

Reading West and Mid-Berkshire Constituency



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust**



| KEY | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| | Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve |
| | Nationally designated wildlife sites |
| | Rivers and streams |
| | Wildlife Trust Living Landscape |
| | Local Wildlife Site (LWS) |
| | Chalk streams |

In this constituency, there are:

- over 2,700 BBOWT members
- 6 BBOWT nature reserves
- 242 Local Wildlife Sites (3,577 Ha)

Nature in the constituency

Hosehill Lake

This former gravel extraction site near Theale is now a lake with a path which takes visitors through a variety of habitats including meadows, woodland and reedbeds. After the lake was released from extraction, the local bird watching group managed the site. It is now a Local Nature Reserve. Nightingales breed on site, and their famous song can be heard in spring.

Pang Valley

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the Pang Valley are designated because of

their valuable wetland habitats, including our Moor Copse nature reserve. This is Berkshire's only Coronation Meadow designated for its wide range of hay meadow flowers and herbs. Seed from this site has been used to recreate wildflower meadows on new development south of Reading. There is evidence of hazel dormice at Moor Copse, making it one of a handful of sites within Berkshire for this rare animal. Unfortunately, the River Pang has recently been downgraded to poor ecological status.

Padworth Common

Located in the south of the constituency, Padworth Common is made up of lowland heath, woodland and a series of ponds. The site has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The heath supports rare species including nightjar, tree pipit, adders and grayling butterflies.

West Reading Woodlands and Local Nature Reserves

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes large tracts of ancient woodland in Sulham.



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



Building a bird nest box © Evie + Tom photography

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.

#teamWILDER

Team Wilder is a rapidly growing movement of people who care about our environment and want to help wildlife thrive. Through Team Wilder we are empowering communities to act for a wilder future.

If 1 in 4 people take visible action for nature, we will create the social tipping point required to reverse nature's devastating decline. People are stepping forward from every sector of society to

lead change in their fields and we welcome farmers, businesses, schools, politicians, and individuals as part of Team Wilder.

Community Groups

The newly drawn constituency is covered by the Berkshire regional group of volunteers. This is a voluntary fundraising group, which raises funds for BBOWT through plant, book and bric-a-brac sales, along with guided walks and talks. They also strive to raise awareness of the work of BBOWT and aim to inspire people to take action for local wildlife.

Independent of BBOWT, the Greening Mortimer Campaign, supported by West Berkshire Council, seeks to make small and simple changes to the way we live and, by providing information on fighting climate change, help individuals and the community reduce their carbon footprint.

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).