

Oxford Meadows Case Study, update 2009

Oxford Meadows

- In 2004 six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) north west of Oxford were designated as Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Five of the sites are traditional hay meadows –
- Yarnton Mead
- Pixey Mead
- Oxey Mead
- Cassington Meadows
- Wolvercote Meadows
- The sixth site, Port Meadow, is traditionally grazed

Oxford Meadows problems

- Owned by 5 different owners including two Oxford Colleges who use land agents to manage their land
- Not all fields were accessible or suitably fenced for grazing animals
- All were in existing agri-environment schemes with different time frames and different management advice!

Oxford Meadows solutions

All land to go into Higher Level Scheme

IF

Natural England and Landowners could be convinced

Were they?

Yes . After 9 months hard work and negotiation by Biodiversity Project Manager with partners.

Why did it work?

A process, partnership and a person

The CTA process of looking for the best spots in the county identified this area as a CTA. This focussed the attention of the partnership. The Biodiversity Project Manager made it happen by setting up meetings with landowners and partners and negotiating with Natural England.