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Stedham, Iping and Trotton Commons – update Nov 2021



Highlights during 2021



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- Reinstatement of an advisory group – walk round in May, meeting due in early 2022.
- Continued management and grazing despite the Covid pandemic.
- Volunteer work parties have resumed.
- Access improvements with SDNPA



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Wildlife during 2021



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- Comments from our breeding bird surveyor.

“Woodlark and Dartford warbler seem to have had a good year on Iping. A good year for nightjar on both heaths. More than ever on Iping (nine) and three for the first time on Stedham. One more tree pipit territory on Iping this year. I hope the {increasing} trend continues. Stonechats were down by two on Iping. And it seemed to take a long time for them to get going. Yellowhammers were down and whitethroats up on both heaths.

I have to say the disturbance {from dogs off the lead} seems to be getting worse. Especially on Stedham because it is so small and so close to the village.”

Wildlife during 2021



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- Silver-Studded Blue butterflies had a good year.
- Field Crickets did well with two new sites recorded for singing males, showing a spread.
- No signs of adult Heath Tiger Beetles this year but work continues to provide the best habitat.
- Marsh Clubmoss still present but in low numbers.

Issues / incidents



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Work going forward



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- Still working on access improvements around the gateways to alleviate the flooding and mud. A grant was awarded but planning issues forced a delay and reappraisal of the extent of the works.
- Contractors will be cutting heather and making bare earth strips with the cuttings going to re-seed areas of potential heathland nearby.
- Grazing Stedham probably after Christmas.



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Any questions?

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