

OCFC

Ock Catchment
Farmer Cluster



29 February 2024: Farming and Lowland Curlews

With visit to Poplars Farm, Charney Bassett

The focus of this [OCFC](#) event will be on Curlews and Breeding Waders, key priorities for Countryside Stewardship in the Ock. We will meet at [Charney Manor](#) for lunch, followed by updates on the Landscape Recovery Project, upcoming events, the environmental baseline programme and a talk on the Curlew Recovery Project and habitat creation. We will then stretch our legs with a walk and talk at [Poplars Farm](#) where OCFC member Harry Bowler will show us scrapes created by the Freshwater Water Habitats Trust's [Ock Arable Project](#).

Programme

12 noon Two-course lunch & networking, [Charney Manor](#), Charney Basset, OX12 0EJ
Lunch will be in the dining room, the meeting is in the Barn

12.50pm Welcome *Tom Allen-Stevens, OCFC Chair*

12.55pm OCFC Update *Adam Bows, OCFC Facilitator, Freshwater Habitats Trust*

- Landscape Recovery Project
- Event and Training programme – farm carbon toolkit & soil sampling
- Environmental baselining programme – water quality testing & plant surveys (*including distributing Water Quality Testing Kits*)

1.15pm Curlew Recovery Project *Mike Pollard, Freelance Curlew Expert*

This exciting project which brings together farmers and volunteer fieldworkers to find and protect Curlew nests across the Upper Thames and increase their breeding success. Find out more about what Curlew need, what is happening on farms in the Ock and how to get involved

1.45pm Creating habitat for Curlew and Wading birds *Adam Bows*

Adam will talk through the process of creating on-farm habitat for these declining birds using a rotary ditcher and potential funding options for delivering more of these across the Ock

2.15pm Local Nature Recovery Strategy *Beccy Micklem, Team Leader – Biodiversity, Oxfordshire County Council*

Update on the developing LNRS and what it means for the farming community

2.25pm Break tea & coffee

2.45pm Visit to Poplars Farm Scrapes – Walk & Talk *Harry Bowler, OCFC Farmer*

Harry will show us the scrapes created in September 2023 and talk about the process from a landowner perspective and how they fit around his farming operations.

4.00pm Close

About the OCFC

We are a group of farmers working together to access agri-environmental funding and share knowledge and expertise in order to improve the nature and ecosystem services such as clean water, carbon sequestered and fertile soil on our land. It is led by farmers for farmers, facilitated by Freshwater Habitats Trust.