

Stockland Parish Council

Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)

Bucehayes Common

Work on Bucehayes Common, which began in 1997 with a band of parish volunteers, focused initially on clearing birch scrub from the area north of Bucehayes Cottage to regain wet heath and Molinia/rush mire, leaving a strip of wet woodland along the western perimeter. With fencing and light summer grazing in place, this area is approaching "favourable condition" and is species-rich.

As a Special Project funded under the HLS agreement, the area south of the cottage was cleared and fenced in winter 2010/11. It will take several more years of plant growth, and summer grazing, before this area too becomes as rich a habitat.

The funding for most of this work has been provided by Natural England under the HLS agreement and consists of two main parts:

Capital works - including scrub control and management, provision of bat, bird and small mammal boxes; under the HLS agreement a total of £ 11,148 was made available over the first three years of the agreement and was allocated as follows:

	£
Scrub control/management	368
Bat/bird boxes (10)	280
Small mammal boxes (10)	100
Consultancy fee for development of management plan	400
Special project: Scrub clearance, fencing & restoration of molinia mire habitat	10,000
TOTAL	£ 11,148

Annual Payments of £ 1,460 per year for 10 years (2009 - 2019), for general maintenance of scrub and woodland, restoration of heathland and cattle grazing etc.



Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*)



Pale butterwort
(*Pinguicula lusitanica*)



Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*)