

Land Management Report

Report for the Greenham and Crookham Common Commission October 2020 to January 2021

The ongoing pandemic continues to affect the work we are able to deliver on the commons. The main impact is on volunteer groups. We were pleased to welcome volunteers back in smaller, carefully managed groups while restrictions were lower in Sept-Oct and Dec. However, during full lockdowns in Nov and Jan we restricted to select Field Team volunteers and staff carrying out essential and time-critical tasks. Despite these restrictions the team have achieved a huge amount on the Commons with limited resources.

- Contractors have been able to continue cutting scrub on the heath so they have worked at Brackenhurst, Aldernbridge, Bishop's Green, Crookham Restoration and Crookham Pools meeting targets for the Stewardship agreement.
- The annual gorse management rotational cutting was completed in December.
- Gravel scrapes for wading birds like lapwing and little-ringed plover are planned at Crookham Pools in early February.
- Volunteer tasks have been limited due to Covid restrictions but have completed scrub cutting tasks at Crookham Restoration, Crookham Pools and the gravel areas to the east of Estovers.
- Burning of standing gorse is unfortunately unlikely to go ahead again this year due to the current lockdown and increased risk due to high visitor numbers on the common.
- Funding for the Seasonal Wardens has been secured for the next 4 years. Recruitment is currently in progress for the 2021 wardens.
- Car park surfacing works were carried out along with repairs to signs and bollards. Increased visitor pressure is taking more of a toll on the car park than ever before.
- The donation station has been replaced with a contactless one. No more cash for people to try and steal.
- Ash dieback works were completed at Bishop's Green and on Brackenhurst Lane. Further work is planned for Clarke's Gully, north of Bury's Bank Road and Crookham Common Road.
- General tree safety works have been completed on one side of the GAMA site fence but there is more to be done in the future.
- The building next to the fire plane has been secured and reinforced after repeated forced entry.
- The Bombsite car park and access track repaired.
- Gorse on the verge of Bury's Bank Road between the two cattle grids cut by contractors.
- Cattle grids cleared at Foxhold and Bowdown House.
- General tree safety works being booked in for Greenham and Bishop's Green.

- Access safety audit repairs and fencing repairs ongoing.
- Greenham/BBOWT display panels and photos are now up in the Control Tower.
Unfortunately, no one can see it at the moment! However, they are taking some photos of it to post on the Control Tower website until they reopen.
- The final Grazing monitoring survey was completed in October and the exclosures have been removed for the winter.