

## Walderton to Welldown including Kingley Vale Biodiversity Opportunity Area

**Joint Character Area** South Downs

**Geology** Walderton to Welldown including Kingley Vale sits on bedrock of chalk, with superficial deposits of clay, silt, and gravel



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

Walderton to Welldown including Kingley Vale 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 707 hectares.

The extraordinary Yew forest of Kingley Vale is a National Nature Reserve. This BOA has the NNR at its core, but extends both east and west to the flood zones of the adjacent streams, which to the west is a chalk stream. There is extensive chalk grassland down the central spine of this site.

### BAP Habitat

Lowland calcareous grassland  
Lowland dry acid grassland

Lowland heathland  
Wood-pasture and parkland  
Woodland

BAP Species 29 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
Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	Woodland, violets in sheltered locations, woodland clearings with some scrub or Bracken
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria selene</i>	Woodland, violets in sheltered locations, woodland clearings with some scrub or Bracken, wood-pasture and damp 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
Narrow-leaved Helleborine <i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Woodland glades and edges on calcareous soils, Beech, permanent patches of light
Frog Orchid <i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Chalk grassland, meadows
Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Dry grassland, heathlands, short turf, parks and gardens
Small Blue <i>Cupido minimus</i>	Chalk grassland, chalk cliffs, Kidney Vetch, sheltered conditions, mosaic of short and tall vegetation with scrub
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
Glandular Eyebright <i>Euphrasia anglica</i>	Short grazed acid grasslands, and heathlands including wet heathland
Duke of Burgundy <i>Hamearis lucina</i>	Chalk grassland and woodland glades, larvae feed on Cowslip and Primrose, varied vegetation structure, shelter, heat
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
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
Fly Orchid <i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	A plant of chalk and limestone soils usually found in open woodland and scrub, often in deep shade, also occurs on grassland and fens
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.
Grizzled Skipper <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Grassland, quarries, embankments, woodland rides, larvae feed on Agrimony and <i>Potentilla</i> species, requires warmth and shelter
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Brown Hairstreak <i>Thecla betulae</i>	Hedgerows and woodland with abundant Blackthorn
Spreading Hedge-parsley <i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Arable fields, autumn-sown cereals
Cinnabar <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Meadows, wasteland, road verges and downland

Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects
a lichen <i>Verrucaria xyloxena</i>	Lowland calcareous grassland
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>	Open heathland, woodland and moors, fens, cliff

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

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*

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

## Designated Sites

Kingley Vale SAC, NNR and SSSI lies on three geological formations; upper chalk, clay-with-flints and valley gravel, and this variation results in a range of habitats including the largest area of Yew woodland in Britain. The site also supports chalk grassland, chalk heath, and Yew and Juniper scrub. This in turn supports a diverse community of birds and invertebrates, particularly Lepidoptera.

Chilgrove Hill SNCI includes areas of unimproved and semi-improved grassland, and an Ash and Yew hanger woodland. The grassland supports a number of butterfly species.

## Opportunities Identified

- Policy integration
- Ecological networks
- Chalk heath management, restoration and creation
- Chalk grassland management, restoration and creation
- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Woodland management and diversification
- Farmland bird interest
- Grazing management
- Landowner advisory

### **Sussex Biodiversity Partnership**

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

01273 497551

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