

AN ECOLOGICAL SURVEY
of
LAND WEST OF SOUTHILL,
WEYMOUTH [WEY15]

for
Dorset Council
September 2021

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SUMMARY

- This report forms part of a suite of ecological surveys commissioned by Dorset Council's Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Teams. Together the survey reports form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan, containing extended Phase 1 survey information for the potential allocated sites, highlighting important habitats and the likelihood of protected species being present.

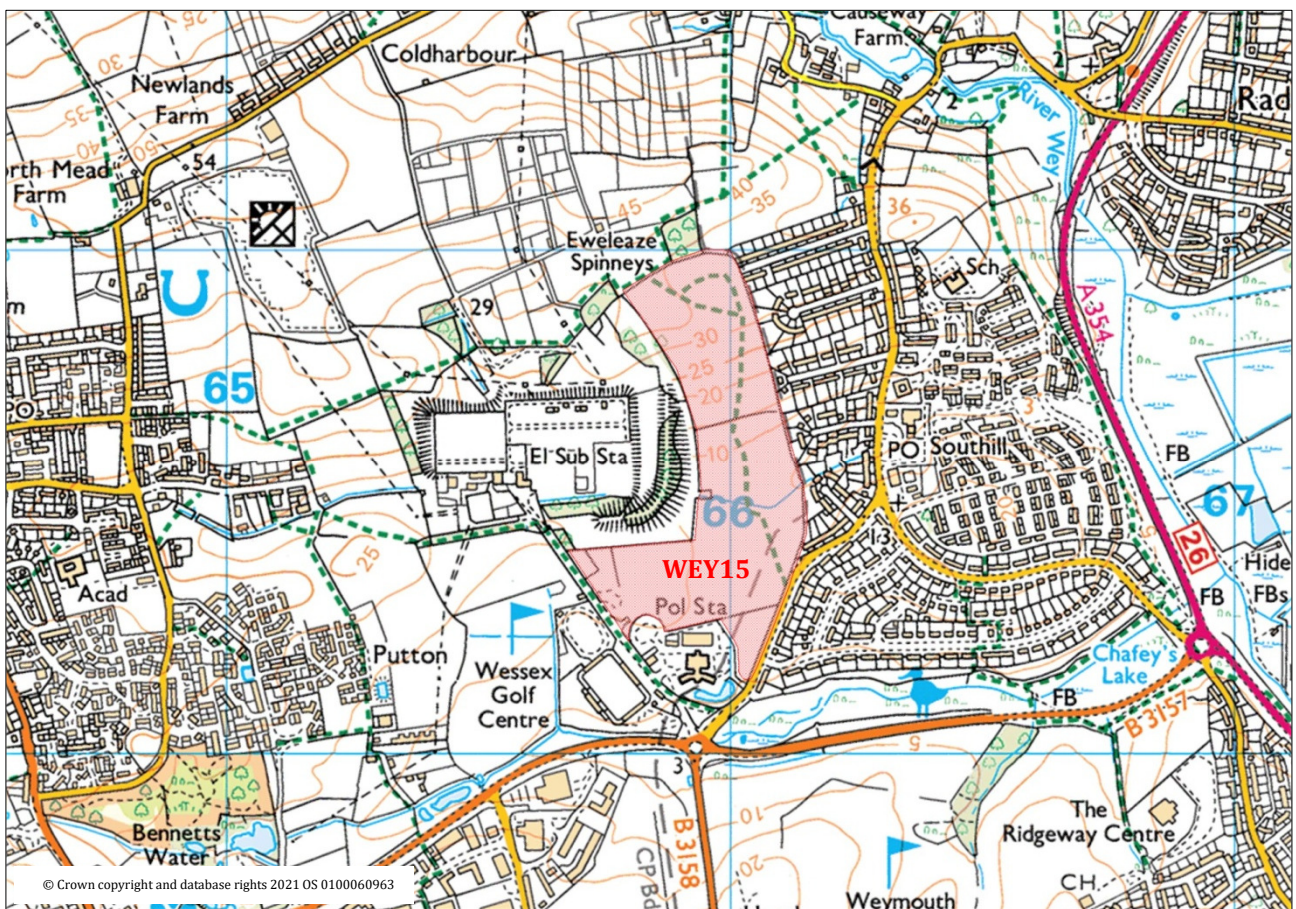
- The site comprises four fields of varying size some of which have been cultivated in the recent past but now support species-poor grassland which a flora typical of disturbed, calcareous clay soils. The fields are currently of **low ecological interest**, apart from the two wet areas that support a more varied flora.

- The fields are divided by mature hedgerows and in places fringed by a band of Blackthorn scrub. The older, established hedgerows qualify as **Priority Habitat** and **habitat of principal importance** under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report forms part of a suite of ecological surveys commissioned by Dorset Council's Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Teams. Together the survey reports form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan, containing extended Phase 1 survey information for the potential allocated sites, highlighting important habitats and the likelihood of protected species being present. The surveys have been carried out by Dorset Environmental Records Centre who are working with Dorset Council to ensure that ecological data for the Local Plan process is as up-to-date as possible.

MAP 1. Site location



2.0 METHODS

The survey was undertaken on the 2nd August 2021 in fine weather. The area was walked and a plant species list compiled with frequencies assigned to each species using the DAFOR scale¹. Particular attention was paid to the presence of any Section 41 or Red Listed species, and any that are on the Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) lists of Dorset Notable species (DERC, 2012). Habitats present were assessed for their potential to support protected species (see Section 6.1), and visible signs for Badger such as setts, latrines and paths were looked for. Each habitat type present and any species or features of particular note were described using target notes (see Section 5.2.2).

A habitat map was produced in the field by drawing boundaries of the different vegetation types over a print out of the latest aerial photograph. This was then digitized using DERCs Integrated Habitat System (IHS) mapping process.

The sites are assessed for their ecological interest at the time of the survey (see Section 6.0). Those sites assessed as being of **Low Ecological Interest** have very little interest and are generally improved grasslands or arable fields. Those of **Moderate Ecological Interest** may support some interest such as one or more Dorset Notable plant species, but do not qualify as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). Those of **High Ecological Interest** are of SNCI quality and are therefore an important wildlife site within a county context.

Nomenclature for plants follows Stace (2019).

The DAFOR scale records species according their abundance as follows:

D = Dominant; **A** = Abundant; **F** = Frequent; **O** = Occasional; **R** = Rare; **L** = Local (e.g. **LF** = Locally Frequent)

3.0 LEGISLATION & POLICY

3.1 LEGISLATION

The following legislation may be of relevance to the proposed works. Full details of statutory obligations with respect to biodiversity and the planning system can be found in DCLG Circular 06/2005.

- **The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019:**

This transposes the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) into domestic law and ensures that the habitat and species protection and standards will continue to apply upon the UK's exit from the EU. The Regulations provide protection for a number of species including:

- All species of bat
- Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)
- Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*).

This legislation makes it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or injure individuals of these species listed on Schedule 2 and damage or destroy their breeding site or place of shelter. It is also illegal to deliberately disturb these species in such a way as to be likely to significantly affect: (i) the ability of any significant group of the species to survive, breed or rear or nurture their young; or (ii) the local distribution or abundance of the species.

This legal protection means that where development has the potential to impact on bats, or other species of national interest, the results of a protected species survey must be submitted with a planning application.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are also protected under this legislation. These are a network of sites designated for supporting habitats or species of high nature conservation importance in the European context. Any activity that has a detrimental effect on these European sites³ is made an offence under the Regulations. Where a development is likely to have a significant impact on a European site, the Regulations require a rigorous assessment of the impacts, known as an Appropriate Assessment.

- **The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments):**

Protected fauna and flora are listed under Schedules 1, 5 & 8 of the Act. Species likely to be of relevance include:

- All species of **bat**. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any bat whilst it is occupying a roost or to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost
- All species of **British reptile** (in particular grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*)). It is illegal to kill or injure these species
- **Great crested newt**. It is illegal to obstruct access to any structure or place which great crested newts use for shelter or protection or to disturb any great crested newt while it is using such a place.

This Act also makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or to take, damage or destroy their eggs and nests (whilst in use or being built). In addition, it is an offence to disturb any nesting bird listed on Schedule 1 or their young.

Schedule 9 of the Act lists those species for which it is an offence to plant or cause their spread. Species listed under Schedule 9 that are most likely to be encountered are Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. These are a network of sites identified as being of national nature conservation importance and hence afforded legal protection.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are also protected under the Act (section 35 (1)) and established under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These are nature reserves which are considered to be of national importance by the relevant statutory bodies i.e. Natural England, Natural resource Wales.

- **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006:**

This Act enforces a duty on the planning authority and local council to conserve biodiversity (section 40). Additionally, section 41 encourages the local councils to be aware of the species and habitats of 'principal importance' and to act accordingly to protect and manage these habitats and species.

- **The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:**

This Act strengthens nature conservation and wildlife protection through a number of mechanisms. It places a duty on Government Ministers and Departments to conserve biological diversity, provides police with stronger powers relating to wildlife crimes, and improves protection and management of SSSIs.

- **The Protection of Badgers Act 1992:**

This Act makes it an offence to wilfully take, injure or kill a badger (*Meles meles*); cruelly mistreat a badger; interfere with badger setts, sell or possess a live badger; mark or ring a badger. A licence is required for work affecting badgers and their setts.

- **Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996:**

This Act provides protection for all wild animals from intentional acts of cruelty.

- **Hedgerow Regulations 1997:**

These Regulations establish a set of criteria for assessing the importance of hedgerows. Where a hedgerow is deemed to be 'important' its removal is prohibited without consent from the local Planning Authority.

3.2 POLICY

The following policy is of relevance to this report:

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):**

This sets out the Government's vision for biodiversity in England with the broad aim that planning, construction, development and regeneration should maintain and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. NPPF (2018) includes sections on legally protected species and sites (see Section 2.1).

- **Local Sites (including Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), and Biological Notification Sites (BNSs)/County Wildlife Sites (CWSs)):**

These are a network of sites designated for their nature conservation importance in a local context. Although they are not afforded legal protection they contribute towards local and national biodiversity.

- **Natural England Protected Species Standing Advice:**

The standing advice is used by local authorities as a fall-back position when in pre-application consultation or during the determination period to define habitat and species survey efforts and mitigation proposals.

4.0 EXISTING DATA

The following summary is based on the desk study carried out by DERC for Dorset Council covering the Local Plan Emerging Site Allocations (DERC 2020). The species records are based on post-2010 data.

4.1 PROTECTED SPECIES

Species	Status	Distance from site
Bats	EPS; WCA	Within 1-km
Badger	WCA	Within 1-km
Dormouse	S41; EPS; WCA	Within 1-km
Otter	EPS; WCA	Within 1-km
Water Vole	S41; WCA	Within 1-km
Brown Hare	S41	-
Hedgehog	S41	Within 1-km
Great Crested Newt	EPS; S41	Within 1-km
Reptiles	S41; WCA	-

4.2 PROTECTED HABITATS

Reedbeds – Section 41; UK Priority Habitat 100 metres to the southeast

4.3 PROTECTED SITES

Radipole Lake Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) 40 metres to the south

Crookhill Brick Pit Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 1.3 kilometres to the west

Crookhill Brick Pit Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) 1.3 kilometres to the west

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site lies between Southill with Chickerell to the west and comprises four fields of varying size sloping south from Eweleaze Spinneys in the north of the site. The area overlies the Kellaway Beds, a calcareous mudstone with Conbrash towards the top of the slope, the resulting soils are clayey with several damp areas and springs present, plus a flowing ditch which was still wet at the time of the survey. The fields have been used for agricultural, and aerial photographs show they have been cultivated in the past but were grassland at the time of the survey, and although ungrazed most areas had been topped. Several footpaths cross the site and are regularly used by dog walkers.

5.2 HABITAT DESCRIPTION

Species-poor grassland

Much of the area is species-poor grassland with a flora typical of clay soils with a slight calcareous influence. Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* is the dominant grass over large areas with Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* all locally prominent. Herbs are not particularly diverse, Bristly Ox-tongue *Helminthotheca echioides* is most abundant and locally dominant particularly in the larger northern field. Typical associated species include scattered plants or patches of Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium*, Hoary Ragwort *Jacobaea erucifolia* and Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*. Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, White Clover *Trifolium repens* and Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* are present locally, usually where the sward is shorter and less coarse towards the edges. Other species recorded in small quantity include Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Red Bartsia *Odontites vernus* and Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*.

Marshy grassland & wet tall herb

There are two areas where the ground is wet and wetland vegetation has developed. Creeping Bent, Tall Fescue *Schedonerus arundinaceus*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Soft Rush *J. effusus*, Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Glaucous Sedge *C. flacca* and False Fox-sedge *C. otrubae* are present. In one field there are small stands of Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Common Spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, Glaucous Bulrush *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* and Sea Club-rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus*. The last two are of particular interest as they are more usually associated with brackish situations.

The other area is best described as wet tall-herb with extensive stands of Greater Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata* and abundant Hedge Bindweed. Other species present include Marsh Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, Marsh Woundwort *Stachys palustris*, and Common Fleabane, Hard Rush and False Fox-sedge *Carex otrubae*.

Hedgerows & Scrub

There several mature hedgerows on site which, through lack of management, have recently grown out into the fields and are much wider than is typical. The older trees and shrubs in the hedge include Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, English Elm *Ulmus procera*, Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*, Almond Willow *Salix triandra* and Osier *Salix viminalis*. Either side of the central band is a more recent strip of dense Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* with scattered Dog Rose *Rosa canina* and abundant Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* along the margins. Beneath the dense parts of the hedge there are few species apart from abundant Ivy *Hedera helix* which tolerates the shade, a few clumps of Stinking Iris *Iris foetidissima* were noted in places. Other species present along the margins include Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Stone Parsley *Sison amomum* and Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*.

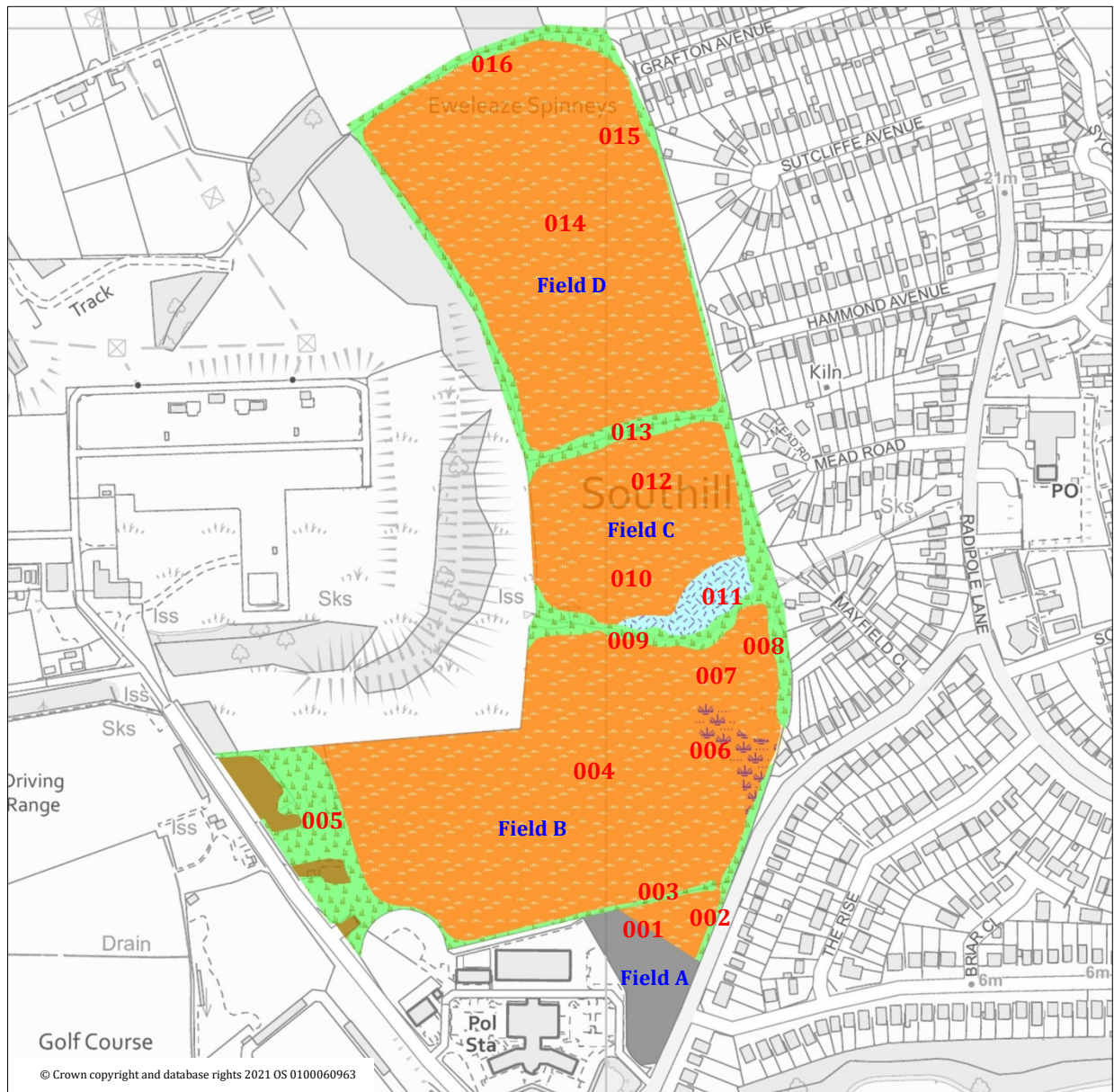
There is a more recent stand of scrub in the southwest of the site adjoining the road to the Electric Substation which has been partially cleared. It is Bramble dominated with scattered bushes of Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Grey Willow and Buddleja *Buddleja davidii*.

The older, established hedgerows qualify as Priority Habitat and Section 41 Habitat of Principal Conservation Importance in supporting one native woody species over 90% of their length.

5.2.1 Habitat map



5.2.2 Target notes



No.	Grid Ref	Target Note
001	SY6605 8026	Field A. Southernmost field, partly being developed. Species-poor grassland dominated by Creeping Bent with frequent Yorkshire Fog and occasional Cock's-foot and Tufted Hair-grass. Herbs are few apart from Creeping Cinquefoil, Bristly Ox-tongue, Hoary Ragwort and Common Fleabane, with a few plants of Wild Carrot and Creeping Thistle. Along the northern margin Stone Parsley is locally frequent.
002	SY6608 8025	Field A. Eastern margin of field with a band of Blackthorn scrub with a few small English Elm grown up from suckers; Bramble is frequent at the margins.

No.	Grid Ref	Target Note
003	SY6603 8028	Hedge between fields A and B. Blackthorn dominates with small quantities of Hawthorn, Wild Privet, English Elm and Common Gorse, with frequent Bramble and rare Dog Rose at the margins. Ivy dominates the ground flora with Cow Parsley, Hogweed, Cleavers and Hedge Bindweed along the edges.
004	SY6596 8034	Field B. Large field, most of the fields is dominated by species-poor grassland which has been topped. Creeping Bent dominates with Perennial Rye-grass locally abundant and more scattered Yorkshire Fog, Cock's-foot and False Oat-grass. Bristly Ox-tongue is the most prominent herb and is locally abundant through the centre of the field, White Clover and Common Fleabane are locally frequent. Other species are mainly present in small quantity including Creeping Cinquefoil, Common Sorrel, Wild Carrot, Hedge Bindweed, Creeping Thistle, and Hoary Ragwort.
006	SY6575 8034	Field B. Area of scrub in west of field which had been partially cut / cleared at the time of the survey. Bramble dominated with scattered bushes of Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Elder and Grey Willow plus frequent Buddleja. There are stands of dense Greater Willowherb in places. Being next to the road there a number of garden plants present from rubbish that has been dumped.
006	SY6610 8041	Field B. Wet areas around springs with quite a varied flora. Creeping Bent is locally abundant with Hard Rush, Soft Rush, Glaucous Sedge and Tall Fescue, plus small stands of Common Reed, Common Spike-rush and most notably Sea Club-rush the latter with scattered plants of Glaucous Bulrush. Herbs include dense stands of Hairy Willowherb plus Common Fleabane, Hemlock Water-dropwort and Creeping Cinquefoil. There are two small Grey Willow trees.
007	SY6611 8046	Field B. North-eastern part of field which, looking at the aerial photos, has not been cultivated as much as the rest. The coarse sward comprises Creeping Bent, Yorkshire Fog and Red Fescue with smaller quantities of Tall Fescue and Cock's-foot. Herbs include abundant Creeping Cinquefoil plus Meadow Buttercup, White Clover, Red Clover and Bristly Oxtongue. Other species present in small quantity include Bird's-foot-trefoil, Tufted Vetch, Agrimony, Common Sorrel, Hogweed, Selfheal and Common Fleabane.
008	SY6614 8044	Field B. Eastern margin of field. A dense band of Blackthorn with scattered English Elm and rare Common Gorse.
009	SY6606 8049	Hedge between fields B and C. The hedge here is much wider than formerly and there is a ditch running west through the centre which was still flowing at the time of the survey. The centre of the hedge has some older trees and shrubs with Ash, Hawthorn, English Elm, Almond Willow and Common Osier. Either side of this is a thin band of dense Blackthorn and dense patches of Bramble. It widens to a stands of dense scrub at the eastern end. The centre of the hedge is shaded with abundant Ivy plus scattered clumps of Pendulous Sedge.
010	SY6604 8054	Field C. Southern part of field which, looking at the aerial photos, has not been cultivated as much as the rest. Creeping Bent and Perennial Rye-grass are both abundant with frequent Yorkshire Fog, Cock's-foot and Sweet Vernal Grass. Herbs include abundant Creeping Cinquefoil and frequent Ribwort Plantain and locally frequent Hogweed. Other species present include Common Sorrel, Hedge Bindweed, Field Bindweed, Agrimony, Silverweed, Wild Carrot, Bristly Oxtongue and Common Fleabane.

No.	Grid Ref	Target Note
011	SY6609 8053	Field C. Wet tall herb area in the southeast part of the field which had been topped prior to the survey. There are dense stands of Hoary Willowherb and Hemlock Water-dropwort with Hedge Bindweed abundant. Other species present include Field Horsetail, Hairy Sedge, False Fox-sedge, Hard Rush, Creeping Bent, Yorkshire Fog, Common Comfrey and Marsh Woundwort.
012	SY6602 8061	Field C. Northern part of field is very similar to large areas of Fields B and D with Creeping Bent and Bristly Oxtongue dominating over much of the area. The sward also has locally frequent Perennial Rye-grass, occasional Cock's-foot, Yorkshire Fog and rare Tufted Hair-grass. Other herbs include locally abundant Creeping Cinquefoil, occasional Hedge Bindweed, Hoary Ragwort and Common Fleabane and rare Wild Carrot and Spear Carrot.
013	SY6602 8067	Hedge between fields C and D. Blackthorn dominates with occasional Hawthorn, Elder and suckering English Elm; there is one Sycamore tree in the eastern part. Bramble is abundant at the hedge margins. The shady understory is dominated by Ivy with few other species present apart from Cuckoo Pint and several clumps of Stinking Iris. At the hedge margins Stinging Nettle is locally frequent, with Ground Ivy, Cleavers, Hogweed, Hedge Bindweed, Wood Dock, False Oat-grass and Common Couch.
014	SY6596 8082	Field D. Larger northern field sloping up to Eweleaze Spinneys. The vast majority of this field is dominated by Creeping Bent and Bristly Oxtongue with few other species attaining any significant abundance. Other grasses present include Yorkshire Fog and Cock's-foot with Perennial Rye-grass locally abundant in shorter grassier areas around the edge. False Oat-grass is frequent at the margins. Apart from Bristly Oxtongue herbs are not particularly diverse with patchy White Clover, Black Medick, Field Bindweed, Hedge bindweed, Creeping Cinquefoil, Wild Carrot and Common Fleabane, with more scattered Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Smooth Hawk's-beard and Hoary Ragwort.
015	SY6603 8091	Field D. Western edge of field has abundant Blackthorn with small quantities of Hawthorn, Elder and Dog Rose, with Bramble abundant at the margins. Adjoining tall grassland with abundant False Oat-grass has Cow Parsley, Cleavers, Stinging Nettle and in several places Stone Parsley.
016	SY6587 8095	Field D. Northern edge of field. In the short grassland at the edge of the field a few plants of Bird's-foot-trefoil and scattered patches of Red Bartsia are present, plus two plants of Chicory. These species were not noted elsewhere in the field. The thick hedge is dominated in places by Blackthorn, with English Elm abundant in the western half, Hawthorn, Grey Willow and Ash are also present. At the margins Bramble is abundant and there are several small stands of Greater Willowherb.

6.0 ASSESSMENT

The fields have mostly been improved and cultivated in the past and currently of **low ecological interest**, except for the two wet areas which support several local plant species. No Section 41 or Red Listed species were recorded.

The older overgrown hedgerows qualify as **Priority Habitat** and **Section 41 Habitat of Principal Conservation Importance** providing potential habitat for breeding birds and Dormouse, and flight lines and foraging habitat for bats.

6.1 PROTECTED SPECIES ASSESSMENT

A specific survey for protected species was not undertaken. The following table summarises the potential of the habitats present on the site to support protected species.

Species	Status	Habitat Potential	Future survey
Badger	WCA	No setts or latrines noted. Several animal tracks seen running through site, none could be confirmed as Badger.	
Bats	EPS; WCA	No mature trees on site, but the thick hedgerows and mature scrub provide suitable edge habitat for foraging bats.	Survey required
Dormouse	S41; EPS; WCA	The thick hedgerows and mature dense scrub may support this species	Survey required
Otter	EPS; WCA	No suitable habitat on site.	
Water Vole	S41; WCA	No suitable habitat on site.	
Brown Hare	S41	Not seen.	
Hedgehog	S41	Suitable habitat in the scrub and thick hedgerows.	
Great Crested Newt	EPS; S41	No ponds on site and very little permanent water.	
Reptiles	S41; WCA	Suitable habitat for Slow Worm and Common Lizard around the margins of the site, also possibly Grass Snake in the wetter areas.	Survey required
Breeding birds	WCA	The thick, mature hedgerows and dense scrub provides ideal habitat for a range of breeding birds.	

REFERENCES

DERC 2012 *Dorset Notable Species Lists*. Dorset Environmental Records Centre, Dorchester

DERC 2020 *Local Plan Emerging Site Allocations: Ecological Data*. [Unpublished report for Dorset Council]

Stace, C.A. 2019 *New Flora of the British Isles* (4th Ed). C & M Floristics, Suffolk.

APPENDIX I:

Plant species recorded 2nd August 2021

Species	Common Name	Frequency
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	R
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	R
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	O
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	A - LD
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild Onion	R
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	O
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	F-LA
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo Pint	O
<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	Sea Club-rush	R
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleja	R-O
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	F-LA
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	R
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	R-LF
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False Fox-sedge	R
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	R
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	R
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	O
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	O
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	R
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	F
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	O-LF
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	O
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	O
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Greater Willowherb	O-LA
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	R
<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	Canadian Fleabane	O
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue	O
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	O
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	R
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy	R
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	R-LA
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	O
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	F
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Square-stalked St John's-wort	R
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris	R
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris	R

Species	Common Name	Frequency
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	R
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil	R
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Marsh Bird's-foot-trefoil	R
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed	R
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	R-O
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red Bartsia	R
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort	R-LA
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	R-LA
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	F-LA
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	O-LA
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	LA
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane	F
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	F-LA
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	O
<i>Salix triandra</i>	Almond Willow	R
<i>Salix viminalis</i>	Osier	R
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	O
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	Glaucous Bulrush	R
<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort	O-LF
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	O
<i>Stachys palustris</i>	Marsh Woundwort	R
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O-LF
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	O
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Greater Reedmace	R
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm	O-LF
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	R
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	R

D = Dominant; **A** = Abundant; **F** = Frequent; **O** = Occasional; **R** = Rare; **L** = Local (e.g. **LF** = Locally Frequent)

APPENDIX II:

Invertebrate species recorded 2nd August 2021

Species	Common Name
Butterflies	
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral
<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock
<i>Melanargia galathea serena</i>	Marbled White
<i>Pyronia tithonus britanniae</i>	Hedge Brown
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown
Orthoptera	
<i>Conocephalus fuscus</i>	Long-winged Conehead
<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	Great Green Bush-cricket
<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>	Roesel's Bush-cricket
<i>Pholidoptera griseoaptera</i>	Dark Bush-cricket
<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	Common Field Grasshopper
<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	Meadow Grasshopper
<i>Chorthippus albomarginatus</i>	Lesser Marsh Grasshopper
Hymenoptera	
<i>Andrena flavipes</i>	Yellow-legged Mining Bee
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Western Honey Bee
<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Red-tailed Bumble Bee
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Common Carder Bee

APPENDIX III:



FIG 1. Field B, SY6583 8031
Species-poor grassland which has been topped



FIG 2. Field D, SY6602 8079
Species-poor grassland typical of the fields dominated by Creeping Bent with abundant Bristly Oxtongue



FIG 3. Field B, SY6610 8040
Wet area with stand of Sea Club-rush (dark green) in the foreground.



FIG 4. Field B, SY6605 8053
Wet tall herb area that had been topped. Greater Willowherb, Hemlock Water-dropwort and Hedge bindweed are abundant.



FIG 5. Field A, SY6604 8028
Hedge between fields A & B. Mature shrubs with Bramble abundant at the margins.



FIG 6. Field B, SY6602 8049
Hedge between B and C with large stand of Greater Willowherb.