

Ouse Valley Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Area Coverage | 4338 ha |
| BAP Habitat | Lowland Calcareous Grassland 3 ha Lowland Wood-Pasture and Parkland 28 ha Reedbeds 2.5 Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh 84.5 ha |
| Number of Designated Sites | Local wildlife sites 5 |

The Ouse Valley runs right across the county from Whitfield in the west to Olney in the east. The stretch of the Ouse Valley in Milton Keynes only is included in the BOA.

The BOA connects with the Yardley Chase and the Bedfordshire Wetland Opportunity Area.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Joint Character Area | Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands |
| Landscape Types | Predominantly agricultural unwooded. |
| Geology | Mudstone overlain by sand, silt and gravels. |
| Topography | A narrow meandering river valley – at its broadest north of Milton Keynes. There are confluences with 2 main valleys – the Ouzel from the south and the Tove from the north. |
| Biodiversity | <p>Rivers & Streams – The Ouse is a predominantly natural river flowing across the county and creating a corridor for the dispersal of biodiversity. Otters have been spotted along its entire length in Bucks and MK.</p> <p>Floodplain Grazing Marsh – Areas to the north of Milton Keynes, around Olney and in the Tove Valley have been identified as Floodplain Grazing Marsh.</p> <p>Calcareous Grassland – Old Limestone Quarry LWS near Calverton contains calcareous grassland as well as neutral grassland species. There are degraded calcareous grasslands around Olney.</p> <p>Eutrophic Standing Water – There is an open water LWS - Kickles Pits and Gayhurst Quarry in Newport Pagnell. North of Milton Keynes there are numerous other areas of eutrophic standing water – mostly flooded gravel workings that are valuable for birdlife. These include the Hanson Centre and the Stony Stratford Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Reedbeds / Wet Woodland – The gravel site at Wolverton is to be reinstated as a floodplain forest including reedbeds, wet woodland, fen and lowland meadow habitats</p> <p>Hedgerows – There is a concentration of pre-18th century enclosures between Tyringham and Emberton which may contain species rich hedgerows.</p> |
| Access | Stony Stratford Nature Reserve and it is owned by Milton Keynes Parks |

Trust. There are riverside walks in Buckingham and some sections north of Milton Keynes.

Archaeology

Targets

Rivers & Streams –Management, Restoration

Lowland Meadows - Restoration, Creation

Lowland Calcareous Grassland –Management, Restoration

Woodland – - Management, Restoration, Creation

Lowland Fen – Management, Creation

Eutrophic Open Standing Water – Management, Restoration, Creation

Reedbeds – Creation

Hedgerows – Management, Restoration, Creation

Ponds – Management, Restoration, Creation

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 | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Ouse Valley BOA | Lowland Calcareous Grassland | Lowland Meadows | Reedbed | Floodplain Grazing Marsh |
| Area of Habitat in BOA (ha) | 2.8 | 0 | 2.6 | 84.4 |
| % of BOA Area | 0.06 | 0 | 0.06 | 1.9 |
| % of County Resource | 0.8 | 0 | 10.5 | 36.8 |
| 2015 BAP Targets | Lowland Calcareous Grassland | Lowland Meadows | Reedbed | Floodplain Grazing Marsh |
| Maintenance (ha) | 2.8 | 0 | 2.6 | 84.4 |
| Achieving Condition (ha) | 2.3 | 0 | 2.3 | 69.3 |
| Restoration (ha) | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0.6 |
| Creation (ha) | 0.6 | tbc | tbc | tbc |

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

| Arable Field Margins | | Traditional Orchards | | Ponds | | Hedgerows | | Rivers and Streams | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|-----|--------------------------|-----|--|----|-----------------------|--------|
| Area of Arable (ha) | 1422 | No of Orchards | 5 | No of BAP Priority Ponds | 0 | % of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value | 36 | Broad Habitat Present | Rivers |
| % of BOA in arable | 33 | Area of Orchards (ha) | 1.3 | Creation Target | tbc | % of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value | 45 | | |
| Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS) | 1271 (93) | <i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i> | | | | <i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i> | | | |
| % of arable in ES | 89 | | | | | | | | |

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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