

## Whaddon Chase Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



<b>Area Coverage</b>	3062 ha
<b>Number of Designated Sites</b>	Local wildlife sites 12 SSSI 2
<b>BAP Habitat</b>	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 49 ha Wet Woodland 157.5 ha Lowland Wood-Pasture and Parkland 35 ha Lowland Meadow 43 ha Fens 28.5 ha

*The area covers Whaddon Chase – a royal hunting forest*

<b>Joint Character Area</b>	Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Claylands
<b>Landscape Types</b>	Wooded agricultural land.
<b>Geology</b>	Mudstone with overlying till, head and sand and gravel deposits.
<b>Topography</b>	The North western end of a ridge running NW – SE. With gentle slopes running into the Great Ouse Valley to the north.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Woodland – There are many native woodland sites located across the area. There is a concentration of BAP quality woods south of Nash and Whaddon  Fens – There is a large fen north of College Wood  Lowland Meadows – There are several small areas of lowland meadow spread across the area.  Hedgerows – There are concentrations of pre 18 <sup>th</sup> century enclosures around Little Horwood and Nash and these may contain species rich hedgerows.  Wood-pasture & Parkland – There is a large parkland site at Whaddon  Ponds – There are a few potential BAP priority ponds in the area.
<b>Access</b>	There is a good footpath network. The Woodland Trust own College Wood.
<b>Archaeology</b>	Fields with existing ridge and furrow are found around Nash and Saldon. Whaddon Chase was an ancient hunting forest. SMRs are Snelshall Benedictine Priory and Whaddon Bowl Barrow.  Part of a much larger Mediaeval Hunting Forest
<b>Targets</b>	Fens – Management , Restoration, Creation Hedgerows - Management , Restoration, Creation Lowland Meadows - Management , Restoration, Creation Woodlands - Management , Restoration, Creation Wood-pasture & Parkland - Management , Restoration Ponds – Management, Restoration, Creation

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA						
Whaddon Chase BOA	Lowland Meadows	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture	Lowland Fens	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Wet Woodland	Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	42.9	1.2	28.6	48.8	157.7	3 sites
% of BOA Area	1.4	0.04	0.9	0.2	5.2	-
% of County Resource	11.4	6.6	42.6	3	78.1	9
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Meadows	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture	Lowland Fens	Native Woodland		Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Maintenance (ha)	42.9	1.2	28.6	206.5		3 sites
Achieving Condition (ha)	35.8	1.1	25.7	142.4		tbc
Restoration (ha)	2.8	0	5.4	203.1		tbc
Creation (ha)	1.5	0	N/A	26.1		tbc

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows	
Area of Arable (ha)	819	No of Orchards	2	No of BAP Priority Ponds	3	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	10
% of BOA in arable	27	Area of Orchards (ha)	0.3	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	70
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	317 (0)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>				<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>	
% of arable in ES	39						

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](http://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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