

# Welcome to Chimney Meadows

Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire

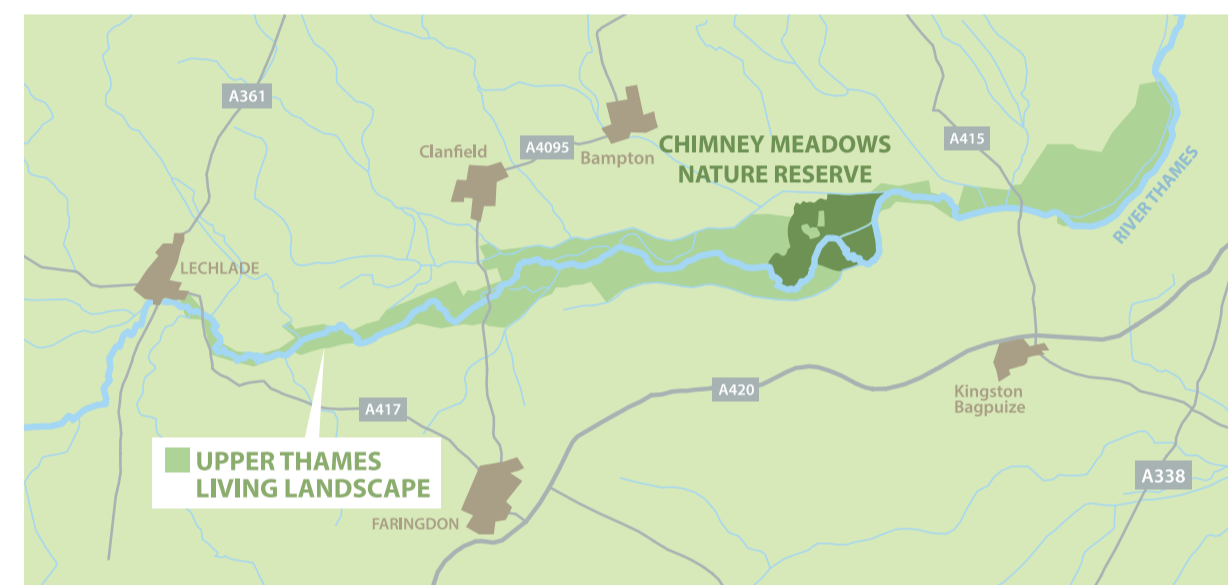


Part of the Upper Thames – a special place for people and wildlife

**An ancient landscape full of wildlife, created by an old river and shaped by centuries of farming.**

Chimney Meadows was once a commercial farm. Now, arable fields that were once densely packed with crops have been transformed into species-rich wildflower meadows, at their most glorious in June. Grazed pastures provide habitats for wading birds and wildfowl.

*Chimney Meadows lies at the heart of a living landscape.*



Many wetland habitats throughout the country have been lost, as land has been drained or built on and the wetland species which depend on those habitats have declined.

However, in the Upper Thames there are still floodplain meadows and wet grasslands that support species such as curlew and lapwing.

Farmers, landowners and conservation organisations are working together to look after the the Upper Thames, a special place for people and wildlife.



**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 aerobic 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.



**KEY:** P Car park ★ You are here ●●● Public footpath ●●● Permissive path ||||| Boardwalk ●●● Bridleway - - - - - Fence

Wetland Pasture Meadow Woodland Scrub Bird hides Picnic area Pillbox

You can download a reserve map at [bbowt.org.uk/chimney-map](http://bbowt.org.uk/chimney-map)

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.



**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 (spraint) 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.

## About us

Your local Wildlife Trust brings people and nature together to protect our environment. Our experts work with more than 1,400 volunteers to look after over 80 nature reserves, four education centres and run hundreds of amazing events. We rely on the generosity of individuals, charitable trusts and businesses. To find out more or to contribute visit [www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)

## Be part of the conversation...



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[www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)

**Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)**

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