

LUCRATIVE LOCATIONS

Heaths have been an important part of local people's livelihoods for thousands of years. After early farmers cleared the land to grow crops or graze their animals, heathland plants spread on poor or sandy soils.

Local people cut layers of heather and roots called 'turves' to burn on their fires. Families let their sheep, goats or cows graze on the heath, and cut bracken as bedding for the animals.

People cut gorse for bread ovens as it burns very hot, and collected birch and heather to make old-fashioned besom brooms to sell.

Using the heaths in this way kept a balance of new growing heather, some scrub and a few trees for thousands of years.



Longhorn cattle

Native goats

Turf cutting

Continuing to manage heaths today helps maintain a landscape that has been typical in Britain for thousands of years, and links us to our ancestors.

Bees feasting on heather nectar make delicious 'heather honey.'

Common heather (Ling)

Bilberries