

Newsletter Spring 2025

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Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Update

Public consultation for the draft **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes closed on 24th March. Thank you to everyone who responded - it was great to see so many responses with such detailed and insightful comments.

Over the next couple of months we will be analysing all responses, ahead of deciding on any changes/amendments to the LNRS documentation.

We envisage **late summer/early autumn** for publication of the LNRS, for which we hope to hold a launch event. More details to follow over the coming months.

In the meantime, we will begin discussions with our partners and working groups to start thinking about LNRS delivery and the actions we can start to take.

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Nature Summit 2025

Our **Nature Summit** takes place on **Monday 23rd June** in Aylesbury. The day will be filled with discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities focused on nature recovery in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. There will be opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals, learn from experts in the field, and discover how you can make a positive impact on nature recovery. Don't miss out on this exciting event! Book your ticket here:

[NEP Nature Summit 2025 - Nature Recovery](#)



NEP Nature Finance Group

On Thursday 20th March we held the inaugural meeting of our newly formed **Nature Finance Group**.

This new group brings together representatives from environmental organisations, businesses and authorities, with the aim of identifying how we can better connect our NEP partners with funders, and what the NEP's role could be in this process.

Some key takeouts from our first meeting were;



Our objectives will be to;

- Work together in partnership to facilitate the flow of funds to nature recovery projects in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.
- Identify how best to operate any appropriate mechanism or structure to facilitate the flow of funds.
- Respond to the priorities and measures identified in the Bucks & MK Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).
- Steer the work of the NEP core team around finance and nature recovery in the best interests of Bucks & MK nature.

An initial work plan was agreed which we will be progressing over the coming weeks. Further updates on our new group to follow over the next few months!

If you have any ideas around nature finance which could be relevant we would love to hear them! Please contact us at nep@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



APPG for Local Nature Recovery

In February our partnership manager Nicola attended the inaugural meeting of the **All Party Parliamentary Group on Local Nature Recovery** in Westminster. This group was organised by the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership.

The NEP looks forward to continuing to support this important means of engaging with national decision-makers to highlight the continued need for financially-supported Local Nature Recovery and the associated capabilities of Local Nature Partnerships to help deliver national targets locally.



Reconnecting Bernwood Otmoor Ray

The development phase of Reconnecting Bernwood Otmoor Ray (**RBOR**), funded by the Heritage Fund, is now underway with the appointment of Programme Lead, Eliza Ader, at BBOWT.

This partnership project will deliver better outcomes for nature and people across the region. In early 2025 BBOWT, Butterfly Conservation and the Ray Farmer Cluster have had volunteers out surveying for Brown Hairstreak eggs in Blackthorn hedgerows across the farmland that makes up the majority of this landscape.



Photo credit: Andrew Hirst

If you have any news/events/interesting info you would like us to include in our next newsletter, please email us at nep@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



This newsletter's feature partner is the Colne Valley Regional Park and here's a news update they've provided to the NEP for the Spring.... If you'd like to feature your organisation's work in our next newsletter please contact nep@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

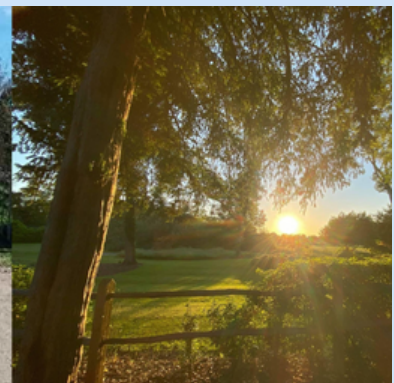
*** Update from the Colne Valley Regional Park ***

Introduction

We have chosen to focus this update on our Landscape Recovery Team which is managed by Bergey Sigurdardottir and Michelle Jones, whose current focus is cleaning up entrances to the regional park to encourage local residents to come for walks, enjoy their local countryside and enjoy the many benefits it brings to their physical and mental health. To this end, Bergey recently organised local litter picks.

Protecting the Colne Valley Regional Park

Our regional park is a piece of highly threatened green belt. For more than a year we have been occupied by our campaign 'Your Countryside in Crisis – a call for action!' Stewart Pomeroy, Managing Agent of the Colne Valley Regional Park, says ***'We are determined to fight for the countryside on our doorstep. We firmly believe that areas like the Colne Valley Regional Park play a critical role in the health and wellbeing of millions of people living in urban areas. From great threat comes new opportunity. You can read about some of our suggested solutions here: Let's create the best green corridor around any city in Europe.'***



Partners join together for clean up by the Grand Union Canal in Denham

On Wednesday, 22nd January, The Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) team and the Canal and Rivers Trust organised a joint litter-picking and general tidy-up session by the canal on the edge of Denham Country Park. A large section of litter that has been an eye sore for a long time, was cleared.

This was not an easy task, the litter had to be transported a significant distance by hand, as there was no close vehicle access. All that litter was surprisingly heavy. Thanks to teamwork, it was all done! Great work from Bergey Sigurdardottir, Landscape Recovery Manager from Groundwork South, for organising all the logistics.

We were joined on the day by Lizzie Davison from Buckinghamshire Country Parks, Tony Booker from ReAP, and a volunteer team from the Friends of the Colne Valley.

Update from the Colne Valley Regional Park cont'd.....

The great news is that all the plastic was sent to be recycled by ReAP UK. [ReAP UK](#) are a passionate charity dedicated to recycling plastics collected from rivers and canals aiming to actively reduce the amount of plastic waste in these delicate ecosystems and promote sustainable practices for a cleaner and healthier world.

The hope is that everyone who uses this area keeps it lovely and tidy from now on. So far this has been the case, as a couple of monthly spot checks have not yielded much.

Learn more here:

Partners join together for clean up by the Grand Union Canal in Denham and watch the video on the Colne Valley Park youtube channel here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLNVogJ8_YQ



Bergey, litter picking queen! This event was only possible because of the positive relationships she has made with our partners.



Once collected, the litter was sorted and all the plastic sent to ReAP to be recycled.



The volunteers work so hard - here is Mike with a barrow full of heavy litter.

Book Recommendations

Would you like to learn more about the environment around you? Here are some book recommendations to feed your curiosity and inspire you to get out and discover the countryside on your doorstep: [Rural Reads](#)



Bergey and Lara reading Wilding

We take a great deal of pride in championing the Colne Valley Park and the work that we do. We have a vibrant website <https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/> and many social media channels; @colne_valley on twitter, Colne Valley Regional Park on Facebook, @colnevalley.bsky.social on Blue Sky, colnevalleyregionalpark on Instagram and Colne Valley Regional Park on Linked in.

Do please follow us, enjoy our posts and share the message!