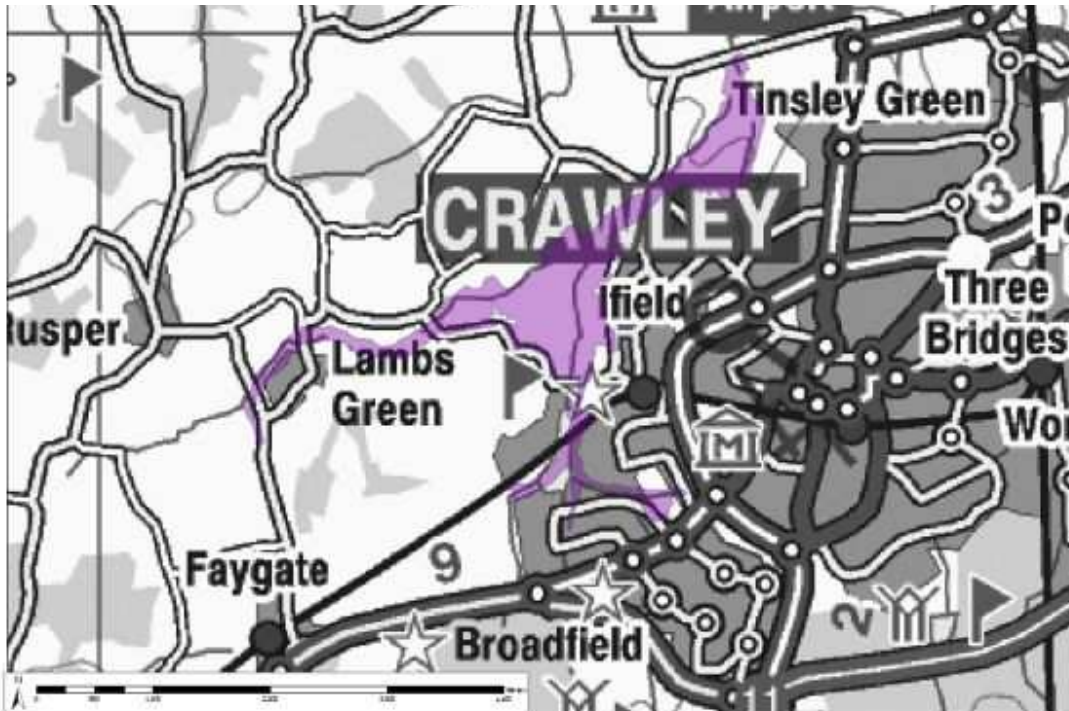


Ifield Brook Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Low Weald

Geology The majority of the Ifield Brook BOA lies on mudstone with a small vein of limestone 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

Ifield Brook 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 247 hectares.

This area links several existing Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, all of which are important for wetland biodiversity. To the south-east the area extends in to the urban area of Crawley and to the north-east to the area of Gatwick Airport. The BOA follows the line of a watercourse, which has potential for in-channel and floodplain enhancement.

BAP Habitat

Reedbed

Wood-pasture and Parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 22 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
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
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, hedgerows
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
Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Woodland, farmland, urban areas, hedgerows
Harvest Mouse <i>Micromys minutus</i>	Arable margins, hedgerows, meadows, scrub, reedbeds, tall grass.
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
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Brown Hairstreak <i>Thecla betulae</i>	Hedgerow - blackthorn
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Short grassy areas
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects

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

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
False Acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Designated Sites

Ifield Brook wood and meadows SNCI several herb-rich meadows enclosed by thick hedges, Ifield Brook and an area of woodland. There are several species of butterfly and numerous birds including Kingfisher and Nightingale.

Ifield Pond SNCI a large pond of considerable local importance on account of its birdlife, dragonflies and amphibians. There is also a small semi-natural woodland included in the site with a rich ground flora including Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage and the scarce Marsh Violet.

Willoughby Fields SNCI a large site containing unimproved grassland with wet flushes, and

a network of hedgerows and small copses of relict ancient woodland with species such as Ramsons and Moschatel.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland management, restoration and creation
- Increased site designation
- Education and community engagement, including links to health
- Volunteer opportunities

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