Theory and practice: farmed land

Farmland is the main land use in the Chilterns covering 60% of the National Landscape

Covers a wide array of habitats

Working with farmers and landowners to achieve nature recovery is key to any successful delivery

Farmed land contains different habitats for nature recovery depending on location in landscape. Amongst the priorities are:

- Species-rich grassland
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees
- Field margins
- Scrub mosaic habitat ('transition & edges')
- Drainage ditches and ponds
- Wetlands (especially in Thames corridor)

Chilterns is also a stronghold of nationally rare arable plants (previously considered as weeds)





Monitoring & assessment: how do we know if we are successful?

PL TOFs dataset will enable us to track nature recovery at national landscape scale but often uses proxy data Citizen Science and Remote Sensing innovations both offer opportunities for monitoring nature recovery in Chilterns National Landscape Involving people spreads the word and ambition & comes with added health-benefits











GWCT BIG FARMLAND BIRD COUNT















Old Callowdown Farm

Base mapping © Google Maps







• Positive indicator species per quadrat:

- 2020 baseline 1.75
- 2024 results 3.2



UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology



ROTHSCHILD FOUNDATION

















Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre Berkshire Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire







Saving butterflies, moths and our environment











273 volunteers recruited and onboarded

Nurturing a citizen science team 28 species identification courses run, with 122 field and 43 online sessions run by local experts. Over 4,000 volunteer hours spent learning ID skills

> 15 survey methodology courses run by the British Trust for Ornithology, Butterfly Conservation or Plantlife. 218 volunteers trained to national standards

Staff and peer support, socials and data-feedback sessions to build confidence, camaraderie and foster retention. 159 members of the WhatsApp group

113 volunteers have adopted and are surveying squares

123 volunteers supported other surveys, such as: Big Farmland Bird Count, Farm worm surveys, the Farmland reptile survey and Rapid Habitat Assessments on three chalk grassland Sites of Special Scientific Interest





