

### Project partners

Plus many more

























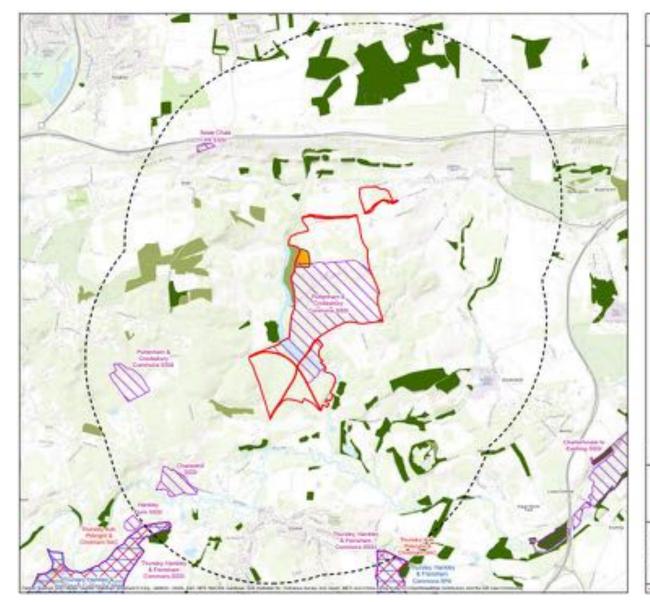




#### Puttenham Common

Puttenham Common is 180 hectares of priority habitats (a mosaic of lowland heathland, dry acid grassland, rush pasture, purple moor grass, fen, boggy mires, mixed deciduous woodland and wood pasture) which include parts of Puttenham and Crooksbury Commons SSSI (conditions are currently a mixture of unfavourable and favourable) and the Lower Puttenham Common and Halesmoor Wood Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). The area is within a B-Line and we are a key delivery partner in the Heathlands Connections Nature Recovery Project (facilitated by Natural England). Heathland Connections is one of the national Nature Recovery Network Projects, connecting heathlands across the Surrey Hills.

The area is owned by the Hampton Estate, with an Access Agreement signed in 1968 between Hampton Estate and Surrey County Council, to facilitate public access across the Common. Surrey Wildlife Trust have also historically been involved in land management across the Common. The land is registered as Common Land. There are five car parks that are free of charge to the public, enabling access to the common. The North Downs Way long distance trail passes in a west – east direction along the northern edge of Puttenham Common. This trail runs 256km from Farnham to Dover. Puttenham Common provides access to nature for a large population. The site includes multiple walking and cycling trails and is a very popular location for dog walking. The site is also home to the remains of Hillbury Hillfort and Ancient Farm, a Scheduled Monument which we manage in partnership with Historic England.





Critical green space in one of the most populated areas in the country.

### Ecological restoration at Puttenham Common

- Hampton Estate, with the support of ecological consultants EPR, has developed a 100 year vision for Puttenham
  Common to create a restored, biologically diverse heathland landscape with low-level rotational extensive grazing
  of a herd of traditional beef cattle, biologically-rich restored wetlands (with the aim of reducing wildfires across the
  Common), thriving heathland species, sustainably managed public access, an active volunteer group and naturebased community.
- 'There is a very limited area of land in Great Britain that is suitable for the restoration of such habitats, as each
  requires certain geology, soil and hydrological conditions that are spatially very limited. In short, the area covered
  by this Management Plan represents a very uncommon opportunity to deliver substantial biodiversity
  enhancement.' Puttenham Common Management Plan 2022, EPR.
- There is now a 10-year management plan in place to kick start the heathland restoration across Puttenham Common, supported in part by the recent Countryside Stewardship Offer (of January 2023).
- There is a significant funding gap in the project and additional funding would enable the delivery of more nature
  restoration, improved climate resilience, better ecological monitoring, an improved visitor experience, increased
  access to nature and public engagement with the nature recovery project. Hampton Estate will be exploring
  options for novel financing of the project.





### Aim of the 10 year management plan

Restore, enhance and maintain lowland heathland (wet and dry), lowland dry acid grassland, wetland habitats, bogs and mires.

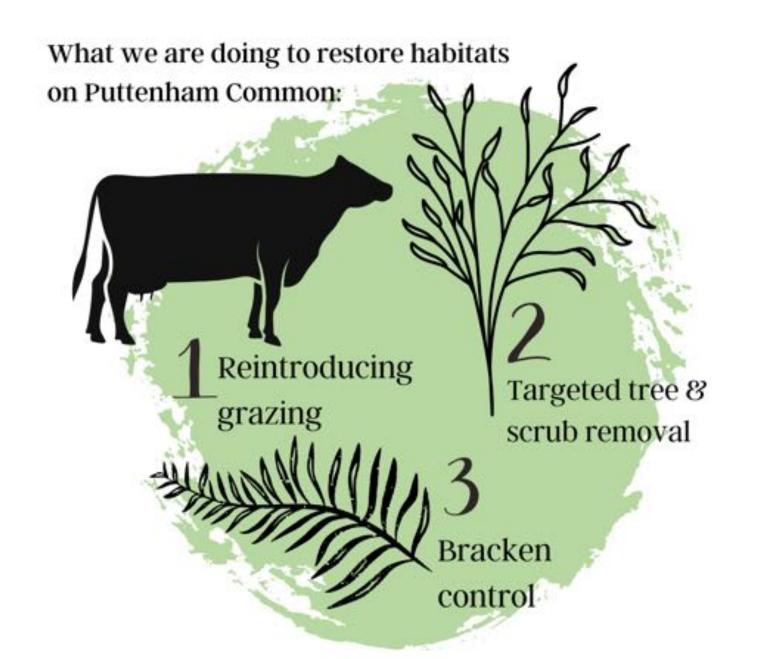
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## What are we actually going to do?

- Tree and scrub cover removal
- Reintroduce grazing (No Fence collars)
- Bracken control
- Create new wood pasture
- Restore the boggy mires
- Improve water quality
- Preserve archaeological heritage of Hillbury Hillfort
- Public engagement
- Monitor ecological changes
- Maximise the value of access for public health, wellbeing and enjoyment



### Project outcomes



Restoration of key priority habitats



Recovery of rare animal and plant species



Enhanced condition of the SSSI



Engaged and caring public



Better access to green space



Health benefits for an urban population



### Public Engagement Plan

Dog behaviour policy

Website and social media campaign

Press releases

**Community drop-ins:** 

Community drop-ins

Open Farm Sunday

Volunteer Group Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 1000 – 1600 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 0700 – 1300 Weds 21<sup>st</sup> June 0700 – 1300 Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 0900 - 1300

Signage

Meet the cows drop-ins

BioBlitz



# Data monitoring and citizen science

Plants, fungi, butterflies, birds, reptiles, invertebrates, bats, pollinators, lichen and more!

Bioblitz planned for 2024

Visitor data, carbon sequestration, hydrological monitoring...





