

MILTON KEYNES
NATURAL
HISTORY
SOCIETY



SUMMER PROGRAMME 2024

President:	Roy Maycock
Vice Presidents	Vacancy
Chairman:	Matt Andrews
Secretary:	Mervyn Dobbin
Treasurer:	Linda Murphy
Address:	City Discovery Centre, Alston Drive, Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes, MK13 9AP
Website:	www.mknhs.org.uk
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The Society meets every Tuesday:

September – April	In the Cruck Barn, City Discovery Centre (see map over).. Commencing at 7.30pm, with coffee, for 8.00pm start
May – August	At sites of local or regional natural history interest in the company of experienced naturalists. 7.00pm start

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2024

Meetings start at 7pm unless otherwise stated. Please meet at 6.45pm so we can run through the risk assessment as appropriate.

Please note that clause 7 of the Society's constitution reads: "the Society will exercise due care when arranging its meetings and activities for the benefit of members. Members taking part in any meeting or activity do so at their own risk."

APRIL

30 PILCH FIELD: Leader – Jenny Mercer

Pilch Field is one of the very few SSSIs in north Bucks, designated for their very rich flora and variety of habitats – some old ridge and furrow, limestone slopes and species-rich wet areas along spring lines. Early spring delights the eye with Cowslips on the ridges and Green-winged orchids on the banks. For the 'orchidophiles' there are other species together with many showy flowers as well as several 'greens and browns' of significance, e.g. Adders-tongue fern.

Grid Ref: SP 749 321. Postcode MK17 0NX. What 3 words: socket.gala.inserting

Parking by the roadside, but avoid the very sharp bend!

MAY

7 No Meeting

14 HAZELEY WOOD and NORTH BUCKS WAY – Mike LeRoy and Martin Ferns

Woodland planted in 1991/92 with Oak, Birch and Hornbeam on former arable land to form Hazeley Wood. Several surveys of the woodland and its wildlife were carried out by Milton Keynes

Natural History Society. We will walk there along North Bucks Way which is an ancient green lane flanked by overgrown hedges that we will take a look at.

Meet in car park at Oakhill, at west end of Portway (H5) where it joins Otterburn Crescent.

SP815361 – MK5 6LY – totals.kilowatt.hugs

SAT 18 RAMMAMERE HEATH, BRAGENHAM WOOD AND KING'S WOOD – Charles Kessler and Mike LeRoy

Meet 10.15 for 10.30 – 12.30

Distinctive habitats and flora of heathland with acid grassland; and trees and flora of remnant Ancient Woodland on Greensand and Clay. Parts of a National Nature Reserve.

Share cars. Meet at Stockgrove car-park off Brickhill Lane (£4 up to 3 hours)

SP920293 – LU7 0BA – faces.locker.layers

Postcode LU7 0BA is for nearest houses; continue up road for 500+meters.

Park entrance on left

21 WATERHALL PARK – Carla Boswell

A gentle walk through meadows with trees and patches of wild flowers in Bletchley: the river at your side as you walk out, the canal on your way back.

Park in Dobbies Garden Centre, Watling Street, Bletchley MK17 9JH – SP887339 – feed.escape.oval

28 OUSE VALLEY – Gary Fowler

Meet at 18.45 for 19.00 start

A walk along the river Great Ouse as it goes under the railway viaduct and skirts the northern edge of the Flood Plain Forest, a chance to feed some fish and watch birds. Although the paths are hard gravel it may be wise to bring wellies if it has been wet.

Park in the 'viaduct' car park off Wolverton road/Haversham road. SP817421 – qualify.regularly.nowadays

JUNE

4 SANDHOUSE LANE NATURE RESERVE – Di Parsons

A small nature reserve off the A5, packed with Flowers and butterflies. At its centre it has a brick-pit which is now a water-filled lake. The lake is surrounded by trees and is home to several types of orchids and many types of insects; in particular, Bedfordshire's first Downy Emerald Dragonfly – an insect scarce north of the Thames was found in 2006. It is also interesting because it was once an asphalt works and flowers attempt to grow in tarmac showing the effect of such a restrictive substance on the growth.

Meet in the car park of the Flying Fox pub, on Sheep Lane just off the A5 south of Little Brickhill, from where we will car-share to the site. MK17 9HD – SP933304 – eruptions.breached.slid

Sat 8 ROOKERY PITS – Matt Andrews and Martine Harvey

Details to be advised

11 NORTH LOUGHTON VALLEY PARK – Joe Clinch

The planned walk will include the site of the Roman Villa at Bancroft, the North Loughton Valley Park, and the windmill at Bradville. There should be a reasonable range of birds, insects, and plants, and it is hoped that that the Bradville bee-orchids will still be in flower.

Meet at the Parks Trust North Loughton Valley Park car park at Bancroft Park, (not the adjacent Bancroft Park Residents Club car park) Constantine Way, off H2 Millers Way, MK13 0RA – SP826404 – panthers.reflector.necklace

18 SHENLEY WOOD PONDS – Martin Kincaid

We have visited Shenley Wood itself many times but here is a different slant, looking at the nature in the ponds outside the main wood.

Park in Merlewood Drive CP, Shenley Wood. MK5 6GG (off Tattenhoe Street) - SP823356 - timed.luck.parked

25 EMBERTON COUNTRY PARK – Alan Nelson

6.45 for 7.00pm start

Alan Nelson has arranged access for us to Emberton Country Park. Participants will be asked to record and submit their sightings for the park's ecological dataset.

Meet at the country park gatehouse, Emberton by 6.45 to be given access.

SP 886 500 – MK46 5DL – inflation.assist.strongly

JULY

2 NO EVENT (LLNR visit moved to 23 July)

Sat 6 HOWE PARK WOOD NATURE DAY

11.00 am-4.00 pm

The annual celebration of Howe Park Wood SSSI and its wildlife hosted by the Parks Trust. Could you spare an hour or two to show people our display and tell them about the Society? Offers to Martin Kincaid please.

Park at Howe Park Wood Centre car park: SP830344 – roadmap.softly.september

9 SHERINGTON CHURCH – Peter Meadows

Sherington Churchyard and Butterfly Garden is a churchyard which is managed sensitively for wildflowers and insects together with an adjacent piece of land equally rich in wildlife.

Park in Church Road (NOT Church End) Sherington, MK16 9PB – SP 891467 – sounds.wide.vowed

16 BLUE LAGOON NATURE RESERVE – Martin Kincaid

Blue Lagoon is a very important site for dragonflies and butterflies. The main feature of this Reserve is a large, deep, water-filled pit (remaining from the former brickworks) which gives it its name. Woodland, grassland meadows and scrub surround it. With willows of different types and plants such as common-spotted orchid, bee orchid, cowslip, ragworts, spotted medick, white and red campion for the plant lovers, and many different birds, reptiles, amphibians, dragonflies and butterflies for everyone

The Park has been renovated recently, with new paths and cycleways, so it will be interesting to see what has been done.

Parking off Drayton Road, Bletchley (signposted), go under railway bridge 150m to car park. SP870325 –

tilt.crowned.lied

Sat 20 HIGGS/REDFORD MOTHING NIGHT – COLLEGE WOOD

21.00 start.

This is a joint event with the Bucks Invertebrate Group, who provide several moth traps. In 2021 in ideal weather we recorded well over 200 moths. (Full list is on the MKNHS website)

A later start than normal to allow for some good mothing time, weather permitting. Fold up chairs, torch, and a flask of something to drink have been helpful in the past.

Meet in the roadside car park south of Nash: MK17 0EH – SP786327 – luring.intruding.blacken

Extra parking inside the gate will be available.

If this event is rained off, it will be held on Saturday 27th July instead.

23 LINFORD LAKES NATURE RESERVE– Martine Harvey

Meet at or before 18.45 for 19.00 start

Linford Lakes Nature Reserve has a variety of insect and birds with a number of bird hides to enjoy. We will look for Dragonflies, as they thrive in the lakeside and riverside environment. We will also look for plants and birdlife, and perhaps we will see a Kingfisher.

Meet in the Reserve Car park, MK14 5AH – SP842427 – presides.engrossed.output

Please car share where possible as there are limited parking spaces.

You will need to get through an access gate which is kept locked, so please arrive between 18.30 and 18.55 as the gates will be locked after that time.

30 OLD WOLVERTON CANAL – Jenny Mercer

The walk is easy, mostly on metalled paths, and crosses just 2 grassy fields towards the Iron Trunk aquaduct. The focus will be on identifying plants of wet places – for example fairy flax, water dock and figwort are locally common on this route. The riverside walk should be alive with dragonflies and other insects.

Meet at the Holy Trinity Church car park, Old Wolverton, MK12 5NH – SP804412 – unloading.forklift.sunblock

AUGUST

6 MAGNA PARK LAKE – Gary Fowler / Martin Ferns

This business park was once countryside. We will see the Broughton Brook and a pond associated with it.

There is a very small car park at SP915390 – ambushed.crowd.elevates If there is no space, park on Fen Street or local service roads.

13 BOW BRICKHILL WOODS – Derek and Judy Taylor

Details to follow.

Park in the area near the church – SP912343 – went.humble.likely

20 WESTBURY FARM: EARLY MOTHING – Ayla Webb and Martin Kincaid

Westbury Farm is a semi-wild garden with plenty of cover and food for moths. As the evenings are drawing in moth traps will be set up early at the normal start time, so we can look at later types of moths.

Meet at 18.45 for 19.00 start. Park at MK5 6AA – SP826356 – severe.tripped.liners or on Foxcovert Road

27 No Meeting