



Biodiversity Annual Monitoring Report 2022

Wokingham Borough Council





Highlights

- There are 117 Local Wildlife Sites in Wokingham totalling 1305.84 hectares. The area of these LWS has increased by 57.27 ha since 2021. The area of Local Geological Sites has not changed.
- There are 2031.07ha of NERC S41 habitats in Wokingham. This has increased by 43.78ha since 2021.
- There have been records of 125 priority species in Wokingham within the last 10 years. One species has been removed since last year as we have not received records since 2021.
- There are 6 SSSI units in favourable condition, which is 20% of the total SSSI area within Wokingham, 48% are unfavourable recovering and 32% are unfavourable no change.
- The farmland bird index for Wokingham for 2021 is 1.05 which shows the index rose by 0.16 from 2020.

Introduction

This document provides biodiversity information to be used by Wokingham Borough Council in the production of its Annual Monitoring Report. The biodiversity information in this report is based on figures from the 2021-2022 business year unless otherwise indicated. The approach of this report is to set Wokingham 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 Wokingham are based on GIS determination of the area that the Local Authority cover. For Wokingham this is 17895.98ha.

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 **117 Local Wildlife Sites** in Bracknell Forest

The area of Local Wildlife Sites has changed by **57.27 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	2021	2022
Local Geological Site	47.06	47.06
Local Wildlife Site	1248.57	1305.84



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 Wokingham. The changes in the UK priority habitats are mostly attributable to new information such as confirmation of boundaries of habitat types.

Changes in area of UK priority habitat

UK PRIORITY HABITAT

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

Table 2. UK Priority Habitat Resource

S41 HABITAT	2021 (area in ha)	2022 (area in ha)
Coastal And Floodplain Grazing Marsh	429.57	425.99
Eutrophic Standing Waters	173.55	233.72
Lowland Beech And Yew Woodland	33.56	33.09
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	5.06	5.06
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	2.38	2.38
Lowland Fens	18.39	18.39
Lowland Heathland	16.51	16.51
Lowland Meadows	5.79	5.79
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	947.07	951.00
Lowland Wood Pasture And Parkland	200.89	200.89
Mesotrophic Lakes	20.24	3.06
Open Mosaic Habitats On Previously Devel-	0.09	0.09
Purple Moor Grass And Rush Pasture	0.32	0.32
Reedbeds	1.40	1.08
Rivers	0.60	1.01
Traditional Orchards	21.69	21.69
Wet Woodland	110.18	111.00
Total	1987.29	2031.07



ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

This indicator uses records of UK NERC Act Section 41 species of principle importance (priority species) which have been reported in Wokingham 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 Wokingham is **125**. 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 recording in Wokingham can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Table 3. UK Priority species recorded in Wokingham

Data	2011-2021	2012-2022
Number of UK Priority species	125	124





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 **9 SSSIs** wholly or partly in Wokingham, representing approximately **0.14%** 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 2022.

Table 4. SSSI condition

Condition	n	Total Area	Percent
Favourable	6	5	20
Unfavourable/ No change	2	8	32
Unfavourable Recovering	1	12	48

No SSSIs were surveyed in Wokingham in the financial year.



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 2020. 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	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Corn Bunting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goldfinch	10.73	12.00	11.86	10.55	9.27	10.14	15.38	11.23	16.57	17.25	18.60
Greenfinch	9.64	8.86	7.14	7.45	7.27	7.00	5.54	4.31	4.43	3.50	2.40
Grey Partridge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jackdaw	22.18	26.43	26.43	36.00	27.45	30.00	34.77	31.08	27.57	29.00	46.40
Kestrel	1.45	0.71	0.71	0.36	0.91	0.86	0.92	0.77	0.57	0.00	0.80
Lapwing	2.91	2.14	3.29	5.64	5.45	1.57	3.08	3.38	2.00	0.00	3.80
Linnet	1.45	1.43	1.71	0.91	1.45	2.71	2.77	2.31	2.29	3.25	1.20
Reed Bunting	0.36	0.57	0.29	0.36	0.55	0.57	0.46	0.15	0.43	0.00	0.40
Rook	18.55	15.29	35.29	12.18	21.45	9.14	6.31	3.85	5.71	1.75	3.80
Skylark	9.45	7.43	5.71	4.55	4.18	11.00	10.31	5.85	5.29	7.50	10.00
Starling	15.64	14.43	19.14	14.36	10.18	20.29	22.31	14.00	21.57	13.50	26.80
Stock Dove	3.64	2.43	2.57	1.82	8.55	5.57	8.31	4.77	4.29	11.25	5.60
Turtle Dove	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whitethroat	5.27	4.00	3.29	4.91	4.73	3.29	3.38	3.54	2.86	2.00	2.60
Woodpigeon	84.36	75.71	64.00	54.55	63.09	76.29	86.31	82.77	65.29	75.50	71.20
Yellow Wagtail	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20
Yellowhammer	1.09	0.86	0.29	0.36	1.09	0.57	0.92	0.31	0.71	0.25	1.20
Index	1.00	0.93	0.98	0.83	0.89	0.96	1.08	0.90	0.86	0.89	1.05
Total	186.72	172.29	182.01	154.18	165.62	179	200.77	168.32	159.58	164.75	195

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 2011.

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 2011. This does not mean that they are not present, only that no records have been added to the TVERC database since 2011.

COMMON NAME	Taxon Name	Max Year
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	2011

Appendix 2

List of priority species recorded in Wokingham since 2012.

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	2020
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	2018
Autumnal Rustic	<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	2019
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	2019
Bechstein's Bat	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	2017
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	2020
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	2020
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	2019
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	2018
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	2019
Brown-spot Pinion	<i>Anchoscelis litura</i>	2017
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2022
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta subsp. fario</i>	2012
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	2019
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2021
Centre-barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia centrago</i>	2019
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	2017
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	2020
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	2021
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	2019
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	2021



Appendix 2_(continued)

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	2018
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	2021
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2020
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	2019
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	2016
Deep-brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla luteolenta</i>	2018
Depressed River Mussel	<i>Pseudanodonta complanata</i>	2016
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	2018
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2021
Dusky-lemon Sal-	<i>Cirrhia gilvago</i>	2017
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	2019
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	2019
Ear Moth	<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	2019
English Sticky Eye-bright	<i>Euphrasia officinalis subsp. anglica</i>	2019
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	2020
European Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	2019
European Water	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	2020
Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	2020
Figure of Eight	<i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>	2015
Five-banded Wee-	<i>Cerceris quinque-</i>	2021
Galium Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>	2012
Garden Dart	<i>Euxoa nigricans</i>	2015
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	2018
Grape-hyacinth	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	2021
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	2021
Grasshopper War-	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	2017
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	2020
Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	2021
Green-brindled	<i>Allophyes oxy-</i>	2019
Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	2019
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	2017

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	2019
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	2020
Hazel Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus</i>	2021
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	2021
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2021
Incurved Feather-moss	<i>Homomallium incurvatum</i>	2015
Knot Grass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	2019
Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neus-</i>	2019
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	2020
Large Nutmeg	<i>Apamea anceps</i>	2019
Large Wainscot	<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>	2017
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	2020
Lesser Spotted	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	2017
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	2021
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	2020
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	2019
Minor Shoulder-knot	<i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	2017
Moss Carder Bee	<i>Bombus mus-</i>	2012
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morphe-</i>	2019
Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra</i>	2019
Mud Pond Snail	<i>Omphiscola glabra</i>	2012
Neglected Rustic	<i>Xestia castanea</i>	2016
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus euro-</i>	2013
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	2021
Oak Hook-tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	2019
Olive Crescent	<i>Trisateles emortu-</i>	2017
Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	2016
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	2019
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeni-</i>	2021
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	2020
Rosy Minor	<i>Litoligia literosa</i>	2018
Rosy Rustic	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	2019

Appendix 2

(continued)

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	2019
Sallow	<i>Cirrhia icteritia</i>	2019
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	2015
Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	2019
September Thorn	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	2019
Shaded Broad-bar	<i>Scotopteryx cheno- podia</i>	2018
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania comma</i>	2019
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2020
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	2021
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	2020
Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola chryso- prasaria</i>	2018
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pam- philus</i>	2019
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pam- philus pamphilus</i>	2020
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silacea</i>	2019
Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	2019
Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>	2020
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2021
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmae- us</i>	2021
Spinach	<i>Eulithis mellinata</i>	2014
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2020
Sprawler	<i>Asteroscopus sphinx</i>	2017
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	2020
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2021
Streak	<i>Chesias legatella</i>	2018

Common Name	Taxon Name	Max Year
Tower Mustard	<i>Arabis glabra</i>	2013
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2020
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	2016
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	2014
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2014
West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	2021
Western Barbas- telle	<i>Barbastella barbas- tellus</i>	2019
White-clawed Crayfish	<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	2020
White-letter Hair- streak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>	2018
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>	2021
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubrici- peda</i>	2019
White Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	2021
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibia- trix</i>	2019
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	2020
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	2019
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>	2020
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2020

Appendix 3

Breeding bird survey results from BTO (2011 to 2021). Total number of farmland birds recorded in Wokingham from 2011 to 2021.

COMMON NAME	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Corn Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldfinch	118	168	166	116	102	142	200	146	232	138	186
Greenfinch	106	124	100	82	80	98	72	56	62	28	24
Grey Partridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackdaw	244	370	370	396	302	420	452	404	386	232	464
Kestrel	16	10	10	4	10	12	12	10	8	0	8
Lapwing	32	30	46	62	60	22	40	44	28	0	38
Linnet	16	20	24	10	16	38	36	30	32	26	12
Reed Bunting	4	8	4	4	6	8	6	2	6	0	4
Rook	204	214	494	134	236	128	82	50	80	14	38
Skylark	104	104	80	50	46	154	134	76	74	60	100
Starling	172	202	268	158	112	284	290	182	302	108	268
Stock Dove	40	34	36	20	94	78	108	62	60	90	56
Turtle Dove	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitethroat	58	56	46	54	52	46	44	46	40	16	26
Woodpigeon	928	1060	896	600	694	1068	1122	1076	914	604	712
Yellow Wagtail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Yellowhammer	12	12	4	4	12	8	12	4	10	2	12

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

We provide our funding partners with annually updated 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 4.2 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

tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk

 [Facebook.com/tverc1](https://www.facebook.com/tverc1)

 [Twitter.com/tverc1](https://twitter.com/tverc1)

 [Instagram.com/tverc1](https://www.instagram.com/tverc1)

 [LinkedIn/tverc1](https://www.linkedin.com/company/tverc1)