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**Heathland Creation on Cannock Chase**

Forestry England established three heathland corridors across Cannock Chase Forest in 2003 to link adjacent open habitat and designated sites, including Cannock Chase SAC and SSSI. The corridors are now well established and have improved landscape permeability. To maintain the heathland corridors as open space, vegetation work is conducted to manage encroaching scrub and woodland cover. Forestry England are working in partnership with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to reinstate sensitive cattle grazing on one of the fenced corridors to deliver a traditional low impact management system. In addition, Forestry England continues to actively manage its own designated heathland in accordance with the agreed SSSI management plan.

Over the next ten-year period one of Forestry England’s management objectives is to increase the area of scrub habitat along woodland edges and heathland corridors for the benefit of a range of wildlife. Additionally, broadleaved buffers will be established adjacent to the heathland, reducing the speed at which fire can move off the heathland into the forest.

Following discussions with Natural England a new 3ha heathland corridor linking Cannock Chase SSSI through Rawnsley Hills and Beaudesert to Castle Ring and onto Gentleshaw Common has been proposed to improve habitat connectivity and support nature recovery across the wider landscape. Forestry England will explore opportunities to secure the additional resources needed to create and maintain this proposed heathland corridor.