

Invitation to Tender

For habitat management works for the Chalk Lines project

Proposed Outline Timetable

Deadline for all queries and submission	21 August 2026
Award of contract(s)	From 28 August 2026
Commencement of works	From 1 September 2026
Completion of works	28 February 2027

Buglife

Buglife – the Invertebrate Conservation Trust, is the UK’s only organisation devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates. Our vision is a wildlife-rich planet where other species thrive alongside people, and our mission is halting the extinction of invertebrates and achieving sustainable populations. We inspire people to learn about and protect invertebrates for future generations.

Chalk Lines

Chalk Lines is a new project in Surrey funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund aiming to restore and enhance chalk grassland within the Surrey Hills National Landscape and Buglife’s [B-Lines network](#). The project aims to enable invertebrate populations to flourish by improving wildflower-rich habitats and connectivity between sites, allowing species to move through the landscape.

B-Lines addresses the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators with a series of ‘insect pathways’ running across the country, a priority network for restoring and creating wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones, linking existing wildlife areas together across the UK landscape. This will provide large areas of new habitat benefiting invertebrates and other wildlife.

This project completes in Summer 2028 and aims to restore at least 30 hectares of chalk grassland by undertaking habitat management work over numerous sites during winters 2026-27 and 2027-28. It is intended that additional sites will be available for tender during 2027.

Tenders are being sought from contractors to undertake scrub management works detailed below on six sites. A tender for the works on all sites is our preferred option, but if that is not possible, tenders for individual sites will be considered.

Selected Sites

An initial group of sites has been selected for habitat works in winter 2026-27:

Site Name	Location	Approx. Ha	Owner / Manager
1. Buckland Escarpment	Buckland	4.75ha	Buckland Estate
2. Denbies Carriageway	Ranmore	0.7ha	National Trust
3. Hackhurst Down	Abinger Hammer	0.3ha	Surrey Wildlife Trust
4. Headley Heath Spur	Headley	1.5ha	National Trust
5. Pewley Meadows	Guildford	2.5ha	Surrey Wildlife Trust
6. Rosamund Meadow	Guildford	1.2ha	Privately Owned

Specific details for each site location, access, and description of works are in Appendix 2.

Overall Objective

The broad objective of the works is to maintain and restore species-rich chalk grassland habitat, which will be primarily achieved by removing and controlling encroaching scrub, although individual sites will have specific requirements. All works shall be undertaken in a manner that minimises potential damage to existing grassland flora, fauna and soils.

Access

1. All sites have public access and are always open to members of the public. The work should aim to minimise disruption to walkers, dog walkers, horse riders and other site users.
2. The contractor will be able to access the site boundary by vehicle, but on some sites the individual work areas are only accessible by foot along bridleways and footpaths.
3. Where sites have a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation, approval has or will be obtained prior to works from Natural England to undertake this work.
4. All work is to be completed within the permitted habitat works season from 1 September 2026 to 28 February 2027.
5. Work should avoid periods of excessively wet ground conditions to prevent soil compaction and rutting, including along vehicle access routes to the site.
6. Work should only be undertaken on normal workdays, i.e. Monday to Friday.
7. There is no grazing livestock in the work areas of the sites, unless specifically advised prior to start of the work.

Safety

1. Areas of work must be clearly marked for public safety, particularly where near footpaths, and power tools should not be operated within fifteen meters of the public to prevent injury by flying debris.
2. The contractor shall ensure that all site workers use appropriate safety personal protective equipment when necessary and are fully qualified to operate any power tools or machinery.
3. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure the site is left in a safe and tidy condition at the end of each working day.
4. The contractor will be responsible for their own health and safety and ensure a thorough written safety policy is completed, with a full risk assessment, so that all safety measures are taken to safeguard themselves and their employees in terms of equipment, clothing, site supervision and safe working practices. All operational measures must conform to current Codes of Practice.

Special Instructions

1. Other site users are generally tolerant of the management of the site, and this must not be undermined by unsympathetic work practices, and their safety is of paramount importance.
2. Buglife is neither the site owner nor the authoritative manager, although we are working in partnership with the landowners for this work. Failure to adhere to this specification could result in reputational damage to the landowners, Buglife and the contractor.
3. Where the site is designated as a SSSI, with delicate plant and animal communities, any excessive use of motorised vehicles on site should be avoided as this could result in site damage.
4. To maintain low nutrient character of the sites, arisings must be collected and either:
 - Stacked within the site boundary in previously agreed locations.
 - Burnt on site on temporary fire platforms, with resulting bonfire ash piled in agreed locations once completely cooled.
 - Chipped and removed from site.

The specific method for removal of arisings will be discussed and agreed for each site.

5. Buglife has a policy of avoiding the use of herbicides, pesticides and other agrochemicals. The use of such chemicals during the outlined works is strictly prohibited.
6. Refueling of machinery shall take place in designated areas away from sensitive habitats, using spill catch trays to prevent any accidental spills. All fuels and oils should be stored in a secure and protected manner that complies with current regulations.

Additional Requirements

Acceptance of Tenders

Buglife does not bind itself to accept the lowest priced tender, or part of or all of any tender, and reserves the right to accept part only of a tender.

Quality Standards

We reserve the right to withhold payment in respect of work which does not meet the required standard.

Insurance

The contractor must have appropriate levels of Public Liability and Employers' Liability insurance.

Sub-contractors

No work undertaken through this tender should be subcontracted out without prior written approval from Buglife.

Response to Tender Invitation

1. Cost of Works

Please complete the Cost of Works schedule below for any sites you wish to tender for. The proposed costs should be inclusive of all expenses including travel, equipment, and subsistence, but exclusive of VAT. Please provide costs based on both/either costs per hectare or per person per day, and total site cost.

Site Name	Cost / Ha	Cost / Person / Day	Total Site Cost
1. Buckland Escarpment			
2. Denbies Carriageway			
3. Hackhurst Down			
4. Headley Heath Spur			
5. Pewley Meadows			
6. Rosamund Meadow			

7. Experience

Please provide details of your relevant experience

8. Company Information

Please complete the Company Information requests in Appendix 1. Please complete as much of this form as is relevant and mark N/A where necessary

Appendix 1: Company Information

1.0 General

1.1 Registered Name

Trading Name (if different)

1.2 Correspondence Details

Name of person:

Address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

Registered office Address (if different from above):

1.3 Company Registration No (if applicable)

VAT registration number:

Certificate of Incorporation number:

1.4 Date company was founded (if a limited company, date of incorporation)

1.5 Business structure and nature of business

Please outline the nature of the business and whether it is a partnership, sole trader, plc etc.

1.6 Accreditation and Memberships

Is your Company registered with any industry accreditation body?

If yes, please provide details:

Is your Company on any public sector Framework agreements?

Please state membership of any professional bodies/ other associations below:

2.0 Financial & Business Probity

2.1 Person responsible for financial matters within your company

Name:

Position:

Telephone:

Email:

2.2 Bank details

Name of Bank:

Address:

Telephone:

2.3 Judgements etc.
Are there any judgements, claims or suits pending or outstanding against your company?
 If Yes, please provide full details

Has your company ever failed to complete a contract?
 If Yes, please provide full details

2.4 Please answer all of the following questions as they apply to your Company's circumstances. As evidence please provide an extract from the judicial record or a document issued by the relevant judicial or administrative authority of the EU member state or a statutory declaration made before a commissioner for oaths or equivalent in the EU member state in which your Company is established. Please confirm that:

1) being a company, no resolution has been passed or Order of the Court made for the company's winding up otherwise than for the purposes of bona fide reconstruction or amalgamation, nor has a receiver, manager or administrator on behalf of a creditor been appointed in respect of the company's business or any part thereof, nor is it the subject of any proceedings for any of the above procedures, nor is it the subject of similar procedures under the law of any other state.
Confirmed ☐ **Not confirmed** ☐ **Non-applicable** ☐

2) being a partnership, it has not granted a trust deed or become otherwise apparently insolvent, or it is not the subject of a petition presented for sequestration of its estate.
Confirmed ☐ **Not confirmed** ☐ **Non-applicable** ☐

3) being an individual, you are not bankrupt, or have not had a receiving order or administration order made against you, or have not made a composition or arrangement or trust deed with or for the benefit of your creditors, or have not made any conveyance or assignment for the benefit of your creditors, or have not had a petition presented for sequestration of your estate or do not appear to be able to pay or to have no reasonable prospect of being able to pay a debt within the meaning of the Insolvency Act or any similar procedure under the law of any EC member state.
Confirmed ☐ **Not confirmed** ☐ **Non-applicable** ☐

4) no Directors, Partners, Associates or the Company Secretary have been involved in any Company which has been liquidated or gone into receivership.
Confirmed ☐ **Not confirmed** ☐ **Non-applicable** ☐

5) none of the Directors, Partners, Associates or the Company Secretary have been convicted of a criminal offence relating to the conduct of their business or profession.
Confirmed ☐ **Not confirmed** ☐ **Non-applicable** ☐

6) neither the Company nor any of the Directors, Partners, Associates or Company Secretary has committed an act of grave misconduct in the course of their business or profession.
Confirmed ☐ **Not confirmed** ☐ **Non-applicable** ☐

7) all obligations relating to the payment of taxes under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or the EC member state in which the Company is established has been fulfilled
Confirmed ☐ **Not confirmed** ☐ **Non-applicable** ☐

8) all obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or the EC member state in which the Company is established have been fulfilled.
Confirmed ☐ **Not confirmed** ☐ **Non-applicable** ☐

If you have ticked 'Not confirmed' for any questions above please give details here

2.5 Insurances (please supply a scanned copy of each certificate)

	Insurer	Policy No	Value of Cover	Expiry Date
All Risks (if applicable)				

2.6 **Has your company won any awards, accolades or recognition?** If yes, please provide full details.

3.0 Health & Safety and Environment

3.1 Has your company been served with any enforcement or prohibition notices or been prosecuted in the past 5 years for breaches of health & safety legislation?

☐ If yes please provide full details.

3.2 Has your company been served with any enforcement or prohibition notices or been prosecuted in the past 5 years for breaches of environmental legislation?

☐ If yes please provide full details.

3.3 Has your company been served with any enforcement or prohibition notices or been prosecuted in the past 5 years for breaches of data protection legislation?

☐ If yes please provide full details.

3.4 Have any restrictive clauses in relation to your company's Employer's Liability, Public Liability or Professional Indemnity Insurance policies been enforced in the last 5 years due to past Health & Safety performance?

☐ If yes please provide full details.

Appendix 2: Site Information & Description of Works

Site 1: Buckland Escarpment

Background

The site is in private ownership by Buckland Estate and is designated as a SSSI and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The site provides good quality chalk grassland but is at risk of an increasing general scrub encroachment, including some small, isolated Yew trees.

Access

The contractor will be able to access the site boundary by vehicle, but the individual work areas are only accessible by foot along bridleways and footpaths.

Vehicle access is highlighted on the attached map. From the south access is across Buckland Estate land via Lawrence Lane, Betchworth and Bridleway 474 at w3w (<http://entire.early.perky>), and access from the north is via Buckland Lane, Tadworth and Bridleway 477 at w3w (<http://curl.rare.aside>). Access across Buckland agricultural land will be managed by the Buckland Estate team considering current ground conditions.

The site is situated on a steep south-facing slope with uneven terrain, and the work areas are spread across this slope, so are not directly accessible by vehicle. Therefore, equipment will need to be carried to work area over steep uneven terrain.

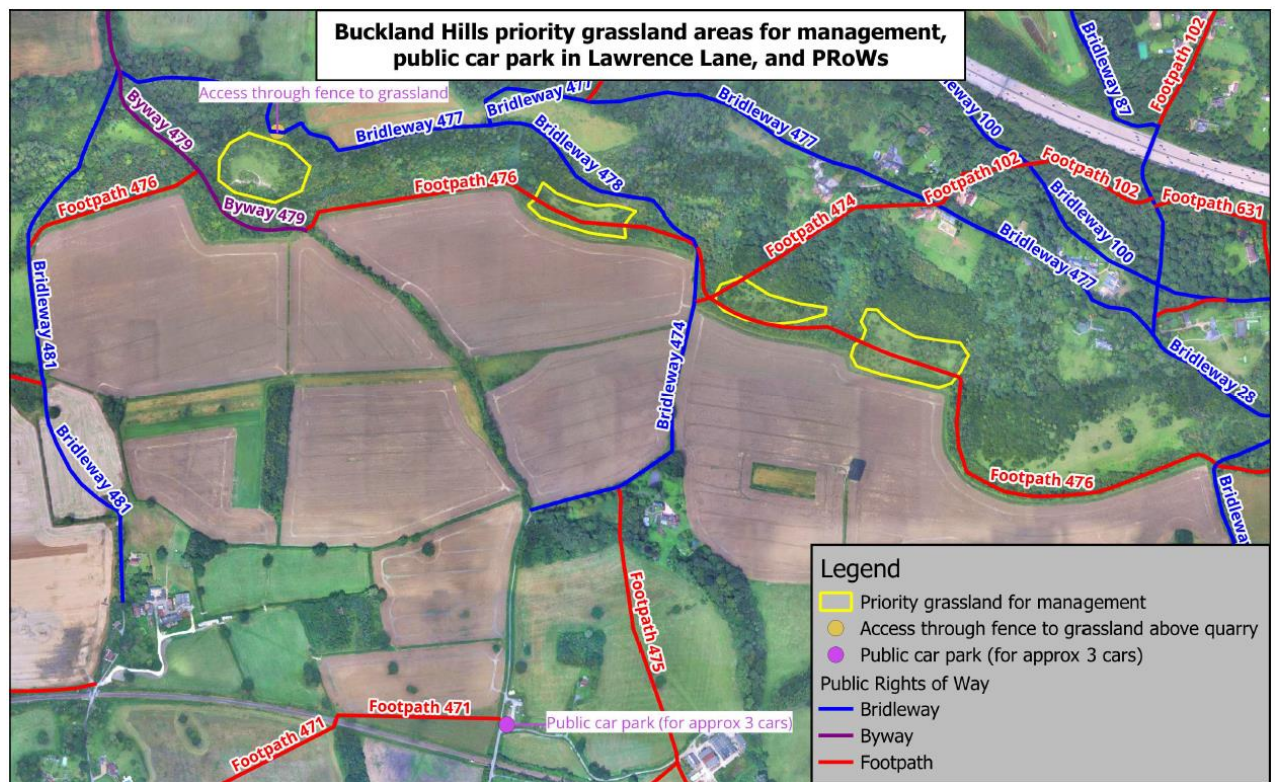
Public Rights of Way exist throughout the site including close to work areas, and care must be taken when working around the public, and appropriate warning signs must be placed on Public Rights of Way when working nearby. However, foot traffic is generally low, and it is not expected that the Public Rights of Way will need to be closed for completion of the work.

Description of Works

The areas of work are highlighted in the attached map by yellow boundaries, and these four separate compartments comprise a total of approximately 4.75 ha.

Scrub removal to maintain and restore species-rich chalk grassland:

- All work must be completed with hand tools to prevent damage to the site's sensitive flora and fauna.
- Small scrub (<50 mm stem diameter) should be uprooted where practical using tree poppers.
- Cutting of dense scrub will be undertaken by an operator on foot using chainsaw, brush-cutter, and hand tools etc.
- Large scrub shall be dismantled carefully to avoid damage to adjacent chalk grassland.
- Individual small/medium Yew tree removal where they are in isolated locations within the grassland and not part of the existing Yew woodland
- Stumps shall not be chemically treated, but may be ground out if possible.



© Google Maps



Based on Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map. Crown Copyright. Licence Number AL100018591. Aerial photo: Microsoft product screen shot(s) reprinted with permission from Microsoft Corporation.

Area of scrub removal at Buckland Escarpment outlined in yellow

© Google Maps

Site 2: Denbies Carriageway

Background

The site is owned and managed by National Trust and is designated as a SSSI. The site has public access and is always open to members of the public.

Access

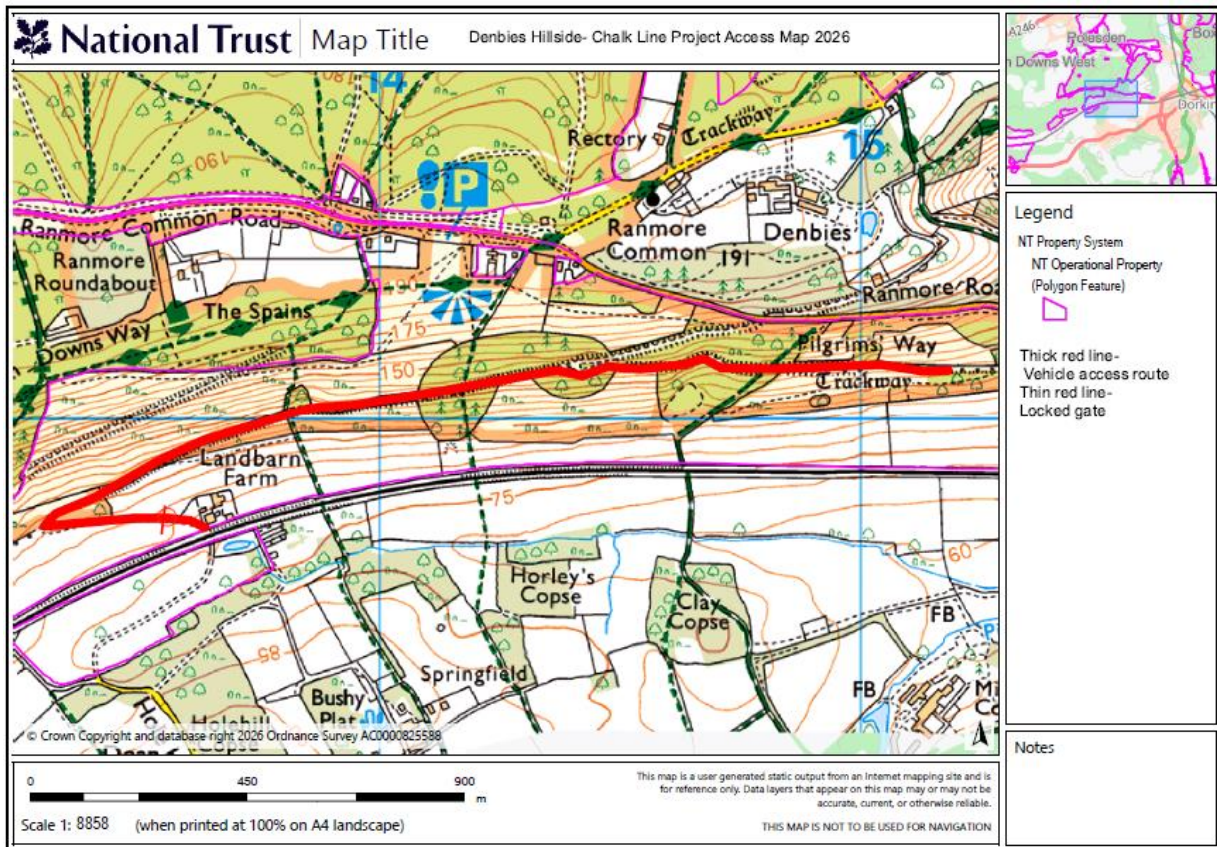
The contractor will be able to access the site by vehicle, although some individual work areas are only accessible by foot. Vehicle access is highlighted on the attached map with an access gate at the end of Hole Hill Lane at Land Barn Farm w3w (///issued.wiped.verse). The vehicle access gate is locked with a padlock and a key will be provided before commencing the works. This must be kept locked at all times to prevent unwanted incursions.

Description of Works

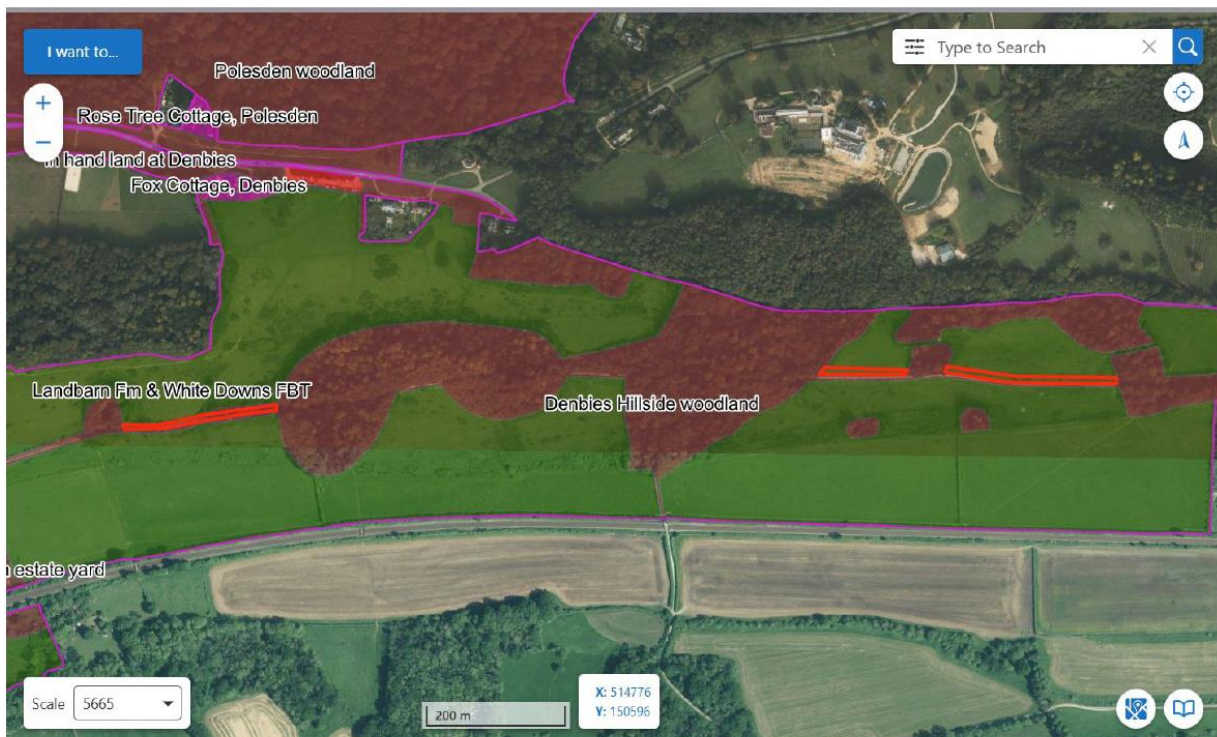
The areas of work are highlighted with red polygons on the attached map, with three distinct and separate compartments comprising a total of approximately 0.7ha. The work areas are along the south-facing northern boundary of a fenced-in gravel carriageway which runs east-west across the chalk hillside. Parts of the site are situated on a moderate slope with uneven terrain.

Scrub removal to maintain and restore species-rich chalk grassland:

- Scrub removed to create a scalloped edge against the fence/hedge to the northern boundary, leaving established hedge with occasional exiting gaps.
- Small scrub (<50 mm stem diameter) should be uprooted where practical using tree poppers.
- Cutting of dense scrub will be undertaken by an operator on foot using chainsaw, brush-cutter, and hand tools etc.
- Large scrub shall be dismantled carefully to avoid damage to adjacent chalk grassland.
- Stumps shall not be chemically treated, but may be ground out if possible.



Denbies Hillside Chalk Lines Project Work 2026



Red polygons- Scrub removal (cut/tree pop) with scalloped edges along Carriage Road. All arisings must be taken off site.

© Google Maps

Site 3: Hackhurst Down

Background

Hackhurst Down is a chalk grassland site near Abinger Hammer within the Surrey Hills. Managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust, the site is designated a SSSI and contains good quality chalk grassland. However, it is at risk of an increasing level of scrub encroachment, particularly by Hawthorn, brambles, Clematis and Dogwood. Although a scattering of scrub provides beneficial habitat for a range of invertebrates and other wildlife, some targeted clearance is required.

The site is open access and the access route along Beggars Lane and onto site for any vehicles or machinery also has public access.

It is possible that grazing animals may be on site during management works.

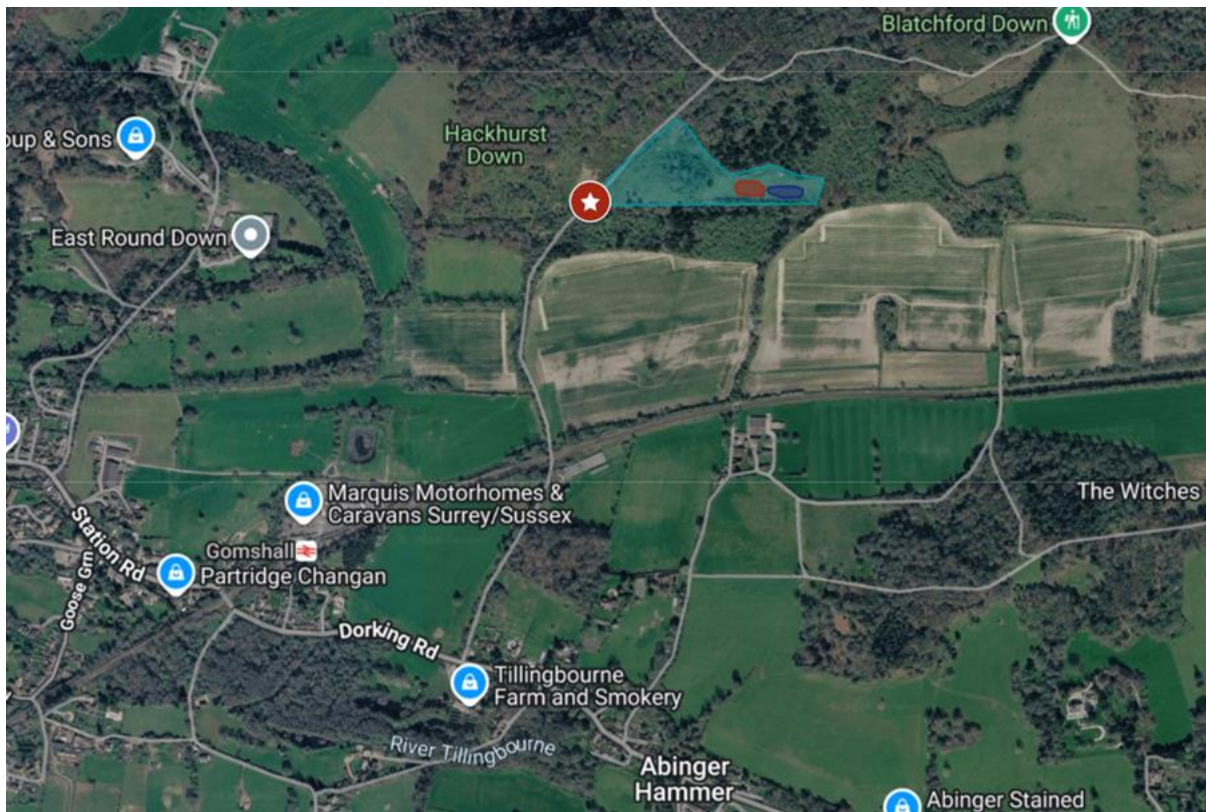
Access

Access to Hackhurst Down is from Beggars Lane at w3w (///shadow.atoms.become). This is also a public footpath so care must be taken not to block the path.

Description of Works

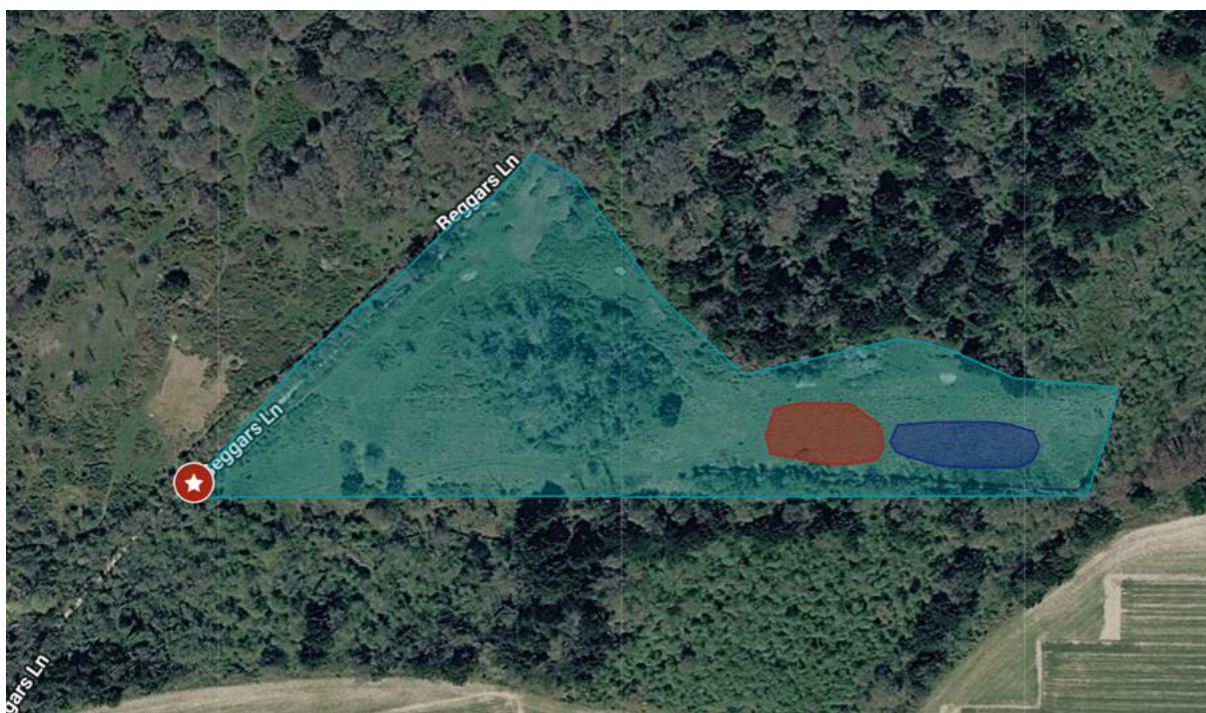
Approximately 0.3ha of mixed scrub cutting and removal is required in the eastern compartment of Hackhurst Down. The exact areas will be marked out and agreed at the start of the works with Surrey Wildlife Trust staff.

Hawthorn scrub is required to be removed from the grassland by mechanical means, removing the roots as well as the shrub. The scrub varies in size with some being suitable for removal with tree poppers, but some is larger and may require machinery for removal. All arisings are to be burnt on platforms in agreed areas. Areas of bramble and Clematis are to be cut, with all arisings raked and burnt on platforms. The eastern area (highlighted in blue on the map) is fairly dense scrub whereas the western area (highlighted in red on the map) consists of smaller Hawthorn scrub, Clematis, and bramble.



Location of Hackhurst Downs

© Google Maps



Area for removal for dense scrub removal (in blue) and smaller scrub removal and bramble/Clematis cutting (in red) and access to Hackhurst Down (red star) from Beggars Lane

©Google Maps

Site 4: Headley Heath Spur

Background

The site is owned and managed by National Trust and is designated as a SSSI. The objective of the work is to remove and control encroaching scrub to maintain and restore species-rich chalk grassland habitat, while also maintaining a mosaic of different adjacent scrub habitats with varied age and structure.

Access

The contractor will be able to access the site by vehicle, although some individual work areas are only accessible on foot. Vehicle access is highlighted on the attached map with an access gate at the end of Crabtree Lane at w3w ([///pets.safety.skinny](http://pets.safety.skinny)). The vehicle access gate is locked with a padlock, and a key will be provided before commencing the works. This must be kept locked at all times to prevent unwanted incursions.

Description of Works

There are three separate and distinct work areas comprising a total of 1.5ha, but with details as follows:

1) X:519511 Y:153373 Scrub Removal

Most of this area is scrub, primarily comprising Blackthorn, Hawthorn and bramble, with corridors of grassland between. Scrub removed either manually, with tree poppers and mattocks, or with machinery, such as a digger or a forestry rake.

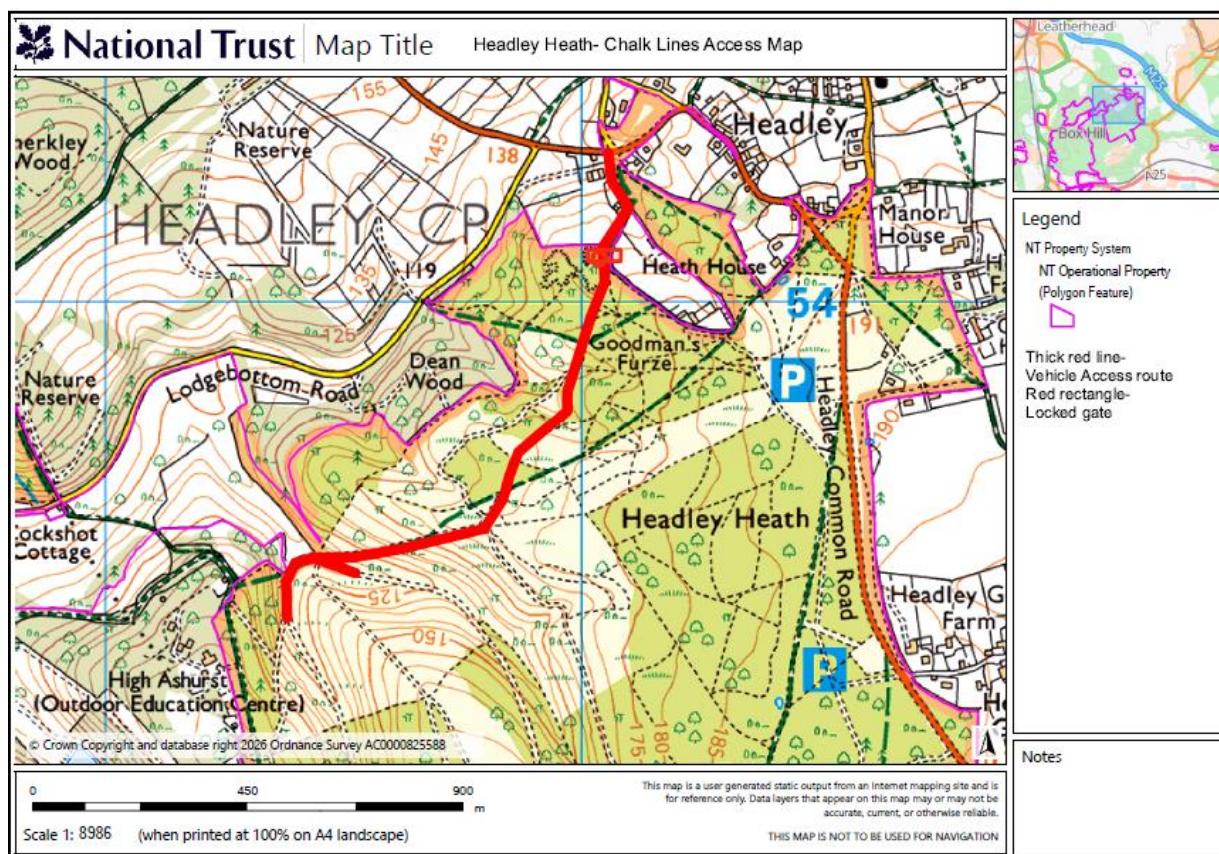
2) X:519501 Y:153307 Scrub Removal and Coppice

This area is much more diverse than the area 1) above, with scrub comprising birch, bramble, Spindle, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Dogwood, Bracken etc. Larger scrub islands that already have a diversity of plant species should be left intact, with the more homogenous scrub removed, either manually or mechanically. Other areas are to be coppiced to provide a varied age structure to the scrub.

3) X:519442 Y:153476 Woodland Coppice and Clearance

The northern half of the polygon is an area of Hazel and Elder to be coppiced, so that in following years parts can be selectively coppiced again to provide a varied age and structure. The southern half of the polygon, which also forms the tip of Chalk Spur, is a mix of Dogwood, Sycamore, Field Maple and Dog Rose. This area is to be cleared and roots removed, either manually or with machinery, such as a digger or stump grinder.

All work must be undertaken in a manner to prevent damage to the site's sensitive flora and fauna, with small scrub (<50 mm stem diameter) uprooted where practical using tree poppers. Larger scrub shall be dismantled carefully to avoid damage to adjacent chalk grassland. Stumps shall not be chemically treated, but may be ground out if possible



Areas of proposed habitat work at Headley Heath Spur outlined in red

© Google Maps

Site 5: Pewley Meadow

Background

Pewley Meadow is a chalk grassland site on the outskirts of Guildford within the Surrey Hills. Managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust, the site has no formal designations, but the grassland is of a good quality. However, it is at risk of an increasing level of scrub encroachment, particularly by Hawthorn and brambles. Although a scattering of Hawthorn and bramble provides beneficial habitat for a range of invertebrates and other wildlife, some targeted clearance is required.

There is public around the perimeter of the meadows and along the access routes onto site for any machinery, but once into the meadows there is only seasonal (summer access) so the public should not be in the meadows while management works are undertaken.

It is possible that grazing animals may be on site during management works but this is unlikely.

Access

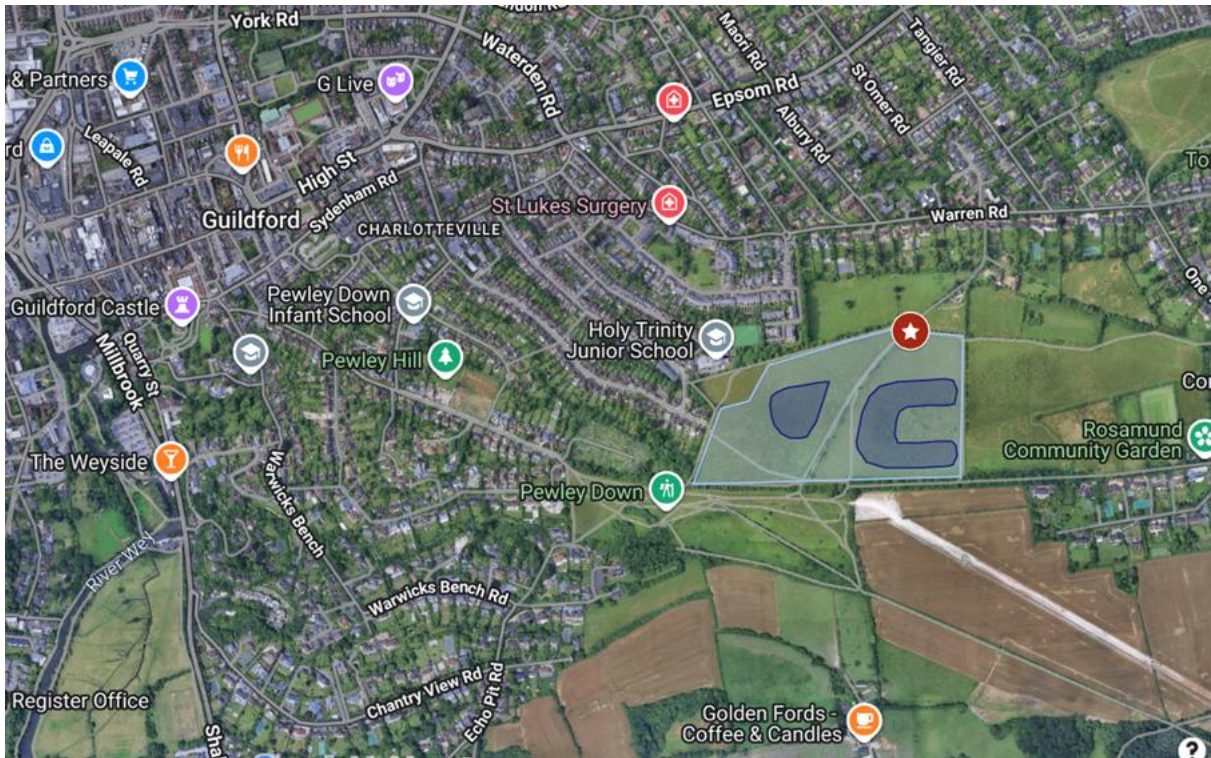
Access to Pewlely Meadows is along a short track from Warren Road at w3w (///moth.turned.losing).

This is also a public footpath so care must be taken not to block the path.

Description of Works

Approximately 2.5ha of mixed bramble cutting and Hawthorn scrub removal is required in the eastern meadow with a further 1 ha in the western meadow. The exact areas will be marked out and agreed at the start of the works with Surrey Wildlife Trust staff.

Areas of bramble (most of which will be areas that have been managed previously) are to be cut, with all arisings raked and burnt on platforms in agreed areas. Small Hawthorn within the block are to be removed mechanically using tree poppers to extract the roots, and the arisings also burnt. Within the block (highlighted in blue on the map) as much bramble and Hawthorn as possible should be removed.



Location of Pewley Meadow near Guildford

© Google Maps



Area for bramble cutting and small scrub removal (in blue) and access to Pewley Meadows (red star) from Warren Road ©Google Maps

Site 6: Rosamund Meadow

Background

Rosamund Meadow is a chalk grassland site on the outskirts of Guildford in the Surrey Hills. It is privately owned but managed through a team of volunteers based at Rosamund Community Garden. It has no formal designations, but a public footpath runs along the northern boundary, which doubles as the access route onto site for any machinery. The site is relatively flat, with no known obstacles. The grassland is of good quality but is at risk of an increasing level of scrub encroachment, particularly by Hawthorn. While a scattering of Hawthorn is beneficial for a range of invertebrates and other wildlife, clearance in some areas is required.

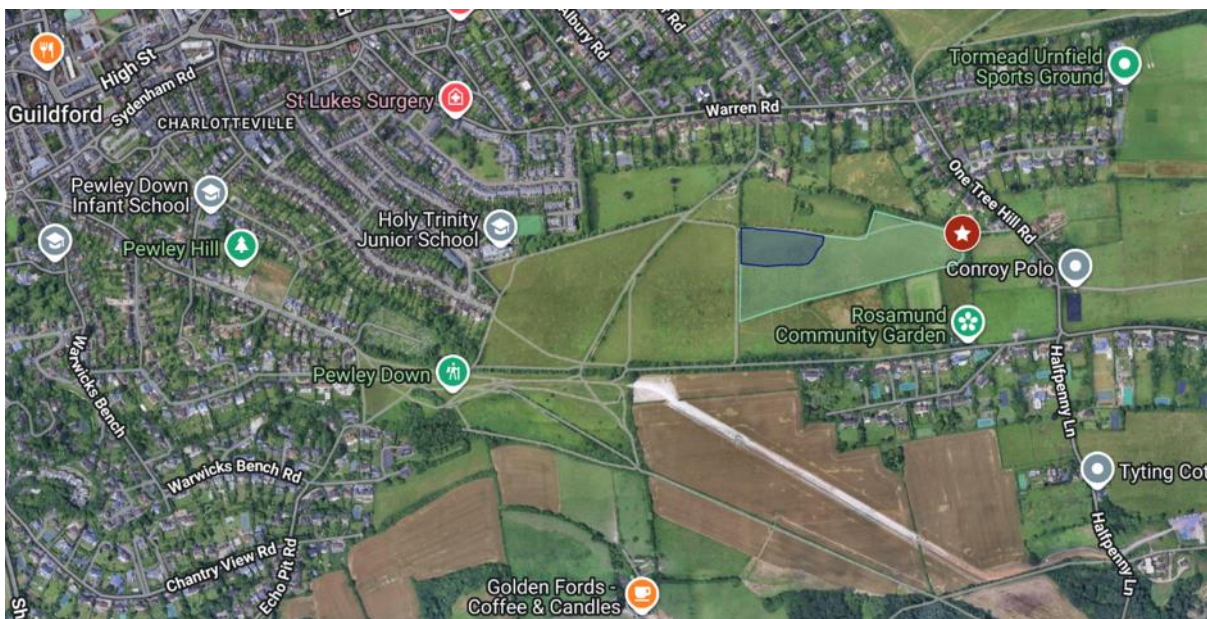
It is possible that grazing animals may be on site during management works but this is unlikely.

Access

Access to Rosamund Meadow is along a short track from One Tree Hill at w3w (///full.buns.patrol). This is also a public footpath so care must be taken not to block the path.

Description of Works

Approximately 1.2 ha of Hawthorn scrub is required to be removed from the grassland by mechanical means, removing the roots as well as the shrub. The scrub varies in size with some being suitable for removal with tree poppers, but some is larger and will require machinery for removal. Within the block highlighted (in blue) on the map as much scrub as possible should be removed. All arisings are to be moved to a designated area and mulched in order to be used in Rosamund Community Garden.



Location of Rosamund Meadow near Guildford

© Google Maps



Area for scrub removal (in blue) and access to Rosamund Meadow (red star) from One Tree Hill ©Google Maps