



Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

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Living Landscapes



West Berkshire Living Landscape

Ancient woodland and precious heathland especially rich in wildlife



State of Nature report

60% of UK species in decline.

We are putting biodiversity back into our countryside with large-scale projects that combine land ownership, long-term planning and strong partnerships.



"This important document provides a stark warning: far more species are declining than increasing in the UK" - David Attenborough

- [Find out more](#)
- [Read the report](#)

Project areas

As part of a wider initiative by The Wildlife Trusts, The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust has identified a key area in each of our three counties for large-scale conservation projects to create truly living landscapes:

- [Upper River Ray Floodplain \(Bucks\)](#)
- [Upper Thames Living Landscape \(Oxon\)](#)
- [West Berkshire Living Landscape \(Berks\)](#)

Thinking big

BBOWT was founded in 1959 by local ecologists who could see the extent of harm being done to the wonderfully rich natural environment of the three counties. For over 50 years we have worked with local people to make Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire richer in wildlife.

To date, wildlife conservation has been focused on protecting small pockets of land for wildlife, such as nature reserves. While nature reserves are important refuges for wildlife, it is becoming increasingly clear that these isolated areas of habitat surrounded by relatively hostile urban, agricultural and industrial landscapes are not enough. Some of our most endangered wildlife requires greater support to survive the many pressures of human activity.

The way forward is nature conservation on a landscape scale, the creation of a Living Landscape. A Living Landscape is a 'recovery plan for nature', championed by The Wildlife Trusts since 2006, to help create a resilient and healthy environment rich in wildlife with ecological security for people.

In a Living Landscape...

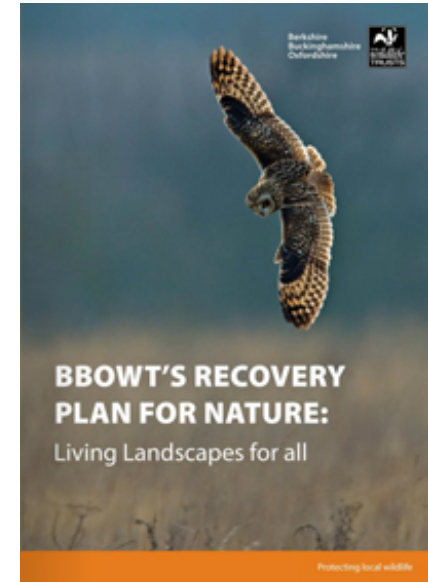
- Wildlife can move between suitable habitats,
- There is reduced isolation between populations, which reduces the chance of local extinction,
- There are buffers against the effects of global warming.

Living Landscape project activities

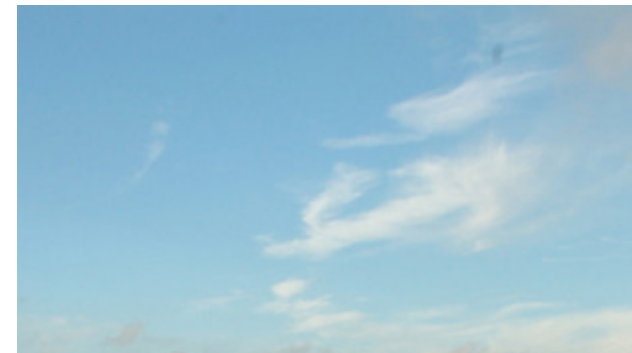
- Management of core wildlife sites within project areas, such as [BBOWT reserves](#) and other designated areas,
- Purchase of new land,
- Provision of management advice to [local landowners](#),
- Investment in landscape-scale management and restoration.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. [What is a Living Landscape?](#)
2. [What makes BBOWT's Living Landscape areas special?](#)
3. [How does your Living Landscape work differ from what you did before?](#)
4. [Where does the idea of Living Landscapes come from?](#)
5. [Does land within a Living Landscape receive any special protection from development?](#)



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6. Is your work on Living Landscapes supported by other agencies and government?
7. What money is available for landowners to do the 'right thing' for wildlife?

What is a Living Landscape?

In short, it's about working with other stakeholders to achieve habitat restoration at a landscape scale.

It's about linking-up habitats for wildlife and connecting people with their local landscape

What makes BBOWT's Living Landscape areas special?

We selected areas with wildlife interest across a significant area where we felt we could make a difference through working with other landowners and partners and local people.

How does your Living Landscape work differ from what you did before?

The key differences are scale, partnership and working outside of our own nature reserve boundaries.

Where does the idea of Living Landscapes come from?

A review of the impact the conservation movement has had on biodiversity along with the potential impacts of climate change, made it clear how important it is to work on the species-poor gaps in the landscape that are preventing species from responding to threats by moving through from one wildlife hotspot to another.

Does land within a Living Landscape receive any special protection from development?

Our Living Landscape areas may contain some designated land (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest) but other important sites (e.g. [Local Wildlife Sites](#)) are not legally protected.

Is your work on Living Landscapes supported by other agencies and government?

The idea of working at a landscape scale was described in the [Natural Environment White Paper](#). Many of our local and national partners (both statutory and non-statutory) also support this approach and our work.

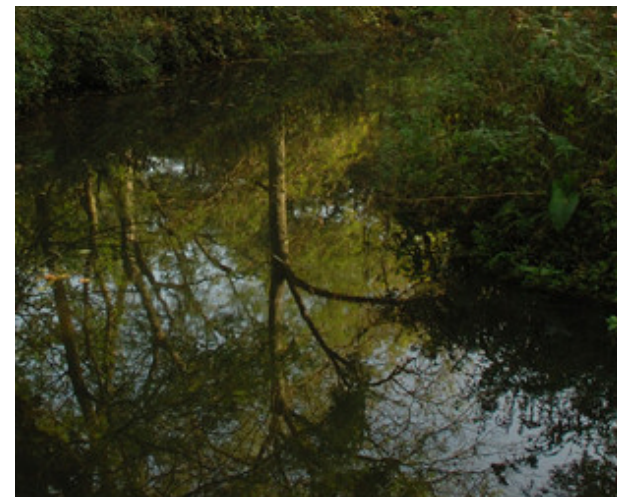


The conservation principles of Living Landscape are based on the findings from *Making Space for Nature*: Sir John Lawton, 2010. (A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Networks)

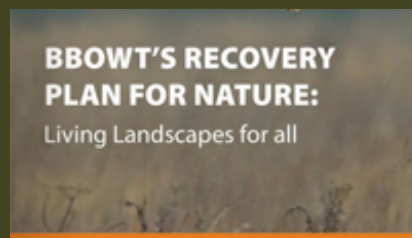
What money is available for landowners to do the 'right thing' for wildlife?

Some improvements for wildlife can both save money and help wildlife, like cutting hedges just once every three years. The government runs grant schemes for wildlife improvements using funding from the Common Agricultural Policy. These are currently under review, and information about new schemes will be available from the [Natural England](#) website.

The [Campaign for the Farmed Environment](#) provide information on voluntary measures landmanagers can put in place that can help wildlife, and their information will be updated as new agri-environment schemes are created under the CAP.



Living Landscapes for all



Read our [recovery plan for nature](#).

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A-Z of Wildlife

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Protecting local wildlife

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