

The Ock Catchment Partnership (OCP)

Terms of Reference Updated 13 April 2023

1. Remit and Status:

- 1.1 The Ock Catchment Partnership (OCP) aims to bring together relevant partners to work together for the planning and delivery of activities and projects that:
 - improve water quality
 - uplift biodiversity by creating, restoring and enhancing freshwater habitats;
 - reduce flood risks with a specific focus on Natural Flood Management; and
 - protect water resources and promotes sustainable use.
- 1.2 The Water Framework Directive, Environment Act 2021 and other legislation are key drivers, with activity focused around feeding into and influencing the Environment Agency's "River Basin Management Plan" through a 'Catchment Planning' approach, as well as supporting the delivery of the 25-year plan for the Environment and Biodiversity 2020.
- 1.3 The OCP is unincorporated and is not a legal entity and cannot hold or expend funds itself.

2. The Ock Catchment Area:

- 2.1 The OCP will take an interest over the whole catchment including all tributary streams and other small waters, including springs, ponds, ditches and wetlands. The Ock Catchment area is shown in Appendix 1.

3. Objectives of the OCP

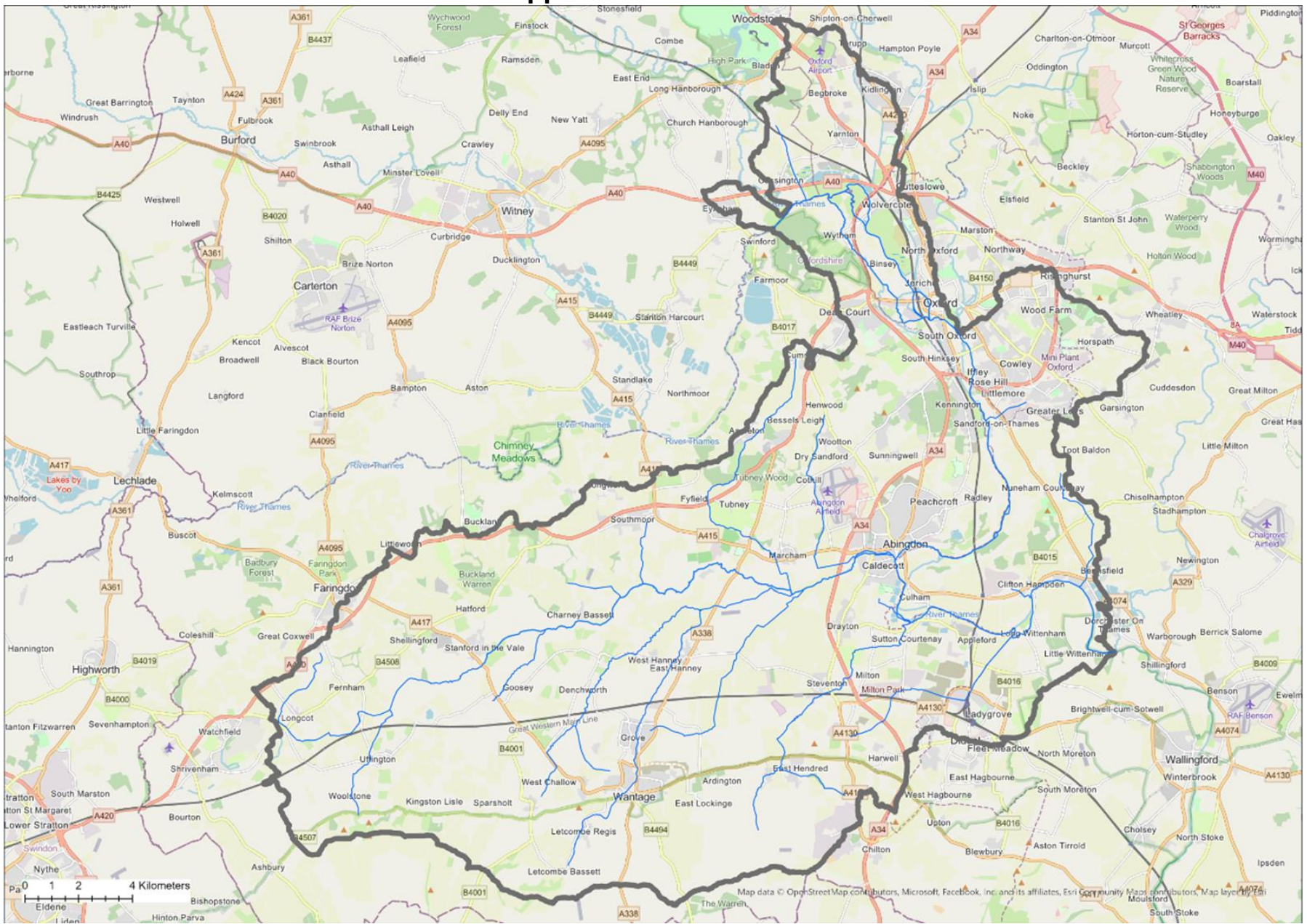
- 3.1 To work collaboratively on the production of a Catchment Plan and to support the securing of resources for its delivery. The Catchment Plan will provide a direction on key issues and opportunities to improve the whole freshwater environment in line with WFD objectives and other UK environmental and nature legislations.
- 3.2 To champion key projects with key decision makers and funders.

4. Membership, Structure and Meetings

- 4.1 Membership of the OCP (Full Partnership) will be open to any organisation or group that has an interest in the remit outlined in (1.1) above, either across the whole of the Catchment or part of it. Membership as at April 2023 is summarised in Appendix .
- 4.2 Organisations wishing to join the OCP will need to contact the Catchment Partnership Host, stating their role and reasons for wishing to join.

- 4.3 An organisation may terminate its membership with immediate effect by applying in writing to the Catchment Partnership Host.
- 4.4 The OCP will review its membership annually and may co-opt new members.
- 4.5 The OCP may invite other organisations or individuals to join as members; or to attend specific meetings in response to a specific item or technical need.
- 4.6 The activities of the OCP will be overseen by the Catchment Partnership Host which is currently Freshwater Habitats Trust. Other working groups or subgroups, with fixed or open timescales, may be set up at the discretion of the Catchment Partnership Host.
- 4.7 The Catchment Partnership Host will:
- carry out the decisions of the OCP;
 - oversee business between OCP meetings;
 - draw up programmes and agendas for OCP meetings;
 - consider options, develop ideas and proposals and make recommendations on the work of the OCP;
 - report back to the OCP on its activities; and
 - Communicate the work of the OCP to other stakeholders and the public as relevant, using appropriate communication channels including social media.
- 4.8 The Catchment Partnership Host will have the ability to meet and drive activity forward outside of OCP meetings.
- 4.10 OCP meetings will be chaired by a staff member of the Catchment Partnership Host.
- 4.11 Decision making will be made by consensus.
- 4.12 The Catchment Partnership Host will have the power to make decisions on behalf of the OCP. Normal practice will be for the Catchment Partnership Host to propose such decisions to the next OCP meeting for ratification. In instances where timescales do not allow discussion with / agreement by the OCP, a record of the decision and the process by which it was reached will be provided to the OCP.
- 4.13 The Catchment Partnership Host will organise meetings, distributing papers, taking minutes and co-ordinating reporting activities.
- 4.14 The Catchment Host will lead on the production of the Catchment Plan.
- 4.15 The Catchment Partnership Host will also act as 'Accountable Body' regarding any funds received or distributed.
- 4.16 The OCP will meet quarterly and seek to avoid duplication with existing structures and partnerships, working as collaboratively as appropriate.

Appendix 1: Ock Catchment



Appendix 2: OCP Membership (April 2023)

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Centre for Sustainable Healthcare
Cherwell District Council
Chilterns AONB
Community First Oxfordshire
Drayton Parish Council
Earthwatch
Environment Agency
Flood Network
Freshwater Habitats Trust
Friends of Lye Valley
Friends of Radley Lakes
Hill End Centre
HT Farm Consulting
Kingston Lisle and Fawler Parish Council
Letcombe Brook Project
Longmead County Wildlife Site
Natural England
Nicholsons GB
Oxfordshire Amphibian and Reptile Group
Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Oxford Instruments
Oxford Preservation Trust
River Thame Conservation Trust
Sandford Parish Council
Shotover Wildlife
South Oxfordshire District Council
Steventon Parish Council
Thames Water
Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment
University of Oxford (Estates)
University of Oxford (Research)
University of Oxford (Wytham Woods)
Vale of White Horse District Council
Wild Oxfordshire
Wolvercote Commoners'