

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire

A photograph of two kingfishers perched on a weathered tree branch. The kingfisher in the foreground is facing right, showing its vibrant blue back and wings with white spots. The second kingfisher is perched slightly higher and further up the branch, facing left. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and brown, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.

Annual Review

2018/2019

Welcome to our Annual Review

2018 - 2019

Public awareness of the environment has never been so high, this year overtaking terrorism and affordable housing in a list of Britons' top priorities.

Campaigning and telling compelling stories clearly works. Sir David Attenborough says enough is enough. Oceans of plastic soup are no longer palatable, while the rise of social activism has forced the Government to acknowledge ecological breakdown.

Each of us must take action to change our habits but only government can lead the radical shake-up of legislation that's necessary. The draft Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries Bills, together with the likelihood of more Marine Protected Areas, looks promising for nature's recovery on land and sea.

Lobbying our parliamentary representatives has been a major focus of our work this year. For the first time we met all 21 of our MPs, including the then Prime Minister Theresa May. I am convinced that collectively The Wildlife Trusts have influenced national legislation and local plans to bring about nature's recovery. We will continue to invest in this crucial advocacy.

Local businesses are taking note too, recognising that the state of nature impacts their bottom line. This year the number of businesses in our Investors in Wildlife Programme almost doubled from 22 to 42.

As pressures on the landscape continue to increase, the preservation of our nature reserves remains essential. These enchanting places offer havens for wildlife and magical moments that captivate our hearts and minds. Many are remnants of lost landscapes. Now they take on a crucial role as stepping stones for nature's imminent recovery. Our ambition is high.

This third year of delivering our Strategic Plan 2016-2021: *Be part of Nature's Recovery* has been a whirlwind of activity for our education and community engagement teams. Nearly 400 events, including major high-profile events such as our Oxford and Milton Keynes Festivals of Nature attracted many thousands of people to discover local wildlife for themselves.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support. It is your generosity that ensures we can look after wildlife in perpetuity while giving more people the opportunity to fall in love with nature.



Estelle Bailey
Chief Executive, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
September 2019



Our vision

An environment rich in wildlife, valued by all.

Our mission

To create a Living Landscape across our towns, cities and countryside and inspire our communities to act for nature.

Our aim

To lead the way for nature's recovery and connect people with nature, so that:

- Our soil and water resources are managed to create functioning ecosystems and wildlife-rich places.
- Local communities, decision-makers, landowners and businesses work with and for nature.
- People recognise their dependence upon nature and its value to their mental and physical wellbeing.

Our Impact

Our land



We manage 85 nature reserves covering 2,636ha of land



1,012ha of woodland, of which 479ha are ancient woodland



1,184ha grazed by livestock to maintain wildlife-rich habitats



358ha cut for hay to encourage wild flower diversity in meadows



We care for 10% of the remaining floodplain meadows (MG4) in the UK



330 biological surveys carried out on our nature reserves



4 education centres, 2 visitor centres and 1 environmental centre

ha=hectare, (which is the size of a rugby pitch)

Our people



11 trustees oversee governance and strategic leadership



25,155 memberships support our work



Over 1,800 volunteers, including 54 key volunteers



32,000 volunteer sessions



63 volunteer working groups



56 Wildlife Traineeships



150 members of staff dedicated to nature's recovery



25,769 followers on social media

Our reach



21 face-to-face meetings with local MPs



Additional 1,782ha of privately owned land influenced for the benefit of wildlife through our advice



11,904 schoolchildren visited our education centres



Nearly 15,000 planning applications screened, prompting 138 in-depth responses



400 public events, attracting 57,000 people



42 Investors in Wildlife corporate partners



Unique website visits reached 877,942

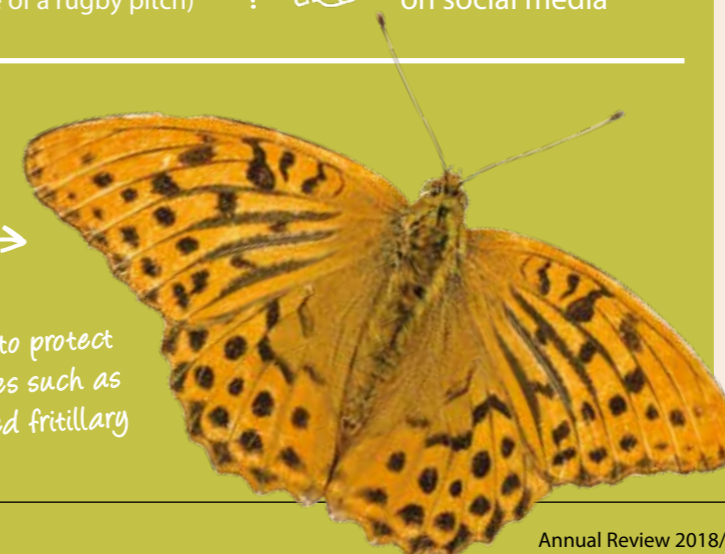


206 media articles or broadcasts



225,100 visitors to College Lake and the Nature Discovery Centre

We're helping to protect iconic butterflies such as the silver-washed fritillary



Our year in focus

New record of more than 150 southern damselflies at Parsonage Moor.



Wild Oxford volunteers hard at work at Lye Valley Nature Reserve.



Staff from Costain on a 'Wild Wellbeing Day' at Warburg Nature Reserve.



Peak count of 33 silver-studded blue butterflies at Wildmoor Heath.



Record numbers of fledgling lapwings and terns at College Lake

Another 55 badgers successfully vaccinated against bovine TB.



Juvenile cranes make a special appearance on the Upper Ray Meadows



More than 1,600 military orchids on the march in Buckinghamshire.



Space to unwind at the Nature Discovery Centre's new waterfront.



Sun, fun and wildlife at the Oxford Festival of Nature Wild Fair.



Speak up for a Wilder Future



New website launches with improved content and a fresher look.

Restore land so it is rich in wildlife

Wildlife in our three counties is under threat like never before. BBOWT's 85 nature reserves are essential havens – the jewels in our crown – where wildlife still thrives, poised to spread out into the wider landscape as soon as conditions allow.

While it is essential that these reserves flourish, we must also reach out to local landowners, government and other partners to restore the wildlife value of the countryside beyond our reserves so that together we can work towards nature's recovery on a truly landscape-scale.

As we reached the halfway point of our Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021: *Be part of Nature's Recovery*, our Living Landscapes delivered promising progress in this area.

In West Berkshire, the conclusion of the Linking the Landscape Project has seen areas of grassland and heathland habitat within the project area increase by almost 10% and 8% respectively. Meanwhile in East Berkshire, work on a new Living Landscape has already begun to bear fruit. Workshops are helping volunteers there to improve wildlife identification and monitoring skills and events are in the pipeline to demonstrate to landowners how they can better manage their land for wildlife.

Over at Gallows Bridge Farm, part of the Bernwood Forest and Ray Valley Living Landscape, work to create and restore scrapes is providing more opportunities for wading birds. We continue to work with organisations such as Natural England and the RSPB who share our vision and are actively supporting new conservation projects for the River Ray itself.

Chimney Meadows is the focus of our work to influence nature restoration in the Upper Thames Living Landscape. Following the purchase of land at Duxford Old River in 2017, we have developed proposals to restore wetland on 41 hectares of floodplain and free-up the passage of fish through the landscape.

Ongoing efforts at Chimney to restore arable fields to wildflower meadow have been so successful that the Local Wildlife Site has now been extended to include a further 70 hectares of previously arable land. Monitoring reveals that more than 140 species of bird have been recorded at Chimney Meadows since 2003 thanks to habitat restoration.



2.3ha

Woodland newly coppiced



15ha

Grassland managed for the benefit of wildlife



9.7%

Increase in grassland habitat



8.1%

Increase in heathland habitat

Making the links in West Berkshire

Hilary Phillips, Living Landscapes Manager for Berkshire, shares the outcomes of our five-year Linking the Landscape project.

The Linking the Landscape Project completed in January. Made possible by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project focussed on the nature reserves and wider countryside of the West Berkshire Living Landscape, with people and wildlife at its core. Its aims were to inspire residents to make strong links with their natural heritage and to reconnect broken links in the landscape in order to create vital corridors and stepping stones for wildlife.

Over the course of the project some 450 volunteers underwent training, contributing more than 5,000 days of their time. Volunteer time was boosted by 22 Conservation Trainees (see page 15) who together gave an average of 369 days a year to the project.

Landowners were helped with writing and delivering management plans to improve and restore habitat on almost 10ha of land. Volunteers were also granted access in order to complete regular surveys to establish the health of the landscape and assess the impact of our work.

By modelling the potential for habitat connections we were able to focus our work to ensure the most effective gains for wildlife. Work included creating new glades, rides and coppiced areas within woodlands, clearing old gravel extraction sites of encroaching willow and cutting and raking areas of grassland. Trees overshadowing waterways were managed to let in more light and islands cleared to create safe breeding sites for wetland birds.

All that hard graft has paid off. Three tern rafts were colonised within weeks of deployment, culminating in the successful rearing of chicks. Scrub clearance from half a hectare of reeds has brought a Site of Special Scientific Interest back into healthy condition, while last year lapwing returned to Crookham Common for the first time in eight years.

The project has made a measurable difference to both the area and connectivity of key habitats. Our experiences were presented to 27 other conservation organisations in a workshop designed to share best practice in landscape-scale monitoring of wildlife and natural systems.



Our work benefits species such as the Dartford warbler



Connect with people and communities



Every year we attract thousands of visitors to our nature reserves, education centres and the events we run. Connecting with people like this fosters a greater appreciation of the natural world, which is essential for nature's recovery.

Our achievements in this area are impressive – and expanding. During the year we reached a record 57,000 people through our events alone, an increase of 18,000 on the previous year.

This rapid expansion was helped by the growing reputation of our popular mass engagement events. The Oxford and Milton Keynes Festivals of Nature welcome thousands of people to encounter wildlife first hand through a lively programme of events and Wild Fairs. For many festival goers this is their first experience of BBOWT.

August saw us curate the Wildlife Zone at BBC Countryfile Live for the third year running. The four-day event at Blenheim Palace is a highly effective way to meet thousands of people in a short space of time, to offer wildlife advice and showcase the work that we do.

The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild campaign invites participants to commit one 'Random Act of Wildness' every day of June. Well over 2,500 signed up through BBOWT, testament to the significant social media activity surrounding the initiative.

Young people are the wildlife champions of tomorrow. More than 200 family events opened up opportunities for people of all ages to connect with nature in their own way.

Schools are a major focus of our ambition to instil that fascination of wildlife from an early age. Almost 12,000 primary schoolchildren visited our environmental education centres over the course of the year, with a further 955 engaged via outreach visits to schools. Many of these children go on to introduce their families to our nature reserves and events on a return visit.

Generous grants from charitable trusts ensure that our Wild and Free bursary programme continues to enable children from areas of high deprivation to access our education programme. Some 4,000 schoolchildren will benefit from this two-year programme.

Connecting with nature is good for us. It helps to keep us physically fit and promotes better mental health. Time spent in nature contributes to improvements in self-esteem, concentration and all-round happiness. In May 2018 we helped Oxford City Council deliver the city's first health and wellbeing conference, 'Oxford: Naturally Healthy', which focussed on the benefits of the outdoors and nature to people's health.

This Natural Health Service makes business sense too. The launch of our Employee Nature's Health and Wellbeing package, in conjunction with Siemens, supported an evaluation of corporate volunteer days on staff wellbeing. The results confirmed what we already suspected – that levels of wellbeing jump following participation. We are now working to secure bookings into 2020 for this pioneering programme.



1,350

Schoolchildren visiting our nature reserves on self-led school visits



261

Landowners reached through farm visits and targeted events



3,200

People took part in activities in the natural environment to benefit their health



400

Public events

Bringing wildlife to the people

Our new Hedgerow Havens project is encouraging landowners and managers to adopt a wildlife-friendly approach for the benefit of everyone.

The Hedgerow Havens project is a partnership between BBOWT and Aylesbury Vale District Council to advise and assist local landowners looking to adopt wildlife-friendly management of their land. The project centres on hedgerow habitat to benefit farmland wildlife such as tree sparrows, corn bunting, brown hares, badgers and barn owls.

Following meetings with Watermead Parish Council, an acre of neglected land bordering the River Thames was set on the path towards restoration to floodplain wildflower meadow. Work began in October 2018 with the removal of docks, followed by a number of 'cut-and-removes' of overgrown grass. New hedgerows containing 12 different species were planted over the winter and wildflower seeds spread this summer.

By 2021 the meadow should start to come into its own, creating a stunning bloom in the summer months for everyone to enjoy. The Watermead restoration lays the groundwork for further meadow-based projects.

The project has also teamed up with charity Greenways and Cycleways to plant a hedgerow along a new 3.5km cycleway connecting Aylesbury and Waddesdon. The Waddesdon Greenway runs parallel to the A41 and fringes a mix of arable and pasture fields.

Volunteers planted more than 6,000 wildlife-friendly hedging plants and 53 trees over one weekend in early winter. The 2m of verge either side of the path was sown with a wildflower mix suited to meadows in the area. Added together these long, thin strips of wild flowers equate to an area of grassland totalling 1.4 hectares.

Management plans will be put together for these new areas of habitat with ongoing opportunities for local volunteers to connect with nature as they replant lost shrubs and weed the new wildflower areas.



Value

nature by explaining its benefits

How do you get people to champion nature? By communicating its importance and why wildlife needs our help. With nature at a crossroads this has never been more important.

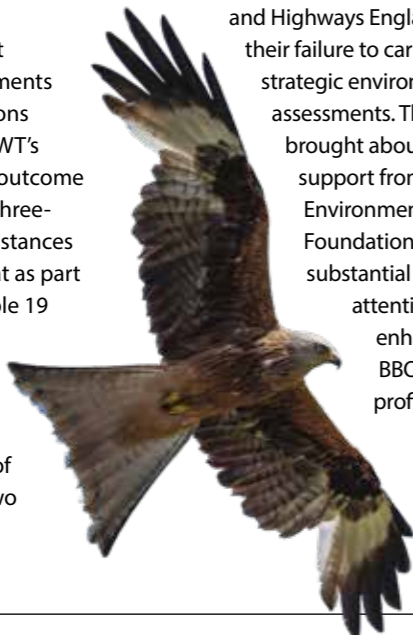
Influencing decision-makers, landowners, planners and developers on the value of nature and the services it provides society for free is central to our Strategic Plan. We continue to send out our *Nature Matters* newsletter to inform councillors and other key influencers and decision-makers about the work we do.

Development is a growing threat to the wildlife of our three counties. To reverse its loss we must also protect what remains beyond our nature reserves by speaking up on behalf of wildlife. Much of this immense challenge falls to our three Planning Officers who between them screened nearly 15,000 planning applications during the year, responding in depth to 138 of them as well as 28 local and strategic plans.

It is time well spent. A recent review of responses to comments made on planning applications in Berkshire found that BBOWT's feedback matched the final outcome either wholly or partially in three-quarters of cases. In many instances we have secured new habitat as part of development – for example 19 hectares of meadow in Milton Keynes, or the anticipated creation of nature reserves, meadow and more than 40 hectares of bird habitat connected to two developments adjacent to Aylesbury.

In 2018 we helped defend Gavray Meadows in Bicester against the impacts of nearby development. The planning inspector found our evidence 'compelling', accepting many of our arguments that the scale of development would negatively impact on the Local Wildlife Site. Our voice was heard and now Gavray Meadows will continue to support rare butterflies like the black hairstreak and grizzled skipper.

Large infrastructure proposals such as High Speed 2 or Heathrow's expansion represent significant opportunities for us to secure better outcomes for wildlife. It was our energetic, evidence-based response to the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway that won us the right to commence Judicial Review proceedings against the Secretary of State for Transport and Highways England over their failure to carry out strategic environmental assessments. The case, brought about with support from the Environmental Law Foundation, attracted substantial media attention, enhancing BBOWT's profile locally.



453

People attending the Health Walks programme at College Lake



25,769

Followers on social media



126

Print media articles featuring BBOWT



60

Councillors have signed a pledge to support wildlife

Lobbying our MPs and mobilising our supporters

The proposed Environment Bill is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to lay the groundwork for nature's recovery. Together we passionately made the case for a wilder future.

BBOWT lobbies hard to ensure that all decision-makers understand the value of nature, so its protection and recovery is forefront in their minds. We make regular contact with members of both Houses of Parliament and in the course of the year secured face-to-face meetings with all 21 local MPs – a first for the External Affairs team.

The focus of recent discussions has been the Government's proposed Environment Bill in which we have been campaigning for the creation of Nature Recovery Networks.

A Nature Recovery Network is a joined-up system of habitats important to wildlife. It allows plants, animals, seeds, nutrients and water to move from place to place and enables the natural world to adapt to change, making it more resilient. But it can only do this effectively if, like our road network, it is treated as a connected whole.

Our members have been pivotal in reinforcing this message. In addition to our meetings, more than 250 BBOWT supporters met or wrote to their MP about the Environment Bill as part of our Wilder Future campaign. Mobilising members of the public like this demonstrates to those in power that there is a genuine desire for an environment rich in wildlife, valued by all.



BBOWT member Val Siddiqui tells us why she met her MP

"With the UK ranking 29th lowest out of 218 countries for 'biodiversity intactness' and people becoming increasingly disconnected from nature I felt that government policies were continually prioritising growth over the protection of the natural world. For me, the economic benefits of healthy ecosystems and the advantages of people having access to green spaces were being overlooked.

Although initially encouraged to see that the government's 25 Year Environment Plan included a proposal for a Nature Recovery Network to reverse the declines in wildlife, I was disappointed that these were not referred to in the subsequent Environment Bill Policy Paper. It was time to turn my frustration to action; to lobby my MP and to encourage others to do likewise."



Partner with others to maximise our impact

Partnering with landowners and both local and national organisations gives us the leverage necessary to restore more wildlife habitat. In return our partners can establish or reinforce their sustainability credentials.

Beyond our nature reserves just 6% of the land within Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire is identified as being wildlife-rich. To improve the wildlife value of the remaining area we must work with those responsible for managing it. Over the year we directly engaged with 261 landowners through farm visits or events. The positive management and advice we provided will have influenced almost 1,800 hectares for the benefit of wildlife.

The Oxford Festival of Nature brought together more than 30 conservation and environmental bodies to celebrate wildlife and champion the natural environment, while our collaboration with The Parks Trust, the Milton Keynes Natural History Society, the Canal and River Trust and other local community groups has helped grow the Milton Keynes Festival of Nature into an established fixture in the town's calendar.

Work with the Chilterns Conservation Board to deliver the Rough Around the Edges programme is delivering practical results on a number of local sites in the central Chilterns, and we continue our productive working relationships with the RSPB and other conservation organisations.

Urban wildlife helps residents to connect with nature. Our Wild Oxford and Banbury projects, run in partnership with Oxford City and Banbury Town Councils, deliver habitat improvements that benefit both wildlife and people. In Oxford we work on four important fen sites and have helped the council and Oxford Urban Wildlife Group develop a conservation plan for Boundary Brook Nature Park. Activities delivered as part of the Banbury Show and Banbury Canal Day inspired local people to make room for wildlife in their gardens.

Corporate partnerships supplement the income we receive from members and grants. The number of partners in our Investors in Wildlife scheme has almost doubled from 22 to 42.

Support from companies helps us to invest in infrastructure too, such as at the Nature Discovery Centre where money from Thames Water, together with a grant from Grondon Waste Management Ltd enabled us to redevelop the waterfront into a more user-friendly experience.



A new era of cooperation and trust

Protecting wildlife on nature reserves is only part of the story. Our strategy is clear, says Reserves Project Manager Giles Strother. To expand areas of wildlife-rich habitat we must forge strong links with those who own or control the land.

Our landowner liaison work is gathering momentum and we are pulling together various stakeholders to cooperate on a landscape-scale. One development is the Happy Valley Farmers Group in the Cherwell Valley of north Oxfordshire.

Our work as Catchment Hosts in this area – delivering wildlife and water benefits by bringing partners together and identifying potential improvements – has seen us forge good working relationships with landowners. From this a cluster of willing farmers emerged, each interested to learn more about what they can do for wildlife on their land. Thanks to funding from Natural England made available through the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund, we now employ a member of staff to liaise regularly with these farmers, who between them control some 2,800ha of land.

Farmers meet at each others' farms to look at and talk about soil health, techniques to lock up more carbon into the soil and ways to increase worm numbers, as well as sowing patches of wildflower seed around their cropped fields. A trip to the Allerton Project in Leicestershire offered participants the chance to learn about ways of working to improve soil, water and wildlife.



In February, the project manager visited several of the farms to count bird species as part of the national Big Farmland Bird Count. Experts from the River Restoration Centre also surveyed the brook that runs through the whole area to suggest ways it could be enhanced for wildlife.

One of the best outcomes of all this has been a growing trust and cooperation between farmers and BBOWT. We often want the same things but just have different ways of approaching it.

BBOWT is one of a number of Wildlife Trusts to have applied to carry out a trial for the future Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) being developed to replace the EU-funded stewardship schemes. This has the potential to be a far more effective way of ensuring that farming benefits the environment, while also producing high-quality food.

The plan is to test a new farm planning format that will look at every aspect of farming: nutrient management, carbon sequestration, soil health, clean water and air, and of course wildlife habitat. We hope to contribute to a new way of rewarding farmers for farming in a truly sustainable way.



Build our capacity to deliver

Our members give us the resources and authority to achieve more for local wildlife. Their support ensures we can build our capacity to step up to the challenges ahead.

Many members go further by remembering BBOWT in their Will so that their love of nature lives on after they are gone. Gifts left in Wills are an effective way to support your local Wildlife Trust and last year we benefitted from a number of generous gifts totalling £435,000. Income such as this puts us in a better position to act decisively when opportunities to protect nature arise.

Keeping members and the wider public informed of our work is central to building our reputation so that we can attract and retain more supporters. Members are kept up-to-date through *Wildlife News* magazine and a busy programme of events ensures ample opportunity to meet the staff and volunteers behind the headlines.

Social media is a powerful way to reach out to wildlife lovers throughout the three counties. Our reach through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram continues to expand and by March this year we had 25,769 followers across these social media accounts. Posts combining humour, intrigue and calls to action ensure lively engagement and undoubtedly help to build awareness.

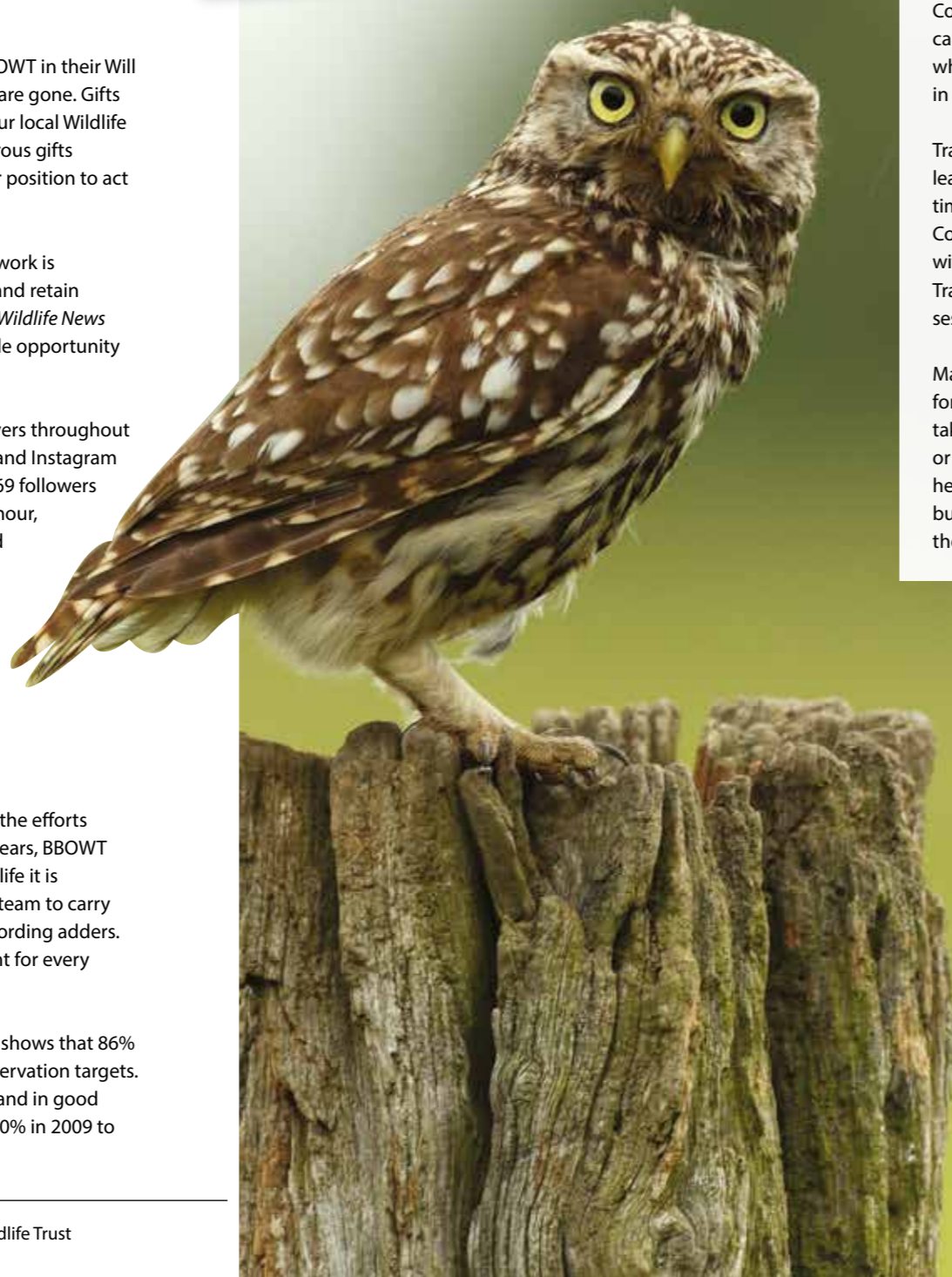
Without our incredible volunteers, the scope of our practical conservation work would be severely curtailed. Between them they contributed 32,000 volunteering sessions during the course of the year through activities ranging from stock watching to assisting with education sessions.

Tracking progress across our nature reserves reveals that the efforts of our volunteers and staff are bearing fruit. Every three years, BBOWT undertakes a comprehensive 'health check' of all the wildlife it is responsible for. Our army of volunteers help the ecology team to carry out hundreds of surveys, from counting butterflies to recording adders. The data is then collated to inform a condition assessment for every habitat on every reserve.

The latest Conservation Report, completed early in 2019, shows that 86% of our reserves have met or are moving towards key conservation targets. Not only that, but in the past 10 years the proportion of land in good condition for wildlife has roughly doubled from around 30% in 2009 to just over 60% last year.



More reserves are in good condition - great news for birds like the tree creeper



Training a new generation of conservationists

Many talented people want to pursue a career in conservation but lack the necessary experience. Our traineeships provide the essential skills required.

The Wildlife Traineeship scheme offers passionate wildlife enthusiasts the chance to gain the vital skills and experience needed to gain employment in this area. The scheme provides new traineeships every year and there are four types to choose from – conservation (reserves management), education, biodiversity (surveying) and community. Traineeships run for between six to 12 months.

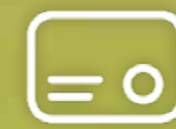
Applicants come from all stages of life, as Coordinator Caroline Coleman explains: "Anyone with a desire to work with wildlife can apply to be a Trainee. Some arrive straight from university while others come later in their careers, often seeking a change in direction."

Trainees undertake a combination of training and work-based learning to boost their employability on completion. Most of their time is spent on activities relevant to their chosen specialism. Conservation Trainees, for example, may lead volunteer teams, help with scrub management or maintain footpaths, while a Community Trainee might assist with health and wellbeing projects or outreach sessions at local clubs and schools.

Many Wildlife Trainees go on to land their dream job or continue formal education in wildlife conservation. Recent leavers have taken up posts in councils, schools and conservation organisations, or roles within the private sector, such as wildlife consultancy. A healthy number of Trainees take up positions at BBOWT, helping to build our expertise and capacity to enable change for wildlife from the ground up.



63
Volunteer working groups



39
Wildlife Traineeships completed



42
Investors in Wildlife corporate partners



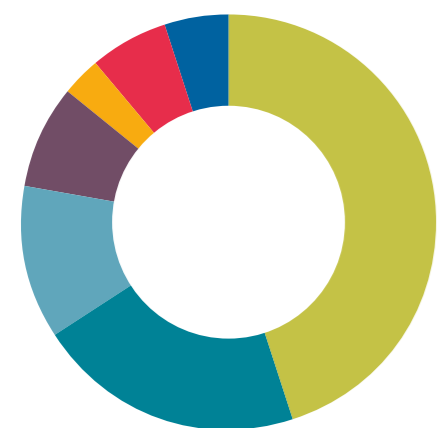
1,800
Volunteers

2018/19 Financial Review

BBOWT continues to hold a healthy financial position. During the year we delivered a planned deficit, while maintaining a prudent level of financial reserves. This enabled us to maximise the resources we devote to restoring and protecting nature.

The income for 2018/19 is down slightly on last year, which was boosted by money raised (£604,000) through our Duxford Old River appeal. Looking ahead, there remain significant uncertainties, not least the impact of Brexit on agri-environment funding (which currently comes via the EU). We will continue to adopt a cautious approach to managing our finances, giving room to invest in new activities. This means we will be in the best place to realise the ambition of our current Strategic Plan for 2016-2021.

73p
from every £ is spent
on our conservation
and education
work

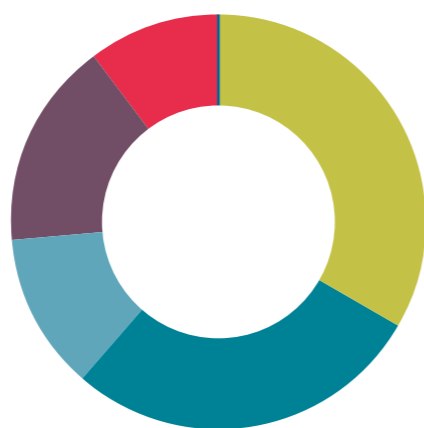


Income 2018-2019

Total: **£5.58m**

£000s

| | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| £2,533 | 45% | Membership and donations |
| £1,193 | 21% | Grants and corporate donations |
| £684 | 12% | Individual donations and legacies |
| £426 | 8% | Trading activities |
| £143 | 3% | Investment income |
| £349 | 6% | Agri-environment scheme income |
| £251 | 5% | Other income |



Expenditure 2018-2019

Total: **£5.74m**

£000s

| | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| £1,894 | 33% | Nature reserve management |
| £1,630 | 29% | Wildlife awareness and education |
| £692 | 12% | Looking after the wider countryside |
| £900 | 16% | Membership and fundraising costs |
| £601 | 10% | Trading costs |
| £21 | 0% | Investment costs |

Membership Fundraising promise...

The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) is committed to fundraising and communicating in an honest and transparent way.

We aim to ensure that everyone who chooses to support us, whether by joining BBOWT, making a donation, giving their time to volunteer with us or attending events, has a positive and rewarding experience and understands that their support is truly valued.

As part of this we will be honest and transparent, protect your data, be respectful of your wishes, and accountable. BBOWT Trustees regularly review all fundraising activity for both its cost effectiveness and compliance. Furthermore, Trustees review all complaints received and any fundraising ones are reported to the Fundraising Regulator.



Number of memberships 
25,115
of which **2,820** were new members

Cost of generating membership income down by

10%



new people pledging to leave a gift to BBOWT in their Will

 **89**

10,355

Number of Wildlife Watch Club members



Thank you to our supporters



The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust relies on the generosity of its members and other supporters. Without this support we would not be able to achieve BBOWT's aim to lead the way for nature's recovery and to connect people with nature. Thank you to the following organisations and individuals who have supported BBOWT during the 2018-19 financial year.

Charitable Trusts (£1,000+)

Berkshire Caregivers Services
Canal & River Trust
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust
EBM Charitable Trust
Richard Radcliffe Charitable Trust
Rothschild Foundation
Schroder Foundation
Tanner Trust
The Banister Charitable Trust
The Doris Field Charitable Trust
The Shanly Foundation
The Tolkien Trust
The Wild Trout Trust

Corporate Partners

Alnylam
Anglian Water
Berkeley Homes (Oxford & Chiltern)
Blenheim Palace Estate
Costain
Country Land and Business Association
DCS Group
English Provender Company
Freeths
Holidays in the Cotswolds
Ipsen
Johnson Matthey
Lanes Group plc
MEPC Milton Park
NatureBureau
NFU Mutual
Nurture Landscapes
Oracle
Oxford Office Furniture
Oxford Science Park
Panasonic UK
Rational Windows
Robin Swales Design & Development
Seacourt Ltd
Sophos
Taylor & Francis
Thames Water

The King's Centre
Vine House Farm

Grant-making and Statutory Bodies

DEFRA
Environment Agency
Heritage Lottery Fund
Natural England
Reading Urban Wildlife Group
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Tesco Bags of Help
The Chilterns Conservation Board

Landfill Communities Fund

Grundon Waste Management Ltd
The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE)
Viridor Credits Environmental Company

Legators

We are extremely grateful to the following people who left a bequest to BBOWT in their Will...

Nancy Buxton
John Cudmore
Thomas Fowler
Barbara Galway
James Hubbard
Anne Joyce
Michael Malone
Margaret Povey
Coral Purt
Stella Welford
Angela Yaffey

Local Authorities

Bracknell Forest Council
Cherwell District Council
Didcot Town Council
Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
South Oxfordshire District Council

President

Steve Backshall

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher
Dr Pam Berry
Sir Clive Booth
Dr Robin Buxton MBE, DL
Roger Dobbs (to Apr 2019)
Professor Dieter Helm CBE
Peter Hinde
Roger Maingot (to Feb 2019)
Hugh Mellor CBE
Martin Spray CBE
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Vale of White Horse District Council
West Berkshire Council

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From the Chair

During this year, as Chair, I have seen BBOWT progress with renewed energy and confidence. As the largest conservation charity in the three counties and in the face of development on a scale never seen before, we've been speaking up for nature even louder while also engaging in innovative projects on the ground, working with partners large and small to create more space for nature and inspire more people to become involved.

A particular highlight for me this year was the opening of the new waterfront at the Nature Discovery Centre in Thatcham; it's transformed the site and, with improved access and a new canopy, will enable many more people to spend time getting to know the wildfowl and other birds that breed around the lake throughout the year. Thanks go to our funders, including Grundon Waste Management and Thames Water.

We're now in the fourth year of our current strategic plan and it is delivering results for wildlife on all fronts. But the environment around us is changing and in the coming months we will begin to refresh those plans and start looking to the next five years. With that in mind, I've decided that now should be the time to pass on the baton to a new Chair

who can be in at the start of that process and able to carry it through.

The Board has chosen my Vice-Chair, Joanna Simons, to succeed me. She has a long association with The Wildlife Trust movement and I know that BBOWT will continue to thrive and expand its influence during her tenure.

I will of course continue to support BBOWT as a volunteer and ambassador. Working alongside our staff, with their knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm, is a humbling and inspiring experience. It is they, together with all of our members, volunteers and supporters, who are bringing about real wins for wildlife and the tantalising prospect of nature's recovery here in our three counties.

Barbara Muston



Barbara Muston
Chair
Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

Joanna Simons (left) and Barbara Muston.



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Your local Wildlife Trust brings people and nature together to protect our environment.

Our experts work with more than 1,800 volunteers to look after 85 nature reserves, four education centres and run hundreds of amazing events. We rely on the generosity of individuals, charitable trusts and businesses.

To find out more or to contribute visit www.bbowl.org.uk

The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts across the UK. Together The Wildlife Trusts form the largest UK voluntary organisation dedicated to protecting wildlife and wild places on land and at sea.

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Contact us

Estelle Bailey, Chief Executive

chiefexecutive@bbowl.org.uk
01865 775476

Grants, trusts & major gifts

fundraising@bbowl.org.uk
01865 775476

Company support

partnerships@bbowl.org.uk
01865 775476

Legacies

legacies@bbowl.org.uk
01865 775476

Volunteering

volunteering@bbowl.org.uk
01865 775476

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust,

The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Road,
Littlemore, Oxford, OX4 4XT

www.bbowl.org.uk

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