

Surrey Countryside Partnerships

The Surrey Countryside Partnerships ensure local people make a significant contribution to managing our local countryside. The Downlands, Lower Mole and Heathland Partnerships cover a large area and are responsible for carrying out a range of practical management across Surrey, especially on chalk grassland, lowland heaths and native woodlands.

Our vision is to deliver a flexible and responsive county-wide shared countryside management service, working across boundaries and providing exceptional value for money.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreycountrysidepartnerships

The Partnerships Team is core funded by Surrey County Council, 3 London Boroughs, 7 Surrey Boroughs and Districts, and the John Whitgift Foundation. Also, The Downlands Trust and Lower Mole Countryside Trust assist by raising funds for the Partnerships to help them carry out a range of projects.

The majority of the practical management is carried out by a dedicated team of volunteers. They undertake a huge programme of habitat management, landscape enhancements and access improvements across Surrey.

In Surrey 85% of the heathland has been lost in just 200 years, leading to a severe loss of biodiversity. Lowland heathland is an internationally rare and unique habitat, supporting a variety of specialised plants and wildlife. In order for it to survive and for the rare flora and fauna to thrive, heathland needs specialist, targeted seasonal practical management and maintenance work to be carried out.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME OCT - DEC 2023

The Surrey Heathland Partnership volunteers carry out practical work in the countryside in Guildford & Woking boroughs to enhance and maintain the natural beauty of our area. We rely on you to help us achieve these aims. If you have time on your hands this Autumn, and are aged over 16, why not join us on one of our Conservation Crew days?



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Volunteer Information

All tasks are led by trained leaders who will instruct you on the day's activities. All tasks start at 10am at the meeting point and finish at 3pm. Please wear appropriate clothing with regard to the work and the weather, especially stout footwear. There are regular tea breaks, but please bring a packed lunch if you plan to stay all day. We provide all the tools, protective clothing, and instruction to ensure that you have an enjoyable day.

Safety Advice

The terrain on the heathland sites can be uneven and wet underfoot, please wear sensible footwear. Please follow the task leaders' instructions, who are all qualified first aiders, as the safety of volunteers and the wider public is our first priority. Volunteers have full personal accident cover via Surrey County Council.

There is a low risk of contracting some illnesses. It is recommended that you ensure your Tetanus jabs are up to date and that you are aware of Weil's Disease (stagnant water), Lyme's disease (ticks) and Sepsis (blood poisoning). For the most up to date information we recommend looking online at www.nhs.uk, use the search tool to find information on the condition. If in doubt seek medical advice immediately. Please ask the task leader for more advice and speak to your doctor if you are still unsure.

What you get out of it

The chance to learn new skills and countryside crafts. We hope to run regular courses so there will be opportunities to get training in a range of skills from habitat management and wildlife surveys to power tools and first aid skills. Volunteering helps you to meet like-minded people and to help your local countryside. There is great camaraderie among the volunteers and you get to spend the day in some of Surrey's most beautiful countryside areas.



For more information and to find out how you can help the Surrey Heathlands Partnership:

heathlandproject@surreycc.gov.uk 07974 864 295

**Surrey Heathland Partnership, Whitebeam Lodge, Surrey County Council Merrow Depot,
Merrow Lane, Guildford GU4 7BQ**

SURREY HEATHLAND PARTNERSHIP VOLUNTEER TASK PROGRAMME OCT-DEC 2023

Date	Site	Meeting Point	W 3 W location
OCTOBER			
Wed 4 th	The Gardens	The Gardens, adjacent to Cricket Pavilion, The Green, Pirbright GU24 0JE	https://w3w.co/stars.reader.rips
Sat 7 th	Sheets Heath	By metal vehicle barrier along access track, off Billesden Road, Brookwood GU24 0NU	https://w3w.co/dices.mugs.head
Wed 11 th	Pirbright Common	Entrance to Common off Chapel Lane, Pirbright GU24 0JY	https://w3w.co/giving.swift.bound
Wed 18 th	Pirbright Common	Entrance to Common off Chapel Lane, Pirbright GU24 0JY	https://w3w.co/giving.swift.bound
Wed 25 th	Prey Heath	Small carpark adjacent to Bews House, Smarts Heath Road, Woking GU22 0SU	https://w3w.co/flying.poster.wheels
NOVEMBER			
Wed 1 st	The Gardens	The Gardens, adjacent to Cricket Pavilion, The Green, Pirbright GU24 0JE	https://w3w.co/stars.reader.rips
Sat 4 th	Bullswater Common	Entrance to Common at far end of Bullswater Common Road, Pirbright GU24 0LZ	https://w3w.co/scope.diverged.panel
Wed 8 th	Smarts Heath E	By eastern gate to Common off north end of Smarts Heath Lane, Woking GU22 0RG	https://w3w.co/hatch.bolts.calls
Wed 15 th	Chapel Lane	By metal entrance gate to site at corner on Chapel Lane off Cemetery Pales, Pirbright GU24 0JY	https://w3w.co/burn.weds.major
Wed 22 nd	Pirbright Common	Entrance to Common off Chapel Lane, Pirbright GU24 0JY	https://w3w.co/giving.swift.bound
Wed 29 th	Bullswater Common	Entrance to Common at far end of Bullswater Common Road, Pirbright GU24 0LZ	https://w3w.co/scope.diverged.panel
DECEMBER			
Sat 2 nd	Sheets Heath	By metal vehicle barrier along access track, off Billesden Road, Brookwood GU24 0NU	https://w3w.co/dices.mugs.head
Wed 6 th	Smarts Heath W	By western gate to Common off north end of Smarts Heath Lane, Woking GU22 0RG	https://w3w.co/shunts.asset.steep
Wed 13 th	Sheets Heath	By metal vehicle barrier along access track, off Billesden Road, Brookwood GU24 0NU	https://w3w.co/dices.mugs.head
Wed 20 th	Brookwood Heath	Entrance to Pirbright Heath off Chapel Lane, Pirbright GU24 0JY	https://w3w.co/giving.swift.bound
Wed 27 th	NO TASK – back on Wed 3 rd Jan 24		

SURREY HEATHLAND PARTNERSHIP VOLUNTEER TASK PROGRAMME OCT-DEC 2023

For all tasks, our band of happy volunteers meet on site at 10.00am. Occasionally, the nature of the work or weather forces us to change the task, but if in doubt please call 07974 864 295 for details of any task changes.

The majority of tasks over the autumn/ winter time focus on clearing invasive scrub such as birch and pine using hand tools. Left unchecked these species will out-compete the heathland species and the habitat would be lost. We aim to connect up areas of heathland by creating habitat corridors. No previous experience is required as all tools and training are provided – all you need is enthusiasm!

The Surrey Heathland Partnership works on 10 different sites owned by Woking & Guildford Borough Councils many of which form part of Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), are designated either a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI):

Smarts Heath	SSSI	WBC
Prey Heath:	SSSI	WBC
Sheets Heath	SPA, SSSI	WBC
Brookwood Heath	SPA, SSSI	WBC
Dawney Hill	SNCI	GBC
The Gardens	SNCI	GBC
Chapel Lane	SNCI	GBC
Pirbright Heath	SPA, SSSI	GBC
Bullswater Common	SPA, SSSI	GBC
West Heath	SNCI	GBC

