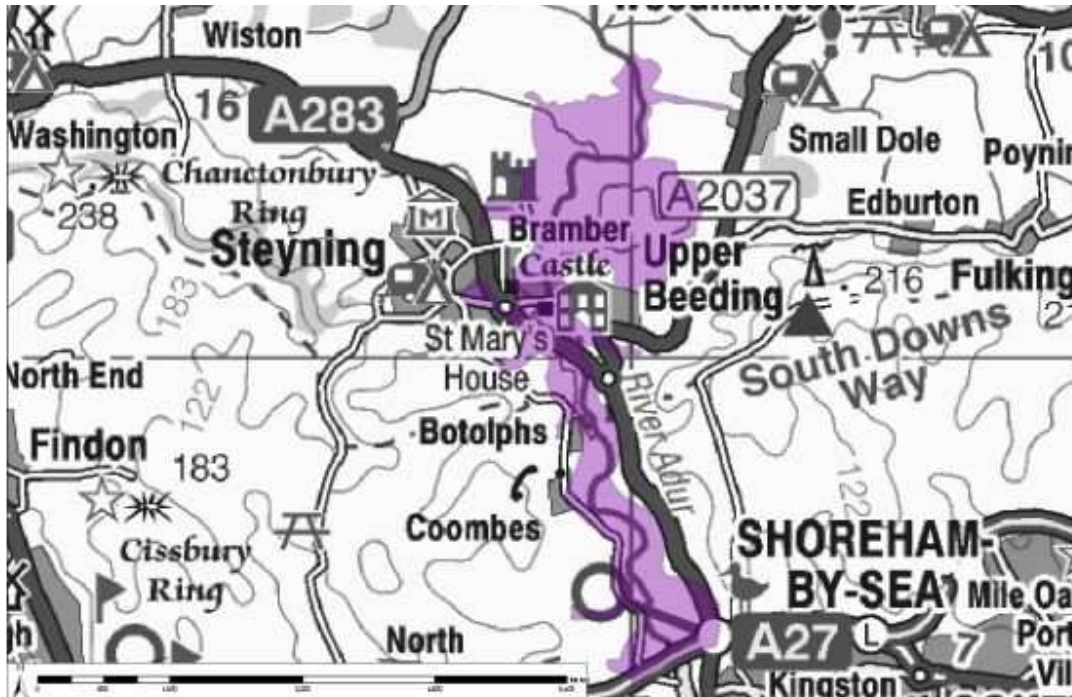


North Bramber floodplain Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Low Weald

Geology The North Bramber floodplain lies on sandstone to the north and mudstone to south, with a lot of clay, silty, peaty and sandy alluvium 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. Contains Ordnance Survey data Crown copyright and database right 2010

North Bramber floodplain 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 763 hectares.

This is extensive area of wetland potential has the River Adur running through it, though it is embanked. There are many small ditches and some grazing marsh in the area. Despite its proximities to Bramber and Steyning this area retains much tranquillity. The boundary of this area follows a wetland potential map using elevation and slope contributed by the Environment Agency/RSPB.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Coastal saltmarsh

Intertidal mudflats

Lowland calcareous grassland

Lowland meadows

Reedbeds

Wood-pasture and parkland

BAP Species 36 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Wet reedbed and marshland
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
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
Juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>	Chalk grassland, heathland, maritime cliffs, exposed areas, rocky slopes, unshaded 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
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Open woodland and woodland edges, parks and gardens
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Reedbeds, estuaries, damp grassland, heathland, mosaic of tall vegetation for nesting with short vegetation and open habitats for feeding
Tubular Water-Dropwort <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	Floodplain meadows and fens, shallow water in ditches, streams, ponds and canals
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
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Short grassy areas
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects

Invasive Non-native Species 9 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*

Nuttall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*

Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*

Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*

Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Designated Sites

Mill Hill SNCI a fine example of unimproved herb-rich downland on a steep west-facing slope. The site has a mosaic of open grassland and areas of scattered and denser scrub, and is of tremendous butterfly importance.

River Adur Meadows SNCI consists of two relatively herb-rich meadows, located on the eastern bank of the River Adur. The meadows are crossed by ditches, which contain an interesting variety of species.

The River Adur water meadows and Wyckham Wood SNCI Wyckham Wood one of the few woodlands on the floodplain of the River Adur, is of particular importance on account of its heronry. The water meadows have mostly been improved but some of the ditches are of great botanical interest. This wetland area is also of importance to birds and dragonflies.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Minimising development impacts
- Opportunities associated with development

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