

Henley and Thame Constituency



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust**



In this constituency, there are:

- over 5,000 BBOWT members
- 9 BBOWT nature reserves
- 102 Local Wildlife Sites (1,462 Ha)

KEY



Wildlife Trust
Nature Reserve

Important places
for nature



Rivers and streams

Bernwood, Otmoor,
Ray project area

Local Wildlife Site
(LWS)

Nature in the constituency

The landscape around Henley, which includes the valley of the Thames and the Chiltern Hills, is well recognised and valued. However, the State of Our Rivers 2024 report found that many of the rivers running through the constituency, such as the Thame and Chalgrove Brook, are not in good ecological health.

Chalk Grasslands

This constituency has some of the Trust's finest chalk grassland nature reserves. These include Warburg, a gem of a reserve with a mosaic of woodland and grassland,

and Hartslock, famous for its stunning orchids and views over the River Thames.

Sydlings Copse

Close to the city of Oxford, the diversity of this nature reserve is quite staggering. Boasting ancient broadleaf woodland, limestone grassland, reedbed, fen, a stream and rare Oxfordshire heathland, the reserve supports over 400 plant species. The site is also teeming with birds and insect life; butterflies include purple and brown hairstreaks, and common blue and marbled white.

Warburg Nature Reserve

High up in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Warburg Nature Reserve is a remote and magnificent place, rich in exciting plants and animals all through the year. The flower-rich grasslands in the valley bottom give way to extensive woodlands rising up the valley sides. It is the richest BBOWT site in the three counties for orchids. From April right through to August orchids can be found in all of the habitats, including fly orchid and bird's-nest orchid.



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 LNRSs across our three counties.

Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and Ray

The north 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. 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).