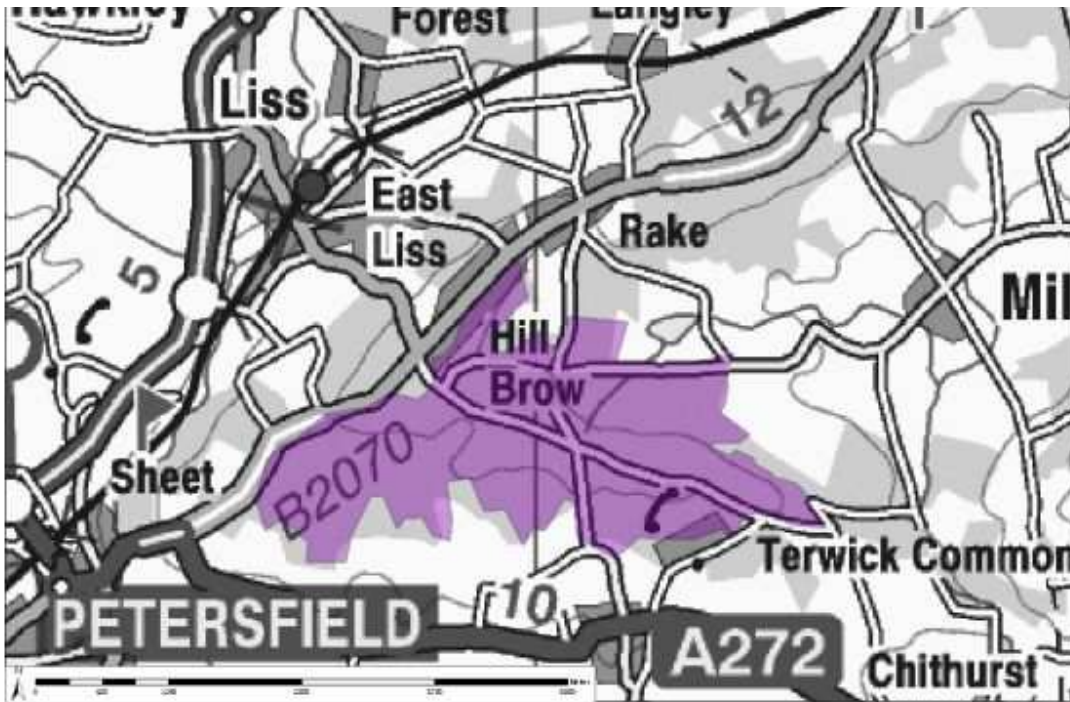


Rogate Common Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Wealden Greensand

Geology Rogate Common Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies predominantly on sandstone, with a small area of Weald Clay to the north east



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

Rogate Common has been recognised as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) as it represents a priority area for the delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets. This is one of 75 such areas across Sussex. The BOA covers approximately 701 hectares.

This area is currently mainly under conifer plantation, with a heathy understory. There are small areas of open heath such as Tullecombe SSSI. Some of this area is owned by the Forestry Commission. This area contains uncommon Sessile Oak woodland.

BAP Habitat

Lowland heathland

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 14 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

| Species | Habitat Requirements |
|--|---|
| White Helleborine <i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> | Woodlands, particularly Beech on chalk or limestone soils, low ground cover, shaded habitat |
| Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed |
| Copse-bindweed <i>Fallopia dumetorum</i> | Hedgerows, and woodland glades, rides and edges, partial shade, well-drained soil |

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

New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*
Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*
Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

Rake Hanger SSSI one of the few woods in the Weald where Sessile Oak is the dominant species. In addition there is an area of Alder carr over wetter soils with two acid pools.

Durford Wood and Durford Heath SNCI consists of one of the finest Sessile Oak woodlands in the region and small areas of dry heath. A rich epiphytic lichen flora is found on the oaks, including several species rare and local in West Sussex.

Rondle Wood SNCI appears to occupy a site that may once have been heathland. The wood comprises mostly of Beech, Birch and Rowan, with a rich bryophyte flora. Two locally scarce birds, Wood Warbler and Tree Pipit have bred here;

Tullecombe SNCI comprises a heathy woodland of high entomological value. Removal of some of the Pine trees would help the heathland to regenerate.

Opportunities Identified

- Policy integration
- Ecological networks
- Woodland management, diversification and restoration
- Heathland management, restoration and creation