

**BLACKWATER VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP (BVCP)
2025-2026**

The Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP) covers a very wide area. I will limit my report to those activities which are particularly relevant to our parish.

During the last year, the Partnership has had to deal with a very wet winter which caused path flooding throughout the whole area. That was followed by an exceptionally dry summer which gave an opportunity to carry out some successful floodplain meadow work.

Work at Ash Green Meadows has included completing the vehicle bridge which has given vehicular access to the whole site and improving reptile habitats by installing a reptile hibernaculum. There have also been habitat improvement works in other areas, including Rowhill in Aldershot. Another area of work has been the removal of invasive non-native species such as Rhododendron and Japanese Knotweed in woodlands.

Unfortunately, Surrey Heath Borough Council has ceased its core funding to the BVCP but a ten year management agreement has been reached with Nicholas King Homes for the Waters Edge SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace). Waters Edge is in Mytchett and is close to our parish border.

There are other sites close to our parish in Tongham and Runfold. The Partnership has been advising on the Runfold Quarry restoration for agriculture.

Awards received by the Partnership during the year included "Wildlife Site of the Year" from Land Trust for Runfold Ridge, The Kings Award for Voluntary Service at Tice's Meadow and Green Flag Status being awarded again for Wellesley Woodlands.

The value of the work undertaken in the Valley this year due to activities of the Partnership was worth at least £890000.

Cllr Fiona White