

Yardley Chase Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	2700 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 5 SSSI 1
BAP Habitat	Lowlands Fens 1.5 ha Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 117 ha Lowland Wood-Pasture & Parkland 93 ha Reedbeds 2.5 ha

Two areas of plateau forming the watersheds between the Ouse and Nene. Some of the lower slopes have been included around Hanslope and including Little Linford Wood

This BOA connects with The Ouse Valley.

Joint Character Area Yardley – Whittlewood Ridge (some in Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Claylands).

Landscape Types Wooded agricultural land

Geology Limestone with overlying clay.

Topography The edge of a much larger prominent ridgeline and plateau that continues over the County boundary in Northamptonshire running in a south-west, north-east direction. The ridgeline forms the watershed between the Rivers Ouse to the South and Nene to the north. The Hanslope Plateau sub area is a more obvious plateau landform within the Milton Keynes Council administrative area and forms the watershed between the Ouse and the Tove.

Biodiversity Woodland –The predominantly woodland SSSIs of Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase lie right on the border with and inside Northamptonshire with only a small area of Yardley Chase in Bucks. There are three LWSs Little Linford Wood, Threshires Wood and Lavendon Wood north of Lavendon and an area of BAP woodland at Stokepark Wood near Hanslope.

Hedgerows – there is a network of hedgerows connecting the woods many of which are potentially species rich

Ponds – There are many ponds in the area

Wood Pasture & Parkland – There are parkland sites at Hanslope Park

Access Yardley Chase is managed by Forestry Commission

Archaeology Part of a much larger Mediaeval Hunting Forest

Targets Woodland – Management, Restoration
Hedgerows – Management, Restoration, Creation
Ponds - Management, Restoration, Creation

Wood Pasture & Parkland – Management, Restoration
Lowland Fens – Management, Restoration
Reedbeds – Management, Restoration

2015 BAP Targets – Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA				
Yardley Chase BOA	Lowland Fen	Reedbeds	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	1.6	2.6	117.4	3 sites
% of BOA Area	0.06	0.1	4.4	-
% of County Resource	2.4	10.5	7.3	9
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Fen	Reedbeds	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Maintenance (ha)	1.6	2.6	117.4	3 sites
Achieving Condition (ha)	1.1	2.3	76.3	tbc
Restoration (ha)	N/A	N/A	109.7	tbc
Creation (ha)	0.4	0.9	11.6	tbc

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows	
Area of Arable (ha)	1800	No of Orchards	2	No of BAP Priority Ponds	1	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	32
% of BOA in arable	67	Area of Orchards (ha)	0.2	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	51
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	1581 (164)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>			<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>		
% of arable in ES	88						

2015 BAP Targets – Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan

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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