

Hambleton & Wormsley Valleys Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	3595 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 26 SSSI 5
BAP Habitat	Chalk River Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 26.5 ha Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland 126 ha Lowland Calcareous Grassland 40 ha Wood Pasture and Parkland 0.5ha

The Hambleton Valley is a mostly dry valley running from Skirmett south towards the Thames. The lower reaches do contain a chalk stream. The Wormsley Valley is a dry valley that connects with it.

The BOA connects to the Medmenham and South Western Commons BOAs

Joint Character Area	Chilterns
Landscape Types	Wooded Agricultural land
Geology	Chalk with overlying sand and gravels in the valley floor, and small areas of clay with flints and gravels as the slopes reach the plateau of the Wormsley Valley
Topography	Two valleys with gently sloping bottoms with steep sloping sides consisting of numerous spurs rising to a plateau.
Biodiversity	<p>Calcareous Grassland – In the Wormsley Valley there are 3 calcareous grassland SSSIs spread over 6 sites. There are a few small sites of calcareous grassland on the eastern flank of the Hambleton Valley - including Fayland Chalk Bank SSSI.</p> <p>Woodland – There are areas of BAP woodland scattered across the plateau and on the steeper slopes including Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland and Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland.</p> <p>Hedgerows – The Wormsley Valley and the eastern edges of the Hambleton Valley contain pre-18th century enclosures and these may be bordered by species rich hedgerows</p> <p>Chalk River – the Hambleton chalk stream flows through the lower reaches of the Hambleton Valley</p>
Access	There is a network of footpaths throughout
Archaeology	
Targets	<p>Lowland Calcareous Grassland – Management, Restoration, Creation</p> <p>Woodland – Management, Restoration</p>

Hedgerows - Management, Restoration, Creation

Chalk River – Management, Restoration

Wood Pasture and Parkland – Management, Restoration, Creation

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA				
Hambleton & Wormsley Valleys BOA	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	39.9	26.6	125.8	1 site
% of BOA Area	1.1	0.73	3.5	-
% of County Resource	11.6	1.6	10.5	3
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Native Woodland		Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Maintenance (ha)	39.9	152.4		1 site
Achieving Condition (ha)	39.1	99.1		1 site
Restoration (ha)	0.8	292.7		tbc
Creation (ha)	8.7	15.1		tbc

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows		Rivers and Streams	
Area of Arable (ha)	623	No of Orchards	22	No of BAP Priority Ponds	0	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	36	BAP Habitat Present	Chalk Rivers
% of BOA in arable	17	Area of Orchards (ha)	8.5	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	20		
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	324 (30)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>				<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>			
% of arable in ES	52								

The Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) map depicts the regional priority areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats. This is a spatial representation of the BAP targets and the BOAs are areas of opportunity, not constraint. The BOAs shown in the map do not include all the BAP habitat in the region, nor do they include all the areas where BAP habitat could exist. In particular, more work is needed to develop approaches in urban and in marine environments.

The Biodiversity Opportunity Areas Map is the property of the members of the South East England Biodiversity Forum. For more information please see www.sebiodiversity.org.uk

Priority Habitat Mapping data supplied by Buckinghamshire County Council, Natural Environment Team.
Data is correct of April 2010.

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