

COUNTY: OXFORDSHIRE

SITE NAME: BUCKLAND WARREN

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authorities: Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council

National Grid Reference: SU333963

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 164 **1:10,000:** SU39 NW

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1992 **Date of Last Revision:**

Date Confirmed with Modifications: 21 June 1993

Area: 0.03 ha 0.07 ac

Description and Reasons for Notification

Buckland Warren is a strip of cultivated land between a golf course and an area of woodland. The site supports a community of annual plants including one of the few remaining populations of the nationally rare broad-leaved cudweed *Filago pyramidata*. This species has declined drastically in recent decades and is currently known from less than ten sites in Britain and, as a consequence, is listed in the British Red Data Book of Vascular Plants (Perring and Farrell 1983).

The site lies on sandy strata within a series of sands and limestones, known as the Corallian Beds, of Upper Jurassic age. These deposits have weathered to produce dry, well-drained, sandy soils of the Fyfield 4 Association.

The combination of a warm south-westerly aspect with this free-draining soil which is annually cultivated (formerly being incorporated in an arable field) has provided ideal conditions for a large number of species which are only found where competition from perennial plants is much reduced or totally restricted. Associated species include scarlet pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*, slender sandwort *Arenaria leptoclados*, Viper's-bugloss *Echium vulgare*, small-leaved crane's-bill *Geranium pusillum*, round-leaved fluellen *Kickxia spuria*, Venus's-looking-glass *Legousia hybrida*, corn spurrey *Spergula arvensis* and field pansy *Viola arvensis*.

The broad-leaved cudweed is typically found elsewhere on edges of arable fields, being known as an arable weed. Even here it has become increasingly rare with modern-day changes in agriculture, with the early post-harvest sowing of winter cereals and the application of herbicides and fertilisers to the very edge of the crop. Experiments and field observation on this species indicate that this annual plant germinates in the spring and that it is essential that disturbance is created by ploughing or rotovating in early to mid-October. Such practices are to be perpetuated in an effort to secure the long term survival of this rare plant at Buckland Warren.



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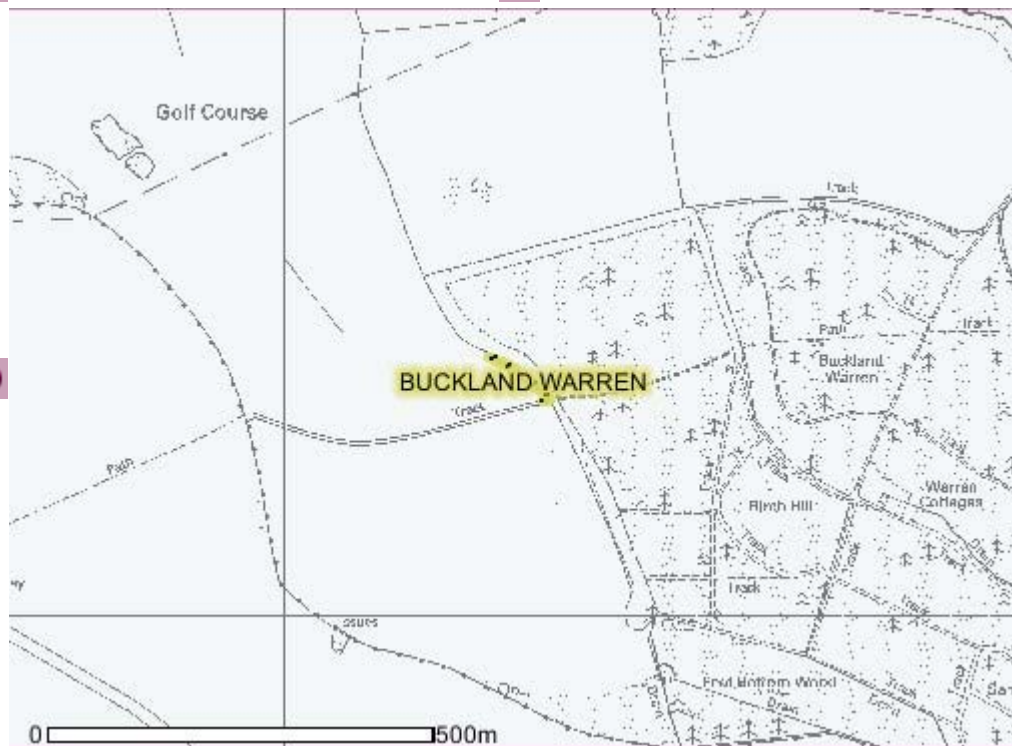
Geological Sites Map

Targeting and Planning Map

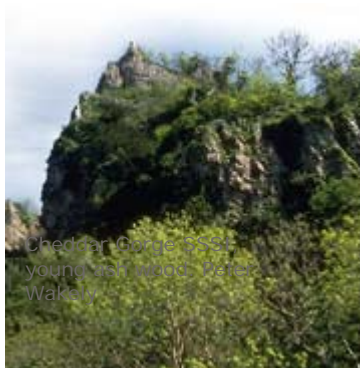
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Cheddar Gorge with young ash trees in the foreground

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