

# Fauna and fungi response to heathland restoration

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## Survey methods

- Surveys conducted at three new heathland restoration sites on Crown lands
  - Dunces Arch
  - Matley Ridge
  - Turf Hill
- Conifers at all three sites were removed in late 2022
- Monthly walkover surveys (25 m transect spacing) in spring and autumn 2023
- Nocturnal (dusk) survey around site perimeter conducted in summer 2023
- Project supported by NFBF funding and delivered in partnership with FE
- Footprint Ecology commissioned by FE to conduct plant surveys at all three sites



**Dunces Arch (25 Sept 2023)**





Dunces Arch (03 Oct 2023)





**Dunces Arch (03 Nov 2023)**

































































## Key findings

- A wide variety of heathland-specialist animal and fungi species were recorded
- Partially restored habitat still capable of (quickly) attracting priority species
- Woodlark, Nightjar, and Stonechat recorded at all three sites
- Serotine, Common Pipistrelle, and Glow-worm recorded in new 'edge' habitats
- Coprophilous fungi of open habitats included abundant Nail Fungus
- Saprotrophic fungi, invertebrates, and slime moulds frequent on woody debris
- Mycorrhizal fungi largely absent, with just a few birch-associated species remaining
- Survey work will continue at all three sites in 2024
- Thanks to NFBF and FE for supporting the project!





## Singing Woodlark at Matley Ridge (27 Apr 2023)





## Churring Nightjar at Matley Ridge (19 June 2023)

