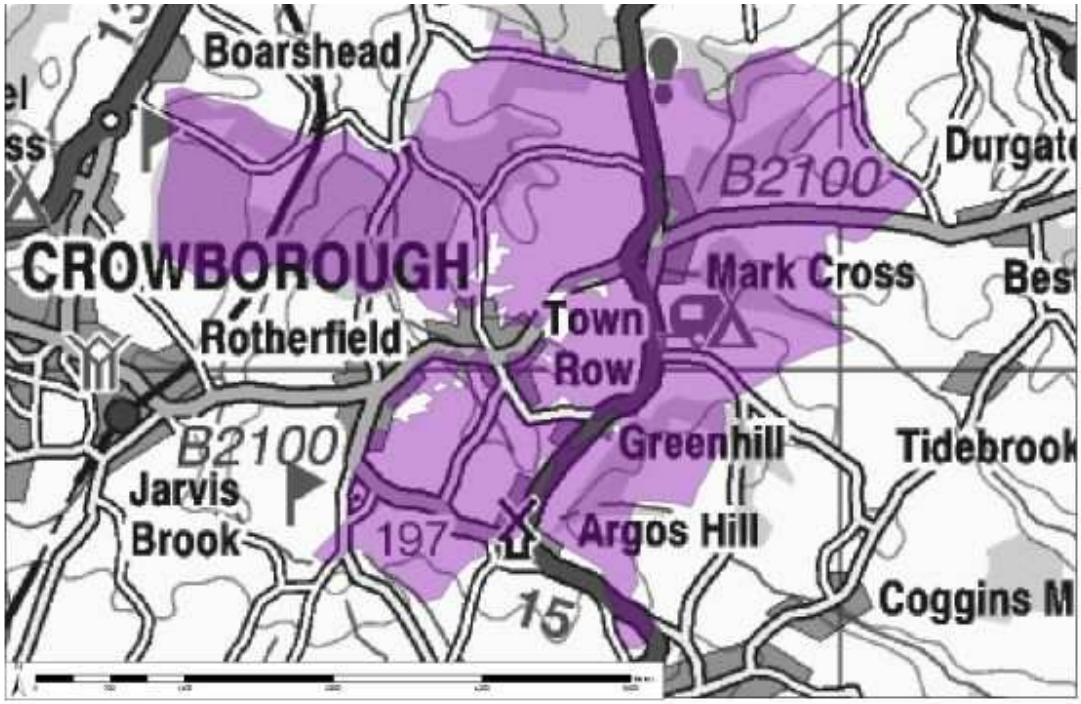
Medway, Ouse and Rother watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area High Weald

Geology The Medway, Ouse and Rother watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area 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. Contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2010

Medway, Ouse and 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 1966 hectares.

The Ouse, Rother and Medway headwaters all meet in this area of small ancient woodland and gill woodland. To the east the ancient woodland sits on heathland. There is a high density of ponds in the eastern area. This watershed between the three catchments could have an important role to play in the migration of key species between river catchments.

BAP Habitat

Lowland heathland
Reedbeds
Traditional orchards
Wood-pasture and parkland
Woodland

BAP Species 19 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	**Habitat Requirements**
Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*	Open habitats, gardens, heathland, cliff, mixed deciduous woodland, structural variation, hedgerows
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*	Newly planted conifers or open heath, mixed deciduous woodland
Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*	Heathland, moorland, open woodland, recently felled conifer plantations, mosaic of bare ground, low vegetation, scrub and trees
Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*	Dry grassland, heathlands, short turf, parks and gardens
Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
White Admiral *Limenitis camilla*	Woodlands, sunny glades, Bramble, Honeysuckle, partially-shaded locations
Hazel Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*	Woodland, overgrown hedgerows, Honeysuckle, Bramble, Hazel and Ash, well-structured woodland with a well-developed understorey and scrubby areas
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*	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 *Streptopelia turtur*	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes

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

Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*
Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Bramble Cottage meadow SNCI unimproved, herb-rich meadow, which is damp in places and contains a pond surrounded by several large mature oaks.

Colesgrove Wood complex SNCI ancient woodland with species-rich ground flora, a stream running along the northwestern boundary and several old ponds.

Entryhill Wood complex SNCI a large complex of ancient woodland with wooded stream valleys, providing a rich and varied habitat.

Lakestreet Wood and Devil's Gill SNCI two small ancient woodlands and a number of small ponds.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Heathland management, restoration and creation
- Woodland management and restoration
- Policy integration
- Access improvements