

2022 Spring Seminar - Going Wild in Brighton & Hove



Welcome to our Audience

Albion Hill Community Garden
B&H CityParks Gardeners
B&H CityParks Rangers
B&H Wildlife Forum
Beacon Hill FO
Benfield Wildlife & Conservation Group
Blakers Park FO
Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere (Living Coast)
Brighton Greenway FO
Brighton Permaculture Trust
Brunswick in Bloom
Brunswick Square FO
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
CityParks Ranger Volunteers – ‘Neil’s Nomads’
Craven Woods FO
Davis Park FO
Eastbrook Community Garden
Froglife
Greentides Network
Hollingbury & Burstead Woods FO
Hove Park FO
Keep the Ridge Green
Norfolk Square Gardening Group

Nurture Through Nature
Ovingdean Preservation Society
Palmeira & Adelaide FO
Palmeira & Adelaide Garden fund
Preston Park FO
PLOT 22
Portslade Green Gym
Queens Park FO
Regency Square Gardening Group
Rottingdean in Bloom
Roundhill Green Spaces
Special Branch Tree Nursery
St Ann’s Wells Gardens FO
St Peters Churchyard Volunteers
Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden
Surrenden Field FO
Sussex Wildlife Trust
The Level Communities Forum
Three Cornered Copse
Waterloo Street Community Garden
Westdene Green FO
Wildflower Conservation Society
Wish Park FO



Welcome to our Speakers

Dr Chris Sandom – Senior Lecturer in Biology, University of Sussex

David Larkin – Conservation Manager, B&H CityParks

Paul Gorringe – B&H CityParks – Waterhall Park Ranger



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

AGENDA

- Vivienne Barton - Welcome & Introductions
- Chris Sandom – Key note speaker
- David Larkin – Key note speaker
- Break for Refreshments
- Paul Gorringe – Key note speaker
- Open Forum



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

2022 Spring Seminar - Going Wild in Brighton & Hove

Dr Chris Sandom



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM



Rewilding: What is it? How do you do it? What are the outcomes?

Dr Chris Sandom, Senior Lecturer
University of Sussex



@nature_based
@rewildingsussex
@rewildings (cience)

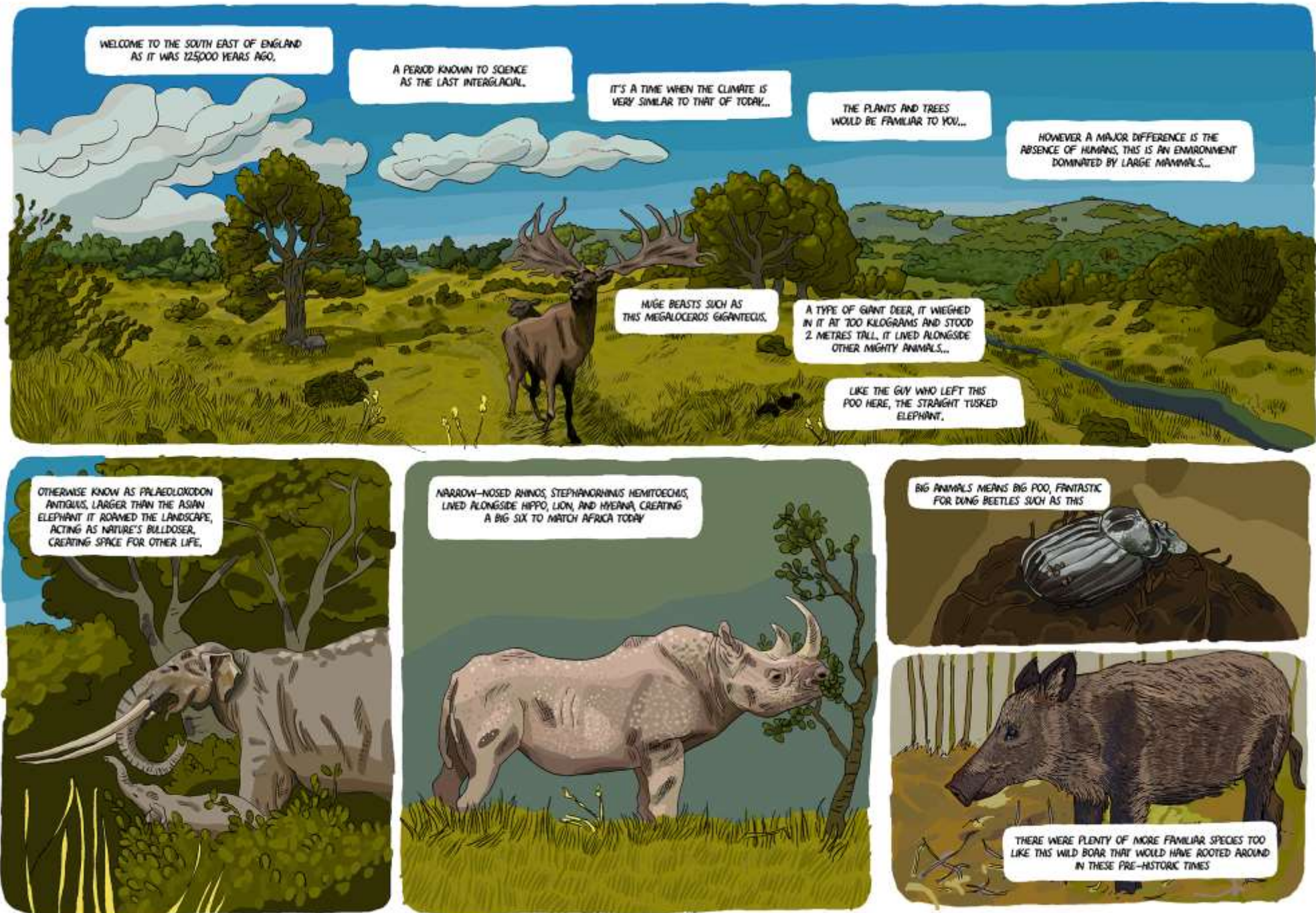
Affiliations:



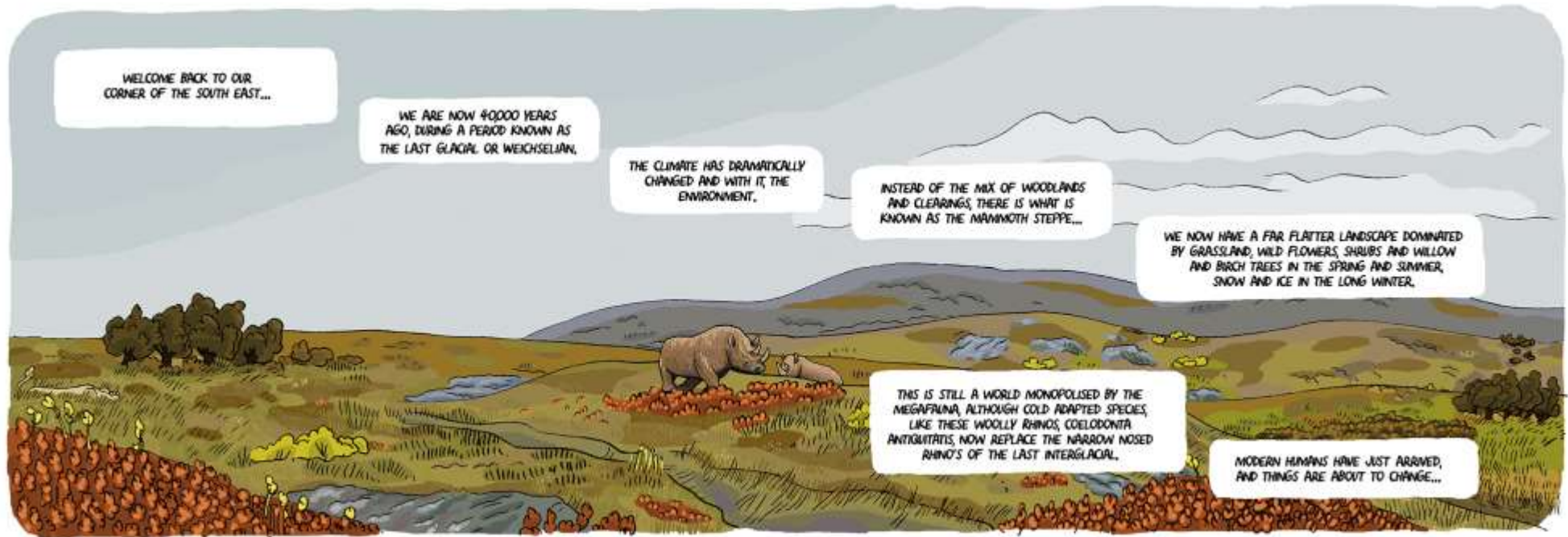
Last Interglacial

This is what southern England might have looked like **125,000 years ago**, when the climate was similar to today and before humans (*Homo sapiens*) had arrived in Britain.

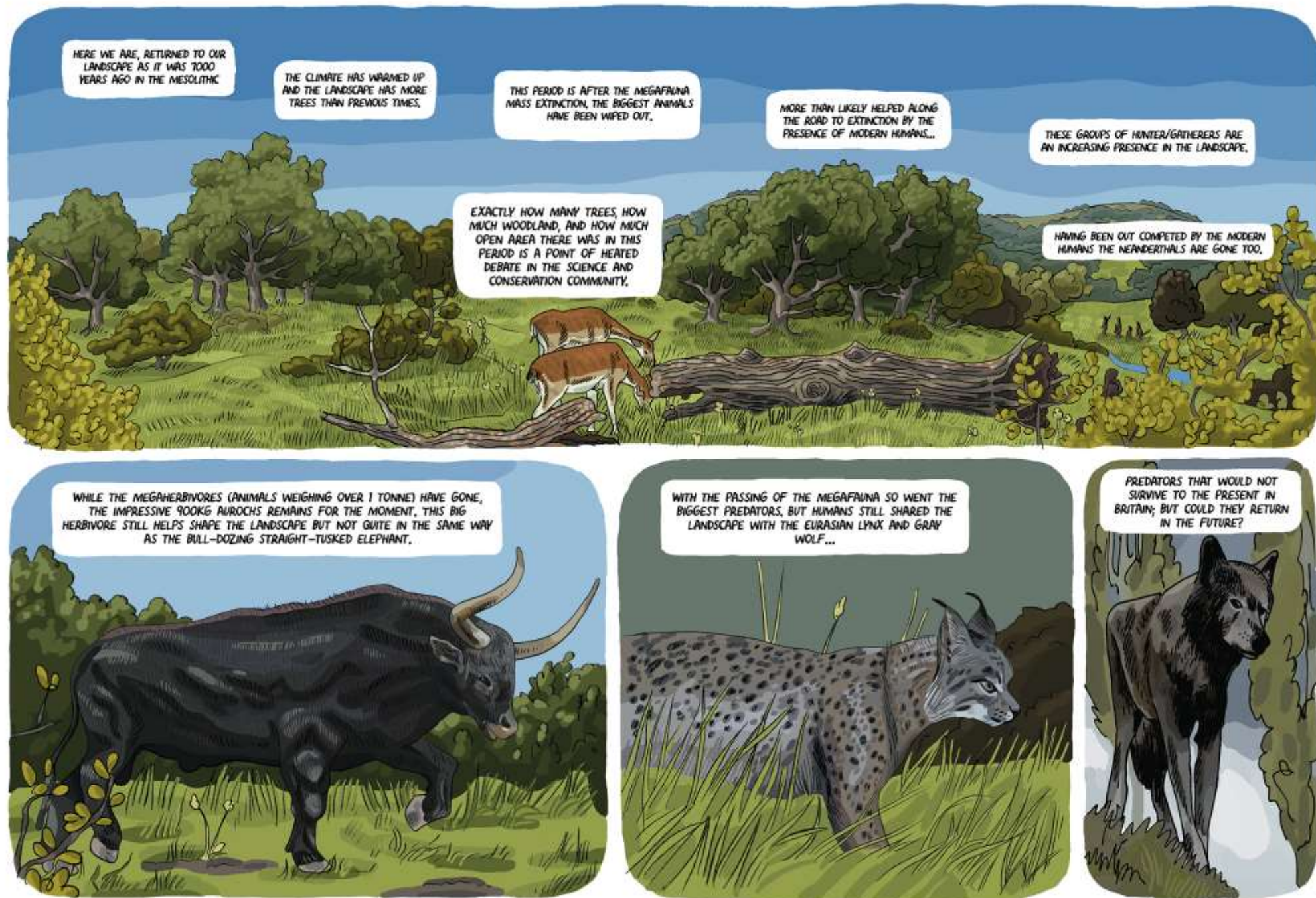
The plants and animals we are trying to conserve today evolved in these landscapes that were partly created by big animals, such as the straight-tusked elephant, narrow-nosed rhino, and giant deer.



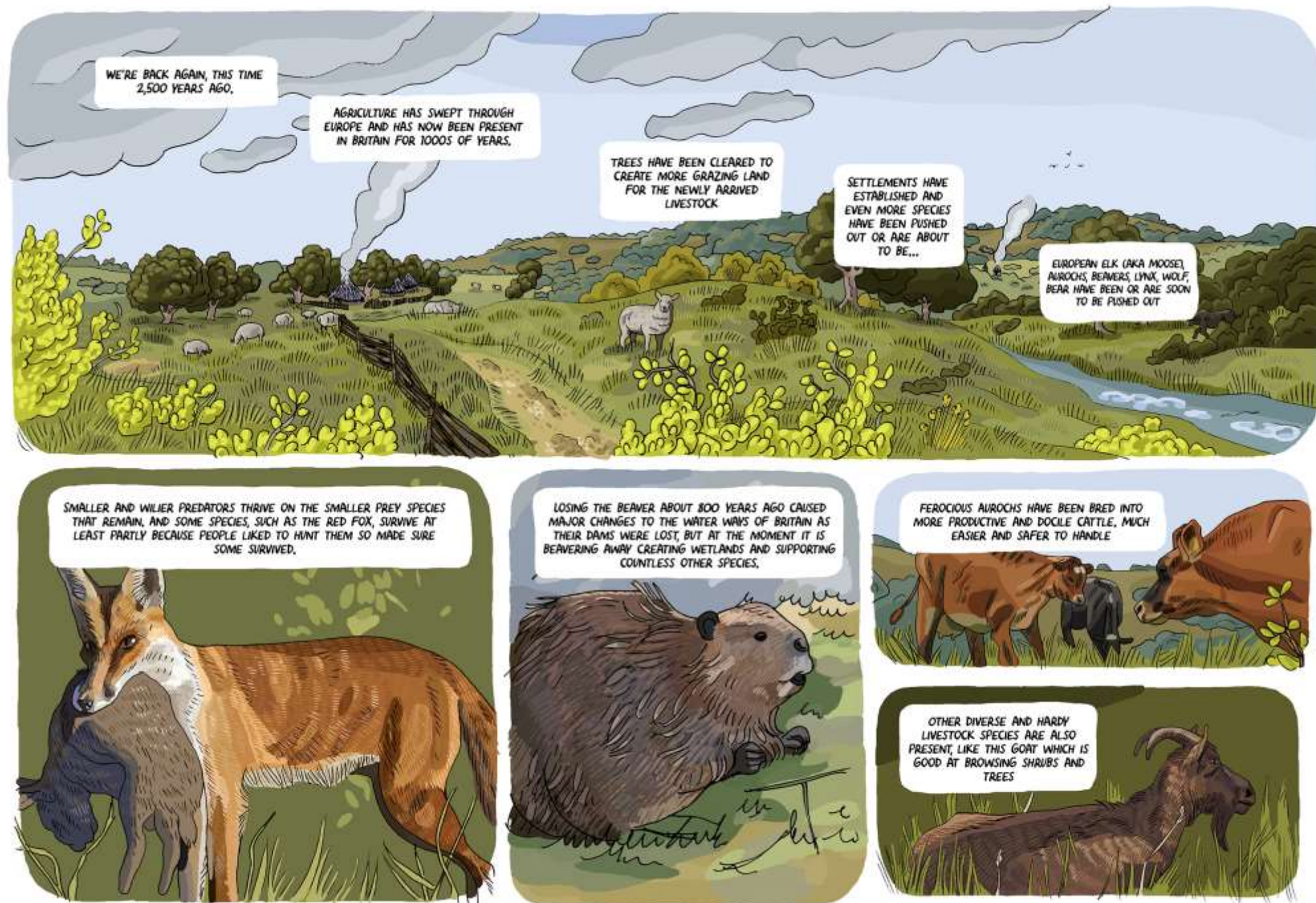
Last Glacial
40,000 years ago,
during the last ice age,
humans arrived in
Britain and continued to
push the megafauna (big
animals, >10kg) to
extinction.



Early Holocene
10,000 years ago the climate warmed up again. The biggest animals were gone by now, humans were effective hunters alongside the wolf and lynx keeping remaining herbivores at lower numbers allowing more trees to establish than in the last interglacial.



Late Holocene
2,500 years ago,
agriculture arrived in
Britain which started a
period of major
woodland clearance, but
this low intensity
agriculture created a
mixed mosaic landscape
similar to the Last
Interglacial that was
shaped by the abundant
megafauna.

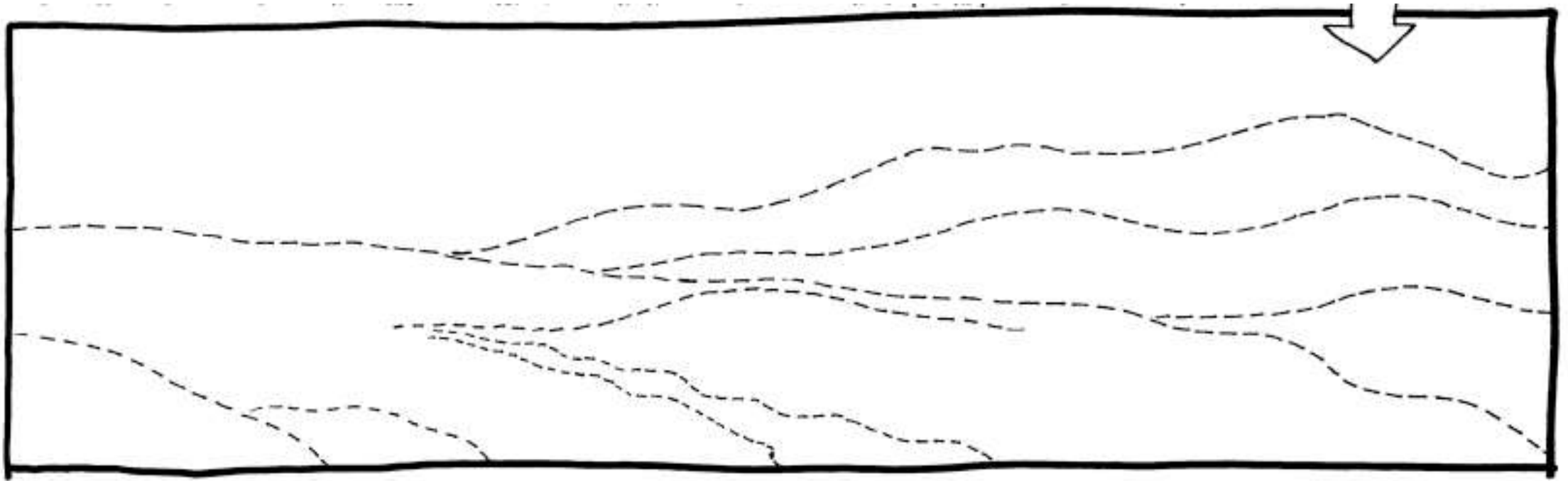



Present day

Industrial agriculture, plantation forestry, and urban expansion has left very little space for nature and resulted in a big decline in biodiversity and reduced the benefits nature provides people.




Rewilding asks us: how much wild nature do we want/need back in our landscapes (and seas)?







We'll plant a
BILLION
trees




We'll plant 1
million trees




We must cull
deer




We must
save species



We must
coppice
trees




We must
manage
habitat




We must
control pests




WE'LL PLANT
A TRILLION
TREES!



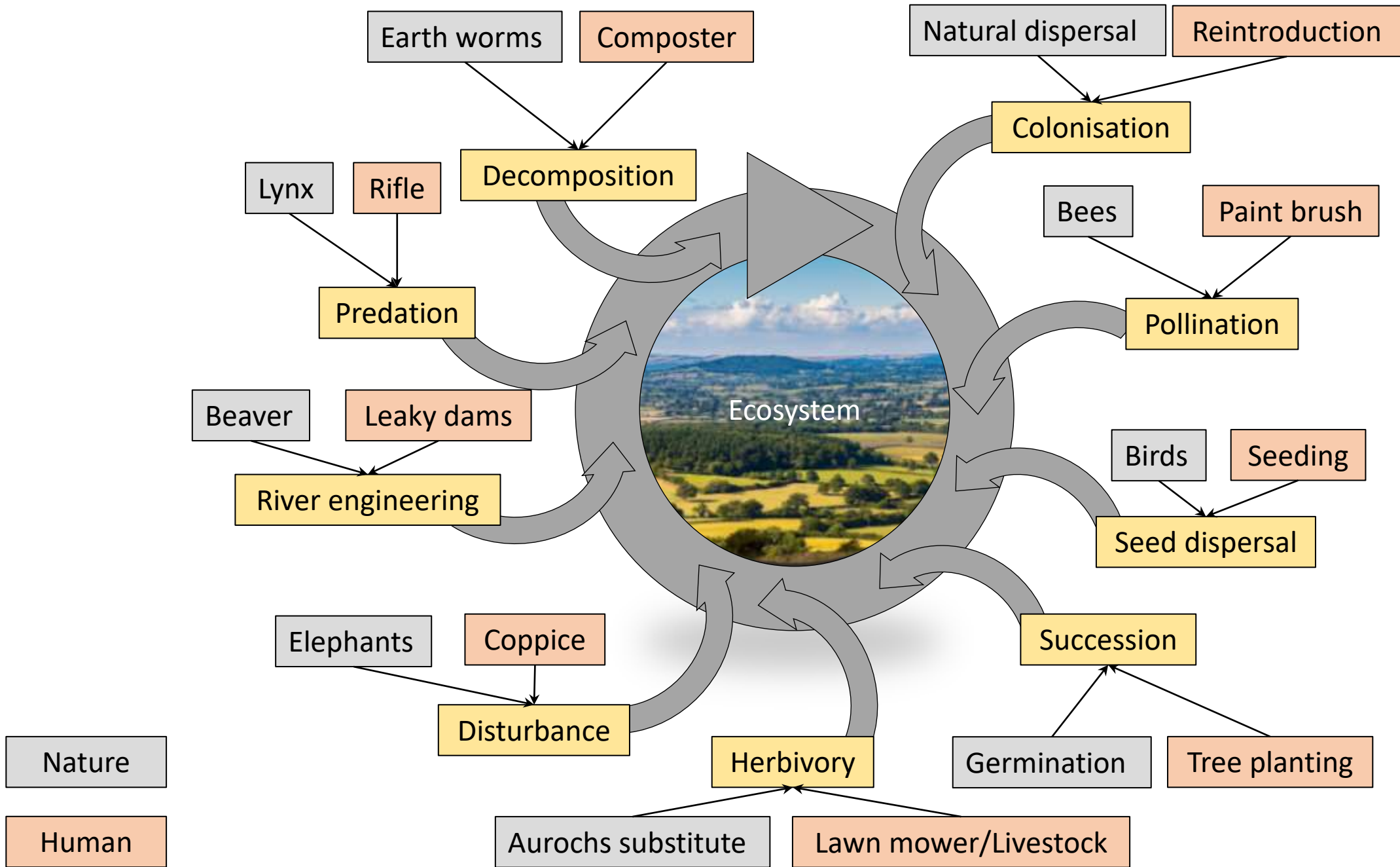
Um, can't
we just let
trees grow?



We must
clear shrubs



Isn't this the
sign of the
problem?





Rewilding means reintroduce a permanent solution rather than perpetuate a management action.

Regenerative Agriculture

Traditional Conservation

Rewilding

Degraded Land

Local and sustainably produced food will provide for sustainable and seasonal diets

Preserve the best habitats and rarest species that have survived

A Landscape of Diversity and Opportunity

Our landscapes have too much land that has been worked too hard for too long.

Nature given space and opportunity to look after itself, deciding which species thrive

Many unique journeys of recovery create a diverse landscape that can meet the diverse needs of people and nature.

Careful and diverse tree planting can help provide timber, alleviate flooding and capture carbon

Restoration brings back rare and celebrated habitats and species

Sustainable Forestry

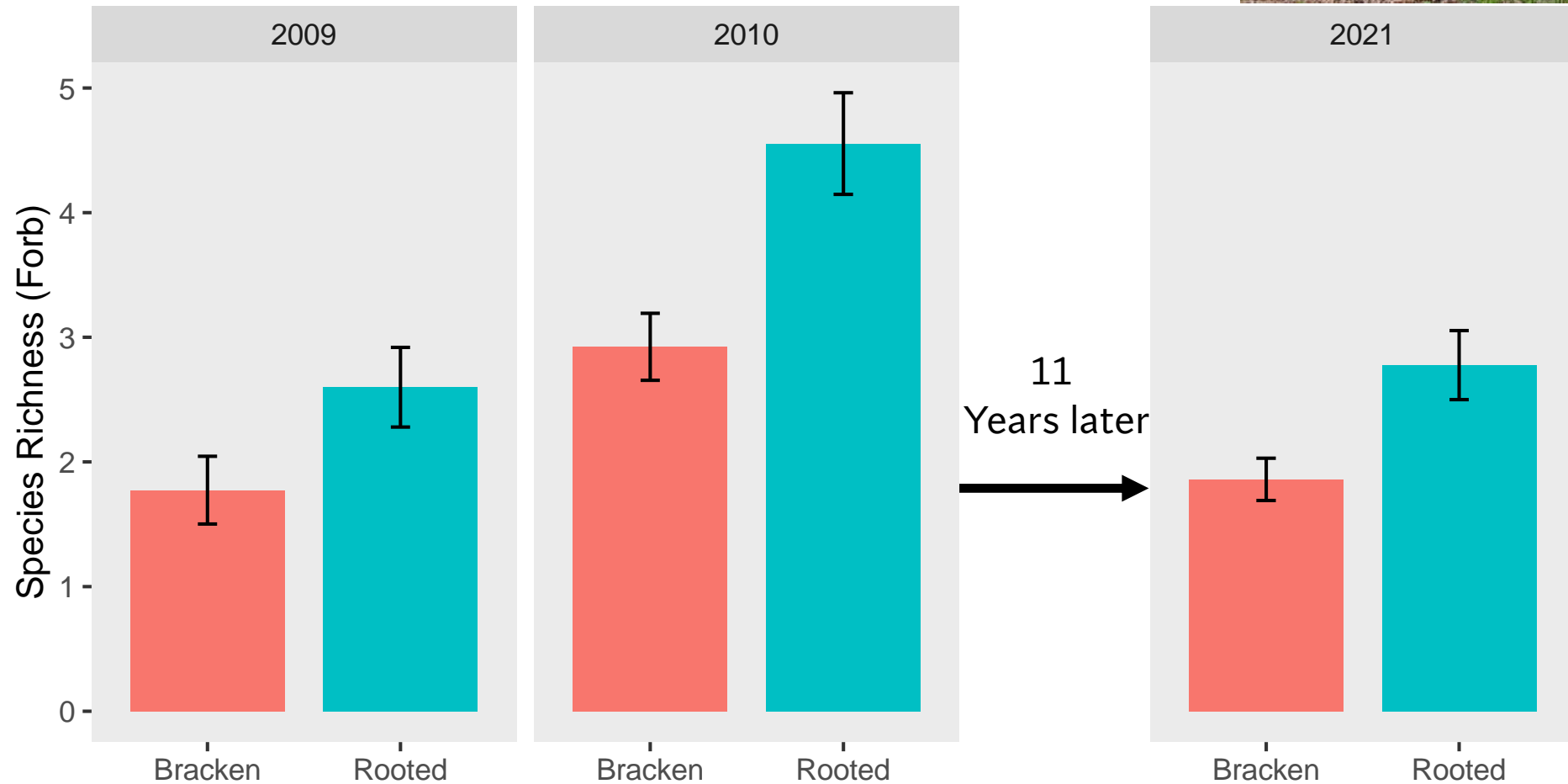
Targeted Habitat Restoration



Alladale Wilderness Reserve

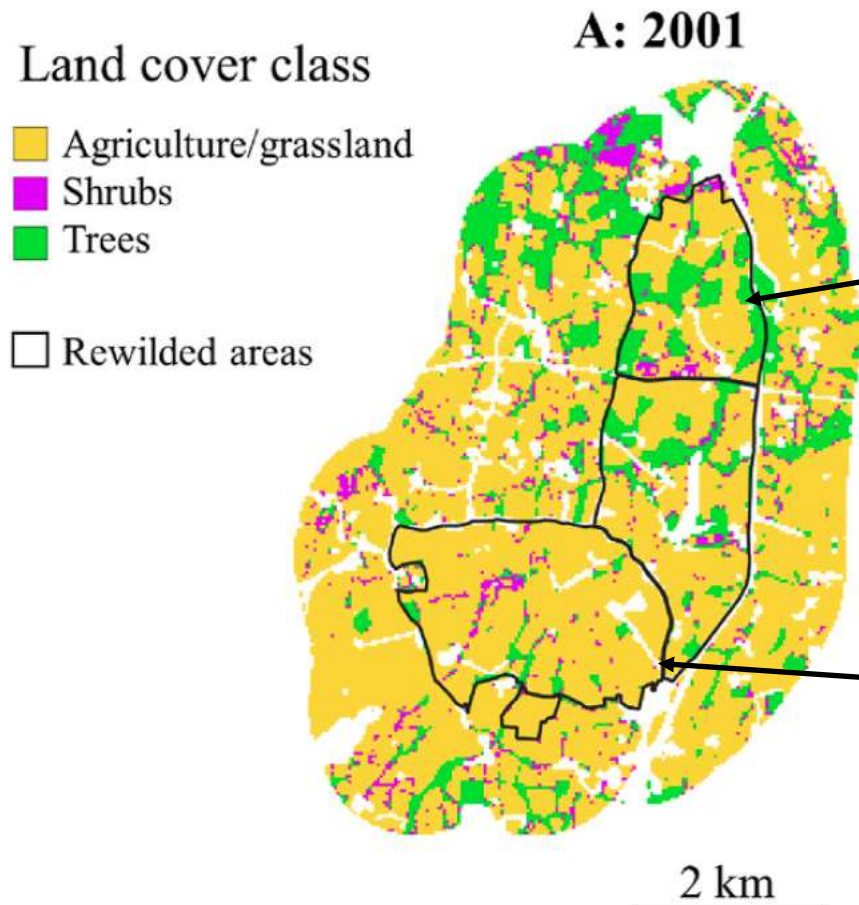


Flowering plant **species richness** still significantly **higher** in rooted areas **11 years after rooting!**



Thanks to Dan Maude & Saul Ridley for the figure

Knepp Wildlands Project



Northern Block

- 235ha
- Cattle, Roe deer
- High biomass density
- Herbivores introduced immediately
- Native grasses seeded

Southern Block

- 450ha
- Cattle, Red deer, Fallow deer, Roe deer, Exmoor ponies, Tamworth pigs
- Lower biomass density
- Herbivores introduced after a 6 year gap

to Bühne, H., Sandom C. ..., et al. "Monitoring rewilding from space: The Knepp estate as a case study." *Journal of Environmental Management*

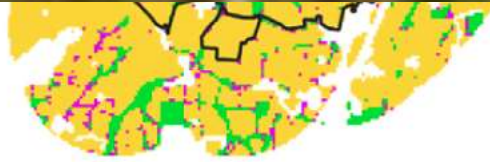
Knepp Wildlands Project



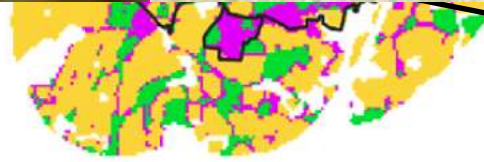
Knepp Southern Block



Knepp Northern Block



2 km



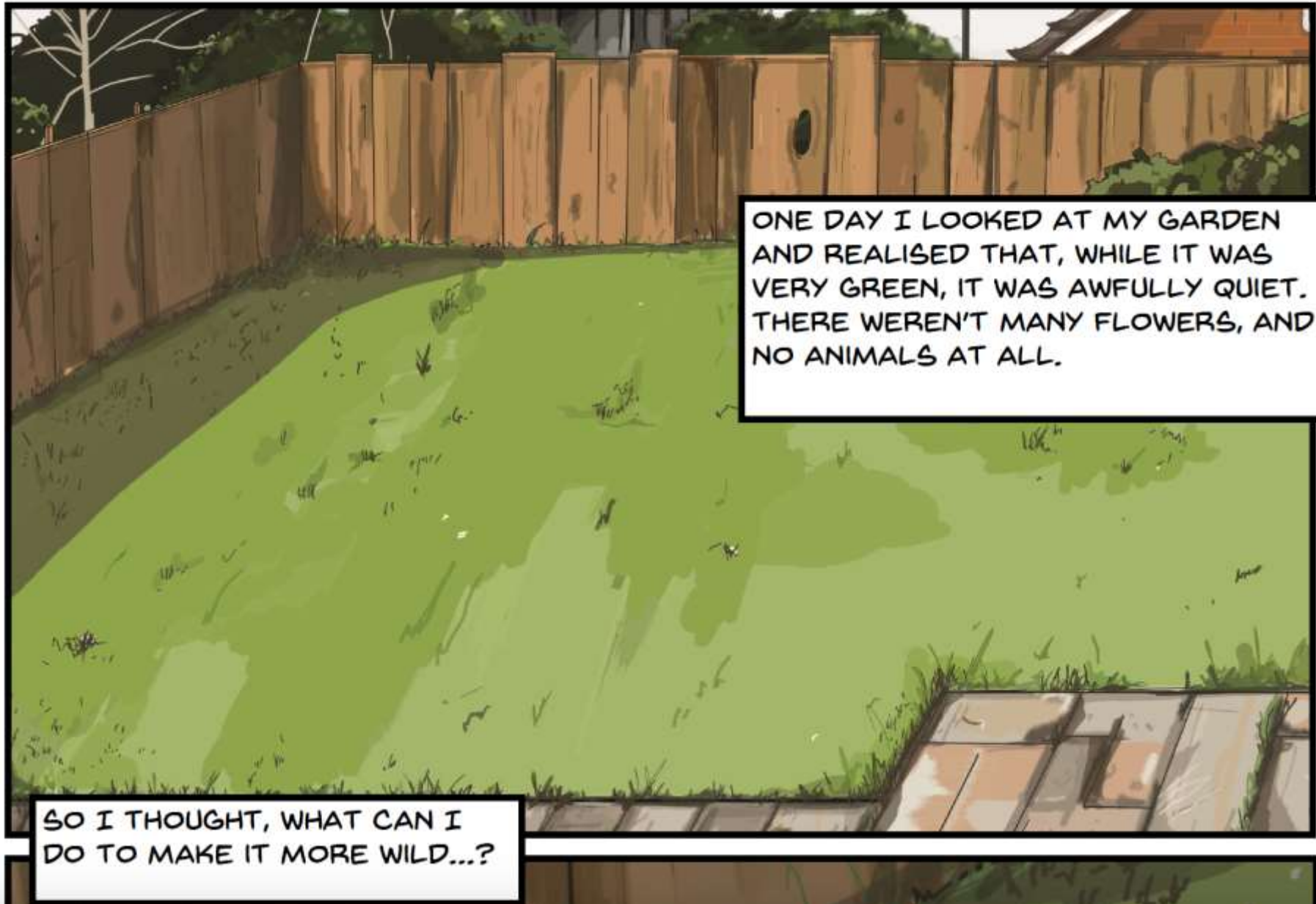
2 km

to Bühne, H., Sandom C. ..., et al. "Monitoring rewilding from space: The Knepp estate as a case study." *Journal of Environmental Management*

- deer, Roe deer, Exmoor ponies, Tamworth pigs
- Lower biomass density
- Herbivores introduced after a 6 year gap

Wilding a Garden

BY BETSY GORMAN



DO TO MAKE IT MORE WILD...?



I'LL CUT A HEDGEHOG HOLE IN MY FENCE!
HEDGEHOGS CAN TRAVEL UP TO 12 MILES A
NIGHT, BUT THEY WOULDN'T GET VERY FAR
WITH A FENCE IN THE WAY.

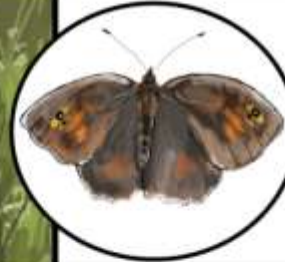
GREAT! NOW MY GREEN SPACE IS A HEDGEHOG
HIGHWAY. BUT...THEY PROBABLY WON'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO EAT OR HIDE IN WHEN THEY GET
HERE....

WHAT NEXT...?

I DECIDED TO LET SOME GRASS GROW AROUND THE HEDGEHOG HOLE. THIS MEANT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE A LOT OF SHADE AND A PLACE TO HIDE. BUT THEN OTHER THINGS STARTED TURNING UP!



BUSH CRICKETS STARTED CHIRPING IN THE LONG GRASS.



MEADOW BROWN BUTTERFLIES WERE ATTRACTED BY THE NEW LARVAL SITES.



AND A HOUSE SPARROW MUST HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO THE SOFT SEEDS, APHIDS, AND CATERpillARS.

ALL I DID WAS STEP BACK AND LET A SECTION OF MY GREEN SPACE GO WITHOUT MOWING. THIS MEANT THAT DIFFERENT GRASS SPECIES STARTED ESTABLISHING ALONG WITH CURLED DOCK, CLOVER, AND THE ODD THISTLE. THE TEMPERATURE IS NICE AND REGULATED THERE SO IN THE WINTER I'M SURE IT'LL BE PERFECT FOR SPIDERS AND BEETLES.



NEXT I THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE FUN TO MAKE THEM A
SAFE PLACE LIKE A LOG
PILE ...



AND INSECTS LIKE THIS STAG BEETLE
AND WOOD BORING WASPS LOVED
THE DEADWOOD!



FUNGI STARTED
SPROUTING FROM THE
DECAYING LOGS...



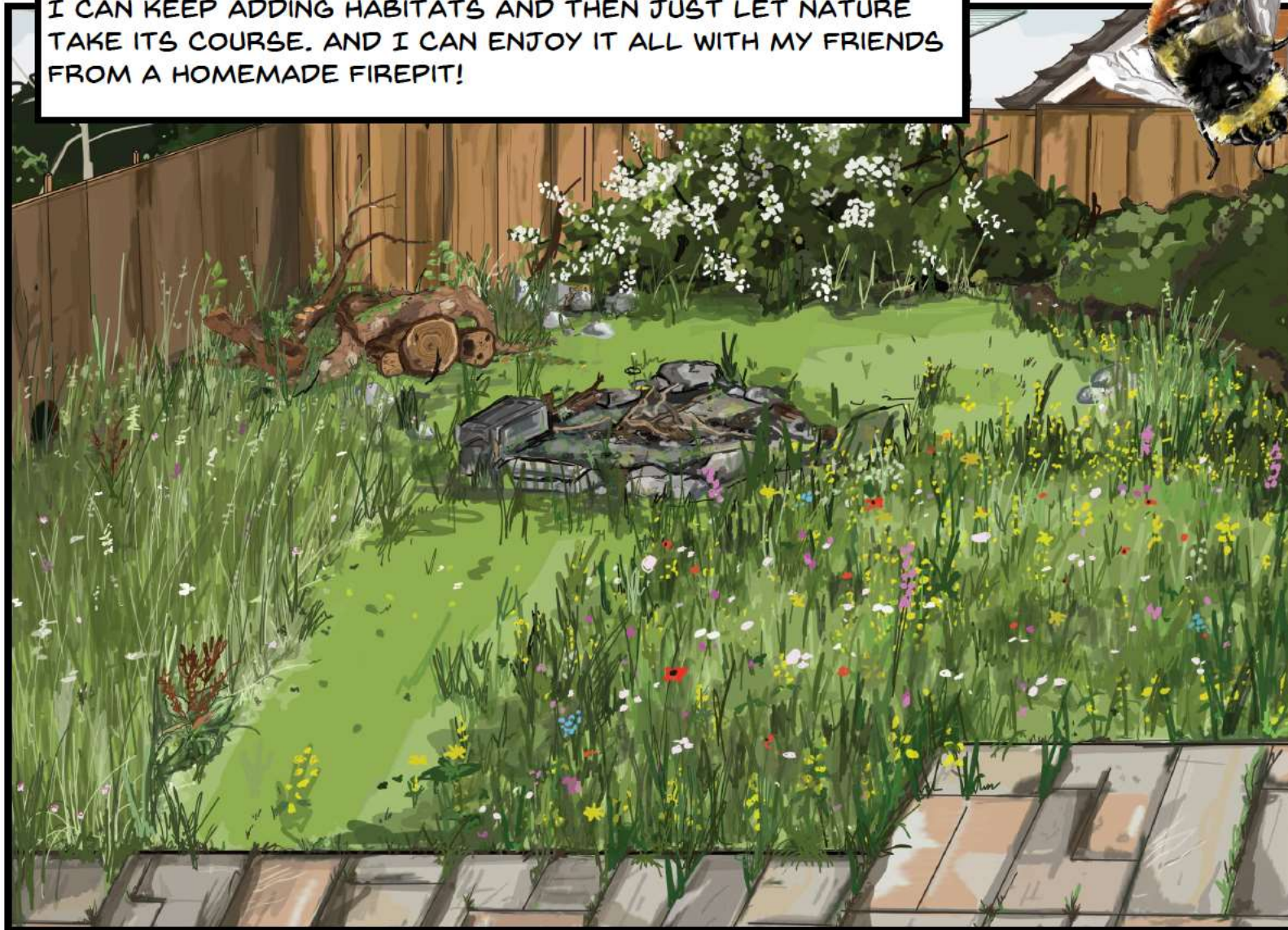


WHEN NIGHT CAME, SOME MORE ANIMALS MADE AN APPEARANCE, INCLUDING A HEDGEHOG. IT MUST HAVE BEEN ATTRACTED BY THE SHELTER AND INSECTS THAT HAD STARTED TO MAKE THE DECAYING WOOD THEIR HOME.

ALL THIS LIFE FROM A PILE OF WOOD! IT WAS REALLY SIMPLE TO DO. I LEFT SOME WOODY CUTTINGS FROM TREES AND LARGER PIECES OF WOOD IN A SHADY CORNER OF MY GREEN SPACE. I MADE SURE THEY WERE CONNECTED TO THE GROUND AND COMPACT SO IT STAYED HUMID. I'VE DONE THIS ON MY BALCONY TOO USING A BUCKET FILLED WITH SOIL AND WOOD PIECES.

I'M GOING TO KEEP ADDING WOOD AS IT DECAYS AND RECORD WHAT ELSE TURNS UP!

I CAN KEEP ADDING HABITATS AND THEN JUST LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE. AND I CAN ENJOY IT ALL WITH MY FRIENDS FROM A HOMEMADE FIREPIT!



My wild garden

Early Sep. 2020



Late Sep. 2020



Mid Oct. 2020



Mid May 2021



Late July 2021



Late Aug. 2021





30.21 inHg - 8 15C (09/06/2021 04:46AM CAMERA1



30.23 InHg - 8 14C ○ 09/07/2021 01:11AM CAMERA1



Thank you for
listening and to my
many co-authors &
collaborators

Affiliations:



@nature_based
@rewildingsussex
@rewildings (cience)

Artwork by: Jodie Boucher
Instagram: pawtraitsbyjodie

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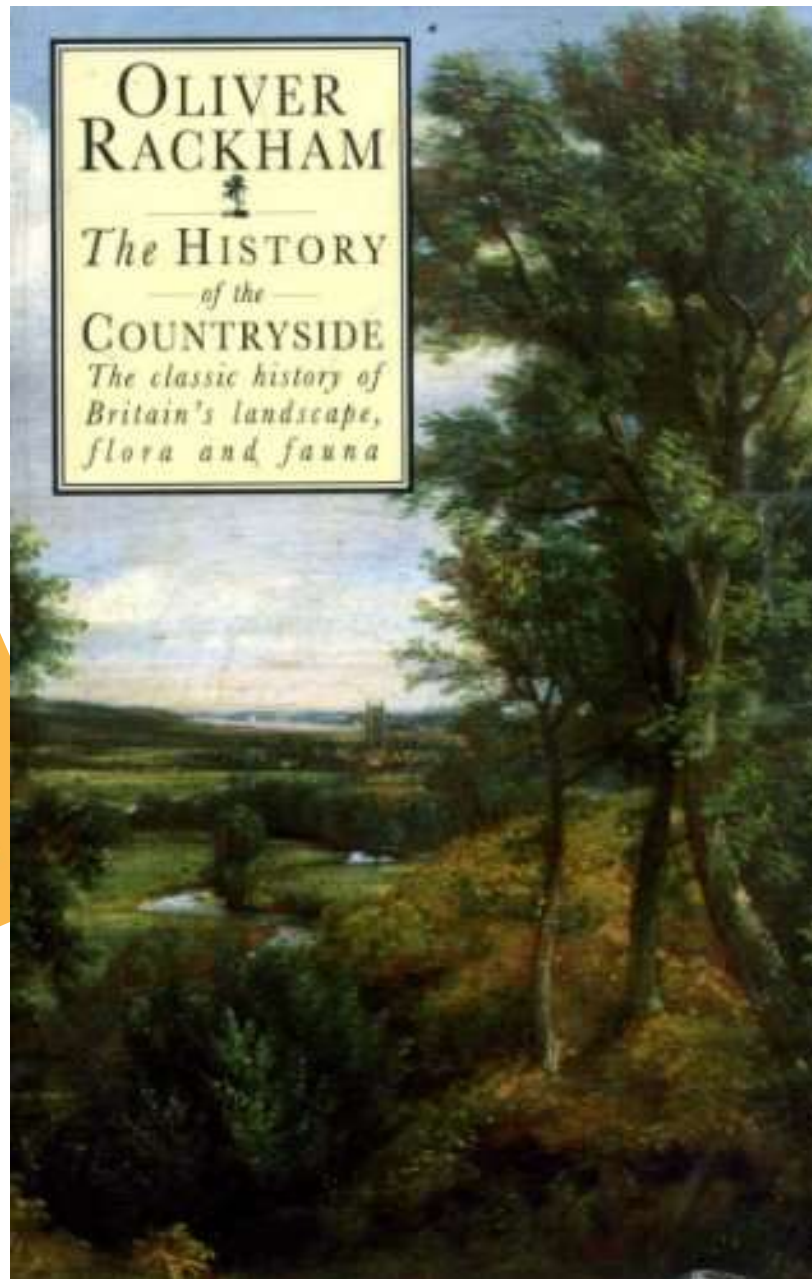
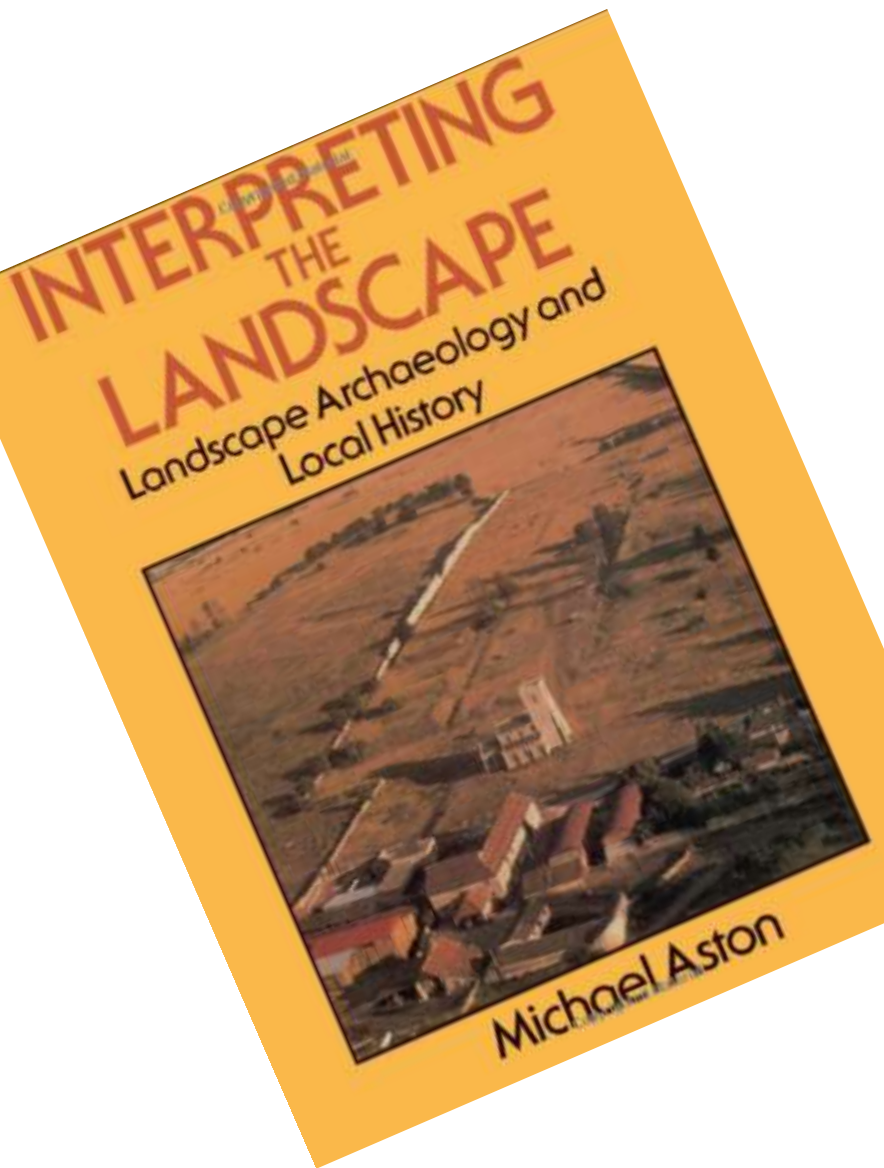
David Larkin

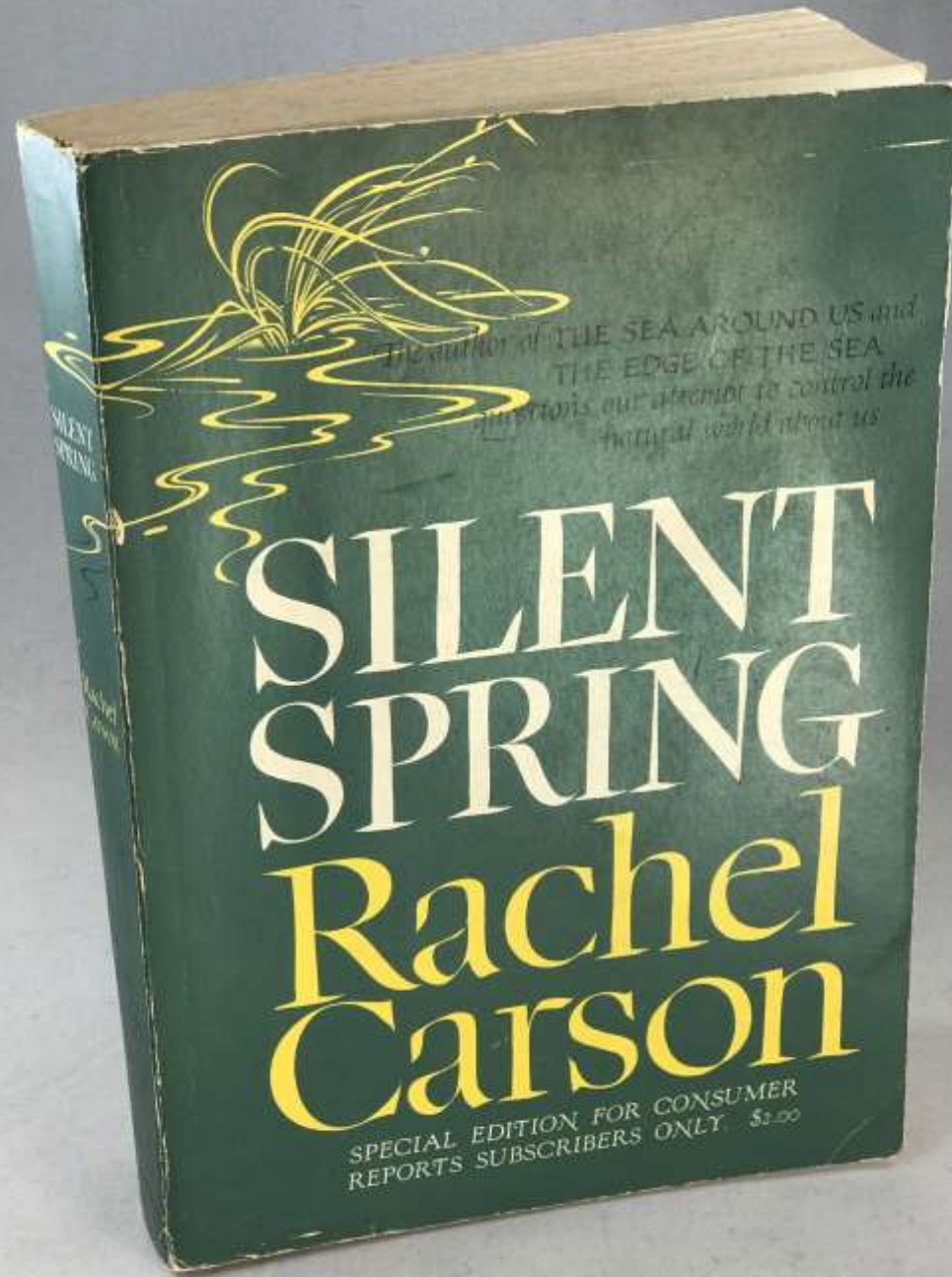


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GREEN SPACES FORUM

WILDING WATERHALL

David Larkin
Conservation Manager
Brighton & Hove City Council





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GRAZING ECOLOGY AND FOREST HISTORY

F.W.M. Vera



CABI Publishing



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20th June 2019 - TOURISM, DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE COMMITTEE

12.13 RESOLVED- That Committee:

- 1) Approves the marketing of Hollingbury Park Golf Course and the Waterhall Golf Course on long term leases for either golf or other leisure use. ...
- 4) Agrees that as part of the further report, committee agrees to consider an additional alternative option, as set out below: Option 5: This option will explore the opportunity and financial viability of bringing both courses back in-house, with the option of converting one or both of the golf courses into different types of leisure facilities, as referred to in 4.3 of this report, and including the option to explore the feasibility of a rewilding project.



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23rd January 2020 – POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2.1 Agrees to lease Waterhall Golf Course to the Community Interest Company (CIC) described in the bid appended to the Part 2 report for a period of 25 years.

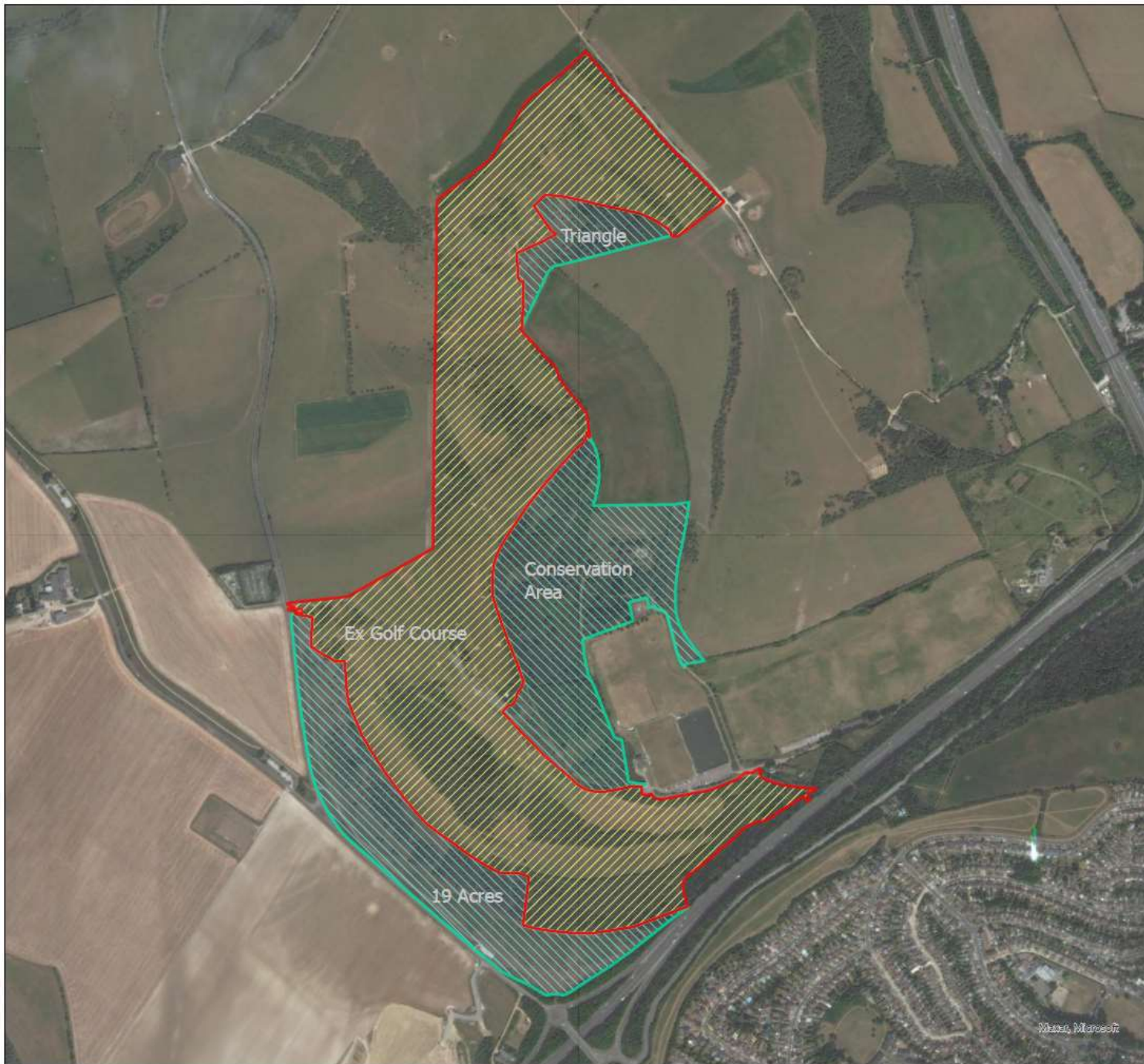
24TH September 2020 - TOURISM, EQUALITIES, COMMUNITIES & CULTURE COMMITTEE

27.14 RESOLVED – That Committee:

1. Notes that the Community Interest Company (CIC) agreed by Policy & Resources Committee on 23rd January 2020 as the preferred leaseholder for the former Waterhall Golf Course site will not be concluding lease arrangements.
2. Agrees that the Council's Cityparks Service undertake rewilding at Waterhall and submit funding applications for Countryside Stewardship Grants to support this work. Community engagement will be a major part of the rewilding activities undertaken.



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**Wilding Waterhall
Site map**

Legend

Compartment

 HLS Management

 Ex Golf Course

Scale 1:8,000

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PETRA BILLINGS
WOODLAND CONSULTANCY LIMITED

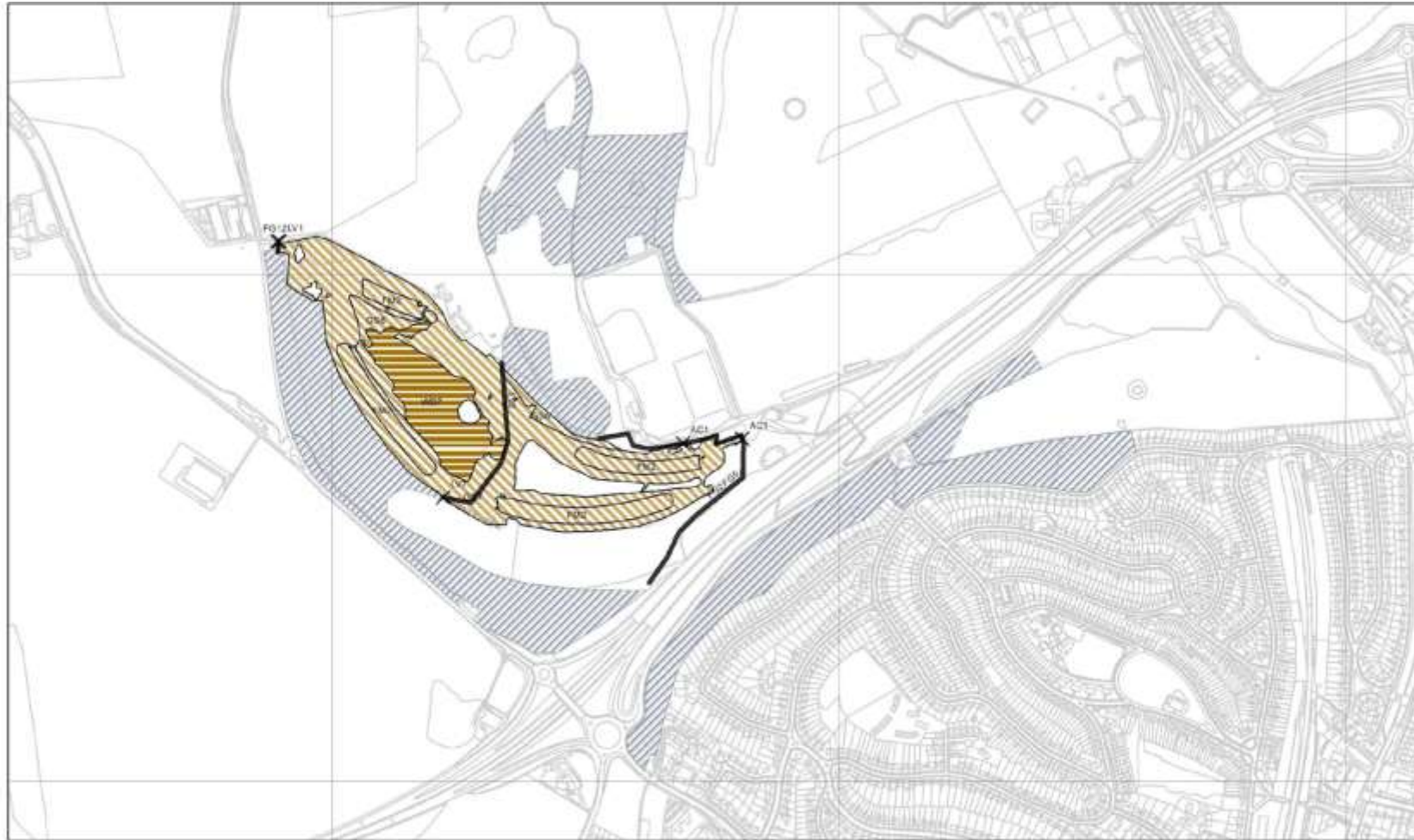


Waterhall Golf Course
Ecological Survey Report
June 2020



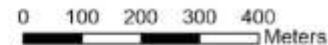
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Countryside Stewardship



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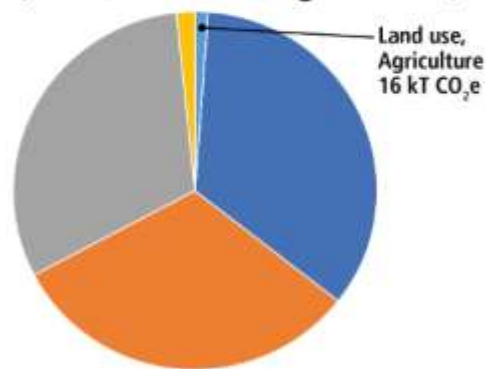
Changing Chalk

Brighton & Hove City Council's Carbon Neutral programme

The Carbon Neutral programme is a coordinated programme of projects that aims to continue and accelerate the city's transition to carbon neutrality by 2030.

Nature and environment - food, land use, agriculture

Nature and environment
(Food, land use, agriculture)

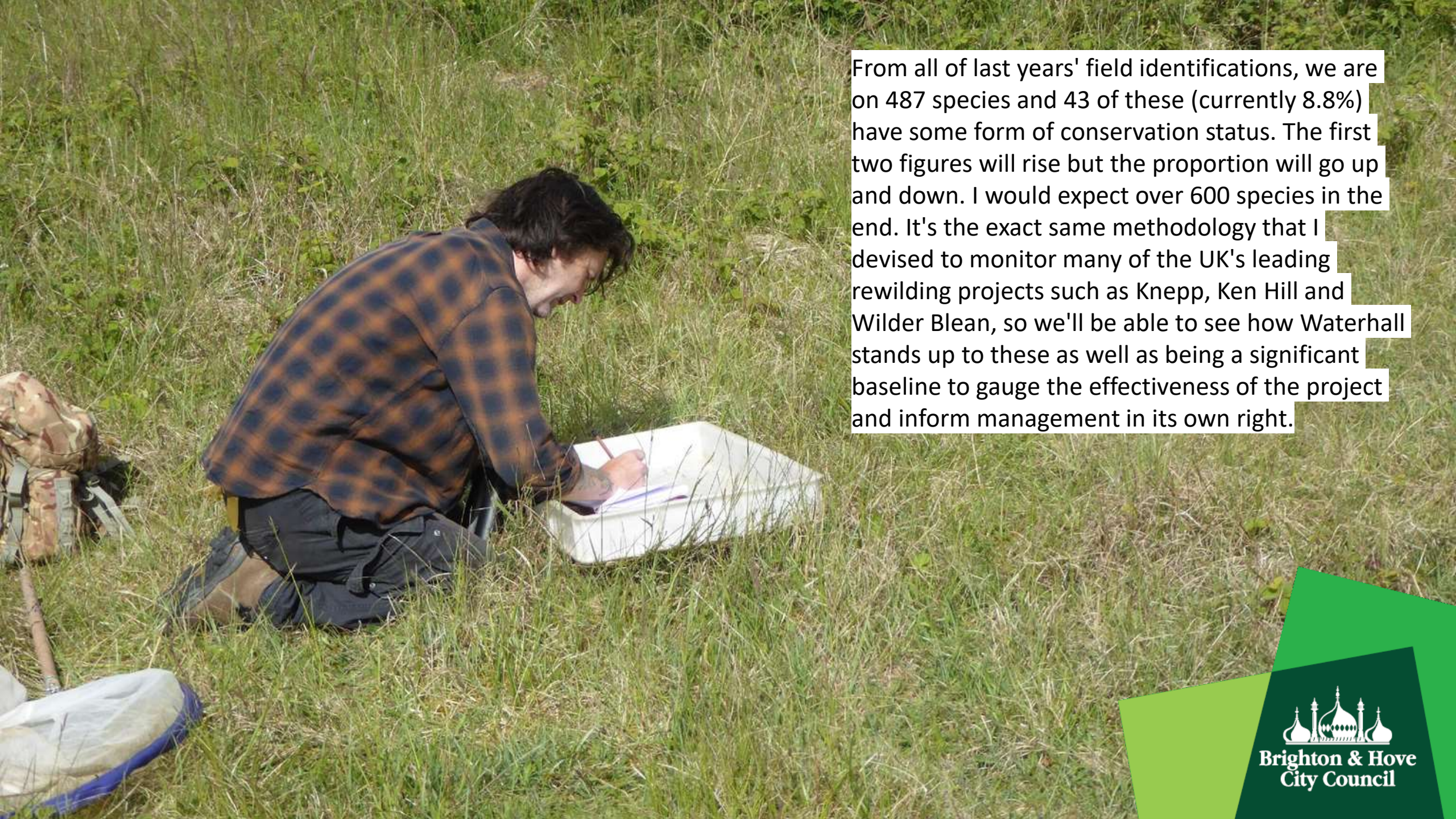


The pie chart above shows that 16 kilotonnes of greenhouse gases came from nature, agriculture and land use, around 1% of all greenhouse gases from the city of Brighton & Hove in 2018.

Wilding

The aim of wilding is to manage habitats through natural processes as far as is possible. In ancient times, the countryside would have contained large herbivores and predators which would have been the main drivers of natural landscape processes. Getting the delicate balance of herbivores right should allow species rich grasslands to develop in some places and naturally regenerating woodland in others. While natural regeneration of woodland under light grazing takes longer than tree planting it produces a more diverse, resilient woodland in the long run. It is also desirable to replace missing plant species, by planting a limited number of trees that will then provide seeds for the trees of the future. As soils develop, wilding will provide long term carbon sequestration as well as biodiversity benefits.

Ranger's Office



From all of last years' field identifications, we are on 487 species and 43 of these (currently 8.8%) have some form of conservation status. The first two figures will rise but the proportion will go up and down. I would expect over 600 species in the end. It's the exact same methodology that I devised to monitor many of the UK's leading rewilding projects such as Knepp, Ken Hill and Wilder Blean, so we'll be able to see how Waterhall stands up to these as well as being a significant baseline to gauge the effectiveness of the project and inform management in its own right.



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- 89385 Aa1850
- 90911 Sta1833
- 90919 Sta1792
- 90770 Aa1854
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- 89422 Sta1807
- 89421 Sta1801
- 2
- 89381 Sta1848**
- 89667 AA1844
- 89417 Sta1830
- 89527 Sta 1835
- 90923 Sta1791
- 89432 Sta1790
- 90746 Sta1761
- 1
- 81362
- 84993
- 85197 Sta1776

Statkart Satellite Map

31.05.2022 - Now Show map markers Show map heatmap





Sales Ended

Waterhall's Reptiles and Amphibians

Today at 10:00 AM

BN45 7DB • Brighton

Free



Sales Ended

Wilding Waterhall - Management and Future Vision.

Tue, May 31, 6:30 PM

BN45 7DB • Brighton

Free



Sales Ended

Wilding Waterhall - What is Rewilding?

Mon, May 30, 6:30 PM

BN45 7DB • Brighton

Free



Sales Ended

The Butterflies and Day Flying Moths of Waterhall

Sun, May 29, 12:00 PM

BN45 7DB • Brighton



Sales Ended

Creatures of the Night

Sat, May 28, 9:00 PM

BN45 7DB • Brighton

Free



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Sold Out



The Mammals of Waterhall

Today at 6:00 PM

BN45 7DB • Brighton

Free



Sold Out



Dawn Chorus at Waterhall

Tomorrow at 6:00 AM

BN45 7DB • Brighton

Free



Sold Out



The Wildflowers of Waterhall

Tomorrow at 1:00 PM

BN45 7DB • Brighton

Free



Sold Out



Waterhall's History and Heritage

Sat, Jun 4, 10:00 AM

BN45 7DB • Brighton

Free



Sold Out



Waterhall's Invertebrates

Sun, Jun 5, 2:00 PM

BN45 7DB • Brighton

Free



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Education Ranger

Jess Mead, started on June 13th



15th March 2022 ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1) That Committee agrees that the Wilding Waterhall project area (“the Wilding Waterhall Project Area”) should consist of the ex-golf course land and the adjoining land being managed for wildlife under the councils Higher Level Stewardship Agreement, as shown on Appendix 1.

2) That Committee agrees that the Wilding Waterhall Project Area should be dedicated as access land and delegates authority to the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture to take all steps in relation thereto

3) That a further report be brought to this committee if in the view of the Waterhall Management Advisory Group ongoing monitoring is showing that the agreed public access is having an unacceptable impact on the site’s biodiversity

4) That the Committee delegates authority to the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture to take the steps necessary to include the Wilding Waterhall Project Area within the council’s dog control zone

5) That Committee agrees that the Wilding Waterhall Project Area should be declared as a Local Nature Reserve and delegates authority to the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture to take all steps in relation thereto.



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Wilding Waterhall

Legend

 Waterhall Boundary

Scale 1:8,000

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2022 Spring Seminar - Going Wild in Brighton & Hove

Paul Gorringe



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM



1981 M^{RS} H. FEENEY
1982 M^{RS} S. HOPWOOD
1983 M^{RS} O. REEKS
1984 M^{RS} H. FEENEY
1985 M^{RS} S. LOWE
1986 M^{RS} H. FEENEY
1987 M^{RS} S. COLE
1988 M^{RS} O. REEKS
1989 M^{RS} J. HOLMES
1990 M^{RS} J. HOLMES
1991 M^{RS} M. CHURCH
1992 M^{RS} J. ROBERTSON
1993 M^{RS} J. WOODS
1994 M^{RS} D. JESSOP
1995 M^{RS} D. JEAL
1996 M^{RS} J. WILLIAMSON
1997 M^{RS} J. KIRKHAM
1998 M^{RS} N. ALLEN
1999 M^{RS} N. ALLEN
2000 M^{RS} J. WILLIAMSON
2001 M^{RS} J. KIRKHAM

2007 M^{RS} S. HOPWOOD
2010 M^{RS} M. DALE-SMITH

















Brighton & Hove
City Council



CATTLE GRAZING AHEAD

You are now entering a
'No-Fence' zone.

Dogs must be kept on a
short lead at all times in
this area.

Thank you.

























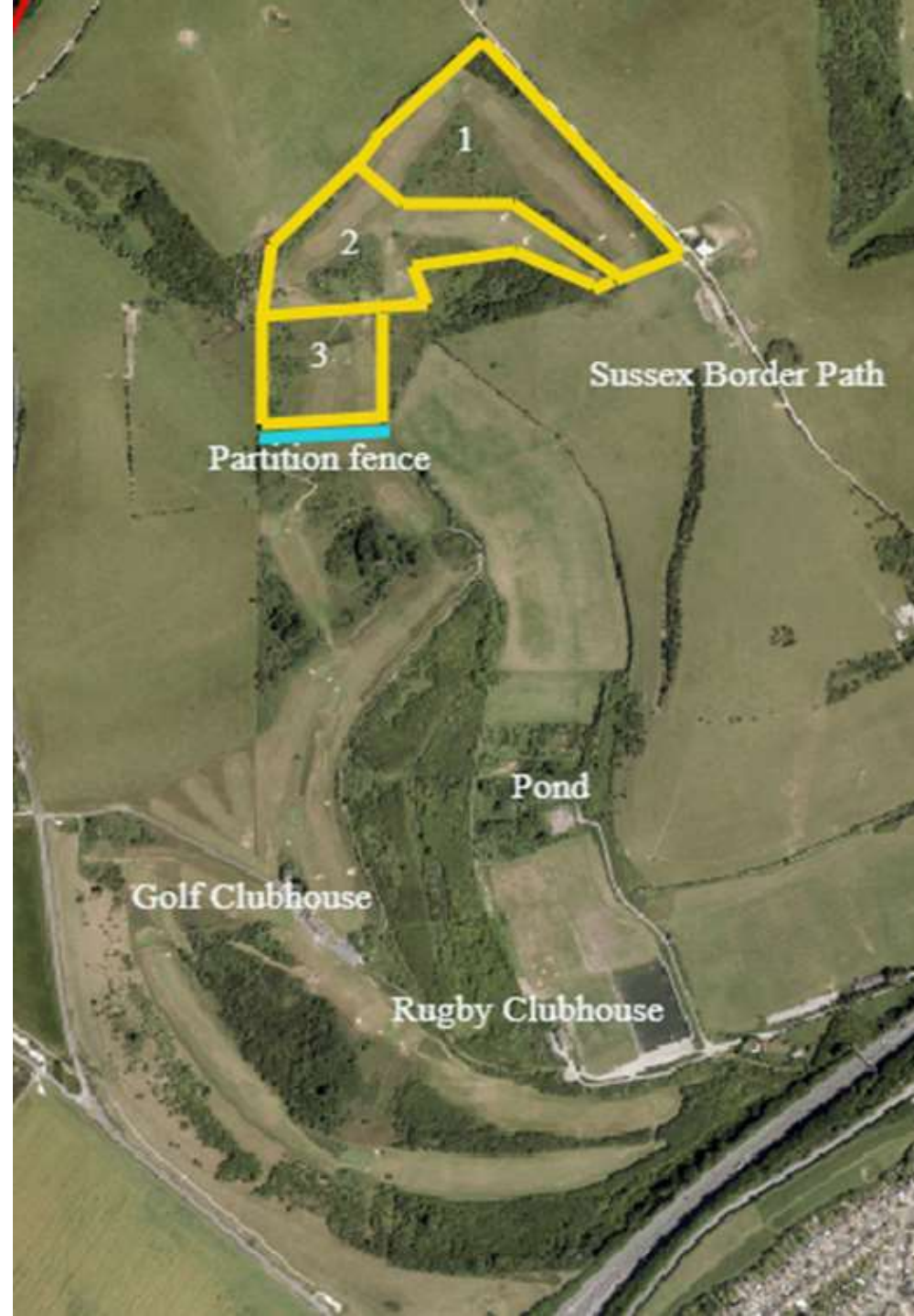












1

2

3

Sussex Border Path

Partition fence

Pond

Golf Clubhouse

Rugby Clubhouse



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