West Berkshire Countryside Society

UPSTREAM

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SUMMER
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Woodland LWS © Rob Curtis

West Berkshire's Local Wildlife Sites

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Many members will be familiar with Local Wildlife Sites in the county. Volunteers carry out conservation tasks at several, including Ashampstead Common; Fence Wood, and Grimsbury Castle Hermitage; Bucklebury Common; Eling Way and Hampstead Norreys woods; Holly Copse, West Woodhay; Miram's Copse, Rushall Manor Farm; and Winterbourne Wood. In this article, Rob Curtis of TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre), the centre that covers Berkshire and Oxfordshire, describes his work in surveying and assessing sites of local wildlife interest.

'My main responsibility is to survey Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in Berkshire, on public or privately owned land with a high wildlife value. These non-statutory sites can be designated for their priority habitat such as chalk grassland, ancient woodland or heathland. They can also be designated for their species interest. This can include an assemblage of birds using fen or open water habitats, a full suite of reptile species or a notable population of a butterfly species. SSSIs (sites of special scientific interest), in contrast, are statutory national sites which are representative of the most important wildlife and geological features. So LWS can be important or species-rich at the national level or be of more local significance.

Every county contains LWS. Nationwide there are 44,240 of them. At the last count Oxfordshire contained 399. Berkshire currently has 722 with 41 proposed. This varies between 458 in West Berkshire and 6 in Slough. A site list and map can be found on the TVERC website.

In Berkshire the process of designation is funded by the district councils: sites are chosen with the assistance of each district ecologist; permission is sought from landowners; sites are surveyed where permission is granted; and reports written. A site selection panel made up of local expertise then decides whether these should be newly selected or re-selected following ongoing survey. Landowners receive the reports and are informed of the final decision. There is more about the process and the criteria used to define a LWS on the website.

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West Berkshire Countryside Society

The aim of the West Berkshire Countryside Society is to promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of the West Berkshire countryside… furthering these objectives through practical conservation work, and guided walks and talks from local experts. It was formed in 2012 by amalgamating the Friends of the Pang, Kennet & Lambourn Valleys; the Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group; the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers & the Barn Owl Group.

Upstream is our quarterly publication designed to highlight conservation matters in West Berkshire and beyond and to publicise the activities of the Society.

Chair & Enquiries: **John Haggerty (enquiries@westberkscountryside.org.uk)**
Membership Secretary: **Stewart Waight (membership@westberkscountryside.org.uk)**
Upstream Editor: **Margery Slatter (editor@westberkscountryside.org.uk)**
Hon President: **Dick Greenaway MBE RD**

Conservation Volunteers' Task Diary

For outdoor events please wear suitable footwear and clothing. Most practical tasks start at 10am and usually finish around 3pm, unless otherwise stated, so bring a packed lunch. However, we are more than happy to accept any time you can spare! All tools are provided. A map of each task location can be found on the website diary page by clicking on the grid reference shown for that task. The three-word code after each grid reference is the "What Three Words" listing for the task meeting point.

Date/Time	Venue	Details
July 2025		
Tue 1st July 10:00	**Redhill Wood**	Conservation work in line with seasonal demands. Parking off road on entrance to the main ride. **SU420 642 inserted.stable.homecare**
Tue 8th July 10:00	**Sulham Home Farm**	Continuing ragwort control on this SSSI. Parking at Sulham Home Farm. Please bring a fork if you can. **SU643 758 artist.resist.humans**
Tue 15th July 10:00	**Ashampstead Common**	Raking previously cut grass in woodland glades. Meet at Buckhold car park. **SU587 751 swells.wrist.dandelions**
Tue 22nd July 10:00	**Grove Pit Common, Leckhampstead**	Path maintenance on this parish wildlife site. Access the common via the track which leaves the B4494 west at Cotswold Farm. Please leave your vehicles at the bottom of the track and walk up to the common. **SU440 777 bossy.connected.tubes**
Tue 29th July 10:00	**Rushall Manor Farm**	Habitat management. Meet at the Black Barn off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. **SU584 723 telephone.brink.crate**
August 2025		
Tue 5th Aug 10:00	**Furze Hill, Hermitage**	Grassland and butterfly habitat management on this parish wildlife site. Ample parking at village hall – through double gates off Pinewood Crescent. **SU512 740 simmer.equipping.casual**
Tue 12th Aug 10:00	**Eling Way**	Clear invasive vegetation either side of the Eling Way. Park at Hampstead Norreys village car park. **SU527 762 singing.during.barrel**
Tue 19th Aug 10:00	**Padworth Common**	Habitat and pathway management with BBOWT. Parking at the reserve. **SU619 648 bigger.restores.highlighted**
Tue 26th Aug 10:00	**Rushall Manor Farm**	Conservation management tasks. Meet at the Black Barn off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. **SU584 723 telephone.brink.crate**
September 2025		
Tue 2nd Sept 10:00	**Malt House, West Woodhay**	Coppicing and hedge laying, Parking is on the track off the West Woodhay road. **SU404 637 belts.glorified.connects**
Tue 9th Sept 10:00	**Winterbourne Wood**	Coppicing hazel and clearing paths and bracken. Park on the main woodland entrance track. **SU447 717 headboard.tubes.olive**
Tue 16th Sept 10:00	**Boxford**	Brash clearing and tree maintenance. Park along Westbrook Lane and in the site entrance in Boxford village. **SU426 717 rectangular.maybe.scatter**
Tue 23rd Sept 10:00	**Bucklebury Common**	Heathland and woodland management. Meet at the Crossroads. **SU556 691 taskbar.flagpole.sensual**
Tue 30th Sept 10:00	**Rushall Manor Farm**	Habitat management. Meet at the Black Barn off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. **SU584 723 telephone.brink.crate**

Hedge Laying, Little Hidden Farm © Andy Hollox

Volunteers: Task Roundup

Although it seemed to some of us that our tasks in this quarter often involved hedge laying, only five of the fourteen days employed this skill. We have been fortunate to be working in dry and sunny weather with large groups of volunteers at every site.

Bucklebury Common was the location for one of several tree-focussed tasks. We freshly haloed 9 notable trees, mostly oaks, to help ensure their future health and longevity. Each tree had been selected for its current and potential value to wildlife and biodiversity.

The team had two popular visits to **Winterbourne Wood** with a wide variety of tasks including clearing winter storm damage and improving the Primrose Ridge. We knocked back early bracken growth which will allow the many foxgloves to bloom. We also weeded several newly planted saplings which are growing very successfully.

Volunteers at Winterbourne Wood © Andy Hollox

On a Friday in March, a small party at **Grove Pit**, Leckhampstead, removed some of the dead elm and cleared fallen trees from the path. Part of the main area behind the seat has now been replanted with trees supplied by one of our Volunteers.

At **Redhill Wood**, hardwood trees, planted after the great storm of 1987, are overcrowded, so the main task was that of thinning, giving an opportunity for remaining trees to thrive and encouraging the ground flora and fauna. Pathways were cleared of overhanging and fallen trees and some cut wood was used to make a log bridge over a particularly muddy section of the path.

Whilst the priority task at **Rushall Manor Farm** was continuing to lay an overgrown elm hedge, a group also worked to make a footpath passable in very muddy conditions. They constructed a walkway using coppiced hazel stems (much like a Neolithic trackway) to successfully provide a drier path.

Volunteers continued with hedge laying at **Sheepdrove** in February and the **Malthouse** in March. The **Sheepdrove** hedge is mature and tall, but the use of chainsaws enables us to maintain steady progress of 30 – 40m per visit. Surplus trimmings are now being made into a dead hedge. At the **Malthouse**, good progress was made with a record length of about 50m being laid. This hedge is easier to lay, despite the knuckles and entanglements of hawthorn at the height of successive flailing. Volunteers made a second visit to **Woolley Firs**, near Maidenhead, to help a BBOWT group develop the skills to lay on-site hedges and enable future regenerative management. The group included local scouts, many of whom had never used saws and loppers, let alone helped to lay a hedge!

Working on the Malthouse Hedge © Andy Hollox

Our visits to **Little Hidden Farm** were triggered by a one-day hedge laying course provided for the Berkshire Bodgers, who have their woodworking area here. The organic farm is a well visited location for our Barn Owl Group. It is also known for a colony of rare Duke of Burgundy butterflies. Two further days were spent laying a mature hedge and an additional day clearing a wide ride for horse riders and walkers through a wooded area.

The annual task at **Hill Green** found us bramble bashing as normal, trying to restrict ingress into the meadow. We felled some dead elms but planted a dozen trees (supplied by one of our members) to replace them.

In early April, we spent a day in **East Garston** to help a community group responsible for managing a parish council site. To kick-start management for increased biodiversity, Volunteers coppiced a selection of well-grown hazel, using the arisings to dead hedge newly created scallops in a belt of dense shrubs.

Dead Hedging at Furze Hill © Andy Hollox

We returned to **Hosehill** to continue constructing the lakeside path. A small but determined team accomplished a good length appreciated by several passing walkers. And finally, a fruitful day was spent at **Furze Hill** carrying out a variety of tasks to improve the overall biodiversity of the site – and we enjoyed the cake at coffee time!

Compiled by **Margery Slatter**, with thanks to the Task Leaders

The Value of Habitat Piles

Most Tuesdays, as our Volunteers remove invasive species, widen paths and manage woodland areas, large quantities of 'arisings' are created. We tend to stack logs thicker than an arm but thinner than a thigh into log piles, form deadwood into dead hedges and brash piles, and create heaps of 'soft' vegetation. There is a general belief that these are 'good for wildlife', but what is the value they can add to wildlife habitats?

Habitat Piles, Paice's Wood
© Andy Hollox

In log and brash piles, like these at Paice's Wood, the decomposing branches will become a rich substrate for fungi, which play a vital role in recycling nutrients. Bracket fungi and jelly fungi, for instance, break down the tough lignin and cellulose in wood, releasing nutrients back into the soil. These nutrients enrich the surrounding environment, promoting plant growth and supporting a thriving ecosystem. Microorganisms in rotting wood contribute to the decomposition process, as do detritivores like woodlice and millipedes which help to break down organic matter. Deadwood provides a critical resource for invertebrates. Beetles, particularly saproxylic beetles like the endangered stag beetle, rely on decaying wood for their larvae to develop.

Solitary bees and wasps may use hollow logs and cracks as nesting sites and small mammals like hedgehogs, shrews, and voles find gaps and crevices between logs to hide from predators and harsh weather. For our increasingly endangered hedgehogs, these piles can serve as essential overwintering habitats.

The damp, shaded environment within log and vegetation piles is a boon for amphibians such as frogs, toads and newts. These creatures rely on cool, moist habitats to thrive, especially during the warmer months when natural damp spots may be scarce. Reptiles, particularly slow worms and adders, may also use piles as basking sites or to hide from predators. Located near a pond, like these created on Bucklebury Common, piles can be particularly beneficial, helping to increase the range of microhabitats within an area.

The piles may also attract a variety of bird species that feed on the insects and invertebrates inhabiting them. Woodpeckers, robins, and wrens may forage for insects in and around them.

By creating microhabitats that cater to species with specific needs, (this stag's horn fungus at Redhill Wood is feeding on rotting conifer trunks), habitat piles boost species richness in an area. This biodiversity contributes to ecological resilience, enabling ecosystems to better withstand environmental changes. Habitat piles play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity by providing for multiple species at different stages of their life cycles and can be fundamental to local food webs. This interconnectedness ensures the stability and productivity of ecosystems.

But this is not the only vital service that habitat piles perform in the environment. Management of arisings to minimize greenhouse gas generation is another critically important objective. Whereas in a few contexts a bonfire to burn 'arisings' may be necessary, sequestering carbon by leaving fallen branches, stumps, and other woody debris on the forest floor and allowing natural regeneration of trees and plants can enhance carbon retention and habitat creation at the same time. Additionally, vegetation piles are often created because invasive species, like bracken or brambles, are being cleared from an area. Managing these species that may threaten to overcome a habitat helps to maintain biodiversity in healthy ecosystems and, in turn, supports carbon sequestration when the arisings are retained on site.

Habitat Piles, Bucklebury
© Andy Hollox

Preserving natural habitats, supporting biodiversity and maximizing carbon sequestration are critical in the context of global warming, as healthy habitats act as valuable carbon sinks whilst providing refuge for many species. However, it is essential to consider local conditions, ecological goals, and community interests when making management decisions about the most appropriate method for disposing of the waste arising from conservation management tasks.

Stag's Horn Fungus, Redhill Wood
© Margery Slatter

Margery Slatter, using research supplied by **John Salmon** (Log Piles) and **John Hislop** (Carbon Sequestration)

Don't forget our website!
www.westberkscountryside.org.uk

Continued from page 1.

I'll now summarise a few LWS in West Berkshire that I surveyed in 2024.

Nine woodland sites in the district were re-surveyed. These were mainly private with two council owned sites.

One of the best was a private woodland, containing many oak standards over old ash and hazel coppice, displaying a good diversity in structure. The fallen and standing deadwood within the area is good for a range of invertebrates, bats and hole-nesting birds. A species-rich ground flora included 20 indicators of long-lived woodland like bluebell, yellow archangel, wood anemone, wood-sorrel, hairy wood-rush, moschatel, pignut and early dog-violet.

Calcareous Grassland LWS
© Rob Curtis

One restored calcareous grassland site in the district was surveyed for the first time. This included 23 typical and indicator plant species of this habitat type such as rough hawkbit, clustered bellflower, kidney vetch, common restharrow, pyramidal orchid, quaking-grass, salad burnet and small scabious.

For any **landowners** reading this who may have an LWS, this means recognition that your land management has resulted in this site's existence, and you could receive a free survey and information about it. Owning a LWS does not mean increased access to a site or any obligation to change management practices. Keep an eye out for any correspondence from us requesting permission to survey your site.'

Rob Curtis

Winterbourne Wood LWS
© Andy Hollox

Haloing Veteran Tree, Bucklebury Common
© Andy Hollox

If you have some **expertise in a particular taxon group** and would like to survey some of the sites, Rob would be pleased to hear from you. Details are on the website.

For those who regularly record wildlife across the district, please continue to do so. Your records reach TVERC if they're sent via iRecord or a local organisation that holds a data sharing agreement. Recent records of faunal indicator species can help designate an LWS.

TVERC's main remit is as a hub of ecological information (species, site and habitat data). This is invaluable for land use planning, academic and strategic environmental projects at the local level. **www.tverc.org**

Join in to help our Pollinators!

Bees' Needs Week 2025: 14 to 20 July 2025

There are about 270 different species of bee in Britain and Ireland and many are excellent, indispensable crop pollinators which are becoming endangered. We can all play a part in encouraging bees in our local area and take some simple steps to protect our pollinators and help to restore our natural world.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/bees-needs

Honeybees can vary in the colour of the main body or abdomen, but all have large hairy eyes, a furry chest or thorax and distinctive bent antennae. Most **bumblebees** live in small colonies, are not aggressive and do not sting unless provoked. **Solitary bees** do not live in colonies. Each female makes her own nest, (some may nest close together in large numbers) using lawns, walls and dry wood.

Bee or Bee-fly? Some flies are easily mistaken for bees. The mimicking appearance helps to deter predators but they, themselves, predate bee and wasp larvae. How to tell the difference? Bees have two pairs of wings; flies only have one. Bees have long antennae; flies have short antennae. Bees have hairy eyes; flies have very large eyes that may cover the whole of the front of their head.

Get involved! All you need to do is spend 10 minutes watching flowers and insects in good weather and complete a Flower Insect Timed (FIT) count. Every single count submitted to the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) helps make data more meaningful, to help them learn more about where pollinators live and how their numbers are changing. Read the PoMS instructions for FIT counts and help them help pollinators!

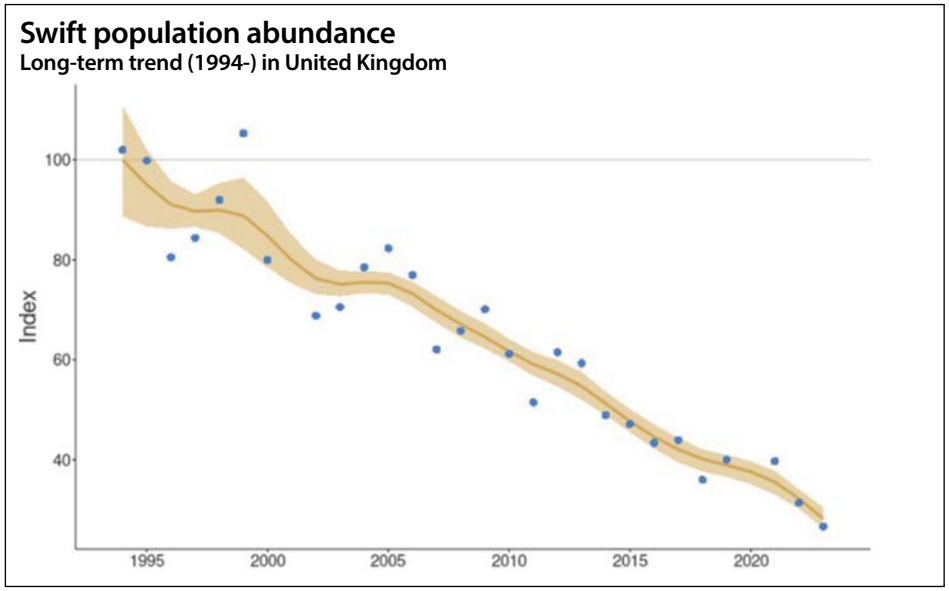
ukpoms.org.uk/fit-counts

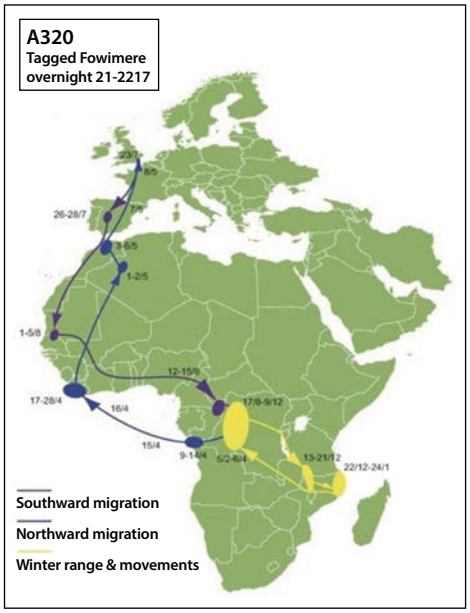
Shrieking Swifts


Apus Flock Flying © Keta Wikimedia Commons

'Swifts are magical in the manner of all things that exist just a little beyond understanding. Once they were called the "Devil's bird," perhaps because those screaming flocks of black crosses around churches seemed pulled from darkness, not light. But to me, they… were only ever flickering silhouettes at 30, 40, 50 miles an hour, a shoal of birds, a pouring sheaf of identical black grains against bright clouds." Helen Macdonald, The Mysterious Life of Birds Who Never Come Down, New York Times Magazine

The swift is a medium-sized bird, which is a superb flyer. Sleeping, eating, bathing and even mating on the wing, swifts rarely touch the ground. They are also the fastest birds in level flight, with an impressive top speed of 69mph. Swifts are plain sooty brown, with a white throat, but in flight against the sky they appear black. They have curved wings and a forked tail. Swifts are summer visitors arriving in the UK from early May and are most numerous in the south and east. Their scything shapes, swooping and wheeling in the sky, are often accompanied by their screaming, shrieking calls.





Spending their winters in Central Africa, these masters of the skies make one of nature's most incredible journeys, each year flying from the savannahs and forests of Africa to the towns and cities of the UK, and back again – a round trip of at least 14,000 miles.

By attaching tiny geolocators to adults breeding in the UK, it has been possible to investigate where swifts go on migration, and identify which areas are important for them on their journeys to and from Africa and once they get there. The results have shown just how incredible these small birds' annual journeys are: the wintering range of individuals is huge, with birds visiting several countries across Africa once they've completed their post-breeding migration.

One individual took only five days to travel 5,000 km from West Africa back to the UK. This bird had stopped for 15 days in Liberia before embarking on the last leg of its return journey.

For many, the arrival of swifts marks the start of summer, their calls raining down as they soar above at 40 or 50mph.

Sadly, these aerial aces are on the UK Red List due to their declining numbers. Although scientists don't have the full picture about why, they think lack of nest sites may be partly the cause. The sad fact is that for every ten swifts zooming across our roof tops in 1995, there were only about three by 2022. After coming so far, too many of these birds find nowhere to nest. When older buildings are renovated or knocked down, nesting sites in their eaves or under roof tiles, which may have been used by generations of birds, disappear. New buildings seldom provide alternative nest sites for them.

Other reasons for losses are likely to include poor summer weather and a decline in insect food. Swifts can forage over a wide area, so other conservation actions such as habitat management can only be successful if undertaken on a landscape scale.

Swift experts are trying to help swifts find new homes using special Swift Bricks and nesting boxes which have a safe, watertight space inside for the birds to raise their chicks. Thousands of them have already been installed across the UK, providing crucial new nesting sites – but many more are needed. Recording where swifts nest helps to build a picture of where their nest sites need to be protected and where new ones are needed. Swift Mapper – a web-based mapping system and mobile app – is free for everyone to use.

www.swiftmapper.org.uk

Margery Slatter, with thanks to RSPB (www.rspb.org.uk) and BTO (www.bto.org)

Grow – Don't Mow! Save a patch for nature!

This summer, Butterfly Conservation wants us all to make a promise to butterflies and moths: to put away the lawnmower and let the grass grow long – all the way from April to September.

We need to act now – we are in a butterfly emergency! The latest data from the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme shows that 2024 was one of the worst years on record for butterflies and, for the first time, more than half of butterfly species in the UK are now in long-term decline. Butterfly declines are an early warning for other wildlife losses. Butterflies are key biodiversity indicators as they react very quickly to changes in their environment. So, if their numbers are falling, then nature is in trouble. Butterflies are sounding the alarm!

Why the long grass? Research shows that letting parts of your garden grow wild with long grass can increase butterfly numbers up to 93% and attracts a wider range of species. This is because butterflies and moths, like the red admiral, peacock and hummingbird hawkmoth, need long grass all through the year to complete their life cycles.

It's simple to help make a difference: don't mow between April and September. This is the most important time of year to have long grass because it's when most caterpillars feed and adults shelter, breed, lay eggs, and drink the nectar from flowers. If or when you do mow the lawn, don't cut all your grass at once. If you can leave 20% uncut it will provide a refuge that butterflies and moths can use all year round.

Take part in the Big Butterfly Count!

18th July – 10th August

As tracking numbers of butterflies is crucial in the fight to conserve our natural world, taking part in this massive citizen science enterprise is of great importance not just for our butterflies but for the wider environment and biodiversity in general.

Find out more at:
https://butterfly-conservation.org

Dates for your Diary

Wed 2nd July 9:15pm

Nightjars – a short walk on Bucklebury Common

Join Society members to look for and hear these summer visitors to the heathland.

Meet at the Crossroads on the Common.

SU556 691 taskbar.flagpole.sensual

Wed 13th Aug 8.00pm (1.5hrs Approx.)

Bat Walk

Join Rose-Ann Movsovic (Chair Berks and S.Bucks Bat Group) to discover bats along the canal at Kintbury using bat detectors. Adults and accompanied children over 12 years.

Booking essential via editor@westberkscountryside.org.uk

Meet at Kintbury Station Car Park.
SU386 671 dozens.snow.cable

Partnership For Nature

Three informative walks featuring participants in this project.

Bucklebury Common (Heathland Restoration) on 3rd and 11th June at 4.00pm

Sheepdrove Organic Farm (Dew Pond Restoration) on 13th July at 10.30am

Booking Information:
www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/events

Leverton and the Hidden Farms

5 miles (8km) over rolling farmland above the Kennet Valley. This walk starts and finishes on the edge of Hungerford. Park respectfully on Charnham Park roadside SU339691 stays.cement.party or in town car parks. Trains to Hungerford. Buses to Eddington and Hungerford. There are sections of road walking mainly on quiet lanes. Pubs and cafes in Hungerford and Hungerford Newtown. OS Explorer Map 158.

Walk to A4 roundabout and cross River Kennet on the road bridge. Turn left along the riverbank towards Eddington Mill.

1. Eddington Mill derived its power from the **River Kennet**, one of England's most important chalk streams. Some 45 miles long, it is the largest tributary of the Thames and in summer months contributes up to half its flow. There has been a mill on this site since Doomsday but milling ceased in 1959. In 2016 a major weir failed, scouring the channel and blocking fish passage. A restoration project constructed a fish bypass channel and enhanced the river upstream.

Follow the path behind (south of) the houses, crossing a drive, and continue uphill along the hedgerow. At the crossroads turn left along Leverton Lane.

2. Leverton has a row of pretty, thatched cottages dating to 1800. The village has featured in television programmes, and houses the offices and buildings of the Chilton Estate which are passed on the left of the route. A replica of the village stocks can be seen just to the west of the crossroads. The original stocks are in the Ashmolean Museum.

Turn right at the crossroads to walk north up Old Hayward Lane to New Hayward Farm, passing through the farm complex to reach a lane.

3. The name **Hayward**, (Old English hēgweard), refers to a manorial officer who protected corn and hay from cattle theft or damage and supervised the harvest. The lane extends beyond the entrance to New Hayward Farm to reach Old Hayward Farm.

At the lane, turn left and take the first footpath to the right to walk through meadows and copses to Little Hidden Farm.

4. Little Hidden Farm is a riding centre and working farm which aims to increase biodiversity and encourage wildlife. A wide range of plants, insects and other animals can be found here, including barn owls and Duke of Burgundy butterflies. The farmhouse and some buildings date from the 16th century.

Walk through the farm complex and down the main drive. Cross the road with extreme care to turn left inside the field hedgerow. Walk along the field margin to join the footpath by Little Hidden Farm Cottages. Turn right. On reaching the woodland, take the track to the right.

5. Dunkin's Lane, the track running alongside Dunkin's Wood, is one of about a dozen routes in a 10 mile stretch of this countryside running north/south between the downland ridge and the wet pastures in the river valley. These would have been drove ways, many probably in use up to the early 20th century, some now roads and lanes, along which livestock would have been driven to reach suitable grazing at different times of the year.

At the farm, turn left at the cattle grid and then right to continue on the footpath.

6. Great Hidden Farm also dates from 16th century and was the manor house of an estate more important than Hungerford in early medieval times. It is possible that the 'Hidden' farms, along with Old Hayward Farm, are post-Dissolution homesteads established by private enclosure. The name 'Hidden' comes from the Saxon, meaning 'the landing place in the valley' – possibly near the confluence of the rivers Kennet and Dun.

At Denford Lane turn right and then left at the first footpath sign. The footpath runs through gates, across the paddock. It is also possible to walk around the paddock to regain the path and follow it to reach the road above Eddington. Turn left.

7. Though now regarded as part of Hungerford, **Eddington** village has a rich history. The manor and mill were bequeathed in his will by King Alfred to his widow, Queen Ealhswith, together with Lambourn and Wantage. This was his personal property, not crown land. In 1876, two policemen were shot by poachers in Eddington. Their graves are in St Saviour's cemetery. The church was built in 1868; sold in the mid 1950's and converted into a private house.

Walk through Eddington to turn right across the Kennet and return to Hungerford.

Route contributed by Peter Herman; notes by Margery Slatter

Many more interesting local walks are available on our website: **www.westberkscountryside.org.uk**