

Buckingham and Bletchley Constituency



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust**

In this constituency, there are:

- 2,950 BBOWT members
- 3 BBOWT nature reserves
- 81 Local Wildlife Sites (967 Ha)



Nature in the constituency

Foxcote Reservoir

Lying in a rolling Buckinghamshire landscape of arable fields, pasture and woodland, Foxcote Reservoir is the kind of place that rewards patient visitors. Created in 1956 by damming a small tributary of the River Great Ouse, this site has become important for the numbers of wintering waterfowl, especially wigeon and coot.

Finemere Wood

Finemere was once used by kings and queens for hunting wild boar. Along with Rushbeds Wood and Whitecross Green

nature reserves, also in Buckinghamshire, it was a part of the ancient Royal Forest of Bernwood. Despite the destructive impacts of HS2 on the area around Finemere Wood, the woodland still has the thrilling atmosphere of a very old, wild place.

Spring is particularly special when the rides are edged with primroses, and bluebells carpet the woodland floor. Traditional grazing has encouraged the return of plants such as ragged-robin, cuckooflower, and devil's-bit scabious

BBOWT is leading a large partnership project across the ancient forests which will better connect Finemere Wood to surrounding fragmented parcels of woodland in private ownership.

Pilch Field

Pilch Field is made up of wet meadows, fine hedgerows with ash standards and patches of scrub. Ancient ridge and furrow plough marks can still be seen. Once returned to pasture, the wild flowers have reappeared in the absence of modern weedkillers and fertilisers.



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



Barn owl ©Danny Green/2020Vision

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.

Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and Ray

The south of the constituency contains part of the Bernwood Otmoor Ray (BOR) landscape which lies between the large urban centres of Oxford, Bicester and Aylesbury. Since 1981, BBOWT has been buying and restoring floodplain meadows in the upper reaches of the River Ray and working with neighbouring farmers to create a stronghold for wading birds.

Our aim is to deliver a naturally functioning wetland landscape and create additional 'wildlife corridors' such as thick hedgerows and wildflower buffer strips around field margins and ponds. Since 2022, BBOWT has led a feasibility

study to draw out the most immediate opportunities for nature and people in the BOR landscape, thanks to funding from Buckinghamshire Council. Six priority project concepts will form the basis of a new landscape-scale programme of work. These projects will help to ensure that vitally important BOR sites are protected, restored, extended and connected up at scale for the benefit of wildlife and people. As a steering group member of the Ray Farmer cluster, we are encouraging and organising training and knowledge transfer between farmers in nature positive land management.

“Volunteering with BBOWT nourishes the soul and helps maintain a balance in my life”
BBOWT volunteer

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).