A guide to the sources available for researching servicemen who fought in World War I held at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies and beyond.
General records
A transcript of the roll of honour covering those who enlisted pre-conscription and a number of the dead is available on the Archives Searchroom shelves. It has several limitations, particularly in the small number of dead recorded, but is a good starting point.

War memorials are often useful. Many parish and town council collections contain minutes of war memorial committees, or references to memorials in the main council minutes. Local newspapers (available in the Local Studies Library, High Wycombe, Chesham and Buckingham libraries depending on the title) frequently published stories concerning memorials. Transcripts of many memorials have been published by the Bucks Genealogical Society (Peter Quick, War Memorials and War Graves, also in the Local Studies Library). Some places have had books written about the men on their memorials, including Brill, Chesham Bois, Dagnall, Dinton and Ford, Radcliffe-cum-Chackmore, Stewkley, and Stone and Bishopstone. All are available in the Local Studies Library. Online transcriptions of memorials are on the Buckinghamshire Remembers website (see page 7).

The absent voters list (ref: R-E 62) lists those men still serving at the front in 1918 with brief details including their rank, regiment and number. It covers all Bucks electors at the front, not just those serving in local regiments. The list is one of the sources used to help compile Clint’s Roll of Honour, searchable via the Buckinghamshire Remembers website (see page 7). A photocopy is available on the shelves in the Archives Searchroom, along with the 1918 Register of Electors, which itself denotes men absent on active service with an ‘A’ by their name.

A printed list of members of Bucks Constabulary who died in the war was compiled in 1919 (ref: TA/3/89). The Hazell, Watson and Viney staff magazine ‘With the Colours’ gives information about their staff serving, including mentions of casualties as they appear (Local Studies ref: L372:40).
Newspapers
The local press included a variety of information about men from the front. Snippets often appeared when men were missing in action, injured or captured as well as killed. Obituaries with photographs can also be found. These stories could be found throughout the issue so careful searching is required. Details of action at the front could take some time to get home, so stories may not appear until some weeks after the event happened. The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies holds several newspapers covering the period including the Bucks Herald, the Bucks Advertiser, the Buckinghamshire Advertiser and the Bucks Free Press. The libraries in High Wycombe, Chesham, Slough, Buckingham and Milton Keynes hold the papers for their area.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website (www.cwgc.org) includes a comprehensive database of British and Commonwealth troops who died in the war. It is searchable in a variety of ways including name, regiment, date of death and memorial.

Regimental records
Royal Bucks Hussars:
- Seniority roll of Non Commissioned Officers of the Royal Bucks Hussars, 1914-1916 (ref: D 206/9)
- Lists of Officers taken from Army List, 1915-1916 (ref: D 206/10)
- Printed roll of the casualties of the 1/1st Royal Bucks Hussars in Palestine, the Egyptian Front, France & Gallipoli, 1914-1918 (ref: TA/3/82)
- Casualty roll of Royal Bucks Hussars, 1914-1918 (ref: TA/3/523)
- List of casualties of the Royal Bucks Hussars and Royal Bucks Yeomanry, 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 (ref: TA/3/524)
- List of officers and men of 2/1st Regiment, 1914-1919 (ref: D 206/23)
- Photocopies of entries from the Army List relating to Royal Bucks Hussars, 1915-1916 (ref: D 206/10)
- Book of signatures of Royal Bucks Hussars who used Buckingham Congregational schoolroom, 1915-1917 (ref: NC 4/16)
- Letter listing Royal Bucks Hussars still serving on 11 November 1918 (ref: D 206/17)
- A-Squadron roll of horses and list of officers, 1914-1915 (ref: D 206/24)
- List of A Squadron 1/1st Royal Bucks Hussars, 1915-1918 (ref: TA/3/27)
- Records of service of 3/1st Royal Bucks Hussars, 1915-1917 (ref: TA/3/41)
- List of members of the Royal Bucks Hussars transferred to other units, 1916-1918 (ref: TA/3/43)
Bucks Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
- Muster Roll of D Company Bucks Battalion Territorial Force, 1908-1914 (ref: TA/6/2)
- Trench Log of Right Company, Left Battalion at Habuterne, France, 5 Aug 1915 - 15 Apr 1916 (ref: TA/6/4)
- Order books for B and C companies, 1/1st Bucks, 1915-1918 (ref: TA/6/5-10)
- 'A record of the 2nd Bucks Battalion 1914-1918 ... Presented to the Bucks Territorial Force Association by Lord Anslow' (ref: TA/6/3)
- Casualty Books for 1st Bucks Battalion (contains brief details of the service of the men of 1/1st Bucks), 1915-1919 (ref: TA/6/11-14)
- 'Roll of Honour' of the Oxfordshire and

Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, 1914-1919 (ref: TA/6/38)
- Bucks Battalion Old Comrades Association Minute Book including lists of members, 1923-1957 (ref: TA/6/26)

Volunteer Defence Corps
- Roll of officers and men, 3rd and 5th Battalion Bucks Volunteer Defence Corps, 1916-1917 (ref: TA/7/7)
- Nominal roll of 2nd Mid-Bucks Battalion of Bucks Volunteer Defence Corps, 1915 (ref: TA/7/13)
- Roll of the (?) Missenden Area sections of the Wendover Company, 2nd Mid-Bucks Battalion of the Bucks Volunteer Defence Corps, c1914-1916 (ref: D-X 855)

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum
An online database of many soldiers who served in the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry is on the website of their regimental museum, the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (www.sofo.org.uk). The museum also offer a paid research service to do further checks of their records.
Ancestry.com:
Various helpful resources are available through Ancestry.com. Ancestry is a subscription service, but is available without charge at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies and in any Buckinghamshire Library. Relevant databases include:

Army:
- WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 and WWI Pension Records 1914-1920
- Silver War Badge Records, 1914-1920 (awarded to those returning home injured)
- WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920
- Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919
- The National Roll of the Great War, 1914-1918
- Citations of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914-1920
- De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour 1914-1924

Royal Air Force:
There are no specific databases covering the RAF, though Royal Aero Club Aviators’ Certificates often includes people who went on to be in the RAF.

Navy:
- Naval Medal and Award Rolls 1793-1972
- The Navy List 1914-1919
- Naval Officer and Rating Service Records 1802-1919
- Royal Marines Registers of Service Index 1842-1925
- Royal Naval Volunteer Service Records Index 1903-1922
- Campaign Medals Awarded to WWI Merchant Seamen, 1914-1925

The originals of most of these records are at the National Archives.

Other subscription services offer records for a fee. These include (www.findmypast.co.uk) and Forces War Records (www.forces-war-records.co.uk). Some of their databases duplicate those on Ancestry, others are exclusive, for instance the Prudential Assurance Roll of Honour available through Forces War Records.


No subscription is available for these services through the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies or the Buckinghamshire Library Service.
National Archives
A comprehensive list of World War I related material at the National Archives is in Ian Beckett’s ‘The First World War’, available in the Local Studies Library. On their website (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) are searchable versions of a number of relevant record series, though a fee is payable to download copies of the originals.

Army
- Prisoner of war interview reports 1914-1918 (ref: WO 161)
- British Army medal index cards 1914-1920 (ref: WO 372)
- Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps service records 1917-1920 (ref: WO 398)
- British Army nurses’ service records 1914-1918 (ref: WO 399)
- British Army war diaries 1914-1922 (ref: WO 95)
- Victoria Cross registers 1856-1944 (ref: WO 98)
- Household Cavalry soldiers’ service records 1799-1920 (ref: WO 400)

Air Force
- Royal Air Force officers’ service records 1918-1919 (ref: AIR 76)
- Women’s Royal Air Force service records 1918-1920 (ref: AIR 80)

Navy
- Royal Navy ratings’ service records 1853-1923 (ref: ADM 188)
- Royal Navy officers’ service records 1756-1931 (ref: ADM 196)
- Royal Naval Air Service officers’ service records 1906-1918 (ref: ADM 273)
- Women’s Royal Naval service records 1917-1919 (ref: ADM 318 and 336)
- Volunteer Reserve service records 1903-1922 (ref: ADM 377)
- Royal Naval Division service records 1914-1919 (ref: ADM 339)
- Royal Navy officers’ service record cards and files c.1840-c.1920 (ref: ADM 340)
- Royal Naval Reserve service records 1860-1955 (ref: BT 164 and BT 337)

Marines
- Royal Marines’ service records 1842-1925 (ref: ADM 159)

Merchant Navy
- Merchant seamen’s campaign medal records 1914-1918 (ref: BT 351/1/1, BT 351/1/2 and MT 9/1404.)

Physical drill at Burnham, 1916 (ref: TA/6/49/10)
Buckinghamshire Remembers
Buckinghamshire Remembers (www.buckinghamshireremembers.org.uk) includes photographs and transcriptions of almost all the war memorials in Buckinghamshire as well as information about individual casualties including their background, regimental information, the action in which they lost their lives and the location of the cemetery in which they are buried.

Clints Roll of Honour
Available through Buckinghamshire Remembers, Clints Roll of Honour draws together references to individual soldiers both survivors and casualties appearing in a range of sources. They include newspapers, the Absent Voters list, the Roll of Honour, war memorials and the Medal Index cards.

Books:
A series of regimental histories were written by men of the Bucks units after the war. They often include information about soldiers serving:
- P.L. Wright ‘The First Buckinghamshire Battalion’ (ref: L000:40)
- J.C. Swann ‘The 2nd Bucks Battalion’ (ref: L000:40)
- I. Stewart Liberty ‘Record of the 2nd Bucks Battalion’ (ref: L000:40)
- The Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Chronicle gives some background to the actions of the regiment and its soldiers (ref: L000:40)

In 1921, the War Office published lists of the dead as ‘Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919’. A printed version of the section covering the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and a CD covering the whole country are in Local Studies.

A number of individual villages have had books written about their wartime experiences, either specifically about World War I or in broader context. Many of them feature details of those serving. Places covered include The Lee (M. Senior, ‘No Finer Courage’, ref: L392:90), Stoke Poges (L. Rigby, ‘Every one a hero’, ref: L551:90) and the Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross (D. Kelly ‘The Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross at War, ref: L522:40). Others may be found using the Library catalogue (buckinghamshire.spydus.co.uk).

Obituaries for some soldiers drawn from various sources are in a folder labelled ‘Buckinghamshire Soldiers Killed in World War I’ with the Bucks Biographies folders in Local Studies.

Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, October 2014