



The groups listed below are in a loose order relevant to their focus areas.

Nature

1. Hertfordshire & Middlesex branch of Butterfly Conservation Chorleywood Common

A small team of five volunteers work with the Rangers on Chorleywood Common to monitor the number of butterflies each year on behalf of the Herts and Middx branch of Butterfly Conservation. Monitoring takes place on a weekly basis (weather permitting) from March to October each year along a transect of fifteen sections encompassing a range of habitats including woodland rides, acid heathland, chalk hillside meadows and field boundary hedgerows. The results each week are submitted to the UKBMS (UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme).

Results from this site go back to when we started monitoring in 2017, so we have so far got six years of comprehensive results allowing us to identify trends and the impact of major weather variations such as the 2022 drought. An analysis of the flora along the transect was carried out in 2019.

This information is fed back to the rangers who plan the development of the environment to encourage butterflies and moths; for example the clearing of some areas of the rides and selective grazing by cattle each year. Monitoring then reveals the impact of these measures. We intend to analyse these results to identify long term trends. Many of the trends mirror national trends due to climate change etc, but there are also local variations which we are able to track.

Successes have included the sightings of rare Forrester Moths in 2022 and 2023, the sightings of Silver Washed Fritillaries in recent years and Purple Harestreaks. Conversely we have seen a decline in Small Tortoiseshell butterflies over the past couple of years for example. It is hoped that as a result of this work Chorleywood Common will be developed further to increase the abundance of butterflies and moths, as well as many other insects.

Another aspect of our work is that each year we lead a Guided Butterfly Walk for the general public which has proved popular. We always welcome others who may be interested in supporting our work.

- Link to the webpage: <https://www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/>
- Contact: queries@hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk

2. Herts and Middx Bat Group.

We are a volunteer led charity dedicated to promoting and raising awareness of Bats.

We cover Herts and Middlesex ,carrying out surveys to identify bats and their roosts, we lead bat walks for our members and provide training for them. We can give talks to groups and assist with walks.

We are in partnership with the Bat Conservation Trust. Their helpline number is 0345 1300 228. Please note this may not be available 24/7.

- Link to the webpage: <https://hmbg.org.uk>
- Contact:
 - General enquiries :enquiries@hmbg.org.uk
 - Bat emergency helpline: 07517 123200 (please do not use this number for general enquiries)

3. Croxley Common Moor

Croxley Common Moor is a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its rich diversity of grassland wild flowers. As grazing by commoners' livestock died out after WW2, active management was started to prevent the otherwise inevitable transition to woodland (incompatible with most of those grassland wild flowers). The main management features are cattle grazing in the spring and summer, and removal of encroaching bushes in the autumn and winter.

The main activities of the Friends of Croxley Common Moor are:

- this scrub clearance
 - litter collection during the spring and summer
 - removing excess quantities of Common Ragwort / Creeping Thistle / Spear Thistle during the growing season
 - providing a variety of wildlife guided walks.
- Link to the webpage: www.croxleycommonmoor.org.uk
 - FB: www.facebook.com/croxleycommonmoor
 - Contact: friends@croxleycommonmoor.org.uk

4. Woodoaks Farm

Woodoaks Farm lies just to the west of London at Maple Cross in Hertfordshire. It extends to just over 300 acres and includes arable and pastureland and around 75 acres of semi-natural woodland.

The farm has been in the Findlay Family since the 1920's and in November 2020 Sally Findlay donated Woodoaks to the Soil Association Land Trust to ensure it will be farmed sustainably into the future; producing good food, improving wildlife and continuing to welcome people.

As the next custodians of the farm, we will transition to organic and become a showcase for a robust and regenerative system that will support a climate friendly future with plenty of biodiversity and a vibrant and dynamic sustainable food hub.

- Walks, Talks, Workshops & Wellbeing, Learning walks (mushrooms, bats, hedgerows etc.)
 - Volunteering opportunities – hedgerow planting
 - The changing seasons, farmland and forests at Woodoaks Farm offer up a wealth of experiences for our community to be part of. Whether it's to explore the land, learn about wildlife, develop a new skill or nurture your own well being, there are a variety of events planned throughout the year for all ages to dive into.
- Link to the webpage: <https://woodoaksfarm.com/>
 - Contact: woodoaksfarm@gmail.com

5. From the West Herts Beekeepers Association


NNSS Have you seen this insect?

ASIAN HORNET

Vespa velutina

What is it?
An invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. Asian hornet is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. In 2004 it was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK.

Suspected sightings should be reported immediately using the details provided at the bottom of this poster.




Where might I see it?
May be seen on flowering plants, around beehives, around rotting / fermenting fruit and protein, and at street markets attracted by sweet fruit and fish stalls.

Active from February to November across England and Wales.

What does it look like?

- Slightly smaller than native hornet
- Dark abdomen, 4th segment yellow / orange
- Bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark)
- Entirely brown or black thorax (native hornet more orange)

Asian hornet nest 'Hawks' outside honey bee colonies



DANGER!
This hornet stings.
Do not disturb an active nest.
Seek advice using the details below.

Report any sightings of this species:
with the free iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
online at: www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

www.nonnativespecies.org

6. Sarratt Community Garden

- FB: <https://www.facebook.com/sarrattcommunitygarden/>
- Contact: 07759 777475

Waste

7. Herts Waste Partnership:

County-wide campaigns run by the partnership of waste teams at all district and borough councils, along with Herts County Council. We help residents, schools, businesses and communities to reduce

waste and recycle more. Happy to answer any waste-related questions, and we can provide talks / presentations to community groups of 20 or more on any of the topics below.

Food waste: #WorthSaving campaign to help reduce the amount of edible food entering the bin - all 40,000 tonnes of it in Hertfordshire annually. The campaign shares the 4 Steps to Save - easy tips to reduce wastage of edible food at every stage of the food journey. Please see the campaign here: <https://wasteaware.org.uk/WorthSaving>

Clothes swaps: we hold our own around the county seasonally, but have the rails and hangers available for free hire if anyone wants to hold their own. Excellent fun and really valuable for reducing our carbon footprint as fast fashion is so wasteful.

Our many other campaigns including:

- A family of sustainable discounts: period products, reusable nappies, washable incontinence products
- Fabulous treasure trove of waste facts and info on the processing of materials and where our recycling goes
- Directory of local repair cafes

8. ReAP UK

REAP UK, a passionate charity dedicated to facilitating the recycling of plastics collected from aquatic ecosystems such as rivers, canals, lakes, and oceans. Our purpose is to actively reduce the amount of plastic waste in these delicate ecosystems and promote sustainable practices for a cleaner and healthier world.

Our mission is to encourage the collection of plastic waste from rivers, canals, lakes, and oceans, ensuring it is properly recycled and kept out of landfill. By doing so, we can help to reduce the harm caused by plastic pollution to our precious wildlife and ecosystems. We aim to be the central hub for all volunteers and groups that collect the waste and facilitate its route to recycling.

We understand that plastic waste is a global problem, and we are committed to raising awareness and promoting sustainable practices to tackle this issue.

Thank you for visiting our website, and we hope that you will join us in our mission to create a cleaner, healthier world for ourselves and future generations.

ReAP is a charity that acts as a conduit for local volunteer or perhaps corporate groups that have collected litter from or near to aquatic environments to have the fouled plastics and sent to our partner for the recycling process - that is My Group and ReFactory. <https://mygrouppltd.com/> The process used allows for plastics that would not be recyclable through 'normal' methods and would go to incineration or land fill - simply because they are contaminated and filthy - silt, sediment, barnacle, sea weed encrustation etc etc.



Reap - We CAN
RECYCLE

It also allows the recycling of products made from more than one type of plastic. We are often led to believe plastics will just go for recycling - not necessarily so. Think of a common drinks bottle. The bottle is made of one plastic, often the cap will be another and if it has a nylon seal in that cap that is yet another. It is highly unlikely that bottle could be recycled but we can.

Products made from the plastics are often used in the environment in the form of bird boxes, seats, otter holts etc etc. We hope to see that happen with product coming back for use in an area where the plastic was collected.

- Link to the webpage: <https://www.reap-uk.org/>
- Contact: Tony.Booker@reap-uk.org

9. Stork and the Bees:

Local lending library for slings (baby carriers) and reusable nappies. We have free monthly 'library' sessions where we offer advice and support on choosing and using the items - which reduce waste (nappies) and are a fabulous parenting aid (Slings). During our friendly sessions aiming to support new families, we hire out items at low cost to keep it accessible to all, and can help with fitting your own items.

I am a trained carrying consultant and also offer 1-1 sessions which allow for more time to answer questions or look at more options than the library sessions. We also attend baby groups to give talks and demos.

Recent addition is party kit hire - sets of reusable bowls, plates, cups and service items for parties, priced to cost less than the alternative disposable items. Excellent for children's parties to cut the waste.

- Link to the webpage: <http://storkandthebees.com/>

Energy

10. Grand Union Community Energy:

We are a non profit community energy cooperative that works with communities to promote renewable energy for everyone. We also work to help people cut their waste and household bills, lowering their impact on the planet while saving money.

- Link to the webpage: <https://guce.org.uk/>
- Contact: guceltd@gmail.com

Area focus

11. Abbots in Transition

Abbots in Transition was formed in 2010, by Abbots Langley residents, to provide resources and leadership for our community to move towards a sustainable and resilient way of living in the light of the Climate Emergency. We are a member of the UK-wide Transition Network -

<https://transitionnetwork.org/>.

We recognise that we need to stop burning fossil fuels as a matter of urgency, and that this will require significant adaptations to our current way of life. We believe in a positive future, that is sustainable, comfortable and fulfilling.

- Link to the webpage: <http://abbotsintransition.org/>
- Contact: abbotsintransition@gmail.com

12. St Oswalds Eco Group

The group exists to raise awareness of and to encourage action with regard to environmental issues in our church. The church is a member of A Rocha and we have achieved the Bronze award as an Eco Church and are now working towards the Silver award. We offer some recycling facilities and organise community activities like litter picking.

We are planning activities for June 16th in the church grounds during the Great Green Week and are looking forward to hosting a hustings event before the upcoming general elections, concentrating on environmental sustainability.

Overarching/ multiple themes

13. Watford and Three Rivers Friends of the Earth (W3RFOE)

Watford and Three Rivers Friends of the Earth is part of a movement creating a safer climate, flourishing nature, and healthy air, water and food, now and for future generations. We campaign for change in our community, to make a difference to the environment locally, nationally and globally.

For the last three years W3RFOE have coordinate the Great Big Green Week event across the districts. This national campaign aims to draw attention to climate change and destruction of the natural world, while also making a connection with these issues and actions locally in Watford and Three Rivers. Through the week we promote as many local groups and activities as possible to get as many people involved in green actions as possible – the aim is to ensure there is something for everyone – and through doing so grow and strengthen the “greenness” of our area.

For more information on the events that took place last GBGW go to:

<https://greenwatford.uk/greenweek/>

The 2024 GBGW will be 10-18 June and we hope your groups will be part of it.

- Contact: sustainableswherts@greenwatford.uk

14. Sustainable Three Rivers



Our Aims:

- Helping people in Three Rivers to make lifestyle changes to protect the planet.
- Promoting local projects and groups linked to sustainability.
- Kickstart community events and encourage everyone to get involved.

At the Ricky Festival in 2022 we started a petition asking people;

- “Would you like a Community Garden in Rickmansworth?”
- Over 400 people signed it to say YES!

So we contacted Three Rivers District Council and negotiated to put things in place. Alex Murray from W3RT CVS came on to the scene and was a huge help to us, providing guidance on;

- becoming a CIC, which is needed in order to generate funds, and
- how to promote our group on social media and growing our network

Autumn 2022

- - we became a CIC with 3 directors
- Spring 2023
- - we were offered a 1 year trial License in the Community Orchard in Rickmansworth.
- - we received funding from various sources including W3RT, which enabled us to buy materials including 112 railway sleepers!
- June 2023
- - On 2 of the hottest days of the year a team of 15-20 people pushed themselves to the limit to construct 3 very impressive raised beds!
- - They were filled with compost (donated by Woodoaks Farm) plus top quality soil
- - In no time we got planting!

Autumn 2023...18 months on...We have an established Community Garden which is proving to be a great asset to Rickmansworth. Rickmansworth Community Garden is a place;

- to be with nature and share time with our families and community
- to provide learning opportunities and experiences for sustainable gardeners
- that welcomes all ages and backgrounds, as shown by the parent & toddler and mindfulness adults session held this autumn in partnership with Rickmansworth Library.
- that encourages a love for nature and an environment to support biodiversity

All of which benefit physical and mental health of all those who get involved and visit the garden. At S3R we want great things for our Community and for our Planet!

We're making efforts to ensure the garden is climate resilient and exists in line with our sustainable values. To keep our water usage as sustainable as possible we have;

- - Added Biochar to the raised beds. Biochar has remarkable water retention and soil regeneration properties.
- - Added organic water retaining gel to the compost. This remarkable product holds up to 400 times its physical weight in water.
- - Started planting with plants which cope well with less water and very hot weather, such as Mediterranean herbs.
- - Provided an environment that encourages biodiversity - increasing sightings of butterflies, ladybirds, moths, and more

With your help S3R have grown from strength to strength

- We have over 400 on our mailing list
- Strong leadership team of 4 directors ranging in age from 30's and up!
- 3 planting teams visiting and maintaining the garden 3 times a week
- A new project, which is to develop and revitalize the Rose Garden (next to the orchard) providing even more space for the community and nature to thrive!

- Link to the webpage: <https://www.sustainablethreerivers.org/>
- Contact: hello@sustainablethreerivers.org
- Chair: Rosi Jordon

15. Three Rivers DC

- Main focus at the moment is updating our Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan and signing off the old one.
- The new CE&S strategy is going to Full Council for adoption in the next couple of weeks – thank you to everyone who consulted on it earlier this year! TRDC will share with networks when it's online and available to view.
- Working with the ColneCAN group to support them with a Smarter Water Catchment funding bid – this includes looking at invasive species and water quality.
- Fast Followers project – working with GUCE.

- Link to the webpage: <https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/>

16. Three Rivers Green Party

The Three Rivers Green Party is working hard for local people, providing leadership that is making our communities more sustainable, inclusive and making sure everyone knows the difference local action and participative democracy can make.

- Link to the webpage: www.threerivers.greenparty.org.uk
- FB: [facebook.com/3RiversGreenParty](https://www.facebook.com/3RiversGreenParty)
- Contact Name: Narinder Sian

- Contact Email: Narinder.Sian@threerivers.gov.uk
- Contact Phone: 07595 617598