

# Magiovinium 2025:



 **Milton Keynes** City Council



**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire**  
Wildlife Trust

# *Community Organising for Nature's Recovery*





## Why Community Organising?

*“If people don’t think they have the power to solve their problems, they won’t even think about how to solve them.”*

*Saul Alinsky*



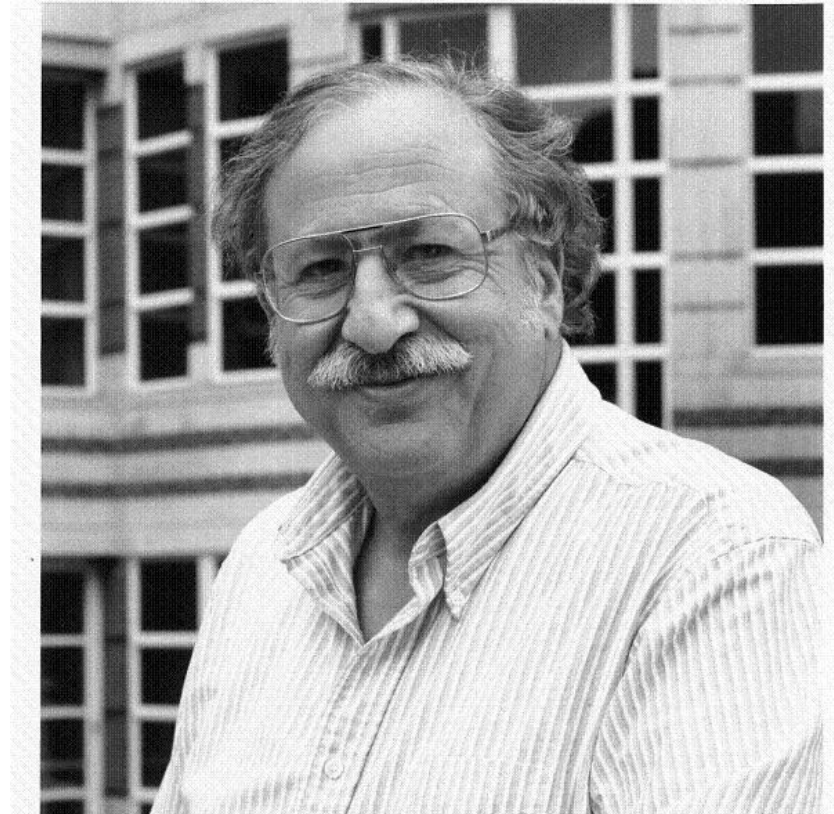




## What is Community Organising?

*“Equipping people with the capacity to build the power they need to get the change they seek.”*

*Marshall Ganz*



# Community Organising Framework



# Southcourt Family Centre Plus





## Community Organising in Aylesbury

- Small green space in urban context
- Multiple stakeholders
- Listen
- Identify local leaders
- Organise
- Act for change for nature
- Shift and share power





## Why Community Organising?

*“There comes a point  
where we need to stop  
just pulling people out  
of the river.*

*We need to go  
upstream and find out  
why they’re falling in.”*

*Archbishop Desmond Tutu*





**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire**  
Wildlife Trust

*Contact:*  
*[nigelhopper@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:nigelhopper@bbowt.org.uk)*





An aerial photograph of a river winding through a landscape with autumn foliage. The river is dark and narrow, surrounded by dense green vegetation and patches of trees with yellow and orange leaves. The overall scene is a mix of natural greenery and seasonal colors.

# Bucks NEP Nature Recovery in Practice

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025





# Ock & Thame Freshwater & Floodplain Restoration



Thame and Ock Catchment Farm Clusters

# Landscape Recovery Project



## Phase II

One of three of DEFRA’s ELMs funding streams. Second round.

Sustainable Farming Incentive	Countryside Stewardship	Landscape Recovery
Widely applicable and accessible actions to enhance the natural environment alongside sustainable food production	Supports farmers to take targeted actions relating to specific locations, features and habitats that benefit the climate and nature	Landscape and ecosystem recovery through long-term, large-scale projects



# Ecosystems Services Markets



## REPLENISHING NATURE

Making it simple for business to invest in water



Water Replenished: \*

4,644,343m<sup>3</sup>

188

new and restored  
wetlands, silt traps  
and ponds



**Growing capacity for water stewardship  
in Ireland**

Meta, Amazon Web Services & The Rivers  
Trust All-Ireland

**Wetland restoration & barrier removal**  
Britvic & Aire Rivers Trust

**Supporting catchment scale  
natural flood management**  
Sainsbury's & Wyre Rivers Trust

**River & habitat restoration**  
Bentley Environmental Fund & Mersey  
Rivers Trust

**Wetland creation**  
Lidl & Wye & Usk Foundation

**Creation of 2 rural wetlands**  
Amazon Web Services & Action for the River  
Kennet

**Urban wetland creation & Downstream  
Defender**  
Coca-Cola & South East Rivers Trust

**Wetland creation, tree planting &  
land management**  
Coca-Cola & Northumberland Rivers  
Trust

**Catchment resilience, wetland  
restoration & land management**  
Coca-Cola & Calder & Colne Rivers  
Trust

**Construction of 7 urban wetlands**  
Coca-Cola & Thames 21

**Water sensitive farming, land  
management & wetland creation**  
Coca-Cola & Norfolk Rivers Trust

**Water sensitive farming &  
wetland creation**  
ASDA & Norfolk Rivers Trust

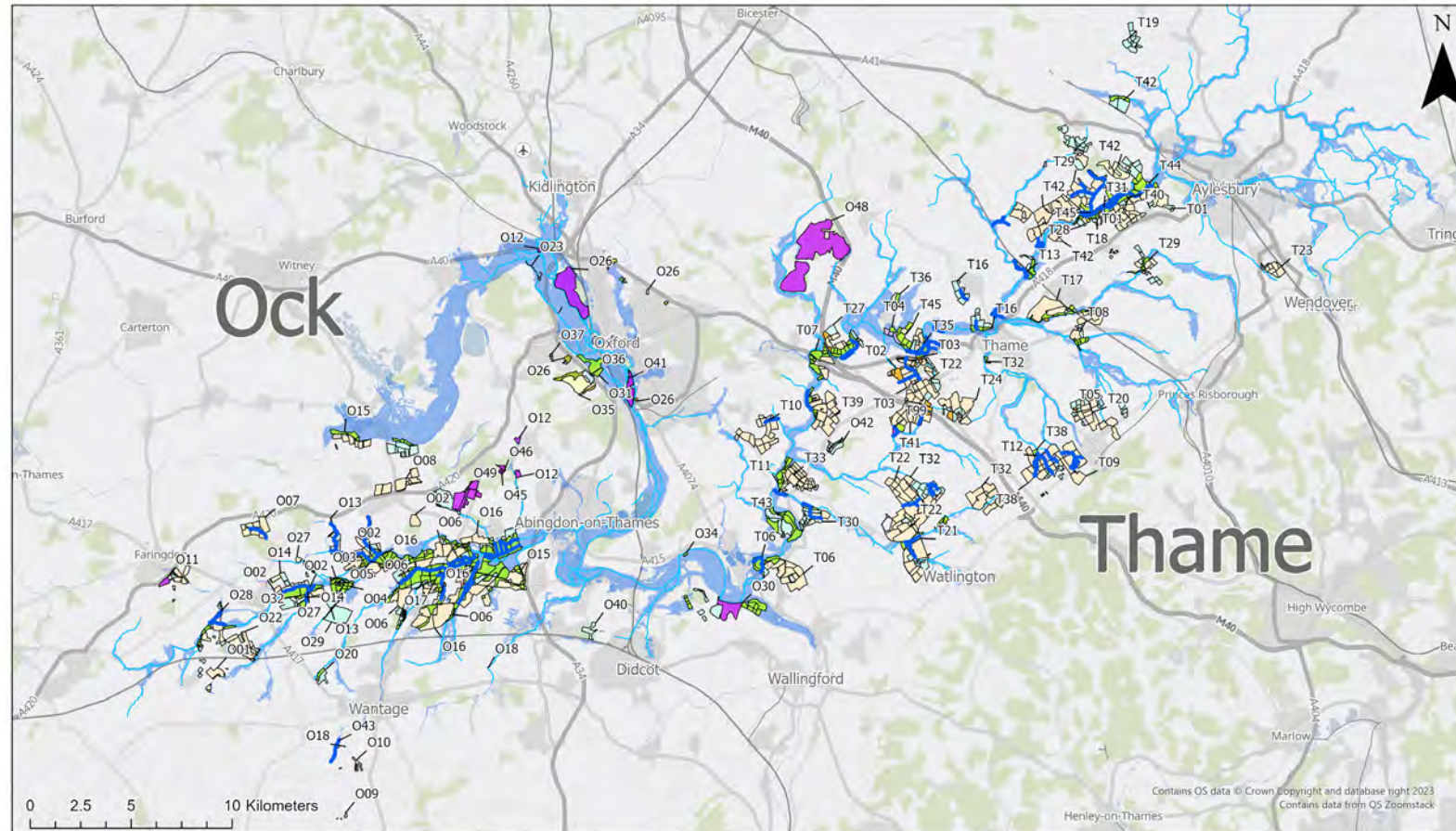
**River & wetland  
restoration**  
Britvic & Thames 21

**Ancient fenland & peat restoration**  
Coca-Cola & Kent and Wildlife Trust

\* The replenish value is estimated for all projects across the period  
April 2023 - April 2024. It does not include all of the interventions  
listed above, as some have not yet come online.



# The Project Area



## Ock and Thame Farmers: Freshwaters and Floodplain Restoration Project

### Map 3. Proposed Land Use

- |                                 |                                 |  |            |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------|
| Water friendly farming          | Pond: creation and management   | Protected sites                                      | Floodplain |
| Floodplain restoration          | Fens and peaty pockets          | Buffering sensitive areas and groundwater catchments |            |
| Springs, flushes and headwaters | Making the most of the wet bits | Stream and river restoration                         |            |



# Project Aims



The creation of the first freshwater network implemented at a landscape scale.

Using evidence-based methods, connecting at a range of scales and freshwater habitat types.

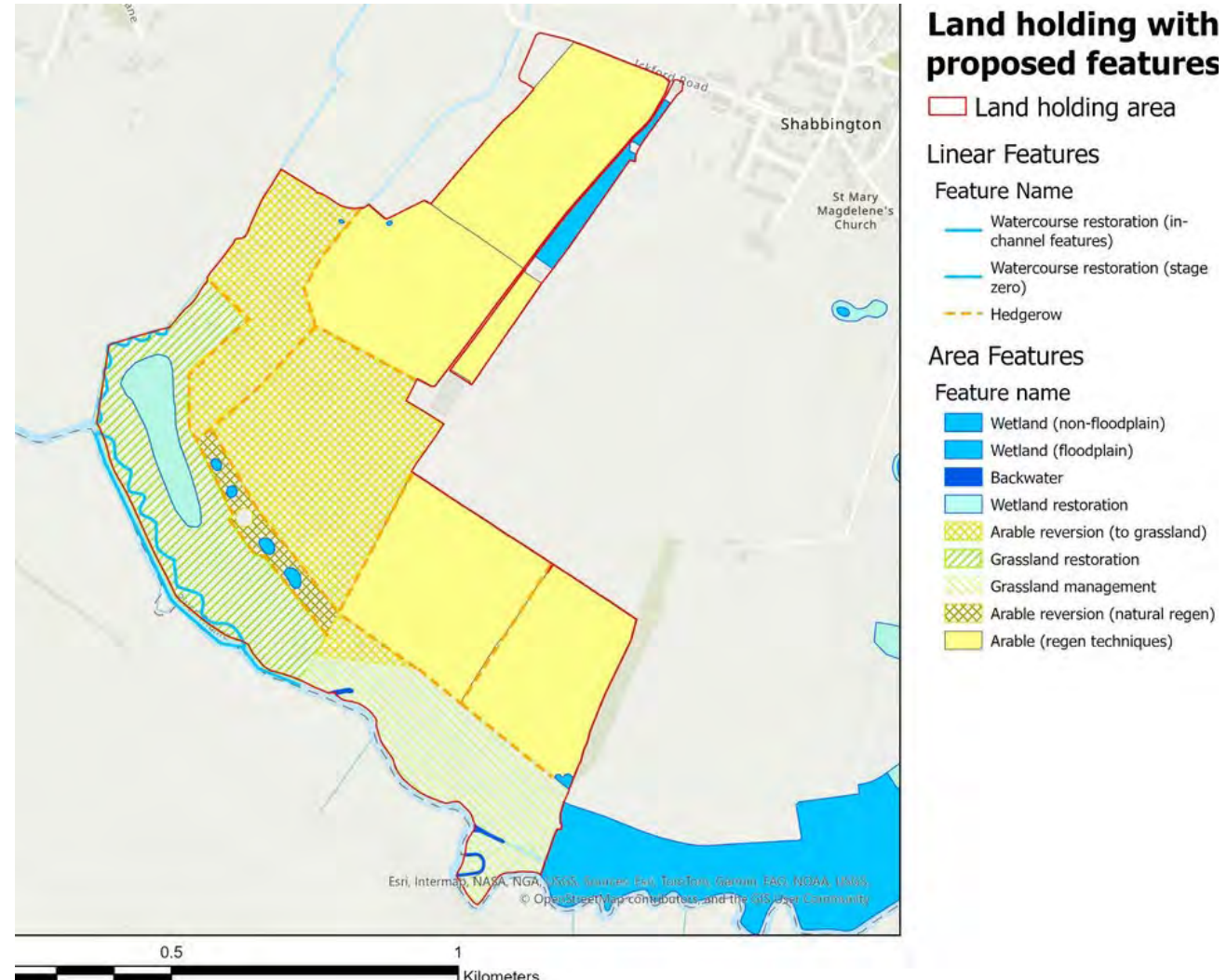
Recovering freshwater biodiversity across the landscape.



# Project Aims



The restoration of freshwater habitats, species and associated benefits, at a landscape scale.





# Nature Recovery Opportunities



- **Biodiversity and species rich habitats:** Headwaters, springs and flushes, alkaline fens, lowland fens, ponds, reedbeds, floodplain wetland mosaics, ponds of High Ecological Value, rivers and streams, neutral grassland (on floodplains), wet woodland, eutrophic standing waters.
- **Carbon:** Soil carbon, peat and peaty pockets, wetlands
- **Protected sites:** 13 Protected sites included in bid: 11 SSSI's, 4 SACs





# Nature Recovery Opportunities



## Farmland:

- Implementing water friendly farming practices
- Making the most of the wet bits
- Arable reversion where appropriate
- Nature-based business opportunities



@ West Country Rivers Trust



# Potential Markets





# Programme



## **Project Development Phase (ends March 2026):**

- Baselines: habitats – archeological & heritage – target species – hydrology - carbon
- Draw up species recovery plans
- Prepare Monitoring and Evaluation plans with CEH
- Work with a natural capital nature finance specialist organization
- Create a Single Legal Entity to manage payments

## **Project Implementation Phase (20 years):**

- Start delivery (some development of final plans will be phased with a rolling delivery of opportunities coming forward for funding)
- Strategic delivery – LNRS - will be important

# Knowledge Networks



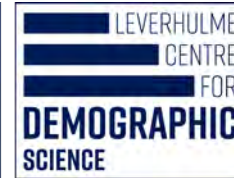
Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



**OCFC**  
Ock Catchment  
Farmer Cluster



Thame  
Catchment  
Farmer  
Cluster



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



**WILDFARMED**





An aerial photograph of a river winding through a landscape with autumn foliage. The river is dark and reflects the surrounding trees. The trees on the right bank are bright yellow, while those on the left are more muted, showing shades of brown and orange. The water is a deep, dark blue-grey.

Thank you from RTCT & FHT

Hilary Phillips & David Fraser

[Hilary@riverthame.org](mailto:Hilary@riverthame.org)

[David@riverthame.org](mailto:David@riverthame.org)

Bucks NEP Nature Recovery in Practice

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025



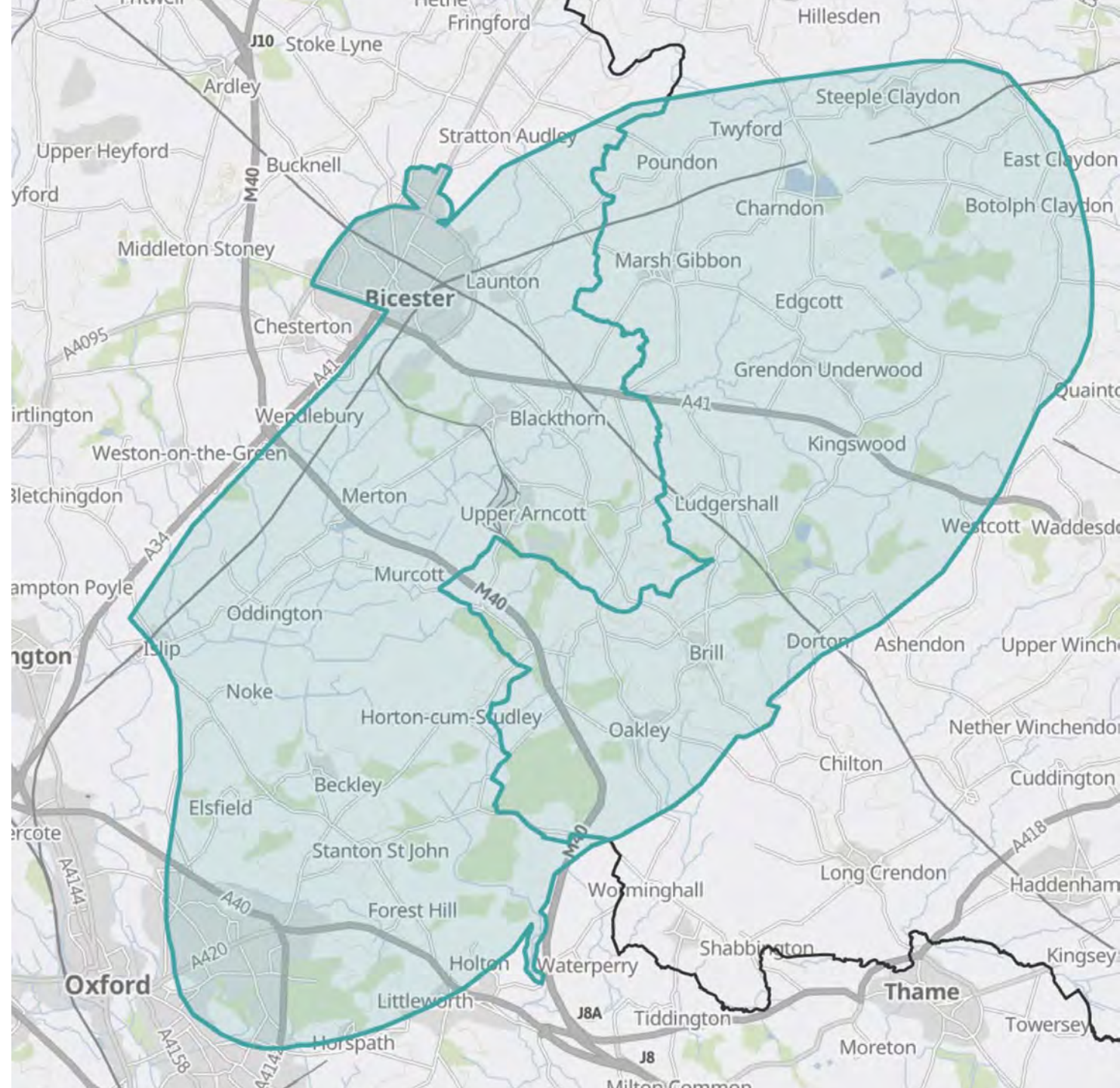


# Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray

Eliza Ader, BBOWT

# ***Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray***

Our aim is to improve habitat connectivity across the landscape and increase opportunities for communities to engage with and take care of their local nature.





# *The partnership*

Wild  
Oxfordshire

earthwatch  
EUROPE

Community Impact Bucks  
supporting charities, communities, volunteering

Freshwater  
Habitats Trust



Ministry  
of Defence

Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire  
Wildlife Trust

Butterfly  
Conservation  
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Dr Helena Chance  
Design Historian

Floodplain  
Meadows  
Partnership



# *Progress to date*

- Setting up the project
- Initial butterfly surveys
- Developing a community directory
- Onboarding consultant team
- Planning visitor surveys
- Developing match funding ask





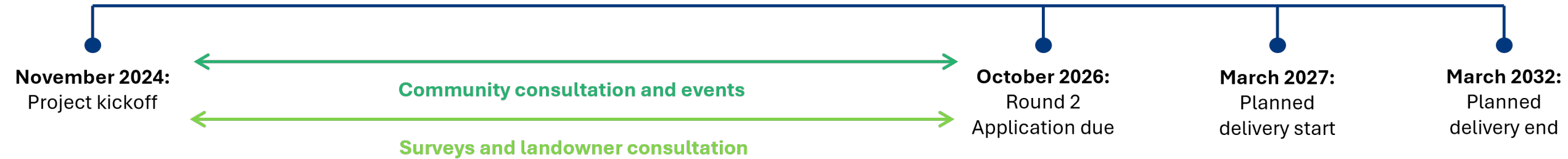
# ***Our stakeholders***

- Ray Farmer Cluster
- Local people and local community groups
- Local charities
- Buckinghamshire NEP and Oxfordshire LNP
- Environment Agency
- Natural England





# *Timeline & funding*



- Development phase funding - £500k
- Delivery phase funding - £3.6 million
- 10% match funding

## ***Next steps***

- Continued community outreach and events
- Summer hairstreak surveys
- Freshwater walkover surveys
- Visitor surveys
- Start of work on our round 2 application





Made possible with



Heritage  
Fund



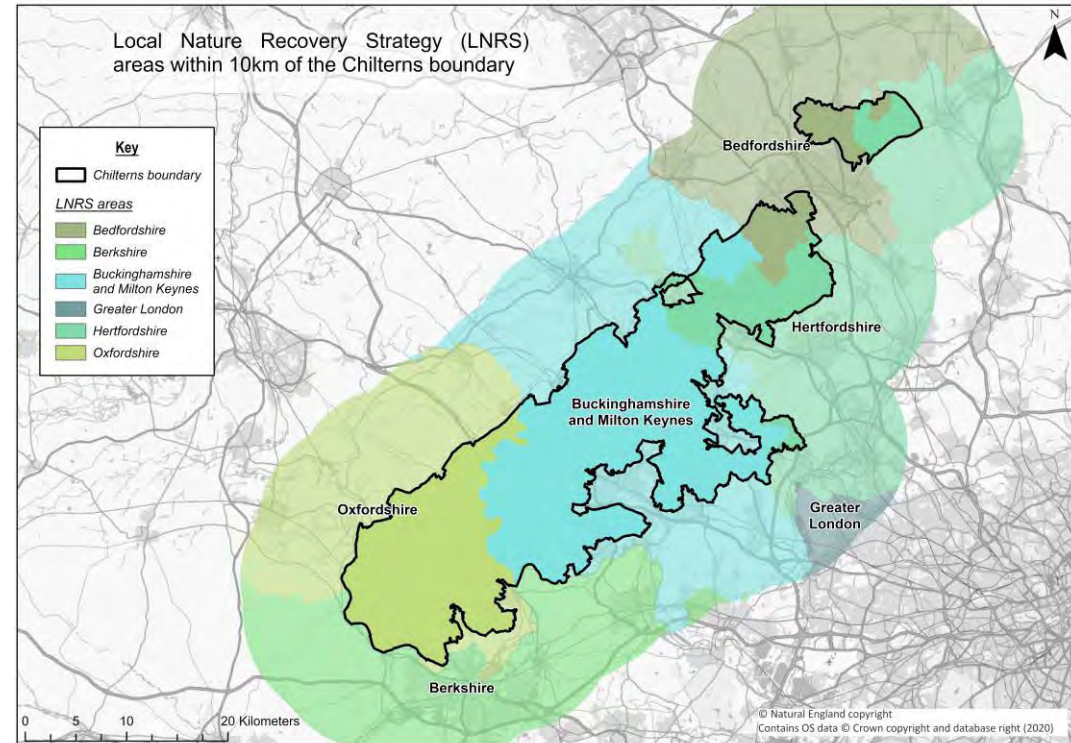
# Chilterns National Landscape: Nature Recovery Plan

Kate Heppell



# Rationale: why create a nature recovery plan?

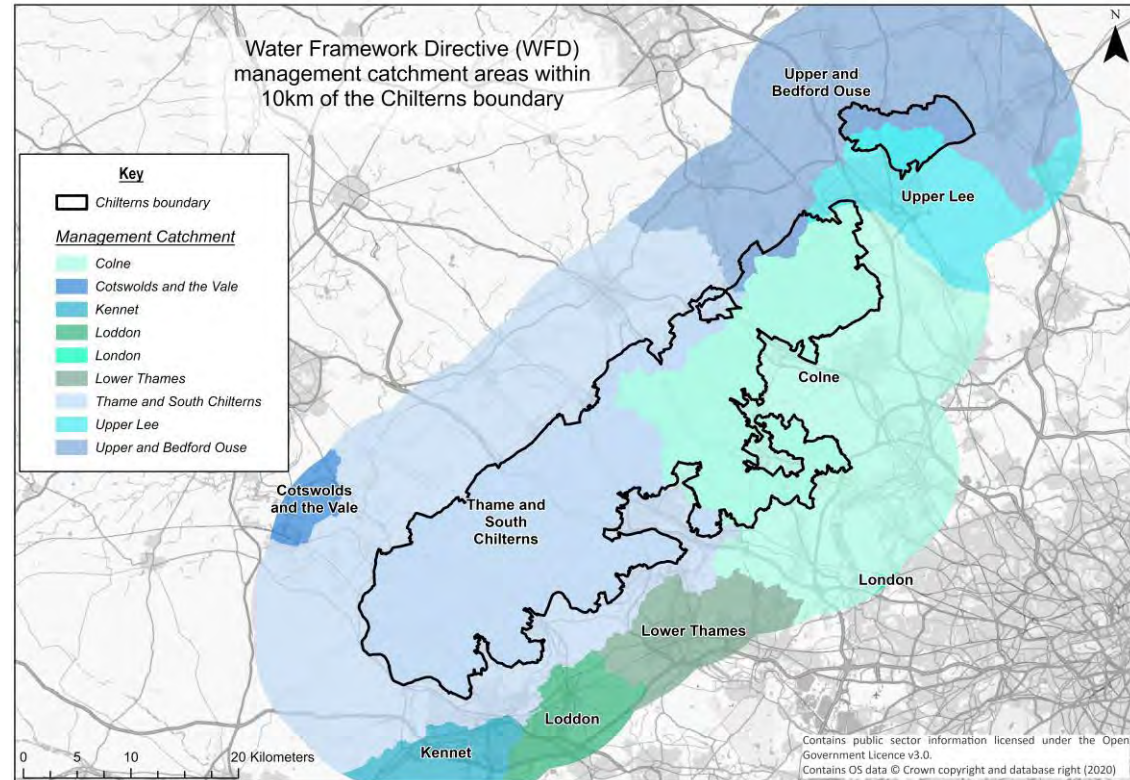
- Commitment made by National Landscapes in 2019 to produce Nature Recovery Plans (Colchester Declaration)
- Retained as good practice following statutory requirements of LNRS
- To ensure nature recovery can be coordinated across administrative boundaries (LNRS, river catchments)
- To help deliver objectives of National Landscape's statutory Management Plans





# Rationale: why create a nature recovery plan?

- Commitment made by National Landscapes in 2019 to produce Nature Recovery Plans (Colchester Declaration)
- Retained as good practice following statutory requirements of LNRS
- To ensure nature recovery could be coordinated across administrative boundaries
- To help deliver objectives of National Landscapes Management Plans



# Two key policy drivers for National Landscapes

## Defra's Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework (published Jan 2024)

- Recognises crucial role of National Landscapes in achieving positive change for nature, climate, people and place
- Targets are for the 'place' and should encourage joint working

## Global 30by30 target in Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- Defra guidance indicates that Protected Landscapes should form backbone to 30by30
- Protected Landscapes should go further than other areas to meet the pledge and make a significant contribution





# Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) & Protected Landscapes Targets Outcome Framework

EIP Goal 1  
Thriving plants and animals

- Target 1
  - Restore / create > 250,000 ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2024 (from 2022 baseline)
- Target 2
  - Bring 80% SSSI within PLs into favourable condition by 2042
- Target 3
  - 60% SSSIs have 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 Jan 2028
- Target 4
  - Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition (outside SSSIs & increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042)
- Target 5
  - Ensure at least 65-80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10 – 15% of land by 2030

EIP Goal 7  
Mitigating and adapting to climate change

- Target 6
  - Reduce net GHG emissions in PLs to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels
- Target 7
  - Restore c. 130,000 ha of peat in PLs by 2050
- Target 8
  - Increase tree canopy and woodland cover by 3% of total land area in PLs by 2050 (2022 baseline)

EIP Goal 10  
Enhancing beauty, heritage & engagement with the natural environment

- Target 9
  - Improve and promote accessibility to, and engagement with PLs for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme
- Target 10
  - Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in PLs



# Apportionment of Targets 1 and 8 for Chilterns National Landscape

## National Target for Protected Landscapes



### Target 1: Wildlife-rich habitats

Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).

## Chilterns National Landscape Target

Create 4,190 ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2030

Create 6,626 ha of wildlife-rich outside protected sites by 2042



### Target 8: Increased tree canopy and woodland cover

Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

Establish 286 ha of trees outside woodland and woodland habitat by 2030

Establish 1000 ha of trees outside woodland and woodland habitat by 2050





# Components of a resilient Nature Recovery Network for the Chilterns National Landscape showing relationship to 30by30 and PLTOF Targets 1 and 8



# Overall ambition of nature recovery plan

- Explain policy context and establish a vision for nature recovery
- Set out proportionate area-based targets for habitat creation
- Address 30x30 ambitions
- Provide information on the status of priority habitats and opportunities to improve habitat connectivity
- Influence emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies and help provide cross administrative boundary continuity
- Provide a link to existing catchment plans that are also aimed at nature recovery along river corridors and in the wider catchment area
- Signpost vulnerability of habitats and species to climate change and link to climate adaptation plan





# Structure of Nature Recovery Plan

1. Introduction
2. The Policy Framework
3. Our Vision
4. Nature in the Chilterns National Landscape (Priority Habitats & Species)
5. National Targets in relation to Chilterns National Landscape
6. The link to river catchments and their plans
7. Heritage considerations with nature recovery
8. Climate change and nature recovery
9. Connecting people and nature
10. Special Qualities of the Chilterns National Landscape
  - Woodland and Trees
  - Grassland
  - Rivers, streams and wetlands
  - Farmed land (including hedgerows, arable field margins and scrub mosaic)
  - Common land
11. Landscape-scale opportunities for Nature Recovery
12. Monitoring and evaluation of Nature Recovery in the Chilterns National Landscape
13. Next steps

# Special qualities of the Chilterns

Statement of the habitat

Description of each habitat

e.g. water-dependent habitats

Chalk streams

Wetlands

*Lowland fen*

*Floodplain grazing marsh*

*Reedbeds*

*Wet woodland*

Ponds

Heritage

*Description*

*Threats*

*Opportunities*

Priority species

Climate adaptation and sensitivity

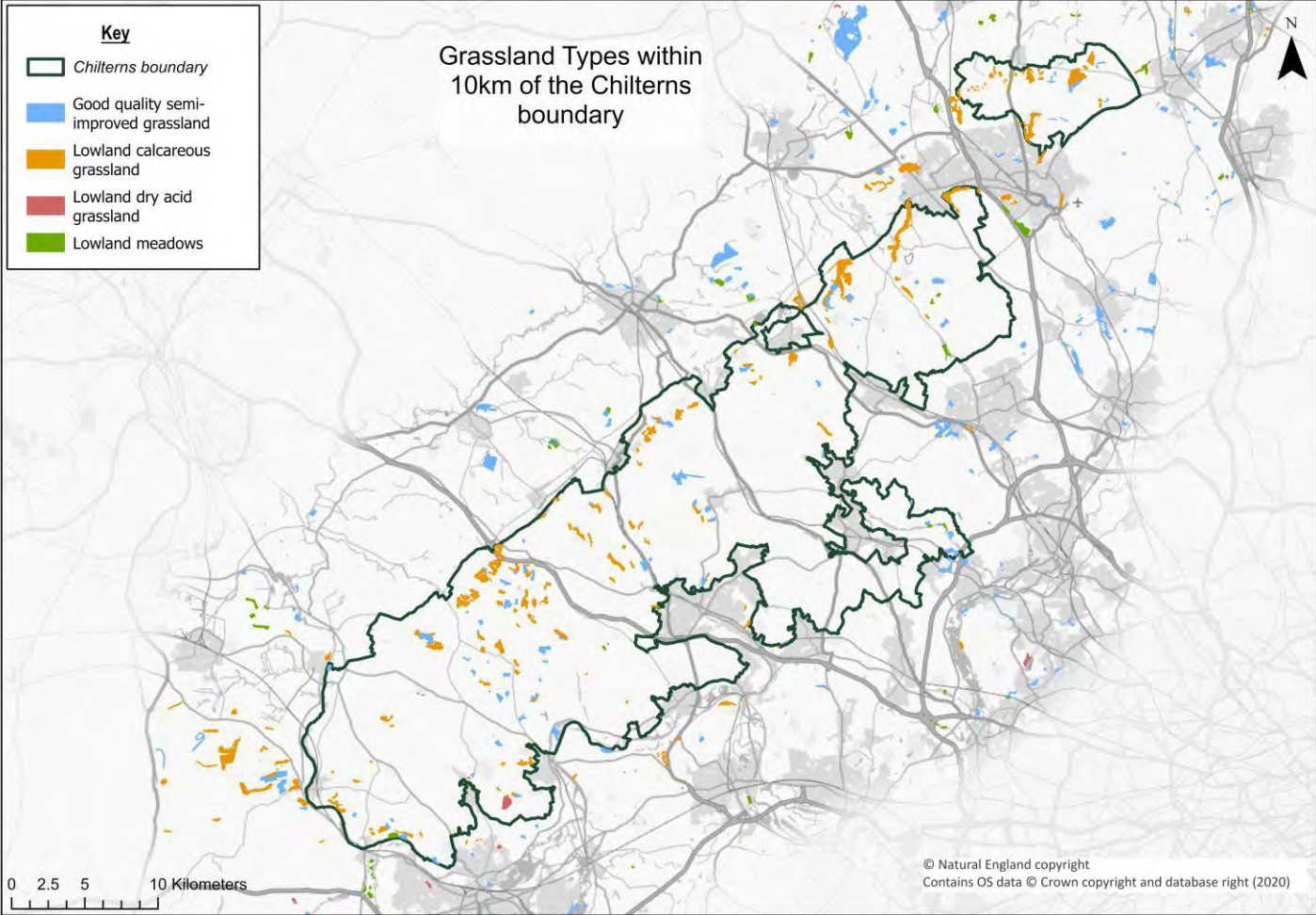
Current activity

Priorities for action





# Chalk grassland: Where is the priority habitat?





# How might better expanded and connected chalk grassland enable species to migrate in response to climate change?

