

C21 putting it into practice

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**Georgina Terry
Thames Area Team**

What are we aiming for and why ?



Our 'Places'



- **Calcareous Landscapes** - a clear vision for targeted interventions and actions in these landscapes to add value to existing partner activity, Cotswolds, Surrey Hills, Chilterns, North Wessex Downs
- **Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths** - continued efforts to drive habitat and species gains and to manage growth pressures
- **Upper Thames Tributaries** - a nationally important wetland network where we will drive environmental gain through CS, CSF and provide support for funding bids by key partners
- **London- Its Different** - a focus on embedding green infrastructure in east and central London whilst securing new mechanisms for managing key SSSI's
- **New Landscapes** - key growth areas where the opportunity exists to create a positive species rich interface between new urban and rural landscapes.
- **Bernwood Forest** - a diverse historic, wooded and farmed landscape where HS2 will impact the natural environment and where we will seek to minimise impacts and maximise gains.
- **Ancient Trees and Woods** - our area is internationally recognised both for its veteran trees and ASNW's, we will safeguard and promote key sites and species
- **Planes, Trains and Automobiles** - we will seek net gains in biodiversity from transport infrastructure projects across the area

Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths



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WHAT AND WHERE?

We will work with those landowners and land managers that are responsible for key sites examples include: Chobham Common, Ash Ranges and Horsell Common

We will initiate a local landscape monitoring project to ascertain local residents perceptions re landscape change in part of the NCA using fix point photograph and survey work.

We will provide early advice to all major developers to secure more for the natural environment and reinvest £250,000 of DAS Income over 5 years in achieving more for the TBH NCA

We will seek to buffer and extend existing sites through creative land management (golf courses, forestry) working with landowners

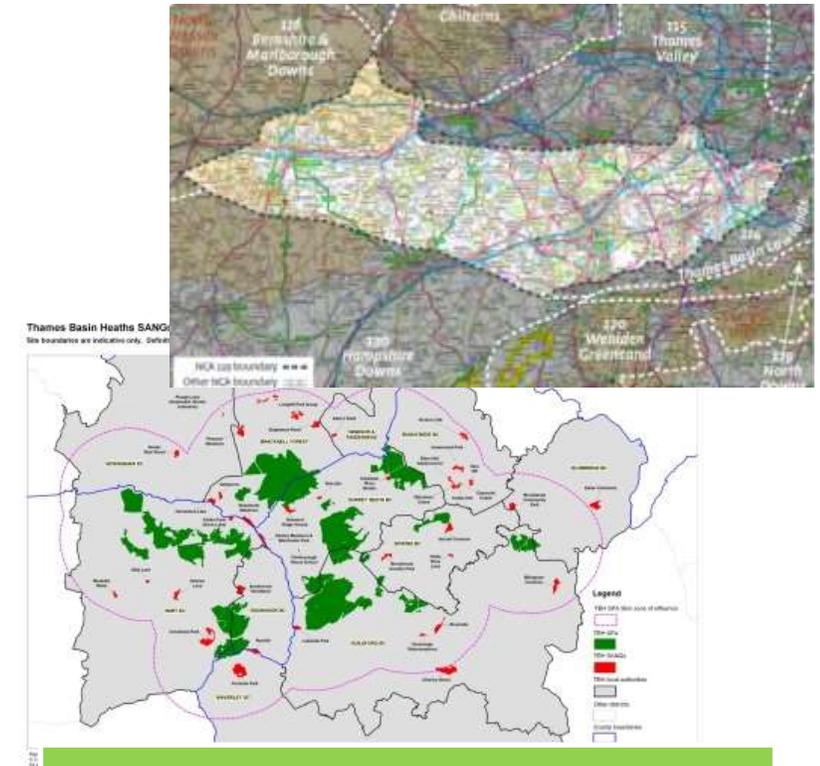
OUTCOME

- **More and better managed lowland heathland that supports more Dartford Warblers, Nightjar and Woodlarks as well as a range of other priority species**
- **More accessible greenspace for those that live in and around the TBH's**

WHY?

- The Thames Area supports 22% of the population of England. The eastern end of the Thames Basin Heaths NCA is the most highly populated area outside of London, with pressure for new housing and development.
- The area holds the largest mosaic of high quality lowland heath in south east England and is designated as a Special Protection Area for three key bird species it supports amongst an array of other nationally important wildlife, plants and fungi.
- The Local Planning Authorities have to take account of the Habitat Regulations when granting development in the area.
- There are major opportunities to enhance the management and peoples understanding of this rare landscape.
- There are opportunities to secure more and better managed habitats/greenspace in the Thames Basin NCA utilising planning gains, agri-environment schemes and close working with key landowners

The area is densely populated and continues to face increasing pressure for home building and new businesses.



WHO?

Developers, Local Authorities, Ministry of Defence, Forest Enterprise, private estates and farmers

Calcareous Landscapes

Surrey Hills, Chilterns, North Wessex Downs, Cotswolds



WHAT AND WHERE?

Provision of a vision and leadership for our work in these landscapes which reinforces the work of others and targets specific and limited sites and opportunities where we have most influence.

We will focus on chalk downland, farmland birds and the water resources and water quality of chalk streams

NWD - Farmland bird focus and arable flora

Chilterns - Chalk streams, wood and downland

Surrey Hills - Species rich downland and arable flora

Cotswolds - species rich meadows

Why?

- These landscapes are designated by Natural England for their Outstanding Natural Beauty and are the equal of National Parks in this regard.
- All four AONBs have clear management plans and resources to help co-ordinate delivery of those plans.
- There are significant opportunities to help conserve and enhance key landscape features, and priority habitats and species within these landscapes.
- We want to deploy targeted and limited activity to add value alongside others in these areas.



Safeguard and improve farmland bird and arable flora numbers

More chalk downland in prime condition, supporting more butterflies

Better sustained chalk streams

Better managed ASNW

The landscapes provide a huge recreation and tourism resource for those that live in, work in and visit the South East.

AONB's units, Forestry Commission, Landowners, Farmers, National Trust, Wildlife Trusts, The Downland Project, Local Authorities,

Ancient Trees and Woods

Windsor Great Park, Chiddingfold Forest, Bushy and Home Parks; Richmond Park and Epsom and Ashted Commons



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WHAT AND WHERE?

We will establish a vision to raise awareness and develop solutions to ensure local bat populations are taken into account in and around Chiddingfold Forest.

We will work with the Forestry Commission, Forest Enterprise to maximise management of ASNW in key areas

We will safeguard veteran and ancient trees, using CS as a key tool.

We will work with partners and landowners to secure sustainable woodland management on SSSI's

Outcomes

Safeguarding of existing and future resource of ancient and veteran trees.

Improved awareness and understanding of these habitats

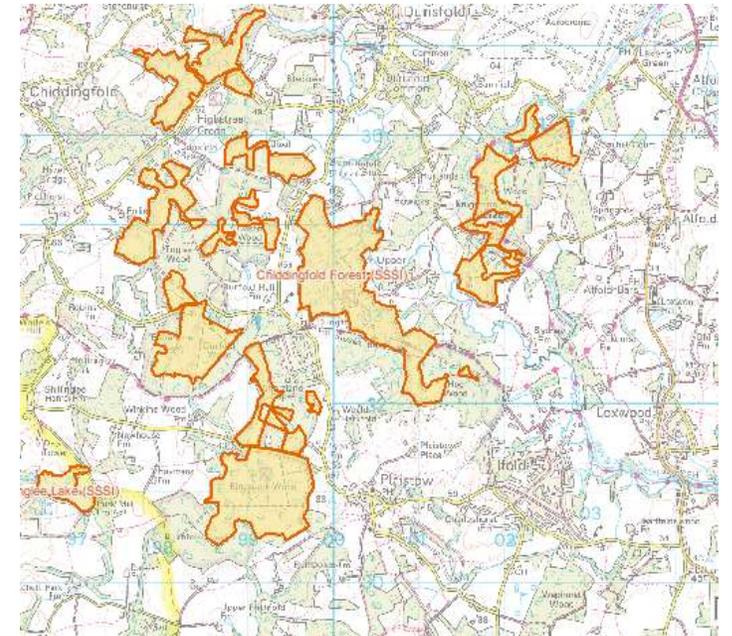
No loss of ASNW

A vision for bats in and around Chiddingfold Forest

WHY?

- 'Ancient trees are precious. There is little else on Earth that plays host to such a rich community of life within a single living organism ' David Attenborough
- The team area contains a huge resource of ancient and veteran trees often associated with historic parkland. Windsor Great Park has the greatest collection of ancient oaks in Western Europe. In West London both Richmond and Bushy Park are designated in part for their veteran tree interests.
- Woodland covers over 92,000 hectares of the Team Area. 35% of this is Ancient Semi Natural Woodland that has been in existence since before 1600. These woodlands support a range of priority bat, bird and Lepidoptera species and are a priority habitat nationally.

There are opportunities to create income generation from ASNW management. There is a cultural and recreational value linked to ancient woods and trees.



WHO?

Forest Enterprise, Royal Parks, Crown Estate, Private Landowners, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, Local Authorities