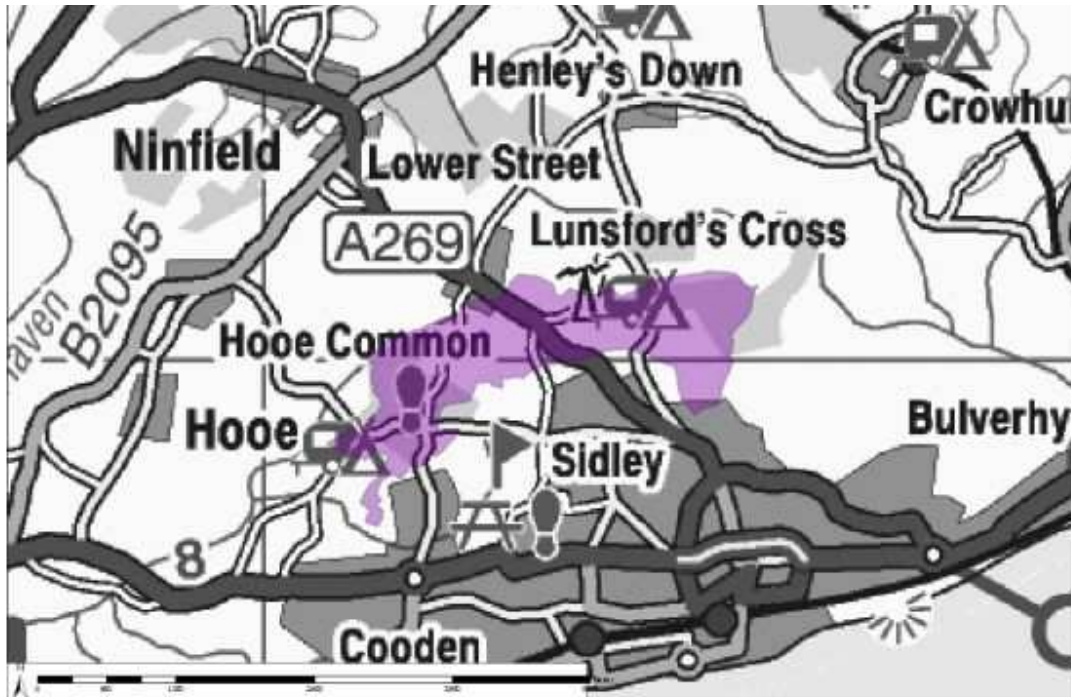


Bexhill fringe Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area High Weald



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

Bexhill fringe 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 321 hectares.

Skirting the urban area of Bexhill and bringing together two catchments this area is made up of predominantly woodland and agricultural land. The area is rich in hedgerows.

BAP Habitat

Wood-pasture and Parkland
Woodland

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

Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Woodland, good supplies of fruit, seeds and keys, drinking pools
Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Grassland, quarries, embankments, woodland rides, larvae feed on Agrimony and <i>Potentilla</i> species, requires warmth and shelter

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

Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
Shallow *Gaultheria shallon*

Designated Sites

High Woods SSSI ancient woodland containing a mosaic of woodland types including Sessile Oak coppice. Other habitats on the site include ponds, streams and an area of wet heath with acidic grassland.

High Peartree, Smiths and High Woods SNCI a complex of woods, comprising ancient oak coppice. The ground flora includes species such as Wood Anemone and Cow-wheat.

Woodland complex at Buckholt Farm SNCI a complex of five ancient woodlands, which are predominantly overstood Hornbeam coppice with Oak standards. The woods also contain a number of derelict ponds and streams.

Opportunities Identified

- Opportunities associated with development
- Access management
- Woodland management and restoration