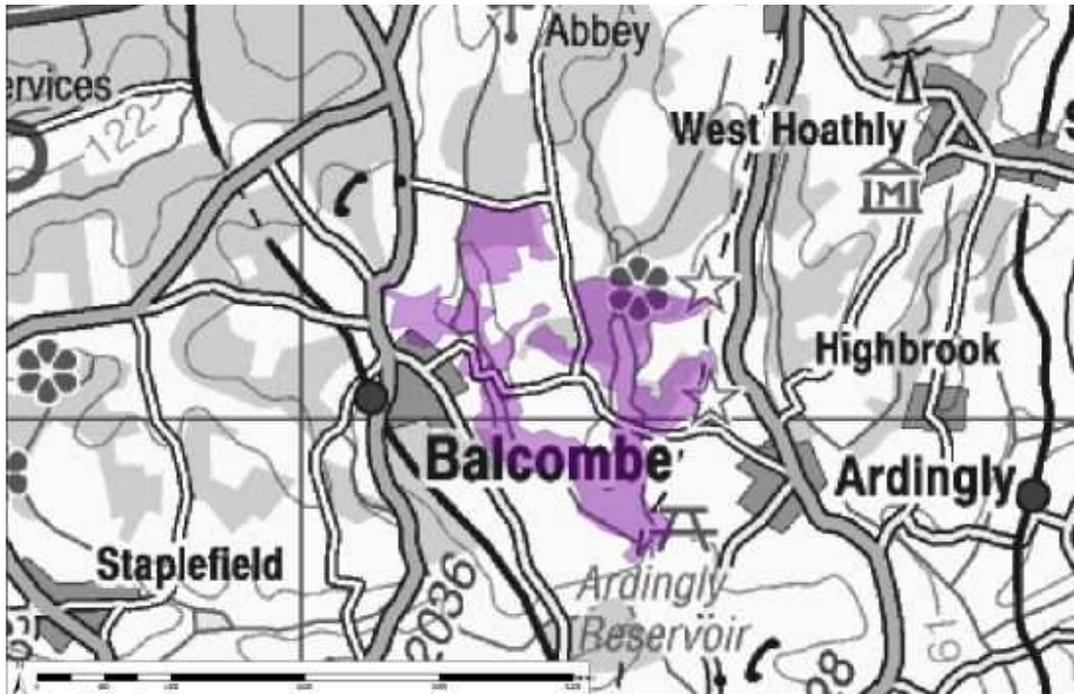


Ardingly Reservoir Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area High Weald



The Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) are the regional priority areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats. They are a spatial representation of BAP targets and are areas of opportunity, not constraint. The BOAs are the property of the South East England Biodiversity Forum www.sebiodiversity.org.uk. Contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2010

Ardingly Reservoir has been recognised as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) as it represents a priority area for the delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets. This is one of 75 such areas across Sussex. The BOA covers approximately 340 hectares.

This area contains not just Ardingly Reservoir, a large water body in the heart of the High Weald, but also much of the surrounding woodlands. In the North East of the site lies the Wakehurst Place, famed for, amongst other things, its rich cryptogam (non-vascular flora that reproduce through the production of spores rather than seeds) diversity on its sandstone outcrops.

BAP Habitat

Reedbed

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 98 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Open habitats, gardens, heathland, cliff, mixed deciduous woodland, structural variation, hedgerows
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Wet reedbed and marshland
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Scrub, rough grassland, fens, reedbed and wet woodland, dense ground vegetation or litter, ponds, large water bodies, hedgerows
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Glandular Eyebright <i>Euphrasia anglica</i>	Short grazed acid grasslands, and heathlands including wet heathland
Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Breed around mesotrophic waters, blanket bog and heathland, winters around inshore waters
Pennyroyal <i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Seasonally wet grassland, commons, cliff tops, heathland, short turf, bare patches
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, hedgerows, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
Brown Long-eared Bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	A widespread bat of open woodlands, hedgerows, parks and gardens, it roosts in old buildings and trees in the summer, moving to caves and underground sites in the winter.
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects

Invasive Non-native Species ten species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*
 Nuttall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*
 Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
 Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*
 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
 Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi*
 American Mink *Mustela vison*
 Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Wakehurst and Chiddingly Woods SSSI extensive exposures of sandrock supporting a unique flora, wooded gills and a series of ponds. The site has a diverse breeding community of woodland birds, with at least 50 species known to breed.

Ardingly Reservoir and Loder Valley nature reserve SNCI important to breeding and passage wetland birds, on the reservoir margins there are areas of herb-rich grassland and scrub, with ancient and plantation woodland within Loder Valley.

Balcombe Estate rocks SNCI important for the ferns and lower plants that grow on the rocks, some of which are very rare, and the surrounding woodland.

Balcombe Lake and associated woodlands SNCI a number of woodland blocks, many species-rich, situated alongside wooded stream valleys and a large area of open water which has ornithological interest.

Opportunities Identified

- Woodland habitat management
- Habitat networks
- Control of non-native invasive species