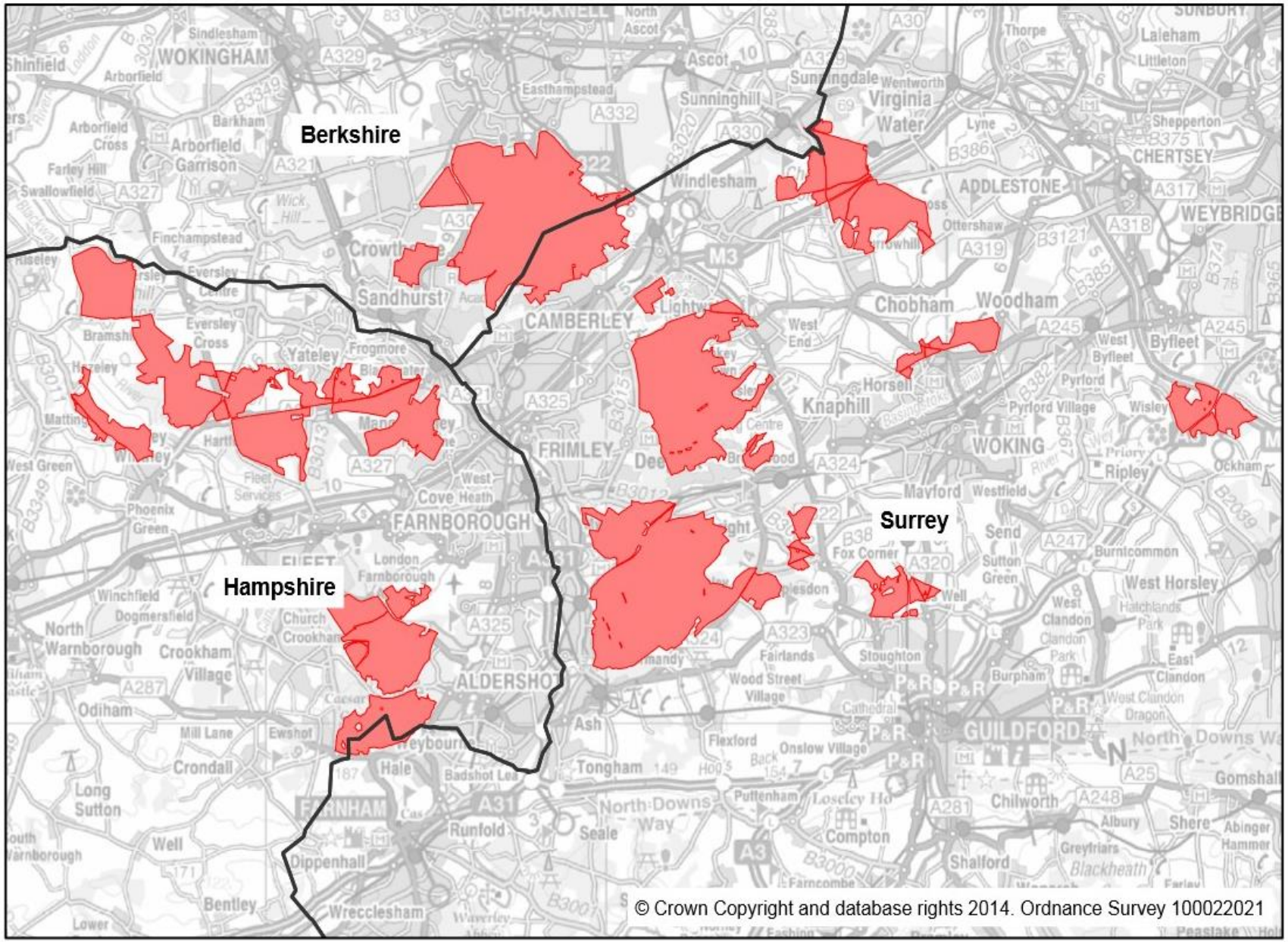
THAMES BASIN HEATHS PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Project

Ruth Shelton and Victoria Huth

1. The History
2. What we do
3. Challenges


Berkshire
Hampshire
Surrey
WOKINGHAM
Sandhurst
CAMBERLEY
FRIMLEY
FARNBOROUGH
ALDERSHOT
Chobham
Woodham
Knaphill
WOKING
GUILDFORD
Ash
Tongham
Farnham
Bentley
Wrecclesham
Crondall
Odiham
Crookham Village
North Warnborough
Long Sutton
Dippenhall
Runfold
Seale
Compton
Shalford
Chilworth
Send
West Horsley
Ripley
Mayford
Byfleet
West Byfleet
Pyrford
Horsell
Windlesham
Virginia Water
Sunningdale
Ascot
ADDLESTONE
CHERTSEY
WEYBRIDGE
Laleham
Littleton
Shepperton
Thorpe
Ottershaw
Lightwater
Yateley
Eversley
Finchampstead
Arborfield
Barkham
Swallowfield
Farley Hill
Arborfield Garrison
Sindlesham
Winchfield
Dogmersfield
Mill Lane
Ewshot
Hale
Badshot Lea
Puttenham
Flexford
Onslow Village
Wood Street Village
Fairlands
Stoughton
Burpham
Clandon
West Clandon
East Clandon
Burntcommon
Sutton Green
Fox Corner
Albury
Shere
Abinger Hammer
Gomshall
North Downs
Greyfriars
Blackheath
Peaslake
Cove
Frogmore
Phoenix Green
West Green
Hartley Wintney
Bramshill
Eversley Cross
Riseley
Matting
Cross
Arborfield Cross
Sunninghill
Easthampstead
Lyne
Chertsey
Pyrford Village
Wisley
Ockham
Priory
Hatchlands Park
Westfield
Send
Well
Lesden
Mandy
Cathedral
Dragon
Loseley Ho
Hog's Back
Tongham
Seale
Runfold
Wreccleham
Lower Bentley
Farncombe
Waverley
Fashing
Peaslake
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A248
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P&R
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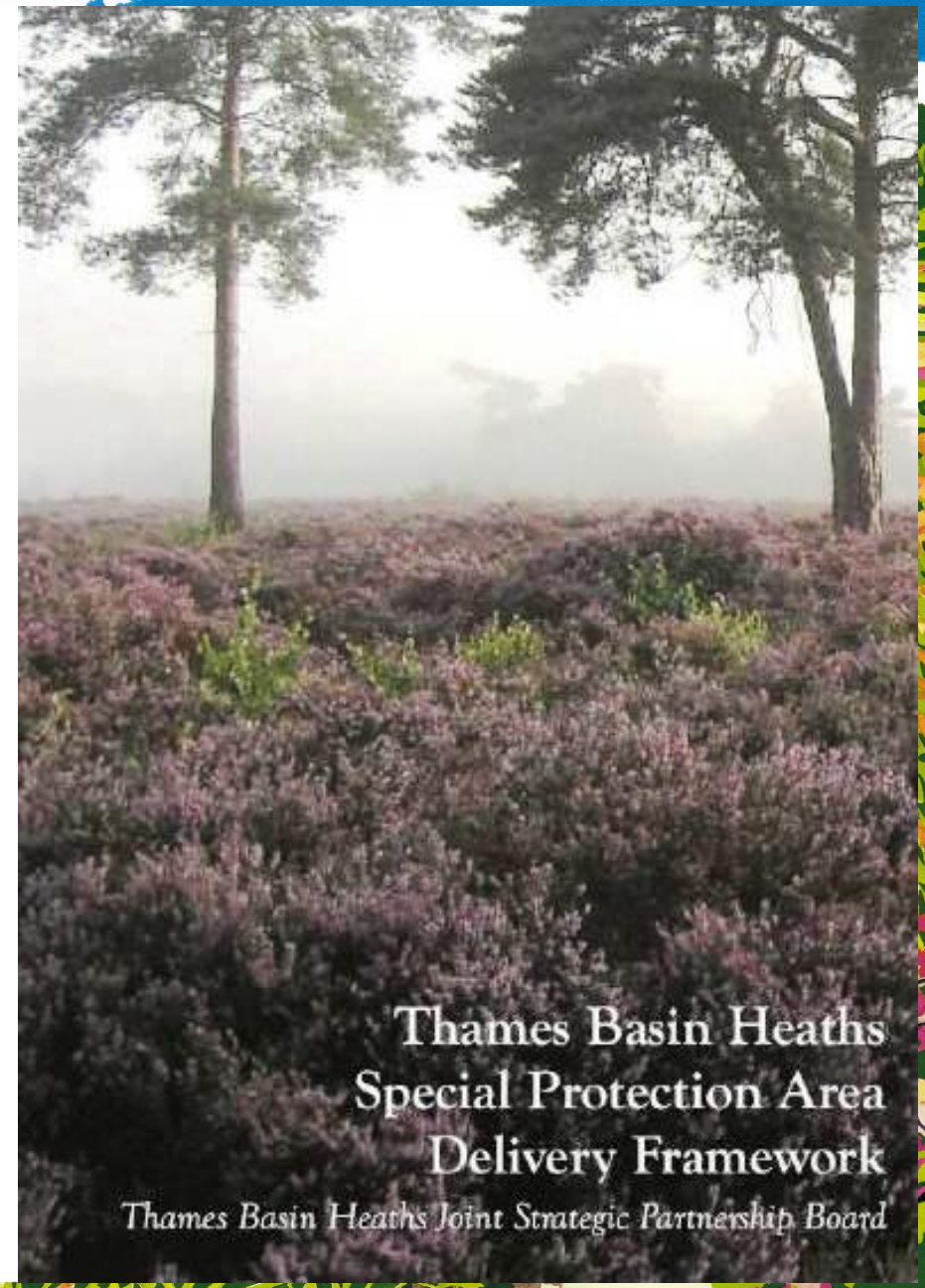
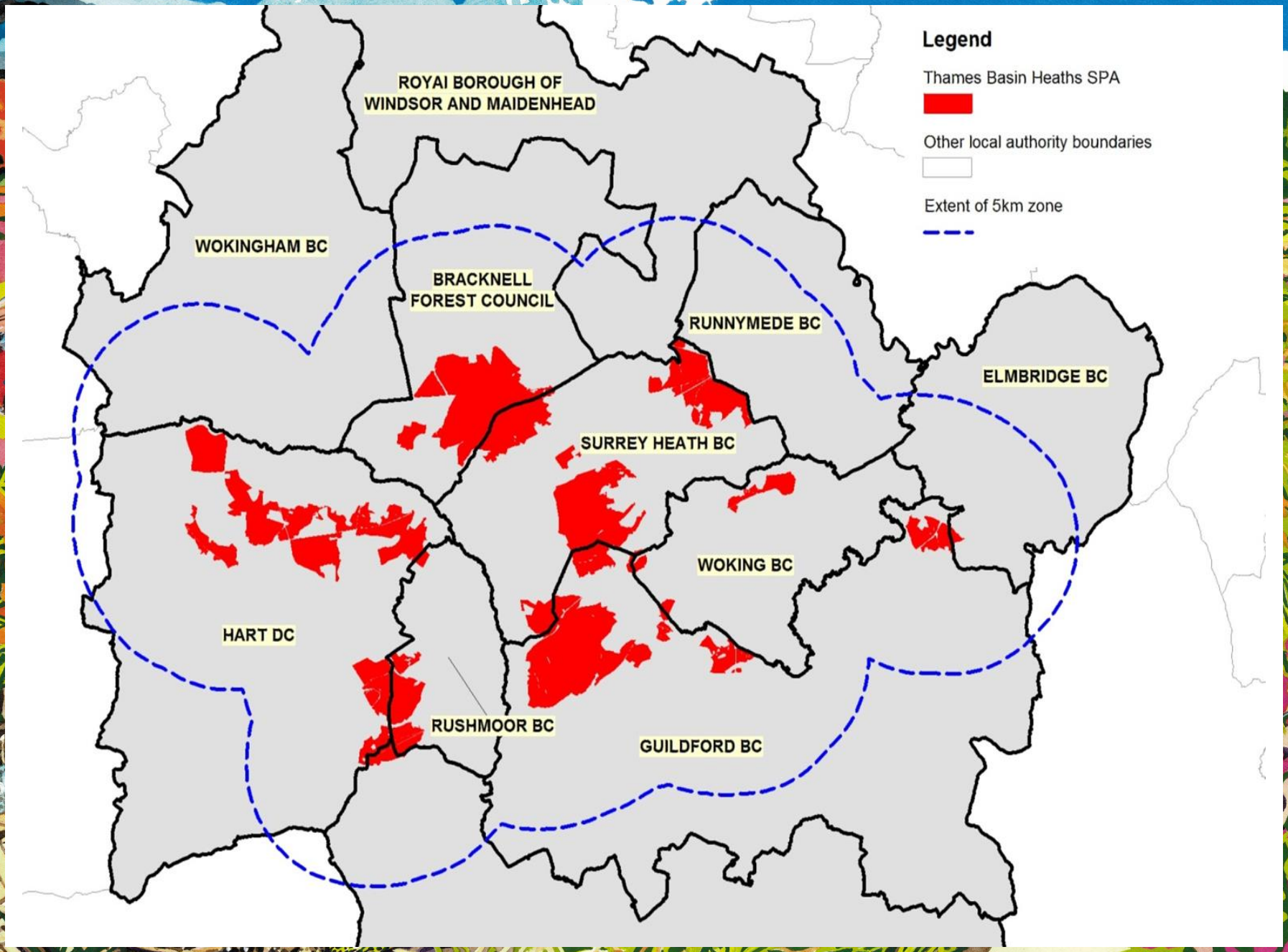
2005 - SPA was notified due to its populations of Woodlark, Nightjar and Dartford Warbler

2009 - TBH Delivery Framework published by Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (JSPB), 11 local authorities surrounding the SPA



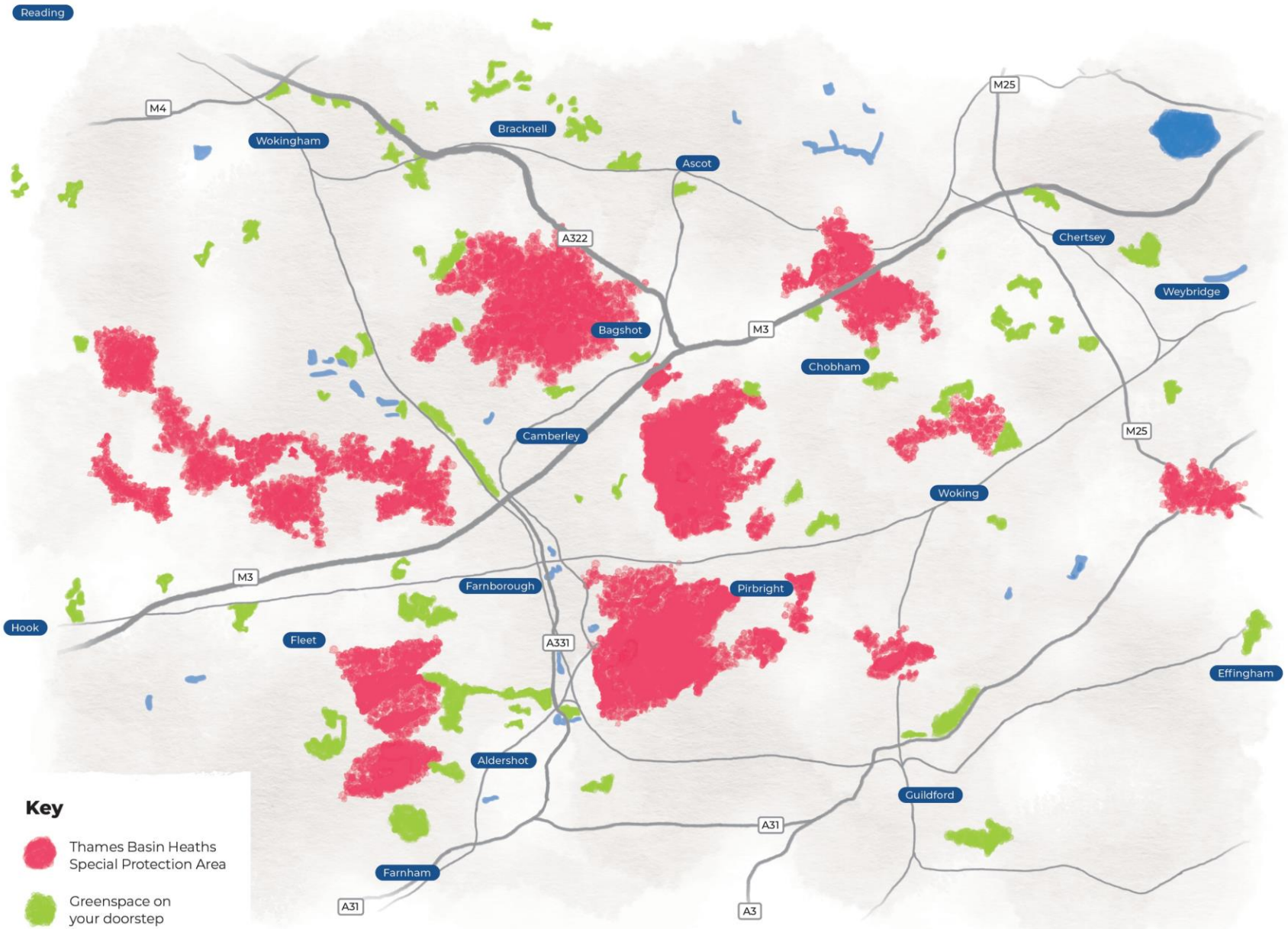

Legend
Thames Basin Heaths SPA
Other local authority boundaries
Extent of 5km zone
ROYAI BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
WOKINGHAM BC
BRACKNELL FOREST COUNCIL
RUNNYMEDE BC
ELMBRIDGE BC
SURREY HEATH BC
WOKING BC
HART DC
RUSHMOOR BC
GUILDFORD BC

Tariff

- For 2020/21 it was £796.50 per dwelling
- Each Local Authority (LA) sets their own method of collection, usually by bedroom number
- Annual increase in line with inflation
- Hampshire County Council receive funds, monitor payments and maintain the investment funds.
- About 30% of the income comes to us every year and the remaining 70% goes into an investment pot to fund the project for perpetuity
- Our budget forecast for 2022/23 is £535,000 (ish)

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces SANG

- Quality greenspace that is a suitable alternative to the SPA within the Thames Basin Heaths Planning Buffer Zone.
- Aims to divert visitors from visiting the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).
- **The effectiveness of SANG as mitigation will depend upon the location and design. These must be such that the SANG is more attractive than the SPA.**
- **80 currently open**


Reading
M4
Wokingham
Bracknell
Ascot
M25
A322
Chertsey
Weybridge
Bagshot
M3
Chobham
Camberley
M25
Woking
M3
Farnborough
Pirbright
Hook
Fleet
A331
Effingham
Aldershot
Guildford
A31
Farnham
A31
A3
Key
Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area
Greenspace on your doorstep

THAMES BASIN HEATHS
PARTNERSHIP

1. The History

2. What we do

3. Challenges

SAMM Team Plan

Surrey | Hampshire | Berkshire

THAMES BASIN HEATHS PARTNERSHIP

Keep to main paths

#BeWildfireAware

Greenspace on your doorstep

Everyone in

so that

to

using

Connect

Respect

Protect

Engagement | Education | Monitoring

Sharing the magic of heathland with Surrey, Hampshire & Berkshire!

SAMM Project

- Project Manager
- Team Leader
- Senior Warden
- 2 Communications Officers
- Education Officer
- Data Analyst
- 5 year round wardens
- 6 seasonal wardens

Engagement

THAMES BASIN HEATHS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

Protecting birds protects heaths!
Protecting heaths protects birds!

THAMES BASIN HEATHS PARTNERSHIP

8,200ha of heathland
That's 12,300 football pitches

Across 3 counties
Surrey
Hampshire
Berkshire

Protecting 3 species of rare birds
Nightjar
Dartford Warbler
Woodlark

Because they **nest on the ground** or in vegetation

Nightjar: Comes from Africa to nest here
413 pairs in 2021

Dartford Warbler: At home all year in the prickliest of gorse bushes
553 pairs in 2021

Woodlark: Our lyrical heathland songbird
196 pairs in 2021

Heathland lost in the last two centuries...
84%
A Special Protection Area protects it for the future

FIRE is a major threat and on the **INCREASE** as summers get hotter and drier

Join us for...
HEATH WEEK
Last week of July every year

Our team of **12** wardens are here to help

Connect
Respect
Protect

Local councils have created **over 70** local country walks to protect the heaths

Protection is paid for by a one-off **levy** on all housing built within **5km**

Keep to main paths

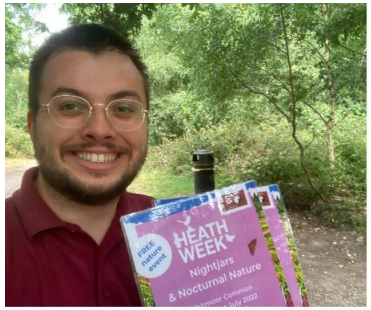
Litter

#BeWildfireAware

Discover...
Greenspace on your doorstep

#ThamesBasinHeaths #MoreThanJustNightjars #GreenspaceOnYourDoorstep

- Butterflies and other things with wings
- Wildfire roadshows
- Heathland herbivores
- Heathlands smaller creatures
- Nightjar walks
- Heathland for beginners
- Sensory scavenger hunt
- Top tips for wonderful walkies
- Discovering Nature with your phone
- Reptile and Amphibian Roadshow
- Chobham History Walk
- 27 events in total


HEATH WEEK
Nightjars
& Nocturnal Nature

EXTREME
FIRE
DIAL 999

POLICE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT OFFICER

Three Churrs for Horsell Common!

THAMES BASIN HEATHS PARTNERSHIP

FREE nightjar walk

Tuesday 14th June 2022
8:30pm to 11pm

FREE - Suitable for all - Booking essential - No dogs please

THAMES BASIN HEATHS
PARTNERSHIP
HEATH
WEEK
Monday 24th to Sunday 30th July 2023

“3000 stars out of 2000”

George (age 6)

Heathland Hounds

Happy hounds...healthy heaths!

Currently have 1487 members
Good Dog Guide

THAMES BASIN HEATHS PARTNERSHIP

Partnership working

The SAMM team has been hosting lots of pop-ups this year

We will be bringing back the theme of poo pop-ups with SCC after listening to our partners about increasing issues with dog fowling.

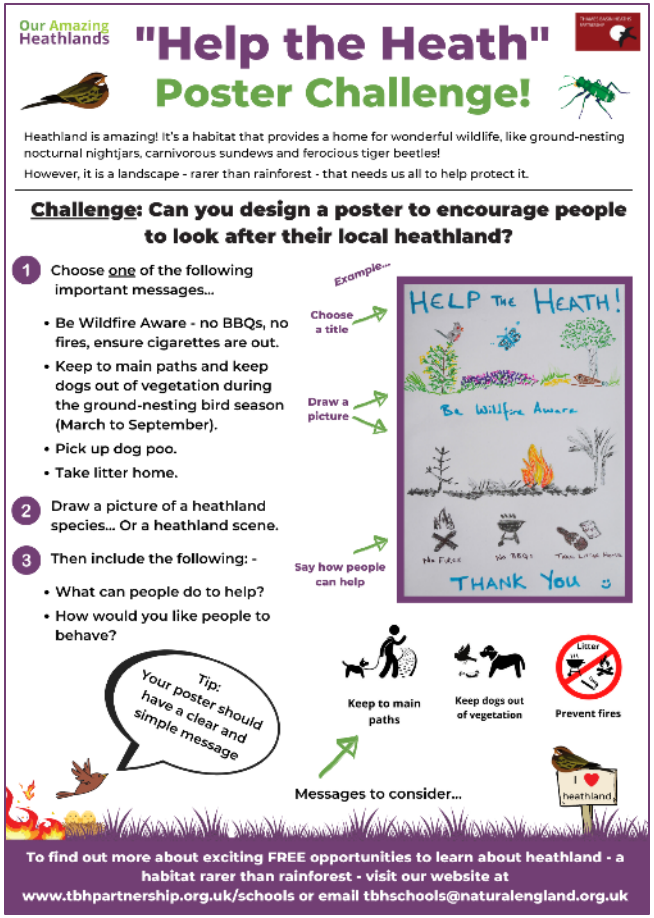
Over winter 2022, we will volunteer with numerous partners across the SPA.

Education

Our Amazing Heathlands

Connecting children with heathland

Our Amazing Heathlands



Engaging with heathland → Fostering an interest (= caring) → Taking action to protect

Wildfire education

Our Amazing Heathlands

Our Amazing Heathlands

“The children still talk about your visit.

You have definitely inspired a new generation of children to listen, look and respect our natural wildlife and habitats."

Our Amazing Heathlands

"I have never seen the children so engaged. Some of the children drew pictures after you had gone of the plants you showed them.

When they left, they were telling their parents all about the talk you gave them.

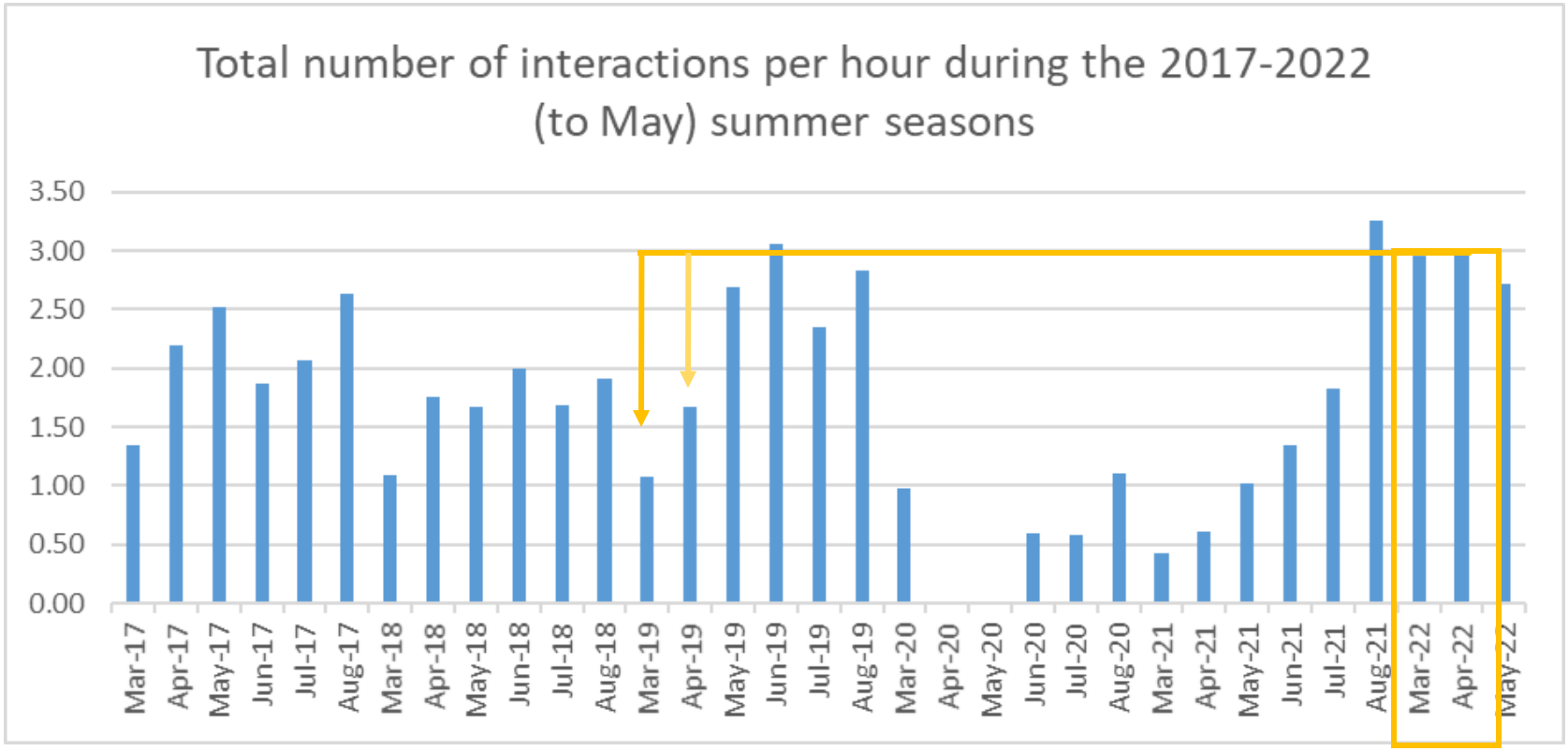
I think this is such a wonderful idea to go to schools to talk about nature."

Monitoring

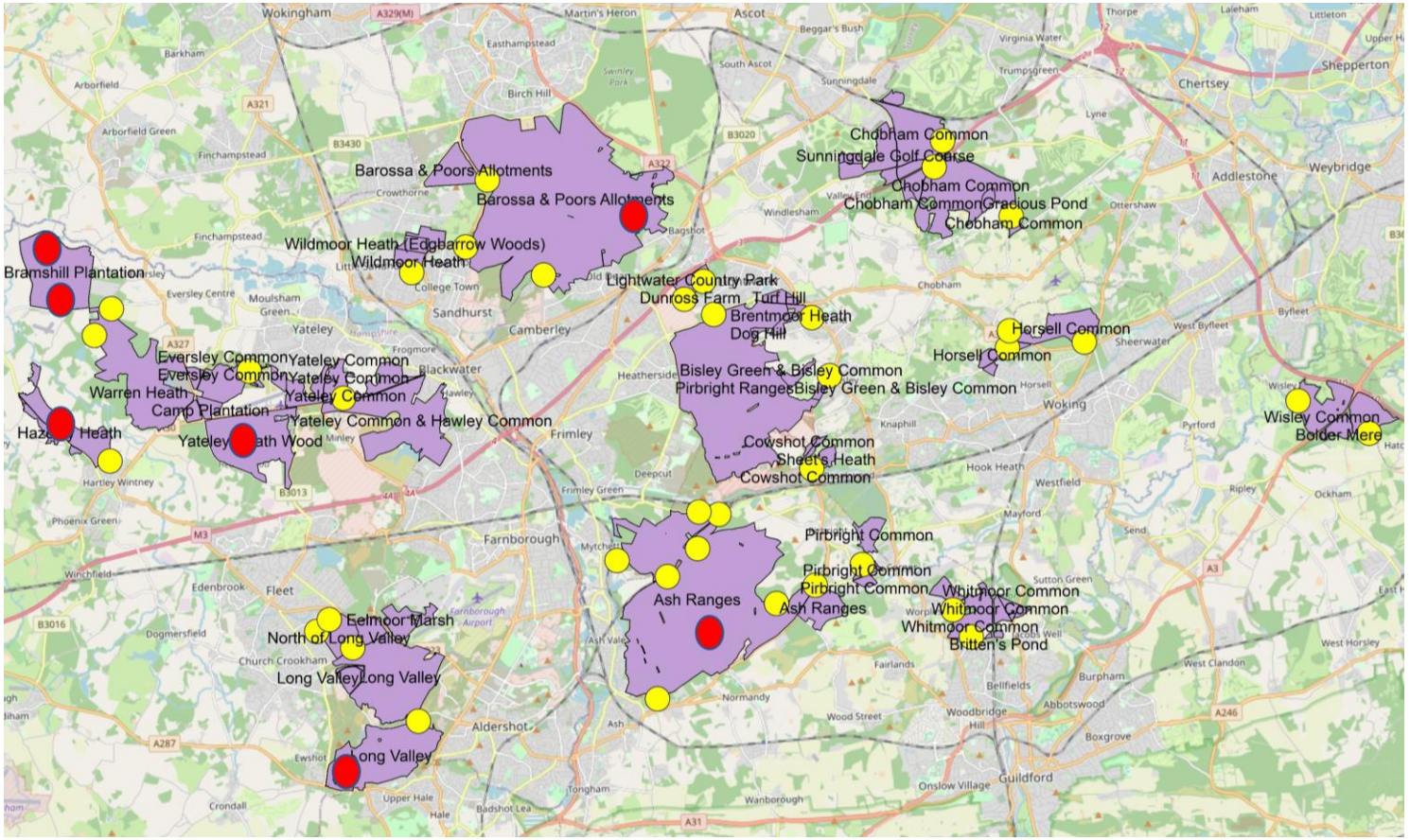
Monitoring

- Warden interactions
- SPA Monitoring
- Car Park survey
- Visitor behaviour surveys
- Bird survey

Wardening - interactions



People counters



Existing Proposed extra

SANGS visitor survey 2021/22

75 SANGs surveyed December to March

Each SANG surveyed for 1 hour

77% of interviewees were dog-walkers

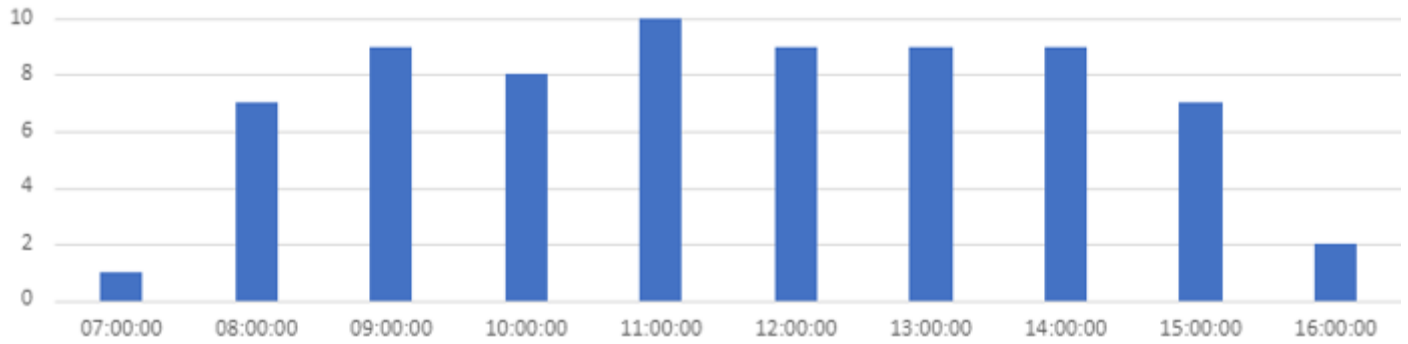
Surveys spread across the day

262 interviews

88% of people visited daily or most days of the week

9 surveyors from the SAMM Team

836 people encountered



THAMES BASIN HEATHS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

Nightjar: Comes from Africa to nest here

413 pairs in 2021

Dartford warbler: At home all year in the prickliest of gorse bushes

553 pairs in 2021

Woodlark: Our lyrical heathland songbird

196 pairs in 2021

THAMES BASIN HEATHS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

Nightjar: Comes from Africa to nest here

370 pairs in 2022

Dartford Warbler: At home all year in the prickliest of gorse bushes

702 pairs in 2022

Woodlark: Our lyrical heathland songbird

192 pairs in 2022

1. The History

2. What we do

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HEATH WEEK
#BeWildfireAware
EXTREME
RISK OF
FIRE
NO FIRES
NO BBQS
ENSURE CIGARETTES ARE OUT
TAKE LITTER HOME
Litter
DIAL 999
IN THE EVENT OF FIRE
FIRE