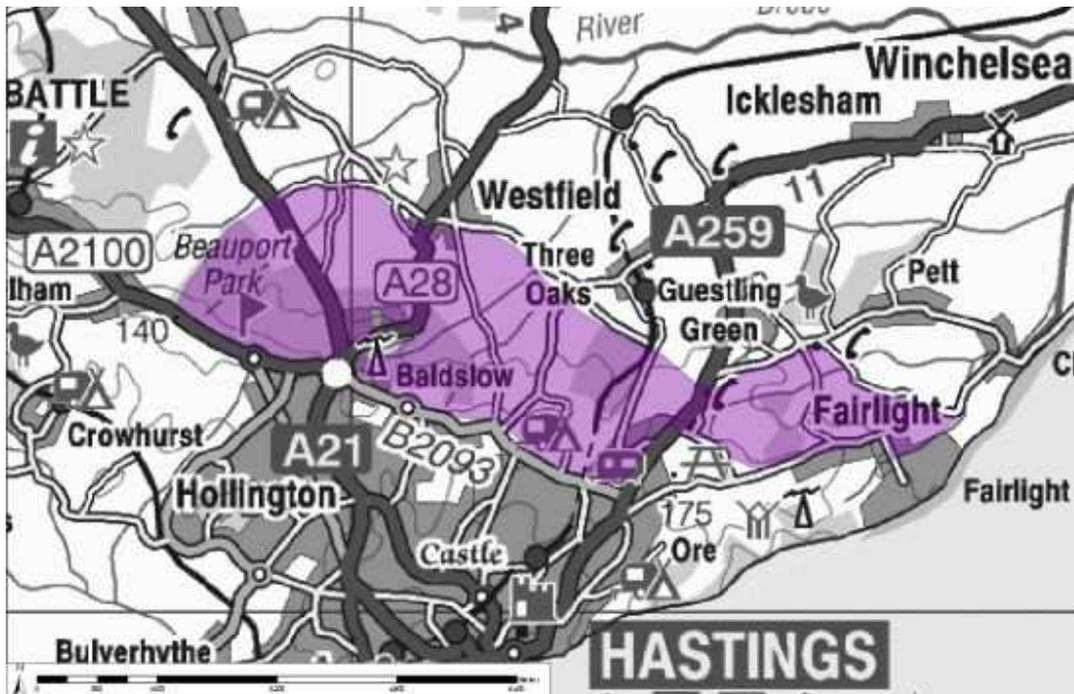


Hastings Fringe Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area High Weald



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

Hastings fringe 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 1662 hectares.

This opportunity area skirts across the north of the conurbation of Hastings and contains many small woodlands, areas of grassland and a density of hedgerows. There are also several ghyll woodlands, classic of this area of Sussex that cross the BOA, their Atlantic flora making this habitat important.

BAP Habitat

Wood-pasture and Parkland
Woodland

BAP Species 20 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
Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Scrub, rough grassland, fens, reedbed and wet woodland, dense ground vegetation or litter, ponds, large water bodies, hedgerows
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
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
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
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
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
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>	Open heathland, woodland and moors, fens, cliff
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*
 Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
 Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*
 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
 Lily Beetle *Lilioceris lili*
 Parrot's-feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
 Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Maplehurst Wood SSSI an area of ancient woodland on Wadhurst clay and Ashdown sands. The site has a good ground flora including some uncommon species, and is locally important for breeding birds.

Beauport Park SNCI an extensive area of old parkland containing a rich and varied mosaic of habitats including woodland and meadows.

Hastings Cemetery SNCI semi-natural woodland, areas of grassland and bushes.

Helenswood Meadows and Pond SNCI an extensive pond and adjacent meadow habitat within the grounds of a school.

High Lankhurst Farm Meadow SNCI a large unimproved meadow surrounded by mature hedgerows, with a rough damp area present.

Hole Farm SNCI several herb-rich meadows with one field being much damper than the others.

Opportunities Identified

- Woodland management and restoration
- Ecological networks
- Access improvements
- Urban biodiversity