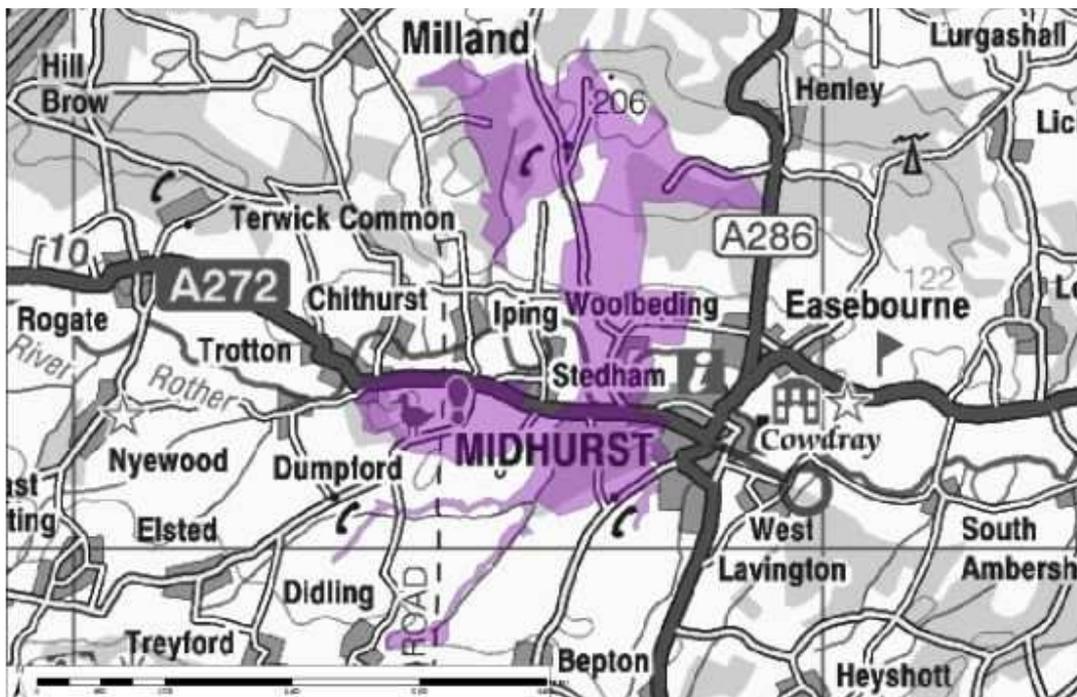


## Stedham, Iping, Woolbeding Crescent Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** Wealden Greensand and Low Weald

**Geology** Stedham, Iping, Woolbeding Crescent lies on a mixture of sandstone, mudstone and pebbly sandstone



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

Stedham, Iping, Woolbeding Crescent 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 1272 hectares.

The Southern section of this crescent is Stedham and Iping Commons which are owned by the Sussex Wildlife Trust and dominated by heathland and woodland. To the eastern end the ownership is that of the National Trust, who manage Woolbeding Common, again of a heathy, woody nature with large expanses of heathland to the north of the site. On the north-western tip there is more heathland at Stedham Marsh.

## BAP Habitat

Lowland heathland

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 99 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat Requirements</b>
Grey Dagger <i>Acrionicta psi</i>	Hedgerows, parks, woods and gardens, Hawthorn and Blackthorn
Knot Grass <i>Acrionicta rumicis</i>	Meadows, gardens and hedgerows, larvae feed on a range of herbs
Green-brindled Crescent <i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	Woodlands, hedgerows and gardens, larvae feed on a number of trees and bushes including Hawthorn and Blackthorn
Ear Moth <i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	Chalk grassland, marshy and damp places
Mouse Moth <i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	Grassland, heathland, wetland, hedgerows and some woodland
European Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Sea, freshwater rivers, eutrophic standing waters, moderate water quality
Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Open habitats, gardens, heathland, cliff, mixed deciduous woodland, structural variation, hedgerows
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Newly planted conifers or open heath, mixed deciduous woodland
Large Nutmeg <i>Apamea anceps</i>	Chalk grassland, hedgerows and woodland edges, larvae feed on grasses, including Annual Meadow-grass and Cock's-foot
Dusky Brocade <i>Apamea remissa</i>	Woodland, marsh, chalk and other grassland
Hornet Robberfly <i>Asiulus crabroniformis</i>	Heathland, chalk and other grassland on well-drained soils, usually associated with grazing mammals, areas of scrub
Sprawler <i>Asteroscopus sphinx</i>	Woodland and hedgerows, larvae feed on the foliage of a range of deciduous trees
Centre-Barred Sallow <i>Atethmia centrago</i>	Woodland and hedgerows, larvae feed on Ash and Sallow
Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Old woodland, structural variety, plentiful dead wood, hedgerows, larger river valleys, caves, underground sites, hollow trees
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
Mottled Rustic <i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	Suburban areas, hedgerows, Nettle and Dandelion
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 Square-Spot <i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Prefers damp and marshy places, hedgerows
Figure of Eight <i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>	Woodlands, mature hedgerows, commons, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Apple
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
Dusky Thorn <i>Ennomos</i>	Woodland, parkland, Ash

<i>fuscantaria</i>	
Autumnal Rustic <i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Woodland edges, moorland, hedgerows
White-line Dart <i>Euxoa tritici</i>	Sand dunes and heathland, larvae feed on bedstraws and grasses
Field Cricket <i>Gryllus campestris</i>	Sheltered, sunny sites with short turf and dry, hot soil
Rustic <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Gardens, grassland and heathland, docks, plantains, hedgerows
Rosy Rustic <i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Marshy areas, waste ground, hedgerows
Orange Upperwing <i>Jodia croceago</i>	Open woodland or woodland edge, sheltered young shoots
White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>	Woodlands, sunny glades, Bramble, Honeysuckle, partially-shaded locations
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
Brindled Beauty <i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, parkland, gardens
Dot Moth <i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Gardens, verges, waste ground, hedgerows
Broom Moth <i>Melanchra pisi</i>	Open woodland, shrub, heathland, Broom, Bracken
Harvest Mouse <i>Micromys minutus</i>	Arable margins, hedgerows, meadows, scrub, reedbeds, tall grass.
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.
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, hedgerows, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Woodland, wetlands, hedgerows and pastures, predominantly roost in tree cavities
Powdered Quaker <i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	A moth of habitats such as floodplain grassland where larvae feed on Bog Myrtle and willows
Clay Fan-foot <i>Paracolax tristalis</i>	Oak woodland, larvae feed on oak leaves usually on sheltered ground
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Mixed deciduous woodland, even age-canopy, little understorey, patchy ground cover
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.
Silver-studded Blue <i>Plebejus argus</i>	Chalk grassland and heathland, mosaic of bare ground and vegetation, sheltered locations, larvae feed on heathers, Bird's-foot-trefoil and Common Rock-rose
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.
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

Feathered Gothic <i>Tholera decimalis</i>	Rough grassland and downland, larvae feed on grass blades
Blood-Vein <i>Timandra comae</i>	Gardens, fields and waste ground
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Short grassy areas
Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Meadows, wasteland, road verges and downland
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
Oak Hook-tip <i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	Oak woodland and parkland, larvae feed on oak
Sallow <i>Xanthia icteritia</i>	A common species in most of Britain, occupying damp woodland, hedgerows, heathland and marshy places, larvae feed on sallow
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet <i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Coastal sandhills, limestone and chalk downlands, hedgerows
Heath Rustic <i>Xestia agathina</i>	Heathland and moorland, larvae feed on heather
Neglected Rustic <i>Xestia castanea</i>	Heathland and moorland, larvae feed on heather
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

**Invasive Non-native Species** 11 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Heath Star Moss *Campylopus introflexus*  
 New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*  
 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*  
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*  
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

## Designated Sites

Iping Common SSSI one of the richest examples of heathland remaining in West Sussex with a good invertebrate fauna including several rare spiders. The site is of county importance for breeding heathland birds including Nightjar and Stonechat.

Woolbeding and Pound Common SSSI a large area of secondary woodland and open heathland. The wet heath is particularly notable for its large population of Intermediate Sundew, and there are a number of notable invertebrates particularly Hymenoptera and Orthoptera.

Inholms, Lambourne and Lower Bowley Copses SSSI Hazel-Oak semi-natural woodland with a diverse bird community and scarce butterflies including White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary. The site also contains a lake and stream which provides good dragonfly habitat.

Midhurst Common SSSI is a registered common containing remnant wet and dry heath, semi-natural woodland and a large disused sandpit. The site has records of rare lichens and bryophytes.

Oakham Common SNCI consists of a small dry regenerating heathland within a predominantly wooded common. The site has good invertebrate interest.

Stedham Common SNCI an area of registered common land dominated by open woodland and Bracken, with areas of heathland. Lichens are abundant on open ground and there is a varied bird community.

The River Rother SNCI encompasses the river, several tributaries and adjoining habitat (woodland, carr and marshy grassland). The wet woodlands are of particular botanical interest with species such as Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage and Large Bitter-cress, and there is a large population of the nationally rare Desmoulin's Whorl Snail at Selham Fen.

Woolhouse Farm Meadows SNCI three wet meadows and some mature trees. The site has a diverse flora owing to areas with a damp or acidic influence, including Bog Pimpernel, Lesser Stitchwort and Ragged-Robin.

## Opportunities Identified

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