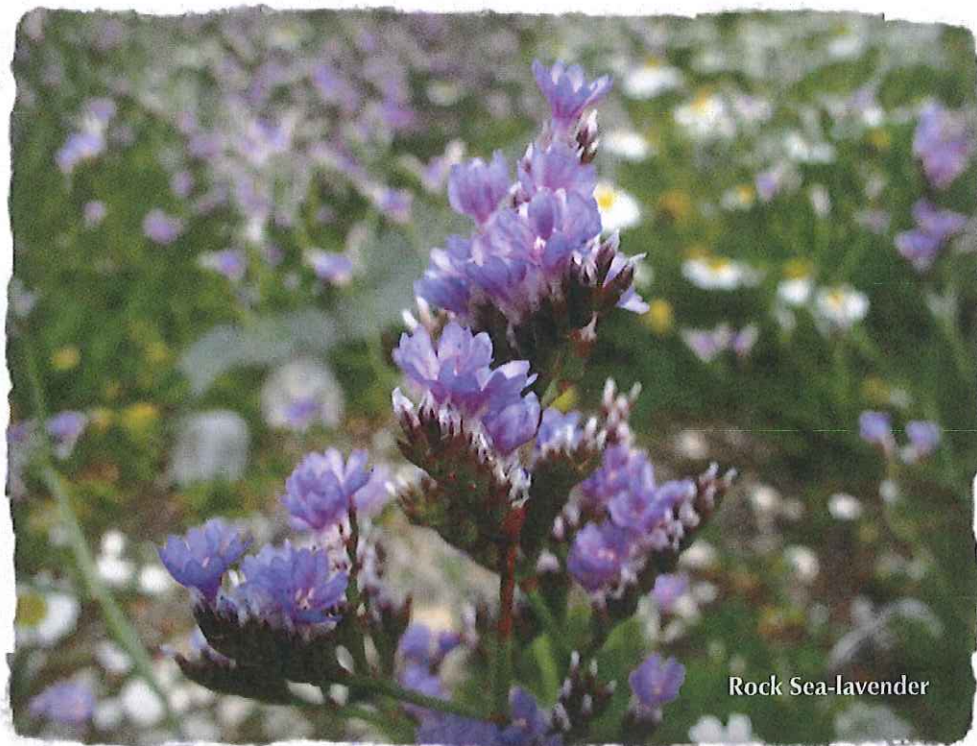


# Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2013-2017



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## 1. Summary

This management plan was commissioned by the Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve Committee (SHLNRC) to provide a guide on the best possible management for the nature reserve over the next five years.

The site is currently degrading due to overgrazing in some areas and a lack of grazing in other areas. Scrub and bramble encroachment is a serious concern and without implementation of this plan this will continue and a great deal of the ecological interest at the site will be depleted and possibly lost. As the nature reserve is also within a Site of Special Scientific Interest it is of highest priority that the notified features of the SSSI are maintained. The implementation of this plan will ensure this responsibility is achieved.

The key management section in this plan, section 4, is formatted to provide site wide management objectives. This enables habitat and species management to be viewed from a site wide objective rather than through segmented compartment based management. It also allows flexibility over any changes to management that are needed to ensure site objectives are always followed based on analysis of the planned biological monitoring.

It is important to note that the objectives, targets and actions outlined in the plan are dependent on a ranger being employed to oversee the implementation of the plan. Identification of a volunteer resource, most probably in partnership with the Friends of the Cuckmere and the Seaford Natural History Society, is also critical in implementing the habitat management and biological monitoring outlined in the plan. Also some of the targets and actions will need to be met by the successful acquisition of external funding especially those relating to interpretation and monitoring.



## 2. Introduction

Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve is a 163.8ha site, although this management plan covers a 83ha area of the reserve that consists of maritime chalk cliff, semi-natural grassland, vegetated shingle, saltmarsh, coastal scrub, semi-natural woodland and farmland. This management area is referred to as the 'reserve' in the rest of this document (see appendix 8.1 for a map of the management area).

The reserve is of national, county and local importance for its ecology, geology, geomorphology, archaeology, landscape, amenity and educational value. It is an important part of a complex of sites within the coastal area of the South Downs National Park, which includes Seven Sisters Country Park, Beachy Head and Cuckmere Valley.

The beauty of the landscape along the coast between Eastbourne and Seaford is internationally famous and part of the Sussex Heritage Coast. This natural heritage is a major attraction with the reserve boasting some of the best coastal views in south-east England.

The reserve is a very unusual maritime cliff site. It is essentially a hard rock cliff made up of Cretaceous Upper Chalk with flints but with a layer of loess deposits on top of the chalk giving the cliff-top and under cliff areas a soft rock cliff nature.

On Seaford Head there is a thin layer of Palaeogene sand. Resting on top is a similarly thin layer of Pleistocene loess, reworked silt and sand transported by wind and probably sheetwash. They are difficult to distinguish from each other as they are both fine-grained and orange-brown. Below these surface layers, which acidify percolating water, are funnel-shaped solution pits in the chalk, similar to those at Newhaven, and some larger solution pipes. Short Cliff carries a thicker layer of loess, which rests on what appears to be an ancient river terrace of the Cuckmere. Beneath the Short Cliff Beds are well-developed solution pipes passing down to high water and below. (1996, Castleden, R.)

This unusual geology of chalk, Palaeogene sand and Pleistocene loess has produced a complex series of habitats and NVC (National Vegetation Classification) communities combining base-rich, neutral and some acidic grassland and scrub.

A number of species of conservation concern have been recorded from the site most notably **moon carrot** *Seseli libanotis* and the **potter flower-bee** *Anthophora retusa* for which the reserve is especially important.

This document highlights the important features that exist within the reserve, outlines what is to be achieved in maintaining and enhancing these features and how this is to be achieved through monitoring, habitat management and raising awareness of the reserve.

### 3. Site Description

This portion of the plan outlines important information about the reserve, the habitats, NVC (National Vegetation Classification) communities and species of conservation concern identified from the site.

#### 3.1 Site Details

**Site name:** Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve

**Site ownership:** Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve is owned primarily by Seaford Town Council with smaller areas owned by the National Trust and East Sussex County Council.

**Area:** (Total area covered by LNR designation is 163.8ha.) Area covered by this plan is 83ha, see appendix 8.1 for a map of the area covered by this plan.

**Grid Reference:** (Main site entrance) TV 5051 9801

#### Conservation & Landscape Designations:

- South Downs National Park
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Local Geological Site
- Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)
- Seven Sisters Voluntary Marine Conservation Area
- Sussex Heritage Coast
- RIGS (Regionally Important Geomorphological Site). The LNR actually contains two RIGS, Seaford Head and Cuckmere Haven.

**Site Management:** Seaford Town Council via the Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve Committee.

#### Importance for amenity, community engagement and education:

The reserve sits adjacent to the urban area of Seaford and as such provides close access to an important greenspace area and a gateway into the South Downs National Park for the population of the town. The reserve is also a short distance from a number of other Sussex towns and cities most notably Brighton, Eastbourne, Newhaven and Hastings.

The site can be easily reached via car with a free car park at TV 5046 9805 or via Vanguard Way, part of the footpath route that runs through Cuckmere Valley to Newhaven. Vanguard Way can be reached via the A259 with parking at the Seven Sisters Country Park car park at TV 5184 9942. A bus route also runs from Eastbourne to Brighton that stops at Seven Sisters Country Park, and the same footpath can be taken through Seven Sisters Country Park to the eastern entrance to Seaford Head LNR. The closest train station is at Seaford and then a short walk through the town takes visitors to Splash Point and entry into the reserve.

The famous views from the reserve across Cuckmere Valley and Seven Sisters are a major attraction for visitors from nearby towns, and tourists & holidaymakers staying in the area. The site is also well known for birdwatching with productive spring seawatching and autumn visible migration from the nearby Splash Point and its potential for grounded migrants in spring and autumn amongst the scrub and grassland within the reserve. The site also has a lot of potential for visiting wildlife and macro photographers which is a rapidly growing pastime.

The reserve is also an important educational resource for schools and colleges in Seaford, Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings and the surrounding towns and villages in East Sussex.

### 3.2 NVC Communities & Habitats

A National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey was undertaken by Graeme Lyons during 2012 to inform the management prescriptions in this plan. A number of scarce and uncommon communities were identified and mapped in the report. The NVC communities identified during the survey are listed below but for details and maps please refer to appendix 8.2.

Habitat types recorded and the percentage of land cover by each of the broad habitat types within the reserve is summarised below:

Broad habitat types:

Grass - 48%

Scrub - 38%

Grass with scrub - 7%

Other - 4%

Tall herb - 3%

The NVC communities recorded during the survey are listed below. (Excerpt from NVC Survey of Seaford Head by Graeme Lyons):

#### Grassland Communities

##### Maritime Grassland Communities



Figure 1. MC5 - Thrift - Sea Mouse-ear maritime therophyte community.

##### **MC5 – Thrift *Armeria maritima* – Sea Mouse-ear *Cerastium diffusum* maritime therophyte community.**

Occurs along the cliff tops but is difficult and dangerous to map accurately. The community occurs down the face of the cliff. The accuracy of the areas of this community is therefore likely to be quite low. This community is associated with the loess (wind blown sand deposits) that cap the chalk cliffs along much of Seaford Head. It is also the main nesting area

of the rare bee *Anthophora retusa*. **MC5d – Thyme-leaved Sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia* sub-community** best describes this at Seaford Head.

**MC11 – Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* – Wild Carrot *Daucus carota* maritime grassland**

This community occurs in very thin strips immediately adjacent to the cliff tops. Dominated by a carpet of Red Fescue and the occasional tussock of Cocksfoot and punctured throughout with the flowers of Wild Carrot. Occasionally Knapweed, Agrimony and Restharrow appears as the community grades into something closer to MG5. MC11 is restricted to the cliff tops above the chalk.

**MC11c – Salad Burnet *sanguisorba minor*** is the most abundant community

**MC11b – Restharrow *Ononis repens*** occurs in one small area.

### Neutral Grassland Communities

**MG1 – False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland**

Unmanaged grassland on more neutral soils tend towards this community. False Oat-grass becomes the overwhelming dominant grass and species-richness is eventually lost with time. False Oat-grass cannot compete with grazing or a regular cutting regime.

**MG1d – Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*** this sub-community is more floristically rich and less overwhelmingly dominated by False Oat-grass.

**MG1c – Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa* sub-community** also present along the cliff tops in places.

**MG5 – Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* – Crested Dogstail *Cynosurus cristatus***

This is a very variable community. MG5 is best known as the species-rich neutral hay meadows, often on heavy soils like those in the Weald. Knapweed is a constant indicator of this community as is Red Fescue, Ribwort Plantain, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Agrimony and Selfheal. In addition to the usual constants, the sub-community recorded at Seaford Head is **MG5b – Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* sub-community** which displays many species present in the CG communities such as Lady's Bedstraw, Salad Burnet and Glaucous Sedge. This community grades into the CG communities. The regular mowing and removal of cuttings followed by grazing by rabbits have perpetuated this community. This community is nationally uncommon.

**MG6 – Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne* – Crested Dogstail *Cynosurus cristatus* grassland**

This is the semi-improved neutral pasture that is so abundant throughout the country. It will have had at some point in its history a level of input that has increased the fertility of the soil.

**MG6c – Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*** In this sub community, a number of chalk related species are recorded.

**MG7 – Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne* leys**

Even more nutrient enriched than MG6. This grassland is often dominated by tall, lush plants of Perennial Rye-grass. White Clover is often the only other species. This could indicate an area that was either heavily enriched in the past or is where livestock perhaps spend much of their time. The sub-community here is best described as **MG7a Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne* – White Clover *Trifolium repens* ley.**

## Chalk Grassland Communities

### **CG2 – Sheep’s Fescue *Festuca ovina* – Meadow Oat-grass *Helictotrichon pratensis* grassland**

Of the four CG NVC communities at Seaford, this is probably the richest. It is also by far the most tightly grazed and in all cases where CG2 is found at Seaford, it is very heavily grazed by rabbits. All the CG2 at Seaford was recorded as **CG2a – Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule* – Squinancywort *Asperula cynanchia* sub-community**. This community is nationally uncommon.



Figure 2. CG2 Sheep’s Fescue - Meadow Oat-grass grassland. (Rabbit grazed moon carrot in centre.)

### **CG3 – Upright Brome *Bromus erectus* grassland**

In this NVC community, Upright Brome comes to dominate in the sward giving it a highly distinctive look from the tightly grazed CG2. CG3 becomes the dominant chalk-grassland to the west of the site on the golf course. All of the CG3 recorded was of the **CG3b – Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* sub-community** which usually has Upright Brome at more than 50% cover and an increase in the number of coarse dicotyledons. Clustered Bellflower was recorded in this community to the west of the golf course. This community is nationally uncommon.

### **CG4 – Tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum***

This community is dominated by Tor-grass. This coarse grass is often the cause of much alarm on chalk-grassland sites. It must be remembered that it is native and despite the fact that it can spread and take over areas of more species rich CG2 and CG3, there is no evidence for this at Seaford yet. This baseline NVC can easily be used to track the spread of CG4 at Seaford. Grazing in the growing season with cattle rather than sheep is thought to be better at controlling Tor-grass and breaking up its dominance. The large patch of CG4 to the south provides a benefit too by sheltering the Moon Carrot from the grazing pressure of the rabbits. At Seaford, **CG4b Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* – Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*** was the only sub-community recorded. This tends to be dominated by Tor-grass.

## Acid Grassland Communities

### **U1 – Sheep’s Fescue *Festuca ovina* – Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris* – Sheep’s Sorrel *Rumex acetosella* grassland**

In this tightly grazed acid grassland, a number of small plants fight for dominance and the sward is usually kept open by rabbit grazing. At Seaford Head this community is represented by a singly polygon on the top of a hill topped by gorse and bracken to the northwest of the golf course and is best described as **U1b – typical sub-community. This community is nationally uncommon.**

### **U4 – Sheep’s Fescue *Festuca ovina* – Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris* – Heath Bedstraw – *Galium saxatile* grassland**

In this very grassy sward dominated by fescues, a strange mixture of acid loving and chalk loving plants can be found. To the north of the golf course, there is a clearly a very dynamic underlying geology and this is reflected in the vegetation. **U4c – Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* – White Clover *Trifolium repens*** best describes this sub-community. The presence of Wild Thyme is also indicative. This community is typically a north western community but is the best fit in this case.

### **U20c – Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* – Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile* community**

Dense stands of Bracken to the northwest of the golf course are best described as **U20c species-poor community.**

## Woodland & Scrub Communities

### Woodland Communities

### **W8 – Ash *Fraxinus exelcior* – Field Maple *Acer campestre* – Dog’s Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* woodland**

This is the main type of woodland that grows on base-rich soils in the area. Where it grows as secondary woodland, it is often incredibly species poor and the canopy is dominated by Ash and Sycamore. The one block of mature woodland on the site is home to a rookery and breeding Stock Dove.

### Scrub Communities

### **W21 – Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* – Ivy *Hedera helix***

Although Blackthorn may be the most abundant component in the scrub at Seaford, it is never the only component and this means that W22 (blackthorn scrub) is not represented on the site. Interestingly, the richest type of hawthorn scrub (**W21d – Wayfaring-tree *Viburnum lantana* sub-community**) is present but only occasionally and where it is present it usually overwhelmingly dominated by Wild Privet and/or Old Man’s Beard. The most frequent type is **W21c False-brome sub-community** which typically has some chalk-scrub associates but these appear as scattered bushes. On the heavier soils, the community is better described as **W21a – Ivy *Hedera helix* – Nettle *Urticadioica* sub-community.**

### **W23 – Gorse *Ulex europaeus* – Bramble agg. *Rubus fruticosus* scrub**

Small patches of Gorse appear around the site but it is particularly prominent in the more acidic northwest end of the golf course.

### **W24 – Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. – Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* underscrub**

Scattered patches of Bramble occur throughout the site. Where grassland is being taken over by Bramble, the community is denoted as MG5/W24 for example.

**W25a – Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* – Bramble agg. *Rubus fruticosus* underscrub**  
Several patches of Bracken and Bramble with a fine display of Bluebells in the spring are better noted as W25 than U20. **W25a – Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* sub-community.**Other (Saltmarsh & Vegetated Shingle Communities)

### **Vegetated Shingle Communities**

**SD1 – Curled Dock *Rumex crispus* – Yellow-horned Poppy *Glaucium flavum***  
Small areas of this community occur on the shingle around the small saltmarsh. The community seen at Seaford is **SD1a typical sub-community**. This community is nationally uncommon.

### **Saltmarsh Communities**

**SM8 – Glasswort *Salicornia* saltmarsh**  
Several small areas of this early successional saltmarsh community occur to the east. They are usually dominated by nothing more than Glasswort and contain a lot of bare mud.

**SM16 – Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* saltmarsh**  
Red Fescue is somewhat of a red herring when describing this community which is, in the case of Seaford, mostly dominated by **Saltmarsh Rush *Juncus gerrardi* and is represented by the sub-community SM16b** which is known to be dominated by this rush. Only small fragments occur in the small saltmarsh to the east.

### **'SM21 type' vegetation**

Note, SM21 is a nationally rare NVC community restricted to the North Norfolk coast. The community described here is perhaps the closest fit. It lacks Shrubby Sea-blite but it is dominated by Rock Sea-lavender at Seaford Head.



Figure 3. Left - SM27/SD1a, centre - 'SM21 type' vegetation, background right - SD1.

**SM24 – Sea Couch *Elymus pycnanthus* salt-marsh community**

Dense stands of the bluish Sea Couch grass can be found on the salt marsh.

**SM27/SD1a**

An area of saltmarsh/sand dune interface is found to the south of the saltmarsh. The dominant plant is Sea Mayweed. *Phylorhizus vectensis* was recorded in this area. This community is nationally uncommon.

**SM28 – Common Couch *Elytrigia repens* upper salt-marsh community**

One small patch of this community was recorded on the top of the cliffs.

**Tall Herb Communities**

**OV24 – Nettle *Urtica dioica* – Goosegrass *Galium aparine* community**

Small patches of this community occur where some level of localised nutrient enrichment has taken place, usually where cuttings have been dumped over many years.

**OV25 – Nettle *Urtica dioica* – Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* community**

Dominated by the two community constants, a large patch of this community occurs in the MG6/MG7 field to the north of the nature reserve. It is no doubt a result of repeated supplementary feeding and the associated dunging and disturbance caused by the cattle. It would be very difficult to reverse. It also the location of a number of vigorous plants of Henbane.

**OV27 – Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium* community**

Scattered patches of Rosebay Willowherb occur around the site. Like OV24, they are typically small and scattered.

### 3.3 Species of Conservation Concern

A Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre Report was commissioned to identify the presence of any species of conservation concern present within the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre database that have been recorded in the Seaford Head area. Species listed in Red Data Books, IUCN designations (International Union for Conservation of Nature), nationally scarce species, red & amber bird population statuses, protected species and Biodiversity Action Plan species are listed below.

Species recorded during the production of the management plan and NVC survey are indicated by \*.

The nature reserve has an active local natural history society (Seaford Natural History Society) and a number of skilled local & county naturalists that have provided a great deal of the species records sent to the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre, Sussex Ornithological Society and national recording schemes from which this information is based upon. For references to past surveys and monitoring projects please refer to the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre Report (Appendix 8.3).

Species monitoring is a very important and integral part of site management and the work already carried out, evidenced by the number of species listed below, should continue to be used to inform reviews of the management outlined in this plan.

Monitoring of key species and species groups is outlined in the management objectives, targets and actions in section 4 of this plan.

#### Lichens

Species: *Cladonia convoluta*

Group: lichen

Designations & status:

- IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 8)

#### Vascular Plants

Species: *Centaurea cyanus*

Common name: **cornflower**

Group: vascular plant

Designations & status:

- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Species: *Seseli libanotis*\*

Common name: **moon carrot**

Group: vascular plant

Designations & status:

- IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened.



Figure 4. **Moon carrot** *Seseli libanotis*.

Species: *Hyoscyamus niger*\*

Common name: **henbane**

Group: vascular plant

Designations & status:

- IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable.

## **Insects**

### **Beetles - Coleoptera**

Species: *Philorhizus vectensis*\*

Group: ground beetle

Designations & status:

- IUCN (pre 1994) - Rare;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

### **Butterflies & Moths - Lepidoptera**

Species: *Erynnis tages*\*

Common name: **dingy skipper**

Group: butterfly

Designations & status:

- IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

Species: *Cupido minimus*

Common name: **small blue**

Group: butterfly

Designations & status:

- IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.5a; 9.5b).

Species: *Polyommatus bellargus*\*

Common name: **adonis blue**

Group: butterfly

Designations & status:

- IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.5a; 9.5b).

Species: *Hesperia comma*\*

Common name: **silver-spotted skipper**

Group: butterfly

Designations & status:

- IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.5a; 9.5b).

Species: *Lasiommata megera*\*

Common name: **wall**

Group: butterfly

Designations & status:

- IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Species: *Coenonympha pamphilus*\*

Common name: **small heath**

Group: butterfly

Designations & status:

- IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

Species: *Trichopteryx polycommata*

Common name: **barred tooth-striped**

Group: moth

Designations & status:

- Nationally Scarce A;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

Species: *Adscita statices*\*

Common name: **the forester**

Group: moth

Designations & status:

- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.



Figure 5. Forester *Adscita statices*.

## Bees, Ants & Wasps - Hymenoptera

Species: *Anthophora retusa*\*

Common name: **potter flower bee**

Group: mining bee

Designations & status:

- RDB1
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species



Figure 6. **Potter flower bee** *Anthophora retusa* (foraging at red valerian on vegetated shingle just east of nature reserve within Seven Sisters Country Park.)

Species: *Bombus ruderarius*\*

Common name: **red-shanked carder-bee**

Group: bumblebee

Designations & status:

- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Species: *Bombus humilis*\*

Common name: **brown-banded carder-bee**

Group: bumblebee

Designations & status:

- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

## Two-winged Flies - Diptera

Species: *Bombylius discolor*\*

Common name: **dotted bee-fly**

Group: two-winged fly

Designations & status:

- Nationally scarce.

Species: *Thereva plebeja*  
Group: two-winged fly  
Designations & status:

- Nationally Scarce.

## Reptiles

Species: *Vipera berus*  
Common name: **adder**  
Group: reptile  
Designations & status:

- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.1 killing/injuring; 9.5a; 9.5b)

## Mammals

Species: *Tursiops truncatus*  
Common name: **bottle-nose dolphin**  
Group: marine mammal  
Designations & status:

- European Protected Species;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.5a; 9.5b; Schedule 5).

Comment: Recorded offshore.

## Birds

Species: *Coturnix coturnix*  
Common name: **common quail**  
Taxa: bird  
Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - amber;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved.

Species: *Egretta garzetta*  
Common name: **little egret**  
Taxa: bird  
Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - amber;

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved.

Species: *Falco subbuteo*  
Common name: **eurasian hobby**  
Taxa: bird  
Designations & status:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1).

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved. Positive breeding on adjacent site.

Species: *Falco peregrinus*\*

Common name: **peregrine falcon**

Taxa: bird

Designations & status:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)

Comment: Breeds within reserve.

Species: *Numenius arquata*

Common name: **eurasian curlew**

Taxa: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - amber;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved.

Species: *Larus melanocephalus*

Common name: **mediterranean gull**

Taxa: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - amber;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1).

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved.

Species: *Rissa tridactyla*\*

Common name: **black-legged kittiwake**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - amber.

Comment: Breeds within reserve.

Species: *Alcedo atthis*

Common name: **common kingfisher**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - amber;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1).

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved.

Species: *Lullula arborea*

Common name: **wood lark**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - amber;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1).

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved.

Species: *Motacilla flava*

Common name: **yellow wagtail**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - red;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved. Positive breeding on adjacent site.

Species: *Phoenicurus ochruros*\*

Common name: **black redstart**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - amber;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1).

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved.

Species: *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Common name: **wood warbler**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - red;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved.

Species: *Regulus ignicapilla*

Common name: **firecrest**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - amber;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1).

Comment: Recorded during breeding season but no breeding proved.

Species: *Corvus corax*\*

Common name: **common raven**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Very scarce breeding bird in Sussex.

Comment: Breeds within reserve.

Species: *Passer montanus*

Common name: **eurasian tree sparrow**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - red;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

Comment: Recorded wintering at site.

Species: *Emberiza calandra*

Common name: **corn bunting**

Group: bird

Designations & status:

- Bird Population Status - red;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Comment: Recorded wintering at site.