

Blackbarn Farm Habitat Bank

Part of a wider farming legacy and nature restoration project, Blackbarn connects five generations of land stewardship with a new model of habitat creation.

ABOUT THE SCHEME

Blackbarn Farm: a Biodiversity Net Gain scheme registered with Test Valley Borough Council, combining traditional orchard creation, species-rich grassland and hedgerow restoration with one of the first organic nut harvests of its kind in the UK.

Mark and Helen Glover, and their son Edward, have farmed the chalk downland at Blackbarn Farm near Grateley for over eighty years. In that time they have planted forty acres of new woodland and thirty-five acres of walnut orchards, moved to zero-till and cover cropping, kept beehives on the farm, and used no insecticides. Every winter, a feeding programme brings stone curlews, hen harriers, woodcock, red kites and grey partridge to the land. This is not a recent pivot - it's simply how they farm.

The BNG scheme at Blackbarn extends across three parcels - Townsend, Sunnyside and Northays, and Trackside and Middle Paddock - where nearly seven thousand trees will be planted, predominantly English walnut with cherry, plum, nectarine, quince and apple alongside. Beneath them, species-rich wildflower grassland will be established and managed through traditional hay cutting. New native hedgerows will be created and existing ones retained throughout the thirty-year scheme, which delivers well over two hundred biodiversity units and a net gain approaching double the baseline.

The harvest feeds The Cracked Nut Company, the Glovers' business, which brought in its first commercial crop this year and moves into full production in 2026. Most nuts sold in Britain are imported seconds - the Glovers' are grown and harvested here.

SCHEME BNG

Status:

Taking Allocations
Test Valley LPA
Hampshire Downs (NCA)
Approved via Section 106

CONTACT

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HABITATS AVAILABLE

Broad Habitat	Metric Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition
Cropland	Arable field margin	Medium	Moderate
Grassland	Other neutral grassland	Medium	Good
Grassland	Modified grassland	Low	Poor
Grassland	Temporary grass and clover leys	Low	Poor
Cropland	Traditional orchards	High	Moderate
Hedgerows	Native hedgerow (priority habitat)	Very High	Moderate
Hedgerows	Species-rich native hedgerow (priority habitat)	Very High	Moderate
Hedgerows	Native hedgerow with trees (priority habitat)	Very High	Moderate
Hedgerows	Other hedgerow	Low	Poor
Woodland and forest	Line of trees	Medium,	Good
Woodland and forest	Ecologically valuable line of trees	High	Good
Open mosaic	Sparsely vegetated land (tall forbs)	Low	Poor Moderate
Open mosaic	Bare ground / sparsely vegetated land	Low	Poor

TOWNS & CITIES

- Andover
- Romsey
- Stockbridge
- North Baddesley
- Valley Park
- Nursling and Rownhams
- Charlton
- Amport
- Quarley
- Grateley & Grateley Station
- Monxton
- Over Wallop and Nether Wallop
- Shipton Bellinger

NCAS

- Hampshire Downs NCA
- Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs NCA

LPAS

- Test Valley LPA
- Wiltshire LPA
- West Berkshire LPA
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough LPA
- Winchester LPA
- Eastleigh Borough LPA
- Southampton City LPA
- New Forest LPA

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