



**Surrey Nature Partnership**  
Healthy Environment | Healthy People | Healthy Economy

**Biodiversity Opportunity Areas:**  
*the basis for realising Surrey's ecological  
network*

**Appendix 9: River Biodiversity  
Opportunity Area Policy Statements**

- R01: Hogsmill River**
- R02: Eden (& tributaries)**
- R03: Blackwater River**
- R04: River Wey (& tributaries)**
- R05: River Mole (& tributaries)**
- R06: River Thames (tow-path & islands)**

**December 2015**

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area R01: Hogsmill River	
<b>Local authorities:</b> Epsom & Ewell	
<p><b>Aim &amp; justification:</b></p> <p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)</b> is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Recognition of BOAs directly meets <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, <b>by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to <b>plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify &amp; map components of the local ecological networks</b> (para. 117).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b></p> <p><i>BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.</i></p>	
<p><b>1. Overview</b></p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the Hogsmill River, several tributaries and its Flood Zone 3 from central Ewell to the county boundary at Tolworth Court Bridge, where it is contiguous with similarly-identified opportunity land in Greater London. Much of the original floodplain was developed with the growth of outer London, although the modern river corridor occupies a chain of public open spaces of mixed formal and semi-natural character. <b>Area:</b> 52.5 ha</p>	
<p><b>2. National Character Areas</b></p> <p><a href="#">Thames Basin Lowlands</a> (NCA 114)</p>	
<p><b>3. Profile</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Geology</b></p> <p>London Clay, Blackheath beds. Rising in Ewell, the Hogsmill flows generally north-west towards the River Thames</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</b></p> <p><b>LNR:</b> Hogsmill Nature Reserve</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b></p> <p><b>SNCI:</b> Hogsmill River (West Ewell)</p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b></p> <p><b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b></p> <p>Rivers, Floodplain grazing marsh, Wet woodland, Meadows, Ponds, Hedgerows</p> <p><b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b></p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> White-letter hairstreak, Stag beetle</p> <p><b>Vertebrates:</b> Bullfinch, Dunnock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnets, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher; Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*; Brown trout, European eel</p> <p><b>3.2.4 Further important species interest:</b> Black poplar, Horned pondweed; Grey wagtail, Kingfisher</p> <p><b>3.2.5 Ancient woodland:</b> -</p> <p><b>3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:</b> Hogsmill Catchment Partnership (South East Rivers Trust); Surrey Countryside Partnerships team (Lower Mole Project)</p>	

\* possibly extinct in BOA

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

## 3.3 Archaeology -

### 3.4 Access

**3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:** Bourne Hall grounds, Chamber Mead, Hogsmill Riverside Open Space/Nature Reserve, Ewell Court House pond (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council); Tolworth Court Farm Local Nature Reserve (Royal Borough of Kingston)

**3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc:** London Loop; Thames Down Link

### 3.5 Key ecosystem services

Water provision (abstraction and waste); Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreation (walking, equestrian, cycling, angling, nature observation)

### 3.6 Socio-Economic

**3.6.1 Employment profile:** multiple

**3.6.2 LEP:** Coast-to-Capital

## 4. Objectives & Targets

**R01/O1:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T1:** All by 2020

**R01/O2:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Rivers** (in-channel/bankside habitat creation)/**T2a:** 0.5 km by 2020
- **Floodplain grazing marsh/T2b:** 0.75 ha by 2020
- **Meadows/T2c:** 0.25 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T2d:** 0.25 ha by 2020

**R01/O3:** Priority species recovery.

- **T3:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

**Water vole**

**Brown trout**

**European eel**

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Map **R01** (to be added)

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area R02: Eden (& tributaries)	
<b>Local authorities:</b>	Tandridge
<b>Aim &amp; justification:</b>	<p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)</b> is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Recognition of BOAs directly meets <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, <b>by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to <b>plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify &amp; map components of the local ecological networks</b> (para. 117).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b>  <i>BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.</i></p>
<b>1. Overview</b>	<p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the multiple branches and associated Flood Zone 3 of the Eden system, which drains much of Tandridge District and is contiguous with Kent's Medway &amp; Low Weald BOA. <b>Area:</b> 1190.6 ha</p>
<b>2. National Character Areas</b>	<p><a href="#">Wealden Greensands</a> (NCA 120), <a href="#">Low Weald</a> (NCA 121), <a href="#">High Weald</a> (NCA 122)</p>
<b>3. Profile</b>	<p><b>3.1 Geology</b>            Upper &amp; Lower Greensand, Weald Clay, Hastings Beds, Alluvium. The River Eden flows east into Kent to join the River Medway at Penshurst. The Eden Brook, its main arm rises around Blindley Heath and Godstone, with lesser arms rising off the North Downs at Oxted and beyond the county near East Grinstead in East Sussex</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</b>  <b>SSSI:</b> Blindley Heath; Hedgecourt; Lingfield Cernes  <b>LNR:</b> Blindley Heath  <b>AONB:</b> Surrey Hills; High Weald</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b>  <b>SNCI:</b> 5<sup>†</sup></p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b>  <b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b>            Rivers, Floodplain grazing marsh, Meadows, Wet woodland, Ponds, Standing open water, Hedgerows</p> <p><b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b>  <b>Plants:</b> True fox-sedge, Tubular water-dropwort; Millimetre moss*  <b>Invertebrates:</b> Brown hairstreak, Small heath, White admiral, False mocha (a moth)  <b>Vertebrates:</b> Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grey partridge*, Lapwing, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree sparrow*, Turtle dove, Willow tit*, Yellowhammer; Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown hare, Brown long-eared bat, Harvest mouse, Noctule bat, Otter, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*; Brown trout, European eel</p> <p><b>3.2.4 Further important species interest:</b> Bladder-sedge, Common meadow-rue, Dyer's</p>

\* probably extinct in BOA

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

greenweed, Greater chickweed, Greater duckweed, Hair-like pondweed, Hairy buttercup, Ivy-leaved crowfoot, Lesser water-parsnip, Marsh speedwell, Marsh violet, Meadow thistle, Narrow-leaved water-dropwort, Narrow-leaved water-plantain, Saw-wort, Smooth-stalked sedge, Touch-me-not balsam, Wild daffodil; Purple emperor, Rush wainscot (a moth), Lesser marsh grasshopper, *Cassida viridis*, *Apion ebeninum*, *Sitona cambricus* (all beetles), White-legged damselfly; Grey wagtail, Kingfisher, Nightingale, Sedge warbler, Water rail; Bullhead

**3.2.5 Ancient woodland:** present

**3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:** Medway Catchment Improvement Partnership (Eden sub-catchment group led by Kent Wildlife Trust); High Weald AONB

## 3.3 Archaeology

Medieval Moats at Ardenrun, Batchelor's Farm & Hedgecourt; Stockenden Farm; Roman Road (course of)

## 3.4 Access

**3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:** Blindley Heath (Tandridge District Council); Wire Mill Lake; Hedgecourt (Surrey Wildlife Trust)

**3.4.2 Long-distance PRow, etc:** Greensand Way; Tandridge Border Path; Vanguard Way; Eden Valley Walk

## 3.5 Key ecosystem services

Water provision (abstraction and waste); Agricultural/fisheries food production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreation (walking, equestrian, angling, water-sports, nature observation)

## 3.6 Socio-Economic

**3.6.1 Employment profile:** Water industry; Agriculture sector; Equine livery & services; Leisure sector (angling, water-sports, hospitality)

**3.6.2 LEP:** Coast-to-Capital

## 4. Objectives & Targets

**R02/O1:** SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1:** 75% by 2020 (by area)

**R02/O2:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

**R02/O3:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Rivers** (in-channel/bankside habitat creation)/**T3a:** 5 km by 2020
- **Floodplain grazing marsh/T3b:** 11.75 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T3c:** 1.5 ha by 2020
- **Meadows/T3d:** 4 ha by 2020

**R02/O4:** Priority species recovery.

- **T4:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:
 

<b>True fox-sedge</b>	<b>Great crested newt</b>	<b>Lapwing</b>
<b>Otter</b>	<b>Water vole</b>	

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Map **R02** (to be added)

† Subject to possible correction

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area <b>R03: Blackwater River</b>	
<b>Local authorities:</b> Guildford, Surrey Heath, Waverley	
<p><b>Aim &amp; justification:</b></p> <p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)</b> is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Recognition of BOAs directly meets <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, <b>by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to <b>plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify &amp; map components of the local ecological networks</b> (para. 117).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b></p> <p><i>BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.</i></p>	
<p><b>1. Overview</b></p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the Blackwater River (a tributary of the River Loddon) and associated Flood Zone 3, forming the county boundary with Hampshire from Aldershot to Camberley. The floodplain here is largely developed and was extensively quarried for aggregates in the past, providing a number of flooded gravel pits restored for recreational uses. Contiguous with the Blackwater Valley BOA in Berkshire (BOA 04) and Hampshire (BOA 13). <b>Area:</b> 374.8 ha</p>	
<p><b>2. National Character Areas</b></p> <p><a href="#">Thames Basin Heaths</a> (NCA 129), <a href="#">Thames Basin Lowlands</a> (NCA 114; marginal)</p>	
<p><b>3. Profile</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Geology</b></p> <p>Alluvium, Bagshot beds, River Terrace deposits, London Clay, Blackheath beds, Chalk. The Blackwater rises in Hampshire near Weybourne and flows briefly south-east before turning northwards at Badshot Lea</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</b></p> <p><b>SSSI:</b> Basingstoke Canal (part)  <b>LNR:</b> Lakeside Park; Rowhill Copse; Snaky Lane Community Wildlife Area</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b></p> <p><b>SNCI:</b> 9<sup>†</sup></p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b></p> <p><b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b>  Rivers, Floodplain grazing marsh, Meadows, Wet woodland, Standing open water, Reedbeds</p> <p><b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b></p> <p><b>Plants:</b> Marsh stitchwort, Pillwort*, Tubular water-dropwort; Rusty fork-moss  <b>Invertebrates:</b> Small heath, White-letter hairstreak, Stag beetle  <b>Vertebrates:</b> Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Lapwing, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Linnet, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Willow tit*, Yellowhammer; Common lizard, Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Noctule bat, Otter, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*; Brown trout, European eel</p> <p><b>3.2.4 Further important species interest:</b> Elongated sedge, Great burnet, Lesser pondweed, Marsh speedwell, Needle spike-rush, Six-stamened waterwort, Small pondweed; Brilliant emerald,</p>	

\* probably extinct in BOA



# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Downy emerald, Scarce chaser (all dragonflies), Variable damselfly; Barn owl, Grey wagtail, Little ringed plover, Kingfisher, Water rail

**3.2.5 Ancient woodland:** present

**3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:** Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership; Loddon Catchment Partnership

## 3.3 Archaeology -

## 3.4 Access

**3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:** Rowhill Copse, Aldershot Park (Rushmoor Borough Council); Badshot Lea Pond, Stillwater Angling (Farnham Angling Society); Shawfield Lakes (Farnborough & District Angling Society); Tongham Pool, Rowan Fields, Lakeside Park (Guildford Borough Council); Watchmoor Nature Reserve (Surrey Heath Borough Council); Hawley Meadows (Hampshire County Council); Farnham Quarry & Tice's Meadow, Hollybush Park & Pits, Snaky Lane Community Wildlife Area, Frimley Hatches (Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership)

**3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc:** Blackwater Valley Path

## 3.5 Key ecosystem services

Water provision (abstraction and waste); Aggregates extraction; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreation (pleasure boating, water-sports, canoeing, walking, equestrian, cycling, angling, nature observation)

## 3.6 Socio-Economic

**3.6.1 Employment profile:** multiple, esp. Leisure sector

**3.6.2 LEP:** Enterprise M3

## 4. Objectives & Targets

**R03/O1:** SSSI units to achieve favourable condition. **T1:** 50% by 2020 (by area)

**R03/O2:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

**R03/O3:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Rivers** (in-channel/bankside habitat creation)/**T3a:** 1 km by 2020
- **Floodplain grazing marsh/T3b:** 5.25 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T3c:** 0.5 ha by 2020
- **Reedbeds/T3d:** 0.75 ha by 2020
- **Meadows/T3e:** 1.25 ha by 2020

**R03/O4:** Priority species recovery.

- **T4:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

**Marsh stitchwort**  
**Water vole**

**Lapwing**  
**European eel**

**Harvest mouse**

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Map **R03** (to be added)

† Subject to possible correction

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area <b>R04: River Wey (&amp; tributaries)</b>	
<b>Local authorities:</b>	Elmbridge, Guildford, Mole Valley, Runnymede, Surrey Heath, Waverley, Woking
<b>Aim &amp; justification:</b>	<p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)</b> is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Recognition of BOAs directly meets <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, <b>by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to <b>plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify &amp; map components of the local ecological networks</b> (para. 117).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b> BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.</p>
<b>1. Overview</b>	<p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the River Wey, its major tributaries and associated Flood Zone 3 from the county boundary with Hampshire and West Sussex to its confluence with the River Thames. It shares adjacency with several other BOAs, including LW03, WG01-03, WG06, TBH03-06, TV04 and R06<sup>1</sup>, as well as Hampshire BOA 17. <b>Area:</b> 3578 ha</p>
<b>2. National Character Areas</b>	<p><a href="#">Low Weald</a> (NCA 121), <a href="#">Wealden Greensands</a> (NCA 120), <a href="#">North Downs</a> (NCA 119), <a href="#">Hampshire Downs</a> (NCA 130), <a href="#">Thames Basin Lowlands</a> (NCA 114), <a href="#">Thames Basin Heaths</a> (NCA 129), <a href="#">Thames Valley</a> (NCA 115)</p>
<b>3. Profile</b>	<p><b>3.1 Geology</b> The northern branch of the River Wey enters Surrey at Farnham and the southern branch at Frensham. It then drains much of the west of the county, crossing the Weald on its course north into the Thames Basin. Above and below the confluence of its two major source branches at Tilford it occupies a narrow, constrained floodplain which only widens significantly below Guildford. The Wey's natural course has been extensively modified especially in its lower reaches, where there is an additional engineered channel, the Wey Navigation. Important sub-catchments include the Cranleigh Waters, Tillingbourne-Law Brook, Hoe Stream and the Adlestone Bourne</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</b> <b>SSSI:</b> Moor Park; Charleshill; Charterhouse to Eashing; Wey Valley Meadows; Papercourt <b>LNR:</b> Riverside Park, Mayford Meadows <b>AONB:</b> Surrey Hills</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b> <b>SNCI:</b> 70<sup>†</sup></p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b> <b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b> Rivers, Floodplain grazing marsh, Ponds, Reedbeds, Wet woodland, Meadows, Purple moor-grass &amp; rush pastures, Hedgerows <b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b> <b>Plants:</b> Brown galingale*, Cut-grass*, Greater water-parsnip*, Marsh stitchwort, Pennyroyal*, Sharp-leaved pondweed*, Tower mustard, Tubular water-dropwort</p>

<sup>1</sup> Terrestrial BOAs take precedence where these overlap the Flood Zone 3 contour

\* probably extinct in BOA

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

**Invertebrates:** Goat moth, Orange upperwing\*, White-spotted pinion\* (moths), Flowering-rush weevil\*, *Meotica anglica* (a river-shingle beetle), Oxbow diving-beetle, Pale pin-palp (a beetle), Sallow guest weevil, Two-tone reed beetle, Zircon reed beetle\*, Hornet robberfly, Southern silver stiletto-fly, Southern yellow splinter (a crane-fly), Mole cricket\*, Desmoulin's whorl snail, Shining ram's-horn snail\*, Iron blue mayfly, White-clawed crayfish

**Vertebrates:** Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler\*, Lapwing, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Tree sparrow\*, Willow tit\*, Yellow wagtail\*, Yellowhammer; Grass snake, Common toad, Great crested newt; Barbastelle bat, Brown long-eared bat, Harvest mouse, Noctule bat, Otter, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole; Brown trout, European eel

**3.2.4 Further important species interest:** Alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage, Bladder-sedge, Bottle sedge, Common meadow-rue, Early marsh-orchid, Hairlike pondweed, Ivy-leaved crowfoot, Large bittercress, Lesser water-parsnip, Marsh arrow-grass, Marsh cinquefoil, Marsh violet, Narrow-leaved water-dropwort, Red pondweed, River water-crowfoot, Slender tufted-sedge, Small teasel, Water-violet, White sedge, Whorl-grass; Dotted fan-foot, Lesser cream wave (both moths), Scarce chaser (a dragonfly), White-legged damselfly, *Gonomyia bifida*, *Lonchoptera scutellata*, *Stratiomys potamida* (all flies); Barn owl, Common snipe, Goosander, Grey wagtail, Kingfisher, Pochard, Redshank, Sand martin, Sedge warbler, Water rail, Wigeon; Water shrew; Brook lamprey, Bullhead

**3.2.5 Ancient woodland:** present, including PAWS

**3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:** Wey Landscape Partnership (inc. Wey Diffuse Pollution Advice Project); Surrey Wildlife Trust Grazing Project

## 3.3 Archaeology

Brooklands Motor Racing Circuit (remains of the pre-WWII aerodrome, WWII Bofors Tower & shelters and Brooklands Memorial); Eashing Bridges; Frensham Manor; Newark Priory; Somerset Bridge; St Catherine's Chapel; Tylford Bridges; Waverley Abbey; Woking Palace; The Treadwheel Crane; Chilworth gunpowder works

## 3.4 Access

**3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:** Bishop's Meadow (Bishops Meadow Trust); Lammas Lands (Waverley Borough Council); Thundry Meadows, Papercourt Meadows, Manor Farm (Surrey Wildlife Trust); Shalford Park, Stoke Park-Riverside Park LNR, Parsonage Meadows (Guildford Borough Council); Mayford Meadows, Woking Palace (Woking Borough Council); Wey Navigation & Meadows (National Trust)

**3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc:** River Wey Navigation tow-path (inc. E2 European L-D Route); Wey South Path/Downs Link; North Downs Way; Greensand Way; The Fox Way (Link 7)

## 3.5 Key ecosystem services

Water provision (abstraction and waste); Agricultural/fisheries food production; Timber production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreation (pleasure boating, walking, equestrian, cycling, canoeing/rowing, angling, golf, bird-watching)

## 3.6 Socio-Economic

**3.6.1 Employment profile:** Water industry; Agriculture/Horticulture sector; Equine livery & services; Game & coarse angling services; Boating and navigational services; Tourism & heritage visitor attractions

**3.6.2 LEP:** Enterprise M3

## 4. Objectives & Targets

**R04/O1:** SSSI units to achieve/maintain favourable condition. **T1:** 50% by 2020 (by area)

**R04/O2:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

**R04/O3:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Floodplain grazing marsh/T3a:** 35.25 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T3b:** 4.5 ha by 2020
- **Rivers** (in-channel/bankside habitat creation)/**T3c:** 10 km by 2020
- **Meadows/T3d:** 11.75 ha by 2020
- **Reedbeds/T3e:** 7 ha by 2020

**R04/O4:** Priority species recovery.

- **T4:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

**Marsh stitchwort**  
**Harvest mouse**  
**European eel**

**White-clawed crayfish**  
**Otter**

**Lapwing**  
**Water vole**

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Map **R04** (to be added)

† Subject to possible correction

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Biodiversity Opportunity Area <b>R05: River Mole (&amp; tributaries)</b>	
<b>Local authorities:</b> Elmbridge, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge	
<p><b>Aim &amp; justification:</b></p> <p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)</b> is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act 'Habitats of Principal Importance', ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Recognition of BOAs directly meets <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, <b>by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to <b>plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify &amp; map components of the local ecological networks</b> (para. 117).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b></p> <p><i>BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an 'ecosystem approach' to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.</i></p>	
<p><b>1. Overview</b></p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the River Mole, its major tributaries and associated Flood Zone 3 from the county boundary at Crawley in Sussex to its confluence with the River Thames. It shares adjacency with several other BOAs, including LW07, WG10-11, ND02-3, TBL03-4, TBH06, TV05 and R06<sup>2</sup>, as well as West Sussex BOA 38. <b>Area:</b> 2211.8 ha</p>	
<p><b>2. National Character Areas</b></p> <p><a href="#">Low Weald</a> (NCA 121), <a href="#">Wealden Greensands</a> (NCA 120), <a href="#">North Downs</a> (NCA 119), <a href="#">Thames Basin Lowlands</a> (NCA 114), <a href="#">Thames Basin Heaths</a> (NCA 129), <a href="#">Thames Valley</a> (NCA 115)</p>	
<p><b>3. Profile</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Geology</b></p> <p>The River Mole enters Surrey at Horley and drains a major central section of the county, flowing north across the Weald to meet the River Thames at Molesey Lock. Above Leatherhead it occupies a fairly narrow floodplain, with important tributaries including the Redhill, Pipp and Deanoak-Beam Brooks and the Burstow Stream. Below the landmark Mole Gap with its dramatic river-cliffs at Box Hill it then meanders more widely, crossing the Thames basin</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</b></p> <p><b>Natura 2000 (SPA/SAC):</b> Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment SAC (marginal)</p> <p><b>SSSI:</b> Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment (marginal)</p> <p><b>LNR:</b> River Mole (at Leatherhead)</p> <p><b>AONB:</b> Surrey Hills</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b></p> <p><b>SNCI:</b> <b>II</b><sup>†</sup></p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b></p> <p><b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b> Rivers, Floodplain grazing marsh, Meadows, Wet woodland, Reedbeds, Ponds, Hedgerows</p> <p><b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b></p>	

<sup>2</sup> Terrestrial BOAs take precedence where these overlap the Flood Zone 3 contour

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

**Plants:** Cut-grass\*, Marsh stitchwort, Tubular water-dropwort\*  
**Invertebrates:** White-letter hairstreak, Heart moth, Sloe carpet (moth), White-spotted pinion\* (moth), Currant shoot-borer (a micro-moth), Oxbow diving-beetle, Southern yellow splinter (a crane-fly), Southern crablet (a spider), Gentle groove-head spider\*  
**Vertebrates:** Cuckoo, Dunnock, Grasshopper warbler\*, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Reed bunting, Skylark, Song thrush, Yellow wagtail\*, Yellowhammer; Grass snake, Common toad, Great crested newt; Brown long-eared bat, Harvest mouse, Noctule bat, Otter, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole\*; Brown trout, European eel

**3.2.4 Further important species interest:** Greater dodder, Small teasel, Tasteless water-pepper; Goosander, Grey wagtail, Kingfisher, Sand martin; Bullhead

**3.2.5 Ancient woodland:** present

**3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:** Mole Catchment Partnership; Surrey Countryside Partnerships team (Lower Mole Project); Gatwick Greenspace Project (Sussex Wildlife Trust)

## 3.3 Archaeology

Late Roman bath house at Chatley Farm; Slyfield House; Betchworth Castle; Medieval Moated Site, Cudworth Manor; Medieval-Early Post-Medieval Tannery, Scotchman's Copse; Thunderfield Castle Medieval Moated Site

## 3.4 Access

**3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:** West End Common (Elmbridge Borough Council); River Mole Local Nature Reserve (Mole Valley District Council); Norbury Park, Swanworth Farm (Surrey Wildlife Trust); Riverside Garden Park (Reigate & Banstead Borough Council); Box Hill, Harewoods (National Trust)

**3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc:** Mole Gap Trail; North Downs Way; Thames Down Link; Sussex Border Path

## 3.5 Key ecosystem services

Water provision (abstraction and waste); Agricultural/fisheries food production; Timber production; Carbon sequestration; Flooding regulation; Pollination services; Recreation (walking, equestrian, cycling, canoeing/rowing, angling)

## 3.6 Socio-Economic

**3.6.1 Employment profile:** Water industry; Agriculture/horticulture sector; Equine livery & services; Game & coarse angling services; Gatwick Airport & ancillary services; Tourism & hospitality sector

**3.6.2 LEP:** Coast-to-Capital

## 4. Objectives & Targets

**R05/O1:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T1:** All by 2020

**R05/O2:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Floodplain grazing marsh/T2a:** 22 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T2b:** 2.75 ha by 2020
- **Rivers** (in-channel/bankside habitat creation)/**T2c:** 5 km by 2020
- **Meadows/T2d:** 7.25 ha by 2020
- **Reedbeds/T2e:** 4.25 ha by 2020

**R05/O3:** Priority species recovery.

- **T3:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

**Marsh stitchwort**  
Otter

**Harvest mouse**  
Brown trout

**Water vole**  
European eel

\* probably extinct in BOA

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Map **R05** (to be added)

† Subject to possible correction



# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

<b>Biodiversity Opportunity Area R06: River Thames (tow-path &amp; islands)</b>
<p><b>Local authorities:</b> Elmbridge, Runnymede, Spelthorne</p>
<p><b>Aim &amp; justification:</b></p> <p>The aim of <b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)</b> is to establish a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing biodiversity at a landscape-scale, making our wildlife more robust to changing climate and socio-economic pressures. BOAs are those areas where targeted maintenance, restoration and creation of Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities (NERC) Act ‘Habitats of Principal Importance’, ie. <b>Priority habitats</b> will have the greatest benefit towards achieving this aim.</p> <p>Recognition of BOAs directly meets <b>National Planning Policy Framework</b> policy for the planning system to contribute to international commitments for halting the overall decline in biodiversity, <b>by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures</b> (para. 109). Designation of BOAs in local plans will also fulfil NPPF requirements to <b>plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; and identify &amp; map components of the local ecological networks</b> (para. 117).</p> <p><b>Explanatory</b></p> <p>BOAs identify the most important areas for wildlife conservation remaining in Surrey and each include a variety of habitats, providing for an ‘ecosystem approach’ to nature conservation across and beyond the county. By working with larger, more dynamic ecosystems, it will be possible to create a wider range of habitats and their variants, which will in turn increase the ability of the landscape to support the largest variety of species.</p>
<p><b>1. Overview</b></p> <p>This Biodiversity Opportunity Area includes the River Thames, together with its tow-path and islands, from the county boundaries with Berkshire at Runnymede to Greater London at Surbiton. It shares adjacency with several other BOAs, including TV02, TV04, TV05, R05 and R06. <b>Area:</b> 194.7 ha</p>
<p><b>2. National Character Areas</b></p> <p><a href="#">Thames Valley</a> (NCA 115)</p>
<p><b>3. Profile</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Geology</b> Alluvium, River Terrace deposits, London Clay. Thames floodplain</p> <p><b>3.2 Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Statutory protected sites</b> <b>LNR:</b> Chertsey Meads (part)</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Local Sites</b> <b>SNCI:</b> 7<sup>†</sup></p> <p><b>3.2.3 NERC Act S.41</b></p> <p><b>Habitats of Principal Importance (Priority habitats):</b> Rivers, Wet woodland, Acid grassland</p> <p><b>Species of Principal Importance (Priority species):</b> <b>Plants:</b> Greater water-parsnip* <b>Invertebrates:</b> Small heath, Stag beetle, Depressed river mussel, Fine-lined pea mussel <b>Vertebrates:</b> Dunnock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Reed bunting, Song thrush; Grass snake, Slow-worm, Common toad; Brown long-eared bat, Noctule bat, Otter, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Water vole*; Atlantic salmon, Brown trout, European eel</p> <p><b>3.2.4 Further important species interest:</b> Autumn squill, Black poplar, Greater dodder, Round-fruited rush, Strawberry clover; Pale-lemon sallow (a moth), <i>Ephemera lineata</i> (a mayfly), Club-tailed dragonfly, German hairy snail; Grey wagtail, Kingfisher; Bullhead</p> <p><b>3.2.5 Ancient woodland:</b> -</p> <p><b>3.2.6 Landscape scale conservation activity:</b> Thames 21 (Maidenhead-Teddington Catchment Partnership)</p>

\* extinct in BOA

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

## 3.3 Archaeology

Chertsey Bridge

## 3.4 Access

**3.4.1 Publically-accessible Natural OS:** Chertsey Meads (Runnymede Borough Council); Point Meadow (Elmbridge Borough Council)

**3.4.2 Long-distance PRoW, etc:** Thames Path

## 3.5 Key ecosystem services

Water provision (abstraction and waste); Flooding regulation; Recreation (pleasure boating, water-sports, canoeing, walking, cycling, angling)

## 3.6 Socio-Economic

**3.6.1 Employment profile:** Boating and navigational services; Tourism & Leisure sector

**3.6.2 LEP:** Enterprise M3

## 4. Objectives & Targets

**R06/O1:** SNCI protected by planning policy & in positive management. **T2:** All by 2020

**R06/O2:** Priority habitat restoration & creation.

- **Rivers** (in-channel/bankside habitat creation)/**T2a:** 3 km by 2020
- **Floodplain grazing marsh/T2b:** 2.75 ha by 2020
- **Wet woodland/T2c:** 0.25 ha by 2020

**R06/O3:** Priority species recovery.

- **T3:** By 2020, evidence of at least stabilisation & preferably recovery in the local populations of listed Priority species:

**Greater water-parsnip**

**Depressed river mussel**

**European eel**

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

Map **R06** (to be added)

† Subject to possible correction

# Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Area Policy Statement

**Map Key:** (to be added)