

Revealing Greensand Country 2021



**Greensand
Country**

Get involved: greensandcountry.com



Welcome to Greensand Country

Greensand Country is a beautiful and loved landscape. It is defined by the Greensand Ridge, a band of higher ground stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, which rises out of the surrounding vales to create a locally unique environment. Greensand Country contains all of Bedfordshire's remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland and more historic parkland than any other place in England.

It is a landscape rich in wildlife and cultural heritage, with its own special qualities and sense of place defined by the local sandstone geology.

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For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com

Greensand Country

A 'green oasis' of peace and quiet, rolling countryside and breath-taking views. A place where people feel able to slow down, unwind and connect with nature. Somewhere to escape urban life, breathe easy and feel uplifted. Come and discover it for yourself!

Over the last five years, we have delivered 90 exciting projects in Greensand Country that have brought benefits for both people and nature.

In this book you will find out all about the work we have done. You will learn about the new walks, cycle routes and horse riding trails which we have developed and you will discover our new website which showcases things that you can explore, experience and discover in your area. You will hear about the diverse and wonderful wildlife you can now find in the area because of the habitat work we have done. There is much more too, so take the time to read through and find out about the variety of things to explore, experience and discover whatever your age and interest.

How has all this work been done?

A partnership of organisations, landowners and communities have worked together to generate funding and deliver all of these projects that help raise awareness of this distinctive, special and loved Greensand Country landscape and reverse the decline in its distinct character and special qualities.

This strong and diverse partnership is called the **Greensand Country Landscape Partnership** and together we have achieved a string of successes for your area.



Would you like to find out more about Greensand Country?

We have created a new website which showcases everything there is to do in Greensand Country helping you to explore, experience and discover this beautiful landscape.

www.greensandcountry.com

Are you a business owner in Greensand Country?

If you are a business owner in Greensand Country, we have lots of resources that you can use within your own marketing, free of charge, to help you draw upon the special qualities of the area, to promote your services and engage with customers. In doing so, your business or organisation can become more competitive, more attractive and better connected with local networks.

Sign up and get access to our online toolkit which is packed full of FREE content, an image library, and ideas for how to improve your marketing; your customer relations and visitor welcome; and enhance your customer's enjoyment of the landscape. You will also receive support from the Greensand Community to promote your events via our website and social media.

Visit www.greensandcountry.com/support/business-charter/ and find out more.

Volunteering in Greensand Country

Would you like to volunteer in the Greensand Country? We are running lots of free courses to help people learn the skills to look after this landscape for the future.

Contact team@greensandcountry.com to find out more.

Partners

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership is made up of 24 different organisations:



For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com



MULBERRY
HOMES

BUILDING BEAUTIFUL NEW HOMES IN BEDFORDSHIRE

Proud festival sponsor Mulberry Homes is committed to Bedfordshire and is expanding its growing portfolio with the launch of two brand-new developments, Manor Heath in Leighton Buzzard and Maulden Ridge in Maulden, providing local property seekers with a range of luxurious homes in thriving new communities.

These launches follow Mulberry Homes' previous success in the county, with its developments Market Reach in Potton and Brunswick Gate in Lower Standon having sold out ahead of schedule due to high demand for homes within the area.

Residents will benefit from the developer's industry-leading

'The Mulberry Way' initiative, which involves a range of sustainable, ethical and community-centred features such as electric car charging points, communal gardens and landscaped green garden boundaries. The initiative promotes environmental positivity whilst adding to the community's sense of wellbeing.



Potential purchasers can book an appointment with the sales executives by calling **0333 121 1010** for Manor Heath and **0333 121 1090** for Maulden Ridge. For more information on the homes available, visit mulberrymhomes.co.uk

Helping businesses achieve their ambitions

We don't want the inevitable complexities of running your business to dampen your enthusiasm and get in the way of your dreams. So we help you deal with those typical legal, tax, employment and compliance issues that every business faces.

To arrange a meeting or join now call us on **0808 1688 512** or visit www.fsb.org.uk

fsb

This promotion is provided by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB). *FSB Business Essentials Membership starts from £147 per annum with a £30 registration fee in the first year. This rate is applicable to businesses with no employees. Rates increase depending on your number of employees. Please see the website for full details of subscription rate bands. *Calls are normally free of charge from UK landlines but charges may apply from mobile phones. Lines open 8am-6pm weekdays, closed Bank Holidays. Registered Office: National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses Limited, Sir Frank Whittle Way, Blackpool Business Park, Blackpool, FY4 2FE. Registered in England No. 1263540.



Walking in Greensand Country

Heather heathlands, picturesque parklands, ancient woods, wet woodlands, idyllic villages, historic local towns and sculpture trails. You are spoilt for choice when planning a walk in Greensand Country and there's something for everyone.

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership has developed new walks to help you explore.

The Flit Valley is a rare gem and a self-guided walk follows the River Flit through its quiet valley rich in history and wildlife. This route introduces you to some of the wonder to be found along the Flit, from peat bogs and ancient woodland to the stories told by historic buildings and archaeological finds.

You will soon be able to experience the extended and improved 40 mile long Greensand Ridge walk with new leaflets and signage. Gateway features designed with the help of the community, will soon appear in Leighton Buzzard and in Gamlingay and mark the new beginning and end of this well-known trail.

Three new routes, the Ouzel Valley Meander, Weneslawe and Katherine Walks, will start from new housing estates, leading people from their new homes to take in the views, soak up the landscape and enjoy the physical health and mental wellbeing benefits associated with exploring the great outdoors. These walks lead to local cafes and will help new residents explore the history, heritage and rich culture of Greensand Country.

There are other new walks too, visit: www.greensandcountry.com/explore

Some of these projects are complete, some are just in development so visit our website and see what is ready now and watch for new things coming on line soon.



Image © RSPB

Working in partnership with Flitwick Town Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Greensand Trust and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Council

For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com/explore

Story in Stone Heritage Trail

A community project by artists Oliver Budd & Carolyn Blake, made with the help of 11 schools, local community groups and residents. Follow the beautiful mosaic trail through Sandy & Potton market towns to discover their amazing history - find out more at: www.greensandcountry.com/explore



1. Frederick Thomas Bidlake Timekeeper

Sandy Library wall (Market Square)

2. Frederick Thomas Bidlake & Tricycle

Sandy Library wall (Market Square)

3. Captain Sir William Peel VC KCB RN

Wall between Sandy's St. Swithun's church & school

4. The Two Shannons

Wall between Sandy's St. Swithun's church & school

5. Potton Map

Library Clock House, Potton Market Square

6. From Roman Origins

Wall of the Rasoi restaurant (22 Market Sq), Sandy

7. The Sandy Show

Wall between Sandy's St. Swithun's church & school

8. Manors, Market, Fire & Brewery

Library Clock House, Potton Market Square

The story of the sand



Approximately 125 million years ago, the area we now know as Greensand Country was dominated by tropical shallow seas. Sediments of sandy minerals were deposited as silt, sand and gravel, which eventually became compressed into the Greensand rocks. Because Greensand is a more resistant rock, it was not eroded as quickly as the softer clays surrounding it, leaving the Greensand Ridge which forms the 'backbone' of Greensand Country as its most prominent landmark.

Despite the name, the sands are rarely green! You can see some green sandstone in the church tower of Husbourn Crawley, but generally the sands vary from white, yellow and orange to a dark red-brown.

The Greensand is made up of loose deep sands at Leighton Buzzard, but hard rock at Sandy. Building styles vary across the Greensand Country as the bedrock and quality of the rock changes. In Potton, elongated stones from very thin beds are placed in diagonal or herringbone patterns. The sandstone occurs in blocks in the Clophill area and rubble in the Leighton Buzzard area.

Discover more about the geology of the Greensand Country by following one of our three Geological Walks. And don't miss our geological wall at St Mary's old Church at Clophill, showing you the different layers of rock in the landscape and the quarries we have exposed, so that you can see the rock profile for yourself!

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership has restored walls and buildings throughout the Greensand Country. See the walls at RSPB Sandy or in some of the churchyards in the area.



@bedfordshire_geology_group



@BedfordshireGeologyGroup



For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com/explore

Clophill Bird Trail

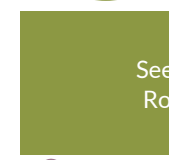


CLOPHILL ECO LODGES



1 The High Street

Some water birds (Moorhens, Mute Swans, Mallards) can often be seen from the High Street. Kingfishers can also be seen here, especially in gardens with bird feeders.



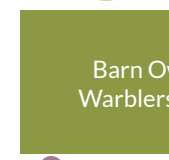
2 Apple Orchard, Great Lane

See Coal Tits and Goldcrests in the conifers, and Carrion Crows, Rooks and Magpies, Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers. In autumn/winter, see over-wintering Redwings and Fieldfares.



3 Old Church

Find Bullfinches in the hedgerows, rare House Martins in summer feeding on the wing over the Greensand Ridge, and birds of prey such as Kestrels, Sparrowhawks, Buzzards and Little Owls (dusk).



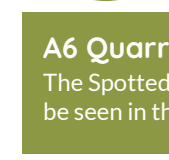
4 Great Lane Fields

Barn Owls are seen hunting here. In spring/summer, many species of Warblers (Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers, Blackcaps, Garden Warblers, Whitethroats and Lesser Whitethroats) arrive to breed.



5 Pedley & Chicksands Woods

Tawny Owls can sometimes be heard hooting. They are likely to be resident in Pedley and Chicksands Woods.



A6 Quarry

The Spotted Flycatchers are in steep decline but might be seen in the copse by the A6 quarry.

It's a 2 mile circular route, starting and ending at the Clophill Green circling round the Old Church & Eco Lodges (grab an ice cream/cold drink/too stop!) and back. It could be pushchair friendly if the Old Church section was missed as this footpath would require you navigating a bike barrier. It is otherwise a very accessible route with several short cuts that could be made as required (as well as some simple extensions). See map on original leaflet.

Explore this and other routes: www.greensandcountry.com/explore

Kingfisher & Woodpecker: Vincent van Zalinge. Barn Owl: Doug Swinson

The Lodge & Nature Reserve Heathland

Wild Play Trail



Explore the Wild Play Trail at RSPB The Lodge, available for children to enjoy year-round. Children come alive when they play in nature: it seems to be in their DNA to be inquisitive, pick up sticks and stomp in puddles. Perfect for when the children are going a little bit stir-crazy from too much indoor play, the play area is located next to the gatehouse car park.

The natural materials used to construct the equipment enables the play area to blend into the beautiful surroundings of the reserve. The bug hotel and the wildlife that can be seen from the trail allow children to experience nature through play. Have fun with the oversized wooden musical instruments and discovering butterflies in the heather.

Relax on the Parents Perch while the little ones blow off steam making dens in our designated den building area; balancing on logs and find out what can be seen from Raven's Rise – our viewing platform in the play area.

With easy access to the Wild Play Trail from the car park and our three main reserve trails this is a perfect activity to break up your visit. Children's activities for the reserve trails are available seasonally from the Visitor Information Centre, staffed by our friendly and knowledgeable volunteers.

Check out the trail each time you visit to discover our changes to the play area as we expand, develop and the seasons change.

Image © RSPB

For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com/explore

400 acres of woodland, heathland and meadows for all to enjoy.

RUSHMERE Country Park

Family Fun on the Oak Wood Sculpture Trail

Follow the trail to find the sculptures and viewing window.
Have fun with friends & family along the way with our games!

Green Tiger Beetle

The adult beetle is a fast and ferocious hunter of spiders, caterpillars and ants while its larvae hide in burrows, ready to ambush prey passing close by.

It's dinner time!

One person is the Tiger Beetle larva and sits on the bench with their back to the rest of the group. Everyone has to creep quietly past the bench to get to the other side without being detected. If the person on the bench hears a sound, they turn round and shout "Dinner time!" and try to catch the person for dinner.

Common Lizard

Lizards can often be seen lying very still, basking in the sunshine, ready to jump on passing insects to eat them!

Can you sit as still as a statue?

Everyone sits on the tree stumps around the Lizard sculpture, keeping as still as possible, while one person walks around, watching to see who moves first. The last person left sitting still is the winner!

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Clinging to the side of tree trunks, it can often be heard tapping on the tree to find grubs to eat, make a nest hole or to communicate with other woodpeckers.

Hide and seek!

One person counts to 20 while the rest hide behind different trees. The counter taps on the bench to tell the group they are coming to find them. The rest of the group reply by tapping on the tree they are hiding behind and the counter has to follow the sounds to find them.

Damselfly

Damselflies and dragonflies hunt other insects for food around ponds and rivers, catching their prey, while flying in mid-air.

Catch it if you can!

Search the woodland floor for something to play 'catch' with, a pine cone perhaps. Now can you catch it while on the move, walking or running from one spot to another?

Viewing Window

Oak Wood is being managed to create a mosaic of heather, gorse and acid grassland within woodland to produce a habitat with a rich biodiversity of species, including lizards and slow-worms, emperor moths and woodpeckers, beetles and bats.

Draw, memorise or take a picture of the view through the frame that you see today. Make a note in your diary to return every so often to see how the view changes over the seasons and watch how the heathland restoration develops.

BUZZARD TRAILS

LEIGHTON BUZZARD



What's your once upon a time?

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CHILDREN'S TRAIL

EST. 2012

The Children's Trail is an interactive public trail of 22 artworks celebrating children's stories for little people, with big imaginations, to explore.

Download the activity sheet:
www.leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk/the-childrens-trail



Download the Buzzard Trails app for full interactive experience.



FREE interactive family activity trails...



What mark will you leave?



LIVING HISTORY TRAIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE

Discover who walked down these streets before you. This trail of 12 stops, captures a glimpse into the lives of ordinary townsfolk who resided within the Town Centre and shares the impact they left on the town's history.

Download the activity sheet:
www.leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk/buzzard-trails/



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire



The Wildlife Trust Cooper's Hill nature trail



Green woodpecker

- As you climb out of the wood you'll pass areas of acid grassland giving way to heather further up. Both habitats are an important component of the heathland supporting many specialist plants and animals. From the top of the ridge through the trees you can look west along the Greensand Ridge which runs between Leighton Buzzard and Garmingham.
- As you walk along this stretch you get some of the best views of the open heath. It is managed by careful cutting or burning the old heather in small patches to stimulate new growth (and provide a mosaic of age structures).
- The heathland contains pockets of gorse and broom providing splashes of yellow when in flower. These scrubby patches are managed by periodically cutting back older growth to maintain young healthy bushes which support birds and pollinating insects (through the year). If left uncontrolled this scrub would slowly creep out at the expense of the open heather.
- The valley at the southern end of the heath contains areas of heather, grass and bare ground leading up to a small copse of oak trees. This mix supports a wide range of species. In particular heathland invertebrates such as the green tiger beetle. Green woodpeckers can often be seen flying up from the ground where they feed and common lizards bask on sunny banks.
- A small plantation of pine trees here and the war memorial behind them reminds us of the (turbulent) history of the site. Historically known as Amphill Warren, grazing by rabbits and other animals kept the heathland open until it was planted with conifers in the nineteenth century. During 1917 the trees were cleared as part of the war effort and the heath was able to recover.
- Areas of woodland such as this can be found at the edges of the reserve where they provide shelter for birds and insects. Fungi thrive here from the iconic fly agaric to brackets of birch polypore on dying trees.
- At the top of the steep hill on your left is a concrete cap showing the location of an old Royal Observatory Corps bunker dug during World War Two. Lots of heather has been lost at the bottom of this slope due to a combination of heather beetle and increased nutrients from leaf litter causing the grass to take over. We combat this by thinning the trees and removing areas of turf to expose bare sand giving the heather seeds a better chance to germinate.



Common lizard



Common heather



Green tiger beetle

www.wildlifebcn.org/coopers-hill

@wildlifebcn



Cycling in Greensand Country

Cycling is popular in Greensand Country, where quiet lanes and ever-changing scenery make for great days out by bike. There are plenty of level stretches for leisurely rides, as well as challenging climbs for seasoned cyclists and a network of off-road routes that remain passable year-round, thanks to the area's sandy soil.

In partnership with Sustrans and Central Bedfordshire Council, seven new circular cycling routes have been created to help you to explore more of Greensand Country by bike. Some of these are for families.



The Greensand cycle ride will now extend for more than 40 miles from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay and has new signage and downloadable leaflets to help you find your way and learn about the natural and cultural heritage of the landscape. The Greensand Cycle Route and the Chiltern Cycle route have also been linked up so you can enjoy the changing horizons as you move from one landscape to another. Some of these projects are complete, some are just in development so visit our website and see what is ready now and watch for new things coming on line soon.

www.greensandcountry.com/explore

The Countryside Code

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures



For more information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com or
www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code
 where you will be able to find full details.

Horse Riding in Greensand Country

Horse riding in Greensand Country is a fun way to explore the landscape and the sandy soil of Greensand Country makes it the perfect place for hacking along greenways and bridleways – many of which are dry and mud-free even in winter.

Getting out and about in Greensand Country has never been easier, with 5 new circular horse riding routes promoted by the British Horse Society and the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership for all abilities which are available from our website. There are parking places for your horse box and places for you and your horse to stay too.



Riders wishing to venture 'off the beaten track' of public bridleways can purchase a Greensand Trust Horse Riding Pass.

www.greensandcountry.com/explore



For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com/explore

Key



Greensand Ridge Walk



Greensand Cycleway



Greensand Horse Routes

Visit

www.greensandcountry.com

for downloadable routes and maps

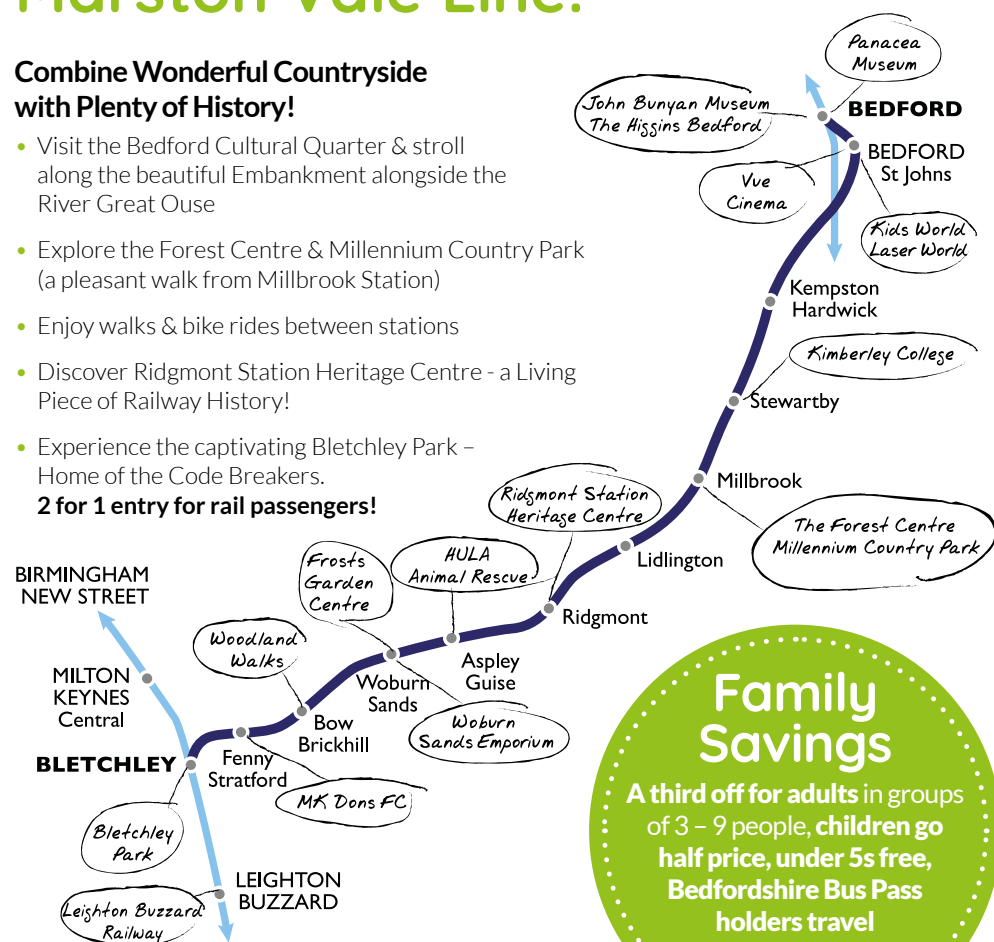


Great Days Out on the Marston Vale Line!

Combine Wonderful Countryside with Plenty of History!

- Visit the Bedford Cultural Quarter & stroll along the beautiful Embankment alongside the River Great Ouse
- Explore the Forest Centre & Millennium Country Park (a pleasant walk from Millbrook Station)
- Enjoy walks & bike rides between stations
- Discover Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre - a Living Piece of Railway History!
- Experience the captivating Bletchley Park - Home of the Code Breakers.

2 for 1 entry for rail passengers!



Family Savings

A third off for adults in groups of 3 – 9 people, children go half price, under 5s free, Bedfordshire Bus Pass holders travel half price!



Coming soon – Free Audio Guide!

Join our radio producer as they take a journey along the Line uncovering some of the stories from its 175-year history, exploring the stations & the surrounding Greensand Country and meeting some of the people who live and work along it. Tune in either during your journey or from home. **Visit our website for full details.**

For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com/explore

Symbol Spot on the Marston Vale Line!



- Collect your **free** Symbol Spot Pack with Marston Vale Line child train tickets at Bedford & Bletchley stations or when visiting Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre with a valid train ticket*
- Can you find the symbols at each station?
- What can you spot out of the window during your journey?
- Learn about Rail Safety
- Adults take part too!
- Collect all Symbols for a prize! (collect from Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre)
- The Marston Vale Line is the first in the country to have a Symbol Spot along its route!

Call: **01234 832645**

Visit: www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk



*Tickets must be valid on day of travel.



Greensand Country Festival

The Greensand Country Festival, held each May, is a celebration of Greensand Country. There will be a variety of things for you to do to help you to get out and explore this distinct and beautiful countryside on your doorstep, whatever your age or interest.

You will be able to have a picnic whilst watching vintage planes at a drive in air display at Shuttleworth. Go Forest Bathing at RSPB Sandy or take an outdoor sound bath or do yoga or Tai Chi or listen to live music in the beautiful landscape of the Swiss Garden. Try a 50km Ultra Trail through Greensand Country or take a tour of one of our many historic gardens. You will be able to go on a number of walks with our experts to learn about the wildlife, history, geology, heritage and rich culture of Greensand Country.

If you have a young family enjoy a picnic in the park, or let your youngsters discover what creatures live on the Moor or tell your teenagers they can go out with the youth rangers.

We have commissioned five individual artists to help us celebrate Greensand Country. You will be able to see a film, three theatre shows for families, and two Zines created by an illustrator detailing the rich history of some of the parklands. In addition, an artist who makes projects inspired by place, history and communities is producing five new pieces of work which will be exhibited at Shuttleworth in May 2021.



For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com/experience

A team of volunteers have received training in Oral History, Archiving and Historical Research and are supporting the artists in their work but are also interviewing local people to build an Oral History Archive. There are creative writing and photography competitions and a programme of talks to be held in May 2021. Also get involved in our Greensand Country Sound Archive.

With Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership we are working to celebrate the stories, landscape and heritage on the train journey from Bedford to Bletchley. Listen to a 40-minute train radio broadcast as the journey takes in historic parklands, ancient villages, heritage centres and sites of incredible industrialisation.



As we start looking forward to the Greensand Country Festival this May, we are delighted to welcome Mulberry Homes as our key Festival sponsor for 2021. They are committed to building much-needed homes in Bedfordshire and have launched two brand-new developments in Leighton Buzzard and Maulden.

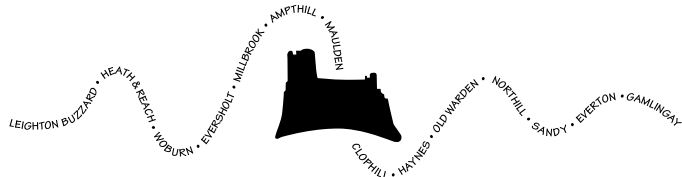
They are an organisation that shares our values in protecting the environment whilst addressing the evolving needs of local communities and businesses. Their award-winning approach to developments is based on enhancing locations whilst using the most sustainable options for building. Gardens, communal spaces, landscaping and electric car charging ports are all considered in the design process. For more information, visit: www.mulberryhomes.co.uk.

Kerry Jones, Sales Director at Mulberry Homes, said: "We're very proud to be a part of this wonderful festival. The Greensand Country is a stunning landscape, and we're looking forward to seeing local communities safely come together to enjoy this natural beauty."

Visit: www.greensandcountry.com and follow link to the Festival page.



Clophill Heritage Trust



CLOPHILL ECO LODGES

Clophill Heritage Trust runs Clophill Eco Lodges and looks after the scheduled ancient monument that is old St Mary's Church. Situated in a beautiful setting half way along the Greensand Ridge Walk we offer self-catering accommodation, venue hire, events, weddings and other family celebrations throughout the year. The revenue so generated enables the Trust to fulfil its charitable goals including working with and supporting young people, providing and encouraging eco and heritage based learning as well as educational visits and experiences.

To find out more, book a stay or become a volunteer please contact us on: **07935 911207** or **Info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk** or go to **www.clophillecolodges.co.uk**



© Clare Davis Photography

Clophill Heritage Trust are very proud to have Central Bedfordshire's first Local Hero amongst our Trustees; Andy G



© Clare Davis Photography

Andy, along with his family, spent every Saturday evening throughout the spring lockdown making and delivering pizzas for the people of Clophill. Up to 80 pizzas a night left his wood-fired pizza oven with all proceeds going to support Clophill Heritage Trust. He also spent time buying and distributing flour to those around the village when supermarkets did not have any, as well as shopping for others who were isolating during the pandemic.

Everyone at Clophill Heritage Trust and throughout the village thanks Andy for all his work and support.

See CBC's Local Hero scheme
www.facebook.com/letstalkcentral

For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com/experience



environmental
partnership
in
action

The Greensand Trust

Working at the heart of Greensand Country

The Greensand Trust is an independent local environmental charity working to conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape, wildlife and history of the Greensand Ridge and wider area – improving access, understanding and enjoyment, for the benefit of everyone. Based in The Working Woodlands Training and Education Centre at Maulden Wood, we help Ampthill Town Council manage Ampthill Great Park and are involved with Central Bedfordshire Council on a wide range of sites – most notably joint ownership and management of Rushmere Country Park in Heath and Reach.

Our work includes conservation management of Greensand habitats and species; managing open spaces, country parks and nature reserves for the benefit of wildlife and visitors; voluntary conservation work, environmental education and training courses. Please support us by donating via our website, become a conservation volunteer, take part in a training course or event or follow us on social media: www.greensandtrust.org

Follow us: [@greensandtrust](https://twitter.com/greensandtrust) [f/greensandtrust](https://facebook.com/greensandtrust) [ig greensandtrust](https://instagram.com/greensandtrust)



Welcome to RUSHMERE Country Park

Proud to be a gateway to Greensand Country



View herons nesting in Spring from our outdoor café terrace, discover fairy doors and the Giant's Chair along our Sculpture Trail, walk the dog, bring your bike – we've something for everyone with over 400 acres of woodland, heathland and meadows to enjoy.

Linslade Road, Heath and Reach, Beds LU7 0EB
www.greensandtrust.org/rushmere-country-park



The
Greensand
Trust

Registered Charity no. 1077055



EXPERIENCE SHUTTLEWORTH



EXPLORE OVER 60 ACRES AT SHUTTLEWORTH

Take a relaxing walk around our **Swiss Garden** filled with pretty seasonal colour and two delightful peacocks. Wander along the woodland sculpture trail, around a lake home to nesting wildlife. Observe fantastic views of **Shuttleworth House** and scenic surrounding countryside from **North Park's** gentle hills, before a stroll around the paddocks overlooking the grass airfield. Discover the **Shuttleworth Collection**, showcasing the best of early aviation, vintage vehicles and Clayton & Shuttleworth industrial heritage.

FREE ENTRY FOR CHILDREN. BOOK ADMISSION ONLINE AND RE-USE YOUR ADULT TICKETS MULTIPLE TIMES FOR UP TO 30 DAYS!



WWW.SHUTTLEWORTH.ORG

FIND US ON SOCIAL @SHUTTLEWORTHTRUST

Proud to be a part of Greensand Country



Shuttleworth, Old Warden, Bedfordshire, SG18 9DX.
Telephone: **01767 627933** | Email: **enquiries@shuttleworth.org**

Where did it all begin?

The historic and present day landscape of Greensand Country has been shaped by the geology and soils.

The soils are poor and thin, so in the medieval times monasteries such as Old Warden Abbey, Woburn Abbey and Chicksands priory were built here, as the area was not well suited to agriculture. During the dissolution of the monasteries in Henry V111th's time, most of the landscape was given to those in his favour and these major landowners established their own stately homes and gardens, deer parks and estate villages. These parklands were often designed by the likes of Capability Brown and Repton. Did you know that as a result of this history we have more historic parkland here in Greensand Country than anywhere else in Britain? There are 28 historic parklands!

These parklands are integral to the 'character' of this landscape and make a significant contribution to local distinctiveness.

So as you walk through Greensand Country, on one of our two new Historic Parkland walks, look out for this designed landscape, with meandering paths, lakes and aesthetically placed clumps of trees, tree avenues and of course, the associated Manor House and learn the stories of the people who worked and lived here.

Discover more: www.greensandcountry.com/discover

Look at the picture below of the medieval monastery at Old Warden created from the geophysics and magnometry work done by the Old Warden history and heritage society and the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership. Did you know Old Warden was the second largest Cistercian abbey in the UK in medieval times?





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RSPB The Lodge nature reserve and gardens
Potton Road, Sandy SG19 2DL

Tel: 01767 693333

rspb.org.uk/thelodge

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Image: family activity at The Lodge by RSPB (rspb-images.com)

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654. LGE-0087-16-17

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Local wildlife in Greensand Country

Greensand Country is alive with diverse and wonderful wildlife. The poor and thin sandy soils mean that we have heathlands as a natural habitat. Some of these heathlands date from the Bronze Age some 3000 years ago when humans cleared trees for use as fuel and building materials. While historically Greensand Country contained extensive areas of lowland heathland, only fragments now remain. However these fragments are of great importance both locally and nationally, forming a vital link between other lowland heathlands and providing a habitat for diverse flora and fauna.

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership has supported the RSPB, Greensand Trust, Wildlife Trust and other landowners to restore and expand their heathlands to improve the chances of colonisation on heathlands across the Greensand Country landscape. We are delighted that Nightingales, Dartford Warblers and other rare species have now returned.

Greensand Country contains more than half of Bedfordshire's woodland. The rich woodland habitats support badgers and a wide range of bats. However, most of these woodlands are undermanaged, so the Greensand Country Landscape partnership has trained woodland owners on how to improve these woodlands and bring them back into condition.

Key species in Greensand Country include the Adder and Common Lizard on the dry heaths at Rushmere; Otter and Kingfisher on the Flit river; and Purple Emperor, White Letter Hairstreak and White Admiral butterflies in the woods at Chicksands and Kings Wood. On the heathland and acid grasslands look out for Slow Worms and Common Lizards, Sand Wasps, Digger Wasps and Green Tiger Beetles.



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire



Image: Sue Raven



Image: Michael Brace

For further information visit:
www.greensandcountry.com/discover

Supporting the partnership

It's been an incredible journey working with organisations, landowners and local communities to deliver 90 projects to help make Greensand Country a landscape, cherished by people and wildlife.

We hope you will join us at our festival in May and that you will explore and discover this special, distinctive and loved landscape of Greensand Country.

We would like to thank the National Lottery Heritage Fund for their generous support of the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership and for all the work that we have managed to achieve.

If you have enjoyed this booklet perhaps you would like to help us care for the Greensand Country through **volunteering** please visit www.greensandcountry.com/support/volunteering or www.greensandcountry.com



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Like many things recently, the Revealing Greensand Country booklet has had to consider the current pandemic and its impact on our advertiser's offerings and Greensand Country partner attractions and sites. We anticipate that the vast majority of featured services, products and activities within this booklet will be there for you to enjoy. In the event of further lockdowns, Covid restrictions may mean some events, activities and locations may not be available. In the current circumstances we have endeavoured to provide you with as much information as possible and details of where you can find out more at the time. Please do continue to check our website, www.greensandcountry.com and especially the Event and Festival diary sections and those of our partners and advertisers to plan your activity and check for any changes made to planned events. That way you can be confident about what is open and when before you set off from home.



WARDEN ABBEY

The community vineyard

www.wardenvineyard.org.uk   



OPEN FOR TOURS MAY TO SEPTEMBER

Did you know Bedfordshire's medieval vineyard is now an exciting community project? This beautiful field near Old Warden was first planted by monks at Warden Abbey. Centuries later, the Lyttel Vineyard was re-planted and now produces award-winning wines. Today, it is an army of volunteers who tend the vines all year round as well as run tours, school visits, social & therapeutic horticulture, wildlife and heritage projects.

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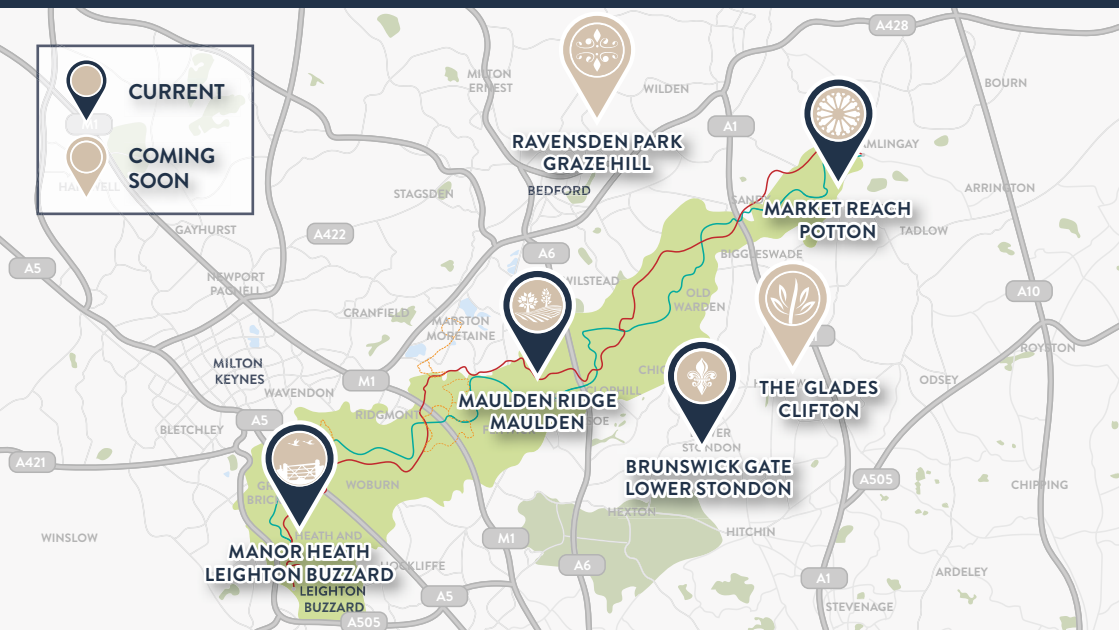
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The community vineyard

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CGI depicts street scene at Maulden Ridge, Maulden

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