

## our work includes...

- Promoting and carrying out conservation management of important greensand habitats and species
- Promoting the local distinctiveness of the Greensand Ridge
- Improving the rights of way network, including assisting Parish Paths Partnership (P3) groups in their work
- Managing open spaces, country parks and nature reserves for the benefit of wildlife and visitors
- Helping local communities set up environmental improvement projects with advice, fundraising and practical help
- Advising and assisting landowners who wish to improve the wildlife and/or heritage value of their land
- Providing opportunities for a wide range of voluntary work
- Promoting environmental education for all ages

## The Greensand Trust

We are an independent environmental charity, working with local communities and landowners to conserve and promote the distinctive landscape, wildlife and history of the Greensand Ridge, and to improve access, understanding and enjoyment of this fascinating area.

We work in partnership with local councils, national agencies, the business and voluntary sectors, including:

*Ampthill Town Council*  
*Aylesbury Vale District Council*  
*Bedfordshire County Council*  
*Bedfordshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust*  
*Buckinghamshire County Council*  
*Countryside Agency*  
*English Nature*  
*Environment Agency*  
*Flitwick Town Council*  
*Forestry Commission*  
*Leighton-Linslade Town Council*  
*Mid Beds District Council*  
*Milton Keynes Council*  
*South Beds District Council*  
*The Wildlife Trust*  
*Woburn Sands Town Council*

### For more information please contact:

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Registered in England: 3702419  
Registered Charity: 1077055.



# the Greensand Trust

who we are & what we do



# The Greensand Trust area...

... stretches along the Greensand Ridge from Leighton Buzzard in the west to Chicksands in the east. The Ridge, made up of sands and sandstone deposited 120 million years ago, rises steeply from the clay vale to the north to create a distinctive landscape of gently rolling hills and small valleys. It is heavily wooded in parts, often with planted conifers, but there are still areas of important habitats such as heathland, acid grassland and ancient woodland remaining where you can find species as diverse as nightjar, woodlark, adder, green tiger beetle, small-leaved lime and lily-of-the-valley.

The valleys of the Rivers Flit and Ouzel cut through the area. Flood meadows and valley mires remain in places along their length and old pollard willows and native black poplars can be found at the water's edge. Rare species such as sphagnum mosses and water rail find a home in these wetland areas.

Sandstone from the Ridge has been used locally for building for hundreds of years, giving the towns and villages of the area their distinctive appearance.

The sandy soils of the Greensand Ridge provide an ideal area for walking, cycling and horse-riding throughout the year. Extraction of the sands has led to a large network of quarries in the area – once extraction is finished restoration can provide great opportunities for conservation and informal recreation.

The landscape of the Greensand Ridge — its wildlife, archaeology, history and architecture — provides enjoyment for many people today. The Greensand Trust works to ensure that future generations will continue to have the opportunity to enjoy the interest and beauty of this fascinating area.

