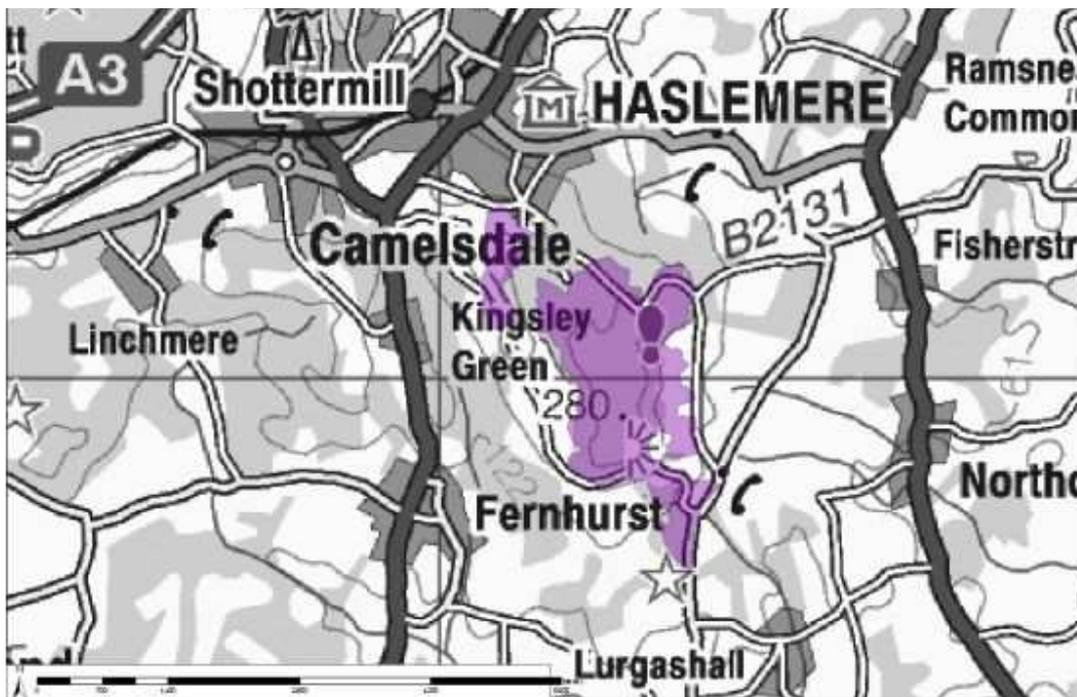


Black Down Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Wealden Greensand and Low Weald

Geology The majority of the Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies on Hythe Formation sandstone, with a small area of Atherfield clay formation and weald clay formation mudstone running along the eastern edge



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

Black Down 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 354 hectares.

Black Down is an extensive area of Heathland that lies on high ground overlooking the West Weald, and is the highest point in Sussex. A large part of the area is owned and managed by the National Trust who have done extensive tree clearance work in order to restore the heathland of Black Down. There are Ancient Woodlands in the southern and western part of the BOA. Barbastelle flightlines from Ebernoe are thought to head this far North to Windfall Wood Common.

BAP Habitat

Lowland heathland

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 16 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
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Newly planted conifers or open heath, mixed deciduous woodland
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Scrub, rough grassland, fens, reedbed and wet woodland, dense ground vegetation or litter, ponds, large water bodies, hedgerows
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Heathland, moorland, open woodland, recently felled conifer plantations, mosaic of bare ground, low vegetation, scrub and trees
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
Wood Lark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	Heathland, woodland, mosaic of scattered trees, bare ground, short vegetation and taller vegetation, open seed-rich areas
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, hedgerows, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Mixed deciduous woodland, even age-canopy, little understorey, patchy ground cover
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>	Open heathland, woodland and moors, fens, cliff

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

Shallon *Gaultheria shallon*

Designated Sites

Black Down SNCI includes remnants of dry and wet heathland and bog. The moss flora is reasonably rich and uncommon plant species found include Hare's-tail Cottongrass and Bog Asphodel.

Windfall Wood, Quell Wood and Quellwood Common SNCI woodland dominated by Oak and Ash over Hazel. There are some small sandstone boulders covered with mosses and liverworts.

Opportunities Identified

- Policy integration
- Ecological networks
- Grazing management
- Heathland management, restoration and creation
- Woodland management and restoration
- Landowner advisory and agri-environment schemes

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