



Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray: Outline Project Plan

This Outline Project Plan is submitted as a supporting document for the R1 development phase NLHF application for the Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray programme of landscape-scale ecological, social and cultural reconnection. It comprises an Outline Programme Plan which details the overall management of the entire RBOR programme, its aims and objectives, and the thirteen integrated project strands which make up the programme.

It is a provisional document which will evolve throughout the development phase as the current evidence base is built upon. It will develop the programme from the current RIBA Stage 1 to RIBA stage 3 equivalent: from this document incorporating strategic definition, preparation and brief, through concept design to a fully developed Project Plan, which will be submitted as part of the Area Action Plan with the R2 delivery phase NLHF application.

This document is therefore considered an outline. Due to its provisional nature, it must be read with the understanding that it is subject to change, which the RBOR Partnership will evidence and justify throughout the development process. In particular, the delivery phase activities and outcomes will be honed and refined during the development phase through a wide range of evidence gathering activities, including surveys of the landscape, engagement with communities, and expert research. Specific success criteria, outputs and outcomes for each of the project strands will be developed in the development phase.

Much of the development phase evidence gathering will involve recruiting and appointing staff, volunteers and contractors, and engaging the people who live, learn, work and seek recreation across the BOR landscape. This will be secured through programme adverts and publicity shared across the entire Partnership's networks and considerable reach.

The Outline Project Plan provides an overview which highlights key points relevant to the programme and individual project strands. It refers to other supporting documents, such as the RBOR Risk Matrix, which provide much fuller details: these should be read in conjunction.

Overall RBOR Project Management and Programme Delivery


<p>The heritage, location and scope</p>	<p>A landscape-scale area-based natural and cultural heritage programme across the defined Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray region, which straddles the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire border, encompassing species-rich grassland, floodplain meadow, woodland, hedgerows and freshwater, 24 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 83 Local Wildlife Sites, Conservation Target Areas and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, and serves diverse rural and urban communities.</p>	
<p>Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reverse habitat loss (the main concern identified by both organisations and landowners) ● Counter habitat fragmentation, degradation and reduction in connectivity ● Reduce nature disturbance from human activities and recreational pressure ● Build resilience to the effects of climate change ● Improve 11 designated river waterbodies in the Ray catchment which aren't meeting Good ecological status ● Manage factors preventing site conditions from improving ● Establish funding sources for future management 	
<p>Opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnership and collaboration across the BOR between organisations, landowners and community groups ● Engage and consult with the public and underserved urban fringe and rural communities ● Build skills, capacity and long-term sustainability ● Collectively act for habitat restoration and creation ● Increase the connectivity between habitats ● Increase the public's understanding, responsibility and custodianship of natural heritage ● Increase the public's access to natural heritage and greenspaces ● A landscape-scale coordinated approach 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sydlings Copse SSSI. Photo credit Fisher Studios.</i></p>

Aim	To build foundations with key stakeholders, landowners, land managers, and communities to enable landscape and species recovery in Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray over the long-term, for the benefit of natural heritage, wildlife and people. The programme objectives will be refined over the course of the development phase in discussion with key stakeholders, communities and Partners.	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop what is needed for R2 delivery phase NLHF application ● Develop and deliver project strands successfully ● Ensure a sustainable long-term legacy. 	
NLHF Investment Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 20% Saving Heritage ★ 30 % Protecting the Environment ★ 30% Inclusion, Access and Participation ★ 20% Organisational Sustainability 	
Development Phase Start Date	Spring 2025	
Overall Responsibility	Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray Partnership	
Operational Responsibility	RBOR Programme Lead, Community Organising and Engagement Officer, Admin & Finance Officer, All Partners BBOWT Head of Landscape Recovery and Head of Trusts and Grants.	
Target Participants	Organisations, farm businesses and landowners, volunteers, community groups across heritage, culture, nature and youth, Oxford University, schools, residential communities including underserved and disadvantaged wards, older people and younger people.	
Development Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gain permission to start from Lottery - Recruit, induct and train new staff - Develop Monitoring & Evaluation Framework - Develop Area Action Plan - Develop Interpretation Plan 	BBOWT Partners / BBOWT Partners / Consultant Partners / Consultant Partners / Consultant

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop Management and Maintenance Plan - Fundraising for delivery stage and legacy - Communication of risks and changes with Lottery 	<p style="text-align: right;">Partners /BBOWT Partners / BBOWT BBOWT</p>
Total Development Staff Costs	£342,128 (includes overheads and in-kind)	
Total Development Non-Staff Costs	£227,554	
Development Phase End Date	Spring 2027	
Bridging Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining relationships with stakeholder and Partners - Seeking additional funds - Retain Programme Lead (definite), and other RBOR staff if possible. - Memorandums of Understanding in place with all Partners for delivery phase 	<p style="text-align: right;">BBOWT Partners / BBOWT BBOWT</p>
Delivery Phase Start Date	Autumn 2027	
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring including for governance & evaluation - Engagement with stakeholders as per Area Action Plan - Engage and manage volunteers across all themes - Oversight of full programme as per plans - Ongoing scoping and raising of funds for beyond delivery timeline - Communication of risks and changes with Lottery - Final evaluation 	<p style="text-align: right;">Consultant / Partners BBOWT / Partners BBOWT / Partners BBOWT BBOWT / Partners BBOWT Consultant</p>
Total Delivery Staff Costs	£1,920,539 (includes overheads, in-kind and volunteers)	

Total Delivery Non-Staff Costs	£2,187,725	
Delivery Phase End Date	Autumn 2032	
Risk and Mitigation	<p>The key risks for programme and Partnership management are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inability to recruit staff / contractors ● Inability to raise match funding ● Partners exiting the programme <p>These will be de-risked by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wide circulation of adverts and briefs making full use of Partnership network reach, industry-standard rates of pay, realistic recruitment timescales built into the programme. ● Applications for match funding submitted to a wide range of sources, ongoing horizon-scanning of new funding opportunities, engaging promotional material, devoted staff time. ● Co-designed Partnership Agreement, regular Partnership meetings, all Partners represented on RBOR Steering Group, agreed dispute resolution process in place. Agreed process for return and redistribution of funds in place. Memorandum of Understanding to be agreed before delivery phase. <p>A full assessment of risk and mitigation for the programme has been carried out and is available in the <i>Risk Matrix</i> supporting document. The RBOR Partnership will monitor and update the <i>Risk Matrix</i> iteratively throughout the programme's lifetime, and notify NLHF of significant changes and impacts.</p>	RBOR Partnership
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added value is demonstrated across full programme - Increased participation of communities, volunteers and stakeholders in engaging with the landscape and its heritage - Communities, volunteers and stakeholders retain stewardship of the landscape - Stakeholders clear on roles and responsibilities for ongoing maintenance and agreements in place - Lessons learned and recommendations from evaluation to carry forward into future projects - True Partnership working ongoing across organisations of differing sectors 	


Theme	Growing Capacity And Sustainability	Nature Recovery At Landscape Scale	Connecting People, Nature and Heritage	Inclusive Custodianship of Greenspaces
RBOR Programme Objectives	<p>Develop connections and relationships with organisations, volunteers, farm businesses and landowners, community groups, educational establishments, diverse communities and residents of all ages across BOR.</p> <p>Involve and upskill engaged stakeholders to grow their capacity to preserve landscape and heritage at scale across BOR.</p> <p>Deploy RBOR programme of projects successfully utilising enhanced capacity.</p> <p>Ensure capacity to continue legacy work after the RBOR programme ends.</p>	<p>Work in Partnership to coordinate nature and landscape recovery action at scale in BOR, in line with local, regional and national policies for nature recovery.</p> <p>Enhance the BOR landscape for wildlife and contribute to the National Nature Recovery Network by restoring and connecting up key habitats across the landscape.</p> <p>Encourage, advise and support landowners, land managers and farmers to manage their land more effectively for nature and landscape recovery alongside commercial farming operations.</p>	<p>Explore how different communities interact with the BOR landscape and heritage.</p> <p>Co-create projects to nurture, strengthen and repair their sense of connection with their heritage and their local environment.</p> <p>Enthuse and empower a diverse range of people who live, work or study in BOR to enjoy and contribute to nature recovery in this landscape.</p>	<p>Deliver opportunities for public engagement with the landscape throughout the Green Infrastructure network.</p> <p>Support and empower communities to enhance and sustain their greenspaces.</p> <p>Reduce recreational impacts on key wildlife sites.</p> <p>Improve engagement with BOR heritage at key visitor sites within BOR.</p>
Projects	1 2	3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10	11 12 13

Project 1	Wildlife Watchers	
The heritage, location and scope	Wildlife Watchers will be conducted across the entire BOR region and welcomes participants from urban and rural areas across the landscape. It will particularly stimulate participation from diverse people in disadvantaged and underserved wards.	
Need	<p>Large expanses of land with limited data on what nature resides there, which is needed to inform restoration plans and to connect local people as well as being useful in informing future development decisions.</p> <p>Limited number of specialist surveyors in the area and as they move away or retire this knowledge gets lost. This knowledge needs to be retained to provide accurate and efficient data for point above</p> <p>Lack of diversity in those engaging with nature and getting involved with monitoring activities. There is a need to attract a diverse range of participants in the sector to help the long-term sustainability of the recording community and bring nature connection benefits to more diverse audiences.</p>	 <p><i>A Wildlife Watcher at Windsor Great Park. Photo credit Rick Mellis.</i></p>
Opportunity	<p>Rural land which is where data gaps mainly lie is predominantly in ownership of the farmer cluster who are engaged with the project and want to find out more about what their landholding has to offer and its potential. They are keen to understand this as soon as possible</p> <p>Partner organisations incl. Earthwatch Europe have identified some of the underserved communities in which this would be key to roll out</p> <p>Partner sites are available in the area on which to hold events linking specialist surveyors to the general public</p>	
Theme	Growing Capacity and Sustainability	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop connections and relationships with organisations, volunteers, farm businesses and landowners, community groups, educational establishments, diverse communities and residents of all ages across BOR. • Involve and upskill engaged stakeholders to grow their capacity to preserve landscape and heritage at scale across BOR. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deploy RBOR programme of projects successfully utilising enhanced capacity. ● Ensure capacity to continue legacy work after the RBOR programme ends.
Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organisational Sustainability 2. Inclusion, Access and Participation 3. Saving Heritage 4. Protecting the Environment
Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Earthwatch
Operational Responsibility	Earthwatch, TVERC, Community Organising and Engagement Officer
Target Participants	Disadvantaged communities within the most deprived wards across Oxfordshire and Bicester
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping of existing community groups - Engagement with identified communities - Co-producing a community-led consultation activity - Mapping the specialist surveyors across the region - Co-creating a plan to roll out citizen science techniques - Incorporating citizen science into the monitoring and evaluation plan
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Map of disadvantaged communities</p> <p>A pilot community-led consultation activity ready for delivery</p> <p>Map of specialist surveyors</p> <p>A plan to roll out citizen science techniques to entry level and more specialist volunteers</p> <p>A monitoring and evaluation plan incorporating citizen science throughout from its inception</p>

Development Phase Outcomes to inform Delivery Phase activities	<p>Relationships built with disadvantaged communities</p> <p>An understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● how they engage with nature ● how they would like to develop that further ● how they would like to be involved with monitoring their local environment <p>Insight into how citizen science can be best delivered to the participants across the delivery stage</p> <p>Identified gaps and upcoming risks of specialist surveyor capacity.</p>
Development Activity End Date	<p style="text-align: right;">Spring 2027</p>
Delivery Activity Start Date	<p style="text-align: right;">Autumn 2027</p>
Project Lead	<p>Earthwatch</p>
Operational Responsibility	<p>Earthwatch, TVERC, BBOWT, Community Organising and Engagement Officer, Volunteers</p>
Target Participants	<p>Disadvantaged communities within the most deprived wards across Oxfordshire and Bicester</p> <p>People interested in volunteering across the BOR region</p>
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit, induct and upskill entry level and specialist volunteers - Match them to themes and projects - Manage and support volunteers - Support communities to co-create community-led activities - Collate all records created throughout the projects - Underpin all projects with citizen science
Delivery Phase Outputs	<p>Upskilled volunteers</p> <p>Volunteers operating in appropriate roles</p> <p>Volunteers delivering effectively across the full programme</p>

	<p>Community designed and led activities</p> <p>Accurate records, monitoring and evaluation data</p> <p>Records shared with Environmental Records Centres</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Empowered communities self-sustaining activities</p> <p>Volunteers understand effective recording and monitoring methods</p> <p>Increased skilled volunteer pool</p> <p>Increased citizen science skills and engagement</p>
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032
Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inability to source specialist volunteers - Weather affecting outdoor events - Communities/landowners do not engage
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leverage network of wide Partnership to source experts, consultants and academics (e.g. through Oxford's Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery and networks of the LNP and NEP). Advertise opportunities early - Specific event risk assessments put in place. Event plans created with suitable indoor space/facilities where dry space is required. Where events need to be cancelled or postponed provide as much notice as possible to participants. - Continue to build on Partners' engagement work in the area and negotiate through the development stage to ensure uptake at delivery. Use a variety of methods (e.g. events/workshops and 1:1 approaches) to maximise participation and engagement.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More trained volunteers participating in recording and monitoring beyond the project lifetime - Greater diversity and inclusivity of participants with a focus on underrepresented demographics - Additional sites surveyed and recorded - Better data on rare taxonomic groups for future recording - Ongoing touchpoint provision through Partnership between two local eNGOs


Project 2	Next Gen Nature	
The heritage, location and scope	Next Gen Nature will be conducted across the entire BOR region and welcomes participants from urban and rural areas across the landscape. It will particularly stimulate participation from 13-17 year olds via schools, colleges and youth groups.	
Need	Several Partners have an ageing workforce and this can similarly be seen across the volunteers and expert surveyors involved in conservation activities across the region. The environmental sector is also evidenced to be one of the least diverse in the UK, meaning they are not mirroring the general population locally. If younger generations are not connected with the BOR landscape they will not foster the sense of custodianship that is required to ensure its important heritage and nature are preserved.	 <p data-bbox="1632 802 2063 866"><i>Habitat Condition Surveying Greenham. Photo credit C. Temple</i></p>
Opportunity	Younger generations cite the environment as one of their top priorities and Oxford has the second youngest median age of any city in the UK. Local schools and colleges in Oxford and Bicester are engaged and wish to be part of the project.	
Theme	Growing Capacity and Sustainability	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop connections and relationships with organisations, volunteers, farm businesses and landowners, community groups, educational establishments, diverse communities and residents of all ages across BOR. ● Involve and upskill engaged stakeholders to grow their capacity to preserve landscape and heritage at scale across BOR. ● Deploy RBOR programme of projects successfully utilising enhanced capacity. ● Ensure capacity to continue legacy work after the RBOR programme ends. 	
Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organisational Sustainability 2. Inclusion, Access and Participation 3. Saving Heritage 	

	4. Protecting the Environment
Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Operational Responsibility	Earthwatch, CIB Community Impact Buckinghamshire, BBOWT, Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Target Participants	13-17 year olds
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build upon existing work to identify settings where 13-17 year olds can be engaged - Engage with 13-17 year olds via events in the settings identified - Identify appropriate Partner organisations to collaborate with young people - Co-design meaningful and impactful opportunities for young people.
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Identified settings where 13-17 year olds can be engaged</p> <p>Workshops, meetings and community conversations</p> <p>Identified Partner organisations to collaborate with 13-17 year olds</p> <p>Co-designed opportunities for young people based upon the needs identified.</p>
Development Phase Outcomes	<p>An understanding of 13-17 year olds' needs and challenges to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● accessing recreation ● accessing work experience ● considering all aspects of the environmental sector as a career.
Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027

Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Operational Responsibility	Earthwatch, Community Impact Buckinghamshire, BBOWT, Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Target Participants	13-17 year olds
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot and refine the new activities - Collaborate with Partner organisations to deliver activities - Form a programme of embedded opportunities across involved organisations.
Delivery Phase Outputs	<p>Co-designed activities such as work experience and volunteering opportunities</p> <p>A programme of opportunities across organisations.</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Young people's identified needs are met</p> <p>New activities are delivered consistently</p> <p>New opportunities are embedded within organisations</p> <p>Young people are accessing new opportunities.</p>
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032
Risk	Key landowners/communities/ stakeholders do not engage and participate
Mitigation	Currently have good support built with a variety of stakeholders. Continue to build engagement work in the area and negotiate through the development stage to ensure uptake at delivery. Use a variety of methods (e.g. events/workshops and 1:1 approaches) to maximise participation and engagement. Work with Partners who have existing links to certain groups e.g. schools

Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Partnerships and working relationships established across a range of trusted intermediaries including schools, youth clubs etc. ensuring ongoing connections with young people - Young people have gained additional access to nature and real practical experience and skills - Young people understand the opportunities that environmental organisations and groups offer which may help their future careers and / or lead to volunteering or employment within Partner organisations - Organisations involved can monitor the uptake of voluntary and paid roles taken by young people who have engaged with the activities - Organisations involved offer more relevant opportunities and activities for young people, based upon the better understanding gained throughout the development and delivery stages.
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Project 3	Reviving and Reconnecting Royal Forests	
The heritage, location and scope	Reviving and Reconnecting Royal Forests will be conducted across the footprint of the ancient Bernwood hunting forest and will encompass private landholdings and nature reserves.	
Need	<p>Poor condition of woodlands mean they are not providing the benefits for biodiversity they have the potential to. Often due to lack of/poor management. Need for training and knowledge sharing of best practice as well as undertaking capital works to improve conditions. Ash dieback and deer browsing feed into this poor condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species need to be able to move across the landscape for improved genetic diversity and to adapt to threats such as climate change. Current fragmentation of ancient woodlands is a barrier to this movement. 	

<p>Opportunity</p>	<p>HS2 has large sums of money available for mitigation of its impacts on the landscape, which is directly affecting the ancient woodland areas in the North of the region.</p> <p>Engagement with the farmer cluster allows joined up landscape scale projects to take place, increasing the impact of activities and providing knowledge sharing across the area.</p>	 <p><i>Finemere volunteer event. Photo credit Wendy Tobitt.</i></p>
<p>Theme</p>	<p>Nature Recovery at Landscape Scale</p>	
<p>Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work in Partnership to coordinate nature and landscape recovery action at scale in BOR, in line with local, regional and national policies for nature recovery. ● To enhance the BOR landscape for wildlife and contribute to the National Nature Recovery Network by restoring and connecting up key habitats across the landscape. ● To encourage, advise and support landowners, land managers and farmers to manage their land more effectively for nature and landscape recovery alongside commercial farming operations. 	
<p>Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting the Environment 2. Saving Heritage 3. Inclusion, Access and Participation 4. Organisational Sustainability 	

Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Operational Responsibility	Nature & Greenspaces Officer, Programme Lead
Target Participants	Farmers and landowners, Forestry Commission
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build upon existing mapping of areas for woodland planting - Ground truth suitable areas for woodland planting - Engage farmers and landowners about connecting existing SSSI woodland - Sign up key landowners to woodland/hedgerow/scrub creation and management - Plan a programme of woodland management knowledge sharing to be delivered to local landowners
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Identified areas for woodland planting</p> <p>Plan of farms and land holdings where woodland/hedgerow/scrub creation will take place</p> <p>A programme of woodland management knowledge sharing</p>
Development Phase Outcomes	Farmers and landowners understand the importance and benefits of reconnecting woodland
Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	Nature & Greenspaces Officer

Operational Responsibility	Nature & Greenspaces Officer, Reserves Officer, BBOWT, Consultant
Target Participants	Farmers and landowners, volunteers and communities
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advice and guidance about planting woodland and new habitat - Plant woodland and new habitat - Support with applications for woodland creation grants and management plans - Coppicing, scrub planting and clearing, and felling of existing woodland - Ensuring any and all licences required are in place prior to works commencing - Cluster meetings focussed on support for coordinated deer management - Installing fencing to prevent deer browsing impact - Delivery of woodland management knowledge sharing practitioner events at key sites - Conduct condition surveys on selected sites
Delivery Phase Outputs	<p>New woodland and habitat</p> <p>Submitted applications for woodland creation grants</p> <p>Improved habitat structure of existing woodlands</p> <p>Coordinated deer management</p> <p>Installed fencing</p> <p>Woodland management knowledge sharing practitioner events</p> <p>Woodland management and maintenance plans</p> <p>Condition surveys</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Farmers and landowners understand how best to plant new woodland and habitat</p> <p>Farmers and landowners have a greater understanding of the grants available and how to obtain them</p> <p>Farmers and landowners work together to manage deer impact</p> <p>Reduced deer browsing impact allowing nature recovery</p> <p>Farmers, landowners, volunteers and communities have a greater understanding of woodland management practices</p>

	Condition of additional sites is known
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032
Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key landowners/communities/ stakeholders do not engage and participate - Contractors/consultants not available leading to inability to complete required outputs - Current volatility of costs for capital works lead to under-budgeting - Unable to recruit volunteers leading to less works taking place
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to the development phase ensure key Partners, including the farmer cluster, have signed up either through Partner agreement or letters of intent/support. Currently have good support built with a variety of stakeholders. Continue to build on engagement work in the area and negotiate through the development stage to ensure uptake at delivery. - Engage potential consultants/contractors early and advertise tendered work widely. Use Partners' contacts and networks to maximise the number of potential contractors/ consultants attracted. - Future works to be put out to competitive tender and subdivided if appropriate. There are a reasonable number of large experienced contractors in the region who should be keen to work on this project. Project change logs to be kept to track any needed changes in scope and agree these early with funders. - Provide training and travel expenses to volunteers. Advertise locally throughout the region, utilising community and Partner networks.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More woodland has appropriate management and maintenance plans in place. - More landowners are in receipt of appropriate woodland grants through open schemes. - Self-sustaining deer management clusters are operating to help control deer. - Landowners have a better understanding of positive woodland management. - Woodland across the region is better connected and / or buffered. - Existing woodland is in more favourable condition.

Project 4	Fantastic Floodplains and Freshwater	
The heritage, location and scope	Fantastic Floodplains and Freshwater will be conducted across the entire BOR region but will be predominantly focussed upon the historic floodplain meadows of the river Ray. It encompasses private landholdings and nature reserves including RSPB Otmoor.	
Need	<p>Fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>Nationally rare habitat. There is now estimated to be only around 1500Ha of species rich MG4 grassland left in the UK so protection and restoration is needed.</p> <p>Waders such as the iconic curlew and other birds who use these habitats such as skylark and corn bunting are seeing declines nationally. Need to improve habitat conditions.</p>	 <p><i>Upper Ray Meadows.</i> <i>Photo credit BBOWT.</i></p>
Opportunity	<p>Strategic importance of this region for nature’s recovery in England, particularly for the restoration of rare MG4 floodplain meadows.</p> <p>Already nodes of good quality floodplain and freshwater habitat at Otmoor and Upper Ray which can be connected through the river system to create a landscape scale wetland mosaic.</p>	
Theme	Nature Recovery at Landscape Scale	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in Partnership to coordinate nature and landscape recovery action at scale in BOR, in line with local, regional and national policies for nature recovery. • To enhance the BOR landscape for wildlife and contribute to the National Nature Recovery Network by restoring and connecting up key habitats across the landscape. 	


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage, advise and support landowners, land managers and farmers to manage their land more effectively for nature and landscape recovery alongside commercial farming operations.
Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the Environment Saving Heritage Organisational Sustainability Inclusion, Access and Participation
Development Activities Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Operational Responsibility	Floodplain Meadow Partnership, Wild Oxfordshire, BBOWT, Freshwater Habitats Trust, Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Target Participants	Farmers and landowners, volunteers
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map historic floodplain meadow habitats along the Ray - Identify curlew habitat sites utilising existing data and local knowledge - Plan curlew surveys utilising existing data and local knowledge - Conduct a desk review of land holdings to identify potential sites for pond and freshwater works - Conduct walkover surveys to ground truth potential sites for pond and freshwater works - Engage farmers about how to create and manage good wetland habitat - Identify restoration sites for green hay spreading.
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Map of historic floodplain meadow habitats</p> <p>Plan for curlew surveys</p> <p>Identified sites for freshwater works</p> <p>Identified sites for green hay spreading</p>

Development Phase Outcomes	Mapping to inform creation of floodplain meadows Mapping to inform the green hay donor scheme Landowners and farmers understand how to create and manage good wetland habitat.
Development Activities End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activities Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	Freshwater Habitats Trust
Operational Responsibility	Fantastic Floodplains & Freshwater Officer, BBOWT, Contractors, Nature & Greenspaces Officer, Freshwater Habitats Trust, Newt Conservation Partnership, Reserves Officer, Wild Oxfordshire
Target Participants	Farmers, landowners, volunteers, communities
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up green hay donor scheme and manage locally - Deliver volunteer training and activities on curlew nest finding and fencing - Capital works creating and restoring freshwater habitats - Wet woodland restoration - Advice and guidance on wetland and floodplain habitat management - Engagement around restoration of river habitat
Delivery Phase Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational green hay donor scheme Installed curlew fencing New floodplain wetland Restored headwater streams Restored fens New off-floodplain ponds

	<p>New scrape and pools</p> <p>New leaky dams</p> <p>Upskilled volunteers</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Improved outcomes for local curlew population</p> <p>Farmers, landowners and volunteers better understand wetland and floodplain habitat management</p> <p>Farmers and landowners have a greater understanding of the grants available and how to obtain them</p> <p>Farmers, landowners and volunteers and communities better understand restoration of river habitat</p>
Delivery Activities End Date	Autumn 2030
Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key landowners/communities/ stakeholders do not engage and participate - Conflicts arising over future land use decisions e.g. how this could impact current and future agricultural businesses operating in the area. - Specialist consultants and contractors needed to support the programme cannot be sourced - Current volatility of costs for capital works lead to under-budgeting - Unknown buried archaeology could be discovered during capital works
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to the development phase ensure key Partners, including the farmer cluster, have signed up either through Partner agreement or letters of intent/support. Currently have good support built with a variety of stakeholders. Continue to build on engagement work in the area and negotiate through the development stage to ensure uptake at delivery. Use a variety of methods (e.g. events/workshops and 1:1 approaches) to maximise participation and engagement. Work with Partners who have existing links to certain groups e.g. schools - Ensure key stakeholders are involved at every stage of discussion and decision-making. Take a staged approach to project delivery with the initial focus being on dialogue, engagement and consensus-based decision-making to understand the issues and broker solutions. Recent changes and increases in Countryside Stewardship payments are likely to create a more favourable and supportive landscape for the types of intervention the project will put forward within the farming community. Close monitoring of new legislative and financial frameworks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leverage network of wide Partnership to source experts, consultants and academics (e.g. through Oxford's Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery and networks of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership and Bucks & Milton Keynes Nature Environment Partnership). Advertise contracts early so any sourcing issues can be flagged and extensions granted if needed. Advertise opportunities on specialist tendering platforms. - Future works to be put out to competitive tender and subdivided if appropriate. There are a reasonable number of large experienced contractors in the region who should be keen to work on this project. Project change logs to be kept to track any needed changes in scope and agree these early with funders. - Consult county archaeologist in the development stage to determine what budget should be put aside for watching briefs and understand likelihood. Contingency budget which is proportionate to the risk included.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional floodplain meadow habitat has been created with species of local provenance. - Ongoing monitoring and management of features conducted by trained volunteers and landowners. - Additional habitat created for wading birds and other important wetland species. - New stewardship agreements in place taking advantage of the new payment rates offered for wet features / functioning floodplains. - Network of freshwater features created vital for resilience of the landscape to external threats e.g. climate change. - Landowners and communities are engaged in ongoing conversations around the importance of floodplains and freshwater, and are open to ambitious river restoration beyond the life of the project.

Project 5	Hedges and Edges	
The heritage, location and scope	Hedges and Edges will be conducted across the entire BOR region which is the centre of the rare black hairstreak butterfly's habitat in the UK. It encompasses private landholdings and nature reserves. It welcomes volunteers from urban and rural areas across the landscape.	
Need	Butterflies targeted in the region (especially black hairstreak) do not travel far between suitable habitat types so a need to link fragmented sites. White letter hairstreak declined due to Dutch elm disease and black and brown hairstreak declines thought to be linked to	


	<p>hedgerow cutting cycles. Need to plant resistant elm as hedgerow trees and adjust cutting cycles to allow for these species to expand their distribution. Hedges and edges are a much needed shelter for nature and hotspot for biodiversity in this predominantly farmed landscape, if they are properly managed. There is also a need for hedges and edges to act as buffers for the River Ray and its tributaries, improving water quality by reducing run-off.</p>	 <p><i>Brown hairstreak butterfly. Photo credit Phillip Percey.</i></p>
<p>Opportunity</p>	<p>Black hair streaks are only found in the region between Oxford and Peterborough, and the region also contains the four other hairstreak species. However, their presence is fragmented across regions. This gives the opportunity to expand suitable habitats in the hope of improving their distribution and numbers. A willing group of farmers wanting to use unproductive edges of land to improve outcomes for biodiversity. Hedges and edges provide a great engagement tool as planting and management can often be carried out by volunteers. Sites such as Otmoor and Upper Ray Meadows provide examples of well managed hedges and can be used to share knowledge and experience. There is some uncertainty about the best practices for black and brown hairstreak in particular – this gives an opportunity to see what is working and what is not in one of the areas they still colonise.</p>	
<p>Theme</p>	<p>Nature Recovery at Landscape Scale</p>	
<p>Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work in Partnership to coordinate nature and landscape recovery action at scale in BOR, in line with local, regional and national policies for nature recovery. ● To enhance the BOR landscape for wildlife and contribute to the National Nature Recovery Network by restoring and connecting up key habitats across the landscape. ● To encourage, advise and support landowners, land managers and farmers to manage their land more effectively for nature and landscape recovery alongside commercial farming operations. 	
<p>Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting the Environment 2. Saving Heritage 	

	<p>3. Inclusion, Access and Participation</p> <p>4. Organisational Sustainability</p>
Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Butterfly Conservation
Operational Responsibility	Butterfly Conservation, Wild Oxfordshire, BBOWT, Nature & Greenspaces Officer, Programme Lead
Target Participants	People interested in volunteering, farmers and landowners
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit and train volunteer surveyors for hairstreak butterflies and hedgerows - Train farmers and landowners in hairstreak species identification and habitat needs - Conduct and record surveys for hairstreaks - Provide collated data to relevant organisations - Identify land management measures for hairstreaks to be trialled - Identify areas for hedgerow, scrub and field margin restoration, creation or positive management - Plan capital works for hedgerow, scrub and field margin restoration, creation or positive management
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Competent volunteer surveyor team</p> <p>Hairstreak surveys</p> <p>Collated hairstreak survey data</p> <p>Identified land management measures of benefit to hairstreaks ready to trial</p> <p>Plan for capital works ready to implement</p>
Development Phase Outcomes	<p>Farmers and landowners understand how to identify hairstreaks and their habitat needs</p> <p>Organisations, farmers and landowners and local record centres are better informed about hairstreak habitat and condition</p>

Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	Butterfly Conservation
Operational Responsibility	Butterfly Conservation, Wild Oxfordshire, BBOWT, Nature & Greenspaces Officer, Reserves Officer
Target Participants	Farmers, landowners, upskilled volunteers, community groups
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise and guide on management of hedges and edges for different hairstreak species in response to survey data - Advise on stewardship options available to increase or improve hedge and edge habitat - Trial experimental land management techniques for hairstreaks - Organise hedge planting/gap-filling activities to create connectivity across the landscape - Deliver hedge-laying and / or coppicing and woodland ride-side scalloping to maintain habitat structure and succession - Organise volunteer work parties.
Delivery Phase Outputs	<p>Reconnected hairstreak habitats, hedges and edges</p> <p>Hedge-laying and / or coppicing and woodland ride-side scalloping</p> <p>Volunteer work parties</p> <p>Applications to stewardship schemes</p> <p>Trialled land management techniques.</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Organisations, farmers and landowners are better informed about effective land management practices for hairstreaks</p> <p>Farmers and landowners and local record centres are better informed about hairstreak habitat and condition</p> <p>Farmers and landowners are better able to apply to stewardship schemes.</p>
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032

Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key landowners/communities/ stakeholders do not engage and participate - Contractors/consultants not available leading to inability to complete required outputs - Current volatility of costs for capital works lead to under-budgeting - Unable to recruit volunteers leading to less works taking place
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to the development phase ensure key Partners, including the farmer cluster, have signed up either through Partner agreement or letters of intent/support. Currently have good support built with a variety of stakeholders. Continue to build on engagement work in the area and negotiate through development stage to ensure uptake at delivery - Engage potential consultants/contractors early and will advertise tendered work widely. Use contacts and Partner networks to maximise the number of potential contractors/ consultants - Future works to be put out to competitive tender and subdivided if appropriate. There are a reasonable number of large experienced contractors in the region who should be keen to work on this project. Project change logs to be kept to track any needed changes in scope and agree these early with funders. - Provide training and travel expenses to volunteers. Advertise locally throughout the region, utilising community and Partner networks.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved landowner and farmer understanding of the importance of hedges and edges as key habitats within the farmland habitat mosaic, and are engaged in their ongoing maintenance - Increase in stewardship options taken up to support hedges and edges - Improved public understanding and support for misunderstood management methods of hedges and edges, such as coppicing and laying which can appear damaging to the untrained eye - Increased data and understanding of hairstreak species and their preferences in relation to trialled land management practices, informing future best practice advice - Increase in hedgerow connectivity across the landscape vital for resilience to external threats e.g. climate change - Greater diversity in structure of woodland edges to provide habitat for species throughout their life cycles - Key volunteers set up to lead ongoing self sustaining work parties.


Project 6	Enhancing Local Wildlife Sites	
The heritage, location and scope	Enhancing Local Wildlife Sites will focus upon selected Local Wildlife Sites across the BOR region, including MoD Bicester Garrison. It encompasses private landholdings, nature reserves and community greenspaces. It will engage volunteers from urban and rural areas across the landscape including operational soldiers from MoD Bicester Garrison barracks.	
Need	Local Wildlife Sites do not have the same protection as designated sites such as SSSI but are often sites of vital regional importance for species or habitats. As this area crosses the	

	<p>county boundary between Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire there is a need to collate information on the condition and potential sites for restoration</p> <p>The MoD Bicester Garrison LWS has the last known record of breeding nightingales in Oxfordshire. There is a need to increase suitable habitat to ensure this species is not lost from the area</p> <p>Many LWS owners are unable to access graziers needed to maintain their site in good condition</p>	 <p><i>Upper River Ray info board. Photo credit Wendy Tobitt.</i></p>
<p>Opportunity</p>	<p>MoD Bicester Garrison signed up as Partners to the project and their Conservation Manager and Colonel at the site are fully engaged with works</p> <p>By collating information and engaging with multiple sites it is hoped to be able to have enough land to interest local graziers</p> <p>With suitable plans coordinated by the Partners, volunteers for practical works can be linked up with local landowners to provide legacy</p>	
<p>Theme</p>	<p>Nature Recovery at Landscape Scale</p>	
<p>Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work in Partnership to coordinate nature and landscape recovery action at scale in BOR, in line with local, regional and national policies for nature recovery. ● To enhance the BOR landscape for wildlife and contribute to the National Nature Recovery Network by restoring and connecting up key habitats across the landscape. ● To encourage, advise and support landowners, land managers and farmers to manage their land more effectively for nature and landscape recovery alongside commercial farming operations. 	
<p>Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting the Environment 2. Saving Heritage 3. Inclusion, Access and Participation 	

	4. Organisational Sustainability
Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Programme Lead
Operational Responsibility	BBOWT, Consultant, Programme Lead, Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Target Participants	Local Wildlife Sites, MoD Bicester Garrison
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collate latest survey details and habitat condition information for Local Wildlife Sites across the region - Use to plan condition survey sites - Identify sites and plan practical works based upon designation characteristics - Create a priority list of Local Wildlife Sites for additional survey work - Disseminate to local record centres - Produce a sensitivity analysis and map to assimilate conservation priorities for MoD Bicester Garrison, which comprises of multiple Local Wildlife Sites, to align with their operational activities
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Collated survey and habitat condition information</p> <p>A plan for condition surveys</p> <p>A plan of practical works</p> <p>A priority list of Local Wildlife Sites for additional survey work</p> <p>Priority list disseminated to local record centres</p> <p>A sensitivity analysis and map of MoD Bicester Garrison</p>
Development Phase Outcomes	<p>A holistic understanding of habitat condition across multiple Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>An understanding of the conservation priorities for MoD Bicester Garrison aligned with their operational activities</p>

Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Operational Responsibility	Nature & Greenspaces Officer, BBOWT, MoD Bicester Garrison Conservation Manager
Target Participants	Local Wildlife Sites, MoD Bicester Garrison, people interested in volunteering, local graziers
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct condition surveys on selected sites - Implement identified practical works, including capital works and those carried out by staff and volunteers - Cut and collect of meadow areas - Match local graziers with sites requiring management - Scrub management and planting for nightingales centred around MoD Bicester Garrison, where the sole remaining pair of breeding nightingales in Oxfordshire have been recorded. - Investigate the feasibility and implement, if appropriate, no-fence grazing of small sites - Development of roaming volunteer work parties for private land to improve the condition of Local Wildlife Sites
Delivery Phase Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition surveys Capital and practical works Cut and collect of meadow areas Local graziers matched with sites Scrub management and planting Works required for no-fence grazing Increased number of volunteers Upskilled volunteers Improved condition of Local Wildlife Sites


Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Improved condition knowledge and records</p> <p>Improved habitat for nightingales</p> <p>Feasibility of no-fence grazing understood</p> <p>Stakeholders have a greater understanding of how to improve the condition of Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Capacity is built to sustain the improved condition of Local Wildlife Sites long-term</p>
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032
Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contractors/consultants not available leading to inability to complete required outputs - Current volatility of costs for capital works lead to under-budgeting - Unable to recruit volunteers leading to less works taking place
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage potential consultants/contractors early and will advertise tendered work widely. Use contacts and Partner networks to maximise the number of potential contractors/ consultants - Future works to be put out to competitive tender and subdivided if appropriate. There are a reasonable number of large experienced contractors in the region who should be keen to work on this project. Project change logs to be kept to track any needed changes in scope and agree these early with funders. - Provide training and travel expenses to volunteers. Advertise locally throughout the region, utilising community and Partner networks.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved operational planning of military activities around the sensitivities of various habitats at different times of year - Volunteer groups trained and organised to assist with ongoing survey and habitat management works as identified in management plans. - A more diverse group of volunteers incorporated into new groups - Improved condition and ongoing management of Local Wildlife Sites across the regional network - Improved understanding and ownership of Local Wildlife Sites and their contribution to the regional nature recovery network amongst landowners and communities

Project 7	Urban Connections	
The heritage, location and scope	Urban Connections will be conducted across the urban edges of the BOR region, particularly Oxford and Bicester. It will particularly stimulate participation from diverse people in disadvantaged and underserved wards.	
Need	<p>A significant number of wards in Bicester and Oxford are rated as within the lower 20% of deprived areas in the UK, with more within the lowest 30%.</p> <p>Residents from these areas are known to engage less with nature and heritage, but little work has been done by the RBOR Partners to address this.</p> <p>If people don't engage with nature and heritage, they risk missing out on the health and wellbeing benefits, as well as education and recreation.</p> <p>If significant numbers of residents don't consider heritage and nature in the BOR to be important or relevant to them, it is at risk of neglect, and a lack of care and custodianship. This is a risk to the sustainability of BOR's nature and heritage.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1738 1038 1995 1099"><i>Road building. Photo credit Tony Atkin</i></p>
Opportunity	<p>To gather a sound evidence base of areas where residents are engaging little or not at all with BOR's nature and landscape.</p> <p>To engage with residents to understand their reasons and motivations, and how to create opportunities that are of interest and relevance to them.</p> <p>To build sustainable relationships with such communities and support them to engage with the BOR. To cultivate long-term solutions to engagement, participation, care and custodianship.</p>	
Theme	Connecting People, Nature and Heritage	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore how different communities interact with the BOR landscape and heritage 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-create projects to nurture, strengthen and repair their sense of connection with their heritage and their local environment. ● Enthuse and empower a diverse range of people who live, work or study in BOR to enjoy and contribute to nature recovery in this landscape.
Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusion, Access and Participation 2. Saving Heritage 3. Protecting the Environment 4. Organisational Sustainability
Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Earthwatch
Operational Responsibility	Earthwatch, BBOWT, Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Target Participants	Diverse underserved wards in Bicester and Oxford whose communities' access to nature is limited or absent
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build on existing knowledge of underserved wards - Build trust and develop relationships in their local spaces - Engage urban residents in community conversations through workshops in their local spaces - Identify appropriate Partner organisations to collaborate with communities in developing opportunities - Facilitate community-design of BOR heritage and nature connection activities - Test with communities to encourage positive outcomes for heritage, nature and people
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Identified underserved wards</p> <p>Workshops, meetings and community conversations</p>

	Identified Partner organisations Tested community-designed BOR connection activities
Development Phase Outcomes	Trusting relationships with underserved communities An understanding of the relevance of the BOR landscape to underserved communities Residents are better served with bespoke activities tailored to their needs and interests Residents have greater engagement and care for heritage and nature in the BOR region
Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	Earthwatch
Operational Responsibility	Earthwatch, BBOWT, Wild Oxfordshire, Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Target Participants	Diverse underserved wards in Bicester and Oxford whose communities' access to nature is limited or absent
Delivery Phase Activities	- Facilitate and support communities to refine and deliver community-designed activities - Empower communities to take ownership of and continue self-sustaining community-led activities
Delivery Phase Outputs	Community-designed nature, heritage and cultural activities Self-sustaining community-led and owned activities
Delivery Phase Outcomes	Empowered communities leading and sustaining their engagement with nature and heritage Improved community management of BOR
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032

Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key landowners/communities/ stakeholders do not engage and participate - Pandemic, or similar, leading to national or regional restrictions on activities - Adverse weather conditions affect ability to run outdoor events/ contractor works - Raising profile of the landscape leads to an increase in visitor numbers leading to negative impacts such as increased disturbance of wildlife, more litter and detracting from current experience of tranquillity on a site which is a key feature of current experience (e.g. Otmoor)
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to the development phase ensure key Partners, including the farmer cluster, have signed up either through Partner agreement or letters of intent/support. Currently have good support built with a variety of stakeholders. Continue to build on engagement work in the area and negotiate through development stage to ensure uptake at delivery - Disaster Recovery Plan in place to quickly be able to respond. Contact made as soon as possible with lottery to communicate suggested plans - Specific event and contract risk assessments put in place. Event plans created with suitable indoor space/facilities where dry space is required. Where events need to be cancelled or postponed provide as much notice as possible to participants. Have back up dates 'pencilled' in with contractors to ensure timetables do not slip. - During the development phase, leverage the existing knowledge of potential user groups and target audiences to ensure that the facilities and activities meet their expectations. Ensure all key stakeholders are included in the visitor experience discussions as part of the Area Action Plan. Promotion of landscape in a sensitive way, bearing in mind the risks and the benefits of people interacting with the landscape.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater participation and diversity of participants in nature connection activities - Diverse communities are better connected to the BOR landscape - Urban communities are better connected to nature through a variety of natural, heritage and culture activities reflecting their interests - Self-sustained community-led activities are ongoing in underserved urban areas - Improved and ongoing community management of urban spaces within BOR


Project 8	Community Geology and Archaeology	
The heritage, location and scope	Community Geology and Archaeology will be conducted across the entire BOR region and welcomes new and diverse specialist Partners from across the landscape, community groups and interested individuals.	
Need	<p>Important agricultural, industrial, cultural and social heritage is at risk of being lost. As development and intensive farming across the BOR region grows, evidence of its history becomes harder to find. A number of known features, including mediaeval pottery kilns, brick and tile making sites, and ridge and furrow archaeology pepper the landscape. They hold clues about historic land management, human activity, social and cultural heritage. As BOR is undesignated and fragmented, this evidence has not been cohesively studied or collated to date. Local people are at increasing risk of disconnection from their own heritage and that of the region.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1733 991 2027 1054"><i>Wheatley Windmill. Photo credit Wendy Tobitt.</i></p>
Opportunity	<p>Existing limited and disparate body of heritage work, and interested people including landowners, community groups and local residents identified during consultation work requires resources to become realised and fulfilled.</p>	
Theme	Connecting People, Nature and Heritage	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore how different communities interact with the BOR landscape and heritage ● Co-create projects to nurture, strengthen and repair their sense of connection with their heritage and their local environment. ● Enthuse and empower a diverse range of people who live, work or study in BOR to enjoy and contribute to nature recovery in this landscape. 	

Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saving Heritage 2. Inclusion, Access and Participation 3. Organisational Sustainability 4. Protecting the Environment
Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Operational Responsibility	Community Organising & Engagement Officer, BBOWT
Target Participants	Specialist Partners, heritage-based community groups, community experts, volunteers
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build upon existing research into historic management of BOR landscape, including ridge and furrow archaeology - Build upon existing research into industrial, social and cultural heritage, including pottery, clay brick and tile making - Investigate how this influenced agricultural heritage and land use - Investigate how this influenced the industrial, social and cultural history of local communities - Seek specialist Partners to enable mapping of the historic management of the BOR landscape - Potentially including investigation into historic field names providing clues to land uses throughout history - Identify and audit the existing community-led heritage information and activities within the BOR landscape
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Increased body of BOR landscape and human heritage research</p> <p>New Partnership working with heritage specialist organisations and / or groups</p> <p>Mapping of the historic management of the BOR</p> <p>An audit of community-led heritage information and activities</p>

Development Phase Outcomes	<p>An understanding of how historic agricultural and land management practices have shaped BOR</p> <p>An understanding of how historic industrial, social and cultural activities have influenced communities</p> <p>Increased capacity through Partnership working with heritage organisations and community groups</p> <p>Ability to identify gaps in knowledge and provision to be addressed in Delivery Phase</p>
Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	TBC - Ideally a specialist Partner identified in development
Operational Responsibility	Specialist Partners, Community Organising & Engagement Officer, BBOWT
Target Participants	Heritage-based community groups, community experts, volunteers
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidate the body of research about the BOR landscape - Publish the body of research about the BOR landscape - Co-create and deliver storytelling workshops/exhibitions based on research - Pilot, test and build upon new and existing workshop/exhibition/events
Delivery Phase Outputs	<p>Published consolidated body of research</p> <p>Partnership working with specialists, community experts and community groups</p> <p>Storytelling workshops / exhibitions</p> <p>Community-decided activities e.g. circular walks, audio trails, film</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Heritage is recorded and saved for current and future generations</p> <p>Heritage is accessible and relevant to diverse communities</p> <p>Increased participation in heritage saving and sharing activities</p>

	Improved community understanding of the BOR landscape that is accessible to a diverse audience
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032
Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unable to recruit specialist Partners for Community Archaeology and Geology - Raising profile of the landscape leads to an increase in visitor numbers leading to negative impacts such as increased disturbance of wildlife, more litter and detracting from current experience of tranquillity on a site which is a key feature of current experience (e.g. Otmoor)
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use all existing Partnership contacts and those in the community to ensure engagement with the widest range of potential Partners possible. Continue to work with archaeology departments in the respective council's to build up projects. If unable to secure credible Partners, steering group to refine project around what is possible with existing Partner experience, consider using consultants and communicate any changes required with Lottery - During the development phase, leverage the existing knowledge of potential user groups and target audiences to ensure that the facilities and activities meet their expectations. Ensure all key stakeholders are included in the visitor experience discussions as part of the Area Action Plan. Promotion of landscape in a sensitive way, bearing in mind the risks and the benefits of people interacting with the landscape.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater participation and diversity of participants in heritage activities - Diverse communities are better connected to the heritage of the BOR landscape - Communities across BOR are better connected to nature through a variety of creative natural, heritage and culture activities - A consolidated body of information about historical land uses across the BOR region hosted publicly online - More diverse cross-sector Partnerships

Project 9	Community Activism: Past, Present and Future
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<p>The heritage, location and scope</p>	<p>Community Activism: Past, Present and Future will focus upon activism across the entire BOR region with a particular focus upon the historic activism at Otmoor, and contemporary activism in relation to HS2 and housing development. It welcomes community groups, academics and research bodies, and local residents from urban and rural areas across the landscape.</p>	
<p>Need</p>	<p>A proud history of activism over centuries is at risk of being lost as generations pass and records degrade</p> <p>This area is under significant development pressure, so activism and pro-conservation behaviours are needed to increase across communities within BOR to mitigate its negative impact</p>	 <p><i>Habitat Condition Surveying Greenham. Photo credit C. Temple.</i></p>
<p>Opportunity</p>	<p>Collation of existing limited and disparate body of heritage work to build upon</p> <p>Interested people including landowners, community groups and local residents identified during consultation work requires resources to become realised and fulfilled</p>	
<p>Theme</p>	<p>Connecting People, Nature and Heritage</p>	
<p>Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To explore how different communities interact with the BOR landscape and heritage ● Co-create projects to nurture, strengthen and repair their sense of connection with their heritage and their local environment. ● Enthuse and empower a diverse range of people who live, work or study in BOR to enjoy and contribute to nature recovery in this landscape. 	
<p>Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusion, Access and Participation 2. Saving Heritage 3. Protecting the Environment 4. Organisational Sustainability 	


Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Dr Helena Chance
Operational Responsibility	Dr Helena Chance, Earthwatch, Community Impact Bucks, Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Target Participants	Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, Oxford University History Faculty and Oxford University Community History Hub academics, Kellogg College academics and volunteers, diverse community groups
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<p>Community Activism Past:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build on existing knowledge of community activism in the area - Conduct desk based research and a local archive search - Define the 'period of time' that will be researched - Host a workshop to co-odesign the Community Activism (Past) research framework <p>Present & Future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build on existing knowledge of communities organising themselves to manage land in their local area - Build trust and develop relationships - Engage through workshops and meetings in their local spaces - Identify appropriate Partner organisations to collaborate on developing relevant organisational opportunities - Facilitate community-led design of activities to connect and mobilise people - Test with local groups and residents
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Identified individuals, historical and other local societies</p> <p>Defined research time period limiting the scope to 5 or 6 activist events</p> <p>Workshop with academics and volunteers</p> <p>Community Activism (Past) Research Framework</p>

	<p>Identified organising communities</p> <p>Identified Partner organisations</p> <p>New Partnership working</p> <p>Tested activities to connect and mobilise people within the BOR landscape</p>
Development Phase Outcomes	<p>Increased understanding of heritage groups and activities</p> <p>Increased Partnership working across sectors</p> <p>An understanding of communities' aims and motivations</p> <p>Un understanding of what support communities need to sustain, develop and mobilise their activities towards positive outcomes for heritage, nature and people.</p>
Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Phase Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	BBOWT
Operational Responsibility	Dr Helena Chance, Earthwatch, Community Impact Bucks, New Partners, BBOWT, Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Target Participants	Volunteers, diverse community groups and residents
Delivery Phase Activities	<p>Community Activism Past:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upskill and support volunteers to conduct reliable meaningful research - Train volunteers to make research relevant for a range of audiences - Train volunteers to adapt research for inclusive public events - Co-create and deliver heritage crafts and skills workshops/exhibitions

	<p>Present & Future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roll out and refine organisational support to community groups - Deliver community-designed activities - Create bespoke training resources and programme for groups - Co-design a networking mechanism
Delivery Phase Outputs	<p>Upskilled volunteers</p> <p>A body of accessible, relevant and inclusive research</p> <p>Inclusive public events e.g. storytelling, performance, crafts workshops</p> <p>Heritage crafts and skills workshops/exhibitions e.g. basket making around Otmoor, hedgelaying</p> <p>Supported community groups e.g. to engage in planning process, familiarisation with LNRS & future policies, practical land management or group governance guidance</p> <p>Community-designed activities based upon nature, heritage and cultural interests</p> <p>A bespoke training resources & programme</p> <p>A networking mechanism</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Volunteers benefit from new experiences, skills and opportunities</p> <p>The public are better resourced and connected to BOR heritage</p> <p>Increased heritage-based volunteering, public engagement and upskilling opportunities</p> <p>Groups are equipped to sustain community led activism</p> <p>Peer to peer support and shared learning between groups, communities and individuals.</p>
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032
Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key landowners/communities/ stakeholders do not engage and participate - Unable to recruit volunteers leading to less works taking place

Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to the development phase ensure key Partners, including the farmer cluster, have signed up either through Partner agreement or letters of intent/support. Currently have good support built with a variety of stakeholders. Continue to build on engagement work in the area and negotiate through the development stage to ensure uptake at delivery. Use a variety of methods (e.g. events/workshops and 1:1 approaches) to maximise participation and engagement. Work with Partners who have existing links to certain groups e.g. schools - Provide training and travel expenses to volunteers. Advertise locally throughout the region, utilising community and Partner networks.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empowered communities take ownership of and continue self-sustaining community-led activities - A publicly accessible body of research consolidating the heritage of activism in the BOR region to illustrate its importance on social history and people living in the area today. - Greater participation and diversity of participants in pro-conservation behaviours and advocacy activities - Diverse communities across BOR are better connected to conservation through a variety of natural, heritage and culture activities - Improved and ongoing community management of local spaces within BOR - More diverse cross-sector Partnerships


Project 10	Intergenerational Oral Histories / Memories
The heritage, location and scope	Intergenerational Oral Histories / Memories will be conducted across the entire BOR region and welcomes participants of all ages from urban and rural areas across the landscape. It will particularly focus upon participation from older generations whose stories may otherwise be lost.

<p>Need</p>	<p>During consultation, local landowners and residents identified a desire to share generational histories, local knowledge and identifiers that may otherwise be lost to the passing of generations, sales and transfers of land, technology, and changes in land use, such as traditional local landmark names and histories, which are being eroded by technical designations.</p>	 <p><i>Photo credit Jon Hawkins</i></p>
<p>Opportunity</p>	<p>Collation of existing limited and disparate body of heritage work to build upon</p> <p>Interested people including landowners, community groups and local residents identified during consultation work requires resources to become realised and fulfilled</p>	
<p>Theme</p>	<p>Connecting People, Nature and Heritage</p>	
<p>Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore how different communities interact with the BOR landscape and heritage ● Co-create projects to nurture, strengthen and repair their sense of connection with their heritage and their local environment. ● Enthuse and empower a diverse range of people who live, work or study in BOR to enjoy and contribute to nature recovery in this landscape. 	
<p>Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saving Heritage 2. Inclusion, Access and Participation 3. Organisational Sustainability 4. Protecting the Environment 	
<p>Development Activity Start Date</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Spring 2027</p>	

Project Lead	Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Operational Responsibility	BBOWT, Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Target Participants	New groups, individuals and organisations, older residents, diverse communities
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and engage new and existing stakeholders interested in taking part - Create a mechanism to record stakeholders memories and experiences in the BOR landscape - Seek Partners to co-design workshops with identified audiences to elicit and record memories of BOR landscape.
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Diverse engaged participants</p> <p>A mechanism to record stakeholders memories and experiences</p> <p>New cross-sector Partnership working</p> <p>Co-designed workshops</p>
Development Phase Outcomes	Enhanced capacity to elicit and record intergenerational stories and memories
Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	Community Organising & Engagement Officer
Operational Responsibility	BBOWT, Community Organising & Engagement Officer, Community Groups, Volunteers
Target Participants	Groups, individuals and organisations, older residents, diverse communities

Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot and refine the community workshops with project stakeholders - Record and create a list of memories of BOR landscape - Co-design accessible and inclusive activities to showcase stories and memories - Highlight the use, appreciation and impact of the BOR landscape - Work with Partners to best illustrate and deliver stories to audiences - Create and deliver accessible heritage exhibitions and interpretation
Delivery Phase Outputs	<p>Community workshops A list of memories of BOR landscape Accessible and inclusive activities Accessible heritage exhibitions and interpretation</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Cultural heritage is saved for current and future generations Organisations, volunteers and communities have a greater understanding of how BOR has changed in individual lifetimes More diverse communities have opportunities to engage with and learn about local heritage</p>
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032
Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key landowners/communities/ stakeholders do not engage and participate - Unable to recruit volunteers leading to less works taking place
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to the development phase ensure key Partners, including the farmer cluster, have signed up either through Partner agreement or letters of intent/support. Currently have good support built with a variety of stakeholders. Continue to build on engagement work in the area and negotiate through the development stage to ensure uptake at delivery. Use a variety of methods (e.g. events/workshops and 1:1 approaches) to maximise participation and engagement. Work with Partners who have existing links to certain groups e.g. schools - Provide training and travel expenses to volunteers. Advertise locally throughout the region, utilising community and Partner networks.

Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Key stories and oral heritage captured and preserved for public record, and added to relevant local collections and archives. - Greater public understanding of shifting baselines and heritage and wildlife declines from ‘yesteryear to yesterday’ - A baseline of intergenerational memories of the BOR which can continue to be built upon and referred to by future generations - More diverse cross-sector Partnerships
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Project 11	Accessing the Countryside	
The heritage, location and scope	Accessing the Countryside will be conducted across the entire BOR region encompassing private landholdings, nature reserves and key sites. It focuses upon creating more inclusive access to greenspaces.	
Need	<p>The countryside is not accessible to a diverse range of demographics</p> <p>Access to good quality greenspace has been proven to promote and protect good health, both physical and mental.</p> <p>There are reduced socioeconomic-related inequalities in health when living in greener communities, so there is a need to improve access for those in disadvantaged communities in the outskirts of Oxford and Bicester as a tool in the drive to build a fairer society.</p>	 <p><i>Upper River Ray info board. Photo credit Wendy Tobitt.</i></p>
Opportunity	<p>An engaged group of farmers to implement upgrades to Rights of Way on their land e.g. replacing stiles with gates</p> <p>A network across which interpretation can be provided to the general public about the benefits of greater biodiversity and access to nature for all</p> <p>Engagement with the local communities to provide meaningful and sustainable benefits</p>	

Theme	Inclusive Custodianship of Greenspaces
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver opportunities for public engagement with the landscape throughout the Green Infrastructure network. • Support and empower communities to enhance and sustain their greenspaces. • Reduce recreational impacts on key wildlife sites. • Improve engagement with BOR heritage at key visitor sites within BOR.
Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusion, Access and Participation 2. Organisational Sustainability 3. Protecting the Environment 4. Saving Heritage
Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Operational Responsibility	Consultant, BBOWT
Target Participants	BOR Farmer Cluster, farmers and landowners, volunteers, Nature Reserves and key sites
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct green infrastructure assessment - Conduct visitor surveys at key sites - Engage with Farmer Cluster to identify sites for accessibility and interpretation upgrades on Public Rights Of Way - Plan capital works for private land - Plan capital and volunteer works to improve accessibility and interpretation at key sites and nature reserves

Development Phase Outputs	<p>Identified local transport routes, access points and public rights of way</p> <p>Identified visitor accessibility issues and experiences</p> <p>Identified sites for accessibility and interpretation upgrades</p> <p>A plan for capital works for private land</p> <p>A plan for capital and volunteer works at key sites and Nature Reserves</p>
Development Phase Outcomes	<p>A greater understanding of the green infrastructure of the BOR region</p> <p>A greater understanding of visitor behaviour and its impact</p>
Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Operational Responsibility	BBOWT, Nature & Greenspaces Officer, Contractors, Buckinghamshire Council public Rights of Way team, Reserves Officer, RSPB
Target Participants	BOR Farmer Cluster, farmers and landowners, volunteers, visitors,
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace stiles with gates on Public Rights of Way and key sites - Production and installation of interpretation and awareness raising materials for farmers to use along PROW - Plan and deliver farm engagement events - Engage schools, the public and community groups on-site at farms - Capital works to allow for new permissive rights of way / linking circular walks - Small-scale car park works to improve visitor access - Production and installation of instructional and educational interpretation signage on Nature Reserves - Path improvements and installation of benches to improve accessibility for more diverse groups on key sites

Delivery Phase Outputs	<p>Improved accessibility informed by the Visitor Surveys</p> <p>Interpretation and awareness raising materials</p> <p>Farm engagement events</p> <p>New permissive rights of way and linked circular walks</p> <p>Car park works</p> <p>Instructional and educational interpretation signage on Nature Reserves</p> <p>Path improvements and installation of benches</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Increased public awareness of good land management practices which may be misunderstood by the untrained eye</p> <p>Increased public awareness of how biodiversity links with food production</p> <p>Improved visitor access</p> <p>Increased public awareness addressing issues identified by visitor surveys</p> <p>Increased accessibility for more diverse groups informed by visitor surveys</p>
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032
Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contractors/consultants not available leading to inability to complete required outputs - Specialist consultants and contractors needed to support the programme can not be sourced - Unable to recruit volunteers leading to less works taking place - Current volatility of costs for capital works lead to under-budgeting
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage potential consultants/contractors early and advertise tendered work widely. Use contacts and Partner networks to maximise the number of potential contractors/ consultants - Leverage network of wide Partnership to source experts, consultants and academics (e.g. through Oxford's Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery and networks of the LNP and NEP). Advertise contracts early so any sourcing issues can be flagged and extensions granted if needed. Advertise opportunities on specialist tendering platforms. - Provide training and travel expenses to volunteers. Advertise locally throughout the region, utilising community and Partner networks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future works to be put out to competitive tender and subdivided if appropriate. There are a reasonable number of large experienced contractors in the region who should be keen to work on this project. Project change logs to be kept to track any needed changes in scope and agree these early with funders.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upgraded physical infrastructure and interpretation in place - Maintenance plans and ownership for new or restored physical infrastructure in place . - Increased access to underrepresented groups and more positive feedback from them - Ongoing self-sustaining engagement between farms and schools, community groups and the public

Project 12	Reducing Recreational Pressure at Key Sites	
The heritage, location and scope	Reducing Recreational Pressure at Key Sites will be conducted across key sites for nature throughout the entire BOR region. It will focus on boosting visits to local greenspace less important for nature.	
Need	<p>Recreational pressure on nature sites is having a detrimental impact on wildlife and habitats.</p> <p>There is a lack of easily accessible, usable large greenspace in the region. Planned new housing will worsen the acute lack of natural greenspace close to residences.</p>	 <p><i>Curlew. Photo credit Shutterstock.</i></p>
Opportunity	<p>This project will allow us to understand barriers to use of local greenspace and enable the communities to solve some of these</p> <p>The ability to put more staff on the ground in the region to educate people about recreational pressures and talk about this across the Partnership rather than necessarily just limiting it to one site</p>	

Theme	Inclusive Custodianship of Greenspaces
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver opportunities for public engagement with the landscape throughout the Green Infrastructure network. • Support and empower communities to enhance and sustain their greenspaces. • Reduce recreational impacts on key wildlife sites. • Improve engagement with BOR heritage at key visitor sites within BOR.
Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting the Environment 2. Saving Heritage 3. Organisational Sustainability 4. Inclusion, Access and Participation
Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Programme Lead
Operational Responsibility	Programme Lead, BBOWT, RSPB, Wild Oxfordshire, Consultant
Target Participants	Visitors, young people
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitor surveys at key sites - Plan sites to be targeted for engagement with visitors - Work with Partner eNGOs to develop a joint internship scheme
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Identified reasons for visits and pressure points</p> <p>A plan of target sites for visitor engagement about site pressure</p>

	A joint internship scheme encompassing social and practical aspects of working in the countryside
Development Phase Outcomes	A greater understanding of visitor behaviour A greater understanding of site pressures Improved opportunities for people to access environmental career opportunities
Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027
Project Lead	Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Operational Responsibility	BBOWT, Nature & Greenspaces Officer, Contractors, RSPB, Wild Oxfordshire, Reserves Officer, Interns
Target Participants	Visitors, Individuals interested in working in the environment sector
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of materials and interpretation - Recruitment and implementation of new roles - On-site engagement and education with visitors - Design and conduct guided walks
Delivery Phase Outputs	Materials and interpretation about important sites, habitats and species, and the impact of recreational disturbance On-site engagement with visitors and education about their impact on the land Guided walks to raise awareness of what makes nature sites special and how to minimise negative impact
Delivery Phase Outcomes	Increased visitor awareness about the impact they have on the land e.g. dog walking at nature sites, informed by visitor surveys

	<p>Increased visitor awareness of what makes nature sites special and how to minimise negative impact, informed by visitor surveys</p> <p>Improved visitor behaviour</p> <p>Reduced visitor impact</p>
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032
Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising profile of the landscape leads to an increase in visitor numbers leading to negative impacts such as increased disturbance of wildlife, more litter and detracting from current experience of tranquillity on a site which is a key feature of current experience (e.g. Otmoor) - Adverse weather conditions affect ability to run outdoor events/ contractor works
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the development phase, leverage the existing knowledge of potential user groups and target audiences to ensure that the facilities and activities meet their expectations. Ensure all key stakeholders are included in the visitor experience discussions as part of the Area Action Plan. Promotion of landscape in a sensitive way, bearing in mind the risks and the benefits of people interacting with the landscape. - Specific event and contract risk assessments put in place. Event plans created with suitable indoor space/facilities where dry space is required. Where events need to be cancelled or postponed provide as much notice as possible to participants. Have back up dates 'pencilled' in with contractors to ensure timetables do not slip.
Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater public awareness of the importance of wildlife and its needs, and the impact visitors can have at key sites - Interpretation materials widely distributed to communities highlighting different greenspaces for their most appropriate recreational uses - Upskilled staff and wider opportunities available to people to gain a new and innovative internship

Project 13

Community Custodianship of Greenspaces

The heritage, location and scope

Community Custodianship of Greenspaces will be conducted across greenspaces close to residential areas throughout the entire BOR region, in both urban and rural locations. It will particularly stimulate participation from diverse people who aren't engaged and connected with nature on their doorstep.

Need

To reduce carbon emissions from travel, and damage done to sites important for wildlife by inappropriate use.
To connect people to heritage and nature.
No large accessible greenspace identified in the BOR area.



Hedgelaying. Photo credit BBOWT.

Opportunity

Connect and promote greenspaces, increase engagement and custodianship of communities and their local greenspaces.
Improve nature on residents' doorsteps to give them a better sense of connection with the outdoors and to reduce the need to 'visit' nature.

Theme

Inclusive Custodianship of Greenspaces

Objectives

- Deliver opportunities for public engagement with the landscape throughout the Green Infrastructure network.
- Support and empower communities to enhance and sustain their greenspaces.
- Reduce recreational impacts on key wildlife sites.
- Improve engagement with BOR heritage at key visitor sites within BOR.

Prioritised NLHF Investment Principles

1. Inclusion, Access and Participation
2. Organisational Sustainability
3. Protecting the Environment

	4. Saving Heritage
Development Activity Start Date	Spring 2025
Project Lead	Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Operational Responsibility	Nature & Greenspaces Officer, Community Organising & Engagement Officer, Consultant
Target Participants	Parish councils and community boards, diverse local communities and residents
Development Phase Activities: growing evidence to inform the Delivery Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build upon existing knowledge identify local greenspaces - Build upon existing relationships with the responsible parish councils and community boards - Co-design and conduct a survey about residents' perceptions of heritage, nature, accessibility and usability of greenspaces - Co-design sustainable local projects
Development Phase Outputs	<p>Identified greenspaces</p> <p>Relationships with responsible bodies</p> <p>Residents' survey results</p> <p>Co-designed local projects to address barriers and increase usability and connection</p>
Development Phase Outcomes	<p>New and improved relationships with parish councils and community boards</p> <p>A greater understanding of management, plans and ongoing funding streams for greenspaces</p> <p>A greater understanding of common barriers and potential solutions to greenspaces being used by local communities</p>
Development Activity End Date	Spring 2027
Delivery Activity Start Date	Autumn 2027

Project Lead	Nature & Greenspaces Officer
Operational Responsibility	Nature & Greenspaces Officer, Community Organising & Engagement Officer, Community Groups, Volunteers, Parish councils and community boards
Target Participants	Diverse local communities and residents
Delivery Phase Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate community-led delivery of projects - Include education, awareness raising and interpretation within projects - Support interested individuals to set up or join local delivery groups - Provide advice on governance - Support groups to connect with each other - Facilitate relationships and agreements between councils and community-led projects
Delivery Phase Outputs	<p>Projects to improve usability and connection of greenspaces, e.g. organising a litter campaign, 'adopt a patch', planting trees or hedgerows, interpretation of local heritage</p> <p>Education, awareness raising and interpretation based upon survey findings</p> <p>Interested individuals supported to set up or join local delivery groups</p> <p>Groups advised on governance</p> <p>Groups connected with each other for shared benefit</p> <p>A network of valued greenspaces across the BOR</p> <p>Agreements between councils and community-led projects</p>
Delivery Phase Outcomes	<p>Increased participation and understanding of diverse communities</p> <p>Communities understand how to use greenspaces more appropriately to their characteristics</p> <p>Increased custodianship of greenspaces</p> <p>Sustainable outcomes through relationships between councils and community-led projects</p>
Delivery Activity End Date	Autumn 2032

<p>Risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising profile of the landscape leads to an increase in visitor numbers leading to negative impacts such as increased disturbance of wildlife, more litter and detracting from current experience of tranquillity on a site which is a key feature of current experience (e.g. Otmoor) - Key landowners/communities/ stakeholders do not engage and participate
<p>Mitigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the development phase, leverage the existing knowledge of potential user groups and target audiences to ensure that the facilities and activities meet their expectations. Ensure all key stakeholders are included in the visitor experience discussions as part of the Area Action Plan. Promotion of landscape in a sensitive way, bearing in mind the risks and the benefits of people interacting with the landscape. - Prior to the development phase ensure key Partners, including the farmer cluster, have signed up either through Partner agreement or letters of intent/support. Currently have good support built with a variety of stakeholders. Continue to build on engagement work in the area and negotiate through development stage to ensure uptake at delivery
<p>Legacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved usability of local greenspace for recreation by communities - Better connectivity of greenspaces for people and wildlife - Improved knowledge and skills of communities to maintain and manage a range of greenspaces for the benefit of people, heritage and wildlife long-term. - May lead to reduced travel to specialist heritage and nature sites further into the BOR landscape which have limited scope for increased visitor numbers