

# LOOKING AFTER THE FUTURE

The heathland in front of you is a fragment of what existed in Surrey until 200 years ago. But it's an important fragment!

In that time, 90% of the heathland across Europe has been lost, and species that depend on it have become endangered. Many heaths like these are now protected from development, but they are still disappearing, mostly due to neglect.

Heaths have been shaped and maintained by people over thousands of years. If left untouched they rapidly become dense thickets of scrub and trees. This makes them less useful for recreation and unsuitable for much of the rare wildlife that depends on them.

Laws to protect heaths are not enough. We also need to take action to manage these rare places.

