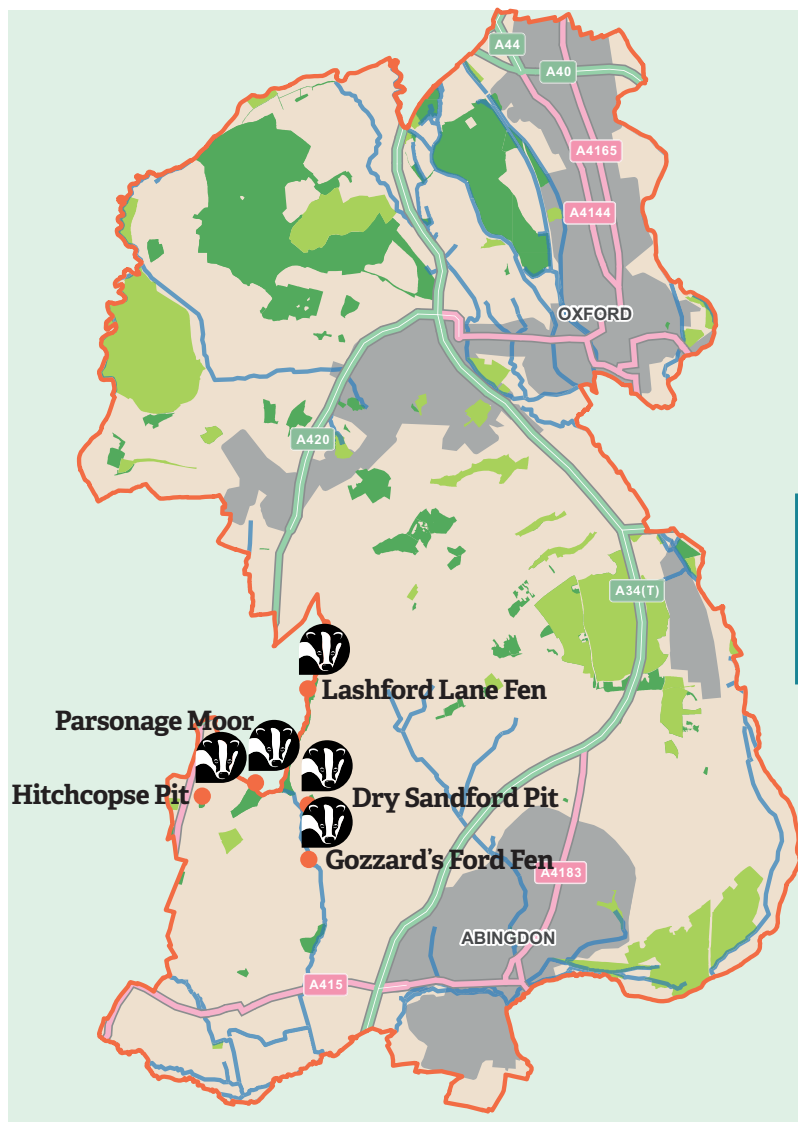


Oxford West and Abingdon Constituency



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust**



In this constituency, there are:

- over 4,700 BBOWT members
- 5 BBOWT nature reserves
- 41 Local Wildlife Sites (856 Ha)

KEY

Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve	Rivers and streams
Nationally designated wildlife sites	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

Nature in the constituency

Oxford Meadows

Oxford lies in the floodplain of the River Thames at its confluence with the River Cherwell. This brings many challenges for residents and businesses as well as benefits for nature and wildlife. The large area of floodplain meadows west of the city is a Special Area of Conservation because of its international importance for wildlife.

Cothill Fen

Cothill Fen, the largest area of alkaline fen in central England, is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). As part of this SAC, Dry Sandford Pit, Parsonage Moor and Lashford Lane are a nationally important collection of wildlife sites. Cothill Fen supports many species that depend on fen and are consequently very scarce. The southern damselfly is nationally and internationally rare and has suffered a 30% decline in its UK distribution since 1960. It has been recorded at Dry Sandford Pit and Parsonage Moor.

Hitchcose Pit

Hitchcose Pit is an old sandpit with a fascinating array of plant and insect life. Like nearby Dry Sandford Pit, this reserve is the result of quarrying. It is made up of the disused sandpit and contains fragments of heath, woodland, scrub, grassland and a small pond. The sandy floor of the old quarry pit is covered in acidic grassland and plants. Species to note include viper's-bugloss, evening-primrose and carline thistle.



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



Conservation volunteers © BBOWT

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 three counties.

Local Wildlife Sites

Along with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, BBOWT runs the Oxfordshire Local Wildlife Sites projects, carrying out surveys and delivering 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.

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. Oxford

Conservation Volunteers is a voluntary organisation that carries out practical work conserving the wildlife and traditional landscape of the Oxford area. Their projects include hedgelaying, coppicing, pollarding, scything, and conserving grassland by scrub clearance. Wild about Kennington is a group of local residents who come together to support wildlife friendly activity and increase biodiversity in Kennington. Their volunteers have helped grow and plant wildflower plug plants as well as raising awareness and later surveying the verges.

#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.



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust

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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).