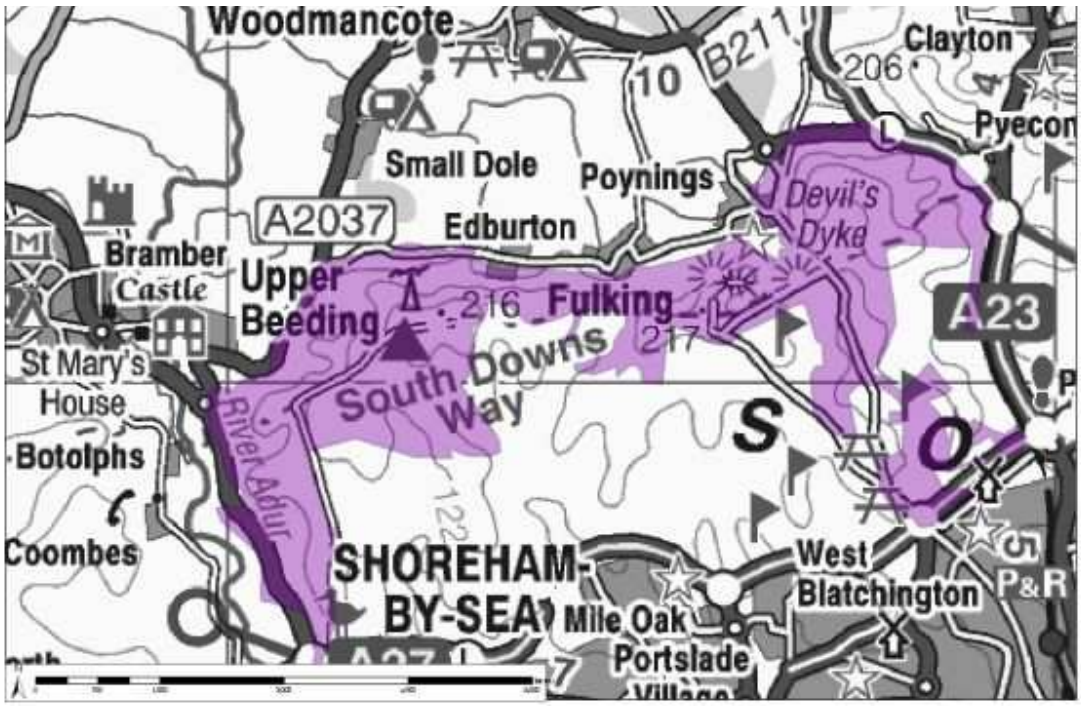
Adur to Newtimber including Mill Hill Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area South Downs

Geology Chalk including Seaford, Lewes, new pit, zig zag, west melbury marly. Clay, silt, sand and gravel, and clay with flints



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

Adur to Newtimber including Mill Hill 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 1790 hectares.

This large BOA runs from Mill Hill and Old Erringham Farm in the West along the edge of the chalk to Saddlecombe, Devils Dyke and Waterhall in the East. The majority of the chalk downland in this area is owned and managed by the National Trust. There is a high density of chalk grassland habitat and several chalk springs that flow from this downland.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
Lowland calcareous grassland
Lowland meadows
Woodland

BAP Species 56 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	**Habitat Requirements**
Hornet Robberfly *Asilus crabroniformis*	Heathland, chalk and other grassland on well-drained soils, usually associated with grazing mammals, areas of scrub
Red Star-thistle *Centaurea calcitrapa*	Regularly disturbed grassland, well-drained soils
White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*	Woodlands, particularly Beech on chalk or limestone soils, low ground cover, shaded habitat
Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*	Dry grassland, heathlands, short turf, parks and gardens
Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Small Blue *Cupido minimus*	Chalk grassland, chalk cliffs, Kidney Vetch, sheltered conditions, mosaic of short and tall vegetation with scrub
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Bloxam's Entoloma *Entoloma blaxamii*	Unimproved grassland, old meadows, short turf
Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*	Chalk grassland, woodland rides, cliffs and embankments, mosaic of bare ground, shorter sward and sheltered areas, Bird's-foot Trefoil
Chalk Eyebright *Euphrasia pseudokerneri*	Unimproved species-rich calcareous grassland, open sward
Juniper *Juniperus communis*	Chalk grassland, heathland, maritime cliffs, exposed areas, rocky slopes, unshaded locations
Wall *Lasiommata megera*	Short, open grassland, gardens, sand dunes, vegetated undercliffs and rocky foreshores
Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*	Open farmland and grassland, habitat mosaic
Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*	Scrub, thick grassland, reedbeds, forestry and gravel pits
Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*	Heathland, woodland, mosaic of scattered trees, bare ground, short vegetation and taller vegetation, open seed-rich areas
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Curlew *Numenius arquata*	Reedbeds, estuaries, damp grassland, heathland, mosaic of tall vegetation for nesting with short vegetation and open habitats for feeding
Fly Orchid *Ophrys insectifera*	A plant of chalk and limestone soils usually found in open woodland and scrub, often in deep shade, also occurs on grassland and fens
Burnt Orchid *Orchis ustulata*	A plant of unimproved calcareous grasslands it requires warm and dry conditions and is often found on south-facing slopes
House Sparrow *Passer*	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows

domesticus	
Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*	Farmland, rush pastures, moors, mosaics of bare ground and cover, hedgerows, uncultivated margins
Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*	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 *Pyrgus malvae*	Grassland, quarries, embankments, woodland rides, larvae feed on Agrimony and *Potentilla* species, requires warmth and shelter
Chalk Carpet *Scotopteryx bipunctaria*	Chalk grassland and a range of open habitats, larvae feed on vetch and clover
Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Barred Tooth-striped *Trichopteryx polycommata*	Woodland, chalk downland and scrubby areas, larvae feed on Wild Privet and Ash
Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*	Short grassy areas
Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae*	Meadows, wasteland, road verges and downland
Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects
Adder *Vipera berus*	Open heathland, woodland and moors, fens, cliff

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

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*
Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*
Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*
Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*
Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi*
Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Designated Sites

Beeding Hill to Newtimber Hill SSSI situated on the scarp slope there are areas of chalk grassland, Juniper scrub and calcareous Pedunculate Oak-Ash_Beech woodland. The site supports a rich community of invertebrates and Devil's Dyke is the best known example of a dry chalk valley.

The chalk grassland near Saddlescombe Farm SNCI consists of a sedge-rich sward with areas of developing scrub.

Mill Hill SNCI a good example of unimproved herb-rich downland. Part of the site has a rich bryophyte flora and the whole site is of County significance for butterflies with 25 species known to have bred, including the uncommon Dark-green Fritillary.

Cow Down SNCI consists of two north-east facing coombes on the chalk escarpments, which is species-rich in places but also being encroached by scrub. Plants include Common Rock-rose, Hairy Violet and Spring Sedge

Mill Hill SNCI a good example of herb-rich chalk grassland, with areas of scrub and secondary woodland. The site is significant for its butterfly species including Brown Argus and Dark-green Fritillary.

Old Erringham Farm valley SNCI a shallow valley with rich chalk grassland, storm damaged woodland, three ponds and a disused quarry. There is a White-letter Hairstreak colony on the Elms in the woodland.

Pond Brow SNCI two small areas of chalk grassland supporting a typical flora including Restharrow and Large Thyme.

Truleigh Hill to Southwick Hill SNCI fragments of chalk grassland, and the Chalkhill Blue butterfly can be found throughout the site.

Waterhall Complex SNCI supports a mosaic of habitat including chalk grassland, dense and scattered scrub.

Opportunities Identified

- Chalk grassland management, restoration and creation
- Working with and attracting new businesses
- Opportunities associated with development
- Farmland bird interest
- Chalk grassland butterfly interest
- Volunteer opportunities
- Landowner advisory and agri-environment schemes
- Urban biodiversity