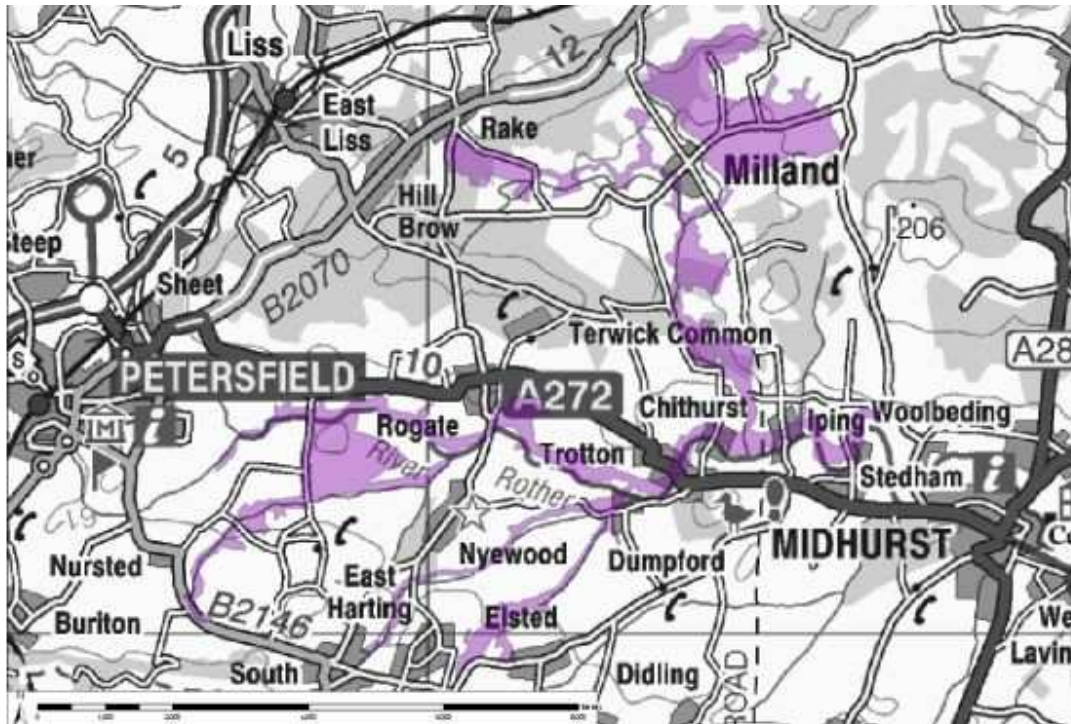


Hampshire Rother watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Wealden Greensand

Geology The majority of the Hampshire Rother watershed lies on mudstone, with areas of calcareous sandstone and siltstone.



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

Hampshire Rother watershed 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 1007 hectares.

This stretch of the Western Rother is an important in-migration route for Otter from Hampshire. Local geology makes soils prone to erosion which has a high impact on river ecology.

BAP Habitat

Lowland calcareous grassland

Lowland fens

Lowland heathland

Reedbeds

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 30 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Newly planted conifers or open heath, mixed deciduous woodland
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
Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Woodland, farmland, urban areas, hedgerows
Copse-bindweed <i>Fallopia dumetorum</i>	Hedgerows, and woodland glades, rides and edges, partial shade, well-drained soil
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
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, hedgerows, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
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.
Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Grassland, quarries, embankments, woodland rides, larvae feed on Agrimony and <i>Potentilla</i> species, requires warmth and shelter
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
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

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

Heath Star Moss *Campylopus introflexus*
New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*
Nuttall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*
Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
American Mink *Mustela vison*
Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*
False-acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Designated Sites

Brickkiln Copse, Pondtail Plantation, Millhanger Copse, Harting Pond and stream SNCI includes a conifer plantation, a large lake, and areas of carr, reedbed and ancient woodland. Uncommon plants and ancient woodland indicators can be found, including Herb Paris.

River Rother SNCI encompasses the river, several tributaries and adjoining habitat (woodland, carr and marshy grassland). The wet woodlands are of particular botanical interest with species such as Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage and Large Bitter-cress, and there is a large population of the nationally rare Desmoulin's Whorl Snail at Selham Fen.

West Heath Common SNCI has remnants of wet and dry heath remnants in a site dominated by a sand pit in which Sand Martin nest.

Wick Wood, Hammer Wood and Pond Copse complex SNCI includes ancient woodlands, a stream and a hammer pond. The rich flora and insect fauna includes a number of rarities.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Policy integration
- Ecological networks