

August 2025:

The heather on the Common is coming into flower and will be at its best in August. There are three types to look out for: Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Common Heather or Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*), and Cross-Leaved Heather (*Erica tetralix*). The latter is most likely found in the transitional zone to the wet heath.

It's the Bell Heather that forms the carpet of vibrant purple-pink flowers. Heather is a great nectar source and it is important for the creation of a mosaic of plants of different ages, suiting a range of species, including the silver-studded blue butterfly, red-tailed bumblebees and green tiger beetle.

A recent assessment from Natural England confirmed that management of the heath was reaping results; dormant seed being revealed to the light and germinating as bracken and gorse are removed and bare soil rotavated.

Take care if you go exploring as not only are heathland birds such as woodlark, Dartford warbler and nightjar nesting amongst the heather, but also, in clearing a path this week, two adders were disturbed.