

March 2026:

Rather special and quite rare, the wet heath is to the north of the dry heath, an area often referred to as The Common, part of WCLC's lands. Wet heath develops on sandy soils that have become impeded and so are waterlogged and acidic. It is ideal for heather, especially cross-leaved, as well as sedges, the rare Hare's Tail cottongrass, and sphagnum moss that can hold ten times its mass in water.

Management of this area is by rotational clearing of reeds over a long cycle and the clearance of scrub, particularly birch, and the contractors have been on site this month.

On a recent visit, Natural England commented that there are very few places where all three types of heather can be seen in close proximity as it is here in the transition zone.

What a splendid space; Nightjar, Dartford Warbler, and blue-studded butterfly are all supported by this habitat.

Future plans include the restoration of a pond, a project requiring consent from Natural England and hopefully a grant from National Landscapes.



The west fen is cut by section on rotation



Waterlogged ground and birch scrub



Birch scrub cleared