

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

Surrey has some of the best heaths in the country, but we need to take action to look after them.

Grazing is a good way to control grasses and young tree seedlings that would otherwise spread across large areas of heath. People no longer regularly cut firewood from the heaths, so sometimes we need to clear scrub and trees.

If we scrape off the top layer of dead leaves and soil it can give buried heather seeds a chance to grow. While it's bare, the ground is great for insects like tiger beetles.

Cutting or carefully burning some heather in winter encourages healthy new plants. A mixture of ages of plants means food or homes for a wider variety of wildlife.

Orb web spider

Dartford warbler nesting in mature heather

Green woodpecker

Silver-studded blue butterfly

Green tiger beetle

Sheeps sorrel

Treating bracken stops it spreading.

Our ancestors made use of the heaths for thousands of years. We can't turn back the clock, but by continuing to manage them, future generations will be able to enjoy this distinct landscape and its wildlife.

Wolf spider

