

Swindon Forest Meadows April 2023

Extension of green partnership is given the green light by Swindon Council's Cabinet

A partnership, which has created forest meadows and wildlife corridors across Swindon, has been extended.



A partnership, which has created forest meadows and wildlife corridors across Swindon, has been extended under plans approved by councillors at a Swindon Borough cabinet meeting on 8th March.

Swindon Borough Council will now build on its work with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (the Trust) to greatly expand the number of woodland, grassland and wildflower sites across the Borough.

The partnership, through the Swindon Forest Meadows project, has created new areas of woodland, scrub and grassland at Mouldon Hill, new woodland and river restoration at the Rivermead Flood Storage area, and support for community projects throughout Swindon, including, Shaftesbury Lake, Moredon Meadows Common Farm and Raybrook Meadow,

Following the success of this programme, supported by large numbers of local volunteers, the Council and the Trust have agreed to extend and expand the project.

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Under the approved plans, the Trust will identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancements and will then develop and deliver the schemes. The Trust will also lead on the creation of long-term management plans.

In addition to this, plans include a major focus on enhancing the wildlife corridor running from Mouldon Hill Country Park through to the River Ray Parkway. This includes creating new paths that will making it easier for local residents to experience the wildlife along this corridor.

There will also be a strong focus on providing access to nature for our more deprived communities.

Green infrastructure such as forest meadows can help to mitigate climate change by reducing Green House Gas emissions. It is also vital to enable people and wildlife to adapt to the rising temperatures and extreme weather events associated with climate change.

***“Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has done a fantastic job running the existing Swindon Forest Meadows project, and this expanded partnership will allow us to significantly improve our biodiversity in the borough, as well as providing countless opportunities for residents of Swindon to be involved.*”**

I want to thank the Trust and the large numbers of fantastic local volunteers for their brilliant work on the project to date and I look forward to seeing even more great habitats being created across Swindon.”

Councillor Gary Sumner

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport and Planning

***“The partnership with Swindon Borough Council has been a real success, creating and better managing habitats across the borough. A fantastic band of volunteers come together in all weathers to create and manage habitats and to record the wildlife seen. But it is not just the wildlife that has benefited; over the past few years, so many people have accessed local green spaces as a boost to their physical and mental wellbeing.*”**

We look forward to a further partnership with Swindon Borough Council, working with new communities, welcoming volunteers from across Swindon whilst creating and maintain spaces for wildlife and people.”

Neil Pullen

Swindon Conservation Lead at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

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Great Crested Newts

Plastic bottles required.

From April you will notice a number of SESSIONS planned to survey Great Crested newt populations during their breeding season. We will use a variety of methods to enable us to safely record populations. One of which is bottle trapping.

Bottle traps are made of empty, clear 2-litre bottles which have the top third/quarter cut off, the tops are inverted into the bottom section of the bottle. This creates a funnel with a narrow bottleneck to encourage newts to enter the bottle. Once inside they are unable to find their way back out again.



Please if you have any cleaned bottles such as these with label removed can we have them to re-purpose?

On April 4th from 19:00 we will be at Kings Farm Wood constructing bottle traps such as these. We will also have, torches, moth traps and bat detectors. Please bring along any bottles you may have and enjoy an evening on the reserve.

If you have a number of bottles please let me know so that we can make arrangements for transfer.





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Swindon Forest Meadows: Volunteer opportunities and events.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have introduced a new volunteer system in recent weeks. To register as a volunteer, to book sessions or for more details please visit: <https://volunteering.wiltshirewildlife.org>

Once registered search for "Swindon Forest Meadows". The opportunity will open and on the left hand side of the screen is a SESSIONS tab. Once opened you can scroll through the date ordered sessions and can join any by simply clicking on the green JOIN Button.

- Please bring sanitisers and face masks to all tasks.
- No experience necessary. Please wear old clothes suitable for the weather conditions (long sleeves and trousers are recommended). Please bring a packed lunch and plenty of liquid.
- Please also visit the Facebook page: Swindon Forest Meadows, hosted by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

Easy – On reasonably level ground. Easy physical activity

Moderate – Generally fairly level ground and short walking distance. Physical work

Hard – Long walk or carrying distance. Steep slopes. Hard physical work.

We supply all tools, equipment materials and any necessary PPE. We cover aspects such as risk assessments, insurance, first aid provision and wellbeing.

We can offer to reimburse for all out of pocket expenses. This can include travel to and from sites (within a reasonable distance). We are not able to reimburse money for refreshments as this is classified as a regular cost that expense that you would have bear even if not volunteering.

No two days are the same and there is always something to find and explore. The social side of volunteering is very much encouraged.

We look forward to meeting you on site making a difference for wildlife and people.

Neil Pullen

Conservation Lead Swindon

swindonforestmeadows@wiltshirewildlife.org. Please use this email for further information.

Swindon Forest Meadows April 2023

Date	Start Time	Where	Brief details	Activity level	Meeting point
Monday 3rd April	13:00	Mouldon Hill	BeeWalk	Easy	Meeting Point. Grid Reference SU1184187854. What 3Words: taped.engineers.jungle. Good access on foot, bike (National cycle route 45). Public transport Swindon Bus15 to Taw Hill or Swindon Bus 16 and Stagecoach 4 to Akers Way. Dedicated car park.
Tues 4th	19:00	Kings Farm wood	Great Crested newt surveys/ Bats/Moths	Moderate	Meeting Point. Nearest post code = SN4 9DG. Grid reference = SU1438880255. What 3 Words = rounds.plates.daily. Reasonable access on foot, bike and bus (stagecoach 9 or 49). Limited parking at the meeting point given. Please use the free car park at the Ellendune Centre (SU 1448880601) and walk to the site
Wed 5th	08:00 - 09:00	Kings Farm wood	Check Crested newt surveys	Moderate	Meeting Point. Nearest post code = SN4 9DG. Grid reference = SU1438880255. What 3 Words = rounds.plates.daily. Reasonable access on foot, bike and bus (stagecoach 9 or 49). Limited parking at the meeting point given. Please use the free car park at the Ellendune Centre (SU 1448880601) and walk to the site
Thurs 6th	09:30	Rivermead Community Nature Reserve	Regular Thursday Volunteer session	Moderate/Easy	Meeting Point. Grid Reference: SU1271385281. What3Words: strong.draw.reader. Good access for walkers and cyclists, via National Cycle route 45. Bus are the 22 to B&Q Barnfield or the 1B to Mead Way. Car parking available at Rivermead Drive, Westmead Drive or Barnfield Road.
Mon 10th	13:00	Markham Banks	BeeWalk	Easy	Meeting point. A4361 entrance. Nearest postcode SN4 9JS. Grid Reference: SU1367580053. What3Words: exact.older.second. Walking possible through Kings Farm Wood (via Badgers Brook entrance). Cycling via the main A4361. Stagecoach 49, Devizes/Trowbridge bus will pass this point closest stop at Legge House. Parking available in lay-by on A4361, just past the main entrance on the right (towards Avebury).
Tues 11th	10:00	Hagbourne Copse	Bluebell and bramble surveys - erect signs and protective fencing	Easy	Nearest Post code.SN5 8UD. Grid reference SU1056982926. What3 Words rewriting.overdone.guitar. Pedestrian and cycle access via the core cycle route TR2 from Wotton Basset Road. Stage coach 55 to Blagrove Roundabout and walk to Frankland Road. Limited parking on Frankland Road (often busy).

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Date	Start Time	Where	Brief details	Activity level	Meeting point
Tues 11th	15:00-17:00	Safeguarding Awareness.	To book please contact Debbie Chambers at DebbieC@wiltshirewildlife.org		Boardroom: We ask all new staff members and Volunteer Task Leaders/Wardens/VSAs to attend a Safeguarding Awareness session to enable you to familiarise yourself with Trust Policies and Procedures regarding Safeguarding. We ask people to attend a refresher session every three years.
Thurs 13th	10:00	Swindon Lagoons	Regular Volunteer task	Moderate	Essential to be on time as this is a gated site. Just off National Cycle route 45. Grid reference SU1242285936. What3 Words: pies.joke.often. Walking and cycling access is very easy - bikes can be secured inside the locked gates. Closest parking available is at Shaw Forest Park.
Fri 14th	10:30	Kings Farm Wood	Reptile surveys	Easy	Meeting Point. Nearest post code = SN4 9DG. Grid reference = SU1438880255. What 3 Words = rounds.plates.daily. Reasonable access on foot, bike and bus (stagecoach 9 or 49). Limited parking at the meeting point given. Please use the free car park at the Ellendune Centre (SU 1448880601) and walk to the site
Fri 14th	19:00	Chiseldon washpool	Bat and moth evening	Easy	
Sat 15th	10:00	Swindon Lagoons and Rivermead CNR	Join reserve warden Simon Wicks on a guided walk for a Saturday saunter.	Easy	For more information, contact: Simon Wicks 07768 138695 simonwicks356@gmail.com
Sat 15th	10:00 onwards	Shaftesbury Lakes wildlife Discovery day	Please visit for information https://southswindon-pc.gov.uk/event/shaftesbury-lake-wildlife-discovery-day	Family	https://southswindon-pc.gov.uk/event/shaftesbury-lake-wildlife-discovery-day
Mon 17th	13:00	Swindon Lagoons and Rivermead CNR	BeeWalk	Easy	Meeting Point - Shaw Forest Car Park off Mead Way Swindon. Forest Park Road, Hillmead, West Swindon, Swindon, England, SN5 5PQ. Grid reference SU 12007 86012. What 3 Words matter.fever.longer. Walking and Cycling easy access via National Cycle route 45. Bus 1B via Mead Way. Dedicated car park for drivers.

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Date	Start Time	Where	Brief details	Activity level	Meeting point
Tues 18th	19:00	Hagbourne copse	Great Crested newt surveys/ Bats/Moths	Moderate	Nearest Post code.SN5 8UD. Grid reference SU1056982926. What3 Words rewriting.overdone.guitar. Pedestrian and cycle access via the core cycle route TR2 from Wotton Basset Road. Stage coach 55 to Blagrove Roundabout and walk to Frankland Road. Limited parking on Frankland Road (often busy).
Weds 19th	19:00	Hagbourne copse	Check Great Crested newt surveys	Moderate	Nearest Post code.SN5 8UD. Grid reference SU1056982926. What3 Words rewriting.overdone.guitar. Pedestrian and cycle access via the core cycle route TR2 from Wotton Basset Road. Stage coach 55 to Blagrove Roundabout and walk to Frankland Road. Limited parking on Frankland Road (often busy).
Thurs 20th		Swindon Lagoons	Regular Volunteer Task		Essential to be on time as this is a gated site. Just off National Cycle route 45. Grid reference SU1242285936. What3 Words: pies.joke.often. Walking and cycling access is very easy - bikes can be secured inside the locked gates. Closest parking available is at Shaw Forest Park.
Fri 21st	14:00	Mouldon Hill	Ink small mammal footprint tunnels and early season plant survey	Easy	Meeting Point. Grid Reference SU1184187854. What 3Words: taped.engineers.jungle. Good access on foot, bike (National cycle route 45). Public transport Swindon Bus15 to Taw Hill or Swindon Bus 16 and Stagecoach 4 to Akers Way. Dedicated car park.
Mon 24th	13:00	Tadpole Nature Park	BeeWalk	Easy	Meeting Point - Layby on Tadpole Lane. Nearest Postcode. SN25 2HL. Grid Reference SU1171489596. What 3words Profile.ridiculed.decays. Reasonable walking and cycling access via Stagecoach bus 4 stops in Tadpole Garden Village. Car parking in the layby (can be limited).
Tues 25th	10:00	Kings Farm wood/ Clouts Wood	Check reptile mats and set small mammal footprint tunnels	Moderate	Meeting Point. Nearest post code = SN4 9DG. Grid reference = SU1438880255. What 3 Words = rounds.plates.daily. Reasonable access on foot, bike and bus (stagecoach 9 or 49). Limited parking at the meeting point given. Please use the free car park at the Ellendune Centre (SU 1448880601) and walk to the site
Thurs 27th		Rivermead Community Nature Reserve	Regular Volunteer Task		Meeting Point. Grid Reference: SU1271385281. What3Words: strong.draw.reader. Good access for walkers and cyclists, via National Cycle route 45. Bus are the 22 to B&Q Barnfield or the 1B to Mead Way. Car parking available at Rivermead Drive, Westmead Drive or Barnfield Road.



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Date	Start Time	Where	Brief details	Activity level	Meeting point
Fri 28th	10:00	Details to Be announced	Introduction to the rugged oil beetle		
Sun 30th	10:00 - 16:00	The Hub	Swindon Growers Summit : Tickets £4.00 - £8.00 Details and booking at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/swindon-growers-summit-tickets-519813695757		

From April 1st 2023 volunteers MUST be registered on Team Kinetic.

After this date any volunteer attending a session, who is not registered will be turned away as they will not be covered under our insurance.

Those who have registered and signed up for at least one Swindon Forest Meadows session will receive the monthly update, details of events and training and further useful information through the volunteer system. To register:

- Visit the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Volunteer webpage
- Register as a volunteer
- Search for the Swindon Forest Meadows opportunity
- Use the “SEARCH” tab on the left of the screen to see a list of available volunteering sessions
- When you find a session click the “JOIN” tab.
- In future you will be able to go straight to Swindon Forest meadows and select the SESSIONS you wish to JOIN.

Anybody wishing to receive the Swindon Forest Meadow email update each month, without registering as a volunteer, please send an email to swindonforestmeadows@wiltshirewildlife.org quoting in the email subject box. “Sign up to monthly email”. Your email will be held in a password protected spread sheet and used to send out the monthly update only. You can request that your email be removed at any time.