

Great Wood area 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

Great Wood area 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 375 hectares.

Great Wood is an ancient woodland site managed by the Forestry Commission. The woodland itself contains classic gill streams, with the BOA extending south towards Telham Hill.

BAP Habitat

[Lowland heathland](#)

[Lowland meadows](#)

[Wood-pasture and parkland](#)

[Woodland](#)

BAP Species 21 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
Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
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
Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Dry grassland, heathlands, short turf, parks and gardens
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
Glandular Eyebright <i>Euphrasia anglica</i>	Short grazed acid grasslands, and heathlands including wet heathland
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
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

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

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*
 Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Hemingfold Meadow SSSI two connected lowland meadows rich in flowering plants, with over 60 flowering plant species recorded.

Battle Cemetery SNCI grassland which is particularly rich in areas, with species such as Green-winged Orchid and Pepper-saxifrage. Additional interest comes from a small copse, standard trees and a small stream bordering the cemetery.

Burnt Chimney Farm meadows SNCI six, relatively herb-rich meadows bordered by thick hedgerows and separated by woodland strips. The site supports abundant invertebrates.

Opportunities Identified

- Woodland management and restoration
- Grassland management, restoration and creation
- Ecological networks
- Access improvements

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