



HASLEMERE
BIODIVERSITY

Haslemere Nature Recovery Strategy: Established Projects and Proposals Priorities and Measures

April 2026



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1. About the Established Projects and Proposals, Priorities and Measures

The following pages describe some of the established projects that groups, organisations and individuals are undertaking to benefit nature in our parish. These were identified by Haslemere Biodiversity through our network of contacts in the town and via consultations with key stakeholders.

Proposals of further projects, that will deliver nature recovery in Haslemere, have also been included. These proposals meet most of the following criteria:

- They deliver a Measure in the Haslemere Nature Recovery Strategy (see section [13. Priorities & Measures](#)).
- Align with a Surrey Local Nature Recovery Strategy Priority.
- The project is located in the Haslemere Ecological Network wildlife corridors, a Protected site or B-Line.
- Resources such as funding, expertise, volunteers and equipment should be readily available.
- The project joins up work being carried out close by, so benefits are multiplied.
- It increases knowledge of nature and biodiversity.
- It creates volunteering opportunities.

Haslemere Biodiversity are now consulting with stakeholders including residents about these Proposals, since without the support of partner organisations, landowners and residents, these projects will not happen.

2. Projects on Protected Sites

Habitat: Heathland, Trees and Woodland

Priority: The network of designated and protected sites is expanded and enhanced.

Measure: P1 Establish current ecological condition of local wildlife sites, identify opportunities for improving ecological function and resilience of individual sites through buffering and on-site improvements.

Ground-truthing the Local Wildlife Sites

The Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are an essential part of the Haslemere Ecological Network. There is very little information available on the LWS beyond the original citations that sometimes comprise only a few sentences.

Haslemere Biodiversity has selected 12 sites (4 heathland and 8 woodland) to be surveyed by an ecologist. This work will establish their state, assess it against current designation criteria and include a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. This will inform recommendations for enhancements and, also potentially, boundary changes. This project is subject to obtaining permission from landowners in order to gain access to the sites to perform the surveys.

Subject to funding, further sites could be surveyed in the future.

Partners:

Haslemere Biodiversity, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, Surrey Local Sites Partnership, Woodland Trust, landowners.

Local Wildlife Sites in our parish include Lythe Hill Copse, Imbhams Farm Pond, Bunch Lane Woodland, Windy Gap and Grayswood Green Cricket Field.

3. Wildlife Corridor Projects

Themes: Wildlife corridors, Hedgerows, Hazel Dormouse, Birds, Non-native species

Priority: Existing wildlife corridors are safeguarded and enhanced for wildlife.

Measure: WC2 Establish a monitoring programme to assess the ecological condition of existing wildlife corridors and identify opportunities for restoring/enhancing their ecological function and resilience and their value in connecting key elements of the Haslemere Ecological Network.

Ground-truthing the woody corridors



GS Ecology has developed a methodology and protocol for surveying Woody Corridors for Haslemere Biodiversity. The methodology is based on the Habitat Classification and condition assessments of the Biodiversity Net Gain Statutory Metric and uses Coreo, a mapping and data collection app. Using the tool, GS Ecology has been ground truthing the woody wildlife corridors within the Haslemere Ecological Network (HEN) in Grayswood. This work continues with the aim of ground-truthing all the woody corridors within the HEN.

Whilst some corridors can be surveyed from Public Rights of Way many are on private land and therefore can only be ground truthed if landowner permission is forthcoming. The analysis includes the identification of threats and opportunities that can be shared with owners along with suggested management suggestions for improvement and/or enhancement.

Proposal 1: – Improving the woody corridors in the HEN

Action and Scope:

Through engagement with significant landowners within the Haslemere Ecological Network and Haslemere residents in general: Support sympathetic management of existing hedges, such as traditional hedge-laying to ensure a dense compact structure to hedgerows. Support removal or replacement of non-native hedgerow species, with native shrubs where appropriate. Support Inter-planting gaps and under-planting tree-lines, where appropriate, to improve condition and structure of hedges or tree-lines. Where old hedge-lines have been removed or replaced with fencing consider re-planting new hedges.

Engagement with residents to encourage appreciation for garden hedges and encouragement for the use of appropriate native species (e.g., not laurel).

Partners:

Haslemere Biodiversity (especially during feedback to owners following ground-truthing and engagement with residents via the Wildlife Friendly Gardening initiative and resident associations), Haslemere Tree Wardens, Haslemere Natural History Society, the Gardening Societies, Woodland Trust, Forestry England, Surrey Wildlife Trust.



4. Heathland Projects

Habitat: Protected sites, Wildlife corridors, Heathland,

Priority: Local heathland is restored, resilient and connected, supporting a greater abundance of species.

Measure: HL2 Conserve, restore and connect fragmented heathland.

Species: Dartford Warbler, woodlark, nightjar, sand lizard, adder, common lizard, slow worm, silver studded butterfly, grayling butterfly, acid-grassland plant and lichen community

Green Farm heathland restoration project (part of the Heathland Connections project in Surrey)

Heathland Connections is a Natural England funded, partnership-led initiative, which will deliver habitat restoration by supporting landowners to effectively manage adjoining areas of remnant heathland under their care.

Green Farm is situated between Hindhead and Churt and owned by The Countryside Regeneration Trust (CRT). Almost 30 hectares of rare heathland habitat is being restored. The long-term project will involve the careful felling of commercial planted pine trees to return the land to its historic heathland state. Some areas of mature pine will be maintained to provide habitat diversity. There is potential for the area to develop into Wood Pasture. This project will improve ecological connectivity across Beacon Hill and Hindhead Gold Club SNCI's. This work is central to the effort and will support species resilience across the wider corridor, while showcasing how regenerative land management can benefit biodiversity, farming and community engagement. The project will not affect other key areas of woodland at Green Farm—including Sweet Chestnut Coppice, mixed deciduous woodland, and ancient woodland.

Species: Dartford warbler, woodlark, nightjar, sand lizard, adder, common lizard, Silver studded butterfly, Grayling butterfly, acid-grassland plant & lichen community.



HEATHLAND CONNECTIONS

“A new ambitious project working with partners to enhance, restore and connect the special habitats found in the Western most section of the Surrey Hills National Landscape”

This project is a countywide project funded by Natural England and led by the Heathland Connections partnership. The project also aims to improve access and encourage walking and cycling over driving.

 <https://surreyhills.org/heathland-connections/>

Haslemere Biodiversity is collaborating with stakeholders in order to explore the possibility of enhancing the connectivity between the Devil's Punchbowl and Bramshott & Ludshott Common; two nationally and internationally important lowland heath areas. This corridor includes several SNCIs areas.



Proposal 2 – Restore the corridor between the SSSIs in Beacon Hill and Hindhead

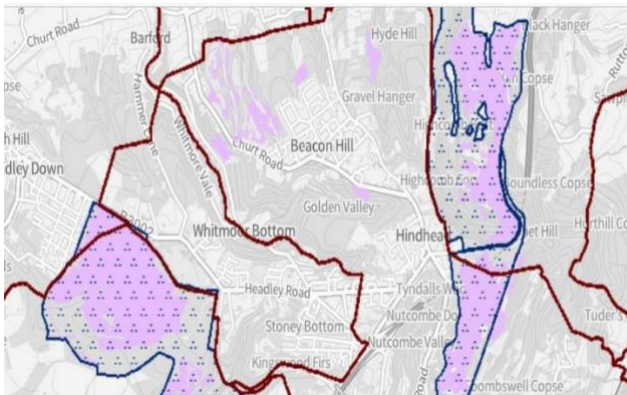
Action and Scope:

Restore and maintain a fragmented heathland corridor on the northern side of Beacon Hill between Ludshott SSSI and the Devil's Punchbowl SSSI, that is dominated by dense pine. There are four heath patches in between the Punchbowl to Ludshott SSSIs. Actions will improve the area's resilience, connectivity & ability to support a greater abundance of species. There are multiple landowners and uses including the A3 roadside verges, a golf course and gardens.

There is further potential for heathland creation in Haslemere.

Partners:

National Trust, Heathland Connections, Landowners, Hindhead Golf Club, The Countryside Regeneration Trust, Waverley Borough Council, Surrey County Council, National Highways, Utility Companies.



Proposal 3 – Ground Truth Heathland Corridors

Action and Scope:

Ground-truth the heathland corridors identified within the Haslemere Ecological Network in Beacon Hill and Hindhead. Identify opportunities for enhancement and share with landowners. Potential to train citizen scientists to use a bespoke app created specifically for heathland corridor ground-truthing. This work will provide a baseline for future monitoring.

Partners:

Haslemere Biodiversity, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, Surrey Local Sites Partnership, Landowners, volunteers.

The Black Down and Hindhead Supporters

This group of volunteers help the local National Trust to conserve and protect their landscape nature reserves in and around Haslemere. Projects include clearance of invasive scrub and provision of grazing ponies. (<https://blackdownhindheadntsupporters.org>).

Definition: Ground-truthing is the process of verifying data collected remotely, such as from maps, satellite imagery, drone footage by making on-the-ground observations.



5. Trees and Woodland Projects (including ancient woodland and orchards)

Habitat: Trees and Woodland,

Priority: Trees outside of woodland are conserved and individual trees are actively established to pre-emptively create the next generation of ancient and veteran trees.

Measure: TW4 Support the work of Haslemere Town Council, Haslemere Tree Warden Group and other interested stakeholders to explore viability of developing a Haslemere Community Arboretum including an inventory of the town's ancient, veteran and notable trees.

The Haslemere Tree Warden Network

The Haslemere Tree Warden Network has been set up to assist with providing advice and monitoring of trees within the urban environment, as well as notable, veteran and ancient trees inside and outside of the settlement boundary. They encourage the preservation of trees, support sustainable development plans that preserve important trees (Notable, Veteran and Ancient), working with WBC Planning Officers on tree preservation; applying for tree preservation orders if necessary.

Proposal 4 – Valued Tree inventory and community arboretum for Haslemere Parish

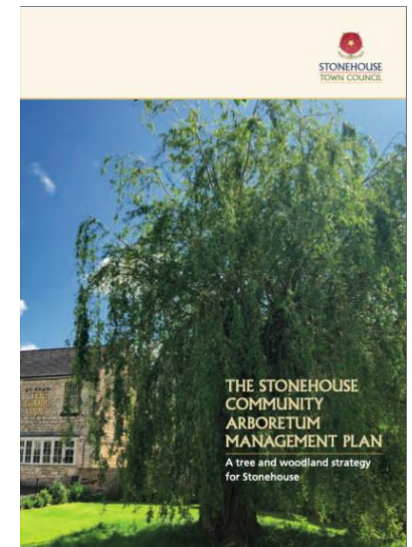
Action and Scope:

Utilising data from the Ancient Tree Inventory, Tree Protection Orders data held by the Borough, the National Trust Estate's tree database, the Trees Outside Woodland map and other sources, create a Valued Tree Inventory for Haslemere, Hindhead and Beacon Hill, and Grayswood. Determine condition of significant blocks of woodland and encourage enhancement.

A second phase involving the development of a strategy and management plan as has been done in Stonehouse could be undertaken.

Partners:

Tree Wardens, Haslemere Biodiversity, The Woodland Trust, National Trust, Waverley Borough Council, Haslemere Town Council, Grayshott Branch Managers.



Habitat: Ancient Woodland

Priority: Protect, restore and enhance ancient woodland sites.

Measure: AW2 Ensure woodland management plans are in place that support nature recovery and that these plans are being implemented.

Species: Hazel dormouse, bats, woodland birds, invertebrates, mosses and lichens, fungi & bacteria.

Ancient Woodland restoration

A group of volunteers, The Branch Managers, have been working for over 2 years restoring a 13 acre area of ancient semi-natural woodland in Grayshott. The site has historic features relating to its past role providing charcoal for the Wealden iron industry. The dominant tree species is beech although there are also mature oaks present. The group have been working to remove the holly scrub to open up the understory allowing bluebells, foxgloves and other plants to colonise the woodland floor. New glades have been created and ancient rides reinstated. Brushwood dead hedges have also been constructed to create new habitats for small mammals, birds, invertebrates and fungi and increase overall biodiversity.

An adjoining site (~25 acres) has recently been purchased from a private owner by the Woodland Trust. It is intended that this area will also be managed by this volunteer group under a plan prepared by the Woodland Trust and Forestry England. The Woodland Trust has already carried out an extensive survey of trees in both sites to identify any notable trees and also assess tree health.

Partners:

Grayshott Branch Managers, Landowners, Woodland Trust, National Trust, Forestry England.

Proposal 5: Survey areas of ancient woodland.

Action and scope:

8% of the parish is ancient woodland, an irreplaceable habitat. 80% of the ancient woodland in our Parish is privately owned with 5 families accounting for around 33% of the total. The Woodland Trust will survey and prepare management plans for the ancient woodland parcels subject to landowners giving permission for access to the sites.

Haslemere Biodiversity will coordinate the project and encourage implementation of the management plans by landowners.

By sharing information about the work already being done by the Branch Managers it may be possible to inspire and assist landowners to manage their woodland areas to improve nature recovery and improve resilience to serious threats (e.g. climate change/extreme weather events, introduced pests and pathogens, herbivore impacts from deer and grey squirrel, pollution). The Branch Manager's work provides a real-life local example of what can be achieved, how much it costs and identifies local partners who could help make it happen.

Partners:

Haslemere Biodiversity, Haslemere Tree Wardens, Woodland Trust, Grayshott Branch Managers, Landowners, Forestry England.

Habitat: Orchards

Priority: Orchard sites are managed to achieve good condition, age, species diversity, connectivity and resilience.

Measure: O1 Ground-truth the Natural England and PTES Orchards Inventories

Specis: Stag beetle, moths, butterfly, birds (e.g. bullfinch, marsh tit), and lichens, fungi & bryophytes.

Haslemere's orchards



In Haslemere, the community benefits of orchards have been recognised, with free community orchard-related events held at the National Trust Traditional Orchard on Swan Barn (0.35ha orchard, see photo). Small community orchards have been planted locally on Haslemere Town Council and Waverley Borough Council land for use of local residents, using heritage fruit varieties on dwarfing root-stocks (for example Lion Green Orchard, off Lion Lane, planted by HTC and Community Orchard Project South East in 2022). While these relatively new community orchards may not be as important for biodiversity as Traditional Orchards, they provide wider community services, including educational, well-being and biodiversity functions.

Proposal 6 - Traditional Orchard sites

Action and scope:

Ground-truth and audit traditional orchard sites in Haslemere. Identify any management changes necessary.

Partners:

COPSE, Haslemere Biodiversity, National Trust, Haslemere Town Council, Waverley Borough Council.

6. Projects in Urban and Suburban Spaces

Habitat: Urban/suburban

Priority: Urban spaces have made space for nature, with connected green and blue infrastructure where wildlife thrives.

Measure: U4 Create new sites for nature, including street trees, tiny forests, rain gardens, Community orchards and urban wildflower meadows.

Species: Hazel Dormouse, Reptiles & amphibians, Birds, Non-native species, Invertebrates.

Biodiversity enhancements for Haslemere Town Council owned sites

In Summer 2024, Haslemere Town Council contracted aLyne Ecology to audit the local green spaces (Town Meadow, Lion Green, St Christopher's Green, Grovers Gardens, Woodcock Green, Pocket park at junction of Shepherd's Hill and Lower Street, Allotments at Clammer Hill, Sturt Road and Collards Lane, Clements Corner), a SANG that they have management responsibility for and the grass verge on the Tilford road in Beacon Hill. The Town Council are implementing the recommendations from aLyne Ecology's biodiversity audit. This involves changing management regimes that contractors carry out on the sites and involving volunteers in remediation and enhancement works. Haslemere Biodiversity is assisting by providing advice and support to the council including by educating and obtaining feedback from residents about the proposed changes and also participating in hands-on work.

Partners: Haslemere Town Council, Haslemere Biodiversity, Transition Haslemere, landscape contractors.

In Spring 2024, Haslemere Town Council, the National Trust, Buglife, Haslemere Biodiversity and local residents started a project to establish a 750m long wildflower verge adjacent to Churt Road and the Golden Valley in Beacon Hill. The verge lies within the B-line that crosses our town. Buglife officially launched the B-line Super Highway in 2021, describing B-Lines as a solution to help solve the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators in the UK (<https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/>). Buglife provided funds for wildflower seeds and led the volunteer sowing day.

There are two conservation verges in the north of the parish that were identified as part of Surrey County Council's Road Verge Habitat Action Plan. These are managed to encourage priority habitat grassland. Other verges in the area should be assessed to determine whether they meet the criteria to be defined as a conservation verge and where they do an application can be made to designate them.

Partners: National Trust, Buglife, Haslemere Town Council, Haslemere Biodiversity

Proposal 7: – Community Nature Trail

A community nature trail that incorporates promotional materials and information boards explaining species present and measures being carried out to improve biodiversity at various sites across the town would benefit the community through recreation and education. Farnham's Bee Trail set up by Hive Helpers serves as an exemplar for this type of project.

Potential Partners: Haslemere Town Council, Waverley Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Haslemere Biodiversity



Habitat: Urban/suburban,

Priority: Urban spaces have made space for nature, with connected green and blue infrastructure where wildlife thrives.

Measure: U13 Encourage wildlife friendly gardening at home.

Species: Swifts, hedgehogs, pollinators, garden birds, frogs, toads, newts and dragonfly, Invasive non-native species,

Wildlife Friendly Gardening initiative

Haslemere Biodiversity launched its Wildlife Friendly Gardening initiative in Spring 2025 with a stall at Earth Day and an evening of talks at Haslemere Museum in June. In addition to events with guest speakers, the group aims to educate, support and encourage residents, local schools, churches, organisations and businesses with gardening for wildlife. Annual surveying for wildlife species within gardens and public spaces throughout the town will be undertaken to provide evidence to inform future work. This may include pond torch surveys, glow worm, bird, plant and invertebrate surveys. Residents will be encouraged to participate in these and national wildlife surveys and suggest nature recovery projects they would like to see implemented in the town.

The community will be encouraged to create new ponds and manage established ponds for wildlife. Plant and maintain native plants that benefit birds, butterflies, and other species. Remove non-native invasive plant and tree species and provide shelter for wildlife.

Partners:

Haslemere Biodiversity, Haslemere Tree Wardens, Transition Haslemere, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, Community Rail Partnership.



Themes: Urban/suburban, Trees and woodland, Hedgerows, Grasslands, Wildlife corridors, Hazel Dormouse, Reptiles & amphibians, Birds, Non-native species, Invertebrates.

Priority: Urban spaces have made space for nature, with connected green and blue infrastructure where wildlife thrives.

Measure: U6 Enhance sites for nature

Thames water land management

Through an arrangement with Thames Water, Haslemere Biodiversity are managing a small piece of land in the town for wildlife. Dormice are known to be present on the site and monitoring will continue. Volunteers will manage the habitat by removing invasive non-native plant species. The site will not be open to the public due to the presence of dormice and the steep nature of the site, but citizen science projects will be held there.

Partners:

Haslemere Biodiversity, Thames Water, Surrey Wildlife Trust.

7. Grassland Projects

Habitat: Grassland

Priority: Grassland sites are more biodiverse. Low-intensity management is encouraged to achieve good condition, age, species diversity, connectivity and resilience.

Measure: G1 Collate and map data on important grassland sites (key features, condition, location and area) to inform/guide owners and managers.

Proposal 8– Surrey Important Grasslands Inventory

The Surrey Important Grassland Inventory (IGI) has recently been completed by Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Nature Partnership and a network of other partners and volunteers. Its aim is to increase awareness of Surrey’s remaining species-rich grasslands on a par with ancient woodland; thereby promoting their conservation, protection and enhancement for land management and consideration in natural capital and biodiversity planning, within the modern administrative county of Surrey.

Action and Scope:

There are 12 ancient grassland inventory sites in Grayswood, Lythe Hill, Beaver meadow identified in the IGI and Hindhead Gold Course is noted for including significant grassland of biodiversity interest. These sites should be added to the Haslemere Ecological Network maps if not already included and protected from harmful development. The IGI includes generic management approaches which landowners can be encouraged to follow.

There are 4 sites in Haslemere that are on the Waitlist as they have not yet been verified as suitable to add to the inventory. Haslemere Biodiversity can work to identify landowners and encourage them to permit surveys to assess the habitat.

Partners:

Surrey Nature Partnership, SWT, SBIC, Surrey Botanical Society, Butterfly Conservation, Haslemere Biodiversity, landowners

8. Rivers and Streams Projects

Habitat: Rivers and Streams

Priority: Dynamic, clean, naturally flowing watercourses support healthy wetlands and ponds, an abundant and diverse range of plant and animal species and habitats with significant blue carbon potential.

Measure: RS3 Monitor water quality, (chemical and biological organism testing); identify and tackle sources of pollution (especially from domestic sewerage, farming and industry); provide buffers by managing trees and other vegetation.

Species: Beavers, otters, water voles, water birds, white-clawed crayfish, riverflies, fish.

Monitoring water quality

The River Wey Trust (RWT) and the Haslemere Water Rangers test the water quality monthly in the Wey at 6 locations in Haslemere. Since May 2024, the Water Rangers Community Water Lab has enabled testing for E.coli in the River Wey. The Community Lab is a collaboration of the University of Surrey, Zero Guildford and The River Wey Trust who jointly sponsor and operate the lab to acknowledged and accepted quality standards. The RWT also supports groups by providing training including kick-fly sampling and they report information on the naturalness of the river Wey to the citizen data portal - Discovering Priority Habitats in England website (<https://priorityhabitats.org>) hosted by the Freshwater Biological Association on behalf of Natural England. The information recorded in the Water Rangers database is also shared with national programs and is a core part of the Rivers Trust CaSTCo open data hub.

The recurrence of pollution in the headwaters which is seen in both the urban and countryside sections around Haslemere - above the 'influence' of the sewage treatment works - is a concern, and the Water Rangers are seeking to start a programme of additional surveys and tests to focus on the sources of the problem using some of the sponsorship funding from Haslemere Town Council.

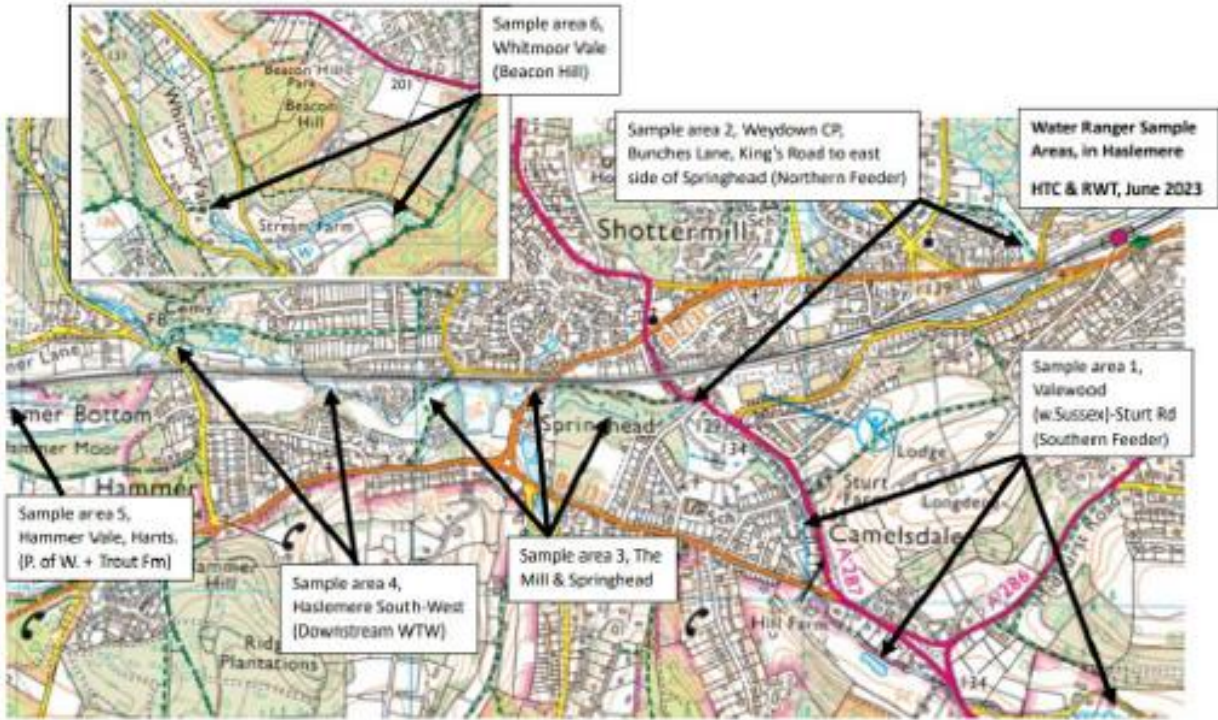
The water rangers project in Haslemere should be continued and extended, building awareness, recruiting new volunteers, seeking funding. A work program should be developed including –Where to test, when to test, community engagement plans. Individuals can be trained to monitor naturalness of the River Wey within Haslemere and to report via the Discovering Priority Habitats portal. The community can be educated about water quality and non-native invasive plants including garden escapes and volunteers can work on projects to improve the naturalness of waterways.

Partners:

Water Rangers, River Wey Trust, Haslemere Biodiversity Wildlife Friendly Gardening Group



River Wey Trust and Water Rangers



Themes: Rivers and Streams,

Priority: Dynamic, clean, naturally flowing watercourses support healthy wetlands and ponds, an abundant and diverse range of plant and animal species and habitats with significant blue carbon potential.

Measure: RS2 Support projects to reintroduce ecosystem engineers like beavers.

RS7 Boost the abundance and biodiversity of plant and animal species.

Species: Beaver, water vole

Wetland creation

Since 2019, the National Trust has been supporting the creation of wetland and improvement of wood pasture through grazing by longhorn cattle and the introduction of beavers. The Blackdown and Hindhead Supporters of the National Trust raised significant funds towards the introduction of the beavers and continue to fund maintenance requirements.

Water vole reintroduction



Water Voles once thrived along the River Wey, but disappeared more than 25 years ago, in large part due to predation by north american mink. In August 2025, 192 water voles were released at 6 carefully chosen sites in the South Wey between Haslemere and Liphook through a partnership led by the National Trust, Environment Agency, River Wey Trust and South East Rivers Trust.

Residents who think they have seen a Water Vole are asked to report sightings to Haslemere Biodiversity, the National Trust South Downs West team or to the National Water Vole Monitoring programme through the PTES giving details of location, date and photos of evidence to help track progress. As natural ecosystem shapers water voles create burrows and grazing patterns that help our riverbanks, they increase plant diversity, provide food for native predators and by creating the right habitat for them also help other species such as moorhen and kingfishers. Their restoration is a boost for wildlife across the whole river catchment. This landmark project will improve riparian vegetation and will hope to lay the foundations for a thriving self-sustaining population across the Wey catchment.

Partners:

Local partners in this project include the National Trust, River Wey Trust, Blackdown and Hindhead Supporters of the National Trust, Haslemere Biodiversity.

9. Farmland Projects

Theme: Farmland, Hedgerows, Trees and Woodland

Priority: Existing wildlife corridors are safeguarded and enhanced for wildlife. New corridors are created where this improves connectivity between habitats and designated sites and between rural and urban green spaces.

Measure: F1 Identify and support farming practices that enhance and buffer wildlife corridors

Proposal 9 – Enhance farmland

Furnace Place Estate

The estate supports a mixed organic farm set in the rolling hills and woodland close to the border of Haslemere and Chiddingfold. Imbhams is one of the oldest farms in South West Surrey and the listed farmhouse dates from the 16th century. The farm follows organic practices, aiming to protect and conserve the environment and wildlife of the farm and surrounding countryside.

A community of small businesses including Imbham Farm Granary, a forestry enterprise, an arable farm, dog training centre and forest school all use the land's resources.

Open days are held so the wider community can enjoy the estate and learn about the work carried out there.

Actions and scope:

There are wildlife corridors that form part of the Haslemere Ecological Network at Imbham's farm. The condition of the corridors could be improved through the filling in of gaps, coppicing and removal of invasives. Volunteers could be supervised to carry out the works. Encourage silvicultural practises within grassland and arable field, to create a habitat akin to Wood Pasture

Partners:

Surrey Wildlife Trust, Farmers (Imbhams), National Trust.

Themes: Trees and Woodland, Ancient woodland, Non-natives

Priority: Woodland is managed to achieve good condition, age, species diversity, connectivity and resilience. Non-native species are controlled and woodland connectivity is increased by planting appropriate species.

Measure: TW2.3 - Boost the species diversity and structural composition of broadleaf, conifer and mixed sites as part of a dynamic mosaic of scrub and other habitats to support at-risk species.

Proposal 10- Reinstate wood pasture

Wood Pasture is described as “areas that have been managed by a long-established tradition of grazing allowing, where the site is in good condition, the survival of multiple generations of trees, characteristically with at least some veteran trees or shrubs” (UKBAP 2008). Although Haslemere appears to currently support limited wood pasture, there are a number of sites historically marked as Wood Pasture by www.magic.gov.uk, which are noted to support open land with scattered trees from historic maps, for example Haste Hill and Shepherds Hill (open ground in 1876) and Grayswood Common. These areas are likely to have been areas of scattered trees, with grazing livestock beneath, but since grazing has ceased, they have over time become broadleaf woodland. Although not defined as ancient woodland, they could support ancient and veteran trees, which grew within a pastoral landscape.

Action and Scope:

Identify whether any wood-pasture sites are still present in Haslemere parish. Consider if any former wood-pasture sites have potential for reinstatement. Determine if existing grass-meadow sites can be developed into wood-pasture. Promote to landowners.



Partners: Landowners, Haslemere Biodiversity, Waverley Borough Council.

10. Flagship Species Projects

Habitat: Trees and hedgerows, Ancient woodland

Priority: Dormice populations thrive through appropriately managing woods and enhancing connections via hedgerows in the landscape. Detrimental non-native species are controlled.

Measure: D2 Monitor dormouse corridors and provide guidance on corridor management. D3 Develop and manage a dormouse register.

Dormouse corridor survey

Since 2020, Haslemere Biodiversity has employed an ecologist, who working with volunteers is surveying 3 km corridor of small woods and mature hedgerows using 50 dormice nest boxes. This work is supported by 9 local landowners. The boxes are checked annually April-November and findings will be used to develop good practice guidelines for landscape design and safeguarding of wildlife corridors.

Proposal 11- Dormouse register

Actions and scope:

At present dormouse records are collected by several different groups across Haslemere, using different methodologies and a variety of different sources. It is proposed to collate the records into a single central dormouse register for Haslemere. The register will be used to:

- provide an up-to-date assessment of dormouse status and distribution in Haslemere,
- provide a tool to support dormouse conservation and,
- to assist LPA planning decisions.

Build-on communications, through local press and other forums, such as public and stakeholder talks, to provide up-to-date information on dormice status, conservation, to share ideas and produce publications.

Partners: Haslemere Biodiversity, Surrey Dormouse Group, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre

Habitat: Urban/ Suburban

Priority: Birds of conservation concern are protected and populations increase by targeted measures that benefit these species. Awareness of the presence of birds of conservation concern is raised.

Measure: B5 Educate residents about priority bird species. B7 Coordinate and encourage the installation of swift boxes. B4 Encourage and support garden bird surveys

Swift Streets project

Swifts arrive in the UK in late April, early May and start to depart for sub-Saharan Africa in early August. Adult pairs come to our shores to raise their chicks while juveniles come to scout future nesting sites. Swifts are on the UK red list of 'most concern'.

Actions and scope:

Inspired by swift box installation projects in Petersfield and Guildford and a talk from Hampshire Swifts at a Wildlife Friendly Gardening event, Haslemere Biodiversity launched the project in early 2026. This project aims to halt and reverse the decline in local swift populations by raising awareness, engaging the local community, providing artificial nesting sites in targeted areas (designated 'Swift Streets') and promoting gardening practices that increase insect food sources.

For the first year the project focuses on 3 areas where swifts have been previously recorded on Swiftmapper. For homes that are suitable for a swift box, residents may purchase a box and installation will be coordinated to save money. The wildlife gardening initiative will encourage participation in UK Swift Awareness week and educate residents about swifts. Reports of swift sightings throughout the summer will be collected and there will be a workshop for participating residents.

Surrey County Council have funded some expenditure for the current year and it is hoped that the project will continue. There are opportunities to lobby Waverley to include swift-friendly policies in the new Local Plan and encourage developers to include swift bricks in local developments.

Partners:

Haslemere Biodiversity, Surrey County Council, Guildford Swift Project, Hampshire Swifts, National Trust, Haslemere Natural History Society, Haslemere Town Council.

Proposal 12 - Hedgehog Project

Actions and scope:

Hedgehogs increasingly seek refuge in gardens, where secure boundaries offer shelter from predatorial badgers. Haslemere Biodiversity is exploring a project to produce hedgehog homes (with predator repelling 13 cm² tunnel entrances) together with linking gardens through 'hedgehog streets', a network of safe spaces for this declining species. The project can only succeed with strong community involvement, and will be promoted through the Wildlife Friendly Gardening Initiative.

Partners:

Partners: Haslemere Biodiversity, Surrey Wildlife Trust Wilder Communities, The People's Trust for Endangered Species, The British Hedgehog Preservation Society.



Proposal 14: Flagship species monitoring

Action and Scope:

- ◇ Encourage regular monitoring of flagship species.
- ◇ Analyse data and use this to understand where species are thriving and where practical action can be targeted.
- ◇ Promote species recording and citizen science through skills training, species recording equipment loans, national citizen science surveys and practical activities (Surrey Wildlife Trust).
- ◇ Raise awareness of flagship species and encourage appropriate practical action to benefit species.
- ◇ Share biological recording data with Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre (SBIC).

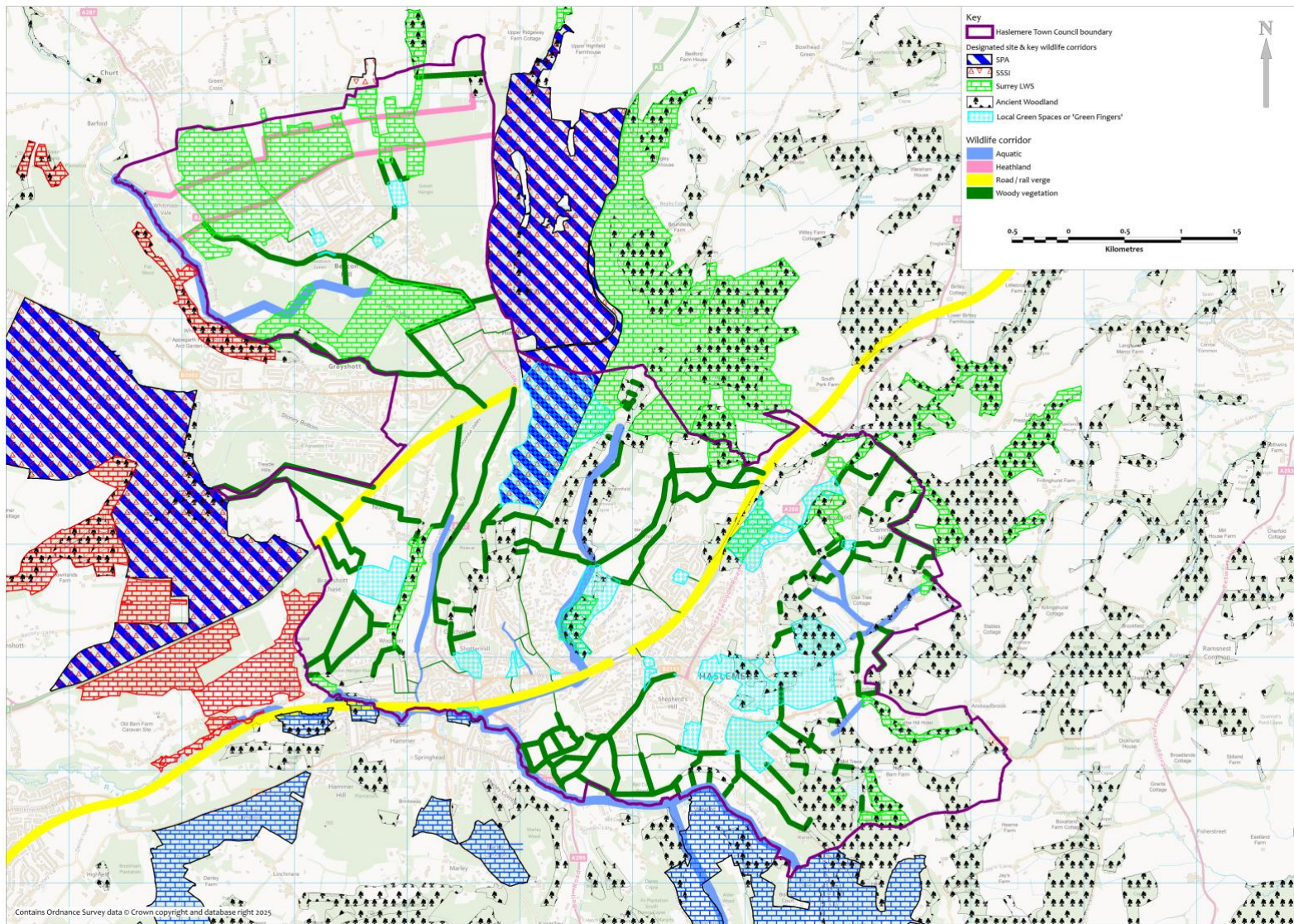
Haslemere Biodiversity will take this proposal forward via its Wildlife friendly Gardening initiative and through engagement with stakeholders. For flagship species, local champions will be appointed to lead action.

Partners:

Haslemere Biodiversity (Wildlife Friendly Gardening), Surrey Wildlife Trust -Wilder Communities, Haslemere Natural History Society, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre

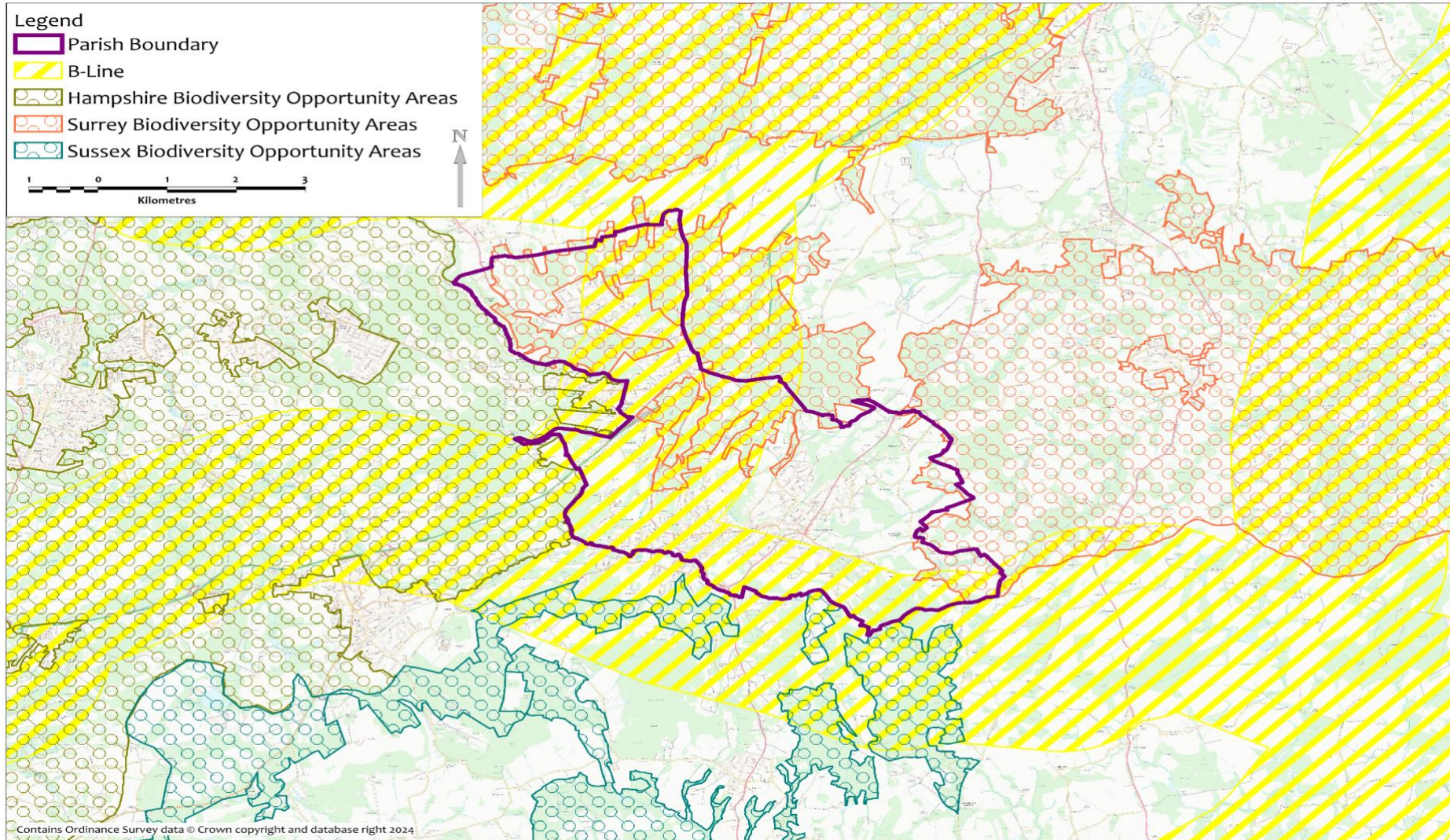
11. HNRS: Map of Opportunities areas for nature recovery (1)

Local Green Spaces & Green Fingers + key wildlife corridors



12.HNRS: Map of Opportunities areas for nature recovery (2)

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) + B-Lines for pollinators



13. Haslemere Nature Recovery Strategy: Priorities and Measures

This section explains the priorities and measures for nature recovery within the Haslemere Ecological Network, the habitats in our town and for some of the species.

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The Haslemere Ecological Network:

Protected sites

Context	<p>A number of European, nationally and locally designated wildlife sites lie within and in close proximity to Haslemere Parish and form the backbone of the Haslemere Ecological Network (HEN). They include one Special Protected Area (SPA) – the Wealden Heaths Phase II; one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - The Devil’s Punch Bowl, with 2 more (Bramshott and Ludshott Commons and Stockstone Quarry) directly abutting the Parish boundary. There are also 19 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) that lie within the Parish boundary with a further 18 in close proximity.</p> <p>The Devil’s Punch Bowl SSSI supports threatened and rare lowland heath habitat and was reported to be in ‘Favourable’ condition in 2021. Key threats include tree and scrub encroachment, the spread of invasive, non-native species, pressures from recreational use (dog walkers, bike riders) and wildfires.</p> <p>The nearby Bramshott and Ludshott Common SSSI includes areas of ancient trees and probably includes fragments of ancient woodland. It is rich in epiphytic lichens, with at least 87 taxa present, including a number of rarities, almost all of which are characteristic of ancient woodland. This site was considered to be in ‘Unfavourable but Recovering’ Condition in 2020.</p> <p>Many of the Local Wildlife Sites under Surrey’s jurisdiction have not been surveyed since they were first designated (ie decades ago) and their current condition is largely unknown. Most LWS are on private land with some under multiple ownership.</p>
Priority outcomes	<p>The network of designated and protected sites is expanded and enhanced; connectivity between different sites is improved; the ecological function and resilience is strengthened and the impact of external pressures on these sites is reduced. Management of habitats within protected sites deemed to be in ‘poor condition’ is strengthened and supported to deliver an improvement in habitat condition.</p>
Measures/actions	<p>P1 - Work with relevant stakeholders (Surrey Nature Partnership, Waverley Borough Council, landowners and other interested parties) to set up and deliver a monitoring programme to assess condition of all Local Wildlife Sites in the HEN. This programme should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P1.1 - Establish current ecological condition of each site. P1.2 - Identify opportunities for improving ecological function and resilience of individual sites through buffering and on-site improvements. P1.3 - Identify opportunities for improving the connectivity between sites through the creation of new areas of habitat acting as corridors and stepping stones. P1.4 - For those sites which are considered to be in ‘poor’ condition, support landowners/managers to develop and implement management plans that deliver improved habitat condition. <p>P2 - Identify recovery targets and indicator species for individual LWS, monitor and report on their status as part of a 5-10 year rolling programme.</p>

Priority species/assemblages	<p>Woodland/hedgerows: Woodland mammals (e.g. Hazel dormouse, bat assemblage), birds (e.g. Nightingale, tawny owl, honey buzzard, marsh tit), invertebrates (e.g. stag beetle, Purple Emperor butterfly), mosses and lichens, fungi & bacteria.</p> <p>Grassland: Specialist plant communities with associated invertebrates, mosses and lichens, fungi, as well as birds and mammals (e.g. harvest mice, hares).</p> <p>Heathland: Heathland birds (e.g. Dartford warbler, woodlark nightjar,) reptiles (e.g. Sand lizard, adder, common lizard, slow worm), invertebrates (e.g. Silver studded butterfly, Grayling butterfly), plants (e.g. acid-grassland plant and lichen community)</p> <p>Urban: Garden birds; wildflowers; pollinators and other insects (stag beetle, bees, butterflies & moths); hedgehogs.</p> <p>Watercourses (rivers, streams, ponds): Riparian mammals (e.g. beavers, otters, water voles), water birds, aquatic invertebrates (e.g. white-clawed crayfish, riverflies), fish.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Site owners and land managers, Surrey Wildlife Trust (also those in Hampshire and West Sussex), Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre (also HBIC and SxBRC), Surrey Nature Partnership, Sussex Local Wildlife Sites Initiative, Local Authorities (Waverley, and equivalent authorities in Hampshire and West Sussex). Surrey County Council (also Hampshire CC and East & West Sussex CC). Independent wildlife reporting groups (e.g Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group, Surrey Dormouse Group, Surrey Bat Group and societies (eg Haslemere Natural History Society). Local conservation groups and citizen scientists.</p>
Knowledge gaps	<p>Ecological condition and value of individual Local Wildlife Sites including their functionality, resilience and connectivity with the rest of the HEN.</p>
Wider benefits	<p>Carbon drawdown, clean water, clean air, erosion control, flood resilience, pollination, recreation & sustainable tourism; health & well-being; education (Citizen Science monitoring), heritage and culture and employment.</p>

Wildlife Corridors

Context	The Haslemere Ecological Network is made up of a number of internationally, national and locally designated wildlife sites, priority habitats, patches of ancient woodland, rivers, streams and ponds and a variety of Local Green Spaces. These different elements are all stitched together by over 150 wildlife corridors which have been identified using aerial photographs, historical maps and local expert knowledge. The corridors have been classified into 4 main habitat types: woody vegetation (woods and hedgerows), riparian corridors, major transport corridors (A3 and railway verges) and heathland corridors. These corridors play a vital role in linking important and isolated areas of habitat and designated sites as well as urban and rural green spaces. They create much-needed connectivity for species to disperse to find food, shelter and mates. It is essential that existing corridors are safeguarded from loss or degradation and that opportunities for enhancing their ecological function and resilience are taken alongside the creation of new corridors in particularly important parts of the HEN.
Priority outcomes	Existing wildlife corridors are safeguarded and enhanced for wildlife. New corridors are created where this improves connectivity between habitats and designated sites and between rural and urban green spaces.
Measures/actions	<p>WC1 - Identify and safeguard key corridors in the HEN against loss or degradation using mechanisms such as the planning system, best practice management and landowner commitment.</p> <p>WC2 - Establish a monitoring programme to assess the ecological condition of existing wildlife corridors and identify opportunities for restoring/enhancing their ecological function and resilience and their value in connecting key elements of the HEN.</p> <p>WC3 - Identify opportunities for creating new corridors of linking habitat between particularly important and isolated areas of habitat and the designated sites in a targeted way that improves connectivity for species.</p> <p>U3 - U9 - Within urban areas, ensure that new 'green and blue' linkages between green spaces are included in new urban infrastructure and utilise species that will be resilient to future changes in climate</p> <p>U13 - Promote the vital role of gardens (private and public) in creating and linking habitats within urban environments through more wildlife-friendly approaches and more areas dedicated to wildlife habitat</p> <p>U16 - Work with key stakeholders to ensure that a greater number of our road and rail verges are being managed to improve biodiversity.</p>
Priority species/assemblages	<p>Woodland/hedgerows: Woodland mammals (e.g. Hazel dormouse, bat assemblage), birds (e.g. Nightingale, tawny owl, honey buzzard, marsh tit), invertebrates (e.g. stag beetle, Purple Emperor butterfly), mosses and lichens, fungi & bacteria.</p> <p>Grassland: Specialist plant communities with associated invertebrates, mosses and lichens, fungi, as well as birds and mammals (e.g. hares, harvest mice).</p> <p>Heathland: Heathland birds (e.g. Dartford warbler, woodlark nightjar,) reptiles (e.g. Sand lizard, adder, common lizard, slow worm), invertebrates (e.g. Silver studded butterfly, Grayling butterfly), plants (e.g. acid-grassland plant and lichen community)</p> <p>Watercourses (rivers, streams, ponds): Riparian mammals (e.g. beavers, otters, water voles), water birds, aquatic invertebrates (e.g. white-clawed crayfish, riverflies), fish.</p> <p>Urban: Garden birds; wildflowers; pollinators and other insects (stag beetle, bees, butterflies & moths); hedgehogs.</p>

Stakeholders	Landowners and managers, Local authorities (planning, land management); private and commercial gardeners, Local conservation groups, citizen scientists.
Knowledge gaps	Ecological condition and value of individual corridors in the HEN. Ownership of some corridors and ability to access to those on private land.
Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown; clean air; clean water; flood resilience; erosion control; pollination; recreation & sustainable tourism; health & well-being; heritage & culture; education (through Citizen Scientists).

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Habitats

Trees and Woodland

Context	<p>Approximately 48% of Haslemere Parish is woodland (33%/761 ha broadleaf and 15%/346 ha coniferous) with 8%/185 ha listed on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory. This compares to 12% woodland cover nationally and 20% across Surrey. Much of the deciduous woodland across the landscape is a BAP Priority Habitat. These woodlands support a diverse range of flora and fauna and are particularly notable for their invertebrates, breeding birds, bats, bryophytes and lichens. They also play a critical role in cleaning water, tackling climate change and mitigating flood risks. However, they are at risk due to inappropriate felling, disease, pests and non-native invasives as well as climate change.</p> <p>Many traditional orchards have been lost; those remaining are within suburban parts of the town, often within private garden spaces. The Parish has numerous street trees as well as many notable, veteran and ancient trees inside and outside the settlement boundary that are significant landscape features.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to connect our woodland with the right tree in the right place, whilst enhancing the condition of our ancient woodlands & restoring lost orchards, scrub and other habitats to support at-risk species. There is also an opportunity to encourage more people to appreciate the importance and value of Haslemere's trees through the establishment of a Community Arboretum and/or a Community Orchard group.</p>
Priority outcomes	<p>Woodland is managed to achieve good condition, age, species diversity, connectivity and resilience. Non-native species are controlled and woodland connectivity is increased by planting appropriate species.</p> <p>Trees outside of woodland are conserved and individual trees are actively established to pre-emptively create the next generation of ancient and veteran trees.</p>
Measures/actions	<p>TW1 - Collate and map data on significant woodland blocks (key features, condition, location and area) to inform and guide woodland owners and managers.</p> <p>TW2 - Ensure that the Parish's woodlands have management plans in place to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TW2.1 - Conserve and actively manage native trees and woodland, especially at protected, priority and ancient sites, alongside residential urban areas and traditional orchards. TW2.2 - Create, connect and extend new broadleaved woodland by establishing the right tree in the right place, preferably by natural regeneration or the establishment of native, locally-sourced and climate-resilient species. TW2.3 - Boost the species diversity and structural composition of broadleaf, conifer and mixed sites as part of a dynamic mosaic of scrub and other habitats to support at-risk species. TW2.4 - Manage healthy and climate resilient trees and woodland against wildfires, disease, pest and invasive control – in compliance with the UK Forestry Standard and for favourable conservation status. TW2.5 - Facilitate and engage with nurseries to supply a good stock of local native seeds and saplings. TW2.6 - Encourage sensitive management (coppicing and pollarding) of riverside habitats to open up woodland canopies to create area of open aspect.

	<p>TW3 - Identify woodland species recovery targets and indicator species. Monitor and report on their status.</p> <p>TW4 - Support the work of HTC, Haslemere Tree Warden Group and other interested stakeholders to explore viability of developing a Haslemere Community Arboretum including an inventory of the town's ancient, veteran and notable trees.</p> <p>TW5 - Work with local developers, housing associations and residents' associations to develop woodland and tree planting strategies and management plans that achieve good condition, age, species diversity and resilience and connectivity to other parts of the HEN.</p> <p>TW6 - Engage and support small woodland industries.</p>
Priority species/assemblages	<p>Woodland/hedgerows: Woodland mammals (e.g. Hazel dormouse, bat assemblage), birds (e.g. Nightingale, tawny owl, honey buzzard, marsh tit), invertebrates (e.g. stag beetle, Purple Emperor butterfly), mosses and lichens, fungi & bacteria.</p> <p>Grassland: Specialist plant communities with associated invertebrates, mosses and lichens, fungi, as well as birds and mammals (e.g. hares, harvest mice).</p> <p>Heathland: Heathland birds (e.g. Dartford warbler, woodlark nightjar,) reptiles (e.g. Sand lizard, adder, common lizard, slow worm), invertebrates (e.g. Silver studded butterfly, Grayling butterfly), plants (e.g. acid-grassland plant and lichen community)</p> <p>Watercourses (rivers, streams, ponds): Riparian mammals (e.g. beavers, otters, water voles), water birds, aquatic invertebrates (e.g. white-clawed crayfish, riverflies), fish.</p> <p>Urban: Garden birds; wildflowers; pollinators and other insects (stag beetle, bees, butterflies & moths); hedgehogs.</p>
Stakeholders	Landowners and managers, Local authorities (planning, land management); private and commercial gardeners, Local conservation groups, citizen scientists.
Knowledge gaps	Ecological condition and value of individual corridors in the HEN. Ownership of some corridors and ability to access to those on private land.
Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown; clean air; clean water; flood resilience; erosion control; pollination; recreation & sustainable tourism; health & well-being; heritage & culture; education (through Citizen Scientists).

Ancient Woodland

Context	Haslemere has 182 ha of Ancient Woodland (8% of Parish) as listed on the AWI. Of this, 149 ha (82%) is privately owned by businesses, individuals & educational establishments. We've identified 55 separate woodland blocks, mostly in the south of the Parish with 5 private landowners holding 33.3%. Ancient Woodland is an irreplaceable habitat of particular importance for biodiversity as it supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, particularly invertebrates, breeding birds, bryophytes and lichens. Threats to ancient woodland include a lack of sympathetic management, disease, pests and non-native invasives as well as climate change and loss of connectivity to other sites.
Priority outcomes	Ancient woodland sites are protected, restored and/or enhanced. Woodland is managed to achieve good condition, age, species diversity and resilience. Woodland condition is improved, by controlling non-native species. Woodland connectivity is improved by planting appropriate species.
Measures/actions	AW1 - Collate and map data on individual AW woodland blocks (key features, condition, location and area) to inform/guide woodland owners and managers. AW2 - Ensure woodland management plans are in place that support nature recovery and that these plans are being effectively implemented. AW3 - Identify woodland species recovery targets and indicator species. Monitor and report on their status. AW4 - Map priorities for buffering and connecting existing wildlife-rich habitats.
Priority species/assemblages	Woodland mammals (e.g Hazel dormouse, bats), woodland birds, invertebrates, mosses and lichens, fungi & Bacteria.
Stakeholders	Woodland owners and managers, Woodland Trust, Forestry England, Haslemere Tree Wardens.
Knowledge gaps	Information on the condition of identified woodland blocks and existing management plans. Key ancient woodland sites and corridors require ground-truthing and survey updates.
Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown; clean air; clean water; flood resilience; erosion control; heritage & culture; education (forest schools); and employment (wood-craft, fencing, charcoal burning)
Best practice guidance	The Woodland Trust - How we restore ancient woodland - https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/ancient-woodland-restoration/how-we-restore-ancient-woodland/

Hedgerows

Context	<p>A hedgerow is defined as a boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide, and where any gaps between the trees or shrub species are less than 20m wide¹. Tree-lines may also be protected via these regulations. For the purposes of Biodiversity Net Gain and the Environment Act 2022 a hedgerow is additionally defined as being less than 5m, beyond which it is termed a tree-line.</p> <p>Hedgerows have long been considered dispersal corridors for wildlife between important habitats (for example Ancient Woodland) including a range of specialist flora (such as Ancient Woodland Indicator Plants) and fauna (such as Dormice), as well as invertebrates, breeding birds, mammals, bryophytes and lichens. Our hedgerow network forms the backbone of the Haslemere Ecological Network (HEN). In addition, there are many other hedgerows, not identified and mapped, which are likely to be within garden and suburban situations that are important for species such as Hedgehogs. However, the vast majority of these garden hedges are likely to be single-species, non-native cherry-laurel, which has less value to wildlife than native hedgerows.</p> <p>Threats to our local hedgerows include a lack of sympathetic management, disease, pests and non-native invasives as well as climate change, resulting in a loss of connectivity within the wider landscape.</p>
Priority outcomes	<p>Our network of hedgerows is enhanced, expanded, restored and reconnected with a focus on ‘important’ hedgerows (as defined by the Hedgerow Regulations), as well as key hedgerows linking wildlife sites in Haslemere.</p> <p>The number of hedgerows being managed to achieve good condition, age, species diversity, resilience and value for biodiversity is increased. Hedgerow condition is improved by removing non-native species and encouraging residents to plant native hedgerows, as opposed to non-native species.</p> <p>Woodland connectivity is increased using appropriate species.</p>
Measures/actions	<p>H1 - Ground-truth the woody corridors of the HEN to assess condition and priorities for restoration/enhancement.</p> <p>H2 - Determine the condition of hedgerows between Local Wildlife sites and Ancient Woodland and engage with landowners to adopt management practices that improve and enhance hedgerow condition and increase their value for biodiversity (e.g. providing nesting sites, shelter, food and song posts).</p> <p>H3 - Identify hedgerow species recovery targets and indicator species. Monitor and report on their status.</p> <p>H4 - Map priorities for buffering and connecting existing wildlife-rich habitats.</p>
Priority species/assemblages	<p>Woodland mammals (e.g Hazel dormouse, bats), woodland birds, invertebrates, flora, mosses and lichens, fungi & bacteria. Urban-dwelling mammals such as hedgehogs, garden birds.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Residents, private estate owners and managers, Woodland Trust, Forestry England, Haslemere Tree Wardens, SWT Hedgerow Heroes and Hedgelink.</p>

¹ Management of Hedgerow Regulations 2024

Knowledge gaps	Condition of the woody corridors in the HEN. The extent of hedgerows within garden spaces and the proportion of these that are single non-native species.
Wider benefits	Function as boundary limits for different sites; carbon drawdown; filtering clean air; clean water; erosion control; heritage & culture; education (forest schools, wildlife gardening); employment (hedgerow maintenance, wood-craft, walking sticks), health and wellbeing.
Best practice guidance	Hedgerow Management Advice – Hedgelink - https://hedgelink.org.uk/guidance/hedgerow-management-advice/

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Traditional and Community Orchards

Context	<p>Haslemere Parish has a 1ha of Traditional Orchard located at Swan Barn NT, with at least four small community orchard sites on Lion Green (HTC), Parson Green (WBC), at Grayswood Forest School site and St. Bartholomew Church verge. Traditional orchards have been recognised as Biodiversity ‘hotspots’ since 2000, supporting a diverse range of saproxylic invertebrates, breeding birds, bryophytes, lichen and fungi. These are defined as a group of fruit and nut trees planted on vigorous rootstocks at low densities in permanent grassland; and managed in a low intensity way. Natural England’s mapping definition of Traditional Orchards is a minimum of 5 fruit trees, with crowns no more than 20m apart. Where fewer fruit trees are present or spaced over 20m apart, it is a relict orchard.</p> <p>Community orchards support trees grown on a semi-dwarfing rootstock, to allow for easier picking of fruit and associated with Community groups, distinct from private orchard spaces. These trees live for only half the age of fruit trees on vigorous rootstocks and although they have less species associated with them, they are still valuable for wildlife, especially when maintained in a low intensity management regime. Surrey is not known as one of the major fruit growing areas of the UK. Of the 700 Surrey orchards recorded by Natural England only 24% of them had been ground-truthed, following Traditional Orchard Inventory (Natural England 2011), with 13.6% in excellent condition, 39.5% in good and 46.9% in poor condition (pers. comm PTES, Jan 2017). There are 14 Traditional Orchards in Haslemere Parish listed on Natural England’s 2011 Traditional Orchard Inventory, many of which are known to no longer exist.</p> <p>They also play a critical role in cleaning water, tackling climate change and mitigating flood risks. However, they are at risk due to inappropriate felling, disease, pests and climate change. Many traditional orchards have been lost; those remaining are within suburban parts of the town, often within private garden spaces.</p>
Priority outcomes	<p>Orchard sites are managed to achieve good condition, age, species diversity, connectivity and resilience, by allowing a good age range of fruit trees, adopting low intensity management regimes and controlling non-native species.</p>
Measures/actions	<p>O1 - Ground-truth the Natural England and PTES Inventories to determine the status of Orchards in Haslemere.</p> <p>O2 - Ensure that the Parish’s Orchards have management plans in place to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> O2.1 - Conserve and actively manage fruit trees and orchards, especially when associated or close to ancient woodland sites. O2.2 - Create, connect and extend new orchards, planting the right tree in the right place, using locally- sourced and climate-resilient species. O2.3 - Ensure complimentary habitats are also managed and/or created to support biodiversity, such as hedgerows and meadows. <p>O3 - Encourage restoration of traditional orchard sites in Haslemere by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> O3.1 - Auditing and surveying traditional orchard sites. O3.2 - Development of a Haslemere Community Orchard Group to help manage current sites and plant new sites. <p>O4 - Work with HTC, Haslemere Tree Warden Group and other interested stakeholders to encourage residents to plant orchards in urban areas, recording the location of private, as well as Community Orchards.</p> <p>O5 - Facilitate and engage with nurseries to supply a good stock of local native seeds and saplings.</p> <p>O6 - Work with local developers, housing associations and residents’ associations to ensure appropriate orchard spaces are created, with practical management plans, with local community engagement at an early stage.</p> <p>O7 - Engage and support orchard industries.</p>

Priority species/assemblages	Invertebrates (e.g. stag beetle, moths, butterfly), birds (e.g. bullfinch, marsh tit), and lichens, fungi & bryophytes.
Stakeholders	Orchard owners and managers (National Trust), Forestry England, Woodland Trust, Waverley Council Ranger Team, Haslemere Tree Wardens, Haslemere Town Council, RSPB, COPSE, local nurseries, local developers, Residents' associations, housing associations.
Knowledge gaps	Inventory of Traditional and Community orchards across the town. Ownership of orchard sites; data on key features, condition, location and area of most significant orchards as well as existing management plans.
Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown; clean air; clean water; flood resilience; erosion control; recreation & sustainable tourism; health & well-being; heritage & culture; small orchard industries (fruit, juicing, charcoal burning); education (forest schools); and employment (growing on heritage varieties, fruit and education)

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Grassland

Context	19% of the Parish supports improved grassland. All of the grassland areas are associated with small farming concerns, most often used as horse grazing pasture, with the western side of Haslemere, supporting less intensively maintained grassland associated with Swan Barn Farm National Trust and Imbhams Organic Farm, as well as small holdings and fields within a landscape peppered with ancient woodland. The northern side of the Parish is associated with sandy soils and acid grassland, which could persist within garden and amenity spaces. Grassland is also associated with road-rail verges and landscape areas in urban areas. Threats to grassland include a lack of sympathetic management, input of fertilizers and application of herbicides, as well as climate change and loss of connectivity to other sites.
Priority outcomes	Grassland sites are more biodiverse. Low-intensity management is encouraged to achieve good condition, age, species diversity, connectivity and resilience.
Measures/actions	G1 - Collate and map data on important grassland sites (key features, condition, location and area) to inform/guide owners and managers G2 - Ensure grassland management plans are in place that support nature recovery and that these plans are being effectively implemented. G4 - Identify grassland species recovery targets and indicator species, monitor and report on their status G5 - Map priorities for buffering and connecting existing wildlife-rich habitats. U16 - Create species rich grassland on road verges within Wildlife Corridors and the B-Line U17 - Liaise with residents and gardeners to encourage sympathetic management in garden spaces. Identify 'acid-grass' lawns.
Priority species/assemblages	Specialist plant communities, with associated invertebrates, mosses and lichens, fungi, as well as birds and mammals.
Stakeholders	HTC, WBC, SCC, National Trust (NT), Farmers, Residents.
Knowledge gaps	Information on the condition of grassland, especially HTC amenity spaces and existing management plans. Key Council and NT sites and corridors require ground-truthing and survey updates. Condition and extent of low-intensity managed gardens
Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown; clean air; clean water; flood resilience; erosion control; heritage & culture; education (HTC, gardens, forest schools); and employment (farming, equine land-use)
Best practice guidance	Plantlife (2020) Managing grassland road verges a best practice guide - https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Managing-grassland-road-verges_2020.pdf

Heathland

Context	<p>Haslemere Parish is characterized by remnant areas of lowland heath and small patches of good quality semi-improved grassland (BAP Priority Habitats) along with occasional areas of wet heath, acid grassland and secondary woodland. It includes the internationally important Devil's Punchbowl SSSI (60 ha) and the nearby Bramshott and Ludshott Common SSSI. Lowland heathland is of enormous importance for its range of nationally and internationally rare and endangered species especially reptiles, invertebrates and breeding birds such as woodlark, nightjar and Dartford warbler as well as its historical and cultural interest. Unfortunately, our heathland has become fragmented and degraded due to conversion to other land uses (urban development, afforestation and farmland or natural encroachment by woodland or grassland). Recreational disturbance, air pollution and lack of management also have a negative impact. Around 85% of Surrey's heathland and 80% nationally has been lost over the past 200 years. Poor connectivity of remaining heathland habitat areas limits the gene pool and leave species vulnerable to local extinctions through disease or environmental issues and restricts climate migration. There is an opportunity to restore and defragment our heathland to support a greater abundance of species.</p>
Priority outcomes	Local heathland is restored, resilient and connected, supporting a greater abundance of species.
Measures/actions	<p>HL1 - Identify Heathland species recovery targets and indicator species, monitor and report on their status.</p> <p>HL2 - Identify and support specific partnerships and projects that aim to:</p> <p>HL2.1 - Conserve, restore and connect fragmented heathland.</p> <p>HL2.2 - Boost the biodiversity of specialist heathland plant and animal species and their ability for climate- resilient migration, especially to support rare and at-risk birds, reptiles and insects.</p> <p>HL2.3 - Manage the landscape mosaic of habitats, with space for natural regeneration but limiting excessive scrub, bracken, non-native plants and forestry encroachment in established sites.</p> <p>HL2.4 - Pre-emptively limit threats such as wildfires and atmospheric pollutants as well as disturbance to ground-nesting birds.</p>
Priority species/assemblages	Heathland birds (e.g. Dartford warbler, woodlark nightjar,) reptiles (e.g. Sand lizard, adder, common lizard, slow worm), invertebrates (e.g. Silver studded butterfly, Grayling butterfly), plants (e.g. acid-grassland plant and lichen community).
Stakeholders	Land owners and managers of heathland areas (e.g. National Trust, Countryside Regeneration Trust, Hindhead Golf Club and others). Partners in Natural England's Heathland Connections Project (The Surrey Hills board, Surrey County Council, Waverley and Guildford Borough Council, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) Trust, RSPB, and the Surrey Wildlife Trust), National Highways, Local volunteer groups.
Knowledge gaps	Key sites and corridors require ground-truthing and survey update.
Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown, clean water, clean air, erosion control, flood resilience, pollination, recreation & sustainable tourism; health & well-being; education (Wildfire Events; Citizen Science monitoring) and employment (sensitive Heathland Management).
Best practice guidance	Symes, N. & Day J. (2003) A practical guide to the restoration and management of lowland Heathland, The RSPB, Sandy.

Urban/Suburban

Context	<p>Haslemere town, surrounding villages and built environment present plenty of opportunities to better integrate nature into our everyday lives. Urban green infrastructure brings communities close to nature and can be a haven for wildlife. Whilst parks and gardens host many mammals, insects and birds – these green spaces also have a proven benefit for our health and wellbeing. Domestic gardens, roadside verges, churchyards and tree-lined streets provide important corridors or stepping stones that can link communities with nature and allow wildlife to move.</p> <p>Our buildings can also be vital built habitats for bats, birds and insects. However, these areas are also a source for undesirable non-native species to colonise the wider countryside</p>
Priority outcomes	Urban spaces have made space for nature, with connected green and blue infrastructure where wildlife thrives.
Measures/actions	<p>U1 - Identify appropriate species recovery targets and indicator species, monitor and report on their status.</p> <p>U2 - Support Haslemere Town Council (and other public bodies) to deliver their Biodiversity Duty.</p> <p>U3 - Connect urban and rural habitats with wildlife corridors to allow wildlife to move through permeable boundaries and green bridges or tunnel.</p> <p>U4 - Create new sites for nature, including street trees, tiny forests, rain gardens, Community orchards and urban wildflower meadows.</p> <p>U5 - Create pollinator habitats across B-lines with native wildflowers and encourage pollinator-friendly verge management.</p> <p>U6 - Enhance gardens, parks, verges, roundabouts, amenity grassland and allotments with natural features and wilder boundaries.</p> <p>U7 - Install nature-friendly lighting for nocturnal species.</p> <p>U8 - Enhance developments' contribution to biodiversity and habitat connectivity including use of nest-hole bricks, bird boxes, hedgehog highways, green walls and roofs, and sustainable drainage system.</p> <p>U9 - Install ponds and pollinator-friendly native wildflowers in gardens.</p> <p>U10 - Conduct biodiversity audit of public green spaces and identify opportunities for more wildlife- friendly management regimes.</p> <p>U11 - Create space for community growing schemes on community owned land.</p> <p>U12 - Encourage and educate for responsible pet ownership to limit disturbance and waste.</p> <p>U13 - Encourage wild-life friendly gardening at home.</p> <p>U14 - Encourage businesses to contribute to urban greening on their properties.</p> <p>U15 - Support schemes to adopt wildlife friendly gardening within schools, churchyards and cemeteries.</p> <p>U16 - Create species rich grassland on road verges within Wildlife Corridors and the B-Line</p> <p>U17 - Liaise with residents and gardeners to encourage sympathetic management in garden spaces. Identify 'acid-grass' lawns.</p>
Priority species/assemblages	Garden birds; wildflowers; pollinators and other insects (stag beetle, bees, butterflies & moths); hedgehogs and other small mammals.
Stakeholders	Local authorities (SCC, WBC, HTC), Surrey Wildlife Trust, residents and residents' associations, community groups (e.g. gardening groups), local schools and youth groups, grounds contractors, developers, housing associations, Haslemere Museum, local volunteer groups.
Knowledge gaps	Key sites and corridors require ground-truthing and survey update.

Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown, flood resilience, clean water, clean air, pollination, erosion control, food supply, recreation & sustainable tourism, health & wellbeing; education (through Citizen Science) and employment (management of spaces (private and public) for biodiversity).
Best practice guidance	<p>EcoChurch - https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/resources/land/</p> <p>Urban Tree Manual - https://cdn.forestresearch.gov.uk/2022/02/7111_fc_urban_tree_manual_v15.pdf</p> <p>How to start a wildlife garden from scratch - https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-start-wildlife-garden-scratch</p> <p>Swift Best Practice Report, Swift Conservation - https://www.swift-conservation.org/2017_SNH_Swift_Best_Practice_Advice_Note-2.pdf</p> <p>Bat Boxes – Bat Conservation Trust - https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes</p> <p>The Blue Campaign – increasing biodiversity in grass verges – Surrey County Council - https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/trees-grass-and-hedges/grass/the-blue-campaign-increasing-biodiversity-in-grass-verges#blu</p>

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Watercourses (rivers and streams)

Context	<p>Haslemere NRS area supports two main catchments, the River Wey and Arun headwaters with associated streams, ponds and ditches. Historically the southern branch of the River Wey supported important industrial activity by powering a number of water mills between Haslemere and Headley. It was also characterized by a series of highly engineered water meadows which utilized a complex system of channels and drains to divert water from the river to improve fertility and drainage of the meadows and maximise hay production. Many of these water meadows no longer exist but the Wey and its tributaries continue to provide important blue corridors supporting a diverse range of species and are a feature of several local SNCIs (Bunch Lane Woodland, Frillinghurst Wood, Woodcock Bottom and Whitemore Vale, Blackdown and Valewood and Hammer Vale SNCIs). However, many are not functioning effectively with key issues being pollution, habitat degradation and non-native invasive species.</p> <p>Water quality in the Wey is routinely rated as ‘poor’ to ‘moderate’ by the Rivers Trust. The release of sewage from Haslemere’s water treatment site (Critchmere SWTW) and other pollution (see theriverstrust.org mapping tools) as well as pollution from agricultural and road run-off, result in sediment and harmful chemicals that push water quality down and reduce oxygen levels. Establishment of various non-native invasive species is causing problems across the Nature Recovery Strategy area. For example, the American mink is largely responsible for the disappearance of water voles from this area whereas the spread of Himalayan Balsam, American skunk-cabbage and Japanese Knotweed suppresses growth of ground flora, creating a ‘sterile’ understory.</p> <p>Historically, watercourses in both catchments have been straightened, over-widened and dredged for many purposes including flood protection, industry and navigation. Such changes can be very damaging, reducing the abundance and diversity of wildlife. In streams, structures such as weirs present a barrier to movement of animals, especially fish which can be prevented from reaching their spawning grounds. Over-abstraction is another negative factor that can cause increased toxicity levels and reduced river flows and is particularly serious during periods of low rainfall.</p>
Priority outcomes	<p>Dynamic, clean, naturally flowing watercourses support healthy wetlands and ponds, an abundant and diverse range of plant and animal species and habitats with significant blue carbon potential.</p>
Measures/actions	<p>RS1 - Identify Riparian/aquatic species recovery targets and indicator species; gather data, monitor and report on their status.</p> <p>RS2 - Support projects to reintroduce ecosystem engineers like beavers.</p> <p>RS3 - Monitor water quality, (chemical and biological organism testing); identify and tackle sources of pollution (especially from domestic sewerage, farming and industry); provide buffers by managing trees and other vegetation.</p> <p>RS4 - Survey individual waterways to assess condition and opportunities for restoring/enhancing functionality; integrate findings into CaSTCo (Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative).</p> <p>RS5 - Conserve and restore naturally functioning and meandering rivers and streams with minimal modifications enabling natural flow, nutrient and sediment regimes.</p> <p>RS6 - Re-naturalise rivers & create new ponds in private gardens and public spaces.</p> <p>RS7 - Boost the abundance and biodiversity of plant and animal species, including by tackling disturbance, non-native invasives, allowing migration, and maintaining or creating adjacent features like ponds.</p>

	<p>RS8 - Sensitively manage the wider dynamic mosaic of natural habitats for water availability, natural hydrology, sediment transportation, nutrient status and natural flood management.</p> <p>RS9 - Determine whether white-claw crayfish are in the immediate catchment.</p>
Priority species/assemblages	Riparian mammals (e.g. beavers, otters, water voles), water birds, aquatic invertebrates (e.g. white-clawed crayfish, riverflies), fish.
Stakeholders	Landowners and managers, River Wey Trust, Wey Landscape Partnership, Water Rangers, Water Companies, Local angling societies, Local residents, Riversearch Project (run by Surrey Wildlife Trust), River Wey Water Vole Recovery Project, National Trust Beaver re-introduction Project.
Knowledge gaps	Key sites and corridors require ground-truthing and survey update. Extent of water pollution requires tracking.
Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown, clean water, flood resilience, erosion control, good soil & sediment status, recreation & sustainable tourism; health & wellbeing, heritage & culture; education (pollution and invertebrate monitoring) and employment (sympathetic water catchment management).

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Ponds

Context	<p>Haslemere Parish has a relatively low density of ponds overall. The south and western side of the Parish on the edge of the Low Weald support a higher density of field, garden and woodland ponds. The northern side of the Parish supports very few, if any, natural field ponds, that are not associated with the River Wey, on account of the sandy free-draining soil. In this area, however, garden ponds are likely important for a variety of wildlife.</p> <p>Several SNCIs host ponds: Imbhams Farm Pond, Kingfisher Farm, Lythe Hill Copse, Keffold's Copse, Jumps Road Copse, Blackdown and Valewood.</p> <p>Ponds nearby or on-line to water courses provide important blue corridors supporting a diverse range of species. However, many are not functioning effectively. Pollution from agricultural, road run-off and leaf-drop in woodland ponds result in sediment that push water quality down and reduce oxygen levels, including harmful chemicals. Establishment of various non-native invasive species is causing problems across the Nature Recovery Strategy area. For example, the Himalayan balsam, skunk arum and non-native Alliums suppress growth of ground flora, creating a 'sterile' understory. Climate change could also impact ground-water sourced field ponds.</p>
Priority outcomes	<p>Ponds are maintained to support a range of wetland and pond habitats, with an abundant and diverse range of plant and animal species, with significant blue carbon potential.</p>
Measures/actions	<p>P1 - Identify Aquatic species recovery targets and indicator species, monitor and report on their status.</p> <p>Identify and support projects that aim to:</p> <p>P2 - Conserve and restore lost 'ghost' ponds and existing ponds, where practical.</p> <p>P3 - Reintroduce beavers to help create new ponds.</p> <p>P4 - Monitor water quality (chemical and biological organism testing) and tackle sources of pollution (especially from leaf-fall, farming and industry) and provide buffers by establishing native trees and other vegetation.</p> <p>P5 - Boost the abundance and biodiversity of plant and animal species, including by tackling disturbance, non-native invasives, allowing migration, and maintaining or creating adjacent features like ponds.</p> <p>P6 - Sensitively manage the wider dynamic mosaic of natural habitats for water availability, natural hydrology, sediment transportation, nutrient status and natural flood management.</p> <p>P7 - Encouraging involvement of residents and residents' associations in the Big garden pond count with potential to ask volunteers/students to assist in project management/data collection.</p> <p>U9 - Create new ponds in private gardens and public spaces.</p>
Priority species/assemblages	<p>Riparian mammals (e.g. beavers, otters, water voles), water birds, aquatic invertebrates (e.g. white-clawed crayfish, riverflies), fish, frogs, toads newts and dragonfly</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Landowners and managers, River Wey Trust, Riversearch Project (run by Surrey Wildlife Trust), Water Rangers, River Wey Water Vole Recovery Project, Water Companies, Local residents.</p>
Knowledge gaps	<p>Key sites and corridors require ground-truthing and survey update. Extent of water pollution requires tracking.</p>

Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown, clean water, flood resilience, erosion control, good soil & sediment status, recreation & sustainable tourism; health & wellbeing, heritage & culture; education (pollution and invertebrate monitoring) and employment (sympathetic water catchment management).
Best practice guidance	Pond design principles for biodiversity - https://content.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/2013/09/pond-design-principles-for-diversity.pdf

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Farmland

Context	<p>Farmland is generally considered grassland, arable, fruit and nut (such as orchard and poly-tunnels) food production areas, but can include woodland where it is part of a farmland estate.</p> <p>Farmland covers approximately 33% of Surrey, but in Haslemere it covers a fraction of this amount. A number, but not all of the National Trust grassland sites in Haslemere are under agri-environmental Stewardship (High-Tier) schemes. The Green Farm Countryside Regeneration Trust estate, which straddles the Parish boundary with Churt, has a number of conifer woodland parcels (with pockets of heathland) under High-level Stewardship. The only private estate under stewardship is Furnace Place, at Imbhams Farm, on the eastern side of Haslemere, which includes a 5.25ha section of field under arable, possibly the only arable field in the Nature Recovery Strategy area.</p> <p>Threats include intensive management that reduces habitat quality and connectivity and overuse of pesticides, fertilisers and herbicides that can pollute waterways and other habitats.</p>
Priority outcomes	<p>Farmland is managed to support a range of wetland and pond habitats, with an abundant and diverse range of plant and animal species, with significant blue carbon potential.</p> <p>Existing wildlife corridors are safeguarded and enhanced for wildlife. New corridors are created where this improves connectivity between habitats and designated sites and between rural and urban green spaces.</p>
Measures/actions	<p>F1 - Identify and support farming practices that enhance and buffer wildlife corridors.</p> <p>F2 - Identify and support farming practices that maintain and improve wetland and pond habitats for an abundant and diverse range of plant and animal species</p>
Priority species/assemblages	<p>Skylark, yellow Hammer, lapwing, grey partridge, turtle dove. Corn Buttercup, Red Hemp-nettle, Spreading Hedge-parsley, Cornflower, Prickly Poppy, Narrow-fruited Cornsalad, Mousetail, Cat-mint and Night-flowering Catchfly. Harvest mouse, brown hare, hazel dormouse, Bats.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Farmers, Woodland Trust, Surrey Wildlife Trust</p>
Wider benefits	<p>Carbon drawdown; clean air; clean water; flood resilience; erosion control;</p>

Species

Hazel Dormouse

Context	<p>Haslemere Parish is one of several strongholds for Dormice in Surrey, due to the extent of woodland cover within the Parish, with at least four long-term monitoring projects taking place and recent dormice records from at least 8 locations across the Parish. Dormice are arboreal, rarely coming to the ground and live in structurally diverse broadleaf woodland, scrub and hedgerows, with a diverse variety of fruiting tree and shrub species.</p> <p>Dormice live at very low population densities compared to other small mammals and are therefore naturally scarce, even in the absence of anthropogenic impacts. Their woodland habitats have become fragmented and degraded due to conversion to other land uses (urban development, afforestation and farmland). Other indirect impacts include presence of cats, which predate dormice and non-native species that escape or are planted in deciduous woods. Poor connectivity of remaining woods through urbanisation and defunct hedgerows, isolates woods within the landscape, leaving this species vulnerable to local extinctions.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to restore and defragment our woods, through sympathetic hedgerow management and planting new hedges, to allow corridors and dispersal between woods.</p>
Priority outcomes	Dormice populations thrive through appropriately managing woods and enhancing connections via hedgerows in the landscape. Detrimental non-native species are controlled.
Measures/actions	<p>D1 - Develop the Dormice mini-project with stakeholders.</p> <p>D1 - Monitoring dormice corridors and provide guidance on corridor management.</p> <p>D3 - Develop and manage a Haslemere Dormice Register.</p> <p>D4 - Engage with people and provide education leaflets and advice on dormouse ecology and management.</p>
Priority species/assemblages	Deciduous woodland, Scrub and Hedgerows
Stakeholders	Landowners and managers of ancient woodland. National Trust, Waverley Borough Council, Haslemere Town Council, Surrey Dormice Group, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, local volunteer groups and residents.
Knowledge gaps	Key sites and corridors require ground-truthing and survey update.
Wider benefits	Recreation & sustainable tourism; health & well-being; education (Citizen Science monitoring).

Reptiles & Amphibians

Context	Haslemere Parish supports all of the UK's widespread reptiles and amphibians, including adder, grass snake, common lizard, slow-worm, smooth newt, palmate newt, common toad and frog. Widespread reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act from harm, while the listed amphibians are protected from unlicensed trade only. Historically the Parish is likely to have supported smooth snake and sand lizard in the northern parts of the Parish, around Hindhead Common and Beacon Hill Heath. These two heathland species and great crested newt are European protected species. Great crested newt (GCN) populations are close to the Parish boundaries, 1km to the south in Sussex and 1-2km to the north, but there do not appear to be any historical records from Haslemere and to date have not been located within the Parish.
Priority outcomes	Endangered and indicator species thrive. Awareness of their presence is raised and targeted measures are in place to benefit them.
Measures/actions	RA1 - Develop and manage an Amphibian and Reptile mini-project with relevant stakeholders - NT, ARCT, SARG, WBC and public. RA2 - Monitor reptiles on Hindhead Common. RA3 - Engage with public and provide education leaflets and advice on Reptile and Amphibian ecology and management. RA4 - Monitor great crested newt absence/presence. Continue monitoring ponds, especially in Grayswood RA5 - Assist with managing toad crossings where identified.
Priority species/assemblages	Heathland, Ponds, Woodland edges, Gardens
Stakeholders	National Trust (NT), Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARCT), Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG), and local authorities (Surrey County Council , Waverley Borough Council , Haslemere Town Council), residents' associations, Haslemere Museum, local volunteer groups, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre.
Knowledge gaps	Ground-truthing and survey updates on key sites (heathland and ponds)
Wider benefits	Recreation & sustainable tourism; health & well-being; education (Citizen Science monitoring) and employment (sensitive habitat management).

Birds

Context	<p>Birds are an important part of our ecosystem. They are seed dispersers, predators and scavengers.</p> <p>Hindhead Common, part of Punchbowl Common SSSI and Wealden Heaths SPA, is notified for the following specialist bird species: Dartford warbler, nightjar and wood lark. These three notable bird species are generally restricted to open lowland heathland, with the latter two species also associated with woodland sites recently cleared of trees. As ground-nesting birds these species are especially sensitive to dog-walking, cat and other recreational activities.</p> <p>The woodland, gardens and suburban areas around the Town provide nesting opportunities for a wide range of red and amber status Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC).</p>
Priority outcomes	<p>Birds of conservation concern are protected and populations increase by targeted measures that benefit these species. Awareness of the presence of birds of conservation concern is raised.</p>
Measures/actions	<p>B1 - Identify priority species and devise targeted measures to benefit these species.</p> <p>B2 - Support heathland bird monitoring, such as nightjar surveys at Hindhead Common (National Trust site).</p> <p>B3 - Extending monitoring for nightjar to the Countryside Regeneration Trust Heath sites, Hindhead Golf Course, Windy Gap (NT) and the Devil's Punchbowl (NT).</p> <p>B4 - Encourage and support garden bird surveys.</p> <p>B5 - Educate local residents about priority species.</p> <p>B6 - Ensure protected areas (National Landscape, Ancient Woodland, Area of Great Landscape Value, Green Belt) are not developed.</p> <p>B7 - Co-ordinate and encourage the installation of swift boxes.</p>
Priority species/assemblages	<p>Dartford Warbler, nightjar, woodlark, Yellow Hammer, Marsh tit, Lapwing, Skylark, house sparrow, starling, swift</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Local authorities (Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council, Haslemere Town Council), Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, residents and residents' associations, Haslemere Natural History Society, community groups (e.g. gardening groups), local schools and youth groups, grounds contractors, developers, housing associations, Haslemere Museum, local volunteer groups.</p>
Knowledge gaps	<p>Ground-truthing and survey updates on key sites</p>
Wider benefits	<p>Recreation & sustainable tourism; health & well-being; education (Citizen Science monitoring) and employment (sensitive habitat management).</p>

Non-native species

Context	<p>Control of non-native species is estimated to cost the UK £4 billion annually. The UK supports over 2,000 non-native species. Archaeophytes are species that have colonised the UK and established within UK habitats, over 500 years ago, often during medieval times e.g. arable wildflowers, and are considered a part of our natural habitats and landscape. Neophytes are species introduced within the last 500 years, during colonial expansion when many non-native species were introduced into the UK and as such have few natural checks and predators to control their populations. These recently colonised non-native species can become a problem, becoming dominant in habitat to the detriment of native species. It is illegal to plant Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 scheduled non-native species in the wild, as they are considered the most harmful to our native species and associated habitats.</p> <p>Riparian non-native plants include skunk cabbage, few-flowered onion and Himalayan balsam. Scheduled woody species include rhododendron, false acacia and tree of heaven, although some species such as cherry laurel are not scheduled as non-native species, but are a problem to ancient woodland sites, when planted as hedgerow. Haslemere's gardens provide a significant seed source for cherry laurel to spread onto woodland and heathland sites. Other non-flora species include American mink, red-necked parakeets, zebra mussels, signal and Turkish crayfish.</p>
Priority outcomes	Councils, residents and landowners are aware of problem species. Non-native species are replaced by native ones and/or their growth and spread is restricted.
Measures/actions	<p>N1 - Determine the distribution of non-native species in Haslemere and create action plans for their control or limit their spread, where practical.</p> <p>N2 - Assess, monitor and manage non-native species along watercourses and catchments.</p> <p>N3 - Support projects that aim to eradicate non-native species that are detrimental to protected and flagship species.</p> <p>N4 - Educate the community and encourage the removal of non-native species and replanting of native species.</p>
Habitats	Woodland, Heathland, Riparian and Ponds
Stakeholders	Local authorities (Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council, Haslemere Town Council), residents' associations, community groups (e.g. gardening groups), local volunteer groups
Knowledge gaps	Distribution of non-native species in Haslemere
Wider benefits	Health & wellbeing, heritage & culture, education.

Rare Plants & Fungi

Context	There are several factors that are endangering plant species. Habitat destruction and fragmentation when land use changes. Climate change that is impacting the lifecycle and distribution of plants due to the changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. Invasive species -that are out-competing native plant communities; and pollution to water, air and soil that effect plant health including reproduction. Plants are at the base of the food- web for other species and thus contribute to the stability and balance of our ecosystems. There is excellent local data, compiled in 2022 by Andrew Swan of the Haslemere Natural History Society, about the Flora of the Haslemere Area but there is scope to deepen our knowledge of the presence of rare and indicator species through field studies and incorporation of data from other studies.
Priority outcomes	Endangered and indicator species are protected and conserved. Awareness of their presence is raised and targeted measures to benefit these species are deployed.
Measures/actions	RP1 - Compare the State of Surrey's Nature: Species of Conservation Concern, the Vascular Plant Red List for England and Plantlife spatial data with The Flora of the Haslemere Area report prepared by Andy Swan to identify whether there are rare or endangered plants in Haslemere. RP2 - Compile a priority species lists in accordance with "Species recovery within LNRs: Advice for Responsible Authorities" by Natural England. RP3 - Control invasive species that are detrimental to priority species. RP4 - Educate local residents about rare and priority species and plant biodiversity and its importance in order to foster a sense of responsibility. RP5 - Ensure protected areas (National Landscape, Ancient Woodland, Area of Great Landscape Value, Green Belt) are not developed. RP6 - Encourage involvement in Plantlife's National Plant Monitoring Scheme .
Priority species/assemblages	Wild Daffodil, Corn Buttercup and Pale Toadflax
Stakeholders	Local authorities (Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council, Haslemere Town Council), SWT, Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre residents and residents' associations, community groups (e.g. natural history society, gardening groups), local schools and youth groups, grounds contractors, developers, housing associations, Haslemere Museum, local volunteer groups.
Knowledge gaps	Ground-truthing and enhancing baseline data
Wider benefits	Carbon drawdown, flood resilience, clean water, clean air, pollination, erosion control, food supply, recreation & sustainable tourism, health & well-being; education (through Citizen Science) and employment