleasantly surprised as it was actually a very good film.

**Cinema - Day Watch**

A fantasy film about vampires in Russian with subtitles doesn't sound too promising. However this was a really good film, with all the special effects and outlandish scenarios actually fitting together and flowing well. Definitely exceeded my expectations.

**Task Details: 28<sup>th</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

To book for task, please contact the task-leader listed below (If possible, by the Thursday before the task). Transport is available from the Tool Store at Edenham Crescent at 9:10am, and from the front of Reading Station (near the taxi rank) at 9:30am. Other pick-up points can sometimes be arranged – please contact the task-leader.

You are advised to wear old clothing, and stout boots or wellies (preferably with steel toecaps). Also bring waterproofs and a packed lunch, BeC will provide Tea/Coffee/Squash and Biscuits. As it is autumn we could experience any type of weather, so wrap up warm / bring the sun cream???!.

Whenever possible, please do let the task leader know you are planning to come on task. Occasionally task details change at short notice, and we can only let you know of changes if we know you are planning to attend the task. However we do always take enough tools and biscuits for a few extras, so if you get the urge on Sunday morning, but haven't booked, you will still be made welcome.

We often go to the pub after task, so remember to bring some money (and a change of clothes if it's likely to be a very muddy task) if you want to join us.

Where the leader is 'TBA' look out for the EMail updates letting you know who is going to be leading that task.

**PADWORTH COMMON****28<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

Task: Scrub bashing.

Leader: Nigel Mason-Flucke 01252 835919

Meet at: 10-15am at the car park (Grid reference SU619648). Head west along the A4 from Junction 12 of the M4 for approximately 3 miles. Just before you get to the roundabout at the junction of the A4 and A340 turn left into a minor road signposted towards Padworth. Follow this road for approximately 2 miles. The car park is on the right just before you reach the T junction with the Burghfield Common to Tadley Road.

Userbody: West Berkshire District Council.

**TBA, BRACKNELL****4<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

Task: TBA.

Leader: Richard Coles 0118 976 0580

Meet at: Contact Richard for directions.

Userbody: Bracknell Forest Borough Council.

**SNELSMORE COMMON, Newbury****11<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

Task: Scrub bashing. This is Aimee's first task as leader, so a good turnout is wanted!

Leader: Aimee Dale 0796 878 7080

Meet at: 10:15 at the site (Grid Ref SU463710). Snelsmore Common country park is located north of Newbury along the B4494 road from Donnington to Wantage. The entrance is sign posted from the road opposite the entrance to Mary Hare Grammar School.

Userbody: West Berkshire District Council.

**TBA****18<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

Task: TBA.

Leader: Richard Coles 0118 976 0580

Meet at: Contact Richard for directions.

Userbody: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, &amp; Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust.

**PADWORTH COMMON****25<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

Task: Scrub bashing.

Leader: Nigel Mason-Flucke 01252 835919

Meet at: 10-15am at the car park (Grid Ref SU619648). See 28<sup>th</sup> October for directions.

Userbody: West Berkshire District Council.

**TBA, BRACKNELL****2<sup>nd</sup> December 2007**

Task: Coppicing.  
 Leader: Aimee Dale 0796 878 7080  
 Meet at: Contact Aimee for directions.  
 Userbody: Bracknell Forest Borough Council.

**YATELEY COMMON, Yateley****9<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

Task: TBA.  
 Leader: Neil Frankum 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788  
 Meet at: Meet at: 10:15 at the site. There are several car parks along the A30 & Cricket Hill Lane, so contact Neil for directions if you are making your own way to site.  
 Userbody: Hampshire County Council.

**GREENHAM COMMON, Newbury****16<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

Task: Scrub bash - fire and mulled wine.  
 Leader: TBA  
 Meet at: 10:15 at the site. This is a LARGE site, so contact the leader for details if you are planning on making your own way to site.  
 Userbody: West Berkshire District Council.

**TBA****23<sup>rd</sup> December 2007**

Task: TBA.  
 Leader: Neil Frankum 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788  
 Meet at: Contact Neil for directions.  
 Userbody: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust.

**SNELSMORE COMMON, Newbury****30<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

Task: Scrub bashing.  
 Leader: TBA  
 Meet at: 10:15 at the site (Grid Ref SU463710). See 11<sup>th</sup> November for directions.  
 Userbody: West Berkshire District Council.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR****Diary Dates**

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.** Newsletter copy date. Any items (task reports etc) for inclusion in the next newsletter should be Email to me on or preferably before this date.  
**TBA** Please contact Richard Coles for dates of tools evenings.

**BeC Contacts**

<b>Chair &amp; Tools:</b>	Richard Coles	(0118) 976 0580	<b>Address for Correspondence:</b> Berkshire Conservation Volunteers, PO Box 165, READING. RG1 4LD
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Peter Harrison	(0118) 950 9276	
<b>Van Admin:</b>	Rodney Chapple	(0118) 986 4438	
<b>Task Co-Coordinator:</b>	Nigel Mason-Flucke	(01252) 835919	
<b>Membership/Newsletter:</b>	Neil Frankum	(0118) 975 1528 *	
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Aimee Dale	0118 975 8253	
<b>Committee Member</b>	David Fiddes	(0118) 948 2681 *	
		* Answerphone available	

**Email:** membership@berkshire-conservation-volunteers.org.uk

**MOBILE:** We have a mobile phone for task use – although primarily for use in emergencies, volunteers can also use it to contact us if they are having difficulties locating the worksite. The number is **07875 262129**. **NB:** this will only be switched on during tasks.

---

**[www.berkshire-conservation-volunteers.org.uk](http://www.berkshire-conservation-volunteers.org.uk)**

---