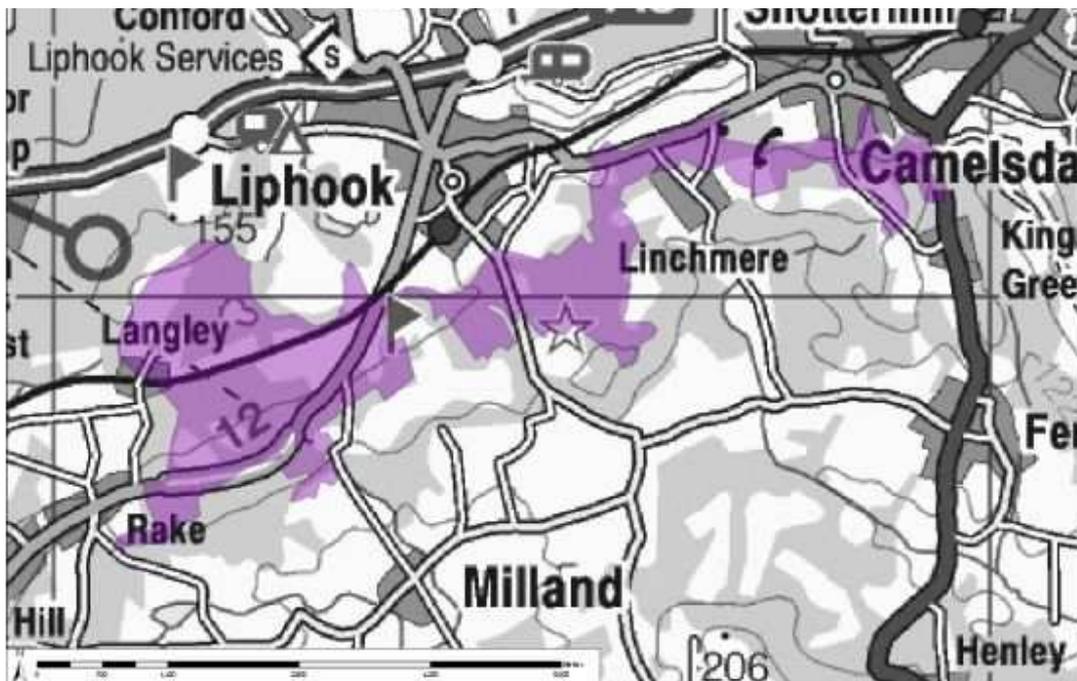


## Weavers Down to Lynchmere Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** Wealden Greensand

**Geology** The majority of the site is Hythe formation sandstone, with smaller areas of Pulborough sandrock sandstone in the west. Deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel in the northwest.



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

Weavers Down to Lynchmere 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 898 hectares.

On the Surrey Border this heathland area dominates the landscape, with large expanses of open heath in a matrix of woodland, both broadleaf and conifer. There is some wet heath at Wheatsheaf Common and Folly Pond, which have the potential for expansion.

### BAP Habitat

[Lowland fens](#)

[Lowland heathland](#)

[Wood-pasture and parkland](#)

[Woodland](#)

BAP Species 74 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat Requirements</b>
Grey Dagger <i>Acronicta psi</i>	Hedgerows, parks, woods and gardens, Hawthorn and Blackthorn
Knot Grass <i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Meadows, gardens and hedgerows, larvae feed on a range of herbs
Flounced Chestnut <i>Agrochola helvola</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, larvae feed on deciduous trees
Brown-spot Pinion <i>Agrochola litura</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, heathland and bushy suburban areas, Oak and Hawthorn
Beaded Chestnut <i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	Woodland rides, scrub, hedgerows and open country
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
Tormentil Mining Bee <i>Andrena tarsata</i>	Lowland dry acid grassland and heathland, gathering nectar and pollen from Tormentil
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
Dusky Brocade <i>Apamea remissa</i>	Woodland, marsh, chalk and other grassland
Deep-brown Dart <i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>	Chalk grassland, hedgerows and moorland
Centre-Barred Sallow <i>Atethmia centrago</i>	Woodland and hedgerows, larvae feed on Ash and Sallow
Minor Shoulder-Knot <i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	Damp woodland, hedgerows, heathland and fens, Willow
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
Streak <i>Chesias legatella</i>	Grassland, heathland, hedgerows and other habitats where the larval foodplant Broom is found
Latticed Heath <i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	Chalk grassland, gardens, fens, open woodland, heathland and moorland, larvae feed on clover, trefoil and Lucerne
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Small Square-Spot <i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Prefers damp and marshy places, hedgerows
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
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
September Thorn <i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, parkland, gardens, Oak, Lime and Birch
Dusky Thorn <i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	Woodland, parkland, Ash

Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i>	Chalk grassland, woodland rides, cliffs and embankments, mosaic of bare ground, shorter sward and sheltered areas, Bird's-foot Trefoil
Autumnal Rustic <i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Woodland edges, moorland, hedgerows
Glandular Eyebright <i>Euphrasia anglica</i>	Short grazed acid grasslands, and heathlands including wet heathland
White-line Dart <i>Euxoa tritici</i>	Sand dunes and heathland, larvae feed on bedstraws and grasses
Small Emerald <i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	Chalk downland, hedgerows, woodland edges, larvae feed on Traveller's-joy
Ghost Moth <i>Hepialus humuli</i>	Grassy areas, hillsides, waste ground
Grayling <i>Hipparchia semele</i>	Dry grassland, heathland, sand dunes, cliff tops, bare ground, sunny, sheltered locations
Rustic <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Gardens, grassland and heathland, docks, plantains, hedgerows
Rosy Rustic <i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Marshy areas, waste ground, hedgerows
White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>	Woodlands, sunny glades, Bramble, Honeysuckle, partially-shaded locations
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
Lackey <i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Gardens, hedgerows, Hawthorn, Blackthorn
Dot Moth <i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Gardens, verges, waste ground, hedgerows
Broom Moth <i>Melanchra pisi</i>	Open woodland, shrub, heathland, Broom, Bracken
Pretty Chalk Carpet <i>Melanthia procellata</i>	Hedgerows, scrub, woodland edges, Traveller's-joy
Rosy Minor <i>Mesoligia literosa</i>	Grasslands particularly in coastal areas
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
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
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	Farmland, woodland edges, hedgerows with mature trees, wetland edges
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Mixed deciduous woodland, even age-canopy, little understorey, patchy ground cover
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
Large Wainscot <i>Rhizodra lutosa</i>	Frequenting reedbeds and riversides, the larvae feed in the bases of stems and the roots of Common Reed
Mullein Wave <i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	A moth of gardens, hedgerows and bushes mainly in coastal areas, the larvae feed on Yarrow and Mugwort
White Ermine <i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Gardens and hedgerows

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
Hedge Rustic <i>Tholera cespitis</i>	A moth of open grassland, larvae feed on grasses including Mat-grass and hair-grasses.
Feathered Gothic <i>Tholera decimalis</i>	Rough grassland and downland, larvae feed on grass blades
Mottled Bee-fly <i>Thyridanthrax fenestratus</i>	Open heathland preferably in a matrix of heather, sand and gravel pits
Blood-Vein <i>Timandra comae</i>	Gardens, fields and waste ground
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 willow
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** seven species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Heath Star Moss *Campylopus introflexus*

Shallon *Gaultheria shallon*

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

Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*

Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

False-acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia*

## Designated Sites

Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA is of European importance for its ornithological importance, with at least 1% of the British population of Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Woodlark.

Chapel Common SSSI consists of a mosaic of habitats dominated by dry heathland. The rare Stag's-horn Clubmoss is present along with a variety of orchids and a rich invertebrate fauna including several rare or scarce species.

Forest Mere SSSI is the only West Sussex example of a shallow, base-poor lake on Lower Greensand, surrounded by woodland, heath and bog. The site supports a good community of breeding birds, and 17 species of dragonfly including Black Darter and Downy Emerald.

Woolmer Forest SSSI is part of a large heathland most of which is in Hampshire. There are a number of uncommon plants, a good diversity of breeding birds, and this is the only site in Britain known to support all the native reptiles and amphibians.

Lawyer Piece, Chapel Common SNCI consists of deciduous woodland, mostly secondary in origin, with heathland vegetation in the open areas.

Liphook Golf Course SNCI is designated due to the presence of remnant wet heath and dry heath. Several regionally rare plant species are found at the site including Marsh Clubmoss.

Lynchmere Common SNCI consists of a mosaic of heathland, acid grassland and Birch woodland.

## Opportunities Identified

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