

**March 2025:**

Winter works on the heathland have commenced. To the north of the heath is a rare transition zone of wet heath before the fen, which is where the vegetation (reed and scrub) is currently being cut by hand.

Heathlands are intrinsically dry landscapes, based on sandy and acid soils. They support specialist species that can tolerate the acid conditions.

Because sand is so permeable, it also means that the small amount of wetland that does occur on heathlands, is rarer, and has proportionately even more value than it would have in an otherwise 'wet' landscape.

A key species to look out for in this transition zone is *Erica tetralix*, cross-leaved heath, a type of heather that likes bogs, heathland and moorland. It has distinctive pink, bell-shaped flowers that attract all kinds of nectar-loving insects.

Stewardship in this area is focused on scrub management and reed cutting to increase species diversity. It is the first time for many years that the reeds in the fen have been cut.

