Rye-Winchelsea Area

- **Winchelsea** – grid layouts of weatherboard and tile cottages
- Bold, raised sites and distinctive profiles of Rye and Winchelsea
- Wide tract of levels dominated by grazing marsh are an extension of the huge Romney Walland Marsh area
- Irregular drainage channels often reed-fringed and engineered channels
- Fossil sea cliffs
- Prominent caravan parks
- Large expanses of shingle and lagoons at Rye Bay created by gravel extraction
- Engineered banks of River Rother, meets the sea in wide sandy Rye Bay
- Sand dunes at Camber

The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment

© ESCC 2015
Rye-Winchelsea Area

Contents
A. Landscape Description
B. Landscape Evaluation
C. Vision and Strategy
D. Guidelines for Managing Change

A Landscape Description

Key Landscape Characteristics

• A wide tract of coastal levels, dominated by grazing marsh as the western area of the Romney marshes and overlooked by bold spurs, steep inland cliffs and 'islands' of higher ground.
• Valley and floodplain of the lower reaches of the River Rother.
• The Royal Military Canal crosses the area from Winchelsea Beach to its confluence with the Rother.
• The twin citadels of historic Rye and Winchelsea dominate the area from their raised sites.
• Open coastal and valley levels with straightened or engineered drainage channels.
• Shingle areas extending inland from Rye Harbour around to Camber with lakes resulting from gravel working.
• Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserve an area of lakes and reed beds formed from old gravel workings.
• An extensive area of Dunes and sandy beach at Camber, unique in East Sussex.
• Coastal flood banks, shingle beaches and groynes.
• Pasture and sheep a feature, notably the indigenous Romney Marsh breed.
• Extensive areas of arable farming
• Contrast between woods, farms and fields of higher ground and the flat, open levels with their sense of space and wide open skies.
• Tree cover concentrated on the higher slopes and the towns of Winchelsea and Rye. Where ash, beech, sycamore, horse chestnut lime and oak are typical species.
• A strong sense of remoteness in the areas further from built development.
• Views towards Dungeness power station and the wind farm at Little Cheney Court Farm.
• The Medieval gated village of Winchelsea with its' historic grid layout of weatherboard and tile cottages.
• Steep wooded bluffs formed from the characteristic raised beach and “sea cliffs” which have become isolated from the sea.
• The distinctive Camber Castle standing above the Levels in a remote setting.
• Martello towers.
• The A259 crosses the area adjacent to the south coast railway.
• There are off road sections of the National Cycle Network to the west of Rye and from Rye to Camber.
Rye-Winchelsea Area

Cultural Associations

Camber Sands, with its wide bay and large dune system, has been used in a variety of creative media. The area has featured in many films and television programs. The area is mentioned in songs and pictured on album covers. It is a popular place for artists to live and has been used for art installations.

Winchelsea Town holds an annual street game ritual on Boxing Day.

Table 1 Key positive Landscape Attributes

- A wide tract of coastal levels, dominated by grazing marsh as the western area of the Romney marshes and overlooked by bold spurs, steep inland cliffs and ‘islands’ of higher ground.
- Valley and floodplain of the lower reaches of the River Rother.
- The Royal Military Canal crosses the area from Winchelsea Beach to its confluence with the Rother.
- The twin citadels of historic Rye and Winchelsea dominate the area from their raised sites.
- Shingle areas extending inland from Rye Harbour around to Camber with lakes resulting from gravel working.
- An extensive area of Dunes and sandy beach at Camber.
- Extensive pastures supporting sheep, notably the indigenous Romney Marsh breed.
- The open levels with their sense of space and wide open skies.
- A strong sense of remoteness in the areas further from built development.
- The Medieval gated village of Winchelsea with its’ historic grid layout of weatherboard and tile cottages.
- Steep wooded bluffs formed from the characteristic raised beach and “sea cliffs” which have become isolated from the sea.
- The distinctive Camber Castle standing above the Levels
- Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, an extensive area of lakes and reed beds in old gravel workings
- Camber Castle in its remote setting and scattered Martello towers.
Rye-Winchelsea Area

B Landscape Evaluation

Table 2 Current Condition

The landscape is generally well managed agricultural land with few intrusive features. The villages and hamlets remain largely unspoilt. The beaches and sea are some of the best in Sussex for clean sea and attractive surroundings. Important historic features are well preserved in Winchelsea town and surrounding areas.

Forces for Change impacting on positive Landscape Attributes

Past / Current forces for change

- Loss of vegetation along rivers and dykes due to maintenance regimes, agricultural intensification and engineering works.
- Creeping suburbanisation and cumulative changes in the rural landscape, roads and villages which are not in sympathy with local distinctiveness or vernacular architecture.
- The spread of plot land, caravan and holiday chalet development along the coast.
- Changes in the types and frequency of grazing animals in the countryside impacts on character as they are a characteristic feature. Lack of grazing can give an unmanaged appearance to the landscape and reduce the biodiversity value.
- Farm Environment Plans across the majority of the farmed levels, with organic farming at East Guildeford and Higher Level Stewardship in Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.
- The East Rother and Walland Marsh Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative across much of the area and Nitrate Vulnerable Zone to the west of Rye to protect water resources.
- Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI, now designated as a RAMSAR site and Special Protection Area for birds which incorporates:
  - Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.
  - Camber sand dunes.
  - Walland Marsh, the open flat levels to the east of Rye.
  - The Rye marshes north of Rye.
Rye-Winchelsea Area

- Positive management of habitats at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve due to the internationally important wildlife interests.
- Increasing traffic on the A259 and rat running on rural lanes.
- Power lines crossing the open landscape.
- The continuing reinforcement of man made coastal defences to protect property along the coast.
- The popularity of Camber Sands brings huge influxes of people and cars on hot weekends causing significant local traffic problems.
- Pressure on the sand dunes as a landscape and habitat due to large numbers of visitors and natural drifting.
- Unsightly coastal development, static caravan parks and clutter at Camber and Winchelsea Beach.
- Industrial development at Rye Harbour detracting from views from Rye and the setting of the town.
- Loss of pasture to arable farming creating expanses of featureless landscape.
- Canalisation of drainage channels and hard engineered features along the River Rother.
- Major electricity transmission lines.

Future Forces for Change

- The need for some expansion to provide local housing in the town of Rye and village of Camber.
- Future industrial expansion along Rye Harbour Road.
- Pressure for the expansion of holiday developments in coastal areas.
- Increasing traffic on rural lanes and in villages impacting on tranquillity and on the rural character.
- Demands for traffic calming and road improvements which could introduce increasing urban clutter to rural roads, villages and lanes.
- Continued agricultural change due to changing markets, economic pressures and response to climate change.
- The spread of small agricultural holdings, hobby farming, paddocks farm shops and allotments for local food production.
- Pressure for locating renewable energy facilities for solar, wind and bio energy.
- Pests and diseases of trees which could impact significantly on the mature tree stock. E.g. phytophora of alder and Ash dieback.
- Rising sea levels increasing the demand to build defences to protect coastal properties.
- Water quality in the Rother catchment, the Royal Military Canal and in Nitrate Vulnerable Zone to the west of the area.
## Rye-Winchelsea Area

### Table 3 Potential Impacts of Climate Change

- Potential changes in woodland / tree species composition and accelerated growth of species such as birch,
- Changes in ground flora which produce distinctive seasonal displays and other native vegetation.
- Increased magnitude of storm events changing the character of the coastal areas.
- Increased prevalence of pests and diseases due to warmer weather e.g. Phytophera of Alder.
- Changes in precipitation and temperatures will change the types of crops that farmers grow.
- Potential impact on the viability of grazing sheep, dairy and beef.
- Increased temperatures and a decline in precipitation levels may dry out wetland habitats and ponds and alter stream flows.
- Changes in water levels in Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserves lakes and reed beds.
Rye-Winchelsea Area

C Vision and Strategy

Table 4 Vision

A tranquil landscape of predominantly green meadow pasture. A sense of wildness and remoteness in the more isolated areas. An open landscape with wide uninterrupted views. The setting of local landscape features conserved and enhanced including historic buildings and their settings. Historic designed landscapes conserved. Conserved and enhanced reed beds, channels and ditches supporting rich flora and fauna.

As noted in the current Landscape Character Guidance – A Landscape Strategy identifies “what change if any is desirable for any landscape character area as a whole?”

Landscape change and adaptation to meet the strategy requires:

1. Planning for the enhancement of the Romney Marsh Area Biodiversity Opportunity Area improving habitat continuity.
3. Protect and manage existing habitats and plan for restoration of ditches and riverside vegetation to restore habitat linkages and continuity.
4. Plan for the creation of multifunctional green infrastructure to maximise the opportunities for biodiversity and recreation offered by the river corridor, the levels and the coast.
5. Consider the potential to plan for recreational access in this character area identifying areas where public access can be encouraged whilst protecting other areas where wildlife conservation is the priority.
6. Maximise opportunities for water based activities where this does not conflict with wild life interests, for example sailing on the disused gravel pits and kite surfing, which is already established at Camber.
7. Ensure that the expansion of settlement of Rye and Rye Harbour does not encroach on the visual quality or character of the levels.
8. Integrate proposed and existing development into the landscape through planting of tree features and woodland to define the village boundaries with the countryside.
9. Ensure that the design and layout of new developments respect the character and form of the landscape and existing settlements.
10. Control the spread of suburbanisation by minimising clutter of signage and other urban features in lanes and villages.
11. Conserve the setting of historic buildings and landscape features.
12. Consider appropriate species for new plantings to maintain landscape character and biodiversity but also adaptation to climate change influences.
Rye-Winchelsea Area

**D Guidelines for Managing Change**

**Development considerations for housing and other development**

Proposals need to have regard for the current High Weald Management Plan:

The main pressures for development in this character area will be the expansion of Rye and Rye Harbour.

There may be some demand to accommodate housing for the rural populations in the rural settlements of Winchelsea Beach and Camber. Tourism and seaside holidays are an important source of income to this area and there is constant demand for accommodation in hotels, bed and breakfast, caravan and camp sites. There will be demand for new facilities and to improve or expand existing. The coastal areas are vulnerable to rising sea levels and coastal flooding leading to demands for intrusive coastal defence developments. The area is under pressure as a potential area for sustainable energy schemes such as wind farm and solar array developments. Any new development should respect the key positive attributes in the landscape outlined in Table 1 above.

Proposed development should consider opportunities for proactively meeting the Landscape Change Strategy aims for this Landscape Character Area as set out in 1-12 above.
# Rye-Winchelsea Area

## Table 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current issues offering opportunities for protection and enhancement</th>
<th>Landscape Management Guidelines</th>
<th>Benefits delivered by Ecosystem Services for each area of interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Countryside and Farmland</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pressure for farm diversification and development of hobby farms, solar arrays, wind farms, waste recycling operations etc.&lt;br&gt;The majority of the farmed landscape is in stewardship or other agri-environment schemes.&lt;br&gt;Expansion of caravan sites and other holiday related development on the coast and elsewhere.&lt;br&gt;Land falling out of positive management and dereliction of farm buildings.&lt;br&gt;Loss of traditional pasture and wetland meadows.&lt;br&gt;Clearance of natural vegetation from drainage channels and ditches.&lt;br&gt;Low water levels and poor water quality in some drains and streams.&lt;br&gt;Deterioration of by ways and lanes due to erosion of un-surfaced routes by horses, bikes and 4 wheel drives.</td>
<td><strong>Countryside and Farmland</strong>&lt;br&gt;Encourage establishment of more farm conservation schemes to conserve the landscape structure of wetland, ditches and streams on the levels. Conserve hedges, trees and small woods on the higher ground. Maintain the mixed farmed character of the area. Protect and manage historic field patterns and conserve boundary features. Maintain water levels in drains and ditches. Conserve and enhance byways and rural lanes. Use tree and woodland planting to screen intrusive farm buildings and caravan sites. Enhance the biodiversity value of wet meadows, drainage and stream channels. Plan for and manage changes which may occur in the landscape due to changes in farm management brought about by economic influences and climate change. Address existing flooding issues of farmland and properties through flood management and by identifying areas which can provide flood alleviation. Reduce the risk and incidence of soil erosion by encouraging the restoration of arable land to pasture.</td>
<td><strong>Provisioning services</strong>&lt;br&gt;Water availability&lt;br&gt;Food production&lt;br&gt;<strong>Regulating services</strong>&lt;br&gt;(water purification, air quality maintenance and climate regulation)&lt;br&gt;Water quality and protected aquifers.&lt;br&gt;Regulating water flow and preventing flooding&lt;br&gt;Soil conservation and erosion control&lt;br&gt;Habitat and species resilience to climate change&lt;br&gt;Carbon sequestration. Areas of peat in the river valleys, hedges, trees, reed beds and grassland regulate air quality by absorbing and retaining CO₂.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Rye-Winchelsea Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current issues offering opportunities for protection and enhancement</th>
<th>Landscape Management Guidelines</th>
<th>Benefits delivered by Ecosystem Services for each area of interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Damage to verges on narrow country lanes caused by increasing size of farm vehicles and passing traffic. Flooding of farmland and properties affecting the viability of farms. Overstocking and arable production on some soils can result in soil erosion and reduce soil quality.</td>
<td>Apply best land management practices to prevent soil and fertiliser run off, thereby protecting surface and ground water.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Trees and Woodland
- Woods and tree belts are not in positive management.
- Traditional management has stopped as it is not commercially viable e.g. pollarding of stream side willows.
- Tree diseases
- Invasive species competing with natives e.g. Spanish Bluebell, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed.
- Some woodlands around Winchelsea benefit from woodland grant schemes

#### Woodland
- Actively manage trees and woodland through coppicing, pollarding of willows and replanting to create a diverse age structure.
- Plant new small woods, wet woodland and tree belts to strengthen the landscape character and where this is appropriate habitat creation.
- Consider the need to adapt to changes enforced by climate change, such as specific tree diseases and possible adaptation in species selection.
- Plant trees and woodland to contain existing and new built development.
- Encourage planting of trees along streams and ditches where appropriate to habitat.

#### Provisioning
- Fuel (woodfuel for local communities from woodland management)

#### Regulating
- Carbon sequestration, woodland absorbs and holds CO₂.
- Habitat and species resilience to climate change

#### Cultural
- Tranquillity
- Sense of Place and local distinctiveness
- Cultural heritage (traditional woodland management)
- Biodiversity
Current issues offering opportunities for protection and enhancement | Landscape Management Guidelines | Benefits delivered by Ecosystem Services for each area of interest
--- | --- | ---
**Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI** | **Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI** | **Provisioning**  
Financial and viable farming constraints affecting the continued management of wet meadows reducing the biodiversity value.  
Encourage management of river and stream channels, especially conservation of riverside trees and vegetation.  
Conservation and re-creation of wet meadow/pasture habitats.  
Encourage measures to improve water quality.  
Continue schemes to encourage farmers to minimise the use of chemicals and fertilizers.  
Agri-Environment schemes to encourage retention of grazing  
**Key Habitats**  
Encourage management of river and stream channels, especially conservation of riverside trees and vegetation.  
Conservation and re-creation of wet meadow/pasture habitats.  
Encourage measures to improve water quality.  
Continue schemes to encourage farmers to minimise the use of chemicals and fertilizers.  
Agri-Environment schemes to encourage retention of grazing  
**Provisioning**  
Nature's larder of free berries and herbs.  
Conservation of insect pollinators for pollination of crops.  
**Regulating**  
Habitat and species resilience to climate change  
**Cultural**  
Appreciation of nature  
Educational value  
Biodiversity

**Water**  
Deterioration and loss of habitats:  
Loss of river and streamside vegetation.  
Deterioration of water quality in streams, ditches and ponds.  
Nitrate Vulnerable Zone to the west of Rye  
Invasive species of plants and animals which compete with native species of flora and fauna.

**Wet Meadows**  
Financial and viable farming constraints affecting the continued management of wet meadows reducing the biodiversity value.  
Encourage management of river and stream channels, especially conservation of riverside trees and vegetation.  
Conservation and re-creation of wet meadow/pasture habitats.  
Farm stewardship schemes to maximise biodiversity.  
Opportunities to maximise reed bed creation.  
Encourage measures to improve water quality.  
Continue schemes to encourage farmers to minimise the use of chemicals and fertilizers.  
Agri-Environment schemes to encourage retention of grazing  
**Deterioration and loss of habitats:**  
Water  
Conservation and re-creation of wet meadow/pasture habitats.  
Encourage measures to improve water quality.  
Continue schemes to encourage farmers to minimise the use of chemicals and fertilizers.  
Agri-Environment schemes to encourage retention of grazing  
**Provisioning**  
Nature’s larder of free berries and herbs.  
Conservation of insect pollinators for pollination of crops.  
**Regulating**  
Habitat and species resilience to climate change  
**Cultural**  
Appreciation of nature  
Educational value  
Biodiversity

**Vegetated Shingle**  
Loss of species rich shingle habitats due to coastal erosion works and recreational pressure.  
Protect the remaining shingle habitats and seek opportunities to create new ones.  
**Sand Dunes**  
Erosion of dune habitat by recreational users and natural forces.  
Invasive Sea Buckthorn  
Continue positive management to control access, stabilise dunes and remove sea buckthorn
## Rye-Winchelsea Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current issues offering opportunities for protection and enhancement</th>
<th>Landscape Management Guidelines</th>
<th>Benefits delivered by Ecosystem Services for each area of interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Recreation, Green Infrastructure (GI) and ANGS *(glossary)* | Recreation, Green Infrastructure and ANGS | Provisioning  
Protected farmland |
| Pressure on bridleways and byways as multi use, including cycling and 4 wheel drives increasing erosion. | Where appropriate develop Green Infrastructure Strategies based on a county wide GI mapping. Plan for and manage recreational pressure on the countryside which could be affected by the increase in population in surrounding towns of Rye and Hastings as well as the seasonal holiday makers. Maximise opportunities for access away from sensitive habitats. Maximise opportunities provided by the coast for access and recreation. Consider opportunities to create new green corridors and improve existing as safe ideally motorised traffic free recreational routes. Maximise opportunities for and manage water based recreational activities. | Regulating  
Habitat and species resilience to climate change  
Water quality and protected aquifers.  
Regulating water flow and preventing flooding  
Carbon sequestration |
| Lack of Maintenance to the off-road sections of the National Cycle Network. | | Cultural  
Recreation  
Heritage assets and cultural heritage  
Inspirational  
Tranquility  
Biodiversity |
| Pressure on sensitive wetland habitats  
Lack of funding to manage and enhance GI for improved access.  
Need for better recreational linkages and improved sustainable transport corridors.  
Need multifunctional GI including areas of ANGS.  
Gentrification  
Loss of tranquillity due to more cars and access. | | |
## Rye-Winchelsea Area

### Current issues offering opportunities for protection and enhancement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse Keeping (‘horsiculture’) and small holdings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deterioration of the character and quality of the landscape and loss of local distinctiveness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can detract from historic field pattern where fences replace hedges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can cause soil erosion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The character of the villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gentrification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development pressures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gradual loss and deterioration of Heritage features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fast traffic on rural lanes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor pressure and cars detracting from local character and distinctiveness in Camber and Winchelsea.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Landscape Management Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse Keeping (‘horsiculture’) and small holdings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhance the condition of areas of horsiculture and small holdings through the restoration of an intact, well managed hedgerow or ditch network and retaining a diverse grass sward by preventing overgrazing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage local food production and allotment provision in areas where this will not detract from local landscape character.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protect and Enhance the character of the villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encourage the production of Neighbourhood plans which incorporate village design guides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan for new development in the villages to ensure it is designed to a high standard to reflect local character and sense of place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish defined development edges to villages with new tree planting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare village design guides and tree conservation plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider traffic management on rural lanes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage visitor pressure and parking in Camber and other seaside locations so that it does not detract from local character.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Benefits delivered by Ecosystem Services for each area of interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provisioning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grazing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat and species resilience to climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of Place and local distinctiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulating water flow and preventing flooding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of Place and local distinctiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rye-Winchelsea Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current issues offering opportunities for protection and enhancement</th>
<th>Landscape Management Guidelines</th>
<th>Benefits delivered by Ecosystem Services for each area of interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flood management and SUDS schemes? Coastal flooding. Flash floods and run off. Flooding of properties in low lying areas by river and ground water.</td>
<td>Flood management and SUDS schemes? Plan for flood management by conserving and enhancing the flood plains and managing water levels in ditches and drains. Resist further development in areas at risk of coastal flooding. Encourage the design of sensitive flood defence schemes which conserve and enhance the landscape and habitats Conserve and enhance existing man made and natural drainage features. Maximise opportunities for the creation of SUDs schemes which contribute to local amenity and habitat creation.</td>
<td>Provisioning Water conservation Regulating Flood control Protection of aquifers Cultural Heritage assets Sense of Place and local distinctiveness Tranquillity Amenity and recreation Biodiversity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rye-Winchelsea Area

Glossary
(also refer to the full version in the County Landscape Assessment).

**ANGS**: Accessible Natural Green Space [Natural England - Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt)]

**Assart**: Field created from the clearance of woodland

**Clunch Barn**: constructed of a building material composed of hardened clay or chalk marl.

**Ecosystem Services**: The services provided by nature which support living systems and can be evaluated.

**Enclosure**: The separation of land from the common by fence or private use.

**GI or Green Infrastructure**: Multifunctional green areas which provide areas for recreation, wildlife, water supply catchment, flood relief, food or timber production.

**Local Nature Reserve**: Local Nature Reserve (or LNR) is a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and amended by Schedule 11 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, by principal local authorities.

**Ramsar**: sites are wetlands of international importance for biodiversity, designated under the Ramsar Convention.

**SNCI or Local Site**: a Site of Nature Conservation Importance.

**SSSI**: A national designation for Site of Special Scientific Interest, these may be of biodiversity or geological significance or both.