



Pevensy and
Cuckmere
Water Level Management Board



Pevensy and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board

Biodiversity Action Plan

2023-2028

1. Statement

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared by the Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board (WLMB) in accordance with the commitment in the Implementation Plan of the Defra Internal Drainage Board Review of 2007 for internal drainage boards (IDBs) to produce their own Biodiversity Action Plans. It demonstrates the Board's commitment to fulfilling its duty as a public body to conserve and enhance biodiversity under various legislation and policy including, but not limited to, the Environment Act 2021, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the 25 Year Environment Plan and Water Framework Directive.

Importantly, it reflects the Board's aspiration to maximise the support it provides to biodiversity, particularly priority UK species and habitats, and the wider environment in general through its day to day activities, by setting clear objectives, actions and targets.

The Board has adopted this Biodiversity Action Plan as one of its policies and is committed to its implementation. It will review the plan periodically and update it as appropriate.

..... Date

Bill Gower

Chairman of the Board

This Biodiversity Action Plan is a public statement by the Board of its biodiversity objectives and the methods by which it intends to achieve them.

We would welcome appropriate involvement in the delivery of the Plan from interested organisations, companies, and individuals.

You can contact us about this Biodiversity Action Plan by writing to the following address:

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board

Pierpoint House

28, Horsley's Fields

King's Lynn

Norfolk

PE30 5DD

Or via email: environment@wlma.org.uk

Further information is available on the Board's website: www.wlma.org.uk

Contents

1. Statement.....	3
Executive Summary.....	6
2. Introduction	7
2.1. What is Biodiversity and why is it important?	7
2.2. Legislative Background	7
2.3. Policy & Strategic Background	8
2.4. Purpose	9
2.5. Vision	9
2.6. Aims.....	9
3. The WLMB BAP Process	11
3.1. The Biodiversity Audit.....	11
3.2. Objectives, Targets and Actions.....	11
3.3. Monitoring and Reporting	11
4. The Biodiversity Audit	12
4.1. The Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board Drainage District	12
4.2. Map of Audit Area (Drainage District).....	13
4.3. Geology	14
4.4. Landscape Character	14
4.5. Landscape Designations	16
4.6. Sites and Monuments.....	17
4.7. Tree Preservation Orders.....	17
4.8. Statutory Nature Conservation Sites.....	17
4.8.1 Internationally Designated Sites.....	17
4.8.2 Nationally Designated Sites	17
4.8.3 Local Nature Reserves.....	18
4.8.4 Non-statutory Nature Conservation Sites.....	18
4.9. Habitat Audit Summary	20
4.10. Species Audit Summary	22
4.11. Invasive Non-native Species Summary	33
4.12. Water Level Management Plans	35
5. Habitat and Species Action Plans	36
5.1. Introduction.....	36
5.2. Habitat Action Plans	36
5.2.1 Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	36
5.2.1.1 National and Local Targets	36
5.2.1.2 WLMB Objectives	36
5.2.1.3 WLMB Actions.....	37
5.2.2 Lowland Fens	38
5.2.2.1 National and Local Targets	38
5.2.2.2 WLMB Objectives	38
5.2.2.3 WLMB Actions	38
5.2.3 Ponds	40
5.2.3.1 National and Local Targets	40
5.2.3.2 WLMB Objectives	40
5.2.3.3 WLMB Actions	40
5.2.4 Reedbeds	42
5.2.4.1 National and Local Targets	42
5.2.4.2 WLMB Objectives	42
5.2.4.3 WLMB Actions.....	42
5.2.5 Rivers, Canals and Drains.....	44
5.2.5.1 National and Local Targets	44
5.2.5.2 WLMB Objectives	44
5.2.5.3 WLMB Actions	44
5.3. Species Action Plans.....	46
5.3.1 Barn Owl and Kestrel	46

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

5.3.1.1 National and Local Targets	46
5.3.1.2 WLMB Objectives	46
5.3.1.3 WLMB Actions	46
5.3.2 Breeding Waders.....	48
5.3.2.1 National and Local Targets	48
5.3.2.2 WLMB Objectives	48
5.3.2.3 WLMB Actions	48
5.3.3 European Eel.....	50
5.3.3.1 National and Local Targets	50
5.3.3.2 WLMB Objectives	50
5.3.3.3 WLMB Actions	50
5.3.4 Fen Raft Spider	52
5.3.4.1 National and Local Targets	52
5.3.4.2 WLMB Objectives	52
5.3.4.3 WLMB Actions	52
5.3.5 European Otter	54
5.3.5.1 National and Local Targets	54
5.3.5.2 WLMB Objectives	54
5.3.5.3 WLMB Actions	54
5.3.6 European Water Vole	56
5.3.6.1 National and Local Targets	56
5.3.6.2 WLMB Objectives	56
5.3.6.3 WLMB Actions	56
5.3.7 Grass Snake	58
5.3.7.1 National and Local Targets	58
5.3.7.2 WLMB Objectives	58
5.3.7.3 WLMB Actions	58
5.3.8 Hazel Dormouse	59
5.3.8.1 National and Local Targets	59
5.3.8.2 WLMB Objectives	59
5.3.8.3 WLMB Actions	59
5.3.9 Non-native Invasive Species	61
5.3.9.1 National and Local Targets	61
5.3.9.2 WLMB Objectives	61
5.3.9.3 WLMB Actions	61
6. Procedural Action Plan	63
6.1. Introduction.....	63
6.2. Objectives and Targets	63
6.3. WLMB Actions	63
7. Implementation.....	65
8. Monitoring.....	65
9. Reporting	65
10. Appendices	67
10.1. Appendix 1: Landscape Character	67
10.2. Appendix 2: Nationally, Internationally Designated Nature Conservation Sites	68
10.3. Appendix 3: Non-Statutory Designated Sites.....	71
10.4. Appendix 4 : Species Audit Summary	72
10.5. Appendix 5: Biodiversity Action Plan Objectives.....	78
10.6. Appendix 6 : Habitats and Species Action Plans	79
10.7. Appendix 7: Glossary	85

Executive Summary:

Contributing to biodiversity is an important part of the Water Level Management Board's role as a modern public authority. Never has there been greater focus on protecting and enhancing our biodiversity as there is today. Through the Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB water level management activities, the Board is uniquely placed to conserve and improve freshwater and wetland habitats, and to forge partnerships with organisations and landowners, to ensure sustainable water level management in lowland areas is undertaken in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) and the Environment Act (2021).

Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) provide WLMBs with a formal mechanism to demonstrate and record their biodiversity contributions. The WLMB BAP approach remains the most suitable tool to help the WLMBs meet its statutory conservation duties under the legislation, where some new approaches are being undertaken to protect and enhance our natural environment.

The Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2028 although very similar in many respects to its two predecessors, but it now also represents a document which has been reviewed and updated to contain the most up to date legislation and policy. New objectives and action targets have been set following an audit of species and habitats within the internal drainage district, (as provided by the local records centre), to conserve and enhance biodiversity, whilst contributing to the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and meeting the new legislative requirements.

The Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2028 summarises the targets, objectives and actions for the following habitats and species, respectively:

- *Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Lowland Fen, Ponds, Reedbed, Rivers Canals and Drains.*
- *Barn Owl and Kestrel, Breeding Waders, European Eel, Fen Raft Spider, European Otter, European Water Vole, Grass Snake, Hazel Dormouse, Non-Native Invasives.*

2. Introduction

2.1. What is Biodiversity and why is it important?

Biodiversity can be defined simply as “the variety of life” and encompasses the whole spectrum of living organisms, including plants, birds, mammals and insects. It includes both common and rare species, as well as the genetic diversity within species. Biodiversity also refers to the habitats and ecosystems that support these species.

Biodiversity is part of our natural capital, a vital resource providing:

- Supply of ecosystem services including water, nutrients, climate change mitigation, flood mitigation, carbon storage and pollination;
- Life resources including food, medicine, energy and raw materials;
- Improved health and well-being;
- Landscape and cultural distinctiveness;
- Direct economic benefits from biodiversity resources and ‘added value’ through local economic activity and tourism;
- Educational, recreational and amenity resources.

This Biodiversity Action Plan is part of a much larger biodiversity framework that encompasses international, national and local levels of legislation and policy and which also include ecosystem services and climate change.

2.2. Legislative Background

When carrying out its functions, a WLMB must pay particular regard to the effect on the environment. Some environmental legislation relates specifically to maintaining or restoring the condition of protected sites or protecting certain species, but there are also statutory duties for WLMBs to conserve and enhance biodiversity in and alongside the watercourses they manage and the wider landscape.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places a duty on WLMBs to conserve biodiversity. The Environment Act 2021, when enacted, extends this duty on WLMBs to also enhance biodiversity and report periodically on its actions. Therefore, as a public authority, every WLMB must consider what action it can take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England.

Below is a list of key environmental legislation (by no means an exhaustive list) relevant to the work of WLMBs:

- The Environment Act 2021
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40)
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (Land Drainage Improvement Works) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- Land Drainage Act 1994
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

2.3. Policy & Strategic Background

In 1992 at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, commonly known as the Rio Earth Summit, the UK signed the Convention on Biological Diversity which pledged its commitment to contribute towards halting the worldwide loss of habitats and species and their genetic resources. At the 2010 biodiversity summit in Nagoya, Japan, the UK re-affirmed this commitment and the “Biodiversity 2020” white paper was developed setting out how those commitments would be put into action.

The 2010 report by Sir John Lawton “Making Space for Nature” set out that ecological networks were required in order to halt and reverse the declines seen in many threatened species and habitats. The report succinctly made clear that these ecological networks needed to be bigger, more frequent, better in quality, and more joined up in order to be successful in their ambitions.

The concept of Nature Recovery Networks featured in the Government’s Biodiversity 2020 strategy (2011) and 25 Year Environment Plan (2018). The Environment Act 2021 and the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) expands this concept by also take into account the value of the ecological services provided by non-priority species and habitats such as the carbon sequestration of wetlands, the flood alleviation of tree-planting in the uplands and the wellbeing benefits brought about by green space. As such, this BAP presents the actions planned by the WLMB to support both priority and non-priority species.

International reports such as by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) have found that climate change in particular is considered to be one of the biggest threats to our biodiversity now, and in the future. Supporting the continuity, connectivity and quality of habitat through management, restoration and expansion may help even the less mobile species to adapt more easily to climate change. This BAP presents the actions the WLMB can take to support climate resilience for biodiversity.

2.4. Purpose

This BAP has been produced to demonstrate how the WLMB fulfils its legal obligations to conserve and enhance biodiversity and sets out targets and actions that contribute to local, national and international strategies and policies.

While the WLMB has a statutory duty to have regard for the environment whilst carrying out their functions, for example on or within drainage assets such as watercourses and their banks, the WLMB has also to give consideration to how they can contribute to the enhancement of the wider environment.

It is not within the scope of this document to set out the WLMBs' objectives and actions in relation to wider environmental topics, such as reducing carbon emissions or reducing waste. However, strategies to address such topics may be mentioned in connection to the enhancement of habitats and species, such as peatland restoration and carbon sequestration.

The opportunity to work together to support and enhance biodiversity in partnership with other organisations is sought wherever possible, as the WLMB recognises the additional value working in such ways can bring to the overall objectives.

The intention is that biodiversity is fully integrated into the Board's activities, policies and procedures such as annual maintenance programmes, capital works projects, training and communications.

2.5. Vision

The WLMB's vision is:

A drainage district where thriving wildlife is an integral part of delivering efficient and effective water-level management.

2.6. Aims

The aims of this BAP are:

- To positively demonstrate that the Boards water course maintenance, water level management and capital works are undertaken in a manner that, whilst reducing flood risk and managing flows, also safeguards biodiversity and makes a positive contribution to the enhancement of the biodiversity and the natural environment;
- To ensure that opportunities for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are fully considered throughout the WLMB's operations;
- To ensure that Priority species and habitats receive effective action within defined targets within the Pevensey and Cuckmere drainage district;
- To identify targets and appropriate actions for other habitats and species of local importance within the drainage district. This includes invasive non - native species;
- To enable more effective monitoring and report on progress in biodiversity conservation.

- To contribute to local environmental partnerships such as the Local Nature Partnership to ensure that programmes and priorities for biodiversity conservation are aligned and maintained in the long term;
- To contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Partnerships;
- To raise awareness within the WLMB and locally of the need for biodiversity conservation, and to communicate with the local and wider community what actions the WLMB are undertaking to support biodiversity.
- To ensure that the Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB BAP document remains current and up to date as priority species and habitats change within the IDD and with regards to climate change. The board can agree changes more frequently when appropriate.

3. The WLMB BAP Process

3.1. The Biodiversity Audit

The Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB has conducted a biodiversity audit of its drainage district (Figure 1) and identified those habitats and species that would benefit from particular management or actions by the WLMB.

This BAP focuses on nationally important priority habitats and species, that is to say those that have been deemed of 'principal importance' in England under the NERC Act 2006. However, those that are not priority species or habitats, but may be locally significant for a variety of reasons have also been considered. Invasive non-native species have also been included.

The information gathered, which is presented in later sections, has been used to develop this WLMB's Biodiversity Action Plan.

3.2. Objectives, Targets and Actions

For each relevant habitat and species, conservation objectives have been identified. The action plan then details individual actions required to achieve the objectives, and associated monitoring and reporting of progress and impact.

In order for this BAP to be as effective as possible the targets and actions have been devised to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-limited).

Procedural targets and actions have also been considered allowing the Board to measure the way in which it considers and incorporates biodiversity across the whole range of its operations. These may involve changes to administrative, management and operating procedures.

3.3. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring is the on-going process of regularly collecting and analysing relevant information to make sure the actions within the Plan are positively contributing towards the targets and to capture any additional benefit achieved. The Plan sets out how and when this monitoring will take place for example, to regularly review the progress of actions against the plan at Board meetings throughout the life of the plan.

The frequency and type of information reported is also defined by the Plan and includes the publication of progress reports in the public domain via the WLMB's website and in accordance with the duty set out in the Environment Act 2021.

The overall plan will be updated at least every 5 years but as this is a dynamic document it may change more frequently. For example, in the light of routine monitoring, changes may be necessary to ensure an objective can be met.

4. The Biodiversity Audit

4.1. The Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board Drainage District

The Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB drainage district includes the rural areas of the High and Low Weald to the north of the catchment and the South Downs to the south. At the downstream end of the catchment are the towns of Eastbourne, Pevensey, Bexhill and Hastings. The district may be considered in three sections, each reflecting catchments, Cuckmere (7.2 km drains), the Pevensey levels (95.5 km drains) and Combe Haven (0.45 km drains).

The Cuckmere River rises near Heathfield and flows to reach the Channel at Cuckmere Haven. The PCWLMB does not manage the main channel, but manages the Freshwater Stream and Milton Hide Stream.

The Pevensey Levels is grazing marsh with internal ditches which covers 4300 hectares between Eastbourne and Bexhill-on-Sea and outfalls to the sea at Pevensey. Management is shared with the Environment Agency. Levels are controlled via structures and pumping stations.

Much of Combe Haven is a rural catchment which discharges to the sea west of St Leonards. The Powdermill and Watermill Streams drain to the Combe Haven merging with the Hollington Stream just before it discharges to the sea.

The following outlines the key details of the District:

- Total area of the drainage district: **7,759 ha**
- Catchment area draining to and including the District: **46,928 ha**
- Area of agricultural land (including designated wildlife sites): **6,177 ha**
- Area of other (non-agricultural) land: **1,582 ha**

Assets for which the Board has operational responsibility:

- Water level control structures: **204**
- Watercourses (maintained): **103 km**
- Raised embankments: **0 km**
- Reservoirs: **0 ha**
- Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS): **0 number**
- Pumping Stations: **6**

4.2. Map of Audit Area (Drainage District)

The area covered by the drainage district of the WLMB is shown below in Figure 1.

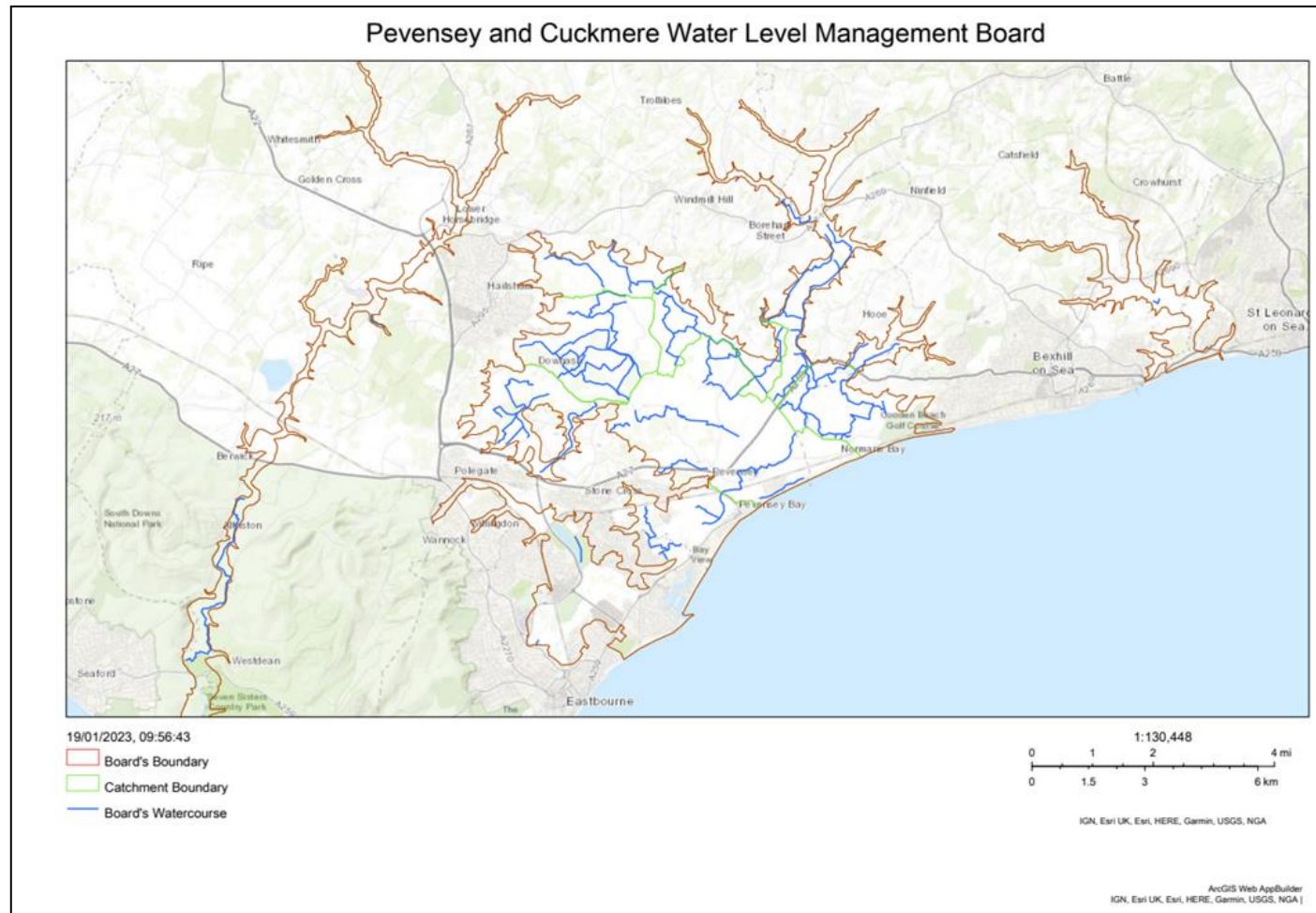


Figure 1. Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB District (OS Licence : 100047016).

4.3. Geology

The Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB district is bordered by the chalk of the South Downs to the west and the sandstones of the High Weald to the north and east with the coast to the south.

In the west, the Cuckmere valley has a distinctive shape, being very narrow with a variety of geological cover. The catchment covers the cross-section of Wealden geology from Ashdown Sandstone in the north through Weald Clay to chalk. The middle and lower reaches of the catchment within the Drainage district are floored by Weald Clay with small tracts of Upper and Lower Greensand, Gault Clay and Chalk.

The Pevensey Levels in the centre of the of the Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB district comprise the low-lying area between Eastbourne and Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex and their formation was dominated by the changing relationship between land and sea. The Levels themselves are a complex inter-bedded sequence of marine silts and clays with a fragmented peat layer of variable thickness. This is generally overlain by at least one and a half metres of clay. The soils developed upon these substrates are described as "deep stoneless, mainly calcareous clayey soils of the Newchurch series of the Wallasea sub-group" (British Geological Survey, 1987). The wetland catchment is delimited by the Chalk of the South Downs to the south-west, the foothills of the Weald to the North, composed mainly of Tunbridge Wells Sands, and outcrops of Wadhurst and Weald Clays to the east and west. The southern boundary is formed by a shingle barrier beach which isolates the wetland from the sea.

Combe Haven lies on geology of sandstone (Lower Tunbridge Wells), siltstone and mudstone.

4.4. Landscape Character

Natural England has divided the whole of England into a number of National Character Areas (NCA) based on characteristic landforms, wildlife and land use. For each NCA, there is a prepared profile that characterises the wildlife and natural features, identifies the influences that act upon those features and sets objectives for nature conservation.

The area within Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB falls under three of these National Character Areas, High Weald (Area 122), Pevensey Levels (Area 124) and South Downs (Area 125). A map of the NCA's can be found in Appendix 1.

122. High Weald

The key characteristics of High Weald are:

- A faulted landform of clays, sand and soft sandstones with outcrops of fissured sandrock and ridges running east–west, deeply incised and intersected with numerous gill streams forming the headwaters of a number of the major rivers – the Rother, Brede, Ouse and Medway – which flow in broad valleys.
- Ancient routeways in the form of ridgetop roads and a dense system of radiating droveways, often narrow, deeply sunken and edged with trees and wild flower-rich verges and boundary banks. Church towers and spires on the ridges are an important local landmark. There is a dense network of small, narrow and winding lanes, often sunken and enclosed by high hedgerows or woodland strips. The area includes several large towns such as Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough, Battle and Heathfield and is closely bordered by

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

others such as Crawley, East Grinstead, Hastings and Horsham.

- Strong feeling of remoteness due to very rural, wooded character. A great extent of interconnected ancient woods, steep-sided gill woodlands, wooded heaths and shaws in generally small holdings with extensive archaeology and evidence of long-term management.
- Extensive broadleaved woodland cover with a very high proportion of ancient woodland with high forest, small woods and shaws, plus steep valleys with gill woodland.
- Small and medium-sized irregularly shaped fields enclosed by a network of hedgerows, predominantly of medieval origin and managed historically as a mosaic of small agricultural holdings typically used for livestock grazing.
- A predominantly grassland agricultural landscape grazed mainly with sheep and some cattle.
- There is a strong influence of the Wealden iron industry which started in Roman times, until coke fuel replaced wood and charcoal. There are features such as a notably high number of small hammer ponds surviving today.

124. Pevensey Levels

The key characteristics of the Pevensey Levels are:

- Low-lying tract of largely reclaimed wetland, actively maintained by purpose-built drainage systems and river flood plain improvements, with long views to the dramatic and distinctive backdrop of the South Downs and out over the sea. A predominantly open landscape with extensive grazed wet meadows and some arable fields with characteristic dykes, wetlands and wide skies. The open, windswept feel is further enhanced by the scarcity of trees and hedges in the landscape.
- Local landscape diversity is added by 'eyes' – islands of higher ground, many with farmsteads – and also by reed-fringed ditches, scattered willows and patches of standing water with adjacent rushy pasture. Ditches of high biodiversity value, particularly for invertebrates and aquatic plants, typically fringed with reeds, and with patches of standing water and rushy pasture reinforcing the wetland character.
- Widely spaced roads and isolated settlements combine with the overall open character to provide a sense of remoteness. Roads tend to be slightly raised above the surrounding land, forming visual divisions in the landscape.

125. South Downs

The key characteristics of the South Downs are:

- A broad elevated east–west chalk ridge with a predominantly steep northfacing scarp slope and a gentle southerly dip slope, breaking into a series of hills in the west and terminating in distinctive chalk cliffs in the east.
- Cliffs between Beachy Head and Seaford Head are part of a Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site of international importance for its landscape and for research into coastal geomorphology.

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

- The principal rivers – the Arun, Adur, Cuckmere and Ouse – slice through the eastern half of the downs as wide U-shaped valleys with steep sides and flat alluvial flood plains with intensive dairying and crops, and characterised by criss-crossing ditches and meandering river channels. The meanders of the River Cuckmere by Seven Sisters chalk cliffs are particularly significant. Remnant wetland habitats including flood plain grazing marsh, fens and reed beds.
- Chalk streams running off both the north- and south-facing scarp slopes providing a key habitat for the scarp and the flood plain landscape, supporting species such as the brown trout.
- Distinctive fragments of semi-natural chalk grassland dotted with chalk springs on scarp and combe slopes, with important associated habitats including rare chalk heath and species-rich chalk scrub.
- A vast array of wildlife such as otters and barn owls; lesser known species such as the barbastelle bat, the chalk carpet moth, sundews (carnivorous plants) and the round-headed rampion, the county flower of Sussex; threatened species include the bee orchid, small blue butterfly and nightjar.

4.5. Landscape Designations

The Waterlot North catchment component, to the extreme north of the Pevensey Levels drainage district, falls within the designation area of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (See Figure 2).

The High Weald AONB is medieval landscape of wooded, rolling hills studded with sandstone outcrops; small, irregular-shaped fields; scattered farmsteads; and ancient routeways. The 1461km² area covers parts of Kent, Sussex and Surrey at the heart of South East England.



Figure 2. High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (Map from <https://www.highweald.org/>)

4.6. Sites and Monuments

No information for sites and monuments was obtained as part of the audit. The Board will continue to carry out searches prior to work, as required, to prevent any Sites or Monuments being missed. The Board consults with English Heritage and the East Sussex County Council Archaeology Service prior to Capital works taking place or where ground breaking in areas other than general maintenance is required.

Relevant information on Archaeological Notification Areas within Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB catchment can be found at;

- East Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) - [here](#)
- East Sussex County Council Archaeological Notification Area Maps (ANAs) - [here](#)

4.7. Tree Preservation Orders

The Board will continue to carry out searches prior to work, as required, to prevent any new Tree Preservation Orders (TPO'S) being missed. Relevant information on TPO's within the Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB catchment can be found on the relevant District Council and Borough Council websites as follows:

- Lewes District Council & Eastbourne Borough Council - [here](#)
- Wealden District Council - [here](#)
- Rother District Council - [here](#)
- Hastings Borough Council - [here](#)

4.8. Statutory Nature Conservation Sites

4.8.1 Internationally Designated Sites

The following internationally-designated conservation sites, relevant to the water level management* and/or maintenance activities of the WLMB, are found within or adjacent to the drainage district. Maps of the internationally designated nature conservation sites are shown in Appendix 2.

Table 1. Internationally designated sites within or adjacent to the WLMB boundary

Site name	Designation	Associated WLMP?*	Features Relevant to WLMB
Pevensey Levels	SAC, Ramsar	Yes, Pevensey Levels WLMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing marsh, ditches, reedbed, wet woodland

*Further information regarding Water Level Management Plans (WLMPs) are given later in the document

4.8.2 Nationally Designated Sites

The following nationally-designated conservation sites, relevant to water level management and/or maintenance activities of the WLMB, are found within the drainage district. Maps of the

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan
 nationally designated nature conservation sites are shown in Appendix 2.

Table 2. Nationally designated sites within or adjacent to the drainage district

Site name	Designation	Component of an International Site	Associated WLMP?*	Features Relevant to WLMB
Cuckmere				
Arlington Reservoir	SSSI	No	No	• Open water
Milton Gate Marsh	SSSI	No	No*	• Grazing marsh/ valley fen
Seaford to Beachy Head	SSSI	No	No**	• River meanders
Pevensey				
Pevensey Levels	SSSI, NNR	Pevensey Levels SAC & Ramsar	Yes	• Grazing marsh, ditches, reedbed, wet woodland
Ashburnham Park	SSSI	No	No	
Combe Haven				
Combe Haven	SSSI	No	No	• Grazing meadows, reedbed, ditches

*There is a n associated Milton Gate Marsh level management plan consultation document.

**There is an associated Lower Cuckmere WLMP interim statement (1998).

4.8.3 Local Nature Reserves

The following Local Nature Reserves are relevant to the activities of the WLMB are found within the drainage district.

Table 3. Local Nature Reserves within the drainage district

Site name	Associated WLMP?*	Features Relevant to WLMB
Arlington Reservoir	No	Meadows and pockets of woodland. Important for thousands of over-wintering birds such as wigeon and shoveler – as well as great crested grebe, Canada geese, kingfisher and barn owl. Also important for many fish species including, bream, roach, perch, eels, carp and gudgeon.
Filsham Reedbed	No	Reedbed with ditches and lagoons, wetland habitats, grazing marsh, reed, reed-fen, and areas of ancient woodland. This variety of habitats in turn supports a wide range of plant, invertebrate and bird life.
Pevensey Marshes	Yes – Pevensey Levels WLMP	A large area of grazing marsh with numerous ditches and pools. Large low lying area of wet grassland, grazed year round keeping grass at a level suitable for waders such as Lapwing and Redshank to breed.
Seaford Head	No	Chalk grassland, Scrub & Woodland, Wet grassland and saltmarsh. Important for Potter Flower Bee, Green – winged Orchid and Heath Snail.

4.8.4 Non-statutory Nature Conservation Sites

A number of sites have been identified locally as being important for wildlife. Whilst these designations do not have statutory status, the sites are important for their contribution to

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

biodiversity and planning policy requires that they are given consideration by the LPA in forming any decision. The following relevant Local Wildlife Sites are to be found within or bordering the drainage district. Data was sourced from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC). Appendix 3 shows a map of the Local Wildlife Sites within the Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB drainage district or bordering the drainage district.

Table 4. Non-Statutory sites within the drainage district

Local Wildlife Sites within or bordering the drainage district			
Cuckmere			
Abbots & Wilmington Wood & Milton Hide	Beatons Wood	Friston Forest	Michelham Priory
Pevensey Levels			
Brays Hill Meadow	Cooden Cliffs	Crumbles and Horsey Sewers	Eastbourne Park
Hampden Park and Ham Shaw	Langney Centre Pond	Langney Crematorium and Cemetery	Langney Levels
Leeds Avenue Reed Bed	Rough Wood and Whites Wood, Ninfield	Shingle Beach at Normans Bay	Sovereign Harbour Beach
Sovereign Park			
Combe Haven			
Bulverhythe Shingle Beach and Cliffs	Disused Railway, Bexhill	Filsham Reedbeds	Fore Wood
Glyne Gap	Marshy Grassland and Reedbed, Glyne Gap	Old Filsham Golf Course	South Saxons
Wishing Tree	Woodland Complex at Buckholt Farm		

4.9. Habitat Audit Summary

This habitat audit summary lists the UK priority habitats that occur within the drainage district and are identified as likely to be influenced by the Board's activities. Also listed are habitats deemed to be of local importance and/or featured in local nature strategies that occur in the drainage district. Finally, brief notes are included on the potential for the WLMB to maintain, restore or expand its important habitats. Not all habitats listed in the table below are taken to action plans, but are still relevant to the IDD.

Table 5. Habitat Audit Summary

National Priority Habitat	National Status & Extent	Local Priority Habitat	Local Status and Extent	Habitat of Importance for WLMB	Extent, status and Location of Habitat of Importance within drainage district	WLMB Potential for Maintaining, Restoring or Expanding Habitat (high/medium/low)
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	A UK BAP priority habitat. The exact extent of grazing marsh in the UK is not known but it is possible that there may be a total of 300,000 ha. England holds the largest proportion with an estimate in 1994 of 200,000 ha.	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	The large majority of seasonally flooded grasslands in Sussex are called Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marshes (CFPGM). Of the remaining lowland wetland habitats in Sussex, grazing marshes are some of the most extensive. Estimates put the area of CFPGM in Sussex at nearly 15,000 ha.	Grazing marsh and associated ditch systems	Throughout the district. Covers most of the Pevensey Levels, with some more localised area within the Combe Haven and Cuckmere district area.	High - The WLMB can maintain and improve condition through sensitive management, floodplain reconnection and creation of Cuckmere WLMP
Lowland Fens	A UK BAP priority habitat. The UK is thought to host a large proportion of the fen surviving in the EU. As in other parts of Europe fen vegetation has declined dramatically in the past century. In intensively farmed lowland areas fens occur less frequently, are smaller in size and more isolated than in other parts of the UK.	Fens	There are less than 200 hectares of true fen in Sussex. Nearly two thirds of this is found at two sites in East Sussex at Combe Haven valley and Pett level. In West Sussex, a few large patches of fen are also found on the Arun Valley at Amberley Wildbrooks and Pulborough Brooks. Otherwise, most of our fen is in patches which are small, isolated and vulnerable to extinction.	Lowland Fens	Areas of Lowland Fen within the Cuckmere River catchment area, Langney, area along the Waterlot Stream, Pebsham and the Combe Valley.	Medium - The WLMB can maintain and consider opportunities to enhance Fen condition through sensitive management and landowner partnerships for maintaining and restoring areas

Ponds	A UK BAP priority habitat. The current number of ponds in the UK has been estimated around 400,000 (excluding garden ponds), with approximately 60% of these in lowland Britain. Declining slowly	Ponds, lakes and reservoirs	There are around 18,000 ponds in Sussex (excluding garden and urban ponds). There are 25 Sussex parishes which are listed as 'lacking' in ponds as part of a Sussex wide pond network. The Important Areas for Ponds (IAP) concept raises awareness of areas that support networks of ponds of national or international wildlife importance. Six of the twelve IAP areas identified for the South East occur entirely in Sussex in; The Western Rother Valley, Sussex Heaths, Ashdown, Newhaven, Pevensey & Winchelsea.	Ponds	Ponds within the district are not owned by the WLMB but are owned by landowners.	Medium/Low – Ponds are not on our WLMB owned land, so it will be inhibited by funding. The WLMB will need to discuss with landowners the idea of restoring ponds
Reedbeds	A UK BAP priority habitat. There are about 5,000ha of reedbeds in the UK, but of the approx. 900 sites contributing to this total, only about 50 are greater than 20ha, and these make a large contribution to the total area. Reedbeds are amongst the most important habitats for birds in the UK. Over 40% of reedbeds have been lost in England since 1945 and they are still declining rapidly.	Reedbeds	Sussex is a lowland county and should have significant areas of reedbed, but there are now less than 300ha left. Largest reedbed in Sussex – (15 ha) Sussex Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve at Filsham (East Sussex). Large area also found in the Pannel Valley (East Sussex) and the adjacent Wildlife Trust Reserve at Rye Harbour. Remaining reedbed is found along ditch edges which play a valuable role in connecting a wider mosaic of wetland sites.	Reedbeds	Sparsley distributed, small scale areas. Along the Dowle Stream, a single patch alongside Drockmill Hill Gut and more significant areas along the Combe Haven.	High - The WLMB can maintain what's already within the district through sensitive management, with the potential for landowner partnerships to extend area
Rivers	A UK BAP priority habitat. This habitat type includes a very wide range of types, encompassing all natural and near-natural running waters in the UK. The Water Framework Directive is focusing work to improve surface freshwaters (including lakes, streams and rivers).	Rivers, Canals and Drains	Numerous Rivers and Streams flow through Sussex.	Rivers, Canals and Drains	Rivers and drains are found throughout the drainage district. The habitat supports a vast proportion of wildlife; otter and water vole can be regularly found, and Barn owl are prolific hunters along the matrix of linear freshwater features.	High – The WLMB have a high ability to be able to maintain this habitat through sensitive management

4.10. Species Audit Summary

This species audit summary will include priority and other species including INNS that occur within the drainage district and are identified as likely to be influenced by the Board's activities. Also listed are species deemed to be of local importance and/or identified by local nature strategies. Finally, brief notes are included on the potential for the WLMB to improve the status of the species in the drainage district. Not all species listed in the table below are taken to action plans, but are still relevant to the IDD. A full list of BAP Priority Species and species deemed to be of local importance that occur within the IDD as identified by the species audit, can be found in Appendix 4.

Table 6. Species Audit Summary

Common & scientific name	National Status	Local Status	Location of Species of Importance within drainage district	WLMB Potential for Maintaining or Increasing Species Population or Range (High/medium/low)
AMPHIBIANS				
Common Frog <i>Rana temporaria</i>	A common species in the UK. Found throughout the country, except for some Scottish islands, some of the Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands. Protected in the UK under the WCA (1981). Colonises garden ponds. Its numbers are thought to be in decline because its habitat is decreasing and the introduction of disease.	Sussex is home to five species of amphibian: smooth newt, palmate newt, great crested newt, common frog and common toad. All amphibians and reptiles associated with wetlands in Sussex are thought to be suffering from declines.	Breeding in ponds during the spring and found feeding in woodland, gardens, hedgerows and grassland during the rest of the year. Found within most WLMB drains. They hibernate over winter.	Medium/Low – Increase / maintain population from Habitat enhancement
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Found almost everywhere, except for Scottish islands, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Isles of Scilly and most of the Channel Islands. Protected in the UK under the WCA (1981). Widespread and common across Britain.	Sussex is home to five species of amphibian: smooth newt, palmate newt, great crested newt, common frog and common toad. All amphibians and reptiles associated with wetlands in Sussex are thought to be suffering from declines.	Breeding in ponds during the spring and found feeding in woodland, gardens, hedgerows and grassland during the rest of the year. Found within most WLMB drains. They hibernate over winter.	Medium/Low – Increase / maintain population from Habitat enhancement

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	A UK BAP priority species. The great crested newt is the largest species of newt in the UK and is also the most threatened. The British population is among the largest in Europe. Protected under annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive and Schedule 5 of the WCA (1981) & listed under Appendix II of the Bern Convention.	Sussex is a stronghold for the great crested newt but their populations are patchily distributed and numbers are in decline.	Sparsely distributed across the district. Breeding in ponds during the spring. Spend the rest of the year feeding on invertebrates in woodland, hedgerows, marshes and grassland.	Medium/Low – Increase / maintain population from Habitat enhancement
Palmate Newt <i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>	A widespread species, found throughout the country, except for the Scottish islands, the Isle of Man the Isles of Scilly, Northern Ireland and most of the Channel Islands. Protected in the UK under the WCA (1981).	Sussex is home to five species of amphibian: smooth newt, palmate newt, great crested newt, common frog and common toad. All amphibians and reptiles associated with wetlands in Sussex are thought to be suffering from declines.	Breeding in ponds during the spring. Spend the rest of the year feeding on invertebrates in woodland, hedgerows, marshes and grassland. Prefers shallow pools on acidic soils. As such, it is more likely to be found in upland areas and on heaths and moorlands than other newt species. Also found within most WLMB drains.	Medium/Low – Increase / maintain population from Habitat enhancement
Smooth Newt <i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	Most widespread newt species in the UK. They colonise ponds. Smooth newts are protected under the WCA (1981).	Sussex is home to five species of amphibian: smooth newt, palmate newt, great crested newt, common frog and common toad. All amphibians and reptiles associated with wetlands in Sussex are thought to be suffering from declines.	Breeding in ponds during the spring. Spend the rest of the year feeding on invertebrates in woodland, hedgerows, marshes and grassland. Also found within most WLMB drains.	Medium/Low – Increase / maintain population from Habitat enhancement
BIRDS				
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	Decline in the species nationally up until the mid-1990's. The Barn owl is listed in Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats Directive, Appendix I of the Bern Convention and is protected under Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations (1994).	The drainage district supports a significant population of barn owls, which use ditch banks, pastures and margins for foraging. The population may be limited by lack of nest sites. Rough-grassland margins provided by the banks of watercourses were recognised in 1987 as a vital resource for Barn Owls.	Throughout district. Occupied nest boxes found along PCWLMB area.	High – Install, Monitor & maintain nest box sites along drains

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

	UK conservation status (2021): Green and protected by Schedule 1 & 9 of the WCA (1981).			
Breeding Waders (Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> , Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> , Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> , Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	Black-tailed godwit, Curlew & Lapwing are UK BAP priority species & Listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Avocet's UK conservation status (2021): Amber. Black-tailed godwit, Curlew & Lapwing UK conservation status (2021): Red. All protected by the WCA (1981).	The UK's breeding waders are in decline, due to a combination of habitat loss, unfavourable habitat management and predation. Spring brings the breeding birds such as Lapwing, Redshank, Sedge and Reed Warblers and small numbers of Yellow Wagtail to the Pevensey Marshes Nature Reserve.	Throughout District. Huge numbers of wading birds congregate around the inland wetland sites, mudflats and nearby farmland.	Medium – Maintain and increase species population via habitat enhancement through ELMS
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	One of the UK's most recent colonists, first breeding in Kent in 1972. Cetti's warblers like damp areas close to wetlands. Look for them at RSPB reserves at Radipole Lake and Lodmoor, Dorset; Exminster Marshes, Devon; Marazion Marsh, Cornwall and Strumpshaw Fen, Norfolk. UK conservation status (2021): Green and protected by the WCA (1981).	Typically found in damp, dense, scrubby terrain fringing reedbeds, the large-scale drainage of wetland areas has led to the majority of their population being found on nature reserves. Its hoped the recent wetland restoration works at Woods Mill will continue to assist in helping them thrive in Sussex.	Throughout District.	Medium – Maintain / increase species population via Reedbed Habitat Action Plans
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	A UK BAP priority species. In decline. The grasshopper warbler is found scattered across the UK in summer. Likes areas of scrub, thick grassland, the edges of reedbeds, new forestry plantations and gravel pits with plenty of scattered bushes. UK conservation status (2021): Red and protected by the WCA (1981).	The Grasshopper Warbler passes through Sussex in pronounced numbers both in spring and autumn. At Rye Harbour it occurs sporadically, usually just single birds, though very occasionally with two during the summer months.	Sparsely distributed across the district.	Low – Maintain and increase species population via habitat enhancement
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	The Kestrel has undergone an estimated 20% decline in numbers in the last 10-20 years. Listed in Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats Directive, Appendix I of the Bern Convention and is protected under Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations (1994).	Fairly common resident in Sussex and is a relatively successful and widespread.	Throughout District. Occupied nest boxes found along PCWLMB area.	High – Install, Monitor & maintain nest box sites along drains

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

	UK conservation status (2021): Amber and protected by the WCA (1981).			
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Formerly declining along linear waterways until the mid-1980s, since recovered. Current estimate 3,800-6,400 pairs. Fairly widespread, becoming less common further north but following some declines last century, they are currently increasing. UK conservation status (2021): Green and protected by Schedule 1 of the WCA (1981).	Fairly widespread in Sussex.	Throughout District. They are found by still or slow flowing water such as lakes, canals and rivers in lowland areas. Occasionally they may visit garden ponds if of a suitable size.	Low – Kingfishers to be considered as a part of Capital Schemes works
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	The little egret is a recent colonist, and is most common along the south and east coasts of England and in Wales. The estuaries of Devon and Cornwall, Poole Harbour and Chichester Harbour hold some of the largest concentrations and they are also common in East Anglia. UK conservation status (2021): Green and protected by the WCA (1981).	Common around the coast and estuaries of Sussex.	Throughout District.	Low - WLMB Potential to benefit species from Habitat Action Plans
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Marsh harriers are mainly found in eastern and south-east England, with some in the north-west, south-west and Scotland. They can be seen over reedbeds and marshes, as well as farmland near wetlands. UK conservation status (2021): Amber and protected under schedule 1 of the WCA (1981).	Marsh Harriers are often seen hunting over the Pevensey Marshes Nature Reserve.	Throughout District. Marsh Harrier are often seen hunting over the Pevensey Marshes Nature Reserve.	Low - WLMB Potential to benefit species from Reedbed Habitat Action Plan
Overwintering birds (Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> , Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> , Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> , Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i> , Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> , White-	Bittern & White-fronted Goose are UK BAP priority species. All Protected by the WCA (1981). Golden Plover's UK conservation status (2021): Green. Bittern, Black-necked Grebe, Green Sandpiper, Greenshank and Whooper Swan's UK conservation status (2021): Amber. White-fronted Goose UK conservation	Locally, overwintering birds can be found over lowland fields, estuaries of SW England inland freshwater lakes and marshes, farmland and wetland areas and within reedbeds at Filsham Reedbed and Rye Harbour nature reserve.	Throughout District. Concentrated areas around estuaries and over farmland and wetland areas in the district.	Low - WLMB Potential to benefit species from Habitat Action Plans

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i> , Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)	status (2021): Red & Listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.			
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Reed buntings are a UK resident and a farmland and wetland bird. The decrease of the reed bunting has occurred at the same time as decreases in the numbers and/or range of a suite of other farmland birds. UK conservation status (2021): Amber and protected by the WCA (1981).	There are numerous records of reed bunting in drainage district, which use reed fringes along the rivers, drains and ditches. The restoration and careful management of these reed fringes that are addressed by the reedbed HAP offer the opportunity of enhancing the habitat for this species throughout the district.	Numerous records of reed bunting in the drainage district, which use reed fringes along the rivers, drains and ditches. They can be found in reedbeds along the Southern end of the Combe Haven and on the Dowle Stream.	Medium – WLMB potential to benefit species by maintaining current reedbeds within the PCWLMB area through HAP, whilst potentially extending some systems
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Savi's warbler numbers have always been very low and difficult to see in the UK. Savi's warblers are found only in marshes with reedbeds. Most UK birds are seen in east and south-east England. UK conservation status (2021): Red and protected by the WCA (1981).	Uncommon across Sussex.	Very few records within the Pevensey Levels and Combe Haven area.	Low - WLMB Potential to benefit species from Habitat Action Plans
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	A UK BAP priority species. One of the most widespread birds of the British Isles, with over 2 million breeding pairs, the resident population is joined in winter by a significant proportion of the northern European population - possibly up to 25 million individuals. Likes open countryside, from lowland farmland to upland moorland. UK conservation status (2021): Red and protected by the WCA (1981).	Widespread and common throughout Sussex.	Throughout District.	Low - WLMB Potential to benefit species from Habitat Action Plans
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Yellow Wagtail's are a summer visitor to the UK, migrating to winter in Africa, breeding in arable farmland, wet pastures and upland hay meadows. Serious declines in breeding numbers across all of these habitats place	Pevensey Levels is one of only two places in Sussex where Yellow Wagtails have bred reliably in recent years but numbers are now very low. These little birds are strongly	Throughout District.	Low - WLMB Potential to benefit species from Habitat Action Plans

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

	the yellow wagtail on the red list of birds of conservation concern. UK conservation status (2021): Red and protected by the WCA (1981).	associated with very wet grassland grazed by cattle and sheep.		
FISH				
Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	The Brook Lamprey is rare in the UK and is listed on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. Listed on Annex III of the Bern Convention and Annex II of the European Commission Habitats Directive (3). The brook lamprey is an ancient and rarely seen fish found in the rivers and streams of several of our woods. It lives most of its life as a larva buried in the silty stream bed before turning into an adult and swimming upstream to spawn.	Unknown.	Minimal records across the district.	Low - Potential to maintain species population from Habitat enhancement, particularly Rivers and Drains
Brown Trout <i>Salmo trutta</i>	A UK BAP priority species. The brown trout is a widespread species found throughout the UK. It lives in streams, rivers, lakes and salt water habitats.	Unknown specific local status, however they are known to be within the Combe Haven.	Likely widespread throughout district. Records mostly along the Cuckmere river and Combe Haven.	Low - Potential to maintain species population from Habitat enhancement, particularly Rivers and Drains
Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>	Bullhead are common in the UK's stony rivers and streams. Mainly found in England and Wales, limited distribution in Scotland.	Unknown.	Sparsely distributed across the district.	Medium - Potential to maintain species population from Habitat enhancement, particularly Rivers and Drains
European Eel <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Huge economic and ecological significance to UK waters. Decline in eel recruitment by 70% in the UK since the 1980's. The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 permit the Environment Agency to require an eel pass at locations where the passage of eels is impeded or likely to be impeded. Listed as Critically Endangered on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.	Declines in eel populations have been noted on rivers across Sussex but the cause is not known, potentially due to barriers limiting eel migration.	Eels are probably widespread through the Board's area.	High - Replace old pumps with new fish friendly equivalents as part of the refurbishment scheme when they are needed to be replaced

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

INVERTEBRATES				
Fen Raft Spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Very rare. Lives around the edge of ponds and ditches. Only three known populations in the UK. Protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA (1981). Classed as 'vulnerable' on IUCN's species Red List.	Natural England's survey of the species range and abundance in 1990 revealed a very extensive population. Lower-lying pumped marshes = high densities with nursery webs averaging one per 2 m of bank. Away from this core area, however, the gravity-drained marshes supported a much lower population density and the population appeared to be very fragmented.	Found in the ditches of Pevensey Marshes Nature Reserve, along with their nursery webs which can be seen in June or July.	High - Potential to maintain and increase species population and range by Habitat enhancement particularly Rivers and Drains
Lesser Water Measurer <i>Hydrometra gracilenta</i>	A UK BAP priority species. The Lesser water-measurer is a very rare animal, only found on the Broadland fens around the River Ant in Norfolk and a single record on the Pevensey Levels. Found in ponds and marshes.	There is a single record on the Pevensey Levels. There are very few records of the Lesser water-measurer and there is concern that the remaining populations are small and fragile.	Potential sightings within the Pevensey Levels.	Low - Potential to maintain species population via sensitive habitat management and potential enhancement i.e. Pond HAP
Norfolk Hawker <i>Anaciaeschna isosceles</i>	A UK BAP priority species. A rare dragonfly, it is found in the marshes, fens and ditches of the Broads National Park where Water Soldier is growing. Full protection under schedule 5 of the WCA (1981), and section 41 of the nerc Act 2006.	Uncommon in Sussex.	Records are limited, uncommon throughout district.	Low - Potential to maintain / increase species population from appropriate Water Soldier management
Pollinators	Many species of bee, moth, butterfly, hoverfly, fly and beetle pollinate £690 million worth of crops annually. The European Red List reported that one in ten species of wild bee face extinction, and over the past 50 years, half the bee, butterfly and moth species studied in the 2013 State of Nature Report have declined. Many are UK BAP priority species.	Present throughout East Sussex.	Throughout District.	Low – Increase species population by investigating the potential to install Insect houses and bee hotels
Pondweed Leafhopper <i>Erotettix cyane</i>	A UK BAP priority species. The Pondweed Leafhopper is a very rare little bug, currently only found in six ponds in South East England. It is exclusively	Currently only found in six ponds in South East England.	Pevensey Levels – ponds near the Dowle Stream.	Low - Potential to maintain species population via sensitive habitat management and potential

Pevensy and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

	found in ponds on its only food plant, Broad-leaved Pondweed.			enhancement i.e. Pond HAP
MAMMALS - TERRESTRIAL				
Bats (<i>Eptesicus spp.</i> , <i>Myotis spp.</i> , <i>Nyctalus spp.</i> , <i>Pipistrellus spp.</i> , <i>Plecotus spp.</i>)	Bechstein's Bat, Noctule, Soprano pipistrelle & Brown long-eared are UK BAP priority species. All bats and their roosts are protected by UK law and they are also covered by the EU Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 as European Protected Species. All species protected under Schedule 5 of WCA (1981) and Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.	The distribution of bats is throughout the drainage district. Bechstein's Bat : Virtually restricted to southern England. Most records in our area are from West Sussex, but it was recorded from one location in East Sussex in the late 19th century. Noctule: Widespread, but declining, both in Sussex and in England. Brown Long-eared Bat: They have declined in the British Isles though it remains widespread. Soprano Pipistrelle: The most common bat in the British Isles and are found in all types of countryside, except very exposed areas, as well as in towns and suburbs.	Widespread throughout the board's area, using the watercourses for foraging and commuting. Buildings and old culverts may be used for roosting.	Medium – Plan to install and monitor bat boxes post pumping station reviews
European Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Otters are now protected under Schedule 5 of WCA (1981) and Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Listed on Appendix I of CITES, Appendix II of the Bern Convention and Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive 1994. It is listed in the national Red Data book. Long term decline but now increasing.	Unknown.	Unknown. Further surveys will help to understand their presence.	High – Investigate potential Otter bridge locations for surveying & look for opportunities to create artificial otter holts on suitable drains
European Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Water voles are now S41 species and listed under schedule 5 of the WCA (1981). Long term decline. An estimate population size of 132,000 individuals in Great Britain. GB populations are inferred to have declined very rapidly over recent years, equating to a 50%	Water Vole are sparse across East Sussex and there is limited survey data .	Sparse records of Water Voles through the Board's WLMB area – need more survey data.	High – Appropriate management of watercourses & predator control, plus ongoing monitoring

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

	decline over 17 years.			
Harvest Mouse <i>Micromys minutus</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Protected from deliberate cruelty under the Wild Mammals Protection Act. The harvest mouse is a native species. It is mainly found from central Yorkshire southwards. This species occurs in Scotland and Wales but increased survey effort is needed to improve our understanding of the species distributions in these countries as they may be seriously under recorded.	Uncommon and rare distribution.	Limited records within the Combe Haven catchment area.	Low - WLMB Potential to maintain species population via appropriate grassland, reedbed and hedgerow management
Hazel Dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Dormice are thought to have disappeared from about half of their original range in 120 years and recent surveys confirm that it is now extinct from six counties. They are designated and protected as European protected species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Also protected in the UK under the WCA (1981).	Within the UK's southern counties they are still widespread but their distribution is patchy. They favour deciduous woodland, hedgerows and scrub, and are largely restricted to southern England.	Sparsely distributed across the boards area, but more common within the Combe Haven catchment area.	Medium - WLMB Potential to maintain species population via appropriate tree, hedgerow and scrub management
MOLLUSCS				
Large-mouthed Valve Snail <i>Valvata macrostoma</i>	A UK BAP priority species. One of the rarest, most restricted and most vulnerable freshwater molluscs in Britain due to loss of suitable wetland habitats and poor management. This freshwater snail lives in marshes and very small canals that have a very rich fauna and calcium-rich water.	Large-mouthed Valve Snail like the conditions on Pevensey Levels where they make their homes in the lime rich drainage ditches.	Not widely distributed across the drainage district but common within Pevensey Levels and Marshes.	High - WLMB Potential to maintain species population via appropriate watercourse management and through water management schemes which enhance ditch habitats
Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail <i>Anisus vorticulus</i>	A UK BAP priority species. One of the rarest, most restricted and most vulnerable freshwater molluscs in	<i>Anisus vorticulus</i> occurs across a range of sites in southern and eastern England. Pevensey Levels is	Not widely distributed, limited records within the Pevensey Levels and marshes.	High - WLMB Potential to maintain species population via appropriate

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

	Britain due to loss of suitable wetland habitats and poor management. Vulnerable and listed as an endangered species in the British Isles. The mollusc has always been a very local species in Britain. It formerly occurred at around 15 sites in south-east England, but has declined for reasons that are not fully understood, and is now restricted to a few locations in Norfolk, Suffolk and Sussex.	a large and expansive grazing marsh that supports <i>Anisus vorticulus</i> in both a wide spatial distribution and in good population density classes.		water level management at pumping stations and through water course management of Floating Pennywort (subject to funding)
Shining Ram's-horn snail <i>Segmentina nitida</i>	A UK BAP priority species. In Britain, it has shown a dramatic decline this century. It is now confined mainly to the Norfolk Broads and Pevensey Levels. The species is listed as endangered in the GB Red List. The most severe decline in the range of this species occurred through the 19th and 20th centuries (Kerney, 1999), but there has still been localised decline over the last 10 years.	Due to dramatic declines, the Shining Ram's-horn snail are now mainly restricted to the Lewes and Pevensey Levels in East Sussex.	Not widely distributed across the drainage district but common within Pevensey Levels and Marshes.	High - WLMB Potential to maintain species population via appropriate watercourse management and through water management schemes which enhance ditch habitats
REPTILES				
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Found across the country, protected in the UK under the WCA (1981).	Widespread and common across Sussex. Found within Heathland areas or semi-rural garden locations.	Limited records of Adders within the drainage district with densely packed records near the river Cuckmere.	Low – Adders to be considered as a part of Capital Schemes works
Common Lizard <i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	A UK BAP priority species. The common lizard is the UK's most common and widespread reptile, Protected in the UK under the WCA (1981).	Widespread across Sussex. Found within heath and upland moor, though roadside verges, forest rides, wood-piles, artificial embankments and river edges.	Limited records of Common Lizard across the drainage district.	Low – Common Lizards to be considered as a part of Capital Schemes works
Grass Snake <i>Natrix helvetica</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Widespread in England and Wales but suffered from the loss of suitable habitat because of changes in farming practices and loss of land due to	Widespread and common across Sussex. Found within Heathland areas or semi-rural garden locations.	Grass snakes are likely found throughout the drainage district.	High - Increase species range/population by creating grass snake nesting piles along suitable drains and monitor them

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

	urbanisation Protected under the WCA (1981).			
Slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	A UK BAP priority species. Found throughout the country, but declines in population due to both degradation and loss of suitable habitat. Protected under the WCA (1981).	The slow-worm is generally most common in the south and west of Britain and can be found in heathland, tussocky grassland, woodland edges and rides. Often found in mature gardens and allotments, where they like hunting around the compost heap.	Limited records of Slow-worm across the drainage district.	Low – Slow-worm to be considered as a part of Capital Schemes works
VASCULAR PLANTS				
Wider assemblage of water plants of Conservation importance (Greater Water-parsnip <i>Sium latifolium</i> , Sharp-leaved Pondweed <i>Potamogeton acutifolius</i> , Three-lobed Crowfoot <i>Ranunculus tripartitus</i> , Tubular Water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>)	Many are UK BAP species. S.41 species or Eng RDB Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered. Protected under the WCA (1981).	These species range from widespread to highly localised within East Sussex, and some drained marsh ditch systems support large populations.	Throughout District.	Medium - WLMB Potential to maintain species population and range via appropriate watercourse management, Capital Schemes and through water management schemes which enhance ditch habitats
Wildflowers (including Alpine Catchfly <i>Silene suecica</i> , Burnt Orchid <i>Neotinea ustulata</i> , Cornflower <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> , Early Spider-orchid <i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> , Lizard Orchid <i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i> , Red Hemp-nettle <i>Galeopsis</i>)	Protected under section 13 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).	Present throughout East Sussex.	Throughout District.	Low – Maintain species through WLMB maintenance timings

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

<i>angustifolia</i> , Red Star-thistle <i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>)				
---	--	--	--	--

4.11. Invasive Non-native Species Summary

The WLMB has identified the following high risk aquatic and riparian invasive non-native species within the drainage district that are identified as likely to be influenced by, or impact upon the Board's activities.

Table 7: High risk aquatic invasive non-native species summary

Common & scientific name	Location within WLMB if known	Year first recorded	Local status / Extent within drainage district	WLMB potential for controlling species population or range
American Mink <i>Neogale vison</i>	Throughout the WLMB district area	1965	Mink can be found throughout the Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB area and are common and widespread throughout East Sussex.	Partnership working and volunteering with WLRT and work with the Pevensey & Cuckmere Catchment Partnership and local farm cluster group.
Killer Shrimp <i>Dikerogammarus villosus</i>	No data	N/A	There is currently no Killer Shrimp reported within the drainage district.	Biosecurity measures and recording. Desk study checks before WLMB maintenance.
Signal Crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	Only two reports located along the Powdermill Stream, Plough Inn area	2008	Signal Crayfish have been reported within the Powdermill Stream.	Biosecurity measures and recording. Desk study checks before WLMB maintenance.
Australian Swamp Stonecrop <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Recordings across the Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels WLMB district area	1991	Australian Swamp Stonecrop can be found throughout the Pevensey & Cuckmere WLMB area dominating still and slow-flowing waterbodies, but most recordings are within the Pevensey Levels but not very common across East Sussex.	Control measures on a case by case Basis, biosecurity measures, recording and provide advice to landowners. Desk study checks before WLMB maintenance.
Floating Pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Throughout the WLMB district area – Pevensey Levels	2004	Floating Pennywort is widespread and common across the WLMB area and all of East Sussex, mostly concentrated within the Pevensey Levels watercourses.	WLMB removal of the invasive species, work in partnership where we can with landowners, work with the Pevensey &

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

				Cuckmere Catchment Partnership, biosecurity measures, recording via iRecord and provide advice to landowners. Desk study checks before WLMB maintenance.
Giant Hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Minimal records across WLMB: Bexhill, Hooe Level & unknown location on Pevensey levels the parish of Westham	2008	Giant hogweed is fairly common across East Sussex. Most records of this plant occur in the north of the county, with minimal recordings to the south. Giant Hogweed can be found sporadically across the WLMB district colonising river banks where its seeds are transported by the water.	Control measures on a case by case basis, partnership working and provide advice to landowners, biosecurity measures, and recording. Desk study checks before WLMB maintenance.
Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Throughout the WLMB district area	1977	Himalayan Balsam is fairly common and widespread throughout East Sussex and the WLMB area. Dense records are found within the Combe Haven and Cuckmere district. It can be seen along the banks of rivers, in wet woodland and on waste ground, often growing in large dense clumps.	Partnership working with landowners, biosecurity measures, recording, partnership working, and provide advice to landowners. Desk study checks before WLMB maintenance.
Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Throughout the WLMB district area	1989	Widespread distribution across East Sussex and the Pevensey & Cuckmere WLMB district. Found mostly within urban areas and along riverbanks.	Control measures on a case by case basis, partnership working with landowners, provide advice to landowners, biosecurity measures, and recording. Desk study checks before WLMB maintenance.
Parrot's-feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Sporadic records across the WLMB district area	1998	Parrot's-feather is not very common across East Sussex. There are minimal records within the Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels district areas watercourses and/or ponds. It will grow in any still water habitat, including ponds, lakes, canals and reservoirs, though it is occasionally found in slowly moving water.	Biosecurity measures, recording a provide advice to landowners. Desk study checks before WLMB maintenance.
Water Fern <i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Records along the river Cuckmere WLMB area and across the Pevensey Levels	2006	Fairly widespread distribution across the Pevensey Levels WLMB district area and the river Cuckmere. However, not a common invasive across East Sussex. Found in ponds, lakes, canals, ditches and slow flowing rivers.	Control measures on a case by case basis, partnership working with and providing advice to landowners, biosecurity measures and recording. Desk study checks before WLMB maintenance.

4.12. Water Level Management Plans

Water Level Management Plans (WLMPs) provide a means by which the water level requirements for a range of activities in a particular area, including agriculture, flood defense and conservation, can be balanced and integrated. Guidance for the production of WLMPs by the operating authorities for sites of conservation interest was produced by MAFF/ Defra in 1992, 1999 and 2004. This guidance concentrated on SSSIs, especially those of international importance (SPA or SAC sites). Where WLMBs are the operating authority for sites, they may or may not actively manage the water levels.

The table below provides further details of the Water Level Management Plans for which the WLMB has some involvement within their drainage district.

Table 8: Water Level management plans in operation within the drainage district

Site Name & Designation	Reason for WLMP (state main species or habitat)	WLMP lead and other key partners	Favorable/ unfavorable condition (related to water level management)	Active Management by WLMB	WLMP Last Updated
Pevensey Levels SSSI – component site of Pevensey Levels Ramsar and SAC	Grazing marsh, ditches, reedbed, wet woodland. The Pevensey Levels SSSI is a nationally and internationally important wetland site of approx. 450km of freshwater ditches dissecting 3,500 ha of wet grassland. The site is nationally important for wintering lapwing flocks and is internationally important for the diversity of plants and animals found in the freshwater ditches.	PCWLMB, EA, NE	99.50% Unfavourable – Recovering condition 0.50% Partially destroyed	It's the duty of the WLMB to supervise land drainage, water level management and flood risk management works and regulation on ordinary watercourses in the IDD.	2014

5. Habitat and Species Action Plans

5.1. Introduction

Action plans comprise the objectives, targets and actions that the WLMB has identified for each habitat and species to be included within the BAP. The following sections contain action plans for each of the habitats and species that have been prioritised by the WLMB. The national targets listed in the below sections are the most up to date targets available, however, these targets will be updated as new targets are defined. There are currently no known local targets and so all habitats and species local targets listed in the below sections are described as 'unknown', however, these targets will be updated as new targets are defined from LNRS. The list of partners defined in the action plans includes current active partners but is not exhaustive to partners with potential involvement. A summary table of Biodiversity Action Plan Objectives can be found in Appendix 5 and a summary table of Habitat and Species Action Plans can be found in Appendix 6.

5.2. Habitat Action Plans

5.2.1 Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

5.2.1.1 National and Local Targets

Table 9:

National Targets	Local Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the existing habitat extent (300,000 ha) and quality. Rehabilitate 10,000 ha of grazing marsh habitat which has become too dry, or is intensively managed, by the year 2000. This would comprise 5,000 ha already targeted in ESAs, with an additional 5,000 ha. Begin creating 2,500 ha of grazing marsh from arable land in targeted areas, in addition to that which will be achieved by existing ESA schemes, with the aim of completing as much as possible by the year 2000. 	Unknown

5.2.1.2 WLMB Objectives

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

Table 10: WLMB HAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
1	To contribute to maintaining or enhancing the existing habitat extent and its quality through appropriate watercourse and structure management.
2	To better understand the flora and fauna within the Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh.

5.2.1.3 WLMB Actions

Table 11: WLMB Habitat Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	Seek to ensure that fresh water is delivered at Milton Lock to the Freshwater Stream.	Water quality testing	Ongoing	Environment Team	EA
1	1b	Seek to ensure the satisfactory operation of the outflows from the Freshwater Stream to the Cuckmere.	Water quality testing	Ongoing	Environment Team	EA
1	1c	Prepare an operating manual and Water Level Management Plan (WLMP) for the Cuckmere Catchment.	Creation of document	2024-2025	Environment Team	EA, NE
2	2a	Undertake surveys of the unit 6 Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI.	Survey undertaken	2023	Environment team	NE

5.2.2 Lowland Fens

5.2.2.1 National and Local Targets

Table 12:

National Targets	Local Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify fen sites in critical need of, and initiate rehabilitation by 2005. All rich fen and other sites with rare communities should be considered. Ensure appropriate water quality and water quantity for the continued existence of all SSSI fens by 2008. 	Unknown

5.2.2.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 13: WLMB HAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
3	Maintain, enhance or restore the current extent of fen within the Board's Area.

5.2.2.3 WLMB Actions

Table 14: WLMB Habitat Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
3	3a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing fen within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.	Produce map with site locations and an inventory list	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

3	3b	Continue to work in partnership with stakeholders to look for opportunities, to enhance fen habitat by appropriate water level management practice.	Area (ha) of fen habitat enhanced	Ongoing	Environment Team, Ops team	NE, SWT, Landowners
3	3c	Work in partnerships to implement Fen Restoration within the WLMB area whilst undertaking Capital projects.	Area (ha) of fen restoration achieved	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team, Project delivery team	NE, SWT, EA, Landowners
3	3d	Work in partnership via the Local Nature Recovery Strategy partnerships to look for opportunities to enhance fens and have involvement in projects.	Area (ha) of fen enhanced	Ongoing	Environment Team	LNRS
3	3e	Continue to maintain fen habitat by ensuring the appropriate management to water levels maintained by the board.	Water levels maintained appropriately	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	Landowners

5.2.3 Ponds

5.2.3.1 National and Local Targets

Table 15:

National Targets	Local Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify where high-quality pond sites are and what features characterise them using PSYM (the Predictive System for Multimeric). Maintain a net number of high-quality pond sites as identified using the PSYM. Maintain the quality of flagship pond sites, a sub-set of approximately 1% of high-quality ponds, ensuring they are monitored and that their quality is maintained ensuring these flagship sites do not degrade. Restore pond sites that are below high-quality status to deliver Species Action Plan targets. Targets for pond restoration are based on ultimately restoring c1,000 sites/year; however, the target is staggered, starting at 50 sites/year, then rising progressively by 50 sites/year until the target of 1,000sites/year is reached in 2022. Create new pond sites of high quality potential thus creating a new network of ponds with clean water and high biodiversity potential. Target ponds should be located in a wide range of landscape types to maximise regional biodiversity. Ponds cannot be counted against this target if they are created as mitigation for destruction of existing high quality ponds. 	Unknown

5.2.3.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 16: WLMB HAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
4	Restore ponds within the boards area that are not owned by the WLMB.

5.2.3.3 WLMB Actions

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

Table 17: WLMB Habitat Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
4	4a	Understand the extent of ghost ponds in the PCWLMB district.	Report undertaken	2026	Environment team	SWT, SxBRC
4	4b	Train key staff to advise on pond restoration.	Staff trained	2022-23	Environment team	
4	4c	Identify opportunities to record amphibian species present in ponds.	Number of records submitted	Ongoing	Ops team, Environment team	SxBRC
4	4d	Restore 1 pond a year.	No. of ponds restored	Annually	Environment team	Landowners
4	4e	Work in partnership via the Local Nature Recovery Strategy partnerships to look for opportunities to enhance ponds and have involvement in projects.	Number of ponds restored	Ongoing	Environment team	LNRS

5.2.4 Reedbeds

5.2.4.1 National and Local Targets

Table 18:

National Targets	Local Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and rehabilitate by the year 2000 the priority areas of existing reedbed (targeting those of 2 ha or more) and maintain this thereafter by active management. Create 1200 ha of new reedbed on land of low nature conservation interest by 2010. This should be in blocks of at least 20 ha: in areas near to existing habitat; linked with existing habitat wherever possible. 	Unknown

5.2.4.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 19: WLMB HAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
5	Restore, enhance or extend the current extent of Reedbed within the Board's Area.

5.2.4.3 WLMB Actions

Table 20: WLMB Habitat Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

5	5a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing reedbeds within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.	Produce map with site locations and an inventory list	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC
5	5b	Identify potential sites for habitat restoration and expansion within the WLMB area during Capital Scheme delivery and consider future management planning on these sites during this process.	Number of sites identified	Ongoing	Environment team	NE, EA, Landowners
5	5c	Enhance and maintain reedbed fringe habitat on the Boards main drains.	Number of SMO audits achieved	Ongoing	Ops team	
5	5d	Explore opportunities to create new reedbeds and link with other reedbed projects to create corridors for wildlife.	Area (ha) of new reedbeds created	Ongoing	Environment team	NE, EA, Landowners
5	5e	Work in partnership via the Local Nature Recovery Strategy partnerships to look for opportunities to enhance reedbeds through involvement in projects.	Area (ha) of reedbed enhanced	Ongoing	Environment team	
5	5f	Continue to maintain and enhance reedbed habitat through ensuring the appropriate management to water levels maintained by the board.	Water levels maintained appropriately	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	Landowners
5	5g	Look for opportunities for Nature Based Solutions to treat surface water e.g. Drockmill and Manxey.	Area (ha) of new reedbeds created	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	Southern Water, LNRS

5.2.5 Rivers, Canals and Drains

5.2.5.1 National and Local Targets

Table 21:

National Targets	Local Targets
N/A – no national targets set	Unknown

5.2.5.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 22: WLMB HAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
6	Enhance and maintain habitat and species diversity on watercourses maintained by the Board.
7	Enhance and maintain the flora and fauna of the watercourses maintained by the Board.
8	Ensure compliance to Boards Standard Maintenance Operations (SMO) to maintain rivers and drains.

5.2.5.3 WLMB Actions

Table 23: WLMB Habitat Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

6	6a	Work with the planning department to review the boards culverting policy.	Reviews undertaken	2026	Environment team	Planning department
6	6b	Continue to maintain and enhance river and drain habitat through ensuring the appropriate management to water levels maintained by the board.	Water levels maintained appropriately	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	Landowners
6	6c	Identify opportunities to undertake Stage Channels for habitat enhancement within WLMB watercourses.	No. of stage channels created	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	Landowners
7	7a	Record species present in the watercourses managed by the Board.	Number of records submitted	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC
7	7b	Work in partnership with the EA to report pollution incidents within the drainage district.	Partnership maintained	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	EA
8	8a	Regularly update the Boards Standard Maintenance Document.	SMO produced	2024	Environment team, Ops team	
8	8b	Ensure compliance with the WLMB SMO by auditing on identified number of maintenance works jobs annually, to ensure they are being carried out to an agreed standard across the whole board.	No. of audits undertaken	Annually	Environment team, Ops team	

5.3. Species Action Plans

5.3.1 Barn Owl and Kestrel

5.3.1.1 National and Local Targets

Table 24:

National Targets	Local Targets
Unknown	Unknown

5.3.1.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 25: WLMB SAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
9	Continue to enhance the range and population of Barn Owls and Kestrels through habitat enhancement and creating nesting opportunities, within the catchment area.

5.3.1.3 WLMB Actions

Table 26: WLMB Species Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
9	9a	Investigate opportunities to install next boxes within the PCWLMB area.	Number of locations identified	Ongoing	Environment team	WCP

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

9	9b	Install nest boxes within the PCWLMB area.	Number of boxes installed	Ongoing	Environment team	WCP
9	9c	Continue to monitor nest boxes within the PCWLMB area.	Number of boxes monitored	Ongoing	Environment team	WCP
9	9d	Continue to maintain, repair or replace nest boxes in the PCWLMB area.	Number of boxes maintained, repaired or replaced	Ongoing	Environment team	WCP
9	9e	Continue to maintain sward height during bankside maintenance mowing of 150mm.	Area (ha) maintained to sward height	Ongoing	Ops team	Contractors

5.3.2 Breeding Waders

5.3.2.1 National and Local Targets

Table 27:

National	Local
Unknown	Unknown

5.3.2.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 28: WLMB SAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
10	Work in partnership to enhance wet grassland for breeding waders within the Boards area.

5.3.2.3 WLMB Actions

Table 29: WLMB Species Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
10	10a	Look at opportunities to create scrapes and foot drains whilst working with landowners.	Number of scrapes created	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	SWT
10	10b	Look for opportunities when undertaking Capital schemes to improve habitat for wading Birds.	Area (m) of habitat improved	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	NE, SWT
10	10c	Continue to maintain and enhance breeding wader habitats through ensuring the	Water levels maintained appropriately	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	Landowners

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

		appropriate management to water levels maintained by the board.				
--	--	---	--	--	--	--

5.3.3 European Eel

5.3.3.1 National and Local Targets

Table 30:

National Targets	Local Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK BAP targets = Maintain the current range & achieve an increase in range (both across 10km² areas) 	Unknown

5.3.3.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 31: WLMB SAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
11	Contribute to the Eel Regulations legislative requirements (2009) and the Eel Management Plan.
12	Undertake eDNA water sampling for Eel.

5.3.3.3 WLMB Actions

Table 32: WLMB Species Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
11	11a	Work in Partnership with the Environment Agency to assess the current status of Eel populations at pumping stations within the Board's area.	No. of pumping stations with Eel populations reviewed	Ongoing	Environment team	EA

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

11	11b	Work in Partnership with the Environment Agency to identify barriers to migration in the Board's Area and assess options for overcoming these.	Barriers to migration identified	Ongoing	Environment team	EA
12	12a	Undertake eDNA water sampling at pumping stations for fish, including Eel (As part of pumping station replacement).	No. of water samples collected	Ongoing	Environment team	EA
12	12b	Report eDNA results to SxBRC.	Results reported	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC

5.3.4 Fen Raft Spider

5.3.4.1 National and Local Targets

Table 33:

National	Local
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Species Action Plan, first produced in 1999 and revised in 2005 and 2008, sought to address this issue with the following ambitious targets for its future status: the number of sites with sustainable populations of <i>D. plantarius</i> nationally should be increased to 12 by 2020. 	Unknown

5.3.4.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 34: WLMB SAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
13	Understand the status, distribution and ecology of fen raft spiders in the WLMB district.

5.3.4.3 WLMB Actions

Table 35: WLMB Species Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
13	13a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing fen raft spider populations on key drains within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps	Produce map with site locations and an inventory list	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

		and create an inventory list.				
13	13b	Undertake relevant training on fen raft spider status, distribution and ecology.	Training undertaken	July 2023	Environment team, Ops team, Project delivery team	SWT
13	13c	Survey and monitor for fen raft spiders within the relevant WLMB drains.	Lengths of surveys undertaken	May - September Ongoing	Environment Team	SWT
13	13d	Produce a management plan for Water soldier in WLMB drains to enhance feeding and nesting opportunities for fen raft spider.	Management plan produced	Ongoing	Environment Team	SWT

5.3.5 European Otter

5.3.5.1 National and Local Targets

Table 36:

National Targets	Local Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and expand existing populations. By 2010 restore breeding otters to all catchments where they have been recorded since 1960. 	Unknown

5.3.5.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 37: WLMB SAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
14	Maintain and enhance the range and population of otter within the Board's area.

5.3.5.3 WLMB Actions

Table 38: WLMB Species Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
14	14a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing otter populations within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.	Produce map with site locations and an inventory list	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

14	14b	Investigate the potential to undertake bridge surveys at sites within the PCWLMB district.	No. of sites identified	Ongoing	Environment team	
14	14c	Identify potential sites for artificial otter holt creation within the Board's area and investigate potential sources of funding.	No. of sites identified	Ongoing	Environment team	

5.3.6 European Water Vole

5.3.6.1 National and Local Targets

Table 39:

National Targets	Local Targets
<p>UK BAP targets = Maintain the current range & achieve an increase in range (both across 10km² areas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To arrest the decline and maintain the current distribution and status of the water vole. To restore water voles to their pre 1970 range by 2010. To ensure management of watercourses and wetlands in order to maintain the restore population. 	Unknown

5.3.6.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 40: WLMB SAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
15	Control with a view to eradication of mink within the WLMB catchment.
16	Better understand population and extent of water voles within the Boards area.
17	Ensure the appropriate sensitive management of watercourses which will facilitate the maintenance and enhancement of the current distribution and abundance of the water vole in the WLMB District.
18	Maintain and enhance the current distribution and abundance of the water vole in the PCWLMB District.

5.3.6.3 WLMB Actions

Table 41: WLMB Species Action Plan

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
15	15a	Contribute funding annually to the Water Life Recovery Trust.	Funding contributed	Annually	Environment team	WLRT
15	15b	Continue to work with the WLRT project on mink eradication.	No. of steering group meetings attended each year	Ongoing	Environment team	WLRT
16	16a	Undertake yearly recording by operational staff and report to local biodiversity record centers.	Number and location of records collected and submitted to local biodiversity records office	Yearly	Ops team	SxBRC
16	16b	Undertake eDNA water sampling for water voles along the Freshwater Stream (undertake at 5 locations along the watercourse).	No. of water samples collected	Summer 2024	Environment team	EA
16	16c	Undertake water vole surveys across the Boards watercourses.	Distance surveyed	Ongoing	Environment team	
17	17a	Ensure compliance with the PCWLMB SMO by auditing 4 jobs per year jobs, to ensure they are being carried out sensitively and to an agreed standard across the Board.	Number of maintenance works audited	Yearly	Environment team, Ops team	
18	18a	Take opportunities to enhance water vole habitat where appropriate during Capital schemes or river/wetland restoration schemes.	Area (ha) of habitat enhanced	Ongoing	Environment team	NE, EA, SWT, Landowners

5.3.7 Grass Snake

5.3.7.1 National and Local Targets

Table 42:

National Targets	Local Targets
Unknown	Unknown

5.3.7.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 43: WLMB SAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
19	Maintain and where possible increase the range of Grass Snake within the Board's area.

5.3.7.3 WLMB Actions

Table 44: WLMB Species Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
19	19a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing grass snake populations at the Board's pumping stations and on key drains using ESRI maps.	Produce map with site locations	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC
19	19b	Using the distribution data, develop Hibernacula and egg laying sites at pumping stations or key locations where appropriate.	No. of produced egg laying sites	Ongoing	Environment team	

5.3.8 Hazel Dormouse

5.3.8.1 National and Local Targets

Table 45:

National	Local
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A UK Species Action Plan, first produced between 1995 and 1999, and updated in 2007, had the following targets; Maintain dormouse populations in all the counties where they still occur, Enhance dormouse populations in all the counties where they still occur and Re-establish self-sustaining populations in at least 5 counties where they have been lost. 	

5.3.8.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 46: WLMB SAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
20	Understand the status, distribution and ecology of hazel dormouse in the WLMB district.

5.3.8.3 WLMB Actions

Table 47: WLMB Species Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
20	20a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing hazel dormouse populations on key	Produce map with site locations and an inventory list	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

		drains within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.				
20	20b	Undertake relevant training on hazel dormouse status, distribution and ecology.	Training undertaken	2023/2024	Environment team	
20	20c	Survey and monitor for hazel dormouse within the relevant WLMB drains (the Pevensey Levels and Combe Haven).	Lengths of surveys undertaken	Ongoing	Environment Team	SWT
20	20d	Undertake relevant habitat management for hazel dormouse benefit in the Pevensey Levels at the correct time of year.	Area (ha) of habitat management undertaken	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	

5.3.9 Non-native Invasive Species

5.3.9.1 National and Local Targets

Table 48:

National Targets	Local Targets
Unknown	Unknown

5.3.9.2 WLMB Objectives

Table 49: WLMB SAP Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
21	Promote the biosecurity, control and eradication of non-native invasive species within the Board's area.
22	Raise awareness of the presence and undertake control and/or eradication of mink in the catchment.

5.3.9.3 WLMB Actions

Table 50: WLMB Species Action Plan

Action Plan						
Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
21	21a	Continue partnership with the SxBRC to receive up to date records of Invasives within the local area.	Partnership established and continued	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC
21	21b	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing populations of NNIS within the PCWLMB district area using ESRI maps and create an	Produce map with site locations and an inventory list	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

		inventory list.				
21	21c	Train staff regularly on key non-native invasive species identification in order to report invasives.	Training sessions	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	Staff, Contractors
21	21d	Maintain records for all species of concern using the 'iRecord' / ESRI app.	No. of reviews undertaken	Ongoing	Environment team, Ops team	Staff, Contractors
21	21e	Regularly review and ensure robust biosecurity measures are being maintained across the Board.	Number of reviews undertaken / Biosecurity measure undertaken	Ongoing	Environment team	Staff, Contractors
21	21f	Ensure availability and regular review of identification guides developed for key non-native species to be used by officers, staff and contractors on site.	Number of reviews undertaken	Ongoing	Environment team	Staff, Contractors
21	21g	Purchase a mobile steam cleaner for the purposes of the boards use.	Steam cleaner purchased	2024	Environment team, Ops team	
22	22a	Contribute funding annually to the Water Life Recovery Trust.	Funding contributed	Annually	Environment team	WLRT
22	22b	Continue to work in partnership with Mink control/eradication groups.	No. of meetings per year	Ongoing	Environment team	WLRT
22	22c	Report catches and sightings to the WLRT.	No. of catches per year, Catch per unit effort	Ongoing	Environment team	WLRT

6. Procedural Action Plan

6.1. Introduction

A number of procedural targets and actions have been established to better integrate biodiversity considerations into WLMB practices and procedures.

6.2. Objectives and Targets

Table 51: WLMB Procedural Objectives

WLMB Objectives	
1	Ensure compliance to standard for biodiversity and protected species surveys
2	Ensure compliance to Board's Standard Maintenance Operations
3	Land Drainage Consent and Bylaws
4	Attend Local Biodiversity Forums and Meetings
5	Raising awareness
6	Recording
7	Communication
8	Monitoring

6.3. WLMB Actions

Table 52: WLMB Procedural Actions

Action Plan

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

Objective ref.	Action number	Action	Measurable / Indicators	Completion date	Action Lead	Partners
1	1a	All works assessed using agreed standards of information to ensure that appropriate mitigation is delivered for capital / maintenance works and projects to enhance biodiversity.	License returns to NE / Number of audits undertaken	Ongoing	Environment team	NE, EA
1	1b	Environmental staff to undertake regular training to ensure competence (including survey, biosecurity and health and safety training).	Number of staff trained	Ongoing	Environment team	NE
2	2a	Assess an annual agreed percentage of maintenance works, to be carried out to an agreed standard and delivered across the whole board and integrated within the Quality Management System ISO14001.	Number of audits undertaken / QMS audit	Annually	Environment team	
2	2b	Regular review on SMO to ensure compliance with updated guidelines and regulations.	5 year review undertaken	Ongoing		
3	3a	Through the application of Land Drainage Consents and Bylaws, seek to ensure that natural features of conservation interest and habitat importance are maintained or enhanced.	Review Planning and Bylaw strategy	2024		
4	4a	Communication and network opportunities with other organisations to facilitate actions for BAP Species and Habitats.	Meetings attended	Ongoing	Environment team	
4	4b	PR and lifting profile of Board.	Newspaper/magazine articles / website blogs	Ongoing		
5	5a	Biodiversity training days organised for staff and Board members.	Number of training days organised	Ongoing		
6	6a	Develop and populate a recording system for WLMB priority species and habitats within the Board area, in conjunction with the Engineering team watercourse surveys.	iRecord reports	Ongoing	Environment team	SxBRC
7	7a	A new environment and biodiversity section on the website.	Environment section produced	Ongoing		
7	7b	Share successes with media and promote public awareness.	Social media reaches, Newspaper/magazine articles / website blogs	Ongoing	ICT team, Environment team, Ops team	
8	8a	Continue to develop the WMA's record base and continue to work internally and in partnership with other organisations to ensure that we have up to date information on species to help inform future works.	Partnership established with SxBRC	Ongoing		SxBRC

7. Implementation

The actions within the BAP will be executed via the following means:

- Planning for maintenance, capital and non-regular maintenance work will all take into consideration the Boards Biodiversity Action plan targets.
- The Board, has part of the Water Management Alliance, has adopted the Environmental Management System ISO 14001, which also helps to integrate the Biodiversity Action Plan within the systems and work of the organisation.
- A simple process will be put into place to record actions and help with the reporting. Any new data on habitats and species will be shared with the Sussex Biological Record Centre.
- Carbon Net Zero is a legislative commitment set out by the UK government to be achieved by 2050. The Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB will be instigating a carbon baselining exercise with a view to setting a target for achieving Carbon Net Zero on or before this date for all its operational and day to day activities.

8. Monitoring

Appropriate indicators have been set for each of the WLMB's biodiversity actions. Indicators have been chosen which provide the WLMB with ways of measuring both the current status of biodiversity and also ways of measuring achievements in delivering biodiversity objectives and targets. The individual action plans set out the indicators and measurables which will be used to assess progress and execution against the plan. The WLMB will routinely monitor biodiversity actions using the indicators and measurables and will review actions and indicators at least annually.

The overall plan will be updated at least every 5 years but is a dynamic document so may change more frequently for example in the light of monitoring outcomes. The board can agree changes more frequently when appropriate.

9. Reporting

The Board is responsible for ensuring that progress against the Plans' targets are routinely reported, at least annually, at Board meetings to allow the Board to discuss and review BAP activity and to modify the BAP and actions to meet the objectives where necessary.

Annual summary progress reports will detail which actions have been progressed according to the plan, any new opportunities identified, risks and issues affecting the objectives or actions, and the contribution actions have made towards achieving the objectives. Recommendations will be made in the light of the monitoring outcomes.

Making this information available to a wider audience is important in increasing the understanding of the importance of the Boards' actions regarding biodiversity and inspiring people about biodiversity. As such, the WLMB will make the summary reports available externally in the following ways:

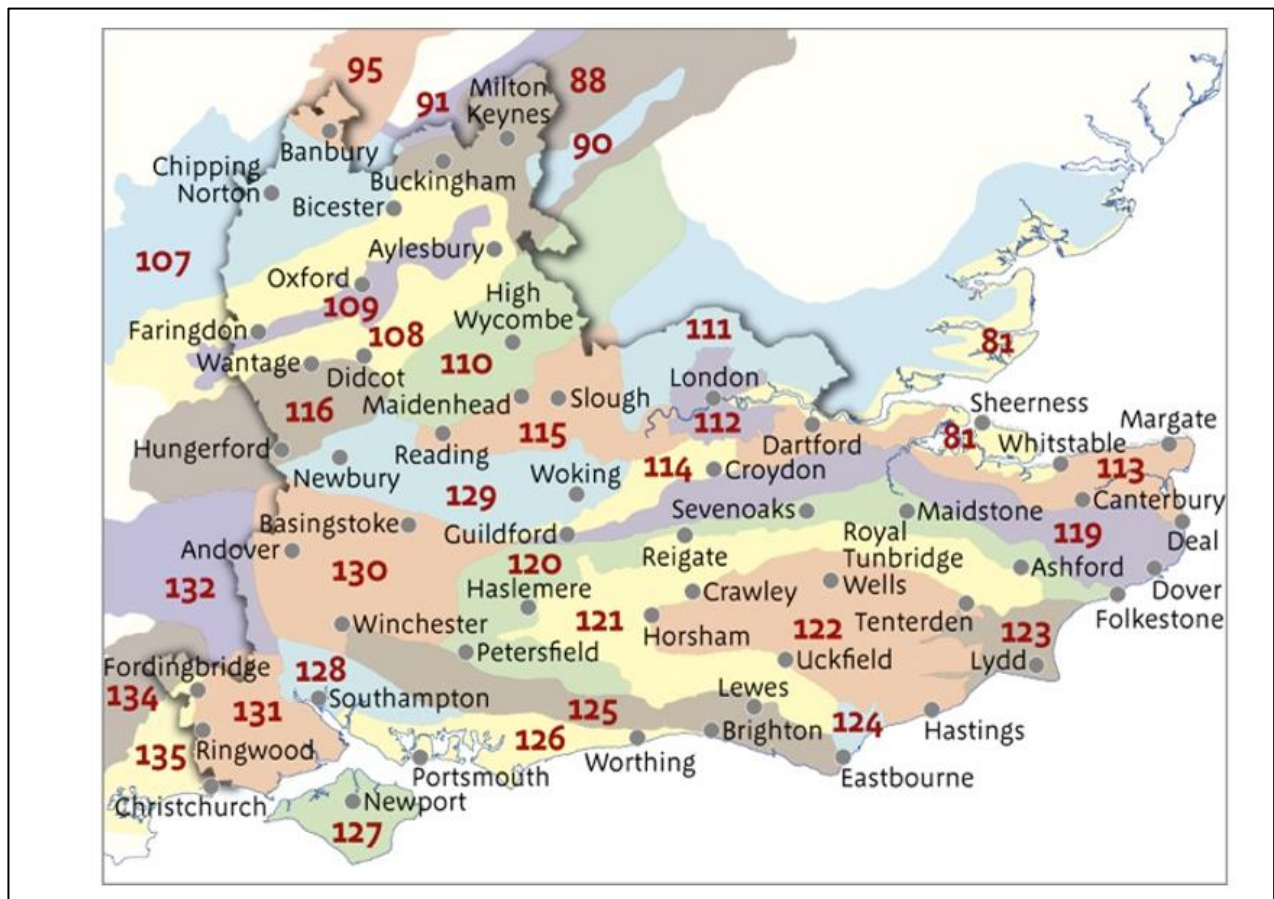
- In the public domain via the WLMB's website;

- Provided to conservation partners to assist with further local biodiversity conservation planning;
- Provided to local authorities in order to contribute towards their legislative biodiversity reporting requirements including the NERC 2006 Act, Habitats Directive, Environment Act and the Local Nature Recovery Strategies;
- The Local Biological Records Centre.
- To the Board through a comprehensive review of the plan that will take place after five years.

10. Appendices

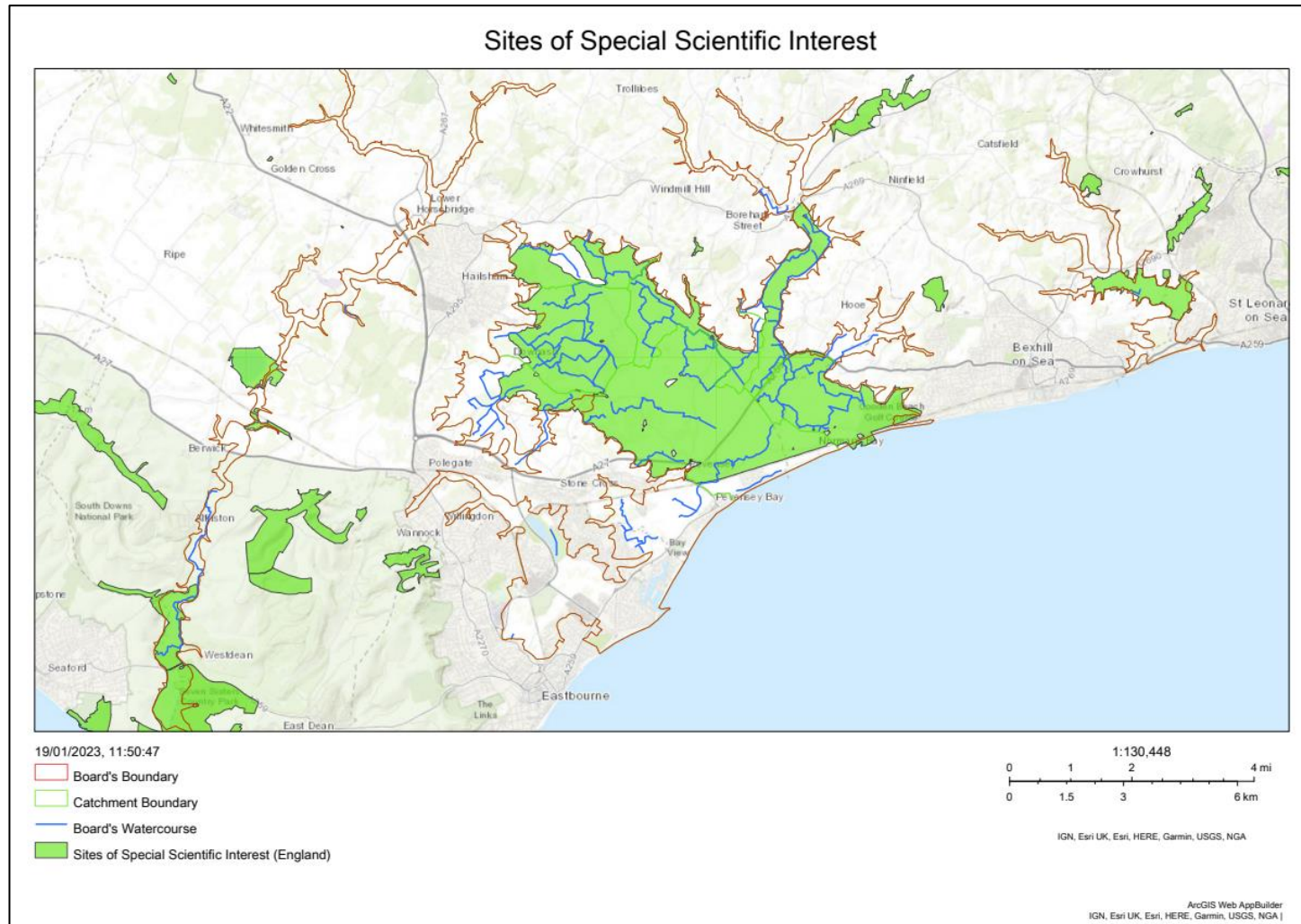
10.1. Appendix 1: Landscape Character

10.1.1 Map showing the limits of the National Character Areas (NCA's) within the PCWLMB (High Weald (Area 122), Pevensey Levels (Area 124) and South Downs (Area 125))

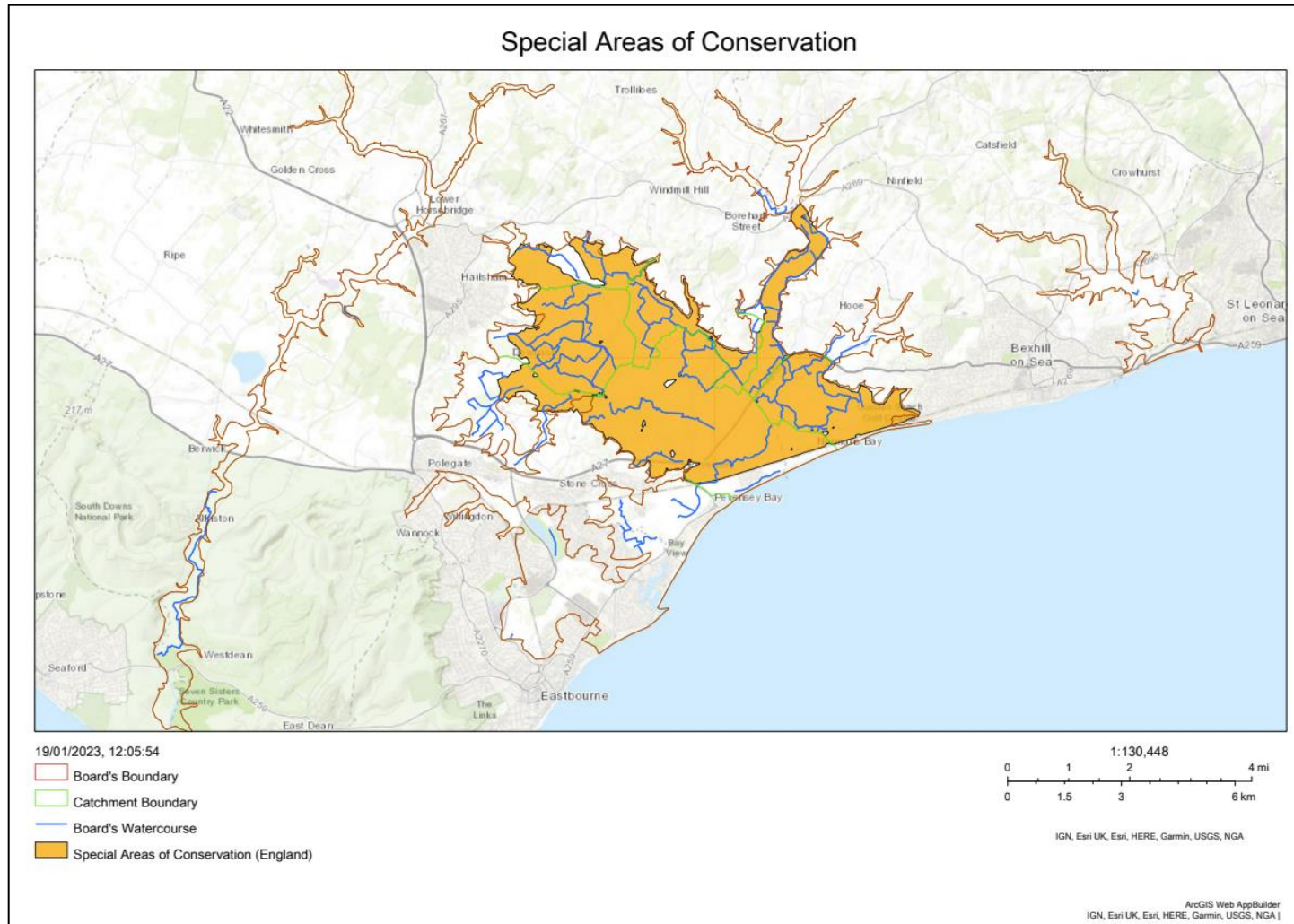


10.2. Appendix 2: Nationally, Internationally Designated Nature Conservation Sites

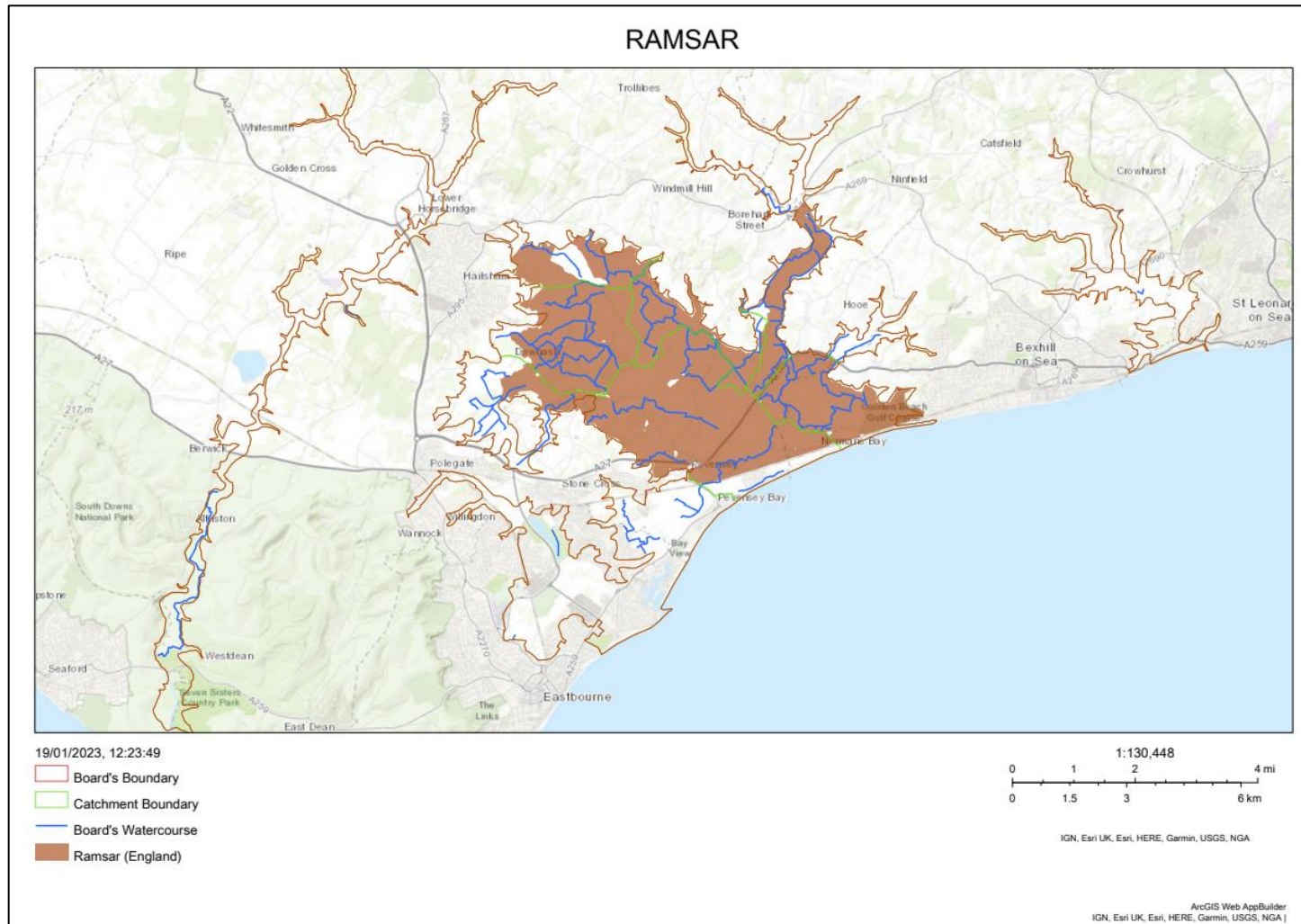
10.2.1 Map of Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the PCWLMB boundary. (OS Licence: 100047016)



10.2.2 Map of Special Areas of Conservation within the PCWLMB boundary. (OS Licence: 100047016)

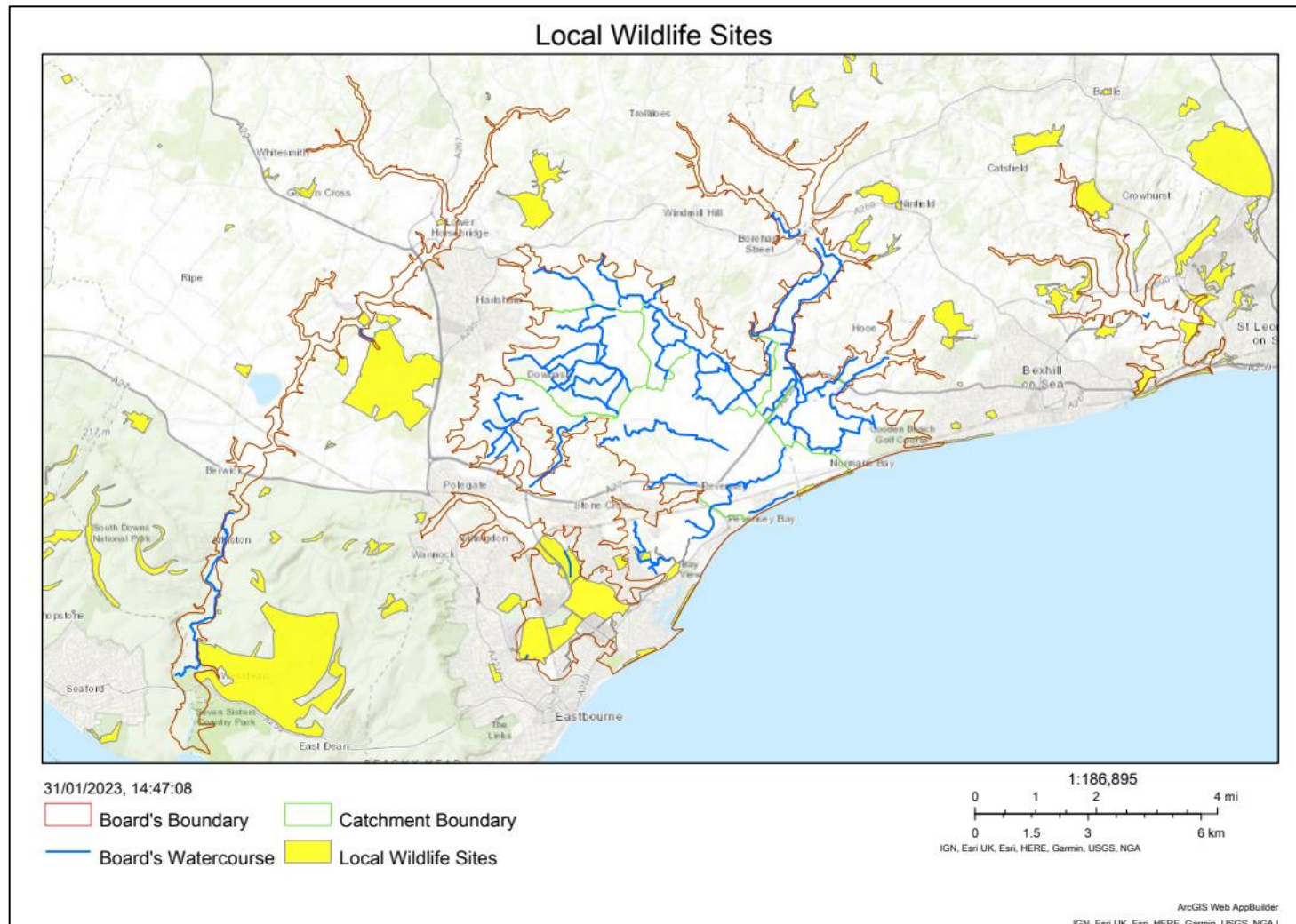


10.2.3 Map of RAMSAR sites within the PCWLMB boundary. (OS Licence: 100047016)



10.3. Appendix 3: Non-Statutory Designated Sites

10.3.1 Map of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within or bordering the PCWLMB boundary. (OS Licence: 100047016)



10.4. Appendix 4 : Species Audit Summary

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	UK BAP PRIORITY SPECIES	SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE FOR WLMB
AMPHIBIANS			
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>		Yes
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Yes	Yes
Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Yes	Yes
Palmate Newt	<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>		Yes
Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>		Yes
BIRDS			
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	Yes	
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		Yes
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Yes	
Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria</i>		
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>		
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		Yes
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		Yes
Baillon's Crake	<i>Zapornia pusilla</i>		
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>		
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	Yes	
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Yes	Yes
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		Yes
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Yes	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Yes	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>		
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Yes	
Bulwer's Petrel	<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>		
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		Yes
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	Yes	
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Yes	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Yes	
Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	Yes	
Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Yes	
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Yes	Yes
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		
Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		
Eurasian Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>		
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		

Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		Yes
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Yes	Yes
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		Yes
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		Yes
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Yes	
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Yes	
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Yes	
Hobby	<i>Falco Subbuteo</i>		
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Yes	
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		Yes
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		Yes
Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>		
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Yes	Yes
Leach's Petrel	<i>Hydrobates leucorhous</i>		
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Yes	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	Yes	
Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>		
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Yes	
Little Bittern	<i>Lixobrychus minutus</i>		
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>		
Little Crane	<i>Zapornia parva</i>		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		Yes
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		Yes
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	Yes	
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Yes	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>		
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Yes	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Yes	
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Yes	Yes
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Yes	
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Yes	
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		

Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	Yes	Yes
Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Yes	
Scopoli's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>		
Serín	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		
Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>		
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Yes	Yes
Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>		
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>		
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		
Snowy Owl	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>		
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Yes	
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Yes	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Yes	
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Yes	
Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>		
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Yes	
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Yes	
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Yes	
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Yes	
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	Yes	
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Yes	Yes
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>		Yes
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	Yes	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Yes	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Yes	
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Yes	
Yellow Hammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yes	
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yes	Yes
FISH			
Brook Lamprey	<i>Lampetra planeri</i>		Yes
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Yes	Yes
Bullhead	<i>Cottus gobio</i>		Yes
European Eel	<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>	Yes	Yes
FUNGI			
Big Blue Pinkgill	<i>Entoloma bloxamii</i>	Yes	
INVERTEBRATES – BEES & WASPS			
Brown-Banded Carder Bee	<i>Bombus humilis</i>	Yes	
Five-banded Weevil-wasp	<i>Cerceris quinquefasciata</i>	Yes	
Large Garden Bumblebee	<i>Bombus ruders</i>	Yes	
Long-horned Bee	<i>Eucera longicornis</i>	Yes	
Moss Carder Bee	<i>Bombus muscorum</i>	Yes	
Potter Flower Bee	<i>Anthophora retusa</i>	Yes	
Red-shanked Carder Bee	<i>Bombus ruders</i>	Yes	
INVERTEBRATES – BUTTERFLIES			
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		

Chalk Hill Blue	<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>		
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	Yes	
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	Yes	
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Yes	
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	Yes	
Silver-spotted Skipper	<i>Hesperia comma</i>		
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	Yes	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Yes	
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	Yes	
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Yes	
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>	Yes	
White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrus w-album</i>	Yes	
INVERTEBRATES – DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES			
Norfolk Hawker	<i>Aeshna isoceles</i>	Yes	Yes
INVERTEBRATES – MOLLUSCS			
Large-mouthed Valve Snail	<i>Valvata macrostoma</i>	Yes	Yes
Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail	<i>Anisus vorticulus</i>	Yes	Yes
The Shining Ram's-horn Snail	<i>Segmentina nitida</i>	Yes	Yes
INVERTEBRATES – MOTHS			
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	Yes	
Autumnal Rustic	<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Yes	
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	Yes	
Beautiful Pearl	<i>Agrotera nemoralis</i>	Yes	
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	Yes	
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	Yes	
Broom Moth	<i>Melanchra pisi</i>	Yes	
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilarctia luteum</i>	Yes	
Centre-barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia centrargo</i>	Yes	
Chalk Carpet	<i>Melanthia procellata</i>	Yes	
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Yes	
Crescent	<i>Helotropha leucostigma</i>	Yes	
Dark Crimson Underwing	<i>Catocala sponsa</i>	Yes	
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Yes	
Deep-brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>	Yes	
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Yes	
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Yes	
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	Yes	
Dusky-lemon Sallow	<i>Xanthia gilvago</i>	Yes	
Ear Moth	<i>Amphipoea oculatea</i>	Yes	
Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	Yes	
Figure of Eight	<i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>	Yes	
Galium Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>	Yes	
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>	Yes	
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	Yes	
Grass Rivulet	<i>Perizoma albulata</i>	Yes	
Green-brindled Crescent	<i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	Yes	
Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	Yes	
Hedge Rustic	<i>Tholera cespitis</i>	Yes	
Jersey Tiger	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>		
Knot Grass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Yes	
Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Yes	
Large Wainscot	<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>	Yes	
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	Yes	
Minor Shoulder-knot	<i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	Yes	
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	Yes	
Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	Yes	
Mullein Wave	<i>Scopula marginipunctata</i>	Yes	
Oak Hook-tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	Yes	

Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	Yes	
Rosy minor	<i>Litoligia literosa</i>	Yes	
Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Yes	
Rosy rustic	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Yes	
Sallow	<i>Xanthia icteritia</i>	Yes	
Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	Yes	
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Yes	
Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Yes	
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania comma</i>		
Sussex Emerald	<i>Thalera fimbrialis</i>	Yes	
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Yes	
INVERTEBRATES – SPIDERS			
Fen Raft Spider	<i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	Yes	Yes
LICHENS			
Orange-Fruited Elm-Lichen	<i>Caloplaca luteoalba</i>	Yes	
MAMMALS - TERRESTRIAL			
Bechstein's Bat	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Yes	Yes
Brandt's Bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>		Yes
Brown Long Eared Bat	<i>Plecotis auritus</i>	Yes	Yes
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>		Yes
Daubentons Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>		Yes
Grey Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>		Yes
Lesser Noctule	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>		Yes
Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>		Yes
Nathusius's Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>		Yes
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctule</i>	Yes	Yes
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>		Yes
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Yes	Yes
Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>		Yes
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europeus</i>	Yes	
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Yes	
European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	Yes	Yes
Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>	Yes	Yes
Hazel Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Yes	Yes
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Yes	Yes
Western European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europeus</i>	Yes	
FLOWERING PLANTS			
Alpine Catchfly	<i>Silene suecica</i>		Yes
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>		
Burnt Orchid	<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Yes	Yes
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Yes	Yes
Early Spider-orchid	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>		Yes
Greater Water Parsnip	<i>Sium latifolium</i>	Yes	Yes
Lizard Orchid	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>		Yes
Red Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	Yes	Yes
Red Star-thistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Yes	Yes
Sharp-leaved Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton acutifolius</i>	Yes	Yes
Slender Hare's-ear	<i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>	Yes	
Spiked Rampion	<i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>	Yes	
Three-lobed Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus tripartitus</i>	Yes	Yes
Tubular Water-Dropwort	<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	Yes	Yes
Yellow Bird's-nest	<i>Hypopitys monotropa</i>	Yes	
REPTILES			
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	Yes	Yes
Common Lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	Yes	Yes
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Yes	Yes
Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Yes	Yes
TRUE BUGS			
Lesser Water Measurer	<i>Hydrometra gracilentia</i>	Yes	Yes

Pondweed Leafhopper	<i>Erotettix cyane</i>	Yes	Yes
NON NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES			
American Mink	<i>Neogale vison</i>		
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>		
Signal Crayfish	<i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>		
Australian Swamp Stonecrop	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>		
Canadian Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>		
Curly Waterweed	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>		
Floating Pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>		
Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>		
Giant-rhubarb	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>		
Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>		
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>		
Parrot's-feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>		
Water Fern	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>		

10.5. Appendix 5: Biodiversity Action Plan Objectives

Pevensy and Cuckmere WLMB Habitats and Species Biodiversity Action Plan Objectives	
1	To contribute to maintaining or enhancing the existing habitat extent and its quality through appropriate watercourse and structure management.
2	To better understand the flora and fauna within the Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh.
3	Maintain, enhance or restore the current extent of fen within the Board's Area.
4	Restore ponds within the boards area that are not owned by the WLMB.
5	Restore, enhance or extend the current extent of Reedbed within the Board's Area.
6	Enhance and maintain habitat and species diversity on watercourses maintained by the Board.
7	Enhance and maintain the flora and fauna of the watercourses maintained by the Board.
8	Ensure compliance to Boards Standard Maintenance Operations (SMO) to maintain rivers and drains.
9	Continue to enhance the range and population of Barn Owls and Kestrels through habitat enhancement and creating nesting opportunities, within the catchment area.
10	Work in partnership to enhance wet grassland for breeding waders within the Boards area.
11	Contribute to the Eel Regulations legislative requirements (2009) and the Eel Management Plan.
12	Undertake eDNA water sampling for Eel.
13	Understand the status, distribution and ecology of fen raft spiders in the WLMB district.
14	Maintain and enhance the range and population of otter within the Board's area.
15	Control with a view to eradication of mink within the WLMB catchment.
16	Better understand population and extent of water voles within the Boards area.
17	Ensure the appropriate sensitive management of watercourses which will facilitate the maintenance and enhancement of the current distribution and abundance of the water vole in the WLMB District.
18	Maintain and enhance the current distribution and abundance of the water vole in the PCWLMB District.
19	Maintain and where possible increase the range of Grass Snake within the Board's area.
20	Understand the status, distribution and ecology of hazel dormouse in the WLMB district.
21	Promote the biosecurity, control and eradication of non-native invasive species within the Board's area.
22	Raise awareness of the presence and undertake control and/or eradication of mink in the catchment.

10.6. Appendix 6 : Habitats and Species Action Plans

Pevensey and Cuckmere WLMB Habitats and Species Biodiversity Action Plan Actions		Partners	Date
COASTAL AND FLOODPLAIN GRAZING MARSH			
1a	Seek to ensure that fresh water is delivered at Milton Lock to the Freshwater Stream.	EA	Ongoing
1b	Seek to ensure the satisfactory operation of the outflows from the Freshwater Stream to the Cuckmere.	EA	Ongoing
1c	Prepare an operating manual and Water Level Management Plan (WLMP) for the Cuckmere Catchment.	EA, NE	2024-25
2a	Undertake surveys of the unit 6 Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI.	NE	2023
LOWLAND FENS			
3a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing fen within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.	SxBRC	Ongoing
3b	Continue to work in partnership with stakeholders to look for opportunities, to enhance fen habitat by appropriate water level management practice.	NE, SWT, Landowners	Ongoing
3c	Work in partnerships to implement Fen Restoration within the WLMB area whilst undertaking Capital projects.	NE, SWT, EA, Landowners	Ongoing
3d	Work in partnership via the Local Nature Recovery Strategy partnerships to look for opportunities to enhance fens and have involvement in projects.	LNRS	Ongoing
3e	Continue to maintain fen habitat by ensuring the appropriate management to water levels maintained by the board.	Landowners	Ongoing
PONDS			
4a	Understand the extent of ghost ponds in the PCWLMB district.	LWT, SxBRC	2026
4b	Train key staff to advise on pond restoration.		2022-23
4c	Identify opportunities to record amphibian species present in ponds.	SxBRC	Ongoing

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

4d	Restore 1 pond a year.	Landowners	Annually
4e	Work in partnership via the Local Nature Recovery Strategy partnerships to look for opportunities to enhance ponds and have involvement in projects.	LNRS	Ongoing
REEDBEDS			
5a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing reedbeds within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.	SxBRC	Ongoing
5b	Identify potential sites for habitat restoration and expansion within the WLMB area during Capital Scheme delivery and consider future management planning on these sites during this process.	NE, EA, Landowners	Ongoing
5c	Enhance and maintain reedbed fringe habitat on the Boards main drains.		Ongoing
5d	Explore opportunities to create new reedbeds and link with other reedbed projects to create corridors for wildlife.	NE, EA, Landowners	Ongoing
5e	Work in partnership via the Local Nature Recovery Strategy partnerships to look for opportunities to enhance reedbeds through involvement in projects.		Ongoing
5f	Continue to maintain and enhance reedbed habitat through ensuring the appropriate management to water levels maintained by the board.	Landowners	Ongoing
5g	Look for opportunities for Nature Based Solutions to polish treated effluent e.g. Drockmill pump.	Southern Water, LNRS	Ongoing
RIVERS, CANALS AND DRAINS			
6a	Work with the planning department to review the boards culverting policy.	Planning department	2026
6b	Continue to maintain and enhance river and drain habitat through ensuring the appropriate management to water levels maintained by the board.	Landowners	Ongoing
6c	Identify opportunities to undertake Stage Channels for habitat enhancement within WLMB watercourses.		Ongoing
7a	Record species present in the watercourses managed by the Board.	SxBRC	Ongoing

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

7b	Work in partnership with the EA to report pollution incidents within the drainage district.	EA	Ongoing
8a	Regularly update the Boards Standard Maintenance Document.		2024
8b	Ensure compliance with the WLMB SMO by auditing on identified number of maintenance works jobs annually, to ensure they are being carried out to an agreed standard across the whole board.		Annually
BARN OWL AND KESTREL			
9a	Investigate opportunities to install nest boxes within the PCWLMB area.	WCP	Ongoing
9b	Install nest boxes within the PCWLMB area.	WCP	Ongoing
9c	Continue to monitor nest boxes within the PCWLMB area.	WCP	Ongoing
8d	Continue to maintain, repair or replace nest boxes in the PCWLMB area.	WCP	Ongoing
8e	Continue to maintain sward height during bankside maintenance mowing of 150mm.	Contractors	Ongoing
BREEDING WADERS			
10a	Look at opportunities to create scrapes and foot drains whilst working with landowners.	SWT	Ongoing
10b	Look for opportunities when undertaking Capital schemes to improve habitat for wading Birds.	NE, SWT	Ongoing
10c	Continue to maintain and enhance breeding wader habitats through ensuring the appropriate management to water levels maintained by the board.	Landowners	Ongoing
EUROPEAN EEL			
11a	Work in Partnership with the Environment Agency to assess the current status of Eel populations at pumping stations within the Board's area.	EA	Ongoing
11b	Work in Partnership with the Environment Agency to identify barriers to migration in the Board's Area and assess options for overcoming these.	EA	Ongoing
12a	Undertake eDNA water sampling at pumping stations for fish, including Eel (As part of pumping station replacement).	EA	Ongoing

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

12b	Report eDNA results to SxBRC.	SxBRC	Ongoing
FEN RAFT SPIDER			
13a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing fen raft spider populations on key drains within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.	SxBRC	Ongoing
13b	Undertake relevant training on fen raft spider status, distribution and ecology.	SWT	July 2023
13c	Survey and monitor for fen raft spiders within the relevant WLMB drains.	SWT	Ongoing
13d	Produce a management plan for Water soldier in WLMB drains to enhance feeding and nesting opportunities for fen raft spider.	SWT	Ongoing
EUROPEAN OTTER			
14a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing otter populations within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.	SxBRC	Ongoing
14b	Investigate the potential to undertake bridge surveys at sites within the PCWLMB district.		Ongoing
14c	Identify potential sites for artificial otter holt creation within the Board's area and investigate potential sources of funding.		Ongoing
EUROPEAN WATER VOLE			
15a	Continue to contribute funding to the Water Life Recovery Trust (WLRT).	WLRT	Annually
15b	Continue to work with the WLRT project on mink eradication.	WLRT	Ongoing
16a	Undertake yearly recording by operational staff and report to local biodiversity record centers.	SxBRC	Yearly
16b	Undertake eDNA water sampling for water voles along the Freshwater Stream (undertake at 5 locations along the watercourse).	EA	Summer 2024
16c	Undertake water vole surveys across the Boards watercourses.		Ongoing
17a	Ensure compliance with the PCWLMB SMO by auditing 4 jobs per year jobs, to ensure they are being carried out sensitively and to an agreed standard across the Board.		Yearly

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

18a	Take opportunities to enhance water vole habitat where appropriate during Capital schemes or river/wetland restoration schemes.	NE, EA, SWT, Landowners	Ongoing
GRASS SNAKE			
19a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing grass snake populations at the Board's pumping stations and on key drains using ESRI maps.	SxBRC	Ongoing
19b	Using the distribution data, develop Hibernacula and egg laying sites at pumping stations or key locations where appropriate.		Ongoing
HAZEL DORMOUSE			
20a	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing hazel dormouse populations on key drains within the PCWLMB district using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.	SxBRC	Ongoing
20b	Undertake relevant training on hazel dormouse status, distribution and ecology.		2023/2024
20c	Survey and monitor for hazel dormouse within the relevant WLMB drains (the Pevensey Levels and Combe Haven).	SWT	Ongoing
20d	Undertake relevant habitat management for hazel dormouse benefit in the Pevensey Levels at the correct time of year.		Ongoing
NON NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES			
21a	Continue partnership with the SxBRC to receive up to date records of Invasives within the local area.	SxBRC	Ongoing
21b	Determine the extent and distribution of the existing populations of NNIS within the PCWLMB district area using ESRI maps and create an inventory list.	SxBRC	Ongoing
21c	Train staff regularly on key non-native invasive species identification in order to report invasives.	Staff, Contractors	Ongoing
21d	Maintain records for all species of concern using the 'iRecord' / ESRI app.	Staff, Contractors	Ongoing
21e	Regularly review and ensure robust biosecurity measures are being maintained across the Board.	Staff, Contractors	Ongoing

Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board – Biodiversity Action Plan

21f	Ensure availability and regular review of identification guides developed for key non-native species to be used by officers, staff and contractors on site.	Staff, Contractors	Ongoing
21g	Purchase a mobile steam cleaner for the purposes of the boards use.		2024
22a	Contribute funding annually to the Water Life Recovery Trust.	WLRT	Annually
22b	Continue to work in partnership with Mink control/eradication groups.	WLRT	Ongoing
22c	Report catches and sightings to the WLRT.	WLRT	Ongoing

10.7. Appendix 7: Glossary

Abbreviation	Meaning
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plans
CWS	County Wildlife Site
EA	Environment Agency
ELMS	Environmental Land Management Schemes
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
HER	Historic Environment Record
IDD	Internal Drainage District
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NCA	National Character Area
NE	Natural England
NNR	National Nature Reserve
PCWLMB	Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board
QMS	Quality Management System
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SAP	Species Action Plan
SMO	Standard Maintenance Operation
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SWT	Sussex Wildlife Trust
SxBRC	Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre
TPO	Tree Preservation order
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act
WCP	Wildlife Conservation Partnership
WLMB	Water Level Management Board
WLMP	Water Level Management Plan
WLRT	Water Life Recovery Trust

