

New land, new habitat creation at Ebernoe Common...

Wildflower Meadows...



Restoring our most threatened habitat

Since the 1930s, we've lost 97% of our wildflower meadows in the UK. The western and eastern most fields have been degraded, so we will need to remove vegetation as a hay crop for a few years. This, in turn, will help reduce the fertility and begin to restore them as species rich wildflower meadows.

Wildflower meadows are extremely diverse habitats, supporting over 100 species of flowering plant; ideal for bees, and other pollinators which also encourage birds, Hedgehogs and bats to the area.

Ponds & Scrapes...



Keeping water in the landscape

We plan to create ponds on the high ground and a floodplain scrape in the lower field. This will increase water storage, improve biodiversity and provide an important open water resource, as well as keystone refuge habitats for amphibians, reptiles, dragonflies, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic plants, mammals and birds.

Butcherlands...



Nature has the power to recover

Long before the term 'rewilding' was well known we purchased arable farmland bordering Ebernoe Common with the belief it would naturally regenerate, then stepped back and watched nature take over. Twenty-three years later Butcherlands has one of the densest populations of Nightingales in the UK with a diverse mosaic of scrubland, grassland and regenerating woodland.

Hedgerows...



Wildlife Corridors

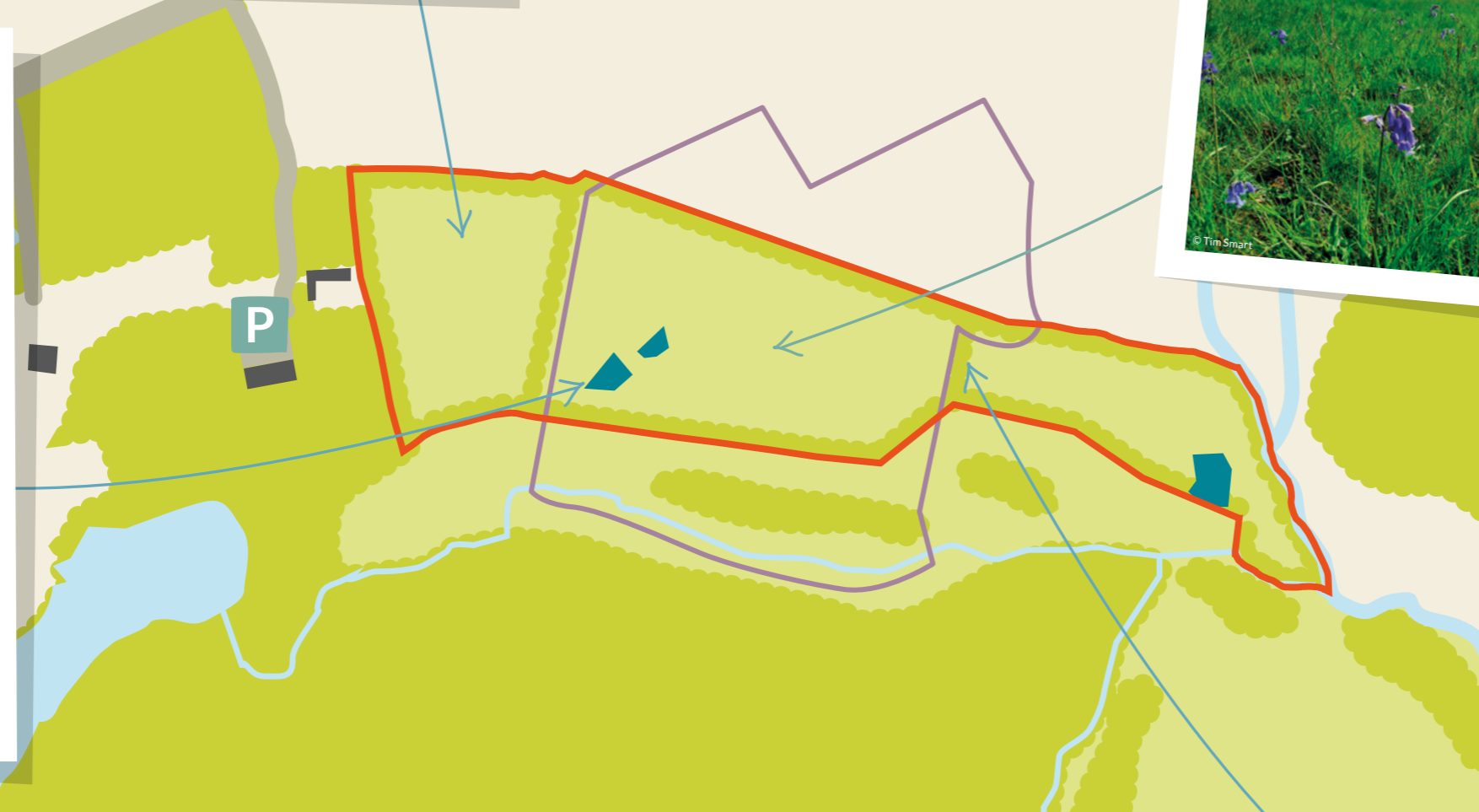
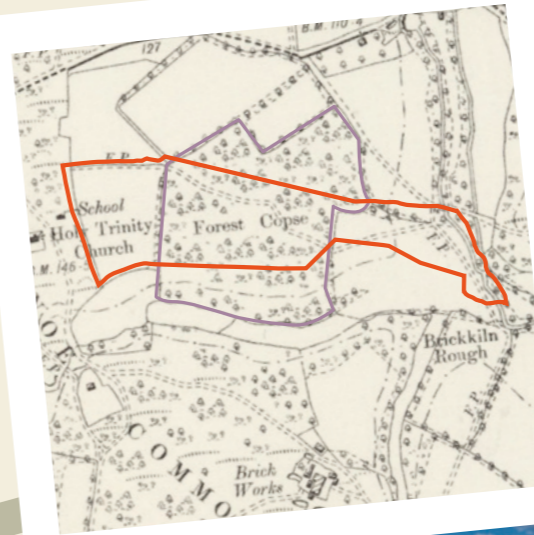
Sadly, as agricultural and other land use has intensified in recent years, many hedges have been subjected to overzealous flailing and removal. Hedgerows create important corridors and much needed connectivity for wildlife, and the current landowner has already worked with us to re-build hedgerows around the three fields we hope to purchase.

In the coming years we plan to allow the hedgerows to widen, spilling out into the fields. This will create perfect conditions for Nightingales, and also new, complex and nature-rich ecosystems. Species such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, Bramble and Honeysuckle will colonise the landscape.

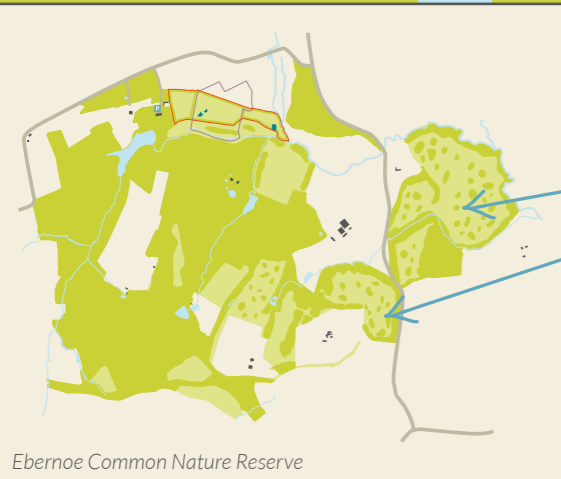
An ancient woodland waiting to return

Maps dating back over 150 years show that the central field was once a woodland called Forest Copse. There is evidence that the soil has a 'memory' of the woodland with Bluebells and tree saplings growing in the open field this spring, along with Hawthorn, Dog Rose and Aspen. You can also see a shadow of the old woodland on the satellite image below.

Map (left) reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.



Key			
	New land purchase		Road
	Historic site of 'Forest Copse'		Car park
	New pond or scrape		Woodland
	Water		Grassland
			Buildings



Ebernoe Common Nature Reserve