

THE Cotswold LION

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INCLUDING



2010 International Year of Biodiversity



ISSUE 22 - SPRING/SUMMER 2010

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

The Cotswolds - a haven for biodiversity

Think of biodiversity and the mind wanders to the great plains of Africa, the jungles of Asia, or the rivers and forests of South America.

The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, however, is also a centre for biodiversity and nature conservation - a nationally important area which includes features, such as rare limestone grasslands, ancient beech woodlands, a network of pristine, limestone rivers, and an abundance of flora and fauna.

Biodiversity plays a crucial role in all our lives. It provides us with food, fuel and medicine, clothing, building materials and shelter, recreation and tourism, flood management and much more.

That's why, in celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, a host of events will be held across the Cotswolds showcasing what the area has to offer in terms of its variety of plant and animal life, and what we can do to protect it.

"The 2010 International Year of Biodiversity is an opportunity to celebrate the wildlife of the Cotswolds and campaign to protect it for future generations," says Mark Connelly, Land Management Officer at the Cotswolds Conservation Board (CCB).

Events will include a variety of walks, talks and family days. In April, there will be the Cotswolds Bluebell Weekend, where residents and visitors can find out more about Britain's favourite flower. In June the Cotswolds Wildflowers Week features a series of events celebrating the abundance of wildflowers - many of which can be found in the Cotswolds'



limestone grassland.

And in September, the Cotswolds Rivers Week will take place. Cotswolds rivers are home to a host of wildlife, including the water vole, otter, the native white-clawed crayfish and native brown trout.

"We are delighted to be hosting

events during the Cotswolds Bluebell Weekend and Wildflower Week to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity", says Emma Bradshaw, Marketing Manager at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. "To encourage people to experience wildlife through attending events helps to

raise awareness of the wonderful diversity of wildlife and wild places in the Cotswolds."

So what is so special about the Cotswolds and why is the area so important for nature conservation? The facts speak for themselves - 86 recorded bird species (as of 2002); 89 Sites of Special Scientific Interest; five European Special Areas of Conservation; and three National Nature Reserves.

"The Cotswolds is a remarkably rich and varied landscape and deservedly designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty", says Paul Hackman, Conservation and Land Management Adviser for the Gloucestershire Team at Natural England, an independent public body which focuses on England's natural environment. He continues: "It is perhaps the scarp where the greatest concentration of biodiversity can be found, with its mosaic of orchid-rich limestone grasslands and distinctive beech woodlands; some of which are of European importance. However, the plateau has also become increasingly important as a refuge for nationally declining and increasingly rare farmland birds and arable wildflowers."

Much of the biodiversity in the Cotswolds is due to its rich and diverse landscape, continues the CCB's Mark Connelly.

"From the region's unique geology and its escarpment - home to its limestone grasslands - through to its deep valleys, woodlands, copses and hedgerows, it is highly appropriate that the Cotswolds should be actively involved with the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity."

The Cotswolds scarp, which

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CLIMATE - THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW

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Do you want to know more about what's going on in the Cotswolds AONB? Log on to our website www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

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runs almost the whole length of the western edge of the Cotswolds is home to some of the greatest concentrations of plant species. The thin limestone soils discourage the more common vigorous plants and benefit the finer and scarcer plants.

The Cotswolds' limestone grasslands, for example (particularly the unimproved grasslands, unaffected by modern farming methods) support a variety of plants, which in turn provide a home to a large selection of insects and birds.

The Adonis Blue butterfly with its vibrant blue-coloured wings and the fast declining Duke of Burgundy butterfly can both be found in these grasslands, along with up to 25 other butterfly species. In June last year, the Duke of Burgundy, which normally only appears in spring, was sighted on Rodborough Common - only the third time in more than a century that a second brood has appeared in the UK.

The grassland sites are home to over 100 wildflower species and many rare orchids and plants, such as the fragrant orchid and musk orchid; the Cotswold Pennycress, a tiny flower almost only found in the Cotswolds and associated with bare ground and old quarry workings; and the Pasque flower, a scarce native plant.

The Cotswolds are also famous for their ancient beechwoods, excellent examples of which can be found near the villages of Cranham and Sheepscombe. The area includes many of England's



finest beechwoods and nationally rare plants, such as the fingered sedge, stinking hellebore and yellow Star-of-Bethlehem. Woodland animals include rare spiders and snails and breeding birds include the tawny owl, buzzard and wood warbler.

Cooper's Hill, just south of Brockworth and famous for its annual cheese rolling event, is another good place to see biodiversity, providing 137 acres of stunning beech woodlands with small open areas of limestone grassland.

People sometimes forget how important arable farmland is for

biodiversity. The flatter arable plateaux have become important as a refuge for nationally declining and increasingly rare farmland birds and arable wildflowers. These include the declining corn bunting and tree sparrow and rare arable wildflowers, such as the shepherd's needle and red hemp-nettle.

And in the north of the Cotswolds is Bredon Hill, one of the most important wildlife sites in England, and a habitat for such rare invertebrates as the violet click beetle and the bark beetle, previously only known from Windsor Great Park and Moccas Park near the Welsh border.

Man-made structures are also supporting biodiversity with the network of old barns and stone mines of Bath and Bradford-on-Avon, home to the hibernation sites associated with 15% of the UK's greater horseshoe bat. The former stone mines around Minchinhampton also provide suitable bat accommodation.

Yet, such biodiversity needs protecting from changes in land use, lack of appropriate habitat management and development.

Other Places to Visit

Cranham Common National Nature Reserve. The 70 acre grassland common near the village of Cranham is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve. 34 varieties of butterfly, 20 trees and shrubs, 70 species of birds and 184 species of ground flora have been recorded on the site.

Painswick Beacon. 250 acres of common land looking down on the town of Painswick, which offers some excellent views across the Severn Valley. On the top of the beacon the outlines of a large Iron Age hill fort can also be seen. The area is a unique limestone grassland site with associated fauna, flora, geology and other historical features.

Brown's Folly, Avon Wildlife Trust. Standing high above the River Avon, with commanding views towards Bath, Brown's Folly near the village of Bathford in Bath and North East Somerset boasts rich grasslands and woodlands. The extensive remains of Bath stone quarries provide a rich variety of wildlife habitats, the old mines offer a safe sanctuary for the threatened greater horseshoe bat, and the damp cliff faces support a fascinating variety of ferns, fungi and spiders.

Foxholes Nature Reserve. A beautiful 165-acre woodland and wet meadow, famed for its spectacular spring bluebells and abundant bird life. Over 200 species of fungi have been recorded along with a diversity of liverworts and mosses. Once part of the ancient Wychwood Forest, this tranquil woodland slopes gently down to the River Evenlode in West Oxfordshire.

"Through a combination of site designation and environmental grants for landowners, and the creation of wildlife corridors through habitat creation to protect existing sites, Natural England is working hard to protect the diversity of the Cotswolds for people today and for generations to come", continues Paul Hackman.

"However, this cannot be done in isolation and the partnerships that have developed with the Cotswolds Conservation Board

and the Cotswold Way National Trail have been vital to making sure the Cotswolds is enjoyed and valued by local residents and visitors alike."

From plants to butterflies, bats to birds, biodiversity is an integral part of life in the Cotswolds. We hope you will join the Cotswolds Conservation Board in celebrating this special year of biodiversity.

For further details of all nature events taking place in the Cotswolds, visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/events.

Did You Know?

- As many as 40 different plant species can be found in a single square metre of unimproved limestone grassland within the Cotswolds.
- The only UK population of a small snail *Lauria sempronii* can be found on two short stretches of drystone walls at Edgeworth near Stroud.
- 50% of the UK's total Jurassic unimproved limestone grassland is to be found within the Cotswolds.

Cotswold Lions roam the AONB

The Cotswold Lion newspaper takes its name from those hardy Cotswold sheep descended from the flocks that grazed the hills in Roman times.

One of the largest British breeds, they were often referred to as 'Cotswold Lions' because of their long and lustrous wool, some of which can form a 'lion's mane' around their necks.

In the Middle Ages their wool became a major export and brought great wealth to the Cotswolds. Indeed the famous 'wool' churches were built by the merchants whose fortunes were built on the back of the breed. In the 19th century the Cotswold was again popular, and much sought after for the quality of its meat.

Cotswold rams were exported all over world, and widely crossed with other breeds to assist in the production of larger, leaner lambs.

Changes in agriculture at the beginning of the 20th century, led to a dramatic fall in the popularity of the sheep, so much so that by the 1960s the breed was almost extinct. It was at that point that the Cotswold Sheep Society was revived and the decline was halted and soon reversed.

Once on the Rare Breed Survival Trust's 'Endangered' list, the breed has grown in popularity and is now considered to be a 'Minority Breed.' This is extremely encouraging, but it should be remembered that with a total of only around fifteen hundred breeding ewes, a number smaller than many single flocks of



commercial sheep, there is a long way to go before the breed can be considered truly safe.

Cotswold sheep are sensible, kindly sheep and are generally easy to handle in spite of their size. They lamb easily and make excellent mothers. The breed does well in a wide variety of landscapes: from their natural Cotswold hills, to the mountains of Wales or the frequently flooded fields of the Thames plain.

Summer is show time for many enthusiastic flock keepers, and that is where the sheep can be seen parading at their very best. From The Cotswold Show at Cirencester Park in early July, to the National Show of Cotswold Sheep at Moreton Show in September - keep your eye out for this historic breed of 'Cotswold Lions'.

National Grid and The Cotswolds Conservation Board team up over gas pipeline

National Grid and the Cotswolds Conservation Board (CCB) are working side-by-side to minimise any negative environmental impact and where possible enhance the local surroundings of a 44 kilometre-long gas pipeline between the villages of Wormington and Sapperton.

During the initial consultations for the pipeline, the CCB objected to the route and challenged the route selection assessment. However despite being disappointed with the final decision, the CCB has accepted it and wants to ensure that the environmental qualities of the Cotswolds are safeguarded throughout the construction process.

Projects include monitoring the construction of the pipeline and restoration of the route, support with dry stone walling, and help with access to a National Grid local community fund for environment, conservation and education projects.

National Grid started pipeline construction during March 2010 as a means of meeting the growing demand for reliable and economic gas supplies in the South West of

England. As with any large-scale infrastructure project and in particular one which cuts through an AONB, there are significant challenges in both the route selection and construction phase.

"The final route was carefully chosen after extensive investigations and discussions", said Ian Sarson National Grid Senior Project Manager. "We sought the views of landowners and other consultees such as Natural England, the Cotswolds Conservation Board (CCB), the Environment Agency, local authorities, and many local countryside, farming and conservation groups. We are continuing to work closely with them, and with local communities affected by our works, to ensure they are kept informed as work progresses."

During construction, pipes will need to be delivered, hedges coppiced, topsoil removed and stored, and trenches dug and backfilled, once the pipelines have been laid. The ultimate aim, according to Ian, is "to restore all of the land to its original pre-construction condition as soon as possible after the pipeline is in the ground."

When the pipeline crosses dry stone walls, they will be dismantled, stored, and re-used as much as possible. All rebuilding will take place in line with the Dry



Stone Walling Association of Great Britain's guidelines. Local stone as a replacement will be used, where necessary, and reinstatement will be carried out by qualified and registered dry stone walling contractors with the appropriate experience.

The CCB has been working closely with National Grid in three key areas to ensure a seamless construction and restoration period. Firstly, a consultant has been funded by National Grid to work as part of the pipeline team but report to the CCB. The consultant's role will be to ensure that all the construction and restoration work meets the conditions set by the Department of Energy and Climate Change when planning consent was originally granted.

Secondly, with dry stone walls such an integral part of the Cotswolds landscape, the CCB is working with National Grid over the rolling-out of a grant scheme that will enhance some of the existing dry stone walls in the vicinity of the pipeline route. The CCB is currently identifying such walls which need to be replaced and is in discussion with local landowners, providing advice on the grant application process.

To get a real feel for the art of dry stone walling, up to 12 engineers and project managers from the National Grid project team, including National Grid Project Manager, Mark Beard, recently undertook a two-day dry stone walling course run by the CCB.

"As guardians of the community and the landscape so to speak, it was very important for us to share our expertise and knowledge with National Grid", said Malcolm Watt, Planning Officer at the CCB. "We needed to ensure that all people working on the project had an innate

understanding of the traditions and practices which make the Cotswolds countryside such a special place."

Finally, the CCB has been working with National Grid and the local community over additional projects that the National Grid may be willing to fund.

"National Grid takes its commitment to the environment extremely seriously", said Ian Sarson. "As part of the project we are working with the CCB to support projects that will conserve and enhance the AONB's natural beauty. National Grid is keen to

impact. We look forward to continuing to work with National Grid as we move from the construction to the restoration phase."

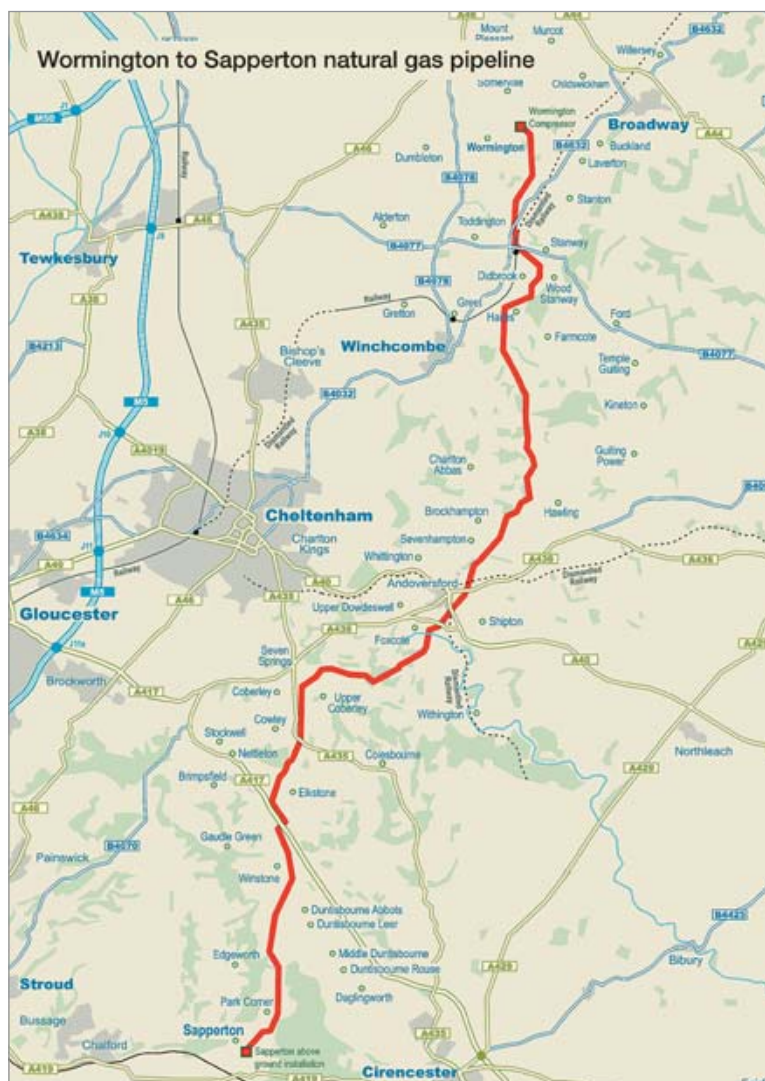
Some footpaths and bridleways may need to be closed or diverted for short periods during pipeline construction. All closures and diversions will be agreed with the relevant local authority and will be clearly signposted. Further information will also be available through the CCB's website, the Gloucestershire County Council website and the National Grid web site (address at bottom of the article).

"As guardians of the community and the landscape it was very important for us to share our expertise and knowledge with National Grid"

work with those communities who will be temporarily inconvenienced by the construction of this pipeline. We have a limited budget available to support projects in the key areas of environmental conservation and enhancement, education and skills, environment and energy, or community investment."

Malcolm Watt concludes: "What this partnership has shown is that it's possible to roll-out this large-scale infrastructure project with an acceptable environmental

National Grid is keeping residents living close to the pipeline route informed of progress throughout the project, and a specialist community relations team is available to answer any questions and to help solve any problems. You can contact them at enquiries@sw-rp.co.uk or by calling the project information line on 0800 731 0561. Further information on the project is available at www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/Pipelines/Wormington.



National Grid Pipeline Community Fund

A new grant for community and environmental projects is available from National Grid. Further details of criteria and eligibility are available from: National Grid Community Relations, telephone 0800 731 0561 or email to: enquiries@sw-rp.co.uk

A new Visitor Centre for the Cotswolds

Visitors to the Cotswolds will be able to learn more about the area's history, geology, landscape, and people through a new visitor centre, to be opened on the site of the Old Prison in Northleach.

The new centre for the Cotswolds AONB will help bring the story of the Cotswolds to life through the installation of imaginative information panels as well as a variety of interactive materials and activities.

Housed in the spacious North Gallery area, between the Old Prison and the Cotswolds Conservation Board offices, the new development will also enable the re-opening of the Old Prison itself, a former house of correction built in the 1790s and a once popular visitor attraction.

As the largest of 40 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales, the Cotswolds offers not only diverse scenery and landscape, but a rich history and heritage that has been shaped over the centuries by limestone and wool. It is a fascinating story to tell the many visitors to the area, as well as the people who call the Cotswolds their home, and it is hoped that a dedicated interpretation centre will help more people gain an understanding and appreciation of this beautiful and quintessentially English landscape.

The new centre is planned to open this summer. For further details, contact the Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862000.



First walking festival for Winchcombe

Plans have been drawn up for the first ever walking festival in Winchcombe this May.

Last summer, the historic town became the first in the Cotswolds to be awarded Walkers are Welcome status and will now be the centre of the three-day walking festival from Friday 21 May to Sunday 23 May.

The Walkers are Welcome concept started in 2006 in Hebden Bridge as a way of achieving more publicity, attracting more walkers to the town and helping local businesses. Since then there has been a huge level of interest in the idea across the UK, with 31 towns having now achieved the status.

Among its benefits, Walkers are Welcome helps strengthen the reputation of towns like Winchcombe as a place for visitors to come to enjoy the outdoors, bringing useful benefits to the local economy. It helps to ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained in good condition, benefiting local people as well as visitors.

During the Winchcombe walking festival, there will be at least five walks to choose from every day, varying in length and difficulty from strenuous full day walks on the Cotswold Way to half-

day walks and short, level health walks. There will also be evening social events, including a quiz and a barn dance for those who still have the energy!

Experts have been lined up to talk to walkers about the rare butterflies and flowers, the archaeology, and the local steam railway. Two of the walks on the Friday will finish at historic Stanway House, where the Earl of Wemyss has agreed to give a private viewing of the highest gravity-fed fountain in the world.

Experienced walk leaders are drawn from many organisations – Ramblers, Walking for Health, plus Voluntary Wardens from the Cotswolds Conservation Board – and all know the local countryside intimately.

Walkers will be able to visit

4,000 year old Belas Knap long barrow, discover the Roman mosaic floor in the woods that brought Bill Bryson to Winchcombe, and take in views of Sudeley Castle, the burial place of Catherine Parr and wedding venue of Liz Hurley. Experts will lead walkers to the sites of the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly, and to the habitats of several species of orchids, or walk 30 miles of the Cotswold Way National Trail.

Winchcombe has a great range of accommodation, pubs and restaurants, and attractions. To find out more and to book your place while there are still some available, visit Winchcombe's new website - www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com.



St. John Ambulance holds sponsored walk

On the 19th June 2010, St John Ambulance Gloucestershire are holding a sponsored walk along the Cotswold Way from Cleeve Hill to Painswick.

Four different distances of walk from 2 miles to 24 miles

provides an opportunity for families, seasoned walkers and challenge enthusiasts to stretch their legs and help raise money for a vital local charity. To register or for more information please contact Chloe Moorhead on 01452 858220 or cotswoldway-challenge-2010@glos.sja.org.uk.

Want to stock up on the Lion?

Small outlets that would like to display free copies of the Cotswold Lion for members of the public can now order via the Internet. The service is ideal for stocking up on the newspaper at peak times and can be done easily by going to www.promo-direct.co.uk, registering and ordering as many copies of the Cotswold Lion as you need. The copies will be delivered to your

door. If you have any questions, please call 0845 644 1873 or email order@promo-direct.co.uk.

This service is only available to outlets or groups that would like to order multiple copies for public consumption. If you would like to simply download an electronic copy of the Cotswold Lion, go to the publications section of our website at: www.cotswolds-aonb.org.uk.

CYCLING in the Cotswolds

Cycling in the Cotswolds is one of life's pleasures and a great way to see the wonderful scenery and soak up the distinctive atmosphere of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Cyclists love the region for its excellent views, winding lanes with drystone walls, wildlife and the hospitality offered by picturesque villages with their pubs and tearooms.

There are an abundance of routes and paths available, and if you don't have a bike, you can always hire one locally. Guided rides and cycling holidays are all available throughout the Cotswolds.

Sustainable transport charity Sustrans are great proponents of the benefits of cycling and, in partnership with both Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire County Councils, run route

number 47.

This route starts in Witney and heads through the peace and tranquility of the Windrush Valley into the stunning Cotswolds countryside to Farmington. On arrival in Farmington, the route joins National Cycle Network Route 48 and heads down towards Cirencester.

Between Witney and Farmington are a number of places of interest:

Minster Lovell - this quiet, picturesque village is home to the historic ruins of Minster Lovell Hall which is worth a visit

Burford - on the River Windrush, this town is considered to be the gateway to the Cotswolds. There are lots of little side streets to explore with many tea rooms and quaint pubs - an ideal point at which to rest up and refresh along the cycle ride.

The Cotswold Wildlife Park offers 160 acres of parkland and gardens around a listed Victorian



Manor House.

Susie Lea, Co-ordinator of Sustrans' Active Travel projects, told Cotswold Lion: "Surveys show that physically active people feel happier and more satisfied with life, so try dusting off an unused bicycle or show off a new one to enjoy a leisurely ride along the many scenic routes in the Cotswolds and on the National Cycle Network."

Sustrans offers a resource called Free Your Bike, a free cycling information pack which people can obtain through the website www.freeyourbike.org.uk and which is tailor made to individual requirements.

There are plans for a new cycle route via Cheltenham, Gloucester,

and Warwick, and more information is available via the Sustrans website www.sustrans.co.uk

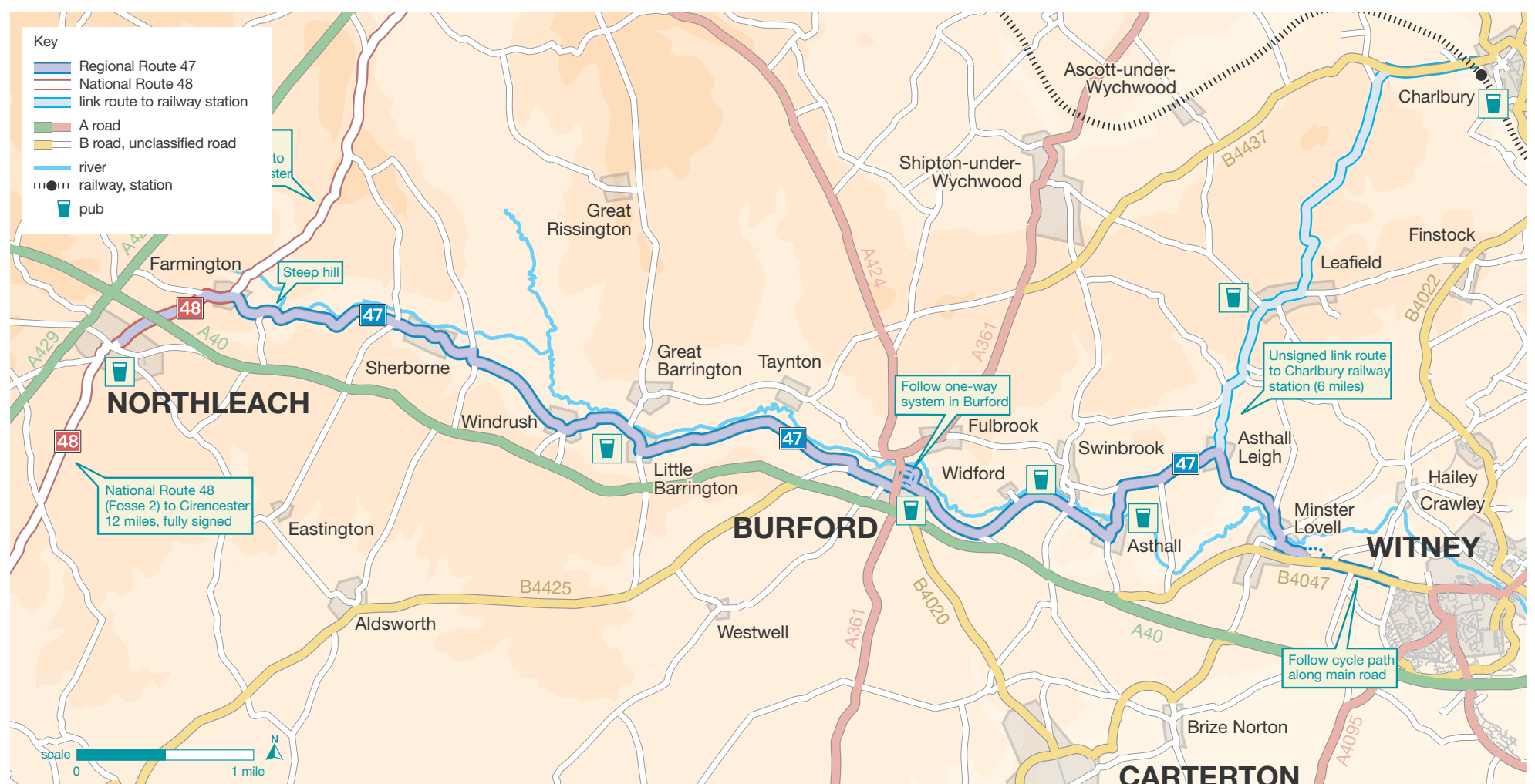
Routes in the Cotswolds range from the gentler slopes of the South Cotswolds to the sharper escarpments of the North. These varieties in terrain give every level of cyclist a chance to enjoy the extensive network of tracks and lanes.

For a clearer idea of how to get around the Cotswolds by bicycle, a series of pocket foldaway cycle maps have been produced by the Gloucestershire Rural Transport Partnership, the Department for Transport Cycling Projects Fund, and Cotswold District Council. The personal foldaway maps

indicate a network of safe quiet country lanes, which interconnect not only with the market towns and surrounding villages, such as Chipping Campden, Moreton-in-Marsh, Bourton-on-the-Water and Stow-on-the-Wold, but railway stations as well as visitor attractions.

Further information about cycling in the Cotswolds is also available from www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/cycling.

Do you have a favourite cycling route in the Cotswolds? Let us have details of the route, where it is and why you like it, along with your name and contact details, and we will feature it on our website. Send to: info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk.





Capture the Beauty of the Cotswolds

An exciting new photography competition, celebrating the beauty of the Cotswolds is being organised by Cotswold-based professional landscape photographer, Sarah Howard.

The competition, which is open to people of all abilities and ages to capture the very best of the Cotswolds, contains 3 categories including landscape, people and 'My Cotswolds' - a personal interpretation of what makes the Cotswolds special.

The winner will receive the top prize of a 2-night stay at the White Hart Royal Hotel in Morton-in-Marsh and a one-to-one Image Seen Cotswold photography workshop with Sarah Howard. Other prizes include a Ricoh camera, Manfrotto tripod, Lowepro mini trekker, a limited edition Sarah Howard fine art print, a half day Photoshop workshop with digital imaging expert Claire Reika Wright, copies of Sarah Howard's book, 'A year in the life of Westonbirt' plus gift vouchers for Image Seen photography workshops for the runners up. There will also be an opportunity to win a commission to shoot a cover for the Four Shires magazine in 2011.

The winning and runners-up images will be featured in The Four Shires magazine later this year, and the competition will culminate with a high profile 6 week exhibition at the O3 gallery in the Oxford Castle complex, Oxford, from 27th November.

Full details of the competition and how to enter, along with details of the photography workshops, are available at www.imageseen.co.uk

Children to become local scientists this summer

Primary school children will have an opportunity to be scientists and plant a virtual meadow this summer through the Bee Scene 2010 survey.

Local primary school teachers and environmental coordinators will be able to take their classes out to local parks, fields or any other natural space and complete the simple survey. The children can then head back to the classroom and help plant a virtual meadow online to link their findings with hundreds of others across the country.

The survey, developed by Plantlife, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, the John Muir Trust and the Child Safety

Education Coalition, is a national survey designed especially for primary school children and being run for the first time in 2010. The survey is simple to complete and provides an easy way for children to become citizen scientists and contribute to monitoring the natural environment.

The survey is supported by an education pack with additional cross curricular activities to support teachers to lead a Bee Scene expedition in their local green space. Children will also have the opportunity to write a press release or take part in a news broadcast, design their own scientific investigation or take part in a design and technology project. The education pack will promote deeper understanding of

food chains and pollination, biodiversity and adaptations as well as the conflicts that occur where there are competing uses of land. The pack has been written for Key Stage 2 but the survey is also appropriate for Key Stage 1.

The survey and activity pack will be available online from mid March 2010. Primary teachers and environmental education coordinators should contact wildaboutplants@plantlife.org.uk for further information.

Bee Scene forms part of the Wild About Plants Project which aims to increase people's access to and enjoyment of natural spaces. The project is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme.



Saving the Water Vole

Over the next four years Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) is planning an ambitious new project to save the Water Vole from extinction within the rivers and tributaries of the Cotswolds.

The water vole is a Priority Species in the UK and Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plans. Nationwide surveys have revealed that water voles are absent from around 90% of the sites where they were previously recorded prior to World War II. Sadly, the national trend is mirrored here in Gloucestershire. The main reasons for this dramatic decline are the loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats and predation by introduced mink.

Water voles are the largest British vole and are often mistaken for rats - probably not helped by Ratty in Kenneth Grahame's The

Wind in the Willows', who was in fact a water vole! They have a lifespan of up to two years, inhabit the banks of wet ditches, slow-moving rivers/streams, and wetlands. Water voles are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The Cotswold Rivers project will provide advice to farmers and landowners on how to bolster water vole populations. The project will also help Cotswold communities better understand this unique creature.

In 2009, GWT conducted a survey to urgently assess the situation today. The survey covered 35 kilometers of good water vole habitat on the Rivers Windrush, Churn, Coln, Dikler and Eye and revealed that water voles were currently present on only 28% of the 35 kilometres surveyed. None of these sites were found to have what is called a 'Minimum Viable Population' -

defined as 100 animals within a one and a half to two kilometre length of good quality habitat.

Water voles are now so rare that the remaining populations are increasingly isolated and particularly vulnerable to further habitat loss, mink predation, flooding, excessive disturbance and, especially in urban areas, accidental poisoning by rodenticides. To this end, the GWT's Water Vole Project Officer John Field will work with landowners and farmers to help them make simple changes to their land management activities which can greatly improve the water voles' habitat. Such activities include protecting river banks from erosion and grazing livestock, reducing over-shading of watercourses and implementing mink control. The project team will also provide advice to farmers, landowners and residents in obtaining grants for sympathetic management and capital works.



And it is not just the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and its 23,000 members who are coming to the aid of the water vole. Stephen Fry and Mark Carwardine of BBC TV's series 'Last Chance to See', who both travelled the world in search of high profile endangered species, are also supporting the campaign. "We're particularly worried about the plight of the charismatic and enchanting water vole - and

strongly urge everyone to help with this vital campaign in any way you can", they said.

For further information on the project please visit the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust website which will have details of the launch later this summer. www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk or contact Water Vole Project Officer John Field on 01172 309565.

Sustainable Tourism in the Cotswolds

With its attractive towns and villages, beautiful landscape and variety of attractions, the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has attracted visitors from across the UK and other parts of the world for decades.

This growth in visitor numbers has resulted in tourism becoming one of the largest and most important industries in the Cotswolds, generating over £400 million into the local economy each year and supporting 11,500 jobs. (*South West Tourism 2005*)

In addition to the many economic benefits of tourism, a well-managed tourism industry can also be fundamental to supporting local communities and culture as well as protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The challenge is finding the optimum balance between meeting the needs of the businesses, local community, visitors and the environment through careful planning, monitoring and controlling measures.

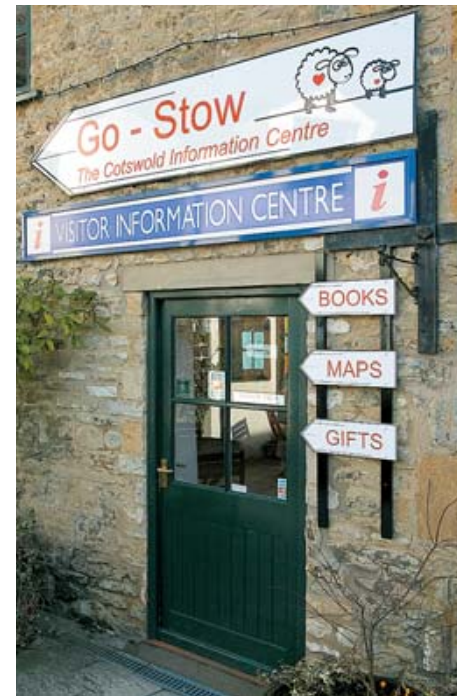
With this aim in mind, this year the Cotswolds Conservation Board (CCB) is applying for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, awarded by the Europarc Federation. The Europarc Federation is the voice of Europe's protected areas with over 400 members in 36 countries, who themselves manage the 'green jewels' of Europe's land, sea, mountains, forests, rivers and cultural heritage. The aim of the Charter is to increase awareness of and support for Europe's protected areas and to improve the sustainable development and management of tourism within them.

There are currently 75 Charter areas across Europe with ten of these awarded to protected areas in the UK including Cornwall AONB, Forest of Bowland AONB and the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Nicola Greaves, Information & Interpretation Officer at the CCB, explains more, "The Charter recognises protected areas that are following the right approach in developing and managing sustainable tourism. The Cotswolds AONB is a very

large area and tourism is hugely important to the local economy. We believe that by going through the charter process it will help us to strengthen relations with local tourism stakeholders and wider industry, share ideas, experience and expertise as well as raising the profile of conservation and environmental practices in the countryside."

The CCB would also like to hear your views on tourism in the Cotswolds AONB. Just fill out the attached survey form in this issue of the Cotswold Lion or go to www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk to fill out online. Completed questionnaires will be entered into a prize draw to win one of 4 family tickets to The Moreton Show on Saturday 4th September (www.moretonshow.co.uk). Alternatively, if you have any general views that you would like to make about tourism in the Cotswolds, please contact Nicola Greaves on 01451 862003 or email: nicola.greaves@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk.



Dry-stone walling project comes to an end

The Wychwood Project dry-stone walling group were delighted to lay the final topping stone, on 30th November 2009, to complete repairs to the wall of the churchyard of St John's Church, Fifield, rebuilding much of the 25 metres of wall that had been slowly

disintegrating over many years.

The work on the wall was another example of the Wychwood Project leading a joint working venture between local volunteer groups and volunteers from the community. Expert wallers in the dry-stone walling group helped to train young people from the Wychwood v project for

volunteers aged 16-25 who also worked alongside members of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and members of the church congregation.

Jane Bowley, Wychwood v Project Officer said: "It was a delight to see people of all ages trying this ancient rural craft together. Some people had

fascinating stories about relatives who had worked on the land and built many of the local walls, others had helped to build or repair walls themselves but are no longer able to do such heavy work. The wall also provided an opportunity for people who had taken part in the training courses run by Abingdon and Witney

College to practice and refine their hard earned skills."

If you would like to try your hand at this old craft or have experience that you could share with the Wychwood Project dry-stone walling group please contact Jane Bowley, Wychwood v Project Officer on 01993 814131 or email jane.bowley@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Growing deer numbers cause concern in AONB

Deer are beautiful, gentle creatures - but with numbers increasing throughout the Cotswolds AONB, there is a growing need for the population to be effectively managed.

As a result, the AONB has produced a leaflet providing a range of useful information on the needs and benefits of managing deer in the Cotswolds.

Ed Dyson, Research & Policy Officer at The Deer Initiative said: "Deer are an integral part of the Cotswold countryside and the chance to see these animals is part of the pleasure of living in, working in or visiting the AONB.

"But deer numbers in the Cotswolds, as in the rest of the UK, have increased over the years and are continuing to do so, and this brings problems which cannot be ignored. As things stand, there is no reason why the trend in increasing deer numbers and range expansion will not continue."

Among the problems being created by a growing deer population are habitat damage, especially in woodlands, crop damage, increased collisions with vehicles, and disease. Many woods, some of them ancient Cotswold woodlands, are suffering from the adverse effects of high numbers of deer, such as bark stripping, browsing and fraying, with impacts on other flora and fauna.

Deer can have an adverse effect on agricultural and horticultural crops, especially when adjacent to woodland, through browsing and trampling and can damage gardens in villages and other areas.

Road accidents involving deer are also on the increase, with an estimated 74,000 collisions involving deer taking place in the UK every year. The AONB has mapped deer-related collisions in the Cotswolds, which show a number of accident hotspots.

With disease, some deer suffer from or may be implicated in zoonoses such as Lyme disease and animal diseases such as Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB), Foot and Mouth, and Bluetongue. In the Cotswolds bTB is of particular concern. A recently completed project to identify the level of bTB in deer populations in the South West indicates that high densities of deer can be associated with higher levels of bTB in deer, although the risk of spread to domestic livestock is low. Two such populations are known to be within the central Cotswolds.

Ed said: "The management of deer is primarily the responsibility of the landowner. It should be a continuous, long term process and not done only in response to a particular problem. It is much more effective when landowners work together as part of a Deer

Management Group."

There are currently two established Deer Management Groups in the Cotswolds, one based around Wychwood and another in the central part of the AONB which is one of the most active in the country. However, these groups do not provide deer management cover across the whole AONB area and there is a need for other groups to be established and more collaborative working to be extended.

Advice on deer management, including to local Deer Management Groups, is provided through the Deer Initiative (www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk), a partnership of organisations dedicated to maintaining sustainable and healthy wild deer populations in England and Wales.

Ed added: "A sustainable population of wild deer is one which is in balance with the environment and with minimal negative effects on the economic or social needs of those who live, work in or visit the countryside."

The Cotswold AONB's new leaflet sets out why deer need to be managed and how a properly managed population of deer is in balance with its environment, is healthy for them by keeping numbers in balance with their food supply, and how it can be a source of local income through stalking and sales of venison.



Photograph ©
Forestry Commission/
John MacTavish

GRANTS UP TO £13,000 AVAILABLE NOW

Are you a small business, individual or community group based in the Cotswolds? Do you have a project that promotes sustainable living and would benefit the environment, local community and/or economy? If so, the Cotswold AONB Sustainable Development Fund could help. Grants from a few hundred pounds up to £13,000 are now available for projects to be carried out in 2010/11.

For more information visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or contact David Molloy, Rural Skills and Grants Officer on 01451 862002.



Supported by the
Cotswold Conservation Board's
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Climate – *the time*



Climate change and globalisation will change the character of the Cotswolds in the decades to come, a recent report published by the Cotswolds Conservation Board has revealed. The report by Cumulus Consultants Ltd, focused on the potential impact of climate change and globalisation on farming and forestry, which together account for 96% of the land area of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and stresses the critical role farming and forestry are going to have to play in the Cotswolds in the years ahead.

The 124-page report set out to gain a better understanding of the implications of climate change and globalisation on farming and forestry in the Cotswolds AONB, particularly up to 2030. It concluded:

- Understanding impact, reviewing responses and monitoring change over time will be crucial to successful AONB strategy development and management
- Climate change will bring about new policy and planning challenges, with an increasing need for new policies and strategies to reflect changing priorities.
- The Board could play a key role in raising the skill base and awareness of the farming, forestry and rural business community
- Rural businesses will need to change and diversify to manage future risks successfully

- Good soil and water management will be crucial to climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - Increasing regulation and mitigation measures aimed at controlling the emissions from farming and forestry will have negative and positive impacts
 - The Cotswold landscape will change over the coming years
 - While farming and forestry have many of the solutions to adapt to climate change, individual businesses must work together with their local communities
- Richard Lloyd, Chairman of the Board's Conserving & Managing Sub-Committee said that the role of the Board was to inform people and encourage them to adopt initiatives now to mitigate the effects of climate change.

"In 2080, it could be two or three degrees warmer, and while this is currently beyond most adults' lifetimes, they really need to think and act now, particularly if they are going to be handing over the farm to a son or grandson."

"The report we have commissioned is our starting point, and we have since held a farming forum and our annual forum which focused on this issue in depth. There is a lot to do. The higher parts of the Cotswolds have thin soils and these could become unusable, and we need to determine what we need to do to approach that. There may be crop failures, and an increased fire risk."

"At the same time, climate change could create 90 extra growing days a year. Yields might increase but crop quality could decline. It might mean the

introduction of some new crops in the Cotswolds. There is likely to be a need for more drought resistant crop varieties. Farmers and growers will need new guidance ranging from water storage to energy conservation."

Among new crops that could become a familiar feature of the AONB as the 21st century progresses are durum wheat, sunflowers, soya beans and grapes, and forage maize is also likely to increase.

Livestock numbers are expected to reduce overall, in line with recent trends, mainly in the numbers of dairy cattle and pigs, while the reduction in beef cattle and sheep is expected to be more gradual. New types and breeds of livestock are likely to be introduced in response to higher temperatures.

At the same time, with warmer weather and milder winters, farmers are likely to experience more and different types of pest and disease. There will also be greater importance placed on soil and nutrient management, water conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy production on farms.

The south west is a huge region, and the actions and policies that are appropriate in the west of Cornwall are not going to be the same as that required for the Cotswolds.

The approach has to be much more sub-regional and relevant to particular areas - the Cotswolds has separate issues to the Severn Vale and Forest of Dean and farmers and foresters need to do different things in different areas.

NFU – Agriculture part of climate change solution

Agriculture can and will be part of the solution to climate change, according to the National Farmers Union.

NFU combinable crops board chairman Ian Backhouse and Dr Jonathan Scurlock, the NFU's chief adviser on renewable energy and climate change, attended the recent international climate talks in Copenhagen to help raise the profile of the agricultural sector.

"In Britain, our Government Chief Scientist Prof John Beddington has warned of a 'perfect storm' of increasing demand for food, water and energy in the face of a changing climate", said Mr. Backhouse. "We believe that agriculture has an important role to play in meeting all these needs - but we will need the co-operation of our governments, the private sector, NGOs, the public and media."

"Increasing productivity is critical, to improve the adaptive capacity of both rich and poor farmers against climate change, to enhance food security and to reduce pressure on our natural environment."

According to Dr Scurlock, the NFU and its national and international partners have identified four main themes for mitigation action, whereby agriculture in the UK and worldwide could actively tackle climate change. These are

- increased greenhouse gas efficiency of resource use, such as changes to nutrient management and livestock life cycles
- enhanced carbon storage in vegetation and soils

- a wide range of bioenergy technologies to displace fossil fuel use, such as biofuels and biogas and
- the deployment of other renewable energy technologies like wind energy and solar power.

Dr Scurlock added that the joint agricultural industry Climate Change Task Force, set up in response to the challenges posed by climate change, had recently delivered an Outline Greenhouse Gas Action Plan to Defra.

The NFU, in partnership with the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC), launched the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) in 2007 to present a united stance against the serious threat that climate change poses to agricultural production and the rural sector. According to the NFU, agricultural production is currently responsible for about 7% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions.

The food chain as a whole is sometimes blamed for as much as 18% to 20% of UK greenhouse gas emissions, but much of this total arises 'beyond the farm gate' in food processing, consumption or waste disposal, or indirectly through changes in land use attributed to agriculture elsewhere in the world. Methane emissions from UK production have fallen by 17 per cent since 1990, practical measures to further reduce emissions through improving efficiency are being considered.



for change is now

Simple measures to help combat climate change

There are a number of solutions to hand which can help mitigate the effects of climate change, and which are available in the form of renewable energy factsheets on the Board's website.

Small scale wind power, for example, which uses the momentum of moving air to turn a turbine to generate electricity, can fulfil an important role. But on a larger scale, the visual impact can be harmful.

Just look at some of the other options, though. Wool insulation, for example, can reduce heat loss and cut heating bills - and sheep's wool is nature's most effective insulator.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Wool insulation is eco-friendly, saves money, increases your energy rating, adds value to your property, is efficient and unlike many other insulation products, it is totally safe and allergy-free. What's more, it will extinguish itself in the event of a fire, it's easy to install and can be fitted anywhere in external or internal walls, under timber or concrete floors, and in the attic where it can be rolled over existing insulation.

At Elkstone Manor, owner and Cotswolds Conservation Board member Christine Shine used pure sheep's wool to insulate every nook and cranny of the manor's convoluted roof spaces - immediately reducing oil consumption by 10 per cent. Spurred on by this result, Christine has now installed a large Photovoltaic Array (daylight panels) hidden behind a ha-ha

which generates electricity to the value of more than £12,000 a year (and practically no electricity bills).

Another solution is solar panels, which currently represent one of the best investments, increasing property values and reducing energy bills in the long term. Going solar also makes a statement about your environmental commitments and can encourage others to follow your lead.

QUALITY SYSTEM

A quality solar heating system will provide up to 70% of your home's annual hot water or electric requirement, reducing your energy bills and your family's carbon footprint for 25-30 years or more.

Where traditional Cotswold stone buildings and roofs are concerned it would not be acceptable for the solar panels to be visible. But many buildings have central roof gullies or back roof slopes which can only be seen from a limited number of places and it may be possible to ensure the character and appearance of the buildings are not harmed. This is particularly significant when dealing with listed buildings or in conservation areas.

WOOD HEATING

Wood heating systems are becoming more and more popular with consumers who are concerned about the environment. Wood is a totally renewable resource, which, when burned, results in no net carbon dioxide increase and can help reduce your

carbon footprint.

When heating with wood rather than fossil fuels, you actually achieve a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, harvesting firewood has a pruning effect on forests, which allows new growth to flourish. Furthermore, burning wood can be a convenient means of disposing of waste timber that might otherwise be sent to a landfill site. The wood you burn likely comes from your local area - it's not imported and not subject to price increases due to events outside your control, as is the case with oil.

Ground source heat pumps use pipes buried in the garden to extract heat from the ground. This is usually used to warm water for radiators or underfloor heating systems. It can also be used to pre-heat water before it goes into a more conventional boiler.

GROUND LOOP

A ground source heat pump circulates a mixture of water and antifreeze around a loop of pipe - called a ground loop. When the liquid travels around the loop it absorbs heat from the ground - used to heat radiators, underfloor heating systems and even hot water.

They reduce CO2 emissions, eliminate fuel bills and cut down on wasted electricity. And as they are buried there is no visual impact. There may be archaeological constraints in excavating trenches to install the pipe, but there is considerable scope for their use within the Cotswolds AONB.

Local communities rise to the climate change challenge



Communities throughout the Cotswolds are rising to the challenge of climate change and CO2 emissions through technology, innovation and local team-work.

One such example is the village of Randwick overlooking the Stroud Valley in the Cotswolds AONB. Randwick Village Hall is using ground-breaking technology that has transformed efficiency, significantly improved the carbon footprint, and reduced running costs. Today, the village lays claim to being the UK's first carbon neutral village hall.

Heating and hot water are generated from a ground source heat pump, which extracts energy from the earth. Electricity to power the pump comes from photovoltaic cells on the roof. Today, fuel bills have been cut by more than 60% creating both a sustainable and cost effective resource for the community, as well as demonstrating how climate change can be tackled at a local level. The initiative has also been identified as an exemplar energy project by the Severn Wye Energy Agency.



Cotswolds Conservation Board

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Cotswolds Conservation Board
Fosse Way, Northleach,
Gloucestershire, GL54 3JH.

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e-mail: info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

website: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

The Cotswolds Conservation Board looks after the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Board works:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB
- to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB

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Keeping rural skills alive

The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a living, working landscape. Many of the distinctive features in the landscape are the result of man’s interaction with the land over the centuries.

There are more than 4,000 miles of drystone walls, constructed from the thin strata of oolitic limestone that underlies the Cotswolds. Hedgerows too are a notable part of the landscape, providing important habitats for key species such as dormice, bats and many insects.

Sadly many of these features are in a state of neglect and disrepair, and without action to maintain them, may soon be lost for good.

The Cotswolds Conservation

Board runs an annual programme of courses and activities to help keep these traditional skills alive by encouraging people to develop the skills needed to maintain these unique, rural features. As well as drystone walling and hedgelaying, the Board runs courses on green woodworking, and gate, hurdle and tool making. These courses inspire people to use traditional techniques to make products from coppice woodlands. Many of these woodlands have not been managed properly for years and, as a result they have lost the biodiversity they once would have supported.

For further details on all of these courses and to apply, contact the Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862000.



**RURAL
SKILLS
COURSES
2010/11**

Course	Date	Location	Price
Gate Hurdle Making	10 & 11 April	Prinknash	£135
Dry Stone Walling	17 & 18 April	Tetbury	£80
Introduction - Green Woodwork	24 & 25 April	Prinknash	£105
Dry Stone Walling	1 & 2 May	Long Compton	£80
Wooden Tool Making	8 & 9 May	Northleach	£105
Dry Stone Walling	8 & 9 May	Tetbury	£80
Lime Mortar	15 & 16 May	Chavenage	£80
Weekend - Green Woodwork	22 & 23 May	Prinknash	£105
Dry Stone Walling	5 & 6 June	Lansdown, Bath	£80
Cotswold Slate Roofing	12 & 13 June	Cirencester	£150
Introduction - Green Woodwork	12 & 13 June	Prinknash	£105
Gate Hurdle Making	19 & 20 June	Prinknash	£135
Taster Day - Green Woodwork	10 July	Prinknash	£60
Gate Hurdle Making	17 & 18 July	Prinknash	£135
Lime Mortar	17 & 18 July	Chavenage	£80
Dry Stone Walling	24 & 25 July	Lansdown	£80
Dry Stone Walling	7 & 8 August	Huntsmans, Naunton	£80
Field Gate Making	14 &15 August	Northleach	£135
Dry Stone Walling	28 & 29 August	Crickley Hill	£80
Introduction - Green Woodwork	11 & 12 September	Prinknash	£105
Gate Hurdle Making	18 & 19 September	Northleach	£135
Wooden Tool Making	2 & 3 October	Northleach	£105
Dry Stone Walling	2 & 3 October	Bradford-on-Avon	£80
Weekend - Green Woodwork	9 & 10 October	Prinknash	£105
Hedgelaying	27 & 28 November	TBC	£80
Hedgelaying	4 & 5 December	TBC	£80
Hedgelaying	23 & 24 January 2011	TBC	£80
Hedgelaying	5 & 6 February 2011	TBC	£80

Reliving the Cotswold Way in art form

From Damien Hirst's studio in Stroud to Laurie Lee's love of the Slad Valley, and Henry James, John Singer Sargent and William Morris's enjoyment of the picturesque beauty of towns such as Broadway and Chipping Campden, the Cotswolds AONB has always been an inspiration for artists and writers through the ages.

CHIPPING CAMPDEN – The Jewel of the Cotswolds

There are few more appropriate venues to celebrate the creativity of the Cotswolds than The Gallery @ The Guild – the Old Silk Mill in Chipping Campden.

The Gallery @ The Guild is today a cooperative of twenty three artists, calligraphers, ceramicists, designers, furniture makers, photographers, sculptors and textile artists. The cooperative aims to promote its members' work and to provide the public with an opportunity to meet its members, each of whom takes a turn at stewarding the cooperative's various exhibitions. Each exhibition includes a variety of disciplines so that there is something for everyone.

Chipping Campden, known to many as 'the jewel of the Cotswolds' has been a world renowned centre for crafts for over a century. The Old Silk Mill

is well known as the home of C. R. Ashbee's Guild of Handicraft which occupied the property from 1902 to 1908. The Guild of Handicraft specialised in metalworking, producing jewellery and enamels as well as hand-wrought copper and wrought ironwork, and furniture. It is still represented at the property through Hart's Goldsmiths and Silversmiths and the new cooperative.

Visit the Guild today and many will see the parallels with Ashbee's original guild. Some of the cooperative's members have given up urban life and fast moving careers to embrace arts and crafts and, as in Ashbee's day, all of the cooperative's members face competition from mass produced items. Yet, what shines through is the quality of the products and every person's love for their craft.

This time it will be lovers of the Cotswold Way National Trail and the picturesque villages and countryside along its route that will have a chance to relive it, through a stunning art exhibition in the Cotswold town of Chipping Campden.

The Cotswold Way National Trail Art Exhibition is taking place at the Gallery @ The Guild from March 23rd to May 2nd. It features a variety of local artists presenting their own interpretations of the Cotswold Way, including Diane Fine, Waldo Nunwick and a group of Gloucestershire ceramicists.

The Cotswold Way is a long distance walking trail that runs between Chipping Campden in the north of the Cotswolds to the city of Bath in the south, passing through many picturesque villages and historical sites en route. It is 102 miles long and most of the trail takes place along the Cotswold escarpment. The Cotswold Way was formally launched as a National Trail in May 2007.

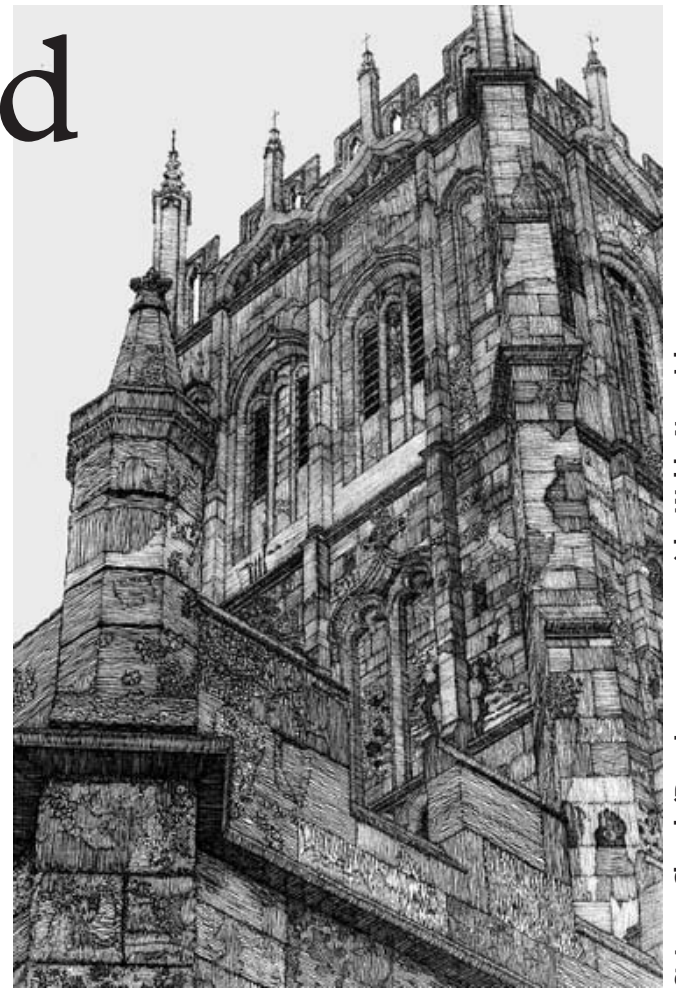
"From the Roman heritage of Bath to Sudeley Castle near Winchcombe, Hailes Abbey, and the many beautiful churches, historic houses, countryside and villages along the trail, the Cotswold Way encapsulates what the Cotswolds is all about", said James Blockley, Cotswold Way National Trail Officer. "It's therefore highly appropriate

that we should use the Way as an inspiration for local artists and also fitting that Chipping Campden - 'the jewel of the Cotswolds' - be the venue."

Diane Fine has a BA in Fine Arts from Concordia University, Montreal with her work featuring in several solo exhibitions in Toronto as well as galleries in the Cotswolds and numerous Private Collections in North America and Europe. Her work is instinctively drawn to creating life-enhancing images and instigating emotional reactions from her audience with the Cotswold Way providing ideal subject matter.

Waldo Nunwick is a graduate of Winchester School of Art and his work has been shown at public galleries in Liverpool, Winchester, Farnham and Southport. Originally from Yorkshire, Waldo has now set up home in the Cotswolds. An interest in architectural heritage has driven much of Waldo's work over the last ten years with the Cotswold Way providing plenty of material.

Other current art projects, in addition to the National Trail exhibition, include the development of a Bath Trail Marker at Bath Abbey – a project to sculpt a stone obelisk at the Abbey to mark the start and finish of the Trail.



St James Church (Drawing pen on paper) by Waldo Nunwick

Walk into the heart of the historic City of Bath

The Cotswold Way National Trail is not just a long distance path for long distance walkers. A short walk anywhere along its 102-mile length will lead you right into the heart of the country's most beautiful and varied landscapes and introduce you to the best of what the Cotswolds have to offer. With such variety, a walk one day will never be the same as the next.

To help more people discover the Cotswold Way, a series of short, circular walks are available to guide you easily along the National Trail in small sections, from Chipping Campden at the northern end, to the City of Bath in the south.

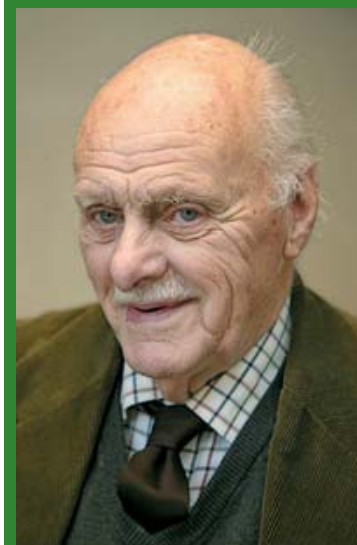
Walk No.12, Journey's End – The Walk into Bath, gives you a true sense of pilgrimage as it takes you from open hill top in the Cotswolds, down into the World Heritage Site of Bath. Conveniently starting from the Lansdown Park and Ride, the walk follows a 6-mile route past the Bath Racecourse, the tree-topped dome of Kelston Round Hill with wonderful views over Bath, through Shiner's Wood and down into the city itself. Once in Bath, famous landmarks such as the Royal Crescent, Roman Baths and the wonderful Bath Abbey, which is officially the start/end point of the National Trail, remind you why this beautiful city is included on the list of World Heritage sites and attracts millions of visitors every year.

To download the full details of this, and other circular walks along the Cotswold Way, go to www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold and click on 'Planning a trip'.

For further details of things to see and do in Bath, go to www.visitbath.co.uk.



Tony Phillips OBE, 1927-2009



A longstanding supporter and board member of the Cotswolds Conservation Board (CCB), Tony Phillips, passed away last year at the age of 82.

Tony, a former leader of West Wiltshire District Council with 53 years experience in local

government, was a Board Member of the Cotswolds Conservation Board since its launch in 2004.

Tony was a specialist in forestry and woodland management and leaves a lasting legacy. This includes Brokerswood Country Park, 80 acres of woodland in Wiltshire, now owned by his daughter, and Rocks East Woodland, 100 acres of historic woodlands near Bath in the Cotswolds AONB.

Today, Rocks East Woodlands is a thriving woodland education and training centre and an attraction for primary and secondary school students, youth clubs, scouts and brownies, and many more like-minded organizations.

Tony won the National Countryside Award for the promotion of understanding of woodlands between town and country people and received an OBE in 1988.

WALKS & EVENTS Guide

PLEASE always remember to wear appropriate footwear because some walks may be steep and muddy in places. Dogs are not allowed on walks, except guide dogs for the blind and hearing dogs for the deaf. Please always check the website beforehand for latest information including any changes to the walks programme, particularly during inclement weather – www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/guidedwalks

Guided tours of Chipping Campden and “the most beautiful village street now left in the island”.
Meet at the Market Hall Chipping Campden for a 2.30 pm start for tours led by Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. This is an easy walk that is very suitable for families and will take one and a half hours. We suggest donations of say £2 per person towards the Voluntary Wardens’ Countryside Fund.
Map ref: OS Leisure 45/152 392
These walks will take place each Tuesday commencing 1 June 2010 until 28 September 2010 inclusive.

Chipping Campden Town Walks
The Cotswold Voluntary wardens offer a town walk, an audio visual show followed by either a tea or a supper as appropriate, in Chipping Campden for organised parties. Contact Ann Colcomb on 01386 832131.

Walk the Cotswold Way
Join a group led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens walking 10 miles of the Cotswold Way on the first Wednesday of each month. Walks commence in May of each year. Travel by coach from Winchcombe to the start point. Lunches will be at pleasant inns en route. For further information and to reserve places please contact Bob Cox on 01242 820192. An early booking is advised.

Walk the Diamond Way
Join a group led by the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens walking some 10 miles of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The walks commence in April each year, starting and ending at Moreton-in-Marsh and continue for six consecutive months. A bus will meet walkers at the appropriate venue to transport them to the start point for a walk back to the cars. For further information and to reserve places please contact John Medlyn on 01386 438060. An early booking is advised.

Tailor Made
As well as the guided walks listed in this newspaper, Cotswold Voluntary Wardens can provide tailor made outings for groups of all abilities. Contact the Cotswolds Conservation Board Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01451 862008.

Map and Compass Course
Sunday 19th September 2010: 10am - 4pm
Discover the Cotswolds using a map and compass. Open to everyone, including adults accompanying children over the age of 10. Please call to book a place or find out more on 01451 862008. Adults £4, children free. Bring a packed lunch, drinks provided.

COTSWOLDS BLUEBELL WEEKEND - 24-25 APRIL

COTSWOLDS WILDFLOWERS WEEK - 12-20 JUNE

COTSWOLDS RIVERS WEEK - 4-12 SEPTEMBER

April

THURSDAY APRIL 1 • 10.00

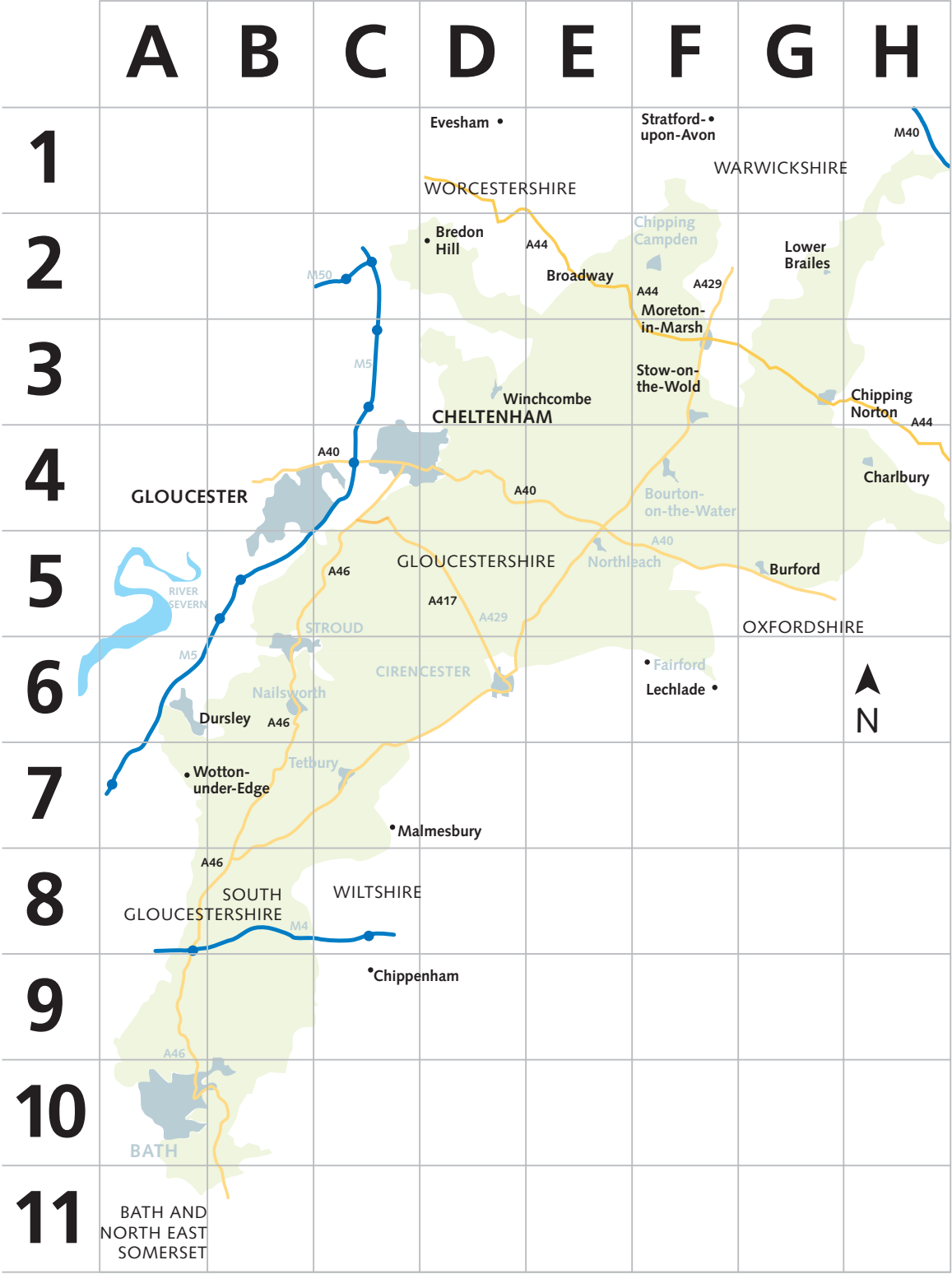
Chadlington Downs & Down to Dean
A morning walk on footpaths over farmland with far reaching views across the Evenlode Valley. We pass the mysterious Hawk Stone of uncertain origin. Picnic lunch or pub in Chadlington at the end of the walk.
Moderate
Starting point: Park along Church Road, Chadlington (opposite the Church) beyond the school where the road widens.
Leader: Rosemary Wilson
2 hours • 5 miles
OS: 164 / 333221

H4

SATURDAY APRIL 3 • 10.15

Conservation in the Cotswolds
Visit the Evenlode Valley to see examples of access, landscape and natural habitat conservation, ancient and modern. Public transport: starts after arrival of 0948 train from Oxford. Packed lunch required.
Moderate
Starting point: Charlbury Station (charge made for parking)
Leader: Dave Scott
5 hours • 6 miles
OS: 164 / 352195

H4



GUIDED WALKS LED BY COTSWOLD VOLUNTEERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
All guided walks are free of charge unless otherwise stated, donations welcome.

MONDAY APRIL 5 • 10.00

Down to a Combe Across to a Stoke
A walk from Combe Down, Monkton Combe, Limpley Stoke, Midford and back to Combe Down. Please bring a packed lunch.
Moderate
Starting point: Cross Key’s South Stoke Road, Combe Down, Bath
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings
5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 172/748619

A10

TUESDAY APRIL 6 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie.
Moderate
Starting point: The Fox and Hounds Car Park in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156 / 818711

B9

WEDNESDAY APRIL 7 • 10.00

Down the Churn to Ciren - North Cerney to Cirencester
An easy linear walk following down the river Churn to Cirencester passing water meadows, an ancient restored sheepwash and a visit to Baunton church with its 14th century wall painting. Return to North Cerney by Stagecoach bus number 151 for lunch at the Bathurst Arms or lunch and exploring in Cirencester with return later. As an alternative, catch bus 151 from Cirencester at 9.20 to the start point at North Cerney. Parking at North Cerney by prior arrangement for those having lunch or park considerably in the village.
Easy
Starting point: Bathurst Arms, North Cerney car park
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham
2.5 hours • 4 miles
OL: 45 / 019079

D5

SATURDAY APRIL 10 • 10.00

Mills and Moynes
From Tetbury through Long Newnton and the Avon Valley to Shipton Moyne for lunch. Return via the Long Newton/Estcourt Estates and a nameless valley.
Moderate
Starting point: Tetbury Old Station free car park
Leaders: Ted Thornton, David Collings
5.5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 173 / 893933

C7

SATURDAY APRIL 10 • 10.00

The National Trust: Spring Clean!
Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons - come and help with our massive clean up and litter pick on the commons. Booking not needed. Tel: 01452 810051 for further information
Starting point: Meet at the Reservoir car park on Minchinhampton Common
OS: 160 / 855012

WEDNESDAY APRIL 14 • 10.30

Macmillan Way - Stage 1
The principal part of the Macmillan Way runs for 290 miles from Boston in Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury in Dorset with a significant portion traversing all districts of the AONB. The intention is to lead successive walks along this stretch over the next few summers with transport being arranged to take walkers to the start points. The object is not only to provide a series of interesting linked walks but also to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. In this stage of the project we walk from Warmington back to Epwell, passing near the site of the Battle of Edgehill, with superb views along the route. A pub lunch will be available.
Moderate
Starting point: Epwell, near the church
Leaders: Alan Bulley & Kevin Myhill
5.5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 151/353405

H2

WEDNESDAY APRIL 14 • 19.30

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Don’t Call Me Honey: Bees, The Bigger Picture
Carlo Montesanti is a director of The Global Bee Project, with headquarters in Stroud. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of all bee species. Dr Adam Hart lectures in Ecology and Animal Behaviour at the University of Gloucestershire. His research has been featured on radio and TV. Charge of £3; for further information tel: 01452 383333
Starting point: Nailsworth Library, The Mortimer Room, Old Market, Nailsworth GL6 0DU

WEDNESDAY APRIL 14 • 10.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Egg Hunt at Chedworth
Egg hunt at Chedworth.... with a difference! There’s a monster living in a big hole and searching for food in the woods of this reserve. Can you conjure up a spell to source a dragon - and find where it has hidden its eggs?? Pre-booking required - tel: 01452 383333
Starting point: Directions sent on booking

THURSDAY APRIL 15 • 10.00

Wardens’ and Windrush Way 1
First in a series of four circular walks designed to cover the whole of the Wardens’ and Windrush Ways in sequence. We follow the Wardens’ Way from Winchcombe to Deadmanbury Gate returning via the Windrush Way. Please bring a picnic lunch.
Moderate
Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane (pay & display) car park
Leaders: Jean Booth, Simon Mallatratt
4.5 hours • 8 miles
OS: 45 / 023284

D3

SATURDAY APRIL 17 • 10.00

Use ‘em or Lose ‘em
A pleasant walk, with fine views from Ebrington Hill, using some of the least frequented pathways in the area. Bring a packed lunch and drinks.
Moderate
Starting point: Chipping Campden, The Market Hall
Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook
4.5 hours • 8 miles
OS: Leisure 45 / 151392

F2

TUESDAY APRIL 20 • 10.00

Stile Free Walk at Badminton
A morning walk around Badminton and Little Badminton with a mid-morning break.
Easy
Starting point: Badminton - please park considerably in the village
Leaders: Gill Sheppard & David Hayes
3.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 173 / 804827

B8

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 • 10.00

On Cloud Nine
A walk along a section of the Cotswold Way around Cleeve Common. On the return route taking a short detour to the highest point in the Cotswolds with views across the Severn Valley. Refreshments available at the Golf Club.
Easy
Starting point: Public car park near golf club
Leaders: Royden Hales, Brian Chilvers, Mike Williams
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 179/990272

D3

THURSDAY APRIL 22 • 10.00

Donnington Eighths No 1: Around Longborough
First in a ‘figure of eight’ series based on the Donnington Way and some of its pubs. As well as Longborough, Sezincote and Hinchwick, this one passes by the Donnington Brewery itself including Donnington and the Battle of Stow site. Pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: Ganborough, Coach and Horses Inn
Leaders: Keith Sisson and Paul Adams
6 hours • 11 miles
OS Leisure: 45 / 173292

F3

THURSDAY APRIL 22 • 10.00

Bluebell Theme: Up and Down and Round Ozleworth Bottom

Starting at Newark Park entrance, down hill to Ozleworth Bottom, along the bottom then up to Hen's Cliff. Down again in the bottom. Field path, then to pick up Cotswold Way. Up Wortley Hill, with views across to Wotton-under-Edge. Some road walking and then back to Newark Park.

Moderate

Starting point: Newark Park
Leaders: Ken Leach & Les Jones
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 162 / 783932

B7

SATURDAY APRIL 24 • 14.00

Cotswold Bluebells: Beckford Bluebells

A mainly gentle walk (2 minor slopes) to look at bluebells above Beckford as well as some stunning views of the Cotswolds from a different angle. Suitable for families.

Easy

Starting point: Outside Overbury Church
Leader: Colin Boulton
3 hours • 4 miles
OS: Explorer 14 / 957375

C3

SATURDAY APRIL 24 • 10.00

Cotswold Bluebells: Kings and Queens in the Landscape

Starting at the top of Nottingham Hill this walk goes over Stanley Hill to Gretton, returning over Langley Hill.

Pub lunch available in Gretton.

Moderate

Starting point: Car park at top of Nottingham Hill
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood
6 hours • 11 miles
OS Explorer: 179 / 982279

D3

SATURDAY APRIL 24 • 10.00

Woods & Vales with Bluebells

Uley - Horsley via Kingscote Wood - Nympsfield - Uley.

Moderate

Starting point: Uley village green
Leaders: Eric Brown, Ian Cooke
5.5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 162 / 792986

B6

SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 10.30

Cotswold Bluebells: Bluebells at Dover's Hill

We'll walk down from Dover's Hill (near Chipping Campden) to the carpet of bluebells in Lynches Wood, then back up again.

Moderate

Starting point: Dover's Hill NT car park (leave no valuables in your car)
Leaders: Martin Jones & Stephen Wright
2 hours • 2 miles
OS Leisure: 45 / 136396

F2

SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 10.30

A Bluebell Bonanza

A circular walk around the BBOWT nature reserve at Foxholes. This ancient, species rich woodland is famed for its stunning display of bluebells at this time of year. Suitable for all the family.

Easy

Starting point: Nature reserve car park (SP 258206)
Leader: Craig Blackwell
2 hours • 4 miles
SP: 258206

G4

SUNDAY APRIL 25 • 13.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Spring Wildflower Walk

Come and see some of the wonderful wildflowers which can be found in this hidden reserve in the Kilcot Valley.

Pre booking required on 01452 383333.

Starting point: Midger Nature Reserve, south of Nailsworth. Details sent on booking.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 • 10.00

Guiting Power, Guiting Woods and the Windrush Way

A walk from Guiting Power along the Diamond Way to Guiting Woods and return along the Windrush Way.

Please bring a packed lunch.

Moderate

Starting point: Guiting Power car park (Trust the Motorist)
Leaders: Malcolm Duncan & Bob Fisher
5 hours • 8 miles
OS Leisure: 45 / 095246

E4

WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 • 10.00

Journey to Horton Court

Scenic walk, down and up the Cotswold escarpment, from Hawkesbury Upton to historic Horton Court and back. Return journey via Cotswold Way National Trail. Memorable views (weather permitting) of the Severn Valley, Forest of Dean and Welsh Hills. Opportunity for pub refreshments at end of walk, if required.

Moderate

Starting point: Hawkesbury Upton Pond (please park considerately)
Leaders: Graham Bateman and Vicky Blitze
2.75 hours • 5 miles
OS: 172 / 775873

B7

May

SATURDAY MAY 1 • 10.00

Dowdeswell's Ancient Woodlands

A walk visiting Dowdeswell and Lineover Woods, Ravensgate Common and the villages of Whittington and Dowdeswell. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Strenuous**

Starting point: Andoversford Station Road, meet by the bus stop
Leaders: John Heathcott, John Woodland, David Burwell
7 hours • 11 miles
OL: 45 / 023198

D4

SUNDAY MAY 2 • 04.30

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Dawn Chorus at Greystones Farm

Early risers will be rewarded with great birds and coffee and a danish! More information and directions sent when booking - tel: 01452 383333. Cost: £5 including coffee & danish
Starting point: Directions sent on booking

SUNDAY MAY 2 • 10.00

Shipston Rotary Club Cotswold Walk

Enjoy the footpaths and bridleways of the North Cotswolds with spectacular views over 4 counties. Refreshments provided. Adults £5 children £2. All proceeds in aid of Rotary charities. Call 01608 684304.

Starting point: Foxcote Hill, Ilmington
7 miles

MONDAY MAY 3 • 14.00

Bank Holiday Bluebells

A Bank Holiday afternoon stroll to a quiet village and through private bluebell woods. Pub lunch available. Families welcome but not suitable for buggies or pushchairs. The start of the walk includes a short section beside a busy road. **Easy**
Starting point: The Bird in Hand, White Oak Green on Witney to Charlbury Road. Please park tidily the pub car park. **Leader:** Tony Graeme
2 hours • 4 miles
OS: 180 / 344139

H4

TUESDAY MAY 4 • 10.00

Hitting the Spot

Leave Dursley via Long Street. Follow Cotswold Way via Cam Peak and Long Down to Uley Bury, descend to Uley. Pub stop (drinks only) then via Owlpen, Shadwell and Elcombe to return to Dursley. Picnic lunch please. **Moderate**
Starting point: Small car park on Hill Road
Leaders: Les Jones & Ken Leach
5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 162/753981

A6

TUESDAY MAY 4 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp

Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie.

Moderate

Starting point: The Fox & Hounds Car Park in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156 / 818711

B9

WEDNESDAY MAY 5 • 10.00

Bluebells in 'Fox Holes'

Starting from Shipton-under-Wychwood the walk passes by Bruern Abbey reaching the beautiful Foxholes Nature Reserve where the bluebells should be in flower. We return by woodland and field paths. **Easy**
Starting point: Village Hall, Shipton-under-Wychwood
Leader: Gerald Simper
4 hours • 7 miles
OS: Leisure 278181

G4

WEDNESDAY MAY 5 • 10.00

Bluebells in the Woods

A walk via Stoneridge Farm through the beautiful bluebell woods at Standish using the Cotswold Way and other paths. Several pubs nearby for possible lunch after the walk. **Moderate**
Starting point: Cripplegate car park
Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Tony Wilson, Rosemary Woodham
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 179 / 832086

B5

THURSDAY MAY 6 • 18.00

Cotswold Bluebells: A Search for Crowtoes
A super walk with good views over the Vale of Evesham and a wander through a bluebell wood. Crowtoes is a 16th century folk name for bluebells. **Easy**
Starting point: Broadway. The War Memorial on the village green
Leaders: Gerry Burgess & David Jeffs
2 hours • 4 miles
OS Leisure: 45 / 094375

E2

SUNDAY MAY 9 • 10.00

Crossing County Borders

A walk passing Monkton Combe, Midford, Pipehouse, Iford, Upper Westwood, Limpley Stoke, returning via Kennet & Avon canal. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**

Starting point: Dundas Marina car park (small charge)
Leaders: Dave Jennings, Wilf Dando
5.5 hours • 10 miles
OS: 172 / 784626

B10

SUNDAY MAY 9 • 10.00

The National Trust: Bluebells and Beechwoods Picnic

A stroll through the rich bluebell woodlands of the Ebworth Estate and Workman's Woods with our Countryside Manager, Paul Rutter, looking at the history and the wildlife that live there. Please bring a picnic. Booking essential. Entry £3. Call 01452 810051 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wessex
Starting point: Meet at the Ebworth Centre off B4070 1.5 miles south of Birdlip

TUESDAY MAY 11 • 10.00

Two Tons and a Hill

A circular walk from Stanton to Snowhill and returning via Laverton. There are some fine views, valleys and inclines. **Moderate**

Starting point: Stanton village car park
Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook
3.5 hours • 7 miles
OS Leisure: 45 / 068344

E2

TUESDAY MAY 11 • 10.00

Views of Long Compton better than a King's

A walk on the borders of Oxon and Warwickshire with plenty of views from the top of the scarp. The route includes the area of the Rollright Stones and Little Rollright before dropping down into Long Compton where a pub lunch is available. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Great Rollright Village Hall
Leader: Kevin Myhill
5.5 hours • 10 miles
OS: 191 / 322314

G3

WEDNESDAY MAY 12 • 10.00

Hopefully Orchids

A flat walk over two commons to Rodborough Fort with a stop for a delicious ice cream. Pub lunch after walk available. **Easy**
Starting point: Amberley Inn, Amberley - not pub car park
Leaders: David Harrowin, John Hammill
2 hours • 4 miles
OS: 162 / 850013

B6

THURSDAY MAY 13 • 10.00

Wardens' and Windrush Way 2

Second in a series of four circular walks designed to cover the whole of the Wardens' and Windrush Ways in sequence. We follow the Windrush Way from Guiting Power to Roel Hill Farm returning via the Wardens' Way. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**

Starting point: Guiting Power Village car park
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt
4.5 hours • 8 miles
OS: 45 / 095248

E4

SUNDAY MAY 16 • 10.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Walk 4 Wildlife - sponsored walk led by BBC TV's Mike Dilger
Those boots were made for walking, so pull them on and join us for the Golden Valley Walk for Wildlife! Pre-booking required. Cost: £7 Adults, £2 children - for further information tel: 01452 383333
Starting point: Full details sent on registering

SUNDAY MAY 16 • 10.00

Beating the Bounds

A walk round Nailsworth following the parish boundary as far as possible (some sections are impassable as boundaries are inaccessible or overgrown). Good views of Nailsworth and the surrounding valleys. One steep climb and possible muddy sections. Bring a picnic. **Moderate**
Starting point: Car park opposite Beaudesert School
Leaders: Peter Russell, John Hammill
5 hours • 8 miles
OS: 162/855003

B6

SUNDAY MAY 16 • 10.00

A Walk with 5 Ends

Walk from the Tite Inn, Chadlington to Pudlicote - Ascott Mill - outskirts Ascott-under-Wychwood - Chilson - Shorthampton - back to Chadlington via Wychwood Way. Optional pub lunch at end.

Moderate

Starting point: The Tite Inn, Chadlington
Leader: Trish Gilbert
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 164 / 325225

H4

TUESDAY MAY 18 • 10.00

A Countryside Walk from Box

A morning walk in the countryside surrounding Box. A mid-walk stop for coffee and snack. Lunch available after walk in local pubs. **Moderate**
Starting point: Selwyn Hall car park, Box
Leaders: Judith Slee & Bob Cole
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156 / 824686

B10

WEDNESDAY MAY 19 • 10.00

The Well at Bisley

A walk taking in the well at Bisley, which is dressed with flowers on Ascension Day, Hawkey Wood, Nashend and Hayhedge Lane. It embraces woodland and pasture with wide open views. **Moderate**
Starting point: Bisley Cricket Club car park
Leaders: Mike Williams, Brian Chilvers, Royden Hales
3 hours • 6 miles
Explorer: 179 / 904061

C5

FRIDAY MAY 21 • 10.00

Scrubs & Meadows

A walk through Puckham Scrubs, Warden's Wood, Brockhampton and Sevenhampton and past sites of Roman and medieval settlement. One long climb, some road walking and a couple of stiles.

Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Moderate**
Starting point: Car park at Whittington Court, by kind permission

Leaders: Colin Dickinson, Ken Buckle
4 hours • 7 miles
OS: 45 / 012207

D4

SATURDAY MAY 22 • 12.30

International Biodiversity Day: The Big Picnic
Join the Gloucestershire Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group for a great day out for all the family including walks, rural activities and a celebration of this county's rich biodiversity. For details call 01452 627487
Starting point: Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common

SUNDAY MAY 23 • 10.00

A Charmy Walk

Down the St Catherine's valley to Monkswood Reservoir, up the hill to Charmy Down Airfield which we cross on one of the old runways. Around the Ridge, down to Bath, then steep descent back into the valley. Return up hill to Ashwicke and level walk back to Marshfield Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**

Starting point: Lay-by at West End of Marshfield
Leaders: John Walker & John Dougal
5.5 hours • 10 miles
OS: 155 / 772738

B9

TUESDAY MAY 25 • 10.00

Deer Park and Secret Forest

A walk through part of the Ancient Forest of Wychwood, off rights of way. Returning through Cornbury Park with its herds of fallow and sika deer. By kind permission of Lord Rotherwick. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**

Starting point: Charlbury, the Spendlove car park
Leader: Tony Graeme
5 hours • 8 miles
OS: 180 / 358196

H4

WEDNESDAY MAY 26 • 10.00

Macmillan Way - Stage 2

The principal part of the Macmillan Way runs for 290 miles from Boston in Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury in Dorset with a significant portion traversing all districts of the AONB. The intention is to lead successive walks along this stretch over the next few summers with transport being arranged to take walkers to the start points. The object is not only to provide a series of interesting linked walks but also to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. In this second stage of the Macmillan Way series we walk from Epwell back to Little Compton (diverting from the Way) along ancient track ways and through attractive villages. A pub lunch will be available. **Moderate**
Starting point: Little Compton, in front of Manor House. **Leaders:** Alan Bulley & Kevin Myhill
6 hours • 10 miles
OL45: 261301

G2

THURSDAY MAY 27 • 10.00

Donnington 'Eights' No. 2 - Around the Comptons

Second in a 'figure of eight' series based on the Donnington Way and some of its pubs. This one takes in the three manors of Little Compton, Chastleton and Cornwell along with Long Compton. **Moderate**
Starting point: Red Lion, Little Compton
Leaders: Keith Sisson & Paul Adams
5 hours • 10 miles
OS Leisure: 45 / 257302

G3

SATURDAY MAY 29 • 10.30

Marshfield - Town & Country

A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking bridleways south to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths (only kissing gates). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tearoom - or stay and visit our open gardens for lunch and / or cream tea. Suitable for families. **Easy**
Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield
Leaders: Judith Slee & John Bartram
2.5 hours • 4 miles
OS: 172 / 781737

B9

SATURDAY MAY 29 • 21.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Bats, Bats, Bats

An evening exploring the night time world of Midger Nature Reserve, as we look for bats and are sure to find a few surprises too! The event will include an unmissable opportunity to see a demonstration of mistnetting for live bats by the Gloucestershire Bat Group. Directions will be sent on booking - tel: 01452 383333
Starting point: Directions sent on booking

SUNDAY MAY 30 • 10.00

Half term - Views and Wild Flowers?

Gentle climb up to Little Salisbury Hill for views over Bath, then down to Northend before returning via the Old Reservoirs at Chilcombe Bottom. Bring the children or grandchildren! **Easy**
Starting point: Slip road for Swanswick east of A46 3.3 miles from Cold Ashton roundabout on A46
Leaders: John Walker & John Dougal
2.5 hours • 4 miles
OS: 155 / 762683

A10

MONDAY MAY 31 • 18.30

An Evening in Lineover Wood

A walk suitable for families, looking for orchids, lilies and limes. An easy walk, but includes a climb. **Easy**
Starting point: Lineover Wood - parking up track south of A40, 1 mile east of Charlton Kings, 100 yards east of Reservoir Inn.

Leaders: John Heathcott, John Woodland, David Burwell
2 hours • 2 miles
OS: 179 / 986196

D4

June

TUESDAY JUNE 1 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp

Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne

Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156 / 818711

B9

WEDNESDAY JUNE 2 • 10.00

Ancient Pathways - The Salt Way

SUNDAY JUNE 13 • 10.00

Cotswold Wildflowers: Cleeve Common Wildflowers
A great chance to walk Cleeve Common with the Common's own conservation specialist. See some rarities and learn about conservation grazing and habitat management in this site of special scientific interest.
Moderate
Starting point: Cleeve Hill Quarry car park
Leaders: Cleeve Common conservation officer, Ellie Philips, with Simon Mallatratt and Jean Booth
2.5 hours • 5 miles
SP: 989272

D4

SUNDAY JUNE 13 • 10.00

Commons in Bloom
A circular walk across two wildflower rich commons to Amberley. Returning via Woodchester. Pub snack available.
Moderate
Starting point: Selsley Common - first car park past cattle grid
Leaders: David Harrowin, Steve Knight
6 hours • 10 miles
OS: 162 / 828026

B6

SUNDAY JUNE 13 • 10.00

Parks & Ditches
A walk between the Glyme and Evenlode Valley that includes Ditchley Park. On the way old historic stones are viewed. Packed lunch required.
Moderate
Starting point: Enstone Cricket Club (turn off A44 towards Charlbury then first right)
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires
5 hours • 10 miles
OS: 379238

H4

SUNDAY JUNE 13 • 11.30

National Trust: Cotswold Grazing Project
A free event run as part of the nationally organised LEAF Open Farm Sunday. Get up close and personal with the National Trust's herd of Belted Galloways and their newborn calves at the Ebworth Estate near Sheepscombe. Parking at Ebworth Estate.

TUESDAY JUNE 15 • 10.00

Bath Skyline
Walking on National Trust land south of Bath. Weather permitting, good views over the city. One uphill section to be walked at a leisurely pace. Fields, woods and historical interest. Coffee break midway. Drinks/snacks available after walk in Sulis Club. Parking with kind permission of Sulis Club.
Moderate
Starting point: Sulis Club, North Road, Bath (with permission given)
Leaders: Judith Slee & Bob Cole
3 hours • 6 miles
Explorer: 155 / 774629

A10

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16 • 10.00

Cotswold Arts, Crafts and Flowers
Selsley Common - Woodchester - Selsley. Includes a guided tour of Selsley Church, famed for its Arts & Crafts movement, windows, coffee and a snack lunch. Cost £5 to church funds. Need to have a rough idea of numbers - so please telephone Eric Brown on 01454 260446 at least 1 week in advance.
Moderate
Starting point: Selsley Common
Leaders: Eric Brown, Ted Thornton
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 162 / 828027

B6

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16 • 10.00

Chipping Norton and the Glyme Valley
A circular walk starting and finishing in Chipping Norton. It includes a feast of wildlife habitats including species rich limestone grassland, ancient hedgerows as well as Over Norton parkland with its veteran trees and ridge and furrow pasture. **Easy**
Starting point: Chipping Norton Town Hall
Leader: Craig Blackwell
3 hours • 4 miles
SP: 313270

H3

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16 • 10.00

Edgeworth, Sapperton and the Thames and Severn Canal
A walk, including one long, but gradual, climb from the picturesque village of Sapperton by the Thames and Severn Canal along the Macmillan Way to the church and manor at Edgeworth. The walk will investigate the wild flora of the area as part of the Cotswolds Wildflower Week.
Moderate
Starting point: Entrance to Sapperton Church
Leaders: Mike Williams, John Foulkes
2.75 hours • 5 miles
OS: 168 / 948033

C6

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16 • 19.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Wildflower Walk (part of Cotswold Wild Flower Week)
Find out about how GWT manages its farms in the North Cotswolds. Suitable for children aged 11 and over. Tel: 01452 383333 (pre-booking required)
Starting point: Details sent on booking

THURSDAY JUNE 17 • 10.00

Wardens' and Windrush Way 3
Third in a series of four circular walks designed to cover the whole of the Wardens' and Windrush Ways in sequence. We follow the Wardens' Way from Guiting Power to Naunton returning via the Windrush Way. Please bring suitable refreshments.
Moderate
Starting point: Guiting Power village car park.
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt
3.5 hours • 7 miles
OS: 45 / 095248

E4

SATURDAY JUNE 19 • 14.00

National Trust: Butterflies and Orchids
A stroll across the commons with the wardening team to discover the rich flora and diverse insects that call this species rich limestone grassland home. Booking advised. Entry £3. Call 01452 810051 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wessex

SATURDAY JUNE 19 • 18.00

Up to a Down
From Bathampton along part of the Kennet and Avon Canal, up to Bathampton Downs. Good views over the valleys. **Moderate**
Starting point: The George Inn, Bathampton (park near railway line)
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 155 / 776665

B10

SATURDAY JUNE 19 • 10.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Wildflower Walk (part of Cotswold Wild Flower Week)
Find out about how GWT manages its farms in the North Cotswolds. Suitable for children aged 11 and over. Tel: 01452 383333 (pre-booking required)
Starting point: Details sent on booking

SUNDAY JUNE 20 • 10.00

Cotswold Wildflowers: More Kings and Queens in the Landscape
Starting in Kinsham this walk goes through Kemerton Nature Reserve to the top of Bredon Hill, returning through Westmancote. Please bring a packed lunch. Roadside parking on Cheltenham Road B4079 near phone box. Please park considerably.
Moderate
Starting point: At telephone box in Kinsham
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood
6 hours • 10 miles
OS: Explorer 190 / 935355

C2

SUNDAY JUNE 20 • 10.00

Pyramids of the Commons Edge
A short walk descending through Amberley and returning by St St Chloe looking for wild flowers.
Moderate
Starting point: Reservoir on Minchinhampton Common
Leaders: Ted Thornton, John Hammill
2 hours • 3 miles
OS: 162/855013

C6

SUNDAY JUNE 20 • 14.30

Summer Flowers Walk
A walk through the village to see 'Stonesfield Slates' through a wood besides the River Evenlode and up to the common to see some of England's special rare plants. Picnic on the common (if weather fine) overlooking the river and distant views. Complete walk back through a wood on the old 'Chipping Bank'. Bring your own picnic. **Moderate**
Starting point: Stonesfield, West Oxfordshire. Visitors to contact organiser as limited parking available. Booking required: Ken Betteridge 01993 878615
Leader: Ken Betteridge
3-4 hours • 3.5 miles

H4

MONDAY JUNE 21 - SUNDAY 27 JUNE • 17.00

The National Trust: Hidcote Manor Gardens
National Picnic Week: a unique opportunity to enjoy Hidcote in a different light! We will be opening our doors for a special week of evening opening. The garden will be open until 10pm and visitors are invited to bring a picnic and take this one off opportunity to enjoy a summer evening picnic supper. The Hidcote Shop will remain open until 10pm with the Garden Restaurant and Plant Sales Centre closing at 9pm. Normal admission charges apply.
Starting point: Please enter the garden through the visitor reception

TUESDAY JUNE 22 • 18.00

Dursley Evening Walks: 1 - Towards the Peak
A loop round Upper Cam, Green Street and Ashmead Green. Suitable for families.
Moderate
Starting point: Long stay car park, Dursley. Access from Long Street opposite Market Hall
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth, Steve Knight
2 hours • 4 miles
OS: 162 / 757982

A6

FRIDAY JUNE 25 • 20.15

Midsummer Sunset and Moonrise
Midsummer night this year is rather special, because just as the sun sets in the west a full moon rises in the east. This last happened in 1994 and we'll have to wait until 2021 to see it again. There's a steady climb on a quiet land to the highest point in Warwickshire. Please bring a torch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Ilmington (playing fields car park on the Mickleton road)
Leaders: Stephen Wright & Colin Boulton
2 hours • 4 miles
Explorer: 205 / 210430

SATURDAY JUNE 26 • 10.00

Painswick's Commons
A walk linking Painswick's flora rich commons - the Beacon, Hudinknoll, Edge, Juniper and Bulls Cross. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Walkers car park, Golf Course road off B4073 north of Painswick
Leaders: John Heathcott, John Woodland, David Burwell
7 hours • 11 miles
OS: 179 / 867105

C5

SUNDAY JUNE 27 • 10.00

Martyrs: Men who died for their cause
In the steps of Hugh Latimer who was Rector at the church of St Mary the Virgin at West Kington from 1530 to 1535. **Moderate**
Starting point: Castle Combe car park
Leaders: Gill Sheppard & Phil Lawrence
5 hours • 8 miles
OS: 156 / 846777

B9

WEDNESDAY JUNE 30 • 18.00

Dursley Evening Walks: 2 - Towards the Bury
A loop round Woodmancote and Rockstowes. **Easy**
Starting point: Long stay car park, Dursley: access from Long Street opposite Market Hall
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth, David Collings
1.5 hours • 4 miles
OS: 162 / 757982

A6

July

THURSDAY JULY 1 • 10.00

All the Best Bits (Summer Time)
Two local wardens will show you their favourite bits of path (some well known some less so) joined together to make an energetic but delightful day out. With luck lots of wildflowers and views. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Stanton village car park
Leaders: Simon Mallatratt & Jean Booth
6 hours • 10 miles
OS: 45 / 068343

E3

SATURDAY JULY 3 • 14.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: A rare chance to experience Brassey Nature Reserve
Brassey Nature Reserve in the North Cotswolds is usually closed to the public, but today you will have the chance to enjoy the wonderful wildflowers, butterflies and the peace and quiet of this hidden gem. Not suitable for visitors with limited mobility as the reserve is very steep with uneven ground. Tel: 01452 383333
Starting point: The reserve will be signposted off the A429 at Bourton-on-the-Water and the B4068 Stow to Naunton Road

TUESDAY JULY 6 • 10.00

A Remote and Beautiful Valley
This is a circular walk passing through some of the North Cotswolds most remote and beautiful countryside. The walk goes first through the woods above Hinchwick valley and then descends briefly into an adjoining valley before a return along the Hinchwick valley. **Moderate**
Starting point: Hinchwick hamlet (please park tidily on the grass verge)
Leaders: Peter Mansion and Robin Cochrane
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS Leisure: 45 / 145301

F3

TUESDAY JULY 6 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156 / 818711

B9

WEDNESDAY JULY 7 • 10.00

Villages of the Churn Valley
A walk exploring the upper reaches of the Churn Valley. Starting from Cockleford the walk will pass through Cowley to Coberley and on to Upper Coberley returning via Tomtit's Bottom, Cockleford Farm and the river valley. The walk will include a fine Norman Church at Coberley and will pass the sites of two ancient medieval villages. Includes one moderate climb and two main road crossings. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Green Dragon pub car park, Cockleford (with prior permission). Please use the rear part of the car park.
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 179 / 969142

D5

WEDNESDAY JULY 7 • 10.00

Macmillan Way - Stage 3
The principal part of the Macmillan Way runs for 290 miles from Boston in Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury in Dorset with a significant portion traversing all districts of the AONB. The intention is to lead successive walks along this stretch over the next few summers with transport being arranged to take walkers to the start points. The object is not only to provide a series of interesting linked walks but also to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. In this third stage of the Macmillan Way project we walk from Little Compton to Bourton-on-the-Water (diverting from the Way) passing Chastleton House (NT), then through Adlestrop, Lower Slaughter and other picturesque villages. A pub lunch will be available and transport back to the start arranged.
Moderate
Starting point: Little Compton, in front of Manor House
Leaders: Alan Bulley, Kevin Myhill and Mike Colcomb
6 hours • 10 miles
OS: 151/261301

F3

SUNDAY JULY 11 • 10.00

Battle to the Races
From Lansdown to Chalcombe Woolley, overlooking the Tadwick valley then up to Battlefields and Bath Racecourse. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Glanville Road, Lansdown, Bath
Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings
5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 172 / 743678

A10

WEDNESDAY JULY 14 • 10.00

Knights, Salt, Fruit Orchards and Fine Views
This is a pleasant walk from Temple Guiting towards Hailes touching the Salt Way then following the Cotswold Way before a return via Ford. Please bring a packed lunch.

Moderate
Starting point: Temple Guiting Village Hall car park
Leaders: Malcolm Duncan & Bob Fisher
6 hours • 10 miles
OS Leisure: 45 / 089279

E3

THURSDAY JULY 15 • 10.00

Wardens' and Windrush Way 4
Last in a series of four circular walks designed to cover the whole of the Wardens' and Windrush Ways in sequence. We follow the Windrush Way from Bourton to Naunton Downs returning via the W'ardens' Way. Please bring a picnic lunch.
Moderate
Starting point: By the war memorial next to the river in the centre of Bourton. Please allow plenty of time to find suitable parking.
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt
5.5 hours • 10 miles
OS: 45 / 167207

F4

SATURDAY JULY 17 • 10.00

From & to the source of the River Dikler
A delightful and demanding walk linking the delightful villages of Bourton-on-the-Hill and Blockley. Pub stop available for lunch or bring your own if preferred. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Hinchwick Manor
Leader: Colin Boulton
6 hours • 10 miles
OL: 45 / 145301

F3

SATURDAY JULY 17 • 10.00

Along a Future Monarch's Way
Chavenage Green - Beverston - Westonbirt (Down Plantation) - Highgrove - Charlton House - Chavenage. Lunch at Hare & Hounds.
Moderate
Starting point: Chavenage Green
Leaders: Eric Brown, Staszek Jarmuz
6 hours • 10 miles
OS: 162 / 867957

C7

SUNDAY JULY 18 • 10.00

A Canal and Two Railways!
Drop down to Combe Hay and The Limestone Link along the remains of the Somerset Coal Canal through Midford and Tucking Mill to Monkton Combe. A steep climb to Claverton Down before descending into Bath beside Prior Park, then Lyncombe Vale to Fox Hill, Combe Down and Odd Down. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Odd Down Park & Ride, Bath
Leaders: John Walker & Phil Lawrence
5 hours • 10 miles
OS: 155 / 734615

A10

SUNDAY JULY 18 • 10.00

From Castles to Abbeys
Plenty of interest as the walk visits some picturesque villages in the north Oxfordshire Cotswolds. The route includes passing Broughton Castle and Wroxton Abbey. Packed lunch is required. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Shenington Village Green. Please park considerably on roadside in village.
Leaders: Martin & Lucy Squires
5.5 hours • 11 miles
OS: 126/371428

H1

SUNDAY JULY 18 • 14.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Archaeology Walk
A guided walk with Gail Stoten of Cotswold Archaeology looking at the history and importance of this Iron Age fortified town. This site is one of the rarest of its kind in Britain. This site is mainly flat but has undulating ground in places, stout footwear needed. Parking at Station Road car park, Bourton-on-the-Water. Tel: 01452 383333
Starting point: Greystones Farm Nature Reserve, Bourton-on-the-Water. Details sent on booking

THURSDAY JULY 22 • 10.00

Down to the Evenlode from Chippy
From the highest town in Oxfordshire the walk descends into the Evenlode valley passing the ancient woodland of Dean Grove. The walk passes through the villages of Dean, Spelsbury and Chadlington. Lunch facilities available in Chadlington. **Moderate**
Starting point: Chipping Norton Leisure Centre - off Burford Road
Leader: Kevin Myhill
5.5 hours • 10 miles
OS: 191/315264

H3

TUESDAY JULY 27 • 18.00

Evening Beside the Evenlode
An evening walk through Ascott-under-Wychwood and along the banks of the River Evenlode. Returning to the Swann Inn, Ascott. Evening meals available. Limited parking. Please park sensibly on the road if full.
Easy
Starting point: The Swan Inn, Ascott-under-Wychwood. Limited parking. Please park sensibly on the road if full
Leader: Tony Graeme
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 180 / 300187

G4

WEDNESDAY JULY 28 • 10.00

Romans, Reservoirs and Witcombe Woods
A walk around the Witcombe Reservoirs, the Roman Villa and Witcombe Woods that includes one fairly steep and moderately lengthy climb. Refreshments or lunch available at the pub at the end. **Moderate**
Starting point: Car park of the 12 Bells pub at the foot of Birdlip Hill old road
Leaders: Brian Chilvers, Royden Hales, Mike Williams
2.75 hours • 5 miles
OS Explorer: 179 / 905157

C5

THURSDAY JULY 29 • 10.00

Wardens Work at Wotton
Take the Cotswold Way north out of Wotton up to Wotton Hill and the Waterloo monument. Then round Brackenbury Ditches. Back through West Ridge Wood onto Coombe. Down into Coombe follow Dyers Brook returning to Wotton past Ram Inn, a supposedly haunted house and the almshouses. Pub lunch available at end of walk. **Moderate**
Starting point: Royal Oak, Wotton-under-Edge
Leaders: Ken Leach & Les Jones
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 162 / 756934

A7

FRIDAY JULY 30 • 10.00

Monarchs, Diamonds and a Pinch of Salt
A circular walk from Northleach via Upper End and Hampnett using the Monarch's, Diamond and Salt Ways. A gentle walk with little in the way of climbs and stiles but some road. A chance to visit Hampnett Church. If required, lunch is available in cafe after walk. **Easy**
Starting point: The Old Prison car park, Northleach. Please park to the right of the barrier
Leaders: Colin Dickinson, Ken Buckle
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 45 / 108149

E4

SATURDAY JULY 31 • 9.45

Step into the Cotswolds 3
A circular walk from Stonesfield through Blenheim Park and past North Leigh Villa on a route improved through the Conservation Board's 'Step Into The Cotswolds' project. Pub or packed lunch. Bus: Stage Coach service S3 from Oxford.
Moderate
Starting point: By Stonesfield Church
Leader: Dave Scott
5 hours • 8 miles
OS: 164 / 394171

H4

SATURDAY JULY 31 • 10.00

Weaving around the Golden Valley
A walk setting out to cross the Slad and Toadsmoor valleys to Eastcombe before returning via Bussage, Brownshill and Brimscombe and along the Frome valley. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. Public transport available to Stroud. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Stroud, Stratford Park Leisure Centre car park, near the top.
Leaders: John Heathcott, John Woodland, David Burwell
7 hours • 12 miles
OS: 162 / 844056

B6

August

SUNDAY AUGUST 1 • 10.15

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Daneway & Siccarridge Wood

A guided walk linking some of the lovely nature reserves in this area. Walk is very steep and uneven with flights of steps and can be very slippery in wet weather. Tel: 01452 383333 **Starting point:** Meet in the Daneway Inn car park, near Sapperton

TUESDAY AUGUST 3 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp

Walk around the various footpaths of Coleme Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Houses. Bring a mid-morning munchie. **Moderate** **Starting point:** The Fox & House car park in Coleme **Leaders:** Russell Harding & Judith Slee **3 hours • 5 miles** OS: 156 / 818711 **B9**

SATURDAY AUGUST 7 • 21.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Wildlife Watch - Bats, Bats, Bats An evening exploring the night time world of Chedworth Nature Reserve, as we look for bats and are sure to find a few surprises too! The event will include and unmissable opportunity to see a demonstration of mistnetting for live bats by the Gloucestershire Bat Group. Tel: 01452 383333 **Starting point:** Directions sent on booking

SATURDAY AUGUST 7 • 10.00

Painswick Figure of 8 10.00 am start for the morning walk of 5.5 miles along the Painswick Stream. 2.00 pm start for the afternoon walk of 4.5 miles to Slad. Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic if attending both walks. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Painswick Church South Door - park at Walkers Car Park, Golf Course Road off B4073 **Leaders:** Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier **6.5 hours • 10 miles** OS: 179 / 867105 **C5**

SUNDAY AUGUST 8 • 10.00

The Valleys of St Catherine's A walk around the valleys to the south of Marshfield. Some steep hills, packed lunch. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Lay-by on A420 west of Marshfield **Leaders:** Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando **5 hours • 9 miles** OS: 155 / 772738 **B7**

TUESDAY AUGUST 10 • 10.00

Pick and Mix around Little Compton A figure of eight walk giving a choice of a morning, afternoon or full day walk centred on Little Compton. In the morning the walk heads south to include Chastleton Hill Fort, Adlestrop Hill and Chastleton House, returning to Little Compton for an optional pub lunch. The afternoon walk (1.30 pm start) heads north into the hills above Long Compton. Morning walk: 3 hours x 5 miles. Afternoon walk: 2.5 hours x 4.5 miles. **Easy** **Starting point:** Little Compton Church - off A44 Moreton to Chipping Norton road **Leader:** Kevin Myhill **5.5 hours • 10 miles** OL: 45 / 261302 **G3**

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 11 • 10.00

Wardens' Work and a Saxon Church A walk to highlight some of the Cotswold Wardens work party activities. Starting from Daglingworth village hall the walk passes Daglingworth Quarry, a major working stone quarry where a viewing point with information board, has been established with Wardens' help. The walk then proceeds to Moor Wood, Woodmancote returning along the Macmillan Way past Dartley Farm, where Wardens have participated in a major hedgerow restoration project, to Duntisbourne Rouse with its Saxon church. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Daglingworth village hall (with prior permission) **Leaders:** Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham **2.75 hours • 5 miles** OS: 179 / 993052 **D6**

FRIDAY AUGUST 13 • 9.30

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Moths & Small Mammals (joint event with Butterfly Conservation) We will set moth and small mammal traps the night before and you will be able to learn to identify them over an outdoor breakfast! An event suitable for adults who would like to learn more about moths and small mammals. Booking required. Cost £3 Tel: 01452 383333 **Starting point:** Directions sent on booking

THURSDAY AUGUST 12 • 10.00

Around Castlett Wood, Kineton and Barton This is a circular walk from Guiting Power which follows the Castlett Brook through the woods, on to the hamlet of Kineton and return. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Guiting Power village hall car park (Trust the Motorist) **Leaders:** Peter Mansion & Robin Cochrane **2.5 hours • 6 miles** OS Leisure: 45 / 095246 **E3**

TUESDAY AUGUST 17 • 10.00

Stile Free from Marshfield A morning walk from this historic hilltop town, using green lanes and field paths. Weather permitting good views to the south and a visit to see an unusual source of wool! Coffee stop midway, lunch available after walk, in Marshfield - tea shop or pubs. **Easy** **Starting point:** Almshouses, west end of village **Leaders:** Judith Slee & Bob Cole **3 hours • 5 miles** Explorer: 155/774737 **B9**

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 18 • 10.00

Macmillan Way - Stage 4 The principal part of the Macmillan Way runs for 290 miles from Boston in Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury in Dorset with a significant portion traversing all districts of the AONB. The intention is to lead successive walks along this stretch over the next few summers with transport being arranged to take walkers to the start points. The object is not only to provide a series of interesting linked walks but also to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. In this fourth stage of the Macmillan Way project we walk from Lower Slaughter back to Northleach (diverting slightly from the path) along the Windrush valley and later through the shrunken medieval village of Hampnett. A pub lunch will be available and transport to the start arranged. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Northleach, Old Prison car park - please park to the right of barrier. **Leaders:** Alan Bulley & Mike Colcomb **6 hours • 9 miles** OS: 163/109149 **F4**

THURSDAY AUGUST 19 • 19.30

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Wildlife Watch - Bat Watching The evening is a bat extravaganza. We will walk down to the mansion to view the bat cam, where an expert will tell us about bats. If conditions are good we will go down to the lake to see them hunting over the water! Booking required: cost £6 adult, £4 child. Tel: 01452 383333 **Starting point:** Directions sent on booking

SUNDAY AUGUST 22 • 10.00

All the Stanleys Circular walk through Leonard Stanley and Stanley Dowton to Selsley, returning via Kings Stanley. Pub stop for a drink only. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Coaley Peak picnic site **Leaders:** David Harrowin, John Graham **5 hours • 9 miles** OS: 162 / 794013 **B6**

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25 • 10.00

The Eastern Slopes of Clevee Common Walk out to join the Cotswold Way and follow it to Belas Knap and beyond, meandering over hills and through valleys to Charlton Abbots and Brockhampton for lunch. We return via Sevenhampton and the site of the medieval village of Sennington. Pub lunch available. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Wardens Wood car park. From Brockhampton follow Park Lane and then turn right at a T junction; the car park is then within one mile. **Leaders:** Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan **6 hours • 10 miles** OS Leisure: 45 / 011237 **D4**

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25 • 10.15

Wickridge Hill and Painswick Valley From Stammages Lane car park through the ancient village of Painswick before ascending to the Frith nature reserve. Along Wickridge hill before returning along the Painswick valley. Fine views of the hills and valleys north of Stroud. Walk accessible via the No. 46 bus route from Cheltenham or Stroud. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Stammages Lane (pay & display) car park, Painswick **Leaders:** Royden Hales, Mike Williams, Brian Chilvers **2.5 hours • 5 miles** Explorer: 179 / 865094 **C5**

THURSDAY AUGUST 26 • 10.00

Donnington 'Eights' No. 3 - Around Stanton Third in a 'figure of eight' series based on the Donnington Way and some of its pubs. This one takes in the Cotswold Way Circular Walk No 3 and also visits Laverton and Buckland. Pub lunch available. **Moderate** **Starting point:** The Mount at Stanton **Leaders:** Keith Sisson & Paul Adams **5.5 hours • 10 miles** OS Leisure: 45 / 072343 **E2**

FRIDAY AUGUST 27 • 10.30

The National Trust: Woodchester Park A geological walk into the past - a walk for all the family with the Gloucestershire Geological Trust and National Trust staff. Booking advisable on 01452 810051. Entry £3 **Starting point:** Meet at 10.30am in the NT car park at Woodchester Park.

SATURDAY AUGUST 28 • 10.30

Coffee Morning Walk - Round and about Kingscote Suggest morning coffee prior to walk. Walk starts at 10.30. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Hunters Hall car park **Leaders:** Eric Brown, Staszek Jarmuz **2.5 hours • 5 miles** OS: 162 / 814960 **B7**

SATURDAY AUGUST 28 • 10.00

Delights of the Coln Through Chedworth to Coln Rogers, Winson, Calcot and Coln St Denis, returning through Chedworth Woods. Bring a picnic. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Disused Chedworth airfield, 1.5 miles north of Chedworth on Compton Abdale road **Leaders:** John Heathcott, John Woodland, David Burwell **7 hours • 12 miles** OS: 163 / 040133 **E5**

September

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4 • 10.00

The Power of Water We follow the River Avon to the confluence with the River Boyd. Then to North Stoke to look down on John Hore's Bristol to Bath Navigation Scheme. **Moderate** **Starting point:** The Shallows Picnic Site at Saltford off A4 Bristol to Bath road **Leaders:** Gill Sheppard & Phil Lawrence **5 hours • 9 miles** OS: 162 / 686671 **A10**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5 • 10.00

Walk the Bugatti Hill Climb A walk across the contrasting terrain of Clevee Hill and Nottingham Hill and which includes part of the famous Bugatti Hill Climb. Lunch available at the Golf Club after the walk. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Clevee Common car park next to the Clevee Hill Golf Club **Leaders:** Gerry Burgess & David Jelfs **3 hours • 5 miles** OS Explorer: 179 / 988272 **D3**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5 • 10.00

Journey to the Edge of the Cotswolds Scenic walk to Nympsfield and Coaley Peak viewpoint on the Cotswold Way. Return journey via Woodchester Park Mansion. Glorious views of Severn Valley, Forest of Dean and beyond (weather permitting). Please bring a packed lunch. Pub stop for drinks only. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Long stay car park (opposite bus station) in Old Market, Nailsworth **Leaders:** Graham Bateman & Peter Russell **6 hours • 10 miles** OS: 162 / 849996 **B6**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5 • 10.00

Down the Windrush in Mitford Country The walk heads downstream from Burford to visit the lost village of Wiford, and then Swinbrook and Asthall with their Mitford connections. A stop will be made at the inn at Swinbrook for an optional lunch. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Burford car park (near church) **Leaders:** Kevin Myhill and Rosemary Wilson **5.5 hours • 9 miles** OL: 45 / 253123 **G5**

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 7 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp Walk around the various footpaths of Coleme Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate** **Starting point:** The Fox & Hounds car park in Coleme **Leaders:** Russell Harding & Judith Slee **3 hours • 5 miles** OS: 156 / 818711 **B9**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 • 10.00

Where the Windrush Rises An airy walk across the high wolds to the dry valley where a small Cotswold river emerges. Pub lunch available. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Ford on the B4077 east of Winchcombe (park across the road from the Plough Inn) **Leader:** Stephen Wright **2.5 hours • 5 miles** OL: 45 / 088294 **E3**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 • 10.00

The Evenlode Valley Starting and finishing in Chadlington the walk will follow a section of the Oxfordshire Way close to the River Evenlode and cross many of the springlines along the valley sides which feed the river. **Easy** **Starting point:** Cross roads in centre of Chadlington **Leader:** Craig Blackwell **2.5 hours • 4 miles** SP: 327219 **G4**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 • 18.00

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Tales from the River Bank (part of Cotswold Rivers Week) Discover the beautiful River Eye at Greystones Farm Nature Reserve with John Field, our water vole project officer. Learn about the water voles, otters, dragonflies - and whatever happened to our native crayfish? Booking required - tel: 01452 383333 **Starting point:** Directions sent on booking

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 • 10.00

In the Footsteps of the Romans An exploration of some Roman archaeological features along the River Coln around Quenington and Coln St Aldwyns. Pub lunch available after the walk. Please park considerately in the village. **Easy** **Starting point:** Quenington village green **Leaders:** Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham, Geoff Ricketts **2.5 hours • 5 miles** OL: 45 / 144043 **F5**

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9 • 10.00

Cotswold Rivers: Springs to Silk Follow the Cotswold Way to the source of the River Isbourne which we then follow back to Winchcombe, through the historic mill sites. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Winchcombe Back Lane (pay & display car park) **Leaders:** Simon Mallatratt & Jean Booth **6 hours • 10 miles** OS: 45 / 023284 **D3**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11 • 10.00

By Water to the Heavens A walk to explore the Thames and Severn Canal and the River Frome. The walk will include Far Thrupp, Toadsmoor, Eastcombe and Middle Lypiatt. Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. Public transport available to Stroud. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Stratford Park Leisure Centre car park **Leaders:** Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier **6 hours • 10 miles** OS: 179 / 844056 **B6**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12 • 10.00

Rivers Walk - Avon to Avon to Avon A walk to Luckington to explore the varied features of the headwaters of the Bristol Avon. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Sherston High Street **Leaders:** Ted Thornton & Stephen Knight **5 hours • 9 miles** OS: 173 / 853858 **B8**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12 • 14.30

Summer River Walk by the River Windrush Circular walk taking in local and natural history between Asthall village and Worsham. If you wish to take lunch beforehand at the Maytime, telephone 01993 823068. **Moderate** **Starting point:** The car park at the rear of the Maytime Inn, in Asthall village **Leader:** Ken Betteridge **2 hours • 3 miles** OL45: 288113 **H5**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12 • 10.00

Across the Battlefield A walk with plenty of up and downs as it passes around the battlefield of Edge Hill in Warwickshire. The route includes the villages of Ratley, Kineton and Lower Tysoe. Packed lunch required. **Strenuous** **Starting point:** Ratley - top of village. Please park considerately on roadside. **Leaders:** Lucy & Martin Squires **5.5 hours • 12 miles** OS: 206/380475 **H1**

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16 • 10.00

Donnington 'Eights' No. 4 - Around Willersey Fourth in a 'figure of eight' series based on the Donnington Way and some of its pubs. This one visits Saintbury and Weston-sub-Edge before taking in the escarpment overlooking Broadway. Pub lunch available. **Moderate** **Starting point:** The New Inn, Willersey **Leaders:** Keith Sisson & Paul Adams **5.5 hours • 10 miles** OS Leisure: 45 / 106396 **E2**

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17 • 19.30

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Wildlife Watch - Nightwalk Experience Greystones Farm Nature Reserve as the sun sets and help us search for creatures of the night such as owls, bats and moths. A walk for families with children aged 8+-. Bring a torch and suitable clothing/footwear. Booking required - tel: 01452 383333 **Starting point:** Directions sent on booking

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19 • 10.00

Rivers, Kings and Queens in the Landscape A walk over Bredon Hill to Nafford Locks, returning along the River Avon and the Combertons. Please bring a packed lunch. Please park considerately in Elmley Castle. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Outside Church, Elmley Castle **Leaders:** Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood **5.5 hours • 10 miles** OS Explorer: 190 / 982410 **D2**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19 • 10.00

Chocolate Box Memories Circular walk: Castle Combe, Ford, Giddeahall, Yatton Keynell Nature Reserve, Long Dean and back along the By-Brook. Pubs nearby at end of walk or bring a picnic! Any donations to the Alzheimer's Society as part of their nationwide walks day. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Castle Combe car park **Leaders:** John Walker & John Dougal **3.5 hours • 7 miles** OS: 156 / 845773 **B9**

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21 • 10.00

A Countryside Walk from Box Another morning walk in the countryside around Box. A midwalk stop for coffee & snack. Lunch available after walk in local pubs. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Selwyn Hall car park, Box **Leaders:** Judith Slee & Bob Cole **3 hours • 5 miles** OS: 156 / 824686 **B10**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 • 10.00

What's in the Wychwoods Starting from Shipton-under-Wychwood this walk passes through the other Wychwood villages of Milton and Ascott where there is the option of a pub lunch. We shall discover there is more to these charming villages than at first appears and some amazing history of these unique villages will be revealed. Contact 07762019373 for further details. **Easy** **Starting point:** Village Hall, Shipton-under-Wychwood **Leader:** Gerald Simper **5.5 hours • 8 miles** OS Leisure: 45 / 278181 **G4**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 • 10.00

The Cotswold Escarpment A short walk but with one long climb going around Crickley Hill Country Park then down the escarpment to Little Shurdington and back up via the Tumuli and Long Barrow. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Crickley Hill Country Park car park **Leaders:** Brian Chilvers, Mike Williams, Royden Hales **2.5 hours • 4 miles** OS: 179 / 930164 **C4**

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23 • 10.00

Unsung Beauty An undulating walk from Nailsworth to Owlpen via Newmarket returning via Nympsfield. Packed lunch please. **Moderate** **Starting point:** Old Market Nailsworth, long stay car park **Leaders:** Les Jones, Ken Leach **5 hours • 9 miles** OS: 162 / 849996 **B6**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 • 10.00

Four Fords (or is it Five?) A walk from Bradford-on-Avon, to Westwood, Hungerford Castle, Iford, Freshford and back to Bradford-on-Avon. Please bring a packed lunch. **Easy** **Starting point:** Meet at Bradford-on-Avon Railway car park (small charge) **Leaders:** Dave Jennings, Wilf Dando **5.5 hours • 9 miles** OS: 173 / 824607 **B10**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 • 13.00

Wildlife Watch: Dormouse Safari Come and meet the secretive small mammals of Midger Nature Reserve - hopefully some dormice too! Learn about their tracks, habits and field signs. This event is intended for families, but interested adults would be very welcome. Pre-booking required. Call 01452 383333 **Starting point:** Midger Nature Reserve

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 • 10.00

Meningitis Trust Five Valleys Walk Walk as little as 1 mile or the full 21 miles in aid of the Meningitis Trust. To register your interest call 0845 120 4530. **Up to 21miles**

Cotswold Grants

INFORMATION ABOUT COUNTRYSIDE AND ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



A number of grants are available to help farmers, landowners, organisations and local communities make environmental improvements. These are administered by various organisations, all working to enhance the landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the Cotswolds. Listed on these pages are just some of the grants available. For further information please contact the relevant organisation.

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) provides funding for a variety of rural activities. For further information, see www.southwestrda.org.uk. The Rural Enterprise Gateway also helps rural businesses in the south west – see www.regsu.org.uk or call Business Link on 0845 6009966, or for Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and the West of England, Graham Thompson on 01285 889873.

Sustainable Development Fund

A grant scheme administered by the Cotswolds Conservation Board supporting projects that bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the Cotswolds AONB.

Open to individuals, community, voluntary and partnership groups, the private sector, public bodies and local authorities and charities.

Applications can be made for grants ranging from several hundred pounds up to £25,000. The fund can provide up to 75% of the total project costs. In exceptional circumstances 100% may be provided for voluntary bodies.

If you think you have a suitable project, the Conservation Board would like to hear from you; call 01451 862035 for details.

More information is available on our website at: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

National Grid Pipeline Community Fund

Following consent given to National Grid to construct a new gas pipeline through the AONB from Wormington to Sapperton, a new grant fund for community and environmental projects has become available and will be administered by National Grid. Further details of criteria and eligibility are available from: National Grid Community Relations, Unit 2a Vale Business Centre, Asparagus Way, Vale Park, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 1GN

Email: enquiries@sw-rp.co.uk

.....0800 731 0561

Gloucestershire Environmental Trust

The Gloucestershire Environmental Trust provides grants from funds generated by the Landfill Communities Fund for the benefit of Gloucestershire, its people and its environment.

Applications have to fit the Landfill Communities Fund objectives and must be approved and registered with ENTRUST www.entrust.org.uk

.....01452 739006
www.glos-environment-trust.co.uk

Useful fundraising websites

General fundraising

■ www.grantsnet.co.uk
Easy access to information on grants available to businesses and charities, with the ability to search grant schemes by area, project type or keywords

■ www.access-funds.co.uk
Regularly updated news about sources of funding

■ www.fundraising.co.uk
UK charity and non profit making fundraisers

■ www.ruralnet.org.uk
Details of rural funding sources

Charitable trusts

■ www.acf.org.uk
Trusts and foundations

■ www.funderfinder.org.uk
Information about the Fundfinder software and links to websites of trusts

■ www.dsc.org.uk
Information on the Directory of Social Change, a guide to trust funding

Company giving

■ www.cafonline.org
Charities Aid Foundation supports corporate community involvement

Government funding

■ www.governmentfunding.org.uk
Provides information on grants awarded by government departments

European funding

■ www.dti.gov.uk/regional/european-structural-funds/index.html
Information from the Department of Trade and Industry on European funding

■ www.esf.gov.uk
European Social Fund site

Other useful websites

■ www.charity-commission.gov.uk
Charity Commission publications and charity register

■ www.grantfinder.co.uk
Subscribing to Grantfinder, a leading commercial sourcing organisation, enables you to search its database

■ www.j4bgrants.co.uk
Registering on the website enables you to search for relevant grants and make use of other services

Grant finder services

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

Conservation land management grants

■ Avon FWAG.....0117 959 8522
■ Gloucestershire FWAG01452 627487
■ Oxfordshire FWAG01993 886565
■ Warwickshire FWAG01926 318280
■ Wiltshire FWAG0117 959 8522
■ Worcestershire FWAG01905 362955

Business Link

Business orientated advice and diversification opportunities for South West

■ Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Bath.....0845 600 9966
Email: enquiry@businesslinksw.co.uk
Website: www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest

■ Wiltshire0845 600 9966
Email: enquiry@businesslinksw.co.uk
Website: www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest

■ Warwickshire0845 113 1234
Email: info@businesslinkwm.co.uk
Website: www.businesslinkwm.co.uk

■ Hereford and Worcestershire 0845 113 1234
Email: info@businesslinkwm.co.uk
Website: www.businesslinkwm.co.uk

Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)

South West England has been allocated more than £156 million from the £3.9 billion national budget to help its land based businesses and rural communities to take advantage of new technologies, to learn new skills, to move into new areas of economic activity and to work collaboratively to develop communities and businesses. In addition the region's farmers can also benefit from national programmes to improve the environment and the countryside. For information on Solutions for Business and the RDPE Resource Efficiency for Farms initiative call 0845 6009966, or the Soils for Profit initiative call Natural England on 03000601244. The new EU Regulations divide the aims of the programme into three main areas, called Axes: **RDPE Axis 1 – improving the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sector.** Contact Rural Enterprise Gateway on 0845 6009966 or James Lloyd, RDPE Project Facilitator – Gloucestershire First (01242) – 864149, Wiltshire - Heather White 01189 580584

RDPE Axis 2 – improving the environment and countryside (80% of the total budget – mostly to be invested in national schemes such as Environmental Stewardship and The England Woodland Grants Scheme).

For Axis 2 contact:

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)

■ Contact 0845 602 4098 or 0800 060 1118

Organic Entry Level Stewardship

■ Contact 0845 602 4093

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

■ 0845 602 4098 (Farmland Birds Project as part of HLS – contact Natural England on 03000 601118)

RDPE Axis 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas and promoting diversification of the rural economy – including Local Action for Rural Communities.

www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/pdf/guidh.pdf

Energy Grants Special

For the Department of Energy and Climate Change visit: www.decc.gov.uk

The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) sets out a path towards achieving the UK's target of sourcing 15% of overall energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. The lead scenario set out in the RES suggests that over 30% of our electricity (including 2% from small scale generation) and 12% of heat demand could come from renewable sources. The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme will be the first of its kind for renewable heating anywhere in the world and is intended to implement this by April 2011. Proposals on

the design and operation of the scheme include:

- Accessing the RHI;
- Eligibility;
- Tariff setting;
- Reviews
- Interaction with other policies.

The Feed-in Tariff (FIT) for small scale low carbon electricity effective from 1 April as part of a wider initiative on the Renewable Electricity Financial Incentives (REFI). Key highlights include:

- FITs will be applicable to installations up to 5MW (2kW for non-renewable CHP);
- Wind, solar PV and hydro projects of 50kW or less, and microCHP projects supported through the pilot will be required to use the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) eligible products installed by MCS accredited installers to claim FITs support;
- All tariffs will be linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI);
- Electricity supply companies to make FITs payments to eligible generators;
- FITs income for domestic properties will be exempt from income tax;
- Ofgem will act as the FITs scheme administrator;
- A levelisation process, undertaken by Ofgem, to share the cost of the scheme across all licensed suppliers in proportion to their share of the UK electricity supply market; and
- Regular reviews of the scheme, the first one in 2013.

Cash Rewards for Low Carbon Electricity and Heating

Low carbon building programme call helpline08704 232313

www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk

All products and installers must be accredited under the new Microgeneration Certification Scheme

www.microgenerationcertification.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund

The Community Sustainable Energy Programme. Community Buildings, charities, Parish Council, schools and churches are all eligible for CSEP grants.

.....Helpline 0845 3671671

www.communitysustainable.org.uk/

Grassroots Funding

Limited funding may be available for community buildings via the national Grassroots scheme, administered locally by the Gloucestershire Community Foundation.

www.gloucestershirecommunityfoundation.co.uk/pages/recieving_grassroots.htm

Energy Suppliers –Green Tariff Funds

Most large UK energy suppliers now offer 'green tariffs' including E.ON Sustainable Energy Fund02476 181945
source@eon-uk.com

EDF Green Fund0800 051 1905
greenfund@edfenergy.com

The Carbon Trust's energy efficiency loan scheme has saved UK businesses £100m and 615,000 tonnes of CO₂ by funding equipment replacement projects.