

Local Wildlife Sites Landowner's Guide

A partnership of landowners, conservation bodies and local authorities helping to promote Oxfordshire's wildlife.





Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are areas of land recognised for having high wildlife value containing rare or threatened habitats and species.

They have no statutory designation but together with the legally protected areas of land, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), they form vital links across the county and beyond to create a national network of habitats that provide refuges for our country's diverse flora and fauna.

Found both on public and private land, Oxfordshire's sites are home to a rich variety of wildlife and they are considered to be of county, if not national, importance.

Many of these sites contain habitats and species that are priorities for conservation recognised through UK Biodiversity Action Plans.

In Oxfordshire

They include ancient woodland, wetlands, neutral hay meadows and pastures, dry acid grassland and chalk and limestone grassland.

The historical sensitive management of many of these sites accounts for their rich wildlife today. The continued good work by landowners is key in conserving the rare species and habitats.





The Oxfordshire Local Wildlife Sites Project

The project aims to identify the best quality sites for wildlife across Oxfordshire. Those that fit the selection criteria are recognised through a process of survey and assessment. We work with land managers to further promote opportunities for wildlife on their sites. This may be through discussions on management techniques or by providing information on grant schemes.

Information on Local Wildlife Sites is held by the records centre and the site name and location is produced in Local Plans. The presence of a Local Wildlife Site is taken into account by the planning process.



What does having a LWS mean to landowners and managers?

- ✓ Recognition that your land management has produced an important site for Oxon's wildlife
- ✓ Free survey and information about the wildlife on your land
- ✓ Expert advice about conservation management and grant aid if required.
- NO obligation to change your land management practices
- NO restrictions on agricultural operations over and above standard regulations
- NO new rights of access are created and existing rights of way are unaffected
- NO active publicity of the site
- NO landowner or manager contact details are passed on to anyone without prior consent.

The Oxfordshire Local Wildlife Sites Project

Contact us

For information on the project and management:

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

www.bbowl.org.uk/localwildlifesites ■ owls@bbowl.org.uk ■ 01865 775476

For further information on site selection and surveys:

Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre

www.tverc.org ■ tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk ■ 01865 815451



The project is funded by:



The project is a partnership managed by:

**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire**



Photos: (Front) snake's-head fritillaries, Andy Fairbairn; brown hare, Viktor Cap; common blue, BBOWT; bluebell wood, Julia Jackson; otter, Terry Longley (p2) barn owl, Tony House; oxeye daisies, David Kilbey; kingfisher, Tony House (p3) teal, Roger Wilson; common blues, Colin Williams; chalk stream, Gareth Luscombe (back) goldfinch, Tony House; stream, Jim Asher, water vole, Tom Marshall, woodland, Andy Fairbairn. Our thanks to www.seeing.org.uk.