Chilterns Commons ... yours to explore

Aldbury
Ancient hollow ways, pits and banks are evidence of thousands of years of human activity on this common.

Austenwood
Now wooded, the deep dells on this common hint to a time when the common was quarried for clay to make bricks.

Booker
For generations, this wooded common provided locals with the fuel to heat their homes and cook their food. Today the woods are a haven for wildlife.

Boxmoor & Dew Green
Cows and horses graze in these common meadows by the canal between the station and the town.

Cadmore End & Bolter End
Locals used to mine the clay from this common and you can still see the pits and hollows, some now ponds, from this once thriving local brick industry.

Chesham Bois
Explore the footpaths and bridleways in 40 acres of woodlands.

Chinnor Hill (Hempton Plain)
Enjoy magnificent views across the vale from the top of this common which is home to many rare chalk grassland and woodland species.

Chipperfield
Discover the Bronze Age burial mounds, ponds and ancient sweet chestnuts in over 100 acres of woodland.

Chorleywood
Seek out the wildlife in the quiet corners of woodland, heath and chalk meadow on this common which is also popular with walkers, horse-riders, golfers and cricketers.

Coleshill
See if you can find this 'hidden gem' in the centre of the village, along with the elusive starfruit which lives in its pond.

Cow (Sewell)
Also known as Sewell Marsh, why not make a circular walk from here to Totternhoe Knolls.

Cow (Ewelme)
Now the recreation ground, there are great views of Swyncombe Downs from here.

Croxley Common Moor
The dry grassland and marshy areas on Common Moor make it a diverse and rich habitat for plants and animals.

Downley
Woods and grassy slopes steeped in history cover this common in the middle of this village.

Dunstable Downs
Fly a kite on the open chalk downland while enjoying breathtaking views. There are layers of history including ancient hollow ways, Bronze Age burial mounds and a custom of rolling oranges down the steep slopes. Access is best from the Chilterns Gateway Centre which is well signposted.

Galley & Warden Hills
Once the site of public executions, rare species of butterflies and flowers can be found on these two hills.

Gold Hill
Possibly taking its name from the gorse which used to cover it, Gold Hill now boasts a football pitch and children's play area.

Great and Little Hampden
Stroll through the woods on these commons.

Hawridge & Cholesbury
Rich in history from an Iron Age fort to WWII trenches. White-letter hairstreak butterflies and heath grass are among the rare species found here.

Hudnall
Once grazed by sheep, you might spot deer here in the scrub and woodland.

Hyde Heath
In the heart of the village, this common has a children's play area, cricket pitch with pavilion and hosts the village fete. Ancient banks in the woods are reminders that the boundaries of three parishes converge on this common.

Ibstone
High in the Chilterns, a millennium standing stone shows that this common is still at the heart of its community.

Ipsden Heath
This wooded common is carpeted with bluebells each spring.

Ivinghoe
Paths through woodland take you to great views from Ivinghoe Beacon nearby.

Kingwood
Follow the network of paths and tracks to explore the areas of heathland among this young woodland. Look out for evidence of a WWII POW camp.

Ley Hill
See the old clay quarries in the woodland which are evidence of the local brick making industry. The common is also home to the village cricket pitch and golf course.

Lilley Hoo
Once grazed by sheep, much of the common was ploughed to produce food in WWII. There is flower-rich chalk downland at Telegraph Hill nearby.

Maidensgrove Scrubs
Ancient beech coppice covers the steep slopes of this common which is part of the Warburg nature reserve.

Marlow
Glades of heather and former clay workings can be found among the oak and birch woodland.

Moorend
Acidic soils make this common botanically rich. See the carpets of heath spotted and southern marsh orchids in June or search for purple emperor butterflies.

Naphill
Explore over 155 acres of woodland, with open glades, ancient trees and ponds with rare plants. You might see woodland birds, deer, rare fungi, ancient banks and a Romano-British farmstead.

Nettlebed
Pits and hollows, many now ponds, reflect the former clay extraction on this common used in a once thriving local brick industry.

Northchurch & Berkhamsted
Part of the largest continuous area of common land in the Chilterns, come and fly a kite, have a picnic, or explore the woods and open grassland here. Features include many ancient veteran trees, a golf course and some WWI training trenches.

Nuffield
Now a golf course.

Oughtonhead
A wide variety of wildlife habitats with the River Oughton flowing alongside the common. There are seats by the riverside making this a pleasant place to relax.

Peppard
These woods and open grassy spaces are great for walking and spotting butterflies such as the skipper, fritillary and hairstreak. Also look out for lizards basking in the sun.

Pitstone
There are excellent views of Aldbury Nowers and Pitstone Hill from this small common which is part of the Ashridge Estate.

Roughdown
Rare species live in the flower-rich chalk grassland of the old quarry including orchids and juniper bushes.

Russell's Water
Fly a kite, throw a frisbee or picnic on this large, grassy open common high in the Chilterns.

Sheethanger
Can you spot the big veteran trees around the golf course here?

Studham
Listen to skylarks singing high above the orchid-rich grassland where women and children used to plait straw into braids for making hats.

Totternhoe Knolls
Explore the medieval castle earthworks and hunt for orchids and butterflies in the rich chalk grassland now covering historic mine workings.

Turville Heath
A mix of grassland, ponds, scrub and woodland provides excellent conditions for a wide range of wildlife on this common which is bisected by a grand lime avenue.

West Wycombe Hill
Enjoy the view along the Wye Valley into High Wycombe from the top of this common.

Whipsnade Heath
Ancient beech trees mark the boundary of this old heath which is now a bluebell wood each spring.

Woodcote
Greenmoor Ponds are all that is now left of a much larger common. The ancient ponds were an important water supply for villagers and are now home to rare species including three different types of newt.