

Radnage Valley Biodiversity Opportunity Area Statement



Area Coverage	2626 ha
Number of Designated Sites	Local wildlife sites 25 SSSI 3
BAP Habitat	Chalk River Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland 58 ha Lowland Calcareous Grassland 66 ha Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland 144.5 ha Wood Pasture and Parkland 54 ha

The Radnage Valley is a valley with calcareous grassland surviving on its steep slopes .It also contains areas of BAP woodland, though the valley bottom is arable. The area also includes the ridge to the east containing Bradenham Woods and Naphill Common.

This BOA connects to Chiltern Escarpment, Central Chilterns Chalk Rivers and the Chilterns Escarpment North Conservation Target Area in Oxfordshire

Joint Character Area Chilterns

Landscape Types Wooded agricultural land

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

Topography A system of steep sided valleys with gently sloping valley bottoms. Four separate valleys merge into one around West Wycombe.

Biodiversity Calcareous Grassland. There are calcareous grassland sites on the northern slopes of the valley including Buttlers Hangings SSSI and the following LWSs Beechgrove Grassland, Janes Field/Daws Hill, Yoesden Bank and Wood, Chawley Manor Farm Fields, Bank opposite Plomers Bottom & Horseshoe Field.

Woodland – The area contains part of the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC at Bradenham Woods and Naphill Common. There are also several LWS woods on West Wycombe Hill, Bradenham Hill and at the top of the ridge south east of The City

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

Wood Pasture and Parkland – Naphill Common is relict wood pasture. The West Wycombe Estate contains an area of parkland.

Traditional Orchards – There are two potential BAP orchards at Townend.

Hedgerows – the area may contain species rich hedgerows as there is a concentration of pre-18th century enclosures.

Access Much of the calcareous grassland is access land. National Trust own Bradenham Hill and manage West Wycombe Park. BBOWT manages

Buttlers Hangings SSSI. Naphill Common is open access.

Archaeology

West Wycombe Park and Bradenham Manor. The Camp on Church Hill is a SAM. There is a short section of Grimms Ditch at Walters Ash.

Targets

Lowland Calcareous Grassland – Management, Restoration, Creation

Woodland - Management, Restoration

Arable Field Margins - Management, Creation

Wood Pasture & Parkland – Management, Restoration

Traditional Orchards - Management, Restoration

Hedgerows – Management, Restoration, Creation

Chalk River – Management, Restoration

Area of BAP habitat present in BOA (from BCC Integrated Habitat System Mapping 2010) and 2015 Habitat Targets for this BOA				
Radnage Valley BOA	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Area of Habitat in BOA (ha)	65.9	171.6	58.2	2 sites
% of BOA Area	2.5	6.6	2.2	-
% of County Resource	19.1	14.3	3.6	6
2015 BAP Targets	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Native Woodland		Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland
Maintenance (ha)	65.9	229.8		2 sites
Achieving Condition (ha)	54.7	208.3		tbc
Restoration (ha)	9	50		tbc
Creation (ha)	14.4	22.8		tbc

Info on resource for other BAP habitats

Arable Field Margins		Traditional Orchards		Ponds		Hedgerows		Rivers and Streams	
Area of Arable (ha)	923	No of Orchards	19	No of BAP Priority Ponds	1	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of high-med biodiversity value	41	BAP Habitat Present	Chalk Rivers
% of BOA in arable	35	Area of Orchards (ha)	6.3	Creation Target	tbc	% of BOA with potential for hedgerows of med-low biodiversity value	25		
Area of arable in ES (ELS / HLS)	591 (0)	<i>Data from PTES Traditional Orchards Aerial Photo Survey</i>				<i>Data from BCC Historic Landscape Assessment</i>			
% of arable in ES	64								

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.

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office© Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
 © Copyright Buckinghamshire County Council Licence No. 100021529 2010

