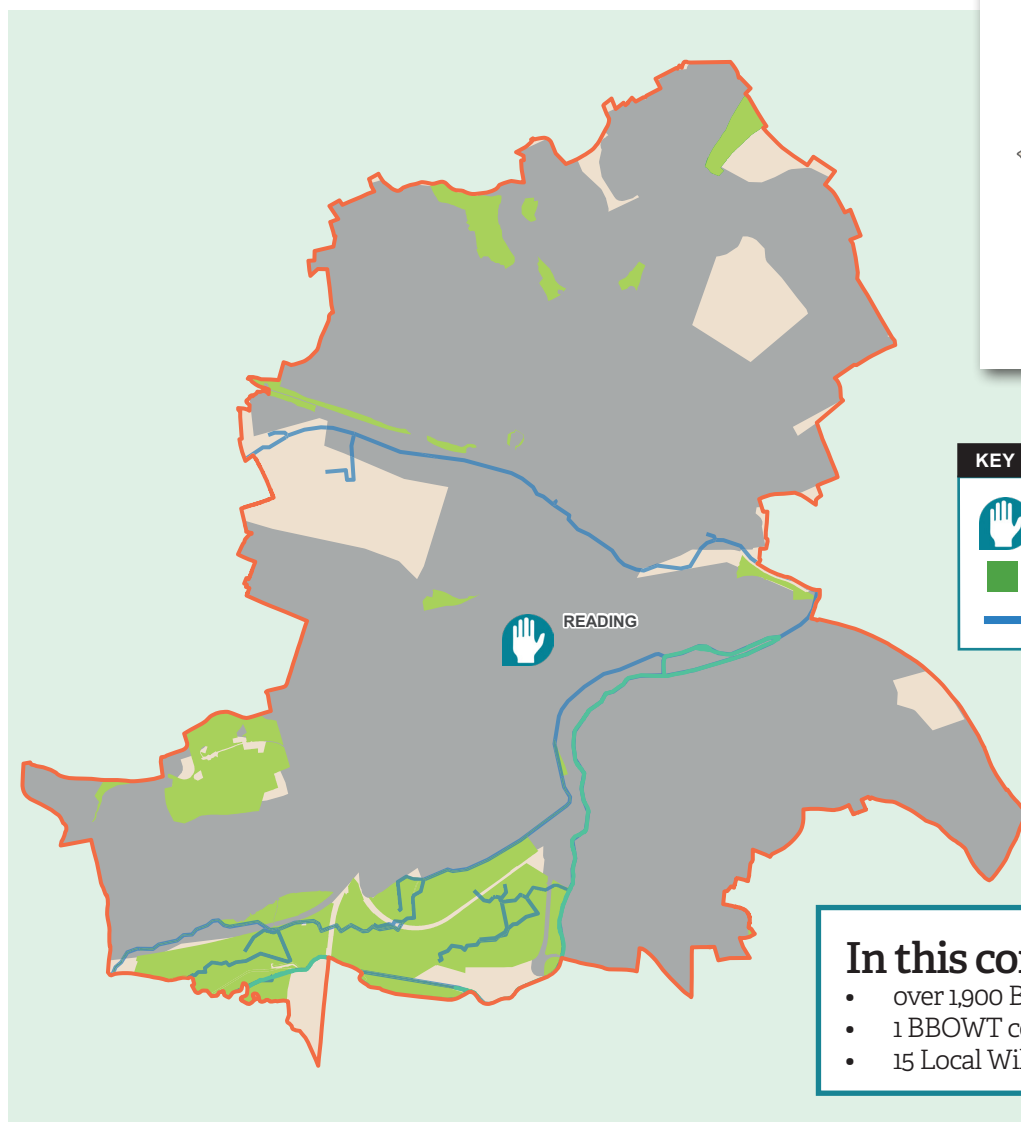
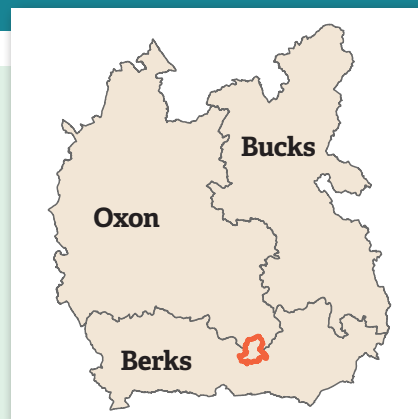


# Reading Central Constituency



**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire  
Wildlife Trust**



## KEY



Wildlife Trust  
Community project



Nationally  
designated  
wildlife sites



Rivers and streams



Local Wildlife Site  
(LWS)



Chalk stream

## In this constituency, there are:

- over 1,900 BBOWT members
- 1 BBOWT community project
- 15 Local Wildlife Sites (256 Ha)

## Nature in the constituency

The confluence of the Kennet and Avon Canal, and River Kennet with the River Thames in Reading Central highlights the value of the natural environment in a busy town centre. The naturally wild environments at Reading Cemetery and in urban parks create a valuable green infrastructure.

### Local Wildlife Sites

In this constituency there are over 256 ha of Local Wildlife Sites, which recognise the local wildlife value of these areas. They are precious because they provide

natural green spaces for people to visit for recreation, and they are havens for wildlife such as insects and mammals. There are many active nature conservation groups in Reading with enthusiastic volunteers and knowledgeable experts all working to enhance their local natural environments.

### Kennet Valley Meadows

The wildlife habitats of the River Kennet, a rare chalk river, are dominated by wetlands. South of Reading extensive lakes with wet scrubby margins, fens and wet grassland are connected through the

wider landscape by the Kennet & Avon Canal as well as the river and Holy Brook. These fragile reedbed, marsh and wet woodland habitats host important diverse populations of birds including nightingales and Cetti's warbler.

According to the State of Our Rivers 2024 report, neither the Kennet nor Holy Brook are in good ecological health.



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 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 LNRSs across our three counties.

### Nextdoor Nature

In 2021, BBOWT won £90,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to work with people in Reading and Slough to take action for nature. That could be transforming a dull, barren patch of land into a place that's colourful and buzzing with wildlife again, or a space that could be a wild but safe area to visit or play in.

For example, primary school 'police officers' helped BBOWT plant flowers and pick up litter to brighten a local shopping precinct. The Year 6 pupils from Southcote Primary in Reading lent a hand at Coronation Square, getting their hands dirty as part of Thames Valley Police's Mini Police program which helps children do good works in the community. The green scheme in Coronation Square is being guided by BBOWT as part of the Trust's Nextdoor Nature project in Reading.



## 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).