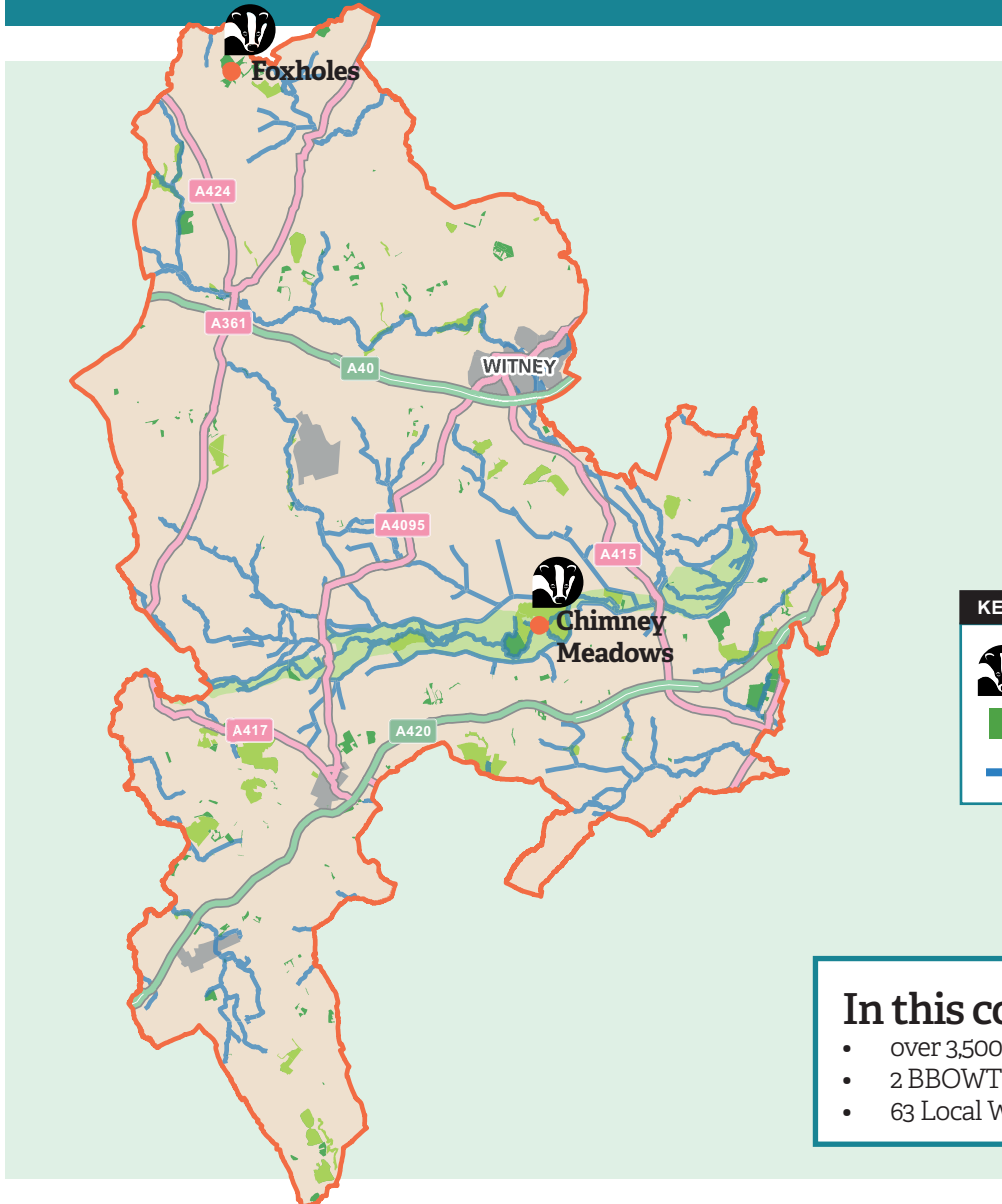


# Witney Constituency



**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)

**In this constituency, there are:**

- over 3,500 BBOWT members
- 2 BBOWT nature reserves
- 63 Local Wildlife Sites (1,552 Ha)

## Nature in the constituency

### Upper Thames Living Landscape

The Upper Thames Living Landscape, which includes Chimney Meadows National Nature Reserve, lies within the constituency. Our aim is to restore, create and maintain the predominantly riverine and floodplain habitats of the Upper Thames. The vision for Chimney Meadows is the restoration of floodplain meadows and wetland habitats, full of wildflowers and buzzing with people and wildlife. Our recent purchase of Duxford Old River created one of the largest nature reserves on the River Thames, and the only nature reserve to cover both sides

of the river; adding a missing piece to the Chimney Meadows jigsaw. We are working with neighbours as part of our Upper Thames Farmer Cluster to buffer this site and improve connectivity across the wider landscape.

### Foxholes

Breathtaking beauty in this ancient woodland famed for its spectacular spring bluebells, abundant birdlife and fabulous fungi. Ancient woodlands like Foxholes also provide just the right environment for bats to flourish. The Trust has been

working to ensure that bats have everything they need here.

### River Windrush

The River Windrush winds its way through a wildlife-rich valley with limestone grasslands, wet woodland and floodplain meadows. The Windrush Catchment Partnership, led by the Cotswold Rivers Trusts, supports collective efforts for gains for water quality, people and wildlife. According to the State of Our Rivers 2024 report, the River Windrush is not 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



Building a bird nest box © Evie and Tom photography

### 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 LNRS across our region.

### Local Wildlife Sites

Along with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, BBOWT runs the Oxfordshire Local Wildlife Sites projects, carrying out surveys and delivering management advice to the owners of these areas recognised for their high wildlife value. These sites, their protection and enhancement, form an integral part of the nature recovery network.

The Trust also facilitates a farmer cluster across our Upper Thames living landscape, encouraging knowledge sharing and project development with farmers interested in making space for nature on

their landholdings.

### Community Groups

Independent of BBOWT, there are several community groups in the constituency whose aims align with ours in terms of expanding and reconnecting local communities with nature. Friends of Tuckmill was established in October 2021 to work with the Vale of White Horse District Council, the owners of the Tuckmill site, to help restore the area after a period of four years when it was largely neglected.

### #teamWILDER

Team Wilder is also a rapidly growing movement of people who care about our environment and want to help wildlife thrive. 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.

## 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).