

# National Trust + The Task Force

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2023-2025







# 2023/2024

- Ride widening – All Access Trail

**Aim:** Increase sunlight reaching the soil & manage natural regeneration from past 5+ years.

**Outcome:** Increase of native flora, greater recovery rate of trail after wet months, exposure of POIs.



- Invasive species management

**Aim:** increase sunlight reaching the soil & increase space available for native species.

**Outcome:** Increase of native flora, greater mosaic of habitats.



- Yalden Spring – habitat improvements

**Aim:** Increase sunlight reaching water surface & the surrounding habitat, raise the max. water level, complete protective efforts (deadhedge), return to marsh/wetland heath habitat.

**Outcome:** Increase of aquatic flora and fauna, significant frog spawning ground, reduction of disturbance from dogs, more balanced structure of the habitat.





- Heathland scrapes – creation and management

**Aim:** Destroy and remove bracken rhizomes, energise & expose seed bank, create structure heathland with varying ages of heather, manage colonisation of scrapes to prioritise indicator species.

**Outcome:** Increase of heathland indicator species, habitat creation for invertebrates and reptiles, expansion of heather cover/heathland habitat.



- Footpath management

**Aim:** Improve the signage for PROW network, closure of 'desire lines', improve heavily used paths that suffer significantly during the winter months.

**Outcome:** Increased ease of access around the common, reduction of habitat fragmentation, larger areas of refuge for local fauna, protection of sensitive habitats, increase of native flora.

**Long term gain:** Increase presence of special/protected species (e.g. dormice), greater connectivity of habitats, noticeable rise in birdsong (e.g. nightingales, firecrests, etc), greater chance for interactions.








- Height barriers installed in the car parks of Searn Bank, High Chart, Moorhouse Bank and New Road.
- New notice board installed on West Heath.
- Monitoring and restricting use of the West Heath bike pits.
- Working with the police to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Creation of both a Saturday and “roaming ranger” volunteer group.
- Corporate & collaborative volunteering (Surrey County Council, ESC, British Gas, FREE, LCO, LPC)









# 2024/2025

## Continue enhancing and expanding existing heathland

- More mechanical and hand scrapes
- Continuation of bracken management (securing a contract for cut & collect)
- Roping off sensitive areas to reduce recreational pressures
- More educational and interactive signage

## Restoration of Yalden Spring back to SSSI standards

- Reinforcement of deadhedge structure
- Management of invasive species
- Wet scrapes to encourage native flora (similar to heathland scrapes)
- Erection of educational interpretation boards



- Improvement of woodland habitats and species composition
  - Thinning of canopy/understory and glade creation
  - Holly management (not eradication!)
  - Deadhedging around sensitive areas to reduce recreational pressures
  - Haloing veteran or significant mother trees
  - Creation of more habitat piles and structures (e.g. stag beetle hotel, log/brush piles, etc.)
- Further footpath maintenance
  - Continuation of ride widening
  - On behalf of the Friends of Limpsfield Common an amount of £20k from the Expendable Fund has been allocated for each of the next 3 years, for footpath improvements
- Biological surveys





# How can you support us?

## Communication

- Reports: Trees, sightlines and sightings (Roaming Rangers)
- Not to be used instead of the Police

## Patience

- With nature: Natural change is a long process
- With me!

## Accountability

- We all make an impact on the common
- Recognise and adapt

## Connectivity

- Nature > Nature
- Nature > Human
- Human > Human





Thank you!

Any questions?