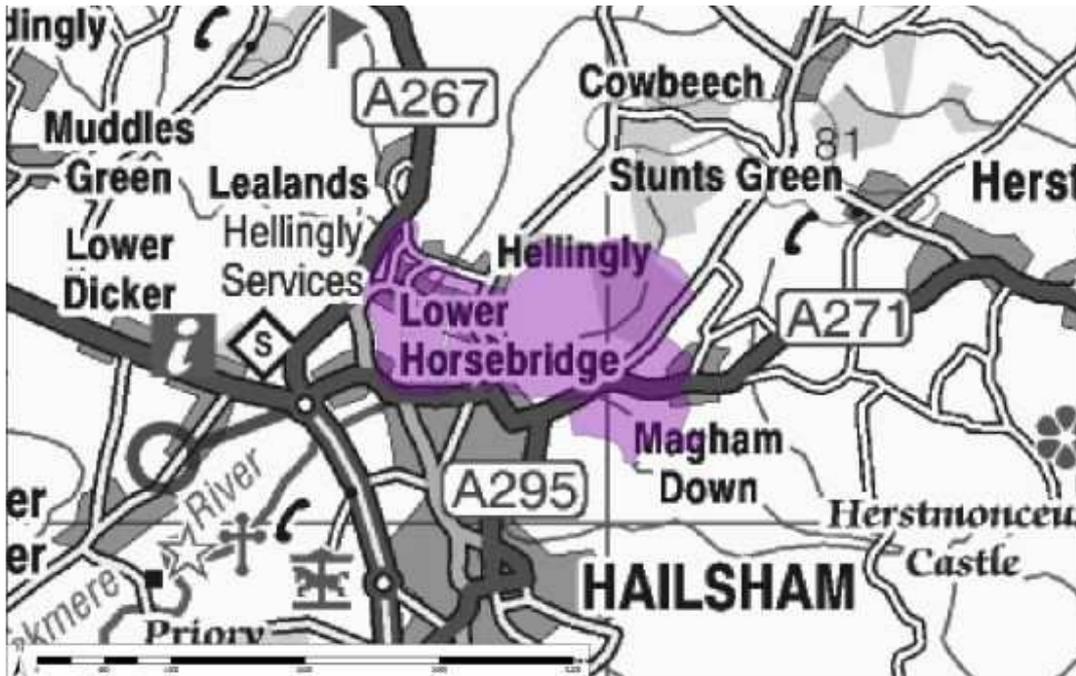


Pevensey and Cuckmere Valley link Biodiversity Opportunity Area

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

Pevensey and Cuckmere Valley link 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 454 hectares.

This opportunity area straddles the Cuckoo Trail and is an area in which many enhancements for wildlife are possible amongst, the woodlands, streams and small developments of this area of Sussex. In recent years, planning permissions and appeal decisions have laid down a strong pattern for development and open spaces for biodiversity conservation in this locality. This BOA includes land on four major development sites to the west and northwest of Hailsham including one that has already been built, one under construction and two in the early phases of preparation for construction following grants of planning permission. All of these sites have important biodiversity areas and native planting built into them that will contribute to this link between the Pevensey Levels and the Cuckmere Valley. Such areas may have biodiversity value in their own right but this will be increased considerably when they are connected to major natural networks like the Cuckoo Trail and the Cuckmere Valley.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 18 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, hedgerows
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
White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>	Woodlands, sunny glades, Bramble, Honeysuckle, partially-shaded locations
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
Bechstein's Bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Closed canopy woodland, wooded streams, hedgerows
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, hedgerows, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
Soprano Pipstrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	A widespread bat that has a preference for riparian habitats, hedgerows, buildings are often important for roost sites and it requires good linkages between these and its foraging grounds.
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.
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

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

Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*

American Mink *Mustela vison*

Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*

Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Hellingly Cemetery SSSI species-rich grassland and a pond.

Jarvis's, Nobody's Wood and Park Wood complex SSSI a large block of predominantly ancient woodland, with a wooded stream valley that supports bryophytes and ferns.

Opportunities Identified

- Ecological networks
- Access management
- Policy integration
- Minimising development impacts