



Biodiversity Annual Monitoring Report 2021 Bracknell Forest Council





Highlights

- There are 61 Local Wildlife Sites in Bracknell Forest, totalling 358.66 hectares. The area of these LWS has increased by 17.7 ha since 2020. The area of Local Geological Sites has not changed.
- There are 1200.19ha of NERC S41 habitats in Bracknell Forest. This has increased by 50.97ha since 2020.
- There have been records of 79 priority species in Bracknell Forest within the last 10 years. One species has been removed since last year as we have not received records in ten years.
- There are 26 SSSI units in favourable condition, which is 79.1% of the total SSI area within Bracknell Forest.
- The farmland bird index for Bracknell Forest for 2020 is 0.95 which shows the index decreased by 0.32 from 2019.

Introduction

This document provides biodiversity information to be used by Bracknell Forest Council in the production of its Annual Monitoring Report. The biodiversity information in this report is based on figures from the 2020-2021 business year unless otherwise indicated. The approach of this report is to set Bracknell Forest data in a unitary context, with further national or regional perspectives where appropriate. The biodiversity information associated with each indicator is accompanied by a brief commentary, containing guidance on the interpretation of the information, issues of data quality and the sources of the data.

Whilst a large proportion of the information contained within the report is derived from TVERC sources, the report acknowledges the assistance provided by various individuals and recording groups in the updating and interpretation of the biodiversity information.

The information provided in this report is as follows:

- Changes in the area of biodiversity importance (LWS/LGS)
- Changes in the area of UK S41 priority habitats
- Changes in the number of UK S41 priority species
- Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Distribution and status of farmland birds

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

This indicator analyses the changes in the areas of sites which are recognised for their intrinsic environmental value, specifically those sites designated for their local significance.

The calculation of the percentage of designated sites within Bracknell Forest are based on GIS determination of the area that the Local Authority cover. For Bracknell Forest this is 10938.42ha.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Local Wildlife Sites

TVERC maintains the Local Wildlife Site boundaries on GIS. Alterations are made to these boundaries as decisions are made by the site selection panel during the course of the year, or boundary errors are corrected. Figures for changes in area are derived from an analysis of digitised site boundary files following the site selection panel meeting of the year of analysis.

Local Geological Sites

Formerly known as Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites. Site information was digitised in GIS using site documentation provided by Berkshire Geoconservation and the Oxford Geology Trust.

Changes in areas of biodiversity importance

AREAS OF BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANCE

There are **61 Local Wildlife Sites** in Bracknell Forest

The area of Local Wildlife Sites has changed by **17.7 hectares** since last year.

The area of Local Geological sites has not changed since last year.

Table 1. Areas of Sites Designated for Intrinsic Environmental Value

Designation	2020	2021
Local Geological Site	1.44	1.44
Local Wildlife Site	340.96	358.66



ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

This indicator identifies the UK NERC Act section 41 habitats of principal importance (priority habitats) within Bracknell Forest, as maintained on the TVERC digital mapping system.

Table 2 provides details of the UK priority habitats which have been identified within Bracknell Forest. The changes in the UK priority habitats are mostly attributable to new information such as confirmation of boundaries of habitat types. For example, for 2020/2021 there has been a reclassification of 'Ponds' to 'Eutrophic Standing Waters' which is reflected in the numbers.

Changes in area of UK priority habitat

UK PRIORITY HABITAT

The changes largely represent an improved understanding of the habitat resource in Bracknell Forest, rather than the creation or loss of habitat.

Table 2. UK Priority Habitat Resource

S41 HABITAT	2020 (area in ha)	2021 (area in ha)
Coastal And Floodplain Grazing Marsh	20.59	20.59
Eutrophic Standing Waters	54.35	116.83
Lowland Beech And Yew Woodland	1.11	1.11
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	14.89	14.86
Lowland Fens	12.36	12.24
Lowland Heathland	187.82	187.73
Lowland Meadows	31.64	31.64
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	707.16	705.99
Lowland Wood Pasture And Parkland	71.84	71.81
Mesotrophic Lakes	1.99	0.10
Oligotrophic And Dys-trophic Lakes	3.80	0.00
Ponds	3.96	0.00
Purple Moor Grass And Rush Pasture	6.23	6.23
Reedbeds	2.96	2.90
Rivers	0.60	0.22
Traditional Orchards	9.62	9.62
Wet Woodland	18.30	18.30
Total	1149.22	1200.19



ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

This indicator uses records of UK NERC Act Section 41 species of principle importance (priority species) which have been reported in Bracknell Forest during the period year to year.

QUALITY OF INFORMATION

The list of priority species is a reflection of recording effort and the speed at which records are added to the TVERC database. A priority species may have been seen a number of years ago, but these records might only have been shared with TVERC and added to the database since the production of the last report.

The absence of a species from the list does not necessarily indicate that it is definitely not present, rather that it may not yet have been found. Equally, the absence of a species since last year might no point to a genuine extinction, rather no recorder are surveying for these species.

INFORMATION SOURCES

The sources of information used for this indicator are: National list of UK priority species, maintained by the JNCC Species database of verified and validated records held by TVERC.

Changes in number of UK priority species

NUMBER OF UK PRIORITY SPECIES

The number of priority species in Bracknell Forest is **79**. One species has been removed from the list, as no new records have been made within the last ten years. A list of these species can be found in Appendix 1. Table 3 shows the change in the number of UK priority species recorded since last year. A list of priority species recording in Bracknell Forest can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Table 3. UK Priority species recorded in Bracknell Forest

Data	2010-2020	2011-2021
Number of UK Priority species	80	79





Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest

ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

Natural England published condition assessments for all SSSIs in England. These are assessments, to a standard method, of the quality of these sites, describing the condition of features for which the site was originally scheduled. SSSIs are monitored every 5-6 years.

CONDITION OF SSSIS

There are **38 SSSIs** wholly or partly in Bracknell Forest, representing approximately **19.01%** of the land area.

Summary data for SSSI condition is provided in Table 4, based on condition assessments carried out by Natural England from 2002 to 2021.

Table 4. SSSI condition

Condition	n	Total Area	Percent
Favourable	26	1579	79.1
Unfavourable/ No change	2	9	0.5
Unfavourable Recovering	8	407	20.4

The following SSSIs were assessed during 2021: Swinley Park and Brick Pits.



Distribution and status of farmland birds

Farmland bird density and the index are given in Table 5. There was a change in the index compared with 2019. Survey effort was changed compared to last year. Total numbers of farmland birds are reported in [Appendix 3](#).

The data provided this year includes new data for previous years, based on new survey information. Therefore, the index values reported this year are slightly different to those reported last year.

Table 5. Farmland bird index

COMMON NAME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Goldfinch	6.55	6.40	11.45	9.4	8.75	8.44	14.20	12.67	11.33	18.89	12.00
Greenfinch	7.27	7.00	7.45	9.6	8.75	9.78	7.80	8.67	5.11	3.56	0.50
Grey Partridge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jackdaw	17.09	32.80	28.36	26.0	21.25	26.22	33.00	28.89	21.78	23.56	27.00
Kestrel	0.36	0.60	0.73	0.6	0.00	0.44	1.00	0.44	0.00	0.67	0.00
Lapwing	0.91	0.00	0.36	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Linnet	3.64	0.00	1.82	2.0	0.75	1.56	0.60	2.89	2.44	0.89	1.50
Reed Bunting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rook	0.18	0.60	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Skylark	3.09	2.20	2.00	1.4	0.25	2.00	1.00	0.67	0.22	0.00	0.00
Starling	12.36	15.20	24.00	19.4	32.00	34.00	19.20	17.56	15.11	20.89	5.00
Stock Dove	0.91	1.20	3.27	1.8	2.50	3.33	5.60	6.22	6.00	4.44	4.50
Turtle Dove	0.36	0.20	0.00	0.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whitethroat	1.27	2.00	3.82	3.8	2.50	2.44	1.60	2.00	0.67	2.00	4.50
Woodpigeon	42.36	58.60	52.36	60.2	69.50	62.89	55.20	51.78	55.78	46.67	36.50
Yellowhammer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Index	1.00	1.32	1.41	1.4	1.52	1.57	1.45	1.37	1.23	1.27	0.95
Total	97.35	128.12	137.03	135.8	147.77	152.67	140.65	133.16	119.67	122.84	92.45



ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

This indicator uses an established list of 19 species, identifiable as farmland birds, compiled by the RSPB. The Tree Sparrow has been excluded from this in Berkshire and Oxfordshire due to a lack of data.

Survey data were obtained from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)/ JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey. Data from specific 1km by 1km squares were used to determine a farmland bird index. The index was calculated using a method established by RSPB Central England Office staff, and is used in the national State of Nature Report.

To establish a timeframe from which any kind of meaningful trend can be identified, a shifting baseline has been used. Changes in bird population in subsequent years (over a 10 year period) are the stated relative to that baseline. The latest assessment of the farmland bird index uses a baseline of year.

QUALITY OF DATA

The reliability of the species records is dependant on the number of 1km squares surveyed each year. This varies from year to year. As such, the reliability of bird density data is open to debate, but the approach has been used in the national State of Nature report and therefore is considered robust.



Appendix 1

Priority species removed from the list—no new records since 2010. This does not mean that they are not present, only that no records have been added to the TVERC database since 2010.

COMMON NAME	Taxon Name	Max Year
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	2010

Appendix 2

List of priority species recorded in Bracknell Forest since 2011.

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	2018
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	2018
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	2013
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	2018
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	2018
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	2014
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2019
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	2018
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2018
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	2019
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	2018
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	2019
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2017
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2018
European Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	2017
Figure of Eight	<i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>	2011
Forester	<i>Adscita statices</i>	2014



Appendix 2_(continued)

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Goat Moth	<i>Cossus cossus</i>	2017
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	2019
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	2018
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele semele</i>	2013
Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	2019
Green-brindled Crescent	<i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	2011
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	2016
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	2014
Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>	2014
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	2017
Heart Moth	<i>Dicycla oo</i>	2018
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	2014
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	2017
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2019
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	2016
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	2018
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	2018
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	2017
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	2012
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	2018
Marsh Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria palustris</i>	2012
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	2016
Minor Shoulder-knot	<i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	2011
Neglected Rustic	<i>Xestia castanea</i>	2013
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	2017
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	2019
Nyctalus Bat species	<i>Nyctalus</i>	2017
Oak Hook-tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	2018
Oak Lutestring	<i>Cymatophorina diluta</i>	2011
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	2018
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	2016

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	2018
Sallow	<i>Cirrhia icteritia</i>	2011
September Thorn	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	2018
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	2018
Silver-studded	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	2012
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2019
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	2019
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	2017
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	2018
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	2018
Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	2015
Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>	2016
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2019
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	2019
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2017
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	2019
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2019
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2017
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2014
Unidentified Bat	<i>Myotis</i>	2019
West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	2019
Western Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	2019
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>	2018
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	2013
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	2014
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	2015
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	2017
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	2016
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava subsp. flavissima</i>	2013
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2017
Zoned Rosette	<i>Podoscypha multizonata</i>	2018

Appendix 3

Breeding bird survey results from BTO (2010 to 2020).

Total number of farmland birds recorded in Bracknell Forest from 2010 to 2020.

COMMON NAME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Goldfinch	72	64	126	94	70	76	142	114	102	170	48
Greenfinch	80	70	82	96	70	88	78	78	46	32	2
Grey Partridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackdaw	188	328	312	260	170	236	330	260	196	212	108
Kestrel	4	6	8	6	0	4	10	4	0	6	0
Lapwing	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linnet	40	0	20	20	6	14	6	26	22	8	6
Reed Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rook	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skylark	34	22	22	14	2	18	10	6	2	0	0
Starling	136	152	264	194	256	306	192	158	136	188	20
Stock Dove	10	12	36	18	20	30	56	56	54	40	18
Turtle Dove	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitethroat	14	20	42	38	20	22	16	18	6	18	18
Woodpigeon	466	586	576	602	556	566	552	466	502	420	146
Yellowhammer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Data provided by the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey. The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey is a partnership jointly funded by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), with fieldwork conducted by volunteers.





About TVERC

Enabling data-driven decisions to better enhance and protect our natural environment.

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) is a 'not for profit' organisation covering Berkshire and Oxfordshire. We are run by a partnership and are one of a national network of local records centres. We are a member of the Association of Local Records Centres (ALERC) and the National Biodiversity Network (NBN). Our funding partners include all the local authorities in Oxfordshire & Berkshire plus the Environment Agency. We also work closely with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust.

WHAT WE DO

species and sites information as GIS tables, and undertake surveys of local wildlife sites. We also carry out data analysis for the monitoring of local authority Local Plans. We provide information to parish councils, local people, conservation bodies, land-owners, students and commercial organisations such as ecological consultants and utilities companies via data searches, data licensing and data exchanges. We provide other services such as ecological surveys, data analysis & presentation and training.

Get involved!

Please continue (or begin) to submit your records to TVERC. The more data we have, the better we are able to help protect our local wildlife. Thank you!

<https://www.tverc.org/cms/content/share-your-records>

Our Records

We hold over 3.7 million records of flora and fauna in Berkshire and Oxfordshire plus information about Local Wildlife Sites and Geological Sites, NERC Act S41 Habitats of Principal Importance and Ecological Networks. We collect this data from the general public, skilled volunteer/amateur recorders, professionals working for wildlife charities and for government agencies and ecological consultants.

WHAT THE INFORMATION IS USED FOR

- By planning authorities and developers to make informed decision on the design and location of sustainable development
- To help farmers, land-owners and conservation organisations manage land in the best way to enhance biodiversity
- By nature partnerships to direct wildlife conservation work
- By teachers, students and scientists for education and scientific research.

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre
Speedwell House, Speedwell Street
Oxford, OX1 1NE

www.tverc.org

tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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