



Surrey Nature Partnership
Healthy Environment | Healthy People | Healthy Economy

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

**Appendix 3: Thames Valley Biodiversity
Opportunity Area Policy Statements**

TV01: Windsor Great Park
TV02: Runnymede Meadows & Slope
TV03: Staines Moor & Shortwood Common
TV04: Thorpe & Shepperton
TV05: Molesey & Hersham

September 2019

Biodiversity Opportunity Area TV01: Windsor Great Park	
Local authorities: Runnymede	
<p>Aim & justification:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current National Planning Policy Framework policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by providing net gains for biodiversity and establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to identify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks, and areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation (para. 174).</p> <p>Explanatory</p> <p><i>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 widest variety of species.</i></p>	
<p>1. Overview</p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area is centred on the Windsor Great Park SAC in both Berkshire and Surrey and comprises a varied landscape of open parkland and formal gardens, together with larger areas of ancient and more recent plantation woodland plus additional adjacent areas of farmland and meadows. Windsor Great Park was originally the private hunting ground of Windsor Castle dating from the mid-13th century. The Chertsey Bourne flows through the BOA and several standing open water-bodies include the largest, Virginia Water. TV01 is contiguous with Berkshire BOA 24. Area: 765.9 ha</p>	
<p>2. National Character Areas</p> <p>Thames Valley (NCA 115), Thames Basin Heaths (NCA 129)</p>	
<p>3. Profile</p> <p>3.1 Physical</p> <p>Bagshot Sand, Windlesham Sand, Silt-and-Clay, London Clay. Gently undulating terrain rising from the Thames floodplain to the north.</p> <p>3.2 Biodiversity</p> <p>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</p> <p>Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC): Windsor Forest & Great Park SAC (part) SSSI: Windsor Forest & Great Park LNR: Riverside Walk, Virginia Water</p> <p>3.2.2 Local Sites</p> <p>SNCI: 2</p> <p>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</p> <p>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats): Wood pasture & parkland, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Fen, Heathland, Acid grassland, Standing open water</p> <p>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species): Plants: Chamomile, Glandular eyebright Fungi/Lichens: Bearded tooth, Berkeley's earthstar*, Bitter tooth, Coral tooth, Fused tooth, Grey tooth, Mealy tooth, Oak polypore, Ridged tooth, Scaly tooth, Velvet tooth, Weathered earthstar*, Woolly rosette*, Woolly tooth, Zoned rosette, Zoned tooth (all fungi); <i>Caloplaca flavorubescens</i>*, <i>Pyrenula nitida</i>* (both lichens)</p>	

* probably extinct in BOA

<p>Invertebrates: Small heath, White-letter hairstreak, Clay fan-foot, Heart moth, Queen's executioner (a beetle), Stag beetle</p> <p>Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Reed bunting, Tree pipit; Adder, Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat</p> <p>3.2.4 Further important species interest: Robust bracket (a fungus); <i>Ampedus rufipennis</i>, <i>Elater ferrugineus</i> (both click-beetles)</p> <p>3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present, including PAWS</p> <p>3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: -</p> <p>3.3 Archaeology -</p> <p>3.4 Access</p> <p>3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Windsor Great Park, Virginia Water (Crown Estate); Riverside Walk (Runnymede Borough Council)</p> <p>3.4.2 Long-distance PRow, etc: -</p> <p>3.5 Key ecosystem services Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, golf, angling, outdoor bathing)</p> <p>3.6 Socio-Economic</p> <p>3.6.1 Employment profile: Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (golf, equestrian, hospitality); Research & higher education</p> <p>3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3</p>					
<p>4. Objectives & Targets</p> <p>TV01/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. T1: 50% by 2020 (by area)</p> <p>TV01/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. T2: All by 2020</p> <p>TV01/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood pasture & parkland/T3a: 13.25 ha by 2020 • Heathland/T3b: 5 ha by 2020 • Acid grassland/T3c: 4.75 ha by 2020 • Mixed deciduous woodland (restoration only; Ancient woodland prioritised)/T3d: 75% by area • Wet woodland/T3e: 1 ha by 2020 • Fen/T3f: 2.75 ha by 2020 <p>TV01/O4: Priority species recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T4: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species: <table style="margin-left: 20px; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Oak polypore</td> <td>Tooth fungi (assemblage)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lesser spotted woodpecker</td> <td>Hedgehog</td> </tr> </table> 	Oak polypore	Tooth fungi (assemblage)	Lesser spotted woodpecker	Hedgehog	
Oak polypore	Tooth fungi (assemblage)				
Lesser spotted woodpecker	Hedgehog				

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area TV02: Runnymede Meadows & Slope
Local authorities: Runnymede
<p>Aim & justification:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current National Planning Policy Framework policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by providing net gains for biodiversity and establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to identify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks, and areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation (para. 174).</p> <p>Explanatory</p> <p><i>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 widest variety of species.</i></p>
<p>1. Overview</p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes an area of riverside meadows and woodland adjacent to the River Thames on the outskirts of Egham. The BOA is centred on Langham Pond SSSI but also includes important areas of wooded parkland around Cooper's Hill. It is adjacent to R06 (River Thames) along its northern boundary. Area: 207.8 ha</p>
<p>2. National Character Areas</p> <p>Thames Valley (NCA 115)</p>
<p>3. Profile</p> <p>3.1 Physical</p> <p>London Clay, Bagshot Sands, Alluvium, River Terrace Deposits. Thames floodplain and river terraces.</p> <p>3.2 Biodiversity</p> <p>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</p> <p>SSSI: Langham Pond</p> <p>3.2.2 Local Sites</p> <p>SNCI: 1</p> <p>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</p> <p>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</p> <p>Meadows, Mixed deciduous woodland, Wood pasture & parkland, Ponds</p> <p>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</p> <p>Plants: Greater water-parsnip, Marsh stitchwort, Tubular water-dropwort</p> <p>Fungi/Lichens: Frogbit smut (a fungus)</p> <p>Invertebrates: White-letter hairstreak, Tansy leaf-beetle*, Stag beetle</p> <p>Vertebrates: Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Skylark, Song thrush, Reed bunting; Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common lizard, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*</p> <p>3.2.4 Further important species interest: Alternate water-milfoil, Brown sedge, Common meadow-rue, Downy-fruited sedge, Fine-leaved water-dropwort, Flowering-rush, Frogbit, Greater dodder, Lesser pondweed, Orange foxtail, Round-fruited rush, Slender tufted-sedge, Tasteless water-pepper; <i>Erioptera squalida</i> (a crane-fly), <i>Odontomyia tigrina</i> (a soldier-fly), <i>Lonchoptera scutellana</i> (a spear-</p>

* probably extinct in BOA

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

<p>winged fly), <i>Cerodontha ornata</i> (a leaf-mining fly), <i>Macropis europaea</i> (a bee), Variable damselfly; Nathusius' pipistrelle bat</p> <p>3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present</p> <p>3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: -</p> <p>3.3 Archaeology Runnymede (Magna Carta site)</p> <p>3.4 Access</p> <p>3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Runnymede & Coopers Hill Slopes (National Trust); Englefield Green, Runnymede Pleasure Ground (Runnymede Borough Council)</p> <p>3.4.2 Long-distance PROW, etc: Thames Path</p> <p>3.5 Key ecosystem services Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, angling)</p> <p>3.6 Socio-Economic</p> <p>3.6.1 Employment profile: Research & higher education; Heritage conservation sector</p> <p>3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3</p>							
<p>4. Objectives & Targets</p> <p>TV02/O1: SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. T1: 75% by 2020 (by area)</p> <p>TV02/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. T2: All by 2020</p> <p>TV02/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed deciduous woodland (restoration only)/T3a: 75% by area • Meadows/T3b: 0.75 ha by 2020 • Wood pasture & parkland/T3c: 3.75 ha by 2020 • Ponds/T3d: 0.25 ha by 2020 <p>TV02/O4: Priority species recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T4: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Greater water-parsnip</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Marsh stitchwort</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Skylark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 	Greater water-parsnip	Marsh stitchwort	Skylark	Water vole			
Greater water-parsnip	Marsh stitchwort	Skylark					
Water vole							

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area TV03: Staines Moor & Shortwood Common

Local authorities: Spelthorne

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.

Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current **National Planning Policy Framework** policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by **providing net gains** for biodiversity and **establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures** (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to **identify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks, and areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation** (para. 174).

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 widest variety of species.

1. Overview

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area comprises an open landscape dominated by four large reservoirs on the outskirts of Staines, centred on Staines Moor SSSI. The BOA also contains several important smaller open water-bodies originating from aggregates extraction (some sites are still operational). Several included rivers (Colne, Wraysbury and Ash) are important tributaries of the Thames. The BOA is contiguous with [Berkshire BOA 27](#) (Colne Valley Gravel Pits & Reservoirs). **Area:** 1174.2 ha

2. National Character Areas

[Thames Valley](#) (NCA 115)

3. Profile

3.1 Physical

Superficial sand and gravel, Silt-and-Clay over London Clay. Thames floodplain.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Statutory protected sites

Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC): South-West London Waterbodies SPA; South-West London Waterbodies Ramsar Site

SSSI: Staines Moor; Wraysbury Reservoir

3.2.2 Local Sites

SNCI: 11

Important Bird Area: South-West London Waterbodies (Birdlife)

3.2.3 NERC Act S.41

Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):

Floodplain grazing-marsh, Standing open water, Rivers, Acid grassland

Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):

Plants: Brown galingale, Marsh stitchwort, Sharp-leaved pondweed*

Invertebrates: Small heath, White-letter hairstreak, Stag beetle, Little whirlpool ram's-horn snail*

Vertebrates: Bittern (winter), Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler*, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Lapwing, Linnet, Skylark, Song thrush, Reed bunting, Yellow wagtail*; Grass snake, Slow worm, Common lizard, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Otter, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*; Brown trout, European eel

* probably extinct in BOA

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Alternate water-milfoil, Brown sedge, Common meadow-rue, Greater bladderwort, Marsh arrow-grass, Needle spike-rush, Orange foxtail, Round-fruited rush, Small water-pepper, Spiny retharrow, Strawberry clover, Thread-leaved water-crowfoot, Upright chickweed, Water-violet, Wild clary; *Pisidium pseudosphaerium* (a pea mussel); Cetti's warbler, Common snipe, Gadwall, Golden plover, Goldeneye, Goosander, Kingfisher, Pochard, Redshank, Shoveler, Tufted duck, Wigeon

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: -

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey County Council/Minerals Industry-led restoration; Colne Valley Regional Park/Groundwork South; Colne & Crane Valleys Green Infrastructure Strategy

3.3 Archaeology -

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Staines Moor, Shortwood Common (Spelthorne Borough Council); Church Lammas Lakes (Brett Aggregates)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Colne Valley Way

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Water provision (abstraction and waste); Aggregates extraction; Agricultural production; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (walking, equestrian, angling, nature observation)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Water industry; Mining & waste sector; Agriculture sector

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

TV03/O1: SSSI units to achieve & maintain favourable condition. **T1:** All by 2020

TV03/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

TV03/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Floodplain grazing-marsh/T3a:** 16.5 ha by 2020
- **Ponds/T3b:** 1.5 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T3c:** 7.25 ha by 2020

TV03/O4: Priority species recovery.

- **T4:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

Brown galingale

Water vole

European eel

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area TV04: Thorpe & Shepperton	
Local authorities: Elmbridge, Runnymede, Spelthorne	
<p>Aim & justification:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current National Planning Policy Framework policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by providing net gains for biodiversity and establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to identify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks, and areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation (para. 174).</p> <p>Explanatory</p> <p><i>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 widest variety of species.</i></p>	
<p>1. Overview</p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area comprises an open landscape of farmland, open waters and former floodplain meadows straddling the River Thames south of Staines. The BOA includes the vast Queen Mary's Reservoir as well as a large number of water-bodies of variable size originating from aggregates extraction (some sites are still operational). R06 (River Thames) runs through the BOA from west to east. Area: 2432.6 ha</p>	
<p>2. National Character Areas</p> <p>Thames Valley (NCA 115), Thames Basin Heaths (NCA 129; marginal)</p>	
<p>3. Profile</p> <p>3.1 Physical</p> <p>River Terrace Deposits, London Clay, Alluvium. Thames floodplain.</p> <p>3.2 Biodiversity</p> <p>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</p> <p>Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC): South-West London Waterbodies SPA; South-West London Waterbodies Ramsar Site</p> <p>SSSI: Thorpe Park No. 1 Pit; Thorpe Hay Meadow; Dumsey Meadow</p> <p>LNR: Chertsey Meads</p> <p>3.2.2 Local Sites</p> <p>SNCI: 22</p> <p>Important Bird Area: South-West London Waterbodies (Birdlife)</p> <p>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</p> <p>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</p> <p>Floodplain grazing-marsh, Meadows, Acid grassland, Standing open water, Reedbeds, Wet woodland, Hedgerows</p> <p>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</p> <p>Plants: Greater water-parsnip*, Marsh stitchwort*, Tubular water-dropwort</p> <p>Invertebrates: Small heath, White-letter hairstreak, False mocha, Heart moth*, White-spotted pinion*, Stag beetle</p> <p>Vertebrates: Bittern (winter), Bullfinch, Corn bunting*, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler*, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Lapwing, Linnet, Skylark, Song thrush, Reed bunting, Yellow wagtail*;</p>	

Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common lizard, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Otter, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*; Brown trout, European eel

3.2.4 Further important species interest: Common meadow-rue, Downy-fruited sedge, Flat-stalked pondweed, Fringed water-lily, Greater dodder, Marsh arrow-grass, Meadow crane's-bill, Purple willow; Pale-lemon sallow (a moth), *Zacladus geranii* (a weevil), *Ephemera lineata* (a mayfly); Common tern, Gadwall, Goldeneye, Little ringed plover, Kingfisher, Shoveler, Smew, Water rail, Leisler's bat, Nathusius' pipistrelle bat

3.2.5 Ancient woodland: present

3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey County Council/Minerals Industry-led restoration

3.3 Archaeology

Anglo-Saxon & medieval cemetery; Earthworks on Laleham Burway; Chertsey Abbey (Benedictine Monastery)

3.4 Access

3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Chertsey Meads (Runnymede Borough Council); Sunbury Park (Spelthorne Borough Council); Thorpe Hay Meadow, Sheepwalk Lake (Surrey Wildlife Trust); Point Meadow (Elmbridge Borough Council)

3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Thames Path

3.5 Key ecosystem services

Water provision (abstraction and waste); Aggregates extraction; Agricultural production; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (pleasure boating, water-sports, angling, golf, walking, equestrian, nature observation)

3.6 Socio-Economic

3.6.1 Employment profile: Water industry; Mining & waste sector; Agriculture sector; Leisure sector (golf, water-sports, hospitality)

3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3

4. Objectives & Targets

TV04/O1: SSSI units to maintain favourable condition. **T1:** All by 2020

TV04/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

TV04/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Standing open water/T3a:** 3 ha by 2020
- **Floodplain grazing-marsh/T3b:** 34.25 ha by 2020
- **Acid grassland/T3c:** 9.25 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T3d:** 3 ha by 2020
- **Reedbeds/T3e:** 4.75 ha by 2020

TV04/O4: Priority species recovery.

- **T4:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

Greater water-parsnip	Marsh stitchwort	Lapwing
Water vole		

* probably extinct in BOA

Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area TV05: Molesey & Hersham	
Local authorities: Elmbridge	
<p>Aim & justification:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Realising BOA aims will contribute to UK commitments to halt biodiversity declines, and their recognition directly meets current National Planning Policy Framework policy to plan strategically for the enhancement of the natural environment; to be achieved by providing net gains for biodiversity and establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures (para. 170). Designation of BOAs also fulfils NPPF requirements to identify, map and safeguard components of wider ecological networks, and areas identified for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation (para. 174).</p> <p>Explanatory</p> <p><i>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 widest variety of species.</i></p>	
<p>1. Overview</p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area consists of an open landscape between Walton-on-Thames and West Molesey on the southern bank of the River Thames. The BOA is dominated by open waterbodies, used either as water storage reservoirs or restored aggregates workings. TV05 meets the River Mole (R05) along much of its eastern boundary. Area: 676.8 ha</p>	
<p>2. National Character Areas</p> <p>Thames Valley (NCA 115)</p>	
<p>3. Profile</p> <p>3.1 Physical River Terrace Deposits, London Clay, Alluvium. Thames floodplain.</p> <p>3.2 Biodiversity</p> <p>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC): South-West London Waterbodies SPA; South-West London Waterbodies Ramsar Site SSSI: Knight & Bessborough Reservoirs LNR: Molesey Heath</p> <p>3.2.2 Local Sites SNCI: 4 Important Bird Area: South-West London Waterbodies (Birdlife)</p> <p>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41 Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats): Standing open water, Reedbeds, Floodplain grazing-marsh, Acid grassland, Hedgerows Species of Principal Importance (Priority species): Invertebrates: Brown hairstreak, Small heath, Stag beetle Vertebrates: Bittern (winter), Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler*, Lapwing, Linnets, Skylark, Song thrush, Reed bunting, Yellow wagtail*; Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common lizard, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*; European eel</p> <p>3.2.4 Further important species interest: Bithynian vetch, Bulbous meadow-grass, Butterbur, Greater dodder, Narrow-leaved pepperwort, Purple willow; Cetti's warbler, Common tern, Gadwall,</p>	

* probably extinct in BOA

<p>Goldeneye, Little ringed plover, Redshank, Shoveler, Leisler’s bat, Nathusius’ pipistrelle bat</p> <p>3.2.5 Ancient woodland: -</p> <p>3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity: Surrey County Council/Minerals Industry-led restoration; Surrey Wildlife Trust</p> <p>3.3 Archaeology -</p> <p>3.4 Access</p> <p>3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS: Molesey Heath (Elmbridge Borough Council)</p> <p>3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc: Thames Path</p> <p>3.5 Key ecosystem services Water provision (abstraction and waste); Aggregates extraction; Agricultural production; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreational (angling, walking, equestrian, nature observation)</p> <p>3.6 Socio-Economic</p> <p>3.6.1 Employment profile: Water industry; Mining & waste sector; Agriculture sector</p> <p>3.6.2 LEP: Enterprise M3</p>				
<p>4. Objectives & Targets</p> <p>TV05/O1: SSSI units to maintain favourable condition. T1: All by 2020</p> <p>TV05/O2: SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. T2: All by 2020</p> <p>TV05/O3: Priority habitat restoration & creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing open water/T3a: 0.75 ha by 2020 • Floodplain grazing-marsh/T3b: 9.5 ha by 2020 • Acid grassland/T3c: 4.25 ha by 2020 • Reedbeds/T3d: 1.25 ha by 2020 <p>TV05/O4: Priority species recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T4: By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Lapwing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Reed bunting</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Water vole</td> </tr> </table> 	Lapwing	Reed bunting	Water vole	
Lapwing	Reed bunting	Water vole		

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Map Key: