Biodiversity Opportunity Areas: the basis for realising Surrey’s ecological network

Appendix 5: Thames Basin Lowlands Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statements

TBL01: Wanborough & Normandy Woods & Meadows
TBL02: Clandon to Bookham Parkland
TBL03: Esher & Oxshott Commons
TBL04: Ashtead & Epsom Woodland, Prince’s Coverts & Horton Country Park

December 2015

Investing in our County’s future
Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL01: Wanborough & Normandy Woods & Meadows

Local authorities: Guildford

Aim & justification
The aim of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act ‘Habitats of Principal Importance’, ie. Priority habitats will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Recognition of BOAs directly meets National Planning Policy Framework policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify & map components of the local ecological networks (para. 117).

Explanatory
BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an ‘ecosystem approach’ to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.

1. Overview
This Biodiversity Opportunity Area consists largely of an enclosed system of small fields, hedgerows and ditches, variably sized ancient woodlands and small surviving commons, situated between Ash Green in the west and Broadstreet Common on the outskirts of Guildford in the east. It is adjacent to ND01 (Hog’s Back) along much of the southern boundary. Area: 1597.3 ha

2. National Character Areas
Thames Basin Lowlands (NCA 114), North Downs (NCA 119; marginal), Thames Basin Heaths (NCA 129; marginal)

3. Profile
3.1 Geology
London Clay, Bagshot Sands, Blackheath Beds, Chalk. Rolling clay plain, gently rising to the foot of the Hog’s Back (North Downs ridge) in the south

3.2 Biodiversity
3.2.1 Statutory protected sites -
3.2.2 Local Sites
SNCI: 19
3.2.3 NERC Act S.41
Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):
Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Meadows, Arable field margins, Hedgerows, Ponds
Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):
Plants: Chamomile, Copse-bindweed, Glandular eyebright, Red-tipped cudweed*, Small fleabane
Invertebrates: White-letter hairstreak, Small heath, White admiral, Forester (a moth), Stag beetle
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Corn bunting, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lapwing, Linnet, Skylark, Song thrush, Tree sparrow, Turtle dove, Yellowhammer; Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole
3.2.4 Further important species interest: Corky-fruited water-dropwort, Greater butterfly-orchid, Green-winged orchid, Lesser marshwort, Water-violet; Alder-tongue (a fungus); Purple emperor; Nightingale

* probably extinct in BOA
### 3.2.5 Ancient woodland
Present, including PAWS

### 3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership; Surrey Wildlife Trust

### 3.3 Archaeology
Romano-Celtic Temple complex west of Long Common

### 3.4 Access

#### 3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS
Broadstreet & Backside Commons, Littlefield Common (Surrey Wildlife Trust/Surrey County Council)

#### 3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc
The Fox Way (Link 6); Ash Green Lane East

### 3.5 Key ecosystem services
Agricultural production; Timber production; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, angling)

### 3.6 Socio-Economic

#### 3.6.1 Employment profile
Agriculture and silviculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (esp. equestrian)

#### 3.6.2 LEP
Enterprise M3

### 4. Objectives & Targets

**TBL01/O1:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T1:** All by 2020

**TBL01/O2:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.
- **Meadows/T2a:** 5.25 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland** (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/**T2b:** 75% by area
- **Wet woodland/T2c:** 2 ha by 2020
- **Hedgerows/T2d:** 2.25 km by 2020

**TBL01/O3:** Priority species recovery.
- **T3:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
  - Chamomile
  - Small fleabane
  - Great crested newt
# Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL02: Clandon to Bookham Parkland

**Local authorities:** Guildford, Mole Valley

## Aim & justification

The aim of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act ‘Habitats of Principal Importance’, ie. **Priority habitats** will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Recognition of BOAs directly meets **National Planning Policy Framework** policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, by **establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures** (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to **plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify & map components of the local ecological networks** (para. 117).

**Explanatory**

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an ‘ecosystem approach’ to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.

## 1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area consists of several former estate parklands and commons set in a matrix of agricultural fields with hedgerows and ditches, with variably sized ancient and secondary woodland blocks; from Clandon Park in the west to the outskirts of Fetcham and Leatherhead in the east. It shares adjacencies with ND02 at several points along the southern boundary. **Area:** 3914 ha

## 2. National Character Areas

**Thames Basin Lowlands** (NCA 114), **Thames Basin Heaths** (NCA 129; marginal)

## 3. Profile

### 3.1 Geology

River Terrace deposits, London clay, Alluvium, Blackheath beds, Chalk, Bagshot beds. Rolling, flat clay plain, gently rising to the south towards the dip slope of the North Downs

### 3.2 Biodiversity

#### 3.2.1 Statutory protected sites

**SSSI:** Bookham Commons

#### 3.2.2 Local Sites

**SNCI:** 17

#### 3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

**Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):**

Wood pasture & parkland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Meadows, Hedgerows, Ponds, Traditional orchards

**Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):**

**Plants:** Glandular eyebright*, Green hound’s-tongue, Pennyroyal*, White helleborine, Yellow bird’s-nest

**Fungi/Lichens:** Orange-fruited elm-lichen, *Anaptychia ciliaris*, *Lecidea erythrophaea*, Pertusaria velata (all lichens)

**Invertebrates:** Brown hairstreak, Small heath, White admiral, White-letter hairstreak, Heart moth, Sloe carpet, White-spotted pinion, New Forest mud beetle*, Poplar leaf-rolling weevil, Stag beetle, Scarlet malachite beetle, Hornet robberfly, Thin weblet (a spider)

**Vertebrates:** Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler*, Hawfinch, Lesser redpoll*, Lesser...
3.2.4 Further important species interest: Black poplar, Eared willow, Fat duckweed, Green hellebore, Orange foxtail, Short-styled field-rose, Thread-leaved water-crowfoot, Zygodon conoideus (a moss); Robust bracket (a fungus); Purple emperor, Procaeaetus tibialis (a click-beetle); Nightingale, Red kite, Alcathoe whiskered bat

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey Countryside Partnerships team (Lower Mole Project)

3.3 Archaeology
Medieval fishponds in Lollesworth Wood; Medieval moated site and fishpond in Greatlee Wood

3.4 Access
3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Merrow Common, The Forest Nature Reserve (Surrey Wildlife Trust); Great Ridings Wood Nature Reserve (Woodland Trust); Effingham Common (Guildford Borough Council); Bookham Common (National Trust)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: The Fox Way (Links 1-2); Horsley Jubilee Trail

3.5 Key ecosystem services
Agricultural production; Timber production; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, golf, shooting, angling)

3.6 Socio-Economic
3.6.1 Employment profile: Agriculture and silviculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure & tourism sector (esp. equestrian, game shooting & historic visitor attractions)

3.6.2 LEP: Coast-to-Capital

4. Objectives & Targets
TBL02/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. T1: 95% by 2020 (by area)

TBL02/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. T2: All by 2020

TBL02/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.
- Wet woodland/T3a: 5 ha by 2020
- Mixed deciduous woodland (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/T3b: 75% by area
- Wood pasture & parkland/T3c: 19 ha by 2020
- Meadows/T3d: 13 ha by 2020
- Hedgerows/T3e: 5.4 km by 2020
- Ponds/T3f: 4.75 ha by 2020

TBL02/O4: Priority species recovery.
- T4: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
  - White-letter hairstreak
  - White admiral
  - Great crested newt
  - Lesser spotted woodpecker
  - Hawfinch

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* probably extinct in BOA

Further details available from Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, C/O Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JN
## Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL03: Esher & Oxshott Commons

### Local authorities: Elmbridge

### Aim & justification

The aim of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act ‘Habitats of Principal Importance’, ie. Priority habitats will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.

Recognition of BOAs directly meets National Planning Policy Framework policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify & map components of the local ecological networks (para. 117).

**Explanatory**

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an ‘ecosystem approach’ to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.

### 1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area is centred on the Esher Commons SSSI and straddles the A3 corridor from Cobham in the west to the outskirts of Esher in the east. Peripheral parkland and farmland is also included. It shares adjacency with R05 (River Mole) in the north-west. **Area:** 576.3 ha

### 2. National Character Areas

Thames Basin Lowlands (NCA 114), Thames Basin Heaths (NCA 129; marginal)

### 3. Profile

#### 3.1 Geology

River Terrace deposits, London clay, Bagshot beds. Gently undulating terrain, but falling sharply to the Mole floodplain at the Ledges in the north

#### 3.2 Biodiversity

##### 3.2.1 Statutory protected sites

SSSI: Esher Commons
LNR: Esher Common; West End Common; Old Common

##### 3.2.2 Local Sites

SNCI: 3

##### 3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):

- Heathland, Acid grassland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wood pasture & parkland, Standing open water, Hedgerows

Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):

- **Plants:** Starfruit, Tubular water-dropwort
- **Fungi/Lichens:** Orange chanterelle*, Mealy, Ridged, Velvet, Fused* & Grey teeths (all fungi)
- **Invertebrates:** Silver-studded blue, Small heath, White admiral, White-letter hairstreak, Oxbow diving beetle, Sallow guest weevil, Scarlet malachite beetle, Skeetle (a camphor) beetle*, Stag beetle, Shining guest ant, Southern yellow splinter (a cranefly), Silky gallows-spider, Peus’ long-back spider*, Thin weblet* (a spider)
- **Vertebrates:** Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser redpoll*, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Woodlark, Yellowhammer; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-ears bat, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

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* probably extinct in BOA

Further details available from Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, C/O Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JN
3.2.4 **Further important species interest:** Greater chickweed, Greater dodder, Heath cudweed, Lemon-scented fern, Lily-of-the-valley, Marsh dock, Marsh St John’s-wort, Marsh violet, Oblong-leaved sundew, Petty-whin, Royal fern; *Hebeloma neerlandica*, Starfish fungus (both fungi); Purple emperor, Small red damselfly, Brilliant emerald, Downy emerald (both dragonflies), *Graphoderus cinereus* (a diving-beetle), Oak pinhole-borer beetle, *Cardiophorus asellus*, *Procraerus tibialis* (both click-beetles), Scarce 7-spot ladybird; Hobby, Kingfisher, Nathusius’ pipistrelle bat

3.2.5 **Ancient woodland:** present, including PAWS

3.2.6 **Landscape scale conservation activity:** Surrey Countryside Partnerships team (Lower Mole Project, Heathland Project)

### 3.3 Archaeology

The Belvedere at Claremont

### 3.4 Access

#### 3.4.1 Publicly-accessible Natural OS:

- Esher Common
- Oxshott Heath
- Fairmile Common
- West End Common
- Arbrook Common (Elmbridge Borough Council)
- Claremont Landscape Gardens
  (National Trust)

#### 3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc:

- -

### 3.5 Key ecosystem services

Carbon sequestration, Agricultural production; Timber production; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, angling)

### 3.6 Socio-Economic

#### 3.6.1 Employment profile:

- Leisure & tourism sector (esp. equestrian & historic visitor attractions);
- Equine livery & services

#### 3.6.2 LEP:

- Coast-to-Capital

### 4. Objectives & Targets

**TBL03/O1:** SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1:** 50% by 2020 (by area)

**TBL03/O2:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

**TBL03/O3:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Heathland**/T3a: 3.75 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland** T3b: 3.5 ha by 2020
- **Mixed deciduous woodland**
  (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/T3c: 75% by area
- **Hedgerows/T3d:** 0.8 km by 2020
- **Ponds/T3e:** 0.75 ha by 2020

**TBL03/O4:** Priority species recovery.

- **T4:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
  - Starfruit
  - Nightjar
  - White-letter hairstreak
  - Woodlark
  - Adder
  - Woodlark

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Further details available from Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, C/O Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JN
Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area TBL03: Esher and Oxshott Commons

For Key please see Thames Basin Lowlands Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statements, Surrey Nature Partnership, 2015

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Biodiversity Opportunity Area **TBL04: Ashtead & Epsom Woodland, Prince’s Coverts & Horton Country Park**

**Local authorities:** Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley

**Aim & justification**

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**Explanatory**

BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an ‘ecosystem approach’ to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.

1. **Overview**

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area is centred on the Epsom and Ashtead Commons SSSI, extending north to include Horton Country Park and the Crown Estate-owned Prince’s Coverts. The BOA is contiguous with similarly-identified opportunity land in Greater London. The Rye Brook is a tributary of the River Mole (R05) flowing along the southern boundary. **Area:** 1239.7 ha

2. **National Character Areas**

**Thames Basin Lowlands** (NCA 114), **North Downs** (NCA 119; marginal)

3. **Profile**

3.1 **Geology**

River terrace deposits, London clay, Blackheath beds. BOA occupies the undulating plateau and flanks of a north-south ridge below the Kingston Road (A243)

3.2 **Biodiversity**

3.2.1 **Statutory protected sites**

**SSSI:** Epsom & Ashtead Commons  
**NNR:** Ashtead Common  
**LNR:** Claygate Common; Epsom Common; Horton Country Park; Ashtead Park

3.2.2 **Local Sites**

**SNCI:** 10

3.2.3 **NERC Act S.41**

**Habitats of Principal Importance** (Priority habitats):  
Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Wood pasture & parkland, Heathland, Acid grassland, Hedgerows, Ponds

**Species of Principal Importance** (Priority species):  
**Plants:** Glandular eyebright*, Green hound’s-tongue  
**Fungi/Lichens:** Oak polypore, Zoned rosette (both fungi); *Parmelia quercina*, *Sclerophora pallida* (both lichens)

**Invertebrates:** Brown hairstreak, Dingy skipper, Grizzled skipper, Small heath, White admiral, White-letter hairstreak, Clay fan-foot, Heart moth, Necklace ground-beetle*, New Forest mud beetle*, Stag beetle, Shining guest ant, Phantom hoverfly, Small mesh-weaver (a spider), Silky gallows-spider, Thin weblet* (a spider), Triangle hammock-spider, Horehound long-horn (a micro-moth)

* probably extinct in BOA

Further details available from Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre,  
C/O Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JN
Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler\textsuperscript{*}, Grey partridge, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Marsh tit, Nightjar, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Woodlark, Wood warbler\textsuperscript{*}, Yellowhammer; Adder, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common lizard, Common toad, Great crested newt; Bechstein's bat, Brown long-eared bat, Common dormouse, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Nocule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Corky-fruited water-dropwort, Greater bladderwort, Greater yellow-rattle, Lesser pondweed, Marsh speedwell, Meadow-thistle, Needle spike-rush, Pale sedge, Purple willow, Round-leaved crowfoot, Saw-wort, Wood small-reed; Purple emperor, Bibloporus minutus, Procræerus tibialis, Rhizophagus oblongicollis (all beetles), Cteñophora bimaculata, Oedalea apicalis (both flies); Barn owl, Kingfisher

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey Countryside Partnerships team (Lower Mole Project)

3.3 Archaeology
Camp and Roman Villa in Ashtead Forest; Roman Road (course of)

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Claygate Common (Elmbridge Borough Council); Prince's Coverts (Crown Estate); Ashtead Common (City of London); Epsom Common, Horton Country Park (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council); Leatherhead Common (Mole Valley District Council), Ashtead Park (Mole Valley District Council/Surrey Wildlife Trust)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Thames Down Link; Leatherhead Common Walk

3.5 Key ecosystem services
Agricultural production; Timber production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, angling, golf)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Leisure & tourism sector (esp. equestrian, golf & visitor attractions); Equine livery & services

3.6.2 LEP: Coast-to-Capital

4. Objectives & Targets

TBL04/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1**: 95% by 2020 (by area)

TBL04/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2**: All by 2020

TBL04/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.
- **Mixed deciduous woodland** (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/**T3a**: 75% by area
- **Wet woodlands/T3b**: 1.5 by 2020
- **Wood pasture & parkland/T3c**: 6 ha by 2020
- **Heathland/T3d**: 8.25 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland T3e**: 7.75 ha by 2020
- **Hedgerows/T3f**: 1.7 km by 2020

TBL04/O4: Priority species recovery.
- **T4**: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
  - White-letter hairstreak
  - Heart moth
  - Adder
  - Harvest mouse

Further details available from Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre, C/O Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JN
Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statements - Key to Statement Maps

**Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Areas**
- Thames Valley
- Thames Basin Heaths
- Thames Basin Lowlands
- North Downs
- Wealden Greensand
- Low Weald
- Rivers
- Other "Opportunity Areas"

**Statutory Nature Conservation Designations**
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

**Non-statutory Nature Conservation Designations**
- Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)
- Potential Site of Nature Conservation Importance (pSNCI)
- Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW)
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)

**Administrative Boundaries**
- Surrey County Council
- Borough/District Council

Please Note: This is a standardised key and as such not all designations will appear on each map.