



Epsom & Ewell

Biodiversity Action Plan



Progress report for 2013

Introduction

During 2013 the Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Working Group oversaw significant progress in implementing the plan which can be viewed here:

<http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Environment/Biodiversity.htm>

The importance of Biodiversity:

Biodiversity encompasses the whole variety of life on Earth. It includes all species of plants and animals, their genetic variation, and the complex ecosystems of which they are part. It is not restricted to rare or threatened species but includes the whole of the natural world from the commonplace to the critically endangered.

The intricate network of ecosystems, habitats and species comprising biodiversity provides the support systems that sustain human existence. It provides many of the essentials of life, our oxygen, water, food, clothing, health and relaxation. Consequently, humanity must adopt sustainable ways of living that ensure the protection of biodiversity.

Today we live in a world where the economic activities of an ever increasing human population threaten biodiversity which is being lost at an ever increasing rate. Britain alone is known to have lost 100 species during the twentieth century.

There is a broad consensus around the world that we need to act now, or risk handing our children a world we would not recognise as planet Earth!

The 'Working Group' currently comprises the following individuals:

Mark Berry: Head of Planning, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Stewart Cocker: Countryside Manager, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Sarah Clift: Senior Countryside Officer, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Jeremy Young: Tree Officer, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

John Edwards: County Ecologist, Surrey County Council

Alastair Kirk: Surrey Biological Record Centre Manager, Surrey Wildlife Trust

Conor Morrow: Project Officer, Lower Mole Countryside Management Project

Kevin Morgan: Locally based ecologist and environmental consultant

The plan agreed in 2010 contains 7 objectives, comprising 23 targets with 45 actions. It should be noted that the 'Working Group' has no set budget to directly assist in implementing the plan and consequently is restricted to a coordinating/prioritising role with the plan as an essential guide and tool. That said, members of the 'Working Group' continue to be able to contribute to the implementation of the plan through the course of their normal duties

The plan does have suggested dates for the achievement of actions which assists in prioritisation but does not at this stage provide a measure of success or failure, especially given the current time and resource constraints on those working to implement the plan.

This report summarises progress made during 2013 under the plans seven objectives. Where appropriate updates from previous reports are given along with new items for 2013. **Please note activities reported on can contribute to and be relevant to more than one objective.**

Foreword

TV presenter and naturalist **Chris Packham** is a wildlife expert, photographer and author with a passionate concern for conservation and the environment. In 2012 Chris agreed to write the foreword for the Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan.



When you are a kid size matters and thus the magnificent male Stag Beetles emergence was an eagerly anticipated annual event. A nearby street had some monstrous oaks and a diversion from the normal route to school would pay dividends and fill my jam jars. To be fair these creatures have lost none of their allure over the years but now it's not just their size that matters, it's their importance as a flagship species - they along with the Oaks which nourish their peculiar larvae. So I'm not surprised that you have chosen them as your local heroes to champion the Biodiversity Action Plan - and you have impressive numbers of these giants too!

In simple terms any communities' biodiversity is a measure of its health and stability. The more niches that are filled the better the natural machine will function and prosper. Thus nationally, regionally and locally we have constructed plans which aim to protect and enhance the richness of life at these respective levels. All have their roles but local strategies are tremendously important because they are implicitly governed by those who live, work and influence that community - these are formulated, enacted and enjoyed by those 'on the ground'. They are about 'personal wildlife conservation'!

In these days where doom and gloom are a constant temptation, I remain optimistic about our abilities to make a difference because we have such a well-stocked armory of abilities to effectively conserve life. We have studied it, tested



it, we know what we need to do. The introduction of grazing on Epsom Common has seen superb revivals in butterfly and plant diversity and even established a future for a population of the charismatic Yellowhammer. This has only been achieved by many years of tireless volunteer endeavor - an essential component of contemporary conservation.

And ultimately this success is good for us too. We uniquely have a conscience so we have to try to do what we know is right, but also we can enjoy a better quality of life as a result, the sight of a Stag Beetle whirring across the dusk sky or the charming song of the Yellowhammer with its 'little bit of bread but no cheese' can make your day. And that's the real key here; it will make your day and not mine, because the borough of Epsom and Ewell is yours. You mend it, restore it and protect it and you can revel, be proud of and enjoy it! Superb!

Chris Packham 2012

Progress during 2013

Objective 1: *Develop partnerships to ensure that the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Epsom and Ewell is maintained in the long term.*

Update:- During 2013 Mark Berry continued as a board member on the Surrey Local Nature Partnership playing an important role in establishing the new partnership. The proposed service level agreement (SLA) between the Surrey Biological Records Centre and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) has been on hold during 2013 with available time being spent on the Borough wide Sites of Nature Conservation (SNCI) re-survey. The aims of the proposed SLA are to improve knowledge and information exchange regarding all species and in particular European protected species which should assist with planning applications, Surrey BAP habitat mapping and invasive exotic species.

Update:- EEBC continues to strongly support local groups actively involved in conserving and enhancing biodiversity within the Borough. For example, the Epsom Common Association and the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project (LMCMP) who celebrated their 30th anniversary during 2013. The EEBC Countryside Team has continued with a weekly conservation task held on Thursdays, during 2013, 2511 volunteer hours were recorded, carrying out practical conservation work closely aligned to the LBAP which has a value of approximately £23,000 using the Heritage Lottery valuation of unskilled volunteer work at £55 per day per volunteer (Please note some work is classed as skilled and valued higher)



Countryside Team Volunteers planting along the banks of the Hogsmill river following removal of a weir by the South East Rivers Trust autumn 2013



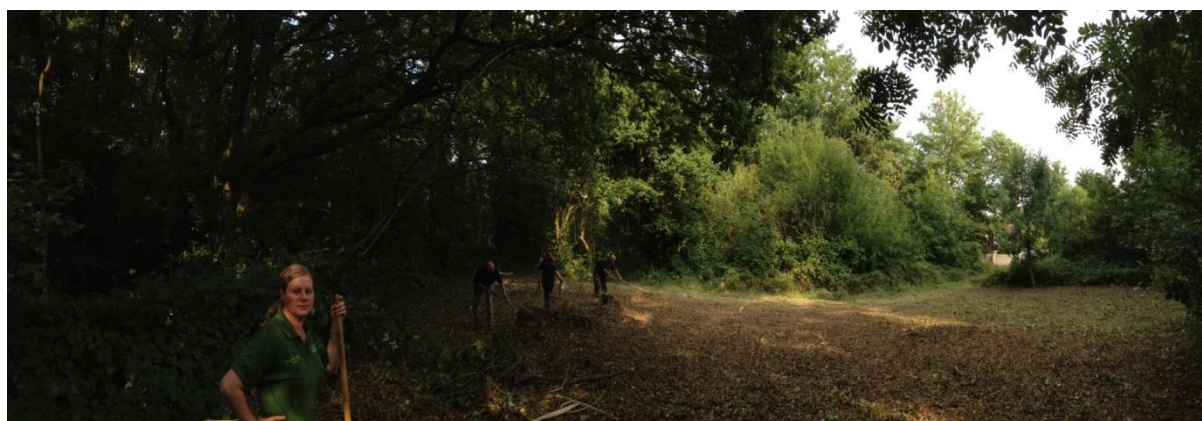
Lower Mole Project 30th anniversary

Update:- As reported last year the LBAP through links via the 'Working Group' members has prompted Surrey County Council to ask EEBC to partner with them in work to pilot the forthcoming 'Community Infrastructure Levy' in regard to Green Infrastructure. This will hopefully lead to successfully securing future funds for Green Infrastructure from new developments. During 2013 this initiative has evolved and is now a part of the wider 'Surrey Pilot Project' between EEBC and Surrey County Council which whilst focused more on economic development, will also take account the needs and value of Green Infrastructure.

New:- The Lower Mole Countryside Management Project through their 'Living Woodlands' Project are now assisting with the management of privately owned Ancient woodland adjacent to the Durdans at the foot of Epsom Downs.

Objective 2: *Ensure the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species, as specified nationally and in the Surrey Habitat Action Plans*

New:- In 2012 EEBC and the City of London paid jointly for a National Vegetation Class (NVC) survey of Epsom and Ashted Commons as a follow up to the 2001 NVC survey. The survey highlighted the progress made in diversifying habitats especially through the re-introduction of grazing. However, the report also highlighted the continuing loss of areas of species rich grassland to scrub encroachment. To address this the Countryside Team Volunteers commenced a restoration programme during late summer 2013 which will continue with the aim of both restoring areas and ensuring long term maintenance.



Epsom Common LNR, Volunteers restoring
Baron's Meadow September 2013

Update:- Grazing on Epsom Common took place again during 2013 with 35 cattle from early May to early September. Volunteers played an increased role again during 2013 in daily checking which proved essential as the staff available at weekends fell from two to one during 2013. Volunteers also continue to play a crucial role in maintaining the grazing area which is the Borough's flagship habitat conservation and enhancement initiative. The nature conservation benefits of grazing continue to surprise and delight all those involved. Of particular note are the significant increases in butterfly populations and flowering plant species and strong indications that grazing is benefiting the reptile population.



Epsom Common LNR Cattle grazing
summer 2013



Epsom Common Association volunteer installing an
upgrade to one of the battery boxes summer 2013

Update:- Work to restore and protect veteran trees on Epsom Common LNR and Horton Country Park LNR took place during winter 2012/2013 with halo release work carried out around veteran trees on Epsom Common and Horton Country Park. 2013/2014 will see further work carried out, using funds secured through the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme.



Horton Country Park LNR Halo
Release Porter's Grove February 2013

Update:- Woodland management at Horton Country Park LNR under the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme increased significantly in scale during 2012/2013 with volunteers playing a vital role in making the initial trial years financially viable. Whilst enough funds are available within the scheme to pay a contractor to fell trees with costs offset by the value of the timber, the funds do not allow for the follow up work involving last year the planting of over 1200 hazel trees and erection of deer fencing all of which was carried out by volunteers.



Horton Country Park LNR Contractor creating new coppice Hollymoor Grove winter 2012



Horton Country Park LNR Contractor restoring coppice in Pond Wood winter 2012



Horton Country Park LNR Countryside Team Volunteers erecting deer fencing Sherwood Grove winter 2013



Horton Country Park LNR planting Hazel trees in Pond Wood winter 2013

New:- Since the 1960's more than 90% of orchards have been lost in England. During 2012/2013 EEBC have worked with the London Orchard Trust to restore two orchards in Horton Country Park LNR both formerly within the Long Grove Hospital Grounds. Restoration of the orchards is an aim of the site management plan.



Horton Country Park LNR orchard management training course for volunteers provided by the London Orchard trust winter 2013

Update:- Following on from the 2010 start-up of our in house Grounds Maintenance Team, 2011 saw the trial of a new grass cutting regime on the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve, designed to both reduce workloads and enhance biodiversity by leaving uncut headlands along scrub edge. During 2013 the frequency of cuts along the Green Lanes Stream was reduced to one annual cut on a rotational basis. A trial to reduce the regular mowing of grass verges along Horton Lane has been proposed for 2014.



View along Green Lanes Stream summer 2013



View along Green Lanes Stream showing wildflowers (Meadowsweet) summer 2013

Update:- Work to conserve and enhance rough grassland has been taking place since 2008 using a rotational approach which prevents the grassland disappearing under encroaching scrub. 2013 saw the continuation of this vital habitat maintenance work carried out by both volunteers in the most sensitive areas (Ant Hills) and by an EEBC tractor using a hired flail collector.



Epsom Common Stamford Green
conservation meadow autumn 2012



Hogsmill LNR rough grassland
management summer 2013

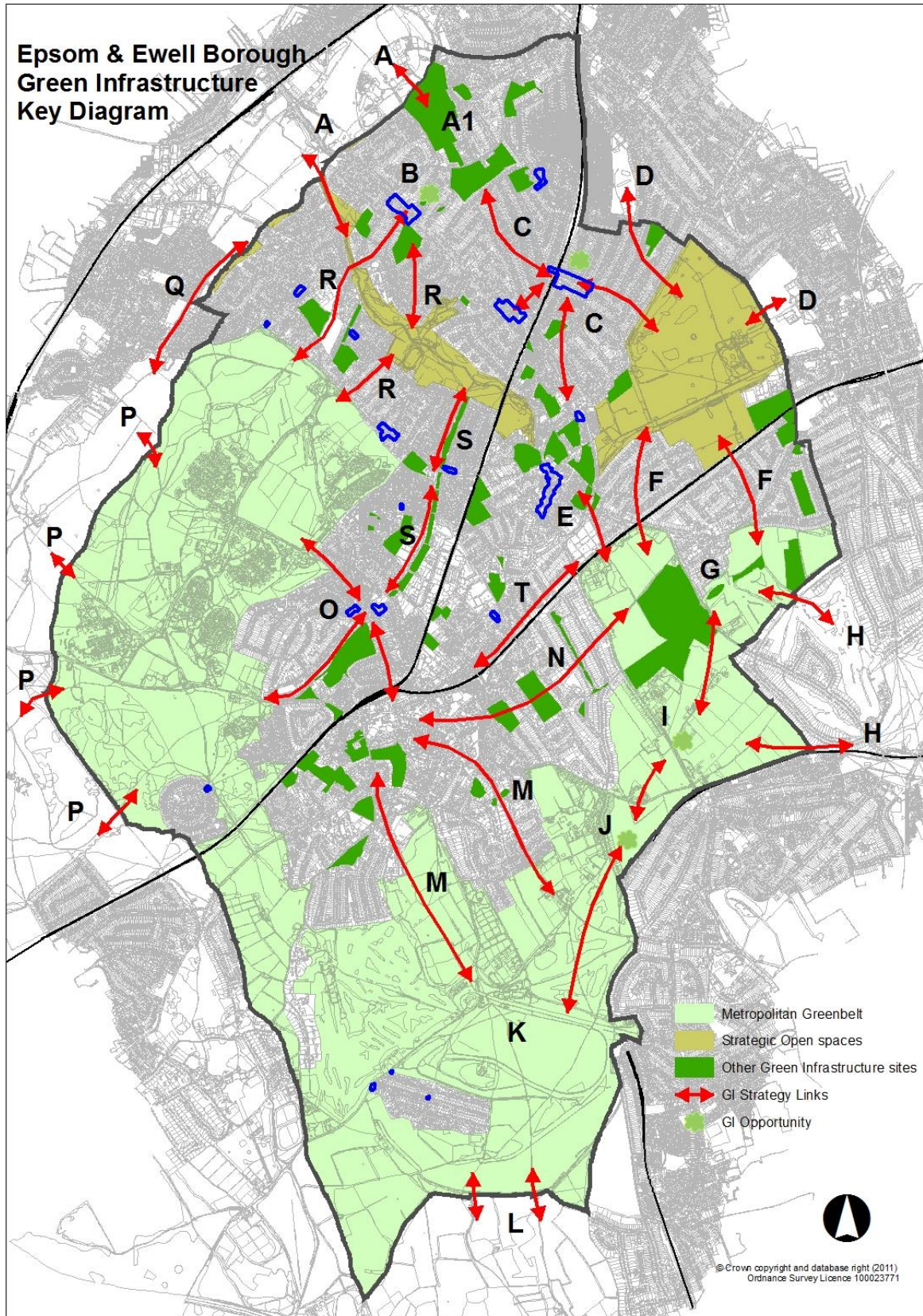
New:- To celebrate 100th anniversary of Rosebery Park four young trees were planted by the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell to replace trees recently lost to storms and disease 23rd November 2013.



The Mayor planting trees in Rosebery Park
23rd November 2013

New:- During 2013 progress has been made via Planning Policy with the drafting of a Green Infrastructure policy which identifies potential green corridors across the Borough and links to neighbouring boroughs and Greater London. The policy is currently under consultation pending implementation during 2014 as part of the new 'Local Plan'.

Epsom & Ewell Borough Green Infrastructure Key Diagram



Objective 3: *Ensure opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of the whole biodiversity resource in Epsom and Ewell are identified considered and acted upon*

New:- During late spring and summer of 2013 re-surveying of the Borough's existing Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and surveying for new SNCI took place. In October 2013 the Surrey 'Local Sites' Committee convened to examine the 15 site reports including 3 new proposed SNCI resulting from the survey work carried out by Pete Howarth (EEBC Countryside Team). The committee recommended that the whole of Horton Country Park LNR and Epsom & Walton Downs be designated (formerly each site had several separate SNCI). Of the 3 new proposed SNCI sites 2, Northey Fields and Livingstone Park were recommended for designation. Woodcote Park was not dismissed but the committee felt further survey work was required. The committee also recommended that Langley Vale Farm should be surveyed during 2014 as a possible SNCI along with a small site owned by Thames Water on Epsom Downs. The current situation means that under the government's 'Single Data Set' which uses the measure of SNCI in active conservation management to monitor the current condition of the nation's biodiversity the Borough has 11 SNCI with 10 currently under active conservation management giving Epsom & Ewell the highest score in Surrey 91% (Average 41%).



Small Blue laying an egg on Kidney Vetch,
Howell Hill Nature Reserve summer 2013



Small Copper in meadow at Livingstone
Park summer 2013

Update:- Work to produce management plans for Stones Road Site of Special Interest (SSSI) and woodland at Nonsuch Park was completed during 2011. During 2013 work to implement the plans has taken place with a new pond being dug in a section of the Stones Road Allotment thereby increasing the breeding habitat available to Great Crested Newts. At Nonsuch Park woodland restoration works have commenced with much of the work carried out by volunteers. Existing management plans continue to be implemented and continue to secure external funding. For example, over £30,000 was received from Surrey County Council for the construction of a new footbridge across the Green Lanes Stream in the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve. The bridge completed the project to provide a High quality multiuse path running the length of the Hogsmill LNR. Improving access plays a key role in protecting fragile habitats on our well used open spaces.



Hogsmill LNR new footbridge across the
Green Lanes Stream May 2013



New pond being dug out in Stones Rd
Allotments Spring 2013

Objective 4: *Raise awareness, appreciation and involvement in the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Epsom and Ewell*

Update:- During 2013 there were articles in the Borough Magazine 'Insight' on tree planting at Manor Park Open Space and the Green Flag Award which has now also been awarded to Rosebery Park as well as Epsom Common, Nonsuch Park, Ewell Court Park and Alexandra Park. All helping to raise awareness of the value of our biodiversity and the opportunities to get actively involved.



Manor Park tree planting February 2013

Update:- EEBC continues to raise awareness and encourage active participation in site management. This is achieved through walks, talks, leaflets, the web site, regular weekly conservation tasks, through working with 'Friends Groups', local youth initiatives and support for the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project.



Friends of Rosebery Park constructing a Stagg Beetle Loggery spring 2013



The 'Big Challenge' local youth helping manage scrub in Highlow Meadow on Epsom Common autumn 2013



Countryside Volunteer Roger Simpson receives certificate for completing Round the Borough Walk 2013



Hogsmill summer walk 16th June 2013



New Information panel for the bat roost at Horton Country Park 2013



New signs guiding visitors to Epsom Common LNR to Epsom Well, the source of the world famous 'Epsom Salts' 2013

New:- The biodiversity web page on the EEBC website now enables the annual update reports to be viewed and there is a new section on how biodiversity benefits the local community. <http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Environment/Biodiversity.htm>

Objective 5: *Provide on-going monitoring of biodiversity in Epsom and Ewell*

Update:- Epsom Common is a nationally important site for invertebrates associated with veteran trees and during the Spring, Summer and Autumn of 2012 a survey was carried out to monitor the existing population. Initial results have already passed the threshold score for international importance! Confirmation was received during 2013 that the survey results did indicate a value of international importance. An on going programme of veteran tree conservation works has been underway for several years which aims to prolong the lives of these precious trees.



Installation of Vane Traps Epsom Common
LNR April 2012

Update:- The project to monitor reptiles on Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve set up between the Countryside Team and the Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) continued during 2013. Results again confirm that Epsom Common is a very important site for Adders and there is a very widespread distribution of Grass Snakes.



Checking a refuge on Epsom Common LNR
spring 2013



Adder on Epsom Common LNR summer
2013

Update:- Work to review the extent of the Borough's Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) commenced in 2011 and was completed during 2013 (See section 3 above).

Update:- Through work associated with the 'Planning & Biodiversity in Epsom & Ewell' document and via the 'Working Group' EEBC and

Surrey Wildlife Trust are working to produce both priority habitats and species maps for the Borough. During 2013 significant progress has been made to identify priority habitats across the Borough. The recent re-survey of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and the introduction of a new habitat mapping system by the Surrey Biological Records Centre should mean that a draft priority habitat map for Epsom & Ewell can be drawn up during 2014/15. In addition the SNCI re-survey and 2012 NVC survey of Epsom & Ashted Commons has highlighted sites/areas in need of restoration.

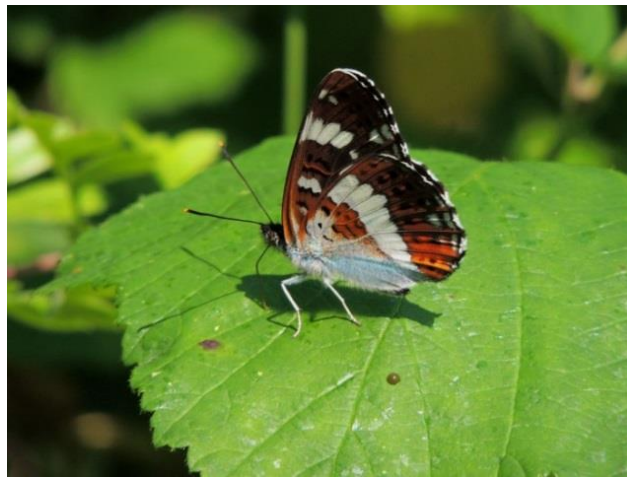


Volunteers restoring species rich grassland
on Epsom Common LNR summer 2013

Update:- The Countryside Team and volunteers continued to monitor butterflies on a weekly basis over the summer using agreed transects and submitting records to the national database for our three Local Nature Reserves, 2013 was a big improvement nationally on 2012!.



Brown Hairstreak in Horton Country Park LNR on Blackthorn in an area worked on by volunteers in 2008 to create suitable Brown Hairstreak habitat. Thank you to Richard Featherstone for this photo taken with an iphone! Summer 2013



White Admiral on Epsom Common LNR summer 2013

Update:- The Countryside Team is continuing to develop and improve its monitoring role within the Boroughs three local nature reserves with a view in future to covering the Borough more widely with the assistance of volunteers. During 2012 work with Surrey Wildlife Trust saw the installation of 30 Dormouse boxes on Epsom Common following a chance discovery of a Dormouse by volunteers (ECOVOLS) in February 2012. During 2013 a further 20 boxes were placed on site to enable Epsom Common to become a part of the national Dormouse monitoring programme for this protected species. The Dormouse monitoring has been successful with nesting Dormice discovered in several boxes during the autumn of 2013. This is exciting news and means further survey work is required to map the distribution of Dormice across Epsom Common.



The Dormouse found on Epsom Common LNR February 2012



Volunteers positioning Dormouse boxes on Epsom Common LNR winter 2013

In addition during 2013 two small mammal surveys were carried out on Epsom Common LNR in conjunction with Surrey Wildlife Trust to survey for Harvest Mice. Unfortunately the weather thwarted both surveys with temperatures too low in March and too high in September along with a plentiful supply of berries to distract any Harvest Mice present in the autumn. Hopefully 2014 will prove more cooperative!



Small mammal survey Epsom Common LNR
autumn 2013

Update:- During Spring and summer 2012 after the planned three year gap the next two year cycle of breeding bird surveys commenced on Epsom and Ashted Commons funded by the Epsom Common and Horton Country Park LNR's Environmental Stewardship Higher level Scheme agreement with Natural England. The following excerpt is taken from the first two paragraphs of the 2013 Epsom & Ashted Commons Breeding Bird Survey, carried out by Kevin Morgan.

During the 2013 bird survey of Epsom and Ashted Commons the number of species that were observed during the survey, or confirmed by other observers, was 80 species. This compares to 80 (2012), 75 (2009), 70 (2008), 62 (2007) & 73 (2006) and there appears to be a trend for an increase. Of these, 57+ species appear to breed on or close to the site, with the potential for many additional species to breed. This is one less than in 2009, 2011 & 2012,

but for various reasons, and the fact that some species may have been overlooked or elusive this year, there is probably a trend for a slight increase in breeding species.

The breeding bird survey highlights the rich diversity of birds associated with the range of habitats on site Epsom and Ashted Common that includes a good array of red and amber list species. The clearance work on neglected habitats and the low level grazing is having a positive impact as these more open habitats mature, creating a good habitat mosaic from grassland to diverse scrub, and wood pasture to woodland.



Great Spotted Woodpecker Epsom Common
LNR summer 2013

Objective 6: *Seek to increase the funding available for the long term conservation, enhancement and monitoring of biodiversity in Epsom and Ewell*

Update:- Currently funding for biodiversity management is in place for both Epsom Common and Horton Country Park Local Nature Reserves until 2020. The key source is the 2010-2020 Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme along the European Single Farm Payments

Scheme which continues to operate and which also assists with the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve.



Timber Stack from woodland restoration work in Horton Country Park LNR, funded by grant schemes , winter 2013

Update:- In late 2011 the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project successfully secured £45,000 from the Heritage Lottery to enable the creation of a 'Living Woodlands Officer' post for one year (March 2012 – March 2013) to implement a scheme where local woodland is brought back in to active management to benefit both biodiversity and the local economy. Woodlands in Epsom & Ewell have benefited significantly from the scheme with woodland management on Epsom Downs, Nonsuch Park and Horton Country Park LNR being assisted.

For example, at Nonsuch Park and the Warren Woodland on Epsom Downs, Woodland Grant Schemes have been successfully applied for and are now securing funds to help manage the woodlands with work being carried out by locally based businesses. The 'Living Woodlands' project also helped secure funding for a new Land Rover for the Lower Mole Countryside Management project, which was delivered in February 2013 and the installation of information boards explaining the need to manage woodland.



New Land Rover for the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project February 2013



New information board at Four Acre Wood, Horton Country Park LNR 2013

New:- A major biodiversity improvement project was carried to remove two large weirs from the Hogsmill River (owned by the Environment Agency) during summer 2013 enabling fish to move freely up and down stream. The work was organised by the South East Rivers Trust (Formerly the Wandle Trust). Following on from their success in restoring the Wandle River, the Trust are being encouraged by the Environment Agency to assist them in implementing the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) that aims to improve the quality of river catchments across Europe, The Trust received grant aid (£90,000) to enable them to pay a contractor to carry out the work. These structures were constructed around 1960 when the Hogsmill River and tributaries were channelised as a flood prevention measure. Today we have come to realise that the weirs offer little or no flood protection and they prevent fish (an essential component of healthy aquatic ecosystems) to move up and down stream. This project offers the prospect of Brown Trout once again being present in the Hogsmill River as far as the Lower Mill Pond weir in Ewell Village. EEBC assisted with access to the weirs across the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve and Countryside Team volunteers assisted the trust in securing the banks by planting during September 2013. Further significant improvements are planned for 2014/15.



Before



After



Before



After

Update:- Surrey County Council allocated £10,000 to the Stones Road Project to make the Stones Road SSSI more resilient and to improve the security of the adjacent allotment. During 2012 this project experienced serious delays due to problems with both water and gas services running across the site. Some work did take place in 2012 with the planting of a hedge following on from previous work to construct a Newt hibernaculum. During 2013 the major part of the project that involves the digging of a new pond took place, carried out by contractor under the supervision of the Lower Mole Project. A further £8000 has been secured by EEBC for a new fence that separates the pond from the allotments, now we just have to hope the newts approve!



Lower Mole Countryside Management Project volunteers planting a hedge at Stones Road Allotment in 2012 and work to construct the new pond in 2013.

New:- Another significant biodiversity improvement was carried with the de-silting of Lambert's Orchard Pond on Horton Country park LNR by the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project volunteers in September 2013. This very old pond was damaged by large quantities of silt being deposited in the pond during re-development of the former Long grove Hospital. £1717 was secured by the project to enable the

restoration of the pond. In addition the project has applied for grant aid to restore ponds across the borough in 2014.



Work being carried out to restore Lambert's Orchard Pond at Horton Country Park LNR September 2013.

Objective 7: *Seek to identify the wider benefits to the community of improving biodiversity*

Update:- Both nationally and internationally there is an increasing understanding that we need to incorporate the benefits (services) provided by biodiversity and natural processes in to our economic models. The governments recently published a watershed document the 'UK Ecosystem Assessment' which shows very clearly how we undervalue our natural resources and the services they provide. The result of under valuing our natural resources is ultimately an unsustainable future. Addressing this issue demands a long term approach that recognises the delicate balance of the ecosystems that provide us with vital ecosystem services such as clean air, fresh water and fertile soils. This concept is as applicable to Epsom & Ewell as anywhere else on the planet. During 2013 the following information was added to the biodiversity web page.

How does biodiversity benefit our community?

The Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan aims to promote the economic and health benefits of biodiversity in Epsom & Ewell.

Today we understand that our health and the economies, local, national and global we work in depend on healthy ecosystems providing fresh water, fertile soils, clean air, diverse wildlife and places to enjoy. In a world of finite resources we need to find a balance between the use of natural resources and the ability of

ecosystems to provide the services we demand. Our increasingly complex and interconnected economies around the world make assessing 'Ecosystem Services' a complex subject. However, if we want to maintain and improve our standard of living in the long term our economies inevitably have to be in harmony with the natural environment. To find out more about the importance of healthy balanced ecosystems and the services they provide take a look at the links below.

The [Ecosystems Knowledge Network](#) is a great place to start discovering the practical benefits of maintaining healthy ecosystems. The UK is a world leader in research in to 'Ecosystem Services' and a [UK National Ecosystem Assessment](#) has already been carried out.

It is undoubtedly a big and complex subject however it is possible to identify local issues to illustrate the challenge we are facing. For example, biodiversity on our local open spaces provides a range of vital ecosystem services and in particular a cultural ecosystem service providing residents with well recognised and significant psychological and health benefits.

Some of our open spaces in Epsom & Ewell are showing signs of strain due to high visitor numbers with woodland wildflowers and aquatic life in ponds under pressure from constant daily disturbance.



Erosion damage to the dam of Great Pond on Epsom Common LNR caused by dogs. Autumn 2012 repairs cost £18500

The UK Ecosystem Assessment shows clearly that sustainable management of our open spaces today not only helps protect their

biodiversity but also ensures that wider and in some cases very costly environmental impacts are avoided.

Ecosystem Services are very relevant to the development of the Epsom & Ewell Green Infrastructure Policy published during 2013 and the implementation of the 'Community Infrastructure Levy' due to replace Section 106 funding for new development.

Conclusion:

2013 has seen further progress in implementing the plan. **A BIG THANK YOU from the Working Group to all the volunteers who have helped progress the plan during 2013!**

If you have any questions or you would like to find out more about the implementation of the Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan please call 01372 732000 and ask to speak to the Countryside Team or email countryside@epsom-Ewell.gov.uk