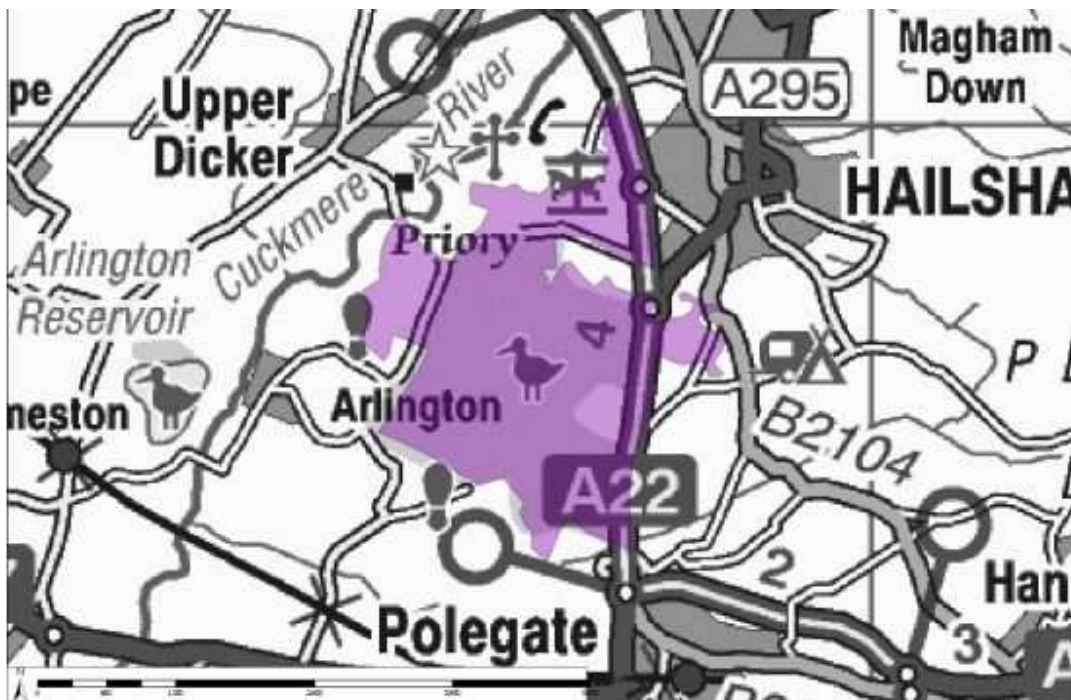


Wilmington woodlands and watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Low Weald

Geology Wilmington Woodlands and Watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area lies on Weald clay mudstone with claystone.



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

Wilmington woodlands and 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 688 hectares.

This area traverses the Pevensey and Cuckmere watershed and includes a large ancient woodland at Abbots and Wilmington Wood which dominates the south. To the east the area is bounded by the A22 yet follows a small stream connecting the area to Pevensey Levels. Other small ancient woodlands exist within the area, as well as modern wood-pasture.

BAP Habitat

Traditional orchards
Wood-pasture and parkland
Woodland

BAP Species 28 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Knot Grass <i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Meadows, gardens and hedgerows, larvae feed on a range of herbs
Pearl-bordered Fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	Woodland, violets in sheltered locations, woodland clearings with some scrub or Bracken
Minor Shoulder-Knot <i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	Damp woodland, hedgerows, heathland and fens, Willow
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
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Woodland, good supplies of fruit, seeds and keys, drinking pools
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Woodland, scrub, marshes, heathland, reedbed
Small Phoenix <i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Woodland, hedgerows, open habitats including commons and gardens, willowherbs
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
Lackey <i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Gardens, hedgerows, Hawthorn, Blackthorn
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.
Buff Ermine <i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Woodland, parks and gardens
Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Woodland edges, hedgerows and open land with scattered bushes
Blood-Vein <i>Timandra comae</i>	Gardens, fields and waste ground
Oak Hook-tip <i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	Oak woodland and parkland, larvae feed on oak

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

Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
 Hybrid Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana*
 Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*

Designated Sites

Abbots and Wilmington Wood and Milton Hide SNCI a plantation managed commercially with a good network of forest tracks and areas of Hazel coppice. The site has an important assemblage of butterflies and moths.

Beatons Wood SNCI a small ancient woodland with a coppice layer of Hornbeam and good ground flora supported. The site also has two ponds with abundant marginal vegetation and good amphibian populations.

Bramble Grove SNCI a small ancient woodland, bordered by an ancient green lane. The site has a rich ground flora and Small-leaved Lime is present.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Woodland management and restoration
- Botanical interest
- Woodland butterfly interest
- Ecological networks