

Greensand Ridge Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	1595 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 9 SSSI 1
BAP Habitat	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture 4 ha Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 46.5 ha Lowland Dry Acid Grassland 30.5 ha Lowland Fens 13 ha Lowland Meadows 0.5 ha Lowland Heathland 0.5 ha Wet Woodland 5 ha

This area contains Bow Brickhill Park and Heath, running south to the end of the Greensand Ridge and through the acid grassland foothills around Little and Great Brickhill to the Ouzel Valley. The BOA connects to the Bedfordshire Heathland Opportunity Area.

Joint Character Area	Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge (partially also Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Claylands)
Landscape Types	Wooded agricultural landscape with areas of heathland. The southern end is agricultural with dispersed woodland
Geology	Mostly Greensand, with mudstone on the bottom of the slopes. There are several pockets of glacial materials overlying the greensand.
Topography	The end of the Greensand Ridge, undulating foothills around Great and Little Brickhill. The western slopes around Bow Brickhill are very steep and the highest point is 180m at Bow Brickhill Heath.
Biodiversity	<p>Heathland - There are areas of heathland on Rammamere Heath and remnants of heathland vegetation can still be found on Bow Brickhill Heath and in some areas of plantation woodland</p> <p>Acid Grassland – There are areas of acid grassland in association with the areas of heathland. There are extensive areas of semi-improved acid grassland throughout the Brickhills.</p> <p>Fen / Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture – There are wet flushes in both the foothill grasslands and in the plantation woodlands</p> <p>Hedgerows – many of the enclosures around the Brickhills are pre-18th century and may have species rich hedgerows associated with them</p> <p>Lowland Meadows – There are areas of marshy lowland meadow to the west of Stockgrove Country Park</p> <p>Ponds – There are ponds associated with seepages.</p> <p>Wood-Pasture & Parkland – there is parkland at Stockgrove House</p> <p>Woodlands – Most of the woods on the ridge plateau are coniferous plantation. Dunscombe wood is mixed conifer and broadleaved.</p>
Access	Parts of Rammammere Heath SSSI are accessible.
Archaeology	Danesborough Hill Fort is an SAM. There are a few fields of surviving

Targets

- Ridge and Furrow
- Lowland Heathland – Management, Restoration, Creation
- Lowland Acid Grassland - Management, Restoration, Creation
- Lowland Fen - Management, Restoration
- Hedgerows - Management, Restoration
- Lowland Meadows - Management, Restoration
- Ponds - Management, Restoration, Creation
- Wood Pasture & Parkland – Management, Restoration
- Woodlands - Management, Restoration

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA							
Greensand Ridge BOA	Lowland Meadows	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Lowland Heathland	Lowland Fens	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Wet Woodland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	0.7	30.3	0.5	12.8	4	46.7	4.9
% of BOA Area	0.04	1.9	0.03	0.8	0.3	2.9	0.3
% of County Resource	0.2	89.1	0.7	19.1	22.1	2.9	2.4
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Meadows	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Lowland Heathland	Lowland Fens	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures	Native Woodland	
Maintenance (ha)	0.7	30.3	0.5	12.8	4	51.6	
Achieving Condition (ha)	0.7	26	0.3	11.5	3.6	33.5	
Restoration (ha)	0	2.3	19	2.4	0	99	
Creation (ha)	0	0.4	N/A	N/A	0	5.1	

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows	
Area of Arable (ha)	158	No of Orchards	1	No of BAP Priority Ponds	4	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	21
% of BOA in arable	10	Area of Orchards (ha)	0.05	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	26
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	89 (0)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>				<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>	
% of arable in ES	56						

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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