

Bernwood Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	5870 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 27 SSSI 7
BAP Habitat	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 334 ha Lowland Meadows 44.5ha

The area extends in a south western arc from the ancient woodlands south of the Claydons, to the lower lying Shabbington and White Cross Green Woods

It lies adjacent to Upper Ray, and Brill & Muswell Hill BOAs in Bucks and the Brill & Muswell Hill, Otmoor and Oxford Heights East Conservation Target Areas in Oxfordshire

Joint Character Area Upper Thames Clay Vales, Midvale Ridge

Landscape Types Wooded Farmland. The majority is rolling lowland with seasonal waterlogging.

Geology Mudstone except for a thin vein of sandstone near Boarstall and a thin layer of interbedded mudstone and limestone around the base of Brill Hill.

Topography Low and undulating. In the north of the area Finemere and Sheepphouse Woods sit on the most westerly of a range of lower hills that extends across Aylesbury Vale.

Biodiversity Woodland – The area contains 7 ancient woodland SSSIs. There is a concentration of 4 ancient woodland SSSIs (Grendon & Doddershall, Finemere, Sheepphouse and Ham Home-cum-Hamgreen Woods in the north of the area). Rushbeds Wood is a wet woodland on the lower ground. In the south west are the Shabbington Woods complex and White Cross Green and Oriel Woods. There are numerous smaller woods designated as LWSs scattered across the area

Wood Pasture & Parkland – Wooton Underwood Estate

Lowland Meadows – There are lowland meadows at Bernwood Meadows, Shabbington, Whitecross Green Wood and Lapland Farm.

Calcareous Grassland – There is 1 calcareous grassland site – the railway cutting at Rushbeds Wood SSSI

Ponds – The area contains many potential BAP habitat ponds including the area around Ludgershall

Hedgerows – There is a good network of hedgerows throughout the area – and the area is a hot-spot for Brown Hairstreak butterflies

Access BBOWT own Finemere Wood, Rushbeds Wood, Whitecross Green Wood and Bernwood Meadows (part of Shabbington Woods SSSI). National Trust own Boarstall Duck Decoy

The Bernwood Way starts at Brill and there is a good network of

footpaths throughout the area

Archeology

There is ridge and furrow scattered throughout the area. There are 2 historic parks and gardens (Wooton Underwood and Middle Claydon) and a scheduled ancient monument at Ludgershall.

Part of a much larger Mediaeval Hunting Forest

Targets

Woodland – Management, Restoration

Wood Pasture & Parkland – Management, Restoration

Lowland Meadows – Management, Restoration, Creation

Ponds - Management, Restoration, Creation

Hedgerows - Management, Restoration, Creation

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA		
Bernwood BOA	Lowland Meadows	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	44.5	334
% of BOA Area	0.8	5.7
% of County Resource	11.8	20.6
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Meadows	Native Woodlands
Maintenance (ha)	44.5	334
Achieving Condition (ha)	37.2	246.8
Restoration (ha)	2.9	351.2
Creation (ha)	1.6	33.0

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows	
Area of Arable (ha)	1358	No of Orchards	6	No of BAP Priority Ponds	3	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	27
% of BOA in arable	23	Area of Orchards (ha)	4.7	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	47
Area of arable in ES (of HLS)	1124 (68)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>				<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>	
% of arable in ES	83						

The Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) map depicts the regional priority areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats. This is a spatial representation of the BAP targets and the BOAs are areas of opportunity, not constraint. The BOAs shown in the map do not include all the BAP habitat in the region, nor do they include all the areas where BAP habitat could exist. In particular, more work is needed to develop approaches in urban and in marine environments.

The Biodiversity Opportunity Areas Map is the property of the members of the South East England Biodiversity Forum. For more information please see www.sebiodiversity.org.uk

Priority Habitat Mapping data supplied by Buckinghamshire County Council, Natural Environment Team.
Data is correct of April 2010.

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