

# Sussex Lund

## Update - Spring 2018



Sussex Lund, the grants programme created by [Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin](#), supports small-scale, practical projects that improve the ecology and landscape of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In 2017 Sussex Lund allocated £165,000 to 29 projects, with community groups, town and parish councils, charities, landowners, churches and trusts receiving grants of between £500 and £10,000.

Read on to learn about the success of some of these completed projects, and find out how the funding has made a tangible difference to the outstanding landscape of the High Weald...

## Removal of invasive species from ancient woodland

Kent High Weald Partnership received a Sussex Lund grant of £7,880 to remove extensive Rhododendron and Laurel from ancient woodland near Tunbridge Wells.

Nick Robinson, KHWP Senior Partnerships Officer, reports: "The site is well used by local residents, but its value and potential as a diverse wildlife habitat has been badly affected by the dominance of these two species planted in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (right).



We promoted the project to local partners and user groups to ensure the community was well informed. The work was carried out primarily by volunteers removing laurel by hand and we engaged contractors to cut and clear denser stands.

The immediate impact is improved light and access where the woodland has been opened up. Longer term, the work will create richer habitats for plants, invertebrates, birds and small mammals – in summary, a more open, thriving and welcoming woodland for visitors and local wildlife alike.



The application process was very straightforward and advice on our application from staff at the [High Weald] AONB office was very helpful in shaping our decision to apply...We would like to say a huge thank you to Sussex Lund for their support, and the improvements to local access and habitats for wildlife and they have made possible!"



LUND

A charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin

Don't forget the Sussex Lund 2018 application deadline: **Sunday 15 April**

Sussex Lund is administered by the High Weald AONB Partnership and Lund Trust.

More info at [www.highweald.org/sussexlund](http://www.highweald.org/sussexlund)



# Hedge-laying at All Saint's Church, Old Heathfield

The Friends of All Saint's Church received a grant of £4,217 to improve access to the churchyard, which is one of the largest in the UK and has extensive views of the wider High Weald landscape.

The grant went towards extensive hedge-laying to improve a well-used public footpath, which is bounded by an overgrown hedge.

This has greatly increased the amount of light to a new wildflower area, as well as improving accessibility for the many walkers and school groups who frequent the churchyard.

The group was also able to purchase equipment to assist with responsible management of the churchyard's grassland habitat.

The project is already inspiring others in the area, with a group of local schoolchildren enjoying a traditional hedge-laying demonstration while the work was taking place.

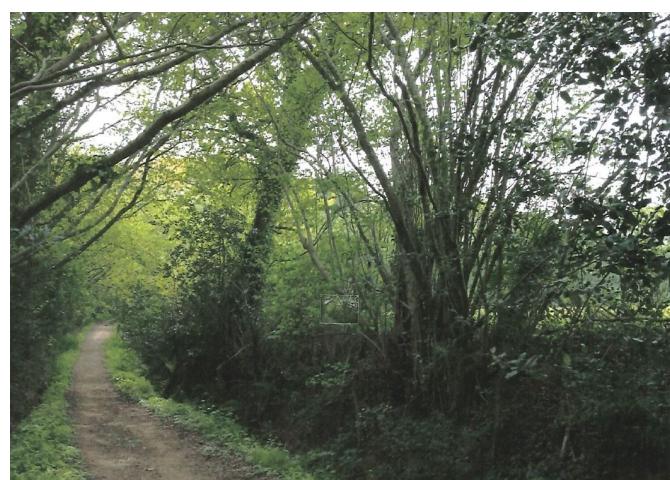
*"This job has transformed the churchyard boundary, it looks fantastic and will be maintained for years to come."*

Pauline Wall, site user



## Restoring a section of historic hedgerow in Cranbrook

Richard White received a Sussex Lund grant of £2,068 to restore almost 100m of overgrown and gappy hedge on his land (right).



The project has provided an improved habitat for wildflowers, beetles and nesting birds, as well as improving the view for walkers on the adjacent footpath (left).



# New cattle handling facilities for grazing site

The RSPB received a grant from Sussex Lund of £10,000 towards a project to replace the 25-year-old cattle handling facilities at its Pulborough Brooks site.

The new facilities will allow the team to effectively and safely manage the growing herd of Highland cattle that graze the site every autumn and winter.

This will help to improve the condition of 17 ha of lowland wet grassland – and the adjacent heathland – which is being restored from a commercial plantation through felling and grazing.



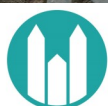
*"Thanks to our Sussex Lund grant, the wet lowland, grassland and heathland at Pulborough Brooks will continue to thrive from the benefits of extensive grazing long into the future, creating diverse ecosystems for wildlife to thrive and for people to enjoy."*

Charlotte Lawrence,  
Fundraising Officer

## Glorious Grazing...

Grazing grassland and heathland creates a diverse sward structure, rich in plants and invertebrates and beneficial to a variety of birds and small mammals.

Livestock grazing is also less intensive than other land management techniques such as cutting and burning. Farmers and conservation bodies in the High Weald are increasingly looking to implement grazing programmes that benefit wildlife and the wider landscape.



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# Replacing veteran trees on an historic estate

Hole Park Estate in Rolvenden, Kent, received a grant of £1,028 to replace trees in its historic parkland.

The project aimed to help maintain tree diversity, species and age on 150 acres of historic parkland at the 2,500-acre estate, bearing in mind the recent increase in tree disease.

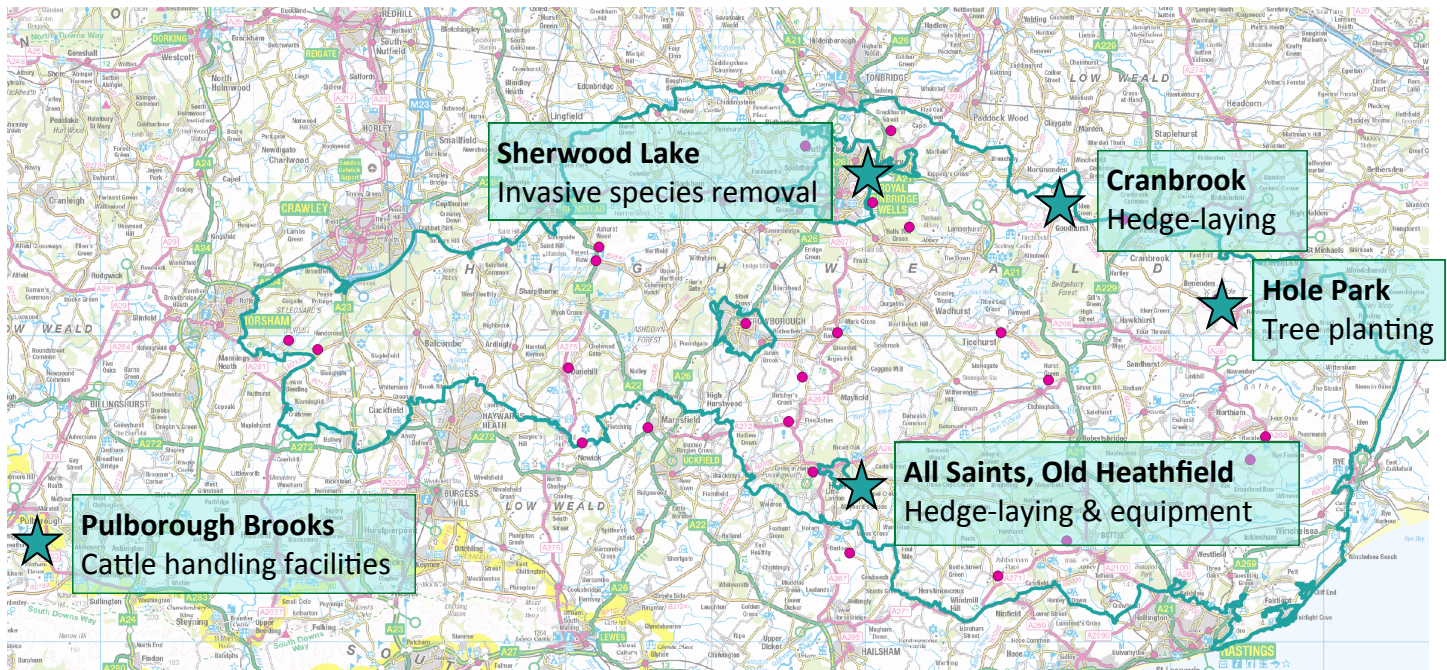
Activity was focused on two specific locations where veteran oak and ash trees were showing significant signs of decay (right). A total of 10 new oak, beech and chequer trees were planted and protected with tree guards (below), in addition to 12 new shrubs.



*"The [Sussex Lund] process was very simple, fair, swift and open...I would highly recommend the fund for anyone in the High Weald who has a scheme they think might qualify."*

Edward Barham,  
Hole Park Estate owner

## Sussex Lund 2017 project locations in & around the High Weald AONB



★ Featured projects    ● Other projects

View a more detailed map at [lundtrust.org.uk/sussex-lund](http://lundtrust.org.uk/sussex-lund) or read the full project list [here](#).

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# Hedge Management information board

The High Weald team has designed a special sign to help grant recipients inform the public about the hedge restoration works taking place on their land.

These will be available for all future Sussex Lund projects involving hedge laying, coppicing or planting.

If you are interested in displaying one of the signs while works are taking place on your land, please contact the High Weald team or [click here](#) for more information.

## HEDGE RESTORATION IN PROGRESS DON'T BE ALARMED!

Hedgerows are a vital part of the High Weald's medieval landscape. They provide shelter for livestock and a rich and varied habitat for a great number of birds, mammals and invertebrates. Their conservation relies on careful maintenance.



This landowner is carrying out important works to create and restore hedges and other boundary features on their property.

The works may include planting new hedges and shaws (tree belts); coppicing gappy hedges; laying tall and ageing hedges; and fencing ancient woodland boundaries to prevent damaging grazing.

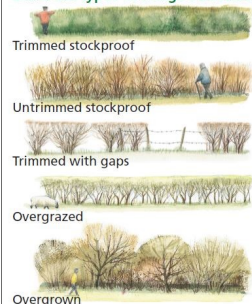
Some hedge management techniques may look destructive, but are essential for the hedge's long term survival.

**Hedge laying** involves partially cutting through stems at the base and lowering them diagonally along the length of the hedge line. **Coppicing** involves cutting hedges right back to the ground. In both cases the hedge rejuvenates with a greater number of stems.

The work is being supported by the High Weald Landscape Enhancement Programme with funding from a range of organisations.

For more information please visit [www.highweald.org](http://www.highweald.org)

### Different types of hedge structure



## Land Management event programme

Learn new skills and pick up useful tips and advice at our land management events:

### Creating and managing wildflower grassland

Venue: Beech Estate, Battle, East Sussex

Date: Wednesday 4 July

### An introduction to the principles and practice of grassland creation and restoration

Venue: Wakehurst Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Ardingly, West Sussex

Date: Wednesday 18 July

### Practical scything for managing wildflower grasslands

Venue: TBC

Date: Wednesday 15 August

### High Weald Walking Festival

Venue: Themed walks at various locations across the AONB

Date: Saturday 15 to Sunday 23 September

### Rhododendron clearance techniques

Venue: TBC

Date: September, exact date to be confirmed

### Fungi for beginners

Venue: TBC

Date: 11 October

To attend an event or to be added to the mailing list for this newsletter, please email: [sussexlund@highweald.org](mailto:sussexlund@highweald.org)



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