

Stonehill Habitat Bank

Part of a wider regenerative farming and nature restoration project, Stonehill is a jewel in the heart of the Salisbury Plains

ABOUT THE SCHEME

Overlooking the chalk valleys of South Wiltshire, the Stonehill Habitat Bank at Red House Farm lies in the heart of the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs National Landscape. Owned and managed by Dineley Farming Company Ltd, this 56-hectare project transforms improved pasture into a rich and varied mosaic of species-rich grasslands, scrub, woodland and scattered trees—all maintained by carefully managed, low-intensity grazing.

This habitat bank delivers high-quality offsite Biodiversity Units (BUs) under the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) regime, with a legally secured 30-year Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.

Restoration actions include:

- Creation of lowland calcareous, neutral, and acid grassland using locally sourced green hay and low-fertility management
- Planting of 2,670 native trees to introduce structure and habitat heterogeneity
- Development of mixed scrub and a broadleaved woodland copse to promote successional dynamics
- Adaptive grazing using cattle and sheep to simulate lost herbivore pressures and manage vegetation naturally

The site lies adjacent to Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)-designated chalk grassland on the adjacent scarp, enhancing connectivity for butterflies, birds and specialist downland flora. It is within two National Character Areas—Blackmoor Vale & Vale of Wardour (NCA 133) and Dorset Downs & Cranborne Chase (NCA 134)—and within the Cranborne Chase National Landscape, further reinforcing its strategic ecological value.

Proximity to Prescombe Down SAC/NNR and Gallows Hill SSSI adds to the landscape-scale significance of the project. All interventions are compatible with nearby conservation designations and support long-term ecological recovery objectives for the wider region.

SCHEME BNG

Status:

Taking Allocations
Wiltshire LPA
Blackmoor Vale and Vale of
Wardour (NCA 133)
Approved via Section 106

CONTACT

Dr Gabriel Connor Streich
CEO

E Gabriel@greenshank-environmental.com
T 07891466984



HABITATS AVAILABLE

Broad Habitat	Metric Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition
Grassland	Lowland calcareous	High	Good
Grassland	Other lowland acid grassland	Medium	Good
Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	Medium	Moderate
Individual Trees	Individual trees - Rural tree	Medium	Poor
Woodland and Forest	Other woodland - broadleaved	Medium	Poor

TOWNS & CITIES

- Salisbury
- Trowbridge
- Chippenham
- Melksham
- Calne
- Devizes
- Warminster
- Westbury
- Corsham
- Amesbury
- Tidworth
- Royal Wootton Bassett
- Bradford-on-Avon
- Marlborough
- Ludgershall
- Pewsey

NCAS

- Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs (NCA 132)
- Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (NCA 134)
- Dorset Heaths (NCA 135)
- Yeovil Scarplands (NCA 137)
- Somerset Levels and Moors (NCA 142)

LPAS

- Wiltshire LPA
- Swindon LPA
- Bath and North East Somerset LPA
- South Gloucestershire LPA
- Cotswold LPA
- Vale of White Horse LPA
- Test Valley LPA
- New Forest LPA
- Dorset LPA
- Somerset LPA
- New Forest National Park LPA

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