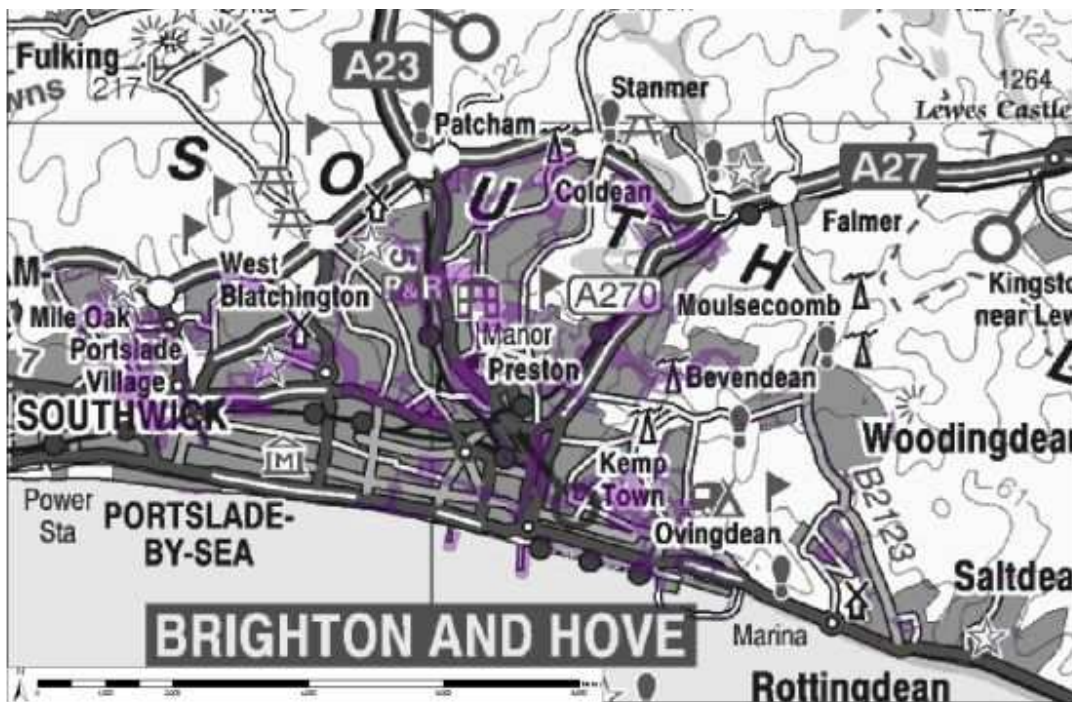


## Brighton and Hove urban green network Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** South Downs

**Geology** This area sits on Tarrant, Seaford, Lewes, and Newhaven chalk, with patches of sand, silt and clay



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

Brighton and Hove urban green network 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 646 hectares.

Brighton and Hove City Council have been working with Sussex Wildlife Trust on a green network for Brighton and Hove. The green network extends into the rural areas of Brighton and Hove, but only those parts of the network that are in the urban part of the city are included in this BOA. The aim of the Brighton and Hove green network has been to define a continuous green network through the city which can be implemented through the Local Development Framework to 2026. The green network is also intended to be complementary to the objectives of the council's open spaces strategy.

## BAP Habitat

Coastal vegetated shingle  
Lowland calcareous grassland  
Wood-pasture and parkland  
Woodland

BAP Species 43 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
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Heathland, moorland, open woodland, recently felled conifer plantations, mosaic of bare ground, low vegetation, scrub and trees
Small Blue <i>Cupido minimus</i>	Chalk grassland, chalk cliffs, Kidney Vetch, sheltered conditions, mosaic of short and tall vegetation with scrub
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Woodland, farmland, urban areas, hedgerows
Stag Beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Broadleaved woodland, parkland, hedgerows, gardens, dead and decaying wood
Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Breed around mesotrophic waters, blanket bog and heathland, winters around inshore waters
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Woodland, wetlands, hedgerows and pastures, predominantly roost in tree cavities
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Buff Ermine <i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Woodland, parks and gardens
Arctic Skua <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Breeds on coastal moorland, winters at sea
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects
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:

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*  
 Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*  
 Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*  
 Spanish Bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*  
 Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*  
 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*  
 Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*

## Designated Sites

Abinger Road Open Space SNCI a range of habitat including woodland, rough grassland and hedgerows.

Basin Road South SNCI vegetated shingle.

Benfield Valley SNCI a large and diverse site with features of interest including one of the largest areas of woodland in Hove, mature Elm trees and grassland.

Bexhill Road, Woodingdean a range of habitats including chalk grassland, scrub and rough grassland.

Black Rock Beach SNCI vegetated shingle important for supporting a diversity of notable coastal species including Sea Kale and Tree Mallow.

Bramble Rise Copse SNCI broad-leaved woodland.

Brighton Marina SNCI important for the diversity of marine habitats and species it supports.

Brighton University SNCI diversity of habitats including scrub, herb-rich grassland and developing woodland, forming a link between Wild Park and the inner urban area.

Coney Wood SNCI one of the largest areas of woodland in Brighton and Hove with several notable species including Stinking Iris and Alder Buckthorn.

Coombe Farm SNCI grazed chalk grassland, with notable species including Common-spotted Orchid and Chalk-hill Blue.

Cowley Drive Paddocks SNCI a substantial area of chalk grassland with notable species including Strawberry Clover and Red Star Thistle.

Crespin Way SNCI urban deciduous woodland, which links with other SNCI to form a band of semi-natural woodland along the railway line into Wild Park.

Emmaus Gardens and St Nicholas SNCI supports an unusual diversity of habitats in this urban context, with the churchyard supporting an unusual assemblage of lichens.

Foredown Allotments SNCI rough grassland, hedgerow, woodland and a pond.

Green Ridge SNCI rough grassland and hedgerow, which provide an important stepping stone between Coney Wood and Three Cornered Copse.

Happy Valley SNCI a range of habitats including woodland, scrub and chalk grassland.

Hollingbury Industrial Estate SNCI a mosaic of scrub, trees and species-rich grassland including species such as Kidney Vetch and Adonis Blue.

Honeysett SNCI a small copse managed specifically as an urban nature reserve.

Mile Oak Fields SNCI rough grassland supporting notable species such as Skylark.

Oakdene, Southwick Hill SNCI supports relict downland communities and dense scrub, which acts as a reservoir for birds using surrounding gardens.

Ovingdean Road Horse Paddocks SNCI supports a large population of a nationally rare species.

Ovingdean School Grounds SNCI a range of habitats including woodland, scrub and rough grassland, with a stand of mature Elm.

Sheepcote Valley SNCI a large area of chalk grassland with areas of scrub.

St Helen's Churchyard SNCI ancient churchyard important for its unusually rich diversity of lichens.

Three Cornered Copse SNCI a range of habitats including scrub, hedgerow and woodland.

Tivoli Copse and Railway Woodland SNCI mature woodland habitat within the urban area.

Toads' Hole Valley SNCI scrub, woodland, rough grassland and a pond.

Volk's Railway SNCI one of only three remaining sites for vegetated shingle in Brighton and Hove, the site supports a diversity of notable coastal species including Tree Mallow.

Wanderdown Road Open Space SNCI ancient chalk grassland and scrub.

Westlain Plantation/Hog Plantation SNCI ancient semi-natural woodland.

Wivelsfield Road Grassland SNCI species-rich chalk grassland.

Woodvale, Extra-mural and Downs Cemeteries SNCI a diversity of habitats including mature trees, dense scrub, relict chalk grassland and a pond.

## Opportunities Identified

- Chalk grassland management, restoration and creation
- Coastal habitat management, restoration and creation
- Education and community engagement
- Policy integration
- Urban biodiversity
- Opportunities associated with development