

Land Management Report

Report for the Greenham and Crookham Common Commission

February 2021 to April 2021

- We are pleased to welcome Thaddeus Coward to the team. He started in March will be with us as a temporary Assistant Reserves Officer for 14 weeks.
- The Field Team have continued to carry out essential work including fencing and gate repairs as well as issues highlighted on our H&S audit.
- We are currently planning the return of other volunteer groups, in small teams initially.
- We will be recruiting for new volunteer Wildlife Trainees in July.
- The grazing enclosure fencing went back up in March so we can resume monitoring this spring.
- The weekly Greenham butterfly monitoring will resume this year after it was sadly cancelled in 2020.
- We had hoped to repeat our adder telemetry project in 2021 but this has been deferred to 2022. This is building up data to show how the adders use and move across the habitats of the common.
- Contractors created additional gravel scrapes at Crookham pools to encourage wading birds. Little-ringed plovers and lapwings have been in the area regularly and we hope to see increased numbers and breeding success. (see figure 1)
- The security ditch at the Old Thornford Road entrance onto the common has been improved. This is where the burglars who broke into Estovers in the past have gained access to the common and driven across to Estovers.
- Ash dieback and tree safety works have been carried out by the BBOWT team and contractors. Areas include:
 - o A339 – Clarke’s Gully
 - o North of Bury’s Bank Road
 - o Crookham Common Road near Traveller’s Friend
 - o Two big oaks reduced on Bishop’s Green near Woodpecker’s Hide
 - o A whole host of other roadside tree safety work
- A useful meeting was held between BBOWT and the Greenham graziers to improve communication. It is hoped these will become a regular fixture and an opportunity to exchange information and plans.
- During lockdown and as it eases we have continued to see large numbers of users on the common. This has led to an increase in litter and dog fouling and increased pressure in the infrastructure like car parks and gates.
- Seasonal wardens:

- The new team started in post in February. Clare Sulston and Zoe Burfitt return from previous years and Chris Worgan joins the team.
- We have produced some new signage this year. See example below (figure 2). We are emphasising the message to keep to paths and using the same imagery across multiple signs to make the message clearer.
- The wardens have been installing log-terns (log-lecterns) in strategic locations to emphasise the message that certain open areas which look like paths (e.g. fire breaks) are in fact sensitive habitat during the nesting season. The feedback from visitors has been largely positive and people are pleased that the message is easier to understand. (Figure 3)
- We are developing a link with the TVP local Wildlife Crime officer. They are able to offer additional support when dealing with persistent offenders who may be breaking the law by disturbing protected birds.
- Bird news
 - Lapwing, little ringed plover, ringed plover all seen on site in March/April
 - Plenty of woodlark and Dartford warbler activity
 - A great white egret has been at Crookham pools for several weeks. Also black redstart, ring ouzel passing through.



Figure 1: Scrape for wading birds at Crookham Pools

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Please keep to the main paths

Rare ground nesting birds on Greenham Common
need your protection during the breeding season
(1 Mar - 31 July)



We ask that **all** visitors and dogs
stick to the main paths.

DOWNLOAD A MAP

Scan the QR code to download a map
of the Common showing paths and
green zones where you and your dog
can explore off the main paths.



Thank you for supporting the wildlife of Greenham Common.

For further information, please contact the Greenham Wardens on site
or via email: greenhamwardens@bbowt.org.uk
or call the BBOWT office on 01635 35157.

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
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Figure 2: Gate sign used this year



Figure 3: Log-tern identifying sensitive area of the common