

## Highwood Management Conference - 8 January 2020

### Countryside Service Rangers' Review 2019/20

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#### 1. Management Tasks

- Scrub removal from Heathland Compartment
- Rhododendron removal from Compartment 4
- Reed bed establishment on Southlake (not technically Highwood but CS staff and volunteers managed project).

#### 2. General Rangering

- General work including cutting back footpaths, strimming and removing hung-up trees (monthly visits between April and October)
- Removing 5 incidents of fly tipping, garden waste
- Litter picking
- Removal of 3 bike ramps
- Tree surgeon spent 2 days making safe a dangerous trees on site.
- Respond to 4 incidents of illegal camping on site and removal of an individual
- No reported incidents to the Countryside Service regarding aggressive cycling on the site.

#### 3. Volunteer Involvement

- The Friends Group has continued to support the Countryside Service, by walking every day helping to patrol the site, litterpicking, reporting of problems and directing staff on site to the location of jobs
- 105 volunteer workdays (excluding Friends visits) have been carried out this year, including volunteers from CROW (Conserve Reading on Wednesdays), Thames Valley Conservation Volunteers and Community Services
- 3 days Himalayan balsam/ scrub pulling from Heathland compartment.

#### 4. Next year (this winter)

- Coppicing Compartment 4
- Rhododendron/ Laurel control in Compartments 1-4
- Unused Access Improvement money £18,635 - path surfacing programmed for Jan-Feb 2020.

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