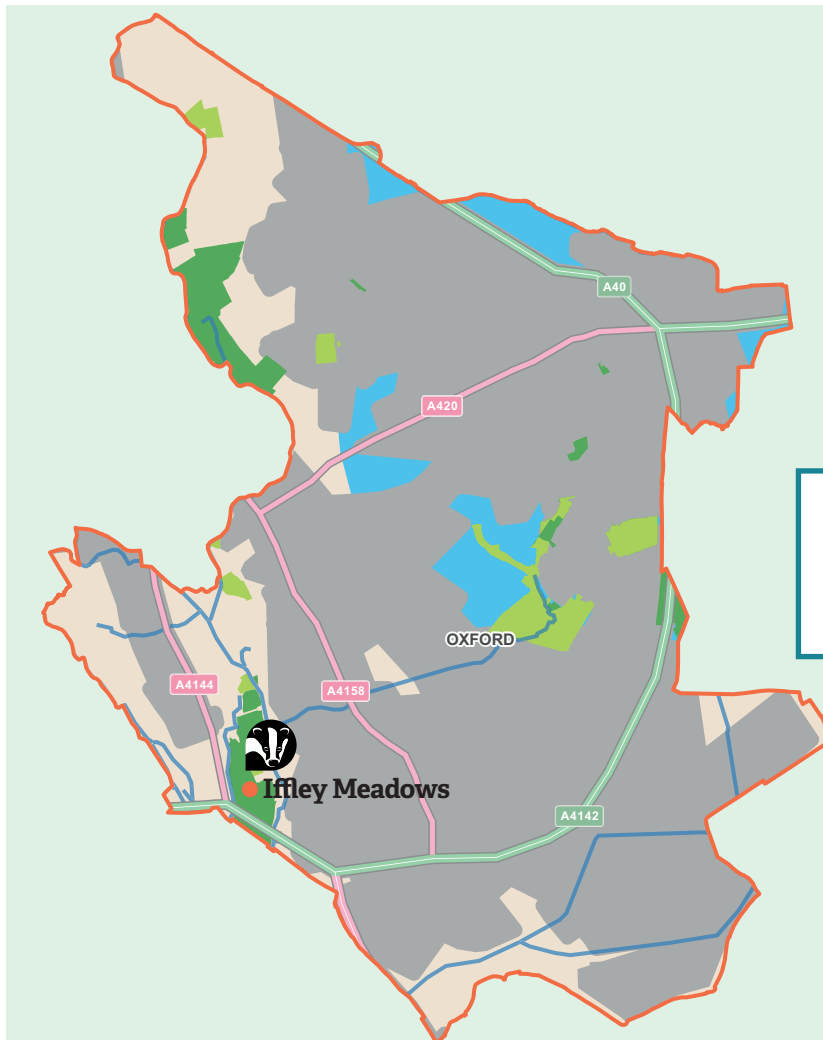


Oxford East Constituency



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust**



In this constituency, there are:

- over 3,300 BBOWT members
- 1 BBOWT nature reserve
- 8 Local Wildlife Sites (59 Ha)

KEY



Wildlife Trust
Nature Reserve



Nationally
designated
wildlife sites



Rivers and streams

Bernwood, Otmoor,
Ray project area

Local Wildlife Site
(LWS)

Nature in the constituency

Oxford Meadows

Oxford lies in the floodplain of the River Thames at its confluence with the River Cherwell. This brings many challenges for residents and businesses as well as benefits. The rich array of sites of key wildlife importance links with universities' parks and college gardens to create the beautiful green and blue infrastructure that makes Oxford so popular with tourists and residents alike. Unfortunately, both stretches of the Thames and Cherwell in this constituency are classified as being in poor ecological condition.

Iffley Meadows

This sweep of floodplain meadows on the banks of the Thames sits just a stone's-throw from the centre of Oxford but remains a peaceful haven for wildlife. Co-managed by BBOWT on behalf of Oxford City Council, each year Iffley Meadows plays host to an incredible wildlife spectacle, as thousands of snake's head fritillaries bloom. Before BBOWT took over management of the nature reserve in 1983, a mere 500 of these flowers could be found. As a result of BBOWT's careful management of the site and controlled

grazing, numbers of fritillaries have shot up to over 89,000 - a huge success story.

Lye Valley

Set right in the heart of the east side of the City of Oxford, Lye Valley is an important 4.5-hectare site that has been credited with SSSI status due to its rare fenland and rare plants including the grass of Parnassus. The site now has one of the best examples of a calcareous valley fen. It's noted for more than 300 plant species, including 20 that are on the Rare Plants of Oxfordshire register.



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 priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing areas for nature and map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals 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 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.

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

Contact details

Estelle Bailey
Chief Executive
e publicaffairs@bbowt.org.uk
t 01865 775476
bbowt.org.uk
wildlifetrusts.org

All 46 Wildlife Trusts are members of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (Registered charity number 207238. BBOWT registered charity number 204330).