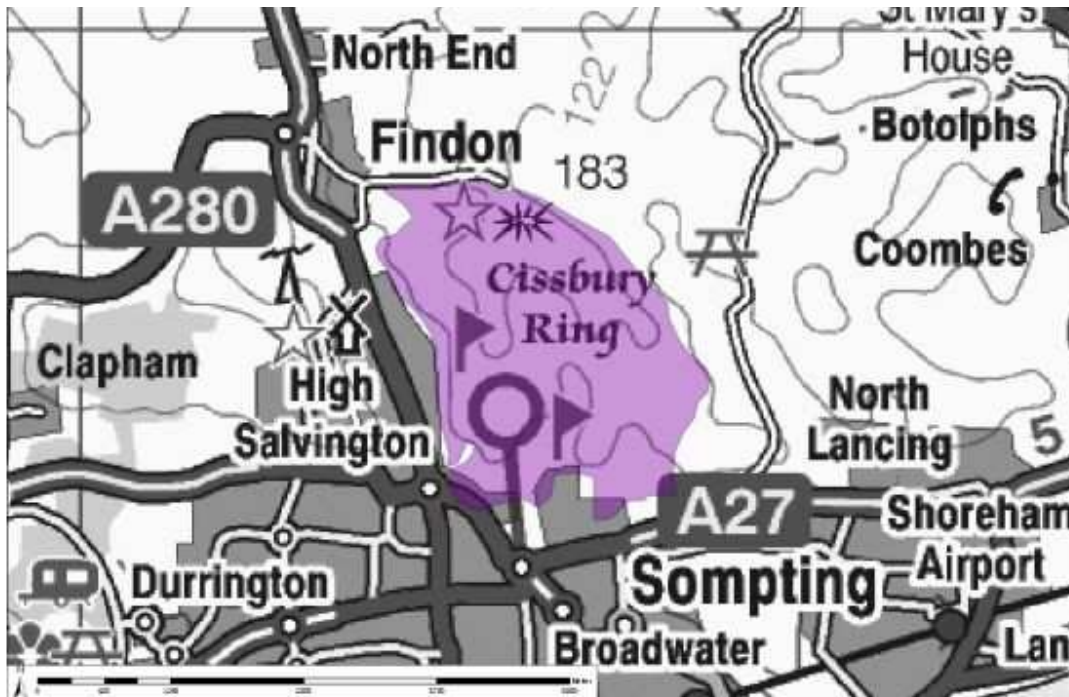


## North east Worthing downs Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** South Downs

**Geology** This Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies on a solid geology of chalk with clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits



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

North east Worthing downs 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 640 hectares.

Bordering the urban area of Worthing this BOA contains the well known downland hill fort of Cissbury Ring and extends further to cover neighbouring areas of chalk grassland.

### BAP Habitat

Lowland calcareous grassland

BAP Species 34 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

| <b>Species</b>                                 | <b>Habitat Requirements</b>                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                                                         |
| Dusky Brocade <i>Apamea remissa</i>            | Woodland, marsh, chalk and other grassland                                                                                             |
| Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>                   | Scrub, rough grassland, fens, reedbed and wet woodland, dense ground vegetation or litter, ponds, large water bodies, hedgerows        |
| Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>        | Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer                                                                          |
| Basil Thyme <i>Clinopodium acinos</i>          | Hedgerows, scrub, dry grassland, chalk grassland                                                                                       |
| Frog Orchid <i>Coeloglossum viride</i>         | Chalk grassland, meadows                                                                                                               |
| 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                                     |
| 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 |
| Rustic <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>                | Gardens, grassland and heathland, docks, plantains, hedgerows                                                                          |
| Juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>              | Chalk grassland, heathland, maritime cliffs, exposed areas, rocky slopes, unshaded locations                                           |
| Wall <i>Lasiommata megera</i>                  | Short, open grassland, gardens, sand dunes, vegetated undercliffs and rocky foreshores                                                 |
| Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>   | Scrub, thick grassland, reedbeds, forestry and gravel pits                                                                             |
| Dot Moth <i>Melanchra persicariae</i>          | Gardens, verges, waste ground, hedgerows                                                                                               |
| 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                                                       |
| House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>         | Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows                                                                                                       |
| Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>          | Grassland, quarries, embankments, woodland rides, larvae feed on Agrimony and <i>Potentilla</i> species, requires warmth and shelter   |
| Field Fleawort <i>Tephroseris integrifolia</i> | A plant of unimproved calcareous grassland, favouring warm, dry sites with a short, open sward.                                        |
| Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>             | Short grassy areas                                                                                                                     |
| Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>                | Meadows, wasteland, road verges and downland                                                                                           |
| Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>                      | Open heathland, woodland and moors, fens, cliff                                                                                        |

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

Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*

## Designated Sites

Cissbury Ring SSSI unimproved chalk grassland and areas of scrub, which support a good butterfly and bird community.

Tenants Hill and Reservoirs SSSI has several areas of species-rich chalk grassland with notable species including Bladder Campion, Horseshoe Vetch and Autumn Gentian. An area of Hawthorn scrub is important for breeding birds including Willow Warbler and Yellowhammer.

Worthing and Hill Barn Golf Courses SSSI encompass large areas of unimproved chalk grassland, neutral grassland, scrub and woodland. Interesting flora includes Round-headed Rampion and Juniper with several uncommon birds and butterflies such as Dark green Fritillary and Corn Bunting also found.

## Opportunities Identified

- Chalk grassland management, restoration and creation
- Access improvements
- Farmland bird interest
- Working with and attracting new businesses
- Landowner advisory and agri-environment schemes
- Chalk grassland butterfly interest
- Volunteer opportunities

**Sussex Biodiversity Partnership**

c/o Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD.

01273 497551

[www.biodiversitysussex.org](http://www.biodiversitysussex.org)