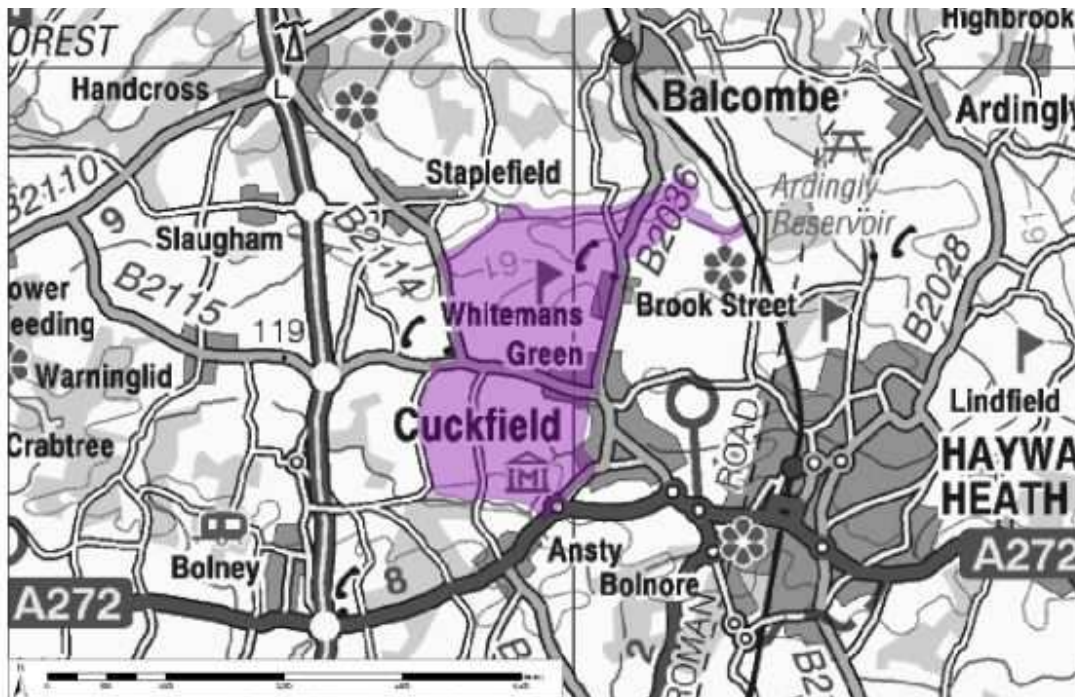


## Lower Adur Ouse watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** High Weald

**Geology** The lower Adur Ouse watershed lies on sandstone, siltstone and mudstone



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](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk). Contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2010

The lower Adur Ouse 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 940 hectares.

This area is a watershed between the tributaries of the Adur and the Ouse rivers. It consists of a patchwork of ghyll woodlands, small ancient woodlands, streams and ponds, against an agricultural backdrop. There are small areas of modern wood pasture and a large area of medieval wood pasture in the south of the area. The area could play an important role in the migration of key mammal species between river catchments.

### BAP Habitat

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 20 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat Requirements</b>
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Scrub, rough grassland, fens, reedbed and wet woodland, dense ground vegetation or litter, ponds, large water bodies, hedgerows
True Fox-sedge <i>Carex vulpina</i>	River banks, ditch sides and damp meadows on heavy clay soils, standing water, open conditions are required
Chamomile <i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Heathlands, commons, cliffs and slopes, short turf, also found in areas of temporary inundation
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
Northern Yellow Splinter <i>Lipsothirix errans</i>	In damp, woody debris in grassland and wet woodland
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Water, reedbed, ponds, heathland, hedgerows, grazing marsh, gardens, fish, amphibians
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Woodland, wetlands, hedgerows and pastures, predominantly roost in tree cavities
a mason bee <i>Osmia xanthomelana</i>	Wooded areas, cliffs, sheltered areas with good nectar sources and bare sand
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	Farmland, rush pastures, moors, mosaics of bare ground and cover, hedgerows, uncultivated margins
Pillwort <i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	Beside still or slowly flowing non-calcareous water, heathland, sometimes a submerged aquatic
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.
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
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 5 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*  
 American Mink *Mustela vison*  
 Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*  
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*  
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

## Designated Sites

Balcombe Marsh SSSI although small, this calcareous fen-meadow is of exceptional importance botanically. Its extremely herb-rich flora includes many uncommon species currently in a state of decline in southern England.

## Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Woodland management and restoration, including gill woodland
- Ecological networks
- Landowner advisory and agri-environment schemes

**Sussex Biodiversity Partnership**

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