




Surrey Parks and Countryside Forum
Location: Surrey Hills Estate Office Warren Farm Barns Headley Lane
Mickleham Dorking RH5 6DG
2:00 - 4:00pm

Present	Ben Siggery SWT, Lisa CG SyNP, Christa Emmett SHS, Mark Dawson NT, David Olliver WBC, Andi Roy SBC, Sophie Skyes NE, Andrew Thwaites COL, Chris Swatridge RBC, Alexander Bagnell MVDC, Hendryk Jurk GBC, Rob Fairbanks AONB, Helen Wilson RBC	
Apologies	Helen Cocker SCC, Stewart Cocker E&EBC, Paul Ritchie, James Herd SWT	
Matters Arising	<p>No updates on professional dog walking.</p> <p>Nation reserves management, new stakeholder meeting in Autumn updates will come, but not till end of summer.</p> <p>Paleoecology in Surrey Ben Siggery, GIS, Research and Monitoring Manager, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Space4Nature Doctoral Practitioner, University of Surrey currently working on a PhD for the Space4Nature.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Ben Siggery Using the Past to Inform the Present.pdf (Command Line)</p> <p>Presentation available click here.</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>AT- Do we feel we could use this to get back things back and to which point?</p> <p>BS - There are a lot of competing schools of thought. I feel that going back to nature as it was would not be the most possible.</p> <p>CE – What are you looking for in the cores?</p> <p>BS– You can do a data core much like carbon dating, which is 50,000 years old. Lead and caesium are used in dating as well. With the ice cores in Greenland and Iceland they have seasonal cores that can easily be seen. Pollen, algae, so many things can be used as indications.</p> <p>AB – do they give an example of insect richness?</p> <p>BS – you can look at species declines and richness and look at the abundance in the cores.</p> <p>CE -Is it always on water areas or can you do it on land?</p> <p>BS – Water works better for oxygen levels. You can also take cores of trees to date a sample, there are lots of ways.</p>	Actions SS

	<p>BS- The remote sensing will be used in Space 4 Nature and hopefully my work will tell us where to go.</p> <p>SS – How to you then include climate change into your evaluations?</p> <p>BS- We are going into more anaerobic conditions. We can go back and look at the rate of change. Changes in temperature are happening much quicker. We can use this as a marker for the resilience, of what systems have been able to survive drastic changes in the past and learn from that. Thresholds of potential concern is something people have mentioned, it would be a way to work those out.</p>	
	<p>LNRS update and Biodiversity Gain site surveys on public sector owned land share on behalf of Bronwen Chinien and Viv Greenough SCC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> LNRS & BNG SCC.pdf (Command Line)</p> <p>Presentation available click here.</p> <p>HJ- We are waiting on timescales and knowing how much land the funding will cover.</p> <p>DO- BNG credits. There is a difficulty in understanding whose word goes for the credit evaluation when it comes to developers, this needs to be robust.</p> <p>BS- This hits the nail on the head for the governance and decision making. We need to know bit more about the regulations for BNG and are waiting for further legislation.</p>	<p>LNRS need to think about the planners in the engagement.</p>
	<p>Access for All Emma Cole Communications Lead at Surrey Hills National Landscape</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> EDI presentation v2.pdf (Command Line)</p> <p>Presentation click here</p> <p>BS – it takes a lot of planning to get people to nature, having sites ready and ensuring sites are multifunctional.</p> <p>HJ – is there any guidance on this? There is</p> <p>EC- there is no one size fits all. It is about location.</p> <p>EC – signage is important but being digital is very important, so people are prepared before they come.</p> <p>National Trust risk assessed with benefit was mentioned by Mark who highlighted the important of allowing acceptable risk to get people to explore their surroundings.</p>	<p>CE to link up with EC</p>

	<p>Wheelchairs mentioned for different terrains. Tramper wheel chair. Landeer is good for the sand</p>	
<p>Round table</p>	<p>ME - I'm currently supporting SCC with the preparation of the LNRS and working closely with Victoria Hawkins on the Heathland Connections landscape-scale nature recovery project across the Surrey Hills in the west. Please do get in touch if you'd like to speak about either. I'm particularly keen to help members of district and boroughs get to grips with their new Environment Act burdens. I'm always free for a chat so please do get in contact if you'd like to set something up. I'd also be very happy to meet you on site.</p> <p>BS – How will Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) work in Surrey? 14th June, Royal Holloway, online also available. Palaeoecology and conservation research survey.</p> <p>RBC – I am getting to know the council and the sites and my team.</p> <p>RS – Looking at the proposed extension of Surrey Hills with NE. £1 million secured for nature recovery projects. Most of the funding we give is for ponds restoration, hedge row planting restoration. £ ¼ million next year coming in for the Access for All. We have another rail campaign to promote access for all to the countryside. Promoting car free access to cycling.</p> <p>HJ– We are looking for an official booking system. Hemlock enquiries seem to have increased, is this so for anyone else?</p> <p>MD -We deal with it only in areas where people don't necessarily know a lot of about plants, such as the viewing point. It is dealt with in 24 hours.</p> <p>AB – our team had a restructure of our 11, I am the only one left, one big thing is the tree inspection, to help us justify our resources. We are behind on Ash dieback, we seem to be late getting it, or perhaps just in small patches. No Mow May has become our default. Concerns raised over the lack of insects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent Earth-Averting the Insect Apocolyse by Dave Goulson book recommend LCG <p>CS – I am new to this role looking at new strategic projects, looking at BNG and how we will approach that. Looking at the areas of neglect, play areas being one.</p> <p>AT- Looking at natural capital, and wood pastures seems to score negatively which is interesting. Looking at mobile phone data for</p>	

	<p>surveys, looking at where people are going on sites, this can be accessed t for the last three years.</p> <p>SS – Looking at SSSI so the landowner or occupier has a clear understanding of what is ‘favourable condition’ and how to achieve it. There is a backlog to monitoring this in Surrey, we are restricted on adding to that list. We may not be able to update condition assessment, but it’s about being able to get on site and make sure teams are moving in the right direction. We also need to update our threats and pressures making sure these are up to date. If land does qualify for stewardship. Good for smaller plots of land.</p> <p>We are coming to end of the AONB consultation. Lots of projects on the heathlands with Victoria Hawkins. Looking at creating a super LNR. Agri environment schemes, at the moment a lot of updates.</p> <p>MD- Nature regeneration, the Burford Spur, we had so many people over lockdown, we lost a few species of orchid. It is a chalk grassland area, looking at how we regenerate it. We started setting up ropes and post to protect areas to allow the orchids to come back. We will be doing annual surveys to see how this is doing. Looking positive so far and the length of the sward is improving. We are looking to extend that then to an area at Juniper top. It’s about explaining and telling a story, so people understand why. We are working with AONB on access, and we are looking at surfacing to give people access. From the viewpoint to the tower.</p> <p>EC – Surrey Hills family event, not as formal as a bio blitz, we had Surrey Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation and BugLife all involved. It was a good way to connect with family in an informal way. We have lots of nature activities on click here.</p> <p>Looking at rail to ramble and sustainable access to the countryside. We are hoping to get a heritage lottery bid for access to the countryside for minorities.</p> <p>AR- Ash die back has been really hard this year worse than we expected, looking for funding for a survey. Esso and Caden, Caden have said they don’t want trees planted within 10 metres of their pipeline. The trees in question were planted by them 40 years ago. Verge cutting has been taken back in house by SCC. looking at how people feel about biodiversity, it may take some work to convince people about the BNG, but it , will be filled with wildflowers and not amenity grass.</p> <p>Looking at keep the grazing heard safe, PSPO in place to protect the cows.</p> <p>DO –Having problems with the RPA, who sent the wrong. Forms for their Stewardship agreements. SCC are resurfacing the BOAT</p>	<p>SS to prepare to present at next meeting on updates.</p>
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	<p>(byway open to all traffic) across Frensham Common. The type of surface will need to be handled carefully.</p> <p>Have just renewed all Waverley PSPOs (Public Space Protection Orders), removing all the activities now covered by national legislation.</p>	
Dates for next meetings	Tuesday 29th August 2023 Time: 10:00-11:30am Location: Warren Farm Thursday 30th November 2023	