



TVERC

Thames Valley
Environmental
Records Centre

Biodiversity Annual Monitoring Report 2025-26

Bracknell Forest Council





Highlights

- There are 54 Local Wildlife Sites in Bracknell Forest, totaling 687.13ha. The area of these LWS has increased by 27.15ha since 2025.
- There are 4 Local Geological Sites in Bracknell Forest, totalling 21.55ha. The area of these LGS has remained unchanged since 2025.
- There are 1290.13ha of NERC S41 habitats in Bracknell Forest. This has decreased by 20.39ha since 2025.
- There have been records of 119 priority species in Bracknell Forest within the last 10 years. We have not received records from 4 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 2025 is 0.56, which shows the index decreased by 0.23 from 2024.

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 2025-2026 business year unless otherwise indicated. The approach of this report is to set Bracknell Forest Council 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. The total count of local wildlife sites includes sites that are mostly in a neighbouring district, but slightly overlap Bracknell Forest.

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 **54 Local Wildlife Sites** in Bracknell Forest Council. The area of Local Wildlife Sites has changed by **27.15 hectares** since last year.

There are **4 Local Geological sites** in Bracknell Forest Council. The area of Local Geological sites has not changed since last year.

Table 1. Areas of Sites Designated for Intrinsic Environmental Value

Designation	2025	2026
Local Geological Site	21.55	21.55
Local Wildlife Site	659.98	687.13



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.

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. Over the past year, TVERC has enhanced the S41 polygon habitat layer. Key updates include areas previously mapped as eutrophic standing waters were reclassified as priority or non-priority ponds, based on their size greater than 10 m² and less than 2 ha and records of qualifying priority species. Additionally, woodlands have been improved and updated using new data sources, including the Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory and the National Forestry Inventory layer. Furthermore, the S41 priority habitat column has been reviewed and updated to align with the polygons' habitat classifications using the priority habitat designations specified in the UK Habitat Classification system.

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	2025 (area in ha)	2026 (area in ha)
Coastal And Floodplain Grazing Marsh	22.26	22.26
Eutrophic Standing Waters	121.11	86.46
Lowland Beech And Yew Woodland	2.13	2.13
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	18.1	18.1
Lowland Fens	10.69	10.69
Lowland Heathland	185.16	185.16
Lowland Meadows	26.14	22.15
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	800.84	786.59
Mesotrophic Lakes	0.1	0.1
Oligotrophic And Dystrophic Lakes	0.38	0.38
Purple Moor-Grass And Rush Pastures	6.37	6.27
Reedbeds	2.9	2.9
Rivers	2.76	2.76
Traditional Orchards	10.2	9.29
Wet Woodland	22.86	24.18
Wood-Pasture And Parkland	78.52	78.52
Ponds	0	32.19
Total	1310.52	1290.13

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 Council 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 those 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 Council is **119**. Four 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 recorded in Bracknell Forest can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Table 3. UK Priority species recorded in Bracknell Forest

Data	2015-2025	2016-2026
Number of UK Priority species	123	119





Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest

CONDITION OF SSSIS

There are 36 SSSIs wholly or partly in Bracknell Forest, representing approximately 15.43% 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.

Table 4. SSSI condition

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

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

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.



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 2024. 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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Corn Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldfinch	9.9	8.56	9	13.3	6	10.29	9.25	6.62	9.5	6.62
Greenfinch	5.5	6.11	3.78	2.3	0.25	1.86	2.12	2	0.25	0.62
Grey Partridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackdaw	23.7	23.56	16.44	18	13.5	14	14.88	10.62	11	8.38
Kestrel	0.6	0.22	0	0.3	0	0.29	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.12	0.12	0	0
Linnet	0.5	2	1.44	0.4	0.75	0.71	0.38	0	0.12	1.62
Reed Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.12	0.25
Skylark	0.9	0.33	0.11	0	0	0.29	0.12	0.38	0.5	0.12
Starling	13.8	12.33	10.33	14	2.5	26.43	13.88	11.88	27.25	11.38
Stock Dove	3.5	4.44	3.78	2.9	2.25	2.43	2.75	2	1.88	1.88
Tree Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.12
Turtle Dove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitethroat	1.4	1.67	0.33	1.1	2.25	0.71	0.88	0.75	0.62	0.38
Woodpigeon	47.8	44.67	44.78	37.6	18.25	41.57	38.5	39.62	33.75	28.38
Yellow Wagtail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowhammer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Density	107.6	103.89	89.99	89.9	45.75	98.58	83	74.11	85.11	59.87
Index	1	0.97	0.84	0.84	0.43	0.92	0.77	0.69	0.79	0.56

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 2016.

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 01/04/2015. This does not mean that they are not present, only that no records have been added to the TVERC database since 01/04/2015.

Common Name	Taxon Name
Flounced Chestnut	<i>Anchoscelis Helvola</i>
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus Malvae</i>
Otter	<i>Lutra Lutra</i>
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus Sibilatrix</i>

Appendix 2

List of priority species recorded in Bracknell Forest Council Council since 2015.

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Adder	<i>Vipera Berus</i>	2025
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos Quercinaria</i>	2024
Autumnal Rustic	<i>Eugnorisma Glareosa</i>	2022
Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella Barbastellus</i>	2023
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola Lychnidis</i>	2023
Bechstein’s Bat	<i>Myotis Bechsteinii</i>	2023



Appendix 2 (continued)

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year	Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Bittern	<i>Botaurus Stellaris</i>	2024	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus Canorus</i>	2024
Black-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa Limosa</i>	2018	Dark-Barred Twin-Spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe Ferrugata</i>	2023
Blood-Vein	<i>Timandra Comae</i>	2023	Deep-Brown Dart	<i>Aporophylla Lueneburgensis</i>	2023
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia Hirtaria</i>	2024	Dingy Mocha	<i>Cyclophora Pendularia</i>	2020
Brown Hairstreak	<i>Thecla Betulae</i>	2021	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis Tages</i>	2023
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus Europaeus</i>	2020	Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra Persicariae</i>	2025
Brown Long-Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus Auritus</i>	2024	Dunnock	<i>Prunella Modularis</i>	2025
Brown-Spot Pinion	<i>Anchoscelis Litura</i>	2021	Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea Remissa</i>	2022
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma Lutea</i>	2025	Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos Fuscantaria</i>	2022
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula Pyrrhula</i>	2025	Dusky-Lemon Sallow	<i>Cirrhia Gilvago</i>	2021
Centre-Barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia Centrago</i>	2023	English Sticky Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia Officinalis Subsp. Anglica</i>	2020
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria Jacobaeae</i>	2025	Dingy Mocha	<i>Cyclophora Pendularia</i>	2020
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca Vivipara</i>	2025	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis Tages</i>	2023
Common Toad	<i>Bufo Bufo</i>	2024	Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra Persicariae</i>	2025
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea Cyanus</i>	2020			

Appendix 2 (continued)

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year	Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra Persicariae</i>	2025	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia Semele</i>	2025
Dunnock	<i>Prunella Modularis</i>	2025	Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus Cristatus</i>	2025
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea Remissa</i>	2022	Green-Brindled Crescent	<i>Allophyes Oxyacanthae</i>	2023
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos Fuscantaria</i>	2022	Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta Psi</i>	2020
Dusky-Lemon Sallow	<i>Cirrhia Gilvago</i>	2021	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix Perdix</i>	2023
English Sticky Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia Officinalis</i> <i>Subsp. Anglica</i>	2020	Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys Minutus</i>	2025
Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera Decimalis</i>	2017	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes</i>	2024
Figure Of Eight	<i>Diloba Caeruleocephala</i>	2023	Heart Moth	<i>Dicycla Oo</i>	2018
Garden Dart	<i>Euxoa Nigricans</i>	2019	Heath Rustic	<i>Xestia Agathina</i>	2017
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus Humuli</i>	2018	Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus Europaeus</i>	2024
Goat Moth	<i>Cossus Cossus</i>	2024	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus Cyaneus</i>	2017
Grape-Hyacinth	<i>Muscari Neglectum</i>	2020	Herring Gull	<i>Larus Argentatus</i>	2025
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix Helvetica</i>	2025	House Sparrow	<i>Passer Domesticus</i>	2025
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella Naevia</i>	2021	Knot Grass	<i>Acronicta Rumicis</i>	2025
			Lackey	<i>Malacosoma Neustria</i>	2023

Appendix 2 (continued)

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year	Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus</i> <i>Vanellus</i>	2025	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus</i> <i>Europaeus</i>	2025
Large Nutmeg	<i>Apamea</i> <i>Anceps</i>	2019	Noctule	<i>Nyctalus</i> <i>Noctula</i>	2023
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia</i> <i>Clathrata</i>	2018	Norfolk Aeshna	<i>Isoaeschna</i> <i>Isoceles</i>	2019
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis</i> <i>Flammea</i> <i>Cabaret</i>	2024	Nyctalus Bat Species	<i>Nyctalus</i>	2020
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates</i> <i>Minor</i>	2017	Oak Hook-Tip	<i>Watsonalla</i> <i>Binaria</i>	2023
Light Crimson Underwing	<i>Catocala</i> <i>Promissa</i>	2024	Oak Lutestring	<i>Cymatophorin</i> <i>a Diluta</i> <i>Hartwiegi</i>	2023
Linnet	<i>Linaria</i> <i>Cannabina</i>	2025	Olive Crescent	<i>Trisateles</i> <i>Emortualis</i>	2017
Long-Eared Bat Species	<i>Plecotus</i>	2018	Pale Eggar	<i>Trichiura</i> <i>Crataegi</i>	2023
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile</i> <i>Palustris</i>	2020	Pipistrelle Bat Species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	2023
Minor Shoulder-Knot	<i>Brachylomia</i> <i>Viminalis</i>	2024	Polecat	<i>Mustela</i> <i>Putorius</i>	2017
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina</i> <i>Morpheus</i>	2023	Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia</i> <i>Gracilis</i>	2019
Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra</i> <i>Tragopoginis</i>	2022	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza</i> <i>Schoeniclus</i>	2025
Myotis Bat Species	<i>Myotis</i>	2020	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus</i> <i>Torquatus</i>	2023
Neglected Rustic	<i>Xestia</i> <i>Castanea</i>	2025	Rosy Minor	<i>Litoligia</i> <i>Literosa</i>	2020

Appendix 2 (continued)

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year	Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Rosy Rustic	<i>Hydraecia Micacea</i>	2025	Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera Silaceata</i>	2019
Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina Blanda</i>	2024	Small Square-Spot	<i>Diarsia Rubi</i>	2023
Sallow	<i>Cirrhia Icteritia</i>	2022	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus Philomelos</i>	2025
Scaup	<i>Aythya Marila</i>	2019	Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus Pygmaeus</i>	2024
September Thorn	<i>Ennomos Erosaria</i>	2023	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa Striata</i>	2025
Shaded Broad-Bar	<i>Scotopteryx Chenopodiata</i>	2023	Sprawler	<i>Asteroscopus Sphinx</i>	2023
Shoulder-Striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania Comma</i>	2022	Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus Cervus</i>	2025
Silver-Studded Blue	<i>Plebejus Argus</i>	2023	Starling	<i>Sturnus Vulgaris</i>	2025
Skylark	<i>Alauda Arvensis</i>	2025	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus Trivialis</i>	2024
Slow-Worm	<i>Anguis Fragilis</i>	2025	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer Montanus</i>	2023
Small Blue	<i>Cupido Minimus</i>	2017	Variable Chafer	<i>Gnorimus Variabilis</i>	2020
Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola Chrysoprasaria</i>	2025	Water Vole	<i>Arvicola Amphibius</i>	2022
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha Pamphilus</i>	2025	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis Camilla</i>	2023
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha Pamphilus Pamphilus</i>	2023	White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma Lubricipeda</i>	2025
			White-Letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium W-Album</i>	2017

Appendix 2 (continued)

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
White-Line Dart	<i>Euxoa Tritici</i>	2017
White-Spotted Pinion	<i>Cosmia Diffinis</i>	2021
Woodlark	<i>Lullula Arborea</i>	2025
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 (2015 to 2025). Total number of farmland birds recorded in Bracknell Forest from 2015 to 2024.

COMMON NAME	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Corn Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldfinch	99	77	81	133	24	72	74	53	76	53
Greenfinch	55	55	34	23	1	13	17	16	2	5
Grey Partridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackdaw	237	212	148	180	54	98	119	85	88	67
Kestrel	6	2	0	3	0	2	1	1	1	1
Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Linnet	5	18	13	4	3	5	3	0	1	13
Reed Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Skylark	9	3	1	0	0	2	1	3	4	1
Starling	138	111	93	140	10	185	111	95	218	91
Stock Dove	35	40	34	29	9	17	22	16	15	15
Tree Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Turtle Dove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitethroat	14	15	3	11	9	5	7	6	5	3
Woodpigeon	478	402	403	376	73	291	308	317	270	227
Yellow Wagtail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowhammer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corn Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldfinch	99	77	81	133	24	72	74	53	76	53

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!

OUR RECORDS

We hold over 5 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.

<https://tverc.org/recorders/share-your-records>