

Holmesdale New woodland planting in East Surrey (UK)

Introduction

The area between Redhill and Godstone in East Surrey (UK) has been or continues to be worked for silica sand extraction. The area falls within the Holmesdale Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA), one of a number of identified areas across South East England where significant landscape-scale biodiversity benefits can be achieved.

The western end of the BOA has already been restored, to wetland habitat forming part of the Nutfield Marsh Nature Reserve. The Holmesdale demonstration project is located on the eastern side of the BOA, by the active mineral sites of North Park Farm and Pendell operated by Sibelco. Both sandpits are being progressively worked and restored to agriculture and woodland after-uses.



Figure 1 – Aerial view of the Holmesdale demonstration project © Sibelco

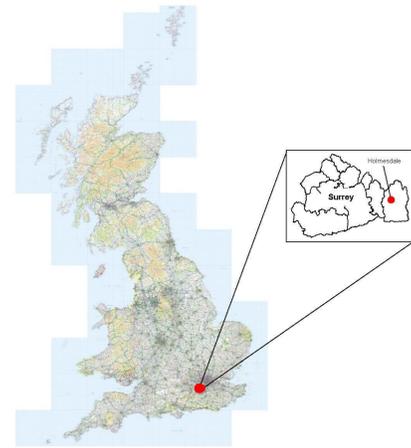


Figure 3 – Location of the Holmesdale demonstration project

Tree planting events

The tree planting itself was undertaken by the local community, school groups, local conservation volunteers, tree wardens, Surrey Wildlife Trust and corporate teams. Some images from the events are shown below:



Our aim

The main focus of the Holmesdale demonstration project is how a mineral company's **non-operational land** can be used to enhance the restoration of sites following mineral extraction to provide benefits for wildlife and local people. In this case, tree planting on a mineral company's non-operational land will reinforce the sites restoration to help join up existing woodland blocks over a 4km long area.

The newly planted woodland corridors will deliver biodiversity, landscape and recreational benefits. The planting will visually enhance the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and will also provide the opportunity to improve existing pathways and access routes and to create new woodland walks for local communities to enjoy.



Figure 2 – Location of the RESTORE tree planting



Figure 4 – RESTORE tree planting