

## Upper Hughenden Valley Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



<b>Area Coverage</b>	1124 ha
<b>Number of Designated Sites</b>	Local wildlife sites 14 SSSI 1
<b>BAP Habitat</b>	Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland 89.5 ha Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 44.5 ha Lowland Calcareous Grassland 21 ha Lowland Meadows 0.2 ha

*The Hughenden Valley is a valley which runs north from Hughenden up to the villages of Speen and Bryants Bottom. It contains several BAP woodlands – especially on the eastern flanks and areas of neglected calcareous grassland survive on its steep slopes..*

*This BOA connects to Central Chilterns Chalk Rivers BOA.*

**Joint Character Area** Chilterns

**Landscape Types** Wooded agricultural land

**Geology** Chalk with overlying deposits of alluvium sand and gravel in the valley bottom, and clay with flints on the highest points of the ridges.

**Topography** A steep sided valley with gently sloping valley bottoms. The valley splits into three at its head

**Biodiversity** Woodland – The area contains BAP quality woodlands at Millfields Wood SSSI and Gomms Wood, Longfield and Hatches Woods and Piggott's Wood. There are several other mixed deciduous woodland sites spread across the area.

Calcareous Grassland. There are calcareous grassland sites at Millfield Wood SSSI and the LWS at Cowslip Meadow. The area also contains concentrations of unmanaged calcareous grassland that has now reverted to rank grassland or scrub but which offer the opportunity for restoration. Little Stocking Meadow is one of the few sites in the county containing Meadow Clary.

Arable Field Margins – The bottom of the valley is predominantly arable. The Chilterns is a Plantlife priority area for rare arable plants

Traditional Orchards – There is a potential BAP orchard at Orchard Farm

Lowland Meadows – There is lowland meadow habitat at Haypole Field. This site is an ex-brickworks and its complex geology has created an area of lowland meadow with calcareous and acid species too)

Hedgerows – there is a concentration of pre-18<sup>th</sup> century enclosures throughout the valley which may contain species rich hedgerows

**Access** National Trust own Hughenden Park. BBOWT own Millfield Wood.  
Woodland Trust own some of Gomms Wood. Prestwood Picnic Site is a  
LNR.

**Archaeology**

**Targets** Lowland Calcareous Grassland – Management, Restoration, Creation  
Woodland - Management, Restoration, Creation  
Arable Field Margins - Management, Creation  
Traditional Orchards - Management, Restoration  
Hedgerows – Management, Restoration, Creation  
Lowland Meadows – Management, Restoration, Creation

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA				
Upper Hughenden Valley BOA	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Meadows	Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	20.7	2.4	96.6	82
% of BOA Area	1.8	0.2	8.6	7.3
% of County Resource	6	0.6	8.1	5.1
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Meadows	Native Woodland	
Maintenance (ha)	20.7	2.4	178.6	
Achieving Condition (ha)	17.2	2	143.2	
Restoration (ha)	0.4	0.2	99.7	
Creation (ha)	4.5	0.1	17.7	

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows		Rivers and Streams	
Area of Arable (ha)	181	No of Orchards	20	No of BAP Priority Ponds	0	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	37	BAP Habitat Present	Chalk Rivers
% of BOA in arable	16	Area of Orchards (ha)	8.2	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	30		
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	66 (0)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>				<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>			
% of arable in ES	36								

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](http://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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