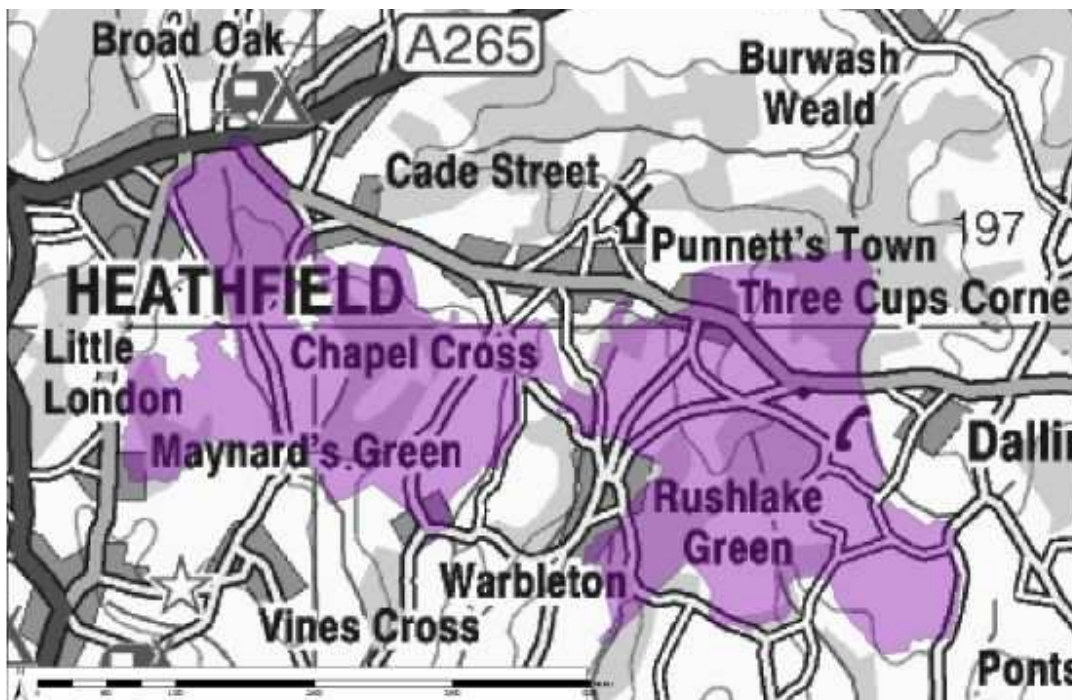


Pevensey, Rother and Cuckmere watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area High Weald

Geology Pevensey, Rother and Cuckmere 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

Pevensey, Rother and Cuckmere 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 1560 hectares.

In this area three Sussex catchments meet. In the agricultural landscape several small ancient woodlands are found, including gill woodlands. A heathland remnant is all that remains of a once more heathy landscape as demonstrated by the first epoch maps.

BAP Habitat

Lowland dry acid grassland

Lowland fens

Lowland heathland

Traditional orchards

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 25 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Open habitats, gardens, heathland, cliff, mixed deciduous woodland, structural variation, hedgerows
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
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
Glandular Eyebright <i>Euphrasia anglica</i>	Short grazed acid grasslands, and heathlands including wet heathland
Pondweed Leafhopper <i>Macrostelus cyane</i>	Ponds with good water quality, feeds on floating leaves of pondweeds
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
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Spiked Rampion <i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>	Woodland glades, hedgerows and meadows with damp, acid soils, summer shading
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
Oak Hook-tip <i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	Oak woodland and parkland, larvae feed on oak
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

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

Wall Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*

Nuttall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*

Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*

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

Heathfield Park SSSI ancient Wealden gill woodland, with a number of 'Atlantic' plants uncommon in the south-east, and a total of 76 lichens recorded.

St Dunstan's Farm Meadows SSSI unimproved grassland fields close to a tributary of the Cuckmere which are bordered on two sides by mixed woodland.

Sapperton Meadows SSSI pastures and meadows separated by a well developed network of hedgerows, and bordered by mixed woodland.

Dabchick Cottage Meadow and Woodland SNCI wet meadow bordered by small streams, and willow and Alder carr, and fen vegetation.

Foster's Meadow SNCI a small neutral grassland surrounded by tall hedges.

Furnace Lane meadow SNCI unimproved meadow with good botanical and invertebrate diversity.

Three Cups Corner Meadow SNCI acid grassland with an extensive boggy flush and a rich plant community.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Botanical interest
- Policy integration
- Access improvements

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership

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