

Many oak habitats are under threat due to competition from overgrowing. This means that the oaks are in poor condition and thus also the species that live in and around them. Another problem is the lack of trees of different ages, lack of hollow trees and long distances between existing old trees. To help the oaks and the associated species, various different management actions will be carried out in the selected sites.

### 1 Restoration

When the grazing animals disappear, the pastures become overgrown. The environment becomes shady, which is unfavourable for oak as it dependent upon sunlight. 1405 hectares of wood pasture will be restored within the project and grazing animals will be reintroduced into several of these places.

### 2 Planting

Oaks and other broadleaved trees along with flowering and berry-producing small trees and bushes will be planted. This will both increase the area of oak habitats and reduce the distance between valuable oak sites. Planting will make it easier for many species to disperse to new sites.

### 3 Stag Beetle Habitat Piles

To favour stag beetles and other saproxylic insects, we will create 185 stag beetle habitat piles. Large logs of oak and other broadleaved trees will be partially dug down into the ground in sunny, warm locations.

The females can then lay their eggs on the decaying logs. The majority of the large logs will come from the clearance work carried out within the Project.

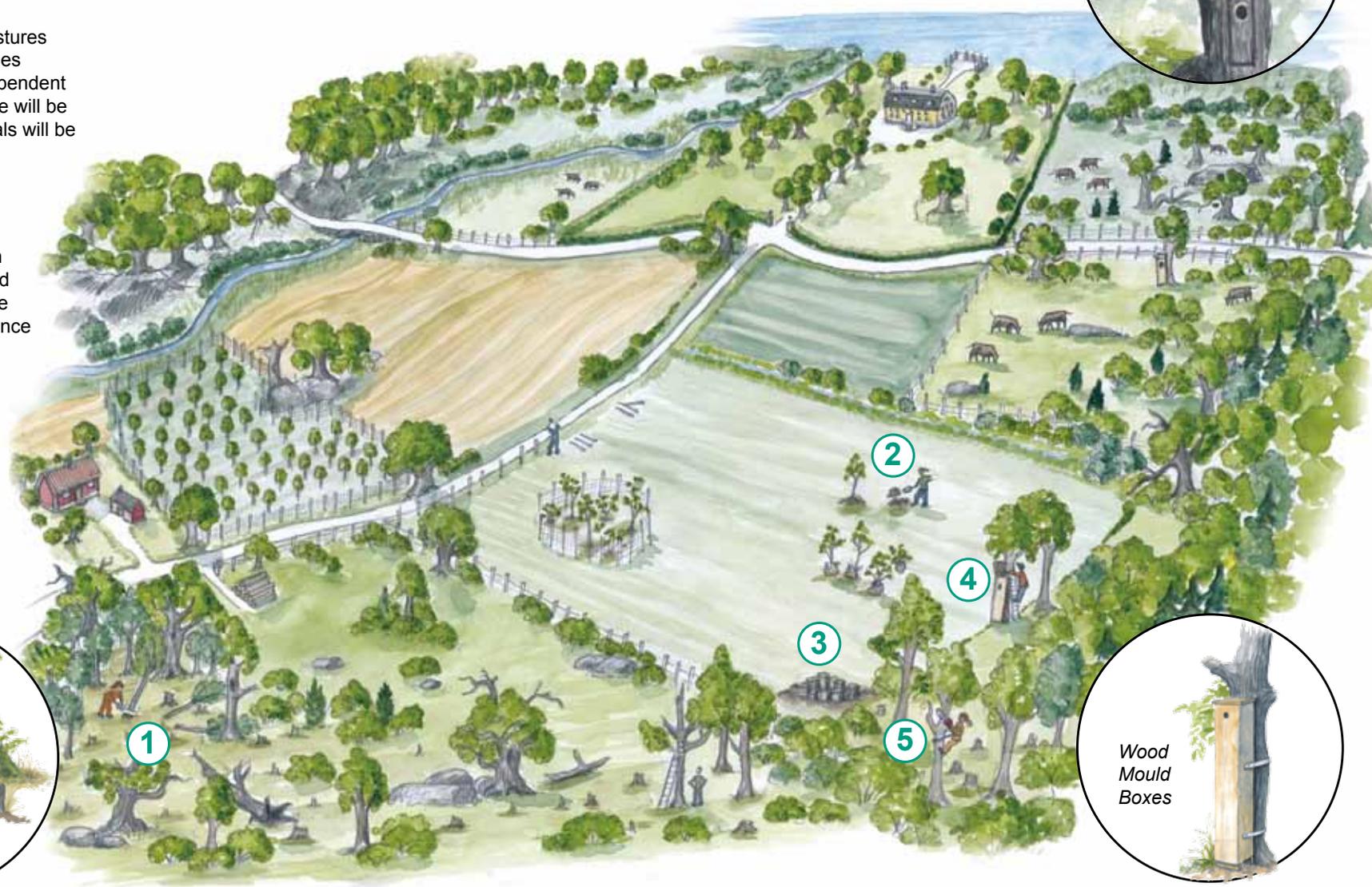


### 4 Wood Mould Boxes

The most species rich habitat in old oaks are their hollow trunks and more specifically the compost-like material inside the trunk, which is called wood mould. Where there is a lack of hollow trees, we will help many of the species associated with hollow trees by putting up wood-mould boxes. They look like giant bird boxes and are filled with oak sawdust and leaves to mimic a hollow oak with wood mould inside. The boxes are constructed so that birds or bats can live in the upper parts of the boxes. More than 400 wood mould boxes will be erected.

### 5 Veteranisation

Veteranisation is a nature conservation method where young trees are damaged using chainsaws. The aim is to create and mimic structures and microhabitats which are normally only found in much older trees. Just over 1200 trees will be veteranised.



The pseudoscorpion *Anthrenochernes stellae* lives in hollow trees. They live on the surface of the wood mould inside the hollow trunk, where they feed on mites and springtails. They have no wings and therefore hitch a ride with saproxylic mosquitos when they want to move to a new tree.



0,3 cm  
H

The stag beetle is the largest beetle in Europe. The species develops underground, where the larvae feed for up to five years on dead roots, stumps and logs of broadleaved trees lying on the ground, primarily of oak. They are favoured by a warm microclimate and are often seen in grazed wood pastures. Stag beetles are most often seen around Midsommer.



8 cm

The hermit beetle is only found in sites with very old, hollow broadleaved trees. It indicates, by its very presence, that the habitat is very valuable and the species richness of other saproxylic beetles will be high. Despite the fact that the hermit beetle has wings, studies have shown that they only fly short distances and the majority of individuals stay in the tree into which they emerged for their entire life.



3 cm



5 cm

The greater capricorn beetle is a longhorn beetle which is around 5 cm in size. The larvae develop in live old oaks, standing in open, sunny locations and with thick bark. The last remaining site with greater capricorn beetle in the whole of Scandinavia is Halltorps Hage on the island of Öland. The greater capricorn beetle became extinct on the mainland some 50 years ago. The greater capricorn beetle will be reintroduced to two sites on the mainland within the Project.

## LIFE - BRIDGING THE GAP

A LIFE project, underway between 2016 and 2022, will restore 30 valuable oak sites in southeastern Sweden. To learn more about the project visit: [lifebridgingthegap.se](http://lifebridgingthegap.se) or

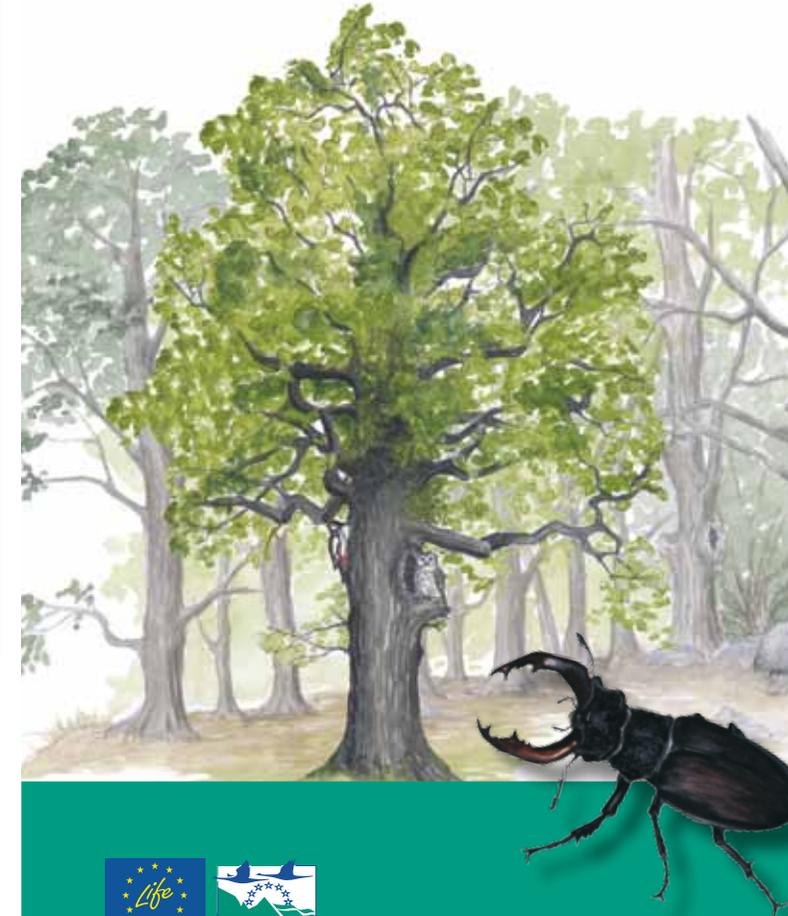


# An Oak Project Southeastern Sweden

1. Ljusfors
2. Ribbingsholm
3. Borg
4. Runstorp
5. Norsholm
6. Tinnerö eklandskap
7. Vidingsjö
8. Ullstämna
9. Stafsäter
10. Västerby
11. Hästenäs
12. Ätvidsnäs
13. Viggeby
14. Böda prästgård
15. Horns kungsgård
16. Åsebo
17. Getebro
18. Allgunnen
19. Borga hage
20. Strandskogen
21. Halltorp
22. Björnö
23. Johannishus åsar
24. Kummeln
25. Knösö
26. Haglö
27. Tromtö-Almö
28. Gö bokskog
29. Sonekulla
30. Valje



Oak habitats with large, old oaks are very important. They are some of the most species rich habitats in Sweden. More than 1000 species are dependent upon oak for their survival. A project to improve the status in 30 valuable oak sites in southeastern Sweden is ongoing between 2016 and 2022.



LIFE Bridging the Gap is responsible for the content of this leaflet. The content does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.

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