
Chiltern Society

We care for the Chilterns



EWELME WATERCRESS BEDS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Did you know that.....

1. Watercress (*Nasturtium officinale* and *Nasturtium microphyllum*) is a semi-aquatic member of the cabbage family and native across Europe and central Asia

2. Watercress prefers slightly alkaline, shallow water and is often found at the beginning of chalk streams
3. The village of Ewelme from the Old English 'Ae-whylme' meaning 'waters whelming' is situated at the western edge of the Chilterns AONB
4. Watercress was produced commercially at Ewelme and sold all over the country for nearly 100 years until the beds closed in 1988 and fell into disrepair

In 1992 with the support of the Chiltern Society, the decision was made to save the beds for posterity

The Chiltern Society is the proud owner of Ewelme Watercress Beds Local Nature Reserve and after restoration, the site is today a fascinating and beautiful place with restored watercress beds and nearby meadows with an amazing range of flora and fauna

Flora to be seen certainly includes watercress but also well over 100 other plant species have been recorded. The list of fauna is equally impressive....water voles, birds, frogs, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, damsel flies.. not to mention foxes, deer, mice, bats

The site is maintained and enhanced by a dedicated group of volunteers who have improved the site to something quite special.

The team at Ewelme Watercress Beds would like to welcome new volunteers!

Would you like to help with this important, rewarding and fun activity? The volunteers at Ewelme have the opportunity to get involved in a range of tasks to suit many interests and capabilities.

Sessions are held in the mornings (typically 9:30am to 12:30pm) on the first Saturday and third Wednesday of each month. The team also organise special events and activities on site which are of interest or educational value to all ages.

Details of volunteering dates can be found in the 'Diary of events' on the Chiltern Society website www.chilternsociety.org.uk

If you enjoy conservation work or a bit of gardening or paddling in a small stream then you will enjoy volunteering at Ewelme with a likeminded group of people. You will also get a mid-morning coffee or tea with biscuits (and cake if you are lucky!).

Come along and try it!

You can either

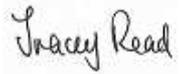
Contact the Chiltern Society office on 01494 771250 for more information, or give Tom Stevenson, Nature Reserve Manager a call on 01491 836888, or email thomas.stevenson@ntlworld.com

Alternatively, come and see us at the Watercress Centre on a volunteering day and ask for Tom or his deputy.

You will be made welcome at Ewelme, provided with any necessary tools, training and instruction (but bring wellies if you want a paddle) and given the opportunity to make a really useful contribution to protecting our wonderful Chiltern heritage.

How to find it..

High Street, Ewelme (Post Code OX10 6HQ or try Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 164 Grid Ref SU 641 918).



Mrs Tracey Read
Office Manager



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01494 771250 Registered charity 1085163 www.chilternsociety.org.uk follow us on face book, twitter and Pinterest
The Chiltern Society is an independent environmental charity supported by 7,000 members and more than 400 volunteers. It receives no statutory funding and therefore relies on membership subscriptions, donations and legacy gifts to fund its activities. Please support our work to care for the Chilterns.

Text CHIL02 £(your donation) to 70070 to donate to the Chiltern Society and make a difference to the Chilterns today

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<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chilternsociety>