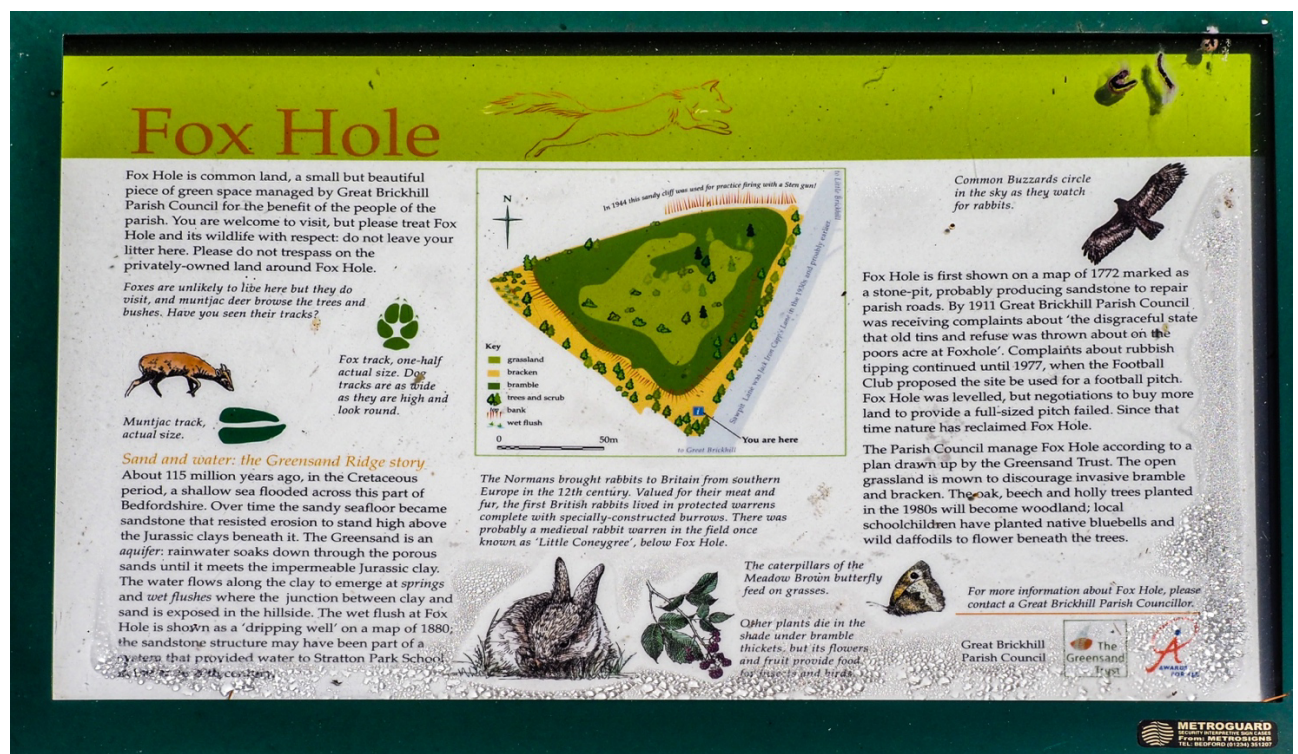


Fox Hole Display with Transcription



The above display placed by GB Parish Council contains the following text

Fox Hole is common land, a small but beautiful piece of green space managed by Great Brickhill Parish Council for the benefit of the people of the parish. You are welcome to visit, but please treat Fox Hole and its wildlife with respect: do not leave your litter here. Please do not trespass on the privately-owned land around Fox Hole.

Foxes are unlikely to live here but they do visit, and muntjac deer browse the trees and bushes. Have you seen their tracks?

See Images of:

- Fox track, one-half actual size.

- Dog tracks are as wide as they are high and look round.
- Muntjac track, actual size.

Sand and water: the Greensand Ridge story

About 115 million years ago, in the Cretaceous period, a shallow sea flooded across this part of Bedfordshire.

Over time the sandy seafloor became sandstone that resisted erosion to stand high above the Jurassic clays beneath it. The Greensand is an aquifer: rainwater soaks down through the porous sands until it meets the impermeable Jurassic clay. The water flows along the

clay to emerge at springs and wet flushes where the junction between clay and sand is exposed in the hillside. The wet flush at Fox Hole is shown as a 'dripping well' on a map of 1880; the sandstone structure may have been part of a system that provided water to Stratton Park School [nearby until the 1930s. (best guess)]

The Normans brought rabbits to Britain from Southern Europe in the 12th century. Valued for their meat and fur, the first British rabbits lived in protected warrens complete with specially-constructed burrows. There was probably a medieval

Fox Hole Display with Transcription

rabbit warren in the field once known as 'Little Coneygree', below Fox Hole.

The caterpillars of the Meadow Brown butterfly feed on grasses. Other plants die in the shade under bramble thickets but its flowers and fruits provide food for insects and birds. Common Buzzards circle in the sky as they watch for rabbits.

Fox Hole is first shown on a map of 1772 marked as a stone-pit, probably producing sandstone to repair parish roads. By 1911

Great Brickhill Parish Council was receiving complaints about 'the disgraceful state that old tins and refuse was thrown about on the Poors Acre at Fox Hole.

Complaints about rubbish tipping continued until 1977, when the Football Club proposed the site be used for a football pitch. Fox Hole was levelled, but negotiations to buy more land to provide a full-sized pitch failed. Since that time nature has reclaimed Fox Hole.

The Parish Council manage Fox Hole according to a plan drawn up by the Greensand Trust. The open grassland is mown to discourage invasive bramble and bracken. The oak, beech and holly trees planted in the 1980s will become woodland; local schoolchildren have planted native bluebells and wild daffodils to flower beneath the trees.

For more information about Fox Hole, please contact a Great Brickhill Parish Councillor.