

# Maidenhead Constituency



**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire  
Wildlife Trust**



KEY	
	Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve
	Important places for nature
	Rivers and streams
	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

## In this constituency, there are:

- over 2,600 BBOWT members
- 3 BBOWT nature reserves, including 1 environmental education centre
- 91 Local Wildlife Sites (1,142 Ha)

## Nature in the constituency

There are several important wildlife sites here. Hurley Chalk Pit is a little gem that shows it is possible to create valuable wildlife habitats after mineral extraction. Windsor Forest and Great Park is an internationally important Special Area of Conservation.

### Woolley Firs

Woolley Firs is our Berkshire office where we manage farmland for wildlife. In spring 2012 we transformed the Grade 2 listed stables at Woolley Firs into a state-of-the-art environmental education facility for

local school children. Now thousands of children each year learn about wildlife through hands-on fun activities in the orchard, wildlife garden, fruiting hedgerows, meadows, arboretum and ponds. They are inspired by everything they see and do, which helps them understand their connections to the natural systems of life.

### Chawridge Bank Nature Reserve

Our studies of this rare neutral grassland site near Maidens Green tell us this is ancient, unploughed land. The Trust

recently acquired an extension to this reserve, which means that it is now open for the public to visit at any time to listen to the skylarks and watch butterflies including the grizzled skipper.

### Thames Basin Heaths

The Thames Basin Heaths, the western portion of which sits in the east of the constituency, is protected by international law as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and is home to three important bird species: the Dartford warbler, nightjar and woodlark.



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



### 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.

### Engaging with nature

Based on a successful project in West Berkshire, Engaging with Nature has been launched in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The project seeks to help people connect with nature for a positive impact on health and wellbeing and to empower communities to create and improve space for wildlife. Sessions involve activities such as planting pollinator beds, building and siting hedgehog houses, bird and bat boxes, and making feeders for birds. Sessions also encourage awareness of local flora and fauna through bug hunts, nature walks, pond dipping, and bird, tree or wildflower identification.

### Woolley Firs Environmental Education Centre

In 2012, the Environmental Education Centre, an activity centre in a Grade 2 listed stable block on the 300-year-old Woolley Firs farm, was officially opened. The centre gives schoolchildren who might never normally get close to nature, especially those from Reading, Slough, Bracknell and High Wycombe, opportunities to experience nature firsthand, learn about wildlife, and take home inspiring and memorable experiences that only a trip outside the classroom can do. The centre hosts activities to suit children from all age ranges.

*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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## Contact details

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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).