



**Sussex**  
**Nature Recovery**  
A collective blueprint for targeted action

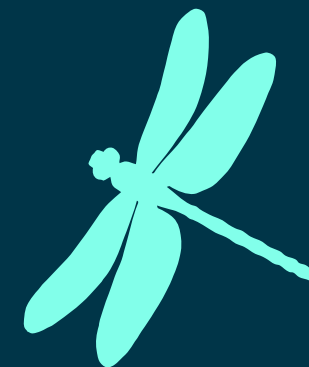


# East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Local Nature Recovery Strategy


Statement of Biodiversity Priorities  
Part 3 – Priority Species

June 2026





#### Cover image

 Adonis blue

© Paul Marten/Sussex Wildlife Trust

#### Illustrations

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# Section 1.

## About the LNRS



# 1.1 Preface

This document is one of four that comprises the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove and is Part 3 of its Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new system of spatial plans for nature introduced by the Environment Act 2021. 48 strategies are being developed across England. Each covers a county (or equivalent) area and is led by a ‘Responsible Authority’ (RA), which in this instance is East Sussex County Council (ESCC).

Local Nature Recovery Strategies aim to develop and agree the priorities for nature’s recovery in collaboration with local stakeholders including residents, farmers, community groups, organisations and businesses. They provide a set of practical actions that can deliver the priorities and map where actions to create or enhance habitats could be implemented to deliver the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment. As documents that have been developed through collaboration and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, they can be used to help target investment and action where it is needed most to support nature’s recovery across each LNRS area.

# 1.2 The other parts of this LNRS

Part 1 of the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove LNRS provides important background for the contents of the rest of the strategy:

- A summary of how we developed this Local Nature Recovery Strategy;
- An overview of the important habitats and species in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, their extent, condition and the pressures they face;
- A snapshot of the views of local people, expressed through our surveys;
- What is already happening – some of the organisations, partnerships, projects and groups that are working for nature in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

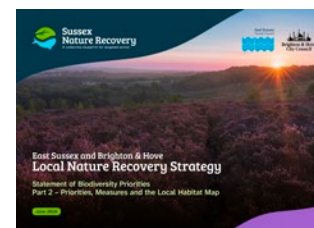
Part 2 sets out the **priorities** for nature’s recovery for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove and the action (or ‘**measure**’) for each that will be needed to deliver these priorities. As required by LNRS government guidance, they focus primarily on **habitats**.

Part 4 provides additional technical detail about how we developed this strategy.

**Read all the Parts of the LNRS on the [Sussex Nature Recovery website](#).**



East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Local Nature Recovery Strategy Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part 1 – Context & Description of Strategy Area



East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Local Nature Recovery Strategy Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part 2 – Priorities, Measures and the Local Habitat Map



East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Local Nature Recovery Strategy Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part 3 – Priority Species



West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Local Nature Recovery Strategy Statement of Biodiversity Priorities Part 4 – Technical Methods

# Section 2.

## Introduction



📷 Lesser spotted woodpecker  
© iStock.com/tuomovaa



This section complements the habitat priorities in Part 2 and sets out the **priority species** for nature's recovery for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove and the actions (or '**measures**') for each that will be needed to deliver these priorities.

As for habitat priorities, our approach to species was guided by a set of broad **principles** (Part 2). These principles illustrate that success will require tackling this challenge as a complex problem that requires actions by different stakeholders at different scales and through varying techniques. They reflect the understanding and expertise of stakeholders across our LNRS area of the different elements that need to be in place if we are to achieve real progress over the years ahead.

The document sets out the need for species recovery, and details the process followed in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, which was broadly in line with non-statutory advice provided by Defra.

It then lists the **priority species** that have been shortlisted for the LNRS area, and how some have been grouped into **priority species assemblages**<sup>9</sup>. It then sets out the measures required to support their recovery.



📷 Parrot waxcap © Neil Fletcher/Sussex Wildlife Trust

Words underlined in purple with a diamond symbol  $\diamond$  are defined in the [Glossary](#)

# Section 3.

## Species Recovery



Species abundance and diversity serve as crucial indicators of the health of the natural environment. The government has set legally binding targets to:

- Halt the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030;
- Increase species abundance by the end of 2042 so that it is greater than in 2022 and at least 10% greater than in 2030;
- Reduce the risk of species extinction by 2042, when compared to the risk of species extinction in 2022.

**The LNRS is a new tool for driving the national ambition to increase species abundance and reduce risk of species extinction, by planning for more, bigger, better and joined-up habitat to support species recovery and resilience.**

Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organisations play a vital role on the frontline of nature recovery, supporting both species conservation and community engagement. Wildlife rescues often provide unique, on-the-ground insight into the pressures facing our wildlife. They are often the first responders to the consequences of habitat loss, road expansion, domestic predation, pollution and extreme weather. Their work

therefore sits at the heart of nature recovery. Every animal successfully returned to the wild helps maintain ecosystem balance and supports the biodiversity goals set out in the LNRS.

For a list of specialist organisations who can help with injured birds and animals, please see: [Sussex Wildlife Trust: Who can help with injured wildlife?](#)



📷 Bumblebee on spiked rampion © iStock.com/Tanja Nik

# Section 4.

## Prioritisation Process

📷 Bearded tit, Pett Level  
© iStock.com/suerob



## 4.1 Creation of Species Longlist

The first step in the process was to create a “species longlist”. The list was selected against nationally set criteria.

- Any native species which have been assessed as Red List *Threatened* or *Near Threatened* against International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria at GB scale.
- Any native species which have not been formally assessed against IUCN Red List criteria but where strong evidence is provided to show that they would meet the criteria for Threatened status in GB.
- Any native species considered to be nationally extinct that re-establish themselves or are rediscovered.
- Any native species which the government’s nature advisor, Natural England, suggest as suitable candidates for conservation translocations or any native species already subject to translocation efforts that, on Natural England’s advice, need to be scaled up to maximise success.
- Other species of local significance which have not yet been Red List assessed or lack approved Red Lists but for which there is strong evidence to show (or in the absence of this, authoritative expert opinion) that they would meet criteria for Threatened Status.

Red lists are a globally recognised way of identifying the threat of extinction to species, using the internationally accepted guidelines developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Many, but not all, species groups have Red Lists, which assign the following classes to species depending on factors including rate of decline, population size, area of distribution and degree of fragmentation.

- **Extinct:** There is no reasonable doubt that the last individual of the species has died.
- **Extinct in the Wild:** The species only exists in captivity or naturalised populations outside its original range.
- **Critically Endangered:** The species faces an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- **Endangered:** The species faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
- **Vulnerable:** The species faces a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- **Near Threatened:** The species is close to qualifying for a threatened category or is likely to qualify in the near future.
- **Least Concern:** The species faces a low risk of extinction in the wild.
- **Data Deficient:** There is inadequate information to assess the species’ extinction risk.
- **Not Evaluated:** The species has not yet been evaluated for its extinction risk.

The species longlist was sorted into [taxa](#)<sup>9</sup> and shared with County Recorders and local experts. County Recorders are skilled and dedicated volunteers, each one an expert in their own particular field, with a primary role to verify the accuracy of species records received. Some species were added if the area is considered to be particularly important for them, and/or if there is not currently a red list for that group. This resulted in a 'definitive longlist' for the LNRS area.

Meetings were held between January to June 2024 with local organisations, and local representatives from national organisations<sup>1</sup>, who have been involved in species prioritisation exercises. This was to understand what has already been done with respect to species recovery across Sussex to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure locally important species were included in the longlist.

The resultant longlist was created by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) by searching for species that fit the nationally set criteria listed above within local records. The date of the most recent record and the number of records was collated for these species and the lists were organised into taxa (species groups) and shared with the County Recorders in July 2024. This review provided an opportunity to add species to the longlist where they were felt to be of local significance (as above), and to gain expert opinion on and justification for which of the species should be included in the longlist. **The resultant longlist included 877 species.**

<sup>1</sup> Organisations involved included Buglife, SxBRC, South Downs National Park Authority, Environment Agency, Natural England, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, High Weald National Landscape, Forestry Commission, Weald to Waves, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Species Recovery Trust, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council.



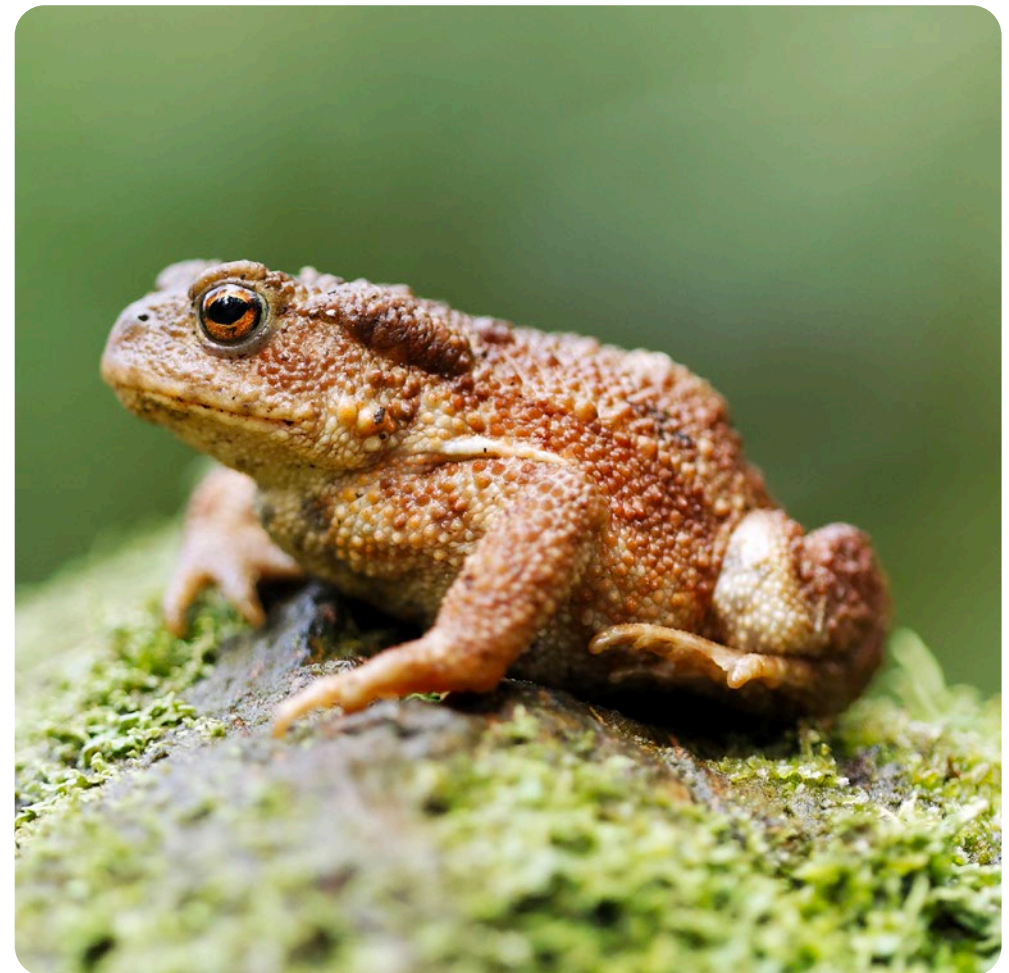
📷 Turtle dove © iStock.com/CreativeNature\_nl

## 4.2 Prioritisation to Shortlist

**The next stage was to create a “shortlist” containing those individual species that the LNRS will focus on supporting.**





Some of these species share similar habitat management requirements, and these were grouped into assemblages.

There are County Recorders for the majority of the taxa, and species atlases for Sussex have recently been published for flora, birds, Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies), Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) and bees. Feedback from the County Recorders, alongside the best available information on species ecological needs, national distribution, local distribution and abundance from SxBRC and species atlases, was used to assign species to one of the categories A to G in Table 1.






Common toad © iStock.com/MikeLane45

**Table 1. Species advice: identifying species which LNRS can best support.**

| Category  | Description  | Benefit from LNRS? | Suitable priority species? |
|---|--|--------------------|----------------------------|
|  <p><b>A: Needs more/bigger/better-connected habitat</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species likely to markedly benefit from general creation, expansion and improved connectivity of good quality habitats in the strategy area and do not need to be singled out for specific LNRS measures.</li> <li>Species with high recovery potential that do not require specific or targeted recovery measures.</li> </ul>  | <p>Yes</p>         | <p>Probably not</p>        |
|  <p><b>B: Needs targeted habitat management</b></p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species with specific requirements for habitat quality, structure, conditions or processes above and beyond category A.</li> <li>Species may require specific configurations or complexes or connected or nearby habitat(s), either at site level or across large areas/multiple sites. This may include habitat connectivity measures for species needing support to track climate change.</li> <li>Causes of decline can be addressed with new or improved management practices.</li> </ul>   | <p>Yes</p>         | <p>Yes</p>                 |
|  <p><b>C: Needs improvement in environmental quality</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species primarily limited by one or more pressures beyond site level that can be mitigated at LNRS scale or wider scales through collaboration with neighbouring RAs.</li> <li>E.g. better catchment water quality, improved spatial planning or air pollution sources, mitigation of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul>  | <p>Yes</p>         | <p>Yes</p>                 |
|  <p><b>D: Needs bespoke conservation action/s</b></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species requiring additional, tailored measures which can be spatially indicated on the local habitat map.</li> <li>Species may need multiple coordinated actions to bring about recovery, including combinations of local actions and national actions, where LNRS could address the former.</li> <li>Examples of bespoke, spatially targetable local actions include conservation translocations (such as assisted colonisation for climate change adaptation), control of invasive species, and localised surveys.</li> <li><b>NB</b> Species requiring bespoke measures which cannot be mapped should be assigned to category E.</li> </ul> | <p>Yes</p>         | <p>Yes</p>                 |



| Category   | Description   | Benefit from LNRS? | Suitable priority species? |
|--|---|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <p><br/> <b>E: Needs better evidence base/on-the-ground action not a priority</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species for which there is insufficient evidence or understanding regarding drivers of decline, required recovery actions, and range/population levels.</li> <li>Species for which the current priority is other than on-the-ground actions, e.g. research of ex-situ action.</li> </ul>   | <p>Unknown</p>     | <p>No</p>                  |
| <p><br/> <b>F: Needs action outside England</b></p>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species with low (or very low) recovery potential due to factors constraining recovery beyond English borders.</li> <li>Evidence shows that action in England is highly unlikely to improve species' prospects.</li> <li>This category is likely to apply only to migratory species (e.g. Afro-Palearctic migratory birds affected by hunting).</li> </ul> | <p>No</p>          | <p>No</p>                  |
| <p><br/> <b>G: Vagrants/occasional visitors</b></p>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species currently outside their normal breeding or wintering range or normal migration route, without an extant population in the strategy area, and which are not suitable for conservation translocation.</li> </ul>   | <p>No</p>          | <p>No</p>                  |



East Sussex and Brighton & Hove is a well recorded county, as demonstrated by there being over 12 million species records in the database held by SxBRC. As such, for the majority of species groups, the balance of probability is that if there have been no records for the past 20 years, the species is unlikely to be present in most cases. Species for which the most recent records were from 2004 or earlier were therefore excluded from the shortlist (effectively assigned category E on the grounds of needing a better evidence base). However, this date cut-off was not applied to lichens (as there has not been a dedicated County Recorder for the group for some years, and it may therefore have been under-recorded) or to fungi (as the fruiting bodies can lie dormant for several years).

Species which are present but which do not require targeted action over and above that proposed for habitats or are widespread were assigned to category A on the grounds that they would likely benefit from general habitat improvements. In other words, they are supported by other LNRS measures.

If species were considered to meet the criteria for categories B to D, they were provisionally shortlisted, with this categorisation further refined through consideration of additional criteria provided in the advice, listed in Table 2. These included whether species were considered iconic of the strategy area, where East Sussex is a stronghold, or whether their recovery locally would contribute to recovery at a national level.

Some species, often urban, which did not meet the national criteria of being 'near threatened' or above were included where there was strong support for them from the public surveys, e.g. glow-worm; these species meet the additional criteria set out in the Species Advice which recognises that some species can be a great hook for wider public and stakeholder engagement with the LNRS, and that Responsible Authorities may wish to consider the depth of

public interest in species and the opportunities this presents for encouraging broad local participation in the LNRS process. It is important to note that most national criteria focus on rarity and species in semi-natural habitats, whereas urban habitats have a differing range of iconic, indicator, classic and often much-loved species. Urban areas are also where there is most development and thus loss of wildlife.

Some species assigned to categories B to D in Table 1 would benefit from similar management measures, and were therefore grouped together into assemblages, with measures developed for them.

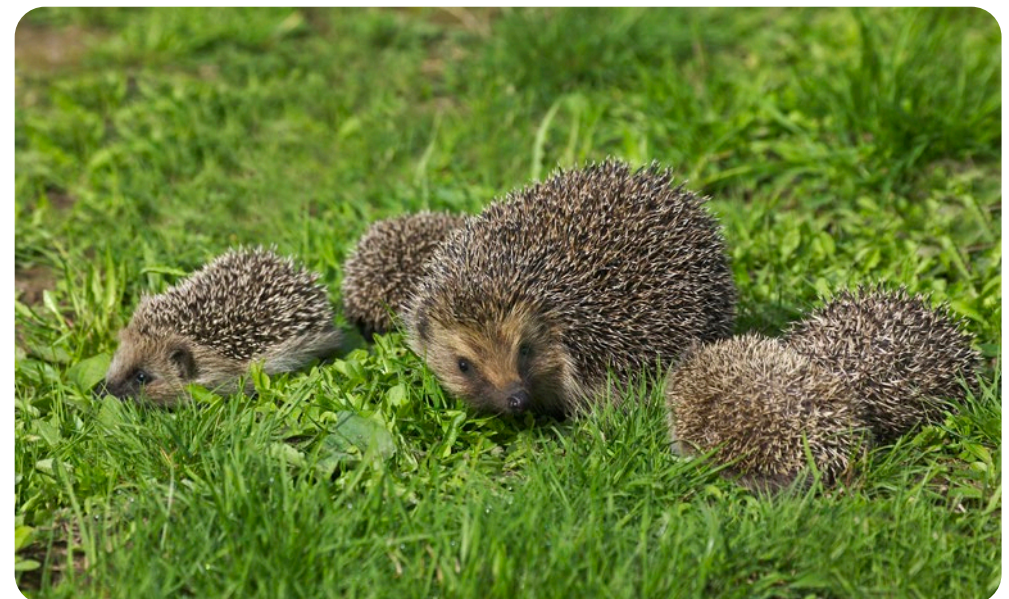
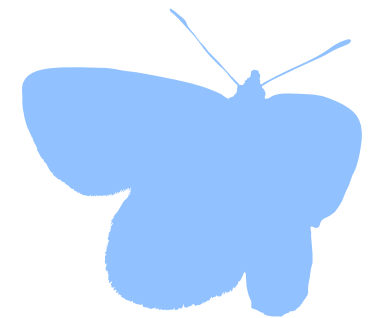


📷 Brown long-eared bat © iStock.com/Gucio\_55

**Table 2. Species advice: additional criteria.**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Para<br/>4.3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local significance</li> <li>• Not red listed but expert opinion would meet ‘threatened’</li> <li>• Candidates for conservation translocation</li> <li>• Iconic/local champion species</li> <li>• Flagship/indicator for wider ecosystem improvement</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Para<br/>2.2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public interest/local participation</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Para<br/>6.2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assemblages (groups of species that share similar habitat management requirements)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Para<br/>6.3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgency</li> <li>• Deliverability – how feasible is it to deliver</li> <li>• Contributions to national species recovery – is species of national/international significance? <i>Should</i> prioritise species/assemblages which are only found in strategy area (local interpretation – stronghold)</li> <li>• Cross-boundary considerations – any opportunities to join up recovery plans across boundaries?</li> <li>• Maximising benefits – would recovery bring about other benefits? <u>Keystone species</u><sup>9</sup>/assemblages.</li> <li>• Pre-existing initiatives.</li> </ul> |

Justification for categorisation, along with measures for shortlisted species and assemblages was again shared with County Recorders and local species experts to ensure it was robust. The lists and measures were also reviewed by the Working Group, Supporting Authorities, the Technical Review Panel, and other individuals/organisations with species expertise.



Female hedgehog with hoglets © iStock.com/slowmotingli

# Section 5.

## Priority Species



📷 Torpid dormouse in nest  
© Kate Ryland



The list of Priority Species was developed as a result of months of data collation and review, working with the SxBRC, local and national experts and County Recorders, key partners delivering species recovery programmes and national species organisations. The process of prioritisation was led by government advice and local expertise, but also drew on the many responses to our public surveys to better understand which species are most highly valued by the local community.

The LNRS Priority Species list contains the individual species and assemblages (groups of species that share similar management requirements) that the LNRS will focus on supporting. **Of the 877 species on the longlist, 165 were shortlisted, demonstrating the richness of biodiversity in the LNRS area.**

Some species were shortlisted as indicators of healthy ecosystems. For example, the **hazel dormouse** is considered a flagship species; where they occur, the habitat is usually very suitable for a wide range of other species. They are also important bioindicators<sup>2</sup> as they are particularly sensitive to habitat and population fragmentation, so their presence is an indicator of habitat integrity and sustainable populations of other sensitive species<sup>2</sup>. They are normally found in highly diverse deciduous woodland, and are also frequently found in species-rich hedgerow and scrub.

Similarly, the **water vole** is a flagship species<sup>3</sup> for rivers and wetland; protecting, restoring and enhancing the habitats they rely on will also be helping a wealth of other wetland species. The water vole has experienced one of the fastest declines of any native mammal in the 20th century. Our populations are critically low and it is

estimated that we have lost over 90% in the last 30 years. The only remaining large populations in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove are on Pett and Rye Levels<sup>3</sup>.

The **Adonis blue** butterfly is a downland specialist and is one of the most characteristic species of unimproved chalk grassland in southern England. The caterpillars are entirely dependent on horseshoe vetch which is common in well grazed, species-rich chalk turf on south-facing slopes of the South Downs<sup>4</sup>. It has undergone a major decline through its entire range, but despite its restricted distribution, it can be seen in large numbers on good sites.



Water vole © iStock.com/Rachel Bennett

<sup>2</sup> Bright, P., P. Morris & T. Mitchell-Jones, 2006. *The dormouse conservation handbook*. 2nd edition.

<sup>3</sup> Sussex Wildlife Trust: [Water Vole](#)

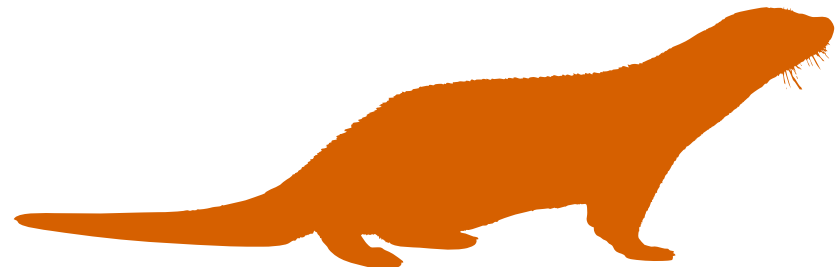
<sup>4</sup> Sussex Butterfly Conservation: [Species](#)

Most of our priority species have been shortlisted because East Sussex and Brighton & Hove is particularly important for them locally, nationally or even internationally. For example, the **marsh mallow moth** is restricted to just a few locations in Britain, with one of the only UK populations lying on the East Sussex/Kent border. The chalk cliffs at Splash Point in Seaford are home to the largest **kittiwake** colony between Devon and Northumberland. The UK population fell by 55% between 1986 and 2011, but although the East Sussex population is less than 0.5% of the national population, the number of breeding pairs here has not declined in the same way as colonies in northern England. Ashdown Forest is internationally important for its breeding populations of **nightjar** and **Dartford warbler**.

Despite our best efforts, some of our most important species have already been lost. Park Corner Heath, a small area of heath, woodland and scrub about six miles north west of Hailsham, was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1953 to protect the **Lewes wave moth** *Scopular immorata*. Outside the UK, it is found in Europe and Asia, but this was its only known site in Britain. Unfortunately, it has not been recorded since 1961 and it is now believed to be extinct. The site still supports an outstanding assemblage of moths and a varied butterfly fauna, and it, along with the adjacent Rowland Wood, is now actively managed by Sussex Butterfly Conservation. The same site also held the last native Sussex population of **small pearl-bordered fritillary** butterflies. Following a cold, wet winter in 2012, the species declined to extinction, but a reintroduction programme in 2017 and active management with fritillaries at the forefront of decision-making, means the species is now doing well here<sup>5</sup>.

**Of our 165 Priority Species, 127 were grouped into 21 assemblages, leaving 38 species which require their own bespoke measures.** 392 species were 'scoped out', either because they are no longer likely to be present, or there is insufficient evidence or understanding of their decline, required actions or range and population levels, or because they are relatively common and widespread and are not a priority for on-the-ground action. 320 species were not shortlisted as, although important locally, they will be well supported by habitat measures within the wider LNRS. These species, and the measures that will support them, can be seen in [Appendix 3A](#) along with the species that were scoped out, with justification for their categorisation.

All Priority Species are listed in Table 3, followed by measures for the individual species and species assemblages. The lists are broadly in taxonomic order, from the most to the least complex organisms, animals and then plants, and then alphabetically by common name.



5 Sussex Butterfly Conservation: [Other Pages](#)

Table 3. Priority species for the East Sussex and Brighton &amp; Hove LNRS area.

| Species Group            | Common Name            | Scientific Name                 | Assemblage         |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mammals (excluding bats) | Beaver                 | <i>Castor fiber</i>             |                    |
|                          | European otter         | <i>Lutra lutra</i>              | Streams and rivers |
|                          | European water vole    | <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>       |                    |
|                          | Hazel dormouse         | <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> |                    |
|                          | Pine marten            | <i>Martes martes</i>            |                    |
|                          | West European hedgehog | <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>      |                    |
| Bats                     | Bechstein's bat        | <i>Myotis bechsteineii</i>      | Woodland bats      |
|                          | Grey long-eared bat    | <i>Plecotus austriacus</i>      |                    |
|                          | Western barbastelle    | <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> | Woodland bats      |

| Species Group | Common Name               | Scientific Name                      | Assemblage                                    |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Birds         | Bearded tit               | <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>             | Reedbed and river birds                       |
|               | Bittern                   | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>            | Reedbed and river birds                       |
|               | Corn bunting              | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>             | Farmland birds                                |
|               | Cuckoo                    | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>               | Farmland birds                                |
|               | Dartford warbler          | <i>Curruca undata</i>                | Heathland birds                               |
|               | Eurasian honey-buzzard    | <i>Pernis apivorus</i>               | Woodland birds                                |
|               | Fulmar                    | <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>            | Cliff nesting birds                           |
|               | Grey partridge            | <i>Perdix perdix</i>                 | Farmland birds                                |
|               | Hawfinch                  | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> | Woodland birds                                |
|               | House martin              | <i>Delichon urbicum</i>              | Urban birds                                   |
|               | Kittiwake                 | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>              | Cliff nesting birds                           |
|               | Lapwing                   | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>             | Breeding waders – wet grassland and heathland |
|               | Lesser spotted woodpecker | <i>Dryobates minor comminutus</i>    | Woodland birds                                |
|               | Linnet                    | <i>Linaria cannabina</i>             | Farmland birds                                |
|               | Little tern               | <i>Sternula albifrons</i>            | Shorebirds – breeding and migrating/winter    |
| Marsh harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | Reedbed and river birds              |   |

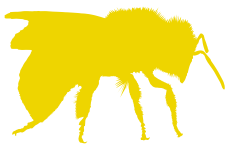


| Species Group | Common Name                | Scientific Name                   | Assemblage                                    |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Birds         | Marsh tit                  | <i>Poecile palustris</i>          | Woodland birds                                |
|               | Mediterranean gull         | <i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i> | Shore birds – breeding and migrating/winter   |
|               | Nightingale                | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>      | Woodland birds                                |
|               | Nightjar                   | <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>      | Heathland birds                               |
|               | Redshank                   | <i>Tringa tetanus</i>             | Breeding waders – wet grassland and heathland |
|               | Ringed plover              | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>       | Shore birds – breeding and migrating/winter   |
|               | Sandwich tern              | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>    | Shore birds – breeding and migrating/winter   |
|               | Skylark                    | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>            | Farmland birds                                |
|               | Spotted flycatcher         | <i>Muscicapa striata</i>          | Woodland birds                                |
|               | Starling                   | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>           | Urban birds                                   |
|               | Stone-curlew               | <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>        | Farmland birds                                |
|               | Swift                      | <i>Apus apus</i>                  | Urban birds                                   |
|               | Tree pipit                 | <i>Anthus trivialis</i>           | Heathland birds                               |
|               | Tree sparrow               | <i>Passer montanus</i>            | Farmland birds                                |
|               | Turtle dove                | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>        | Farmland birds                                |
| Yellowhammer  | <i>Emberiza citronella</i> | Farmland birds                    |   |

| Species Group                    | Common Name           | Scientific Name                  | Assemblage             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Amphibians &amp; reptiles</b> | Adder                 | <i>Viper berus</i>               |                        |
|                                  | Common toad           | <i>Bufo bufo</i>                 | Ponds for amphibians   |
|                                  | Great crested newt    | <i>Triturus cristatus</i>        | Ponds for amphibians   |
| <b>Fish</b>                      | Brown/Sea trout       | <i>Salmo trutta</i>              | Streams and rivers     |
|                                  | European eel          | <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>         | Streams and rivers     |
| <b>Crustaceans</b>               | White-clawed crayfish | <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> |                        |
| <b>Spiders</b>                   | A spider              | <i>Lathys stigmatisata</i>       | Shingle and sand dunes |
|                                  | A spider              | <i>Micaria albovittata</i>       |                        |
|                                  | A spider              | <i>Neon pictus</i>               | Shingle and sand dune  |
|                                  | A spider              | <i>Pellenes tripunctatus</i>     | Shingle and sand dune  |
|                                  | A spider              | <i>Phaeoedus braccatus</i>       | Chalk grassland        |
|                                  | A spider              | <i>Trichopterna cito</i>         | Shingle and sand dune  |
|                                  | A spider              | <i>Trochosa robusta</i>          |                        |
|                                  | Fen raft spider       | <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>      |                        |
|                                  | Golden lantern-spider | <i>Agroeca cuprea</i>            | Shingle and sand dune  |



| Species Group                 | Common Name                     | Scientific Name                    | Assemblage                                |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Ants, bees &amp; wasps</b> | Brown-banded carder bee         | <i>Bombus humilis</i>              | Chalk grassland                           |
|                               | Downland furrow bee             | <i>Halictus eurygnathus</i>        | Chalk grassland                           |
|                               | Heath potter wasp               | <i>Eumenes coarctatus</i>          |   |
|                               | Moss carder bee                 | <i>Bombus muscorum</i>             | Chalk grassland                           |
|                               | Oak mining bee                  | <i>Andrena ferox</i>               |   |
|                               | Potter flower bee               | <i>Anthophora retusa</i>           |   |
|                               | Red-shanked carder bee          | <i>Bombus ruderarius</i>           | Chalk grassland                           |
|                               | Sea aster bee                   | <i>Colletes halophilus</i>         | Coastal grazing marsh and upper saltmarsh |
| <b>Beetles</b>                | A beetle                        | <i>Geotrupes mutator</i>           |   |
|                               | Glow-worm                       | <i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>          |   |
|                               | Mediterranean oil beetle        | <i>Meloe mediterraneus</i>         |   |
|                               | Six-spotted pot beetle          | <i>Cryptocephalus sexpunctatus</i> |   |
|                               | Southern oyster mushroom beetle | <i>Triplax lacordairii</i>         |   |
|                               | Stag beetle                     | <i>Lucanus cervus</i>              |   |



| Species Group             | Common Name                     | Scientific Name               | Assemblage                                |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Butterflies & moths       | Adonis blue                     | <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>  | Chalk grassland                           |
|                           | Chalk hill blue                 | <i>Polyommatus coridon</i>    | Chalk grassland                           |
|                           | Chalk-hill lance-wing           | <i>Epermenia insecurella</i>  | Chalk grassland                           |
|                           | Common fan-foot                 | <i>Pechipogo strigilata</i>   | Open deciduous woodland                   |
|                           | Grayling                        | <i>Hipparchia semele</i>      | Chalk grassland                           |
|                           | Marsh mallow moth               | <i>Hydraecia osseola</i>      | Coastal grazing marsh and upper saltmarsh |
|                           | Pearl-bordered fritillary       | <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>     |   |
|                           | Silver spotted skipper          | <i>Hesperia comma</i>         | Chalk grassland                           |
|                           | Small blue                      | <i>Cupido minimus</i>         | Chalk grassland                           |
|                           | Small pearl-bordered fritillary | <i>Boloria selene</i>         |   |
|                           | Sussex emerald                  | <i>Thalera fimbrialis</i>     | Shingle and sand dune                     |
| Crickets & grasshoppers   | Wart-biter                      | <i>Decticus verrucivorus</i>  |   |
| Dragonflies & damselflies | Brilliant emerald               | <i>Somatochlora metallica</i> |   |
|                           | Emerald damselfly               | <i>Lestes sponsa</i>          |   |
| Flies                     | A true fly                      | <i>Miltogramma germari</i>    | Shingle and sand dune                     |
|                           | Large plain stiletto            | <i>Thereva cinifera</i>       |   |



| Species Group          | Common Name               | Scientific Name                       | Assemblage                                |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>True Bugs</b>       | A planthopper             | <i>Tettigometra impressopunctata</i>  | Chalk grassland                           |
|                        | Pondweed leafhopper       | <i>Erotettix cyane</i>                |   |
| <b>Molluscs</b>        | A mollusc                 | <i>Euglesa pseudosphaerium</i>        | Grazing marsh molluscs                    |
|                        | Carthusian snail          | <i>Monacha (Monacha) cartusiana</i>   | Chalk grassland                           |
|                        | Heath snail               | <i>Helicella itala</i>                | Chalk grassland                           |
|                        | Large-mouthed valve snail | <i>Valvata macrostoma</i>             | Grazing marsh molluscs                    |
|                        | Ramshorn snail            | <i>Anisus (Disculifer) vorticulus</i> | Grazing marsh molluscs                    |
|                        | The shining ram's-horn    | <i>Segmentina nitida</i>              | Grazing marsh molluscs                    |
| <b>Segmented worms</b> | Medicinal leech           | <i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>             |   |
| <b>Higher Plants</b>   | Annual knawel             | <i>Scleranthus annuus</i>             | Rare arable plants                        |
|                        | Basil thyme               | <i>Clinopodium acinos</i>             | Chalk grassland                           |
|                        | Bird's-nest orchid        | <i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>             | Open deciduous woodland                   |
|                        | Borrer's saltmarsh-grass  | <i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i>        | Coastal grazing marsh and upper saltmarsh |
|                        | Burnt orchid              | <i>Neotinea ustulata</i>              | Chalk grassland                           |
|                        | Chalk milkwort            | <i>Polygala calcarea</i>              | Chalk grassland                           |



| Species Group  | Common Name            | Scientific Name                 | Assemblage                                |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Higher Plants  | Corn buttercup         | <i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>      | Rare arable plants                        |
|                | Deptford pink          | <i>Dianthus armeria</i>         | Chalk grassland                           |
|                | Early gentian          | <i>Gentianella anglica</i>      | Chalk grassland                           |
|                | Field fleawort         | <i>Tephroseris integrifolia</i> | Chalk grassland                           |
|                | Field gentian          | <i>Gentianella campestris</i>   |   |
|                | Field gromwell         | <i>Lithospermum arvense</i>     | Rare arable plants                        |
|                | Frog orchid            | <i>Coeloglossum viride</i>      | Chalk grassland                           |
|                | Frosted orache         | <i>Atriplex laciniata</i>       | Shingle and sand dune                     |
|                | Heath lobelia          | <i>Lobelia urens</i>            |   |
|                | Lesser calamint        | <i>Clinopodium calamintha</i>   |   |
|                | Lesser marshwort       | <i>Apium inundatum</i>          |   |
|                | Little-robin           | <i>Geranium purpureum</i>       | Shingle and sand dune                     |
|                | Marsh clubmoss         | <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>    |   |
|                | Moon carrot            | <i>Seseli libanotis</i>         | Chalk grassland                           |
|                | Musk orchid            | <i>Herminium monorchis</i>      | Chalk grassland                           |
|                | Parsley water-dropwort | <i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>      | Coastal grazing marsh and upper saltmarsh |
| Pheasant's-eye | <i>Adonis annua</i>    | Rare arable plants              |   |



| Species Group     | Common Name                     | Scientific Name                | Assemblage                                |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Higher Plants     | Prickly poppy                   | <i>Papaver argemone</i>        | Rare arable plants                        |
|                   | Red star-thistle                | <i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>    |   |
|                   | Round-headed rampion            | <i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>     | Chalk grassland                           |
|                   | Saltmarsh goosefoot             | <i>Oxybasis chenopodioides</i> | Coastal grazing marsh and upper saltmarsh |
|                   | Saltwort                        | <i>Salsola kali</i>            | Shingle and sand dune                     |
|                   | Sea barley                      | <i>Hordeum marinum</i>         | Coastal grazing marsh and upper saltmarsh |
|                   | Sea bindweed                    | <i>Calystegia soldanella</i>   | Shingle and sand dune                     |
|                   | Sea clover                      | <i>Trifolium squamosum</i>     | Coastal grazing marsh and upper saltmarsh |
|                   | Sea sandwort                    | <i>Honckenya peploides</i>     | Shingle and sand dune                     |
|                   | Sea kale                        | <i>Crambe maritima</i>         | Shingle and sand dune                     |
|                   | Shepherd's needle               | <i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>  | Rare arable plants                        |
|                   | Slender hare's-ear              | <i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>   | Coastal grazing marsh and upper saltmarsh |
|                   | Spiked rampion                  | <i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>       |   |
|                   | Stinking hawk's-beard           | <i>Crepis foetida</i>          | Shingle and sand dune                     |
|                   | Upright chickweed               | <i>Moenchia erecta</i>         |   |
|                   | Wall germander                  | <i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>     | Chalk grassland                           |
| White helleborine | <i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> | Open deciduous woodland        |   |

| Species Group     | Common Name               | Scientific Name                     | Assemblage                                    |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Mosses</b>     | Curly beardless-moss      | <i>Weissia condensa</i>             | Chalk grassland                               |
|                   | Ribbonwort                | <i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i>         | Sandstone outcrops                            |
|                   | Round-leaved feather-moss | <i>Rhynchostegium rotundifolium</i> |   |
|                   | Slender thread-moss       | <i>Orthodontium gracile</i>         | Sandstone outcrops                            |
|                   | Sterile beardless-moss    | <i>Weissia sterilis</i>             | Chalk grassland                               |
| <b>Stoneworts</b> | Bristly stonewort         | <i>Chara hispida</i>                |   |
| <b>Lichens</b>    | Lemon tart lichen         | <i>Lecanora sublivescens</i>        | Open parkland mature and veteran tree lichens |
|                   | Oak rim lichen            | <i>Lecanora quercicola</i>          | Open parkland mature and veteran tree lichens |
|                   | Scaly-breck lichen        | <i>Squamarina lentigera</i>         | Chalk grassland                               |
| <b>Fungi</b>      | Bilious bolete            | <i>Rubroboletus legaliae</i>        | Deciduous woodland and wood pasture fungi     |
|                   | Bitter tooth              | <i>Hydnellum scabrosum</i>          | Deciduous woodland and wood pasture fungi     |
|                   | Blushing waxcap           | <i>Neohygrocybe ovina</i>           | Waxcap grassland fungi                        |
|                   | Citrine waxcap            | <i>Hygrocybe citrinovirens</i>      | Waxcap grassland fungi                        |
|                   | Crimson waxcap            | <i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>            | Waxcap grassland fungi                        |
|                   | Date waxcap               | <i>Hygrocybe spadicea</i>           | Waxcap grassland fungi                        |
|                   | Dingy waxcap              | <i>Neohygrocybe ingrata</i>         | Waxcap grassland fungi                        |
|                   | Felted pinkgill           | <i>Entoloma griseocyaneum</i>       | Waxcap grassland fungi                        |



| Species Group | Common Name                  | Scientific Name                           | Assemblage                                |
|---------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Fungi         | Glistening waxcap            | <i>Gloioxanthomyces vitellinus</i>        | Waxcap grassland fungi                    |
|               | Golden-gilled bolete         | <i>Phylloporus pelletieri</i>             | Deciduous woodland and wood pasture fungi |
|               | Jubilee waxcap               | <i>Gliophorus reginae</i>                 | Waxcap grassland fungi                    |
|               | Lilac pinkgill               | <i>Entoloma porphyrophaeum</i>            | Waxcap grassland fungi                    |
|               | Mealy pinkgill               | <i>Entoloma prunuloides</i>               | Waxcap grassland fungi                    |
|               | Nitrous waxcap               | <i>Neohygrocybe nitrata</i>               | Waxcap grassland fungi                    |
|               | Pale bolete                  | <i>Butyriboletus fechtneri</i>            | Deciduous woodland and wood pasture fungi |
|               | Pink waxcap                  | <i>Porpolomopsis calyptriformis</i>       | Waxcap grassland fungi                    |
|               | Rosewood brittlegill         | <i>Russula melitodes</i>                  | Deciduous woodland and wood pasture fungi |
|               | Splendid waxcap              | <i>Hygrocybe splendidissima</i>           | Waxcap grassland fungi                    |
|               | Toasted waxcap               | <i>Cuphophyllus colemannianus</i>         | Waxcap grassland fungi                    |
|               | Umbrella polypore            | <i>Polyporus umbellatus</i>               | Deciduous woodland and wood pasture fungi |
| Zoned tooth   | <i>Hydnellum concrescens</i> | Deciduous woodland and wood pasture fungi |   |

# Section 6.

## Priority Species Measures



📷 Emerald damselfly  
© Ben Rainbow



# Abbreviations

The abbreviations used at the start of the information section summarise any conservation status, and are as follows:

- **Legal Protection** Under international and/or national conventions/legislation.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List (Great Britain):

- **EX** Extinct
- **EW** Extinct in the Wild
- **CR** Critically Endangered
- **EN** Endangered
- **VU** Vulnerable
- **NT** Near Threatened
- **LC** Least Concern
- **R** Rare (pre 1994 Red List)
- **NR** Nationally Rare, occurring in 15 or fewer hectads (10km x 10km square) in Great Britain (GB) or England (England).
- **NR (marine)** Nationally Rare marine species, occurring in eight or fewer hectads in Great Britain.
- **NS** Nationally scarce, recorded in 16-100 hectads but not included in one of the Red List Categories.
- **BoCC Red, Amber or Green** Birds of Conservation Concern.
- **S41** Species listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.
- **Sussex Rare** Species assessed as being particularly rare in Sussex by local species experts.

Some measures, although critical, cannot be addressed directly by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as they related to supporting mechanisms, processes and functions. These ‘enabling measures’ are shown in italics.

Note: the Threatened Species Recovery Actions 2025 baseline has recently been published and includes additional measures for some priority species.



📷 Grayling © Derek Middleton/Sussex Wildlife Trust

## 6.1 Individual Species Measures

| Species   | Information   | Measures  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Mammals (excluding bats)</b>                                 |   |   |
| <p><b>Beaver</b><br/><i>Castor fiber</i></p>                    | <p>EN.</p> <p>Critically endangered in England. Used to be widespread in Britain but hunted to extinction. Important components of river and wetland ecosystems. Candidate for local conservation introductions.</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve the condition of riparian habitats (ideally ensuring at least 20m of space next to watercourses with suitable habitats including a mosaic of woodland, trees, shrub, grasses and water dependent vegetation) in the strategy area to support the future establishment of a beaver population and their natural spread and to promote coexistence.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>Collaborate with beaver management groups to foster a positive, cooperative relationship between landowners and beavers, ensuring coexistence and the maximisation of ecological and natural water management benefits. This may include educational workshops, practical support and guidance on sustainable management strategies.</i></li> </ol>   |
| <p><b>European water vole</b><br/><i>Arvicola amphibius</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, S41, EN, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Found throughout Britain. Long term decline, disappearing from 94% of former sites. Populations in Sussex critically low; estimated that over 90% lost in last 30 years.</p> <p>Found in Pett and Rye Levels. Lewes Brooks holds regionally important population.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eradication of non-native American mink.</li> <li>2. Improve habitat networks and connectivity around key populations.</li> <li>3. Create suitable habitat on edges of floodplains to provide refuge habitat during floods.</li> <li>4. Bank side management – increase the occurrence of bank side trees/hedges/reeds/scrub patches along linear watercourse to provide seasonal food and refuge habitat, plus sensitive, graded cuts on bankside vegetation to encourage female dispersal.</li> <li>5. Create non-linear wetlands (vertical habitats such as reedbeds, fens etc).</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. <i>Pollution control.</i></li> <li>7. <i>Increase survey effort in non-linear sites which are particularly important in winter.</i></li> </ol> <p>PTES: <a href="#">Helping water voles on your land</a></p> |



| Species   | Information   | Measures  |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Hazel dormouse</b><br/><i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i></p>    | <p>Legal protection, VU, S41.</p> <p>Occurs mainly in southern England, especially Devon, Sussex and Kent.</p> <p>East Sussex is a stronghold for the species.</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create structural diversity and increase light levels in woodland, e.g. through active coppicing, creating glades and opening up rides.</li> <li>2. Cut hedgerows (where connected to woodland sites/other suitable habitat) on three-year cycle, alternating sides.</li> </ol> <p>PTES: <a href="#">Managing small woodlands for dormice</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Pine marten</b><br/><i>Martes martes</i></p>                  | <p>Legal protection, S41.</p> <p>Once widespread across the UK, hunting and woodland clearance meant the species restricted to Scottish Highlands and pockets of Wales and northern England by the 20th century. Population is spreading across Scotland but remains very rare in England and Wales.</p> <p>Sussex Wildlife Trust working in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildwood Trust to assess the feasibility of restoring them to the South East.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create, improve and connect woodland habitats to support future establishment of a pine marten population and its natural spread.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>Provide training and guidance to landowners, farmers, gamekeepers and hunters to raise awareness of effective predator-proofing of game or poultry pens, and the risks of incidental trapping and killing during control of other species (i.e. fox, grey squirrel control) in areas where the species is present, and where potential reintroductions may occur.</i></li> </ol>  |
| <p><b>West European hedgehog</b><br/><i>Erinaceus europaeus</i></p> | <p>S41, VU.</p> <p>Widespread but has undergone significant decline. Scored highly in public consultations – champion species for urban habitats and gardens.</p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve connectivity between gardens by creating access points at the bottom of fences, or planting hedgerows as boundaries.</li> <li>2. Create wildlife friendly gardens, e.g. by planting shrubs and hedges, encouraging insets with wildflowers and scrub habitat, creating compost, log and leaf piles.</li> <li>3. Install hedgehog houses.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <i>Research rural hedgehog populations.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Develop planning guidance for East Sussex to encourage access fences or penetrable boundaries within new development.</i></li> </ol> <p>British Hedgehog Preservation Society: <a href="#">Helping hedgehogs</a><br/> Hedgehog Street: <a href="#">Hedgehog-friendly garden features</a><br/> The Wildlife Trusts: <a href="#">Help a hedgehog</a><br/> RSPCA: <a href="#">Hedgehogs in the garden</a><br/> Hedgehog Street: <a href="#">Britain's National Hedgehog Conservation Strategy</a></p> |

| Species  | Information  | Measures   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Bats</b>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Grey long-eared bat</b><br/><i>Plecotus austriacus</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, EN.</p> <p>Southern European species, with distribution extending to southern England. In England, restricted to a few colonies in Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset, Devon and Somerset.</p> <p>Key species: Records for this species have increased over recent years in East Sussex.</p> <p>Grassland meadows and woodland edge for foraging, roosts in buildings.</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitor and protect (e.g. through raising awareness with landowners) known roost sites, retain as many potential roost sites as practically possible, and ensure a succession or continuity of potential roost sites for the future.</li> <li>2. Create a good network of habitats for roosting, feeding and commuting, avoiding isolating any areas currently used for feeding and ensure good connectivity between sites.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>Reduce pesticide use within foraging areas to improve insect diversity.</i></li> </ol>   |
| <b>Amphibians &amp; reptiles</b>                                 |  |  |
| <p><b>Adder</b><br/><i>Viper berus</i></p>                       | <p>Legal protection, S41</p> <p>Found throughout UK, with patchy distribution, but absent from Ireland. 90% of adder populations surveyed have declined in the UK and has been declared extinct in some counties. Prefers lighter sandy soils, with favoured habitats in Sussex including heathland, acid and chalk grasslands, woodland clearings, rides and edges, field edges and some brownfield sites. Requires dry, open, sunny areas with adjacent dense ground cover, wetter areas around ponds, lakes and bogs, and hibernation sites on south-facing slopes.</p> <p>Iconic species of heathland and downland landscapes of Sussex.</p> | <p>In addition to habitat measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create hibernacula in suitable locations within structurally diverse habitat.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>Avoid releasing gamebirds in areas that have notable reptile populations (information on reptile species that may be present on a site can be obtained from Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre or Protected Landscape land advisors).</i></li> </ol> <p>Amphibian and Reptile Conservation: <a href="#">Reptile habitat management handbook</a><br/>Gamebird &amp; Wildlife Conservation Trust: <a href="#">Guidelines for sustainable gamebird releasing</a></p> |



| Species   | Information   | Measures   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Crustaceans</b>  |   |  |
| <p><b>White-clawed crayfish</b></p> <p><i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, S41, EN, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Only freshwater crayfish in Britain. Under threat and declining throughout European range. In lowland England, tends to be confined to clean, base-rich watercourses.</p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider the establishment of ark sites to maintain the population.</li> <li>2. Investigate and correct sources of poor water quality or water resource issues and enhancement of habitat, e.g.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reduce risk of pollution through reduction in chemical use and creation of buffer zones.</li> <li>b. Maintain water levels and ensure stable flow regime with pools and glides.</li> <li>c. Maintain/create variety of refuges within channel, e.g. cobbles and boulders, submerged tree roots, soft banks.</li> <li>d. Maintain stands of submerged vegetation and ensure habitat not dominated by algae such as blanket weed.</li> <li>e. Maintain areas of undercut, vertical bank, with overhanging vegetation.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>Survey to know current distribution.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Follow CHECK-CLEAN-DRY principles if entering watercourses to limit transfer of crayfish plague.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Inform landowners, developers and other stakeholders of presence.</i></li> </ol> <p>Buglife: <a href="#">Ark sites for crayfish</a><br/>           NNSS: <a href="#">Check Clean Dry</a></p> |
| <b>Spiders</b>  |   |  |
| <p><b>A spider</b></p> <p><i>Micaria albovittata</i></p>                    | <p>VU, NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Common on hot hillsides near the coast. Mainly occurs in stony areas or on steep slopes unsuitable for cultivation. Most records Dorset and South Devon. The single recent Sussex site (Hastings/St Leonards) is regionally important as the only one on the South East English coast – all others are further west.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain open grassland and prevent growth of scrub.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>Targeted re-survey of all former and nearby sites, using standardised methodology to assess current status.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Autecological study to characterise microhabitat requirements, elucidate relationship with ants, and inform coastal grassland management.</i></li> </ol>   |

| Species  | Information   | Measures  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>A spider</b></p> <p><i>Trochosa robusta</i></p>            | <p>VU, NR.</p> <p>Only recorded from southern half of England. Mainly stony chalk grassland, especially on cliff-tops and under-cliff. This already VU species is in clear decline and expected to be EN or CR when next reviewed. The 1997 record from Hastings Country Park is important in this context and deserves dedicated resurvey.</p> <p>Hastings Country Park, Ditchling Beacon.</p> | <p>Targeted survey of all recorded, nearby and apparently suitable sites, using standardised methodology to assess current status.</p>  |
| <p><b>Fen raft spider</b></p> <p><i>Dolomedes plantarius</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, S41, VU, NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Only known from three locations in Britain: Pevensey Levels supports largest population in UK. Interest feature of SSSI and Ramsar.</p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage and maintain water levels.</li> <li>2. Seek opportunities in the vicinity of all populations to aid spread by improving connectivity and extent of suitable wetland habitat.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Survey Pevensey Levels population to inform appropriate management.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>Ants, bees &amp; wasps</b></p>                             |   |   |
| <p><b>Heath potter wasp</b></p> <p><i>Eumenes coarctatus</i></p> | <p>Sussex Rare.</p> <p>South Devon to East Sussex and north to Buckinghamshire. Very localised.</p> <p>Heathland with patches of exposed clay and sources of water.</p>   | <p>Manage heathland to maintain sources of water and patches of exposed wet clay for construction of nest pots.</p>   |
| <p><b>Oak mining bee</b></p> <p><i>Andrena ferox</i></p>         | <p>S41, EN.</p> <p>Rarely encountered and confined to scattered sites in South England.</p> <p>Mature and open leaved woodland with a high proportion of oak.</p> <p>Recorded at Hastings, Flat Roper Wood, Great Dixter.</p>   | <p>Ensure high proportion of oak in broadleaved woodland.</p> <p><a href="#">Woodland Wildlife Toolkit</a> &gt; Woodland and shrub canopy invertebrate assemblage.</p>  |



| Species   | Information   | Measures   |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Potter flower bee</b><br/><i>Anthophora retusa</i></p>          | <p>S41, EN, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Formerly widespread, now restricted to East Sussex, Dorset, Isle of Wight and Hampshire. Rapid and largely unexplained decline in Britain.</p>  | <p>1. Maintain habitat of sandy deposits above chalk, with species-rich clifftop grassland.</p> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <p>2. <i>Survey and monitor known populations.</i></p>   |
| <b>Beetles</b>  |   |  |
| <p><b>A beetle</b><br/><i>Geotrupes mutator</i></p>                   | <p>NT, NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Uncommon and declining with thin scattering of records in England and Wales, usually in horse and cattle pasture.</p> <p>Requires large areas of unimproved grassland with grazing animals to provide it with a supply of dung.</p>  | <p>1. Undertake conservation grazing with horse/cattle in suitable grassland habitats.</p> <p>2. Implement year round low intensity cattle, sheep or horse grazing at sites across the key landscapes. Do not use endectocides. In winter livestock should not be fed in silage, maize or soya since this affects the quality of the dung and its nutritional value to coprophagous invertebrate larvae.</p> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <p>3. <i>Targeted non-lethal monitoring to assess population trends in response to amended livestock management techniques.</i></p> |
| <p><b>Glow-worm</b><br/><i>Lampyris noctiluca</i></p>                 | <p>LC.</p> <p>Iconic species. Well distributed and relatively common in East Sussex, although concern that it is declining and it has been lost from some sites. Found in low growing vegetation, often at the base of hedgerows, in grasslands and woodland edges. Hides away in crevices under stones or bark during the day.</p> | <p>1. Maintain dark corridors at and adjoining known sites.</p> <p>2. Avoid strimming vegetation at the base of hedgerows during mating season (June to July).</p>   |
| <p><b>Mediterranean oil beetle</b><br/><i>Meloe mediterraneus</i></p> | <p>VU, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>East Sussex is one of only two locations in UK where the species is found (the other being South Devon). Until recently presumed extinct.</p> <p>Found on coastal grassland.</p>   | <p>1. Maintain, enhance and expand flower-rich coastal grasslands with abundant solitary mining bees.</p> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <p>2. <i>Targeted survey of sites with suitable habitat.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Raise awareness among the public of this species.</i></p> <p>Buglife: <a href="#">Mediterranean Oil Beetle</a></p>   |

| Species  | Information  | Measures   |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Six-spotted pot beetle</b><br/><i>Cryptocephalus sexpunctatus</i></p>  | <p>S41, EN, NR.</p> <p>Broadleaf woodland species associated with a range of woody species such as hazel, aspen, and oak. Larvae possibly myrmecophilous. Adults require warm, sheltered glades and rides in woodland and neglect of woodlands will be threat.</p> <p>Woodland and calcareous grassland with dense scrub.</p> <p>Iconic species recorded at Flatropers Wood.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued management of ancient woodlands to ensure presence of open space.</li> <li>Maintain grassland management with structural diversity including hawthorn and hazel scrub.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted survey of sites with potentially suitable habitat.</li> </ol>   |
| <p><b>Southern oyster mushroom beetle</b><br/><i>Triplax lacordairii</i></p> | <p>R.</p> <p>Associated with oyster mushroom species, <i>Pleurotus</i> spp. Growing on dead and decaying beech.</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management to ensure suitable growth of oyster mushroom needed.</li> <li>Ensure that fallen and standing deadwood retained, particularly that with bark attached.</li> </ol> <p>The Species Recovery Trust: <a href="#">Southern oyster mushroom beetle</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Stag beetle</b><br/><i>Lucanus cervus</i></p>                          | <p>Legal protection, NS, S41, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Large and iconic species that is locally distributed in East Sussex the majority of records located to the west of a line between Crowborough and Ringmer, and particularly around the Ringmer area. Larvae take three to four years to fully develop.</p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure undisturbed deadwood is available for larvae in suburban parks and gardens as well as in woodlands in wider countryside.</li> <li>Create stag beetle log pyramids in gardens and suitable green spaces.</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">Woodland Wildlife Toolkit</a> &gt; Stag Beetle<br/>PTES: <a href="#">Stag beetle facts</a><br/>PTES: <a href="#">How to build a log pyramid for stag beetles</a></p> |



| Species   | Information  | Measures   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Butterflies &amp; moths</b>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Pearl-bordered fritillary</b><br/><i>Boloria euphrosyne</i></p>   | <p>Legal protection, S41, VU, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Early successional species that frequents recently coppiced coupes where <i>Viola</i> spp. is abundant in newly opened field layer. Decline has been entirely down to loss of traditional woodland management practices.</p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cut an annual succession of very well-connected coppice coupes in hazel or sweet chestnut.</li> <li>2. Rotational management of bracken stands along ride margins and within open spaces, to create thin carpets of litter, but prevent the build-up of tall blankets of standing bracken trash.</li> </ol> <p>Butterfly Conservation: <a href="#">Pearl-bordered fritillary</a></p> |
| <p><b>Small pearl-bordered Fritillary</b><br/><i>Boloria selene</i></p> | <p>S41, NT, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Extinct as a native. Strongholds throughout much of Scotland and Wales and in north-western and south-western counties of England, with scattered colonies elsewhere. Found in discrete colonies. Most English colonies found in open areas within deciduous woodland, with damp areas preferred. Relatively sedentary with limited capacity for colonising new areas.</p> <p>Very restricted range in East Sussex and species restoration project in place.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instate regular cycles of coppicing alongside rotationally managed rides and glades to continue to create new successional habitat in sequence.</li> <li>2. Maintain well-established humid field layer with abundant <i>Viola</i> spp.</li> <li>3. Manage water levels to prevent habitat drying out.</li> </ol>  |

| Species   | Information   | Measures   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Crickets &amp; grasshoppers</b>                                |   |  |
| <p><b>Wart-biter cricket</b><br/><i>Decticus verrucivorus</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, S41, EN, NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Extremely localised in GB and restricted to southern England where only found at six sites, three of which were reintroduction sites. Four sites in East Sussex.</p> <p>Chalk grassland.</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure heterogenous habitat structure with mosaic of vegetation classes, flower-rich sward and areas of bare ground.</li> <li>2. Manage scrub through periodic clearance and appropriate grazing regime.</li> <li>3. Avoid grazing April to September when nymphs or adults likely to be present.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <i>Survey suitable locations.</i></li> </ol> <p>Species Recovery Trust: <a href="#">Wart-biter bush-cricket – Species handbook</a><br/>Buglife: <a href="#">Wart-biter bush-cricket</a></p> |
| <b>Dragonflies &amp; damselflies</b>                              |   |  |
| <p><b>Brilliant emerald</b><br/><i>Somatochlora metallica</i></p> | <p>VU, Sussex Rare</p> <p>National rarity, found in western Scotland and South East England, where restricted primarily to Berkshire, Surrey and Sussex. East Sussex is a key area. Species relatively scarce with stronghold in High Weald and upper River Ouse. Found in ponds and ditches.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create and maintain clean, shaded ponds with some overhanging trees.</li> <li>2. Control parrot's feather.</li> </ol> <p>British Dragonfly Society: <a href="#">Brilliant emerald – BDS Species and Habitat Management Sheet</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Emerald damselfly</b><br/><i>Lestes sponsa</i></p>          | <p>LC.</p> <p>Declining nationally. The status of this species in East Sussex is uncertain but perhaps declining and it should be placed on the 'concern list'.</p> <p>Needs shallow standing water (bog pools, ponds and ditches).</p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create shallow ponds with vegetation that retain water late in season.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>Annual counts from selected sites.</i></li> </ol>   |



| Species  | Information   | Measures  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Flies</b>   |   |   |
| <p><b>Large plain stiletto</b><br/><i>Thereva cinifera</i></p> | <p>NT, NR.</p> <p>Currently known from only a few southern sites. Pett Levels population associated with rabbit disturbed sandy-gravelly ground on coastal floodplain grazing marsh beside sea wall.</p>  | <p>Create and maintain patches of disturbed bare ground within coastal floodplain grazing marsh.</p>  |
| <b>True bugs</b>   |   |   |
| <p><b>Pondweed leafhopper</b><br/><i>Erotettix cyane</i></p>   | <p>S41, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Only found at six ponds in South East England at only three sites: two in Sussex, one in Surrey.</p> <p>Exclusively found in ponds on only food plant, broad-leaved pondweed <i>Potamogeton natans</i>.</p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain and monitor known pond sites.</li> <li>2. Ensure surrounding land management maintains high water quality.</li> <li>3. Pond creation and/or restoration (including inoculation of new ponds with pondweed where necessary) in vicinity of known sites to facilitate natural dispersal and spreading of risk.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <i>Autecological research to establish life history features.</i></li> </ol> <p>Freshwater Habitats Trust: <a href="#">Pondweed leafhopper</a><br/><a href="#">Auchenorrhyncha Recording Scheme for Britain &amp; Ireland</a> &gt; Pond leafhopper</p> |
| <b>Segmented worms</b>   |   |   |
| <p><b>Medicinal leech</b><br/><i>Hirudo medicinalis</i></p>    | <p>Legal protection, NT, Sussex Rare</p> <p>Once a widespread species, has declined dramatically over past centuries. Now restricted to a handful of sites. Only four main populations left in Kent, Hampshire, Dorset and Cumbria, although regularly recorded from Castle Water at Rye. Historically, decline was due to over exploitation for medicinal use. More recently, decline due to changes to land use, wetland drainage, loss of grazing and regulation of water levels, and introduction of worming treatments, e.g. Ivermectin.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create new and maintain existing wildlife-rich, neutral, eutrophic, shallow ponds, or ponds with a broad shallow margin.</li> <li>2. Light grazing of surrounding habitat to allow development of dense stands of long-leaved marginal vegetation for egg laying.</li> </ol> <p>Freshwater Habitats Trust: <a href="#">Medicinal Leech</a></p>  |

| Species   | Information  | Measures   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Higher plants</b>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Field gentian</b><br/><i>Gentianella campestris</i></p>   | <p>S41, VU (GB), EN (England), Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Widespread but localised throughout Scotland, North Wales, North and West Ireland and northern England, but very rare in England south of Pennines. Rare in East Sussex and declining.</p> <p>Found on chalk heath and chalk grassland.</p> <p>Target species for Species Recovery Trust.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation and maintenance of short sward grassland, with relatively heavy cattle/pony grazing.</li> <li>2. Carry out heather/bracken management from November.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>Support Species Recovery Trust project.</i></li> </ol> <p>Species Recovery Trust: <a href="#">Field gentian species handbook</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Heath lobelia</b><br/><i>Lobelia urens</i></p>            | <p>S41, VU (GB), VU (England), NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Native in extreme south of Britain where it is rare and at northern European limit. Found at only seven sites across south of England from Cornwall to Sussex.</p> <p>Rare in East Sussex, found only at Flimwell.</p> <p>Target species for Species Recovery Trust.</p>                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create small areas of bare ground at known sites to trigger dormant seeds through scrub removal and cattle grazing.</li> <li>2. Heavy cutting and grazing interspersed with relaxation of management.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>Support the work of the Species Recovery Trust.</i></li> </ol> <p>Species Recovery Trust: <a href="#">Heath lobelia species handbook</a></p> |
| <p><b>Lesser calamint</b><br/><i>Clinopodium calamintha</i></p> | <p>NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Core British range in eastern England, but with outliers as far west as Forest of Dean. Rare in East Sussex. Best population is at Hastings Castle where the main threat is human activity.</p> <p>Found on dry banks and rocky places.</p>   | <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <p><i>Manage human disturbance through education.</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Lesser marshwort</b><br/><i>Apium inundatum</i></p>       | <p>VU, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Rare in Sussex. Although never common, formerly known from number of ponds on Wealden commons scattered across Sussex. Decreasing.</p> <p>Found in shallow ditches and ponds. Recorded at Chailey, Tarring Neville, Pevensey Levels.</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain and safeguard small farm ponds and grazed commons.</li> <li>2. Create new small ponds in suitable locations.</li> </ol>   |



| Species  | Information  | Measures   |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Marsh clubmoss</b><br/><i>Lycopodiella inundata</i></p>  | <p>S41, EN, NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Main populations found in southern England, in the New Forest, and on heaths in Hampshire and Surrey. Rare in East Sussex.</p> <p>Recorded at Isle of Thorns. Found on damp heathland, bare peaty soil.</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain managed heath and hydrology.</li> <li>2. Create areas of bare exposed peat to boost regeneration.</li> <li>3. Expand habitat to improve connectivity.</li> <li>4. Investigate selective reintroductions to suitable sites close to existing sites where conditions are suitable (reintroductions are being explored by the Species Recovery Trust in collaboration with Natural England).</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <i>Protect known site through education and raised awareness.</i></li> </ol>   |
| <p><b>Red star-thistle</b><br/><i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i></p> | <p>EN, NR, S41.</p> <p>Rare in British Isles (BI), established only in Kent and Sussex. <u>Archaeophyte</u><sup>o</sup>, listed by National Biodiversity Network (NBN) as non-native, although considered to be native in Sussex. Very locally abundant in horse-grazed grassland and open downland, forming extensive dense patches at Mile Oak. Doing OK at known sites.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage appropriate management (horse grazing) within and adjacent to known sites.</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>Monitor known sites.</i></li> </ol>   |
| <p><b>Spiked rampion</b><br/><i>Phyteuma spicatum</i></p>      | <p>Legal protection, EN (GB), EN (England), NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>East Sussex is the only area in the British Isles where found as a native. Confined to 8 sites, one of which holds c. 85% of the UK population.</p> <p>Open woodland, wood margins, by rides and streams, hedge banks and road verges.</p> <p>Species Recovery Trust target species.</p>                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage roadside and woodland sites to reduce competition from bracken and shading from trees and shrubs, and so that plants are protected from grazing where deer are an issue.</li> <li>2. Reintroductions to suitable sites close to existing sites where conditions are suitable (further introductions are already planned by the Species Recovery Trust).</li> </ol> <p><b>Enabling measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>Monitor known sites.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Undertake research into germination, seedling establishment and longevity.</i></li> </ol> <p>The Species Recovery Trust: <a href="#">Spiked rampion</a></p> |

| Species   | Information  | Measures   |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Upright chickweed</b><br/><i>Moenchia erecta</i></p>                      | <p>VU.</p> <p>Occasional in Britain, predominantly in southern England and Wales. Rare in East Sussex. Formerly locally common on downland.</p> <p>Found on heathland, acid grassland, coastal sand. Records from Camber and Beddingham.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain short grazed or mown turf with some disturbance to maintain open areas.</li> <li>2. Remove scrub.</li> </ol>  |
| <p><b>Mosses</b></p>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Round-leaved feather-moss</b><br/><i>Rhynchostegium rotundifolium</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, S41, NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Very rare in Britain. Known only from two sites in calcareous districts.</p> <p>Woodland/hedgerows.</p>  | <p>Manage bramble and ivy.</p>   |
| <p><b>Stoneworts</b></p>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Bristly stonewort</b><br/><i>Chara hispida</i></p>                        | <p>Not red listed but rare in the South East and very rare in Sussex. Another species which lives in its chalky water with other special things. It and its habitat need help.</p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clearance to reduce eutrophication and competition.</li> <li>2. Remove/prevent introduction of carp into known/potential sites.</li> <li>3. Create suitable new water bodies.</li> </ol> |



## 6.2 Assemblage Measures

### Coastal Habitats

#### Breeding and Migrating/Wintering Shore Birds Assemblage

##### Measures

- Create network of new breeding areas including use of nesting rafts (e.g. tern rafts) using appropriate materials and predator-resistant designs, shingle islands, and scrapes and pools to benefit species all year.
- Support and allow shingle/sand habitats to renaturalise to create shingle features.
- Potential for some managed realignment and creation of new saltmarsh.

##### Enabling measures

- *Protect from disturbance and predators through education, fencing etc. Wardening is key.*
- *Protection of foraging areas to intertidal and shallow coastal waters.*
- *Monitor populations.*

| Species  | Additional Information & Resources  |
|--|---|
| <b>Little tern</b><br><i>Sternula albifrons</i>                | Legal protection, BoCC Amber.<br>Scarce breeding summer visitor and fairly common passage migrant.<br>Only breeds at Rye Harbour and declining. Concerted effort required to reverse decline. |
| <b>Mediterranean gull</b><br><i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i> | Legal protection, Notable Bird, BoCC Amber.<br>Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant; scarce breeder.<br>Colony at Rye Harbour is one of three main breeding sites in UK.          |
| <b>Ringed plover</b><br><i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>            | BoCC Red.<br>Scarce breeder; fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeding pairs restricted to short stretches of coast, almost always on shingle beaches.                       |
| <b>Sandwich tern</b><br><i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>         | BoCC Amber.<br>Fairly common although localised breeding summer visitor and common passage migrant; very scarce winter visitor. Breeding restricted to Rye Harbour.                           |

## Cliff nesting birds

### Enabling measures

- Annual productivity and population monitoring.
- Protection of breeding colonies from disturbance through e.g. wardening, awareness raising etc.

| Species                                     | Additional Information & Resources  |
|---|---|
| <b>Fulmar</b><br><i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>  | BoCC Amber.<br>Scarce breeding species and passage migrant. Would likely benefit from habitat measures.   |
| <b>Kittiwake</b><br><i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | BoCC Red.<br>Common but very localised breeding species; fairly common or common winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare away from coast. Breeding colony at Seaford Head is iconic and is towards southern edge of range. Number of breeding birds has not declined in the same way as northern colonies. |



 Kittiwake © iStock.com/birdsonline



## Coastal Grazing Marsh & Upper Saltmarsh Assemblage

### Measures

- Maintain existing habitat inside and peripheral to protected sites and expand through positive management where possible.<sup>6</sup>
- Work with natural processes and allow space to roll back saltmarsh due to sea level rise increase. Identify managed realignment sites.
- Where appropriate, light grazing, aiming for low levels of disturbance/trampling, which could damage the flora and fauna and contribute to erosion.
- Expand areas of grazing marsh by re-introducing appropriate water level management on improved grassland and arable land. Target to ensure the expansion and linkage of existing sites and to promote functioning coastal floodplains.
- Encourage expansion of marsh mallow *Althaea officinalis* along drainage ditches from current range.

### Enabling measures

- *Raise awareness to adaptation and resilience*

Estuarine & Coastal Sciences Association: [Tools and guidance](#)

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <b>Borrer's saltmarsh-grass</b><br><i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i> | S41, NT, NS, Sussex Rare.<br>Local and decreasing on coasts in south and south-east British Isles. Rare in East Sussex.<br>Shingle, tidal river banks and other brackish habitats.<br>Ouse Valley.                               |
| <b>Marsh mallow moth</b><br><i>Hydraecia osseola</i>              | S41, R.<br>Restricted in Britain to a few scattered locations in Kent and East Sussex.<br>One of the only UK populations is on Sussex/Kent border feeds on <i>Althaea officinalis</i> growing along drainage ditches.<br>Iconic. |

<sup>6</sup> Note: relevant consents/assents from e.g. Natural England will be needed for work impacting protected sites.

| Species  | Additional Information & Resources   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Parsley water-dropwort</b><br/><i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i></p>                | <p>NT.</p> <p>Distributed widely around the coastline of GB. Declining in inland sites. Occasional, local in East Sussex. Appears to have decreased in Rye area. New populations on Pevensey Levels.</p> <p>Damp coastal grassland and marsh, rarely inland grassland and fen.</p>   |
| <p><b>Saltmarsh goosefoot</b><br/><i>Chenopodium (Oxybasis) chenopodioides</i></p> | <p>NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>In mainland Britain, may now occur only in Thames Estuary, Kent and Sussex. Rare in Sussex.</p>   |
| <p><b>Sea aster bee</b><br/><i>Colletes halophilus</i></p>                         | <p>S41, Notable A, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Common in East Anglia and Thames estuary, occurs more sporadically along south coast of England. Strong evidence that it is expanding its range.</p> <p>Only known from four locations in county: Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, Hastings, Norman's Bay &amp; Cuckmere.</p> <p>Dependent on sea aster.</p>                         |
| <p><b>Sea barley</b><br/><i>Hordeum marinum</i></p>                                | <p>S41, VU, NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Recorded around coast primarily in southern England and South Wales. Has decreased in Britain, particularly from The Wash northwards. Scarce, local in East Sussex. Occurs along Ouse Valley in number of locations south of Lewes and locally frequent in Rye area.</p> <p>Found on coastal grassland, shingle, tidal rivers.</p> |
| <p><b>Sea clover</b><br/><i>Trifolium squamosum</i></p>                            | <p>NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Records predominantly restricted to southern England and Wales. Scarce, local in East Sussex.</p> <p>Coastal – open brackish grassland; sand and shingle; seawalls and banks; tidal riverbanks.</p> <p>Ouse and Cuckmere Valleys.</p>   |
| <p><b>Slender hare's-ear</b><br/><i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i></p>                  | <p>S41, VU (GB), VU (England), NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Vulnerable nationally, scarce in East Sussex.</p> <p>Saltmarsh.</p> <p>Ouse Valley, the Midrips.</p>  |



## Shingle and Sand Dune Assemblage

### Measures

- Maintain existing habitat inside and peripheral to protected sites and have regard to these species in the consideration of any coastal defence works.<sup>7</sup>
- Expand existing populations where possible by managing habitat adjacent to known locations.
- Manage and where possible eradicate invasive non-native species.

### Enabling measures

- Educate to minimise disturbance from trampling and recreational pressures.
- Safeguard sparsely vegetated shingle from loss and damage and support coastal processes that support this habitat.
- Develop local policies to prevent further development of and encroachment on coastal sites.

Buglife: [Coastal vegetated shingle](#)

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <b>A spider</b><br><i>Lathys stigmatisata</i>   | VU, NR, Sussex Rare.<br>52 records from East Sussex, the most recent from 2024. East Sussex has more than half the GB population.  |
| <b>A spider</b><br><i>Neon pictus</i>           | NT, NR.<br>Most recently recorded 2024. Records from East Sussex represent 50% of the GB hectads and so very important in a national context.  |
| <b>A spider</b><br><i>Pellenes tripunctatus</i> | VU, NR.<br>Restricted to coastal shingle sites.  |
| <b>A spider</b><br><i>Trichopterna cito</i>     | EN, NR, Sussex Rare.<br>Recorded from only three locations since 1992. Rye/Dungeness area is nationally very important.  |
| <b>A true fly</b><br><i>Miltogramma germari</i> | R.<br>Frequents sandy, coastal habitats – associated with a number of solitary bee species whose burrows are also used by the larvae of this species – a <a href="#">kleptoparasite</a> <sup>9</sup> of the bees' food stores.<br>Coastal Dunes. |

<sup>7</sup> Note: relevant consents/assents from e.g. Natural England will be needed for work impacting protected sites.

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <b>Frosted orache</b><br><i>Atriplex laciniata</i>      | Sussex Rare.<br>Not listed nationally but scarce in Sussex. Numbers can vary according to the movement of sand and shingle and could re-appear at former sites in the future.              |
| <b>Golden lantern spider</b><br><i>Agroeca cuprea</i>   | S41, NT, NR.<br>Known from only three locations nationally since 1992. Dune sites threatened by development etc. Camber Sands, Rye Harbour.  |
| <b>Little-robin</b><br><i>Geranium purpureum</i>        | NR, NS, Sussex Rare.<br>Confined to southern coasts in British Isles. Long known in Sussex but always rare.  |
| <b>Saltwort</b><br><i>Salsola kali</i>                  | VU.<br>Widespread around coasts of British Isles. Had declined since 1960s with considerable loss in some areas, often due to recreational pressure. Rare in East Sussex.                  |
| <b>Sea bindweed</b><br><i>Calystegia soldanella</i>     | VU, Sussex Rare.<br>Scarce, very locally frequent in East Sussex on coastal dunes and shingle.   |
| <b>Sea sandwort</b><br><i>Honckenya peploides</i>       | Widely recorded from most of coastline of British Isles. Rare in East Sussex and has declined in historic sites.   |
| <b>Sea-kale</b><br><i>Crambe maritima</i>               | Locally common in Sussex, likely reflecting the fact that Sussex is a stronghold for the habitat.<br>Useful as a habitat indicator. Considered iconic.                                     |
| <b>Stinking hawksbeard</b><br><i>Crepis foetida</i>     | Archaeophyte. Now only known from one natural site (Kent) and two established populations nearby.<br>Re-introduced at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve where it is part of an ongoing programme. |
| <b>Sussex emerald moth</b><br><i>Thalera fimbrialis</i> | Established breeding colony at Rye Harbour. Requires management for <i>Daucus carota</i> in coastal habitats.<br>Iconic.   |



# Farmed Landscape & Soils

## Farmland Birds

### Measures

- Aim for a range of different crops and habitats including fallow areas throughout the year and retain areas of stubble.
- Create and manage set aside areas that could support a mosaic of scrub, species-rich grassland, rough grassland, beetle banks, some bare ground and ponds or small wader scrapes to provide water and muddy edges.
- Create flower rich arable margins.
- Manage hay meadows to produce a range of seeds for seed eating species.
- Create areas of scrub and avoid cutting all hedgerows annually to allow them to develop.
- For stone-curlew, create 1 ha to 5ha uncropped fallow plots with 30% bare ground. Retain plot until crop is harvested from late July. Monitor breeding while protecting nests and chicks.

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources  |
|---|---|
| <b>Corn bunting</b><br><i>Emberiza calandra</i> | S41, BoCC Red.<br>Fairly common resident. Focus of conservation projects.<br>RSPB: <a href="#">Corn bunting conservation – Advice for farmers</a>   |
| <b>Cuckoo</b><br><i>Cuculus canorus</i>         | S41, BoCC Red.<br>Fairly common but declining summer visitor. Reasons for national decline poorly understood.   |
| <b>Grey partridge</b><br><i>Perdix perdix</i>   | S41, BoCC Red.<br>Scarce resident; much declined but benefiting locally through conservation effort.<br>RSPB: <a href="#">Grey partridge conservation – Advice for farmers</a><br>Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust: <a href="#">Conserving the grey partridge</a>             |
| <b>Linnet</b><br><i>Linaria cannabina</i>       | BoCC Red.<br>Fairly common summer visitor and infrequently seen passage migrant. East Sussex is an important UK county for breeding, second only to Kent, and appears to be holding its own in the face of national declines. Stronghold for the species and considered iconic. |

| Species  | Additional Information & Resources   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Skylark</b><br/><i>Alauda arvensis</i></p>           | <p>BoCC Red.</p> <p>Slight increase in range but population decline. Populations in non-agricultural habitats seem to have held up. Very common but declining resident in East Sussex and probably common passage migrant and winter visitor.</p>  |
| <p><b>Stone-curlew</b><br/><i>Burhinus oediconemus</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, S41, BoCC Amber.</p> <p>Scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Also found on chalky downland and grassy heaths.</p>  |
| <p><b>Tree sparrow</b><br/><i>Passer montanus</i></p>      | <p>S41, BoCC Red.</p> <p>Much declined and now very scarce resident; scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.</p> <p>Across East Sussex, breeding restricted to Rye Bay, Pevensey Levels and Brede Valley.</p>   |
| <p><b>Turtle dove</b><br/><i>Streptopelia turtur</i></p>   | <p>S41, BoCC Red.</p> <p>Red. Scarce and declining summer visitor and passage migrant. Breeding has drastically declined. Sussex holds c. 4.5% of the national population.</p> <p>Remaining stronghold around Rye Bay plus cluster in and around Ashdown Forest.</p> <p><a href="#">Operation Turtle Dove</a> can support delivery through advisory work, sown plots, scrub-edge management, and provision of source populations in the Weald and Ouse catchments.</p> <p>Operation Turtle Dove: <a href="#">Helping your local turtle doves</a></p> |
| <p><b>Yellowhammer</b><br/><i>Emberiza citronella</i></p>  | <p>BoCC Red.</p> <p>Common resident. Declined, and dependent on management of arable margins and heathland.</p>  |



Skylark © iStock.com/MikeLane45

## Rare Arable Plants Assemblage

### Measures

- Low-input arable management, adjacent to or on known sites.
- Cultivate margins in the spring between February and April or in the autumn between September and November.
- Do not apply any fertilisers or manures or pesticides except for herbicides to weed-wipe or spot-treat for the control of injurious weeds or invasive non-natives.

Plantlife: [Managing arable farm land](#)

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <b>Annual knawel</b><br><i>Scleranthus annuus</i>         | S41, EN (GB), EN (England).<br>Generally lowland, has declined significantly throughout its range. Rare in East Sussex.  |
| <b>Corn buttercup</b><br><i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>       | S41, CR (GB), EN (England), Sussex Rare.<br>Archaeophyte. Formerly widespread across lowland England and Wales, extending to Scotland. Found in arable and disturbed ground. Population declined by more than 80% across core range during 20th century. Rare in East Sussex and declining, as elsewhere in British Isles. |
| <b>Field gromwell</b><br><i>Lithospermum arvense</i>      | EN (GB), EN (England), Sussex Rare.<br>Archaeophyte. Arable weed in Britain since Bronze Age, declined substantially since 1960s. Rare in East Sussex. Has decreased greatly although can appear in large numbers.   |
| <b>Pheasant's-eye</b><br><i>Adonis annua</i>              | S41, EN (GB), EN (England), NS, Sussex Rare.<br>In the British Isles occurs mostly in the South East but has decreased greatly. Once scattered thinly across Sussex but now mainly confined to Cuckmere area. Friston Forest, Crowlink.  |
| <b>Prickly poppy</b><br><i>Papaver argemone</i>           | VU (GB), EN (England).<br>Archaeophyte. Southern and central England and southern Scotland. Occasional, very locally frequent in East Sussex.  |
| <b>Shepherd's-needle</b><br><i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i> | S41, CR (GB), EN (England), Sussex Rare.<br>Archaeophyte. Once an abundant arable weed, but now on the verge of extinction. Rare in East Sussex.   |

## Species-rich Grasslands

### Breeding Waders – Wet Grassland & Heathland Assemblage

#### Measures

- Restore and expand areas of wet meadow, heathland, mire and saltmarsh.
- Manage water levels appropriately.
- Graze (ideally cattle) to provide a mosaic of suitable sward heights for nesting and feeding.
- Minimise grazing during the breeding season to reduce chance of trampling from livestock.
- Create small wader scrapes, hollows and pools to provide muddy areas for feeding.
- Consider use of predator fencing to protect nests and chicks.

#### Enabling measures

- *Protection of foraging areas linked to intertidal and shallow coastal waters.*
- *Minimise disturbance from human activity during breeding season.*

[International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Breeding Waders in Wet Grassland Habitats in Europe \(2018-2028\)](#)

| Species                                    | Category | Additional Information & Resources  |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>Lapwing</b><br><i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | B        | S41, BoCC Red.<br><br>Scarce or fairly common resident and very common winter visitor. Coastal wetlands, rivers valleys and levels are core breeding areas, but pairs scattered across High Weald. Target conservation work has brought increases in breeding pairs, but recovery likely to be slow. Wintering birds spread more widely over Downs and along the coast than breeders but river valleys and wetlands are still key areas.<br><br>RSPB: <a href="#">Lapwing conservation – Advice for farmers</a> |
| <b>Redshank</b><br><i>Tringa totanus</i>   | B        | BoCC Amber.<br><br>Scarce resident; common winter visitor and autumn passage migrant; fairly common spring migrant. Breeding pairs declined more steeply in East Sussex than nationally. Wintering numbers declining but not as fast as nationally.<br><br>RSPB: <a href="#">Redshank conservation – Advice for farmers</a>   |



## Chalk Grassland Assemblage

### Measures

- Carefully timed and considered grazing with sheep or cattle, taking into account the range of species on site, to maintain structural diversity with mixture of short turf, longer vegetation, small areas of scattered scrub and some bare ground.  
NOTE: the grazing regime should be modified where autumn ladies' tresses are present - grazing is not appropriate in these areas in August and September.
- Create structural diversity across the chalk landscape to support the different successional stages of chalk grassland and the species they support.
- Avoid use of fertilisers to keep nutrient levels low.
- If necessary (if grazing not possible), a late summer cut with removal of arisings and control scattered scrub with cutting between November and February as required.
- Safeguard existing sites and seek to expand habitat to improve connectivity.

### Enabling measures

- *Survey and monitor.*

| Species  | Additional Information & Resources   |
|--|--|
| <b>Adonis blue</b><br><i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>           | Legal protection, NT, Sussex Rare.<br><u><a href="#">Thermophilic</a></u> <sup>o</sup> , requires short sward grassland with ants and horseshoe vetch. Iconic.<br>Butterfly Conservation: <a href="#">Adonis blue factsheet</a>                                    |
| <b>A planthopper</b><br><i>Tettigometra impressopunctata</i> | Sussex Rare.<br>Scarce species restricted to high quality downland and calcareous dunes in southern England and Wales. Excellent indicator of high quality chalk grassland. Recorded at Malling Down.  |
| <b>A spider</b><br><i>Phaeoecdus braccatus</i>               | VU, NR, Sussex Rare.<br>Confined to southern England. Very local but may be frequent at some sites on chalk grassland. The East Sussex population (Cuckmere to Malling Down) is the biggest cluster of hectads nationally and therefore important in this context. |
| <b>Basil thyme</b><br><i>Clinopodium acinos</i>              | S41, VU (GB), VU (England).<br>Thinly scattered across southern, central and eastern England, becoming increasingly common in northern England. Occasional, local in East Sussex.  |

| Species  | Additional Information & Resources  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Brown-banded carder bee</b><br/><i>Bombus humilis</i></p>        | <p>S41, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Intermittently present along south and west coasts of England and Wales. Significant decline during 20th Century, coinciding with loss of large areas of flower-rich grassland.</p> <p>Largely restricted to coast between Hastings and Camber plus chalk grassland of South Downs.</p> |
| <p><b>Burnt orchid</b><br/><i>Neotinea ustulata</i></p>                | <p>S41, EN (GB), EN (England), NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Distributed throughout central and south Europe and southern Sweden in the north. Scarce in East Sussex, always local on downland, formerly more widespread. Good populations remain.</p>  |
| <p><b>Carthusian snail</b><br/><i>Monacha (Monacha) cartusiana</i></p> | <p>NT, NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>East Sussex supports some of the largest populations of this species in the UK (e.g. downland above Lewes [Southerham], River Ouse grass banks south of Lewes, dunes at Rye). When present on Downs is usually sign of old chalk grassland not invaded by succession scrub.</p>      |
| <p><b>Chalk hill blue</b><br/><i>Polyommatus coridon</i></p>           | <p>Legal protection, NT.</p> <p>More widespread than the other chalk grassland blues, larvae feed on horseshoe vetch. Iconic.</p>   |
| <p><b>Chalk milkwort</b><br/><i>Polygala calcarea</i></p>              | <p>Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Infrequent and local plant in Britain, restricted to southern England. Scarce, locally not infrequent in East Sussex. There has been a decline but still present in good quantity in some areas.</p>   |
| <p><b>Chalk-hill lance-wing</b><br/><i>Epermenia insecurella</i></p>   | <p>S41.</p> <p>Scarce species found only on eastern Downs in Sussex, nationally scarce. Larvae feed on bastard toadflax <i>Thesium humifusum</i>.</p>   |
| <p><b>Curly beardless-moss</b><br/><i>Weissia condensa</i></p>         | <p>S41, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Needs well grazed steep chalk grassland, with closely grazed turf and bare areas. South Downs considered within top five National Character Areas for this species.</p>   |
| <p><b>Deptford pink</b><br/><i>Dianthus armeria</i></p>                | <p>Legal protection, S41, EN (GB), EN (England), NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Thinly scattered across southern England and rare in Wales and Ireland. Rare in East Sussex. Early records from Downs near Eastbourne and still occurs there sporadically.</p>   |



| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Downland furrow bee</b><br/><i>Halictus eurygnathus</i></p> | <p>EN.<br/>Not known outside Sussex. On South Downs between Brighton, Lewes and Eastbourne. Strongly associated with greater knapweed.</p>   |
| <p><b>Early gentian</b><br/><i>Gentianella anglica</i></p>        | <p>Legal protection, S41, Sussex Rare.<br/>Endemic to the UK – found in central and southern England. Has declined markedly outside its core area in Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Wiltshire. Rare in East Sussex and always has been. Detailed surveys in 1994 found largest known population on British mainland, although numbers had declined in later years. Tendency for numbers to vary considerably therefore could persist.</p>  |
| <p><b>Field fleawort</b><br/><i>Tephrosieris integrifolia</i></p> | <p>VU, NS, Sussex Rare.<br/>In the British Isles, restricted to southern England with core areas in Sussex and Wiltshire Downs. Scarce in East Sussex. Most colonies small but there are some substantial populations remaining.<br/>Bullock Hill, Seven Sisters.</p>  |
| <p><b>Frog orchid</b><br/><i>Coeloglossum viride</i></p>          | <p>S41, RedList GB post2001 VU, RedList ENG post2001 VU.<br/>Vulnerable nationally and scarce in East Sussex. South Downs National Character Areas considered within the top five for this species.</p>  |
| <p><b>Grayling</b><br/><i>Hipparchia semele</i></p>               | <p>S41, VU, Sussex Rare.<br/>Single population in East Sussex is only one in UK on chalk. In imminent danger of extinction. Whilst no formal project is in place, Butterfly Conservation have provided advice to SDNPA on habitat management aimed at expanding range – early signs are promising.</p>   |
| <p><b>Heath snail</b><br/><i>Helicella itala</i></p>              | <p>LC.<br/>Although only assessed as LC in the 2014 Red Data Book, states “Records imply distinct decline over recent decades. Loss of populations in southern and central England are a cause for concern.” In East Sussex the species is now very local and typically found on a few of the best chalk grassland sites where it indicates long-term sympathetic traditional management typically cattle grazing.<br/>An iconic species where habitat management and habitat connectivity are key issues; could be a candidate for selective re-introduction as long as the reasons for decline at the sites have been addressed.</p> |

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Moon carrot</b><br/><i>Seseli libanotis</i></p>             | <p>NT (GB), NT (England), NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Rare in British Isles and recorded recently only in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and East Sussex. Rare in East Sussex.</p> <p>Seaford Head, Hope Gap. Cliff-tops and rough chalk grassland.</p>   |
| <p><b>Moss carder bee</b><br/><i>Bombus muscorum</i></p>          | <p>EN (European), S41.</p> <p>Widely distributed throughout Britain and Ireland but showing signs of continuing severe decline since 1970. In southern areas, largely retreated to coast.</p> <p>Coast between Pett and Camber, Pevensey Levels, eastern South Downs, vegetated shingle at Cuckmere, Newhaven.</p>  |
| <p><b>Musk orchid</b><br/><i>Herminium monorchis</i></p>          | <p>S41, VU (GB), EN (England), NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Considered Regionally Extinct in Wales, now restricted to southern areas of England and is assessed as Endangered due to substantial and continuing decline. Rare across Sussex and was feared extinct in East Sussex until re-recorded at Malling Down in 2013. However, it has not been seen at Malling Down for several years, but there is a small population at Ditchling Beacon Sussex Wildlife Trust Reserve.</p> |
| <p><b>Red-shanked carder bee</b><br/><i>Bombus ruderarius</i></p> | <p>S41.</p> <p>Catastrophic decline in abundance and distribution throughout British Isles. Scarce and declining in East Sussex.</p>  |
| <p><b>Round-headed rampion</b><br/><i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i></p> | <p>NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Occurs on downland in Wiltshire, Hampshire and Surrey, but nowhere so frequent as in Sussex – locally frequent in East Sussex. “Pride of Sussex”.</p>  |
| <p><b>Scaly-breck lichen</b><br/><i>Squammarina lentigera</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, S41, CR, NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>In the UK, used to be found in East Sussex (Brighton &amp; Hove) and Isle of Wight but now confined to two sites in East Anglia. Given historic presence, worthy of inclusion.</p> <p>Requires targeted survey to establish presence and distribution.</p>  |



| Species  | Additional Information & Resources  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Silver-spotted skipper</b><br/><i>Hesperia comma</i></p>   | <p>Legal protection, NT, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Found on the chalk of southern England, including the North and South Downs, the Chilterns, Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire. Abundance has increased. Needs unimproved open chalk grasslands with short, patchy swards. Prefers warm, south-facing slopes.</p> <p>Butterfly Conservation: <a href="#">Silver-spotted skipper factsheet</a></p> |
| <p><b>Small blue</b><br/><i>Cupido minimus</i></p>               | <p>Legal protection, S41, NT.</p> <p>Early successional member of chalk grassland. Periodic ground disturbance is critical – areas of hot bare chalk where kidney vetch is pioneer species required. Iconic.</p> <p>Butterfly Conservation: <a href="#">Small blue factsheet</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Sterile beardless-moss</b><br/><i>Weissia sterilis</i></p> | <p>S41, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Needs well grazed steep chalk grassland, with closely grazed turf and bare areas. South Downs considered within top five National Character Areas for this species.</p>   |
| <p><b>Wall germander</b><br/><i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i></p>      | <p>Sometimes thought of as an introduction in the British Isles, now thought to be native in Sussex, with the Cuckmere colony being the only known surviving native population in the British Isles.</p> <p>Monitor population at Cuckmere.</p>   |



📷 Round-headed rampion © iStock.com/phalder

## Waxcap and Other Grassland Fungi Assemblage

### Measures

- Note: East Sussex known to be important for waxcap grasslands, with sites often found in old cemeteries, on grazing pastures and in habitat mosaics including woodland and wood pasture and parkland. Often associated with ant hill grasslands as they both require long standing undisturbed and uncultivated land.
- Maintenance of existing habitat inside and peripheral to protected sites.<sup>8</sup>
- Traditional land management that created the necessary habitat for this species should be maintained and taken up at adjacent/nearby sites to expand habitat, including short-sward grazing or cutting and removing cut material, and no fertilisation, herbicides or ploughing.

### Enabling measures

- *Raise awareness with landowner/manager.*
- *Survey and monitor.*

Plantlife: [Waxcaps and grassland fungi – Guide to identification and management.](#)

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources  |
|---|---|
| <b>Blushing waxcap</b><br><i>Neohygrocybe ovina</i>     | Sussex Rare.<br>European distribution. UK records predominantly from Wales, northern England and Scotland, with South East records from East and West Sussex.             |
| <b>Citrine waxcap</b><br><i>Hygrocybe citrinovirens</i> | Widespread but rare throughout Europe. Widely distributed across UK, although apparently absent from eastern England.   |
| <b>Crimson waxcap</b><br><i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>       | Sussex Rare.<br>Widespread but generally rare throughout Europe. Similarly, widespread across UK. Considered rare in East Sussex and noted to be associated with alder.   |
| <b>Date waxcap</b><br><i>Hygrocybe spadicea</i>         | S41, Sussex Rare.<br>Widespread but generally rare throughout Europe. UK records widespread but largely confined to the west, with East Sussex records apparent outliers. |

<sup>8</sup> Note: relevant consents/assents from e.g. Natural England will be needed for work impacting protected sites.



| Species  | Additional Information & Resources  |
|--|---|
| <b>Dingy waxcap</b><br><i>Neohygrocybe ingrata</i>             | European distribution. Scattered records across UK in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. English records restricted to South East (East and West Sussex), west and North West England. |
| <b>Felted pinkgill</b><br><i>Entoloma griseocyaneum</i>        | Sussex Rare.<br>Rare but widespread in Europe. UK records scattered and widespread, although absent from East Anglia.   |
| <b>Glistening waxcap</b><br><i>Gloioxanthomyces vitellinus</i> | Rare but widespread in Europe. Widespread records across UK.  |
| <b>Jubilee waxcap</b><br><i>Gliophorus reginae</i>             | Scarce and widely scattered across UK. Unknown whether significant population.  |
| <b>Lilac pinkgill</b><br><i>Entoloma porphyrophaeum</i>        | Widespread across UK and recently recorded locally.   |
| <b>Mealy pinkgill</b><br><i>Entoloma prunuloides</i>           | Sussex Rare.<br>Uncommon in Britain and Ireland but widely distributed.   |
| <b>Nitrous waxcap</b><br><i>Neohygrocybe nitrata</i>           | Widespread but generally rare throughout Europe. UK records widespread although apparently absent from eastern England and Midlands.  |
| <b>Pink waxcap</b><br><i>Porpolomopsis calyptriformis</i>      | Sussex Rare.<br>European distribution. Widespread across UK, rare in East Sussex.<br>Sheffield Park.  |
| <b>Splendid waxcap</b><br><i>Hygrocybe splendidissima</i>      | Widespread but generally rare throughout Europe, with largest populations in UK, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Norway.   |
| <b>Toasted waxcap</b><br><i>Cuphophyllus colemannianus</i>     | Globally vulnerable because of threats to habitat. European distribution. Widespread across UK.   |

## Woodland, Hedgerow & Scrub

### Deciduous Woodland and Wood Pasture Fungi

#### Measures

- Maintain woodland cover, reversing habitat fragmentation and expansion of existing habitat.
- Prioritise expansion/connection at known sites.
- Wood-banks and other earthworks should be retained and protected from damage.
- Retain deadwood within the site, both standing and fallen. Retain decaying wood of deciduous trees.
- Retain a conifer element in PAWS (plantations on ancient woodland sites) restoration.
- Sweet chestnut coppice with known toothed fungi communities should be retained and if possible managed along traditional methods of cutting on a 10 to 12-year rotation.
- Invasive rhododendron should be controlled or eliminated.

#### Enabling measures

- *Reduce levels of atmospheric nitrogen deposition.*
- *Raise awareness with landowner/manager and avoid tree felling at known locations.*
- *Survey and monitor.*

[Woodland Wildlife Toolkit > Fungi.](#)

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <b>Bilious bolete</b><br><i>Boletus (Rubroboletus) legaliae</i> | VU.<br>Uncommon in southern England and Europe. Grows with oak and beech, often on neutral to acid soils. Unknown if a significant population, but shortlisted given recent record and extent of suitable habitat locally.   |
| <b>Bitter tooth</b><br><i>Hydnellum scabrosum</i>               | S41.<br>Relatively scarce with records confined to South East England and Scotland. Unknown if local population significant, but shortlisted given extent of suitable habitat.   |
| <b>Golden-gilled bolete</b><br><i>(Phylloporus pelletieri)</i>  | S41, VU.<br>Predominantly western European distribution. Scarce and scattered records in UK from southern England, Wales, northern England and Scotland. Associated with oak and chestnut mostly found on well-drained banks. Unknown if significant population.<br><br>Wood pasture and parkland. Recorded at Sheffield Park. |



| Species   | Additional Information & Resources  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Pale bolete</b><br/><i>Butyriboletus fechtneri</i></p>    | <p>EN.<br/>Formerly regarded as a <i>Boletus</i> but transferred to new genus in 2014. Native to Europe. Very few records on NBN, predominantly in southern England. Unknown if a significant population, but shortlisted given recent record and extent of suitable habitat locally.</p> |
| <p><b>Rosewood brittlegill</b><br/><i>Russula melitodes</i></p> | <p>Rare in UK, England records restricted to South East, London, and Midlands.<br/>Deciduous woodland, wood pasture and parkland.</p>   |
| <p><b>Umbrella polypore</b><br/><i>Polyporus umbellatus</i></p> | <p>Scarce and scattered across UK. Rare in Sussex.<br/>Sheffield Park.</p>  |
| <p><b>Zoned tooth</b><br/><i>Hydnellum conrescens</i></p>       | <p>S41.<br/>Relatively widespread with records from across most of UK except for Midlands.<br/>Considered iconic in East Sussex.</p>  |



📷 **Umbrella polypore**  
(*Polyporus umbellatus*)  
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## Open Parkland Mature and Veteran Tree Lichens

### Measures

- Maintain open well-lit conditions around mature and veteran native trees in locations that support these species by thinning regeneration (whilst being mindful of the need to retain some younger trees) and controlling invasive species such as ivy, holly and rhododendron.
- Remove or reduce sources of locally generated atmospheric pollutants, e.g. by reducing high stocking levels and by limiting fertilising of grasslands.
- If possible, convert arable land adjacent to veteran trees to pasture.
- Create new pollards out of younger trees and maintain them by periodic recutting.
- Necessary tree surgery of veteran trees may be needed to improve the stability of the tree and prolong its life without damaging the lichen.

### Enabling measures

- *Monitor the habitat and species to ensure that the landowner is aware of the presence of these species.*
- *Survey suitable veteran trees.*

[Woodland Wildlife Toolkit](#) > Lichens.

| Species  | Additional Information & Resources  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Lemon tart lichen</b><br/><i>Lecanora sublivescens</i></p> | <p>S41, NT, NS, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Rare in Britain and internationally rare. Primarily a southern species. Well-lit trunks of mature or veteran oak or occasionally ash in parklands and wood pasture. Insufficient evidence but given historic presence and extent of suitable habitat locally, would likely benefit from habitat improvements.</p> <p>Back from the Brink: <a href="#">Lemon tart lichen</a></p> |
| <p><b>Oak rim lichen</b><br/><i>Lecanora quercicola</i></p>      | <p>Rare in Britain. Primarily a southern species in GB. Well-lit trunks of mature or veteran oak trees. Insufficient evidence to assess local population but prioritised given historic presence and extent of suitable habitat locally.</p> <p>Back from the Brink: <a href="#">Oak rim lichen</a></p>   |



## Open Deciduous Woodland Assemblage

### Measures

- Coppice woodland to create open glades and rides with light shade.
- Ensure presence of beech with shady bare ground beneath. Plant young beech trees near existing populations and/or allow natural recolonisation.
- Avoid grazing.
- Maintain fallen dead wood.

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <b>Bird's-nest orchid</b><br><i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>      | NT (GB), VU (England).<br>Widespread across most of Europe. In British Isles, generally lowland and has decreased. Scarce in East Sussex. Some new sites have been found but overall decrease.                         |
| <b>Common fan-foot</b><br><i>Pechipogo strigilata</i>       | Scarce resident of ancient woodlands in East Sussex and in danger of extinction. Larvae feed on withered leaves on fallen branches, mainly <i>Quercus</i> .<br>Butterfly Conservation: <a href="#">Common fan-foot</a> |
| <b>White helleborine</b><br><i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> | S41, VU (GB), VU (England).<br>Scarce in East Sussex. At Friston Forest, spreading into new forestry compartments as beech plantation matures.   |

## Woodland Bats Assemblage

### Measures

- Monitor and protect (e.g. through raising awareness with landowners) all existing confirmed roost sites, retain as many potential roost sites as practically possible, and ensure a succession or continuity of potential roost sites for the future.
- Create a good network of habitats for roosting, feeding and commuting, avoiding isolating any areas currently used for feeding and ensure good connectivity between sites. Woodland management is key.

### Enabling measures

- *Promote and advise woodland owners and managers on management of roost trees and ensuring successional trees for future roost provision within range. As Bechstein's bat maternity colonies heavily rely on woodpecker hole roosts, woodpecker ecology also needs to be considered. This would include leaving/creating areas of rough grassland within which green woodpeckers can forage for ants.*
- *Reduce pesticide use within foraging areas to improve insect diversity.*

Bat Conservation Trust: [Woodland specialists](#)

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Bechstein's bat</b><br/><i>Myotis bechsteinii</i></p>           | <p>Legal protection, S41.</p> <p>Very rare species, only found in southern Wales and parts of southern England. The UK is at the northernmost edge of its distribution range.</p> <p>Bechstein's bat is a woodland species similar to Barbastelle, favouring holes and crevices in trees in deciduous woodland to roost in. However, foraging range is less at 2km and is mainly confined to woodland habitat. Surrounding landscape restoration is important for boosting insect numbers.</p>  |
| <p><b>Western barbastelle</b><br/><i>Barbastella barbastellus</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, VU, S41.</p> <p>Very rare, only found in southern and central England and Wales.</p> <p>Barbastelles are crevice dwelling bats that predominantly roost in trees associated with woodland that has a high proportion of standing dead or dying trees that provide the cracks and crevices they prefer to use as roosts. Barbastelles require moth-rich foraging habitats over a 7km range so an increase in the quality and availability of wetland and riparian habitat species-rich meadow and hedgerows is important.</p> |



## Woodland Birds Assemblage

### Measures

- Re-introduce coppicing, varying lengths of rotation to benefit different species, e.g. tree pipits like newly coppiced areas, whereas medium and long rotation will benefit other species. They should be reasonably sized blocks to create a coarse mosaic of larger patches of scrub and coppice for nightingale and other species.
- Create structural diversity by carrying out selective thinning to allow more light to reach the understorey, along with the widening of rides and creation of glades. Structural heterogeneity, managed open glades and understorey recovery are essential for lesser spotted woodpecker and spotted flycatcher.
- Remove invasive woody species (e.g. rhododendron and cherry laurel).
- Avoid heavy disturbance or a sudden/dramatic change in woodland structure.
- Improve connectivity in the wider landscape through creation of scrubby areas and hedgerows and soft edges between woodland and open habitats.
- Retain deadwood where possible.

### Enabling measures

- *Control deer numbers.*
- *Monitor populations.*
- *Tackle recreational disturbance and predation by domestic pets through e.g. the creation or improvement of footpaths, fencing, interpretation and education, defensive planting (using thorny species) etc.*

[Woodland Wildlife Toolkit](#) > Birds

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <b>Eurasian honey-buzzard</b><br><i>Pernis apivorus</i>               | Legal protection, BoCC Amber.<br>Very scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. In 2025, estimated breeding population of 20-25 pairs, the most of any county in Britain. Provides excellent base for species to maintain robust population.<br>BTO: <a href="#">Honey-buzzard</a> |
| <b>Hawfinch</b><br><i>Coccothraustes</i>                              | S41, BoCC Red.<br>Fairly common but highly elusive and much declined breeding resident and in most years scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; occasionally more numerous.  |
| <b>Lesser spotted woodpecker</b><br><i>Dryobates minor comminutus</i> | S41, BoCC Red.<br>Scarce and declining resident.   |

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Marsh tit</b><br/><i>Poecile palustris</i></p>          | <p>S41, BoCC Red.</p> <p>Very common resident. Nationally, appears to be a stabilisation of the population, but unlikely they will regain former population levels in East Sussex.</p>   |
| <p><b>Nightingale</b><br/><i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i></p>    | <p>BoCC Red.</p> <p>Fairly common summer visitor and infrequently seen passage migrant. East and West Sussex are important UK counties for breeding, second only to Kent. East Sussex appears to be holding its own in the face of national declines.</p> <p>Stronghold for the species and considered iconic.</p> <p>Specific habitat requirements: coppiced woodland; dense scrub/thickets; wetland.</p> <p>BTO: <a href="#">Managing Scrub for Nightingales</a></p> |
| <p><b>Spotted flycatcher</b><br/><i>Muscicapa striata</i></p> | <p>S41, BoCC Red.</p> <p>Fairly common but declining summer visitor; scarce passage migrant in spring and fairly common in autumn. Main problems for East Sussex (and UK) birds relate to wintering ground and migration route. However, woodland management would help maximise breeding success.</p>   |



Spotted flycatcher © iStock.com/birdsonline

# Lowland Heathland & Sandstone Outcrops

## Heathland Birds

### Measures

- Improve connectivity within the wider landscape by connecting open areas to wide rides within woodlands and scrubby edges to woodlands.
- Restore open habitats within woodlands, especially heathland, with scattered trees. Ideally these areas should be grazed to create structural diversity and encourage invertebrates.

### Enabling measures

- *Monitor populations especially those away from heathlands. These species breed in a range of habitats except for Dartford warbler which is primarily gorse and heathland, but some are found along the coast.*

| Species  | Additional Information & Resources  |
|--|---|
| <b>Dartford warbler</b><br><i>Curruca undata</i> | Legal protection, NT, BoCC Amber.<br>Scarce to fairly common but localised resident. At northern limit of its European and World range.<br>Stronghold for species and considered iconic.<br>Ashdown Forest SPA.   |
| <b>Nightjar</b><br><i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>  | Legal protection, S41, BoCC Amber.<br>Fairly common but localised summer visitor rarely seen on migration. Heaths relatively small and fragmented, limiting nesting opportunities and increasing risk of disturbance.<br>Stronghold for the species and considered iconic.<br>Ashdown Forest SPA. |
| <b>Tree pipit</b><br><i>Anthus trivialis</i>     | S41, BoCC Red.<br>Widespread distribution from Northern Spain and GB in west to Eastern Europe, Russia and Siberia in east. Fairly common but local summer visitor and fairly common passage migrant in East Sussex. Significant decline in breeding population.                                  |

## Sandstone Outcrops

### Measures

- Manage vegetation to ensure populations do not become overgrown. In particular, remove coniferous species.

### Enabling measures

- *Monitor known populations.*
- *Raise awareness amongst climbers and other recreational users.*
- *Raise awareness of the species with landowners/managers.*

High Weald National Landscape: [The High Weald Sandstone Project](#)

| Species   | Category | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|----------|--|
| <b>Ribbonwort</b><br><i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i>          | B, 6.3   | S41, Sussex Rare.<br><br>Two well-known sites where it has been monitored for many years and needs sensitive management. It disappeared many years ago from other sites. Good colonies at Harrisons Rocks and Philpots. Reports that Philpots is getting overgrown but Harrisons managed well. |
| <b>Slender thread-moss</b><br><i>Orthodontium gracile</i> | B        | S41, NR, Sussex Rare.<br><br>In the UK since 1970, recorded in East Sussex, Cheshire, mid-West Yorkshire and Midlothian. Recorded at Eridge Rocks and Butcher's Wood in 2013.  |



📷 Dartford warbler © iStock.com/Ian Newell



# Wetlands (Rivers, Streams & Aquifers + Wetlands & Standing Water Bodies)

## Amphibian Ponds Assemblage

### Measures

- Restore ponds: de-silt, deepen, maintain water levels and improve water quality.
- Establish network of new ponds and scrapes, with range of sizes and depths.
- Maintain/extend undisturbed semi-natural habitat surrounding pond.
- Avoid stocking with fish.

### Enabling measures

- *Establish toad crossing signage/patrols where roads cross migration routes.*
- *Develop planning policy/guidance on modifying kerbs/gully pots, installation of tunnels/culverts etc at key amphibian locations.*
- Note: great crested newt conservation strategy in place through [District Licencing](#) scheme.

| Species  | Additional Information & Resources  |
|--|---|
| <b>Common toad</b><br><i>Bufo bufo</i>                 | Legal protection, S41.<br>Widespread in the UK but have declined by over 68% in last 30 years.  |
| <b>Great crested newt</b><br><i>Triturus cristatus</i> | Legal protection, S41.<br>Widespread but patchy distribution in the UK. East Sussex is a stronghold for the species.<br>Qualifying feature of Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI, Ramsar and SAC.<br>Freshwater Habitats Trust: <a href="#">Newt Conservation Partnership</a> |



Great crested newt © iStock.com/MikeLane45

## Grazing Marsh Molluscs

### Measures

- Manage ditches to maintain high water quality and to reduce shade and vegetation cover.
- Maintain water levels in ditches across grazing marsh.
- Reduce grazing/provide buffer zones to reduce poaching and eutrophication.

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>A mollusc</b></p> <p><i>Euglesa pseudosphaerium</i></p>             | <p>LC, NS.</p> <p>Although only assessed as LC in the 2014 Red Data Book (RDB) this states, “<i>This species has a very local distribution within habitats that are vulnerable to inappropriate management, drainage and eutrophication hence susceptible to inappropriate management, drainage and local extinction. .... A candidate for Near Threatened</i>”.</p> <p>This is an iconic species indicative of the best flood plain and coastal grazing marshes and is one of the suite sometimes including <i>A. vorticulus</i>, <i>V. macrostoma</i> &amp; <i>S. nitida</i>.</p> <p>The large populations on Pevensey Levels and Lewes Brooks are not only of local but also national importance.</p> |
| <p><b>Large-mouthed valve snail</b></p> <p><i>Valvata macrostoma</i></p>  | <p>S41, VU, NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Pevensey Levels (and associated ‘Eastbourne Levels’) probably support the most extensive populations of this snail in England and so are of national importance for the species. The species has become extinct on Lewes Brooks in last 20 years.</p> <p>Iconic species indicative of the best flood plain and coastal grazing marshes and it is one of a suite sometimes including <i>A. vorticulus</i>, <i>E. pseudosphaerium</i> &amp; <i>S. nitida</i>.</p>  |
| <p><b>Ramshorn snail</b></p> <p><i>Anisus (Disculifer) vorticulus</i></p> | <p>Legal protection, S41, VU, NR, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>The Pevensey Levels are an SAC for populations of this snail there. An iconic highly protected snail found in best managed ditches together with other rare species typical of the best flood plain and coastal grazing marshes.</p> <p>An iconic highly protected snail indicative of a rare and threatened habitat.</p>  |
| <p><b>The shining ram’s-horn</b></p> <p><i>Segmentina nitida</i></p>      | <p>LC; NS, S41.</p> <p>Pevensey Levels and Lewes Brooks support large populations of this iconic species &amp; so are probably of national importance for the species. It is often associated of <i>Anisus vorticulus</i>, <i>Valvata macrostoma</i> and <i>Euglesa pseudosphaerium</i> and so typical of the best flood plain and coastal grazing marshes.</p>  |



## Reedbed and River Birds Assemblage

### Measures

- General wetland and river improvements, including better water quality.
- Cut reedbeds in winter to ensure dominance of common reed.
- Rotational cutting, ideally on a four-year cycle to encourage structural diversity.
- Cut proportion of reeds around the margins in the summer (avoiding nesting birds) to encourage greater species diversity.
- Remove cuttings to prevent build up of litter and subsequent drying out of reedbed. Use to create habitat piles on fringes.
- Control scrub encroachment as required. Dig out bushes in wetter soils – added benefit of creating pools within reedbeds.
- NOTE: Wetland and reedbed management aimed at these species benefits other species including a range of invertebrates, fish, reptiles and mammals.

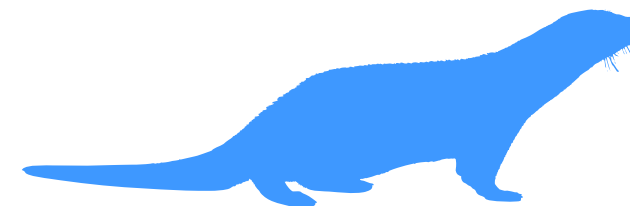
| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <b>Bearded tit</b><br><i>Panurus biarmicus</i>    | Legal protection.<br><br>Scarce breeding resident; very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Key breeding sites are Rye Harbour and Pett Level. Little chance of population growing without further reedbed creation and ongoing management of existing reedbeds is essential. |
| <b>Bittern</b><br><i>Botaurus stellaris</i>       | Legal protection, S41, BoCC Red.<br><br>Scarce winter visitor, rare outside winter months. Ongoing efforts at Rye Harbour to create nesting habitat.   |
| <b>Marsh harrier</b><br><i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | Legal protection, BoCC Amber.<br><br>Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; very scarce breeder since 2004.  |

## Streams & Rivers Assemblage

### Measures

- Improve water quality and flow, with well-oxygenated water and clean gravels.
- Riparian tree planting where appropriate to increase shading of river channels and counter the effects of increased temperatures, but not where it shades out macrophytes.
- Establish passes to overcome or remove barriers to migration upriver and downstream.
- Note: Core habitat measure R1.2 overlaps directly with this assemblage and will contribute to delivery of these assemblage measures.

| Species   | Additional Information & Resources   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Brown/Sea trout</b><br/><i>Salmo trutta</i></p>   | <p>S41.</p> <p>Widespread. Sea trout and brown trout are same species: former is migratory spending most of its life at sea and returning to freshwater to spawn; latter spends all of its life in freshwater. Subspecies included in species given limited number of records for subspecies. Lowland rivers generally have limited populations, but East Sussex rivers appear to support reasonable and probably unique populations. Small Wealden streams are particularly important for this species.</p> |
| <p><b>European eel</b><br/><i>Anguilla anguilla</i></p> | <p>S41, CR.</p> <p>Widely distributed around British and Irish coasts. Found in rivers and estuaries. In common with global trend, East Sussex eel stocks have fallen by over 90%.</p> <p>OSPAR: <a href="#">European eel – Status assessment 2022</a></p>   |
| <p><b>European otter</b><br/><i>Lutra lutra</i></p>     | <p>Legal protection, S41, Sussex Rare.</p> <p>Have been endangered or extinct in nearly all of their native countries but now recovering across Europe. Slow to return to East Sussex and currently no known resident otters.</p>  |



# Urban Nature

## Urban Birds Assemblage

### Measures

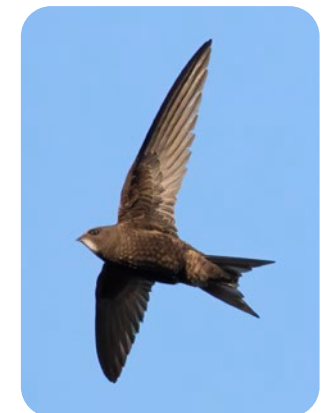
- Create and improve management of species rich grassland, wetland and pockets of scrub in urban areas and improve connectivity within the landscape.
- Encourage the incorporation of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS).
- Provide suitable nest boxes/cups for swifts and house martins where there are no natural nests present and preserve existing nest sites through partnership working.

### Enabling measures

- *Engage with businesses and the public to educate them about these species and encourage their involvement in conservation of threatened urban bird species.*
- *Develop Sussex-wide guidance or standard planning conditions to encourage provision in new development (e.g. [Brighton & Hove City Council: Swift brick policy](#)).*
- *Note: Swift bricks are considered a universal fix for small cavity-nesting bird species as they will also be used by house sparrows, starlings, great tits, blue tits and occasionally house martins and nuthatches. National Planning Practice Guidance is that developments should include swift bricks where possible, with the general aim of one nest box per unit.*

WWT and RSPB: [Sustainable drainage systems guide](#)

| Species  | Additional Information & Resources   |
|--|--|
| <b>House martin</b><br><i>Delichon urbicum</i> | BoCC Red.<br>Common but declining summer visitor and abundant passage migrant. English population declines appear more severe in South East England.                                       |
| <b>Starling</b><br><i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>     | S41, BoCC Red.<br>Common but declining resident and very common to abundant winter visitor. Sussex holds c. 2.1% of GB population. Brighton murmurations considered iconic. Steep decline. |
| <b>Swift</b><br><i>Apus apus</i>               | BoCC Red.<br>Common summer visitor and passage migrant in East Sussex. Decline in breeding population. Scored highly in public surveys.  |



 **Swift**  
 © iStock.com/Yuriy Balagula

# LNRS Glossary

## Archaeophyte

Non-native species that were introduced by humans, either intentionally or unintentionally, and because naturalised in Britain and Ireland between the start of the Neolithic period and AD1500.

## Assemblage

A group of species that share similar requirements and are likely to benefit from the same recovery measures.

## Bioindicators

Living organisms that give an indication of the health of an ecosystem. Some organisms are very sensitive to pollution in their environment, so if pollutants are present, the organism may change its morphology or behaviour, or it could die.

## Flagship species

A species selected to act as an ambassador, icon or symbol for a defined habitat, issue, campaign or environmental cause. Focusing on conservation of that species can help support the status of other species which share its habitat.

## Keystone species

A species that plays a pivotal role in how its ecosystem functions. Every ecosystem has certain species that are critical to the survival of other species in the system. An ecosystem may experience a dramatic shift if a keystone species is removed.

## Kleptoparasite

An animal that steals food or prey from another animal.

## Taxa

All life is divided into groups known as taxa, where a single taxon represents a particular way of dividing up nature, e.g. a population of whales or a species of fish.

## Thermophilic

Organisms that thrive at relatively high temperatures.







# Sussex Nature Recovery

A collective blueprint for targeted action



East Sussex and Brighton & Hove  
Local Nature Recovery Strategy  
Statement of Biodiversity Priorities  
Part 1 – Context & Description of  
Strategy Area



East Sussex and Brighton & Hove  
Local Nature Recovery Strategy  
Statement of Biodiversity Priorities  
Part 2 – Priorities, Measures and the Local Habitat Map



East Sussex and Brighton & Hove  
Local Nature Recovery Strategy  
Statement of Biodiversity Priorities  
Part 3 – Priority Species



West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove  
Local Nature Recovery Strategy  
Statement of Biodiversity Priorities  
Part 4 – Technical Methods

View all the documents at:

[SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk](https://SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk)

June 2026

