

Lower Adur Arun watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Low Weald, South Downs and Wealden Greensand

Geology The lower Adur Arun watershed lies on sandstone and mudstone with an area of upper greensand calcareous sandstone and siltstone 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

The lower Adur Arun 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 679 hectares.

This area at the foot of the South Downs is an important watershed between two Sussex catchments, the Adur and the Arun, and represents the chalk headstreams of the two catchments. The southern limit of this area is dictated by the edge of the chalk geology and the northern edge follows the conurbations of Storrington, Sullington and West Chiltington. The area has a mosaic of heathlands and woodlands, including Sullington Warren, and there is evidence that the heathy character was once more extensive. The watershed contains an area identified to be rich in arable plants.

BAP Habitat

Lowland calcareous grassland

Lowland heathland

Lowland meadows

Reedbeds

Woodland

BAP Species 40 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Ear Moth <i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	Chalk grassland, marshy and damp places
European Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Sea, freshwater rivers, eutrophic standing waters, moderate water quality
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
True Fox-sedge <i>Carex vulpina</i>	River banks, ditch sides and damp meadows on heavy clay soils, standing water, open conditions are required
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
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Dingy Skipper <i>Erynnis tages</i>	Chalk grassland, woodland rides, cliffs and embankments, mosaic of bare ground, shorter sward and sheltered areas, Bird's-foot Trefoil
Juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>	Chalk grassland, heathland, maritime cliffs, exposed areas, rocky slopes, unshaded locations
Stag Beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Broadleaved woodland, parkland, hedgerows, gardens, dead and decaying wood
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
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
Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Grassland, quarries, embankments, woodland rides, larvae feed on Agrimony and <i>Potentilla</i> species, requires warmth and shelter
Buff Ermine <i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Woodland, parks and gardens
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Blood-Vein <i>Timandra comae</i>	Gardens, fields and waste ground
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
Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Meadows, wasteland, road verges and downland
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 13 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*
 New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*
 Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*
 Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*
 Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*
 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
 Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Chantry Mill SSSI has interesting geology and provides the best available exposure of the unusual "iron-grit" horizon which characterises the Gault/Folkestone Beds junction in this part of Sussex.

Heath Common SSSI moderately rich remnants of wet and dry heath, several ponds and some relict ancient base-rich woodland. The area is rich in lichens and ferns and some interesting flora including Beak Sedge, Oblong-leaved Sundew and Dodder.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Heathland restoration
- Ecological networks