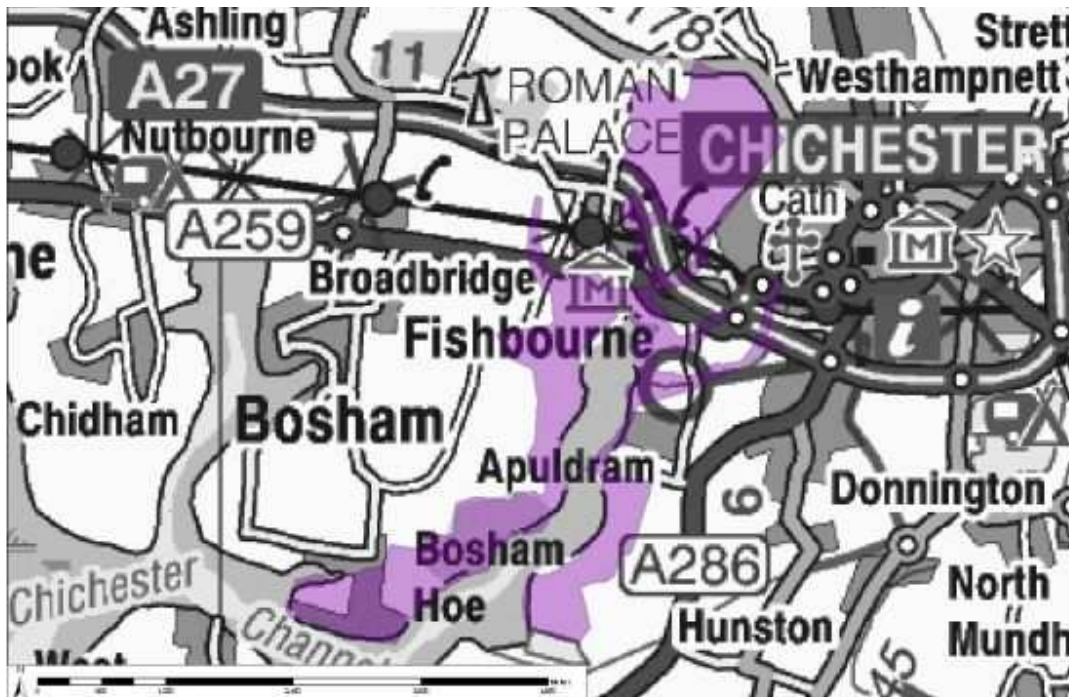


Fishbourne and chalk streams Biodiversity Opportunity Area

Joint Character Area Coastal Plain

Geology Fishbourne and chalk streams Biodiversity Opportunity Area sits on London clay with an area of chalk in the middle.



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

Fishbourne and chalk streams 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 550 hectares.

This area contains the chalk streams and part of their watersheds and includes freshwater, wet grassland, and fen and carr associated with these. There is current conservation effort towards Desmoulin's Whorl Snail and wet grassland management work is concentrating on Southern Marsh Orchid. Wildlife sympathetic land management is being practiced at Apuldram Manor Farm. The area is important for Water Vole and is likely to be important for the migration of Otter from Hampshire to Sussex.

BAP Habitat

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Coastal saltmarsh

Intertidal mudflats

Reedbed

Wood-pasture and parkland

Woodland

BAP Species 29 species recorded, with the following in the last ten years:

Species	Habitat Requirements
Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Open habitats, gardens, heathland, cliff, mixed deciduous woodland, structural variation
Water Vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, ponds, canals and drainage ditches, reedbeds, fens, grazing marsh, banks, slow-flowing waters
Slender Hare's-ear <i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>	Upper saltmarsh, brackish grazing marsh, areas of disturbed ground
Divided Sedge <i>Carex divisa</i>	Vegetated shingle, grazing marsh, ditches, tidal rivers, brackish, no tidal inundation
True Fox-sedge <i>Carex vulpina</i>	River banks, ditch sides and damp meadows on heavy clay soils, standing water, open conditions are required
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Open countryside, scrubby areas, woodland edges, hedgerows, insect-rich grassland, seed-rich areas
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Wetlands including reedbeds, tall rushes and wet grassland with good vegetation cover, gardens, farmland, hedgerows, ditches
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
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Reedbeds, estuaries, damp grassland, heathland, mosaic of tall vegetation for nesting with short vegetation and open habitats for feeding
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Woodland, wetlands, hedgerows and pastures, predominantly roost in tree cavities
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Urban areas, farmland, hedgerows
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	Farmland, rush pastures, moors, mosaics of bare ground and cover, hedgerows, uncultivated margins
Harbour Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Along shorelines and in estuaries, commonly seen resting on sandbanks, accessible beaches, reefs and protected tidal rocks
Soprano Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus phygmaeus</i>	Widespread with a preference for riparian habitats, hedgerows, buildings are often important for roost sites and it requires good linkages between these and its foraging grounds.
Shepherd's-needle <i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Disturbed ground such as arable margins, prefers calcareous soils and winter-sown land
Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Breeding sites are mainly medium-sized ponds, although ditches and other waterbodies may be used, ponds with ample aquatic vegetation, do not require very high water quality, but usually a neutral pH. Hedgerows, mixed deciduous woodland
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Farmland, grazing marsh, wet meadows, seeds and insects

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

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*

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

Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*

Designated Sites

Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA, Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar site, Solent Maritime SAC are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive mud and sand flats exposed at low tide. The site has particular significance for wintering wildfowl and waders. Solent Maritime SAC is unique due to its double tides and the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present.

Chichester Harbour SSSI designated on account of its ornithological interest and the wide range of habitats and important plant communities including unimproved pasture, sand dunes and salt marsh.

Fishbourne Meadows SNCI several meadows adjacent, which contain a chalk spring and several locally uncommon plants.

River Lavant Marsh SNCI an area of grazing marsh in the former estuary of the River Lavant and a small reedbed. The site is of good botanical interest and is also important for feeding and roosting waders, and breeding warblers.

Salterns Copse SNCI ancient semi-natural woodland on the coastal plain, with the trees coming down to a natural shoreline. It has a rich ground flora and a good range of breeding birds.

Opportunities Identified

- Wetland habitat management, restoration and creation
- Policy integration
- Ecological networks