

From Biodiversity to Biofuel

4th February 2009

Heathland is a rare and protected habitat of which only about 1/6th that was present in the 1800s now remains in the UK today. Britain in fact holds about 20% of the whole world's lowland heathland, and Hazeley Heath in Hartley Wintney is an important part of that, full of specialist heathland wildlife.



In order to restore and protect the heathland species that make up Hazeley Heath, Hart District Council are undergoing a huge heathland restoration programme. The Countryside Service will be clearing secondary woodland that is encroaching on the heath in order to restore Hazeley to its former glory. By removing the woodland, areas of the heath will be re-connected and the specialist

heathland flora present will have the chance to flourish without being shaded out by birch and pine scrub.

The council will also be going one greener, sending all the felled trees to a wood burning power station as a source of sustainable power. These stations save thousands of tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year compared to fossil fuel burning, a positive step forward in the fight against climate change. The homes whose energy is supplied by this biofuel will now also have the satisfaction of helping to improve Hazeley Heath for wildlife such as the Nightjar, Woodlark, the Silver Studded Blue butterfly, and plants such as Bell Heather, Heath Spotted Orchid and Bog Asphodel.