



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust



A Welcome to **Wildlife**

More nature everywhere, for everyone

Hello from BBOWT

“ Hello, and a heartfelt thank you for becoming a BBOWT member. Your support will help us achieve more for the wild places and wildlife you cherish.

By joining us you are making an important contribution to local wildlife at a pivotal moment. Nature faces unprecedented pressure from inappropriate development, intensive agriculture and climate change.

At the same time, we all need nature more than ever before. But change is in the air and we are best placed to lead nature's recovery locally.

We already work hard to create safe havens for wildlife on our nature reserves. Now we are thinking bigger, bolder and wilder, beyond our reserves, to create a wilder landscape for all.

We're working with landowners, farmers and communities across our three counties to put nature at the heart of all our lives, while also tackling the climate crisis.

We have big ambitions to see 30% of land well managed for nature by 2030 and we know the stakes have never been higher.

Yet we are confident that with your help, we can bring nature back. Together we can achieve our aim of more nature everywhere, for everyone, in urban and rural areas.

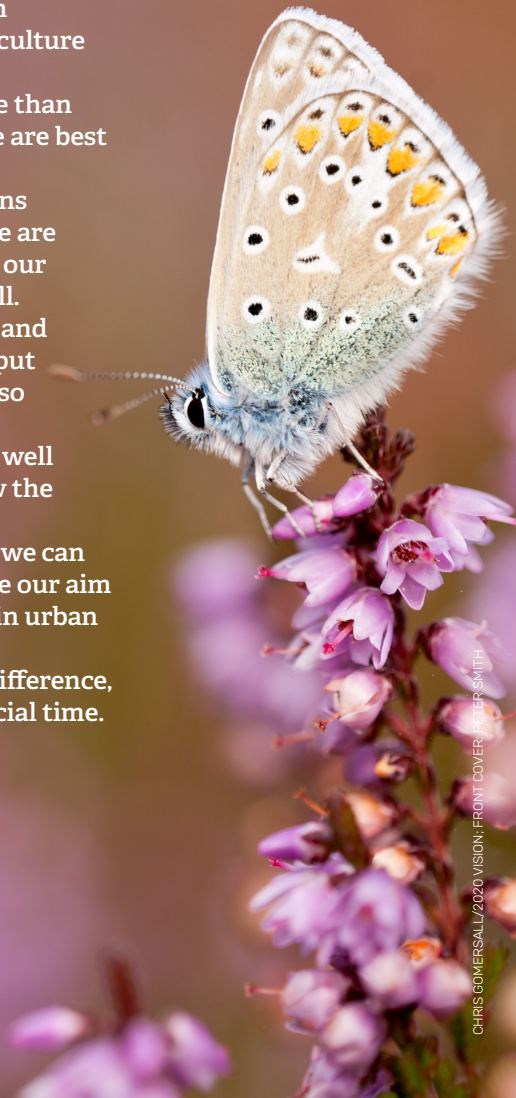
We want you to know you are making a difference, to ensure a wilder future for all at this crucial time.

Thank you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Estelle Bailey'.

Estelle Bailey MBE
Chief Executive



Getting to know us

Your
questions
answered

We're thrilled you've decided to join BBOWT! Here are a few things you might like to know about us and your membership

How do I get in touch to make a change to my membership details – for example, my subscription amount or address?

You can easily update your contact details, the amount you donate and anything else to do with your membership by getting in touch with our Membership Team (see contact details below).

What is Gift Aid and how does BBOWT benefit from it?

Gift Aid is a tax relief that enables UK charities to reclaim an extra 25% in tax on every eligible donation made by a UK taxpayer. This means BBOWT can claim 25p for every £1 donated at no extra cost to you. If you would like to know more or change your Gift Aid status please get in touch with the Membership Team.

How can I find out what events are being held near me?

The Events section of our website has information on our wide range of upcoming wildlife themed events - bbowt.org.uk/events. Your regular *Wild Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire* magazine will also highlight interesting events throughout the year.

How do I book onto an event?

You can book onto one of our events by visiting bbowt.org.uk/events, or by contacting the event organiser (details found on our website above).

Who can I talk to about a specific wildlife issue?

If you have any queries about wildlife please get in touch by calling 01865 775476 or emailing info@bbowt.org.uk.

BBOWT Blogs

Get an insider's view into the work of the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust.




Find out what conservation work we're carrying out and meet some of the wonderful people, from our reserves staff to our volunteers, that are behind everything we do.



Scan the QR
code or visit
bbowt.org.uk/blog

How to get in touch

Contact our membership team by email, phone or post:

 membership@bbowt.org.uk
 01865 788300
 Compass House, 1 Farmoor Court, Farmoor, Oxford, OX2 9LU

Join us on social media



Make the most of your membership

We like to keep in touch, so you can choose how we contact you and take part in fantastic wildlife-themed events we put on every year.

As the only charity dedicated solely to the wildlife of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, our roots are local. In fact, BBOWT is all about local people coming together to make a difference for local wildlife. It's good news for nature and everyone is better off when they're a bit wild.

Our members are the lifeblood of BBOWT, which is why we want you to be as happy and informed as possible, so that you too can discover the incredible wildlife that's right on your doorstep.

Staying in touch

We'll send you a copy of *Wild Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire* magazine three times a year (at the end of March, July and November).



It is a great way to catch up on all the latest news and to see what a difference your support is making for local wildlife.

We offer a digital version of the magazine, which you can sign up to and view our recent editions on our website at bbowt.org.uk/publications.

We may also get in touch a couple of times a year to let you know about other opportunities to support BBOWT. These may include appeals to purchase a piece of land that will benefit local wildlife. You can opt out of any form of communication by contacting our membership team.

If you haven't yet signed up for our regular email newsletter, you can do so by contacting the Membership Team or signing up on our website at bbowt.org.uk/newsletter.

If you wish to change anything about the way we contact you, whether the means or the content, then please get in touch with us or complete the Data Protection form enclosed with your Welcome Pack.

Adriana Alberts
Membership Manager

One of the helpful and friendly BBOWT Membership Team



Journey of discovery

Two members share their experiences of taking part in an event and what becoming a member means to them.

“ Although I'm not a nature expert, I have always loved wildlife. The guided walk was very interesting and reminded me of the wildlife I grew up with. It's been a great opportunity to get out and learn more about the wildlife that surrounds me.

“ I'm very grateful that my membership was bought for me as a gift. It's given me an incentive to explore my local wildlife and learn about the work BBOWT does on a daily basis.

Lily O'Neill
Events Manager

Organises and runs online and in person events across our three counties



Let's get together!

We run a programme of events you are welcome to take part in. There are activities for all ages and abilities, bringing you closer to nature. Enjoy a fascinating guided tour of a nature reserve, led by an expert in local wildlife, bring your child to a hands-on activity session or join an online talk from home to discover more about nature.

Events are a great way to learn about local conservation and the wildlife that thrives in our area, while of course meeting other like-minded members.

Visit bbowt.org.uk/events and have a browse - we look forward to meeting you!

WILLOW OBELISK WEAVING EVENT BY
JON HAWKINS



Great deals for you and wildlife

Take advantage of these opportunities to help local wildlife while you shop and enjoy a few discounts just for you too!



Food for birds and a boost for BBOWT

When you order use the

code **BBOWTNM10** to get 10% off your first order. What's more, BBOWT receives £10 for every member who becomes a new customer of Vine House Farm. Order online at vinehousefarm.co.uk or phone 01775 630208.

To see all our current BBOWT member benefits, scan the QR code or visit bbowt.org.uk/members



MOUNTAIN WAREHOUSE

Save a bundle on outdoor essentials!

Save 20% on Mountain Warehouse, Outdoor Living, Active People and Animal brand products! Order in store or online at mountain-warehouse.com



NIGEL KITTELEY

Data Protection & Privacy



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

BBOWT takes the privacy, security and wishes of its members very seriously. We adhere to all legislation and regulations governing charities and fundraising. Please read our Privacy Policy (available on our website at bbowt.org.uk/privacy or by request). This details in full how we use your data; from

processing your membership to getting in touch.

We are committed to fundraising and communicating in an honest and transparent way. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and comply to their Code of Fundraising Practice. For more information please see our Fundraising Promise on our website: bbowt.org.uk/fundraising-promise.

In your Welcome Pack, you will find a Data Protection form that gives you the opportunity to change the ways we communicate with you, or which communications you wish to receive. Please let us know of any changes you wish to make by returning this form or getting in touch with the Membership Team by email or phone (details on page 3).

Explore our nature reserves...

Looking for ideas but unsure where to begin? Here's some inspiration to get out there and discover the best of our local wildlife

For walking

Dancersend with Pavis Woods (Bucks)

Lose yourself in this tranquil haven nestled within two sheltered Chiltern valleys. The extraordinary tapestry of woodland and meadows has been a nature reserve since the 1940s. The recent addition of wonderful beechwoods means there's now even more to discover.



Greenham and Crookham Commons (Berks)

Explore Berkshire's largest tract of heathland. Once an airbase, the roar of US Air Force planes has been replaced by the songs of rare birds, including nightjars, woodlarks and Dartford warblers, that thrive among the heather and gorse.

Hartslock (Oxon)

Let your spirit soar at this jewel on the edge of the Chilterns. Admire views across to the Thames while you watch swallows skim the pasture or red kites circle overhead. In summer Hartslock reveals its real treasure – a visual orchestra of orchids and butterflies.



Hartslock



Chimney Meadows

For birds

Chimney Meadows (Oxon)

A tranquil corner of the Upper Thames converted from a commercial farm to a rich mosaic of wildflower meadows. Its nationally-important wetlands are home to wading birds like curlew, while feeding cormorant, little egret and kingfishers are often glimpsed.



Thatcham Reedbeds is especially important for breeding birds, including sedge and reed warblers, cuckoo and Cetti's warbler

Thatcham Reedbeds (Berks)

There aren't many places you can still hear the call of the cuckoo or the rich song of the nightingale, but these reedbeds offer a good chance! The reeds are home to water rail, reed bunting and warblers like the Cetti's warbler. Look out for bitterns too (image right).



Tramper Hire

Limited mobility needn't mean missing out on nature!

We have many accessible nature reserves across our three counties, and three of our flagship reserves have Trampers available to borrow free of charge - the Nature Discovery Centre (Berkshire), College Lake (Buckinghamshire) and Warburg Nature Reserve (Oxfordshire). Visit our website bbowt.org.uk/tramper-hire to find out which of our nature reserves are suitable for less-mobile visitors, either with a mobility scooter or a robust wheelchair and an assistant, and how to book one of our Trampers.



For flowers

Inkpen Crocus Field (Berks)

From late February to early April this field is awash with more than 400,000 purple and white blooms. Britain's biggest display of wild crocuses is believed to be the result of bulbs brought back from the Mediterranean by Knights Templars in the 12th century.



Inkpen Crocus Field

Iffley Meadows (Oxon)

Every spring thousands of delicate purple, pink and white chequered snake's-head fritillary flowers nod gracefully in the breeze. This exotic-looking flower is the emblem of Oxfordshire, symbolising its relationship with the Thames. Why not bring a picnic and watch the river lazily flow by?

Bernwood Meadows (Bucks)

These traditional hay meadows, a remnant of medieval ridge and furrow meadow, offer a riot of colour from April to July. More than 100 plant species thrive here, from lady's bedstraw with its tiny yellow flowers to rare green-winged orchids.



Upper Ray Meadows (Bucks)

The River Ray is one of the best areas in central England for locally scarce wading birds. The first curlew usually return to the Upper Ray Meadows in late February, and by early spring lapwing and curlew can be seen performing displays across the reserve. Gallows Bridge Farm, part of the Upper Ray Meadows, is a fantastic spot for watching winter wildfowl in the secluded bird hide.



Gallows Bridge Farm

Explore our nature reserves (continued...)

For families

College Lake (Bucks)

Nature reclaimed this worked-out chalk quarry and created an outstanding centre for wildlife, which gives nature-lovers of all ages easy access to an amazing range of wild plants and animals.

Explore the interactive displays in our visitor centre and around the reserve then enjoy delicious food and drinks in the café.

Warburg Nature Reserve (Oxon)

Warburg is one of BBOWT's flagship nature reserves, a magnificent place alive with wildlife – ask the warden for current highlights. With a small visitor centre, picnic area, bird hides and interactive Nature Detectives Trail to try, there's lots for young and old alike.



Above: Lapwing at College Lake

“ Try our circular **Wildlife Walk at College Lake** - just follow the **lapwing waymarkers around the lake!**

Nature Discovery Centre (Berks)

The stunning lakeside visitor centre is full of interactive wildlife and natural history displays, while outside there's a network of family-friendly footpaths to explore.

Wear the little ones out in the Adventure Playground, feed the waterfowl then relax in the Lakeside Café.



Nature Discovery Centre

BAVAH AIRD



Bluebells at Foxholes

For tranquillity

Foxholes (Oxon)

Revel in this cool deep wood filled with birdsong, bluebells and flashes of butterflies flitting among the trees. Because Foxholes is ancient woodland it is a haven for bats. Seven species have been recorded here, many of them using old woodpecker holes in trees as their roosts.

Moor Copse (Berks)

The River Pang meanders through the woodland, where in spring bluebells carpet the ground with stunning effect. Then in summer the restored floodplain meadows teem with wild flowers from which seed has been harvested to restore other nearby meadows.

CLAIRE FOREST

- For visiting reserves information, please consult *Your Wild Guide* nature reserve handbook. You can also find all the details you need at bbowt.org.uk/reserves

Wild young things!

An early fascination with nature will last a lifetime. Making the most of your family membership is the perfect way to ignite that passion

Instil a love of nature from an early age to create tomorrow's wildlife guardians. Your family membership is an easy and fun way of starting their lifelong interest in nature – and they can look forward to receiving all sorts of wildlife-themed goodies too!

✦ Four issues a year of *Wildlife Watch*, full of fun facts, things to do, wallcharts and more ✦ The *Wildlife Watcher's Handbook* – a pocket-sized guide to being a 'Wildlife Watcher' ✦ Membership card, badge, poster and stickers ✦ Fun family events – everything from craft workshops to pond dipping.

More Wildlife Watch activities!

For more awesome facts, stories and activities that help children connect with nature, visit wildlifewatch.org.uk

Get out there!

Throughout the year and whatever the weather, BBOWT puts on many exciting family focussed activities. They are a great introduction to wildlife, with hands-on activities and awe-inspiring talks and demonstrations to get the youngsters in your lives genuinely enthralled by nature.

Pond dipping, bug hunting, bird watching, den building or perhaps a magical wildlife-themed story time – there's lots going on for all age groups and interests. Discover how fascinating nature can be and how you too can help local wildlife. Visit bbowt.org.uk/events and find activities to bring out your family's wild side!

- Discover more and sign up to our *Family Fun* e-newsletter at bbowt.org.uk/explore/family-days-out



ELIE ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Make a space for wildlife

Don't forget your closest nature reserve: your garden! Whatever its size, making a difference for wildlife is easy

Gardens cover a greater area than all the land protected for nature, so helping wildlife really does begin at home. Wildlife gardening doesn't mean just letting your garden grow wild – you can have a beautiful garden and help nature at the same time.

Greener backdrop

Start with plants. Berry-producing trees and shrubs such as dogwood, berberis and pyracantha provide food for birds, especially in winter. Climbing plants like honeysuckle have nectar-rich flowers for bees, while evergreens such as ivy also offer year-round shelter. Replace fences with hedges to create nesting sites and allow hedgehogs to move freely between gardens to forage.

Butterflies and bees love nectar-rich flowers like verbena and scabious. Consider turning part of your lawn into a mini wildflower meadow – start afresh from seed or plant plugs of flowers like cowslip, oxeye daisy and meadow crane's-bill.

Tight on space? Then potted lavender or marjoram are great for bees and butterflies.

Pond life

Ponds attract more wildlife than any other garden feature. If you've got no room for a big pond, you could create a mini pond from an old washing-up bowl or bucket.

Fill your pond with rainwater and native pond plants, then watch and wait. Frogs, newts and even dragonflies will soon arrive. Birds and mammals will use your pond as the local watering hole.

“ Your garden can become a magnet for local wildlife!

Right at home

A pile of logs in a shady corner will help rare stag beetles breed and shelter toads and slow worms. Spiders and solitary bees seek out nooks and crannies.

Put up bird boxes. Many gardens are also suitable for bat boxes or swift boxes - also available as 'bricks' to replace standard ones.

Don't forget to keep feeding the birds and topping up bird baths.

For more wildlife gardening tips visit bbowt.org.uk/actions.



PENNY PRIXE



TERRY WITAKER/2020VISION

Attract more wildlife



Flower power Sow traditional cornfield annuals like cornflower, corn marigold and poppies.



Rotten luck Compost heaps provide a natural supply of nutrients and a home for insects and spiders.



Bug bonanza Hollow stems and drilled holes provide hidey holes for solitary bees and other bugs.



Feathered nest Bird boxes offer instant homes. Locate them in a quiet area, out of direct sunlight.

TOM MARSHALL

A voice for nature

Wildlife can't speak, which is why we campaign tirelessly on its behalf

Wildlife faces many threats in the modern world, but together we can work toward positive change despite these challenges.

Development: Increasing development pressures mean we have to ensure wildlife is fully considered within the planning system. BBOWT responds to strategic planning consultations, comments on selected planning applications that pose a risk to wildlife, and provides advice to planners, developers and consultants.

Natural climate solutions: BBOWT works in our nature reserves and beyond, across our Living Landscapes and into the wider countryside. We are working with landowners and farmers to deliver nature-based solutions to the nature and climate crisis. This will enable us to restore nature at a landscape-scale, helping to halt the loss of wildlife, and at the same time tackling climate change locally.



BBOWT campaigners at Oxford Climate Rally

Get involved!

Be a Wildlife Ambassador:

Join our community of more than 1000 Wildlife Ambassadors who help us stand up for wildlife. Sign up to receive updates on how you can get involved, tips about how you can support our campaigns, plus the latest news from BBOWT.

To sign up as a BBOWT Wildlife Ambassador and find out more, please visit our website at bbowt.org.uk/campaigning-wildlife.



Do you help wildlife on your patch? Every action, no matter how small, makes a difference. Tell us what you're doing and put your jigsaw piece on our #teamWILDER map.

You can be part of the solution to the nature and climate crisis!

Visit bbowt.org.uk/team-wilder

#teamWILDER

Fancy getting even more involved?

Here are some other ways to help us and your local wildlife



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust



Become a volunteer!



Volunteering is the perfect way to help local wildlife, have fun, learn new skills and meet new people. Browse opportunities at our nature reserve and centres or with community groups on our website at bbowt.org.uk/volunteer

 Scan the QR code for more volunteering information

“ I love the flexibility of volunteering with BBOWT. I've been doing things I never thought I'd do. **”**

Fundraise for BBOWT



Whether you're organising a bake sale, doing a sponsored walk or even running a marathon, you can help raise essential funds and make a real difference for wildlife. Visit bbowt.org.uk/wildpack for more details.



Recycle ink cartridges

for BBOWT

Recycle 4 Charity

We receive £1 for every old inkjet cartridge recycled with us through Recycle 4 Charity. You can order recycling envelopes at recycle4charity.co.uk/register/C55659

ANNE LATEROUILLE

Leave a gift in your Will



We know life gets busy, but writing or updating your Will is one of the most important things you can do to ensure your wishes are honoured.

There are many ways you can write your will or review and update an existing one to ensure the right people and causes benefit when you die. Depending on your circumstances, you may wish to use your own solicitor or take advantage of a free will offer, online or in person.

To make the process easier, BBOWT has two partnerships that enable our supporters to write their wills for free - without any obligations whatsoever. In each case, we are paying a discretionary rate for a limited number of simple wills to be written and checked by a qualified solicitor. If matters are more complex, you will need to pay for any additional fees. Find out more at bbowt.org.uk/gifts-in-wills or get in touch for a confidential chat: philanthropy@bbowt.org.uk we'd love to hear from you.

 Scan the QR code for more legacy information



ILLUSTRATION BY LIZZIE HARPER