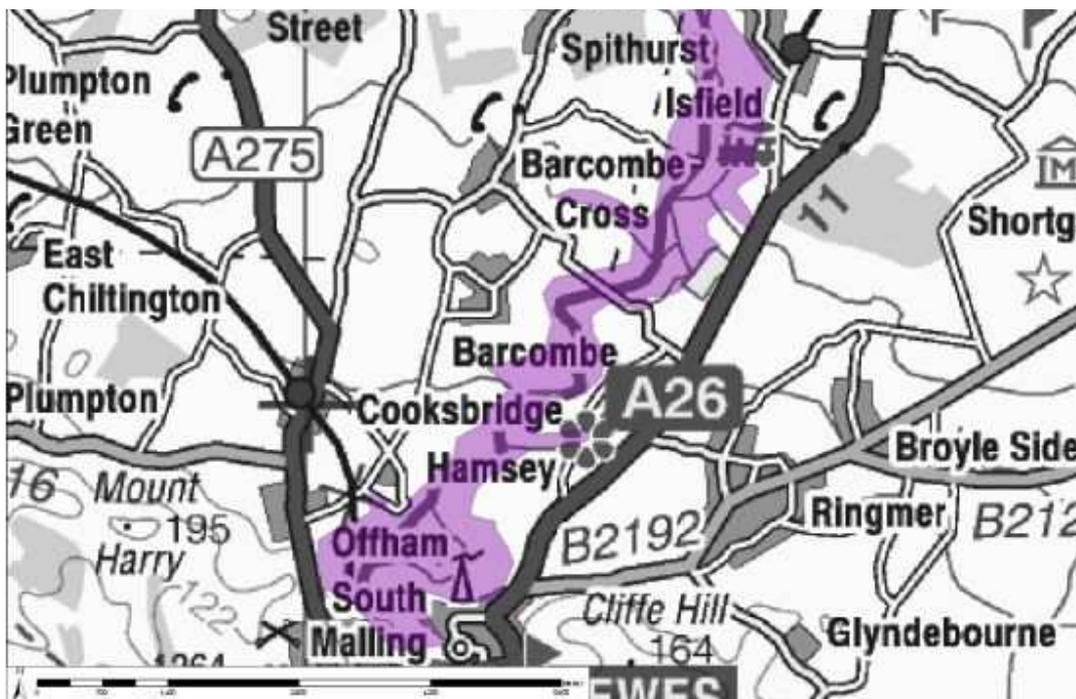


Mid Ouse floodzone Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Low Weald

Geology Mid Ouse floodzone Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies on Weald clay mudstone, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone to the north with chalk and marly chalk influence in the south



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

The mid Ouse floodzone 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 663 hectares.

This area, upstream of Lewes is severely affected by flooding. The River Ouse is heavily embanked here with some historic meanders still evident in the landscape. The area is agricultural with some existing wet grassland.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Reedbeds

Wood-pasture and parkland

BAP Species 45 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
Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Open habitats, gardens, heathland, cliff, mixed deciduous woodland, structural variation, hedgerows
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
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
Small Phoenix <i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, open habitats including commons and gardens, willowherbs
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
Dusky Thorn <i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	Woodland, parkland, Ash
Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Woodland, farmland, urban areas, hedgerows
Rosy Rustic <i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Marshy areas, waste ground
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
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, hedgerows, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
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
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	Farmland, woodland edges, hedgerows with mature trees, wetland edges
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	Farmland, rush pastures, moors, mosaics of bare ground and cover, hedgerows, uncultivated margins
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Mixed deciduous woodland, even age-canopy, little understorey, patchy ground cover
Large Wainscot <i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>	Frequenting reedbeds and riversides, the larvae feed in the bases of stems and the roots of Common Reed
Brown Trout <i>Salmo trutta</i>	Unobstructed natural rivers with high water quality and no siltation
Buff Ermine <i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Woodland, parks and gardens
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
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet <i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Coastal sandhills, limestone and chalk downlands, hedgerows

Invasive Non-native Species 9 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*
 New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*
 Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis*
 Nuttall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*
 Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
 American Mink *Mustela vison*
 Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Designated Sites

Offham Marshes SSSI an alluvial grazing marsh which supports large amphibian populations, and several scarce dragonflies, beetles and flies.

Barcombe Reservoir SNCI a large fresh water body on which 150 bird species have been recorded including rare species such as Osprey and Slavonian Grebe.

Disused Railway Line, South Malling SNCI chalk grassland with scattered scrub which makes it good invertebrate habitat, and the site is known to be of interest for hoverflies.

Marshy Fields and Lake by Wellingham Farm SNCI a lake and a series of fields with drains, which support marshy grassland used by wading birds.

St Peter's Old Church SNCI unimproved grassland with a number of grasses and sedges. Herbs are diverse including Pepper Saxifrage and Lady's Bedstraw, and the gravestones provide good lichen habitat.

Opportunities Identified

- Policy integration
- Education and community engagement
- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Floodplain restoration and reconnection
- Water quality improvement