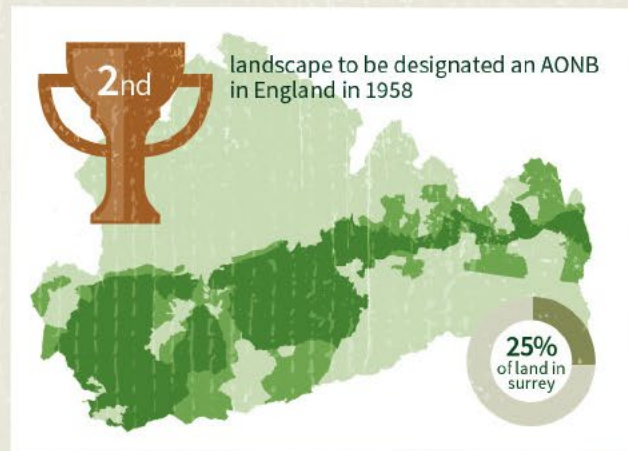
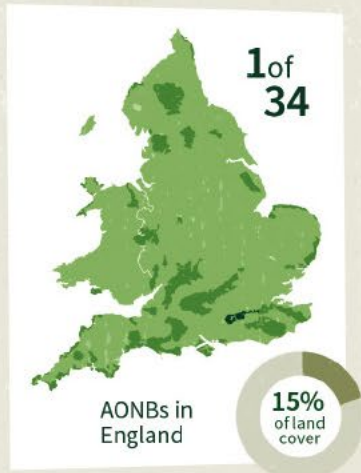


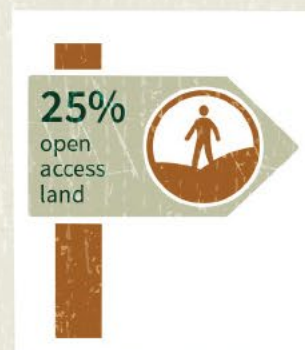
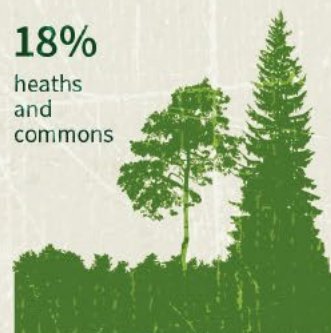
# NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY: A LANDOWNER AND MANAGER-LED APPROACH TO MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE







**30 million** visitor days annually





# INTRODUCTION

## WHO WE ARE

WE ARE A MIX OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, FARMERS, CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO MANAGE LAND IN THE SURREY HILLS, A NATIONALLY DESIGNATED AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY.



Lawrence Matthews during a Hedgerow workshop



Richard Keen with his flock



Hampton Estate Workshop

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SURREY HILLS AONB

The Surrey Hills was one of the first landscapes in the country to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1958. The Surrey Hills AONB stretches across Surrey's North Downs, from Farnham in the west to Oxted in the east of the county. It also includes the Greensand Hills which rise in Haslemere and stretch eastwards to Leith Hill, the highest point in Southern England. Over the centuries, its mosaic of farmland, woodland, heaths, downs and commons has inspired some of the country's greatest artists, writers and architects.

The Surrey Hills AONB is one of 34 AONBs in England. Together, they cover over 15% of the land surface. The distinctive character and natural beauty of England's AONBs make them some of the most special and cherished places in England. AONBs are living, working landscapes that contribute some £16bn every year to the national economy.



AONBs contribute **£16BN** each year to the national economy



## WHY NATURE RECOVERY?

Between 1950 and 2019, the world population grew by three times to 7.7 billion. The demand this has placed on the world's natural resources has, amongst other things, led to the loss and fragmentation of natural habitats and ultimately, less space for the extraordinary biodiversity they support.

The complex interactions and dependencies of our natural world are challenging to understand, but we do know a biologically diverse environment is more likely to be stable and resilient. When that environment is also our life support system, those attributes are extremely important.

There have been many biodiversity policies, strategies and action plans published over recent decades. One of these was 'Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network' published in 2010. In it, the commission chairman, Professor Sir John Lawton, and his team made some fundamental observations and recommendations -

*'The natural environment provides us with a range of benefits - ecosystem services including food, water, materials, flood defences and carbon sequestration - and biodiversity underpins most, if not all, of them.'*

*'We need to embrace a new, restorative approach which rebuilds nature and creates a more resilient natural environment for the benefit of wildlife and ourselves.'*

*'The essence of what needs to be done to enhance the resilience and coherence of England's ecological network can be summarised in four words: more, bigger, better and joined.'*

The report was primarily an assessment of England's wildlife sites and it came to the conclusion that 'island' sites (as are most designated areas) are not resilient enough when separated from their surrounding landscape, so as well as creating more and larger areas

dedicated to biodiversity protection, connectivity across the landscape is also critical in reversing biodiversity loss.

This all-important habitat connectivity will largely fall within the 70% of land in the UK being farmed. Therefore, the environmentally sympathetic stewardship of our farmland has the potential to make a huge contribution to biodiversity recovery and it will fall to farmers to actually deliver much of our nature recovery along with other landowners and managers.

## WIDER BENEFITS OF NATURE RECOVERY

Activities focused on nature recovery not only improve the health of our habitats and the plants and wildlife they support, they also create a wide range of public benefits or 'goods' including:



CLEAN AND PLENTIFUL  
WATER



MITIGATION OF  
AND ADAPTATION  
TO CLIMATE CHANGE



CLEAN AIR



THRIVING PLANTS  
AND WILDLIFE



PROTECTION FROM  
AND MITIGATION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS



BEAUTY, HERITAGE  
AND ENGAGEMENT



This means that we are able to support the foundations of our land sustainably and have a wide impact through the actions we take individually and collectively.



## WHAT THIS STRATEGY IS

In response to declarations of Climate Emergency, Surrey Hills AONB has committed to develop a nature recovery strategy for the area. As landowners/managers and custodians of the habitats and environment we oversee, we have the responsibility, privilege and opportunity to make a positive difference.

This document contains the context for our activities aimed at making space for nature; what we aspire to deliver; how we will collaborate to create positive change; who will be involved; and how we plan to fund it all. Although our geographical boundary is the Surrey Hills AONB, we are committed to working across borders to ensure that knowledge and the impact of our activities reach beyond the area.

This strategy will run for a period of 10 years (2021-2031). We have established a strategy working group including landowner and manager representatives, our Facilitation Fund group facilitators, and a representative for the AONB. Progress against our objectives will be reviewed annually.

The UK yellowhammer population fell by 54 per cent between 1970 and 1998





"Bumblebees lead fascinating lives and they, together with other social bees, are probably amongst the most advanced and sophisticated of insects in the world."

Edwards & Jenner, 2005.





# OUR STORY SO FAR

## FACILITATION FUND GROUPS

Three Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund groups operate in the Surrey Hills -

- GREENSCAPE
- NORTH DOWNS
- WEST SURREY GREENSANDS.

The Facilitation Fund is a national programme through which facilitators help groups of farmers and other land managers to work together to improve the natural environment at a landscape rather than single-site scale, and to achieve greater improvements than individual holdings could on their own.

The groups currently have a membership of over 40 landowners/managers; however the groups are growing as we reach out to our neighbours and other local contacts.

Our facilitators provide us with a diverse programme of training and networking events that relate to the areas' landscape objectives. Through the shared training sessions we gain a common understanding of topics which enables us to plan and work on our landholdings in a way that complements each other, producing wider scale outcomes than if we worked in isolation.

The groups provide the setting for members to get to know each other, visit each other's sites and to build working relationships for sharing knowledge and experiences and planning and managing our landholdings collaboratively.

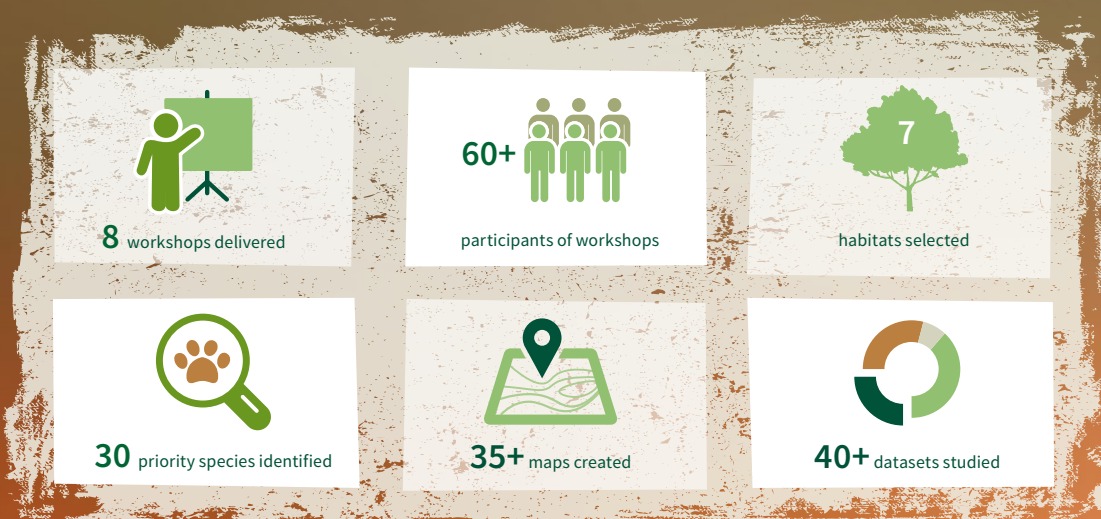


This project has received European Union funding under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme's Facilitation Fund. The scheme is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).

## MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE: ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT TEST & TRIAL

Surrey Hills was one of 11 AONBs that together made up the largest Defra Test & Trial project for the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme.

Many of us participated in this project through a set of eight workshops, providing us with the chance to discuss and feedback on how the new ELM scheme should run, how we can balance nature recovery with access to sites and how we can fund our activities.



This work enabled members from all three Facilitation Fund groups, and others to discuss topics across the whole of the AONB and this is something we would like to continue and build on. This document is one of the outputs from the test and trial process.



# HABITATS



WOODLAND AND SCRUB



CHALK GRASSLAND



ARABLE



PASTURE



HEATHLAND



WATER



HEDGEROW





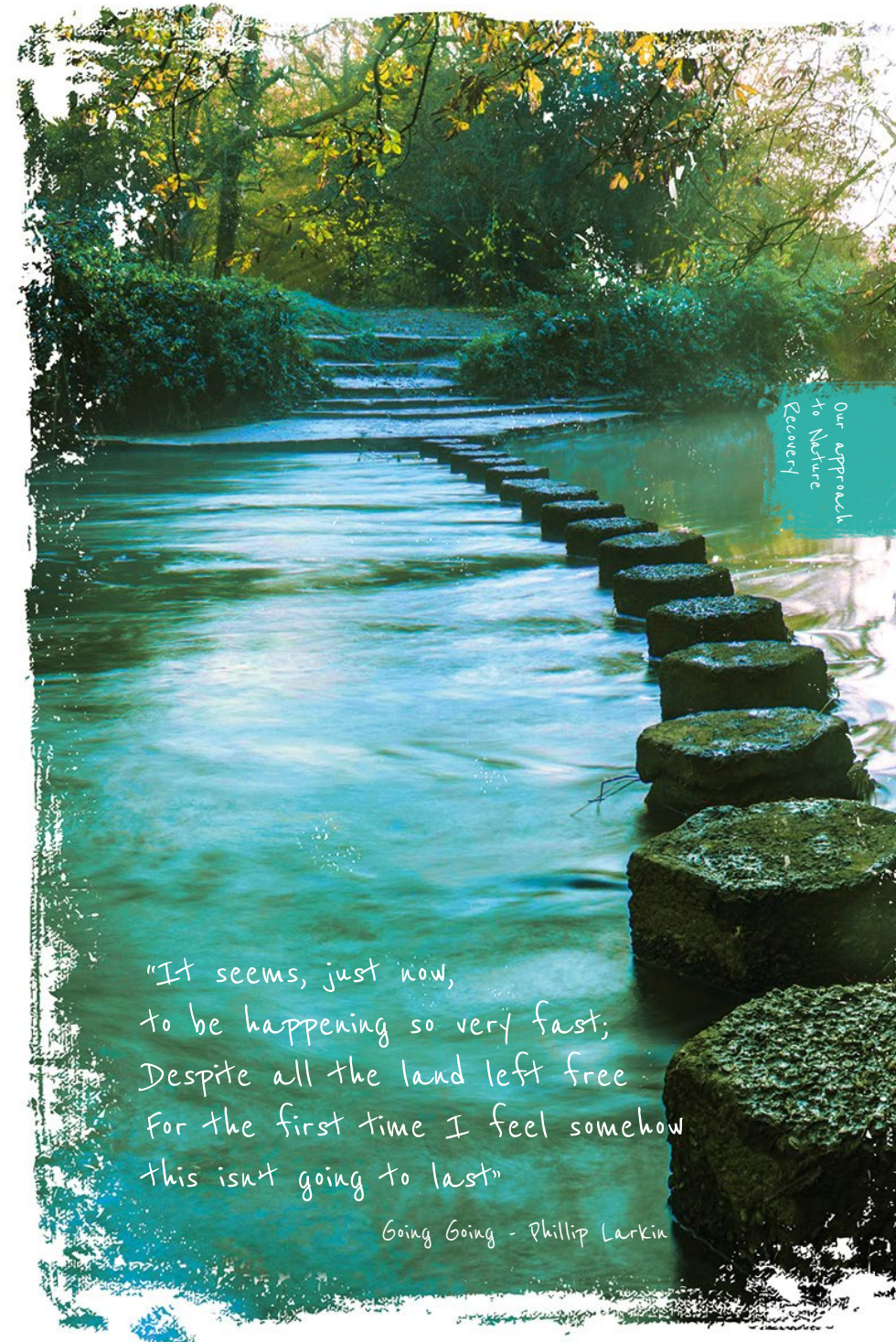
# OUR APPROACH TO NATURE RECOVERY

## KEY HABITATS & INDICATOR SPECIES

TO GUIDE OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO NATURE RECOVERY, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED A SET OF SEVEN HABITATS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE SURREY HILLS. ALONG WITH THESE WE HAVE SELECTED A NUMBER OF INDICATOR SPECIES RELEVANT TO EACH HABITAT. THE SPECIES ARE ALL REPRESENTATIVE OF THEIR ASSOCIATED HABITAT AND ARE IMPORTANT IN THEIR OWN WAY.

Each species is an indicator of a healthy habitat and in turn the presence of a healthy habitat is likely to encourage the indicator species into the area (or improve its area). Even if the listed species cannot be found, taking steps to provide the right habitat for the indicator species will at the same time support a wide range of other species. The species selected have some resonance with us and are easily identified in the field.

Choosing the species was a joint effort between landowners and land managers based on advice from ecologists, land management advisers and environmental organisations. A detailed habitat and species briefing document for landowners and managers has been produced to accompany this strategy.



"It seems, just now,  
to be happening so very fast;  
Despite all the land left free  
For the first time I feel somehow  
this isn't going to last"

Going Going - Phillip Larkin





## PRIORITISING SPECIES

Working with Ordnance Survey, a set of habitat and indicator species maps were produced based on existing available data provided by a wide range of local and regional organisations. These maps tell us where species have been recorded in recent years which has enabled us to understand where information is missing and will help us develop our nature recovery activities. We will also be able to support the development of robust data collection, monitoring and sharing processes across the Surrey Hills.

Our indicator species vary in status, distribution and abundance. As well as being an indicator of healthy habitats, species that resonate with us as landowners and managers were selected.

Some species, such as silver-washed fritillary, are relatively common. Others, such as the water vole which has not been recorded in Surrey for many years, may prove more challenging for landowners and managers.

Whilst the indicator species are helpful for guiding our approach to nature recovery, we do not want to be limited in what we can do by designating strategic target areas for particular species or habitats which might not reflect the actual situation or potential on the ground. Instead, we will use the data and maps, and work with local advisors to develop activities appropriate for our individual sites and the collective area.





# WOODLAND AND SCRUB

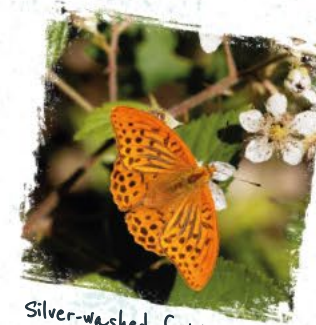
Woodland is important because it is one of our most complex habitats and, as such, can support more wildlife than almost any other UK habitat. Ancient woodland which has been continuously wooded since at least 1600 AD is particularly important but younger secondary woodlands and even conifer plantations can be important for nature if managed sympathetically. Scrub (native shrubs) is important for providing food for wildlife in the form of pollen, nectar, seeds and berries. It also provides nesting habitat for birds and small mammals in the spring and summer and shelter in winter. Our chosen species were identified as indicators for well-managed woodland in good condition.



Marsh tit



Nightingale



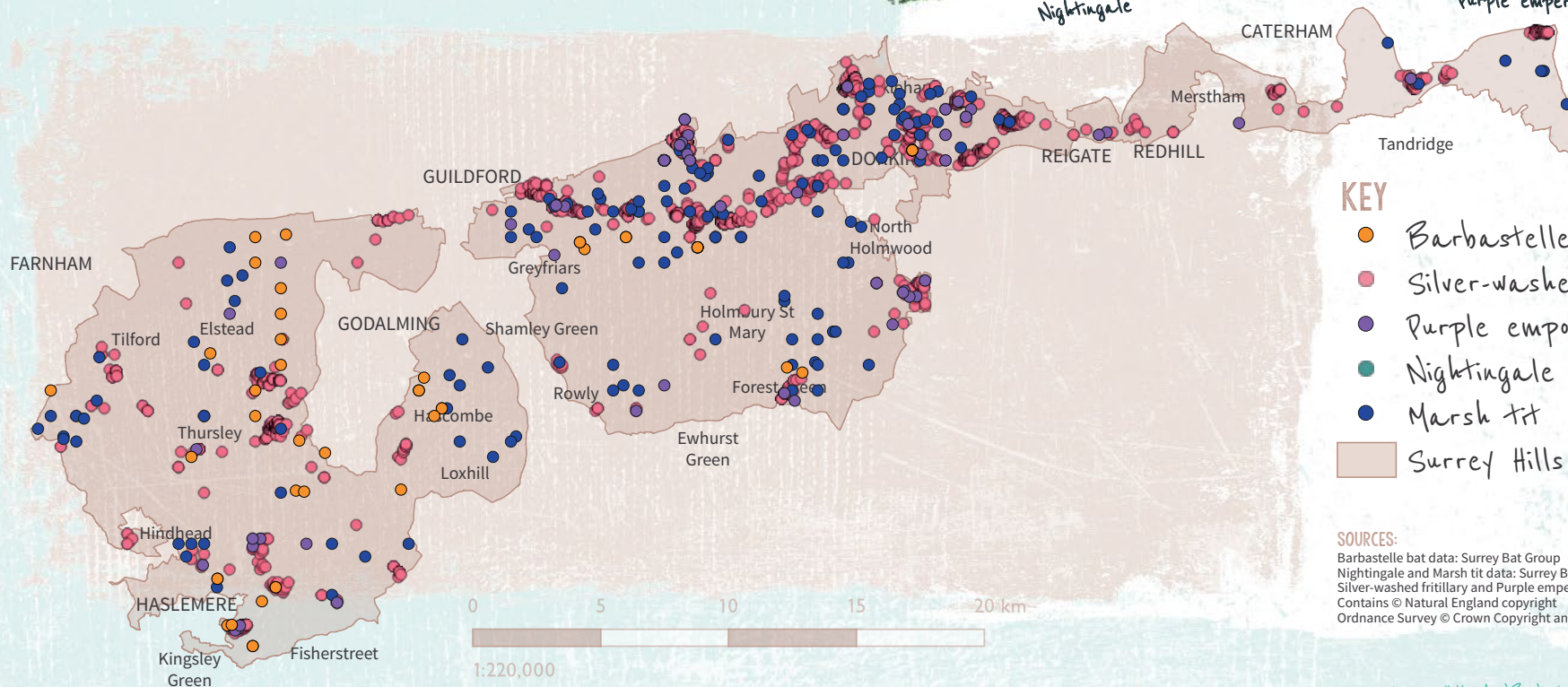
Silver-washed fritillary



Barbastelle bat



Purple emperor



## KEY

- Barbastelle bat
- Silver-washed fritillary
- Purple emperor
- Nightingale
- Marsh tit
- Surrey Hills AONB

## SOURCES:

Barbastelle bat data: Surrey Bat Group  
 Nightingale and Marsh tit data: Surrey Bird Club  
 Silver-washed fritillary and Purple emperor data: Butterfly Conservation  
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Recovery





# HEATHLAND

Lowland heathland is a habitat of outstanding importance for its range of nationally and internationally rare and endangered species. These ancient, open landscapes are generally found on poor, acid, sandy soils less than 300m above sea level. They are characterised by dwarf shrubs of the heather family. In Surrey, 85% of the heathland has been lost in the past 200 years, leading to a severe loss of biodiversity. More recently however, heathland has been recognised for its wildlife value and its historical and cultural interest. Heathers such as cross-leaved heath are indicative of heathland. Dartford warbler, nightjar and the grayling butterfly are all indicators of good heathland condition. Many other species will also benefit from good heathland management including characteristic bird species such as the linnet, stonechat, tree pipit, hobby and a range of reptiles.



Grayling



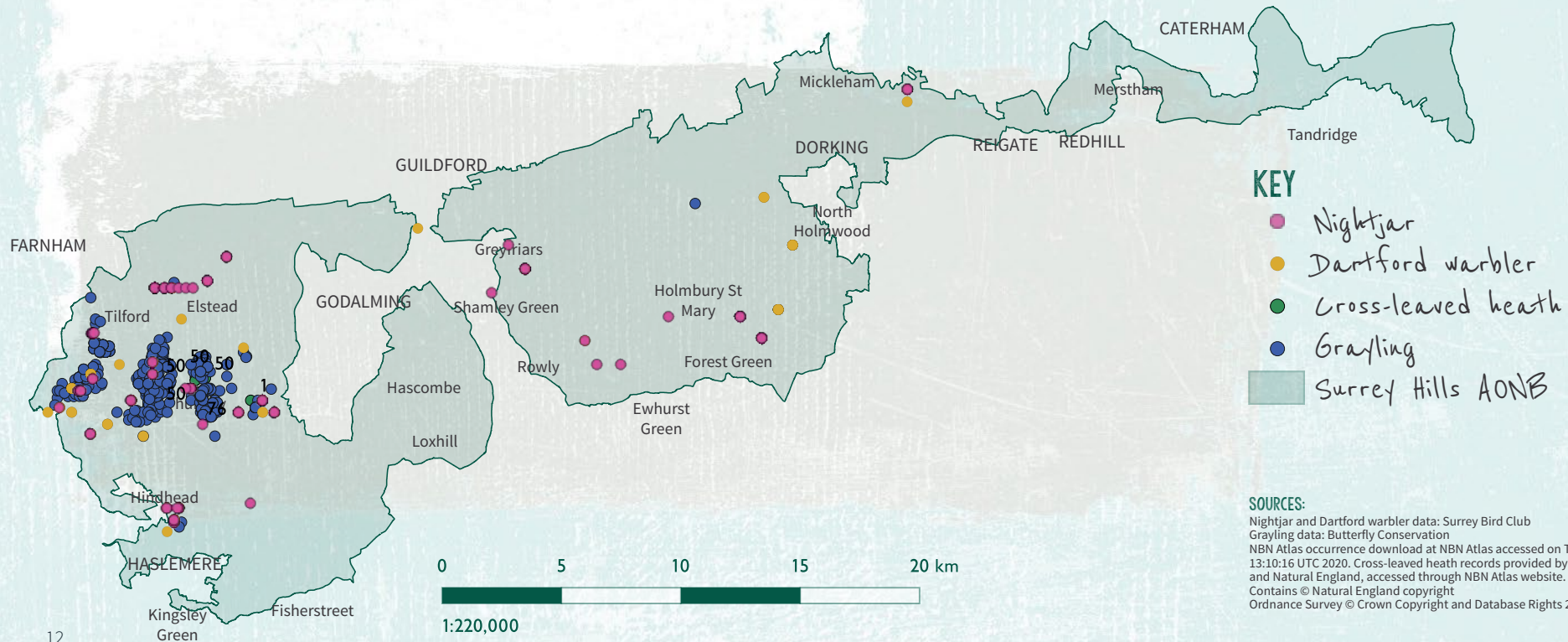
Cross-leaved heath



Dartford warbler



Nightjar







# CHALK GRASSLAND

Chalk grassland (or lowland calcareous grassland) is a habitat of international importance for its rarity and its species richness. It is found over limestone and chalk rocks and grows below an altitude of 250m on shallow, lime-rich soils, mainly in the warmer, drier south and east of the UK. As many as 40 different species can be found within a square metre. The UK holds around 50% of the world's surviving chalk grassland with major concentrations on the North and South Downs of south-east England. The following species were identified as key species indicators for chalk grassland in good condition.



Bee orchid



Small blue

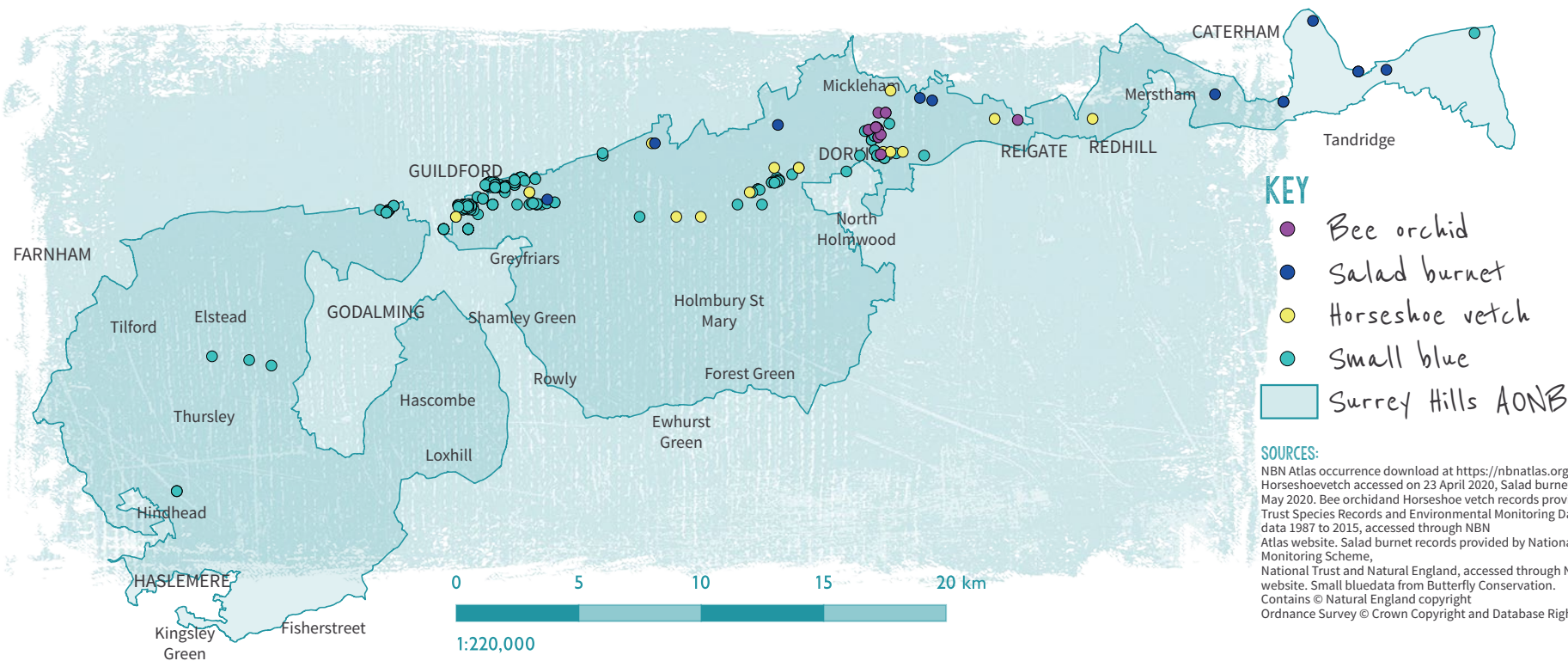


Horseshoe Vetch



Salad burnet

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# ARABLE

Arable is currently one of the most intensively managed land uses and covers a multitude of crops from the most basic commodity products such as wheat, oilseed rape, sugar beet and potatoes, to more specialist crops such as linseed and asparagus. Some crops are annual while others, particularly salad crops, can yield two or three crops each year on the same piece of land. As a habitat, there is currently considerable emphasis on the margins around the edges of fields, particularly where these are adjacent to other habitats such as hedgerows and woodland and habitat strips that break up very large tracts of arable cropping. There has also been a significant revival of interest in soil management both in terms of preventing its loss and encouraging good soil health.



Yellowhammer



Corn Spurrey



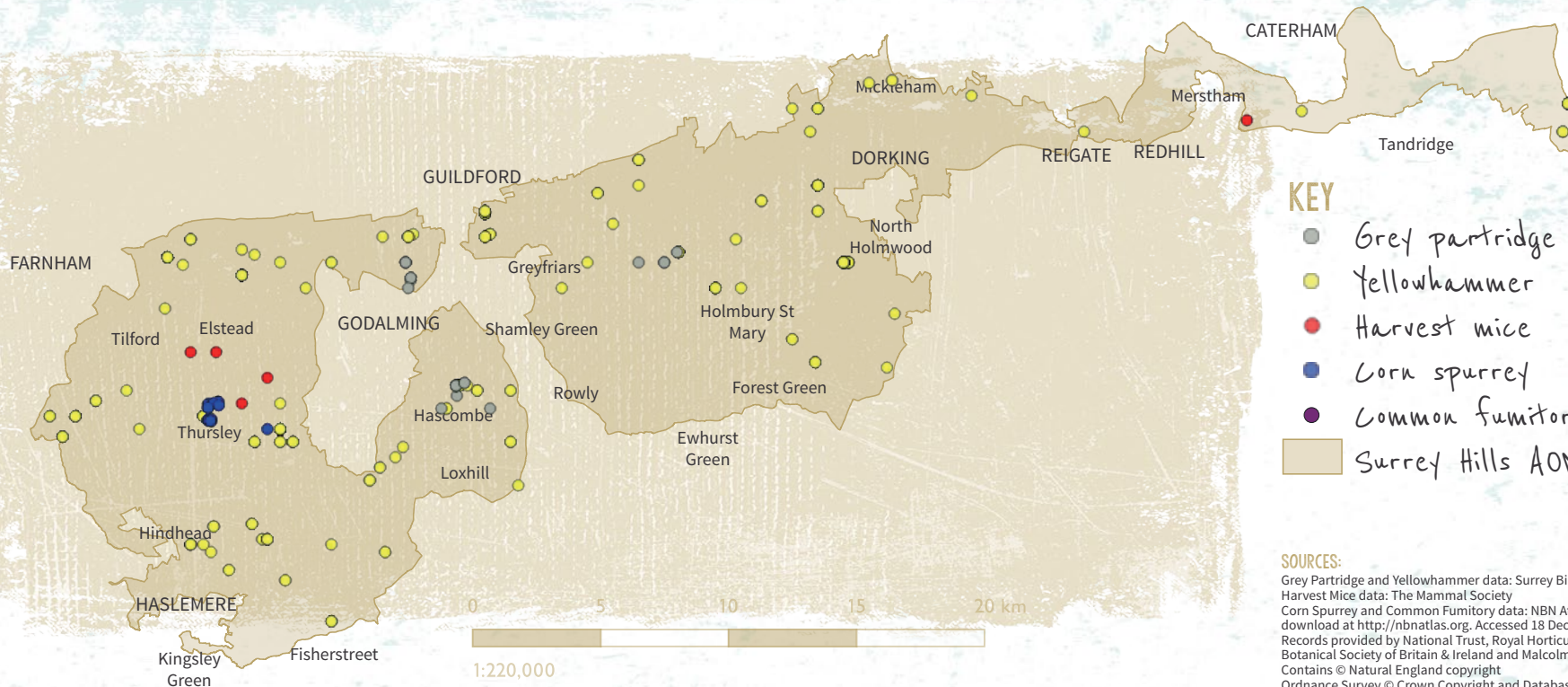
Grey partridge



Harvest mouse



Common fumitory



## KEY

- Grey partridge
- Yellowhammer
- Harvest mice
- Corn spurrey
- Common fumitory [0]
- Surrey Hills AONB

## SOURCES:

Grey Partridge and Yellowhammer data: Surrey Bird Club  
Harvest Mice data: The Mammal Society  
Corn Spurrey and Common Fumitory data: NBN Atlas Occurrence download at <http://nbnatlas.org>. Accessed 18 December 2020.  
Records provided by National Trust, Royal Horticultural Society, Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland and Malcolm Storey  
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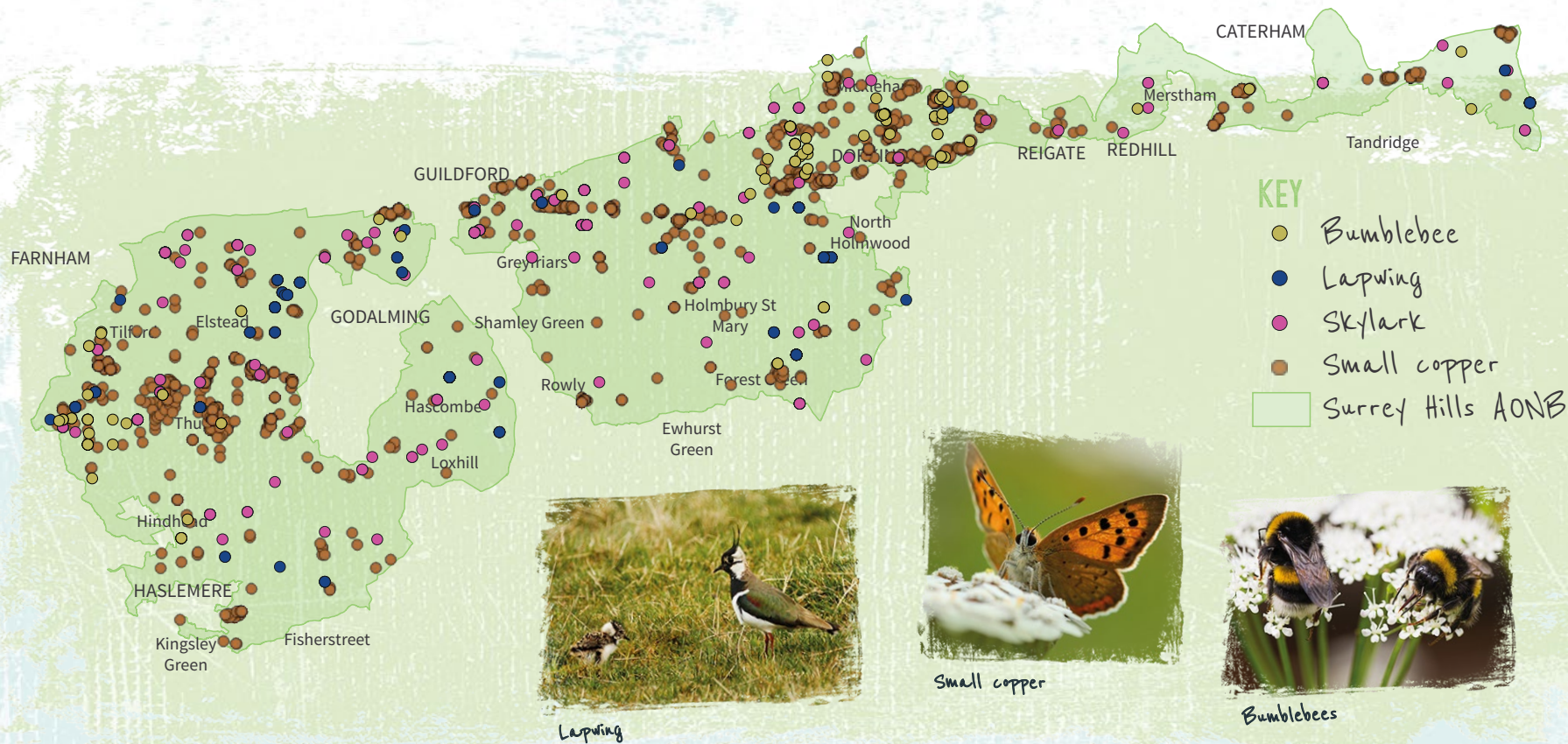
# PASTURE

Permanent pasture and rough grazing (hills, heath and moorland) account for about 58% of the total utilised agricultural area in England of 17.36 million hectares. This rises to nearly 65% if temporary grassland (under 5 years old) is included. This figure will include specific grassland types such as chalk grassland, dry acid grassland and floodplain grazing marsh but the majority will be agriculturally improved pastures that support the livestock sector. Some of this land also protects archaeological features such as ridge and furrow land, ancient settlement sites and remnant water meadows. Due to its prevalence across the landscape, the management of pasture has a significant bearing on the outcomes when considering a landscape-based conservation approach.



Skylark

Our approach  
to Nature  
Recovery



## SOURCES:

Lapwing and Skylark data: Surrey Bird Club. Small copper data: Butterfly Conservation  
NBN Atlas occurrence download at <https://nbnatlas.org> accessed on Thu May 21 13:52:30 UTC 2020. Bumblebee records provided by  
Royal Horticultural Society, Biological Records Centre, Natural England and National Trust, accessed through NBN Atlas website.  
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# HEDGEROW

Hedgerows are important both as landscape features and as wildlife habitat across lowland Britain, especially when associated with features such as grassy field margins. Classic hedges are linear, shrubby, mostly continuous features though hedges which have developed into lines of trees retain landscape value and some wildlife value. Over 600 plant species, 1,500 insects, 65 birds and 20 mammals have been recorded at some time living or feeding in hedges and they are especially important for butterflies and moths, farmland birds, bats and dormice. They also play a crucial role in landscape connectivity, linking up other areas of habitat so that wildlife can move more freely across the farmed landscape. Hazel dormouse, brown hairstreak and turtle dove are indicators of a healthy, well-connected hedgerow in good condition. Barn owl is indicative of a healthy farmed landscape with rough grassy field margins associated with hedges or woodlands. Many other species including farmland birds, small mammals, butterflies and other invertebrates will also benefit from good hedgerow management.



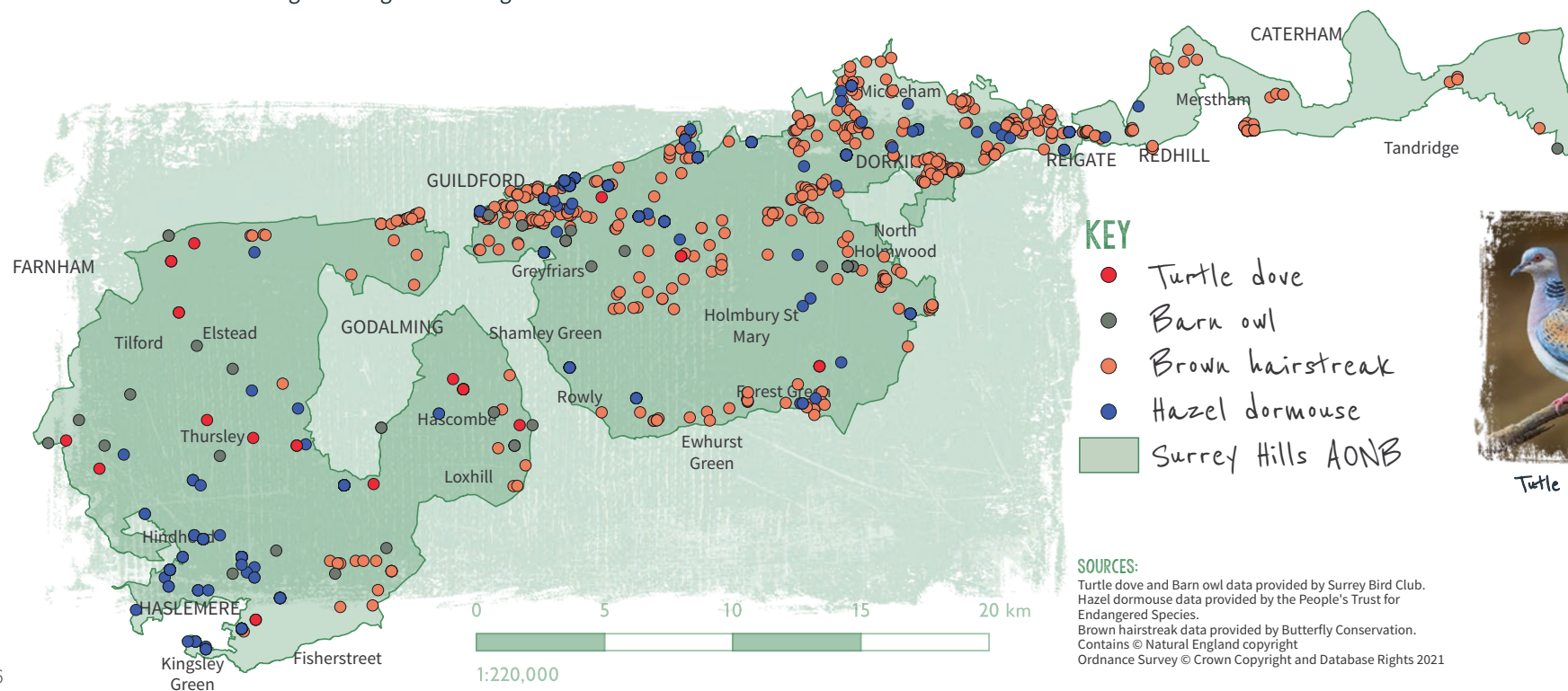
Hazel dormouse



Brown hairstreak



Barn owl



## KEY

- Turtle dove
- Barn owl
- Brown hairstreak
- Hazel dormouse
- Surrey Hills AONB

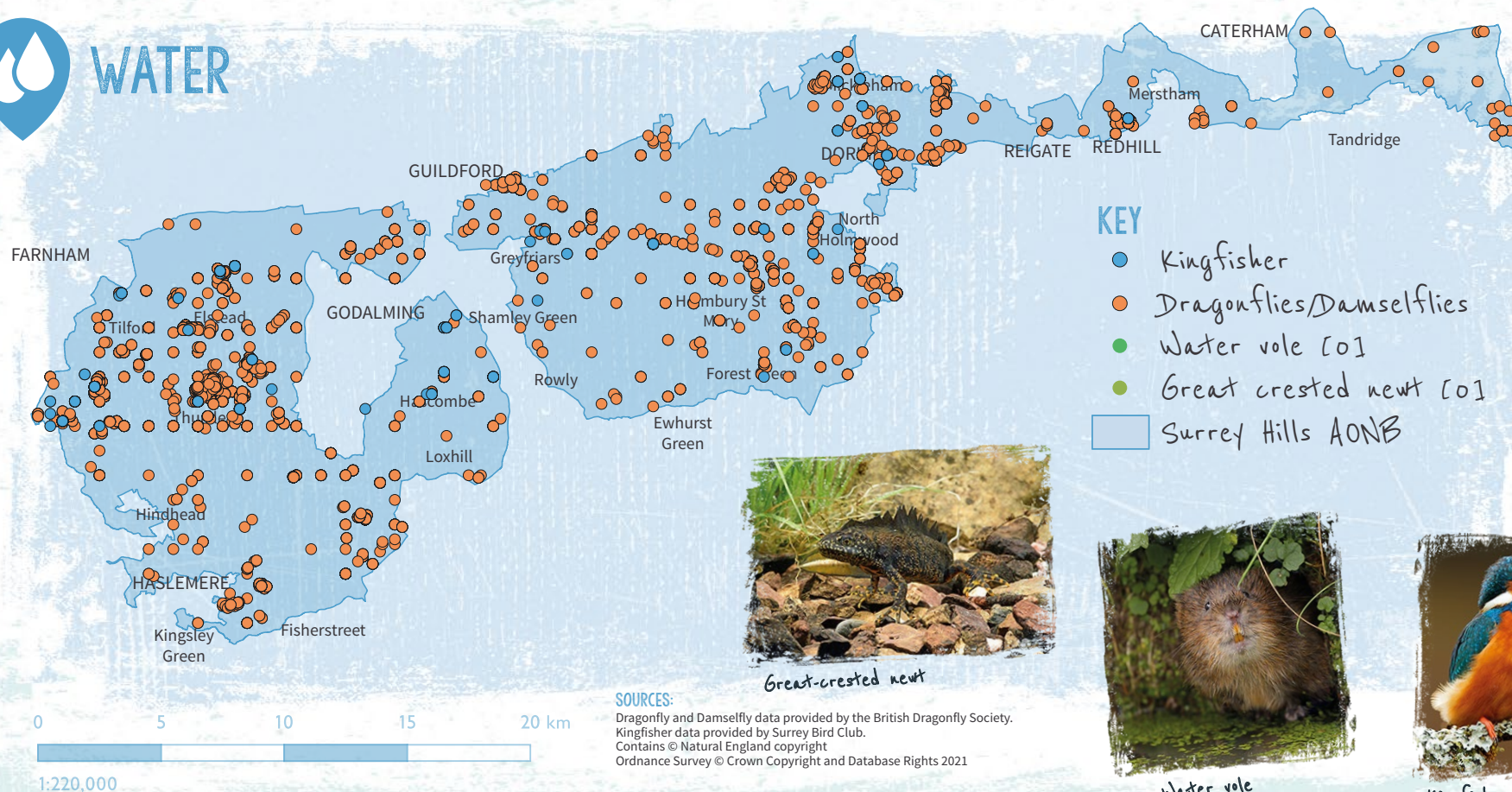


Turtle dove

## SOURCES:

Turtle dove and Barn owl data provided by Surrey Bird Club.  
Hazel dormouse data provided by the People's Trust for Endangered Species.  
Brown hairstreak data provided by Butterfly Conservation.  
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Great-crested newt



Water vole



Kingfisher



Dragonflies and damselflies

Many of our most diverse habitats are dominated by water; the running water of rivers, streams, winterbournes and ditches, the still waters of natural lakes, ponds, reservoirs and restored quarries and the still rivers that are canals. Terrestrial habitats such as marsh, fen, bog, reedbeds and carr woodland also rely on the constant presence of large quantities of water. Some of these habitats are represented within the AONB including Thursley & Ockley Bog, the only Ramsar site in Surrey and the only deep-water swamp in Surrey is just a few metres outside the AONB boundary at Moor Park, east of Farnham. The two main rivers within the AONB are the Wey between Farnham and Milford and the Mole between Dorking and Leatherhead, both flowing north to join the River Thames. The main challenges continue to be water quality, both chemical and biological with connectivity also hugely important within rivers as obstructions and low flows can dramatically affect the life cycle of many species within the aquatic food web.





The water vole is the UK's most rapidly declining mammal and has been lost from 94% of places where they were once prevalent.



## CASE STUDY: WEST SURREY GREENSANDS FACILITATION GROUP WATER VOLES PROJECT

Water voles have not been recorded in Surrey for over 13 years. A number of West Surrey Greensands Facilitation Fund members, inspired by habitat and species workshops, decided to investigate if and how they could provide suitable habitat for water voles and reintroduce them to the area.

Led by Emma Walton of Sugar Baker House, members plan to gather photos and maps of areas that may be suitable for water voles so that they can be assessed by local experts. Potential areas include ponds, water courses and extended stretches of river bank with plenty of vegetation and cover and links to further habitat.

Mink are a major threat to water voles and so an ongoing collaborative approach to controlling mink in the area will be necessary before water voles can be released there. This project is likely to take several years of habitat preparation to enable successful species reintroduction.

## WE WILL:

- Include measures and approaches within our land management plans to support habitats and species relevant to our individual landholdings
- Work together to identify where and how nature corridors and networks can be created or improved
- Establish projects for specific species, starting with water voles and kingfishers, to support best practice management across habitats.

## WHAT WE WANT TO SEE:

- An effective process for accessing and feeding back data to local organisations
- Up to date maps available for landowners to interact with
- The ability to work with local advisors to select appropriate habitats and indicator species from our list that are relevant to our sites
- Working within and beyond our Facilitation Fund groups to plan and deliver projects together.

Our approach  
to Nature  
Recovery





# WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED TALKING TO OTHER LOCAL LANDOWNERS AND MANAGERS AND OUR FACILITATION FUND GROUPS HELP US WORK TOGETHER. MOVING FORWARD WE WANT MANY MORE LANDOWNERS AND MANAGERS TO JOIN THE DISCUSSIONS AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES COMING OUR WAY.







## WE PLAN TO:

- Sign up more members to the Facilitation Fund groups
- Put in place a plan for what happens to the Facilitation Fund groups once the initial funding finishes
- Investigate what group size works for different activities and actions
- Communicate more proactively and effectively with our local communities to include them in the nature recovery journey
- Implement and roll-out our tree pests & diseases strategy across the AONB
- Work with the Surrey Wildfire & Rural Partnership Team to adopt a collaborative and consistent approach to minimising risk and damage from wildfires
- Explore potential for improving provision of access while at the same time making space for nature
- Investigate opportunities and funding for supporting education, health and wellbeing initiatives that complement nature recovery activities.

Working  
collaboratively



The woodlands, edges and verges between Chiddingfold, Dunsfold and Plaistow form a key area, being home to 20% of the Wood White's entire UK distribution.





# KNOWLEDGE SHARING & NETWORKING

OWNERS AND MANAGERS OF LANDHOLDINGS IN THE SURREY HILLS COLLECTIVELY POSSESS AN INCREDIBLE RANGE OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE AROUND ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND ASSOCIATED TOPICS. THROUGH THE SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS LANDHOLDINGS AND WIDER AREAS WE WILL HAVE A MUCH BIGGER IMPACT THAN OPERATING ALONE.

## WE PLAN TO:

- Continue the successful delivery of training and networking provided by the current Facilitation Fund groups
- Build our knowledge network by increasing the collaboration between the Facilitation Fund groups
- Increase our outreach work
- Share learning opportunities.



## CASE STUDY

### - GREENSCAPE FACILITATION FUND WOOD WHITE

Members of the Greenscape group are working to save a rare and threatened species by participating in Butterfly Conservation's Wood White project. Strips of ground are being prepared and sown with a specific mix of seeds such as vetches (the Wood White's preferred food) with the hope of increasing and expanding the territory of the local population. A total of 3km of new butterfly-friendly wildflower strips will be created as part of the project, with the help of volunteers and local organisations. Members have been able to share information through the Facilitation Fund events. Additional members outside of the core project area are now in discussions to see how they can further extend opportunities for the Wood White.

The Wood White was not chosen as an indicator species for the area because of its very local relevance, however the flexibility of our approach enables us to support a wide range of species through our management activities.



# MEASURING, MONITORING & REPORTING

IN ORDER TO MONITOR AND REPORT ON OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FUTURE, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE HAVE CURRENTLY AND HOW WE CAN MONITOR CHANGE OVER TIME.

MANY OF US ARE AT AN EARLY STAGE IN THIS JOURNEY.

## WE WILL

- Assess the habitats and species on our landholdings
- Understand the natural capital value of our landholdings
- Learn how to carry out effective monitoring
- Ensure everyone has access to digital systems required and the skills and confidence to use them.

## WE WANT TO SEE

- Data collection on habitats and species incorporated into an open data platform to develop and improve local records
- Clear, compatible systems of measurement across different sources of finance
- A choice of options for monitoring and verification.

## CASE STUDY

### NORTH DOWNS FACILITATION FUND GROUP POLLINATOR HABITAT MAPPING

With its south-facing chalk grassland and woodlands rising above a patchwork of arable and pasture fields, having pollinators as a priority group of species was an obvious choice for the members of the North Downs Facilitation Fund group. Having had a motivating talk from ecologist Laurie Jackson, the group members invited her to carry out a pollinator habitat survey on their farmland, vineyards and conservation sites, starting on the west side of Dorking across to St Martha's Hill, south of Guildford.

The aim was to assess the existing habitat in terms of its potential and actual habitat value for pollinator foraging and/or nesting.

Laurie prepared a single report for all the farms surveyed, with an extensive species list for each farm, that was circulated to all members. The habitats were also mapped and shared through The Land App, so all members could view a single map of the entire group area along with information on current agri-environment options on the different farms. A very noticeable feature of these maps was the importance of agri-environment options in providing nesting and foraging habitat on working farmland.

The next step is to identify the habitat gaps and assess what actions can be taken to provide more continuous pollinator habitat across the North Downs escarpment and help protect this vitally important group of species.



# FINANCING THE FUTURE

CURRENTLY MANY LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS FACE FUNDING CHALLENGES. FUNDING AT THE MOMENT IS INFLEXIBLE, IT ONLY PAYS FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES AND IS NOT BALANCED ACROSS HABITATS AND IT IS NOT EASILY AVAILABLE TO ALL LAND OWNERS/MANAGERS. ADDITIONALLY, MANY PEOPLE FIND IT INCREASINGLY HARD TO WORK OUT WHAT OPTIONS ARE BEST FOR THEM WITH SUCH A DIVERSE RANGE OF FUNDING COMING THROUGH.

As well as new government funding schemes, an increasing number of alternative opportunities are becoming available to landowners/managers wanting to implement environmental measures. As a group we will be ready to showcase what the Surrey Hills AONB can offer, with a view to attracting funding and investment focused on nature recovery.

## WE WANT TO SEE:

- Support for offering a coordinated approach for investment across the Surrey Hills
- Opportunities for small as well as larger landholdings across a range of habitats
- A central coordinator/project manager, who understands the bigger picture of nature recovery and grant schemes (local as well as national), is needed to coordinate funding opportunities
- Complementary finance options that enable landowners/managers to work across multiple schemes
- Funding for activities that are currently unfunded or under-funded and that require financial support, e.g. pond restoration and construction, grassland options, rewilding, regenerative agriculture, habitat maintenance (e.g. hedges), temporary fencing and training and educational visits
- A framework in place that supports payment of advisors in the local area.

## WE WILL:

- Provide input as an area into consultations relating to future funding schemes where possible
- Work with the Surrey Hills AONB Team and partners to establish a central online location to include details of all funding available for environmental land management activities
- Support delivery of advice by local advisors and organisations who know our area; utilising local expertise and supporting the local economy
- Put together an investment offering across interested landowners/managers.





# POLICY SUPPORT

THE PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATURE WITHIN THE SURREY HILLS IS DRIVEN AND SUPPORTED BY A LOT OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION WHICH GIVES US THE REASSURANCE THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING WILL HAVE LONG-TERM BACKING.

There are many other relevant initiatives on the horizon, further supporting nature recovery, trees and species reintroduction:



## **A Green Future: Our 25-year plan to improve the environment:**

The plan sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. Specifically, for farm and agricultural land, the plan promises to bring in a system to support farmers to turn over fields to meadows rich in herbs and wildflowers,

plant more trees, restore habitats for endangered species, recover soil fertility and attract wildlife.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan)

**Environment Bill 2020:** This bill sets out the agenda for environmental reform and governance post-Brexit and will put the environment at the centre of policy making.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020)

**Agriculture Act 2020:** The Act heralds a new future for the agricultural sector and landlord/ tenant relationships. The note includes details of replacement of the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), how we will be rewarded with “public money for public goods”, and agricultural tenancy reform.

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/21/contents/enacted](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/21/contents/enacted)



**Biodiversity 2020:** A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services: A national strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services which describes what is needed to halt overall biodiversity loss by 2020 setting out some ambitious goals.

It recognises that a new approach is needed if we want to halt biodiversity loss.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services)

**Colchester Declaration 2019:** This is the National Association for AONB's collective Declaration on Nature in AONBs, demonstrating readiness to reverse declines in species and habitats within the context of a wider response to climate change.

<https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/projects/colchester-declaration>



**Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan:** SHAONB's current management plan was launched in 2020. The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. Policies acknowledge and respond to a range of priorities including agriculture, woodland, hedgerows and trees, biodiversity and water resources and recreation, health and wellbeing, among others.

<https://www.surreyhill.org/board/our-management-plan/>



# WHO IS INVOLVED

IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL WE WILL NEED TO WORK WITH ADVISERS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS, ACROSS LANDHOLDINGS AND BEYOND CURRENT BORDERS. THE JOURNEY SO FAR HAS INVOLVED A WIDE RANGE OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS.



Policy and  
who's involved



# Surrey Hills

## NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

PRODUCED BY THE LANDOWNERS AND MANAGERS OF THE SURREY HILLS.

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