



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**
Wildlife Trust

YATELEY COMMON SOUTH MoD MANAGEMENT REPORT – OCTOBER 2024

The new Countryside Stewardship (CS) Agri-Environment Scheme for Yateley and Hawley Commons started in January and as part of the scheme a large capital works programme was agreed with the MoD and NE, which consists mainly of scrub and gorse clearance. We are delighted to say that we have been able to start the capital works in October and so far two large blocks of scrub clearance (totalling c. 6ha) have been completed and another started of 4ha. This work will greatly enhance the open heathland habitats and particularly will benefit species such as nightjar and adder.

Further scrub clearance will continue throughout most of this winter, with a particular emphasis on reducing the extent of gorse. Subject to contractor availability we hope to clear some areas of dense gorse and while much gorse will remain, we will break it up into smaller blocks to diversify the area, restore areas of open heathland and increase the extent of bare ground.

Further works planned for this winter include:

- Heather cutting to diversify the age and structure of the heather stands.
- Bare ground scrapes on south facing slopes.
- Cutting back of the fire breaks and widening them to increase fire resilience.

David Boddy

MoD Contracts Manager

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.