

# MakeNews

## First Beer Festival a success



**Ermine Street Church Academy expands**



**: Digging for Britain**  
Rare insight into later Roman period



**: Initiatives to support sustainable travel at Alconbury Weald**



**: Business insight: Michelle Sacks, Hunts District Council CEO**



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## MakeNews

*Make/News* is produced by Urban&Civic — master developer of Alconbury Weald — to update residents and our neighbouring communities on progress and news from the growing community. It is distributed to Alconbury Weald, Alconbury village, Alconbury Weston, the Stukeleys and Abbots Ripton, as well as being available in housebuilder marketing suites and other public places across Alconbury Weald.



Please recycle responsibly when you have finished with this newsletter

# Hello



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Hello and welcome to our Spring 2024 newsletter, with updates on the latest news and developments at Alconbury Weald.

With signs of Spring popping up all over Alconbury Weald, we're looking forward to warmer days, lighter evenings and a fantastic programme of events and activities.

As well as an update on the different phases of development and ways to live at Alconbury Weald, we have a focus on education in this edition. The building for the new Special Education Needs (SEN) school — Prestley Wood Academy — is progressing well and recruitment is underway for its September opening, and Ermine Street Church Academy is expanding to meet the needs of families moving into the development.

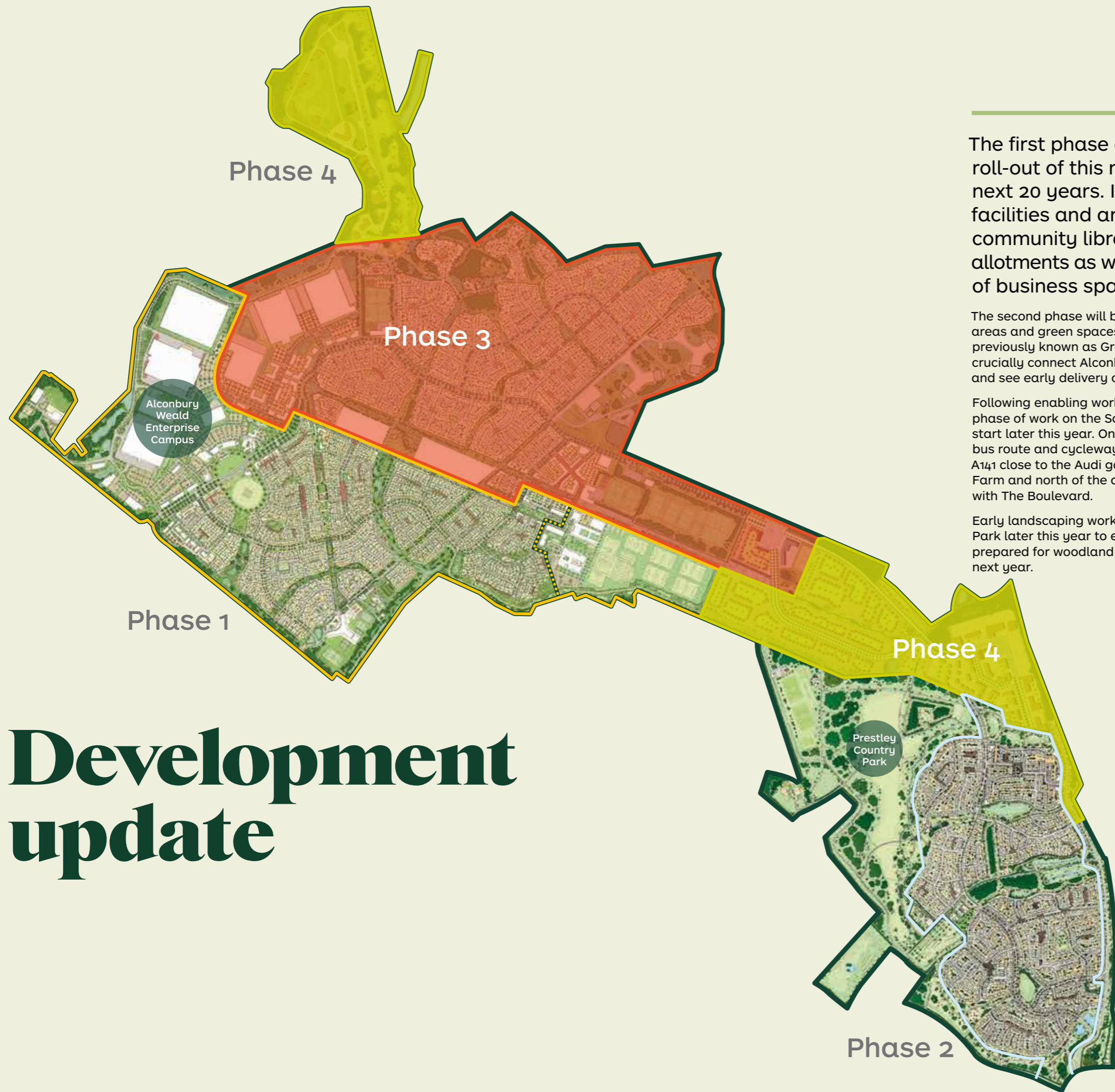
As you walk around the parks and green spaces at Alconbury Weald, it's lovely to see Spring flowers, blossom on the trees and birds busy nesting. It's great to see that House Martins have been spotted foraging in Carnaile Ponds and returning to nest in the eaves of some of the buildings. Enter our competition to be in with a chance of winning a nest box to support these fascinating birds.

We were delighted to welcome Michelle Sacks, the new Chief Executive of Huntingdonshire District Council, to a recent Business Collaboration Group meeting at Alconbury Weald Enterprise Campus. Find out how Michelle's first six months have gone and how the Council is working with local businesses to support inward investment and growth (see page 15).

We recently enjoyed our latest Wild Weald workshop, Tennis Activation event and our first Beer Festival, and are looking forward to Walk on the Weald (throughout May), Open Gardens (2 June) and the Food Festival (29 June).

We hope you find this edition of *Make/News* interesting and informative. If you have any queries, or have any ideas for future editions, please let us know.

With best wishes  
Becca, Paul and Natalie



# Development update

The first phase of Alconbury Weald is just one part of the overall roll-out of this new community, which will be developed over the next 20 years. It includes homes, a primary school, community facilities and amenities including The Pavilion, The Glade, the community library, multi-use games area, parks, play areas and allotments as well as the Enterprise Campus with over 1 million sq ft of business space.

The second phase will bring new homes, play areas and green spaces to an area of the site previously known as Grange Farm. It will also crucially connect Alconbury Weald to the A141 and see early delivery of the Country Park.

Following enabling works last year, the next phase of work on the Southern Link Road will start later this year. Once complete, this road, bus route and cycleway will connect from the A141 close to the Audi garage, through Grange Farm and north of the old runway to connect with The Boulevard.

Early landscaping work will start in the Country Park later this year to enable the ground to be prepared for woodland planting to begin early next year.

Following recent approval, work to prepare the area to the east of the Country Park for new homes will begin in Autumn, with first residents expected to move in late 2026/2027.

The team is also busy working up the plans and designs for Phase 3. As soon as the planning framework for this phase is approved, the team can move on to the detailed design for specific areas.

Phase 3 will bring forward many key amenities for the development including a 'town centre' hub with health centre, community centre and library, shops and services, as well as a 'sports hub'. It will also have large areas of parkland, which will mark the area of the old Cold War runway and connect to a future Heritage Area.



Aerial image showing Garland Park, looking towards Ermine Street Church Academy.

Education lies at the heart of Alconbury Weald, with schools designed to provide for every stage of learning, all in state-of-the-art buildings inspired by Alconbury Weald's rich heritage and community ethos.

## Jemima House Day Nursery



Based in Ermine Street Church Academy, Jemima House Day Nursery offers flexible childcare (from birth to five years old) in a well-equipped, safe and stimulating environment that provides a wealth of learning opportunities.

The nursery is developing a role play area in its outdoor space, with construction as its first theme as the children have been enjoying watching the construction of the primary school extension, which they can see taking shape in the school grounds. Their next project will be to turn the area into a stage.

The children also enjoyed wearing pyjamas and sharing bedtime stories on World Book Day and are looking forward to seeing their caterpillars transform into butterflies.

Tracey James, Manager of Jemima House Day Nursery, said: "To further strengthen the quality of our team and their skills, we recently underwent an intensive accreditation process to become a training hub for Cambridgeshire Early Childhood Qualifications Centre, with two of the team completing their formal Mentor's Qualification.

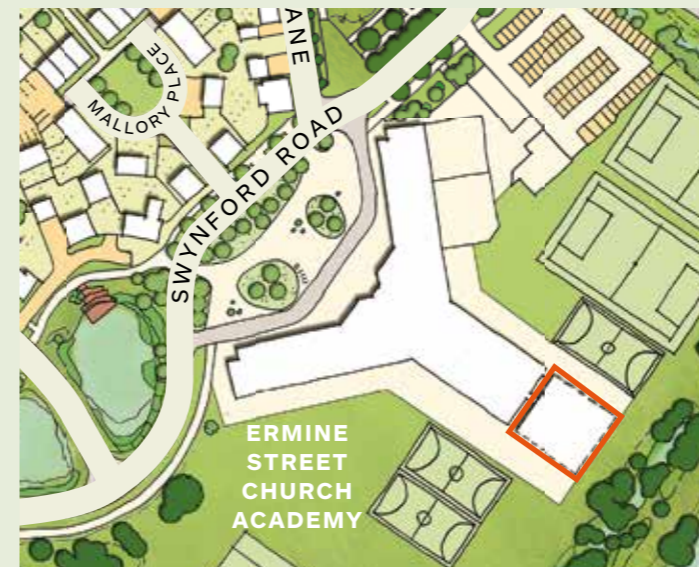
"This means that not only are we able to share our skills and knowledge with colleagues of our own, but will also be called upon to support with upskilling practitioners from elsewhere on a regional level: this we passionately believe is a true testament to the commitment we share among one another to strive for genuine excellence in early years care and education."

The team also celebrated passing its Environmental Health inspection with flying colours, gaining another 5/5 stars for food preparation, with the children continuing to enjoy healthy, nutritious food throughout the day.

[www.jemima-house.co.uk](http://www.jemima-house.co.uk)

## Ermine Street Church Academy

Sponsored by the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust (DEMAT), in partnership with the Methodist Family of Schools, Ermine Street Church Academy (ESCA) is Alconbury Weald's first primary school, with wrap around care provision by Premier Education at The Hangar Club.



ESCA welcomed its first students back in September 2016. When it first opened its doors, class sizes were very small with mixed age groups. Fast forward seven years to September 2023 and over 280 children are enrolled at the school, with 1-2 classes for each year group, and continuing to grow.

The school's innovative Y-shaped design comprises three separate wings creating distinct internal zones for different key stages, with a double-height vaulted roof assembly hall forming the central core area of the building.

The school was designed as a 3-form entry school but originally built for 2-form entry, with the ability to expand when additional space is required to meet the needs of families moving into the development.

That expansion is currently underway, with Cambridgeshire County Council appointing Barnes Construction to add six classrooms to the existing building, to the wing at the rear of the school (as highlighted on the plan). Work started in late January and is due to be completed by September.

Meanwhile, **Thunderbolt** and **Lightning** classes have been reading *Lost and Found*, learning new vocabulary and learning about adjectives and synonyms, and how these can be used to make their writing more exciting.

**Albatross** and **Blenheim** classes have been enjoying *The Firework Maker's Daughter* and have been inspired by the determination and resilience of the book's protagonist, and **Hercules** is reading *The Boy in the Tower*.

**Phantom** class has been getting to grips with *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, with the children learning about evacuation during World War II to help give them some context to the period in which the book was written.

Whilst **Tornado**, **Dakota** and **Canberra** have been learning about life in Ancient Greece as well as Greek myths and gods, whilst **Sikorsky** has been hearing about the trials and adventures of Homer from the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* as retold by Gillian Cross.

<https://erminestreet.demat.org.uk>

## Secondary school

The final timings and delivery plan for Alconbury Weald's secondary school is expected to be agreed in the next few weeks. See next edition of *Make/News* for an update.

## Prestley Wood Academy

Work is progressing well on Alconbury Weald's Special Educational Needs (SEN) school, Prestley Wood Academy, which is due to open in September with 70 pupils.

The building is due to be completed by July, giving the Horizons Education Trust team a couple of months to oversee the school's bespoke fit out. This will include a range of specialist features and equipment including hoists in every room, a hydro pool and various sensory rooms such as soft play, rebound (with a trampoline in the floor), music sensory and light sensory rooms, a physio room and a woodland trail with accessible play equipment.



We asked headteacher Caroline Place to introduce herself and tell us a bit more about the new SEN school.

Caroline has been working in the special educational needs sector for 22 years as a qualified teacher, senior leader and consultant across a range of ages, phases and public institutions.

"I'm very excited that Prestley Wood Academy will be opening soon and recently had the pleasure of meeting with some of the young people who will be coming to our school and finding out about their needs and how we can support them.

"I've worked at Spring Common Academy for eight years as a senior leader while my children were growing up. I grew up about ten minutes from the school, so I know the local area and giving back to the community is very important to me. I'm committed to supporting families and understand it can be difficult to get the right offer for their young people. It needs to be bespoke, rigorous and focused on their pathway to becoming a happy, healthy and valued member of their community. Being an advocate for families of children with special needs is important.

"The best part of my job is that it's really joyful. I use this word a lot because that's what we want the school to be. It needs to be a positive experience and it's important that they want to come to school, they are supported and challenged to aim high and love their time with us.

"One of the most important things about our school is that it is preparing our learners for life. We want them to be an integral part of society. We work together to build the child's academic, social interaction and life skills towards meaningfully participating and contributing to their communities, so that each individual can enjoy a high quality of life going forward. I feel very lucky to be in my job as it's super joyful and I get to belly laugh every day, which you can't say about every job!

"Our young people are often able to see the joy in everything they do and it rubs off on the whole community! You work hard to listen to the young person's voice, help them feel safe and valued and challenge them to work hard and be the best they can be, and they thrive and give so much back."

As part of the Horizons Education Trust family, Prestley Wood Academy will benefit from numerous established community project and work experience links. Pupils from the Trust attended Magpas Air Ambulance's tree planting event last Autumn. Prestley Wood Academy is also talking to local businesses about how they can help with work experiences partnerships for the future.

We'll provide more information on the school's life skills programme and community links in the next edition of *Make/News*.

### Job opportunities

Prestley Wood Academy is looking for class teachers and teaching assistants to join its team.

All the pupils have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) and require colleagues who are deeply committed to supporting them to achieve success both within the school and to develop their skills and knowledge in the community.

The Trust welcomes enquiries from those with experience but are willing to train applicants new to the role.

To find out more and apply, visit [www.epm.co.uk/school-jobs-board/](http://www.epm.co.uk/school-jobs-board/)

Last summer, Alconbury Weald welcomed Professor Alice Roberts and the *Digging for Britain* team to Oxford Archaeology's latest excavation, which provided a rare insight into society in the later Roman period, before the fall of the Roman Empire and the start of the Dark Ages in Britain.

## Digging for Britain

In episode 2, Series 11 of *Digging for Britain* — which aired on BBC2 on 3 January 2024 and is available to view on BBC iPlayer — Professor Roberts reflects on a "time of incredibly heightened anxiety many centuries ago" as the Roman Empire was coming to an end.

The excavation revealed numerous pits cut into the top of a large boundary ditch. These were filled with a range of artefacts, from late Roman coins to whole, intact pots along with other artefacts including brooches, rings and miniatures symbolic of other objects. The deliberate burial of these artefacts has led the archaeologists to believe that these items were buried as offerings, perhaps to the gods, during a time of great upheaval and anxiety.

Between 350-400AD the Roman Empire was in a state of turmoil in Britain; the agricultural and military economies had shrunk and incursions from new groups — such as the Picts and Saxons — would have resulted in widespread disruption and fear.

Analysis is now underway, and the team at Oxford Archaeology fully expect the huge quantity of material recovered to reveal even more detail about the story behind this fascinating excavation.

Rebecca Britton, Communities and Partnerships Director at Alconbury Weald, said: "Alconbury Weald has a fascinating heritage, from its very earliest settlers through to its more recent military history and it's great to be able to add another piece to the jigsaw of Alconbury Weald's



past. It is extraordinary to find such ancient pieces from such a troubled time of British History so close to the Cold War hangars and the 20th Century development that reflects a similar time of fear and uncertainty during the Cold War.

"We're very much looking forward to Oxford Archaeology's further analysis of the finds, and the full report from this excavation so that we can continue to stitch the history of the site into the new development: from street names and park and play area designs, to exhibitions, events and activities."

"The next phase of Alconbury Weald will include a Heritage Area and development of a Heritage Trail, and we continue to work with the Alconbury Weald Heritage Group and other heritage partners to ensure each layer of history is captured within the plans and engages residents and the local community."

Over 100 people came along to Oxford Archaeology's 'Show and Tell' during the dig last summer and an exhibition with some of the artefacts will be available at this year's Heritage Open Day event on 7 September 2024.

# Ways to live at Alconbury Weald

With the wide range of apartments and houses coming forward, there are lots of ways for people to make Alconbury Weald their home. Here are some of the ways housebuilders, developers and local authorities work together to provide homes for the local area and communities.

## Buying your home

A range of homes — including apartments and one to five bedroom houses — are available at Alconbury Weald. Find out more by visiting the show homes (see map opposite) or online at [www.alconbury-weald.co.uk/living/meet-housebuilders](http://www.alconbury-weald.co.uk/living/meet-housebuilders)

## Shared ownership

Shared ownership is one option that enables you to buy a share in a property (usually between 25% and 75% of its value), rather than buying it outright. You then pay a subsidised rent on the remaining share, until you have purchased 100% of the property. You can also sell at any time, which provides you with flexibility and choice around how you invest in your future.

For more information:  
[www.crosskeyhomes.co.uk](http://www.crosskeyhomes.co.uk),  
[www.domovohomes.co.uk](http://www.domovohomes.co.uk)

## Rent to buy

Rentplus has affordable rent to buy apartments to give people living in or working in the area the chance to get on the housing ladder without the need for an upfront deposit. Tenants rent their home for five to 20 years at an affordable rate, whilst using that time to save towards their future mortgage deposit and build a good credit rating. At the end of the agreed term, they can purchase their home and Rentplus will gift them 10% of the purchase price to add to their savings.

To find out more, email [applications@rentplushomes.co.uk](mailto:applications@rentplushomes.co.uk)



To find out more about the wider range of homes and ways to live at Alconbury Weald, visit [www.alconbury-weald.co.uk/living](http://www.alconbury-weald.co.uk/living)



## Renting

The Hawkings is a collection of 49 homes (2, 3 and 4 bedroom) along with five 2-bedroom apartments. The properties are stylishly designed and meticulously appointed with state-of-the-art finishes and sustainable products throughout. Every home also features smart home tech, Solar PV panels and is EV charging point enabled.

To find out more, visit [www.thehawkings.co.uk](http://www.thehawkings.co.uk)

## Affordable rent

There are also choices with all of the housebuilders at Alconbury Weald for affordable homes for rent. You can access information on these through registering with Home-Link: [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/housing/finding-a-home/apply-to-get-on-the-housing-register/](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/housing/finding-a-home/apply-to-get-on-the-housing-register/)

## Key workers

A Key Worker Deposit Contribution is available from David Wilson Homes when purchasing a new home: [www.dwh.co.uk](http://www.dwh.co.uk). Affordable rent for key workers is also available from Longhurst Group: [www.longhurst-group.org.uk](http://www.longhurst-group.org.uk)



# Meet the housebuilders



**Campbell Buchanan George**  
01480 220535  
Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald  
Huntingdon PE28 4LY  
**Open** Thurs–Mon 10am–5pm.



**David Wilson Homes**  
0333 355 8485  
Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald  
Huntingdon PE28 4LY  
**Open** Thurs–Sun 10am–5.30pm,  
Mon 12.30–5.30pm



**Hopkins Homes**  
01480 435108  
Geldart Way, Alconbury Weald  
Huntingdon PE28 4LZ  
**Open** Thurs–Mon 10am–5pm.  
Closed on Friday at 4.30pm



**Redrow**  
01480 710086  
Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald  
Huntingdon PE28 4LY  
**Open** Fri–Weds 10am–5.30pm  
and Thurs midday–5.30pm



**Barratt Homes**  
Launching this year



**Morris Homes**  
07484 040412  
142–146 Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon PE28 4FR  
**Open** Thurs–Mon 10.30am–5.30pm



**The Hawkings**  
0300 1246773  
[info@thehawkings.co.uk](mailto:info@thehawkings.co.uk)

# Spring watch

Alconbury Weald is home to diverse wildlife, including species of importance for conservation. This includes brown hare and song thrush, as well as some more common species like robins, which are often found in gardens and parks; and butterflies such as Comma and Peacock, the latter known for its striking wing patterns that resemble the tail of a peacock.

The development's biodiversity strategy targets specific species to support new habitats and regular surveys are carried out to monitor their success. Early findings indicate that bats are enjoying the newly created areas around the first phase, with a variety of species recorded including noctule and common pipistrelle.

## Ecology focus House Martins

The design and planting of the areas around Carnaile pond provide foraging corridors and habitats to support House Martins. It has been great to see an increase in sightings and nests in this area, which are being used year after year by returning birds.



The UK has lost over half its House Martin population since 1969, which led to them being added to the UK Red List in 2020. The reason for this decline is not well understood, although warmer, drier conditions as a result of climate change have been suggested as a possible cause. Birds that build nests on PVC as opposed to brick, concrete or wood are also believed to have much lower breeding success.

House Martins are small birds — about 12cm long — with glossy blue-black on top, white below, a distinctive white rump and a forked tail. They spend a lot of time in flight, collecting small flying insects and spiders.

House Martins nest in the eaves of houses, in nests made from hundreds of clumps of mud and clay and lined with white feathers from the male birds. House Martins generally prefer to reuse old nests rather than start a new one from scratch and nest communally so houses with House Martins usually have a number of nests.

The female lays four or five eggs that take two to three weeks to hatch. The chicks then spend up to five weeks in the nest before they are ready to take to the wing. They can have up to three broods each year.

They are summer migrants, arriving in the UK in early April and leaving in August/September and spending the winter in Africa. Look out for House Martins in late summer congregating on house roofs or whirling about meadows in large numbers ready for the long migration.

There are several ways to encourage House Martins to nest in your home. The easiest way is to allow a small area of your garden to be bare mud so that House Martins have easy access to their nesting material.

It is possible to attract House Martins to nest on your property by attaching an artificial nest under the eaves or the gables of a house and planting a wildflower border and bog garden to attract insects for the House Martins to feed on.

We'd love to hear from anyone spotting some of our first returners, first nests and first chicks being fed, either by giving us a call, emailing or tagging #AlconburyWeald on social media.

For more information, see the Wildlife Trusts *Wild about high fliers* leaflet at [bit.ly/3vUz5yo](http://bit.ly/3vUz5yo) or use the QR code.



## Competition

We have been working with a local charity that builds artificial nests to support House Martins and Swifts, and we have five to give away to help support our feathered friends. All you have to do is answer this question: *Where do House Martins nest?*

Email your answer along with your name and address to [info@alconbury-weald.co.uk](mailto:info@alconbury-weald.co.uk) — or call 01480 413141 during office hours — by 5pm on 31 May 2024.

Winners will be selected at random. Terms and conditions are available in The Club reception and on the website: [www.alconbury-weald.co.uk/terms-and-conditions-make-news-competition](http://www.alconbury-weald.co.uk/terms-and-conditions-make-news-competition)

## Wild Weald

On Saturday, 2 March local families joined members of the Nene Park Education and Learning Team at The Club for family-friendly nature-inspired workshops and a short, themed trail to help explore the local area.

During the workshops, participants transformed 1.5l plastic bottles into planters to take home; a practical and effective way to recycle.

To find out more about Nene Park and the events and activities available, visit [www.nenepark.org.uk](http://www.nenepark.org.uk)



# Latest news

Alconbury Weald Enterprise Campus is a dynamic place for businesses of all shapes and sizes — whether starting up, relocating or expanding — companies can rent flexible space for research and development, production and office accommodation in one of the Incubator buildings, or design and build bespoke facilities to meet their specific requirements, supported by the design, development and project teams at Urban&Civic.

## MM Flowers blooming at Alconbury Weald

One of the first companies to establish a large, bespoke operation at the Enterprise Campus, MM Flowers moved in during 2017 and now employs over 900 people at its Alconbury Weald facility.



Some of MM Flowers employees celebrating International Women's Day

MM Flowers was established in 2007 to provide the leading UK retailers with a transparent, sustainable and innovative interface between the grower and the retailer. From its humble beginnings of supplying just one product, MM Flowers has grown into a large enterprise, sourcing globally and serving the best of the UK and European retail.

Its philosophy has not changed during this period of rapid growth with quality and innovation, from breeding programmes to supply chain development, at the heart of everything it does.

Its buying model is simple, transparent and efficient with no dependence on agents or auctions. Strong ethical and environmental credentials ensure that all its products are known to be from the world's most sustainable growers.

Vertically integrated, MM Flowers has transparency and control of its trusted supply chain. It has a specialised knowledge of each part of its process, from breeding to packing. Quality, sustainability and innovation are at the heart of everything it does.

Over the last year, MM Flowers has increased its percentage of women in management and supervisory positions to 48% and recently recruited its first female engineering apprentice.

MM Flowers is currently recruiting. To find out more, email [resourcing@mm-flowers.com](mailto:resourcing@mm-flowers.com).

Urban&Civic — master developer for Alconbury Weald — hosts a quarterly Business Collaboration Group meeting. Representatives from companies based at the Enterprise Campus can hear the latest about the development, share news and network.

## Business Collaboration Group

At February's meeting, Michelle Sacks, Chief Executive of Huntingdonshire District Council came along to share some insights about how the Council can work with businesses to unlock funding and support inward investment.

We caught up with Michelle before the meeting to find out how her first six months as Chief Executive have gone and what the future holds.



### How are you settling into your role?

I joined Huntingdonshire District Council as Chief Executive last September and the time has flown by. It feels like I've been here for ages, which is really good and testament to the strength of the partners and how people responded. Everyone has been really welcoming and interested in what the Council can do to support them.

In terms of Huntingdonshire, the Place Strategy<sup>1</sup> is really interesting. The whole document came about following a lot of consultation and includes the vision and steps to achieve an inclusive economy that nurtures start-ups, enables businesses to grow and builds a strong local economy with a trained, talented and confident workforce.

But it's not enough to have a strong vision, we need to be taking the practical steps to achieve it. I always ask, 'what does that mean for Bob?' When we have ideas, we need to be thinking about what it means for Bob and his extended family; tuning into the lives and needs of people living in the area.

In the business community, the Council has the ability to lead and facilitate but so much of our success depends on the strength of partnership working. That's one of my key drivers. How can we bring people together collectively? Not to delay decisions and outcomes but to understand the real issue and engage with a solution, so an idea can evolve to the best solution for as many people as possible.

I'm here, along with the wider economic development team and other teams within the Council, to listen to issues and opportunities. By meeting people and talking to them, we can collect information and intel to connect people and unlock powerful partnerships: working together in a holistic approach to support trust and confidence.

### What were you doing before joining Huntingdonshire District Council?

I was Deputy Chief Executive for Growth in Lincolnshire. Working across three districts, I led the planning and inward investment teams, delivering external funding. I have been in local government for 27 years, working as a lawyer for over 20 years, before changing career direction to focus on place leadership, economy and growth.

I have first-hand experience with businesses, bringing organisations together to create the case for other inward investment. In Lincolnshire, I worked with the Chamber of Commerce to drive road improvements. I was initially met with scepticism but after demonstrating small wins we were able to come together to create a collective voice, powered by evidence, and were instrumental in a levelling up bid being secured for A16 improvements.

### What advice would you give to businesses in the Enterprise Campus?

For me, it's all about working together to create a sustainable future for the people working and living here. If you have a problem or an opportunity, please talk to us. We might not have the answer, but we can connect you to the right people.

We also want to hear about your successes. If we all sing in isolation, our voices are very small. If we all celebrate and shout out together, we can showcase what is going on here and why businesses should come and be part of the Enterprise Campus. Any new ideas, let us know as we might be able to help unlock funding or point you in the right direction.

### Any final thoughts?

It's not enough to talk the talk, we also need to walk the walk. The Council will also be working towards greener energy and decarbonisation, leading by example.

We will be hearing more news and insights from Michelle Sacks in future editions of *Make/News*.

<sup>1</sup> Huntingdonshire's Place Strategy is available to view online <https://bit.ly/3U52Q9b>





At its heart, Alconbury Weald has been designed to encourage a healthy, sustainable lifestyle, with the right infrastructure and services being put in place for people to lead low carbon lives as the development rolls out.

Each year a Travel Survey is carried out at Alconbury Weald to support the development's Travel Plan; a living document that helps reduce the amount of car travel, resulting in lower congestion, better air quality and improved road safety.

The results of the Travel Survey last October showed a 7% decrease in the number of people driving alone and 43% of residents would be interested in alternative modes of transport to driving and of those just over half would consider lift sharing.

The data collected is enabling *smart journeys*, the Travel Plan co-ordinator for the development, to better understand the needs of residents and tailor its incentives to support people to make more sustainable transport choices. This includes:

- Pool bikes: *smart journeys* has teamed up with TAG Bikes to provide pool bikes to give those living and working at Alconbury Weald the opportunity to travel around the development sustainably. There are 13 bikes that can be hired for up to 24 hours – for leisure, shopping, commuting or business use. Pool bikes will be placed at the Enterprise Campus, New Shire Hall and Co-op. To hire one of these bikes, please email [alconburyweald@smartjourneys.co.uk](mailto:alconburyweald@smartjourneys.co.uk) for an application form.
- Young person's bus ticket: Urban&Civic continues to work with Dews Coaches to deliver a discounted 10-journey bus ticket for young people (up to 22 years old) living at Alconbury Weald. When you apply, you will be issued with a voucher to present to the driver to claim your discounted 10 journey ticket.

- Liftsharing App: the number of people using the Liftsharing App launched in October is continuing to grow. The more members, the more potential matches and savings! If you haven't already joined, simply follow the steps below!

1. Download the Liftshare Companion App
2. Open the App and click 'join Liftshare'
3. Click 'join a community' and search 'Urban&Civic'
4. Add in your details i.e. your journey, if you are a driver or passenger
5. Let the App do the rest and find matches!

Studies show that groups of lift-sharers are more likely to make matches. Have you thought about finding three or four other people to car share with?



If you would like to hire a TAG bike, apply for a young person's bus ticket or ask any queries about the lift sharing App, email [alconburyweald@smartjourneys.co.uk](mailto:alconburyweald@smartjourneys.co.uk)



Alconbury Weald has a diverse, active community that enjoys a wide variety of events and activities throughout the year.

# Events

## Community celebrates Alconbury Weald's first Beer Festival

Over 600 people came along to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy Alconbury Weald's first Beer Festival hosted in partnership with Wheatsheaf Brewery.

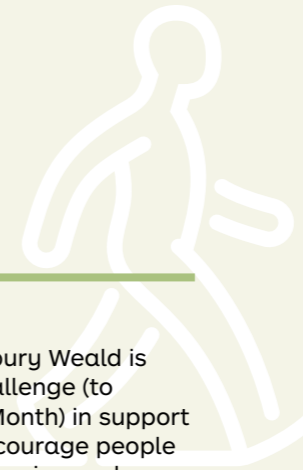
Festival goers filled the tables in The Pavilion and spilled out onto the benches overlooking the cricket pitch, with some families bringing picnic blankets and camping chairs to settle in for a social afternoon/evening with family, friends and neighbours.

The Beer Festival, which was held in The Pavilion on 13/14 April, showcased a carefully selected range of beer from across the region. As well as some of Wheatsheaf Brewery's finest beers, festival goers were able to sample beers from Ivo, Papworth, Bakers Dozen, Biochemist, Briarbank and Xtreme Ales.

A variety of local ciders and gins were also available alongside soft drinks, and food trucks served pizza, fish and chips, and a fusion of South African and Jamaican cuisine during the weekend.

Natalie Leigh-Brown said: "We'd like to thank everyone who came along and supported our first beer festival; and a special shout out to Wheatsheaf Brewery and all the volunteers who helped make the event such a success.

"We've had some fantastic feedback and we're hoping to make this an annual event. We also have other community events and activities to look forward to throughout the year and hope people will come along to support the Open Gardens and Food Festival in June and Heritage Open Day in September — to name just a few."



### Walk on the Weald

During the month of May, Alconbury Weald is hosting its first ever Walking Challenge (to coincide with National Walking Month) in support of Magpas Air Ambulance, to encourage people of all ages to get out and about, enjoy and connect with their natural environment, and get some steps in!

People are being encouraged to walk 100km throughout the month, equivalent to around 3.23km a day, for an opportunity to win a prize!

There are plenty of ways to reach the 100km target including walking meetings, walking for nursery/school drop off and pick up, walking as part of your commute or on your lunch break, walking to local shops, joining Alconbury Weald Walking Group (meeting at 12.30pm on Mondays outside Swynford Stores) or walking around doing household chores!

Natalie Leigh-Brown, Community Development Lead for Alconbury Weald, said: "It would be great if everyone could get involved, so we can really make a difference in terms of reducing our impact on the environment, contributing to cleaner air as well as improving our mental and physical health as a community."

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/walkonthewealdformagpasinmay](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/walkonthewealdformagpasinmay)

### Open Gardens

On 2 June, green fingered residents at Alconbury Weald will be opening up their gardens to inspire neighbours with a range of fascinating flower beds, wildlife friendly features and luscious landscaping. Maps will be available from The Club and Swynford Stores.



Alconbury Weald has a wide variety of sports clubs, fitness classes and other activities for all ages, interests and abilities.

### Local shooting club

The Soke Target Sports Club's target shooting complex has been based at Alconbury Weald since 2017, originally in one of the old aircraft hangars and more recently in two of the former bomb stores. It has 12 lanes, six for air guns and six for rimfire (bullets) with variable distances up to 20 yards.

The Club has an active membership with an enviable record in both local and national shooting competitions. Most members have their own equipment, but the Club has air and rimfire rifles it can loan to new shooters.

On 14 January, the Club's oldest member, Wg Cdr (Retd) Alan Robertson RAF, marked the first day of his 90th year by aiming to shoot at least 90 bullseyes in 90 minutes to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK.

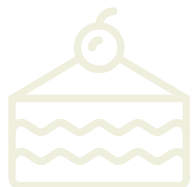
Alan surpassed his target of 90, with a total of 163 bullseyes on 17 cards, 51 of them 'X's, during the 90 minutes challenge.

Over £2,000 (including gift aid) was raised with donations from family, friends in Probus, Soke TSC, the RAF Target Rifle Club (RAFTR) and the local Premier Breakfast Club. Alan was delighted with the outcome even though he missed the bull seven times!

To support Alan's fundraising efforts, search Alan-Robertson-shooting on [JustGiving.com](http://JustGiving.com)

Target rifle shooting is a sport for all ages, genders and abilities. Many wheelchair users compete on equal terms. Anyone interested in finding out more and trying this sport should email [soke.membership1@talktalk.net](mailto:soke.membership1@talktalk.net)

# Alconbury Weald Food Festival



Alconbury Weald's Food Festival, in partnership with Off The Beaten Truck, promises a smorgasbord of culinary treats to tantalise the taste buds: with food trucks serving a variety of hot dishes and sweet treats, and stalls selling local produce to take away and enjoy.

Food trucks include:

- Guerrilla Kitchen — bao buns
- Kereif Catering — South African & Jamaican
- Pimp my Fish — fish 'n' chips
- Pop-up bar
- Pizza Mondo — Neapolitan pizza
- Warm & Toastie — cheese toasties

Stalls include:

- Azahar Paella — seafood and chicken + vegan
- The Linton Kitchen — classic cakes
- Peichin's Table — homemade chilli sauces
- Wheatsheaf Brewery
- Fin Boys — fishmonger
- Roly's Fudge Exmouth
- Alice Carter's fudge

Keep an eye on our social media for updates and news as more food trucks and stalls are confirmed.

**Midday to 6pm Saturday, 29 June  
on Watch Office Green**

**Alconbury  
Weald**

Master Developer

Urban&Civic

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