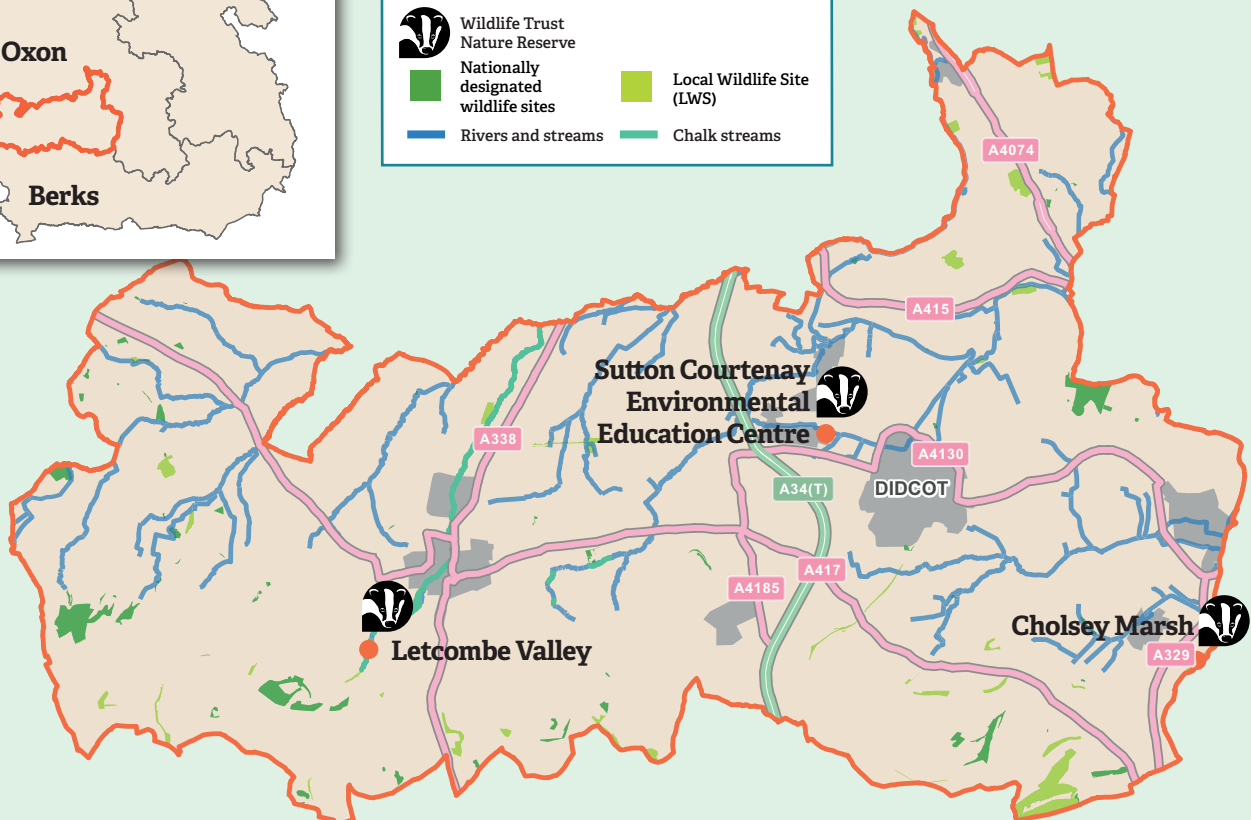
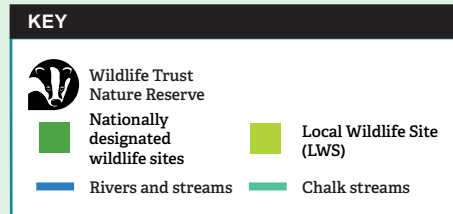


Didcot and Wantage Constituency



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust**



In this constituency, there are:

- over 4,600 BBOWT members
- 3 BBOWT nature reserves
- 47 Local Wildlife Sites (437 Ha)

Nature in the constituency

The constituency of Didcot and Wantage sits within an attractive landscape including the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The chalk of the Downs dominates the southern part of the constituency. Remnant chalk grasslands are rich in plant life, which support a wealth of rare invertebrates.

The Letcombe Brook

Chalk streams such as the Letcombe Brook are an internationally scarce habitat supporting a huge range of wildlife, including some of our rarest

species. Our Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve is home to bullheads and brook lampreys. However, the recent State of Our Rivers 2024 report found that the Letcombe Brook is classified in poor ecological condition. Many chalk streams across the three counties are subject to dangerous levels of pollution, which is why BBOWT is calling for them to receive special legal protection.

Environmental Education

The Trust's Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre is

a haven for wildlife close to Didcot Power Station. We deliver high quality learning experiences for thousands of schoolchildren, encouraging them to explore the natural world in exciting and practical ways.

Cholsey Marsh

Cholsey Marsh provides a home to a wealth of plants, insects and birds that depend on the wet reed and sedge beds. This Thames-side marsh is punctuated with patches of grassland and willow scrub.



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



Children at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre. © Ric Mellis

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.

Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre

Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre is open for pre-booked school groups all year round. Thousands of children a year experience nature for themselves on our beautiful 19-acre nature reserve. We also offer lifelong learning opportunities, from wildlife clubs for pre-schoolers and children aged 8-17 years to courses for adult such as basket weaving, moth identification, creative writing and more. With woodland, meadow, ponds and a wildlife garden, the centre is a haven for wildlife and an exhilarating green space for all to enjoy. Our award-winning centre

is packed with eco-features from a sedum roof and solar panels to recycled floors.

#teamWILDER

Team Wilder is a rapidly growing movement of people who care about our environment and want to help wildlife thrive. Through Team Wilder we are empowering communities to act for a wilder future. If 1 in 4 people takes visible action for nature, we will create the social tipping point required to reverse nature's devastating decline. People are stepping forward from every sector of society to lead change in their fields and we welcome farmers, businesses, schools, politicians, and individuals as part of Team Wilder.

“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.



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust

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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).