

# SOUTH DOWNS RENATURE FESTIVAL

SAT 20-SUN 28 JULY 2024

## CELEBRATING BEES, BUTTERFLIES, BIRDS AND BATS

The South Downs National Park is home to breathtaking landscapes, rare habitats and precious wildlife. But even this haven for nature needs our help.

### We want nature everywhere, for everyone!

Join us for our annual ReNature Festival – a chance to learn more about the amazing wildlife on your doorstep and discover easy things we can all do to help nature.

This year we're shining the spotlight on some amazing creatures which help us better understand how nature is doing. If our native bees, butterflies, birds and bats are flourishing then we know nature is thriving. However if these special species are struggling we know nature needs more help.

From guided walks to volunteering, sunset safaris to butterfly spotting, there's an activity for everyone to enjoy.

### Be part of it!

## WONDERING WHAT YOU CAN DO TO GIVE NATURE A HELPING HAND?

The ReNature Festival Pack 2024 is your ultimate online guide, packed with interesting nature focused activities to inspire, engage and entertain everyone!

Dive into a world of eco-friendly fun that lasts well beyond the festival. [View the pack here](#) to find out what you can do at home, in the garden or in your local greenspace to help nature thrive.



**MAKE A  
RENATURE PLEDGE &  
WIN  
AN AMAZING PRIZE!**

Looking to make a difference?  
Take a pledge to support nature and combat climate change.

When you register your ReNature pledge online, you could win a year's membership for the Wildlife Trusts or a family ticket to Marwell Wildlife.

**Make your pledge here**

Alternatively, simply share an image of your ReNature pledge on [Instagram](#), [X](#), or [Facebook](#) with the hashtag [#ReNature2024](#).

All you need to do is post an image of you doing your bit for nature – whether it be some wildflowers in your garden, creating a "bee hotel", spotting wildlife, or climate action such as going car-free or saving water.

**GOOD LUCK!**

\*Entries must be submitted by 1 September 2024. Winners will be picked at random and the social media competition only includes a prize for Marwell Wildlife. See full terms and conditions [here](#).



HELP US TO [#RENATURE](#)  
**SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK**

## WHAT'S ON

Please note that all events are weather dependent and are subject to cancellation at short notice - please check with the organiser on the day.

### SATURDAY JULY 20 BE BUZZY

► **RENATURE FESTIVAL OPENING FILM:** Tune in to the festival's opening video! Learn about our ReNature journey, amazing nature recovery success stories, and get an event overview. Watch on [South Downs Facebook](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#).

► **14:00 – BENFIELD WILDFLOWER WALK:** Join local experts on this wonderful opportunity to explore this unique chalk grassland and learn more about its wildflowers and wildlife. Non-members of Benfield Wildlife and Conservation Group welcome. **Booking essential - [book a place here](#).**

► **14:00 – BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY WALK AT CISSBURY RING:** Join Neil Hulme from the Butterfly Conservation for a serene stroll through Cissbury Ring, where nature comes alive with the vibrant colours of beautiful butterflies! Perfect for nature lovers and butterfly enthusiasts alike. **Booking essential - [Book a place here](#).**

### SUNDAY JULY 21 BE OUTSIDE

► **MILES WITHOUT STILES FILMS:** Our suite of Miles Without Stiles routes are suitable for people with limited mobility helping everyone to get outside and closer to nature. Keep an eye on our [South Downs Facebook](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#) today for ideas of where to explore next.

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► **FESTIVAL OF THE GARDEN:** Running between 18-21 July, this festival at Charleston House brings together today's most pioneering gardeners and designers, artists and activists, writers and musicians to reimagine our relationship with the land. Visit [charleston.org.uk](#) for more details.

### MONDAY JULY 22 BE INVOLVED

► **12:45 – YOUTH ACTION DAY: INVASIVE SPECIES AND BIRD SURVEY:** Are you aged 16-25 and want to make a difference for nature and the environment? Explore a rare heathland habitat and take part in a bird survey while discovering distinct heathland species at Longmoor Inclosure with SDNPA Rangers. **Booking essential - [Book a place here](#).**

► **10:00 – NATURE AND CLIMATE TOUR AT THE ICONIC SEVEN SISTERS:** Sign up for this exciting free adventure at Seven Sisters Country Park! Ranger Lawrence will guide you through the wonders of nature and share insights on climate conservation. **Booking essential - [Book a place here](#).**

### TUESDAY JULY 23 BE ADVENTUROUS

► **10:00 – BIRDS OF THE ICONIC SEVEN SISTERS:** Join SDNPA Ranger Tim at the Seven Sisters Country Park for a fun-filled day of bird spotting. Bask in the tranquillity of this special place while learning about the birds that call this park home. **Booking essential - [Book a place here](#).**



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## ► 10:30 – NATURE RECOVERY AT SEVEN SISTERS:

Get involved in practical conservation work set within the beautiful landscape of the Seven Sisters Country Park. Learn about the stunning Cuckmere Haven landscape and meet like minded people who care about nature enough to act.

**Booking essential - [Book a place here.](#)**

► 20:30 – **SUNSET NATURE SAFARI:** Witness the breathtaking sunset at Iping Common and be the first to greet the nocturnal wonders as they emerge at dusk. Join SDNPA Ranger Jake for an unforgettable evening. **Booking essential - [Book a place here.](#)**

## WEDNESDAY JULY 24 BE OBSERVANT

### ► 10:00 – INATURALIST TOUR OF THE

**CUCKMERE:** Join us for an exciting free adventure at the Seven Sisters Country Park. Ranger Laura will guide you through a tour of the iNaturalist app, before heading out into the Country Park to discover the wonders of nature the Park has to offer. **Booking essential - [Book a place here.](#)**

► 10:00 – **NATURE WALK AT ST CATHERINE'S HILL:** Join the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust for a guided walk around this stunning nature reserve near Winchester, home to the beautiful chalkhill blue butterflies. **No booking required - [click here for more details.](#)**

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## THURSDAY JULY 25 BE CURIOUS

### ► 9:00 – YOUTH ACTION DAY MOTH TRAP AND BUTTERFLY SURVEY:

Are you aged 16-25 and want to make a difference for nature and the environment? Join South Downs Rangers on this exploratory heathland walk at Bramshott and Ludshott commons identifying some of our native moth and butterfly species. **Booking essential - [Book a place here.](#)**

### ► 10:00 – THE BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT:

Celebrate the brilliant array of butterflies across the Seven Sisters Country Park, by taking part in the UK-wide Big Butterfly Count. Aimed at helping assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies, anyone can take part in this important survey. **No booking required.** Go to the Visitor Centre on arrival for a handy butterfly ID chart.

### ► 19:00 - ENHANCING CHALK STREAM

**HABITATS (ONLINE TALK):** Discover how we can help enhance the health of our precious chalk streams in this online talk by Neil Swift from the Wessex Rivers Trust. This event is part of [Watercress and Winterbournes](#), a Landscape Partnership Scheme that is protecting, enhancing, and celebrating seven local chalk streams. **No booking required - [more details here.](#)**

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## FRIDAY JULY 26 BE ACTIVE

### ► 10:00 – ACTIVE FOR NATURE POP-UP EVENT

**AT ALICE HOLT:** Come chat to our SDNPA Rangers at Alice Holt Forest to learn about our conservation work, volunteering opportunities and lots more. **No booking required.**

### ► 10:00 – BEACH CLEAN AT SEVEN SISTERS

**COUNTRY PARK:** Join National Park Rangers for a beach clean and litter picking blitz at the iconic Seven Sisters Country Park. **No booking required** - meet at the visitor centre, all equipment provided.

### ► 20:45 – DISCOVER THE HEATHS AT NIGHT:

Come for a guided walk with National Park staff at twilight to discover some of our special heathland species that thrive under our dark skies. We'll take a gentle stroll around Longmoor Inclosure, stopping regularly to spot and listen out for the iconic nightjar and other creatures that embrace the darkness on the heaths. **Booking essential - [Book a place here.](#)**

## SATURDAY JULY 27 BE CONNECTED

► 10:00 – **SPACE FAMILY FUN DAY:** Discover how dark night skies are important for wildlife. Take part in space-themed activities and find out where the best spots are for stargazing near you. **Booking essential - [Book a place here.](#)**

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► 10:00 – **FREE FAMILY NATURE DAY:** Explore the beautiful surroundings of One Garden and Stanmer Park led by experts, and try your hand at activities including willow weaving, pond-dipping and mindful nature connection. There will be something for all ages so everyone can join in the fun! **Some activities require booking - [find out more here.](#)**

## SUNDAY JULY 28 BE THE DIFFERENCE

We hope you feel inspired by this festival and now know a bit more about how to help nature wherever you are. Now it's over to you! We can all do our bit, however big or small to take action for nature and the climate. Together we will make a difference.

Keep an eye on our [What's On](#) calendar for more events happening over the summer, come see us and find out how you can get involved. You can also donate to support our ReNature work [here](#), and remember to share and tag us in your renaturing fun at home [#ReNature2024](#).

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

**Take our pledge** to complete one or more of these seven simple actions to support nature and combat climate change:

- 🌱 Create a home for nature
- 🌱 Give nature a helping hand
- 🌱 Conserve water and energy
- 🌱 Opt for car-free days
- 🌱 Reduce, reuse, recycle & repair
- 🌱 Shop local
- 🌱 Get creative in nature

