



My first 18 months as your new
Ranger at Limpsfield Common

Introduction

I have now been working at Limpsfield for nearly 2 years.

In that time, I have achieved a lot, and I have ambitious plans going forward.

- Habitats at Limpsfield
- Works undertaken
- Anti-social behaviour & security
- New Information Boards
- Going Forward
- Questions?

Heathland

- **Man made habitat**
- **Grazing**
- **Poor free draining soils**
- **Lack of tree cover**
- **85% lost over last 150 years**
- **Hang on to what we've got & improve it**
- **Expand areas**



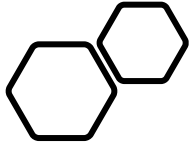
Ancient Woodland

- Continuously wooded since 1600
- Covers only 2.5% of the UK
- 70% lost to conifer plantations
- Complex communities of insects; fungi & microorganisms
- Rare flora & fauna
- Lemon Slug; Wild Garlic; Wild Daffodils



Works Undertaken





Scearn Bank

- The work took 7 weeks and we successfully reopened up the viewpoint and re-established the clearing below the car park.
- We will return in the autumn to work along the tree line either side, to create ecotones between the woodland and heath area.



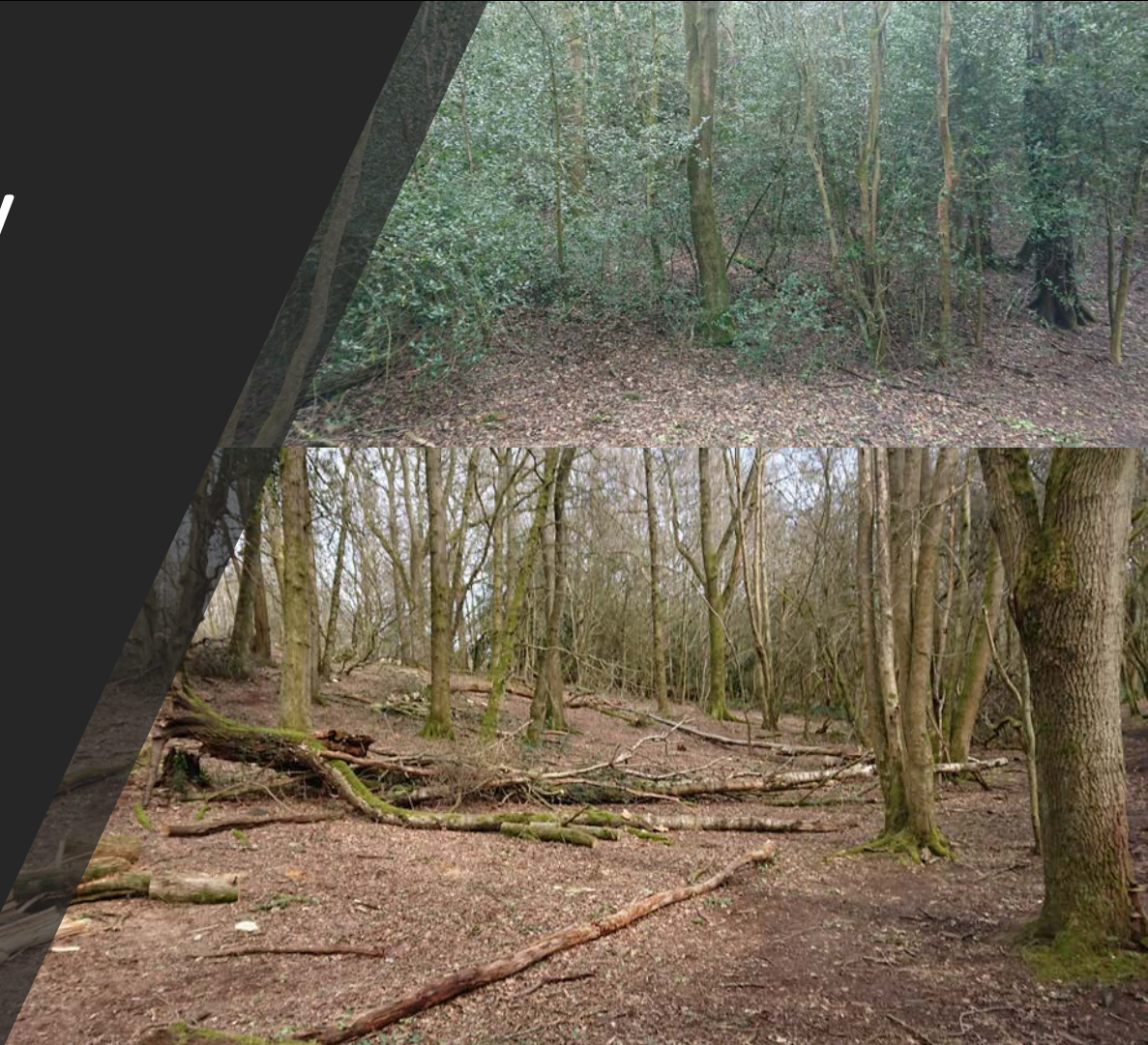


New Road & Happy Valley

- Work here involved heathland regeneration – clearance of Bracken, Bramble and Silver Birch to enable the heather underneath to flourish; and clearance of Holly on the valley sides which was choking the woodland, and meant there was little understory, not good for habitat.

New Road & Happy Valley

- Images of Holly choked woodland before the work and cleared areas with plenty of deadwood left for habitat
- We have returned to work with the Holly clearance on the other side of the Valley, and more Bracken clearing on the heathland site





Little Heath

There is a lot of heather at the site, but it's being smothered by the usual suspects

The team spent 5 weeks tree popping Silver Birch; clearing bracken and bramble with brush cutters, as well as creating new scrapes to aid Heather growth, and then returned later in the summer as the bracken had regrown

Little Heath

The pictures show a very healthy scrape, bursting with Heather, as well as a healthy clump of Heather pushing up through layer of dead Bracken



Moorhouse Bank

- Old cricket pitch
- Two areas of Heather
- One pushing through on a scrape
- Swamped by bracken and bramble
- Keep area clear & free of nutrients
- Acid grassland also very rare so Cut & Collect needed going forward



West Heath

- Neglected for a while
- Woodland being choked in parts
- Large Laurel infestation
- Heathland scrapes going in
- Spigot Mortar restoration
- Bike pits?



Chart Green

- Area opposite The Carpenters
 - Would have been all heathland
 - Covered by brambles & bracken
 - Another young healthy scrape
 - 4 large scrapes now in
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Heathland Scrapes across the Chart

- Heathland plants flourish on a very poor soil
- Top 6-8 inches of soil removed
- Heather seedbank can last for up to 120 years
- Great habitat for snakes & reptiles
- Large scrapes have gone in at Little Heath; New Road; Moorhouse Bank & Chart Green



Yalden Spring

- Spring emerges beneath a Beech Tree
- Once thought to be the source of the Darant
- SSSI – once home to rare plant species
- Trashed in recent years
- Dead hedging
- Successful so far



Air Raid Shelters

- Bramble treated chemically & will be removed
- Viewpoint cleared
- Spigot Mortar cleared and sandbags cemented in
- Exciting plans going forward
- First visits from local groups
- Public open days planned
- Other spigots to be cleared.





Ridlands Grove

- Bird, Bat & Owl & Owl boxes
- New Information Board
- Ancient Woodland Interpretation Board
- Stag Beetle & Bug Hotels
- Dormice & Hedgehog houses
- Bluebell Trail to be reopened



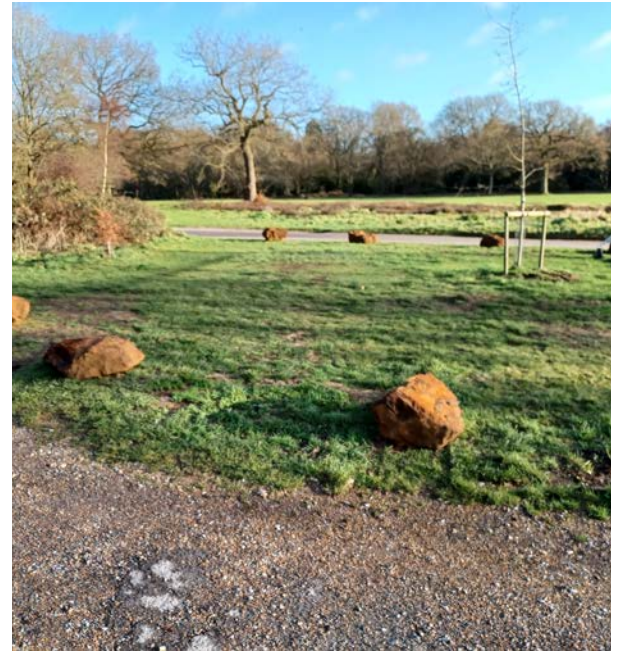
Protecting Habitat

- Post & Rail section installed to protect Bluebell bed

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Car parks
- Dog Poo
- Litter
- Fly Tipping
- Vandalism
- Bike pits
- Other activities !!





Security

New Information Boards

- New information boards installed at 8 car parks
- Funded by CIL Fund grant applied for by FOLC
- Each board includes large map of area & a more detailed view of that locale
- Boards produced by NT volunteers using Oak felled from Bookham & milled on site



Going Forward

Works in the plan include -

- Heathland regeneration at other sites across the Common including West Heath
- New waymark posts
- Extra poo & litter bins
- Dead hedging at various sites to create dog and walker free areas and block permissive paths
- Chemical treatment of bracken
- Specific surveys – archaeology; Red Wood Ants; veteran trees





Any Questions?