

1
The Common

Location	Between north end of Back Lane and the Ripley Road
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Open grass area with 16 mixed trees (Oak, Beech, Ash, Hazel) planted approx 1990. o Old 10 metre high hedgerow along northern field boundary o Old low hedgerow along eastern Ripley Road boundary o Ivy hedgerow belonging to the Old House on southern boundary o Mature trees in Ripley Road hedgerow o 20 metre border of scrub and brambles on western boundary with Number 17 Back Lane.
Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grassland meadow - too short for shelter, too long for wildflowers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stripped tall Hedgerow - too damaged to provide bird shelter, nesting or food ✓ Dense Scrub - good shelter and nesting for birds ✓ Several mature ash, oak, beech in hedgerows ✓ Copse of indigenous small trees ✓ Ivy hedge - excellent shelter, nesting and winter food for birds ✓ Ivy covered trees - excellent shelter, nesting and winter food for birds
Species	None identified
Priority	
Current Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In recent years the grass has been mown several times a season to 6" high across 100% of the area. o The tall Hedgerow (North boundary) has been cut back to trunks and the grass mown to the foot of hedgerow trees. o Low hedgerow has been cut to 1.5 metres. All hedgerow wood and cuttings have been burned immediately. o Area has potential to provide significantly more wildlife habitat
Management Guidance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Allow tall hedgerow to re-grow sideways to offer more shelter and food for birds. 2 Continue to maintain low hedge to Ripley Road. Create heap of hedge cuttings adjacent to tall hedgerows as wildlife habitat. When tree branches or logs become available, stack them around the perimeters, especially near "Deepdene" border. 3 Create a third 2-metre wide path parallel to Ripley Road hedge to offer alternative for pedestrians. Cut a 1-metre wide footpath along the tall hedge margins 3 metres from hedge. Keep main footpaths 2-metres wide and grass close cut to facilitate easy access for walkers, cycles and prams. 4 Only cut grass of footpaths and a central 10 metre diameter 'picnic area' until August. In September cut 1/3rd of all grass back to 6 inches. Follow annual rotation cut.

