

# Lodge Hill Countryside Site

Lodge Hill Countryside Site will provide new habitats for nightingales and access to countryside walks as part of a Strategic Environmental Management Scheme (SEMS). Creating new and better connected habitats for Hoo’s wildlife and providing seasonal permissive access.

**Site location and content**

# A site map showing Lodge Hill Countryside Site. Including Lodge Hill training area, Lodge Hill wood, Lodge Hill Anti-aircraft Battery - scheduled monument.

A road map showing the location of Lodge Hill Countryside Site. Located just off of Dux Court Road.


The site is located on the prominent Chattenden Ridge, north of Chattenden and Hoo St Werburgh. Currently it is an area of agricultural land grazed by livestock that lies immediately north of the Lodge Hill Training Area, which is not publicly accessible.

The site is adjacent to the Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which supports a nationally important population of breeding Nightingales



Local Wildlife

# Nightingale

# Mistle Thrush

# Pipistrelle Bat

* Swift
* Great-crested Newt

Species shown here have been identified through ecological surveys of the site. The project aims to improve and enhance the habitats and the connections between them to help support rare and common wildlife found in and around Lodge Hill.

Proposed Habitats

A map to show proposed habitats on the Hoo Peninsula. Includes ancient woodland (Lodge Hill Wood and Wybornes Wood, scrub and woodland through assisted natural regeneration (Rough Shaw), emergent scrub, wet meadow, open meadow and meadow/scrub edge transitional habitat.



Vision & Objectives

A diagram showing various images linking into the vision and objectives for the Lodge Hill Countryside Site as explained below.


The key objectives for Lodge Hill are to:

* Encourage a wider use by a nationally important population of Nightingales through the creation of new habitat and sensitive access management.
* Implement restoration proposals and maintain and enhance SSSI condition;
* Provide non-intrusive opportunities for visitors to learn about the scheduled monument, historic context and previous military use;
* Create new seasonal permissive routes along the existing track whilst restricting direct access to the SSSI;
* A key fact section highlighting one example of a response from Medway Council.

  You said, we did.

  'Keep this area as natural as possible to encourage wildlife to the area'.

  The site will be kept natural and more scrub and trees will attract valuable wildlife.
  Implement an active management plan to compliment the SSSI Restoration, Management and Access Strategy; and
* Explore opportunities for existing farm structures on site to support conservation grazing.



# Concept Proposals

A field of grass with flowers
A group of people walking dogs
A picture showing a wet meadow
A picture showing a kissing gate


Seasonal access through the site will be managed carefully with the installation of kissing gates

Establishment of species rich neutral grassland or hay meadow, grading to scrub mosaic and dense scrub thicket around the borders

Introduction of wet meadow, allowing natural growth of varied habitats, and improved species richness in grassland, scrub and woodland which will improve habitat connectivity

Seasonal access allowing for enjoyment of both heritage and landscape assets whilst protecting valuable nightingale habitat within the vicinity

A map showing the Lodge Hill site proposals





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Access through the site will be managed carefully with the installation of kissing gates, allowing seasonal access to and enjoyment of both heritage and landscape assets whilst protecting valuable habitat within the vicinity.



# Access & connectivity

A map showing the access and connectivity around the Lodge Hill Countryside Site.




A key fact section highlighting a response from Medway Council.

You said, we did.

'...past real nuisance caused by people using dirt bikes and motor bikes in the woods.'

Kissing gates at entrances will deter bikes and access will be seasonal to protect the wildlife.

A field of green grass


View to the south west from the track through the site

View of the Scheduled Monument from the existing track

Hoo Stop Line: A field of brown grass with trees in the background
A dirt road through Lodge Hill Wood with trees on either side of it

 Existing ditches through the site at Lodge Hill Wood


View through Lodge Hill Wood along the track

Existing ditches through the site

View of the pillbox in the eastern field, part of the Hoo Stop Line