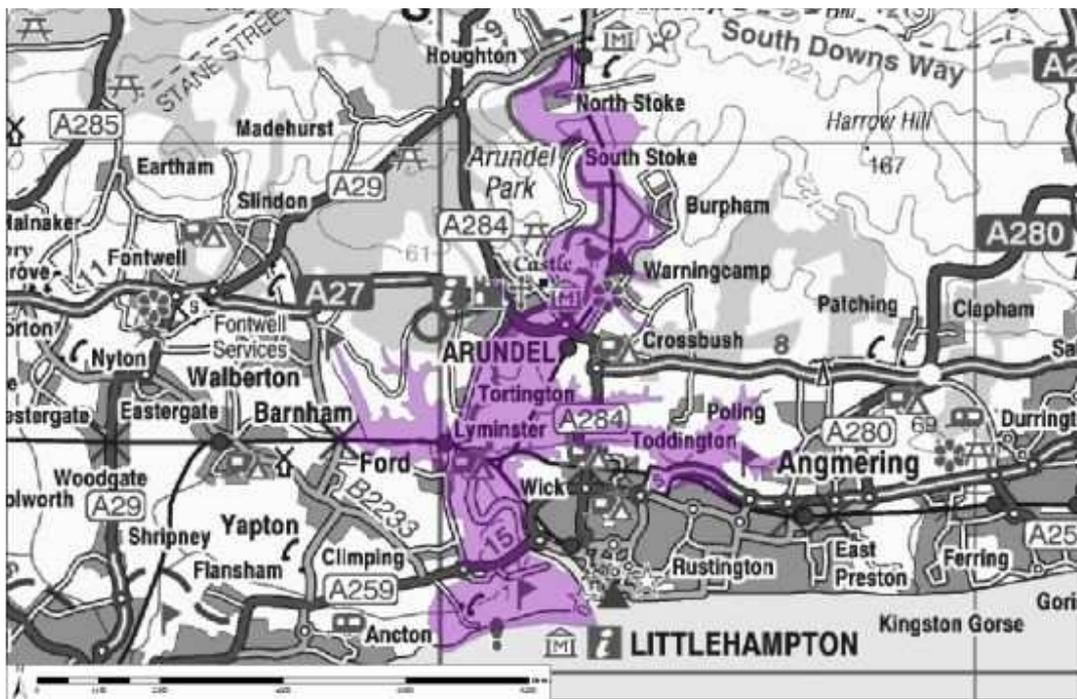


Climping to Houghton Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area South Downs

Geology The majority of the site is on chalk, with a small area of clay, silt and sand to the south of the area. Raised marine deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel throughout, with some alluvium deposits found in the north of the site.



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

Climping to Houghton 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 2118 hectares.

This extensive stretch of the River Arun floodplain provides key opportunities for wetland and river restoration and the enhancement of floodplain grazing marsh. The area is also strategically important for water voles following a recent reintroduction at the Arundel Wildfowl and Wetland Trust.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Coastal saltmarsh

Coastal sand dunes

Coastal vegetated shingle
Intertidal mudflats
Lowland calcareous grassland
Lowland dry acid grassland
Maritime cliff and slope
Reedbeds
Wood-pasture and parkland
Woodland

BAP Species 70 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Newly planted conifers or open heath, mixed deciduous woodland
Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Wet reedbed and marshland
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
Divided Sedge <i>Carex divisa</i>	Vegetated shingle, grazing marsh, ditches, tidal rivers, brackish, no tidal inundation
True Fox-sedge <i>Carex vulpina</i>	River banks, ditch sides and damp meadows, standing water, open conditions are required
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
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
Black-throated Diver <i>Gavia arctica</i>	Breeds on freshwater, winters around sheltered coasts and occasionally at inland freshwater
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
Wood Lark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	Heathland, woodland, mosaic of scattered trees, bare ground, short vegetation and taller vegetation, open seed-rich areas
Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Breed around mesotrophic waters, blanket bog and heathland, winters around inshore waters
Pretty Chalk Carpet <i>Melanthia procellata</i>	Hedgerows, scrub, woodland edges, Traveller's-joy
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
Grape-hyacinth <i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Waysides, hedgerows, rough ground, disturbed land on free draining soils
Spotted Flycatcher	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens

<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Reedbeds, estuaries, damp grassland, heathland, mosaic of tall vegetation for nesting with short vegetation and open habitats for feeding
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
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.
Sharp-leaved Pondweed <i>Potamogeton acutifolius</i>	Shallow, species-rich drainage ditches in grazing marsh
Large Wainscot <i>Rhizodra lutosa</i>	Frequenting reedbeds and riversides, the larvae feed in the bases of stems and the roots of Common Reed
White-letter Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium w-album</i>	A butterfly found most commonly in association with Elm, both mature trees and young suckers in hedgerows. Larvae feed on Elm particularly the flowers. Colonisation of new sites can be slow.
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
Great Tassel Stonewort <i>Tolypella prolifera</i>	Slow-moving alkaline water in ditches, rivers and canals
Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Breeding sites are mainly medium-sized ponds, although ditches and other waterbodies may be used, ponds with ample aquatic vegetation, do not require very high water quality, but usually a neutral pH. Hedgerows, mixed deciduous woodland
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

Invasive Non-native Species 11 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*
New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*
Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis*
Nuttall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*
Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Designated Sites

Arun Banks SSSI an upper tidal stretch of the River Arun and on abandoned meander loop which contains a range of habitats including extensive reedbed. The diverse flora includes the locally uncommon Marsh-mallow.

Arundel Park SSSI is one of the most important sites in the country for invertebrates including 15 endangered species, and it also has a diverse breeding and wintering bird community. The site is an old deer park consisting of a series of spurs and valleys, with chalk grassland and a variety of woodland types. Uncommon species include Box, Stinking Hellebore and Field Fleawort.

Climping Beach SSSI is the longest undeveloped piece of seafront between Bognor and Brighton and is an important site for recording incoming migrant birds.

Arun Valley, Watersfield to Arundel SNCI contains a section of the River Arun surrounded by an extensive tract of wetland which is important for breeding and wintering birds. There is also a good network of ditches and the site supports many rare and declining species including Black Poplar, Marsh Fern and Marsh-mallow.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Coastal habitat management, restoration and creation
- Heathland management, restoration and creation
- Woodland management and restoration
- Landowner advisory and agri-environment schemes
- Botanical interest
- Farmland bird interest
- Woodland butterfly interest
- Floodplain restoration and reconnection
- Flood alleviation
- Access improvements