

The Sussex Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership was set up in 1996. It contains representatives from a range of organisations including conservation bodies, local government and statutory agencies working together to conserve and enhance the habitats and species of Sussex.

What are Biodiversity Opportunity Areas?

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership is developing a vision for delivering the Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) through a focus on Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs). BOAs represent the targeted landscape-scale approach to conserving biodiversity in Sussex and the basis for an ecological network. BAP targets will be linked to BOAs wherever possible, increasing effectiveness of work and making reporting easier.

Conservation need outweighs available funding. BOAs identify where the greatest opportunities for habitat creation and restoration lie, enabling the efficient focusing of resources to where they will have the greatest positive conservation impact, representing a more efficient way of delivering action on the ground.

BOAs will have multiple benefits, improving the natural environment and providing quality areas in which people want to live and work. A wide range of organisations and individuals will have a role to play in making the ecological network a reality.

Why Biodiversity Opportunity Areas?

Traditionally nature conservation focused on protecting important sites. This approach has achieved a lot, however it alone cannot sustain biodiversity in the long-term. Many once common species are still in decline. Important sites are still fragmented and isolated from one another.

In order to successfully conserve a viable natural environment, we also need to take into account physical factors such as water and nutrient cycling. These processes link sites to the wider landscape and affect the habitat found. In other words we need to reconnect biodiversity with ecosystems, and change the scale of work towards a landscape focus.

Landscape-scale conservation reconciles protection of priority habitats and species with ecosystem function. It allows us to adopt a more sustainable approach to custody of the countryside; ensuring biodiversity can adapt and thrive in the face of climate change.

To achieve this opportunities must be sought to expand, link and buffer sites. We need to increase the quality of the entire countryside for wildlife. This will begin to reverse the current fragmented picture of ecosystems, and enable us to reclaim a healthy and functional environment. This change is also vital to safeguard our own quality of life, as we are dependent on natural services such as climate regulation and food production.

How were they selected?

Identification of BOAs involved assessment of existing biodiversity and the opportunities for restoration and creation. Boundaries remain flexible to take account of any new information.

The first stage involved mapping actual and potential biodiversity resource using data such as designated sites, geology, hydrology and habitats. A consultation was then held to ensure local experts could contribute to the process. This involved over 100 people and lasted three weeks.

The 75 BOAs identified cover around 30% of Sussex. Many are well known areas of conservation importance and all contain BAP habitat, although the quality is variable. A short statement has been produced for each BOA to indicate the priorities in that area.

Inside a Biodiversity Opportunity Area

BOAs do not represent a statutory designation or a constraint upon activities. They indicate where there are substantial opportunities to make positive changes for biodiversity, and should be used to inform conservation strategies and place planning.

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership want to work with farmers, landowners and communities in these areas and aim to show that in partnership we can achieve social and economic objectives alongside a thriving natural environment.

Outside a Biodiversity Opportunity Area

BOAs are a means of indicating where significant gains can be made for biodiversity. They do not contain the entire BAP habitat or all the areas where BAP habitat creation or restoration is possible.

Whilst they are useful in directing conservation effort, they are not the only areas where biodiversity work can be delivered. Everyone has a role to play in conservation and you should not feel discouraged to find you are not within a BOA. If you would like information or ideas about other local opportunities to be involved please contact us.

Next Steps...

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership will review the current activities and support within BOAs during 2009. This will enable identification of any gaps in provision and opportunities for progressing existing work, as well as allowing us to identify priority areas. The review will also help to identify potential projects to secure the specific objectives within each BOA.

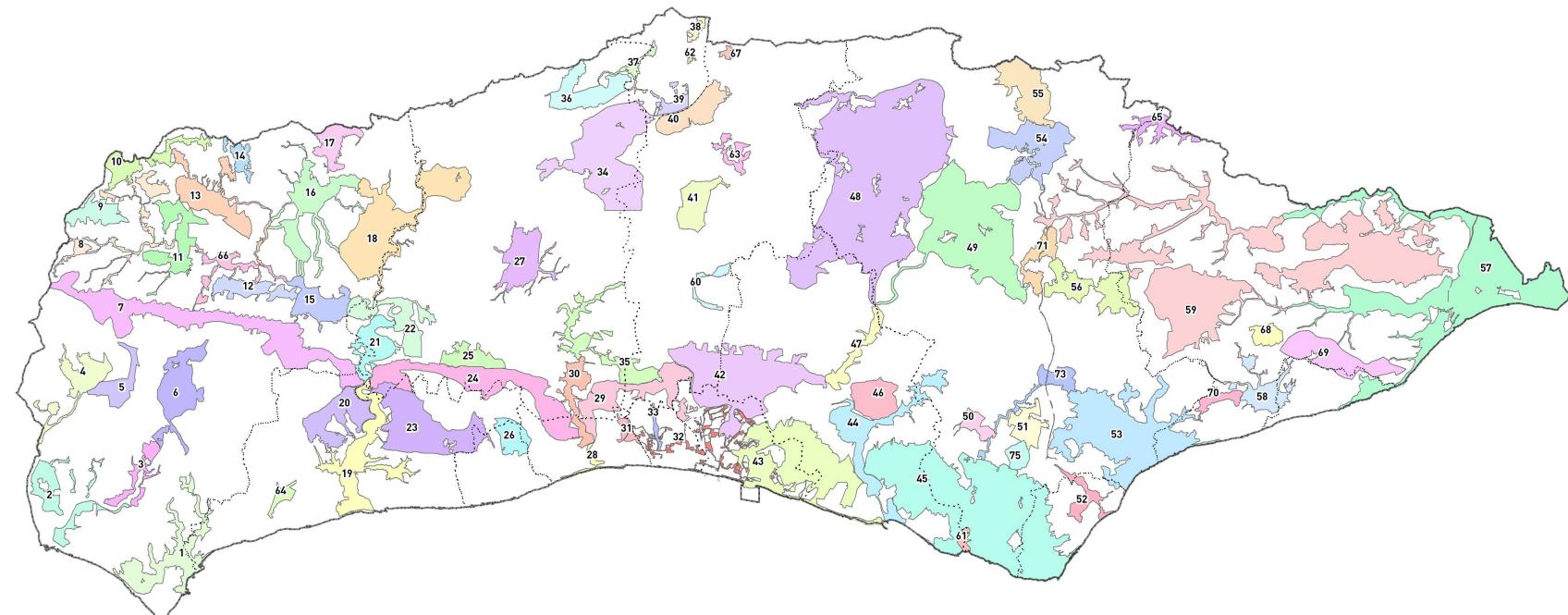
The BOA map is endorsed by the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership. This document and additional information about BOAs can be downloaded from the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership website.

BOAs have been identified throughout the South East, and are the regional priority areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of BAP habitats. For more information about this process at a regional level please visit the South East Biodiversity Forum website <http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk/>.

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) in Sussex, March 2009.



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West Sussex County Council 100018485. 2009
East Sussex County Council 100019601. 2009

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 the BAP targets and are areas of opportunity, not constraint. The BOAs shown in the map do not include all BAP habitat in the region, nor do they include all the areas where BAP habitat could exist. In particular, more work is needed to develop opportunity areas in urban and in marine environments.

The Biodiversity Opportunity Areas are the property of the South East England Biodiversity Forum. For more information please see www.sebiodiversity.org.uk

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) in Sussex, March 2009

- 1 - Chichester Coastal Plain
- 2 - Chichester Harbour
- 3 - Fishbourne and Chalk Streams
- 4 - Westbourne Chalk Streams to Compton tributaries
- 5 - Walderton to Welldown including Kingley Vale
- 6 - Lavant Watershed
- 7 - Western Escarpment
- 8 - Hampshire Rother watershed
- 9 - Rogate Common
- 10 - Weavers Down to Lynchmere
- 11 - Stedham, Iping Woolbedding Crescent
- 12 - Heyshott
- 13 - Snapes Copse and Verdley Wood
- 14 - Black Down
- 15 - Barlavington, Coates and Rother
- 16 - Ebernoe with watercourse flightlines
- 17 - Chiddington Complex
- 18 - The Mens and buffer and associated Barbastelle flightlines
- 19 - Climping to Houghton
- 20 - Arundel Park
- 21 - Houghton to Coldwaltham
- 22 - Parham to Fittleworth
- 23 - Clapham to Burpham Downs
- 24 - Central Downs - Arun to Adur
- 25 - Lower Adur Arun Watershed
- 26 - North-East Worthing Downs
- 27 - Knepp Estate with Fluvial Extensions
- 28 - Shoreham Estuary and Beach
- 29 - Adur to Newtimber including Mill Hill
- 30 - North Bramber Floodplain
- 31 - Crooked Moon to Thundersbarrow
- 32 - Brighton & Hove Urban Green Network
- 33 - Benfield to Hangleton
- 34 - The St Leonards Watershed
- 35 - Woods Mill Stream to Adur
- 36 - Rusper Ridge
- 37 - Ifield Brook
- 38 - Gatwick Woods
- 39 - Tilgate and Furnace Green
- 40 - Worth Forest
- 41 - Lower Adur Ouse Watershed
- 42 - Stanmer and Ditchling Downs
- 43 - East Brighton Downs
- 44 - Lewes Brooks and the Ouse Valley
- 45 - Seaford to Eastbourne Downs
- 46 - Lewes Downs
- 47 - Mid Ouse Floodzone
- 48 - Western Ouse Streams and Ashdown Forest
- 49 - River Uck and its Headwaters
- 50 - Cuckmere Ouse Watershed
- 51 - Wilmington Woodlands and Watershed
- 52 - Eastbourne Marshes
- 53 - Pevensey Levels
- 54 - Medway, Ouse, Rother Watershed
- 55 - Eridge and Broadwater
- 56 - Pevensey, Rother, Cuckmere Watershed
- 57 - Romney Marsh Area
- 58 - Coombe Haven and Marline
- 59 - Rother, Brede and Tillingham Woods
- 60 - Burgess Hill Green Crescent
- 61 - Lower Cuckmere Reaches
- 62 - Grattons Park
- 63 - Ardingly Reservoir
- 64 - Lidsey Rife
- 65 - Bewl Water
- 66 - Western Rother
- 67 - Copthorne Common
- 68 - Great Wood Area
- 69 - Hastings Fringe
- 70 - Bexhill Fringe
- 71 - Cuckoo Trail Habitat Link
- 72 - Heathfield Habitat Link
- 73 - Pevensey & Cuckmere Valley Link
- 74 - River Cuckmere Habitat Link
- 75 - Wooton Manor Grasslands Link