

## Action for Nature winter 2023-24

### 18 December 2023: Woodland creation at Woods Meadow

This activity was facilitated by the Countryside Team at East Suffolk Norse on behalf of the Greenprint Forum.

A small but committed group of 4, plus your Secretary, joined Ranger Matt O'Connell for this session of direct action planting mixed native species to help with the ongoing creation of this new mixed native woodland of about 5.8 hectares which is now in its third winter of planting.

The wider vision for the site will comprise a mixture of habitats including the aforementioned new deciduous woodland, about 2 ha of scrubland, a wildflower meadow, a wildlife pond, hedgerow, and a large hay meadow with a late summer cut and restrictions on human access during the skylark nesting season to ensure that suitable habitat for ground nesters such as skylark is retained and enhanced on the site.

In the years ahead visitors to this site on the edge of Suffolk's second biggest urban area will see what was once arable land transform into a wildlife oasis with access improvements and areas to play.



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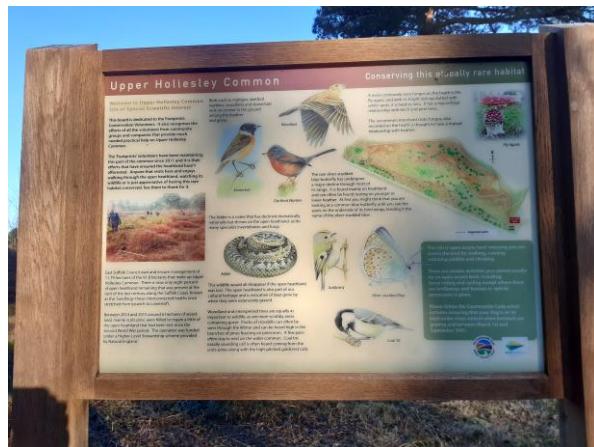
**26 January 2024:**

## Heathland maintenance at Upper Hollesley Common

Then on 26 January, 8 of us joined Countryside Officer Chris Ryde at Upper Hollesley Common, for an active session helping preserve and enhance the rare habitat of lowland heath, with this being part of the wider Site of Special Scientific Interest of Sutton & Hollesley Heaths.

During part of the year, an itinerant flock of goats help to manage the site by nibbling small saplings, but many saplings get too big for the goats to manage so there is also a need for manual removal of these larger saplings, to maintain the patchwork nature of the heathland habitat upon which species such as woodlark and nightjar depend. To aid our task for the day, we were equipped with mattocks, loppers, and tree-poppers.

We were greeted by a singing woodlark and a good day followed.



The Countryside Team run a programme of conservation work parties, called Footprints, tackling a wide range of tasks at these, and a number of other countryside sites owned by East Suffolk Council around the district.

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:  
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