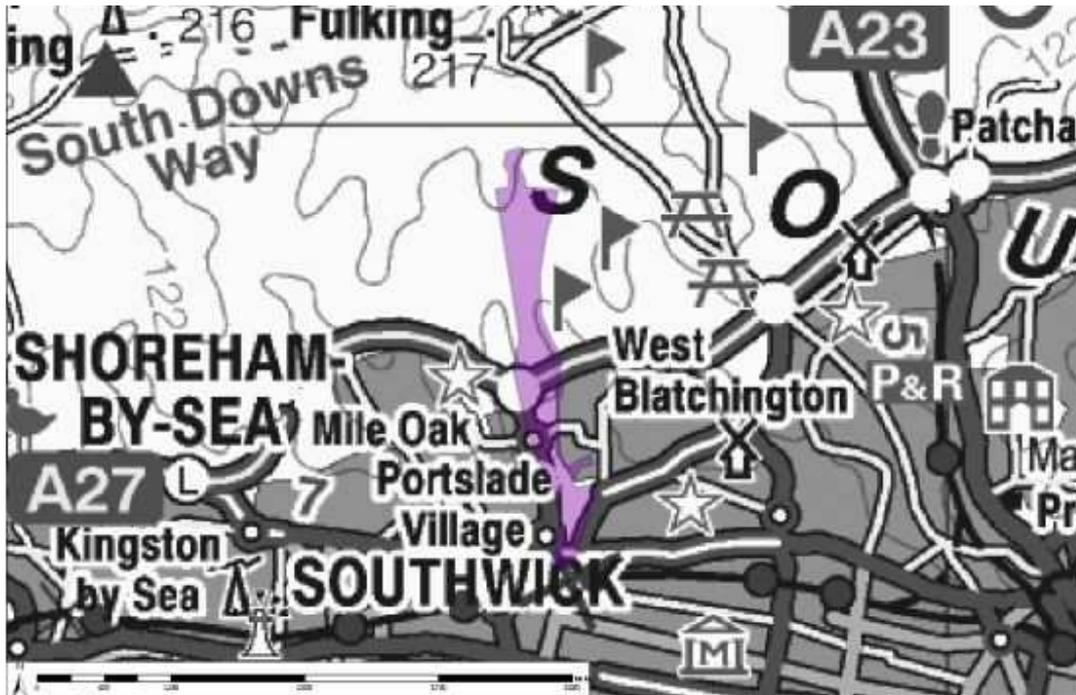


## Benfield to Hangleton Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** South Downs

**Geology** Benfield to Hangleton Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies on chalk



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](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk). Contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2010

Benfield to Hangleton has been recognised as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) as it represents a priority area for the delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets. It is one of 75 such areas across Sussex. The BOA covers approximately 121 hectares.

This area stretches from Devil's Dyke farm where there is some existing lowland calcareous grassland, south across the A27 to Hangleton golf course and deep into Brighton. The rural area is linked right into the city of Brighton and Hove and rural and urban intermesh through the Brighton and Hove green network. There is some lowland calcareous grassland that is extant in the urban part of this BOA.

### BAP Habitat

Lowland calcareous grassland  
Woodland

BAP Species 17 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat Requirements</b>
True Fox-sedge <i>Carex vulpina</i>	River banks, ditch sides and damp meadows, standing water, open conditions are required
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Mainly on the ground in open woodland, farmland, occasionally seen in gardens
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	Scrub, thick grassland, reedbeds, forestry and gravel pits
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	Farmland, woodland edges, hedgerows with mature trees, wetland edges
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Short grassy areas
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

## Invasive Non-native Species

No records

## Designated Sites

Benfield Valley SNCI a large and diverse site with features of interest including one of the largest areas of woodland in Hove, mature Elm trees and grassland.

Bridleway east of Benfield Ridge SNCI supports an area of ancient, species-rich chalk grassland and a dew pond.

## Opportunities Identified

- Chalk grassland management, restoration and creation
- Education and community engagement