

Hi all,

Summer has well and truly ended, and as the seasons shift so too does our management on Puttenham Common. Here is the latest update on what we are doing on Puttenham Common, as ever, please do share the information with fellow Puttenham Common devotees, and if anyone has any other questions, do send them my way.

1. **The cows are now off the common:**

A huge thank you to you all for being so supportive of our reintroduction of our Sussex cows to Puttenham Common this summer. We were completely delighted by how successfully it went! The NoFence collar technology has proven a complete game changer, allowing us to manage the grazing on the common without fences and to track the cows and their movements. We really enjoyed hosting several Meet The Cows events and were thrilled by everyone's interest. The cows seemed to behave themselves and they looked so beautiful and natural grazing on the common. They have done a great job of trampling down the bracken and grazing the ground to enable more heather colonisation. We have taken them off the common for the winter as they were running out of forage, they are now happily munching on other pastures across the estate. We are already excited to bring them back onto the common in 2024!

2. **Forestry works begin next week:**

As part of our 100-year vision for habitat restoration, we are removing certain trees and scrub across the common. Removing encroaching pioneer trees and scrub will create new areas of wood pasture, beneficial for species such as Glow Worm and Nightingale. Importantly, tree removal will also enable us to rewet the rare boggy mire habitats, increasing climate resilience as well as biodiversity across the common. It's all about the right tree in the right place on Puttenham Common. For more information on why we are doing this, please see our [website](#). Our forestry contractors Coombes are starting the forestry works on **Monday 23rd October**. We will put up information signs in all the car parks and explain what is happening on our social media. I have attached the two information signs to this email, which provides a map of where forestry works are happening, what this means for users of Puttenham Common, and why we are undertaking these works.

3. **Bracken clearance is ongoing:**

We are currently using our new flail collector on the common to clear bracken, focusing on the areas around the Top Car Park to begin with. You may see Rob out and about in his tractor doing this work.

4. **Butterfly Conservation starting a transect on Puttenham Common and looking for volunteers:**

I had an exciting meeting with the team from Butterfly Conservation a few weeks ago to map out a new butterfly transect that will be conducted across Puttenham Common every summer. Butterflies are key indicator species so its really important that we have an idea of which butterflies are calling Puttenham Common their home and when, as it will tell us how successful our habitat restoration project is. Butterfly Conservation are looking for volunteers who might like to run this transect, you don't need to be a butterfly expert, there is training available. If you would like to be involved please do let me know.

We are hoping to organise a Work Party on Puttenham Common in early 2024, as an opportunity to bring all Puttenham Common enthusiasts together and get our hands dirty with some habitat restoration (likely to be scrub removal). Keep your eyes peeled for more info on this. We were delighted that Debbie Mitchell spotted a Goat Moth on the common a few weeks ago, which is a nationally scarce species and the UK's heaviest moth. A picture of the moth is attached. We always love to hear about any exciting sightings so do get in touch!

Finally, a reminder to follow us on Instagram and Facebook for more updates, and if you have any friends who want to join this email list for Puttenham Common updates let me know.

Thank you for all your support,
Best wishes,
Molly.