

Upper Ray Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	1232 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 13 SSSI 1
BAP Habitat	Lowland Meadow 114 ha Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh 105 ha Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 9 ha

This area consists of the low lying valley of the Upper River Ray as it flows from Grendon Underwood to the border with Oxfordshire. It also includes the hills around Charndon.

The BOA connects with the Bernwood BOA and the Ray Conservation Target Area in Oxfordshire

Joint Character Area	Upper Thames Clay Vales
Landscape Types	Unwooded agricultural lowlands.
Geology	Largely Oxford Clay mudstone. There is alluvium along the streams and occasional patches of Till and Head.
Topography	A flat river valley.
Biodiversity	<p>Lowland Meadows: Extensive areas of lowland meadows including MG1, MG4, MG5b, MG6 & MG11 communities.</p> <p>Ponds: There are numerous ponds scattered across the meadows.</p> <p>Streams: The Upper Ray is serviced by a number of streams, including the Tetchwick Stream.</p> <p>Species: An important area for Great Crested Newts, Brown Hairstreak and True Fox Sedge.</p>
Access	BBOWT own several parcels of land adjacent to the Ray. Otherwise parts of the area are poorly served by public footpaths.
Archaeology	There is a large amount of surviving ridge and furrow in the area with the fields around Ludgershall being of national importance.
Targets	<p>Lowland Meadow: Management, Restoration</p> <p>Ponds: Management, Restoration, Creation</p> <p>Rivers: Management, Restoration</p> <p>Hedgerows – Management, Restoration</p> <p>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland - Management</p>

**Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010)
and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA**

Upper Ray BOA	Lowland Meadows	Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	114.3	105	9.4
% of BOA Area	9.3	8.5	0.76
% of County Resource	30.4	45.9	0.6
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Meadows	Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Native Woodland
Maintenance (ha)	114.3	105	9.4
Achieving Condition (ha)	114.3	105	9.4
Restoration (ha)	7.5	0.7	0
Creation (ha)	4	0	0

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows		Rivers and Streams	
Area of Arable (ha)	146	No of Orchards	0	No of BAP Priority Ponds	0	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	5	Broad Habitat Present	Rivers
% of BOA in arable	12	Area of Orchards (ha)	0	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	94		
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	36 (0)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>				<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>			
% of arable in ES	25								

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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