

# ONCF Bulletin

**June 2013**

## **Notices**

### **Conservation Grazing Management Opportunity**

Expressions of interest wanted for an ongoing nature conservation scheme in and around Oxford. Livestock available, and contracts well established. Single Payment Quota also available. Scheme and stock available to purchase, or a profit-share approach might be considered. In the first instance please email [hipposid@fsmail.net](mailto:hipposid@fsmail.net)

### **New Law Threatens Public's Rights On Open Spaces And Paths**

The Open Spaces Society is alarmed that the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill, which had its second reading in the House of Commons on Monday (10 June) could make trespass a criminal offence in public places in England. The Bill will enable a local authority to designate a Public Spaces Protection Order if it is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that activities carried on in a public place have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of local people and that those activities are unreasonable. The order may include a public highway.

There is nothing to stop a local authority from banning the public completely from land designated as a Public Spaces Protection Order. The new law will make breach of an order a criminal offence, which means that trespass, normally a civil offence,

becomes a crime. It could unfairly restrict the public's rights to enjoy paths and open spaces.

The society is concerned that (1) there is no definition of 'reasonable', (2) the order could be applied to land with public rights of access (common land and village greens for instance), (3) the authority is not required to advertise its intentions; (4) in the case of a highway the authority is only required 'to consider' the availability of an alternative route; (5) the order may endure for up to three years, and (6) those allowed to challenge an order in the high court are strictly limited.

The Open Spaces Society proposes that:

'Land with a public right of access should be excluded from the Public Spaces Protection Orders. There should be a prescribed list of organisations to be consulted whenever an order is proposed. If there are objectors to an order, there should be a public hearing or public inquiry so the plan can be independently examined. In the case of public highways, the authority should be required to find an alternative route: if there is none, the order should not be made. The order should be reviewed after six months, not three years. There should be no restriction on who can challenge an order in the high court.

### **Wildlife Trust launches appeal to save irreplaceable wildlife haven in Oxfordshire**

BBOWT is today (Tuesday 11 June) launching an appeal to buy **Meadow Farm near Bicester**, a precious remnant of an ancient landscape, brimming with colourful wild flowers and unusual wildlife.

Giles Strother, reserves manager at the Wildlife Trust, says: "At a time when much of the countryside is under threat from development and intensive farming, there are fewer places where wildlife can survive. It is absolutely vital that we buy and save Meadow Farm. There are only 1,500 hectares of wildflower meadows like this on floodplains across the whole of the UK."

The Wildlife Trust is hoping to raise £270,000 in just six weeks to help buy the land. Giles explains: “Meadow Farm was bought by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation last year so that we could raise the funds. Now we have to raise enough to secure its future as a wildlife haven, otherwise it will go back on the open market and could face an uncertain future.”

[www.justgiving.com/meadowfarm](http://www.justgiving.com/meadowfarm)

“The appeal launched today is just one element of our fundraising. The Wildlife Trust is also applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to run community projects at Meadow Farm involving local schoolchildren, youth and community groups,” explains Giles. Meadow Farm is on Thame Road near Blackthorn on the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire borders, and has never been open to the public.

## **Vacancies/Voluntary Work**

### **Various jobs in Oxford at 2degrees**

– where sustainable business happens

<http://www.2degreesnetwork.com/about/our-team/careers/>(The Key, Oxfordshire’s Sustainability Newsletter, 6 June)

### **Green Deal Supply Chain Manager**

£25-30k + pension

Green Deal Together is a new Community Interest Company aiming to create a network of local installers (builders, insulation specialists, heating engineers, electricians etc.) to fulfil every aspect of a Green Deal Plan, while supporting the local economy and skills base.

The Green Deal Supply Chain Manager will have a key role in realising this ambition.

37.5 hours ft permanent appointment, based in Witney, Oxfordshire. Some home working may be possible.

Regular travel around the South and East of England, with mileage allowance.

Occasional travel elsewhere, also occasional evening and weekend working.

[info@greendealtogether.org.uk](mailto:info@greendealtogether.org.uk) for an application form and Job Description or go to

[www.greendealtogether.org.uk](http://www.greendealtogether.org.uk) for more details.

Closing Date for applications Friday 28th June.

### **Chairman sought for SE Advisory Committee**

The Forestry Commission is currently advertising the position of chairman of the Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee for the south east of England. These new committees will replace the Regional Advisory Committees. The position of chairman is paid (£2,570 plus travel expenses). <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies>

Closing date: 16 June 2013 - If you require any additional information please contact: [resourcing@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:resourcing@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Environmental Education Manager for BBOWT**

Salary: Circa £25 k/pa (depending on experience) Contract: Permanent, Full-time

Based: Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Abingdon

We are looking for an experienced and dynamic environmental educator to manage our thriving education centre and nature reserve at Sutton Courtenay in Oxfordshire. The Centre currently reaches more than 5000 children a year through school visits, family events and outreach opportunities. As Environmental Education Manager, you will make full use of your skills and the Centre's facilities to achieve the Trust's strategic objective of inspiring the next generation to care for the natural world.

The successful applicant will have excellent communication and people management skills, and a proven track record of developing and delivering environmental education to primary school aged children. You will also have a passion for the natural environment and a good general knowledge of wildlife and habitats.

Full details at [www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk), email: [jobs@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:jobs@bbowt.org.uk) phone 01865 775476.

CVs not accepted. Please note that only successful applicants will be notified.

Closing date 9 am on 24 June.

Interviews at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre on 2 July.

**Education Officer for BBOWT (maternity cover)**

Salary: FTE £19,500 (£11,700 pro rata)

Contract: Maternity cover/ Part-time (3 days per week- Flexibility of working patterns required during busy periods)

Based: Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Abingdon

We are looking for a confident and knowledgeable educator to join the team at our thriving education centre and nature reserve at Sutton Courtenay in Oxfordshire. The Centre currently reaches more than 5000 children a year through school visits, family events and outreach opportunities. As Education Officer you will deliver the Centre's environmental education programmes and assist with the planning and delivery of inspiring and participative family events.

The successful applicant will have experience of working in environmental education and with primary school age children. You will be keen to play a key role in the success of the Centre, and demonstrate an obvious enthusiasm for the natural world.

This is a three day per week post, although some flexibility is expected between busier and quieter periods at the Centre.

Full details at [www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk), email: [jobs@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:jobs@bbowt.org.uk) phone 01865 775476.

CVs not accepted. Please note that only successful applicants will be notified.

Closing date 9 am on 28 June.

Interviews at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre week commencing 8 July 2013.

## **Projects Manager, Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre**

- \* Location: Signal Court, Eynsham
- \* Ref: PM219S
- \* Salary: £27,849-£30,011
- \* Permanent
- \* Full-time (37 hours per week)
- \* Closing Date: 24 June 2013
- \* Interview date: 16 July 2013

Would you like to join the small team of ecologists and information specialists who run Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre?

TVERC collects, analyses and shares geodiversity and biodiversity information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire in order to help people make sound decisions about how to develop and manage land sustainably, where to direct wildlife conservation work and for scientific education and research.

Your main responsibilities will be negotiating and securing finance and support from local authority partners and securing finance for project work. You will manage projects and work for local authority partners. You will have excellent communication and negotiation skills and the ability to complete competing workloads to a high standard and to deadline.

Visit <http://jobs.oxfordshire.gov.uk/<http://jobs.oxfordshire.gov.uk/environment-countryside-conservation-strategy-and-infrastructure-planning-projects-manager-thames-valley-environmental-records-centre/26549.job>> for more information and to apply

## Events

Saturday 15 June 11 – 3 pm

### **Chinnor Green Fayre**

At [Chinnor Village Hall](#) - Church Road, Chinnor

Greening Chinnor will be having an information stand at the Green Fayre. Come along and find lots of green stalls and a big second hand bike sale...plus cafe of course.

Sunday 16 June 2 - 3.30 pm

### **The Other Side of The Clumps!**

Find out how Earth Trust manages the woodlands, hay meadows, ponds, hedges and other habitats on and around the Wittenham Clumps with Chris Parker, Head of Land Management.

Earth Trust Friends receive priority, any remaining places will be offered those interested at £5 adult, £2 child.

Location: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, OX14 4QZ [Map](#)

Booking is essential. Please call 01865 407792 to reserve your place.

Email: [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk). Phone: 01865 407792

Monday 17 June from 6.30 pm

**Green Drinks Oxford** 6.30 pm onwards in the Kings Arms

[greendrinksoxford@gmail.com](mailto:greendrinksoxford@gmail.com)

Wednesday 19 June 9.30-11.30am

also Thurs 20, Sat 22, Wed 26, Thurs 27 June

## **Nature Tots**

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust – [www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)  
Didcot, Oxon. An opportunity for your preschool little ones to interact with and learn from nature. Come along for outdoor nature play, games, stories and craft on our wild and wonderful nature reserve. Dress for the weather. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Tea, biscuits and mud provided. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**. Admission: £3 donation/participating chil. Meet: Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre OX14 4TE. Contact: Christine Donaldson 01235 862024 [christinedonaldson@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:christinedonaldson@bbowt.org.uk). Suitable for wheelchair users. Children welcome.

Sunday 23 June

3 – 5 pm

### [Wittenham Clumps: A Walk Through History](#)

We'll explore the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlements that once thrived on the Clumps. Back at the Earth Trust we'll look at excavated artefacts and images of the evolving landscape through time.

With Bill Horsfield.

Thursday 27 June

2 pm

## **Tree Club Visit to Upper Chalford Farm**

A Jacobean farmhouse with surrounding gardens that include old roses, shrubs, unusual trees, pond, stream, woodland and newly established bog garden.

Location.....4 ½ miles SE of Thame. At Postcombe turn right signed Chalford (turn left if on A40 from Oxford). After 1 mile on left side at 1st telegraph pole. (half way between Sydenham to Postcombe). OX39 4NH Park in field opposite house. Adm. £5 Teas £3.

N.B. Please leave message to confirm attendance with Ian, 01865 245864. The Tree Club welcomes anyone interested in trees to join in its meetings

Sunday 30 June

10.30 - 12.30 pm

**Orchid Extravaganza At Dry Sandford Pit**

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust – [www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)

nr Abingdon, Oxon

Fifth in a series of orchid walks led by expert Peter Creed to enjoy these beautiful flowers including marsh helleborines and other wetland orchids. The new book by Peter Creed & Rachel Hudson 'A Guide to Finding Orchids in Berks, Bucks and Oxon' will be on sale. Tickets online at [www.bbowt.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.bbowt.org.uk/whats-on) or by calling the Membership Office. Walking boots or wellies recommended. BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Admission: £6. Meet: Dry Sandford Pit nature reserve car park in Cothill village, Grid: SU 467 997. Contact: Membership Office 01865 788300 [www.bbowt.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.bbowt.org.uk/whats-on). No dogs please. Children welcome.

Sunday 30 June

2 – 4 pm

**Orchid Extravaganza At Wendlebury Meads**

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust – [www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)

nr Charlton on Otmoor, Oxon

Sixth in a series of orchid walks led by expert Peter Creed to enjoy these beautiful flowers including heath spotted, common spotted and frog orchids. The new book by Peter Creed & Rachel Hudson 'A Guide to Finding Orchids in Berks, Bucks and Oxon' will be on sale. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.bbowt.org.uk/whats-on> or by calling the Membership Office. BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Admission: £6. Meet:Wendlebury Meads. Meet and park on roadside verges at junction, 400 metres north of Charlton-on-Otmoor. Grid: SP 560 164. Contact: Membership Office 01865 788300 [www.bbowt.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.bbowt.org.uk/whats-on). No dogs please. Children welcome.

Sunday 30 June

2 - 4.30 pm

**Family Fun Afternoon at Letcombe Regis, Oxon**

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust – [www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)

An afternoon of wildlife discovery for all the family. Sensible clothes and shoes recommended. Gentle terrain with some uneven ground and wooden steps. Admission: Meet: inside the gate by the lake in Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve, Grid: SU 377 860. Contact: Michael Bailey 01235 769194 [mikeandsheila@btinternet.com](mailto:mikeandsheila@btinternet.com) or 01235 763827 . No dogs please. Suitable for people with limited mobility. Children welcome.

## Regular working parties

**Stock Watchers** Various locations and times of year (1-2hrs per week/fortnight when on site near you). Stockwatchers play a vital role in monitoring our livestock on our reserves where they are grazing. We are looking for some extra help at **Hook Norton** nr Chipping Norton

Hours: Flexible. Contact Nicole Clough, Oxon Reserves Officer, on 01865 775476 ext 233 or Email: [nicoleclough@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:nicoleclough@bbowt.org.uk)

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