

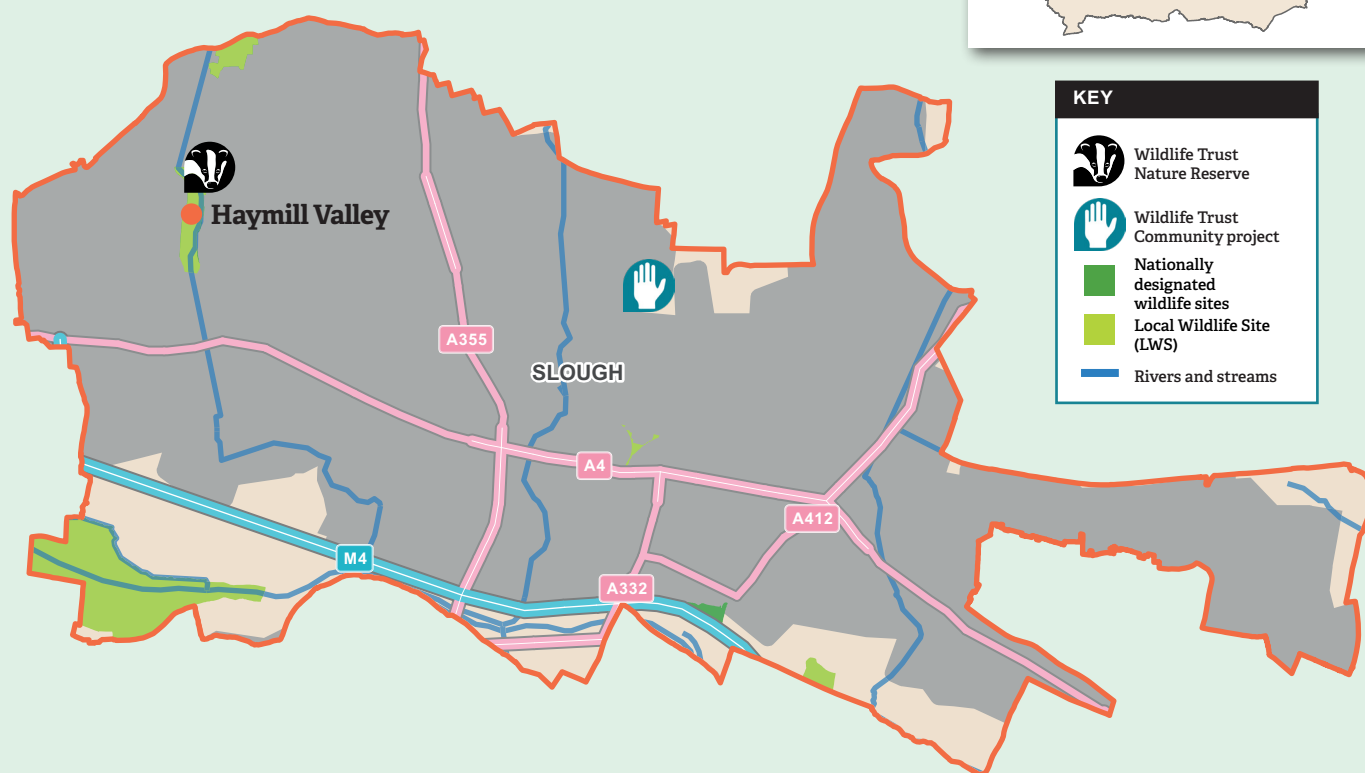
# Slough Constituency



**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire  
Wildlife Trust**

## In this constituency, there are:

- over 300 BBOWT members
- 1 BBOWT nature reserve
- 1 BBOWT community project
- 6 Local Wildlife Sites (72 Ha)



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## Nature in the constituency

Slough is the most predominantly urban constituency in the region. Nevertheless, there are pockets of nature-rich habitat and valuable landscapes just a few miles from the urban centre. The urban nature of the constituency means innovative approaches to creating nature-rich spaces are badly needed. Roof gardens, living walls, street trees and rainwater basins all provide wildlife habitat as well as other benefits when space is tight. The importance of the few green spaces within the constituency cannot be exaggerated.

### Wildlife Treasures

Haymill Valley (affectionately called The Millie) is managed by the Trust and enthusiastic volunteers for wildlife and people. It gives local residents the chance to experience semi-natural countryside on their doorstep. Much of the management work is carried out by the local Haymill Valley Volunteer Group. The Millie is both a Local Nature Reserve and a Local Wildlife Site. Cocksherd Wood is also a Local Nature Reserve and a Local Wildlife Site. Each spring there is a beautiful display of bluebells in the woodland.

### Upton Court Park

Formerly agricultural and grazing land, Upton Court Park was then used as a site for tipping waste and suffered high levels of contamination as a result. After much regeneration, it is now the site of extensive wetlands and the recently created Upton Court Park Wood, where total of 8,585 native trees have been planted. This provides innumerable benefits both to wildlife and local residents by restoring former landfill sites, soaking up carbon and providing a readily accessible space for nature.



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



The new community garden at the Ujala Foundation © Pete Hughes

### 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.

### 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. Residents of Slough discovered a secret green haven in the heart of the town at the official opening of a new community garden last year. Dozens of locals joined

the event at the Ujala Foundation Community Centre on Villiers Road and were blown away by the wild space. As well as a host of fruit and vegetables being grown such as tomatoes, onions and carrots, visitors also admired a new wildlife pond, hedgehog house, and saw solitary bees nesting in the giant 'bug hotel'.

Before commencing the project, the space behind the community centre was disused, unloved and a dumping ground for rubbish. The garden has been created over the past six months by a women's group at the centre with help from neighbours and expert guidance from BBOWT to make the space as wildlife-friendly as possible.

## 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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Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire**  
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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).