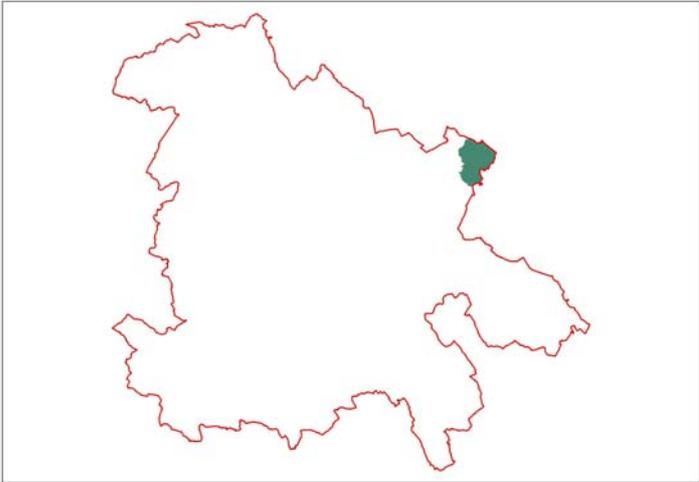


LCT 6 Greensand Ridge



Constituent LCAs

- LCA 6.1 Brickhills Scarp
- LCA 6.2 Stockgrove Wooded Slopes



View of Brickhills Scarp from the A4146 Galley Lane.

LCT 6 Greensand Ridge

Key Characteristics

- Sand deposits
- Incised scarp face
- Extensive woodland cover
- Settlement of Great Brickhill
- Incised winding lanes
- Scarp drains towards Ouzel valley
- Undulating eroded plateau top
- Elevation range 90M to 150M AOD

Distinctive Features

- Stockgrove Country Park
- Coniferous plantations
- Heathland
- Ponds and streams
- Extensive views over the Ouzel valley

General Description

Accords with CA 90 Bedfordshire and Greensand Ridge identified by the Character of England map and with LCT RDA identified by the National Landscape Typology. In geological terms the area consists of Lower Greensand overlying Oxford clays.

The distinctive tree covered scarp rises from the valley of the river Ouzel which runs to the west. The scarp face has been eroded into an undulating landform by streams and springs producing steep sided valleys and small promontories. Narrow winding lanes, rising up the scarp face, follow local valleys and have further incised their route into the scarp. The A5 Watling Street forms the eastern boundary in Aylesbury Vale, however, the ridge continues northwards and to the south into the adjoining District.

Extensive woodland cover includes areas of ancient semi-natural woodland, secondary woodland and coniferous plantations. Kingswood and Bakers Wood SSSI support ancient woodland plant communities. The sandy soils are suitable for the development of heathland especially around the area of Rammamere. Bakers Wood Heath is a SSSI containing remnants of Lowland Heath and acidic grassland. Typical interest includes reptiles such as the adder. Wooded areas support species associated with ancient woodland such as yellow archangel and wood spurge. There are also large bodies of water managed for recreation.

Meadows at Kiln Farm Valley support a wide variety of habitats such as wet to dry grasslands, streams and flushes. Great Brickhill Field, on the edge of the settlement, contains wet flush areas and a pond that adds to the diversity of the field and lies in the lee of a wood. Both these sites are designated as County Wildlife Sites.

Stockgrove Country Park situated on the Buckinghamshire / Bedfordshire border, consists of ancient coppice woodland, a lake, heath remnants, coniferous plantations, species rich acid grassland and Georgian Parkland and supports a wealth of wildlife including rare plants, bats, slow worm and common lizard.

Stockgrove Country Park is open to the public, providing car parking, woodland walks and interpretation facilities. The parkland at Stockgrove provides tranquil country walks and a sense of isolation.

Great Brickhill, which occupies a section of the scarp, overlooks the tree lined course of the River Ouzel and the Grand Union Canal. To the west of the old A4146 road sits the new Stoke Hammond bypass and west coast mainline railway which appear as distinctive linear features in the landscape. The local vernacular includes buildings and walls built in the local sandstone. To the north of the ridge there are long distance views of the city of Milton Keynes.