

Barlavington, Coates and Rother Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Wealden Greensand

Geology The majority of this opportunity area lies on Folkestone Sands interspersed with some mudstone. Alluvium and river terrace deposits of sand, gravel, clay and silt.



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

Barlavington, Coates and Rother 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 1102 hectares.

The northern edge of the BOA runs along the River Rother where there is considerable opportunity for wetland habitat creation. Just south of the Rother is Burton Pond Nature Reserve, owned and managed by Sussex Wildlife Trust. The majority of this area is within the ownership of the Barlavington Estate. The area lies on an important in-migration route for otters.

Within the area there are significant amounts of heathland at Lords Piece and Coates Common. Historical evidence shows that in the past the area had more extensive heathland. There is also the site of medieval pasture parkland at Burton Park. There are numerous ancient woodlands in this area.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Lowland dry acid grassland

Lowland heathland

Reedbed

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 64 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
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
Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	Lakes, bogs and rivers, estuaries
Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Old woodland, good structural variety, plentiful dead wood, hedgerows, larger river valleys, caves, underground sites, hollow trees
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Wet reedbed and marshland
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
Cornflower <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Arable and disturbed land on sandy, loamy soils.
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Woodland, good supplies of fruit, seeds and keys, drinking pools
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
Autumnal Rustic <i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Woodland edges, moorland, hedgerows
Red-tipped Cudweed <i>Filago lutescens</i>	Low-fertility, well-drained fields on sandy soils, which are regularly disturbed and woodland rides
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
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius</i>	South and east coasts of the UK, perch prominently on bushes,

<i>collurio</i>	hedgerows, fence posts, lowland heathland, lowland meadow
A freshwater bryozoan <i>Lophopus crystallinus</i>	Lakes, ponds, ditches, slow rivers, spring fed pools with high water quality
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
Pretty Chalk Carpet <i>Melanthia procellata</i>	Hedgerows, scrub, woodland edges, Traveller's-joy
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava subsp. flavissima</i>	Wet meadows and pastures with ponds or ditches and a mosaic of short swards and tussocks
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Bechstein's Bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Closed canopy woodland, wooded streams, hedgerows
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
Noctule Bat <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Woodland, wetland areas, hedgerows
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
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.
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.
White Ermine <i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Gardens and hedgerows
Buff Ermine <i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, parks and gardens
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Blood-Vein <i>Timandra comae</i>	Gardens, hedgerows, fields and waste ground, docks
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
Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Meadows, wasteland, road verges and downland, Ragwort
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, hedgerows
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, hedgerows, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

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

Common Fiddleneck *Amsinckia micrantha*
Heath Star Moss *Campylopus introflexus*

New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*
Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis*
Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
Shallon *Gaultheria shallon*
Indian Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
American Mink *Mustela vison*
Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Burton Park SSSI comprises an extensive area of open water surrounded by Alder carr, wet heath and marshy grassland. There is a rich invertebrate fauna and the site is of considerable importance for its water bird community.

Coates Castle SSSI consists of three blocks of land containing good populations of the Field Cricket.

Burton and Chingford Ponds LNR is a mosaic of woodland, heathland and parkland set around two large lakes. The site has good numbers of waterbirds and dragonflies.

Black Pond Copse SNCI consists of a small area of Alder woodland and parkland including some large Sweet Chestnuts

Chingford Common SNCI consists of two connecting ponds, marginal vegetation and woodland, including carr. The lake is important for dragonflies (having 14 species recorded) and for breeding and wintering birds

Coates Sand Pit SNCI is designated on account of its Sand Martin colony, it also has importance for butterflies and several uncommon plant species are present including the nationally rare Red-tipped Cudweed for which the SNCI is its only West Sussex site

Hammer Moor and woodlands west of Coates Castle SNCI contains botanically rich semi-natural woodlands including areas of Alder carr, and unimproved marsh. The site is noted for its fungi and mollusc interest.

Opportunities Identified

- Heathland management, restoration and creation
- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Botanical interest
- Policy integration
- Ecological networks