



TOWNEND FIELD

Prospectus

*A unique opportunity to
bring Townend Field into
Community ownership*



An FCA registered Charitable Community Benefit Society - number 9441
Registered address: Post Office, Main St, Great Ouseburn, North Yorkshire YO26 9RG



Contact Graeme:
07811 213703



uoct.org.uk



Upper Ouse
Conservation Trust



[upperouse_
conservationtrust](https://www.instagram.com/upperouse_conservationtrust)



Introducing UOCT

We are pleased to present the prospectus for the Upper Ouse Conservation Trust (UOCT), an FCA registered Charitable Community Benefit Society, created to take advantage of the unique opportunity to purchase a very special tract of local land, known as Townend Field. Our aims are to protect the character of the landscape, provide the school with a playing field and give access to the community, whilst protecting local wildlife and enhancing bio-diversity.

Through the structure of a Community Benefit Society (CBS) which offers collective ownership and the same tax benefits for donors as a charity, we invite donations and UOCT membership to support the purchase and long-term stewardship of this land as a nature reserve.

Funds must be raised by 28th February 2025.



View towards the village primary school from the bottom field.

Objectives of the scheme:

- **Establishing a Nature Reserve:** Safeguard the land as a sanctuary for native wildlife, enhancing biodiversity and contributing to local nature recovery.
- **Community Engagement:** Create a lasting benefit for the local community through permissive access and active participation in positive action for the local environment.
- **Educational Access:** Facilitate use of Townend Field by Great Ouseburn Primary School, promoting health, environmental awareness and nature connection.
- **Protect Landscape Character:** The views the land affords are a significant feature of the village and are specifically mentioned in the village 'Conservation Area Character Appraisal.'



About Townend Field

Comprising 20 acres of diverse natural habitats including woodland, wetlands, meadows, and streams; Townend Field is home to a rich variety of native wildlife.

The land is located alongside the road and footpath between the two villages of Great and Little Ouseburn, offering the opportunity to integrate the reserve into the daily lives of local residents, pupils and visitors.



Field boundary, showing a suggested route of a permissive footpath within the land.

Key Features

- Prominent location
- Diverse wetland habitats including wet meadow, reed beds, bog and marsh, running and still water, part designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- Several mature and veteran native trees.
- Much of the land is 'unimproved', having had no use of chemical fertilisers in living memory.
- Home to UK red list declining bird species such as Spotted Flycatcher, Grasshopper Warbler, Tree Pipit, and Curlew (Birds of Conservation Concern 5).
- History tells a story of village life.



OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL OUTCOMES



Establish a Nature Reserve

Safeguard the land as a sanctuary for native wildlife, enhancing biodiversity and contributing to local nature recovery.

Continue to farm the land.

Conduct surveys to improve knowledge and measure impact.

Create an environmental management plan to set goals and guide management.

Adopt sustainable land management practices to improve and diversify habitats.

Educational Access

Facilitate use of Town End Field by Great Ouseburn School, promoting health, environmental awareness and nature connection.

Approximately 0.5 acre will be set aside solely for use by the school as a playing field as well as access to the nature reserve.

Pupils will have space to play and learn in a natural environment.

Opportunity to explore a variety of habitats.

Participate in hands-on activities such as tree planting.

Learn about the environment and sustainability.



Protect Landscape Character

The views the land affords are a significant feature of the village and are specifically mentioned in the village 'Conservation Area Character Appraisal'.

UOCT to manage the land in perpetuity as a nature reserve.

Maintain the land as 'green' space.

Gather a history of Town End Field to inform management and engage people.

Strengthen community links with local heritage and natural history.





Community Engagement

Create a lasting benefit for the local community through permissive access and participation in positive action for nature.

A permissive footpath will be created to enable people to experience and enjoy the nature reserve.

Opportunities for people to get involved through volunteering to help manage and maintain the land, fundraising and events, surveying etc

Updates on progress and celebrating milestones/achievements. Strengthen community sense of place and connection to nature.

Outline Plan to Achieve Objectives

- Secure funding to make an offer and complete the purchase of the land – **Deadline 28th February 2025.**
- Ensure financial sustainability for UOCT and Town End Field (eg. Land rent, government subsidies, green finance etc).
- Identify conservation objectives through management plan.
- Encourage and grow community participation in all aspects of UOCT.
- Fundraising to deliver agreed outcomes. (Eg. donations, crowdfunding and grants).
- Develop mutually beneficial relationships with local businesses, schools and environmental organisations.



Townend Field looking towards Great Ouseburn c. 1950.



Children from Great Ouseburn Primary School sitting beneath the oak tree, Townend Field, in 1938.





How you can Help



"Hello. I'm Judi Dench and I wondered if you would join me in doing something for the Upper Ouse Conservation Trust. They're trying to save 20 acres...they contain woodland, a stream, a football pitch for the school as well as an old Oak and of course a mass of wildlife. Will you do what you can and send them anything you can; it's quite vital. We need to be quick about it. Please join me if you can..."

Dame Judi Dench, speaking on a special video she recorded just for the UOCT. See the whole video on our social media pages.

1. Donate AND Become Member

You can do either in isolation, but we would welcome both donations **and** membership applications. Please see below for more details.

2. Donate

Our target is £300,000 and we need to raise these funds by **28th February 2025**. We have several ways to donate; bank transfer, Paypal or cheque. See our 'donation form' attached to this prospectus for more details and please also complete the GiftAid form if you are eligible.

Donations will pay for:

- Land purchase costs if our bid is successful
- Legal and administrative fees
- Initial conservation and land restoration work

3. Become a Member

- Receive email/news updates on the latest developments
- Get involved and assist in UOCT environmental projects
- Apply for Membership (£5 one-time payment) by completing the membership form attached to this prospectus. Be sure to take a look at the UOCT website to read the Rules for Upper Ouse Conservation Trust.
- Members will be provided with a membership number and card upon approval.

4. Business Sponsorship

Please get in touch if your business is interested in sponsorship, allowing promotion of your business whilst financially supporting the fundraising efforts.

Please note

It is the policy of the Upper Ouse Conservation Trust to refund all donations less a proportionate amount of expenditure properly incurred, in the event that the Trust cannot complete the purchase of Townend Field from the vendors.



Governance & Oversight

The Upper Ouse Conservation Trust has a board of trustees, including local residents, environmental experts, and educators. Trustees are volunteers and will ensure that the land is managed effectively and transparently in line with the objectives of the scheme. Regular reports and updates will be provided to all investors and stakeholders.

Key governance measures include:

- **Environmental Management Plan:** A long-term plan that outlines conservation goals, land-use strategies, and ecological monitoring.
- **Community Involvement:** Regular community consultations to gather feedback and ensure that the land is being used to benefit all.
- **Financial Transparency:** Annual financial statements and progress reports made available to all shareholders.

The trustees will manage all income received and manage it in accordance with the trust's rules



Summary

Thank you for reading this prospectus. The Upper Ouse Conservation Trust offers a rare opportunity to support both environmental sustainability and the long-term benefit of the local community.

Your support will help to ensure that this beautiful piece of land is preserved for generations to come; providing a sanctuary for wildlife, an educational resource for the school, and a cherished space for the broader community. Together, we can create a legacy of stewardship, education, and environmental conservation.

We invite you to join us in this exciting venture and be part of something truly transformative,

The Upper Ouse Conservation Trust



The raising of funds in support of the objectives of Upper Ouse Conservation Trust has been agreed by Trustees David Lloyd, Chairman, Graeme Jackson, Operations, Richard Little, Treasurer, Kate Yates and Tim Gifford, Secretary.

Supporting Statements



“The benefit of a community taking ownership of land within their Parish is huge; you as a community will determine how best this land can be utilised to the the advantage of all and protect at least this parcel of land from inappropriate development.

As a community asset, you will be creating a legacy that will help protect all that is important to you; a space for Nature and the wellbeing that brings, a space for exercise and the health benefits that brings, a space where your children can (through the school) have even a better start in life.

It's not often a chance like this is presented to a community and through forming UOCT Community Benefit Society, you have put good foundations in place. Please support this amazing project.”

Arnold Warneken, Councillor for Ouseburn Division



“To have our own playing field would be an absolute game changer for the children at Great Ouseburn Primary School. We strive to make their years at primary school as idyllic as possible and the missing piece of the jigsaw is our own open space. It is highly unusual for a village school like ours not to have any green space to play on.

The benefits would be enormous for the children's physical and mental health. The ability to host our own sports days and tournaments would be amazing. To have space for nature walks, Forest School, orienteering, pond dipping, shelter building, tree climbing and a whole host of similar activities would take our curriculum offer to the next level.”

Nick Oswald, Headteacher at Great Ouseburn Primary School



“At FOGOS, we feel incredibly passionate about the possibility of having a playing field at the school. This would not only hugely improve the outdoor, recreational space for the children, but also open up a wealth of opportunities for the really important fundraising events we do for our brilliant school.”

Joanne Southall Taylor and Rachael Caffrey, co-chairs of 'Friends of Great Ouseburn School' (FOGOS)



“My name is John Law and I am the Forestry Commission's Nature Based Solutions Advisor based in York. I also work with The Natural World Fund and Living Woods to support conservation projects throughout the UK. I am delighted to be joining with The Upper Ouse Conservation Trust to help bring their project to fruition. The NWF can support the project through providing funding via the fund and via one or more of our major investor partners. Living Woods can support the development and management of aspects of the project once it becomes live. My colleagues and I at both organisations are experienced conservation land managers and regenerative farmers so will be available to work closely with the Trust to help maximise biodiversity across the site. The project excites us as the potential to create very high conservation value is clear to see. The beck and the flood meadows can be improved with careful management to create very high quality conservation value fresh water and terrestrial ecology. In addition the idea to link closely with the primary school represents a fantastic opportunity to involve the next generation of ecologists and conservation minded individuals. I can't wait to get started and look forward to many years working with the Trust and local community.”

John Law, Forestry Commission's Nature Based Solutions Advisor and UOCT liason with The Natural World Fund and Living Woods.



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Donation Form

Here are the details on how to provide
financial support to this cause.



Please note

It is the policy of the Upper Ouse Conservation Trust to refund all donations less a proportionate amount of expenditure properly incurred, in the event that the Trust cannot complete the purchase of Townend Field from the vendors.

You must ensure that you complete this form clearly, in order for us to be able to process your refund in such an event.

Bank transfer

Upper Ouse Conservation Trust

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Acct No. 67392104

REFERENCE: _____

Cheque

Please make cheques payable to:
Upper Ouse Conservation Trust
and enclose it with this form, to
our registered address.

Paypal Payment

Please see uoct.org.uk for
Paypal details.

Your Contact Details

First name

Surname

Phone number

Email address

First line of
address

Postcode

UOCT is able to claim an additional 25% on top
of donations from eligible donors Are you
eligible? Please see the next page!

Thank you so much for your support.

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Data Protection and Privacy Notice

By submitting this form, you consent to the processing of your personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy, which outlines how we protect and use your information. Your details will be kept confidential and used solely for membership and society-related purposes.



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GIFT AID Declaration Form

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UOCT is able to claim an additional 25% on top of donations from eligible donors. Please complete this section if you are happy for UOCT to claim GiftAid against your donation.

Donor details (*please complete all fields*)

First name:

Surname:

Date of birth: d d / m m / y y

/ /

Email address:

Address:

Street address:

City:

Postcode:

Phone number:

(optional)

Gift Aid Declaration:

Please tick the box to confirm that you wish the Upper Ouse Conservation Trust to claim Gift Aid on your donations:

I am a UK taxpayer and I want the Upper Ouse Conservation Trust to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Important Information:

- You must pay an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount of tax that the charity will reclaim on your donations in the current tax year (currently 25p for every £1 you donate).
- If you pay less Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax than the amount claimed by the charity, it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature:

Signature of Donor: _____

Date: _____

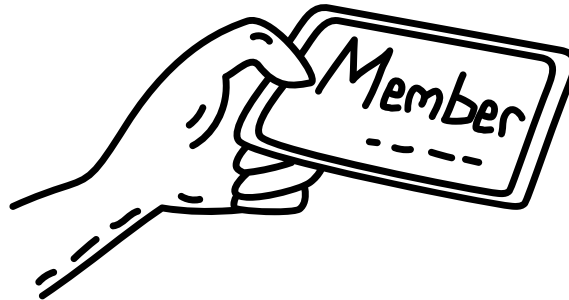
Thank you for your generous support!



Apply to be an ongoing member of UOCT

Data Protection and Privacy Notice

By submitting this form, you consent to the processing of your personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy, which outlines how we protect and use your information. Your details will be kept confidential and used solely for membership and society-related purposes.



Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Upper Ouseburn Conservation Trust. We look forward to working with you in creating a positive impact in our community!

More Information about being a Member of UOCT

- An FCA registered Community Benefit Society No. 9441 with an address of Great Ouseburn Post Office, Main St, Great Ouseburn YO26 9RG
- Members liability limited to the value of your membership fee.
- Rules of the Upper Ouseburn Conservation Trust are available to view on the UOCT website: www.UOCT.org.uk
- Donors can support the Society by applying for membership of the Trust for a one time fee of £5.00.
- The Society strongly recommends potential investors to read the Rules of the Upper Ouse Conservation Trust before applying.

Application form to apply for Membership is on the next page.

In addition to the share subscription, the Society would be extremely grateful if New Members could also offer a voluntary cash donation. Please note: These voluntary donations will likely contribute the bulk of the initial "Funding Requirement" above.

Charitable Donations: All donations are tax-deductible under UK charity law.
Corporate Sponsorship: Local businesses or corporations can contribute through sponsorships, grants, or in-kind support. These sponsors will receive recognition through events, signage, and marketing materials.



Apply to be an ongoing member of UOCT

To become an ongoing member of UOCT and remain close to its charitable aims, please complete this membership application. Membership is a one-off £5 fee and applications are subject to acceptance by the trust. Please see the next page for further information.

Personal details *(please complete all fields)*

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Date of birth: d d / m m / y y
 _____ / _____ / _____

Email address: _____

Address:
 Street address: _____
 City: _____
 Postcode: _____

Phone number: _____

Occupation/profession: _____

For Office Use Only.

• Date of Application Received:
 [DD/MM/YYYY]

Membership Approved:
 Yes
 No

Membership Number:

Additional Notes:

Commitment to the Community Benefit Society

Please complete as appropriate:

- Do you support the aims and objectives of UOCT?
 Yes
 No
- I agree to abide by the rules and principles of the society, as set out in its governing documents.
 Yes
 No
- I am willing to contribute to the work of the society by:
 Volunteering my time
 Participating in meetings/events
 Providing skills or expertise
 Other (please specify): _____
- I agree to receive communications from the society about membership, updates, and events.
 Yes
 No

Payment of £5 Membership Fee (bank transfer preferred)

- I enclose a cheque for £[amount]
- I have paid £[amount] via bank transfer (Date: [DD/MM/YYYY], Reference: _____)

Signature: _____
[Signature of Applicant]

Date: _____
[DD/MM/YYYY]