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Chimney Meadows Wetland Restoration Project

bbowt.org.uk

More nature everywhere

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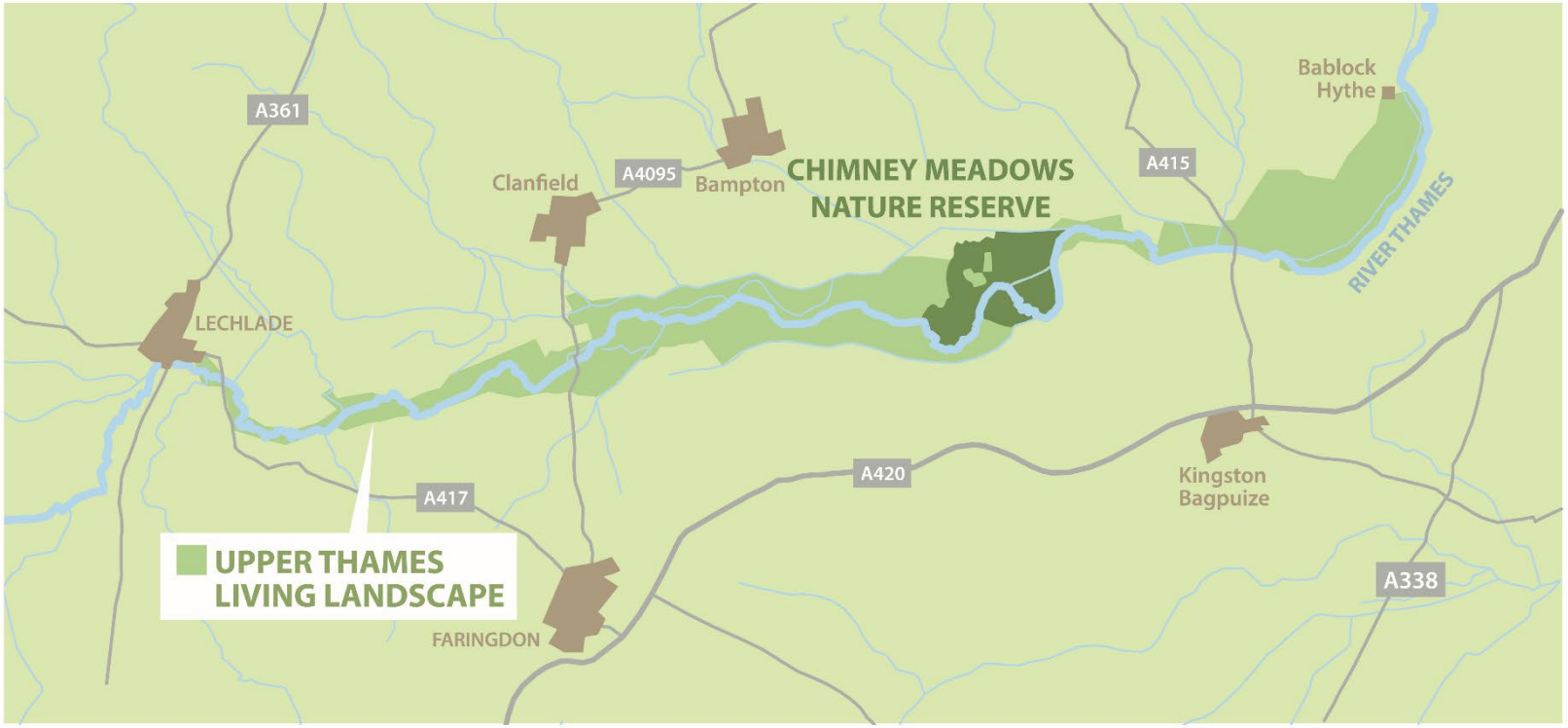
Location



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Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve

1 Barn owl

Look for these silent hunters flying over field margins at dawn and dusk. In summer, when they're feeding chicks, they can be seen during the day.

2 House martins

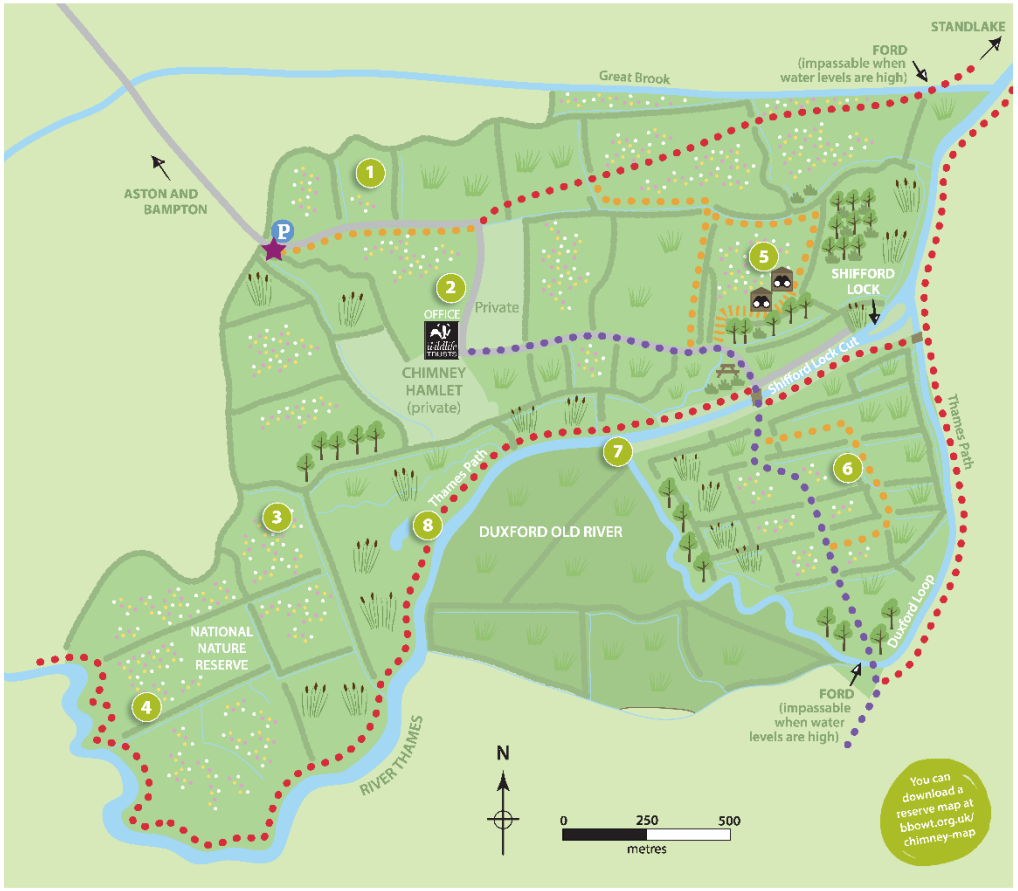
House martins perform aerobatic displays over the meadows in summer, snatching tiny insects on the wing to feed hungry chicks.

3 Lapwing

In winter, flocks of thousands of lapwing gather on the wet meadows. Listen for their "pee-wit, wit, wit-eeze, wit" call.

4 Curlew

In spring listen for the bubbling call of a curlew. They lay their eggs in the long grass hidden from predators.



5 Cowslip

The meadows are speckled with the nodding heads of thousands of delicate yellow cowslips in late April/early May.

6 Roe deer

Roe deer are most active at dawn and dusk and can often be spotted grazing in the meadows.

7 Otter

The peaceful meanders of the old river are a natural playground for otters. Spot their droppings (sprainf) near the Thames Path.

8 Banded demoiselle

Clouds of banded demoiselles flank the river bank in summer. Look for the distinctive 'fingerprint' on the males' wings.

You can help look after wildlife and livestock by keeping your dog on a short lead at all times. Much of the site is a sensitive conservation area. Please keep to the footpaths.

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Water Environment Grant

- Funded by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- Scheme overseen by DEFRA (NE and EA)
- Payments via RPA
- Approx. £2 million (£1,999,857.76)
- Grant offer 5 th December 2019

Partners

- BBOWT - Client
- Atkins – Principle Designers
- 5 Rivers – Principle Contractors
- JCTR; Eliot Simons – Project Management
- Adams Hendry – Planning
- Environment Agency – Grant/Technical Support
- Other smaller contractors – Delivery/Surveys

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Survey and Monitoring

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1. To improve opportunities for fish passage and spawning – The problem

Great Brook Ford

Shifford Lock

Shifford Weir

Duxford Ford

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1. To improve opportunities for fish passage and spawning – The problem

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1. To improve opportunities for fish passage and spawning – The problem

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1. To improve opportunities for fish passage and spawning – Delivery






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1. To improve fish passage and spawning opportunities – The solution

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1. To improve opportunities for fish passage and spawning – The outcome

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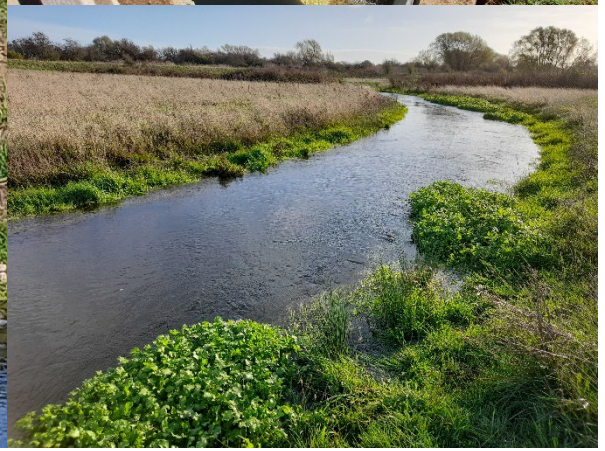

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1. To improve opportunities for fish passage and spawning – The Outcome

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1. To improve opportunities for fish passage and spawning - The Outcome

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2. To restore and create new river and floodplain habitats – The problem

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2. To restore and create new river and floodplain habitats – The Solution

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2. To restore and create new river and floodplain habitats – Delivery

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2. To restore and create new river and floodplain habitats – The Outcome

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3. To reconnect the River Thames with its floodplain – The Problem

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3. To reconnect the River Thames with its floodplain – The Solution

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3. To reconnect the River Thames with its floodplain – Delivery

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3. To reconnect the River Thames with its floodplain – The Outcome

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4. To restore native flora and fauna – The Problem

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4. To restore native flora and fauna – The Solution

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4. To restore native flora and fauna – Delivery

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4. To restore native flora and fauna – The Outcome

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5. To prevent rural diffuse pollution - The Problem

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5. To prevent rural diffuse pollution - The Solution

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5. To prevent rural diffuse pollution - Delivery





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5. To Prevent Rural Diffuse Pollution - The Outcome

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6. To maintain the SSSI floodplain meadows - The Problem

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6. To maintain the SSSI floodplain meadows - The Solution

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6. To maintain the SSSI floodplain meadows - Delivery

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6. To maintain the SSSI floodplain meadows - The Outcome

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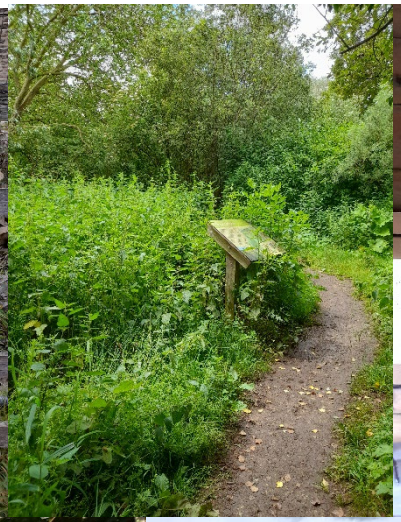
7. To improve the visitor experience – The Problem



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7. To improve the visitor experience – The Solution

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7. To improve the visitor experience – Delivery

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7. To improve the visitor experience – The Outcome

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Project Achievements

Environmental Outputs

45ha of new water dependent habitats

1.6ha wet woodland

8 scrapes

15ha improved for biodiversity

640m of drainage improvements on SSSI

1.8 km of watercourse fenced to maintain water quality

Network of restored paleochannels

1 backwater restored

45ha natural flood management

450m of water course created

30km watercourse improved for fish passage

Improved access to >2km potential spawning habitat

7 access improvements

4 new orientation boards

7 new interpretation boards

2.5ha invasive plants oontrolled

Environmental Outcomes

- Healthier, more resilient fish populations
- Larger, more resilient water vole populations
- More river and floodplain habitats
- Improved river and floodplain connectivity
- Less Himalayan balsam
- Maintained/improved water quality
- Better drainage of flood waters off SSSI meadows, maintaining favourable condition
- People informed and inspired about the natural world
- Improved access for bridleway users/site maintenance

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Thank you for Listening

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

This project was funded under the Natural England Designated Sites strand of the Water Environment Grant
For further information on the WEG programme please contact weg@naturalengland.org.uk

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
Rural Payments Agency
NATURAL ENGLAND
Environment Agency