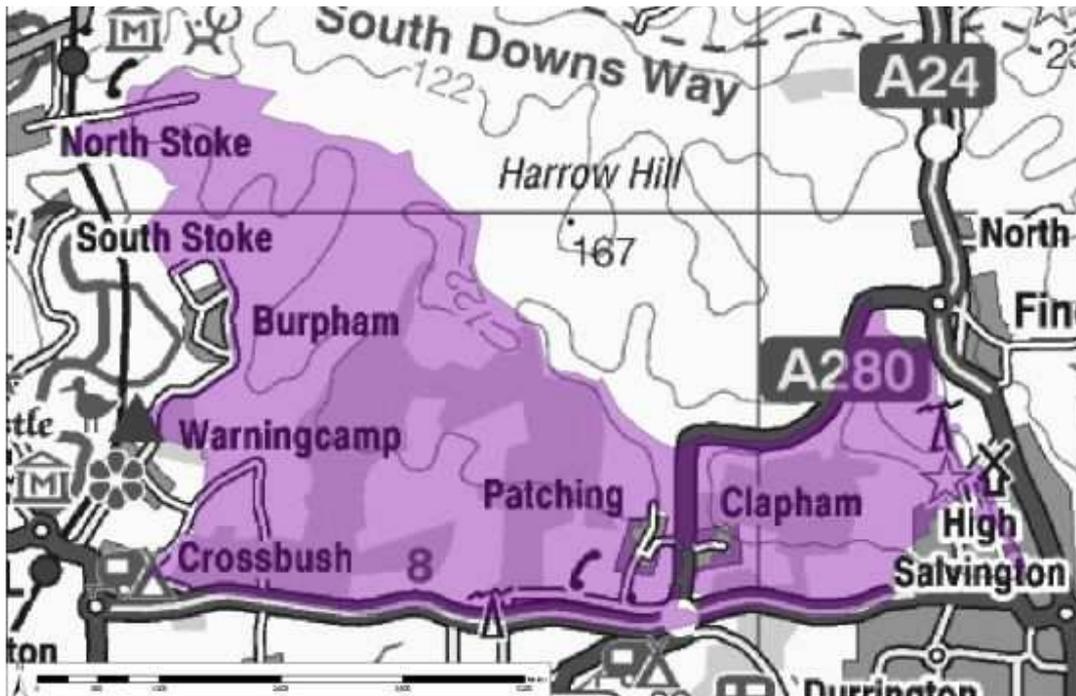


Clapham to Burpham downs Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area South Downs

Geology The majority of the Clapham to Burpham downs Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies on chalk, with an area of clay, silt and sand along the southern 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

Clapham to Burpham downs 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 2825 hectares.

The southern boundary of this area is the A27. These ancient woodlands are based on downland geology and have expanses of lowland calcareous grassland running through them and on their edges. Angmering Park in the centre of Patching wood is a remnant of a medieval wood-pasture.

BAP Habitat

[Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh](#)

[Lowland calcareous grassland](#)

[Wood-pasture and Parkland](#)

[Woodland](#)

BAP Species 25 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Old woodland, structural variety, plentiful dead wood, hedgerows, larger river valleys, caves, underground sites, hollow trees
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
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
White Helleborine <i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	Woodlands, particularly Beech on chalk or limestone soils, low ground cover, shaded habitat
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
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>	Chalk grassland, heathland, maritime cliffs, exposed areas, rocky slopes, unshaded locations
Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Open farmland and grassland, habitat mosaic
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
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	Farmland, rush pastures, moors, mosaics of bare ground and cover, hedgerows, uncultivated margins
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 six species recorded with the following in the last ten years:

Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*

Spanish Bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*

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

Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*

Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*

Designated Sites

Clapham Wood SNCI extensive ancient, semi-natural woodland with a rich ground flora including Sanicle, Wild Strawberry and Early Purple Orchid. Tuberos Comfrey is also recorded from the site, which is a rare species in the county.

Conyers Bank SNCI a small field with a typical unimproved chalk grassland flora including Yellow-wort, Harebell and Small Scabious.

Long Furlong and Church Hill SNCI comprises a steep north and west-facing slope supporting a mosaic of chalk grassland, scrub and woodland.

Poling Copse SNCI a large block of ancient, semi-natural woodland, consisting mostly of Hazel coppice with Ash and Oak, although Sycamore and Birch are also frequent.

The Gallops and No Man's Land SNCI consists of areas of chalk grassland within a mosaic of ranker grassland, scrub and secondary woodland. The higher quality areas of grassland include species such as Yellow Oat-grass, Fairy Flax and Kidney Vetch.

The Sanctuary SNCI a south-facing coombe and slope containing a mosaic of chalk grassland, scrub and secondary woodland. The site is important for birds and invertebrates, and Meadow Clary occurs here in one of only two sites in West Sussex.

Warningcamp Hill and New Down SNCI contains species-rich chalk grassland supporting two uncommon plants in West Sussex; Burnet Rose and Small-flowered Buttercup. An old chalk pit at the site supports a variety of bryophytes and lichens.

Opportunities Identified

- Landowner advisory and agri-environment schemes
- Chalk grassland management, restoration and creation
- Working with and attracting new businesses
- Access improvements
- Farmland bird interest
- Chalk grassland butterfly interest
- Volunteer opportunities
- Grazing management
- Urban biodiversity