



BVCT Stag Beetle Stumperies Project 2016-17



Summary

Fifty Stag Beetle stumperies were installed along the Blackwater Valley by volunteers and BVCP staff with financial assistance from BVC Trust. The project aimed not only to create habitat but to raise awareness amongst managers of woodlands and garden owners in the Blackwater Valley area of the importance of deadwood habitats for Stag Beetles and other invertebrates.

Reason for Project

Stag Beetles are a national and local BAP priority species. The Blackwater Valley is at the centre of the UK distribution, Here they are a widespread species occurring in woodlands and gardens. Females have limited dispersal range (c.500m) so connectivity of suitable habitat is important. Removal of mature trees and tidying of deadwood destroys habitat not only for Stag Beetles but for many other less visible species that also rely on deadwood.

The aim was to construct 50 stumperies to add to a few known to exist already so as to create a chain of them along the Valley, and also to raise awareness amongst site managers and garden owners of their needs so that they will remain a common sight in the future.

Project Team

Sue Clod initially and latterly Alan Taylor led the project on behalf of the BVC Trust. BVCP rangers co-ordinated the involvement of the various site based conservation groups as well as overseeing the construction of stumperies on sites they manage.

Implementation

A leaflet explaining the project and how to build a stumpery was produced and sent to the site volunteer groups and also handed out at public events the BVC Trust attended. A talk for members of the Trust and the public on Stag Beetles was organised, given by a university researcher.

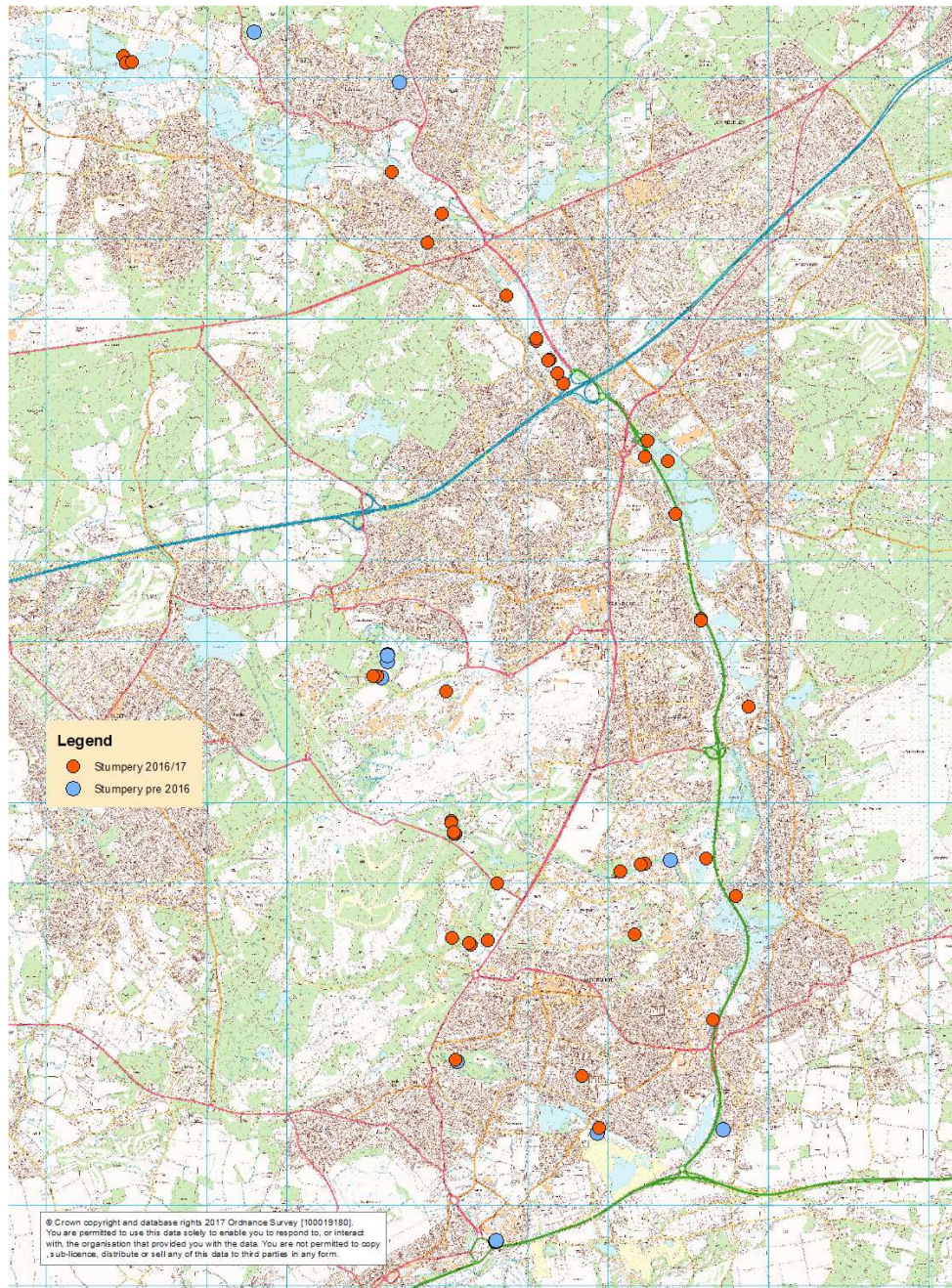
50 stumperies were built at 23 different sites, to add to the 14 found that were already constructed. 5 were constructed by BVCP staff, 34 by volunteers led by BVCP staff and 11 by volunteer site groups. All were constructed from already fallen wood found on site.

Long lasting signs were attached to 10 stumperies close to paths to inform members of the public about the project and the importance of deadwood habitats.

Project Finance

Item	
Expenditure	£
Sign purchase	360
Leaflet printing	6
Talk expenses	12
BVCP time - part reimbursement	411.79
Total BVCT expenditure	£789.79
Full Value of BVCP staff time 50 hours @ £25 hour	£1,250
Estimated value of volunteers (45 stumperies x5hrs) @ £10 hr	£2,250
Value of trustee time to organise	250
Publicity expenditure (signs etc.)	378
Total Project Value	£4,128

BVCT stumpery project



Report compiled by Steve Bailey 15.11.17.

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