

**C**hailey Common gives a lot of enjoyment to walkers, riders and dog owners. The sense of open space, freedom and natural habitat make it a popular Nature Reserve for both young and old alike.

## RECREATION

### ● WALKING

Chailey Common is open access land, but to minimise disturbance to wildlife it is better to keep to the footpaths. Leaflets on self-guided walks around the Common are available from East Sussex County Council, telephone 01273 482670.

### ● HORSE RIDING

Horse riders are welcome to ride on the commons but are requested to consider the safety of other users. Please keep to the higher, dryer paths during wet weather to avoid excessive damage to the paths.

### ● DOG WALKERS

Please ensure that your dog is always under control. Keep your dog on a lead when there are animals grazing as they are easily frightened and can be injured, especially at calving or lambing time.



## LANDSCAPE

One of the major threats to heathland is lack of management. Heathland plants cannot survive in heavy shade, so invading birch, bracken and gorse need to be removed.

Heathland's unique wildlife needs vegetation of different ages as well as bare ground. These conditions can be created by managing heathland in a cycle – controlled winter cutting or burning and grazing which suppresses scrub growth.

The management of the Reserve actively aims to re-create and conserve the heathland through scrub clearance, mowing and grazing. Sheep were re-introduced 15 years ago to help in this management, and the wildlife is carefully monitored and protected.



A HEBRIDEAN SHEEP  
BROWSING SCRUB

## TO GET MORE INVOLVED

### ENROL AS A VOLUNTARY RANGER

The Reserve is managed by Chailey Common Local Nature Reserve Management Committee. To enrol as a voluntary ranger contact ESCC, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE tel: 01273 482670

### JOIN THE CHAILEY COMMONS SOCIETY

Caring, conserving and studying the heathland habitat. Indoor meetings during the winter with an annual report and regular newsletter. For further information and a membership form, contact: the Membership Secretary Nick Holden 01444 831084 or email [members@chaileycommons.org.uk](mailto:members@chaileycommons.org.uk) or use the Contact Form on the website.



**This document can be made available in large print, audio tape, disk or in another language upon request. Please contact us on 01273 484141 or email [lewesdc@lewes.gov.uk](mailto:lewesdc@lewes.gov.uk)**



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[www.chaileycommons.org.uk](http://www.chaileycommons.org.uk)



# CHAILEY COMMON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE





**C**hailey Common is one of the largest heathland commons in the South of England, covering 450 acres and was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 1966. It has also been made a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its heathland plants and diverse insect and bird communities.

More recently the value of heathland has been recognised by the Government which has highlighted ambitious targets for heathland management and re-creation in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan – a result of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Chailey Common was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 and was used over a long period of time by local people for cutting wood and bracken for fuel and grazing livestock. The decline of communal use has threatened the heathland by allowing bracken, birch and gorse to take over, smothering the heather and grass.

## CONSERVATION

Conserving lowland heathlands is important not just because they are rare but because they support many rare species of plants and wildlife.

The heather and gorse provide a habitat for many birds, including the Stonechat, and butterflies such as the Silver Studded Blue. Many unusual plants like the Heath Spotted Orchid and Bog Asphodel depend on heathland soil.



STONECHAT ON GORSE

COBWEB ON GORSE



BOG ASPHODEL



**Key**

Car Parks ●

Roads —

Reserve [shaded area]

Philip Rid  
Memorial

**Haywards Heath**

A272

**ROMANY  
RIDGE  
COMMON**

Plum Tree  
Crossroads

Chailey  
Heritage

**POUND  
COMMON**

Beggars  
Wood Pond



COMMON LIZARD

Compt Hill

**GODLEY'S  
GREEN**

**Wivelsfield**

**Plumpton and  
Burgess Hill**

# CHAILEY COMMON MAP



SUNDEW



HEATHERS WITH BIRCH