

Chiltern Escarpment Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	771 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 7 SSSI 6
BAP Habitat	Lowland Calcareous Grassland 66.5 ha Lowland Beech and Yew woodland 120 ha Lowland Heathland 10 ha

The steeply sloping Chilterns Escarpment runs from Wendover to Bradenham and contains many calcareous grassland and woodland SSSIs.

It is adjacent to the Dunsmore Woodlands and Radnage Valley BOAs

Joint Character Area	Chilterns (small area in Upper Thames Clay Vales)
Landscape Types	Wooded agricultural land
Geology	Chalk
Topography	A very steeply sloping chalk escarpment rising to 260m at Coombe Hill
Biodiversity	<p>Calcareous Grassland – There is Calcareous Grassland in many SSSIs including Bacombe and Coombe Hills, Ellesborough and Kimble Warren, Grangelands and Pulpit Hill, Windsor Hill as well as on LRS such as Brush Hill and Whiteleaf Cross and LWSs. There are no large contiguous expanses of calcareous grassland however and most sites are isolated from each other by other habitats.</p> <p>Woodland – There are several woodland SSSIs Ellesborough and Kimble Warren, Grangelands and Pulpit Hill, Windsor Hill, Bradenham Woods and other BAP woodland on LWSs</p> <p>Wood Pasture & Parkland – Chequers offers parkland habitat. Parts of Giles and Ninn woods are managed as wood pasture.</p>
Access	The grassland SSSIs are open access. There are 2 LNRs near Princes Risborough (Brush Hill and Whiteleaf Cross)
Archaeology	Chequers is a registered historic parks and garden. There are 8 scheduled ancient monuments all in the northern half of the BOA.
Targets	<p>Lowland Calcareous Grassland – Management, Restoration, Creation</p> <p>Woodland - Management, Restoration</p> <p>Wood Pasture & Parkland - Management, Restoration</p>

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA		
Chiltern Escarpment BOA	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	66.5	38.4
% of BOA Area	8.6	5
% of County Resource	19.3	3.2
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Native Woodlands
Maintenance (ha)	66.5	38.4
Achieving Condition (ha)	55.2	38.4
Restoration (ha)	2.9	23.7
Creation (ha)	14.5	0

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Hedgerows	
Area of Arable (ha)	70	No of Orchards	4	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	17
% of BOA in arable	9	Area of Orchards (ha)	0.6	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	24
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	18 (0)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>		<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>	
% of arable in ES	26				

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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