

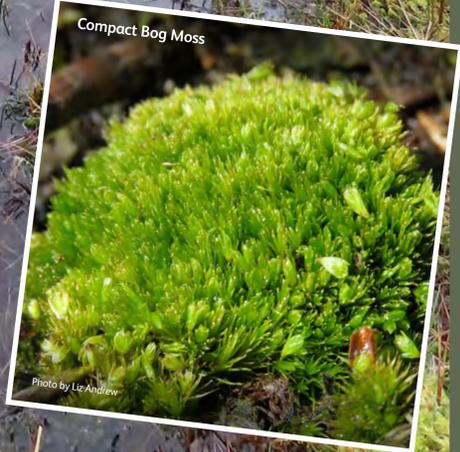
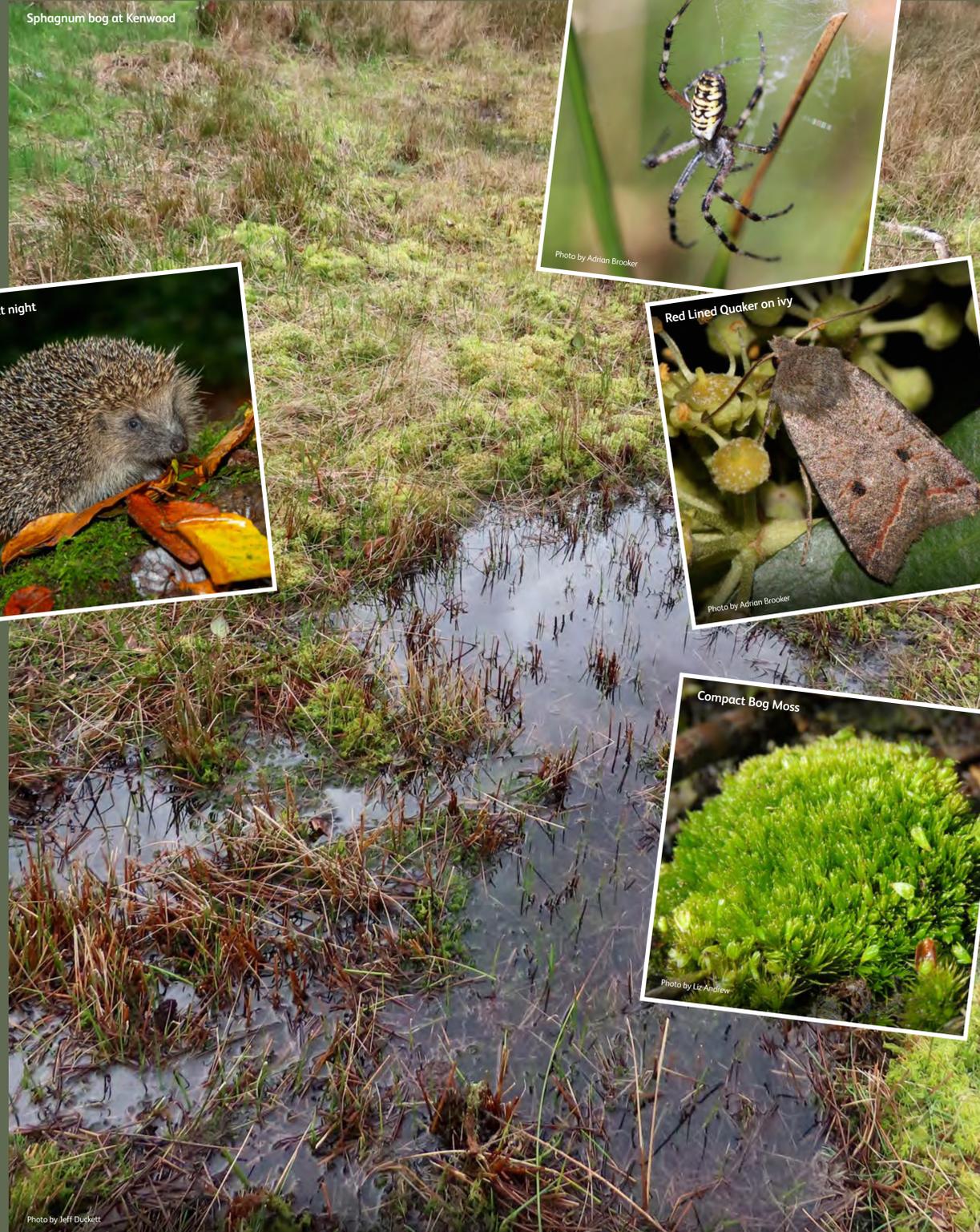
# LONDON'S WILD PLACE

## Discover Hampstead Heath's changing habitats and wildlife

The Heath, managed by the City of London and English Heritage, comprises 800 acres of historic countryside. Season by season, we introduce you to the Heath's special habitats and species, and explain how you can help keep the Heath a valued refuge for nature and people.

### Protecting biodiversity

There is an urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity nationwide. The Heath is no exception. It has lost about 30% of its breeding bird species in the last 70 years. Today it is a refuge for threatened London species like the Hedgehog. Protecting uncommon habitats like sphagnum bogs and acid grasslands will save many Heath species from local extinction.



### FIELD NOTES:

#### A diversity of spiders

Autumn mornings reveal vegetation covered with glistening spider webs. Over one third of the British spider fauna has been recorded on the Heath, including the striking Wasp Spider and the rare Purse Web Spider, a tiny relative of the tarantula.

#### A London refuge for Hedgehogs

Recent surveys suggest that the Heath may support over a hundred Hedgehogs. A nocturnal species, they rest in dense undergrowth by day where they can be disturbed and injured by poorly controlled dogs. They hibernate over winter months between November and March.

#### Moths on the Heath

The Heath supports over 300 species of moths. With moth numbers declining nationally, a large and diverse moth population is essential to maintaining the Heath's bat and bird populations. The Red Lined Quaker moth is active in Autumn, laying eggs on willow.

#### New species for the Heath

After centuries of nature study, new species are still being found. Last year, LNHS found five new mosses, including the Compact Bog Moss, which grows in the Kenwood sphagnum bog with other uncommon mosses, horsetails and ferns.

### MAKE ROOM FOR NATURE!

Dog swimming areas are provided to prevent dog attacks on waterfowl and limit poisoning of pondlife from dog flea powders. Please use only these areas.



In collaboration with:



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