

Gomm Valley Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	1582 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 12 SSSI 1
BAP Habitat	Lowland Calcareous Grassland 9 ha Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland 16.5 ha Lowland Heathland 1.5 ha

The Gomm Valley lies between High Wycombe and Beaconsfield.

The BOA is connected with the Central Chilterns Chalk Rivers BOA

Joint Character Area Chilterns

Landscape Types Wooded agricultural land on low hills

Geology Mainly chalk with areas of mudstone around Beacon Hill. Overlain in some areas by clay with flints with sands and gravels in the Wye Valley.

Topography In the south of the area is the Wye Valley which is a narrow valley with steeply sloping sides. North of this are the three hills of Beacon Hill, Common Wood and Pond Wood (which rise to about 180m). There are 2 dry valleys (very steep sided on the Common wood slopes).

Biodiversity Calcareous Grassland – There are small unconnected calcareous grassland sites on the slopes of the Wye Valley including Gomm Valley SSSI.

Woodland – There are three large areas of wood on the higher ground and small designated woodland sites on the Wye Valley slopes.

Wood Pasture & Parkland – Penn Wood and Common Wood are relict wood pasture

Lowland Meadows – There is one lowland meadow site at Thatchers Field LWS

Hedgerows – The area between Wooburn Manor and Forty Green is mostly pre-18th Century enclosures and so may contain species rich hedgerows

Access There is a good network of footpaths through the area. In addition the Gomm Valley SSSI is managed by BBOWT, Butterfly Conservation own part of Holtspur Bank, there is the Holtspur Bank LNR owned by South Bucks DC, while Gomm Wood is owned by Wycombe DC. Penn Wood is owned by Woodland Trust, Common Wood by Penn & Tylers Green Residents Assn and Kings Wood by Chepping Wycombe PC.

Archaeology

Targets Lowland Calcareous Grassland – Management, Restoration, Creation
Woodland – Management, Restoration

Lowland Meadows – Management, Restoration

Hedgerows – Management, Restoration

Wood Pasture & Parkland – Restoration

Lowland Heathland - Management, Restoration, Creation

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA			
Gomm Valley BOA	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Heathland	Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	9.2	1.3	16.5
% of BOA Area	0.6	0.08	1
% of County Resource	2.7	1.7	1.4
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Heathland	Native Woodland
Maintenance (ha)	9.2	1.3	16.5
Achieving Condition (ha)	7.6	0.8	14
Restoration (ha)	0.9	0.1	178.1
Creation (ha)	2	N/A	1.6

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows	
Area of Arable (ha)	208	No of Orchards	31	No of BAP Priority Ponds	1	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	17
% of BOA in arable	13	Area of Orchards (ha)	29.2	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	19
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	75 (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

Priority Habitat Mapping data supplied by Buckinghamshire County Council, Natural Environment Team. Data is correct of April 2010.

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