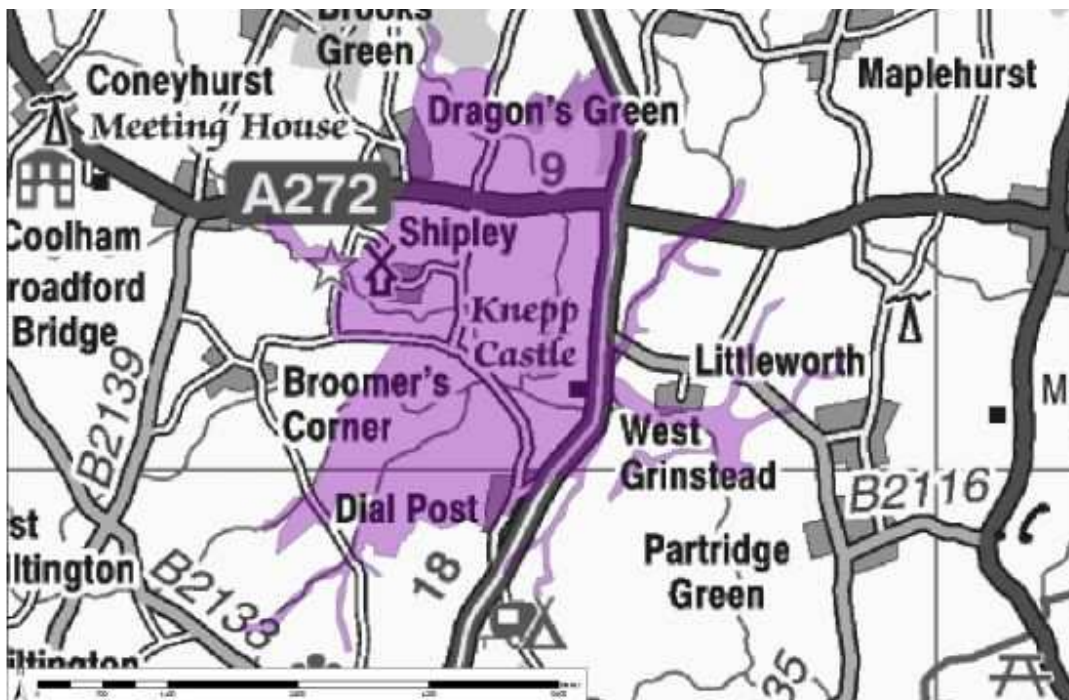


Knepp Estate with fluvial extensions Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Low Weald

Geology The site consists primarily of mudstone with areas of sandstone running through the central section. Clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits including alluvium.



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

Knepp Estate with fluvial extensions 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 1370 hectares.

At the core of this BOA is an area of 2000 hectares which is set to be the only area of rewilding in Sussex, including over 3km of river and floodplain restoration. Opportunities exist for the expansion and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitats and re-naturalisation of stream networks. The BOA extends beyond the boundaries of the Knepp Estate and follows the tributary flood zones into neighbouring land.

BAP Habitat

Lowland meadow

Reedbed

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 37 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
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
European Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
True Fox-sedge <i>Carex vulpina</i>	River banks, ditch sides and damp meadows on heavy clay soils, standing water, open conditions are required
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
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
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Mainly on the ground in open woodland, farmland, occasionally seen in gardens
White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>	Woodlands, sunny glades, Bramble, Honeysuckle, partially-shaded locations
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	Scrub, thick grassland, reedbeds, forestry and gravel pits
Stag Beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Broadleaved woodland, parkland, hedgerows, gardens, dead and decaying wood
Wood Lark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	Heathland, woodland, mosaic of scattered trees, bare ground, short vegetation and taller vegetation, open seed-rich areas
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
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 domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Soprano Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus phyllosus</i>	Widespread with a preference for riparian habitats, hedgerows, buildings are often important for roost sites and it requires good linkages between these and its foraging grounds.
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes

<i>turtur</i>	
Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Meadows, wasteland, road verges and downland
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects

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

Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
 American Mink *Mustela vison*
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Horsham Common, Alder Copse, Coate's Furzefield and Constable's Furze SNCI a diverse woodland complex, streams and a small herb-rich meadow, which support a good community of birds and butterflies.

Kneppmill Pond SNCI a large area of open water with well-developed marginal vegetation and extensive tall fen. The site is important for breeding and wintering birds, and dragonflies.

Opportunities Identified

- Woodland management and restoration
- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Floodplain restoration and reconnection
- Ecological networks