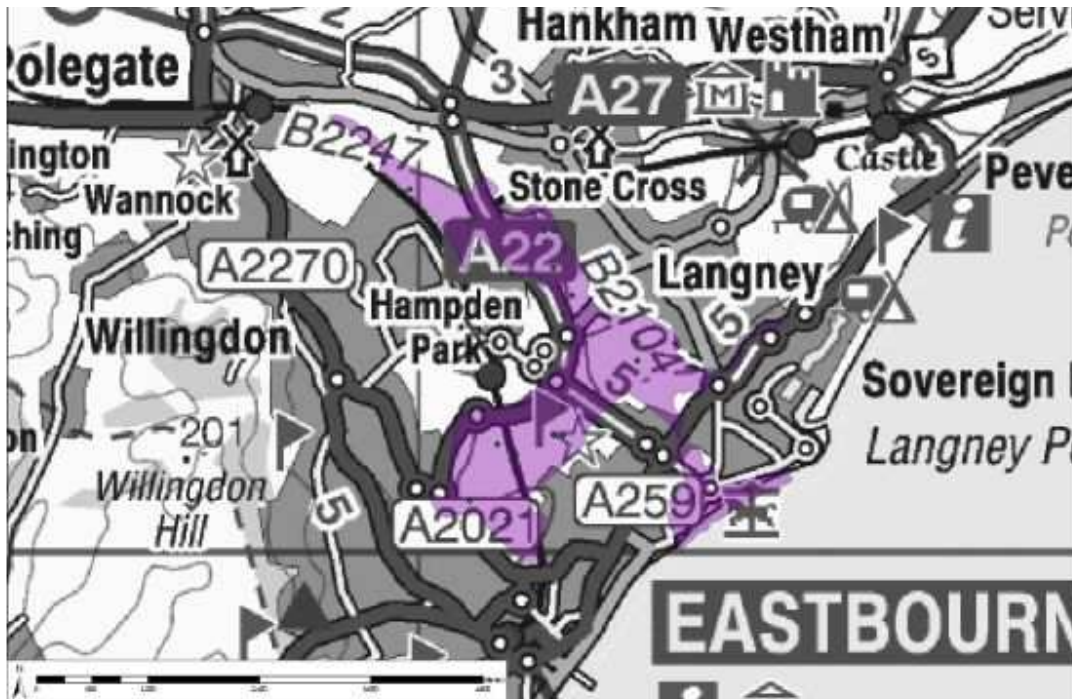


Eastbourne Marshes Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Low Weald and Pevensey Levels

Geology The Eastbourne Marshes BOA lies mainly on mudstone and sandstone, with an area of chalk 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

Eastbourne Marshes 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 487 hectares.

This wetland area is confined by the urban extent of Eastbourne. The area comprises open water, reedbed and wet grassland.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Coastal vegetated shingle with sections displaying a good diversity of shingle plants

Reedbed

BAP Species 27 species recorded, with the following recorded in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
European Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Sea, freshwater rivers, eutrophic standing waters
Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Open habitats, gardens, heathland, cliff, mixed deciduous woodland, structural variation, hedgerows
Dusky Brocade <i>Apamea remissa</i>	Woodland, marsh, chalk and other grassland
Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	Lakes, bogs and rivers, estuaries
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Reedbed
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Larger water bodies, ponds, lakes, fens, reedbed, wet woodland
True Fox-sedge <i>Carex vulpina</i>	River banks, ditch sides and damp meadows, standing water, open conditions are required
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed, hedgerows
Small Square-Spot <i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Prefers damp and marshy places
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Red Hemp-nettle <i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	Arable land, open ground, coastal vegetated shingle
Small Emerald <i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	Chalk downland, hedgerows, woodland edges, larvae feed on Traveller's-joy
Rustic <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Gardens, grassland and heathland
Wall <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Short, open grassland, gardens, sand dunes, vegetated undercliffs and rocky foreshores
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Reedbed, estuaries, lowland meadow, grazing marsh
Tubular Water-Dropwort <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	Floodplain meadows and fens, shallow water in ditches, streams, ponds and canals
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Shining ram's-horn snail <i>Segmentina nitida</i>	Well-vegetated ditches on grazing marshes, lakes and ponds, that have unpolluted, calcareous water
White Ermine <i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Gardens and hedgerows
Buff Ermine <i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Woodland, parks and gardens
Valve Snail <i>Valvata macrostoma</i>	Well-vegetated still or slow-moving water that is rich in calcium
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 Six species recorded, with the following recorded in the last ten years:

Three Cornered Leek *Allium triquetrum*

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*

Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*

Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*

Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Designated Sites

Langney Sewer SNCI - A water channel which runs from east to west from the Borough boundary to Eastbourne Park, of importance is a record of Sharp-leaved Pondweed. Langney Sewer is a broad waterway with a rich aquatic and bank flora. In its rural sections it is unpolluted but water quality appears lower in built-up areas.

Horsey Sewer SNCI - The channel supports some aquatic plant species, and, being an extensive waterway with quiet stretches, it is an excellent habitat for breeding birds.

The Crumbles Sewer SNCI - The Crumbles Sewer provides habitat for aquatic species and breeding birds and is a significant part of the network of wetland habitats in the eastern side of Eastbourne. Parts of the channel are choked by species such as Reed and Reed Sweet-grass although there are areas of Fringed Water Lily and open water at the southern end.

Leeds Avenue Reedbed SNCI - Adjacent to Crumbles Sewer, there is a reedbed which has survived unaltered for many years. Although the reedbed itself is dominated by a single species, it is surrounded by a wetland with greater variety. The reedbed is likely to support the rich invertebrate fauna and breeding habitat for birds typical of rural reedbeds.

Prince William Parade SNCI - The shingle separating Prince William Parade from the sea is the main remnant of the extensive shingle bank system which was the Crumbles before it was developed. It is a very important site for a range of plants including lichens and mosses. The eastern section contains a series of shingle ridges. As well as important maritime plants of shingle such as Yellow Horned-poppy and the nationally scarce Sea Kale these have a more mature capping of vegetation which supports rare lichens such as the nationally-scarce *Peltigera canina* and locally scarce lichens such as *Cladonia furcata* and *Coelocaulon aculeatum*, and the pebbles also support a range of tiny crustose lichens.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Coastal habitat management, restoration and creation
- Education and community engagement
- Access improvements
- Flood alleviation
- Control of invasive species on vegetated shingle
- Survey and monitoring