

Headlines:

Berkhamsted property wins 2009 Buildings Design Awards



A stylish modern extension to a Victorian house in Berkhamsted has won this year's Chilterns Buildings Design Award. The judges were impressed with the simple range of materials used and the way the extension enhances rather than hides the original building. There were 19 entries in total and two Commended awards were also given out: one for the sensitive addition of a barn to Chisbridge Farm in Frieth and the other for a thoughtful and ingenious refurbishment of The Akeman in Tring to create a bar and restaurant. The awards, which are given jointly with The Chiltern Society, were presented at a ceremony in Shiplake on June 10th.

Countryside Close to Home web pages go live



A new interactive map of walking and cycling routes and countryside sites has gone live on the AONB website. The map is searchable by place or postcode, with an individual search bringing up all routes within a 6km square. The aim is to encourage residents and visitors to make the most of the walking and cycling opportunities close to their home rather than travelling further afield. Feedback is encouraged - visit it at

www.chilternsaonb.org/activities.asp

The project was funded by Natural England, Bucks, Beds, Herts and Oxon County Councils and the Conservation Board.

BBC Countryfile features release of trout into the River Chess



The release of 60 young trout into the River Chess by children from Waterside Combined School in Chesham was shown on BBC1's Countryfile on June 7th. This was the culmination of the Trout in the Classroom Project organised by the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project. A second school, Rickmansworth Park School, has also been looking after trout fry and released 120 young trout into the Chess in April.

The Chilterns Awards launched



A new scheme has been launched to bring together the annual awards offered by the Conservation Board under one umbrella, and it includes two new awards categories :

- **The Chilterns Buildings Design Award** (continues next year as before)
- **The Chilterns Environment Award** (combining the existing Conservation and Woodland Awards)
- **The Chilterns Outstanding People Award** (new)
- **The Chilterns Enjoyment and Understanding Award** (new)

Entries are encouraged for the last three - the closing date is July 31st. Find out more about the awards and how to enter at

www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/chilterns_awards.html

First State of the Chilterns Environment seminar held

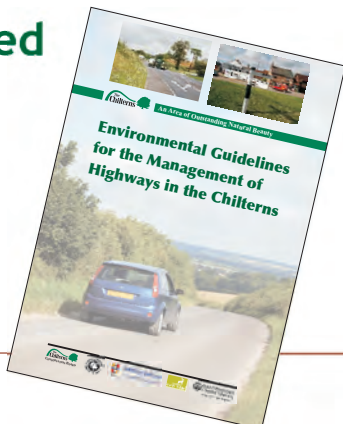
50 people attended the seminar on June 8th to discuss the 22 environmental condition indicators included in the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2008 - 2013. The event was part of the process of producing the first Report on the State of the Chilterns Environment which will be published in November. The draft report will be circulated this summer.

Board wins silver tourism award



The Conservation Board has been given a Silver award by the Green Tourism Business Scheme, in recognition of all the sustainable practices it has implemented in its operations. These include reducing energy use, producing renewable energy from solar PV panels, minimising waste and planting trees.

New highways guidance published



The updated version of Environmental Guidelines for the Management of Highways in the Chilterns has just been published. It has been adopted by all 4 highway authorities in the Chilterns and contains advice on the most sympathetic and sensitive ways to design and maintain roads in the AONB. It can be downloaded from

www.chilternsaonb.org/publications.asp

News from work areas:

Farming and Land Use



Offley Hoo Farm

- Two surveyors are visiting the 105 one km squares of the Land Use Survey during June and July to record any changes since last year.
- Main findings of the 2008 Land Use Survey are:
 - Nearly 4% increase in cropped arable land since 2006
 - Decrease in uncropped arable land and set-aside
 - More than half of cropped land used for wheat
 - Equestrian use remains steady at 5%
- The report on the 2008 Land Use Survey is available at <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/publications.asp>
- Over 6,000 people visited 6 Chilterns farms taking part in Open Farm Sunday on June 7th
- Natural England is organising a workshop on ELS and HLS for farmers at Stonor Farm near Henley on June 24th 6.30pm - 8pm. Contact Natural England on 0113 230 3753 for more details.

Activities and learning

- The 150 mile route of the Chilterns Cycleway has been finalised. CTC and Chiltern Society volunteers are currently researching shorter circular routes from towns along the Cycleway. The Conservation Board and CTC are applying for funding from LEADER for route signing, promotion of the route and Cyclists Welcome training for B & Bs.
- 5000 each of 3 Chilterns Country walks have been re-printed: Beacon View, Ashridge Drovers and Iron Age Fort.

Access and recreation

- The recently-produced directory Learning Outside the Classroom in the Chilterns can now be downloaded from the AONB website: www.chilternsaonb.org/publications.asp

Planning and Development

- Nearly 400 comments from 34 respondents were received on the draft version of the revised Chilterns Buildings Design Guide. Following further changes the revised Guide will be adopted by the Conservation Board in October.
- Over 20 people attended the Planning Forum on April 28th. Topics discussed included the Board's planning policy guidelines and the impact of the economic climate.

Chalk streams

- 50 people attended the annual Chalk Streams Forum on June 16th in Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead. The theme was urban river improvement and the presentations were followed by a walk along the River Gade in Hemel looking at the potential for improvements to it as part of the town centre regeneration.

News from work areas:

Commons

- A Photo Competition has been launched and a leaflet circulated inviting the public to send in their images of Chilterns commons. The closing date is July 31st. The leaflet including an entry form can be downloaded at

www.chilternsaonb.org/publications.asp

- A Commons Network newsletter was distributed in April. Small grants are available from the Conservation Board for work on common land - contact Kath Daly

Chalk Grassland

- Small grants are available from the Conservation Board for work on chalk grassland - contact Kath Daly.

Sustainable Development Fund

- The Fund has £47,000 to distribute in 2009-10 and applications are encouraged - the next deadline is 2nd September. Contact Kath Daly or visit

www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/sustainabledevfund.html

Forthcoming events:

10th July

Chalk Grassland Managers Training Day - Bradenham, Bucks
Theme - landscape scale restoration and recreation. Visits to National Trust and other sites in Bradenham Valley to see examples of restoration and arable reversion. Contact Donna Hunter to book. £10/head delegate fee.

18th July

Archaeology and Local History Family Day - Totternhoe, Beds
Based at Totternhoe Memorial Hall with lots of fun activities for all ages. 11am - 4pm, free entry

25th July

Sounds Like Summer - Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve
Music and nature-based activities for all the family to celebrate 60 years of the AONB and National Nature Reserve designations. A joint Natural England - Conservation Board event. 1pm - 6pm, adults £1, children free.

Publications:

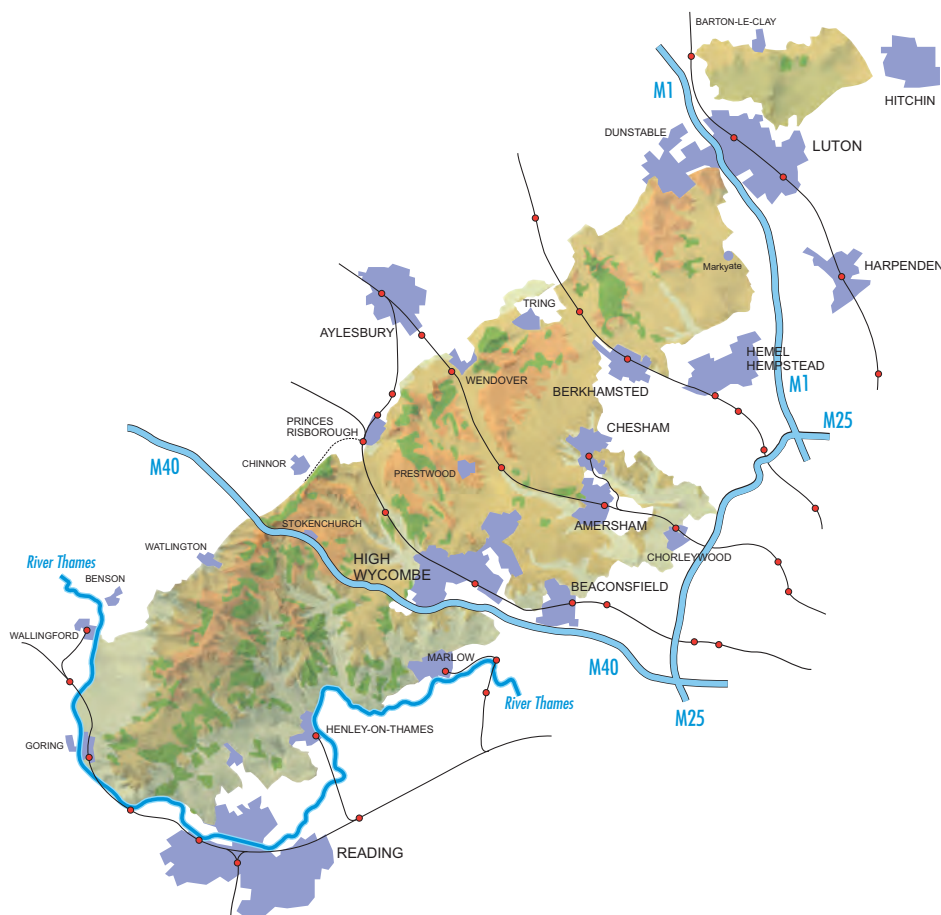
Recently Published

- Chalk and Trees and What's On Spring/Summer 2009
- Commons newsletter
- Cultural Heritage of Chiltern Woodlands book
- Environmental Guidelines on the Management of Highways in the Chilterns

In Production

- Chilterns Country Gade Valley Discovery Walk - reprint
- Chalk Grassland newsletter
- Planning Policy Guidelines
- Revised Chilterns Buildings Design Guide

Chilterns Conservation Board - an introduction



The Chilterns Conservation Board is the public body with the responsibility for protecting and enhancing the Chilterns AONB

The Conservation Board's primary duties are

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Chilterns AONB
- To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the AONB's special qualities.

In addition the Conservation Board has a secondary duty to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities where that is compatible with its primary duties.

Who to Contact

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Board Members - For contact details and biographies of Conservation Board members visit www.chilternsaonb.org/conservation/board_members.asp

If you do NOT want to continue receiving this newsletter please email cforrest@chilternsaonb.org