

Our Amazing Heathlands!



Hi! I'm Michael, and my job is to look after some very special wildlife living near here, on the heathland not far from your school. It's an amazing place to work, and Enjoying time in nature is a very important part of my life.

Michael Jones
Education Officer



A typical heathland scene with heather and gorse

Have you heard about heathland?

It's a habitat rarer than rainforest, home to wildlife wonders including the nocturnal nightjar – a bird that flies all the way from Africa to nest directly on the ground on your heathlands; the green tiger beetle – one of the fastest insects in the UK; and the sundew – a carnivorous plant that traps and digests unsuspecting insects!

Ground-nesting birds

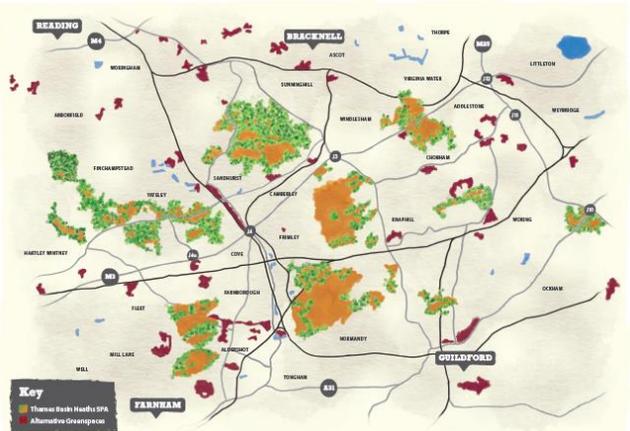
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If you have a garden or a park near where you live, you may have seen birds like robins and wrens, blackbirds and thrushes, that build their nests in trees and shrubs. Out on the heathland, where there aren't many trees, the birds have to nest on the ground. They're not your common garden birds, they're specialists, rare protected birds that have adapted to their life on the open heath.



My absolute favourite is the nightjar.... I could talk about nightjars all day!

However, to save space, there's lots more information [here](#)



Our amazing heathlands are marked in orange and green on this map – Can you find your nearest one? Continued on next page...



Wildfire alert!

Did you see the Australian bushfires on the news earlier in the year? The ones that burnt out of control for weeks and destroyed peoples' homes and killed so much wildlife.

Recently, a heathland wildfire at Thursley destroyed an area almost 100 football pitches in size and it took lots of firefighters from different counties to get it under control. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

These fires can and do occur on our local heaths too!



Large-scale fire destruction

As the weather warms up, our heathlands are at greater risk of wildfires. These fires can be truly devastating for wildlife and dangerous to local communities and the firefighters sent to tackle them. They destroy valuable habitats and kill many species, spreading fast and causing long-lasting damage.

#BeWildfireAware



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If you and your family or friends visit the heaths over the summer, please be very mindful of the risks. **Whether deliberate or accidental, most wildfires are started by people.**

When walking on the heaths
DO NOT:



- 🔥 Light any fires – BBQs (including disposable BBQs) or campfires
- 🔥 Drop lit or extinguished cigarettes
- 🔥 Set off fireworks or Chinese lanterns
- 🔥 Leave litter – Instead, put everything in bins or take it home



A charred adder



What to do if you see a fire

NO MATTER HOW SMALL

1. Get to a safe place
2. Call 999, ask for Fire & Rescue service
3. Tell the operator where the fire is, how big it is and any other relevant information

Your quick action could make the difference



www.tbhpartnership.org.uk/wildfire