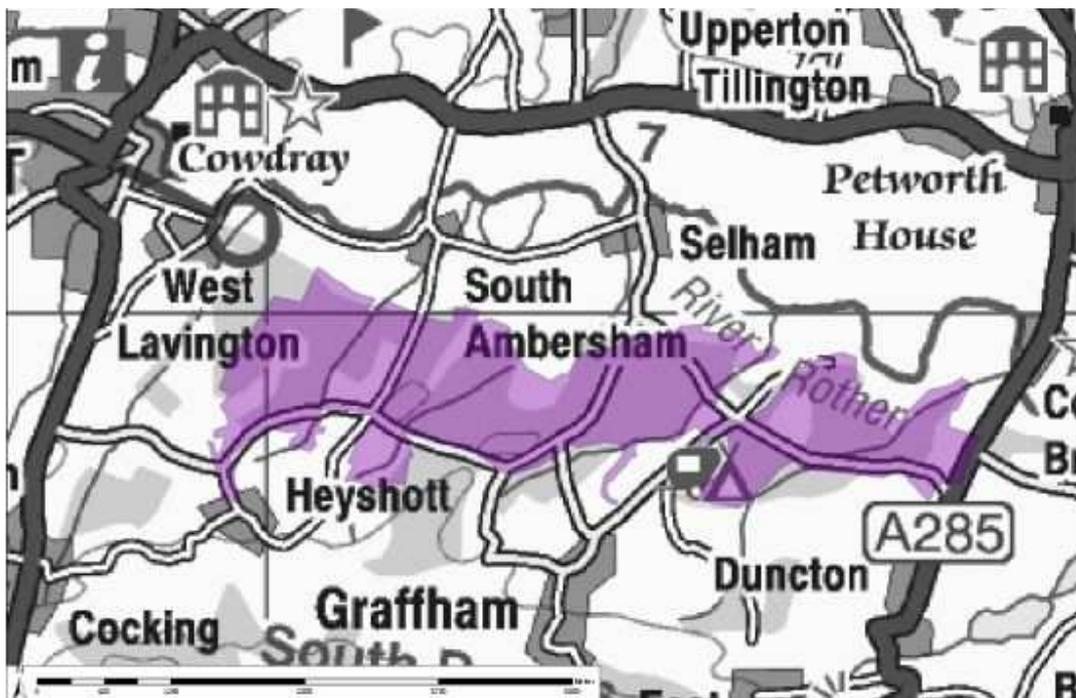


## Heyshott Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** Wealden Greensand

**Geology** The majority of Heyshott Biodiversity Opportunity Area sits on sandstone, with some areas of mudstone running through



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](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk). Contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2010

Heyshott 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 739 hectares.

This strip of the Wealden Greensand ridge has extensive heathland on which the West Sussex Heathland project has been focusing attention for some years. The boundary of the area follows the roads to the south and the historic heathland interest to the north. Rhododendron is a considerable problem in this area. There is great potential for heathland creation in this area.

### BAP Habitat

Lowland heathland

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 66 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat Requirements</b>
European Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Sea, freshwater rivers, eutrophic standing waters, moderate water quality
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
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
Chamomile <i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Heathlands, commons, cliffs and slopes, short turf, also found in areas of temporary inundation
Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Dry grassland, heathlands, short turf, parks and gardens
a leaf beetle <i>Cryptocephalus punctiger</i>	Sheltered boughs of young birches and willows, heathland scrub
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Rusty Fork-moss <i>Dicranum spurium</i>	Mature heathland around older heathers
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
Glandular Eyebright <i>Euphrasia anglica</i>	Short grazed acid grasslands, and heathlands including wet heathland
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Mainly on the ground in open woodland, farmland, occasionally seen in gardens
Sand Lizard <i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Heathlands and sand dunes with structurally diverse habitat including bare ground for burrows and denser vegetation
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
Marsh Clubmoss <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	Bare, trampled, poached ground, damp but not wet, peaty or sandy margins of lakes, pools, flushes and tracks
Yellow Bird's-nest <i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>	Shaded woodland floor in leaf litter, humidity, often calcareous ground, also found under Creeping Willow on dune slacks
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
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
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

Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Short grassy areas
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

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

Heath Star Moss *Campylopus introflexus*  
 Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*  
 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*  
 Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi*  
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*  
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

## Designated Sites

Ambersham Common SSSI is one of the best remaining sub-Atlantic heathlands in West Sussex supporting a rich invertebrate assemblage and diverse community of breeding birds. There is a small raised bog which grades into wet heath, as well as areas of acidic marshy grassland, dry heath and broadleaved woodland. Sand Lizard was re/introduced to the site in 1970 and is still breeding.

Lavington Common SSSI is a good example of sub-Atlantic heath which supports an outstanding community of spiders including 22 uncommon species. Several uncommon plants can be found including Oblong-leaved Sundew, White Beak-sedge and Cotton-grass in the wetter areas.

Dunton Common SNCI is a small wet heath within a Pine plantation. A large population of Bog Asphodel survives here.

Graffham Common and Fir Toat SNCI is a conifer plantation containing patches of heathland in which County rarities such as Marsh Clubmoss can be found. The site has a variety of invertebrates and mosses, and a good population of Adders.

Heath End Sand Pit SNCI supports one of the largest Sand Martin colonies in West Sussex.

Middle Heath Copse Bog SNCI consists mainly of Alder and Birch carr, with Hazel and Oak in the drier areas along with numerous ancient woodland indicators. The site also has a rich bird fauna.

## Opportunities Identified

- Policy integration
- Ecological networks
- Heathland management, restoration and creation