

Whittlewood Forest Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	4985 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 19 SSSI 1
BAP Habitat	Lowland Wood-Pasture & Parkland 68 ha Lowland Meadow 3.5 ha Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture 1 ha Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 151 ha Wet Woodland 0.2ha Eutrophic Standing Water 20 ha Reedbeds – 4 ha Lowland Heathland 2 ha

This area covers the Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge north of Buckingham. It is more heavily wooded than most of the rest of Aylesbury Vale and contains areas of parkland including Stowe.

Joint Character Area	Yardley – Whittlewood Ridge and Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Claylands
Landscape Types	Mostly wooded agricultural land, at 9% woodland the woodland cover is higher than in most of the north of the county.
Geology	A complex geology that can be summarised as limestone in the south, mudstone in the north, sandstone in the south east, mostly overlain by till with some sands and gravels and alluvium in the valleys
Topography	A slightly undulating plateau running south west – north east incised by valleys with streams.
Biodiversity	<p>Lowland Meadows – Small areas at Biddlesden Park, Longs Wood & Meadow and Akeley Playing Fields LWSs. Also semi improved neutral grassland at Foxcote Reservoir and Wood SSSI</p> <p>Fen – There is a small fen at Vyladd Marsh LWS</p> <p>Woodland – There are 15 woodland LWSs (and other potential BAP woodlands) in a belt between Evershaw and Wicken.</p> <p>Wood Pasture & Parkland – Stowe contains extensive areas of parkland, and there are 2 parkland LWSs at Biddlesden Park and Old Tilehouse Park</p> <p>Eutrophic Standing Water – Foxcote Reservoir and Wood SSSI</p> <p>Reedbed – There is a small area of reedbed at Foxcote Reservoir and Wood SSSI</p> <p>Ponds – There are notable ponds at Foxcote Reservoir and Wood SSSI. There are numerous ponds scattered right across the area.</p> <p>Hedgerows – Much of the area outside the Stowe Parklands is made up of pre-18th century enclosures so these may contain species rich hedgerows</p>
Access	National Trust own Stowe. BBOWT manage Foxcote Reservoir. There is

a dense network of rights of way.

Archaeology

There are concentrations of ridge and furrow at Akeley, Lillingstone and around Stowe.

Stowe (including Old Tilehouse Park) is a registered park and garden.

Part of a much larger Mediaeval Hunting Forest

Targets

Lowland Meadows –Management, Restoration, Creation

Lowland Fen –Management, Restoration

Woodland – Management, Restoration

Wood Pasture & Parkland – Management, Restoration

Eutrophic Standing Water – Management

Reedbed – Management

Ponds – Management, Restoration, Creation

Hedgerows – Management, Restoration

Lowland Heathland – Management, Restoration, Creation

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA							
Whittlewood Forest BOA	Lowland Meadows	Lowland Heathland	Reedbeds	Eutrophic Standing Water	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Wet Woodland	Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	3.5	1.8	4.2	1 site	150.8	0.2	3 sites
% of BOA Area	0.07	0.04	0.08	-	3	0.004	-
% of County Resource	0.9	2.4	17	-	9.3	0.1	9
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Meadows	Lowland Heathland	Reedbeds	Eutrophic Standing Water	Native Woodland		Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Maintenance (ha)	3.5	1.8	4.2	1 site	151		3 sites
Achieving Condition (ha)	3.5	1.1	3.8	1 site	98.2		tbc
Restoration (ha)	0.2	0.2	N/A	0	76.2		tbc
Creation (ha)	0.1	N/A	1.5	0	14.9		x

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows	
Area of Arable (ha)	2107	No of Orchards	5	No of BAP Priority Ponds	0	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	26
% of BOA in arable	42	Area of Orchards (ha)	1	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	41
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	1652 (39)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>				<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>	
% of arable in ES	78						

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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