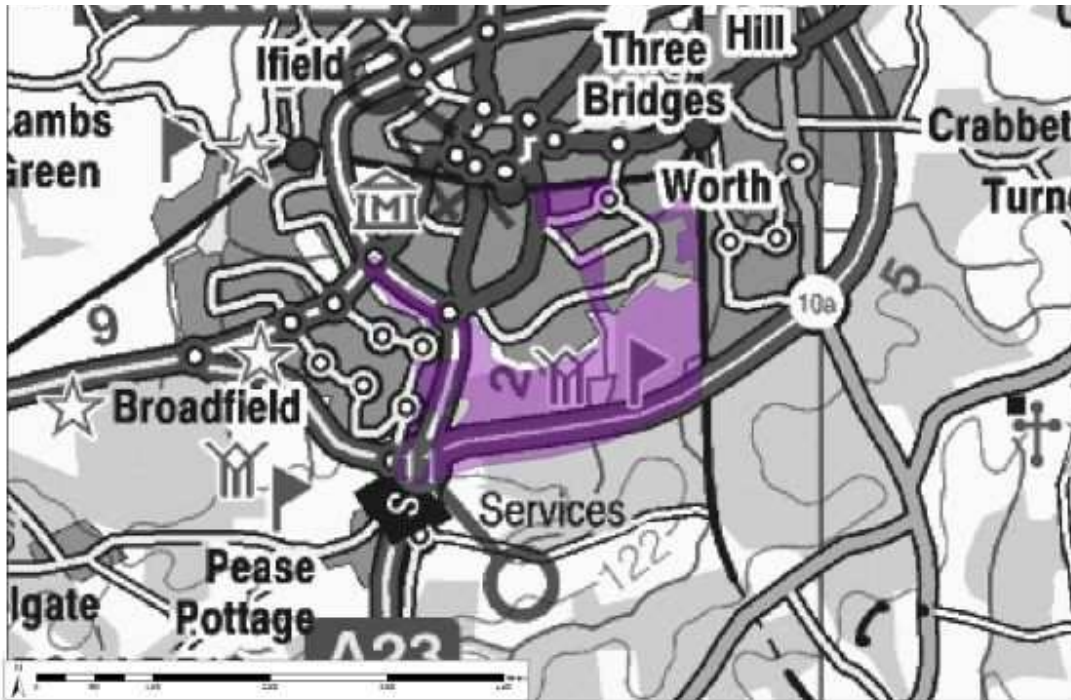


Tilgate and Furnace Green Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area High Weald

Geology Tilgate and Furnace Green lies predominantly on sandstone and siltstone with a small area of mudstone to the northwest.



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

Tilgate and Furnace Green 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 331 hectares.

Extending into the urban area of Crawley, the Tilgate Park area is bounded to the south by the A23. The area of the park is largely wooded, with some of the site owned by the Forestry Commission. There are some small heathy patches to the west of the site and in the east, some areas that were heathy historically. This area extends into the urban area of Crawley at Furnace Green.

BAP Habitat

Lowland heathland including wet and communities and associated acid grassland
Wood-pasture and Parkland
Woodland

BAP Species 16 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Newly planted conifers or open heath, mixed deciduous woodland
European Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Scrub, rough grassland, fens, reedbed and wet woodland, dense ground vegetation or litter, ponds, large water bodies
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Birch and Alder woods, most common in the north in the summer
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
White Admiral <i>Limenitis camilla</i>	Woodlands, sunny glades, Bramble, Honeysuckle, partially-shaded locations
Hazel Dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Woodland, overgrown hedgerows, Honeysuckle, Bramble, Hazel and Ash, well-structured woodland with a well-developed understorey and scrubby areas
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
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Open woodland, moorland, heathland, fens, sand dunes, rocks, gardens and cliffs

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

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Designated Sites

The Hawth SNCI predominantly Birch woodland with a dense shrub layer and rich ground flora. There is abundant dead wood and the structural variety makes the site of importance for a variety of birds.

Tilgate Park SNCI an important site by virtue of its size and variety of habitats. The site includes a variety of woodland including mixed woodland, Pine plantation and Alder carr. There are also areas of damp heathland and acid grassland with species such as Purple Moorgrass, Tormentil, Heath Bedstraw and Alder Buckthorn.

Opportunities Identified

- Heathland management, restoration and creation
- Woodland management and restoration
- Exploring markets for natural products
- Education and community engagement, including links to health
- Volunteer opportunities
- Access improvements and increased visitors
- Increased site designation
- Control of non-native invasive species - Rhododendron, Bracken and Cherry Laurel
- Development of a local grazing scheme
- Identification and protection of archaeological features such as minepits, trackways and boundaries

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