

## Oxfordshire's Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Sites are areas that are especially important for wildlife in Oxfordshire.

There are about 350 Wildlife Sites in the county, which include ancient woodland, wetlands, heathland, chalk and limestone grassland, hay meadows and pastures. Appropriate land management is often important to enable this wildlife to flourish.

Wildlife Sites have no statutory protection, but, together with legally protected areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), they form an important network of habitats for plants and animals.

This Project offers free advice and support to owners and managers of Wildlife Sites.

*For further information please contact the Project Officer at:*

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust  
The Lodge  
1 Armstrong Road  
Littlemore  
Oxford  
OX4 4XT

Tel: 01865 775476

E-mail: [erinmurton@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:erinmurton@bbowt.org.uk)

## What the Project can do for you

- **Surveys**

Free professional wildlife surveys which can provide data to inform grant applications.

- **Advice**

Free site visits to provide information on conservation management.

- **Grant applications**

Wildlife Site status may help in attracting grant aid to help with management, such as the Higher Level of Environmental Stewardship or the England Woodland Grant Scheme. The Project Officer can provide information about grant schemes, and assistance with applications.

- **Open days**

Provide an opportunity for landowners and managers to visit other Wildlife Sites, and to share their experiences of managing them.

- **Newsletters**

Provide information about conservation management, updates on grant schemes and the work of the Project.

## Identifying Local Wildlife Sites

Wildlife Sites were mostly identified from wildlife surveys carried out by English Nature and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust in the 1980s.

The Wildlife Sites Project started a programme in 2000 to re-survey all sites. Once surveys are complete, this information is assessed by the Project's selection panel against a set of standard criteria.



small tortoiseshell © BBOWT

All Wildlife Site owners are given an opportunity to comment on survey results and the decision made by the panel.

The criteria are based solely on the wildlife interest of the site and other factors are not taken into consideration. If you would like to see the criteria, please contact the Project Officer.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **What happens to information about Local Wildlife Sites?**

Surveys of Wildlife Sites are carried out by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre. The information collected is held by the Records Centre and is available to bona fide enquirers, with due regard to confidential and sensitive information.

- **Is public access affected?**

No new rights of public access are created and existing rights of way are unaffected by Local Wildlife Site status.

The Project always obtains permission from landowners before carrying out surveys.

- **How are wildlife sites affected by the planning system?**

In some districts Wildlife Sites currently appear in planning documents, such as Local Plans. New government guidance recommends that Wildlife Sites appear in Local Development Framework documents.

When considering a planning application, the planning authority will take into account the wildlife interest of a site, in accordance with local planning policy.

- **How do wildlife sites relate to existing designations?**

Wildlife Site status does not affect any existing statutory designations or restrictions on the site. It is not a precursor to any other type of designation, such as SSSI status.

**The Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project**  
*Project management and landowner advice provided by Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust; wildlife surveys provided by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre*

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre can be contacted:  
c/o The Oxfordshire Museum  
Fletcher's House  
Park Street  
Woodstock  
OX20 1SN  
Tel.: 01993 814147  
Email: [gavin.bird@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:gavin.bird@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

The Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project receives funding from:



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



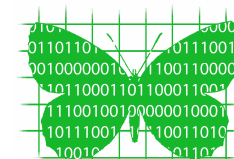
OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



# Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project

Helping to conserve Oxfordshire's  
wildlife heritage



Thames Valley  
Environmental Records Centre

A partnership of landowners, conservation  
bodies and local authorities

*Please recycle this leaflet or pass it to a colleague*