



Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group



BIODIVERSITY

REPORT

2009



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Supported by:





Spring Basin *circa* 1890 (Dorset County Museum Collection).



Robin © Janet Craig (2009)



Smooth Newt (Fox Cottage) © Lucy Emery (2009)

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The following abbreviations are used in the text:

AONB	Area of outstanding natural beauty	LC	Least Concern (IUCN category)
AES	Amateur Entomological Society	MG1	& similar is a national vegetation community coding
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan	NE	Natural England
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology	NERC	National Environment Research Council
CEH	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	NT	Near threatened (IUCN category)
DERC	Dorset Environmental Records Centre	NVC	National Vegetation Community
Defra	Department of Environment, Fisheries & Agriculture	OS	Ordnance Survey
DWT	Dorset Wildlife Trust	RDB	Red Data Book species
FSC	Field Studies Council	RSPB	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
HLS	High Level Stewardship	SPBG	Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group
IUCN	International Union for conservation of nature and natural resources	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
MIEEM	Member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Managers		

1. Executive summary.

The Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group was set up in July 2008 with the following three main aims:

1. To raise awareness of the range of wildlife and wildlife habitats within the local community.
2. To begin work on a systematic environmental audit, liaising with some of the statutory bodies involved in environmental work in the area. (e.g. Wessex Water, Natural England, DERC)
3. In the longer term, to involve the village in the active management of selected important local habitats in order to maintain and increase biodiversity.
 - i. In the eighteen months since inception a number of steps have been taken towards fulfilling the first two of these aims. Up to eighteen adults have been involved over this period together with about 10 children. A number of the adults with mobility problems have studied and reported on the wildlife of their gardens as they are unable to access the wider countryside.
 - ii. From late summer 2008 onwards a series of Monday morning walks have been organised to identify the potentially important wildlife sites and to introduce identification techniques for such species as birds, moths, butterflies, small mammals, freshwater invertebrates, wild flowers and grasses.
 - iii. At the end of each month a number of households across the village have contributed to a Garden Bird Survey, the results of which have been collated and distributed in the form of a regular newsletter.
 - iv. Several freshwater "pond-dipping" sessions have taken place with local children in the higher reaches of the River Jordan using the kick-sweep method and interpreting the results with microscopes, as well been given an introduction to small mammal trapping.
 - v. Several members of the group using bat-detecting equipment have begun a series of walks in order to determine the numbers and species of bats in the study area. An expert consultant has also carried out a preliminary survey on the Wessex Water site.
 - vi. Moth trapping with a mercury vapour lamp in the grounds of Wessex Waterworks area was begun in the summer of 2008 and the plan is to continue trapping with a view to encouraging greater participation and extending identification skills. In addition, three members run garden moth traps. In 2009, we supplied over one thousand records to Dorset Moth Recorders' database.

Progress in addressing the second of the Biodiversity Group's main aims has included the following:

- Production for 2008 of a Sutton Poyntz Bird Report, which has been distributed within the village and to outside specialist bodies (e.g. RSPB) for comment. The report has been updated with new species following field work in 2009. A breeding bird report for two specific areas was produced in 2009.

- There is an ongoing discussion with Wessex Water about the best way forward for establishing a proper environmental audit over time for the land that they own and manage in the area.
- Initial links have been established with representatives from both Natural England and the DWT concerning the regular monitoring of both small mammals (using Longworth traps) and bats.
- The submission to DERC of all records and collected data in an electronic format with the broader aim of relating species to the diversity of habitats in the area.

1.1 UK BAP Priority Habitats¹ present in the area.

Contained within the village boundaries there is a wide range of important habitats.

- Arable field margins
- Lowland calcareous grassland including roadside verges.
- Lowland meadows
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land including built up areas and gardens
- Hedgerows
- Ponds
- Traditional orchards
- Wet woodland

1.2 Important biological features:

The results of the survey work “green audit” carried out by the group to date have identified a number of important biological features, which are listed below. Full details of the survey are contained in the main body of this report.

- The complete bird list for the area now includes more than 85 species. Populations of eleven red-listed birds² with three species proven breeding and thirty-three species of amber-listed birds with eight species proven breeding have been identified. Of the eighty-five birds recorded, nine are national BAP species, two are local (Dorset) BAP species and three are on both the national and Dorset BAP lists¹. Twenty-three of the birds were considered to have definitely bred; two species probably bred and six species possibly bred. A large breeding population of about 30 pairs of Linnet (*Acanthis cannabina*) was recorded in the gorse scrub on the sides of the calcareous down land. During exceptional cold spells the sheltered winter stubble fields in the valley bottom supported large flocks of over 250 Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*), significant numbers of Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*), Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) as well as very large flocks of winter thrushes.
- Populations of some nationally scarce invertebrates including: Grizzled Skipper (*Pyrgus malvae*), Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*), Lulworth Skipper (*Thelymelicis action*), Adonis Blue (*Polyommatus bellargus*), Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), Wall butterfly (*Lasiommata megera*) have been recorded. Over 200 species of Moth have been recorded including good numbers of Jersey Tiger (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*), Kent Black Arches (*Maganola albula*), L-album Wainscot (*Mythimna l-album*) as well as regular records of migrants such as White-point (*Mythimna albipuncta*).
- There are populations of Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) and a decreasing population of Brown Hare (*Lepus timidus*), both Section 41 NERC Act, BAP

Priority Species¹. Three species of bat have been recorded so far from a very limited survey.

- A population of Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) in two garden ponds.
- Detailed botanical surveying has been carried out since the summer of 2008 based on Natural England's SSSI compartments and traditional fields. A number of 2m quadrat surveys have been undertaken on Wessex Water owned land. Vervain (*Verbena officinalis*) a nationally threatened (NT)² plant is found to the west of the waterworks and at the entrance to the operational spring head area, together with a number of Least Concern (LC) threatened plants cited in the SSSI designation including: Scarce bastard-toadflax (*Thesium humifusum*) (unable to locate at grid reference supplied) and Small-flowered Buttercup (*Ranunculus parviflorus*), which remains to be searched for. Corky-fruited Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*) and two gardens contained Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*) (NT). Two other orchids viz. Early Purple Orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*) found in Waterworks wood and high on West Hill and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), which is occasionally seen on East Hill are both designated LC. In addition, Horse-shoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*)(LC) is found scattered in the chalk downland, but is frequent on the south-facing slope of the Springhead. Ragged Robin (*Lynchnis flos-cuculi*) (both LC) are found in the wet clay covered lowland meadows (Cheffings *et.al* 2005.)
- A chalk stream with a gravel bottom supports a wide population of water invertebrates and fish including European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). The gravel bottom supports a population of the Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus* var. *pseudofluitans*
- The discovery of a fungal rust new to Britain *Puccinia convolvuli* on Hedge Bindweed in the village was determined by Dr Brian Spooner with a specimen lodged at **KEW**.

The survey work has already provided sufficient information to make some recommendations for habitat management in the area.

- Some areas of scrub, particularly the gorse on the chalk down land should be retained as it provides an important breeding site for Linnet (*Acanthis cannabina*) as well as refuge for other important birds such as Yellowhammer. A sizable population of reptiles resides along the margins of the scrub. This objective should be possible within Natural England guidelines.
- The biodiversity within the small water meadow within the Wessex Water land holding could be significantly improved by creating a small area of standing water.
- The wet woodland directly below the Springhead should be retained in its unmanaged state until the probable bat roosting sits can be surveyed.
- Local residents are being encouraged to improve the network of habitats created by their gardens particularly with the creation of ponds.

Conclusions.

- Many of the initial objectives of the group have been met by a growing number of enthusiastic supporters with an increasing number of local children taking part and learning from specific events.
- The village of Sutton Poyntz supports a richly diverse range of habitats supporting a wide range of biological species with our surveys demonstrating the use of scrub within the area for breeding and feeding birds and providing shelter for insects.
- The rural garden survey work is important, as nationally most of the work on garden wildlife has been undertaken in urban situations.
- Further financial support will be required to increase the quality and scope of the survey work particularly for bats, small mammals and freshwater invertebrates.
- The group will continue to grow and develop to increase the range and depth of surveys as well as to increase community involvement in suitable events.

1.3 Acknowledgements

- The principal landowners Wessex Water and Mr Seal together with the tenant farmers Mr and Mrs G. Lunn have given permission for the surveys. A small number of householders have supplied information from their gardens.
- Ellen Mc Douall (Wessex Water Ecologist).
- Dorset ANOB and the Ridgeway project for OS Maps.
- DWT for training and loan of Longworth traps.
- Louise Lowans for training and support of bat surveys.
- DERC for archiving records and distribution maps.
- John Stobbart Natural England for support.
- Sutton Poyntz Society for financial support.

¹ UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats and species have an action plan for their conservation published on behalf of the UK Biodiversity Group (revised, 2008). They have been selected because they are internationally important, rapidly declining or nationally rare and action plans are available from the UK BAP website.

² Red list species are globally threatened according to IUCN ^{2a} criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery. Amber list species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years and those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.

^{2a} International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

2. Background.

The survey was compiled as a result of the production of a *Village Plan*, during 2006-07, in which 85% of households were interested in improving habitats and the range of species within the village environment. The Sutton Poyntz village plan (Anon, 2007) may be found on: <http://www.weymouthandportlandpartnership.org/images/Sutton-Poyntz-Village-Plan.pdf>

Sutton Poyntz is located on the eastern boundary of the Weymouth and Portland district a little over 1km north of the South Dorset Coast in 1km squares SY7083 and SY7084. There are around 200 houses mainly associated with Sutton Road and Plaisters Lane, with a small number of spur cul-de-sacs off to the side. The area is undulating with an altitude range of 25m around "The Cartshed", rising to 84m to the south-east on Wimslow Hill and 158m at the triangulation station on East Hill to the north (See 1:25,000 OS Sheet OL15 Purbeck and South Dorset). The village was certainly occupied from Roman times and with the barrows on the parish boundary to the north, there were also certainly pre-Roman settlements in the area.



Fig. 1: Location of Sutton Poyntz.

There are now no working farm-houses in the village. The important landscape features are areas of pasture, calcareous grassland with some scrub, ancient field boundaries, wet woodland, arable, hedges, former quarries and some relic orchards in modern house gardens. The old mill-pond provides a focus in the centre of the village. Wessex Water has an operational pumping station, together with an associated land holding within and adjoining the village.

The survey covers land north of Preston Road to the Ridgeway. The Weymouth and Portland boundary forms a convenient eastern boundary, whilst to the west it includes the farmland east of Greenhill. Weymouth and Portland Borough Council propose to designate the River Jordan as an environmental corridor emerging at Bowleaze Cove, whilst Weymouth Bay - Bowleaze Cove is designated as an east-west corridor.

2.1 Key Management priorities:

The largest land unit of the village is the hill slopes of chalk grassland forming part of the White Horse Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which together with the smaller areas of wet grassland on the lower slopes are of primary importance to Natural England in meeting their public service targets for SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010. Constraints on these targets include any management of the Neolithic burial mounds on the ridge.

- There is a presumption that scrub could be reduced to < 5% of the land units. The group have been actively trying to identify key areas of scrub used for both breeding and as shelter by birds e.g. Linnet (*Carduelis cabaret*), Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*) and Yellowhammer. Similarly some butterflies e.g. Lulworth Skipper (*Thymelicus action*) and Large Skipper (*Ochlodes sylvanus*), were found in small numbers during July and August 2008-09, sheltering amongst bramble.

- Additional grazing to the resident sheep population is required in order to reduce Tor-grass (*Brachypodium pinnatum*) and encourage the finer species rich chalk grass communities and in particular Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis commosa*).

Approximately 60% of the land on the less steep hill slopes is used for arable farming, although water collects on the lower slopes of the valley bottom leaving little to no yield. The hedges are managed, usually, on a three-year rotation. The hedge verges generally have a nutrient rich NVC community **MG1** - False Oat-grass ground flora, which is accompanied in one or two places by Corn Parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*). Preston *et. al.* (2002) describes the species (present in 301 10km squares in the UK) as a plant of well drained calcareous soils on clay or chalk. Bowen (2000) mapped the species in 34 tetrads mostly in the Weymouth and Poole areas.

There is a buffer zone of grassland between the houses and the arable field to the west of Plaisters Lane. There is also an old Ash-Maple hedge running east-west at the foot of White Horse Hill. In the valley bottom south of White Horse Hill, ditches are filled with Reed (*Phragmites australis*) where historically Snipe were flushed in a hard winter (Mr D. Saunders *pers.comm.*) – a practice, which has continued in the past two winters.

The Environment Agency held a public consultation about a flood defence scheme along “Osmington Brook” during the autumn of 2008. We learned in 2009, that no action is to be taken within the village.

2.2 Information sources:

This report is based on records produced over a five-year period by the authors supplemented by anecdotal information. Surveying has often been undertaken on an informal basis whilst recorders walk around the village and fields in the ordinary course of their lives. Once confidence in recording methodology increased, effort was directed to noting and mapping the location of key bird, butterfly and plant habitats. Information was obtained from Dorset Environmental Records Centre, the *Dorset Proceedings* and *Dorset Bird Club Annual Reports*. Our data has been compared with national sources such as Bird-Track via www.bto.org/birdtrack and the National Biodiversity Network via www.nbn.org.uk for 10km square SY78.

2.3 Geology, Topography and Soils:

The underlying geology within the village boundaries falls broadly into two areas. There is an upper chalk escarpment to the North with the lower areas predominantly Kimmeridge clay. The village is also flanked on both sides by smaller ridges of Portland stone and sand. There are two fault lines in the upper chalk forming the basin where the River Jordan rises.

The land to the north and east on the steep scarp faces is in arable reversion and to the west is used for grazing. At lower levels there are a number of pasture meadows. The arable land is a loamy soil over limestone to the south and a strong loam over a cretaceous clay subsoil in the valley bottom.

3. Habitat Biodiversity.

A full summary of the results is presented in the Appendices. Data are lodged with DERC, who act as our Data Custodian. In the following sections the results of our survey are presented in terms of their BAP habitat area designations (see section 1.1)

- Arable field margins: Birds in this habitat include Canada Geese in the autumn feeding on crop spillages, Common Pheasant, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Carrion Crow, Jackdaw and Rook. Swallow is a regular summer visitor usually departing the area by mid-September. We have records for Corn Bunting (*Miliaria calandra*) from set-a-side on the adjoining parish boundary on the Ridgeway. Yellowhammer, Song Thrush, Fieldfare, Redwing, Long-tailed Tit, Dunnock, small flocks of Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Greater-spotted Woodpecker are associated with scrub and hedges on the boundaries where there are arable fields. Tawny Owl, Kestrel and Buzzard are regularly seen prospecting arable fields and verges. Hare is occasionally seen in the larger fields such as Eweleaze where up to four Roe Deer are often seen. Snipe were seen on two occasions in very cold weather in early January 2009, in the wet ditches to the east. At the same time both Lapwing and Golden Plover were present in the wetter fields to the east of the village for the first time for thirty years with Lapwing returning in late December 2009 in a further prolonged cold spell.

Many of the arable field margins have been checked for interesting arable weeds, without success. Eweleaze – the large arable field under East Hill has Corn Parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*) on the western and southern verges together with Tubular Water-dropwort in its south-east corner. Lower Winslow and Long Kitchen to the south east are very wet with areas of Soft Rush developing randomly. They are only cultivated occasionally. During 2009 they were cropped with Barley leaving an over wintering stubble. Towards the end of 2009, this remaining stubble was providing roost and feed during daylight hours for numerous small birds including Redwing, Chaffinch and Yellowhammer.

- Lowland calcareous grassland including roadside verges: It is the areas of NVC type **W23** Gorse – Bramble scrub, which forms much of the unfavourable habitat of the calcareous grassland, which we have found extremely interesting for small birds. Many observers had regular sightings, of up to four or five Dartford Warbler in the autumn of 2008, but in 2009 evidence of the presence of this species has been harder to obtain. Stonechat and Yellowhammer are seen regularly perched on gorse, especially in the area above the Springhead. The former are probably breeding on West Hill where we have records of male and female nesting activity. During the summer months, Whitethroat is a regular summer visitor, together with Linnet where a large breeding population has been recorded in the gorse. Buzzard and Stonechat are regularly seen perched on the wire fencing and associated posts through the year.

Surveys completed during 2009 confirm the dominant presence of Tor-grass on the calcareous slopes. However, there are many herbs within the grassland with good areas of Horse-shoe Vetch on the south facing slopes of the waterworks operational area. The only verge, which has received a survey during 2009 is the eastern upper slope of Plaisters Lane in compartment 1 of the SSSI (see Fig.13).

- Lowland Meadows: Generally we see five pairs of Skylark singing in the grass fields above East Hill with definite breeding in 2009 in spring and early summer. In the autumn, we noted a maximum flock of twenty Skylarks using the field above the Springhead. Flocks of up to twenty Meadow Pipit were noted in the waterworks meadows and the pasture above West Hill in the autumn. These meadows on the upper slopes have not been surveyed botanically.
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland: This broad description covers a range of micro-habitats alongside the Jordan from the Springhead though to the pumping station. There are some areas of dense Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice woodland (the copse) to the north; a more open water meadow area with some reeds and willows to the east and another dense woodland area to the south, in which there may be significant surface water, depending on the flow rate of the river. Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) form a typical NVC type **W8** woodland to the east of the river. Primrose is common here, but unlike the hedgerows of west Dorset is only an occasional feature of Sutton Poyntz hedgerows.

During the summer months there is a significant population of warblers with confirmed breeding of both Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler. Up to six male Blackcaps have been recorded at the same time early in the year and this species successfully bred. Wood Warbler is a regular visitor during the spring migration. Reed Warbler has been recorded in the small reed bed in the spring. Spotted Flycatcher has been recorded in the water meadow area but has not bred. Other confirmed breeding includes Mistle Thrush and Green Woodpecker in the copse and Sparrowhawk in the northern section of woodland.

The woodland contains numerous old banks. These often have quite large coppice stools of both Field Maple and Ash.



Fig 2.1 River Jordan in the Waterworks Wood



Fig 2.2 Surveying veteran trees

- Open Mosaic habitats on previously developed land including built up areas and gardens:



Fig. 3: The garden of Northdown Farm

There are two small quarries in Sutton Poyntz. For the purposes of this report, these are ignored, with gardens and houses being the most significant element of this broad habitat type. Using birds, the group demonstrated the potential for biodiversity in a group of rural gardens.

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Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, recently commissioned DERC to do a desk study of information on birds and bats in a number of environmental corridors across Weymouth. Alerted to this study, John Newbould provided data from our Garden Bird Watch results on the distribution of House Sparrow in the area. The results are included in the report and are illustrated here for the River Jordan corridor. House Sparrow has disappeared from many urban areas and is classified by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee as a Red Data Bird of conservation concern .

Fig. 4. Distribution of House Sparrow in Sutton Poyntz

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FIG.5.1 GREATER – SPOTTED WOODPECKER



FIG 5.2 BRAMBLING

© JANET CRAIG OLD BINCOMBE LANE.



YELLOWHAMMER
FIG 5.3

A monthly garden bird survey, which started with nine households during January 2009, had seventeen households taking part by the year-end. A total of 51 species have been recorded in these monthly surveys with a range of 32-44 species recorded each month from a total of 2268 observations. House Sparrow (RDB) appears only to be located near prickly bushes including bramble adjacent to gardens with around 200 individuals present in the village. Brambling had not been recorded until we started the garden bird watch with

records in February and March from the north side of old Bincombe Lane. Redstart was only reported from one garden on Puddledock Lane in November. A numerical summary of this study is tabulated below:

2009	Total species	No of houses reporting¹	Monthly Average²
January	32	9	17
February	37	10	18
March	38	13	16
April	40	13	16
May	37	14	17
June	44	9	16
July	34	8	15
August	32	15	13
September	34	16	15
October	35	15	14
November	39	14	15
December	40	17	18
Average	36.83	13	15.83

¹ Rounded up to whole houses.

² Average number of birds from households returning a list

Table 1: *Numbers of Birds reported in the monthly garden bird survey.*

The highlights are that the most frequently recorded bird is the Robin, with 140 followed by Blue Tit at 136 and Blackbird at 130. House Sparrow was fourth but has the highest bird density in any garden. Green Woodpecker feeds in many other gardens of the village on garden ants. Blue Tit, Great Tit, Robin, Wren, Dunnock, Swallow, House Martin, House Sparrow, Song Thrush and Starling have had proven breeding records in gardens.

Contrast this with Song Thrush, which was rarely seen with a maximum of four gardens reporting one or two birds, whilst in August none were reported. Yellowhammer continued to feed on seed in gardens until June and disappeared until November. Starling was reported in most months, but usually only from three gardens with twenty being the largest count in one garden in December. These certainly breed in the roof space of a house on Old Bincombe Lane. Mistle Thrush was quite scarce, until December when four gardens reported its presence. Grey Wagtail was associated with gardens not far from the River Jordan with a maximum of three (as a family party) in Brookmead during July. Singles of Green Woodpecker were reported just 26 times. These feed on lawns of gardens with ants although more analysis is required to see just which gardens in terms of size. Through the garden bird watch scheme, we consider that 19 species have bred in the area. Evidence is gathered through observing feeding activity, nest building and the presence of juveniles. Species considered garden breeders include: House Sparrow, Starling, Song Thrush, Goldcrest, Swallow, House Martin and Grey Wagtail.

The houses reporting the largest species list include: "Wyndings" situated just under West Hill also contains an orchard, wild hedgerows and some mature trees; "Northdown Farm" has a large garden on the edge of fields with an orchard and Fox Cottage has a thick hedge to the north with running water in a pond. Two houses on the north side of Old Bincombe Lane are on the edge of farmland. One house on Sutton Road had building work most of the year next door and some of the other houses have quite small gardens without many

trees or scrub. Many gardens have feeding stations, which are important in attracting finches and tits. See Appendix 3

Whilst no formal survey of other garden wildlife has been undertaken, compost heaps provide heat and shelter for reptiles especially Slow-worm. Anthills in lawns provide feeding points for Green Woodpecker and two gardens had the **Near Threatened Autumn Lady's Tresses** (*Spiranthes spiralis*). The owners were persuaded not to cut their lawns round these plants. Garden ponds have not been systematically surveyed. Foxes, Badger, Roe Deer, Rabbit, Field and Wood Mouse and Field Vole are seen regularly in gardens.

Our preliminary findings are in line with Marshall (2009) in surveys in Prestwood, Buckinghamshire. Sixty percent of the Sutton Poyntz bird list is found in gardens *c.f.* 51% in Prestwood; 100% of amphibians were present in gardens *c.f.* 85%. However, in Prestwood Hedgehog is plentiful, whereas in Sutton Poyntz it is very rare.

- **Hedgerows:** Newbould (2005) surveyed hedges in the valley, east of Plaisters Lane and Sutton Road, in 2004. Thorn provides winter feed for the thrush family with Fieldfare, Blackbird, Redwing and Song Thrush associated with many of these hedges. Fieldfare particularly favours the hedges of the wet valley bottom. Yellowhammer is associated with the hedges of the Ridgeway and arable fields together with many of the finches, tits, Dunnock and Robin. Long-tailed Tit is commonly observed associated with hawthorn hedges.
- **Ponds:** There are two ponds in the village: opposite the "Springhead" public house and in the valley to the south-east of Puddledock Lane. Both ponds support a breeding population of Mallard and Moorhen. Gadwall is an occasional visitor and during the autumn of 2009 there was one record of Pochard. Water Rail, a secretive bird, which likes tall bank-side vegetation is seen in winter months at the junction of Plaisters Lane and Sutton Road. Grey Wagtail is known to breed near "Garland House" in the mill leet and under the waterfall to the south of the Springhead pond. This species feeds in many of the adjacent gardens. There has been one unconfirmed record for Kingfisher in Osmington Brook in the last four years.

Many gardens have ponds of different sizes supporting a wide variety of amphibians including three species of newt, damselflies and dragonflies and numerous macro-invertebrates.

- **Traditional Orchards:** Early editions of large-scale Ordnance Survey maps show a number of traditional orchards in Sutton Poyntz. By 2009, these have been mostly built on, but there are a number of old apple, pear and plum trees remaining, especially in the area of Old Bincombe Lane, Brookmead Close and off Sutton Road. Certainly at "Bellamy Cottage", Mistle Thrush is associated with such trees and Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is found in five gardens in the Sutton Poyntz/Preston area. In the last ten years, development work has reduced the number of fruit trees growing area.
- **Wet Woodland:** Wet woodland containing a NVC type **W6** woodland community is mainly associated with the lower valley slopes adjacent to Osmington Brook and the River Jordan. Alder is rare, with just one tree noted off Puddledock Lane, but the Crack Willow sub- community is quite common often in association with Ash or Sycamore. There were no special birds noted along the valley. Great-spotted Woodpecker was seen making holes along

Puddledock Lane and a pair was seen prospecting for a nest hole adjacent to the Weymouth and Portland boundary early in 2009.

- A large range of finches have been recorded in the water meadow area from Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Goldfinch, which have most probably bred, Bullfinch, particularly in the spring are observed feeding off the willow, together with Linnet. Significant numbers of more common birds such as Blackbird, Robin, Wren, Blue Tit, Great Tit and Long-tailed Tit all of which breeding has been confirmed.

4.0 Species Biodiversity

4.1 Mammals

The group has not to date carried out a systematic survey of mammals in the area. We have compiled a set of casual records from members of the group plus observations reported to us from the wider village community. We also carried out a very limited small mammal trapping programme relatively late in the season. We have also made a preliminary start on bat surveying.

It is of no great surprise that the wide range of habitats in the village supports an extensive mammal community. There is a healthy population of Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) with earths distributed in spinies on the chalk down land. Equally Badger (*Meles meles*) have a number of known sets largely on the down land. Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) are a common sight throughout the village visiting gardens. Needless to say there is a large Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) population and infrequent observations have been made of Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*) in the larger fields in the valley bottom. Stoats (*Mustela erminea*) have been seen along the hedgerows preying on the rabbit population.

Of the smaller mammals only one record has been received of Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) over the last year in common with the dramatic decline nationally. This was a road traffic kill to the south of Sutton Road. (This is one species for which we have made a village wide appeal for information with no success). Sporadic records of Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) have been made along the Jordan from the Cartshed, and further along Puddledock Lane. They are also seen in Osmington Brook.

The group only had sufficient funds to purchase 3 Longworth traps so were indebted to DWT for the short term loan of ten traps on two occasions to do a limited amount of trapping mainly along the margins of the woodland to the north of the Waterworks. One of the sessions was set up as a children's event, which attracted about a dozen local children plus parents. This needless to say proved to be extremely popular.

The results of this very limited survey are shown in Figure 6. There were some discussions with DWT about whether the woodland and interconnecting mature hedgerows could support a small Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) population. We carried out a brief unsuccessful search for hazel nuts showing signs of activity but it did give us a better understanding of where the main fruiting trees were located. We may set some tube traps with DWT next season.

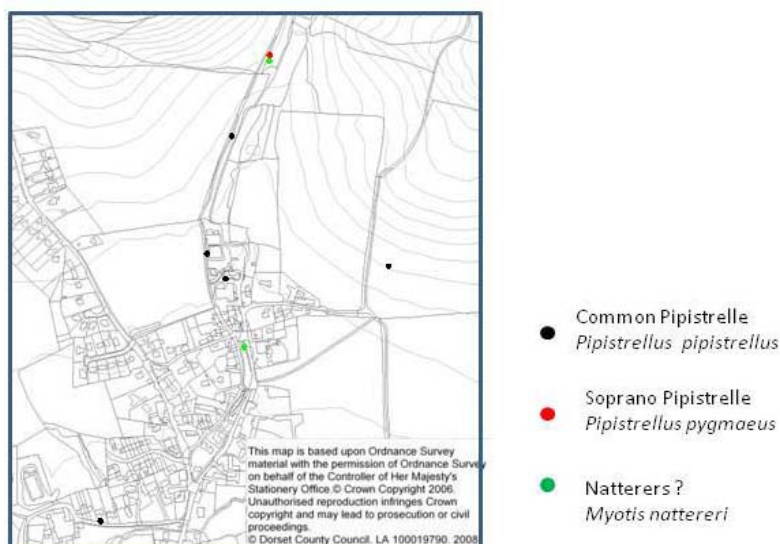


Figure 7: Confirmed distribution of Bats in Sutton Poyntz.

4.2 Amphibians and reptiles

Records of amphibians and reptiles in the village are largely based on casual observations with the exception of two garden ponds on Mission Hall Lane. Here, Lucy Emery MIEEM. (a professional ecologist who is licensed for these surveys) has done specific surveys for Greater-crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*), which were found in two garden ponds at “Fox Cottage” and “Cartref”. These two ponds also support a large population of Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton [Triturus] vulgaris*) (See Fig. 8.2), with a dozen trapped in a single evening in one pond, as well as a limited number of Palmate Newts (*Lissotriton [Triturus] helveticus*).

Other records over the past two years include numerous records of Frog (*Rana temporaria*) spawn from garden ponds with Frog being seen during the year in many gardens, especially in damp corners full of tree leaves and Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*). Reptiles include Adder (*Vipera verus*) seen on the Springhead, Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) (Fig.8.1) and Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) in a garden on Old Bincombe Lane and Slow-worms (*Anguis fragilis*), which can be seen in many gardens and the wider countryside.

A small number of artificial refugia were deployed along hedgerows and adjoining areas of scrub on West Hill. From these and other systematic observations we found that nearly all of the records for Common Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) were along the margins of deeper cover provided by scrub on the down land.



Fig.8.1: Grass Snake © J. Craig . Fig 8.2 Smooth Newt © D. Emery

4.3 Bird Survey Results

The study of the bird population in the village has been one of the most strongly supported activities, allowing adequate observer coverage levels. At least 8 people regularly collect

records in the countryside while the number of households taking part in monthly garden bird watches has grown to 18 (see Table 1).

A full report was produced at the end of 2008, which collected together largely historic bird records, combined with some early survey results showing species distribution maps. An initial breeding bird survey was also carried out covering two different habitat types (calcareous down land and a small water meadow), which was published in October 2009. The current bird list for the village now stands at over 85 species including 16 red and 26 amber data book species. It is quite possible to see well over 40 species in over a two-hour period walking around the village. The reason for this species-rich environment is the wide habitat diversity in the local area, its sheltered position and its proximity to coastal migration routes.

4.3.1 Birds in the surrounding countryside.

Over 1000 records have been accumulated during the last 18 months and it is now possible to start to analyse the data to draw out specific trends particularly in relation to the variety of habitat types. Table 2 below shows the most frequently recorded bird species in the area.

Code	Taxon	Vernacular		Totals
		Common	Wood	
670	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Pigeon		312
976	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Sky Lark		308
1660	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common Linnet		289
493	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing		236
1636	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch		113
1187	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common Blackbird		93
1099	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin		70
1139	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Stonechat		70
1066	<i>Troglodytes indigenus</i>	British Wren		69
1857	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer		66
1011	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit		65
1201	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing		64
1653	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	European Goldfinch		61
1198	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare		54
186	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard		50
1462	<i>Parus caeruleus obscurus</i>	British Blue Tit		50
1464	<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit		40
1437	<i>Aegithalos caudatus rosaceus</i>	British Long-tailed Tit		39
1549	<i>Pica pica</i>	Black-billed Magpie		39
1084	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock		30
1200	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush		30

Table 2. Top 20 most frequently recorded bird species.

These results record the total number of individual birds and therefore need to be treated with caution as very large flocks have been recorded particularly in severe cold spells during the winter, which will be reviewed shortly. Overall though the table shows a wide variety of birds that are either resident or regular summer or winter visitors each relying on the different habitat types in the area.

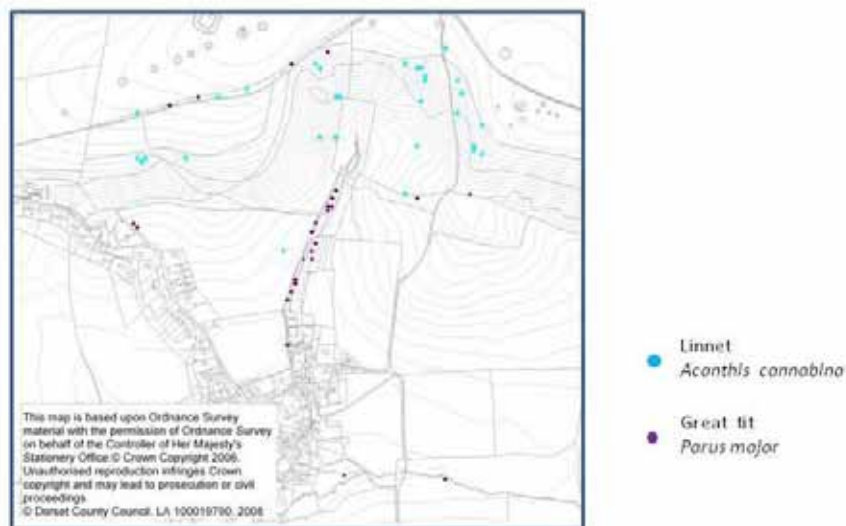


Fig 9. Typical resident bird distributions.

The chalk down land, particularly with the extensive enclosures of gorse, supports a large population of Linnets (*Acanthis cannabina*) (See Fig.9 above). Campbell *et.al.* (2008) considered that the presence of mixed scrub on the down land significantly increases the biodiversity of this habitat, which also has small populations of wintering Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*) and Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*) as well as more common species. We have also shown that the gorse provides nesting sites in the summer as well as supporting large numbers of roosting birds in the winter. The area of set aside grassland above 140m support a sizable breeding population of Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*).

In complete contrast just a few hundred metres away the wood land areas along the banks of the Jordan support a rich population of birds for such a relatively small area. With breeding populations of summer warblers as well as resident woodland birds such as Great Tit (*Parus major*), Green (*Picus viridis*) and Great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*), Tree-creeper (*Certhia familiaris*), Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) and Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*). Many of these species use the woodland for suitable nesting sites but range widely over the surrounding countryside for food.

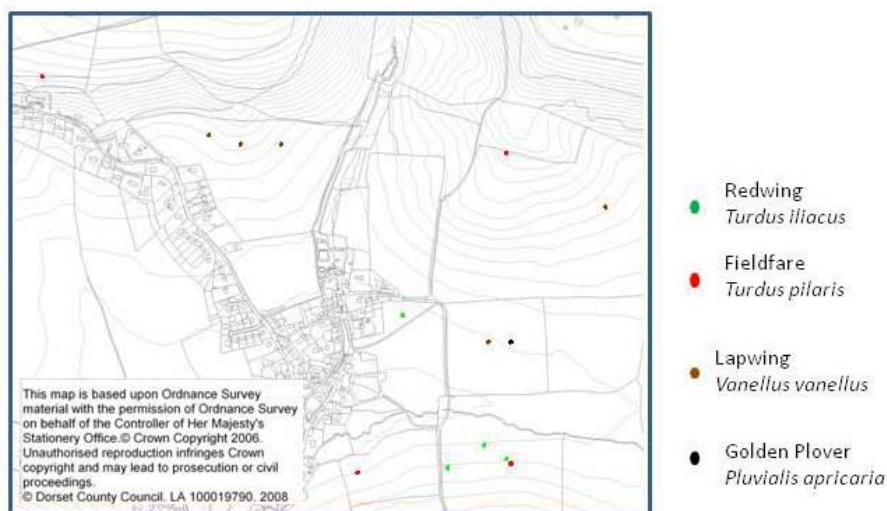


Fig. 10. Typical distributions of winter migrants.

The low level arable farmland provides suitable feeding habitat for significant numbers of winter migrants. One particular field of winter barley stubble during a particularly cold spell

attracted a flock of up to 250 Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), large mixed flocks of finches including Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) as well as the winter thrushes. Small numbers of Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) at one time a flock of 260 Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) have also been recorded on autumn sown crops including .

Yellowhammer was often observed associated with boundary hedges. These observations were in line with a study by Whittingham *et.al.* (2005), which concluded that within the limitations of a small survey Yellowhammer not only needs boundary strips, tall hedges with ditches and trees but proximity to winter set-a-side fields.

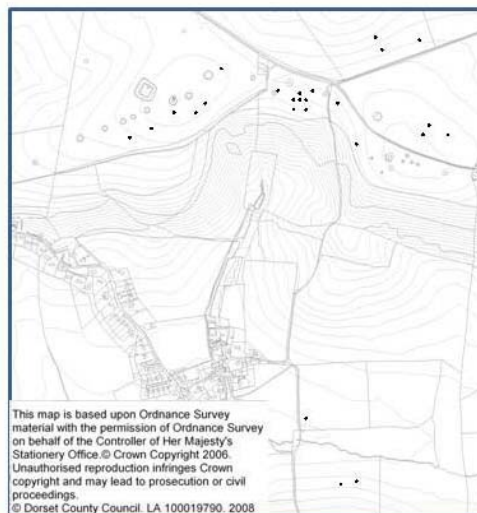


Fig. 11. Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) distributions during the year.

Figure 11 illustrates Skylark largely feeding and breeding on the down land but in severe conditions migrant birds rely on winter stubble in the valley for food and shelter. It is interesting that such a small geographic area offers such a wide range of habitat types and conditions for this species in different seasons. This is an example of a bimodal distribution where one species uses two different habits depending on the weather conditions.

4.3.2 Breeding bird survey.

The brief report summarising this work is shown in Appendices 1 and 2. The two sites (downland and water meadows) were chosen as representative of quite different habitat types and have been subject to a degree of habitat management with approximately 200 – 300 hours of observation during the season.

The most significant research established that the population of a breeding colony of Linnet (*Acanthis cannabina*) in the Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) enclaves on the down land is approximately 30 pairs . As far as we can see from published records in Andrews (2006-07) and reports from The Christchurch Harbour Ornithology Group (CHOG) that this is the largest known breeding density in the County. This breeding pattern supports observations in the BAP for this red data book species, which identifies the use of gorse by small colonies, particularly in coastal environments. We intend to study this population as a project in the 2010 season to assess their feeding patterns to hopefully make a useful contribution to the BAP.

The other area chosen was a small water meadow surround by hedgerows, in variable condition, plus several thickets of Blackthorn. We demonstrated that this small ~ 4ha site supported nesting sites for 10 species of birds for example Song Thrush, Blackcap, and Whitethroat with several species nesting in different places. Unfortunately despite being

present during the early part of the season Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) did not breed in this particular site. The study will be used to recommend where suitable improvements can be made in the management of this SSSI area to further improve the biodiversity of this particularly rich habitat.

4.4 Butterflies and Moths:

4.1 Butterflies

Twenty-five species of butterfly were recorded in the village in 2009. Nineteen species of butterfly were recorded in gardens with many of these species being recorded in the wider countryside. Here as elsewhere Painted Lady migrants flooded into Dorset from late April. Red Admiral was generally present, but in reduced numbers compared to 2008. Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock were present through the season on warm sunny days in reasonable numbers. The Wall butterfly was only recorded once in one garden but had a widespread distribution in the wider countryside (see Fig. 12). A further six species were only seen in the wider countryside. These included some Red Data and national BAP species including Small Heath (**NT**)¹ seen most of the season on Monday walks around the Waterworks compound. Wall (**NT**) was generally seen in taller grass, especially adjacent to arable fields. Lulworth Skipper (**NT**) had a poor year with a very wet July, but never-the-less was seen occasionally with Large Skipper near Bramble on the lower slopes of West Hill and the Springhead. Lulworth Skipper is considered to have a stable population in Britain, but has shown a decline since 1970. (Fox *et. al.*, (2006). This butterfly is confined to Tor-grass on chalk downland adjacent to the Dorset Coast from Weymouth to Old Harry. (Asher *et.al.* 2002). The Dorset butterfly recorder Mr W. Shreeves (*pers.comm.*) tells us that our record for Grizzled Skipper (**VU**) was a first for SY78 again along with Dingy Skipper (**VU**) found on the lower slopes of the chalk downland.

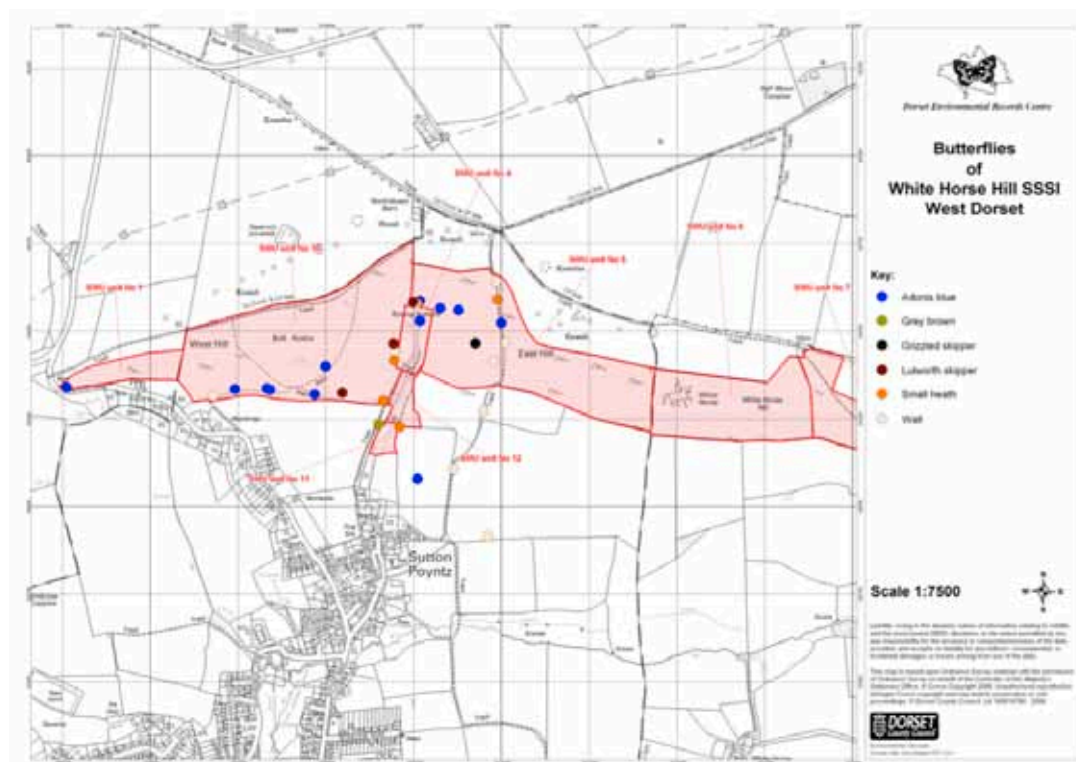


FIGURE 12. *Butterflies of White Horse Hill.* © DERC

In addition, Adonis Blue (**NT**) mentioned as a characteristic species in the Chalk grassland BAP was found on the lower slopes of the downland, especially on the south-

facing slope of the Springhead including in the waterworks operational area where its larval food-plant, Horse-shoe Vetch is frequent. It was also present in the adjacent 1km square SY68 in the mown grassland on the east side of Plaisters Lane during the May holiday weekend. Small Skipper was a regular on the Monday walks, whilst Small Copper was scarce as was Dark-green Fritillary.

¹**IUCN Categories:** **VU** = Vulnerable (*i.e.* facing a high risk of extinction in the wild), **NT** = Threatened (*i.e.* the species is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the future). All other butterfly species are of least concern, as they do not fit into a threatened category.

4.2 Moth trapping



Fig. 13a Clouded Buff
© David Emery



Fig. 13b Moth trapping at the waterworks
© John Newbould



Fig 13c Eyed Hawk-moth
©Janet Craig

- has taken place through the season in three gardens and occasionally on the waterworks site by permission of Wessex Water. At Brookmead Close, John Newbould uses a 6V Actinic Heath Trap, adjacent on Old Bincombe Lane, Jon and Sue Campbell use a mains operated Skinner trap whilst at Fox Cottage David Emery uses a home-made Robinson trap with a 160W Mercury Vapour (MV) bulb. In the waterworks, we use a generator with an open white sheet and a 160W MV bulb. Regrettably due to a fault on the generator, there were no July records from this area. In addition, other group members did casual recording by day observation or moths coming to windows.

A list of two hundred and fifteen species was produced from 1,160 records. However, one record *viz.* Dark Brocade has previously been listed as extinct in Dorset and the recorder may require evidence. This species has not been seen in Dorset for forty years, but a suitable lightly wooded fen habitat exists in the locality (www.Dorsetmothgroup.org.uk). Three species have a national Status of **Notable b** (*i.e.* found in >30 x 10km squares but <100 10km squares nationally) *viz.* Cloaked Carpet (a single record); Jersey Tiger (an understated 17 records with a maximum of six individuals on August 15th in the waterworks car park using MV) and two confirmed records of Kent Black Arches from Fox Cottage on July 5th and 6th. We had ten records for the scarce migrant White-Point and five records of L-album Wainscot between September 14th and October 1st. The migrant Silver Y first turned up on May 24th and was recorded until September 28th In the Waterworks meadow we had a single record of Cream-spot Tiger and Clouded Buff on June 6th whilst the latter turned up at Fox Cottage again on August 20th. The most frequently recorded moth was Large Yellow Under-wing with fifty observations from May 1st to October 1st. One hundred and fifty-eight (74%) of the species were seen less than five times (see Table 3).

Records	No of species
One	61
Two	44
Three	21
Four	16
Five	17
Six to ten	27
Eleven to twenty	17
Twenty-one to thirty	6
Thirty-one to forty	3
Forty-one to fifty	2

Table 3: *Frequency of moth record observations*

Preferred Habitat	No of species	Preferred Habitat	No of species
Gardens	39	Broad-leaved woodland ¹	41
Grassland ¹	41	Wet Woodland	14
Wet grassland inc. reed	15	Apple	1
Nettle/Cleavers OV24	4	Ash	5
Bracken W25	1	Beech	1
Walls and rocks ¹	2	Conifers	3
Gorse	2	Horse Chestnut	1
Lichen	3	Oak	6
Docks & Broadleaved herbs	2	Pine	3
Heathers	1	Bramble ¹	3
¹ includes species considered coastal		Clematis	1

Table 4: *Broad habitat requirements of 186 macro-moths (Dorset Moth Group Data)*

Five of the grassland species are considered to have a coastal distribution. These include: Cream-spot Tiger, Clouded Buff and autumn [?migrant] species including L-album Wainscot, Feathered Brindle and Feathered Ranunculus. Sutton Poyntz is located some 1.5-2km from Bowleaze Cove. In addition, two woodland species are considered coastal *viz.* Oak Eggar and Pale Tussock together with Kent Black Arches, which favours Bramble. Three grassland species favour the chalk down land including Single-dotted Wave, Red Twin-spot Carpet and Ruby Tiger and two geometridae may originate from Gorse *viz.* July Belle and Dwarf Pug. In gardens, Blair's Shoulder Knot is associated with *leylandii* hedges and Elephant Hawk-moth caterpillars' feed on fuchsia and also in the waterworks on Great-hairy Willow-herb. Scorched Carpet food plant is spindle, possibly in a garden. A single record for Small Rivulet at Fox Cottage reflects Hedge Woundwort in the adjacent woodland. Lychnis is a Champion feeder found again in woodland, grassland and gardens. Pine Carpet at Fox Cottage is from the adjacent pines in the waterworks. Moths such as Water Carpet, Bullrush Wainscot and Puss moth are associated with wet woodland around the waterworks and to the south adjacent to the River Jordan. A single record of the heathland species True-lovers Knot was possibly a wandering moth from the Warmwell area, which is in the same 10km square. Of the four species of footman recorded in 2009, three *viz.* Rosy, Buff and Common Footman are associated with lichens whilst Scarce Footman prefers wet woodland. Of the Forty-one species associated with Broad-leaved woodland, nine are associated with Blackthorn and/or Hawthorn none of which are from the **Noctuidae** family. These are:
Family **Lasiocampidae**: Pale Eggar and Lackey both of whose larva are seen from April – June.

Family **Depranidae**: Chinese Character whose larva on Hawthorn are seen in June and July.

Family **Geometridae** includes Common Emerald (larva overwinter), Blue-bordered Carpet (larva April-June), Magpie (larva overwinter on a broad range of deciduous trees), Sharp Angled-peacock (larva July-September), Early Thorn (larva May-June & August-September), Swallow-tail (larva on Hawthorn but overwinter in a bark crevice) (see Table 4).

No doubt the larva of these species, present in spring, provides a food source for birds such as Blue-tit, Long-tailed Tit, Wren, Dunnock, and Whitethroat breeding in the village.

To place our records in context we recorded 186 macro-moths in the village, which can be compared with 716 species recorded in Dorset (26% of the Dorset total). Also there are 2488 species of Butterflies and Moths on the British List. However, such lists always include species for which no evidence is available of their presence in Britain.

4.5. Plant Gall Report, 2008-09.

A gall is an abnormal growth produced by a plant or other host under the influence of another organism. It involves enlargement and/or proliferation of host cells, and provides both shelter and food or nutrients for the invading organism (Redfern and Shirley, 2002). See Figures 14.1 and 14.2. Some well-known types of gall are Oak-apples, Robin's Pincushions and Witches' Brooms.

Thirty-nine species forming plant galls were found on a total of twenty-five plant species during 2008-09. This resulted in some 48 records being made available to the DERC mostly with good six-figure or better grid references (See Appendix 4). This represents 10% of the Dorset list submitted to DERC in 2009 (Newbould *pers.comm*). Nomenclature follows Redfern and Shirley (2002).



Fig 14.1 *Jaapiella veroniicae* on Germander Speedwell © David Emery



Fig 14.2 *Aceria erinus* on Walnut © John Newbould

The most significant find was the gall *Puccinia convolvuli* on Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*). Newbould found this fungal gall on White Horse Lane on June 24th, 2009. He was unable to identify the gall from Redfern and immediately sent samples to Mr T. Higgingbottom (Chairman of the British Plant Gall Society). Dr B. Spooner, from **KEW**, determined the sample, which has been added to their collection. This is the first proven record from Great Britain. Wilson and Henderson (1966) report an account of the species collected by a Miss Jelly but no voucher specimen has been available to confirm this 19th century record.

4.6 Fresh Water Invertebrates.

This was another new subject for members of the group. We were given some basic training by a professional ecologist on the standard three-minute kick/sweep technique and also purchased some invaluable reference material. We had access to an old stereo-microscope which enabled us to make classification down to genus level in some cases, although not fixing the samples made detailed investigating difficult. After a few preliminary exploratory surveys we carried out a methodical study in the upper reaches of the River Jordan. Figure 15 shows the survey sites.

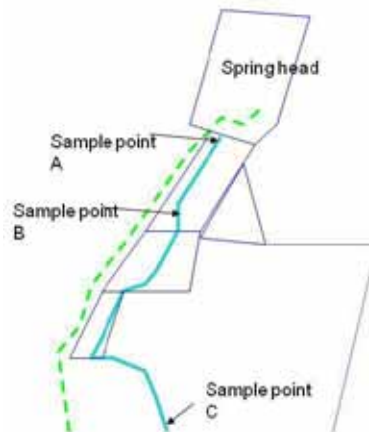


Figure 15. Sample points for survey.

The results of the survey are shown in Appendix 5. Apart from the macroinvertebra shown in the table a small colony of Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) were also found at site B. Given the lack of expertise and particularly equipment we almost certainly did not identify all the species in the stream. One limitation was the survey period was right at the end of the season. However, we calculated the biotic index for the stream, which provide a crude estimate for the water quality. The scores ranged between 5 and 6.5 on a scale of 0 to 10 with the higher number have a better quality.

Our results do compare favourably with a comprehensive survey carried by CEH between March and September 2003. But given the much longer time period and greater length of the stream covered by the CEH study (Armitage *et.al.* 2004) it was not surprising that we did not identify nearly as many species.

One of the principal objectives of the Group has been to increase community awareness of the biodiversity in the River Jordan. We purchased 2 low cost digital microscopes and ran two children's stream dipping events. They were taught basic survey techniques. A selection of samples was taken back to the Mission Hall where the two microscopes and accompanying (borrowed) computers were set up. A number of FSC Freshwater Nature Trail guides were also supplied which allowed the children and accompanying parents to methodically identify their samples. The ability of the microscope software to control the image parameters and then print out pictures also allowed them to develop some basic image processing techniques. These events proved to be very successful and were reported in the local press.



Fig 16.1 Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*).



Fig 16.2 Mayfly Nymph *Baesis* sp

Figure 16 shows some photographs taken during these events.

4.7 BOTANICAL SURVEYS:

In 2009, botanical surveys were concentrated on land owned by Wessex Water including the waterworks meadows, woodland, the Springhead (NE compartment 4) and West Hill (See Appendix 6) . In addition, Bastard Toadflax was searched for at its last known station without success. Quadrat data are shown in appendix 7.

Generally grazing sheep manage the land surveyed, although ponies were used on West Hill in the winter of 2009. In addition, on East Hill areas of Gorse were cut back by machine leaving a mulch, some 50mm deep. By March, 2010 there is no Gorse and the grass has returned. Compartment 6 (Osmington) received a light burn in February 2009.

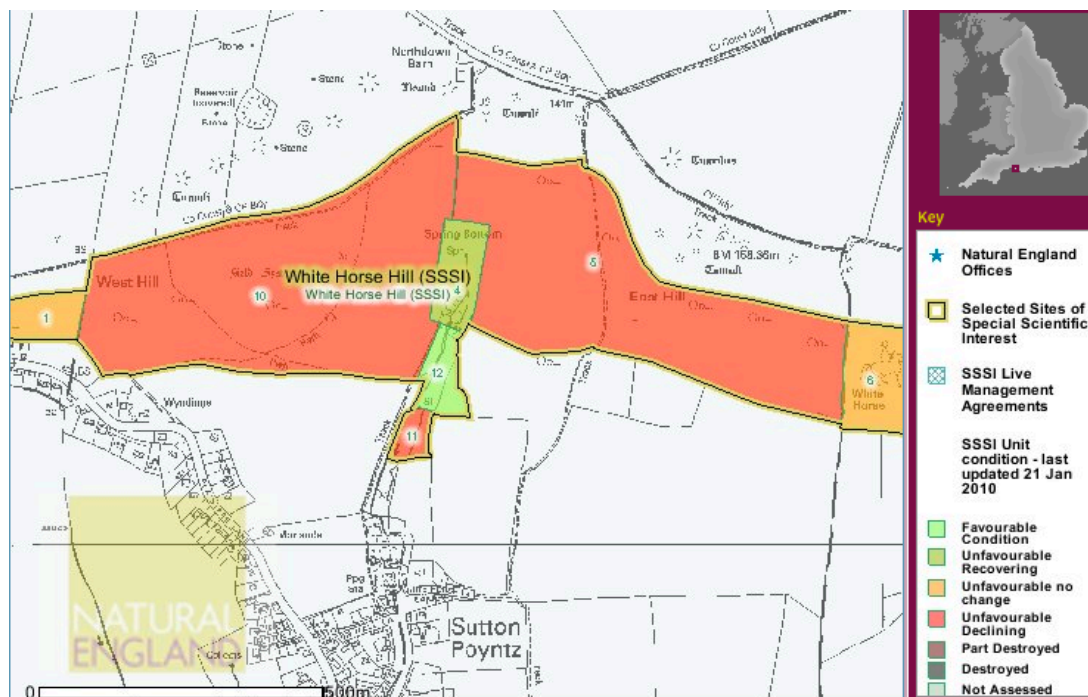


Fig. 17 White Horse Hill Compartments © Natural England 2010

Sutton Poyntz Waterworks wood NE Compartment 11 NE classification: (unfavourable declining) and Compartment 12 (Favourable). The woodland compartments generally comply with HLS condition assessment TO8. NVC communities **W6**, wet willow woodland **W8** Ash - Field Maple – Dog's Mercury woodland community.

In earlier times in the woodland below the Springhead, there were considerable earthworks, with the River Jordan running through cuts lined with Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Hart's-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*). There has also been an area dammed across the southern boundary leaving a very overgrown Reed-bed. There are a small number of plants considered ancient woodland indicators e.g. Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) and Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*). There are a number of areas of Hazel coppice with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non scripta*). Common Lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*) is found on the southern margin. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is found scattered through the wood, Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) is found mainly on the margins together with Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) on the north-west boundary. There is a single Walnut (*Juglans regia*) on the western boundary.

Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*) was seen in small numbers in the wood during May, whilst later in the season Enchanter's Nightshade (*Cicuta lutetiana*) is in flower through the wood. Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) is found adjacent to the stream. The woodland is of recent origin. A photograph in the Dorset Museum collection shows the area with small open tree-lined fields in 1891. NE recommends coppicing some of the Hazel. SPBG would like to see some restriction on access, especially during the breeding bird season.

Scrub within the White Horse Hill SSSI, and associated areas, is mainly Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), with small areas of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and scattered Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and Elder (*Sambucus niger*): NVC Type **W23**. Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is only found in one hedge to the south-west of the SSSI Grime *et.al.* (2007) describe Gorse as an evergreen shrub to 2m high regenerating mainly by seed from a persistent seed bank. Rodwell (1991) draws our attention to Gorse becoming tall and leggy when not grazed or burnt and becoming out of the reach of herbivores. Typically plants are spread out, but regeneration after fire produces dense colonies. It is more frequent on south facing slopes, avoiding wet ground with seedlings preferring areas containing a moderate amount of bare ground with the pH range 4-6, although it occurs on mildly calcareous soils. The soil round the roots is mildly more acidic than surrounding soil. Duffey *et. al.* (1974) describe calcareous Gorse scrub as existing on soils derived from loessic material from the edges of clay with flints deposits or from coombe deposits. Duffey also emphasises that in the absence of management, grassland will progress through a scrub phase to a woodland dominated community. Gorse has been widely used as a fodder plant, being quite nutritious to species with a hardened mouth. In Dorset it was used traditionally for firing bakers' ovens. Land with furze was typically valued in the 1840 Tithe accounts. Typical ground flora plants associated with Gorse include Common Bent, Sweet Vernal-grass, Yorkshire Fog, Bird's-foot Trefoil and Common Ragwort. These species are typically found on the more acidic grasslands in Dorset, e.g. Stonebarrow require a pH in the range of 4-6, but are replaced on chalk by Tor-grass (NVC type **CG4** [Rodwell, 1992]) requiring a pH of 8. (Hill *et.al.*, 2004). There are few herbs present when Gorse is found over chalk. An area on West Hill at SY705844 was cut in 2009. By March 2010, the Gorse had regenerated to 0.2m and will need re-cutting preferably using a machine, which will cut at ground level. Indeed, if the Gorse colony becomes too dense, the grassland progresses to one dominated by False Oat-grass (as seen under many hedges) and then even the grasses start to die back with insufficient light. On the moister soils at the foot of the hills, the gorse becomes more scarce giving way to Hawthorn-Ivy scrub of NVC type **W21** and adjoining the arable field at the foot of East Hill a Bracken – Bramble NVC type **W25** community (Rodwell, 1991). The southern margin of White Horse Hill and East Hill both have old coppice stools of Ash with some Field Maple. The canopy here is quite

dense with little ground flora on the hillside.

Wild Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) is found in a small number of gardens, on an occasional verge e.g. on Sutton Road by “Greenhills”, on Plaisters Lane by “Straddles”, a few on Puddledock Lane, behind the Waterworks pump-house and in the copse. As far as we can tell, the next place is Osmington Churchyard. This is unlike west Dorset, where many hedge margins have primrose. Van Geert *et. al.* (2010), highlight the dangers of these isolated populations inter-breeding. Using, pollen marker dyes, they show that although a variety of insects pollinate primrose many pollinators do not travel far enough provide a genetic mix. Jacquemyn *et. al.* (2009) discuss the importance of the presence of water (Primrose dislikes drought but also thrives better when the soils are not waterlogged), and shade causing seed density to decrease in over-shaded conditions, recommending periodic coppicing of woodlands and in grassland conditions is rarely grazed by mammals. It will also tolerate frost.

Veteran Trees

The wood is located just below the collection area of the Springhead and has the headwaters of the River Jordan passing through, mainly along a gravel bottom. We measured around 24 veteran trees (see Table 5 below and Appendix 7) in the small area, mainly coppiced Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). These were mostly located on old-field boundaries. At the northern end, there is an extremely wet area of willow carr dominated by Grey Willow (*Salix cineria*) with Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) in the mud. The wet clay nature of the soils of the wood is reflected in the Ash-Field Maple-Dog’s Mercury NVC community W8, with the Primrose-Ground Ivy sub community and a Ransoms sub-community as well as the typical Dog’s Mercury community to the south.

Reed (2000), defines a veteran tree as one which is “of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its size, age or condition”. Reed cautions that girth size is not a reliable factor because different species and individual trees have different life spans and grow at different rates. Important factors are competition from other trees for light or moisture, grazing pressure, and woodland management practices. The nature of the soil and underlying geology may be important. In relation to diameter, she advises that an oak with a diameter at breast height of 1m is potentially interesting; one with a diameter of 1.5m is valuable in terms of conservation. A tree with a diameter greater than 2.0m is considered truly ancient. Rackham (2003) defines a veteran tree as one which is too old to constitute timber: the same as an *ancient* tree providing that (i) the meaning of ‘ancient’ varies with the species of a tree and (ii) coppice stools do not count as ancient trees, whereas pollards do.

	Maximum diameter in metres	No with diameter <1m	No >1m but not <1.5m	No >1.5m but <1.99m	Tree type
<i>Acer campestre</i>	1.4	1	3	1	1 pollard, 4 coppice
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	0.57	1	-	-	1 coppice
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	0.60	1	-	-	1 coppice
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	1.50	-	9	-	1 pollard, 7 coppice 1 standard
<i>Quercus robur</i>	1.41	-	5	1	4 standard 2 pollard
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	-	-	-	1	1 coppice

Table 5: Trees measured during the survey. See also Appendix 9

Most of the old trees in Sutton Poyntz comply with HLS condition assessment **TO2**. Such recent work as performed on a few trees has been done badly, but for safety reasons connected with an electricity supply.

5 Discussion.

5.1 Relevance of Survey to High Level Stewardship.

The Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) focuses on quality habitats. It is used for more complex types of management directed at specific features. Key features include biodiversity, the historic environment, resource protection, landscape character and access.

[Editor's note: Technical guidance for HLS applicants' lists a number of target farmland birds for which funding may be available to enhance their conservation. These include:

Code	Species	Code	Species	Code	Species
SB01	Barn owl	SB07	Lapwing	SB13	Song Thrush
SB02	Bullfinch	SB08	Linnet	SB14	Starling
SB03	Corn Bunting	SB09	Redshank	SB15	Tree Sparrow
SB04	Curlew	SB10	Reed Bunting	SB16	Turtle Dove
SB05	Grey Partridge	SB11	Skylark	SB17	Yellow Wagtail
SB06	Kestrel	SB12	Snipe	SB18	Yellowhammer

Table 6: Target farmland birds for which funding may be available.
Species in **bold** occur in SY7083 and SY7084

In addition Code SB19 lists the following uncommon birds: Black Grouse, Brent Goose, Cirl Bunting, **Dartford Warbler**, Dunlin, **Golden Plover**, Merlin, Nightjar, **Ring Ouzel**, Stone Curlew, Twite and Woodlark. Specific habitat guidance notes have been developed to facilitate recognition of what constitutes good habitat for a number of breeding bird assemblages e.g. Grassland code G12 for breeding waders – lowland; G13 Habitat for wintering waders and wildfowl and G14 Habitat for breeding waders – upland. (Defra, 2005)]

We are proposing to extend our breeding bird survey to carry out a preliminary assessment of the use and location of field margins by breeding farmland birds, particularly Yellowhammer, Skylark and possibly Linnet. Recent research has shown the management of margins using a mosaic-cutting scheme can considerably increase the access to invertebrate rich foraging habitat. This approach has the potential to enhance the effectiveness of Agri-Environment Schemes (AES) without reducing crop area. (Douglas *et.al.*, 2009)

The botanical report (See appendix 5) categorises each field in the SPBG recording area into HLS grades.

5.2 Garden Birds

Two articles Cannon *et.al.* (2005) highlights the importance of gathering information from gardens for the bird populations. However, the data reported on by Cannon reflects a mixture of both urban and rural gardens from the BTO garden Bird Watch over eight years. Our data comprises just one year from an increasing participation rate and done monthly, not weekly. Our data does show cyclic garden occupancy in line with Cannon, e.g. Yellowhammer was seen in gardens from November to March and principally (from anecdotal evidence) in those gardens providing ground seed. Maximum and minimum numbers were analysed for a small number of species with May generally the peak month for Robin, Blue Tit, Blackbird, Dunnock and Goldfinch. Just a small number of properties reported Song Thrush. The two best gardens

for birds appear to be “Wyndings”, situated under West Hill off Plaisters Lane and “Northdown Farm” off Sutton Road. The presence of fruit trees, natural hedges and areas of open grass together with garden shrubs seem to provide a good mixed habitat. Lepczyk (2005) demonstrates the importance of citizen lists in compiling bird data using all available sources to get a complete picture across a landscape. Our surveys confirm these results, not only within gardens but also in the wider countryside.

Song Thrush was seen in Sutton Poyntz occasionally in both gardens and associated with hedges in farmland during 2009. There were just twelve reported observations from gardens during the year, with a maximum of four reports each month. There were just two reports of two birds being seen together. Within the River Jordan environmental corridor, one of us reported two pairs breeding on Church Road, Preston, where wet fields provide the required earthworm diet. A significant decline (70%) in the populations of Song Thrush in the period 1970—95 is reported by R.S.P.B. (Peach *et.al.*, 2004). The report confirmed our observations of its presence mainly in gardens and field boundaries, avoiding arable land and woodland. The report highlights earthworm availability in summer as a major component of the thrush diet with a decline in earthworm population as the soil dries out during the hot summers. The provision of invertebrate rich damp soils is a requirement to sustain populations.

5.3 Scrub within the White Horse Hill SSSI,

Mortimer *et.al.* also highlight that there is little understanding of the use of scrub by birds for feeding, whether insectivorous or foraging for fruit. Certainly with over 95% of the scrub on the hill being Gorse, it is the insectivores e.g. warblers who prefer such habitats. In areas of chalk scrub, where berry fruited shrub is plentiful, there is rich feeding for birds such as thrushes and finches. There is also a complex relationship between birds such as thrushes, Robin, Blackcap and warblers, who disperse seed, and the pulp consuming species such as Bullfinch who are fruit predators.

Another area highlighted by Mortimer *et.al.* is the use of landscape mosaics by birds as shown in Figure 9. On warm days, birds use the upper area of the Hill e.g. around ‘Margaret’s Seat’ for foraging, whilst on cold days, they are found in thick scrub or in areas where the physical landform provides shelter. The importance of mixed wooded areas, with climbers e.g. Ivy and Honeysuckle, to the bird population requires investigation.

The *Scrub Management Handbook* (Bacon, 2003, section 5.7) highlights the importance of scrub as a significant component of many landscapes. The European Landscape Convention emphasises the importance of people and the history of surrounding landscape around peoples’ homes. We can confirm the pleasure of our villagers when shown Dartford Warbler and Stonechat. Campbell (2008) discusses the importance of scrub in greater detail.

5.4 Grassland management: In recent years, there have been many training courses and words written on grassland management. However, Duffey *et. al.* (1974) offer advice, which is pertinent today. They quote Linnæus, who in 1748 commented “this summer I continued my investigations as to which plants are consumed by cattle, which are ignored and which are avoided; this work in my opinion is of fundamental importance both for private owners of livestock and for animal husbandry as a whole” In the case of sheep (the principal grazing animal in Sutton Poyntz) he found that 449 species of plant were always eaten, 32 sometimes and 137 never. Duffy reported on a three-year study of hill sheep in Ayrshire. Red Fescue was the most frequent species in the diet of sheep, especially in March when the first flush of spring growth appeared. This was confirmed in a second study, which showed that in addition, Sheep’s Fescue, Meadow Oat-grass, Crested Hair-grass, Quaking-grass and Glaucous Sedge made up most of the remaining diet. Herbs eaten included Bird’s-foot Trefoil,

Salad Burnet, Rock-rose and Rough Hawkbit. Other work demonstrated the unpalatable nature of Tor-grass, which is only eaten when all else has been consumed. The presence of dead plant material (litter) [a particular problem in the winter here] has an important effect on selection. When 95% of Compartment 10 (see Fig. 17) is Tor-grass, we have a particular problem.

Grime *et.al.* (2007) describe Tor-grass as a species of dry grassland, significantly more frequent on south facing slopes. In ungrazed and unburnt habitats it forms dense stands with persistent litter, reducing floristic diversity. Tor-grass is rhizomatous with a peak summer growth but sets little seed.

To the authors, the complete absence of sheep grazing in the waterworks operations area, coupled with a trial to fence out rabbits and sheep at Barrowfields LNR (VC65) in the Yorkshire Dales to encourage Rock-rose (the food plant of the red data butterfly Northern Brown Argus), makes us wonder if we should try a similar trial with the area managed by local volunteers using a strimmer following raking off the cut material.

6. Conclusions.

The principal conclusions of this report are:

1. There are nine UK BAP priority habitats within our four 1km squares.
2. These provide a rich area for wildlife highlighted within the Executive summary and body of the report together with accompanying appendices.
3. The Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group was only formed in July 2008 with a small group of experienced watchers, who through this Group are now providing data to the highest standard with targeted recording. This initial cautious start has been built on by recruiting new people.
4. The group has demonstrated an important relationship, with areas of scrub providing increased biodiversity of the area, with particular reference to birds.
5. We also have concerns about the pressures on the small areas of ancient woodland, which provide a species rich habitat but also serve as a valuable recreational area for local children. Striking a balance between access and conservation will also be a matter of delicate compromise but we do feel that some of the SSSI woodland is now suffering adversely from over use by youths drawn from a wider area beyond the village. Perhaps some consideration should now be given to some restricted access conservation zones.

7. Recommendations.

1. Further management of scrub should be informed by a better understanding of its importance to the biodiversity of the SSSI. The survey work by the group over the next few years will make a contribution to this.
2. New surveyors should be recruited for a garden nature watch and to achieve a more comprehensive coverage of the southern area, especially assessing breeding populations.
3. Grassland monitoring to continue following introduction of fencing.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Sutton Poyntz Breeding Bird Study 2009.

A1 Background

The total area covered by the Sutton Poyntz biodiversity audit is four 1 km square and the bird list for the area is now just under 90 species. We decided that it would not be feasible to cover this entire area in the detail needed to establish with any confidence all the breeding sites. The two areas we chose to study in more detail were the water meadow and the escarpment to the north of the Springhead covering sections of both West and East Hill, both are SSSI designated areas. These were chosen as they represented two different habitat types and have been subject to a degree of habitat management.

The scope of the study even in these two small areas was limited by the availability of people to spend sufficient time in each area to build up a complete picture of all the breeding activity. We tried to ensure between one and two hours of observation daily from each specific viewing point. This becomes a very labour intensive activity with even with the relatively small area of the water meadow several viewing points are required to cover all the likely nesting locations. In all 200 -300 hours of observation was spent on this specific activity as well as more casual observations taken during our weekly walks. Of the two sites chosen the water meadow was studied in the most detail, as it was more accessible and easier to cover the area from a smaller number of observation points.

A2 The Water Meadow. (Natural England Compartment 11)

With the removal of the scrub (mainly brambles) in the spring 2009 on the East side of the stream we felt that a study of the area was required to advise on the potential impact of further scrub clearance.

Figure 18 shows the results of the survey. In accordance with BTO guidelines, breeding success was largely judged by observing adults taking food to nesting sites. In some cases where only a limited number of observations were possible the taking of nesting materials to particular points was taken as evidence of probable breeding activity, although it is known that some species do build a number of nests which are not all used. The numbers of young reared were not recorded partly because we didn't want to disturb the birds but also because we couldn't provide continuous observation throughout the nesting season.

In total 10 species of birds were confirmed to have bred in this area however, we felt that this is almost certainly an under estimate as some of the later breeding species, finches in particular, were not confirmed as breeding even though there were considerable numbers present throughout the season. This was probably a result of increasing foliage cover through the season and not good enough sight lines from the two recording points chosen to cover the all the hedgerows surrounding the site. We have had regular records of Spotted Flycatcher in early summer in one corner of the water meadow for several years so we placed a suitable nesting box in a hedgerow on the Eastern hedgerow to encourage breeding. Unfortunately although two fly catchers were recorded in the water meadow at the beginning of the season only one appeared to remain in the area so no nesting activity was recorded. The nest box was eventually used by a Robin in mid-summer, presumably a second brood. One of the most interesting results of the study was the apparent importance of blackthorn for providing nesting sites. The bramble patches, by themselves, or when building up cover around small groups of willow did not, apart from the occasional blackbird nest, provides many nesting sites. Our best interpretation of this is that bramble, even when built up around the willows, whilst outwardly appearing dense are in fact quite open underneath presumably affording little protection from predators. Whereas blackthorn, which propagates by suckers, builds up quite dense cover

from the ground up which when combined with a mixture of bramble and other invasive species provided much more complete cover.

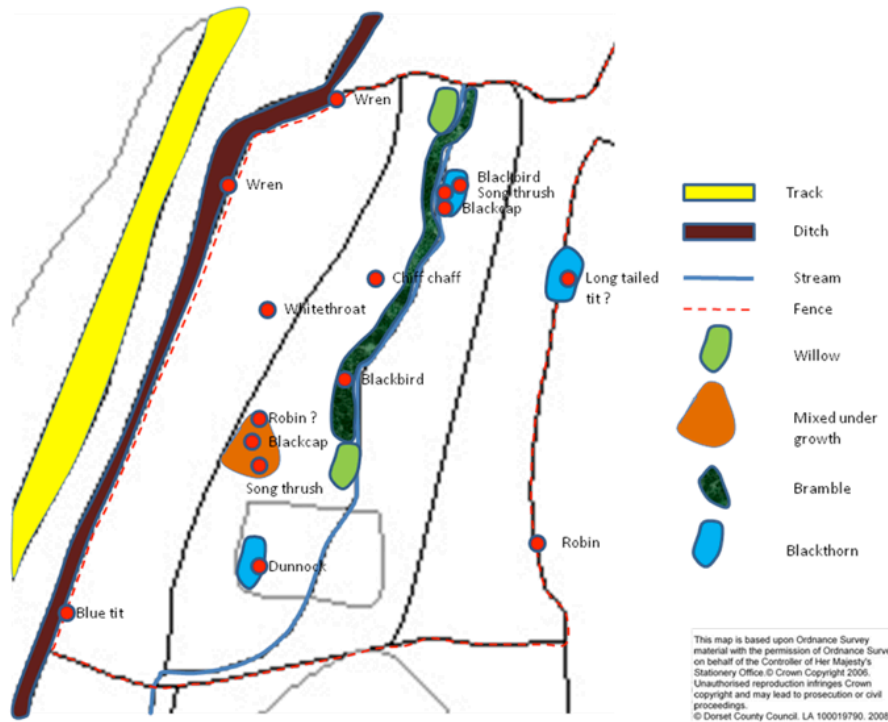


Fig. 18: Distribution of breeding birds in wet meadow

The remaining areas of bramble along the West side of the stream whilst supporting at least one blackbird nest appeared to have a secondary influence to encourage ground nesting birds along the margins. Both Whitethroat and Chiffchaff used the cover to approach nesting sites amongst the long grass and flags. This was observed last year with Willow Warbler nesting amongst the flags on the edge of an extensive bramble patch that was cleared early this year. As noted earlier our coverage of the mature hedgerow particularly on the Western boundary was poor largely as a result of not finding a suitable vantage point without the construction of suitable artificial refuge (hide). The hedgerow on the Eastern boundary is in poor condition with the exception of one or two clumps of blackthorn.

A3. The Spring Escarpment.

This area was much more difficult to survey given its much greater area and steep terrain. In addition given its more remote location significantly less time was spent observing this area than the water meadow. Similar criteria were used to confirm breeding although in the case of the Whitethroat at the top of West Hill strong territorial behaviour and the regular use of song posts was taken as likely evidence of breeding sites.

Figure 18 shows where we have reasonable confidence of breeding activity although some of the isolated spinies were not properly surveyed thus almost certainly missing some of the more common species such as Dunnock, Blackbird and Robin.

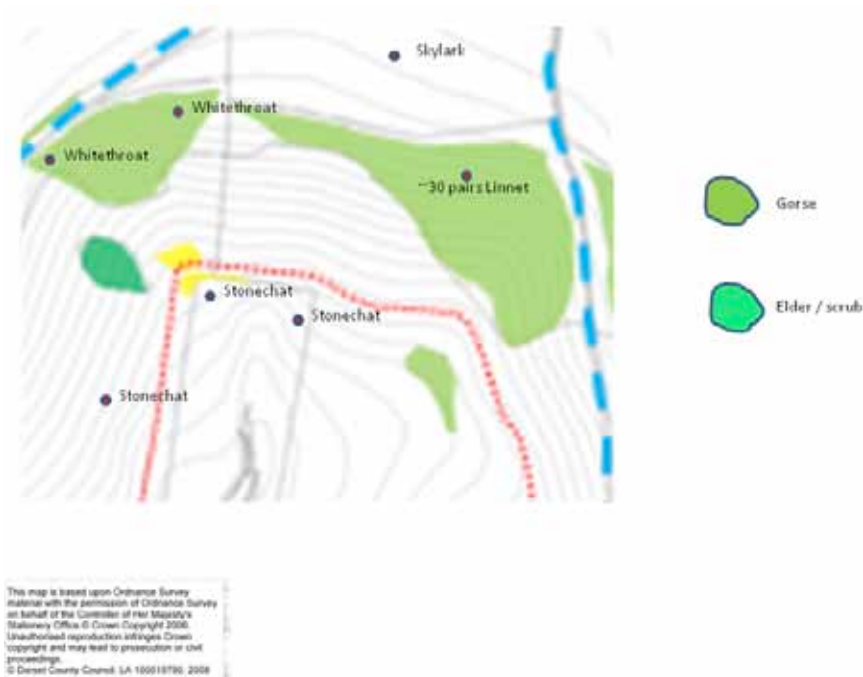


Figure 19. Springhead breeding distribution.

The most important result of this limited survey is the identification of a large breeding population of Linnet amongst the gorse on East Hill. With the exception of Portland this may well be one of the largest single colonies of this Red Listed bird recorded in Dorset and most probably the largest breeding density of Linnet in the county. Although we are working from *Dorset Bird Reports* which are only available up to 2007. Elsewhere members of our group have recorded six breeding pairs at two National Trust sites viz. Stonebarrow and Ringstead where six breeding pairs were noted on a smaller area of Gorse. Green (2004) shows a decline in breeding pairs at Fontmell from 1981 to 1994 with the highest of eleven breeding territories in 1986 with a decline thereafter. At Durlstan between 1980 -1999 the highest breeding is 28 pairs in 1992 declining 18 in 1999. The 2007 *Dorset Bird Report* considered that there were six breeding pairs here. BTO report that in 2009, at their 120 constant effort sites, breeding Linnet increased by 230% with the outcome due to favourable weather conditions. The Linnet is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and EC Birds Directive, and is listed on Appendix II of the Bern Convention. Factors in favour of breeding success on this site include the availability of grass and flower seed, in conjunction with arable fields, which here include set-a-side to the north.

Generally the national BAP is asking for a study of the diet of the linnet in different breeding habitats and relate this to nesting success. Information is required on the diet of adults at different stages of the year, particularly during the summer, and on the food supplied by the adults to chicks and fledglings. The area of gorse on West Hill, which was extensively burnt out a few years ago and has only partly re-established with a more mixed area of scrub, appears to provide suitable habitat for ground-nesting birds such as whitethroat particularly with the stands of Elder providing vantage points and song posts. As a general observation these isolated groups of mainly Elder frequently contained large numbers of Linnets, as well as Yellowhammer, Whitethroat, Thrushes and Kestrel.

Skylark is generally seen on the Ridgeway with the group reporting up to five singing males in the short grass set-a-side fields south of the public footpath to Osmington. Winter flocks of up to thirty birds have been seen both on the Ridgeway and south of East Hill over farmland. Nationally the species is considered in decline. The causes of decline are poorly understood because population trends in habitats other than farmland are largely unknown. It is thought

that autumn-sown cereals may make an unsuitable nesting habitat compared with spring-sown varieties, and dense, tall-fertilised grass is also unsuitable. We are certain of four breeding pairs on the ridge above Sutton Poyntz, which compares favorably with breeding sites listed in the *Dorset Bird Report, 2007*. Green (2004) shows peak breeding populations at Portland Bill as 30 in 1989 declining to 19 in 1999.

The skylark is protected under the EC Birds Directive. It is also protected under the WCA 1981 and the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

1. Conclusions.

1. The Water Meadow contains a remarkably large concentration of breeding bird species for its size. This important breeding site makes a significant contribution to the diversity of bird species in the surrounding local area.
2. The dense area of gorse on East Hill above the Springhead supports an important breeding population of Linnet, which is a National BAP Priority Species requiring Gorse scrub.
3. The grass set-a-side area above the Springhead supports a population of at least four pairs of breeding Skylark, also a national BAP species.
4. Considerably more survey time would be required to cover both areas to establish nesting patterns to a greater degree of confidence.

5 Recommendations.

1. Further extensive clearance of brambles in the Water Meadow would be ill advised with the exception of limited clearance down to the Eastern side of the stream to provide more access for wildlife to the stream margins.
2. Consideration could be given to improving the hedgerow on the Eastern side, where the Elms have all died out, with the selective planting of Blackthorn. The Elms ideally should be left as they are heavily used as vantage points and song posts although clearly safety implications may require their removal.
3. It would be interesting to provide a range of nesting boxes on some of the trees, particularly on the Eastern side, partly to offset the poor condition of the hedgerow but also to encourage new species into the area. This will depend on finding more funding to support habitat enrichment.
4. The biodiversity of the Water Meadow could be significantly improved if an area of standing water could be established where some of the brambles have been removed on the East side of the stream. This would encourage the re-establishing of the *Phragmites*, as well as providing a rich environment for invertebrates.
5. Whilst the reasons for controlling the extensive areas of gorse on both West Hill and East Hill to return these areas to calcareous grassland are well understood, the dense gorse in the Springhead should remain to enhance the overall biodiversity of the area.

6. We recommend that notices be placed at access points using the Natural England logo requesting dog walkers keep their dogs on leads during the breeding bird season.
7. We intend to carry out a similar survey next year, particularly if we are able provide a number of artificial nesting sites. We now have more new members of the group so we should be able to conduct a more comprehensive study.

Acknowledgements.

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Sutton Poyntz Bird Species List 2005-09

Species	Scientific name	JNCC Status	BAP	Last Birdtrack record	Breeding in 2009	Local Status and distribution	Habitat requirements ¹
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>			2009		Autumn overflying of the village in early morning and at dusk. Max 500 in autumn 2009	Feeds on stubble in arable fields
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Amber Spec 2-3, BL, WI		2009		Occasional visitor on mill pond	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			2008	Proven	Common - dominant on mill pond and Puddledock Pond. Regularly overfly the village. Often at Bowleeze Cove and in seasonal flash floods on Church lane	Breeds in most freshwater locations
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Amber WI				Casual visitor. December 2008	
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			2006		Occasional	
Grey Partridge ²	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Red BDp				Two seen on West Hill in area cleared of Gorse in May 2009. Passage migrant	
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Amber BL		2009		Rare visitor on pond, although pairs often seen feeding off Bowleeze Cove.	
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			2009	Proven	Occasional	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			2009		Occasional - overflying but in drainage ditches & garden ponds	uses all types of water courses but nesting in trees
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipter nisus</i>			2009	Proven	Regularly seen in the copse and gardens	nests in trees in most types of woodland.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			2009	Possible	Three pairs over downland and village. Juveniles seen each season	Prefers hunting over open tracts of land, but nests in trees
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber BDmp	LBAP	2009		Seen regularly above the reservoir and on farmland N of village	Breeds in stick nests, craggs, holes in trees and buildings
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			2009		Occasional - autumn passage migrant following hirundines	Tree nesting migrant associated with parkland & heaths
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Flaco peregrinus</i>	Amber BDmp		2009		Occasional - over downland	Associated with undisturbed cliffs on the coast.
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Amber BDmp		2008		Rare visitor seen on a number of occasions in January 2009 by Bellamy Cottage	Requires tall emergent vegetation in Fool's Water Cress by Bellamy Cottage

Sutton Poyntz Bird Species List 2005-09

Species	Scientific name	JNCC Status	BAP	Last Birdtrack record	Breeding in 2009	Local Status and distribution	Habitat requirements ¹
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			2009	Proven	Resident on Mill pond; breeding Rare winter visitor January 2009 in fields east to Osmington. Not seen for 30 years	nests on ponds & river banks
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>			2009		Rare winter visitor January 2009 in fields east to Osmington. Not seen for 30 years	
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Amber BDmp		2009		Rare winter visitor January 2009 in fields east to Osmington. Not seen for 30 years	
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber BDmp		2006		Rare disturbed in the wet ditches below East Hill. Upto 40 seen at Lodmoor by JC in December 2008	wide variety of wetland habitats but rare.
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Amber BDmp		2009		Frequent overflying; Occasional roosts in local fields. Roosts of up to 1000 birds seen at Bowleeze Cove in winter before flying inland at dawn	Commonly seen on freshwater, seashores & cultivated land
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber BDmp		2009		roosts in small numbers in local fields	Nests in colonies on open ground
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Amber BDmp	Nat BAP	2009		frequent overflying;	
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palambus</i>			2009	Proven	Resident in fields & gardens. Large winter flocks	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			2009	Proven	Frequent garden visitor; breeds locally	Feeds & breeds in open habitat with threes or shrubs
Turtle Dove ²	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Red BDP, Spec				JC observed two to east of Village SY711836. Passage DE observed one in Waterworks 2008. Not observed in 2009	Most open habitats
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Amber BDmp	Nat BAP	2009		Rarely seen in Plaisters Lane area. Recorded around Northdown Farm in 2009	with short-tailed vole includes farmland, hedges. Usually nests on ledges in building & tree cavities
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Amber BDmr		2009		Regular calling around the village. Resident in Waterworks copse	Breeds in open woodland nesting in holes & cavities
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			2009	Possible		Feeds on airborne invertebrates. Nests in cavities of walls & buildings.
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			2009		Regular summer visitor in small numbers	
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Amber BDmp		2007		Single record from Osmington Brook by Mrs A Heathershaw	

Sutton Poyntz Bird Species List 2005-09

Species	Scientific name	JNCC Status	BAP	Last Birdtrack record	Breeding in 2009	Local Status and distribution	Habitat requirements ¹
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					JC observed one on 10/9/2006 on reservoir path	
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Amber Spec 2 or 3		2009 Proven		Resident in copse, fields & gardens. Evidence of breeding in 2008. Seen regularly in Waterside Caravan park. Juveniles in 2009	Nests in old deciduous trees and feeds in open grassland with ants.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			2009 Probable		Resident in copse, trees by stream & gardens. Evidence of breeding in 2008	Prefers mature deciduous woodland with trees large enough for nest holes.
Skylark ²	<i>Aluca arvensis</i>	Red BDp, Spec	Nat BAP LBAP	2009 Proven		Singing males on top of downs in summer. Definitely breeding in field above Springhead. Parties of 25-30 passage migrants seen above the Springhead in October 08 and on arable fields below East Hill in October 09	nests in hollows in open ground
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Amber BDmp		2009 Proven		Regular summer visitor in declining numbers	Nests under ledges of buildings, walls & bridges.
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Amber BDmp	LBAP	2009 Proven		Regular summer visitor in declining numbers. Breeding 2008-9 in many locations. Large numbers in passage migration mid September above Springhead and along coast to Redcliff Point	Nests in colonies on buildings
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pretences</i>	Amber BDmp		2009		Regular on downland & higher fields but in declining numbers. Good numbers below Greenhill Barton in winter 2009 and on the lower slopes of the Springhead in October 09	Breeds in open habitats e.g meadows
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>	Amber BDmp		2009		Passage migrant Sept 08 Mawdley Walls. Definite records from RSPB Lodmoor Sept 2009	Record accepted as migrating birds were at Lodmoor in the period
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber BDmp		2009 Proven		Resident on River Jordan & in gardens; breeding by Garland House and the Mill in 2009	Breeds near running water.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>			2009		Resident ; breeding. Party of six - eight seen all year round at Bowleeze	Associated with a wide variety of habitats, especially near water.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			2009 Proven		Common resident - breeding	
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber BDmp		2009 Proven		Common resident - breeding	Breeds in dense thickets of scrub in woodland & field margins

Sutton Poyntz Bird Species List 2005-09

Species	Scientific name	JNCC Status	BAP	Last Birdtrack record	Breeding in 2009	Local Status and distribution	Habitat requirements ¹
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			2009	Proven	Common resident - breeding Passage migrant; on downland mainly autumn mainly along Coobe Valley Rd	Breeds in woodlands & parklands
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		Nat BAP	2008		Resident above Springhead; breeding. Bowleeze to Redcliff Point on undercliff	Lowland & coastal habitats with scrub
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Amber BDmp		2009	Proven	Passage migrant; on downland mainly autumn	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			2009		Rare passage migrant seen on West Hill on regular Monday walk	
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Red BDp, BDMr		2007		Common resident - breeding	Breeds in woodlands, parks & scrub with rich undergrowth
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			2008	Proven	Occasional winter visitor in the valley fields east to Osmington and west towards Bincombe	associated with hedgerows, orchards & gardens.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Amber BDmp		2009		Resident ; breeding including on Church Lane, Preston	Breeds in woodlands, parks & scrub with rich undergrowth
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Red BDp	Nat BAP	2009	Proven	Occasional winter visitor in fields east of village to Osmington.	associated with hedgerows, orchards & gardens.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>			2009		Resident in fields & gardens. Very few records in 2009.	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Amber BDmp		2009	Proven	Declining	Breeds in woodlands & parklands
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			2009		Summer passage migrant at waterworks marsh. Regularly calling N of Waterside	Phagmites
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca curruca</i>			2009		Single record near Waterworks Population circa 10	
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			2009	Proven	Regular summer visitor - breeding in scrub N of waterworks	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			2009		Single record from Wyndings June 2009	
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			2008	Proven	Regular summer visitor - breeding in waterworks area	Breeds in woodlands & parklands
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Amber BDmp				Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant	
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Amber H Drec		2009		Rare winter visitor on downland and scrub. Records of upto 4 in late October 2008 on gorse. Just two in winter 2009	Occurs on dry heaths with abundant gorse

Sutton Poyntz Bird Species List 2005-09

Species	Scientific name	JNCC Status	BAP	Last Birdtrack record	Breeding in 2009	Local Status and distribution	Habitat requirements ¹
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			2009	Proven	Regular summer visitor - breeding	Breeds in woodlands
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber BDmp		2009	Proven	Summer passage migrant	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Amber BDmp		2009	Proven	Regular records from gardens	Breeds in woodlands
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Red BDp	Nat BAP	2009		Regular passage migrant in spring & autumn	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalus candatus</i>			2009	Proven	Resident ; breeding	Breeds in bushy woodlands & scrub
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			2009	Proven	Common resident - breeding	Breeds in open woodland & gardens
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			2009	Proven	Regular visitor to gardens	Breeds in woodlands preferably coniferous
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			2009	Proven	Common resident - breeding	All types of woodland
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			2009		Two records from water works wood and occasional garden records	
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			2009		Rare - seen flying over	Breeds in young woodlands
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			2009	Proven	Common resident - breeding	Breeds in many locations associated with habitation.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			2009	Proven	Common resident - breeding	Breeds in colonies
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			2009	Proven	Regular flocking in the fields Breeding near waterworks in trees	Breeds in open country in trees
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>			2009		Small regular groups in fields	Breeds in open cultivated terrain.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			2009	Possible	Regular calling around the village - possible breeding on the pylons	Prefers to breed in isolated woods

Sutton Poyntz Bird Species List 2005-09

Species	Scientific name	JNCC Status	BAP	Last Birdtrack record	Breeding in 2009	Local Status and distribution	Habitat requirements ¹
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red BDp	Nat BAP	2009 Proven		Common resident - breeding but declining. Flocks of around 15 on rooftops. Flocks of up to 100 seen at Bowleaze Cove associated with buildings	Occurs in a range of habitats
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red BDp	Nat BAP	2009 Proven		Common resident - breeding but increasing in 2009. Flocks of around 15-20 associated with bramble or thorn from St Andre's Church to the waterworks. Population C. 200. Small population at Bowleaze Cove at Waterside entrance	Breeds in most habitats including under roof tiles but also in scrub.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			2009 Probable		Common resident - breeding	Breeds in woodlands & parklands
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>			2007		Uncommon winter migrant attracted to feeding stations at two properties to the north of Old Bincombe Lane in February 2009	
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			2009 Probable		Common resident - breeding	Farmland with hedges
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			2009 Probable		Common resident - breeding	Breeds in open cultivated areas with woodland edges.
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spines</i>			2009		Rare winter visitor to gardens (conifers?)	
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Red BDp	Nat BAP LBAP	2009 Proven		Resident in fields & downland, especially around Margaret's Seat. Migrating flocks c. 100 mid-September above waterworks. Thirty pairs considered breeding	Nests in scrub & hedges feeds on seeds
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Red BDp	Nat BAP LBAP	2009 Probable		Rare - associated with fruit trees in gardens but seen in the Waterworks and in scrub on the Ridgeway. Occasional records from gardens	Breeds in dense forest, edges and scrub areas feeding on buds, berries & seeds.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red BDp	Nat BAP	2009 Probable		population of around 20 from E. boundary. Roost observed on West Hill. Visited gardens in winter of 2009	Breeds in open country with thorn hedges.
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Red HD BDp	Nat BAP	2009		June 2009 records on parish boundary with Broadmayne	Open habitats usually associated with arable land.

Sutton Poyntz Bird Species List 2005-09							
Species	Scientific name	JNCC Status	BAP	Last Birdtrack record	Breeding in 2009	Local Status and distribution	Habitat requirements ¹
Total for 10km square SY78 2005-09				152			
Total Bird Track Birds attributable to Sutton Poyntz				80			
Total National BAP species			9		33 Breeding Proven		
Total Local BAP species			2		6 Breeding Probable		
Total on National List & Dorset BAP List			3		3 Breeding Possible		
Total Red Data birds			11				
Total Amber Data			27				
Red Data Status		www.jncc.gov.uk	2009 List				
Amber List		" - Species of medium conservation concern"					
H Drec	Historical decline 1880-1995 but population recovering over past 25 years						
Spec	Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe						
BDmp	25-49% decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years						
BDmr	Moderate 25-49% contraction of breeding range in the UK						
BL	50% of breeding population in 10 or few sites, but not rare breeders						
WI	more or less 20% of NW European breeding population in the UK						
Red List		" - Species of high conservation concern"					
BDp	50% decline in UK Breeding population over the last 25 years						
HD	Historical decline in UK 1800-1995						
References							
Habitat Requirements ¹		<i>Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Birds JNCC, Peterborough 2004.</i>					
		<i>UK population <10,000 pairs</i>					
Species in bold		New to the list in 2009					

Appendix 3

Sutton Poyntz Garden Bird Watch summary 2009

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Records
Barn Owl	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	5
Blackbird	9	9	11	11	14	10	7	7	10	13	14	17	132
Blackcap	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	15
Blue Tit	8	10	13	12	14	9	7	10	12	13	14	14	136
Brambling	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bullfinch	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Buzzard	1	2	5	4	2	3	2	5	6	2	2	3	37
Carrion Crow	2	3	5	5	6	2	1	3	4	4	5	5	45
Chaffinch	8	8	10	5	9	4	4	4	8	8	9	13	90
Chiffchaf	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	7	4	0	0	19
Coal Tit	1	3	4	5	1	2	5	4	5	3	5	4	42
Collared Dove	5	7	11	10	9	8	5	8	14	12	10	14	113
Common Pheasant	3	2	4	4	3	1	1	2	4	3	2	4	33
Cuckoo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Duncock	5	6	8	7	7	8	5	5	0	8	9	15	83
Fieldfare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Goldcrest	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	6	1	0	1	16
Goldfinch	5	8	6	7	6	2	3	4	7	5	6	11	70
Great Tit	8	8	11	9	11	6	3	9	0	12	12	14	103
Greater Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	4	6	26
Green Woodpecker	2	3	3	1	0	1	1	3	6	4	1	1	26
Greenfinch	6	7	6	8	7	4	4	3	6	5	7	8	71
Grey Wagtail	3	3	5	3	2	5	2	0	7	4	2	5	41
Grey Heron	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	6	6	4	5	28
Herring Gull	3	2	3	6	8	6	2	5	2	5	6	11	59
House Martin	0	0	0	0	8	5	4	4	12	0	0	0	33
House Sparrow	9	9	12	12	13	10	7	9	8	12	14	15	130
Jackdaw	5	6	7	8	13	3	4	5	1	8	8	12	80
Kestrel	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	11
Linnet	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	5	1	0	0	12
Long-tailed Tit	6	4	6	3	1	1	0	1	14	4	4	9	53
Magpie	7	9	9	9	12	8	7	10	0	11	12	16	110
Mallard	0	0	4	4	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	15
Mistle Thrush	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	8
Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Nuthatch	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	8
Pied Wagtail	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	5	3	5	32
Redstart	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Redwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
Robin	8	10	13	12	13	8	7	11	15	13	13	17	140
Rook	3	5	10	7	10	6	5	4	9	6	6	12	83
Song Thrush	4	3	1	3	3	3	1	0	1	1	4	12	36
Sparrowhawk	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	1	9
Starling	3	5	3	3	7	1	3	2	3	3	3	6	42
Stonechat	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Swallow	0	0	1	0	4	5	3	3	2	0	0	0	18
Swift	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Tawny Owl	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	1	4	4	1	3	20
Whitethroat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Willow Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wood Pigeon	8	6	11	9	12	7	8	8	12	11	12	15	119
Wren	3	4	4	7	8	6	3	4	7	8	5	11	70
Yellowhammer	1	2	5	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	4	17
Counts													2268
Total Species seen	32	37	39	31	37	43	34	33	34	36	39	40	
Total Records	135	159	206	191	223	158	114	142	219	206	207	308	2268
Average per survey	15.18	17.82	15.85	14.69	15.93	15.8	14.25	11.83	13.69	13.73	14.79	18.12	
No of gardens in survey	10	10	13	13	14	10	8	12	16	15	14	17	

Appendix 3

Sutton Poyntz Garden Bird Watch summary 2009

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Bullfinch	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Buzzard	1	2	5	4	2	3	2	5	6	2	2	3	37
Carrion Crow	2	3	5	5	6	2	1	3	4	4	5	5	45
Chaffinch	8	8	10	5	9	4	4	4	8	8	9	13	90
Chiffchaf	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	7	4	0	0	19
Coal Tit	1	3	4	5	1	2	5	4	5	3	5	4	42
Collared Dove	5	7	11	10	9	8	5	8	14	12	10	14	113
Common Pheasant	3	2	4	4	3	1	1	2	4	3	2	4	33
Cuckoo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Duncock	5	6	8	7	7	8	5	5	0	8	9	15	83
Fieldfare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Goldcrest	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	6	1	0	1	16
Goldfinch	5	8	6	7	6	2	3	4	7	5	6	11	70
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Greenfinch	6	7	6	8	7	4	4	3	6	5	7	8	71
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Herring Gull	3	2	3	6	8	6	2	5	2	5	6	11	59
House Martin	0	0	0	0	8	5	4	4	12	0	0	0	33
House Sparrow	9	9	12	12	13	10	7	9	8	12	14	15	130
Jackdaw	5	6	7	8	13	3	4	5	1	8	8	12	80
Kestrel	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	11
Linnet	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	5	1	0	0	12
Long-tailed Tit	6	4	6	3	1	1	0	1	14	4	4	9	53
Magpie	7	9	9	9	12	8	7	10	0	11	12	16	110
Mallard	0	0	4	4	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	15
Mistle Thrush	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	8
Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Nuthatch	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	8
Pied Wagtail	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	5	3	5	32
Redstart	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Redwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
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Song Thrush	4	3	1	3	3	3	1	0	1	1	4	12	36
Sparrowhawk	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	1	9
Starling	3	5	3	3	7	1	3	2	3	3	3	6	42
Stonechat	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Swallow	0	0	1	0	4	5	3	3	2	0	0	0	18
Swift	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Tawny Owl	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	1	4	4	1	3	20
Whitethroat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Willow Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wood Pigeon	8	6	11	9	12	7	8	8	12	11	12	15	119
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Average per survey	15.18	17.82	15.85	14.69	15.93	15.8	14.25	11.83	13.69	13.73	14.79	18.12	
No of gardens in survey	10	10	13	13	14	10	8	12	16	15	14	17	

Appendix 4 Plant Gall species found at Sutton Poyntz in 2009.

Host species	Gall causer	Notes
<i>Acer campestre</i>	<i>Aceria aceriscampestris</i>	Just one record from the west side of the waterworks.
	<i>Aceria eriobius</i>	Two records. Hedges surrounding the waterworks
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	<i>Puccinia convolvuli</i> ¹	New to Great Britain see report.
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	<i>Puccinia punctiformis</i> ¹	A common gall. The top of the thistle goes pale and does not flower.
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	<i>Phyllocoptes depressus</i>	On the edge of the waterworks compound.
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	<i>Phytopus avellanae</i>	Rare – forms a large (10mm) bud on the autumn stem of hazel.
	<i>Phyllocoptes coryli</i>	Rare on the early flowers of hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	<i>Aceria crataegi</i>	Considering the amount of Hawthorn in the village, there were just two records
	<i>Phyllocoptes goniothorax</i>	One record but surprisingly difficult to spot in Hawthorn hedges.
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	<i>Monochetus sulcatus</i>	On the Beech in the Springhead yard
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	<i>Dasineura pustulans</i>	Rare in the waterworks meadow
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	<i>Dasineura acrophila</i>	Two records from waterworks wood
	<i>Psyllopsis fraxini</i>	One record from waterworks wood
<i>Galium aparine</i>	<i>Cecidophyes galii</i> ²	Puddledock Lane – one record
<i>Juglans regia</i>	<i>Aceria erineus</i>	This gall is plentiful on the Walnut by the Church on Sutton Road.
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	<i>Erisoma lanigerum</i>	One record from domestic apple. The gall causes the twig nodes to swell.
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	<i>Lipara lucens</i>	Galls on grasses are quite rare. This one was located in the reed bed in the waterworks meadow
<i>Prunus domestica</i> ssp. <i>insita</i>	<i>Eriophyes similis</i>	This common gall was noted in three places.
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	<i>Taphrina deformans</i> ¹	One record on Almond in a garden on Sutton Road. The leaves become quite deformed.
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	<i>Eriophyes prunispinosaes</i>	One record on Blackthorn
	<i>Taphrina wiesneii</i> ¹	One record on Blackthorn
<i>Quercus robur</i>	<i>Andricus grossular</i>	One record from waterworks wood
	<i>Andricus kollari</i>	One record from waterworks wood
	<i>Andricus lucidus</i>	One record from waterworks wood
	<i>Andricus quercuscalicis</i>	
	<i>Cynips quercusifolia</i>	Common on the new oaks.
	<i>Neuroterus anthracinus</i>	Common on new oaks
	<i>Neuroterus numismalis</i>	Common on new oaks
<i>Rosa canina</i>	<i>Diplolepsis rosae</i> (Robin's Pin Cushion gall)	Two records in hedges
	<i>Diplolepis nervosa</i>	Two records on Dog Rose.
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	<i>Dasineura plicatrix</i>	Rare on bramble
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	<i>Iteomyia major</i>	This gall is quite common in Dorset, but just one record here.
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	<i>Epitrimerus trilobus</i>	An in-rolled leaf edge gall being one of only two found on Elder.
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	<i>Eriophyes sorbi</i>	One record from introduced trees on Old Bincombe Lane

Host species	Gall causer	Notes
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	<i>Aceria ulmicolia</i>	On the elms in the waterworks meadow hedge
	<i>Erisoma ulmi</i>	One record in the same elms
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	<i>Dasineura urticae</i>	Considering the amount of nettle under the hedges of the County, this gall was surprisingly difficult to find with one record
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	<i>Jaapiella veronicae</i>	Three records on Germander Speedwell.

¹ Indicates a fungal gall.

² J.C. Ostojá-Starzewski (2009) states that “*Ceciophyes galii* cannot be differentiated from *C. rouhollahi* from the gall alone, but only from the mites”. It is also possible that the former species has not been found in Britain.

³ Wilson, M and Henderson, D.M. (1966) *British Rust Fungi*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Appendix 5

Freshwater species

Date	Site	Species		Stage	QTY	Comment	Method	Habitat	Recorder	Score	Score*n
10-Aug-08	B	Fresh water shrimp			20	naked eye	kick/sw	Fast/gravel	L.Emery	6	120
10-Aug-08	B	Bullhead			1	naked eye	EEP	Fast/gravel	L.Emery		
10-Aug-08	B	Fresh water limpets			10	naked eye		Fast/gravel	L.Emery	8	80
10-Aug-08	B	Mayfly		Nymph	1	naked eye		Fast/gravel	L.Emery	6	6
10-Aug-08	B	Flattened Mayfly		Nymph	1	naked eye		Fast/gravel	L.Emery	10	10
10-Aug-08	B	Leech			2	naked eye		Slow/silt	L.Emery	3	6
10-Aug-08	B	Midge		Larva	1	naked eye		Slow/silt	L.Emery	2	2
10-Aug-08	B	Cadid fly		Larva	3	naked eye		Fast/gravel	L.Emery	5	15
10-Aug-08	B	Stone fly		Larva	1	naked eye		Fast/gravel	L.Emery	10	10
10-Aug-08	B	Blood worms				naked eye		slow/gravel	L.Emery		
										50	249
										biotic index 4.98	
25-Aug-08	A	Cadid fly	<i>Limnephilius</i>	Larva		Bug box		slow/gravel	D.Emery	7	
25-Aug-08	A		<i>Goera pilosa</i>	Larva		Bug box		slow/gravel	D.Emery	7	
25-Aug-08	A		<i>Hydropsyche</i>	Larva		Bug box		slow/gravel	D.Emery	5	
25-Aug-08	A	Beetle	<i>Hydrporus sp.</i>			Bug box		slow/gravel	D.Emery	5	
25-Aug-08	A	Fresh water shrimp			30	Bug box		slow/gravel	D.Emery	6	
25-Aug-08	C	Mayfly	<i>Baetis sp</i>	Nymph	2	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	6	
25-Aug-08	C	Pale watery Dun	<i>Centroptilum luteolum</i>	Nymph	12	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	6	
25-Aug-08	C		<i>Polycelis felina</i>		2	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery		
25-Aug-08	C	horse leech			1	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	3	
10-Sep-08	B	Stone fly	<i>Leuctra sp.</i>	Nymph	3	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	10	30
10-Sep-08	B	Mayfly	<i>Baetis sp</i>	Nymph	15	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	6	90
10-Sep-08	B	Mayfly (pale watery Dun)	<i>Centroptilum luteolum</i>	Nymph	2	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	6	12
10-Sep-08	B	Fresh water shrimp			14	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	6	84
10-Sep-08	B	Blackfly	<i>Simulium sp.</i>	Larva	3	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	5	15
10-Sep-08	B		<i>Chironomus sp.</i>	Larva	1	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	2	2
10-Sep-08	B		<i>Polycelis felina</i>		3	Bug box		v fast/ silt	D.Emery		
										35	233
										biotic index 6.6571	
18-Nov-08	A	Cadid fly	<i>Limnephilius</i>	Larva	1	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery	7	7
18-Nov-08	A		<i>Athripsodes cinereus</i>	Larva	1	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery	7	7
18-Nov-08	A		<i>Hydropsyche</i>	Larva	1	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery	6	6
18-Nov-08	A	Mayfly	<i>Baetis sp</i>	Nymph	8	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery	6	48
18-Nov-08	A	Rifle beetle	<i>Limnius volckmari</i>		1	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery	5	5
18-Nov-08	A	Fresh water shrimp			9	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery	6	54
18-Nov-08	C	Mayfly	<i>Baetis sp</i>	Nymph	3	Microscope		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	6	18
18-Nov-08	C		<i>Polycelis felina</i>		6	Microscope		v fast/ silt	D.Emery		
18-Nov-08	C	Fresh water shrimp			3	Microscope		v fast/ silt	D.Emery	6	18
24-Nov-08	B	Blackfly		Larva	2	Microscope		Fast/gravel	D.Emery	5	10
24-Nov-08	B		<i>Polycelis felina</i>		5	Microscope		Fast/gravel	D.Emery		
24-Nov-08	B	Mayfly	<i>Baetis sp</i>	Nymph	6	Microscope		Fast/gravel	D.Emery	6	36
24-Nov-08	B	Fresh water shrimp			10	Microscope		Fast/gravel	D.Emery	5	50
24-Nov-08	B	Rifle beetle	<i>Elmis aenea</i>		1	Microscope		Fast/gravel	D.Emery	5	5
25-Nov-08	B	Bullhead			1	Microscope		Fast/gravel	D.Emery		
27-Nov-08	A	Mayfly	<i>Baetis sp</i>	Nymph	25	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery	6	150
27-Nov-08	A	Fresh water shrimp			4	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery	6	24
27-Nov-08	A		<i>Polycelis felina</i>		2	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery		
27-Nov-08	A	Blackfly		Larva	1	Microscope		Fast/stone	D.Emery	5	5
										87	443
										biotic index 5.092	

Appendix 6 WHITE HORSE HILL SSSI SITE REPORT. Prepared by J A Newbould 3 Brookmead Close, Sutton Poyntz, Weymouth DT3 6RS
 Updated: 23 February 2010

Plot	Condition/Type	Plot description	Management
SSSI Cmppt. 1 (West Hill)	NVC Types W23, CG4 and MG1 Classed as unfavourable declining. Scrub>20% Road verge is considered favourable with Scrub<2%, Broad-leaved species <5% NVC CG4 HLS GO4	The upper slopes are dominated by Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) with a ground flora of Tor-grass (<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>). MG1 grass area above Plaisters Lane is reasonably herb rich. Qualifying herbs include Harebell (<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>), Hedge Bedstraw (<i>Galium verna</i>), Doves-foot Cranesbill (<i>Geranium molle</i>), Rock-rose (<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>), Rough Hawk-bit (<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>), Bird's-foot Trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>) and Mouse-eared Hawkweed (<i>Pilosella officinalis</i>). West Hill fails in that the herb cover does not meet condition 5. Road verge (25/5/09 by JAN) is west facing with rock outcrops has a good coverage of Horse-shoe Vetch (<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>). Although dominated by Tor-grass, there is also Quacking – grass (<i>Briza media</i>), Bird's-foot Trefoil and Mouse-eared Hawkweed amongst qualifying species.	Area on hill is cattle grazed. Road verge is cut frequently by SDDC including May when Adonis Blue was on wing here.
SSSI Cmppt 5. (East Hill) (east of track)	NVC types W23, CG4 both dominant with small areas of CG7. Scrub>20% Course Herbs <5% NE Unfavourable – declining HLS GO4	The upper slopes are dominated by Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) interspersed with Elder and Bramble. The west-facing slope has a ground flora of Tor-grass (<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>). In early 2009, a contractor cleared gorse using a brush scrub clearer leaving a mulch of bark and woody tissue >2cm deep. A good list of chalk herbs are present including Yellow-wort (<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>), Quaking-grass, Harebell, Carline Thistle (<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>), Dwarf Thistle (<i>Cirsium acaule</i>), an eyebright (<i>Euphrasia</i> spp.), Sheep's Fescue (<i>Festuca ovina</i>), Rock-rose, Horse-shoe Vetch, Rough Hawk-bit, Oxeye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>), Fairy Flax (<i>Linum catharticum</i>), Bird's-foot Trefoil, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Burnet Saxifrage (<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>), Milk-wort (<i>Polygala calcarea</i>), Salad Burnet (<i>Sanguisorbia minor</i>), Small Scabious (<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>) and Thyme (<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>). East Hill fails* ¹ in that the herb cover does not meet condition 5. The gorse here is an important area for Linnet, Yellow-hammer, Stonechat and occasionally Dartford Warbler. Survey 30 July 2008.	Occasional sheep grazing and some rabbit grazing.

¹ * Grassland condition assessment under High Level Stewardship and JNCC Chalk grassland condition assessment.

Appendix 6 WHITE HORSE HILL SSSI SITE REPORT. Prepared by J A Newbould 3 Brookmead Close, Sutton Poyntz, Weymouth DT3 6RS
 Updated: 23 February 2010

Plot	Condition/Type	Plot description	Management
SSSI Cmpt 5. Bowl, west of track to the metal fence above Springhead.	NVC types W23, W24, CG4 both dominant with small areas of CG7. Scrub>20% Course Herbs <5% NE Unfavourable – declining HLS GO4	The upper slopes are dominated by Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) interspersed with Elder and Bramble. The south and west-facing slope has a ground flora of Tor-grass. Surveyed 1 June 2009. Elder frequently has Yellow-hammer. Linnets use the gorse area for breeding. Buzzard and Stonechat frequently seen on the fence. Lower slopes have Adonis Blue during May and early June. Lulworth Skipper is recorded here in late July-August. A good list of chalk herbs are present including Yellow-wort, Quaking-grass, Glaucous Sedge (<i>Carex flacca</i>), Crested Hair-grass (<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>), Carline Thistle, Dwarf Thistle, an eyebright (<i>Euphrasia</i> ssp.), Sheep's Fescue (<i>Festuca ovina</i>), Rock-rose, Horse-shoe Vetch, Rough Hawk-bit, Fairy Flax, Gromwell (<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>), Bird's-foot Trefoil, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Milk-wort (<i>Polygala calcarea</i>), Salad Burnet, Small Scabious, Squinancy-wort (<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>), Carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>) and Thyme. The Springhead grassland fails ² in that the herb cover does not meet condition 5. Bastard Toadflax previously seen here has not been found despite diligent searching.	Occasional sheep grazing and some rabbit grazing. Gorse is burnt occasionally.
SSSI Cmpt 4. Operational area, north of wood	NVC types: W25, MG1, CG4 dominant with small areas of CG7, OV26, W24, W8, OV24. Scrub<5% Course Herbs <5% NE Unfavourable – declining HLS GO4	This is a complex area within the iron fence to which there is very restricted access. In 2003, to prevent undesirable bacteria/viruses spreading from the adjoining land a non-permeable membrane was placed ten inches below the soil surface. It is therefore not possible to perform any management task, which provides entry to the soil. To the south, by the entry gate permeable hard standing has been provided to provision vehicle entry for maintenance and water sampling. Here there is good habitat for the NT ^a (<i>Verbena officinalis</i>). Here adjacent to the engineering works associated with operations are areas of Great-hairy Willow-herb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>) and a nettle bed. Ash and Hazel are rare encroaching from the woodland. Teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>), Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>), Giant Horsetail (<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>) and Hemp Agrimony (<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>) are also common in this area but are typical invasive plants of an operational industrial site.	Annual grassland cut and rake off in the autumn. Survey 22/7/2009. ^a IUCN Category near threatened.

² * Grassland condition assessment under High Level Stewardship and JNCC Chalk grassland condition assessment.

Plot	Condition/Type	Plot description	Management
SSSI Cmpt 4. Operational area Western bank	NVC types: MG1, dominant CG4 with small areas of CG7, Scrub<2% Course Herbs <5%, NE Unfavourable – recovering HLS GO4	East facing slope with Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>) featuring strongly in spring. False Oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>) is the most frequent grass, but is not dominant. Tor-grass grass is only occasional. Vegetation height is to 0.80m. Herbs present on the survey of 22/7/09 included Yellow-wort, Harebell, Glaucous Sedge, lady's Bedstraw, Dove's-foot Cranesbill, Field Scabious (<i>Knaulia arvensis</i>), Meadow Vetchling (<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>), Oxeye Daisy (rare), Gromwell (rare), Bird's-foot Trefoil, Marjoram (<i>Origanum vulgare</i>), Cowslip (<i>Primula veris</i>) and Vervain. Bare ground (exclude operational entrance area <1%)	See above (no activity in 2009).
SSSI Cmpt 4. Operational area north bank	NVC types: CG4, dominant with small areas of CG7 & MG1, Scrub<2% Course Herbs <5%, Bare ground <1% NE Unfavourable – recovering HLS GO4	South facing slope, which was bright yellow with Horseshoe Vetch and small amounts of Bird's-foot Trefoil in May. Adonis Blue present but numbers were difficult to quantify as we could only observe from the wrong side of the fence. Sward Height 0.4m with >30% cover of herbs. Most of the herbs from the west bank were present but also both Hedge and Lady's bedstraw, Common Rock-rose, Ploughman's Spikenard (<i>Inula conyzae</i>), Rough Hawkbit, Burnett Saxifrage, Betony and Devil's-bit (<i>Succisa pratensis</i>). Lulworth Skipper present in July. Recommend favourable	See above (no activity in 2009).
SSSI Cmpt 4. Operational area Eastern bank	NVC types: CG4, dominant Scrub<5% Course Herbs <5%, NE Unfavourable – recovering HLS GO4	This west facing slope receives much less light than the other two banks, partly as a result of its angle to the morning light and shade cast by the wood on the southern margin. Bracken is present, adjacent to the southern wooded stretch at one of the few places where this fern is present in Sutton Poyntz. There are many fewer qualifying herbs here. These include Lady's Bedstraw, Horseshoe Vetch, Oxeye Daisy, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Marjoram and Salad Burnet. Bare ground <1% Bracken <1%. This area of Springhead grassland fails ³ in that the herb cover does not meet condition 5.	See above (no activity in 2009).

³ * Grassland condition assessment under High Level Stewardship and JNCC Chalk grassland condition assessment.

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 Updated: 23 February 2010

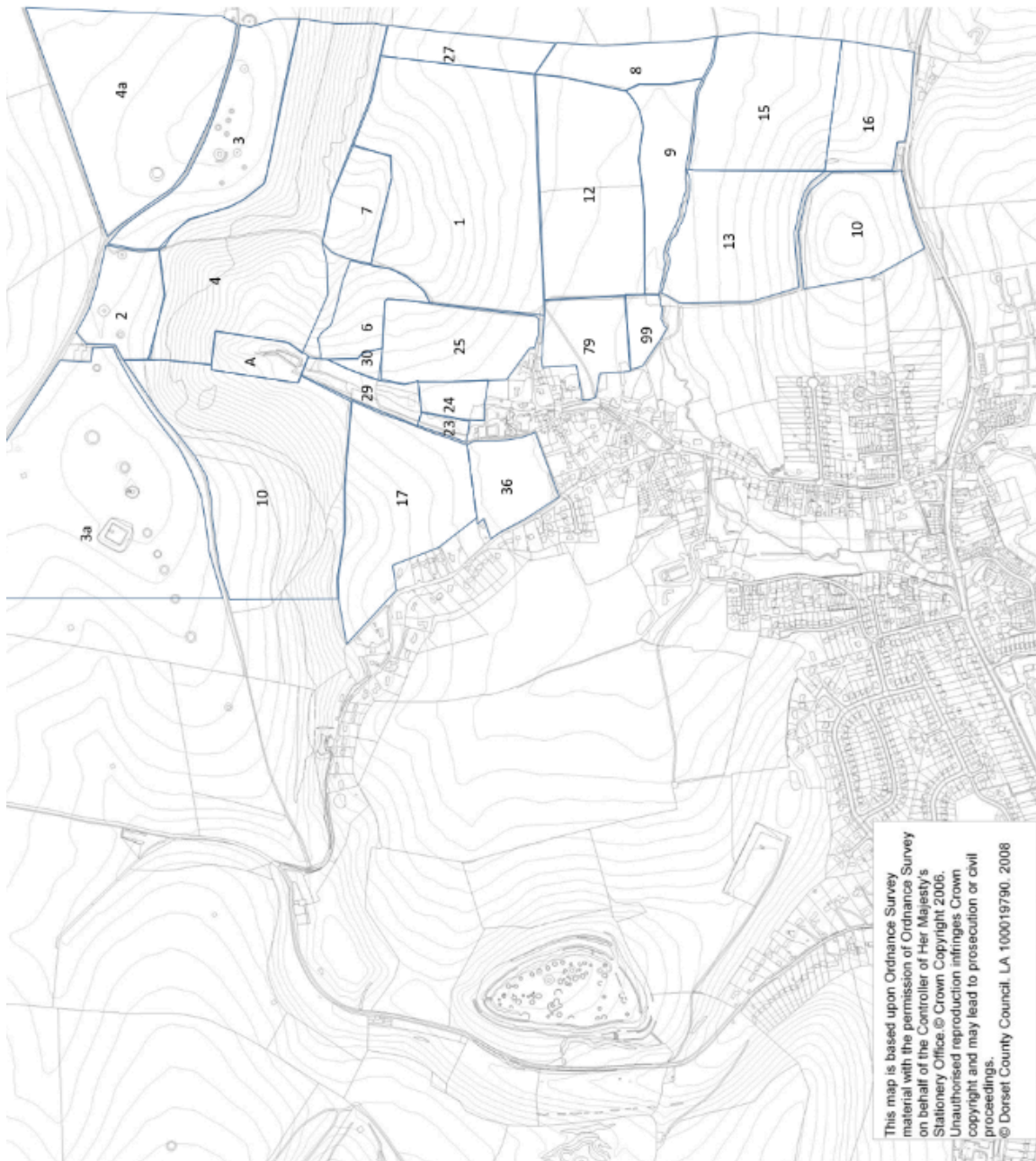
Plot	Condition/Type	Plot description	Management
SSSI Cmppt. 10 (West Hill) Wessex Water land, west of fence. Surveys: 30/7/2008 and 25/5/2009	NVC types: MG1, CG4 dominant with small areas of CG5, CG7, W8 & W22 boundaries W24, New <i>Sambucus nigra-Urtica dioica</i> woodland community. Scrub >20% Course Herbs <5% NE Unfavourable – declining HLS GO4	<p>The upper slopes have a <i>circa</i>. 20% cover of Gorse and Bramble. Elsewhere, there are clumps of Elder (which is hated by rabbits) but support birds such as Linnet and especially Yellowhammer. On the lower slopes are occasional patches of bramble, which have provided shelter for Lulworth Skipper in the past three poor summers. There are numerous anthills indicative of old pasture. There is an old boundary bank running NE from SY705845 marked by uncleared Gorse. The south facing slopes are terraced and there is a considerable amount of 'thatch' in the spring.</p> <p>This is a complex compartment and was surveyed both north and south of the footpath together with the agricultural field on the ridge, which is part of the SSSI. Although the grassland is dominated by Tor-grass, there are small areas of Quacking-grass, Sweet Vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odouratum</i>) Upright Brome (<i>Bromopsis erecta</i>), Spring Sedge (<i>Carex caryophyllaea</i>), Glaucous Sedge, Sheep's Fescue, Dwarf Thistle, Lady's Bedstraw, Rock-rose, Horseshoe Vetch, Oxeye daisy, Vervain, Fairy Flax, Gromwell (rare), Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Burnet Saxifrage, Squinancy-wort, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Hoary Plantain (<i>Plantago media</i>), Early Purple Orchid (<i>Orchis mascula</i>), (13 spikes in Gorse @ SY705845), Wood Violet (<i>Viola riviniana</i>), Hairy Violet (<i>V. hirta</i>), Milkworts (<i>Polygala calcarea</i> and <i>P. vulgaris</i>), Eyebright, Thyme and Salad Burnet. Again this grassland fails**4 in that the herb cover does not meet condition 5. The list is not exhaustive and has been supported by quadrat data in Appendix 7.</p>	Management is a mixture of sheep and pony grazing although both animals preferentially do not choose the hillside. Gorse has been thinned on the upper slopes where it is possible to get machines leaving Tor-grass.

4 * Grassland condition assessment under High Level Stewardship and JNCC Chalk grassland condition assessment.

Plot	Condition/Type	Plot description	Management
SSSI Cmpt. 10 (West Hill) Wessex Water land, west of fence. (continued)	NVC Types W23, MG6, CG4, Scrub<5% Course herbs >5% CG7 HLS GO2	To the south of the Ridgeway footpath is an area of semi-improved grassland. The previous owner sprayed slurry here until 1990 in an effort to control Gorse. Slope here is 5%. During the winter of 2009, ponies heavily grazed this area. The result in late May was a rich colourful mass of Hairy Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus sardos</i>) and Germander Speedwell (<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>) and regrettably later in the summer numerous thistles. However, with removal of encroaching Gorse, the areas to the south, herbs from the chalk grassland are encroaching northwards including Greater Knapweed (<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>) and Strawberry (<i>Fragaria vesca</i>). Rye-grass and White Clover between 10-30% passes. Cover of wild flowers in May 10-30% passes. Bare ground <1% Shrubs <1% passes. Fails condition assessment due to thistle cover.	Sheep and Pony grazing in 2009. Suggest a good mow to rid ground of thistles including top of steeper slope.
SSSI Cmpt 11a "Brake Orchard"	NVC types MG5, MG10, OV24 and W24 HLS GO6	This NE compartment comprises wet woodland and the small meadow "Brake Orchard". Brake Orchard is separated from the wood by a post and wire fence. The western margin is dominated by a wet soft rush pasture where Bugle (<i>Ajuga reptans</i>), Hairy Sedge <i>Carex hirta</i>), Ragged Robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>), Hairy Bird's-foot Trefoil (<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>), Tubular Water-dropwort (<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>), Corky-fruited Water Drop-wort, (<i>O. piminelloides</i>) and Water Mint (<i>Mentha aquatica</i>) are found. Lesser Celandine (<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>) spreads from the wood through the meadow. Meadow Barley (<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>) – a grass of moist heavy soils is present along with Yorkshire Fog, Sweet Vernal-grass, Cuckoo-flower (<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>), Bird's-foot Trefoil, Meadow Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>), Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>) and Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>) [rare]. However, there are many docks present and herb cover is <10% and fails the condition assessment.	Limited sheep and rabbit grazing. Suggest volunteer working party to remove dock and thistles and a good mow.

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 Updated: 23 February 2010

Plot	Condition/Type	Plot description	Management
SSSI Cmpt 12a "Withy Bed"	NVC types S4, W6, W24 HLS W08 Surveyed 23/6/08 and occasionally in 2009	This section excludes the woodland area, to the west of the field known as the Withy Bed, which is considered separately. This area has circa. 60% cover of Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>). However, the River Jordan, which runs through the beds, has a gravel bottom, which is some 0.15m below the soil surface. The reed is therefore not dense, as it requires a good water depth of around 0.15m. Associated with this wet area are plants such as Marsh-marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>), Hemlock Water-dropwort (<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>), Ragged Robin, Water Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>), Giant Horse-tail (<i>Equisitum fluviatile</i>), Water-cress (<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>), Greater Pond-sedge (<i>Carex riparia</i>), Meadow-sweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>) and Water Figwort (<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>). Some of the larger areas of Bramble were cleared in the autumn of 2008 but Grey Willow (<i>Salix cinerea</i>) and on drier ground Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) provides an essential habitat for small breeding birds such as Blackcap. The area does not provide a water table at ground level for most of the year (fails condition assessment 3), but could do so. Scrub cover is now <10%. Reed cover circa. 60%. There is no Himalayan Balsam and other undesirable species are <5%.	Suggestion: A small sluice at the southern end would make this area favourable under W08.
Wessex Water land immediately north of the car park: (Non SSSI) Meadows:	NVC types MG5, MG10, OV24 and W24 HLS GO6, TO2	This meadow is separated from compartment 12a by an earth bank on its north boundary. Generally the meadow gently slopes in a south west direction. The hedges are unmanaged and leaf litter produces a nutrient rich boundary with Stinging Nettle and Cow Parsley. The River Jordan emerges from the wood in the South-west corner, passing after 20m into a right angled turn before going through another earth bank into the waterworks yard. Scrub <0.5% but broad-leaved course species =5%. Sedges including Hairy Sedge, and Oval Sedge (<i>Carex ovalis</i>) are all found in the SW corner along with Marsh Foxtail (<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>). Again , although some herbs such as Crow Garlic (<i>Allium vineale</i>), Meadow Buttercup, Meadow Vetchling (<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>) and Bird's-foot Trefoil are scattered through the meadow, it is on the southern wet portion where much of the botanical interest lies. Here Warter Mint, Corn Mint (<i>Mentha arvensis</i>), Ragged Robin, Yellow Flag, Meadow Barley, Tubular Water-dropwort, Corky-fruited Water Drop-wort, Water Forget-me-not, Meadow sweet and Brooklime (<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>) are found the sward is <15% cover. There are veteran trees on the southern bank.	Limited sheep and rabbit grazing. Suggest volunteer working party to remove dock and thistles and a good mow.



- 3a Old Loynes
- 4a Sand Pit Field
- 3 Ridgeway
- 2 Rat Catchers
- 10 West Hill
- A Spring Basin
- 29 Withy Bed
- 23 Coppice
- 24 Meadows
- 79 Heller's Close
- 99 Little Cowlease
- 17 Old Cowlease
- 36 Court Close
- 25 Cuckoo Park
- 30 Brake Orchard
- 6 Top Eweleaze
- 7 Behind Trough
- 4 East Hill
- 1 Eweleaze
- 27 Higher Corner Close
- 12 Cowleaze
- 9 Water Meadow
- 8 Long Meadow
- 13 Lower Winslow
- 15 Long Kitchen
- 16 Duckham
- 10 Upper Winslow

Appendix 8 Botanical Quadrat Data White Horse Hill SSSI (May 2009)

Worksheet No	SP1	SP1	SP1	SP6	SP8	SP9	SP9	SP9	sP10	SP10	SP10						
Grid Reference	SY7068884151	SY70666684051	SY7064784054	SY7051984503	SY7055884503	SY7043984349	SY7057384376	SY7070984526	SY7038284336	SY7024184335	SY704184345	FREQUENCY	ABUNDANCE RANGE				
<i>Allium vineale</i>	d4											I					
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>			d6									I					
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	d8			d6			d4					II	4-8				
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	d5											I					
<i>Bellis perennis</i>				d3								I					
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>							d1					I					
<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>					d6		d8		d7	d4		II	4-8				
<i>Briza media</i>								d4				I					
<i>Bromopsis erecta</i>						d4				d4		I	4				
<i>Bromus hordeaceus ssp. hordeaceus</i>	d3	d2		d4								II	2-4				
<i>Carex caryophylla</i>						d1	d2	d3				II	1-3				
<i>Carex flacca</i>						d4	d4	d4	D4	D2	D4	IV	2-4				
<i>Carex hirta</i>		d4	d5									I	4-5				
<i>Cerastium diffusum</i>										D1		I					
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>		d1	d3									I	1-3				
<i>Cirsium acaule</i>								d2				I					
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>				d4								I					
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	d4		d4	d4		d4			d4	d2	d4	IV	2-4				
<i>Festuca ovina sens.str.</i>							d4		d4	d7		II	4-7				
<i>Festuca rubra sens.str.</i>			d5	d6			d4	d6				II	4-6				
<i>Filipendula ulmara</i>			d5									I					
<i>Galium verna</i>										d3		I					
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>							d2					I					
<i>Helictotrichon pratense</i>						d5	d6	d4				II	4-6				
<i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i>								d5				I					
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>						d5	d5		d6		d4	II	4-6				
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	d5								d6	d5	d4	II	4-6				
<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>		d4								d4		I	4				
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>		D4	D4									I	4				
<i>Linum catharticum</i>						d3	d3	d3	d2			II	2-3				
<i>Lolium perenne</i>				d4								I					
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	D5								d4			II	4-5				
<i>Luzula campestris</i>							d4					I					
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>			d3									I					
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>			d1									I					
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>								d3	d1	d3		II	1-3				
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>						d1	d2		d1		d1	II	1-2				
<i>Poa pratensis sens.str.</i>							d4			d4		I	4				
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>						d3	d4	d2	d4	d2		III	2-4				
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>		d3										I					
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>			d4									I					
<i>Ranunculus sardous</i>				d5								I					
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>				d3								I					
<i>Rumex crispus</i>		d3										I					
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>		d1										I					
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>										d2		I					
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>								d1		d3		I	1-3				
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>				d4				d4				I	4				
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>				d4								I					
<i>Trifolium repens</i>		d6		d4								I	4-6				
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>				d5								I					
<i>Urtica dioica</i>			d1	d1								I	1				
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>										d2		I					
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	d3			d3				d3				II	3				
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	d3			d1								I	1-3				
<i>Vicia sativa ssp. nigra</i>		d1										I					
Thatch				D6		D6	d4	d4				II	4-6				
Anthill									Pres								

Domin Scale: D1 = single plant; d2 = few individuals, D3 = many individuals. D4 = 4-10% cover, D5=11-25% cover, D6 = 26-33% cover, D7 = 33-50% cover, D8= 51-75% cover, D9= 76-90% cover and D10 = 91-100% cover.

Roman Numeral Frequency (following NVC Convention) I = 1-20%; II = 21-40%; III = 41-60%; IV = 61-80% and V= 81-100% of the samples.

SP1 is from Waterworks Meadow; SP6 from the ridgeway above West Hill; SP8-10 from the slopes of West Hill

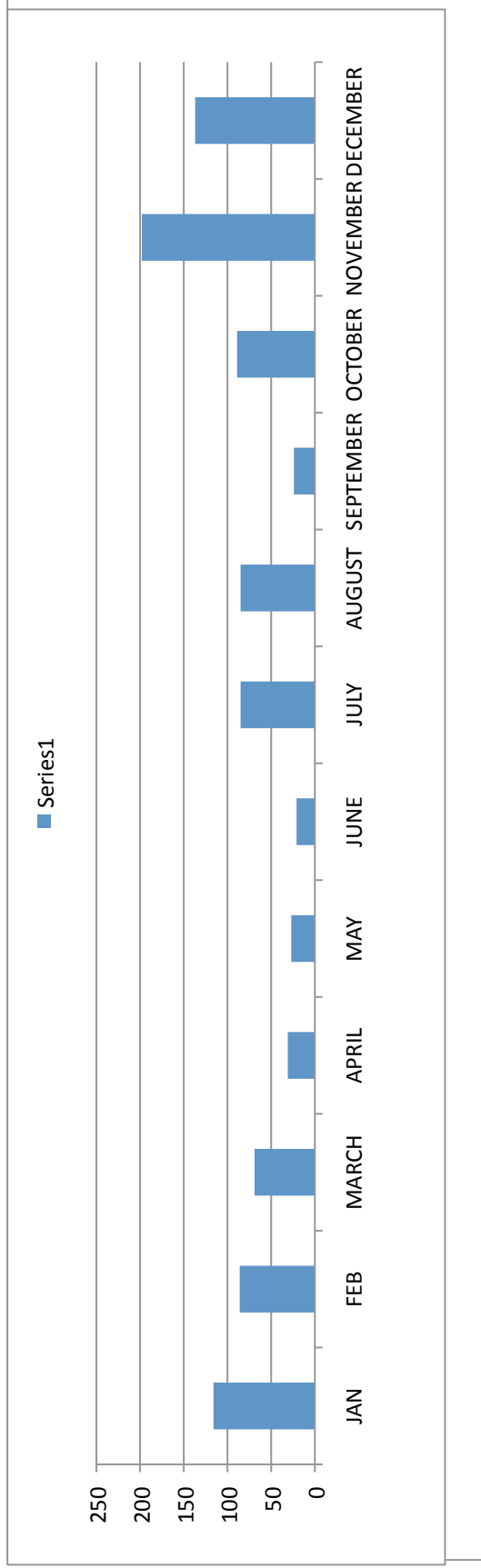
Veteran Trees -Sutton Poyntz

Date	Name of tree	Ref.No	Grid Reference	Place	Girth in m	Diameter in m	Crown Senescence	Standing Dead Wood	Holes in tree	Coplice	Pollard	Standard	Fallen on tree	Rotting wood on tree	Broken Branches	Epicornic Shoots
11-Apr-09	Fraxinous excelsior		SY707038429E	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.00		1			1					
11-Apr-09	Quercus robur		SY707048430C	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.00		1			1					
11-Apr-09	Salix fragilis		SY706858427E	Sutton Poyntz WW		2.00					1					
11-Apr-09	Fraxinous excelsior		SY706388420E	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.50		1		1					1	
11-Apr-09	Fraxinous excelsior		SY7062284167	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.05		1		1					1	
11-Apr-09	Fraxinous excelsior		SY7062284167	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.50		1		1					1	
11-Apr-09	Fraxinous excelsior		SY7061084113	Sutton Poyntz WW	0.00	1.50		1		1					1	
11-Apr-09	Acer campestre		SY7059484077	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.00				1					1	
11-Apr-09	Acer campestre		SY7062884054	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.60		1		1					1	
11-Apr-09	Quercus robur		SY706008407E	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.50					1					
11-Apr-09	Quercus robur		SY706128401E	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.00						1				
11-Apr-09	Quercus robur		SY706128401E	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.50				1						
11-Apr-09	Quercus robur		SY706228412E	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.10					1					
11-Apr-09	Fraxinous excelsior		SY7068184247	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.10				1						
11-Apr-09	Fraxinous excelsior		SY706518421E	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.30				1						
11-Apr-09	Quercus robur		SY7070984321	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.70		1		1					1	
11-Apr-09	Acer campestre		SY707428434E	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.40					1					
11-Apr-09	Acer campestre		SY707298437E	Sutton Poyntz WW		0.80				1						
11-Apr-09	Acer campestre		SY706428402E	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.40				1						
11-Apr-09	Crataegus monogyna		SY706508403E	Sutton Poyntz WW		0.70					1					
11-Apr-09	Quercus robur		SY707048430C	Sutton Poyntz WW		1.00					1					

2009 rainfall figures, 86 Sutton Rd

Appendix 10

JAN	116
FEB	86
MARCH	69
APRIL	31
MAY	27
JUNE	21
JULY	85 9 days rain
AUGUST	85 9 days rain 46ml 1 day 19ml 1 day
SEPTEMBER	24
OCTOBER	89
NOVEMBER	198 30mm fell on November 28 after 2.00pm.
DECEMBER	137





Ringlet Butterfly © Janet Craig 2009



Lapwing © Bill Eggerton 2009.



Tor-grass on West Hill © John Newbould 2009



Autumn Ladies Tresses
© John Newbould 2009



Yellowhammer © Janet Craig



Honey Fungus on rotting wood
© John Newbould 2009

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Thank you to Tony Heathershaw
for proof reading

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photographs.



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Centre