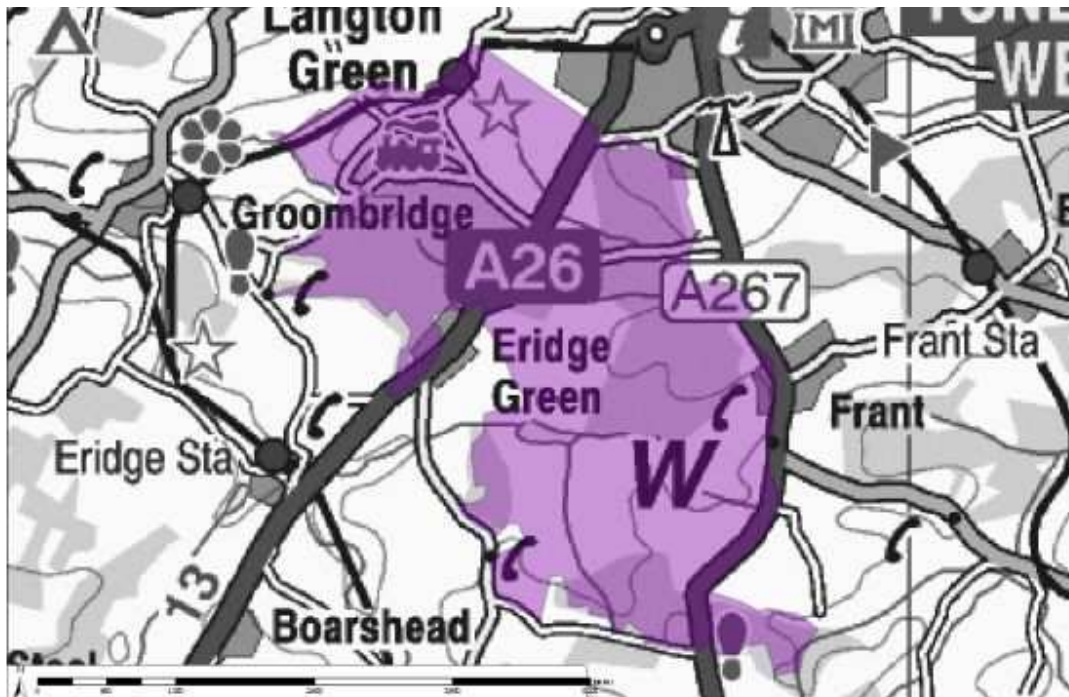


## Eridge and Broadwater Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** High Weald

**Geology** Eridge and Broadwater BOA lies on lower Tunbridge Wells sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. Podsolis in this area make it suitable for heathland creation.



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

Eridge and Broadwater 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 1489 hectares.

The southern part of the area is dominated by Eridge Park, which contains modern and medieval wood pasture, with the Sussex Wildlife Trust reserve of Eridge Rocks containing sandstone outcrops rich in bryophytes and lichens lying adjacent. The RSPB reserve of Broadwater Forest has extensive heathland restoration taking place. Woodland management in the form of Rhododendron clearance is an important aspect of woodland restoration in this part of Sussex. The Woodland Trust reserve Hargate Forest is mainly plantation with heathy ground flora and some heathland restoration.

## BAP Habitat

Lowland heathland

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 59 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
White-clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Water bodies with clean water and plenty of refuges such as tree roots, rocks and stones. Stable banks not poached by cattle
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
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
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
Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Open farmland and grassland, habitat mosaic
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
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
Slender Thread-moss <i>Orthodontium gracile</i>	Acidic rock outcrops, requiring shade and shelter
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	Farmland, woodland edges, hedgerows with mature trees, wetland edges
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.
Triangular Hammock-spider <i>Saariotoa firma</i>	Mire systems, wet heath, wet woodland, thought to require stable water levels
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
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
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>	Open heathland, woodland and moors, fens, cliff
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:

Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*  
 New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*  
 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*  
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*  
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*  
 False Acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia*

## Designated Sites

Eridge Green SSSI ancient woodland with sandstone outcrops forming a cliff face up to 10 metres high. Notable species include ferns, bryophytes and some uncommon plant species.

Eridge Park SSSI parkland and adjacent ancient woodland, with one of the richest epiphytic lichen flora of any single park in Britain. There are also diverse insect and bird communities supported.

Colesgrove Wood complex SNCI a block of ancient woodland containing a meandering stream valley and vertical sandstone cliffs. There are also several derelict ponds and a small area of species-rich grassland.

Frant Meadows SNCI a small area of flushed grassland on a steep west facing slope, containing dry acid grassland and species-rich rush pasture.

The Warren and Broadwater Forest SNCI an acidic valley mire rich in bryophytes, and woodland with large tracts of open heath, that supports many breeding birds.

## Opportunities Identified

- Heathland management, restoration and creation
- Woodland management and restoration
- Botanical interest
- Policy integration
- Exploring markets for natural products
- Access improvements
- Landowner advisory and agri-environment schemes
- Working with and attracting new businesses
- Education and community engagement