



## Winter work party Sunday 13 February 2022



### Heathland maintenance at Upper Hollesley Common

This is part of the Sutton & Hollesley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a site of international importance for lowland heath. Goats help to manage the site during the spring and summer, with additional manual removal of small conifer saplings required to help conserve this habitat vital for Priority species such as Nightjars and Woodlarks.

On Sunday 13 February 2022, 13 of us converged at the site to take part in a practical activity to help with the conservation management of the ecosystem. Under the direction of Countryside Ranger Matt O'Connell, our first task was to dig up, carefully, so as not to damage the root systems, some of the smaller birch saplings, which were set aside and saved to be rehomed at another site, (Woods Meadow in Oulton Broad, where work is underway to create a new mixed native woodland of some 5.8 hectares).



Our next task was to tackle, with loppers and bowsaws, an area where saplings of birch and conifers had grown too big for the goats to tackle.



This activity was supported by the Countryside Team at East Suffolk Norse on behalf of the Greenprint Forum. The Countryside Team run a programme of conservation work parties, called Footprints, tackling a wide range of tasks at a number of countryside sites owned by East Suffolk Council. To find out more about becoming a volunteer with Footprints, or to arrange a corporate conservation activity for your workplace, contact Matt O'Connell or Chris Ryde from the Countryside Team: [chris.ryde@ncsgrp.co.uk](mailto:chris.ryde@ncsgrp.co.uk) [matthew.o'connell@ncsgrp.co.uk](mailto:matthew.o'connell@ncsgrp.co.uk)

Outdoor volunteering opportunities are also available from [Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB](#), [Dedham Vale AONB](#) and [Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#).



