

Valley Conservation Society

General Data Protection Regulation and Privacy Policy

Under EU legislation introduced in May 2018, the Society must ensure that:

1. Any data we hold is stored securely
2. That consent must be given by an individual for their data to be retained
3. That an individual can ask to have their data removed entirely at any time.

What information does the Society hold?

The Society maintains a membership database.

This contains either some or all of the following for each member –

- a. Name
- b. Address
- c. Marital status
- d. Telephone numbers (landline and mobile)
- e. Email address
- f. Membership status
- g. Year of joining
- h. Information about whether you have indicated a willingness to help with work parties, leaflet distribution, etc

Additionally, some members chose to pay their membership fees by Standing Order, in which case we will retain your bank details, with the sole purpose of facilitating your annual membership renewal.

If you cease to be a member, whether by resignation or failure to renew your annual subscription, we may retain your details for an indefinite period in case you later re-join, but you can contact us and ask for them to be deleted. (see below)

Minutes are kept of Members' meetings, such as the annual general meeting. These minutes may record the names of those present at the meeting and may record any contribution they made to the debate.

You have the right to request what information the Society holds about you

Requests should be addressed to the Secretary:

By post to: Alan Smith, Bockingford House, Cripple Street, Maidstone, ME15 6DN

Or by email to: a128smith@btinternet.com

The Secretary must respond to your request within thirty days.

Is your information safe?

Any paper records held by the Society are kept secure.

Most information supplied to the Society in writing is transferred to a computer where it is held in a password protected system.

Bulk email sent to Society members uses the “blind copy” method and does not list the recipients. So when you receive an email from the Society you cannot see details of other members who have been sent the same email.

If a member were to suffer a security breach on their own computer a third party cannot extract details of any other Society member from the compromised data.

Sharing data

We do not share your information with any other party.

The information that we hold is used solely to maintain our membership list and to enable us to contact you with news, invitations or offers that we believe may be of interest to you as a Member..

Granting Permission

Under the new law, we must have positive affirmation from our members for use and storage of their data.

When you first apply for membership, and again each time you renew your membership, you will be asked to tick a box to indicate that you agree to our using and storing the information that you have provided on the application form.

This consent is not permanent and you can withdraw it at any time by contacting the Secretary on the address above.

We will delete any information you don't wish us to hold.

If you wish ALL your information to be deleted, we will not be able to retain you as a member of the Society.

You will still be able to access the Valley Conservation Society website.

Opting back-in

If you choose to opt-out, but later change your mind and wish to return as a member, you can opt back in but you will need to consent to the Society retaining your information when you do this.