

Chichester Harbour Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Coastal Plain

Geology Chichester Coastal Plain Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies on a mosaic of sand, silt and clay, with a shingle spit landform at Pagham Harbour.



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

Chichester Coastal Plain 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 1959 hectares.

The area is dominated by saltmarsh, grazing marsh and mudflat and its associated brackish communities. The boundary of this BOA follows Environment Agency flood zone models and predictions of future saltmarsh and mudflat potential.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Coastal saltmarsh

Coastal sand dunes

Coastal vegetated shingle

Intertidal mudflats

Maritime cliff and slope

Reedbed

Saline lagoon

Woodland

BAP Species 112 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Knot Grass <i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Meadows, gardens and hedgerows, larvae feed on a range of herbs
Brown-spot Pinion <i>Agrochola litura</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, heathland and bushy suburban areas, Oak and Hawthorn
Beaded Chestnut <i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	Woodland rides, scrub, hedgerows and open country
Green-brindled Crescent <i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	Woodlands, hedgerows and gardens, larvae feed on a number of trees and bushes including Hawthorn and Blackthorn
Ear Moth <i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	Chalk grassland, marshy and damp places
Mouse Moth <i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	Grassland, heathland, wetland, hedgerows and some woodland
European Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Sea, freshwater rivers, eutrophic standing waters, moderate water quality
Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Open habitats, gardens, heathland, cliff, mixed deciduous woodland, structural variation
Greenland White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i> subsp. <i>flavirostris</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, bogs and managed grasslands
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Newly planted conifers or open heath, mixed deciduous woodland
Dusky Brocade <i>Apamea remissa</i>	Woodland, marsh, chalk and other grassland
Garden Tiger <i>Arctia caja</i>	River valleys, hedgerows, gardens and parks
Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
Centre-Barred Sallow <i>Atethmia centrago</i>	Woodland and hedgerows, larvae feed on Ash and Sallow
Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	Lakes, bogs and rivers, estuaries
Flat Sedge <i>Blysmus compressus</i>	Open areas in marshes, sedge-rich fens and grassland, calcareous flushes and stream edges which are subject to flooding
Red-tailed Carder Bee <i>Bombus ruderals</i>	Flower-rich tall grasslands with areas of scrub and tussocks for nesting
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Wet reedbed and marshland
Slender Hare's-ear <i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>	Upper saltmarsh, brackish grazing marsh, areas of disturbed ground
European Nighjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Heathland, moorland, open woodland, recently felled conifer plantations, mosaic of bare ground, low vegetation, scrub and trees

Mottled Rustic <i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	Suburban areas, hedgerows, Nettle and Dandelion
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
Divided Sedge <i>Carex divisa</i>	Vegetated shingle, grazing marsh, ditches, tidal rivers, brackish, no tidal inundation
Chamomile <i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Heathlands, commons, cliffs and slopes, short turf, also found in areas of temporary inundation
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Woodland, good supplies of fruit, seeds and keys, drinking pools
Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Dry grassland, heathlands, short turf, parks and gardens
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Small Square-Spot <i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Prefers damp and marshy places, hedgerows
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Dusky Thorn <i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	Woodland, parkland, Ash
Galium Carpet <i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>	Coastal habitats such as vegetated shingle and cliffs, chalk downland, grassy heathland, hedgerows, larvae feed on bedstraws
Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Woodland, farmland, urban areas, hedgerows
Spinach <i>Eulithis mellinata</i>	Open woodland, gardens, Red Currant, Black Currant
Garden Dart <i>Euxoa nigricans</i>	Gardens, waste ground, hedgerows
White-line Dart <i>Euxoa tritici</i>	Sand dunes and heathland, larvae feed on bedstraws and grasses
Red Hemp-nettle <i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	Vegetated shingle, arable land, open, unshaded
Lagoon Sand Shrimp <i>Gammarus insensibilis</i>	Shallow, sheltered saline lagoons and brackish waters, usually on sands and muds.
Black-throated Diver <i>Gavia arctica</i>	Breeds on freshwater, winters around sheltered coasts and occasionally at inland freshwater
Ghost Moth <i>Hepialus humuli</i>	Grassy areas, hillsides, waste ground
Rustic <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Gardens, grassland and heathland, docks, plantains, hedgerows
Rosy Rustic <i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Marshy areas, waste ground, hedgerows
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Mainly on the ground in open woodland, farmland, occasionally seen in gardens
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	South and east coasts of the UK, perch prominently on bushes, hedgerows, fence posts, lowland heathland, lowland meadow
Wall <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Short, open grassland, gardens, sand dunes, vegetated undercliffs and rocky foreshores
Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Open farmland and grassland, habitat mosaic
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	Scrub, thick grassland, reedbeds, forestry and gravel pits
Wood Lark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	Heathland, woodland, mosaic of scattered trees, bare ground, short vegetation and taller vegetation, open seed-rich areas
Brindled Beauty <i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, parkland, gardens
Lackey <i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Gardens, hedgerows, Hawthorn, Blackthorn

Dot Moth <i>Melanchnra persicariae</i>	Gardens, verges, waste ground, hedgerows
Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Breed around mesotrophic waters, blanket bog and heathland, winters around inshore waters
Rosy Minor <i>Mesoligia literosa</i>	Grasslands particularly in coastal areas
Harvest Mouse <i>Micromys minutus</i>	Arable margins, hedgerows, meadows, scrub, reedbeds, tall grass.
Hazel Dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Woodland, overgrown hedgerows, Honeysuckle, Bramble, Hazel and Ash, well-structured woodland with a well-developed understorey and scrubby areas
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Shoulder-striped Wainscot <i>Mythimna comma</i>	Gardens, damp habitats, marshes and fens, Cock's-foot.
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
Starlet Sea Anemone <i>Nematostella vectensis</i>	Saltmarshes and saline lagoons
Lunar Yellow Underwing <i>Noctua orbona</i>	Sunny open grassy sites amongst woodland or heathland, sandy or calcareous soils, larvae feed in tussocks of fine-leaved grasses
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Reedbeds, estuaries, damp grassland, heathland, mosaic of tall vegetation for nesting with short vegetation and open habitats for feeding
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Woodland, wetlands, hedgerows and pastures, predominantly roost in tree cavities
Powdered Quaker <i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	A moth of habitats such as floodplain grassland where larvae feed on Bog Myrtle and willows
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	Farmland, woodland edges, hedgerows with mature trees, wetland edges
Dark Spinach <i>Pelurga comitata</i>	Suburban habitats, waste ground and weedy locations, larvae feed on Orache and goosefoots
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	Farmland, rush pastures, moors, mosaics of bare ground and cover, hedgerows, uncultivated margins
Grass Rivulet <i>Perizoma albulata</i>	Dry grassland, vegetated shingle and sand dunes, larvae feed on the seed of Yellow-rattle
Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Breed around shallow often vegetated coastal pools, or grassy areas surrounding open water, winter mainly at sea
a ground beetle <i>Philorhizus vectensis</i>	Partly vegetated dry sand and shingle
Harbour Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Along shorelines and in estuaries, commonly seen resting on sandbanks, accessible beaches, reefs and protected tidal rocks
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Mixed deciduous woodland, even age-canopy, little understorey, patchy ground cover
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.
Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass <i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i>	A grass of bare places by the sea, in grazing marshes around cattle-poached pools and depressions and on earthen sea walls
Balearic Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Breeds on cliffs, headlands and coastal inlets, often returning to the same colony each year

Mullein Wave <i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	A moth of gardens, hedgerows and bushes mainly in coastal areas, the larvae feed on Yarrow and Mugwort
Shaded Broad-bar <i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	Chalk grassland and a range of open habitats, larvae feed on vetch and clover
White Ermine <i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Gardens and hedgerows
Buff Ermine <i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, parks and gardens
Arctic Skua <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Breeds on coastal moorland, winters at sea
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Feathered Gothic <i>Tholera decimalis</i>	Rough grassland and downland, larvae feed on grass blades
Blood-Vein <i>Timandra comae</i>	Gardens, fields and waste ground
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Short grassy areas
Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Meadows, wasteland, road verges and downland
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>	Open heathland, woodland and moors, fens, cliff
Oak Hook-tip <i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	Oak woodland and parkland, larvae feed on oak
Dusky-lemon Sallow <i>Xanthia gilvago</i>	Broadleaf woodland, hedgerows and parkland, larvae feed on English Elm and Wych Elm
Sallow <i>Xanthia ictertia</i>	A common species in most of Britain, occupying damp woodland, hedgerows, heathland and marshy places, larvae feed on sallow
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet <i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Coastal sandhills, limestone and chalk downlands, hedgerows
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

Invasive Non-native Species 12 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Heath Star Moss *Campylopus introflexus*

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*

Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*

Nuttall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*

Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*

Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*

American Mink *Mustela vison*

Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*

Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Pagham Harbour Ramsar, SPA, SSSI an extensive area of saltmarsh and tidal mudflats rich in invertebrates and algae. This has resulted in the area assuming national (and in some cases international) importance for breeding and wintering birds. Surrounding habitats include lagoons, reedbeds, shingle and wet grassland.

Bognor Reef SSSI an extensive shingle beach and small outlying area of dune that remains of a once much more extensive dune system, supporting a number of interesting plants and invertebrates.

Bracklesham Bay SSSI a long stretch of coast with some unimproved grazing pastures important for breeding and overwintering birds and a small area of saltmarsh.

Chichester Gravel Pits and Leythorne Meadow SNCI the largest collection of inland water habitats in West Sussex important for wintering wildfowl. There is also a botanically-rich meadow, and the site has good populations of breeding birds and damselflies.

Oakhurst Farm Meadow SNCI a small damp neutral meadow containing large numbers of Green-winged Orchids. Ditches bounding the meadow are used by Water Voles.

Opportunities Identified

- Minimising development impacts and policy integration
- Landowner advisory and agri-environment schemes
- Ecological networks
- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Coastal habitat management, restoration and creation
- Working with and attracting new businesses
- Flood alleviation
- Education and community engagement, including heritage
- Survey and monitoring
- Access improvements including cycling
- Sustainable recreation