



BCA Land Management Strategy

Land Summary

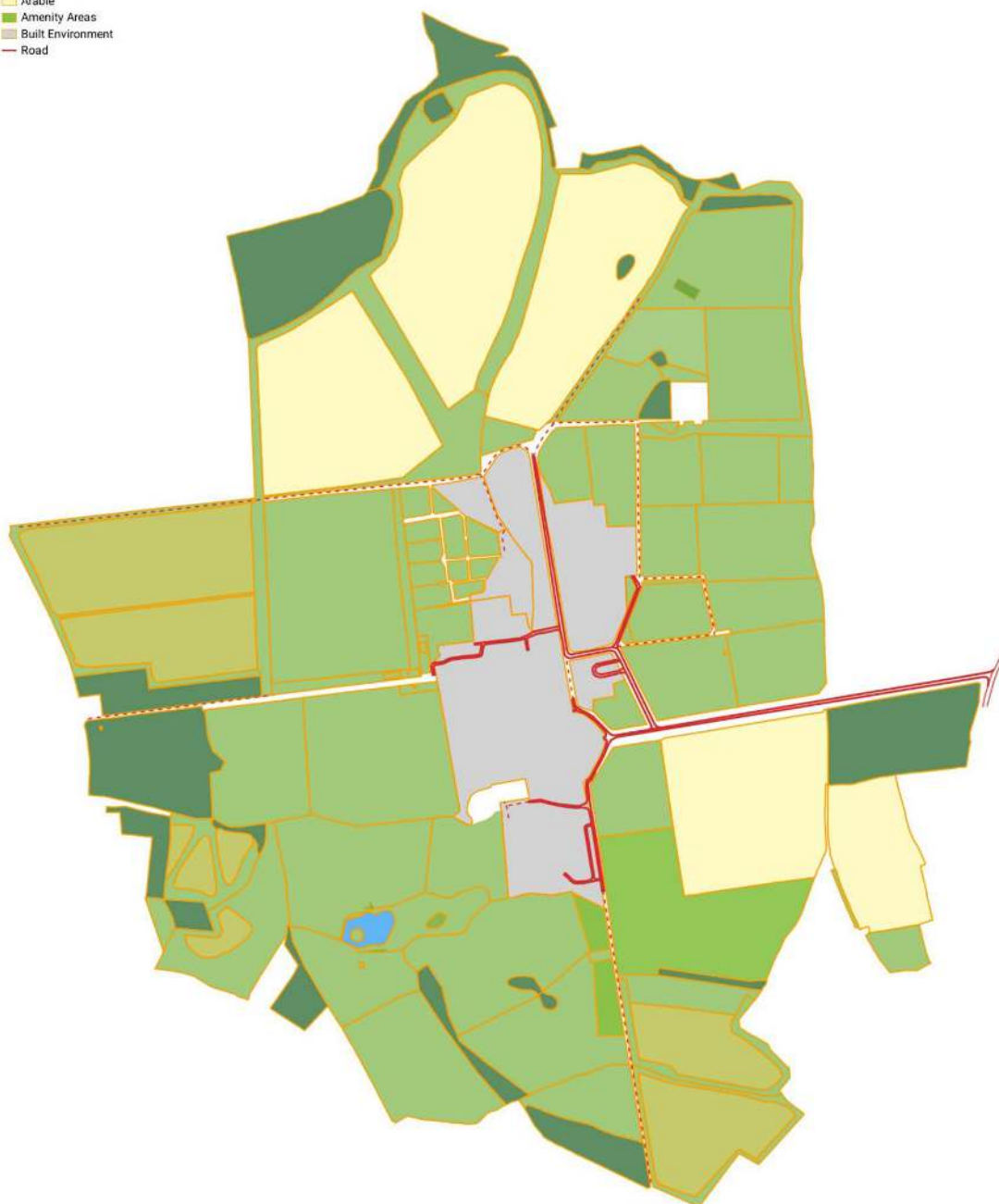
Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) is a 184ha estate comprising 31 ha of built environment and 153ha of rural land use . The varied undulating topography is 65-100m above sea level with a primarily chalk bedrock, pockets of sand and variable depth clay soil. There is a long and rich cultural history associated with the site. Records show that the land has been managed as a part of a country estate for approximately 1000 years. The landscape seen today has a layout and key historical features from the 17th and 18th centuries. Most notably the tree lined avenues, open parkland to the south west and remnants of tree planting and ancient woodland to the north. There is a network of public footpaths and permitted footpaths across the estate linking Ashley Hill, Burchetts Green, Hurley and Bisham. The BCA equestrian 'park and ride' forms a link to the 'Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit' for horse riders.

We are a college dedicated to providing further education to students across the Thames Valley area and beyond. As such, there are many interested parties and stakeholders with a keen interest in the management of the BCA estate and the opportunities that we provide. Our students, staff, local residents and college alumni, local conservation and ramblers groups, long term contractors, and all users of the BCA facilities have a keen interest in what takes place on the estate and how it is managed.

The rural estate comprises the following simplified land uses:

- Permanent pasture - Parkland (30 ha)
- Permanent pasture - Equestrian paddocks (21 ha)
- Grass leys and arable cropping (49 ha)
- Woodland & scrub (18 ha)
- Short rotation willow coppice (17ha)
- Tracks, verges and hedges

- Woodland
- Grassland
- Willow Coppice
- Ponds
- Arable
- Amenity Areas
- Built Environment
- Road





1. Vision Statement

We have a shared vision for our rural estate: a well managed modern estate that enables the development of the skills and experiences our students need to be successful in their careers beyond BCA.

2. Management Principles

The following management principles are used to guide the specific objectives:

Education - All land uses and activities must be planned to support and enhance curriculum requirements

Environment - All land uses and activities must be planned to maximise their environmental and biological potential with respect to onsite resources including: energy, biodiversity, and water, soil, and air quality. Assessed with local and national objectives

Productivity - Cropping and livestock systems must be integrated and resilient. Productivity, health and welfare must be managed in accordance with industry best practice.

Social and recreation - Recognise the estate's heritage landscape. Engage and inspire our stakeholders and the public.

Financial - All principle land uses and activities aim to be commercially viable.

3. Objectives & Benchmarks

Objectives will be comprehensively reviewed on an annual basis (January) with a six monthly update. These will directly link to our management principles and will address risk and opportunities. These are housed in a working [spreadsheet document](#).