



RSPB Blackbushe Management Report June 2025

Mark Crisp - Warden

Site Visits

- Regular checks of the site have been carried out by staff, volunteers and Thames Basin Heaths wardens.
- Members of the public are being informed of intended work for the site as well as past management and how to help look after the site, dogs on leads etc.
- MC (warden) and AD (site manager) discussed easier access for fire vehicles via the firebreak areas that have had vegetation cleared. MC will be improving culverts in areas where water impedes access for visitors during the winter months.
- MC visited site with contractors to look at winter tree work. Signage to go out informing members of the public of winter work well in advance of commencement (date TBC).
- MC visited the site with a Hampshire & Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group (HIWARG) member to discuss better management for adders and other reptiles as well as historical records in relation to where tree work will be carried out.
- Some anti-social behaviour still occurring, anyone who reports to us is asked to also report to police.

Wildlife

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The RSPB is part of BirdLife International, a network of passionate organisations, working together to save nature across the world.

- Lots of wildlife using the site.
- Plenty of adders and other reptiles have been spotted which is great.
- Birds and butterflies have been regularly sited.
- Flowers have been growing in the areas where the firebreaks were cleared thus encouraging more butterflies and other pollinating insects.

Upcoming Winter Work

- Some clarity over tree work and risk of flooding has been highlighted. AD and MC to put together an email to send round to all parties but we are confident that the tree work we have planned will not have an effect on flooding in the local area. Soil is sandy and free draining in most parts and a large section of broadleaf woodland is to be left between tree work area and residential area.
- Scrub clearance will occur in the patches between the tarmac. There's a risk of areas becoming too scrubby which would impede the wildlife endemic to heathland habitat.
- MC to have small digger on site to help create culverts and use for bare ground scrape creation which will benefit wildlife in the following summer.

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