

Welcome to Normandy Common

Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)

Normandy Common together with Normandy Pond and the Traditional Orchard is designated a SNCI because of the wide range of wildlife habitats and the many species of plants and animals found here some of which are uncommon, rare or protected (in *italics*). Recreational facilities include a football pitch, two cricket pitches, tennis courts and a 'green gym'. The Common is also used by dog walkers and horse riders.

We hope you enjoy visiting the Common and observing some of its wildlife. Please follow the Countryside Code and keep this area special. Leave No Litter - Keep Dogs under Control - Be unobtrusive when watching wildlife - Leave flowers and fungi for others to enjoy.

Wildlife on the Common:

- Roe deer, fox, shrews, mice, voles and *bats*
- Close to 300 native plants, some of which are rare in Surrey: common spotted and bee orchids, foxglove, lady's-smock, wild strawberry, stitchworts and *lemon-scented fern*
- *Tawny owl*, woodpeckers, chiffchaff, treecreeper, nuthatch, *mistle* and *song thrush*, pied wagtail, buzzard and red kite
- Silver-washed fritillary, red and *white admiral*, speckled wood, brimstone and occasional *purple emperor* butterflies.
- Over 160 species of fungi: amethyst deceiver, turkeytail, jelly ear, shaggy parasol and coconut milkcap
- *Slow worm*, *grass snake* and *common lizard*



Fly agaric



Pale tussock moth larva



White admiral



Bee orchid



Common spotted-orchid



Yellow brain



Field vole



Natterer's bat



Male stag beetle



Red admirals and commas



Wildlife at the Pond:

- *Mallard*, moorhen, *greylag* and Canada geese, heron and *kingfisher*
- *Pipistrelle* and other larger *bats*
- Dragonflies and damselflies: emperors and brown hawkers
- Roach, rudd, tench, carp and stickleback
- *Common frog*, *toad*, *smooth newt* and *grass snake*
- Water lily, yellow iris, bulrush, *marsh St John's-wort*, wild daffodil and primrose



Broad-bodied chaser



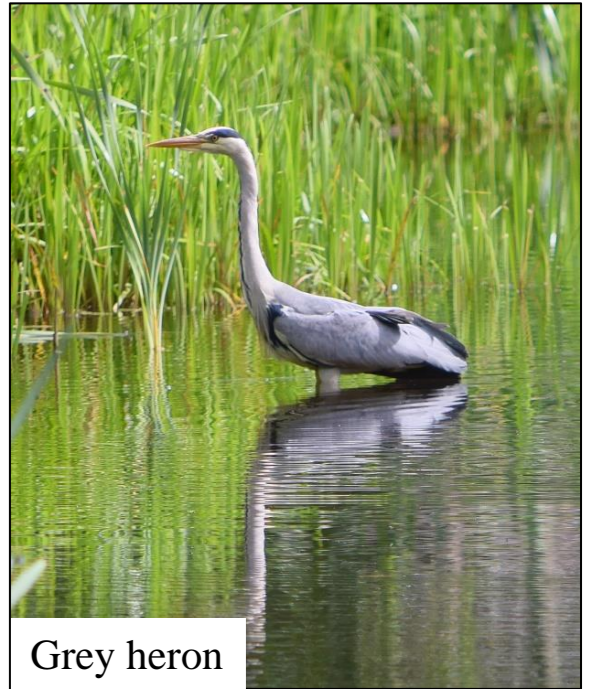
Greylag goose



Primrose



Smooth newt



Grey heron



Grass snake



Marsh St John's-wort

History

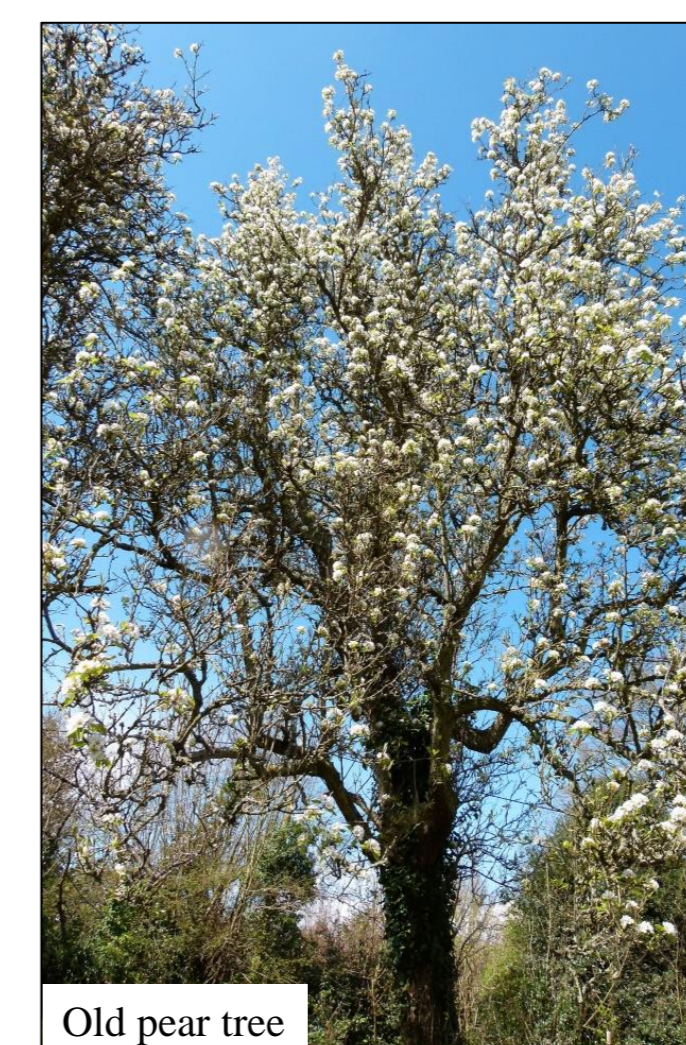
For hundreds of years Normandy Common belonged to Cleygate Manor and formed part of the extensive heathland now known as Ash Ranges. It was Common Land where locals could dig peat, collect firewood and graze animals, until it was taken over by the army in 1876. It is now owned by Normandy Parish Council. Lack of grazing has favoured growth of scrub and trees at the expense of heathland, to give the Common we see today.

Normandy Pond is at least 250 years old and was probably a result of gravel and sand extraction. Neglected for many years, in 1987 it was restored and in 1990, won the National Pondwatch "Pond of the Year" award. The Pond was the first area to become a SNCI and this was extended to the entire Common in 2016. The pond is now managed by the Normandy Pond Trustees.

The Traditional Orchard was rejuvenated in 2011 by planting 17 new fruit trees, a native hedge and wild flowers. A wildlife pond was added later.

Wildlife in the Orchard:

- Wild flowers: betony, broom and knapweed
- *Song thrush*, *bullfinch*, blackcap and *fieldfare*
- Red admiral, comma, *brown hairstreak* and ringlet
- *Stag beetle*, glow-worm and *green huntsman spider*
- *Common frog*, *slow worm* and *palmate newt*



Old pear tree



New fruit trees and native broom

More information: www.friendsofnormandywildlife.org.uk
www.normandyparishcouncil.gov.uk; includes Normandy Common Surrey Wildlife Trust Report 'Normandy Common Ecological Appraisal & Management Plan 2014-2018'

Thanks to: Friends of Normandy Wildlife (funding, consultancy, artwork), Normandy Parish Council (landowners, administrative support), Surrey County Council (funding).

