

Colne Valley Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	1748 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 1 SSSI 2 Local nature reserve 1
BAP Habitat	Lowland Meadow 1 ha Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures 2 ha Reedbeds 4.5 ha Wet Woodland 0.5 ha Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 9 ha

The Colne Valley is located on the south eastern corner of Bucks. The Colne flows through Herts before forming the boundary between Bucks and London and into Surrey.

The Colne Valley BOA is contiguous with the Colne Valley Key Biodiversity Area in Herts and there are SSSIs close to the borders in Hillingdon and Surrey. It is also connected to the South Bucks Heaths & Parklands and Central Chilterns Chalk Streams BOAs

Joint Character Area Thames Valley

Landscape Types Mostly wetland and agricultural, with woodlands limited to watercourses. The areas around Denham Green and Rush Green are wooded agricultural

Geology Mostly mudstone with chalk in the Misbourne Valley and around Denham overlain with sands, silt and gravels.

Topography A shallow flat bottomed valley.

Biodiversity Rivers and Streams – The River Colne provides a valuable route for species movement between the Thames and Hertfordshire.

Lakes – There is one eutrophic standing water SSSI in Bucks – the Mid Colne Valley SSSI reservoirs. There are also open water SSSIs close to the border with Bucks in the Herts and Surrey sections of the Colne Valley.

Reedbed – There are reedbeds in the Mid Colne Valley SSSI.

Woodland – There are wet woodlands at Old Rectory Meadows and Denham Marsh Wood SSSIs (the latter is in Hillingdon) and small areas of wet woodland fringing the rivers and streams.

There are also BAP woodlands at Meadows & Oldhouse Wood SSSI and in 2 LWSs.

Lowland Meadows / Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures – There are areas of these habitats in Old Rectory Meadows and Kingcup Meadows & Oldhouse Wood SSSI.

Fens – Fen habitat is found at Kingcup Meadows & Oldhouse Wood SSSI.

Frays Farm Meadows SSSI in Hillingdon contains reedbed, lowland meadow, fen and wet woodland

Ponds – There are ponds scattered throughout the Colne Valley

Wood Pasture & Parkland- There is an area of Parkland around Long Coppice Farm at Dromenagh.

Traditional Orchards – There is a potential BAP orchard at Denham Park

Hedgerows – the lower Misbourne Valley, the Fulmer area and the area between Denham and Iver all contain concentrations of pre-18th century enclosures which may contain species rich hedgerows.

Access Northmoor Hill Wood is an LNR. The Grand Union Canal Towpath passes some designated sites

Archaeology Denham Place is a registered park and garden. There is a SAM at Savay Farm, Denham

Targets

- Rivers & Streams – Management, Restoration
- Eutrophic Standing Water- Management, Restoration
- Reedbed –. Management, Restoration, Creation
- Woodland – Management, Restoration, Creation
- Lowland Meadows - Management, Restoration, Creation
- Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures Management, Restoration, Creation
- Fens – Management, Restoration, Creation
- Ponds – Management, Restoration, Creation
- Wood Pasture & Parkland- Management, Restoration
- Traditional Orchards – Management, Restoration
- Hedgerows - Management, Restoration, Creation

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA					
Colne Valley BOA	Lowland Meadows	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture	Reedbeds	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Wet Woodland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	1	2.3	4.4	9	0.5
% of BOA Area	0.06	0.13	0.25	0.5	0.03
% of County Resource	0.3	12.7	17.8	0.6	0.2
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Meadows	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture	Reedbeds	Native Woodland	
Maintenance (ha)	1	2.3	4.4	9.5	
Achieving Condition (ha)	0.8	2	4	6.2	
Restoration (ha)	0.1	0	1.6	4.3	
Creation (ha)	0	0	N/A	0.9	

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows		Rivers and Streams	
Area of Arable (ha)	103	No of Orchards	11	No of BAP Priority Ponds	0	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	20	Broad Habitat Present	Rivers
% of BOA in arable	6	Area of Orchards (ha)	2.4	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	22		
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	11 (0)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>				<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>			
% of arable in ES	11								

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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