

# Presentation to Surrey Hills AONB Board

1 Dec 2021

# Presenters



- Antony Collins
  - Chairman of the Friends of the Hurtwood
  - Resident in Farley Green
  - Took up role this year
- Mark Beaumont
  - Ranger for the Friends of the Hurtwood
  - 15 years in role
  - 25 years in countryside management

# The Friends of the Hurtwood - history and role of the Trust



- 2,000 acres of open access countryside within the Surrey Hills
- Created via Deed in 1926 objectives to:
  1. Manage and preserve public access
  2. Protect the environment
  3. Educate the public about the environment and its conservation
- Funded by donations from c.500 Friends & management fees from Landowners and some LA grants





# The Friends of the Hurtwood - history and role of the Trust



- Issues:
  - Impact of increased use, particularly through Covid Lockdowns
  - Conflict between different users and residents' views, management of Events
  - Raising funds to cope with rising costs
  - Challenge of capturing a fair contribution from all users
  - Continuing to find volunteers





# Ranger's view



- Overview
- Car parks
- Access maintenance
- Sites of interest - Hill Forts, Roman Temple & PoW Camp
- Fly tipping









# Summary



- Large area of Surrey Hills with open access managed by small charitable trust
- Single full-time ranger, all other functions covered by volunteers
- Challenge of managing increased usage and conflicts between different interest groups
- Committed to the maintenance of the Surrey Hills countryside in the Hurtwood for future generations