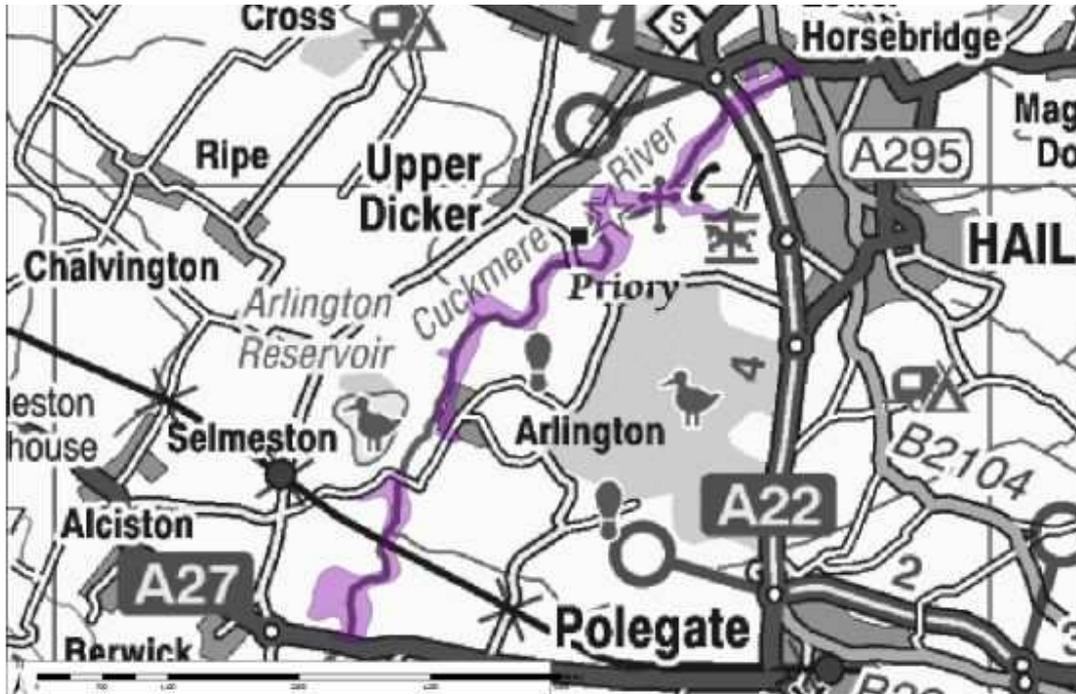


River Cuckmere habitat link Biodiversity Opportunity Area

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

River Cuckmere habitat 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 200 hectares.

This BOA follows the mid reaches of the River Cuckmere, eastward towards the Pevensey catchment covering the natural floodplain of the river.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Lowland fens

Woodland

BAP Species 11 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
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
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Shoulder-striped Wainscot <i>Mythimna comma</i>	Gardens, damp habitats, marshes and fens, Cock's-foot.
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

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

Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
American Mink *Mustela vison*

Designated Sites

Michelham Priory SSSI supports a mosaic of wildlife habitats including grassland, semi-wooded areas and of particular interest the moat, which contains diverse marginal vegetation. The site supports a good range of lichens, Odonata and birds.

Opportunities Identified

- Access management
- Policy integration
- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation