



Downlands Project's Practical Conservation Volunteer Work Programme



December 2011 – March 2012

The Downlands Project (DCMP) works with volunteers to carry out environmental improvements in northeast Surrey, Croydon and Sutton. Since 1988, well over 220,000 hours of voluntary help have been devoted to improving local countryside, including the restoration, creation or conservation of ponds, chalk downland, woodlands, heathlands and self-guided trails. Why not join us in this valuable work by checking out our interesting and varied work programme and coming out for a day or two!

This work would not be possible without funding from our six local authorities: Surrey County Council, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Tandridge District Council, Croydon Council, Sutton Council, The City of London, also Natural England. Plus of course our dedicated group of volunteers who give their spare time for the good of the local countryside. Along with our core funding from our partner authorities, we are always in need of that bit extra for funding the extra tool or health and safety equipment, materials on the ground or the extra sheep or two to help conserve our beautiful landscape. So, if you are unable to help by taking part in practical work, you can still help the Project by giving a donation to the 'Downlands Trust'. This new charity was set up by DCMP volunteers in 2008 to help support the Project and its environmental works. For further information on the Downlands Trust and how to make a donation and/or become a member, please write to: 23 Beechwood Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6NE or email downlandstrust@live.co.uk

Listed below is our new winter Volunteer Task Programme. It is full of interesting, challenging and worthwhile projects, helping to protect and enhance your local countryside. There is something for all ages and abilities.

GR. Relates to Ordnance Survey grid references.

All tasks begin at 10am unless otherwise stated. Please join us anytime from 10am – 4pm, for the whole day or just for a couple of hours, all help really does make a difference.

What we provide:

Gloves, tools, training, mugs of tea or coffee, biscuits and lots of fun!

What to do:

Please ring us at the Depot before the workday if possible to confirm you are planning to come along – **01883 341140** (there's an answer phone if we are out and about). If you are late or cannot find us on the workday, please ring the task leader on **07968 832523**.

What to bring:

Please wear stout footwear, suitable outdoor comfortable clothing that you are willing to get a bit dirty and a packed lunch.

What you gain:

Exercise in the fresh air, often with fantastic views. A sense of achievement, feeling part of a conservation crew and pride that you have done your bit for nature and your lovely local countryside. It's also very useful for gaining experience if you wish to pursue a career in countryside management.

We look forward to seeing you!

Please ring the Depot on **01883 341140** for all task enquiries. Please ring the Office on **01737 737700** for general Project information/events.

Please note: We are no longer able to offer a pick-up from Purley BR Station; please meet on site from 10am or meet at our Caterham Depot before 9.30am for a lift to site.

Please note that the Downlands Project reserve the right to cancel or change tasks at short notice (due to staff illness, vehicle breakdown, extreme weather etc), but will always avoid where possible.

December 2011			
Tuesday	6 th	Salt Box Hill Scrub Clearance Join the Project in Bromley for further scrub clearance, helping out the ponies that have been doing a lot of munching.	Meet in Hanbury Drive, Biggin Hill, TN16 3EN. GR TQ 408 609
Wednesday	7 th		
Thursday	8 th		
Sunday	11 th	Long Hill Scrub Clearance We are returning to this special chalk grassland site, to ensure it has been suitably cleared so the flora & fauna can thrive come springtime! We will also be popping over to Quarry Hangers for a spot of scrub clearance this week, days t.b.c. Please ring the Depot for details.	Meet up Long Hill at the Bridleway entrance, accessed off Station Road, Woldingham CR3 7EN. Please note Long Hill is a very rough track in places, so please park at the ends. GR. TQ 367 565.
Tuesday	13 th		
Wednesday	14 th		
Thursday	15 th		
Sunday	18 th	Blanchman's Farm Hedgelaying Why not come along to this lovely community wildlife area in Warlingham, and join in with the ancient art of hedgelaying.	Meet at the Limpsfield Road entrance to the site in Warlingham. Nearest postcode CR6 9LW. GR TQ 360 583
Tuesday	20 th		
Wednesday	21 st		
Thursday	22 nd		
<p>Sunday 25th - Happy Christmas!</p> <p>Tuesday 27th is a Bank Holiday - time to sleep off all that Christmas indulgence!</p>			
Wednesday	28 th	Hooley Meadows Scrub Clearance	Meet in Maple Way, at the end of St Margaret's Road, off Star Lane, Hooley CR5 3RB GR. TQ 286 567
Thursday	29 th		

January 2012			
Tuesday	3 rd	Manor Park Scrub Clearance Restoring this valuable chalk grassland site, which is also grazed every year.	Meet at Portley Wood Road car park, off Burntwood Lane, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 6TB. GR. TQ 342 568
Wednesday	4 th		
Thursday	5 th		
Sunday	8 th		
Tuesday	10 th	Carshalton Road Pastures Preening! Come to Sutton's premier chalk grassland site and help us do a spot of tree trimming.	Meet outside Oaks Park Café for a lift to site. The Café within Oaks Park is found on Croydon Lane, Banstead SM7 3BA. GR. TQ 275 611.
Wednesday	11 th		
Thursday	12 th	Old Lodge Farm Tree Planting Join us for tree planting at the Farm	Meet at Old Lodge Farm, accessed via Telegraph Track, off Woodmansterne Lane, Little Woodcote SM5 4AZ GR. TQ 284 615
Sunday	15 th		
Tuesday	17 th	Banstead Woods Coppicing Take part in this ancient craft of harvesting our woodlands for produce.	Meet at Holly Lane Car Park, Chipstead CR5 3NR GR. TQ 273 583.
Wednesday	18 th		
Thursday	19 th		
Sunday	22 nd		
Tuesday	24 th	Old Lodge Farm Hedge Planting Back to the Farm for some more planting.	Meet at Old Lodge Farm, accessed via Telegraph Track, off Woodmansterne Lane, Little Woodcote SM5 4AZ GR. TQ 284 615
Wednesday	25 th		
Thursday	26 th		
Sunday	29 th		
Tuesday	31 st	Tillingdown site maintenance Come to the site where Romans once marched! Tree thinning and hedge maintenance will be the order of the day.	Meet at the end of Tillingdown Hill, Caterham, CR3 6QW. GR. TQ 345 562.

February 2012			
Wednesday	1 st	Banstead Woods Rhody Round-up prep days Join us for preparations for our popular annual Banstead Woods Rhody Round-up. Rhododendron is a highly invasive plant that slowly poisons the soil and shades out native species.	Meet at Park Farm car park (Reigate & Banstead Borough Council's Depot), Holly Lane, Banstead SM7 2BY. GR. TQ 267 584.
Thursday	2 nd		
Sunday	5 th	Banstead Woods Rhody Round-up At last years big event over 150 volunteers helped out, despite the chilling wind! Let's see if we can beat that number and rid Banstead Woods of this alien invader. The infamous Downlands Project BBQ is included for all the hard workers!	Park up in Park Farm car park (address as above) and follow the signs to the event. GR. TQ 267 584.

Tuesday Wednesday	7 th 8 th	Banstead Woods Rhody Round-up – Tidy up Help us tidy up the last bits after the big event!	Meet at Park Farm Car Park – address as overleaf.
Thursday	9 th	Tillingdown Site Maintenance Further tree thinning and hedge maintenance.	Meet at the end of Tillingdown Hill, Caterham, CR3 6QW. GR. TQ 345 562.
Sunday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Sunday	12 th 14 th 15 th 16 th 19 th	Old Lodge Farm Hedge Planting Back to the Farm for some more hedge planting. Also Riddlesdown Quarry Scrub Clearance Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday only – please ring the Depot for details.	Meet at Old Lodge Farm, off Telegraph Track, Little Woodcote. GR. TQ 284 615.
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	21 st 22 nd 23 rd	Kenley Common Coppicing Join our friends at the City of London for a spot of coppicing on Kenley Common. Once in the firing line of world war two fighters.	Please ring the Depot for details on where to meet.
Sunday	26 th	Hooley Meadows Hedge Trimming Back to the meadows, this time for a spot of hedge trimming.	Meet in Maple Way, at the end of St Margaret's Road, off Star Lane, Hooley CR5 3RB GR. TQ 286 567
Tuesday Wednesday	28 th 29 th	Kenley Common Coppicing Further coppicing fun!	Please ring the Depot for details on where to meet.

March 2012			
Thursday Sunday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Sunday	1 st 4 th 6 th 7 th 8 th 11 th	Hooley Meadows Hedge Trimming & Scrub Clearance Back to the meadows, for a spot of hedge trimming and further scrub clearance.	Meet in Maple Way, at the end of St Margaret's Road, off Star Lane, Hooley CR5 3RB GR. TQ 286 567
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Sunday	13 th 14 th 15 th 18 th	Hutchinson's Bank – Woodland Edge Maintenance This is ongoing restoration work with our sister Project, the Old Surrey Downs, bringing this urban chalk grassland site back to life.	Meet at the reserve entrance at the end of Farleigh Dean Crescent, Addington CR0 9AD GR. 379 619 Alternatively walk down from the New Addington Tram Stop.
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Sunday	20 th 21 st 22 nd 25 th	Fames Rough/Stagbury C Scrub Control Join the Project to help maintain this amazing site full of rare and exciting wildlife.	Meet at the lay-by at Mead Cottages (near the railway bridge) on Outwood Lane, Chipstead CR5 3NG. GR. TQ 269 570

Tuesday	27 th	Pond Planting – Various Sites Join the Project to help plant some nice things in to our wonderful ponds	Please ring the Depot for details.
Wednesday	28 th		
Thursday	29 th		

Monday Tasks with Sarah Clifford

Sarah Clifford, the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area Warden, who works under the Downlands Project umbrella, runs tasks every Monday and some Sundays on lovely sites in the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe area.

If you would like more information on these tasks and would love to come along and help Sarah, please give her a call at the Depot or on **07771 715812**.

The Downlander

The Downlands Project produces a magazine twice a year, The Downlander, edited by volunteer Graham Kenward.

It is very popular and informative, with all the Project's news and events and special features. We are always seeking interesting relevant new articles, so if you would like to write an article or pass on any photos of task dates, local sites etc, then please do contact us at the office on 01737 737700 or email: downlands@surreycc.gov.uk.

We always like to receive feedback/reviews from task days too, so if you want to write a paragraph or two about your task experience, the work we have been doing and why, or any fascinating flora or fauna snippets, then please do send them in.

If suitable we might even send them out as a press release, so we can tell everyone about the wonderful work we are doing to improve the local countryside and biodiversity with the help of our dedicated volunteers.

Thank you very much for your support and
we look forward to seeing you soon!