# **Conservation Directory**

# for Buckinghamshire &

# **Milton Keynes**

A resource for organisations, community groups, businesses, land owners, and individuals looking to get involved in conservation in their patch.



Produced by the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership. This document is available to download from our website: <u>www.bucksmknep.co.uk</u> For additions, revisions, or more information please contact: <u>nep@buckscc.gov.uk</u>

## Directory of conservation and volunteering opportunities in Buckinghamshire & MIlton Keynes, compiled by the Natural Environment Partnership.

The information is correct at time of print, but please check details with individual organisations before setting out for any advertised task.

If you are involved with a conservation or environmental organisation not on this list, then please be in touch; our contact details are below.



The Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership brings together a diverse range of individuals, businesses and organisations, working in partnership to drive positive change for the local natural environment. We are the Local Nature Partnership for Bucks & Milton Keynes.

We appreciate your feedback. If you would like to recommend an addition, revision or ommision, then please contact us:

Website: <u>www.bucksmknep.co.uk</u> Email: <u>nep@buckscc.gov.uk</u>

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## Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) is one of 47 Wildlife Trusts working across the UK to achieve the shared aim of securing a better future for wildlife. Volunteer with us to meet new people, develop new skills, gain valuable experience and benefit the wildlife in Buckinghamshire.

Contact: volunteering@bbowt.org.uk

- Website: <u>www.bbowt.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteer/</u> volunteer-Buckinghamshire
  - Area: All AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC
- Opportunities: There are regular work parties at sites across the county, including Bacombe Hill, College Lake, Dancersend, Finemere Woods, Little Linford Wood, Upper Ray, and Weston Turville Reservoir. Other opportunities include events and wildlife surveying. Please visit the website for full details.
  - Facebook: <u>@BBOWildlifeTrust</u> Twitter: <u>@BBOWT</u>, <u>@College\_Lake</u> Flickr: <u>www.flickr.com/group/BBOWT</u> YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/BBOWildlifeTrust

#### **Booker Common & Woods Protection Society**

Protection and conservation of registered common and surrounding area of outstanding natural beauty.

Contact: Brian Tranter

contact@bookercommon.org.uk

- Website: www.bookercommon.org.uk
  - Area: WDC (Booker)

Opportunities: Please visit the website for full details.

Habitat conservation Regular work parties Training provider Wildlife

Habitat conservation

## **British Dragonfly Society**

Biological surveying	ve dragonflies and their wetland habitats, and to in conservation especially odonata.	0
Education	Alan Nelson	Contact:
Public engagement	bucksdragonflies@gmail.com	
Research	www.british-dragonflies.org.uk	Website:
	All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC	Area:
Rivers & wetlands	Please visit the website for full details.	Opportunities:
Wildlife	@BDSdragonflies	Twitter:

## **Buckingham Railway Walk Conservation Group**

Conservation for the local wildlife, planting and care of this green space to preserve and increase the biodiversity of the site. Increase public awareness of the abundance of wildlife on the doorstep. Our Facebook page is used as a photographic record of what can be seen at various times of the year and also of our activities.

Habitat conservation Regular work parties Wildlife

Contact: Mrs Jennifer Manning

01280 815223

railwaywalk@hotmail.co.uk

- Website: buckinghamrailwaywalk.btck.co.uk
  - Area: AVDC (Buckingham)
- Opportunities: Regular work parties on the first Saturday of every month: 10 am, University Car Park, Chandos Road, Buckingham.

Facebook: <u>@Railwaywalk</u>

## **Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre**

(BMERC) collects in	ire & Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre formation about the area's biodiversity and geology.	Biological surveying
priority BAP habita	ng and maintaining details of designated sites, ts and wildlife records, BMERC offers a number of	Geology
services to professi	onal consultants, recorders, and the general public.	Habitat conservation
Contact:	erc@buckscc.gov.uk	
Website:	www.bucksmkerc.org.uk	Wildlife
Area:	All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC	
Opportunities:	BMERC would love to encourage more people to record wildlife and share it with others.	
	Please visit the website for more information.	
	News and events are also available on the website.	
Twitter:	@BucksMKERC	

## **Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society**

The Society was founded in 1847 and is one of the oldest in the country. It is the senior body in the County in the fields of Archaeology, Architecture, and Local History. It has an active specialist section for Active Archaeology, and is host to the Bucks Local History Network which runs a conference every year. The Society covers the whole of the old historic county of Buckinghamshire from Milton Keynes in the north to Eton in the south.

Contact: County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP

help@bucksas.org.uk

Website: www.bucksas.org.uk

Area: All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC

Opportunities: There is a range of activities, many of which are open to non-members including a winter lecture programme, outings to historic sites, and meetings. <u>Please visit the website for full details.</u> Historic environment

## **Buckinghamshire Fungus Group**

We are an independent voluntary group of enthusiasts for mushrooms, toadstools and other fungi. Join us for informal, family-friendly walks in Buckinghamshire woodland and countryside to find, discover and record fungi. Recognising and recording the fungi, as part of a network of recording groups, helps us support the conservation of these vital organisms and is great fun! Newcomers are encouraged to learn to identify fungi with help from more experienced members. Please explore our website to learn more.

Contact: Penny Cullington (Secretary)

01844 351630

pennyculli@btinternet.com

Website: www.bucksfungusgroup.org.uk

Area: All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC

Opportunities: Weekly walks as well as seasonal events. <u>Please visit the website for full details.</u> **Biological surveying** 

Education

#### Buckinghamshire Geology Group

As part of the Geo-Conservation UK network, we interested in the rocks, fossils and landscapes of Buckinghamshire. Our volunteers find the activities great fun and very rewarding. The group are always looking for new members (no prior experience or knowledge necessary) and we extend a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join the many activities.

Website: www.bucksgeology.org.uk/

Area: All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC

Opportunities: There is a full schedule of events available on the website including trips, talks and conservation work days. Please check the BGG website or email the organisers before any event for the latest update <u>Please visit the website for full details.</u>

Facebook: <u>@BucksGeology</u>

Education

Geology

### **Buckinghamshire Invertebrate Group**

The Buckinghamshire Invertebrate Group (BIG) studies and records insects and other invertebrates in Bucks & Milton Keynes. We organise field trips, indoor meetings and training events, and publish an annual bulletin and other resources. Members have a wide range of interests, frommicroscopic rotifers to garden butterflies.

Website: sites.google.com/site/bucksinvertebrategroup/

Area: All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC

Opportunities: <u>Please visit the website for full details.</u>

Biological surveying Wildlife

### **Buckinghamshire Owl & Raptor Group**

We are a group of volunteers based in Aylesbury and have been operating for over 10 years. We build, position, monitor and manage owl and raptor nest boxes, in partnership with landowners.

Contact: BORG Haydon Mill

07910 419237

Website: <u>www.giveahoot.org.uk</u>

- Area: All Mainly AVDC
- Opportunities: There are many ways you can help, such as nest box building, box monitoring, publicity and fundraising, and much more.

Please visit the website for full details.

Twitter: <u>@BORG\_Owl\_Raptor</u>

**Biological surveying** 

Wildlife

<b>Burnham Beech</b>	nes & Stoke Common, City of London	
the west of Londo	& Stoke Common are located in Buckinghamshire to n. They are both scenic green spaces and important	Biological surveying
wildlife habitats.		Habitat onservation
Contact:	Ed Gilbert (for practical tasks); for other enquiries, contact the office.	Land management
	Burnham Beeches Office, Hawthorn Lane, Farnham Common, Bucks, SL2 3TE	Office assistance
Website:	01753 647358 www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/	Regular work parties
	burnham-beeches-and-stoke-common/	
Area:	SBDC	
Opportunities:	Regular meetings every Thursday and once a month on a Sund practical tasks, usually at Burnham Beeches but sometimes at Common. For other volunteering opportunities like biological and office assistance, contact the office for more information.	Stoke surveying
Facebook:	@CityofLondonCorp	
Twitter:	@CityofLondon	
YouTube:	www.youtube.com/user/CityofLondonvideos	

## **Butterfly Conservation — Upper Thames Branch**

We work to conserve moths as well as butterflies. This work is through initial assessments of the value of sites and then through voluntary conservation work. We run a large number of free to attend walks and conservation tasks and a small number of training sessions and indoor meetings.

6		Regular work parties
Contact:	Nick Bowles (Chair)	
	nick.bowles@ntlworld.com	Wildlife
Website:	upperthames-butterflies.org.uk	
Area:	All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC	
Opportunities:	Weekly work parties at various locations, as well as walks, training sessions, and meetings.	
	Please visit the website for full details.	
Facebook:	@Butterflies.Berkshire.Buckinghamshire.Oxfordshire	
T		

Twitter: <u>@UpperThamesBC</u>

Instagram: <u>@UTB\_butterfly\_conservation</u>

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**Biological surveying** 

Habitat conservation

## **Campaign to Protect Rural England**

CPRE campaigns to protect and promote the character of the Buckinghamshire countryside by defending against damaging development and promoting sustainable land use.

Contact:Janet Allenoffice@cprebucks.org.uk6 Centre Parade, Place Farm Way<br/>Monks Risborough, HP27 9JS<br/>01844 348829Website:www.cprebucks.org.uk

Area: All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC

Opportunities: <u>Please visit the website for full details.</u>

Facebook: @Campain-To-Protect-Rural-England

Twitter: <u>@CPRE</u>

#### **Chiltern Open Air Museum**

Chiltern Open Air Museum is an outdoor museum of over 30 historic buildings. The museum rescues and reconstructs threatened historical buildings onsite using traditional methods. The museum site is 45 acres and includes a traditional working farm with livestock, woodlands, and a hidden meadow.

Contact: Helen Light

marketing@coam.org.uk

01494 871117

Website: www.coam.org.uk

Area: CDC

Opportunities: Please visit the website for full details.

Facebook: @ChilternOpenAirMuseumEvents

Twitter: @ChilternOAM

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/69314652@N03

Habitat conservation

Land management

Habitat conservation

Historic environment

## **Chiltern Rangers**

agement and advic	a social enterprise delivering practical habitat man- e in Bucks and the Chilterns. We offer voluteering cople from all sections of the community.	Habitat conservation
		Land management
Contact:	Steph Rodgers	
	steph@chilternrangers.co.uk	Mentoring
	01494 474486; 07734 389301	Office assistance
Website:	www.chilternrangers.co.uk	Regular work parties
Area:	All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC	Social enterprise
Opportunities:	One off events and regular work parties, including: Green Thursday: 10am to 1pm Monday and Friday: 10am to 4pm Please visit the website for full details.	Young people
Facebook:	@ChilternRangers	
Twitter:	@ChilternRangers	
Instagram:	@ChilternRangers	
YouTube:	www.youtube.com/ChilternRangers	

## **Chiltern Society**

The Chiltern Society is a large environmental charity actively helping to 'Care for the Chilterns.' We have 7,000 members and 500 volunteers. We manage 12 Conservation and Heritage sites across the Chilterns, maintain footpaths & Rights of Way, monitor and respond to planning applications, campaign for sustainable development, organise walks and cycle rides, and have special interest groups for Heritage, Rivers & Wetlands, and Photography.

Instagram: <u>@ChilternSociety</u>

have special interest groups for Heritage, Rivers &	Planning
Peter Duxbury	Rights of Way
getinvolved@chilternsociety.org.uk	Rivers & wetlands
	Walking & cycling
CDC, SBDC, WDC	Photography
There are regular conservation and footpath work parties, as well as regular special interest group meetings, guided walks, and cycle rides. <u>Please visit the website for full details.</u>	
@ChilternSociety	
@ChilternSociety	
	07756 070382; Office: 01494 771250 <u>chilternsociety.org.uk</u> CDC, SBDC, WDC There are regular conservation and footpath work parties, as well as regular special interest group meetings, guided walks, and cycle rides.

Habitat conservation

Historic environment

## **Chilterns Conservation Board**

The Chilterns AONB is a living, working area of countryside and contains some of the finest landscapes in the country which are worthy of protection at the highest level. The Chilterns Conservation Board is an independent body established by Parliamentary Order in 2004, and has 27 members, all drawn from local communities.

- Contact: The Lodge, 90 Station Road, Chinnor, OX39 4HA 01844 355500
- Website: <u>www.chilternsaonb.org</u>
  - Area: CDC, SBDC, WDC
- Opportunities: The website has a searchable map of walks, cycle rides, and events. Volunteers are often required for general office, admin and library tasks. Please visit the website for full details.
  - Facebook: @ChilternsAONB
    - Twitter: @ChilternsAONB
      - Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/ChilternsConservationBoard
    - YouTube www.youtube.com/user/ChilternsConsBoard

#### **Coleshill Common Management Committee**

protective gloves.

Small band of volunteers working on behalf of the Parish Council.

Contact:	Chris Wege	
	c.wege@btinternet.com	
	01494 724152	
Website:	coleshill.org/village-amenities/the-common.html	
Area:	CDC	
Opportunities:	Work sessions on variable dates. Everyone is welcome to join the working parties on the common, which are friendly and not all hard work. All start at 10 am; tools provided but do come with	

Please visit the website for full details.

Historic environment Office assistance Walking & cycling

Habitat conservation

Habitat conservation

Land management

Regular work parties

## **Colne Valley Conservation Volunteers**

Do you love living in or visiting the Colne Valley Parks beautiful countryside? Then we need your help to make it the best it can be, for people and for wildlife. Join the Colne Valley Conservation Volunteers and undertake practical work, wildlife surveying, or site wardening and help make a difference.

Contact:	Matthew Hartgrove	
	matthew.hartgrove@groundwork.org.uk	l
Website:	www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/get-involved/ colne-valley-conservation-volunteers	
Area:	SBDC	
Opportunities:	Regular work parties at Arthur Jacobs and Poyle Poplars Woodland in Horton, Harding's Row in Iver, and Caps Wood and Northmoor Hill in Denham. Every second weekend of the month and alternate Wednesdays. Please contact Matthew Hartgrove for more information. <u>Please visit the website for full details.</u>	
Facebook:	@ColneValleyPark	
Twitter:	@Colne_Valley	

#### **Environment Agency**

We work to create better places for people and wildlife, and support sustainable development. EA is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by DEFRA.

- Website: <u>www.gov.uk/government/organisations/</u> <u>environment-agency</u>
  - Area: National
- Facebook: <u>@EnvironmentAgency</u>
  - Twitter: @EnvAgencySE

Habitat conservation

Wildlife

Biological surveying Habitat conservation Regular work parties Wildlife

#### **Grange Area Trust**

The Grange Area Trust (GAT) is a registered charity, originally set up to serve the people living within the region of Grange Farm, Buckinghamshire. Currently, our main focus is on Widmer Fields, and to enable the fields to fulfil their public amenity role.

Website: www.grangeareatrust.org.uk

Area: WDC

Opportunities: The Trust is always looking for volunteers to help with the many and varied tasks in running this exciting project, including both practical work, fundraising activities, and general support. Please visit the website for full details. Habitat conservation Land management Photography Wildlife

## The Greensand Trust

The Greensand Trust is an independent environmental charity that works with local communities and landowners to conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape, wildlife and history of the Greensand Ridge and wider area, improving access, understanding and enjoyment for the benefit of everyone.

Contact: Sarah Preston, Volunteer Coordinator

sarah.preston@greensandtrust.org.uk

Website: <u>www.greensandtrust.org/</u>

Area: MKC

Opportunities: Anyone can volunteer, regardless of skill, background or experience. There are a wide variety of opportunities available.

Please visit the website for full details.

Facebook: @GreensandTrust

Twitter: @GreensandTrust

Habitat conservation Land management Wildlife

#### Lindengate

Operating from a 5-acre site in Wendover, Lindengate is a registered charity that offers specialised gardening activities to help those with mental health needs in their continuing recovery.

Contact: volunteer@lindengate.org.uk Website: www.lindengate.org.uk Area: AVDC Opportunities: There a range of opportunities including fundraising, marketing, social media, administration and working in the garden. Please visit the website for full details. Facebook: @LindengateGardening

Twitter: <u>@Lindengate</u>

Health & wellbeing

Office assistance

## Milton Keynes Natural History Society

Founded in 1968, Milton Keynes Natural History Society is one of the most active societies of its kind in the country. Our members range from experienced expert naturalists to ordinary people interested in wildlife and nature. We have members interested in birds, flowers, butterflies, other insects and spiders, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, fungi, mosses and many other areas of natural history. We welcome new members of all ages and all levels of natural history knowledge. Whatever aspect of nature you are interested in, you will find kindred spirits in our Society to share, and further, your interest.

Contact: Linda Murphy, Julie Lane

info@mknhs.org.uk

- Website: mknhs.org.uk
  - Area: MKC
- Opportunities: Weekly meetings take place at the Cruck Barn, Bradwell Abbey during the winter. In the summer, weekly field meetings are held at sites of wildlife interest across the Milton Keynes area.

Please visit the website for full details.

Biological surveying Historic environment Wildlife

## The National Trust

National Trust properties in Buckinghamshire, incluing Ascott, Claydon, Cliveden, Hughenden Manor, Stowe, Waddesdon Manor, and West Wycombe Park, Village & Hill.

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Area: All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC

Opportunities: There are volunteering opportunities in the Trust's houses, outside in the gardens, and in the country-side. Please visit the website for full details.

Facebook: @NationalTrust

Twitter: <u>@NationalTrust</u>

Instagram: <u>@NationalTrust</u>

Pinterest: <u>@NationalTrust</u>

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/NationalTrustCharity

Historic environment

Land management

## The Parks Trust

The Parks Trust is an independent charity that cares for many of Milton Keynes parks and green spaces. This adds up to 6,000 acres of river valleys, woodlands, lakesides, parks and landscaped areas alonside the main roads. We organise over 200 events in the parks each year, provide environmental education programmes for hundreds of schools, and support a team of around 160 volunteers.

Contact: volunteering@theparkstrust.com

Website: www.theparkstrust.com/volunteering/

Area: MKC

Opportunities: There are regular work parties from 10am to 3pm on the first and third Wednesday and second Saturday of the month, as well as other occasional tasks. Please visit the website for full details.

Facebook: <u>@TheParksTrust</u>

Twitter: <u>@TheParksTrust</u>

Education Habitat conservation Land management Regular work parties

## **Prestwood Nature**

Local conservation group for Prestwood.

Contact: Jenny Smith

admin@prestwoodnature.org

Website: www.prestwoodnature.org

Area: CDC, WDC

Opportunities: <u>Please visit the website for full details.</u>

Habitat conservation

## **River Thame Conservation Trust**

Working for a river valued and enjoyed	catchment with healthy fresh waters and wildlife, d by local people.	Biological surveying
Contact:	Natalie Breden	Habitat conservation
	natalie@riverthame.org	Rivers & wetlands
Website:	riverthame.org	
Area:	Thame Catchment	Wildlife
Opportunities:	Include water quality monitoring, species surveying, events, talks, and other practical work. Please visit the website for full details. Species surveys: The River Thame Catchment is little known and therefore data across the area is lacking. Current ongoing surveys include otter, birds, amphibians and watervole. Some prior knowledge is required but training will be offered. To get involved with these surveys, please contact Natalie. River Thame Water Blitz: Grab your wellies and get out testing ponds, streams, ditches and rivers across the River Thame catchment in May 2018. To get involved, please contact Natalie.	
Twitter:	<u>@RiverThameCT</u>	

YouTube: Channel: River Thames Conservation Trust

## **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – Aylesbury Local Group**

The group's aim is to support actively the work of the RSPB in the local community and to involve RSPB members and the wider public in the Society's conservation, public affairs, education, fundraising and other activities. We have regular monthly indoor meetings locally throughout the year and occasional day trips to local nature reserves.

Education Wildlife

Website: ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/aylesbury/

Area: AVDC

Opportunities: Regular indoor meetings, occasional day trips. You do not need to be an RSPB member to attend most events and no birdwatching experience is required. Please visit the website for full details.

## **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds** — **North Bucks Local Group**

The group's aim is to support actively the work of the RSPB in the local<br/>community and to involve RSPB members and the wider public in<br/>the Society's conservation, public affairs, education, fundraising and<br/>other activities. We have regular monthly indoor meetings locally from<br/>September to May, and many outdoor meetings each year.Education

Website: ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/northbucks/

Area: AVDC, MKC

Opportunities: Regular indoor meetings, as well as talks and outdoor events. You do not need to be an RSPB member to attend most events and no birdwatching experience is required. Please visit the website for full details.

Facebook: <u>@RSPBNorthBucksGroup</u>

## The Woodland Trust

We protect and campaign on behalf of this country's woods, plant trees, and restore ancient woodland for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Website: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved

Area: All - AVDC, CDC, MKC, SBDC, WDC

Opportunities: There are many opportunities: become a volunteer speaker, go wild in the woods, or campaign to save your local woodland. Please visit the website for full details.

Facebook: <u>@TheWoodlandTrust</u>

Twitter: <u>@WoodlandTrust</u>

Pinterest: <u>@WoodlandTrust</u>

Biological surveying Habitat conservation Wildlife

## Wycombe Wildlife Group

Aims to conserve the natural environment, and to educate the public in the principles and practice of conservation.		Biological surveying
Contact:	Jenny Smith	Education
	w.w.group@btopenworld.com	Wildlife
Website:	www.wycombewildlifegrp.org.uk	
Area:	WDC, SBDC	
Opportunities:	Monthly indoor meetings between September and April, alternating between venues in High Wycombe and Holtspur (usually with visiting speakers). Our events programme (issued three times a year with a newsletter) includes walks, visits, surveys and occasional management tasks.	

Facebook: <u>@WycombeWildlifeGrp</u>

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The Greensand Trust, Milton Keynes Natural History Society, The Parks Trust, RSPB - North Bucks Local Group,

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