



Thames Valley  
Environmental  
Records Centre

# Biodiversity Annual Monitoring Report 2024 Bracknell Forest Council





## Highlights

- There are 52 Local Wildlife Sites in Bracknell Forest, totalling 394.97 hectares. The area of these LWS has increased by 32.21ha since 2023. There are 4 Local Geological sites, totalling 21.55ha.
- There are 1169.96ha of NERC S41 habitats in Bracknell Forest. This has increased by 32.47ha since 2023.
- There have been records of 121 priority species in Bracknell Forest within the last 10 years. We have not received records from 2 priority species in the last 10 years.
- There are 26 SSSI units in favourable condition, which is 79.1% of the total SSSI area within Bracknell Forest.
- The farmland bird index for Bracknell Forest for 2023 is 0.65 which shows the index decreased by 0.07 from 2022.

## 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 2023-2024 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 10937.59ha.

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. Some sites are made up of multiple polygons which have previously been counted as separate sites. Counts in this report are based on the number of sites, rather than polygons, thus counts may differ from previous reports aside from any changes arising from panel decisions. Multiple polygons still contribute to the total area calculations.

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 52 Local Wildlife Sites in Bracknell Forest.

The area of Local Wildlife Sites has changed by 32.21 hectares since last year.

There are 4 Local Geological sites in Bracknell Forest.

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

Table 1. Areas of Sites Designated for Intrinsic Environmental Value

Designation	2023	2024
Local Geological Site	21.55	21.55
Local Wildlife Site	362.76	394.97





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. Please note that change in habitat area that has been reported within the past year may have actually occurred earlier, but did not make their way into our habitat database due to long gaps between habitat surveys or external data being sent to us.

Over the past year, TVERC has made substantial efforts to enhance the quality of our habitat data, ensuring it aligns with the OS Master Map across all areas and is free from topological errors.



# 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	2023 (area in ha)	2024 (area in ha)
Coastal And Floodplain Grazing Marsh	20.60	21.20
Eutrophic Standing Waters	121.63	121.42
Lowland Beech And Yew Woodland	1.11	1.11
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	9.67	11.54
Lowland Fens	9.93	10.10
Lowland Heathland	174.15	179.04
Lowland Meadows	24.40	24.66
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	666.90	689.19
Lowland Wood Pasture And Parkland	67.67	67.89
Mesotrophic Lakes	0.10	0.10
Oligotrophic And Dys-trophic Lakes	0.38	0.38
Purple Moor Grass And Rush Pasture	6.24	6.24
Reedbeds	2.90	2.90
Rivers	0.22	2.54
Traditional Orchards	9.36	9.38
Wet Woodland	22.23	22.27
Total	1137.49	1169.96

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 not point to a genuine extinction, rather no recorders 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 and 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 121. Two species have 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	2013-2023	2014-2024
Number of UK Priority species	122	121





# 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 **36 SSSIs** wholly or partly in Bracknell Forest, representing approximately **18.25%** 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 2024.

No SSSIs were surveyed in Bracknell Forest in the financial year.

**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



# 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 2022. 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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Goldfinch	6.00	6.33	9.90	8.56	9.00	13.30	6.00	10.29	9.25	6.62
Greenfinch	6.62	7.56	5.50	6.11	3.78	2.30	0.25	1.86	2.12	2.00
Jackdaw	17.50	19.11	23.70	23.56	16.44	18.00	13.50	14.00	14.88	10.62
Kestrel	0.00	0.22	0.60	0.22	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.29	0.12	0.12
Lapwing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.12
Linnet	0.38	1.00	0.50	2.00	1.44	0.40	0.75	0.71	0.38	0.00
Reed Bunting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Skylark	0.12	1.22	0.90	0.33	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.12	0.38
Starling	21.25	20.11	13.80	12.33	10.33	14.00	2.50	26.43	13.88	11.88
Stock Dove	2.12	1.67	3.50	4.44	3.78	2.90	2.25	2.43	2.75	2.00
Turtle Dove	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whitethroat	1.75	2.00	1.40	1.67	0.33	1.10	2.25	0.71	0.88	0.75
Woodpigeon	59.12	52.11	47.80	44.67	44.78	37.60	18.25	41.57	38.50	39.62
Yellow Wagtail	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yellowhammer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Density	114.86	111.33	107.60	103.89	89.99	89.90	45.75	98.58	83.00	74.11
Index	1.00	0.97	0.94	0.90	0.78	0.78	0.40	0.86	0.72	0.65





## ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

This indicator uses an established list of 19 species, identifiable as farmland birds, compiled by the RSPB.

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 2014.

## QUALITY OF DATA

The reliability of the species records is dependent 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 2014. This does not mean that they are not present, only that no records have been added to the TVERC database since 2014.

Common Name	Taxon Name
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia Semele Semele</i>
Pretty Chalk Carpet	<i>Melanthia Procellata</i>

# Appendix 2

List of priority species recorded in Bracknell Forest since 2014.

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Adder	<i>Vipera Berus</i>	2023
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos Quercinaria</i>	2022
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola Lychnidis</i>	2022
Bechstein's Bat	<i>Myotis Bechsteinii</i>	2023
Bittern	<i>Botaurus Stellaris</i>	2022
Black-Tailed God-wit	<i>Limosa Limosa</i>	2018
Blood-Vein	<i>Timandra Comae</i>	2022
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia Hirtaria</i>	2019
Brown Hairstreak	<i>Thecla Betulae</i>	2021
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus Europaeus</i>	2020
Brown Long-Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus Auritus</i>	2023
Brown-Spot Pinion	<i>Anchoscelis Litura</i>	2021
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma Lutea</i>	2023
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula Pyrrhula</i>	2022
Centre-Barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia Centrago</i>	2022
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria Jacobaeae</i>	2022
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca Vivipara</i>	2023
Common Toad	<i>Bufo Bufo</i>	2023
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea Cyanus</i>	2020
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus Canorus</i>	2023



# Appendix 2<sub>(continued)</sub>

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Dark-Barred Twin-Spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe Ferrugata</i>	2022
Deep-Brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla Lutulenta</i>	2022
Dingy Mocha	<i>Cyclophora Pendularia</i>	2020
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis Tages</i>	2021
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra Persicariae</i>	2017
Dunnock	<i>Prunella Modularis</i>	2023
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos Fuscantaria</i>	2022
Dusky-Lemon Sal-low	<i>Cirrhia Gilvago</i>	2021
English Sticky Eye-bright	<i>Euphrasia Officinalis Subsp. Anglica</i>	2020
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra Lutra</i>	2016
European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola Amphibius</i>	2022
Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera Decimalis</i>	2017
Figure Of Eight	<i>Diloba Caeruleocephala</i>	2022
Flounced Chestnut	<i>Anchoscelis Helvola</i>	2015
Forester	<i>Adscita Statice</i>	2014
Garden Dart	<i>Euxoa Nigricans</i>	2019
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus Humuli</i>	2018
Goat Moth	<i>Cossus Cossus</i>	2020
Grape-Hyacinth	<i>Muscari Neglectum</i>	2020
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix Helvetica</i>	2023
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella Naevia</i>	2021
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia Semele</i>	2023
Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus Cristatus</i>	2023
Green-Brindled	<i>Allophytes Oxyacanthae</i>	2022
Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta Psi</i>	2020
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix Perdix</i>	2022
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus Malvae</i>	2015
Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys Minutus</i>	2023
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes Coc-</i>	2018
Heart Moth	<i>Dicycla Oo</i>	2018
Heath Rustic	<i>Xestia Agathina</i>	2017

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus Cyaneus</i>	2017
Herring Gull	<i>Larus Argentatus</i>	2023
House Sparrow	<i>Passer Domesticus</i>	2023
Knot Grass	<i>Acronicta Rumicis</i>	2022
Lackey	<i>Malacosoma Neustria</i>	2021
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus Vanellus</i>	2022
Large Nutmeg	<i>Apamea Anceps</i>	2019
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia Clathrata</i>	2018
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis Cabaret</i>	2022
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates Minor</i>	2017
Linnet	<i>Linaria Cannabina</i>	2023
Long-Eared Bat Species	<i>Plecotus</i>	2018
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile Palustris</i>	2020
Minor Shoulder-Knot	<i>Brachylomia Viminalis</i>	2022
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina Morpheus</i>	2022
Myotis Bat Species	<i>Myotis</i>	2020
Neglected Rustic	<i>Xestia Castanea</i>	2015
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus Europaeus</i>	2023
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus Noctula</i>	2023
Norfolk Hawker	<i>Anaciaeschna Isoceles</i>	2019
Nyctalus Bat Species	<i>Nyctalus</i>	2020
Oak Hook-Tip	<i>Watsonalla Binaria</i>	2022
Oak Lutestring	<i>Cymatophorina Diluta Hartwieg</i>	2018
Olive Crescent	<i>Trisateles Emortualis</i>	2017
Pale Eggar	<i>Trichiura Crataegi</i>	2020
Pipistrelle Bat Species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	2022
Polecat	<i>Mustela Putorius</i>	2017
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia Gracilis</i>	2019
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza Schoeniclus</i>	2023
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus Torquatus</i>	2022
Rosy Minor	<i>Litoligia Literosa</i>	2020
Rosy Rustic	<i>Hydraecia Micacea</i>	2022
Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina Blanda</i>	2022
Sallow	<i>Cirrhia Icteritia</i>	2022
Scaup	<i>Aythya Marila</i>	2019
September Thorn	<i>Ennomos Erosaria</i>	2022

# Appendix 2

(continued)

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Shaded Broad-Bar	<i>Scotopteryx Chenopodiata</i>	2022
Shoulder-Striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania Comma</i>	2018
Silver-Studded Blue	<i>Plebejus Argus</i>	2021
Skylark	<i>Alauda Arvensis</i>	2023
Slow-Worm	<i>Anguis Fragilis</i>	2023
Small Blue	<i>Cupido Minimus</i>	2017
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha Pamphilus</i>	2023
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha Pamphilus Pamphilus</i>	2023
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera Silacea</i>	2019
Small Square-Spot	<i>Diarsia Rubi</i>	2022
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus Philomelos</i>	2023
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus Pygmaeus</i>	2023
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa Striata</i>	2022
Sprawler	<i>Asteroscopus Sphinx</i>	2021
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus Cervus</i>	2023
Starling	<i>Sturnus Vulgaris</i>	2023
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus Trivialis</i>	2022
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer Montanus</i>	2023
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia Turtur</i>	2014
Variable Chafer	<i>Gnorimus Variabilis</i>	2020
West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus Europaeus</i>	2023
Western Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella Barbastellus</i>	2023
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis Camilla</i>	2023
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma Lubricipeda</i>	2022
White-Letter Hair-streak	<i>Satyrium W-Album</i>	2017
White-Line Dart	<i>Euxoa Tritici</i>	2017
White-Spotted Pinion	<i>Cosmia Diffinis</i>	2021
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile Montanus</i>	2014
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus Sibilatrix</i>	2015
Woodlark	<i>Lullula Arborea</i>	2023
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla Flava</i>	2020
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla Flava Flavissima</i>	2019
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza Citrinella</i>	2022
Zoned Rosette	<i>Podoscypha Multizonata</i>	2018



# Appendix 3

Breeding bird survey results from BTO (2014 to 2024).

Total number of farmland birds recorded in Bracknell Forest from 2014 to 2023.

COMMON NAME	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Corn Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldfinch	48	57	99	77	81	133	24	72	74	53
Greenfinch	53	68	55	55	34	23	1	13	17	16
Grey Partridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackdaw	140	172	237	212	148	180	54	98	119	85
Kestrel	0	2	6	2	0	3	0	2	1	1
Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Linnet	3	9	5	18	13	4	3	5	3	0
Reed Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skylark	1	11	9	3	1	0	0	2	1	3
Starling	170	181	138	111	93	140	10	185	111	95
Stock Dove	17	15	35	40	34	29	9	17	22	16
Tree Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turtle Dove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitethroat	14	18	14	15	3	11	9	5	7	6
Woodpigeon	473	469	478	402	403	376	73	291	308	317
Yellow Wagtail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowhammer	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) are 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

We provide our funding partners with annually updated species and sites information 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://tverc.org/recorders/share-your-records>

## Our Records

We hold over 4.8 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  
County Hall, New Road  
Oxford, OX1 1ND

[www.tverc.org](http://www.tverc.org)

[tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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