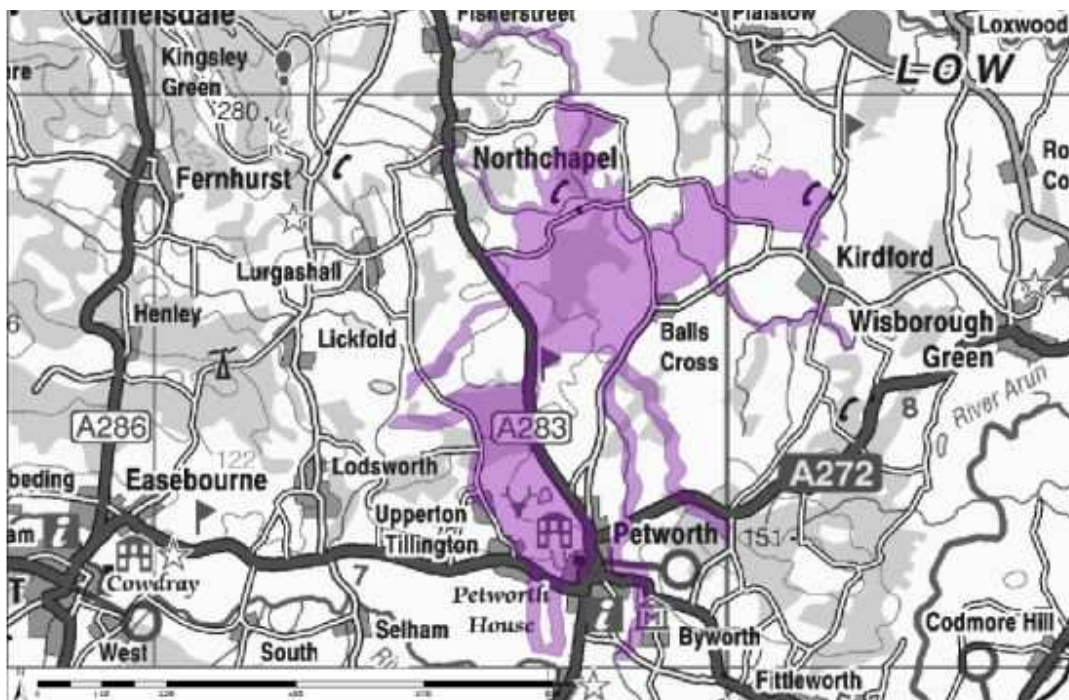


## Ebernoe with watercourse flightlines Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** Low Weald

**Geology** Ebernoe with watercourse flightlines Biodiversity Opportunity Area is on a mosaic of Weald clay, sandstone and mudstone with areas of limestone at the north and west of Bittles Field wood.



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

Ebernoe with watercourse flightlines 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 2040 hectares.

This Biodiversity Opportunity Area is centred on Ebernoe Common. Ebernoe is a site of international importance, particularly for its bat and lichen communities. This area, including Butcherland Field and the environs around the Ebernoe SSSI forms one of the four core areas of the West Weald Landscape Project. The area is extended from the SSSI boundary to capture bat flight lines and wooded areas around Ebernoe. This reflects the aims and objectives of the West Weald Landscape Project that is aiming to enhance the buffers of its four core forest areas, of which Ebernoe Common is one.

## BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Lowland fens

Reedbeds

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 104 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat Requirements</b>
Grey Dagger <i>Acronicta psi</i>	Hedgerows, parks, woods and gardens, Hawthorn and Blackthorn
Ear Moth <i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	Chalk grassland, marshy and damp places
European Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Sea, freshwater rivers, eutrophic standing waters, moderate water quality
Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Open habitats, gardens, heathland, cliff, mixed deciduous woodland, structural variation, hedgerows
Scarce Brown Streak <i>Aplota palpella</i>	Woodland and wood-pasture, mosses on large old, open grown trees
Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
Sprawler <i>Asteroscopus sphinx</i>	Woodland and hedgerows, larvae feed on the foliage of a range of deciduous trees
Centre-Barred Sallow <i>Atethmia centrago</i>	Woodland and hedgerows, larvae feed on Ash and Sallow
Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Old woodland, structural variety, plentiful dead wood, hedgerows, larger river valleys, caves, underground sites, hollow trees
Minor Shoulder-Knot <i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	Damp woodland, hedgerows, heathland and fens, Willow
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Scrub, rough grassland, fens, reedbed and wet woodland, dense ground vegetation or litter, ponds, large water bodies, hedgerows
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
True Fox-sedge <i>Carex vulpina</i>	River banks, ditch sides and damp meadows, standing water, open conditions are required
Chamomile <i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Heathlands, commons, cliffs and slopes, short turf, also found in areas of temporary inundation
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Woodland, good supplies of fruit, seeds and keys, drinking pools
Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Dry grassland, heathlands, short turf, parks and gardens
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Small Blue <i>Cupido minimus</i>	Chalk grassland, chalk cliffs, Kidney Vetch, sheltered conditions, mosaic of short and tall vegetation with scrub
Figure of Eight <i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>	Woodlands, mature hedgerows, commons, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Apple
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</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with

<i>schoeniclus</i>	good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
September Thorn <i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, parkland, gardens, Oak, Lime and Birch
August Thorn <i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, parkland, gardens, Oak, Beech
Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Woodland, farmland, urban areas, hedgerows
Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i>	Chalk grassland, woodland rides, cliffs and embankments, mosaic of bare ground, shorter sward and sheltered areas, Bird's-foot Trefoil
Long-horned Mining Bee <i>Eucera longicornis</i>	Cliffs, slopes and grasslands that are flower-rich, bare sand in sheltered locations
Autumnal Rustic <i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Woodland edges, moorland, hedgerows
Small Emerald <i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	Chalk downland, hedgerows, woodland edges, larvae feed on Traveller's-joy
Coral Tooth <i>Hericium coralloides</i>	Wood particularly Beech and particularly fallen or dead wood
Bearded Tooth <i>Hericium erinaceus</i>	Beech and Oak trees, stumps and fallen logs, wood-pasture parkland
Rustic <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Gardens, grassland and heathland, docks, plantains, hedgerows
Cut-grass <i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Nutrient-rich, bare mud around trampled margins of old lakes and ponds, ditches, canal banks, riversides, wet meadows, not shaded
Wood White <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Woodland rides and glades, meadows, maritime cliffs, warm and sheltered locations, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Meadow Vetchling
White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>	Woodlands, sunny glades, Bramble, Honeysuckle, partially-shaded locations
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
Lackey <i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Gardens, hedgerows, Hawthorn, Blackthorn
Pretty Chalk Carpet <i>Melanthia procellata</i>	Hedgerows, scrub, woodland edges, Traveller's-joy
Harvest Mouse <i>Micromys minutus</i>	Arable margins, hedgerows, meadows, scrub, reedbeds, tall grass.
Hazel Dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Woodland, overgrown hedgerows, Honeysuckle, Bramble, Hazel and Ash, well-structured woodland with a well-developed understorey and scrubby areas
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Polecat <i>Mustela putorius</i>	Wooded areas, fields and farm buildings, cover, shelter and abundant rodents required
Bechstein's Bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Closed canopy woodland, wooded streams, hedgerows
Shoulder-striped Wainscot <i>Mythimna comma</i>	Gardens, damp habitats, marshes and fens, Cock's-foot.
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, hedgerows, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Woodland, wetlands, hedgerows and pastures, predominantly roost in tree cavities
Tubular Water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	Floodplain meadows, fens, shallow water in ditches, streams, ponds and canals, open areas
House Sparrow <i>Passer</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows

<i>domesticus</i>	
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.
Oak Polypore <i>Piptoporus quercinus</i>	Wood pasture and parkland, deer parks, woodland on old oaks
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.
Zoned Rosette <i>Podoscypha multizonata</i>	Parkland and woods around the roots of old Oaks and occasionally Beech
Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Grassland, quarries, embankments, woodland rides, larvae feed on Agrimony and <i>Potentilla</i> species, requires warmth and shelter
Shaded Broad-bar <i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	Chalk grassland and a range of open habitats, larvae feed on vetch and clover
White Ermine <i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Gardens and hedgerows
Buff Ermine <i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Woodland, parks and gardens
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Brown Hairstreak <i>Thecla betulae</i>	Hedgerows and woodland with abundant Blackthorn
Hedge Rustic <i>Tholera cespitis</i>	A moth of open grassland, larvae feed on grasses including Mat-grass and hair-grasses.
Feathered Gothic <i>Tholera decimalis</i>	Rough grassland and downland, larvae feed on grass blades
Blood-Vein <i>Timandra comae</i>	Gardens, fields and waste ground
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
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
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

**Invasive Non-native Species** 14 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*  
Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*  
Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*  
Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*  
Floating Pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*  
Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*  
Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi*  
American Mink *Mustela vison*  
Parrot's-feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*  
Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*  
Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*  
Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*  
Red-eared Terrapin *Trachemys scripta*

## Designated Sites

Ebernoe Common SAC a good example of structurally diverse ancient woodland, most extensive being Beech high forest. Gaps in the canopy allow a diverse ground flora with species such as Yellow Pimpernel and Wood Millet. Thirty species of butterfly have been recorded including Wood White and Brown Hairstreak, and the site is important for breeding birds, lichens, and the rare Barbastelle and Bechstein's bats.

Shillinglee Lake SSSI is a large lake on acidic Weald clays with important flora including four nationally uncommon plant species.

Bittles Field SNCI is an ancient semi-natural woodland just east of Ebernoe Common. A rich ground flora can be found including many ancient woodland indicators and six species of orchid.

Colhook Common SNCI is part of a registered common containing woodland, Bracken and scrub. Ponds on the northern part of the common have well-developed margins and there are areas of grassland with an acidic influence.

Furnace Meadow SNCI consists of neutral grassland, stream and scrub, including the uncommon Small-flowered Sweet-briar.

Kymmings Hill Farm meadows and woodland SNCI contains a mosaic of several species-rich meadows with wetter areas, abandoned orchards, and Oak, Ash, Field Maple wood. Notable species include Dyer's Greenweed and Devil's-bit Scabious in the meadows, and Wild Service Tree in the woodland, with the orchards containing abundant lichens.

Piper's Kiln and Mercers Copses, and Dogkennel and Wassell Mill Hangers SNCI consists mostly of Oak and Hazel woodland with a ground flora that is generally rich, particularly alongside the stream that runs through the site. Several wet meadows and marshy areas are also present with species such as Meadowsweet and Pepper-saxifrage.

Steers Common SNCI is a registered common which is mostly Beech, Oak and Ash wood. Clearings have a good neutral grassland flora including Sneezewort and Adder's-tongue, and Nightingales breed at the site.

## Opportunities Identified

- Policy integration
- Ecological networks
- Woodland management and restoration
- Landowner advisory and agri-environment schemes
- Education and community engagement
- Working with businesses
- Woodland bat interest