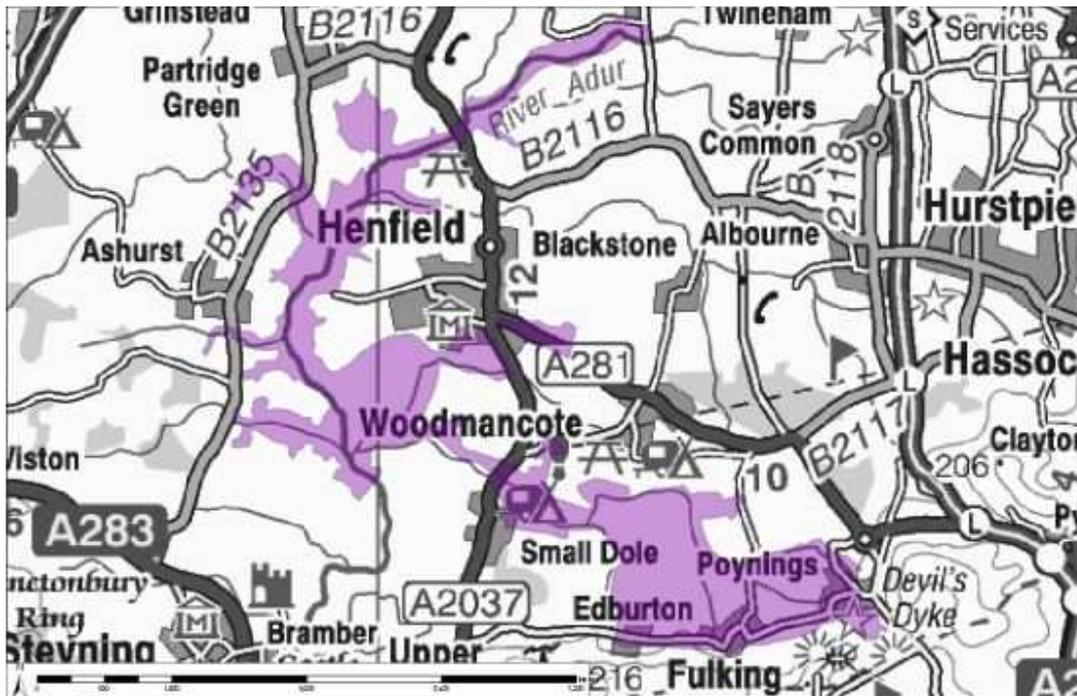


Woods Mill Stream to Adur Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Low Weald and South Downs

Geology Woods Mill Stream to Adur Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies on Weald clay formation mudstone to the north with sandstone to the south.



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

Woods Mill Stream to Adur has been recognised as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) as it represents a priority area for the delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets. It is one of 75 such areas across Sussex. The BOA covers approximately 1367 hectares.

This area encompasses a landscape that captures the water flow from the chalk streams of the Downs around Poynings, down the Woods Mill stream to the wet grassland of the River Adur. There are small pockets of ancient woodland, reedbed and meadow in the Sussex Wildlife Trust reserve at the heart of the area.

BAP Habitat

[Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh](#)

[Lowland calcareous grassland](#)

[Lowland dry acid grassland](#)

[Reedbeds](#)

Wood-pasture and Parkland
Woodland

BAP Species 90 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
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
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
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
Deep-brown Dart <i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>	Chalk grassland and moorland
Garden Tiger <i>Arctia caja</i>	River valleys, gardens and parks
European Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
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
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
Chamomile <i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Heathlands, commons, cliffs and slopes, short turf, also found in areas of temporary inundation
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Woodland, good supplies of fruit, seeds and keys, drinking pools
Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Dry grassland, heathlands, short turf, parks and gardens
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
Small Phoenix <i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, open habitats including commons and gardens, willowherbs
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza</i>	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows,

<i>citrinella</i>	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
August Thorn <i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, parkland, gardens, Oak, Beech
Autumnal Rustic <i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Woodland edges, moorland, hedgerows
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
Rustic <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Gardens, grassland and heathland, docks, plantains, hedgerows
Rosy Rustic <i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Marshy areas, waste ground, hedgerows
Juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>	Chalk grassland, heathland, maritime cliffs, exposed areas, rocky slopes, unshaded locations
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Mainly on the ground in open woodland, farmland, occasionally seen in gardens
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	South and east coasts of the UK, perch prominently on bushes, hedgerows, fence posts, lowland heathland, lowland meadow
Wall <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Short, open grassland, gardens, sand dunes, vegetated undercliffs and rocky foreshores
Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Open farmland and grassland, habitat mosaic
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
Lackey <i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Gardens, hedgerows, Hawthorn, Blackthorn
Dot Moth <i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Gardens, verges, waste ground, hedgerows
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
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Reedbeds, estuaries, damp grassland, heathland, mosaic of tall vegetation for nesting with short vegetation and open habitats for feeding
Tubular Water-Dropwort <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	Floodplain meadows and fens, shallow water in ditches, streams, ponds and canals
Powdered Quaker <i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	A moth of habitats such as floodplain grassland where larvae feed on Bog Myrtle and willows

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
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.
Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Grassland, quarries, embankments, woodland rides, larvae feed on Agrimony and <i>Potentilla</i> species, requires warmth and shelter
Large Wainscot <i>Rhizodra lutosa</i>	Frequenting reedbeds and riversides, the larvae feed in the bases of stems and the roots of Common Reed
Sea Trout <i>Salmo salar</i>	Unobstructed natural rivers with high water quality and no siltation, juveniles require shallow water.
White-letter Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium w-album</i>	A butterfly found most commonly in association with Elm, both mature trees and young suckers in hedgerows. Larvae feed on Elm particularly the flowers. Colonisation of new sites can be slow.
Chalk Carpet <i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria</i>	Chalk grassland and a range of open habitats, larvae feed on vetch and clover
Shaded Broad-bar <i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	Chalk grassland and a range of open habitats, larvae feed on vetch and clover
Great Water-parsnip <i>Sium latifolium</i>	Permanently wet, species-rich, tall-herb fen, margins of lakes and large rivers, ditches, reedswamp, not tolerant of shade
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
Brown Hairstreak <i>betulae</i>	
Hedge Rustic <i>Tholera cespitis</i>	A moth of open grassland, larvae feed on grasses including Mat-grass and hair-grasses.
Blood-Vein <i>Timandra comae</i>	Gardens, fields and waste ground
Pale Eggar <i>Trichiura crataegi</i>	Woodland, hedgerows and heathland, larvae feed on a range of plants including Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Bilberry and Heather
Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Breeding sites are mainly medium-sized ponds, although ditches and other waterbodies may be used, ponds with ample aquatic vegetation, do not require very high water quality, but usually a neutral pH. Hedgerows, mixed deciduous woodland
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 ictertia</i>	A common species in most of Britain, occupying damp woodland, hedgerows, heathland and marshy places, larvae feed on sallow
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:

Few-flowered Garlic *Allium paradoxum*
Three-cornered Leek *Allium triquetrum*
Horse Chestnut Leafminer *Cameraria ohridella*
Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis*
Nuttall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*
Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*
American Mink *Mustela vison*
Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*
Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*

Designated Sites

The River Adur water meadows and Wyckham Wood SNCI Wyckham Wood one of the few woodlands on the floodplain of the River Adur, is of particular importance on account of its heronry. The water meadows have mostly been improved but some of the ditches are of great botanical interest. This wetland area is also of importance to birds and dragonflies.

Hoe Wood SNCI designated for its ancient woodland, which is dominated by Oak and has Hazel coppice. It boasts a good assemblage of woodland plant and bird species. The area includes a lake which supports a number of dragonfly and damselfly species (19 species have been recorded).

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Opportunities associated with development
- Education and community engagement