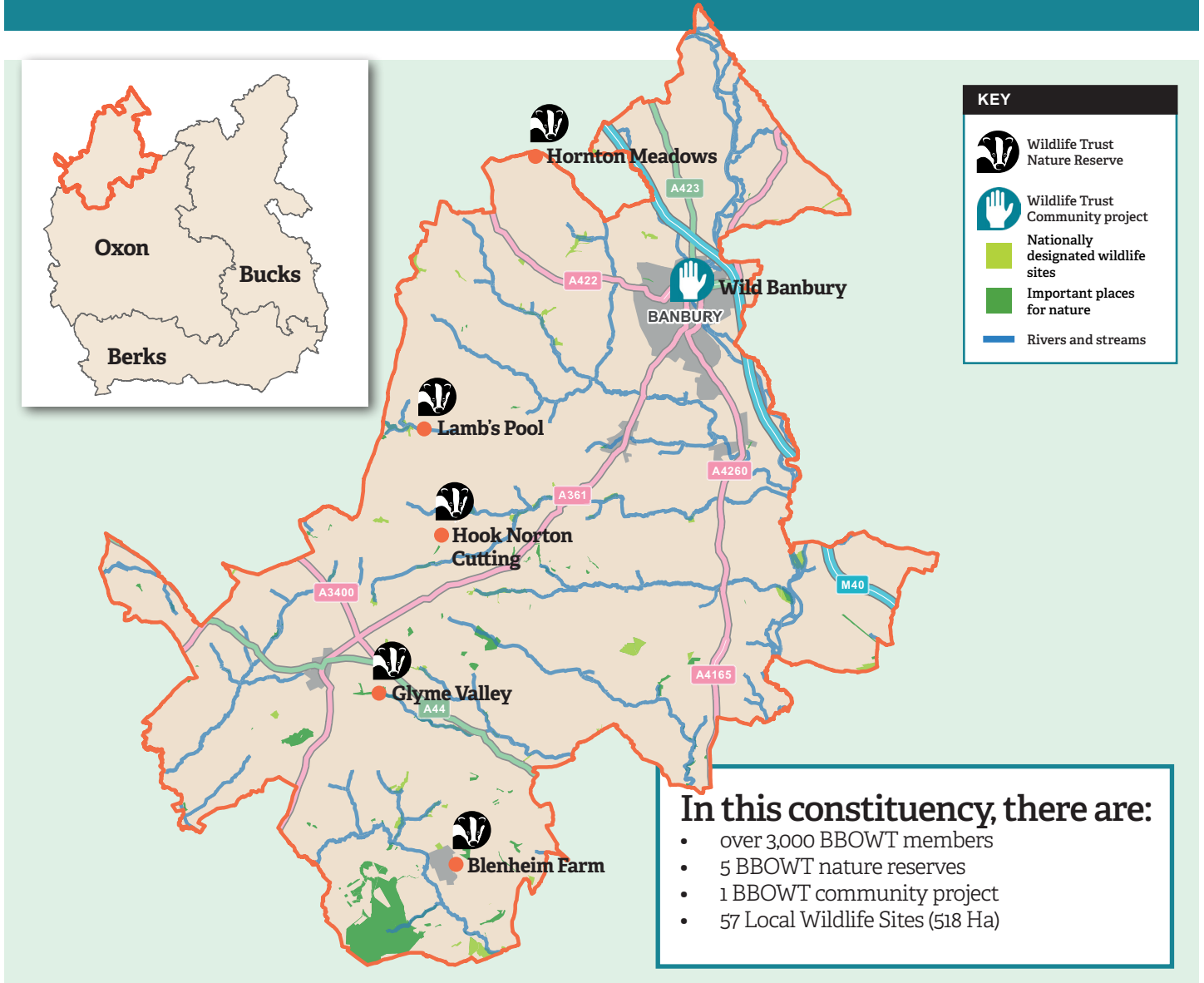


# Banbury Constituency



**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire  
Wildlife Trust**



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## Nature in the constituency

This constituency is within the Thames and Avon Vales region - low lying clay vales that are lightly wooded with streams and ditches supporting wildlife.

### Geology and Wildlife

There is special geological interest at our Hook Norton Cutting nature reserve because of the exposed Jurassic oolite limestone. Each spring and summer the sunny banks of this limestone grassland reserve are packed with wild flowers and butterflies.

Glyme Valley nature reserve is a remaining fragment of limestone grassland in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds and is home to a rich variety of wildlife.

### River Cherwell

The River Cherwell winds through a wildlife-rich valley where waders including redshank breed. BBOWT hosts the Cherwell and Ray Catchment Partnership, supporting collective efforts for water quality, people and wildlife. Unfortunately, according to the recent State of Our Rivers report, the stretch of the River Cherwell

running through this constituency is not in good ecological health.

### Blenheim Estate

BBOWT is supporting Blenheim's land managers and partners to protect and restore wildlife and improve the long-term sustainability of 2,000 acres in the northern section of the Estate.

The annual hay rake at our Blenheim Farm nature reserve offers the local community the chance to pitch in and help their local wildlife.



There are 46 Wildlife Trusts across the UK working towards nature's recovery. The Wildlife Trusts are a grassroots movement of people from a wide range of backgrounds and all walks of life, who believe that we need nature and nature needs us.

## Working for wildlife



Wild Banbury volunteers at Hanwell Brook ©BBOWT

### Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)

LNRS will set out and map priorities for nature's recovery in each of 48 areas in England. BBOWT is working with local authorities and other organisations on preparing LNRS across our three counties.

### Wild Banbury

Wild Banbury is a joint project between BBOWT, Cherwell District Council and Banbury Town Council. The project holds educational events and activities to inspire people to take action for wildlife and provides information and resources to help those in the area bring nature into their lives.

It also supports and helps grow the network of groups that work to enhance local green spaces and works with the local authorities to find ways of creating more space for nature within the town.

Wild Banbury invites and inspires everyone in the town to value wildlife so the town is greener, healthier and wilder.

### Volunteering

Conservation volunteers work with Banbury Town Council to ensure Spiceball Park offers a mosaic of habitats and wildlife-spotting opportunities in the heart of Banbury.

At Hanwell Brook Wetland, conservation volunteers work with Banbury Town Council to manage the balance between trees, scrub and open ground, so maximising opportunities for wildlife.

Likewise at the site of the old Mineral Railway by Beaumont Close, volunteers are pushing back the scrub and restoring open grass areas, encouraging wildflowers and opening up this sunny corridor to a wealth of stunning creatures.

## About BBOWT

BBOWT has a vision of a wilder Berks, Bucks and Oxon, with more nature everywhere, for everyone. Our aim is to create bigger, wilder, connected landscapes, where wildlife can thrive. We want to put nature into recovery, with 30% of land in our three counties well managed for wildlife by 2030.

Our mission is to bring about nature's recovery through local action, empowering more people to connect with their local wildlife and take action to save it.

We work to manage habitats to tackle the nature and climate crisis locally. We also help give nature a voice in major planning or policy decisions that threaten nature's recovery.



## Our five priorities for the next government

- 1. Bring back the UK's lost wildlife** – BBOWT's Water Vole Recovery Project has already helped to increase the local range of water voles by more than 50 per cent over the past 15 years.
- 2. End river pollution and water scarcity** – BBOWT has joined a Wildlife Trusts' campaign calling on Government to create new bespoke legal protections for these habitats.
- 3. Fund wildlife-friendly farming** – BBOWT works with farmers across the three counties who prove that wildlife-friendly farming is possible and profitable.
- 4. Enable healthy communities** – BBOWT works with urban communities in Bicester, Banbury, Slough and Reading to help people and nature thrive together.
- 5. Tackle the climate emergency** – BBOWT's Chimney Meadows nature reserve project will help store more carbon than other habitats.



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All 46 Wildlife Trusts are members of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (Registered charity number 207238. BBOWT registered charity number 204330).