



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust

Our Impact

2024-25

More nature everywhere, for everyone

Working together for a **wilder future**

Welcome to our Impact Report for 2024-25, showcasing some of the highlights that your support has helped us to achieve during the year.

Our strategy, Wilder 2021-26, has one simple overarching vision: to create more nature everywhere, for everyone. Thanks to the generous support of our members, volunteers, funders and partners, we have inspired and enabled more people to take action for nature and continued to protect and restore nature on our reserves and beyond. We're delighted to share some of the year's achievements with you.

As we head towards 2030, our strategy will evolve so that we help and encourage more people to take action for nature and do all we can to restore wilder landscapes across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. By working together, we can create bigger, wilder, more connected landscapes across our three counties, so nature and people can thrive, and our climate has a chance for recovery.

Thank you for sharing our commitment to a wilder future for everyone.



George Levvy Chair



Estelle Bailey Chief Executive

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust September 2025

Our work protects and restores the natural world, and connects people with wildlife

Our vision

More nature everywhere, for everyone

Our mission

To bring about nature's recovery through local action

To achieve our *Wilder* vision, we have three main goals:

- 1** Put nature into recovery
- 2** Empower people to act for nature
- 3** Secure our future

CHRIS DEENEY



GEORGE LEVY & ESTELLE BAILEY – CHRIS DEENEY, COVER IMAGE – ANDREW BRISTOW

“Thank you for your absolutely vital and hugely inspiring work. Please keep prioritising nature restoration and rewilding. Thanks for being a totally inspirational organisation.”

BBOWT member, annual survey 2024

Our impact in numbers

Your support helped us achieve all this and more in 2024-25



234 students from 13 schools took part in our A level programme

Read more about what we've achieved during 2024-25 thanks to your support in our full Annual Report and Accounts at



bbowt.org.uk/publications



60,000+ members



21,000ha total area over which we delivered nature conservation projects



140 volunteer surveyors completed 260 biological surveys



£512,182 received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop the Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray (RBOR) project



80+ nature reserves managed for wildlife



7,400+ pupils from 177 schools visited our learning centres



268 new volunteers recruited



1000+ Wildlife Ambassadors campaigning for nature



24 farm opportunity plans provided for the Ray Farmer Cluster



10% school visits made possible by our bursary scheme



850 children attended our wildlife clubs for 8-17 year olds



95% of our responses to planning applications resulted in better results for nature



1,100+ local people engaged with our Wild Bicester and Wild Banbury projects

Putting nature into **recovery**

Our nature reserves are at the heart of our plans for Nature Recovery Networks that join up landscapes so wildlife can thrive

Over the year external funding helped us carry out significant work on several nature reserves and in the wider countryside.

A series of dams were installed across the reedbed at Parsonage Moor, through a partnership project with Freshwater Habitats Trust. These dams will help retain water for longer on site, helping to mitigate for climate change impacts of longer, hotter summers. The dams were backfilled with cut reed which helps clean the water of nitrates, further benefiting the site and associated rare species such as the southern damselfly.

Great crested newts immediately colonised new ponds at Moor Copse, funded through the Newt Partnership project. They were not previously recorded on site so it's great news they discovered the ponds so quickly.

We began our two-year Mend the Gap-funded project, focused along the Thames, south of Wallingford. The project is delivering activities to enhance land impacted negatively by the electrification of the Great Western Railway around the Goring Gap. We are creating habitat enhancements on our own land at Cholsey Marsh and in partnership with local landowners.

We secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop the Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and Ray (BOR) project over a two year period. The 300km² BOR landscape lies between the large urban centres of Oxford, Bicester and Aylesbury. The programme includes work on nature, heritage, and communities. Particular focus areas are habitat creation, increasing access to greenspace, connecting communities through advocacy and stories, and working with young people to promote the next generation of nature conservationists.

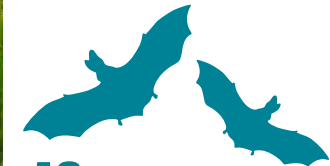


“We look forward to the nature recovery, community, heritage, greenspace and landscape benefits that will result right across the BOR area, through collaborative working in partnership towards common goals, and across county borders.”

Nicola Thomas, Partnership Manager at the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (NEP)



4ha additional land acquired adjacent to Yoesden nature reserve



12 bat species recorded at Moor Copse



1,343 military orchids counted at two nature reserves



Spotlight on a pioneering project

A first-of-its-kind project for the UK created two snake tunnels at Greenham Common to help save endangered native adders. 2024 saw the installation of two adder tunnels to promote movement of adders across parts of Greenham Common which had been previously disconnected.

BBOWT's radio tracking surveys showed that the Old Thornford Road at Crookham was a very clear barrier between two groups of adders stopping them mixing and breeding. They were moving through the heath and scrub either side of the road but never crossing it.

Funding from Natural England's Species Recovery Programme Capital Grant scheme enabled us to install two tunnels under the road, modelled on successful projects in Canada and Spain. Each tunnel is 0.5m x 0.5m in cross section and 10m long. The tunnel roof is an open grille which allows sunlight into the

tunnel, warming the space to make it more inviting to cold-blooded reptiles. The base is lined with gravel providing a well-drained surface for snakes or other wildlife to cross.

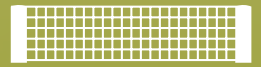
Outside the tunnels is 100m of permanent reptile fencing on each side of the road, leading and funnelling the snakes to the tunnel entrances where hopefully their natural curiosity will lead them in and across the road.

Late season radio tracking of adders showed movement very close to the tunnel entrance and use of the tunnel by multiple other species such as grass snake and small mammals. This is very encouraging that the tunnels may prove effective in the long term.

Stop press: In April 2025, an adder was seen on a camera trap using one of the tunnels. Great news for this pioneering project.

"I am particularly proud to have been involved in such a pioneering project creating a simple solution to the issue of two adder populations separated by a road. This is a wonderful groundbreaking initiative that should be replicated on other wildlife sites that could benefit from BBOWT's innovative approach."

Nigel Hand, adder specialist



2 tunnels



200m of permanent reptile fencing



£113,000 grant from Natural England's Species Recovery Programme



Empowering people to **act for nature**

By reaching new audiences and giving people the tools they need to restore nature in their own neighbourhoods we will achieve our vision of more nature everywhere

Our Learning Centres continue to be popular with all ages as we provide a range of opportunities to promote nature connection, supported by our volunteers.

The importance of nature to our wellbeing is evidenced by stories from participants of our Engaging with Nature project in Maidenhead, generously funded by the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and the Heathrow Community Trust. Feedback from a local organisation providing support for people living with mental and physical health conditions says, 'Our collaboration with the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust has proven to be a crucial lifeline for these individuals, offering them a safe, secluded, and confidential space where they can find solace and support.'

Our Nextdoor Nature project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, concluded this year. We collaborated with underserved communities living in Slough and Reading in Berkshire. The support we provided enabled people who had previously had little experience of nature to lead activities to improve local spaces for nature.

Our army of volunteers got larger, with 268 new volunteers recruited meaning that we can deliver more impact for nature. We've created more opportunities for young people including Duke of Edinburgh students volunteering at our visitor centres and on our reserves and work placements in our Ecology Team.

We increased our number of campaigning volunteer Wildlife Ambassadors to over 1,000 people taking action for nature. This included supporting our campaign for greater protections for our rivers and chalk streams, getting amendments tabled to legislation that would require local authorities to put chalk stream plans in place.



"I love volunteering... I think it helps me as much as it helps BBOWT!"

Judith Haine, BBOWT volunteer



13,871 people of all ages attended our learning sessions and events



13 trainees recruited into our land management, ecology and learning teams



11% increase in social media followers



Spotlight on BBOWT's Community Network

BBOWT's Community Network was boosted by a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to help more people help wildlife where they live. The Network links up and supports like-minded people and groups volunteering for nature in their local areas and many have established strong connections among themselves. Many groups now work with each other and share their knowledge and ideas, and they are better connected to local organisations and businesses.

Lily O'Neill, BBOWT Community Network Project Officer said: "I love doing this project so much because it's taken on a life of its own: I run training sessions then months later I see people again and they tell me all the incredible things they've been doing since then. There have been a million tiny moments like that which add up to make a huge difference.

"Loads of the people who join our network are already doing great things for wildlife. We're able to support them by providing resources via our toolkit as well as running interactive workshops, but most importantly we bring them together so they can forge connections and share their expertise. I've been so inspired by this project and I can't wait to help hundreds more people to help wildlife."

BBOWT has been able to offer nature groups free networking sessions and training days covering a diverse range of topics from leadership skills to species identification, staging events and managing green spaces for wildlife. Our community walks bring groups together to learn and network and this all helps them to have even greater impact for their local wildlife.

"The Walk with a Community Ecologist event has given us confidence to carry on working to improve habitats for nature...There is more acceptance of managing our open spaces for nature because of the endorsement by BBOWT, which publicity about the event brought."

Katy Todd, Wild Estone Grange



380+ members in our Community Network Facebook group



207 groups engaged with through the Community Network during the year



368 people came to online and in person sessions



Securing our future

Growing and diversifying our network of supporters will enable us to expand our work across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

If BBOWT is to deliver its ambitions for nature across the coming years it is critical that our finances, people and infrastructure are resilient to the challenges we face within our operating environment. We must prepare ourselves for unforeseen circumstances and ensure that we respond flexibly to a dynamic and challenging external world.

We have had success in maintaining our financial security through uncertain times through careful financial management. Our membership numbers stay strong at just under 29,300 memberships, demonstrating the importance of nature to so many people in our three counties. We remain inspired by and incredibly grateful to all our donors and supporters. Our commitment is to maximise the resources that we have to ensure that they deliver the greatest possible impact for nature.

In addition, we have continued to work hard on developing our people (staff and volunteers) and ensuring our physical and digital infrastructure is fit for purpose. Equity, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EEDIB) continues to be embedded across the organisation, with a Trustee sub-committee formed and meeting monthly to progress this initiative.

We also offer a huge thank you to all our volunteers who help us on our nature reserves, at our visitor and education centres, in our offices and beyond.



“I loved absolutely every minute of my traineeship. I met some truly wonderful people and learned so much. Every member of the full-time BBOWT staff was ready and willing to share their knowledge and enthusiasm and love of the natural world with me.”

Ralph Giles, volunteer trainee



860+ known pledged gifts in wills to BBOWT



24 volunteer development events



91% volunteers feel valued



Spotlight on the Nature Recovery Fund



We completed a full year of our first multi-year fundraising campaign, the Nature Recovery Fund, which has raised nearly £1m towards nature's recovery. The Nature Recovery Fund targets three critical areas of our work – nature, climate and people. The total

target is ambitious but the potential for positive change across our three counties is huge.

Money donated is already making an impact. For example, we are creating more scrapes and pools for birds like curlew and redshank. New fencing will allow livestock to graze safely and more predator fencing will protect the nests of birds that nest on the ground, like curlew.

We hosted two thought-leader events for local decision makers that highlighted the important role nature plays in our lives, from nature-based solutions to the impacts of the climate crisis to the benefit that access to good quality green space has on our physical and mental wellbeing.

We were able to bring constituents and candidates together before the 2024 general election making sure that the importance of nature's recovery was on the political agenda. We promoted our five key asks to parties and continue to work with local MPs and councillors across our three counties.

More than 200 volunteers started with BBOWT over the past year. The Nature Recovery Fund helps them carry out tasks on our nature reserves, welcome visitors to our visitor and education centres, survey wildlife and more. Their contribution lets us do so much more for nature than we could do alone.



You can give to the Nature Recovery Fund at
bbowt.org.uk/SOS



10% of the remaining floodplain meadows in the country under BBOWT's management



2 thought-leader events for local decision makers



3 key focuses – nature, climate and people



"Thank you for all your hard work protecting and restoring nature - and in doing so, protecting us and helping us to thrive!"

Donor to the 2025 Nature Recovery Fund match fund appeal

Our finances

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust continues to maintain a healthy financial position, despite experiencing many of the same financial and fundraising headwinds as the wider charity sector.

Through careful financial management, we have kept our charitable reserves at a healthy level. In 2024-25, income was boosted through an increase in membership and membership donations, a successful year of trust and grant project funding, generous support from many individuals and increased engagement from business.

Income was also received for two specific (restricted) purposes, meaning they cannot be used on general operating costs. Successful Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) sales at Ludgershall Meadows and Duxford Old River ensure their management for decades to come, and the income received from the sale of The Lodge is reserved for purchase / renovation of office sites and facilities.

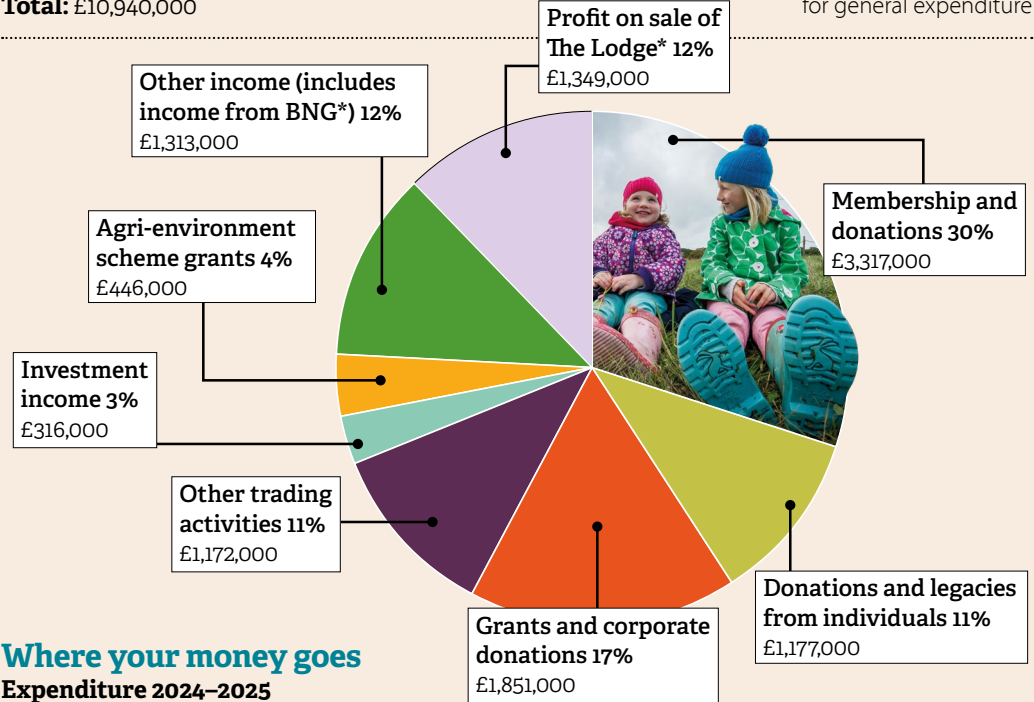


MATTHEW ROBERTS

How you support us

Income 2024-2025
Total: £10,940,000

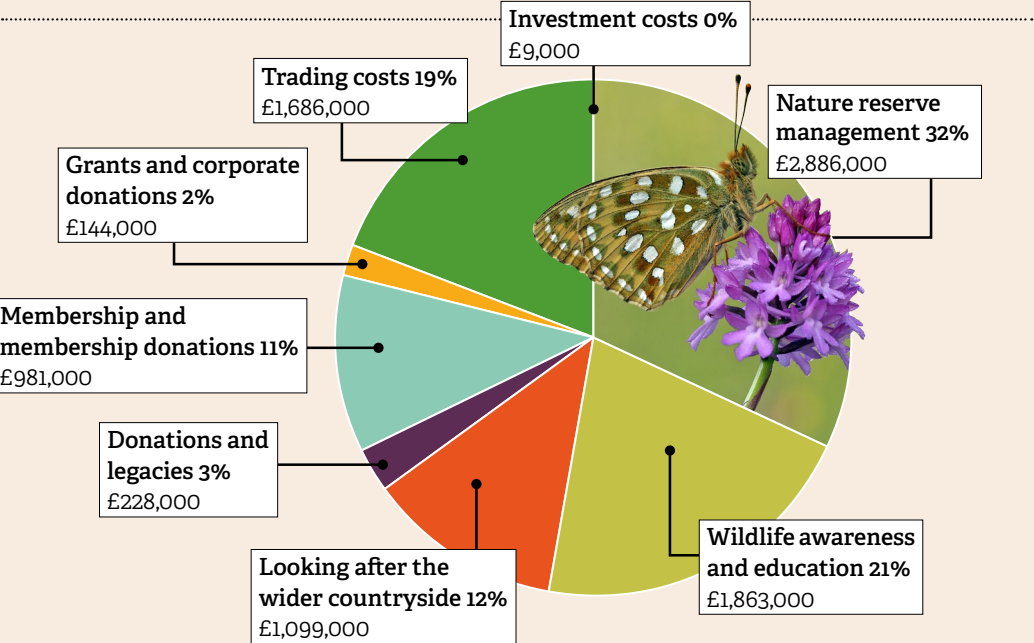
*restricted funds, unavailable for general expenditure



MATTHEW ROBERTS

Where your money goes

Expenditure 2024-2025
Total: £8,895,000m



BEN KITELEY

Our members

Fundraising promise...

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire 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 as a member, 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. Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust 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.



“Thank you for all you do to conserve and protect our natural environment for us and future generations.”

BBOWT member, annual survey 2024



29,200+
active memberships



£3m+
income received
from memberships



3,391 new
memberships
during the year



10,627 Wildlife
Watch Club members



41% of our income
is from membership,
donations and legacies



Thank you to **our Supporters**

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust relies on the generosity of its members and other supporters. Without this support we would not be able to achieve our aim of more nature everywhere, for everyone, in our three counties.

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We would like to thank the following organisations and individuals who have generously supported BBOWT during the 2024-25 financial year. We would like to particularly acknowledge the continued support from individuals and organisations that enabled us to carry on with our work through the ongoing challenge of cost-of-living crisis.

President

Steve Backshall

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Dr Pam Berry
Dr Robin Buxton MBE DL CEnv FCIEEM
Professor Sir Dieter Helm CBE
Martin Spray CBE
Audrey, Lady Wood

Board of Trustees

George Levvy (Chair)
Jolyon Austin (Vice Chair)
Zoe Hancock (Honorary Treasurer)
Frances Brindle (Deputy Chair) – resigned 25.10.24
Graeme Thompson (Honorary Treasurer) – resigned 25.10.24
Natalie Ganpatsingh
Gregory Webster – resigned 06.12.24
Drew Bennellick
Miles Evans
Mark Chacksfield
Timothy Davies
Garth Clark
Samuel Burgh
Amy Padfield
Simon Dickson – appointed 23.07.24
Subash Ludhra – appointed 23.07.24

Charitable Trusts (£2,000+)

ABRI Community Fund
Englefield Charitable Trust
Greenham Trust
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
Heathrow Community Trust
Helen Roll Charity
Mr & Mrs J A Pye's Charitable Settlement
Tesco Stronger Starts
The 29th May 1961 Charity
The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust
The Anson Charitable Trust
The Bouttell Bequest
The Critchley Charitable Trust
The Doris Field Charitable Trust
The Du Plessis Family Foundation
The EBM Charitable Trust
The Jim Marshall Charitable Trust
The Joe & Rosa Frenkel Charitable Trust
The McLay Dementia Trust
The Richard Radcliffe Charitable Trust
The Rothschild Foundation
The Sheepdrove Trust
The Stockwell Cliffe Charitable Trust
The Syder Foundation

Statutory organisations

DEFRA
Environment Agency
Highways England
Natural England

Grant making bodies

Chilterns Conservation Board
Chilterns National Landscape
North Wessex Downs AONB
National Lottery Heritage Fund
National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund

The Crown Estate
The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT)
Wild Oxfordshire

Landfill Communities Fund

FCC Communities Fund
Grundon
Veolia Environmental Trust

Local Authorities

Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cherwell District Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Vale of White Horse District Council
West Berkshire Council
West Oxfordshire District Council
Wiltshire Council

Local Business Donors

CH&CO
Crédit Agricole
Eleos Compliance
Purely Plants
Resonates SLM Ltd
RWE
Sula Innovation
Wildlife Travel

Business Engagement Partners

A Menarini Diagnostics UK
Ascot Lloyd
Berkeley Homes
Berkshire Botanical
Blenheim Palace
Bowles & Wyer Ltd
Castle Hotel Windsor
DHL Supply Chain
English Provender Company Ltd
FourFront Group
Freeths LLP

Greencore Homes
Iron Mountain Data Centers
Johnson Matthey Plc
Jordans Farms
Karl Storz Endoscopy (UK) Ltd
Nature Bureau
Oxford Pharmagenesis Ltd
Pacific Produce
Primark (Reading)
QuickMoveNow
Radley College
Renegade Brewery
SDC Builders Ltd
Sophos
St Anne's College
St John's College
Tieva INC (Prodec Networks)
Travel Antares Ltd
University College Oxford
Vine House Farm

Major Donors

Mr and Mrs Mike Coker
Rose Dale
Dr Tony and Mrs Marion Gillie
John Everett and Hilary Barton
Professor Sir Dieter and Mrs Sue Helm
Mr Roger Jefcoate CBE DL
Leonard and Suzanne Phillips
Mr and Mrs Tony Yarrow

Legators

We are extremely grateful to the following people who left a bequest to Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust in their Will:
Mr Malcolm Anderson
Mrs Gillian Belloni
Mrs Mona Burgess
Mr John Cochrane
Mr Adrian Collier

Mr John Dally
Mr George Dubber
Mr Peter Emes
Mrs Shirley Harriott
Mr Henry Hulme
Mr John Ingram
Miss Berice Large
Mrs Maureen Moulton
Mr Alan Mountford
Mr Anthony Purkiss
Mr Geoffrey Penny
Mr Brian Saunders
Miss Sheila Thompson
Mr Charles Tremlett
Mr Ray Wainwright
Ms Patricia Welford

We also thank those individuals and families who have chosen to donate anonymously.

“OCU Group is committed to supporting spaces, like Chimney Meadows Reserve and Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, making a difference to the local environment but also strengthening the connection between our teams and the communities and landscapes we work in.”

Alina Mone, Senior Environmental and Sustainability Advisor, OCU Group, Investor in Wildlife member

Looking forward to 2025-26, our plans for the next year and beyond

As we wrap up the Wilder 2021-2026 strategic plan and introduce a new Strategy 2030, we recognise that we need to adapt to a changing external world environment.

Our key vision of 'more nature everywhere, for everyone' is as relevant as ever, but we can only succeed in nature's recovery if enough people in our three counties are part of the movement with us.

While much of our core business will not change, the coming year is time to review everything we do and ensure that our work, generously funded by individuals, funders, businesses and other supporters, and carried out by staff and volunteers, is as efficient and impactful as possible.

Everything we do must help us work towards our key goals of building a movement for change and ensuring that 30% of land is well-managed for nature. We look forward to working with all our supporters and partners to create bigger, wilder, more connected landscapes across our three counties, so nature and people can thrive.

Be part of **nature's recovery**

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust brings people together to create more nature everywhere, for everyone.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, charitable trusts and businesses, we are able to achieve our goals. Through their support, our experts work with hundreds of volunteers to look after more than 80 nature reserves, five education centres and two visitor centres. To find out more or to support our work visit bbowt.org.uk

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts across the UK. Together, 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.



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust

Contact us

Estelle Bailey, Chief Executive
chiefexecutive@bbowt.org.uk

Grants, trusts, individuals & major gifts

fundraising@bbowt.org.uk

Company support

partnerships@bbowt.org.uk

Gifts in wills

philanthropy@bbowt.org.uk

Volunteering

volunteering@bbowt.org.uk

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

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Registered charity number: 204330 Company registered number: 00680007

