

A talk by Jeremy Biggs of the Freshwater Habitats Trust

Oxford and the Thames: a national hotspot for freshwater wildlife

Can the new flood channel help protect and restore what makes Oxford so special for freshwater wildlife?

In this talk we'll look at what makes the Oxford area a national hotspot for freshwater wildlife, what problems freshwaters in the area face and what the solutions are. We'll look at what the impact of the new flood channel could be and how it could help reverse the century-long decline in the areas freshwaters.

Ponds, lakes, rivers and wetlands around Oxford still support an extraordinary variety of freshwater plants and animals. But the area is on a knife edge and many of the regions once clean, sparkling and unpolluted waters have become damaged and degraded so that nationally endangered freshwater and wetland species are still declining and disappearing from the area.

But there is hope: we have an exceptional range of people, projects and skills in the area which are helping at least to slow, and maybe turn, the super-tanker that is the long-term decline and loss of freshwater wildlife. And work to alleviate flooding in Oxford, particularly the new flood channel, could help protect the freshwater wildlife of this nationally significant area - and become a test bed for demonstrating new ways of integrating flood defence and the protection of freshwater biodiversity.

Venue: South Hinksey Village Hall, OX1 5AS at 2 pm on Wednesday 29 June 2016.

The talk is free for anyone to attend but space is limited so to book your seat please drop an email to info@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk to ensure there is a space available.

