

School visits, guided walks and activities can be arranged at each site. Rangers can provide a variety of talks and slide shows at other venues. Please tel. (01480) 451568 for details.

The countryside centre at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and the **visitors' centre** at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve are available for meetings, conferences or training courses as well as providing an all year round indoor setting for school activities. Contact the Countryside Centre Co-ordinator on (01480) 451568 or Paxton Pits Nature Reserve on (01480) 406795.

These sites are managed by Huntingdonshire District Council's *Countryside Service*, with the support of many volunteers and organisations who help to provide facilities and events and assist Rangers with practical conservation tasks. If you are interested in volunteering please contact (01480) 451568 or (01480) 406795 for an application form.

Events are open to everyone. Please phone if you have any special needs, in particular, regarding the use of wheelchairs or pushchairs. All visitors are advised to come suitably dressed with strong boots or shoes and to remember hats in the summer sun. Where no cost is indicated, the event is free. A charge will be made for refreshments.

Please note - if we have insufficient numbers to run any of our events then they may have to be cancelled.

Cheques should be made payable to:
Huntingdonshire District Council

Well behaved dogs are welcome to our sites but must be kept on leads in wildlife areas. Your co-operation in the use of "doggy bins" would be gratefully appreciated.

Please contact us if you require a large print version of this document.

Countryside Services,
Hinchingsbrooke Country Park,
Brampton Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 6DB
☎ 01480 451568
www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/parksandcountryside

Countryside Events and Activities 2010

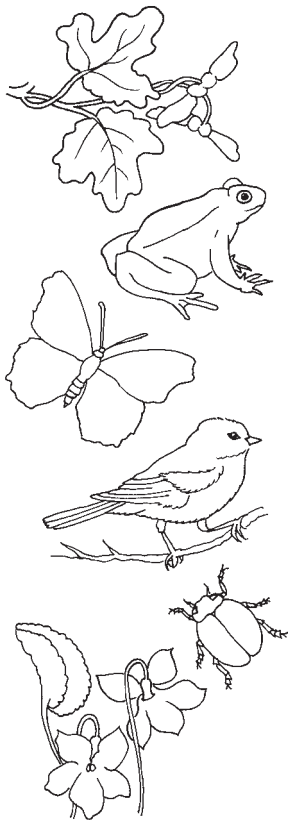




2010 International Year of Biodiversity

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity

Biodiversity means the variety of life on Earth. By measuring biodiversity we can see how healthy our environment is. The International Year of Biodiversity is all about monitoring, conserving and celebrating the diversity of life on Earth. Discover more, visit: www.biodiversityislife.net



Look for these outside then colour them in!

JANUARY

RSPB New Years Day Ice Breaker

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Friday 1st January
10.00am – sunset

Join experts from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve for spectacular winter birds, guided walks (at 10.30am and 2.00pm), advice on feeding birds, and hot refreshments. Everyone welcome. No need to book.



Tree Recycling

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Sunday 3rd January
10.30am – 3.00pm

Bring your Christmas tree to be shredded and take away the chippings if you need them for your garden. Start the year with a 'go green' resolution!



FHINR Winter Warmer Walk

Sunday 10th January
10.30am

Meet outside the "Green Man" pub in Colne for a 4.5 mile (7km) circular winter walk between Colne and Somersham, returning for an optional pub meal to finish (personal expense). Those requiring lunch should confirm they are coming before 3rd Jan. ☎ 01480 461362 after 6.00pm.

Blue: Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Purple - Huntingdon: Spring Common, Views Common, Stukeley Meadows, Coneygear Park

Orange - St Ives: Holt Island, Wilthorn Meadow, The Thicket

FEBRUARY

Junior Rangers

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Tuesday 16th February
10.00am – 2.00pm

Wear old clothes and be prepared to get mucky as participants help Rangers with some of the practical tasks necessary at this time of year. Suitable for 11-14 year olds. Bring a packed lunch. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Goldeneye © Ian Johnston

FPPNR Winter Birds

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Saturday 30th January
10.00am – 1.00pm

A short indoor session followed by time out on the Reserve getting to know the birds 'sunning themselves' at Paxton Pits during the winter. Donations invited. No need to book.



RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

at Barford Road Pocket Park

Saturday 30th January
10.00am – 12noon

Join the Ranger to carry out a bird count whilst taking part in the garden birdwatch, in what will be its 31st year. Wear warm clothes, sturdy footwear and bring binoculars. Meet by the park entrance near to St Neots Community College.



RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

at Sudbury Meadow

Sunday 31st January
10.00am – 11.00am

Help with the annual bird watch as part of the RSPB's national event. Wrap up warm, bring a pair of binoculars and be prepared to sit or stand quietly for an hour! Meet at the Crosshall Road entrance at 9.50am. Under 16s should be accompanied by an adult.

FPPNR Illustrated Talk and AGM

at Little Paxton Village Hall

Friday 19th February
7.30pm

"On the Trail of the Crane" – Ralph & Brenda Todd follow the migration of the Eurasian (common) Crane through Europe to its breeding grounds in Northern Scandinavia. They will also look at the history and future of Cranes in England – there are already some in the region and a couple briefly dropped into Paxton Pits in 2009! Reserve update, refreshments and prize draw. Members free. £2.00 for non-members.



Guided Walk and Work Party

at Barford Road Pocket Park

Sunday 21st February
Work Party 10.00am – 12noon
Guided Walk 1.00pm – 2.30pm

Come and help with practical conservation tasks at this wintry time of year and / or join the Ranger for a stroll around to appreciate the park in the afternoon. Wear suitable clothing and sturdy boots and meet by the park entrance near to St Neots Community College.



Green: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Gold: Ouse Valley Way

Pink - St Neots: Barford Road Pocket Park, St Neots Common, Sudbury Meadow

MARCH

AGM of Huntingdonshire Beekeepers Association at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

**Friday 12th March
7.30pm**

A talk on "Planting for Insects" by Ray Edwards will follow the 'buzziness' part of meeting for this proactive association. Everyone welcome.



FPPNR Illustrated Talk at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

**Thursday 18th March
7.30pm**

"Living and Working with Shire Horses" - Paul and Heather Walsh bring their Shires Archie and Fred to the Reserve whenever conditions allow, working the arable fields and demonstrating 'how it used to be done'. Their 'behind the scenes' look will show just what's involved in maintaining this much-loved tradition. Members free. £2.00 for non-members.



Sport Relief at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

**Sunday 21st March
Starting times 11.00am or
12.30pm**

Raise money for this great cause, keep fit and enjoy the country park! A one mile marshalled route, but you choose how many times you follow it - one, three or six! For further information contact the Sport & Active Lifestyles team on ☎ 01480 388244. To register visit the sport relief website www.sportrelief.com.

APRIL

FHCP Easter Trail and Fun! at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

**Friday 2nd April
1.00pm - 4.00pm**

Bounce into Spring with an Easter Trail. 50p per child. Many other activities and competitions, all to raise money for FHCP. Just turn up at the countryside centre. Contact Sallyann for further details ☎ 07917 005244.



Easter Eggstravaganza at Coneygear Park

**Monday 5th April
11.00am - 1.00pm**

Drop in anytime and follow the clues to lead you to a delicious Easter treat. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult for this family event. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Blue: Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Purple - Huntingdon: Spring Common, Views Common, Stukeley Meadows, Coneygear Park

Orange - St Ives: Holt Island, Wilhorn Meadow, The Thicket

Woodwalton Fen © Natural England



Family Barbeque at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

**Monday 5th April
1.00pm - 3.00pm**

Make the most of the Easter bank holiday and visit the park. Relax and let us do the cooking - buy lunch from our tasty barbeque!

Ouse Valley Way Guided Walk

*Start at Rivermill
Tavern, Eaton Socon*



**Sunday 11th April
10.00am**

Meet at the Rivermill Tavern on School Lane in Eaton Socon for this 13km (8 mile) circular walk to and around Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, also taking in flood meadows and parkland along the route. Wear warm clothing, stout footwear and bring sufficient food and drink.

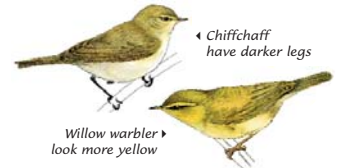
FHINR Spring in Your Step

**Sunday 18th April
10.00am**

A 3 hour guided walk with a Warden based at Woodwalton Fen. Good chance to see Warblers and early spring flowers. Meet by the bridge over the Great Raveley Drain at the entrance to the Fen. Parking is along the bank of the drain. For more details ☎ 01480 461362 after 6.00pm.



Can you tell the difference?



◀ Chiffchaff
have darker legs

Willow warbler ▶
look more yellow



Green: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Gold: Ouse Valley Way

Pink - St Neots: Barford Road Pocket Park, St Neots Common, Sudbury Meadow

Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Nightingale Festival

Illustrated Talk

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Thursday 22nd April

7.30pm

"Welcome Spring Birds" by Trevor Gunton. Migration will be in full swing with birds arriving from Africa, including Nightingales, Swallows and Turtle Doves. Come and help launch our annual Nightingale Festival – so much to enjoy! Members free. £2.00 for non-members. No need to book.

Children's Nightingale Fun Evening

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Saturday 1st May

6.30pm – 9.00pm

Join us for an evening of fun and games followed by a short guided walk until dusk to explore Paxton Pits' nightlife! Nightingales, owls, bats and other wildlife of the twilight. Bring a torch. Under 15 year olds must be accompanied by an adult. Ideal for ages 6+. £2.00 per child and per accompanying adult, payable at door. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 214026.

Dawn Chorus Walk and Breakfast

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Monday 3rd May

5.30am

Enjoy the massed choir of Paxton Pits' birds, followed by a light breakfast from 7.30am. £3 per person, payable at the event (guided walk is free). Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 214026.

Nightingale Serenade

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Thursday 6th May

7.30pm – 9.00pm

The Friends' annual invitation to hear the Nightingales at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve. No need to book. Donations invited. For further details ☎ 01480 406795.



MAY

Dawn Chorus Walk

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Saturday 1st May

5.00am – 9.00am

Come along and celebrate "International Dawn Chorus Day" by listening to the best sounds of birds, followed by tea / coffee and bacon rolls at 8.30am, all for £8.00 per person. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Bank Holiday Barbeque

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Monday 3rd May

1.00pm – 3.00pm

A great way to spend time with the family. Relax and let us do the cooking – buy lunch from our tasty barbeque!

FHCP Annual General Meeting

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Wednesday 12th May

7.30pm

Talk to the committee, hear about the events of the past 12 months and voice your ideas for the future. Maybe you'll even become a member! Everyone welcome.

FPPNR Family Spring Watch

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Sunday 23rd May

10.00am – 4.00pm

Explore Paxton Pit's wildlife at this 'hands-on' event especially for families with young children. Pond dipping, bug hunting, crafts, nest box building, fossil hunting and much more – fun for all the family! No need to book.

Spring Bank Holiday Barbeque

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Monday 31st May

1.00pm – 3.00pm

Enjoy the park with the family. Relax and let us do the cooking – buy lunch from our tasty barbeque!

Wildlife Trust Plant Sale

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Sunday 25th April

2.00pm – 4.00pm

If you're beginning to think about preparing your garden for the summer, start here! Buy plants for the cottage garden to attract both birds and bees. Don't forget trees, shrubs and bird boxes too!



Blue: Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Purple - Huntingdon: Spring Common, Views Common, Stukeley Meadows, Coneygear Park

Orange - St Ives: Holt Island, Wilhorn Meadow, The Thicket

Green: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Gold: Ouse Valley Way

Pink - St Neots: Barford Road Pocket Park, St Neots Common, Sudbury Meadow

JUNE

FHCP Family Shadow Puppet Workshop

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Tuesday 1st June

1.30pm – 3.30pm

Using poems or short stories for inspiration, create a shadow puppet show for everyone to watch at the end of the session, all materials provided. Suitable for families with children aged 6+. £10 per family (up to 3 children). Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.

Bat Evening

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Friday 4th June

8.45pm – 11.30pm

A short talk by the Ranger introducing the lifestyle of bats, followed by a walk through the park searching for our nocturnal friends. £3.00 per person. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.

FPPNR What's That Flower?

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Sunday 6th June

10.00am – 12noon

A family event for all ages. Learn how to name some of the Reserve's common wildflowers and discover their folklore.



Spring Saunter

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Saturday 12th June

2.30pm

A Ranger led walk to enjoy the park in spring. Everyone welcome, just turn up at the visitors' centre!

FPPNR Wildlife, Cream Tea and Music

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Saturday 19th June

2.00pm – 5.00pm

Join us for a short guided walk to enjoy the best of the Reserve's summer wildlife, followed by a cream tea at the visitors' centre accompanied by a string quartet. £5.00 per person. Admission by pre-booked tickets only, which are to be collected and paid for at the event. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 214026.

Hounds at Hinchingsbrooke



at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Sunday 20th June

11.00am – 3.00pm

Family entertainment for those with and without a dog! Fun classes, agility options and demonstrations to emphasise the importance of good dog ownership. See press for further details.

FHINR Summer Walk

around Fen Drayton Lakes

Wednesday 23rd June

7.30pm

Make the most of the summer evenings and join FHINR for a stroll around the lakes, meeting near the football pitch along Holywell Ferry Road. After a walk lasting approximately 1.5 hours, there is the option to visit the pub for refreshments (personal expense). For details ☎ 01480 461362 after 6.00pm.

Evening Stroll

at Barford Road Pocket Park

Wednesday 30th June

7.00pm onwards

Meet by the park entrance near to St Neots Community College for a walk to enjoy the evening wildlife and atmosphere. This is a free event and is an excellent opportunity to find out more about the pocket park.



bees and butterflies. At midday we'll celebrate Sudbury Meadow's 10th Anniversary with a 'Big Lunch' picnic in the meadow, where you can meet our friends and neighbours. Bring a picnic, a chair and drink. Under 16s should be accompanied by an adult.



FHINR River Litter Pick

at Holt Island Nature Reserve

Saturday 24th July

10.30am – 3.00pm

Be a good citizen! Join other volunteers for this watery task, clearing litter and rubbish from both bank and waterside. Stay for a short while or bring your lunch and help all day. Just turn up in old clothes and we will supply the gloves and equipment. For details ☎ 01480 385999 after 6.00pm.

Young Anglers

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

(for 12 – 16 years)

Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th July

10.00am – 2.00pm

With all tackle and bait provided, learn basic fishing techniques with Level 2 qualified coaches. Bring plenty of lunch and enthusiasm, wear suitable clothing and footwear for the day and meet at the visitors' centre. Sponsored by the Environment Agency, this is a free event but places are limited. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568. There will also be a match day on Friday 27th August at Graham's Pond, Huntingdon.



JULY

FHINR Annual General Meeting

at the Corn Exchange, St Ives

Thursday 15th July

7.30pm

Learn from the Friends of Holt Island committee what has been happening at Holt Island over the past 12 months and give us your ideas for the future. Also, guest speaker Neil Renwick of the RSPB will give a talk on 'Fen Drayton Wetland Wonderland' about his work at the nearby Fen Drayton Lakes Nature Reserve. Contact Dawn Cave for further details ☎ 01487 843994.

The 3Bs of Sudbury Meadow!

at Sudbury Meadow

Saturday 17th July

10.30am – 2.00pm

Bees, Butterflies and a 'Big Lunch' style picnic! Help Friends of Sudbury Meadow find and identify

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Purple - Huntingdon: Spring Common, Views Common, Stukeley Meadows, Coneygear Park

Orange - St Ives: Holt Island, Wilhorn Meadow, The Thicket

Green: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Gold: Ouse Valley Way

Pink - St Neots: Barford Road Pocket Park, St Neots Common, Sudbury Meadow



Very Young Anglers Picnic

at Barford Road Pocket Park
(for accompanied children 6 – 12 years)

Thursday 29th July
10.00am – 12.30pm

With all tackle and bait provided, come along with Mum or Dad and learn basic fishing techniques with Level 2 qualified coaches. Bring plenty of lunch and enthusiasm. Wear suitable clothing and footwear for the day and meet at the park entrance near to St Neots Community College. Sponsored by the Environment Agency, this is a free event but places are limited. Please book in advance.
☎ 01480 451568.



Minibeast Hunting for Families

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Thursday 29th July
10.00am – 12noon (ages 4+)
1.30pm – 3.30pm (ages 8+)

Have a go at minibeast hunting and pond dipping and identify the creatures you find. £6.00 per accompanied child. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Young Anglers

at Barford Road Pocket Park
(for 12 – 16 years)

Friday 30th July
10.00am – 1.00pm

Learn how to fish with a Level 2 qualified coach. All tackle and bait provided. Wear suitable clothing and footwear, and meet at the park

entrance near to St Neots Community College. Sponsored by the Environment Agency, this is a free event but places are limited. Please book in advance ☎ 01480 451568. There will also be a match day on Friday 27th August at Graham's Pond, Huntingdon.

AUGUST

FHCP Grandparents' Day at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Tuesday 3rd August
10.00am – 12noon

A range of fun, environmental activities for children to explore the park and discover the natural world around. Grandparents required to help! Why not bring a picnic to enjoy afterwards? Suitable for ages 3+. £2.50 per child. Please contact ☎ 07944 844114 to book in advance.

Be Crafty Session for Families Corn Dollies and Art Straws

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
Wednesday 4th August
10.00am – 11.45am

Use wheat and barley from the reserve (if harvest is good) to make corn dollies. Tried it before? Learn a new technique. Have fun with art straws too! Suitable for adults and children. £5.00 per participant or £15 for all 4 sessions (11th, 18th and 25th August). Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.

Adult Anglers at Barford Road Pocket Park Wednesday 4th August 6.30pm – 9.00pm

A special fishing event with all tackle and bait provided, for those who want to recapture their youth sitting on the river bank or for those who want to learn from scratch. Qualified angling coaches will be on hand with hints and tips. Bring a snack, soft drink and wear suitable clothing for the evening and meet at the park entrance near to St Neots Community College. Sponsored by the Environment Agency, this is a free event but places are limited. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Young Anglers at Barford Road Pocket Park (for 12 – 16 years)

**Friday 6th, 13th
and 20th August**
10.00am – 1.00pm

Learn how to fish with a Level 2 qualified coach. All tackle and bait provided. Wear suitable clothing and footwear for the day and meet at the school entrance to the park. Sponsored by the Environment Agency, this is a free event but places are limited. Please book in advance ☎ 01480 451568. There will also be a match day on Friday 27th August at Graham's Pond, Huntingdon.



Blue: Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Purple - Huntingdon: Spring Common, Views Common, Stukeley Meadows, Coneygear Park

Orange - St Ives: Holt Island, Wilhorn Meadow, The Thicket

Green: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Gold: Ouse Valley Way

Pink - St Neots: Barford Road Pocket Park, St Neots Common, Sudbury Meadow

AUGUST cont..



Young Anglers at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (for 12 – 16 years)

**Monday 9th and Tuesday
10th August
10.00am – 2.00pm**

With all tackle and bait provided, learn basic fishing techniques with Level 2 qualified coaches. Bring plenty of lunch and enthusiasm, wear suitable clothing and footwear for the day and meet at the visitors' centre. Sponsored by the Environment Agency, this is a free event but places are limited. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568. *There will also be a match day on Friday 27th August at Graham's Pond, Huntingdon.*

Be Crafty Session for Families Mini Mosaics

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
**Wednesday 11th August
10.00am – 11.45am**

Using clay and stamps create your own decorative mosaic tile with a wildlife theme. Suitable for adults and children. £5.00 per participant or £15 for all 4 sessions (see 4th August for dates). Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.

Very Young Anglers Picnic

at Barford Road Pocket Park
(for accompanied children
6 - 12 years)



**Thursday 12th August
10.00am – 12.30pm**

With all tackle and bait provided, come along with Mum or Dad and learn basic fishing techniques with Level 2 qualified coaches. Bring plenty of lunch and enthusiasm. Wear suitable clothing and footwear for the day and meet at the park entrance near to St Neots Community College. Sponsored by the Environment Agency, this is a free event but places are limited. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.

Be Crafty Session for Families Natural Weaving

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
**Wednesday 18th August
10.00am – 11.45am**

Collect natural objects from the reserve and weave them with wool and beads into a colourful hanging or pot. Suitable for adults and children. £5.00 per participant or £15 for all 4 sessions (see 4th August for dates). Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Batty Barbeque

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

**Thursday 19th August
8.00pm – 11.00pm**

A short talk by the Ranger about the myths surrounding these nocturnal mammals, followed by a sunset barbeque and a walk to look and listen for bats, with the help of detectors. £10.00 per person including supper. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Den Building

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park
(for 8 – 11 years)

**Tuesday 24th August
10.00am – 12.30pm and
1.30pm – 4.00pm**

Have fun choosing your site then making a den - will it pass the water test? £6.00 per person. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Be Crafty Session for Families Spinning and Dyeing

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
**Wednesday 25th August
10.00am – 11.45am**

Bring a white T-shirt to decorate and tie dye with natural dyes then dye and spin fleece with a spindle. Suitable for adults and children. £5.00 per participant or £15.00 for all 4 sessions (see 4th August for dates). Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Young Anglers Match Day at Graham's Pond, Huntingdon.

(for 12 – 16 years)

**Friday 27th August
10.00am – 2.00pm**

Come and show off your newly learnt skills at our annual fishing match, this year held at a new location. Lots of prizes to be won! Bring plenty of lunch and enthusiasm. Wear suitable clothing and footwear. Meet at Grahams Pond which can be accessed via a footpath near Washingley Road, Huntingdon. Sponsored by the Environment Agency, this is a free event but places are limited. Please book in advance. ☎ 01480 451568.



Bank Holiday Barbeque

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park
**Monday 30th August
1.00pm – 3.00pm**

Make the most of the summer days and organise a family day out. Relax and let us do the cooking – buy lunch from our tasty barbeque!

Blue: Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Purple - Huntingdon: Spring Common, Views Common, Stukeley Meadows, Coneygear Park

Orange - St Ives: Holt Island, Wilhorn Meadow, The Thicket

Green: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Gold: Ouse Valley Way

Pink - St Neots: Barford Road Pocket Park, St Neots Common, Sudbury Meadow

SEPTEMBER

Honey Show

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Sunday 19th September
12noon – 4.30pm

Discover the importance of bees and see inside a beehive. Try the different honey varieties and learn about the role of the beekeeper. Have a go at candle rolling, see candles dipped, admire the wax models and much more.



Wildlife Trust Plant Sale

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Sunday 19th September
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Before putting the garden to bed for winter, purchase unusual perennials, plants for butterflies and bees, trees, shrubs and much more.

FPPNR Illustrated Talk

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Thursday 23rd September
7.30pm

"Fen Drayton Lakes - Past, Present and Future" by Neil Renwick from the RSPB's Fenland Team. Neil will look at how the area has changed over the last four centuries, what the society has done since acquiring the site in 2007, and how our neighbouring 'gravel pit' nature reserve is expected to develop. Members free. £2.00 for non-members.

Ouse Valley Way Guided Walk

Start at Pike and Eel pub, Needingworth

Sunday 26th September
10.00am

Meet at the Pike and Eel pub at the end of Overcote Lane, Needingworth for this 13km (8 mile) circular walk to Earith, including scenic views from the flood banks. Wear warm clothing, stout footwear and bring sufficient food and drink.



OCTOBER

Celebrating Meadows, Orchards and Apples

at Sudbury Meadow

Saturday 9th October
10.00am – 2.00pm

Come and help with the conservation work at Sudbury Meadow, then we'll roll out the apples at midday! Bring a picnic (with an apple theme?), a chair and drink. Fruit press available to make your own apple juice (bring your surplus apples!). Several apple varieties to try. Work party is not suitable for children but they are welcome to join in the apple activities afterwards, if accompanied by an adult.



Blue: Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

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FHINR Autumn Ramble

Start at Broughton Church

Sunday 10th October
10.00am

This 10.5 km (6.5 mile) circular walk takes in Kings Ripton & Raveley Wood. Please bring a packed lunch and enough to drink and wear suitable clothes and stout footwear. For details ☎ 01480 461362 after 6.00pm.

Apple Day!

at Coneygear Park

Sunday 17th October
12noon – 4.00pm

Discover what can be grown locally, taste some home grown fruit and vegetables, enter the competitions and take part in the trails and activities. Quiz tables, pumpkin carving, healthy food options, refreshments and the chance to press your own apples to make juice. Something to 'appeal' to the whole family.



FPPNR Autumn Wildlife Walk

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Sunday 17th October
2.00pm – 4.00pm

An 'Autumn Watch' walk led by local experts Jocelyn Gale and Trevor Gunton. Discover Paxton Pits' birds, berries, fungi and turning leaves at a very atmospheric time of year! Everyone welcome. Donations invited.



Green: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Gold: Ouse Valley Way

Pink - St Neots: Barford Road Pocket Park, St Neots Common, Sudbury Meadow

Apple Pressing!

at Huntingdon Market Square

Friday 22nd October
10.00am – 2.00pm

Come and join us at the Farmers' Market for a truly scrumptious time! Make juice using our fruit or bring your own apples along. For more details about the Farmers' Market see the back of this leaflet.



FHCP Halloween Magic

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Sunday 31st October
3.00pm – 5.00pm

Spooky stories in the woods (weather dependent), go on a witch hunt or make some marvellous masks. Suitable for accompanied children aged 4+. £2.50 per child. Please contact Sallyann to book in advance. ☎ 07917 005244.



NOVEMBER

FPPNR Illustrated Talk

at Little Paxton Village Hall

Friday 12th November
7.30pm

"The Kingfisher" by David Boag - a welcome return of a very popular speaker. David will present his new talk on our special 'logo bird' - definitely the Reserve's most sought after species. Not to be missed! £5.00 per person. Tickets in advance from Paxton Pits visitors' centre or from Trevor Gunton (15 St James Road, Little Paxton, Cambs. PE19 6QW - SAE please).



FHCP Christmas Shopping Fair

at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Sunday 21st November
1.00pm – 4.00pm

A stress free Christmas shopping event for all the family to enjoy. Many fantastic stalls selling a wide range of unusual items! Plus the chance to win lots of great prizes. Contact ☎ 07944 844114 for further details.



DECEMBER

Work Party and Guided Walk

at Barford Road Pocket Park



Sunday 5th December

Work Party 10.00am – 12noon

Guided Walk 1.00pm – 2.30pm

Finish the year in style by helping out with the practical management of the park and / or go for a walk with the Ranger in the afternoon. A great opportunity to see how the park is managed. Wear sensible clothing and stout footwear and meet by the park entrance near to St Neots Community College.

FPPNR Christmas Birds & Christmas Music

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Sunday 12th December

2.00pm – 5.00pm

Join a short walk to see some of the Reserve's winter visitors, then enjoy seasonal refreshments and Christmas carols with live music back at the visitors' centre. No need to book. Donation to cover costs.



JANUARY 2011

The Wonder of Winter Wildlife

at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Saturday 1st January 2011

10.00am - sunset

Join experts from the Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve for spectacular winter birds, guided walks (at 10.30 am and 2.00 pm), advice on feeding birds and hot refreshments. Everyone welcome.



A joint **Wildlife Watch** and **RSPB Wildlife Explorers Club** is held at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve.

For details please contact Sara Folkard ☎ 01480 474480.



WILDLIFE WATCH

Our Watch group usually meets on the **second Saturday of the month** in the Countryside Centre, at Hinchbrooke Country Park.

Watch is for children 6 – 14 years. The cost per meeting is only £1.00 per child. Meeting times **10.30am to 12.30pm** unless otherwise stated. New members please phone first as there may be a waiting list. Always expect to go out and explore the park. Bring a waterproof and wellies or sunhat and cream. For further information ☎ 01480 451568.

Jan 9th

The Crystal Ball

Feb 13th

Cards and Cakes

March 13th

Has Spring Sprung?

April 17th

Lets Fly

Please note this is not our usual weekend

May 8th

Discovering Willow

Meet on Holt Island, St. Ives

June 12th

Banging the Drum

July 10th

Viking Invaders

10.30am to 3.00pm

Sept 11th

Droopy Summer

Oct 9th

Harvest Crafts

Nov 13th

Bang!

Dec 11th

Celebrating this Years Nature

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Help is needed for a day or 1/2 day at weekends and weekdays to staff the visitors' centre. For details contact Jocelyn Gale (01480) 810744 or the Rangers on (01480) 406795.

You can also join in with Reserve management work during the week and some weekends. Contact the Rangers on (01480) 406795 for an application form.

Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Created from disused gravel workings, the Reserve attracts thousands of water birds for visitors to observe from hides.

The wealth of wildlife is reflected in its status as a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and ensures a variety of activity and colour around the Reserve throughout the seasons.

The visitors' centre is open weekends and most weekdays, staffed by the Voluntary Wardens and Rangers.

A battery powered wheelchair is provided for our less able visitors.

Little Paxton lies 3km north of St Neots and about 1km from the A1. Follow the signs through the village of Little Paxton to reach the visitors' centre carpark. A bus service operates between Huntingdon and St Neots, stopping at Little Paxton. The nearest railway station is in St Neots, about 3km from the Nature Reserve.

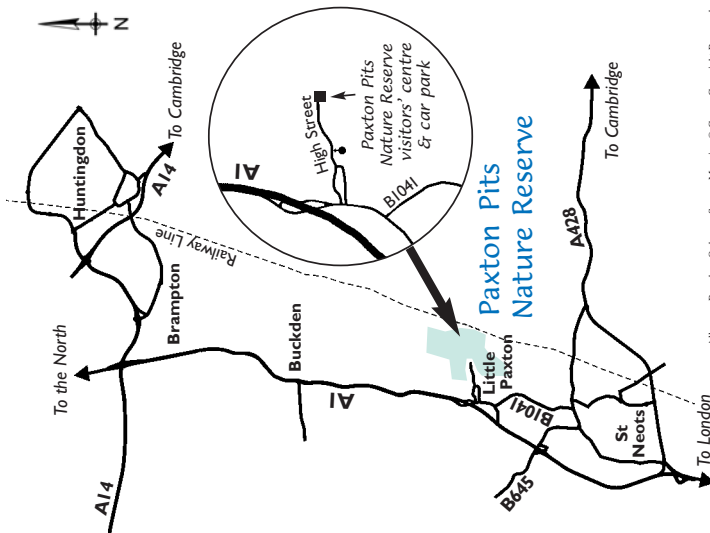
Telephone: (01480) 406795

e-mail: paxtonpits@btconnect.com

Website: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/paxtonpits

and www.paxton-pits.org.uk

Or for information about the Friends of Paxton Pits (FPPNR), visit www.paxton-pits.org.uk



Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Covering 180 acres of woodland, grassland, lakes and ponds this is a popular site for informal family outings and organised school trips. A network of paths exists to allow visitors the chance to spot woodpeckers or herons, foxes and butterflies to name but some of the wide variety of wildlife.

Battery powered wheelchairs are provided for our less able visitors.

The visitors' centre, where there is a newly extended café, is open at peak times. For special events and evening activities, refreshments will also be available.

The countryside centre offers environmental activity days for group visits, and rooms can be hired for meetings, training and conferences.

Hinchingsbrooke Country Park is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council and managed by Huntingdonshire District Council. It lies 2km west of Huntingdon, 1km from Brampton and just 2km off the A14.

A frequent bus service to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital operates from Huntingdon town centre. Alternatively, you can walk across Views Common.

Telephone/Fax: (01480) 451568

Email: hinchingsbrookecountrypark@huntsdc.gov.uk

Website: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/hinchingsbrookecountrypark

Or for more information about The Friends of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (FHCP) contact 07944 844114

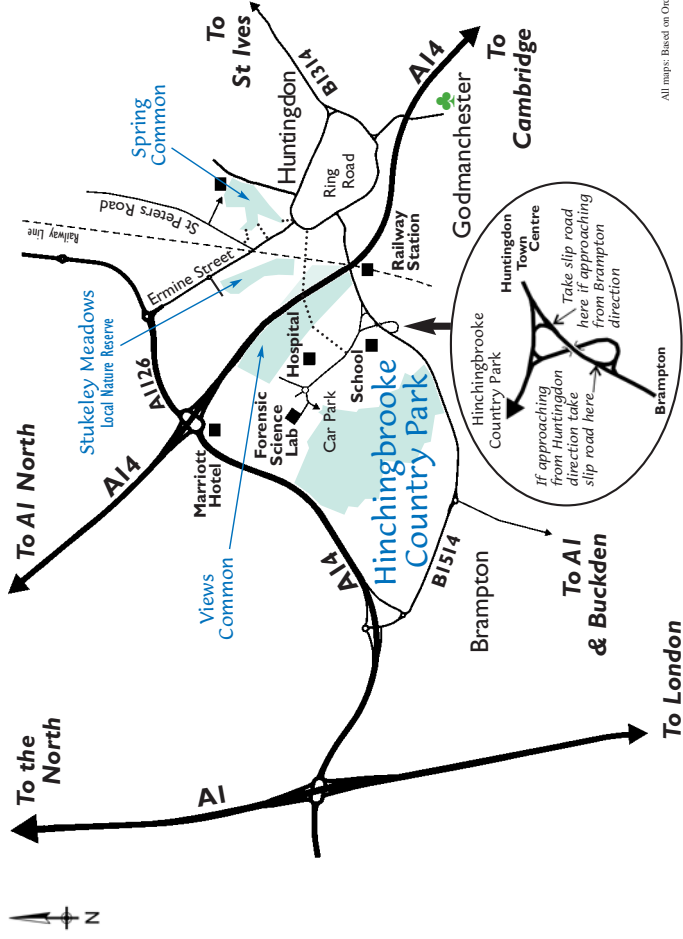
Visitors' Centre Café

Enjoy a variety of home cooked fare in a newly extended café including breakfasts, hot food between 12noon and 2.00pm as well as filled rolls, toasties, soup (in winter months) and home made cakes and biscuits.

Café opening times are:

Tuesday – Sunday
 Bank holidays, except Christmas Day.
 Mid March – Mid October
 9.00am – 5.00pm.
 Mid October – Mid March
 10.00am – 4.00pm.

If you pre-order your food before you walk you can be sure of a warm and refreshing welcome when you return. Larger groups can usually be catered for but arrangements must be made at least two weeks in advance.



Key
 Footpath
 Community Nursery

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

every Wednesday (9.30 am to 4.00 pm) volunteers help with a variety of practical tasks.

at **Huntingdonshire Community Nursery** where volunteers are welcome and are always needed to help set tree seeds and plants for parishes, schools and community groups in Huntingdonshire. Contact the Ranger on 07920 722761 for more details.

If you are interested in volunteering for Countryside Services contact (01480) 451568 for an application form.

Holt Island, Wilhorn Meadow and The Thicket

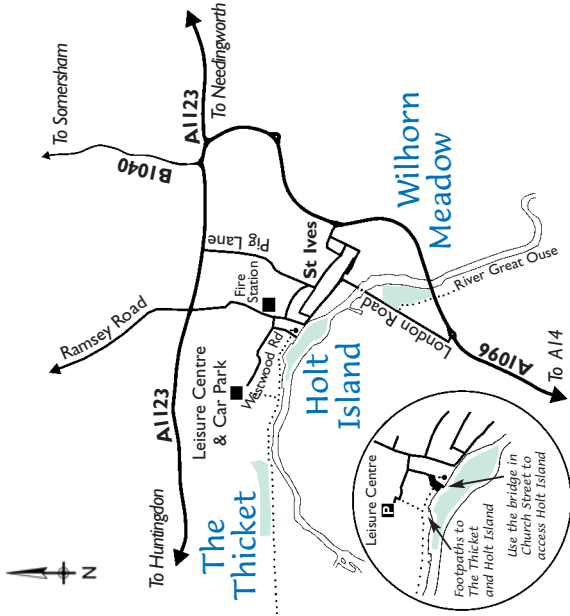
HOLT ISLAND was once a commercial osier growing centre, which had become overgrown. With careful management, a small area has been cleared and replanted with high quality willow to reintroduce the craft of basketmaking and to provide additional habitats to increase the natural history interest. Observant visitors can see dragonflies, butterflies and Kingfishers. A five year project to change the access is currently under way. Part of the island is accessible by a boardwalk and part by a grassy path. The island is open weekends and bank holidays, between April and September and is located behind All Saints Parish Church, St. Ives approximately 0.5km from St Ives bus station. At other times, provided the island is not flooded, a key can be obtained from the Norris Museum or St Ivo Leisure Centre.

WILHORN MEADOW has had much excavation work as part of town flood-defence work but plant life has now re-established. During the summer months it is grazed by cattle.

THE THICKET provides a hillside woodland haven for a variety of birds such as Great Spotted Woodpecker and Chiff Chaff. The Thicket is approximately 1km west of Holt Island along the Ouse Valley Way.

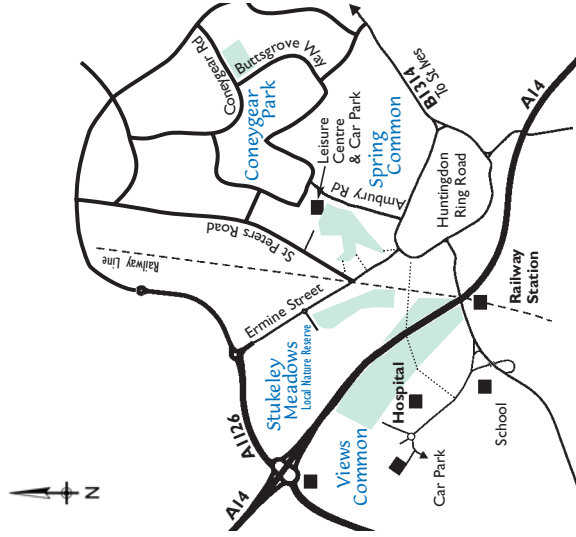
Telephone/Fax: (01480) 451568. Email: hinchingsbrookcountrypark@huntsdc.gov.uk
 Website: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Or for information about the Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve (FHINR), contact (01480) 386644.



..... Footpath

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES at Holt Island Nature Reserve

1st Sunday and 3rd Friday in the month from 10.00am – 3.30pm.

If you are interested contact the Rangers on (01480) 451568 for an application form.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Occasional work parties take place at **Spring Common** and **Stukeley Meadows**

throughout the year. Contact the Rangers for details on (01480) 451568.

Volunteers are needed at **Coneygear Park**

to help with various practical tasks and to look after the site. To get involved telephone the Ranger on 07795 237727.

Stukeley Meadows Local Nature Reserve, Spring Common and Coneygear Park

SPRING COMMON covers 13 acres and has a range of diverse habitats including grassland, marsh, ponds, streams and scrub. The name originates from the spring that runs constantly which has become a natural place for people to gather. Today the paths are well used and the common is an ideal location for dogwalking and outdoor activities. Spring Common is 0.5km north of Huntingdon, approximately 20 minutes walk from the bus station. It can be approached from Ambury Road, Ermine Street and St Peter's Road, or parking is available at the Leisure Centre car park. Telephone/Fax: (01480) 451568.

STUKELEY MEADOWS Local Nature Reserve entrance is off Wertheim Way near the roundabout opposite Homebase. There is a paved path running along Barrack Brook and trails through long grass and bramble thicket. Excellent for wildflowers and butterflies. Telephone/Fax: (01480) 451568.

ONEYGEAR PARK is situated off Coneygear Road and includes a toddler's play area, a multi-purpose sports court and large open areas for activities such as football, cricket and kite flying, as well as areas of trees and shrubs to encourage wildlife to the area. Telephone / Fax: (01480) 451568 or Mobile phone: 07795 237727.

Email: hinchingsbrookcountrypark@huntsdc.gov.uk
 Website: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Barford Road Pocket Park, St Neots Common and Sudbury Meadow

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES at **Barford Road Pocket Park**

Occasional work parties are organised and details are in this programme. Contact the Rangers on (01480) 406795.

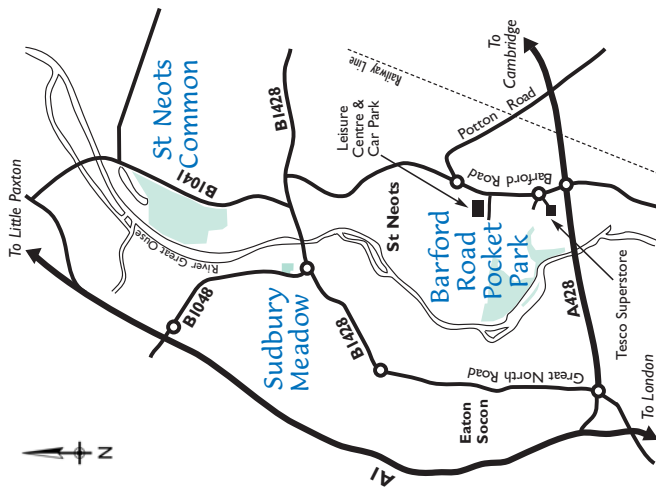
Sudbury Meadow

The Friends of Sudbury Meadow organise work parties throughout the year. For details, telephone (01480) 374792 or go to the website.

BARFORD ROAD POCKET PARK covers 45 acres and is one of the few sites where Cricket Bat Willow grows. There are wildflower and hay meadows as well as wetland areas where Kingfishers and Skylarks can be seen. The opportunity to fish is provided by St Neots Angling Club. There are no visitor facilities. Park at St Neots Leisure Centre, walk alongside the Astro-turf courts, then beside the new housing and cross over the bridge. Telephone: (01480) 406795 or mobile phone: 07747 456150.

ST NEOTS COMMON consists of two fields, Islands Common and Lammes Meadow and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. These wildflower rich haymeadows are alongside the River Great Ouse, north of St Neots and can be accessed from the B1041 in St Neots. Walking from St Neots, take the road 'The Priory' near the town bridge and follow the path between two car parks. Continue along the road to a track where you will see St Neots Common. Telephone: (01480) 406795.

SUDBURY MEADOW is a 0.8ha wildlife site, close to St Neots River Bridge. As well as areas of meadow, it has a small orchard, three wildlife gardens and a native shrubbery. More enclosed than the adjacent park, Sudbury Meadow is an ideal place for the quiet enjoyment of local wildlife or to sit and read a book. The meadow is easily accessed from Riverside Park car park, by foot, via wheelchair accessible kissing gates in Crosshall Road or Regatta Meadow. Telephone: (01480) 374792. Website: www.sudburymeadow.org.uk.



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GENERAL INFORMATION



Huntingdon Farmers' Market is held every other Friday from 8.00am to 2.00pm in the historic Market Square. *Truly local food sold by the people who produce it.* At farmers' markets the food sold must come from the local area and be sold by the person who produces it. Bought-in produce is not allowed. Huntingdon is a Certified Farmers' Market which means that it has been independently verified as meeting these standards. Huntingdon was also named Top Farmers' Market in the East of England by Country Life Magazine.

Shopping at Certified Farmers' Markets helps the environment by reducing food miles and helping small farmers who care for the local countryside. For more information and dates see www.HuntingdonTownPartnership.co.uk/farmersmarket or email farmersmarkets@huntsdc.gov.uk or telephone (01480) 388388.



Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (FPPNR) contributes to the management of the Reserve and supports the work of the Rangers. Details are available in the visitors' centre or from the Rangers on (01480) 406795.



Friends of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (FHCP) is a charity set up to enhance facilities provided by the park and to assist in conservation and recreational activities. Membership details are available in the visitors' centre or from the Rangers on (01480) 451568.



Friends of Sudbury Meadow (FoSM) manages Sudbury Meadow in partnership with Countryside Services for the protection and improvement of its wildlife habitats. For details of events, work parties and membership please telephone (01480) 374792.



Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve (FHINR) is a voluntary organisation dedicated to the promotion and conservation of Holt Island, The Thicket and Wilhorn Meadow in St Ives for the enjoyment of all. For more information please telephone (01480) 386644.

For more information on other leaflets, walks and events in Huntingdonshire, contact Huntingdonshire District Council on (01480) 388388.