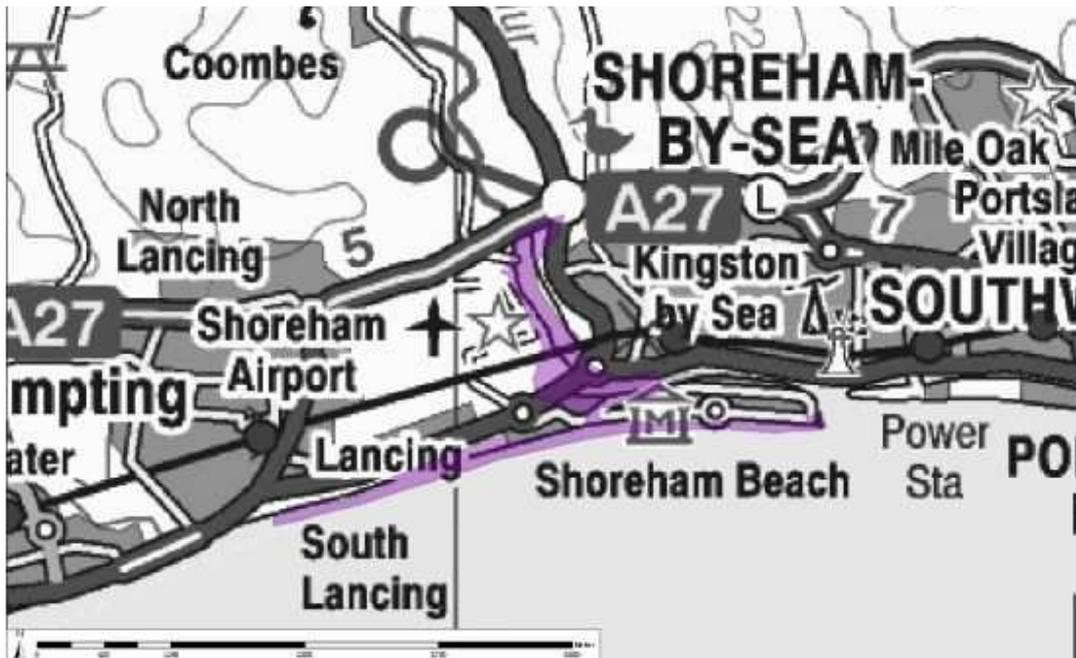


Shoreham Estuary and Beach Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Coastal Plain

Geology Shoreham Estuary and Beach Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies on Newhaven chalk with areas of clay, silt and sand along the coastal area.



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

Shoreham Estuary and Beach 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 136 hectares.

This area is dominated by saltmarsh, grazing marsh and mudflats and their associated brackish communities. Shoreham Beach has some of the best vegetated shingle in the county despite high visitor pressure. There is also a saline lagoon and estuary, important for wading birds. Shoreham Airport dominates the western side and the area is bounded by the A27 to the north and the urban areas of Shoreham and Lancing to east and west.

BAP Habitat

[Coastal saltmarsh](#)

[Coastal vegetated shingle](#)

[Intertidal mudflats](#)

[Saline lagoons](#)

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

Species	Habitat Requirements
Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
Divided Sedge <i>Carex divisa</i>	Vegetated shingle, grazing marsh, ditches, tidal rivers, brackish, no tidal inundation
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Stag Beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Broadleaved woodland, parkland, hedgerows, gardens, dead and decaying wood
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

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

Three-cornered Leek *Allium triquetrum*

Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*

Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*

Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

False-acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Designated Sites

Adur Estuary SSSI is a significant area of saltmarsh supporting an unusual plant community. The intertidal mudflat area is an important area for wading birds, particularly Redshank, Dunlin and Ringed Plover (the area often holds over 1% of the British population of the latter, making this area a nationally important site for the species).

Widewater Lagoon SNCI is a classic example of an isolated spit lagoon with areas of shingle vegetation and saltmarsh along its southern edge. The lagoon is brackish and the depth depends on season and tide. It is used by wintering birds such as Pochard and Redshank and was the last site for the Ivell's Sea Anemone.

Shoreham Beach SNCI is notable for its specialised vegetated shingle community which is very rare in West Sussex, and of particular interest is the presence of Starry Clover.

Opportunities Identified

- Minimising development impacts
- Invertebrate interest
- Coastal habitat management, restoration and creation
- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Access improvements