



Middlesbrough Beck Valleys Landscape Area Habitats & Species

UK BAP Priority Habitats

Broadleaved Mixed Woodland

There is one stretch of ancient and semi-natural woodland on the steep banks of Stainsby Beck in the western fringes of the Middlesbrough Beck Valleys Landscape Area.

Lowland Meadow

There are three sites of lowland meadow along the western fringe of this landscape area, two of which are on steeply-sloping sites and managed as permanent pasture whilst the other is managed amenity grassland.

Priority Ponds

Priority ponds are found scattered across the southern half of the Middlesbrough Beck Valleys Landscape Area. All of the ponds meet the priority pond criteria due to the presence of common toad, great crested newt or water vole.

Traditional Orchard

Remnants of old traditional orchards, associated historically with country estates and farms, are present in the southern rural section of the Middlesbrough Beck Valleys Landscape Area. Orchards vary in their size and condition and are now mainly for domestic use.

Reedbed

There is one area of reedbed within the Berwick Hills Local Wildlife Site.

Other Habitats of Importance

Riparian Habitat

The Middlesbrough Beck Valleys Landscape Area is characterised by a number of small becks which rise on the escarpment to the south and meander northwards through the urban area and drain into the River Tees. The majority of the semi-natural habitat remaining in the Middlesbrough area is found along these beck corridors, which support populations of water vole.

Species-rich Grassland

There are six Local Wildlife Sites designated for the presence of species-rich grassland within the Middlesbrough Beck Valleys, of which three have been recorded as the priority habitat lowland meadow. The remaining sites have not been surveyed in sufficient depth to determine whether or not they are the priority habitat Lowland Meadow, but they are important locally.

UK BAP Priority species

Water Vole

There is a healthy population of water vole along the beck valleys of Middlesbrough that are regionally significant.

Great Crested Newt

There is a cluster of great crested newt records in the south west of the Landscape Area.

Otters

Otters are recorded on every beck south of the River Tees, including the Middlesbrough Beck Valleys.