

Mid-Buckinghamshire Constituency



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust**



KEY	
	Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve
	Important places for nature
	Chalk stream
	Rivers and streams
	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
	Bernwood, Otmoor, Ray project area
	HS2 route



In this constituency, there are:

- over 5,600 BBOWT members
- 9 BBOWT nature reserves
- 194 Local Wildlife Sites (2,564 Ha)

Nature in the constituency

Upper River Ray

This floodplain is hugely important for wildlife, with abundant flower-rich meadows and breeding birds such as lapwing and curlew. In addition to managing several nature reserves under the name Upper Ray Meadows, BBOWT has established a Living Landscape scheme here and is working with the RSPB to promote wildlife-friendly management. Unfortunately, the Rivers Trust recently found that the rivers in this constituency are in either moderate or poor ecological condition. Following initial funding from

Buckinghamshire Council, BBOWT is now leading a partnership project across the River Ray catchment to secure nature recovery, and enhance local communities' connection with and access to nature.

Bernwood Forest

BBOWT manages ancient woodland and hay meadow reserves in what was once the Royal Forest of Bernwood. Recent project work is helping to enhance the woodland, meadow and hedgerow habitats. We are working with local people to develop markets for woodland products and to

coordinate deer management to protect young trees and woodland flowers.

Chalk Grassland

Some of the most stunning wild flowers are found on the ancient chalk turfs of the Chilterns. Yoesden nature reserve is home to such precious flora and fauna, including the chalkhill blue.

Wendover Woods

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area is a priority area for the restoration, conservation and creation of habitats.



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.

Rough Around the Edges

Small, wildlife-rich areas can be just as important as big ones - and by improving and connecting these little islands of nature we can help wildlife recover across the central Chilterns. With our Rough Around the Edges project, we are supporting community groups that need advice, training and resources to create, restore and improve habitat for wildlife in small, local spaces. We help with planning projects, recruiting and training volunteers and with buying materials and equipment. A small amount of funding is available to support the projects depending on the needs of each group. BBOWT is going

to continue to run training sessions for community groups as part of the project between May and July 2024.

Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and Ray

Since 2022, BBOWT has led a feasibility study to draw out the most immediate opportunities for nature and people in the Bernwood Otmoor Ray (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.

 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).