

**URBAN WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND STEPPING STONES  
WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH**

Report for Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

by *Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

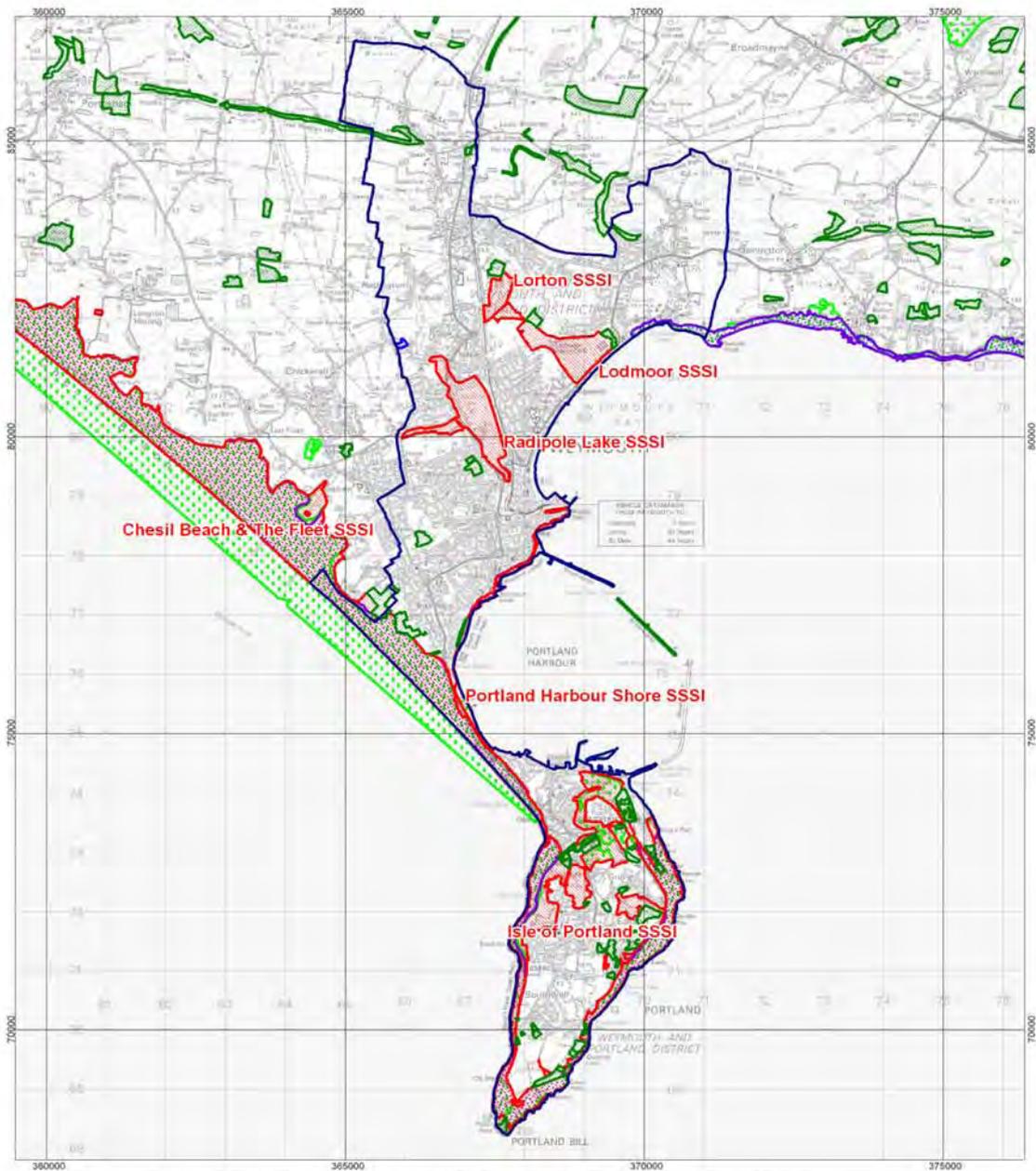
Updated report  
September 2010





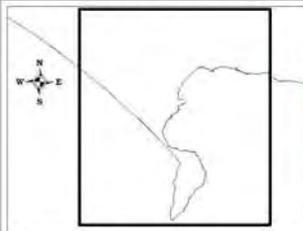
## Contents

	Page
Introduction	4
Key Wildlife Sites	6
Scope of the report	8
Status codes	8
Important North-South Corridors and Stepping Stones	
River Wey Flood Plain Corridor	10
Lorton Valley Corridor	14
Railway Corridor	20
Fleet Hinterland Corridor	22
Rodwell Trail Corridor	24
River Jordan Floodplain Corridor	28
Important East-West Corridors and Stepping Stones	
Bowleaze Gap Corridor	32
Lorton Farm Lane Corridor	34
Weymouth Way Corridor	35
Weymouth Golf Course Corridor and Stepping Stone	38
Fleet to Little Francis Corridor and Stepping Stone	40
Portland West Corridors	44
References and data sources	46
Appendix 1	48
Bird surveys of 'Fleet to Little Francis' and 'Wyke Oliver Farm gap'; two natural corridors in Weymouth.	
Appendix 2	65
Bat survey at Weymouth, Fleet to Little Francis.	
Appendix 3	75
Report on surveys for spring birds and other wildlife.	



**Weymouth and Portland - Key wildlife sites for bird migrations**

Scale 1:90000



- Key:
- Weymouth & Portland Borough boundary
  - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
  - World Heritage Site - Jurassic Coast

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. © Dorset County Council, L.A. 100018798, 2010.



Environmental Services  
County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

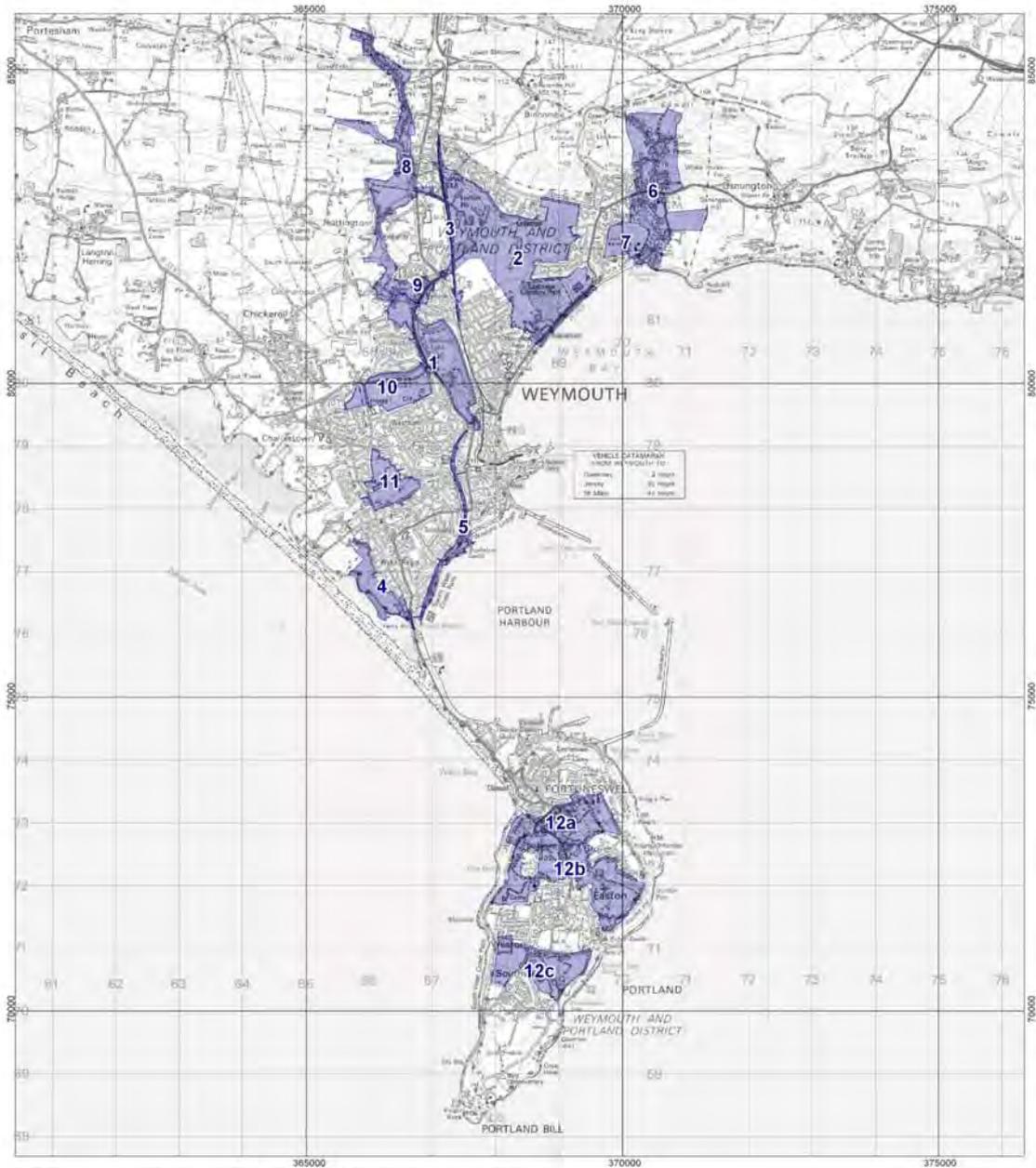
*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Introduction

Weymouth & Portland Borough is predominantly an urban area but it also includes an unusually high proportion of land designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), including three Special Areas of Conservation and key sections of the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site. The designated areas include the extensive, internationally important, limestone and coastal habitats of the Isle of Portland, the wetlands of Radipole Lake and the Lodmoor, and the Lorton Valley complex of semi-natural habitats. Weymouth and Portland also lies on one of the UK's major bird migration routes. Each spring many thousands of birds make landfall on Portland and then disperse northwards through the borough. The area is equally important for the autumn migration. The wetlands of the Fleet, Radipole Lake and Lodmoor represent significant feeding sites for these migratory birds.

Although the borough includes a large number of significant wildlife **sites** these are relatively isolated from each other and from the wider countryside by urban development. Identifying, protecting and enhancing the remaining **wildlife corridors** and **stepping stone** habitats is considered essential to the maintenance of biodiversity within the borough and is likely to be important for maintaining the migratory bird routes.

This report provides a provisional assessment of the existing wildlife corridors and key stepping stone sites. Data has been collated by Dorset Environmental Records Centre. Comments and recommendations have been provided by Dorset Wildlife Trust and Natural England.



**Weymouth and Portland Wildlife Corridors** Scale 1:85000

**Key:**

Wildlife corridor

This map is based upon OS's 2000 Survey National Grid with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

© Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or other proceedings.

© Dorset County Council, LA 10019750 3/10

Environmental Services  
County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

**Dorset Environmental Records Centre**

## **Key Wildlife Sites**

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI).

Sites of particular importance to the bird migration and site connectivity include the Isle of Portland SSSIs (particularly East and West Weares and the quarries), Chesil and the Fleet SSSI, Portland Harbour (including Ham Beach), Portland Harbour Shore SSSI, Radipole Lake SSSI, Lodmoor SSSI and Lorton SSSI. There are also several Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) within the borough. **All these sites will also function as wildlife corridors and stepping stones.**

The key wildlife corridors that have been identified are:

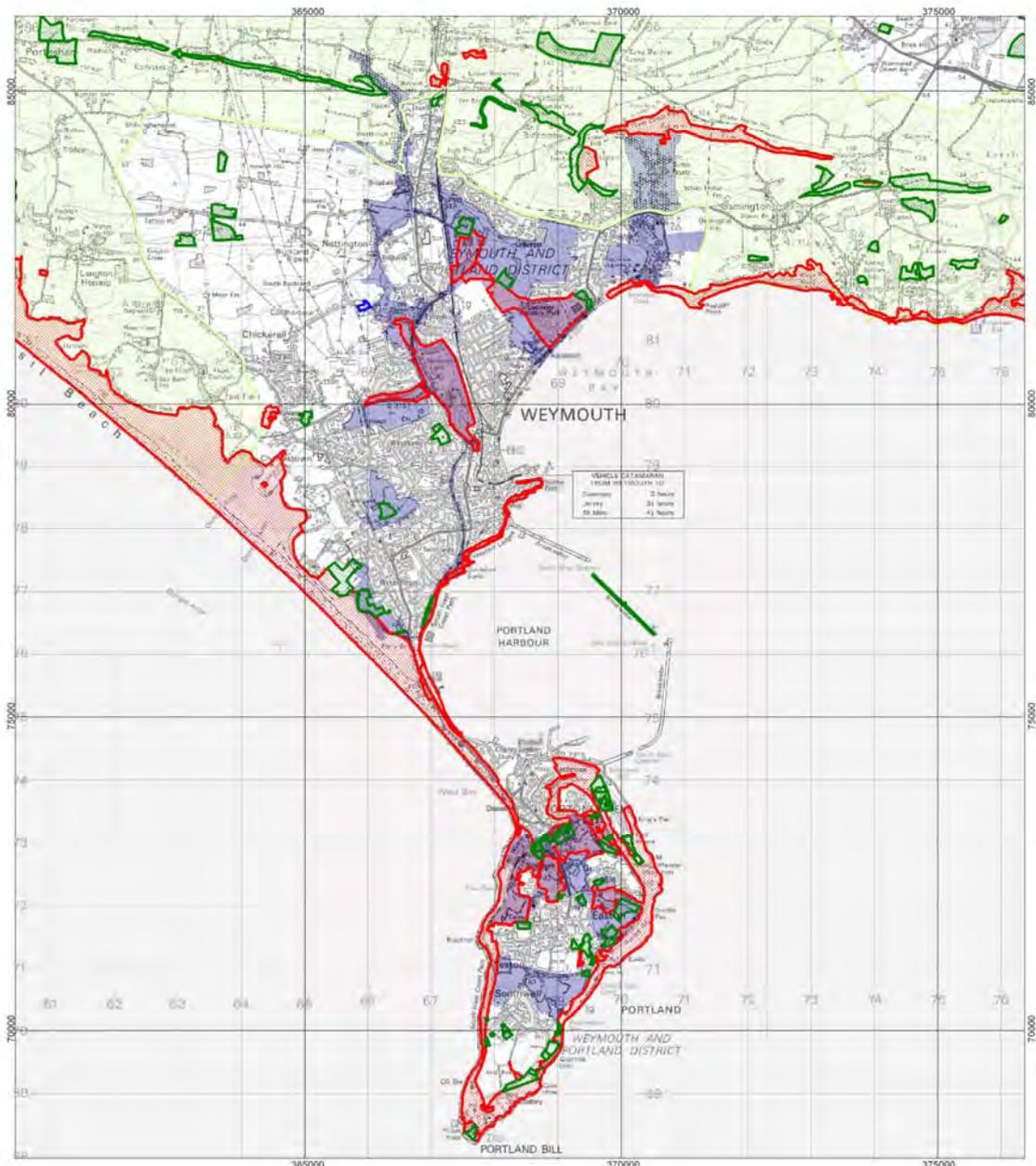
### **Important North-South Corridors**

1. River Wey Flood Plain Corridor (including Radipole Lake)
2. Lorton Valley Corridor (including Lodmoor SSSI and Lorton SSSI)
3. Railway Corridor
4. Fleet Hinterland Corridor
5. Rodwell Trail Corridor
6. River Jordan Floodplain Corridor

### **Important East-West Corridors**

7. Bowleaze Gap Corridor
8. Lorton Farm Lane Corridor
9. Weymouth Way Corridor
10. Weymouth Golf Course Corridor and Stepping Stone
11. Fleet to Little Francis Corridor and Stepping Stone
12. Portland West Corridors
  - a. Northern Corridor
  - b. Central Corridor
  - c. Southern Corridor.

**The following map shows the combination of existing sites, wildlife corridors and stepping stones to the wider countryside and the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).**



**Weymouth and Portland Wildlife Sites and Corridors** Scale 1:85000

**Key:**

- Wildlife corridor
- SSSI
- SNCI
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - Dorset

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey data with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Ordnance Survey (OS) is the official map-making organisation in the United Kingdom. © Dorset County Council: LA 10000790, 2010.

**DORSET**  
County Council

Environmental Services  
County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Scope of the report

The majority of the data in this report has come from post-1995 records held on the DERC database. DERC has a vital role in collating wildlife data from different individuals and organisations within the county including the Dorset Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Dorset Bat Group and Dorset Otter Group. The findings from ecological surveys done in preparation for the Weymouth Relief Road have been incorporated onto our database and the results are included within this report.

In addition we have used data provided by the Dorset Bird Club for sites in the borough. Most of this data is not yet on our main database and cannot be presented in the same way over base maps. Instead it has been presented in summary tables of birds with reference to their threat status (Red or Amber listed) and their Dorset status, e.g. wintering or breeding. This data set includes records from 2000-2008.

Four surveys have been undertaken specifically for this report, three during 2009 and one in 2010. The full surveys are included in the Appendices and the results summarised within the Evidence Base for the sites. Data included has been gathered by kind permission of Mr Barnes (of Wyke Oliver Farm) and from public rights of way and land with de facto access. These surveys provide an indication of the wildlife value of the corridors but should not be taken as adequate for the purposes of a baseline since it was not possible, or intended, to visit all parts of the area. To produce a full baseline assessment of for any of these sites would require surveys throughout the seasons.

The information gathered for each corridor has been presented as:

- A map showing the extent of the corridor and its links to adjacent sites, with symbols to illustrate recorded species
- A summary of the importance of the corridor
- Evidence base
- Recommendations

All maps have been produced by Dorset Environmental Records Centre. Species records have been shown at the centre of resolution (not SW corner) to assist interpretation of the data.

## Status codes used in the tables are as follows:

### Protected status

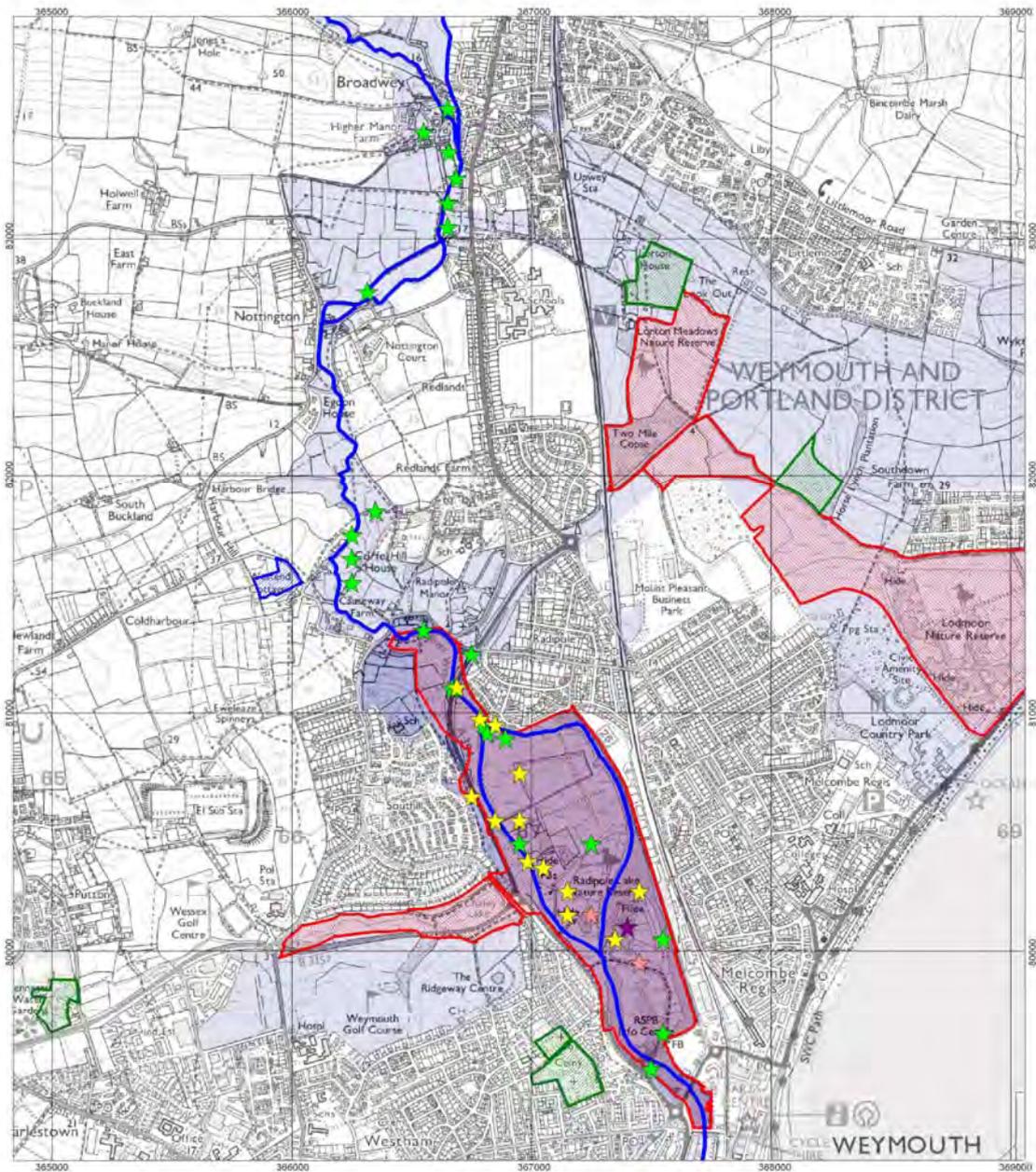
EPS	European Protected Species from Bird Directive Annex I
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1(birds)
NERC S41	Species of Principle Importance in England, NERC Act (2006)

### Priority Species

UK	Priority Species listed by the UK Steering Group with a UK action plan or species statement (list downloaded from JNCC website October 2007)
Dorset	Species with a current action plan or initiative in Dorset follows Dorset Biodiversity Partnership, 2003

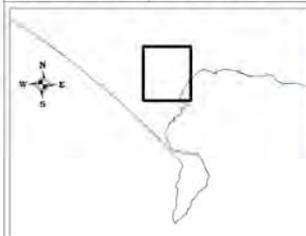
### Threat status

	follows <i>Eaton et al</i> (2009)
Red	Red List species – birds of high conservation concern in Europe
Amber	Amber List species – birds of medium conservation concern in Europe



**River Wey Flood Plain Corridor**

Scale 1:22500



- Key:**
- Wildlife corridor
  - SSSI
  - SNCI
  - River

**Post-1995 species records:**

- Bats
- Otter
- Water Shrew
- Water Vole

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 2010. Information reproduced here is for general information only and may be subject to change without notice.



**Dorset Environmental Records Centre**

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important North-South Corridors

### 1. River Wey Flood Plain Corridor (including Radipole Lake)

The River Wey is a chalk stream that provides a valuable north south corridor of Priority BAP habitat through the borough. The river itself supports Water Voles and Otters and these have occasionally been recorded. The corridor links the important wildlife and migratory site of Radipole Lake SSSI to the wider countryside. The corridor is in a relatively poor state and could be improved by river corridor based habitat creation / enhancement. At Broadway the river channel passes through development significantly reducing connectivity, measures to protect and enhance the adjacent remaining flood plain would be beneficial.

#### Evidence Base:

1. There is a good evidence base for the importance of Radipole Lake SSSI for migratory birds. It is an RSPB reserve. The table below shows birds recorded by Dorset Bird Club.

#### Red List and Amber List Birds Recorded at Radipole Lake SSSI

Common name	Protection	S41	Priority Species	Threat	Dorset status
Greylag Goose	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Barnacle Goose	EPS			AMBER	other
Common Shelduck				AMBER	breeding/wintering
Wigeon	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Gadwall	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Eurasian Teal	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Mallard	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Pintail	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Garganey	EPS,WCA			AMBER	passage migrant
Northern Shoveler	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Pochard	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Tufted Duck	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Greater Scaup	EPS,WCA	NERC S41	UK	RED	wintering
Common Scoter	EPS,WCA	NERC S41	UK	RED	wintering
Little Grebe				AMBER	breeding/wintering
Black-necked Grebe	WCA			AMBER	wintering
Northern Gannet				AMBER	other
Great Bittern	EPS,WCA	NERC S41	UK	RED	wintering
Little Egret	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Eurasian Spoonbill	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
European Honey-buzzard	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Red Kite	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	EPS			AMBER	other
Montagu's Harrier	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Osprey	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Common Kestrel				AMBER	breeding
Spotted Crake	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Eurasian Oystercatcher	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Pied Avocet	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Grey Plover	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Northern Lapwing	EPS	NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding/wintering
Red Knot	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Dunlin				RED	wintering
Ruff	EPS,WCA			RED	other
Jack Snipe	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Common Snipe	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Eurasian Woodcock	EPS			AMBER	breeding

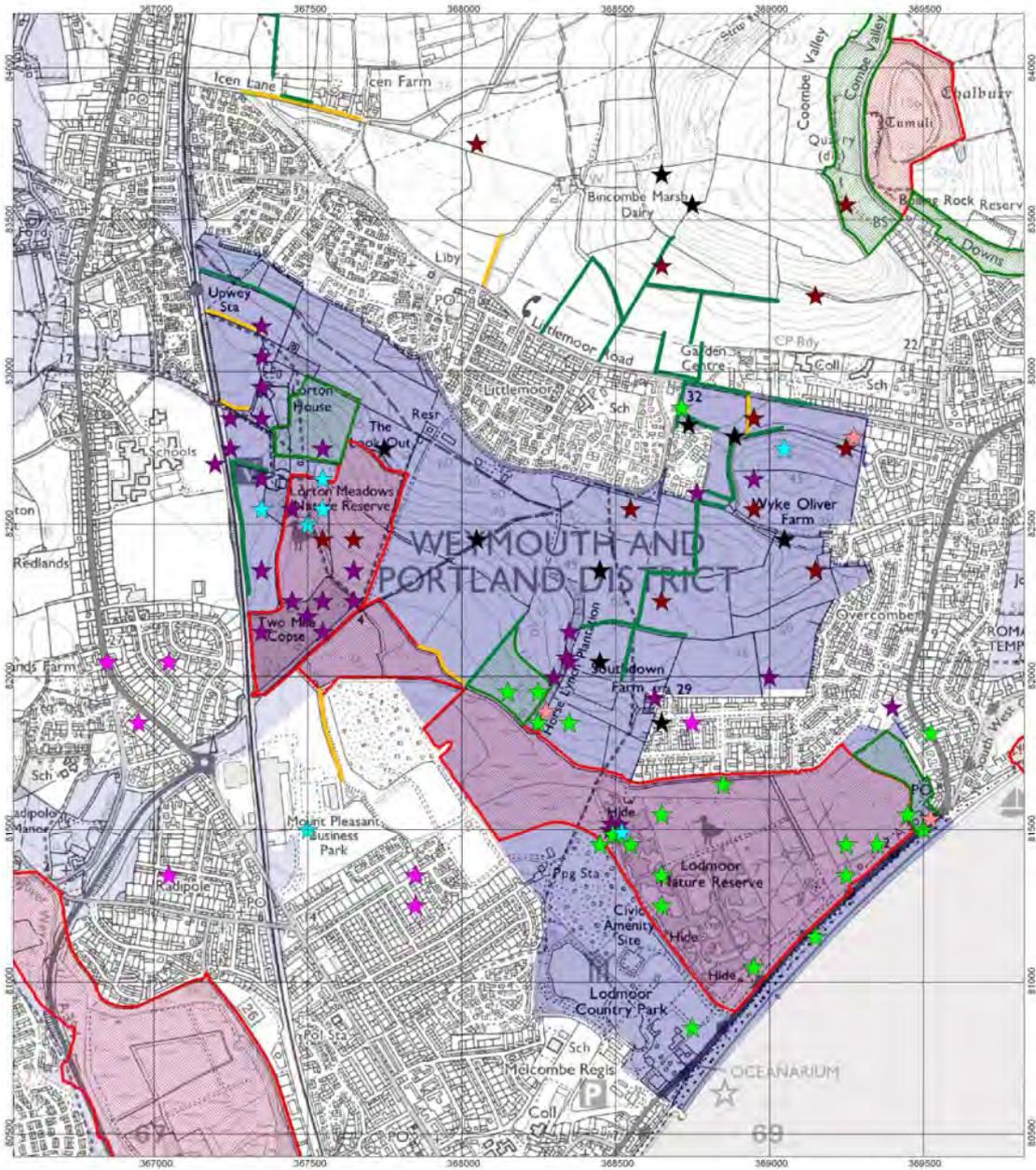
Black-tailed Godwit	EPS,WCA			RED	wintering
Bar-tailed Godwit	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Whimbrel	EPS,WCA			RED	other
Eurasian Curlew	EPS	NERC S41	UK	AMBER	wintering
Common Redshank	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Green Sandpiper	WCA			AMBER	wintering
Wood Sandpiper	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Common Sandpiper				AMBER	passage migrant
Mediterranean Gull	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Little Gull	EPS,WCA			AMBER	passage migrant
Black-headed Gull	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Mew Gull	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Lesser Black-backed Gull	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Yellow-legged Gull				AMBER	breeding
Herring Gull	EPS			RED	breeding
Iceland Gull				AMBER	wintering
Great Black-backed Gull	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Black-legged Kittiwake				AMBER	breeding
Little Tern	EPS,WCA		Dorset	AMBER	breeding
Black Tern	EPS,WCA			AMBER	passage migrant
Sandwich Tern	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Common Tern	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Arctic Tern	EPS			AMBER	other
Stock Pigeon	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Common Cuckoo		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Short-eared Owl	EPS			AMBER	wintering
European Nightjar	EPS	NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Swift				AMBER	breeding
Common Kingfisher	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Eurasian Wryneck	WCA		UK	RED	other
Green Woodpecker				AMBER	breeding
Sky Lark	EPS			RED	breeding
Sand Martin				AMBER	breeding
Barn Swallow				AMBER	breeding
House Martin				AMBER	breeding
Tree Pipit		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Meadow Pipit				AMBER	breeding
Water Pipit				AMBER	passage migrant
Yellow Wagtail				RED	passage migrant
Grey Wagtail				AMBER	breeding
Hedge Accentor				AMBER	breeding
Common Nightingale				AMBER	breeding
Black Redstart	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Common Redstart				AMBER	breeding
Whinchat				AMBER	passage migrant
Northern Wheatear				AMBER	passage migrant
Fieldfare	EPS,WCA			RED	wintering
Song Thrush	EPS			RED	breeding
Redwing	EPS,WCA			RED	wintering
Mistle Thrush	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Common Grasshopper Warbler		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Aquatic Warbler	EPS	NERC S41	UK	RED	other
Common Whitethroat				AMBER	breeding
Dartford Warbler	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Willow Warbler				AMBER	breeding
Firecrest	WCA			AMBER	wintering

Spotted Flycatcher		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Pied Flycatcher				AMBER	passage migrant
Bearded Tit	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Eurasian Golden Oriole	WCA			RED	other
Red-backed Shrike	EPS,WCA		UK	RED	other
Common Starling	EPS			RED	breeding
House Sparrow		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Linnnet				RED	breeding
Lesser Redpoll		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Bullfinch				AMBER	breeding
Reed Bunting		NERC S41	UK	AMBER	breeding

2. Riparian mammals are known to use the corridor (e.g. Otter, Water Shrew and Water Vole) as illustrated on the map of the corridor.
3. Importance for fish migration is unknown but likely to be significant for some species (e.g. Eel).

### **Recommendations**

1. Restoration of the Radipole Lake reedbeds is a conservation priority.
2. A general river corridor wildlife and habitat survey would be valuable. This is a low priority as the corridor is in a floodplain and therefore is relatively well protected from development.



**Lorton Valley Corridor**

Scale 1:17500

	<b>Key:</b> Wildlife corridor SSSI SSSI Important hedgerow Hedgerow	<b>Post-1995 species records:</b> Badger Bats Brown Hare Deer Hedgehog Water Shrew Water Vole	<small>This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2010. Environmental Information Principles Order copyright and may not be reproduced or used in any form without the prior written permission of Dorset County Council. LA 10/03790 2010</small>  Environmental Services County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ
--	--	--	---

*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important North-South Corridors

### 2. Lorton Valley Corridor (including Lodmoor SSSI and Lorton SSSI)

The Lodmoor – Lorton Valley provide a complex mosaic of habitats that together form a significant high quality north – south wildlife corridor through the borough. The corridor is significantly constrained to the east of Littlemoor, with the Wyke Oliver Farm gap forming a vital connection to the wider countryside. The majority of the surviving semi-natural habitat in the corridor is in conservation management. Proposals for the establishment of a Lorton Valley Country Park have the potential to significantly improve the quality, connectivity and management of habitats in the northern section of the valley. Conversely further infill development within the valley is likely to have a detrimental impact to the wildlife corridor.

#### Evidence Base

1. There is good evidence base for the importance of Lodmoor SSSI for migratory and resident birds. It is an RSPB Reserve. The table below shows birds recorded by Dorset Bird Club.

#### Red List and Amber List Birds Recorded at Lodmoor SSSI

Common name	Protection	S41	Priority Species	Threat	Dorset status
Tundra Swan	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Whooper Swan	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Greylag Goose	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Barnacle Goose	EPS			AMBER	other
Brent Goose	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Common Shelduck				AMBER	breeding/wintering
Wigeon	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Gadwall	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Eurasian Teal	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Mallard	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Pintail	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Garganey	EPS,WCA			AMBER	passage migrant
Northern Shoveler	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Tufted Duck	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Greater Scaup	EPS,WCA	NERC S41	UK	RED	wintering
Common Scoter	EPS,WCA	NERC S41	UK	RED	wintering
Common Goldeneye	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Smew	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Great Northern Diver	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Little Grebe				AMBER	breeding/wintering
Red-necked Grebe				AMBER	wintering
Slavonian Grebe	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Black-necked Grebe	WCA			AMBER	wintering
Northern Fulmar				AMBER	breeding
Manx Shearwater				AMBER	passage migrant
Balearic Shearwater		NERC S41	UK	RED	summer visitor
European Storm-petrel	EPS			AMBER	passage migrant
Northern Gannet				AMBER	other
European Shag				AMBER	breeding
Great Bittern	EPS,WCA	NERC S41	UK	RED	wintering
Little Egret	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Eurasian Spoonbill	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
European Honey-buzzard	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Red Kite	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	EPS			AMBER	other
Hen Harrier	EPS	NERC S41	UK	RED	wintering

Osprey	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Common Kestrel				AMBER	breeding
Merlin	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Common Crane	EPS			AMBER	other
Eurasian Oystercatcher	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Pied Avocet	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Stone-curlew	EPS,WCA	NERC S41	UK	AMBER	other
Ringed Plover				AMBER	wintering
European Golden Plover	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Grey Plover	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Northern Lapwing	EPS	NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding/wintering
Red Knot	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Dunlin				RED	wintering
Purple Sandpiper	WCA			AMBER	wintering
Ruff	EPS,WCA			RED	other
Jack Snipe	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Common Snipe	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Eurasian Woodcock	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Black-tailed Godwit	EPS,WCA			RED	wintering
Bar-tailed Godwit	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Whimbrel	EPS,WCA			RED	other
Eurasian Curlew	EPS	NERC S41	UK	AMBER	wintering
Spotted Redshank	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Common Redshank	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Green Sandpiper	WCA			AMBER	wintering
Wood Sandpiper	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Common Sandpiper				AMBER	passage migrant
Ruddy Turnstone				AMBER	wintering
Red-necked Phalarope	EPS,WCA		UK	RED	other
Arctic Skua			UK	RED	passage migrant
Great Skua				AMBER	passage migrant
Mediterranean Gull	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Little Gull	EPS,WCA			AMBER	passage migrant
Black-headed Gull	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Mew Gull	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Lesser Black-backed Gull	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Yellow-legged Gull				AMBER	breeding
Herring Gull	EPS			RED	breeding
Glaucous Gull				AMBER	wintering
Great Black-backed Gull	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Black-legged Kittiwake				AMBER	breeding
Little Tern	EPS,WCA		Dorset	AMBER	breeding
Black Tern	EPS,WCA			AMBER	passage migrant
Sandwich Tern	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Common Tern	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Roseate Tern	EPS,WCA	NERC S41	UK	RED	other
Arctic Tern	EPS			AMBER	other
Common Guillemot				AMBER	breeding
Razorbill				AMBER	breeding
Stock Pigeon	EPS			AMBER	breeding
European Turtle Dove	EPS	NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Cuckoo		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Barn Owl	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Short-eared Owl	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Common Swift				AMBER	breeding
Common Kingfisher	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding

Eurasian Wryneck	WCA		UK	RED	other
Green Woodpecker				AMBER	breeding
Wood Lark	EPS,WCA	NERC S41	UK	AMBER	breeding
Sky Lark	EPS			RED	breeding
Sand Martin				AMBER	breeding
Barn Swallow				AMBER	breeding
House Martin				AMBER	breeding
Tree Pipit		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Meadow Pipit				AMBER	breeding
Water Pipit				AMBER	passage migrant
Yellow Wagtail				RED	passage migrant
Grey Wagtail				AMBER	breeding
Hedge Accentor				AMBER	breeding
Common Nightingale				AMBER	breeding
Black Redstart	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Common Redstart				AMBER	breeding
Whinchat				AMBER	passage migrant
Northern Wheatear				AMBER	passage migrant
Ring Ouzel		NERC S41	UK	RED	other
Fieldfare	EPS,WCA			RED	wintering
Song Thrush	EPS			RED	breeding
Redwing	EPS,WCA			RED	wintering
Mistle Thrush	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Common Grasshopper Warbler		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Aquatic Warbler	EPS	NERC S41	UK	RED	other
Common Whitethroat				AMBER	breeding
Dartford Warbler	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Willow Warbler				AMBER	breeding
Firecrest	WCA			AMBER	wintering
Spotted Flycatcher		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Pied Flycatcher				AMBER	passage migrant
Bearded Tit	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Eurasian Golden Oriole	WCA			RED	other
Red-backed Shrike	EPS,WCA		UK	RED	other
Common Starling	EPS			RED	breeding
House Sparrow		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Eurasian Tree Sparrow		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Linnet				RED	breeding
Lesser Redpoll		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Bullfinch				AMBER	breeding
Hawfinch		NERC S41	UK	RED	other
Snow Bunting	WCA			AMBER	wintering
Yellowhammer		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Reed Bunting		NERC S41	UK	AMBER	breeding

- Weymouth Relief Road ecological surveys have demonstrated the importance of the wider valley to birds and bats. Other mammals known to regularly use Lodmoor – Lorton valley include Badger, Water Shrew, Water Vole and Roe Deer.
- A 2009 survey of the Wyke Oliver Farm gap has provided some evidence of the importance of this site to the passage of birds. 60 bird species were recorded in the survey between July and October. Of these, six Red species and 14 Amber species occurred at the site as migrants. Some active migration was observed on the site, notably Swallows, House Martins, Meadow Pipits and Skylarks. On 18<sup>th</sup> August 201 Canada Geese were seen commuting between feeding sites on local farmland and Lodmoor RSPB Reserve which is used as a loafing and roosting site. Most migrants were feeding on the site and these included species characteristic of the rural habitats present.

Summary results from the survey report (*Bird surveys of 'Fleet to Little Francis' and 'Wyke Oliver Farm gap'; two natural corridors in Weymouth, July to October 2009*):

Number bird species recorded	60
Number migrant bird species recorded	28 (including 6 Red and 14 Amber)
Number of Red list birds species recorded	10
Number of Amber list bird species recorded	22

Migrants recorded from the site:

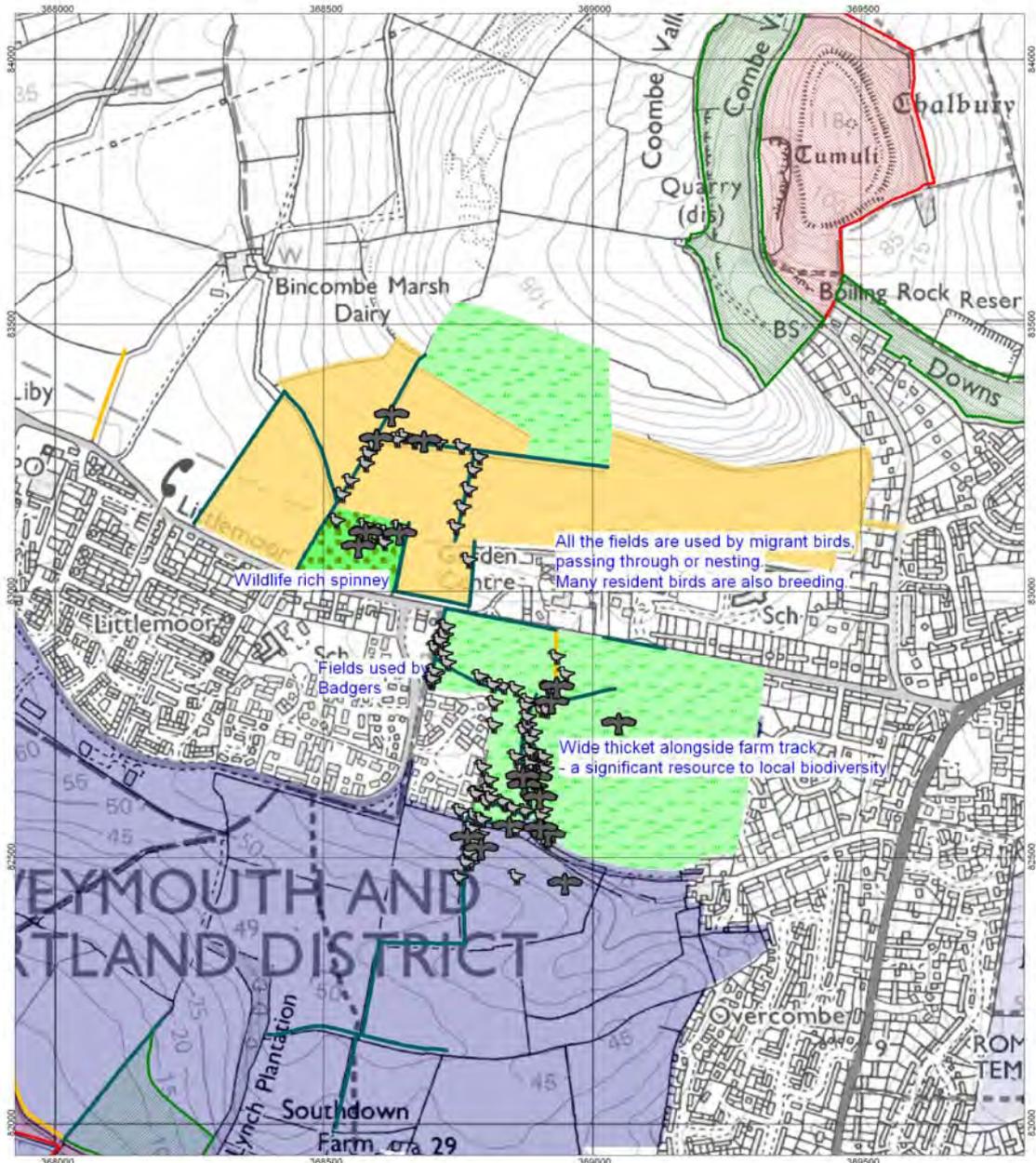
	Threat status		Threat status
Swift	Amber	Mistle Thrush	Amber
Skylark	Red	Dartford Warbler	Amber
Sand Martin	Amber	Lesser Whitethroat	
Swallow	Amber	Whitethroat	Amber
House Martin	Amber	Blackcap	
Tree Pipit	Red	Willow Warbler	Amber
Meadow Pipit	Amber	Chiffchaff	
Yellow Wagtail	Red	Spotted Flycatcher	Red
Grey Wagtail	Amber	Chaffinch	
Redstart	Amber	Greenfinch	
Whinchat	Amber	Goldfinch	
Stonechat		Siskin	
Wheatear	Amber	Linnets	Red
Redwing	Red	Reed Bunting	Amber

A full list of species recorded including counts for each visit and a discussion of the results can be found in the full report (Appendix 1).

- During April and May 2010 further survey work during the spring bird migration period found Chiff-chaff, Grasshopper Warbler and Whitethroat in Bincombe Marsh Dairy fields, the area to the north of Wyke Oliver Farm gap. In the fields to the south of the gap (referred to as Destiny Fields in the report) Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap and Swallows were recorded. Resident birds were also using these sites, particularly the hedgerows (*Report on surveys for spring birds and other wildlife* by K. Cook 2010). The full report is included in Appendix 3.
- During the 2010 survey evidence of Badger (paw prints and a latrine) were found at Destiny Fields plus signs for Roe Deer, Rabbit and Fox.
- Although there are no trees suitable for bat roosts, the hedges area likely to be used by bats as corridors for movement and feeding. Thicker hedgerows are also likely to support some of the common reptiles such as Slow-worm and Grass Snake.

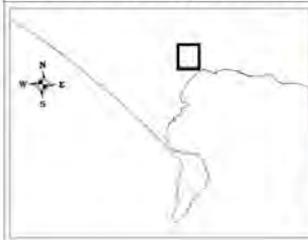
## Recommendations

- Establishment of the Lorton Valley Country Park. High Priority.
- Restoration of the Weymouth Relief Road core mitigation area. High Priority.



### Lorton Valley Corridor - Wyke Regis - Birds

Scale 1:10000



- Key:**
- Wildlife corridor
  - SSSI
  - SSSI
  - Important hedgerow
  - Hedgerow

**2009 - 10 bird survey records:**

- Migratory birds
- Resident birds

**Habitats:**

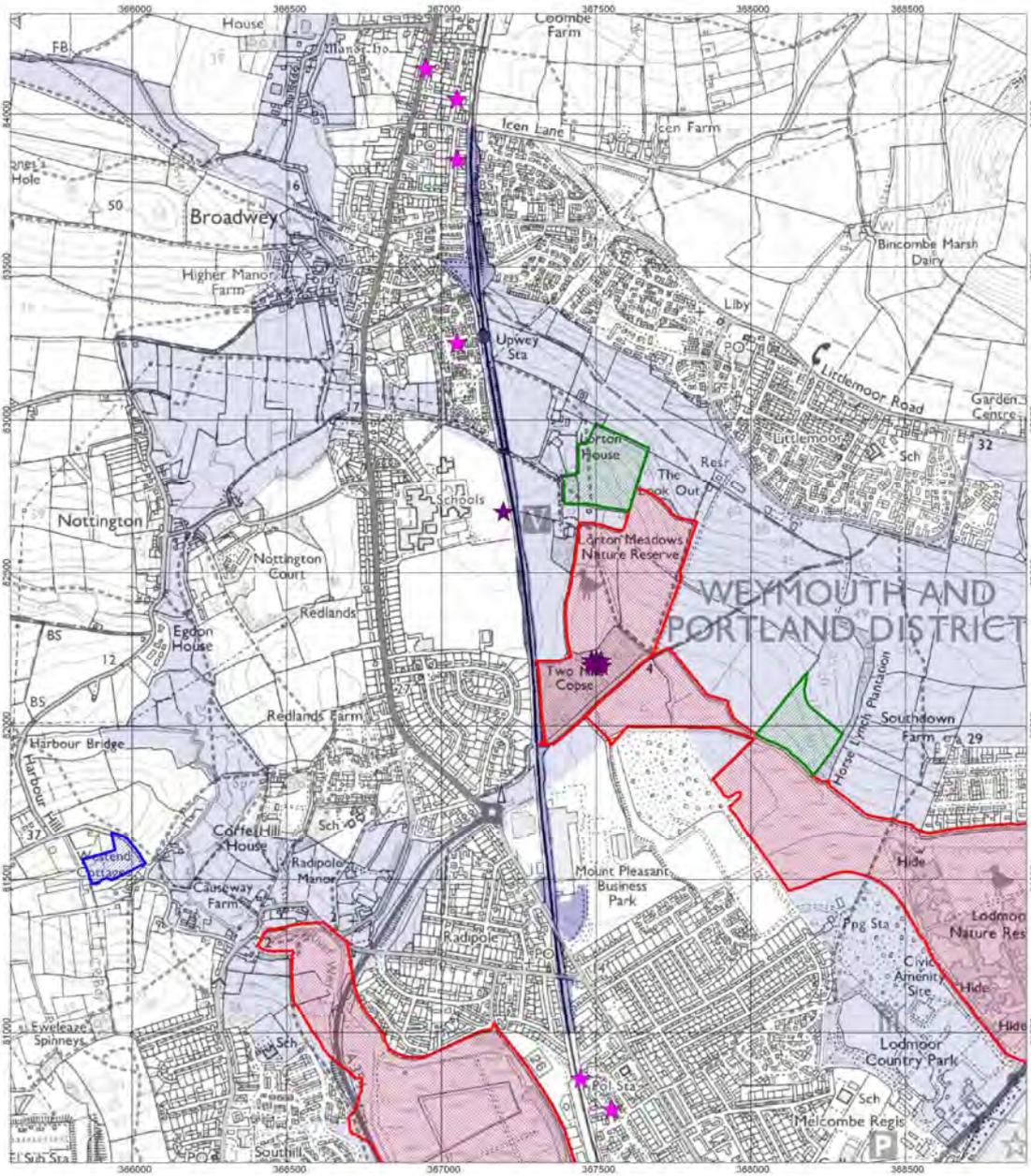
- Arable
- Improved grassland
- Scrub

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. It is issued as a guide only. It is not intended for navigation. Images are copyright and may not be reproduced or used in any way without the permission of the copyright owner.



Environmental Services  
County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*



**Upwey Railway Corridor**

Scale 1:17500

	<b>Key:</b> Wildlife corridor SSSI SNCI	<b>Post-1995 species records:</b> Bats Hedgehog	<small>The map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2010. Information reproduced in this document is for general information only and does not constitute an offer of insurance or any other financial product. © Dorset County Council. LA 10007970 2010</small>

**Dorset Environmental Records Centre**

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important North-South Corridors

### 3. Railway Corridor

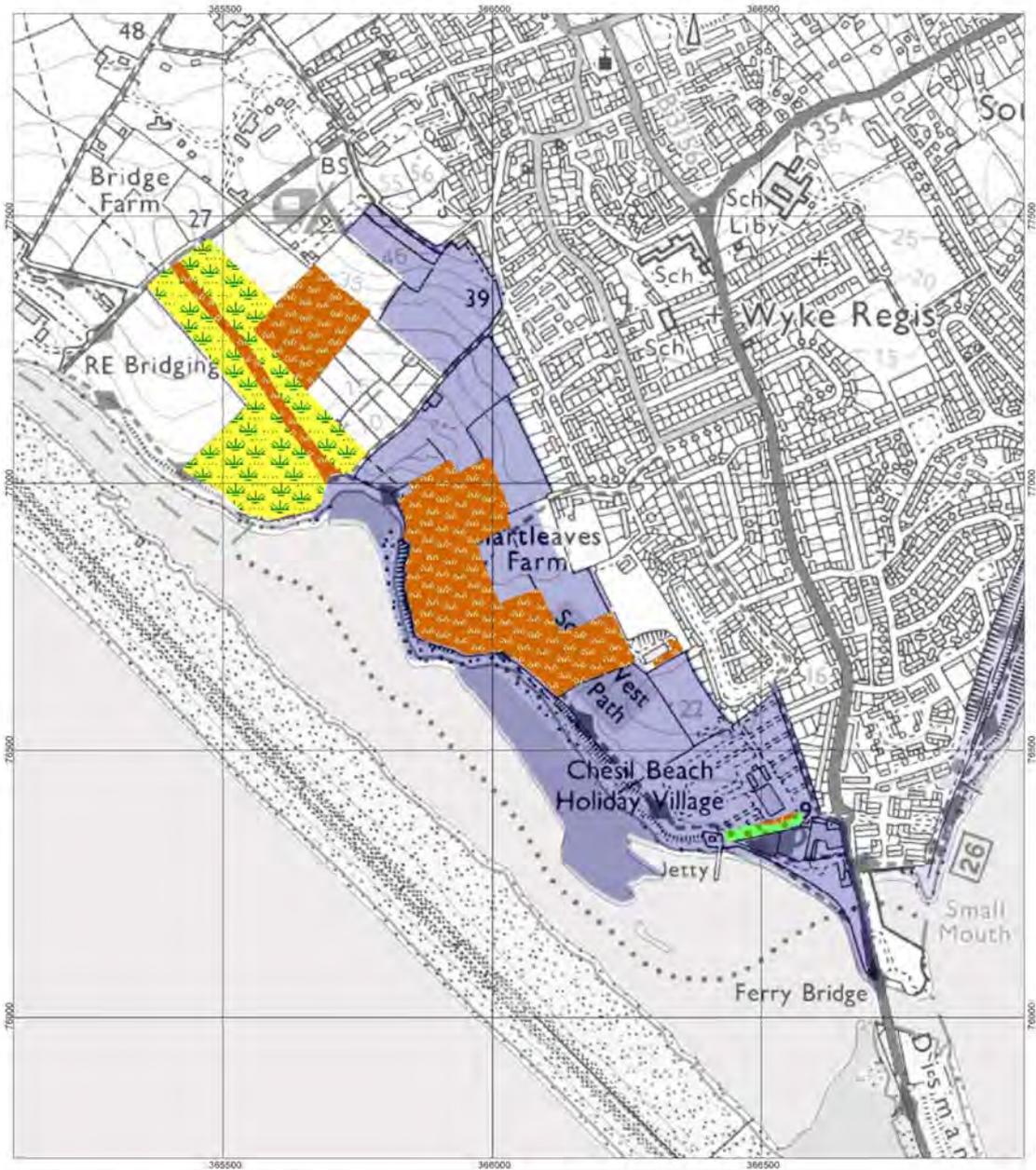
The established scrub habitats along the railway line provide an uninterrupted north-south corridor from Weymouth Town Centre through the borough. It is likely that this corridor will provide a valuable habitat corridor for migratory birds, bats and terrestrial mammals such as Fox, Rabbit and small mammals.

#### Evidence Base

1. There is a poor level of evidence available for the importance of the corridor. There are no records on the DERC database specific for this site. Health and Safety and access to adjacent land are issues for any future survey.

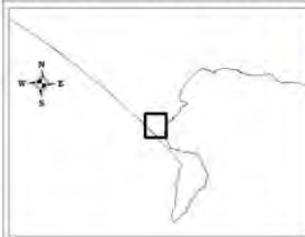
#### Recommendations

1. Future management of the railway verges should recognise its value as a wildlife corridor. Ideally management should aim to provide and maintain low dense scrub interspersed with trees.



**Fleet Hinterland Corridor**

Scale 1:10000



- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Key:</b>       | <b>Habitats:</b>                         |
| Wildlife corridor | Lowland calcareous grassland, unimproved |
|                   | Neutral grassland, unimproved            |
|                   | Neutral grassland, semi-improved         |
|                   | Scrub                                    |

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
© Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction, without Crown copyright, and may lead to prosecution or legal proceedings.  
© Dorset County Council, Ltd. 10001250 2010



Environmental Services  
County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important North South Corridors

### 4. Fleet hinterland corridor

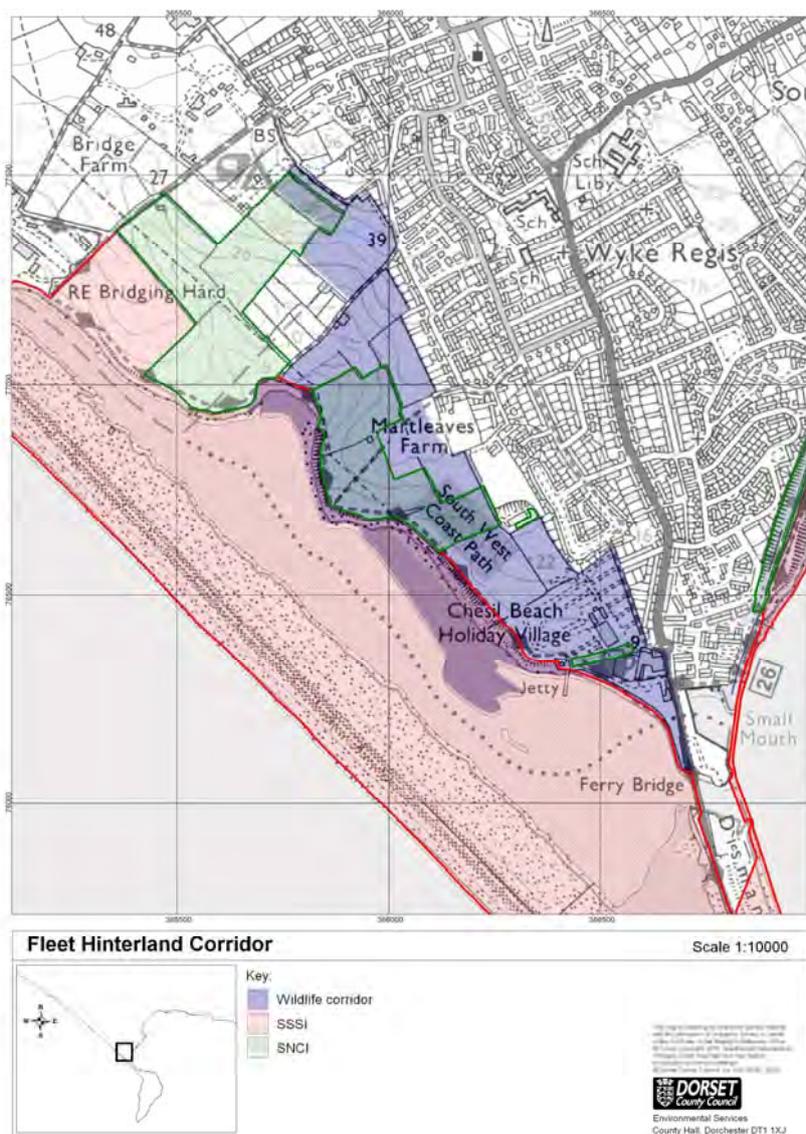
The land between the Fleet and Wyke Regis provides a wildlife corridor linking Portland and the Fleet to the wider countryside. Development to the west of Wyke Regis would be detrimental to the connectivity of the corridor.

#### Evidence Base

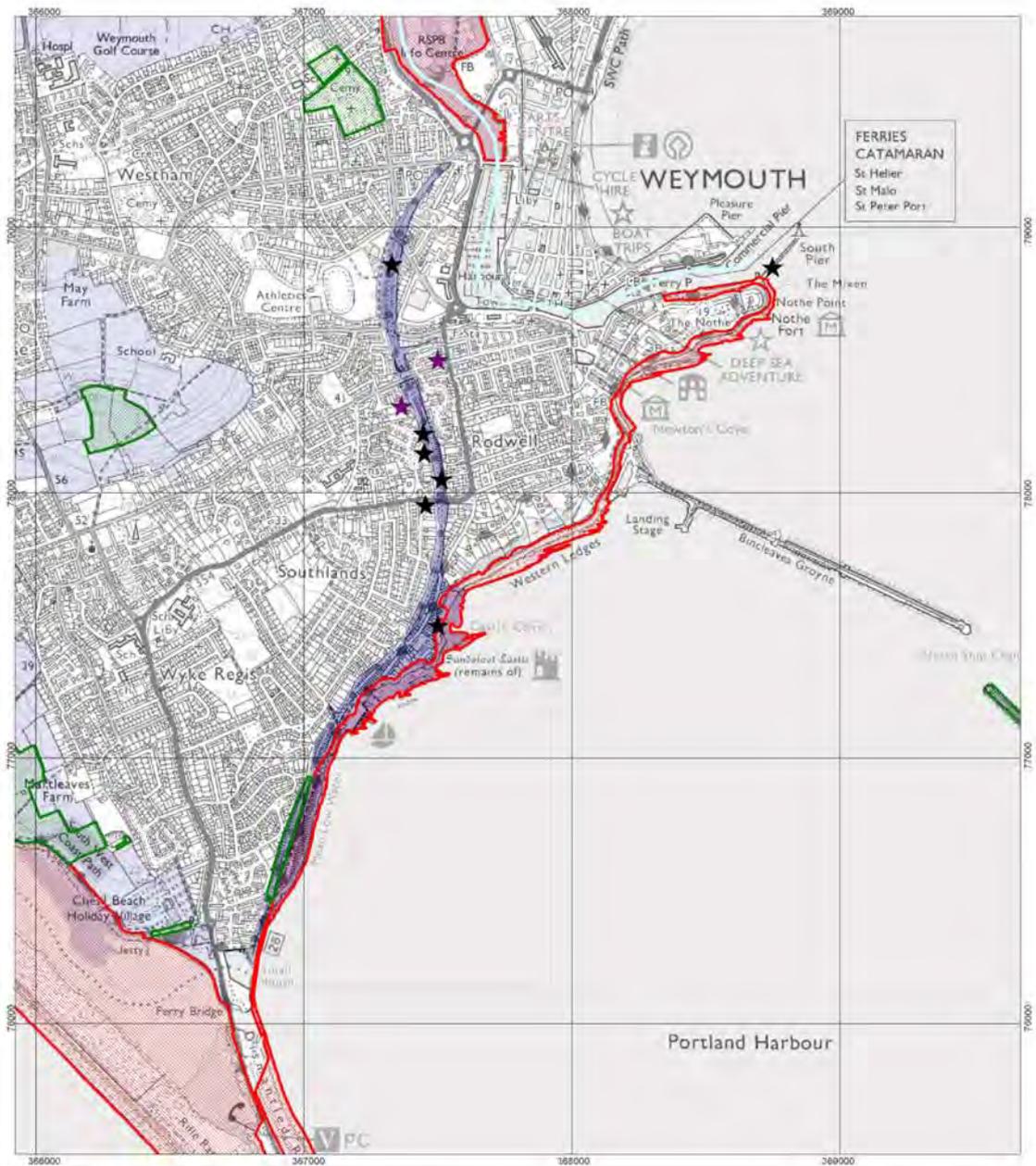
1. Habitat data is available from SNCI surveys.
2. There is a poor level of evidence available for the importance of the corridor to migratory birds. A search of the DERC database and Dorset Bird Club records found nothing specific for this site although there are many records for Ferry Bridge.

#### Recommendations

1. Migratory bird survey. Priority will be dependent on perceived development pressure for land within the corridor.

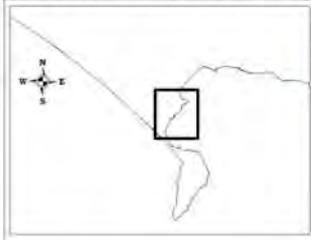


Dorset Environmental Records Centre



**Rodwell Trail Corridor**

Scale 1:20000



- Key:
- Wildlife corridor
  - SSSI
  - SNCI

- Post-1995 species records:
- Badger
  - Bats

This map is based upon OS data & is for general information only. It is not intended for use in any legal proceedings. © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction, without Crown copyright, is prohibited. © Dorset County Council, 2010.



*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important North-South Corridors

### 5. Rodwell Trail Corridor

The Rodwell Trail provides a valuable green corridor through Weymouth linking the Portland Harbour shore with the Radipole Lake SSSI.

#### Evidence Base

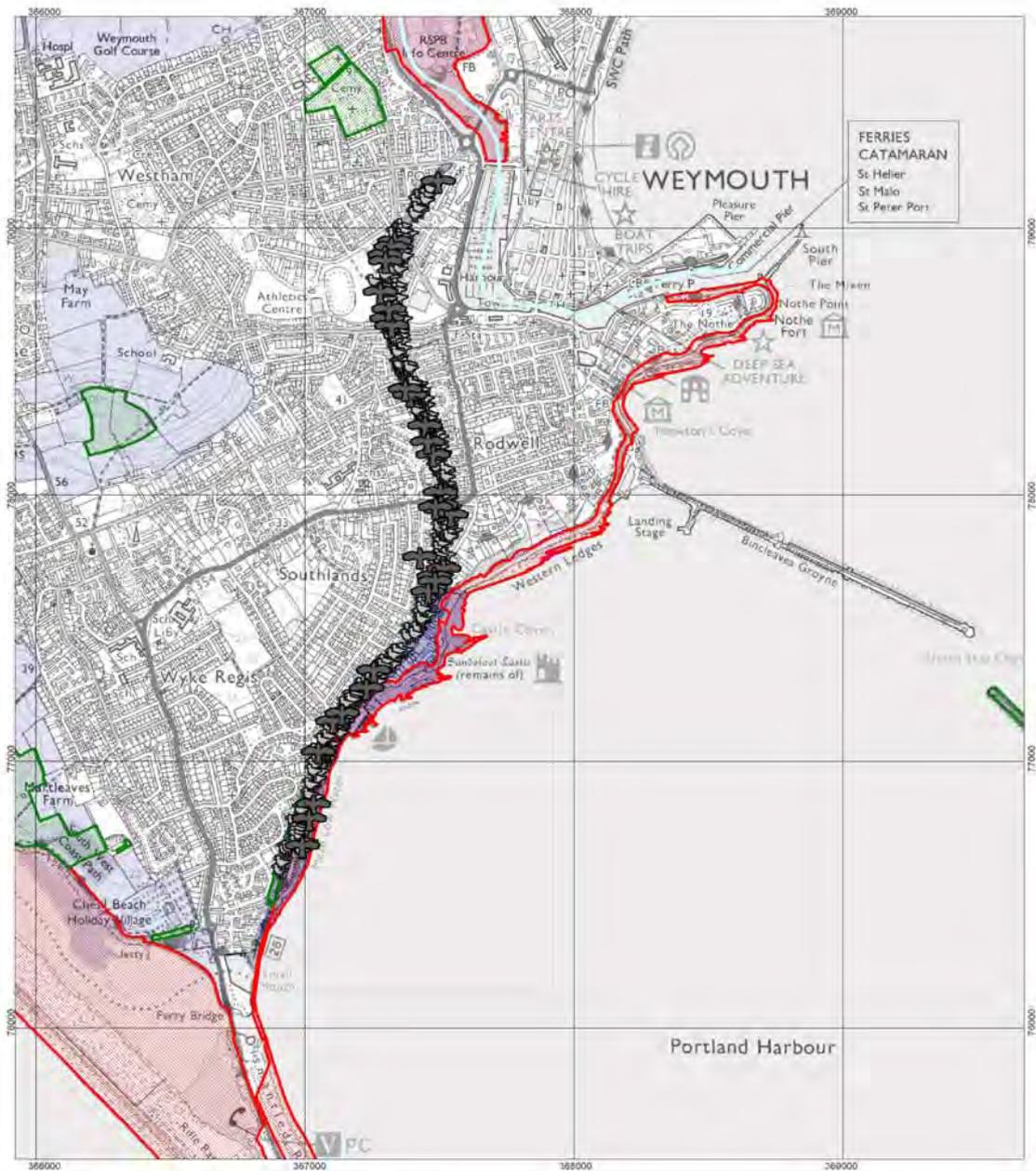
1. The trail is known to be used by badgers and there are a number of bat foraging records.
2. The table below shows birds recorded in the Dorset Bird Club data.

Common name	Protection	S41	Priority	Threat	Dorset status
Common Eider	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Velvet Scoter	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Red-throated Diver	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Black-throated Diver	EPS		UK	AMBER	wintering
Great Northern Diver	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Red-necked Grebe				AMBER	wintering
Slavonian Grebe	EPS,WCA			AMBER	wintering
Black-necked Grebe	WCA			AMBER	wintering
Common Redshank	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Mediterranean Gull	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Black-headed Gull	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Herring Gull	EPS			RED	breeding
Great Black-backed Gull	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Sandwich Tern	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Common Tern	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Razorbill				AMBER	breeding
Barn Swallow				AMBER	breeding
House Martin				AMBER	breeding
Grey Wagtail				AMBER	breeding
Black Redstart	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Firecrest	WCA			AMBER	wintering
Common Starling	EPS			RED	breeding
House Sparrow		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Bullfinch				AMBER	breeding

3. A spring survey in 2010 found evidence for migrant birds using this corridor. Reed Warbler, Swallow, House Martin and Swift were seen moving along the trail. Other migrant species appeared to be staying to breed including Whitethroat, Chiff-chaff and Blackcaps (see *Report on surveys for spring birds and other wildlife* by K. Cook 2010). The full report is included in Appendix 3.
4. The 2010 spring survey also found evidence of Badger activity along the trail. Signs of Badger were common along the central section of the trail and one large sett was located, although there are likely to be more.

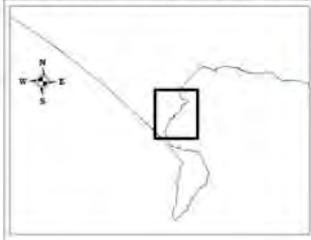
### **Recommendations**

1. Future management of the trail should recognise its value as a wildlife corridor.
2. A bat activity survey would be beneficial (low priority).



**Rodwell Trail Corridor - Birds**

Scale 1:20000



- Key:
- Wildlife corridor
  - SSSI
  - SNCI

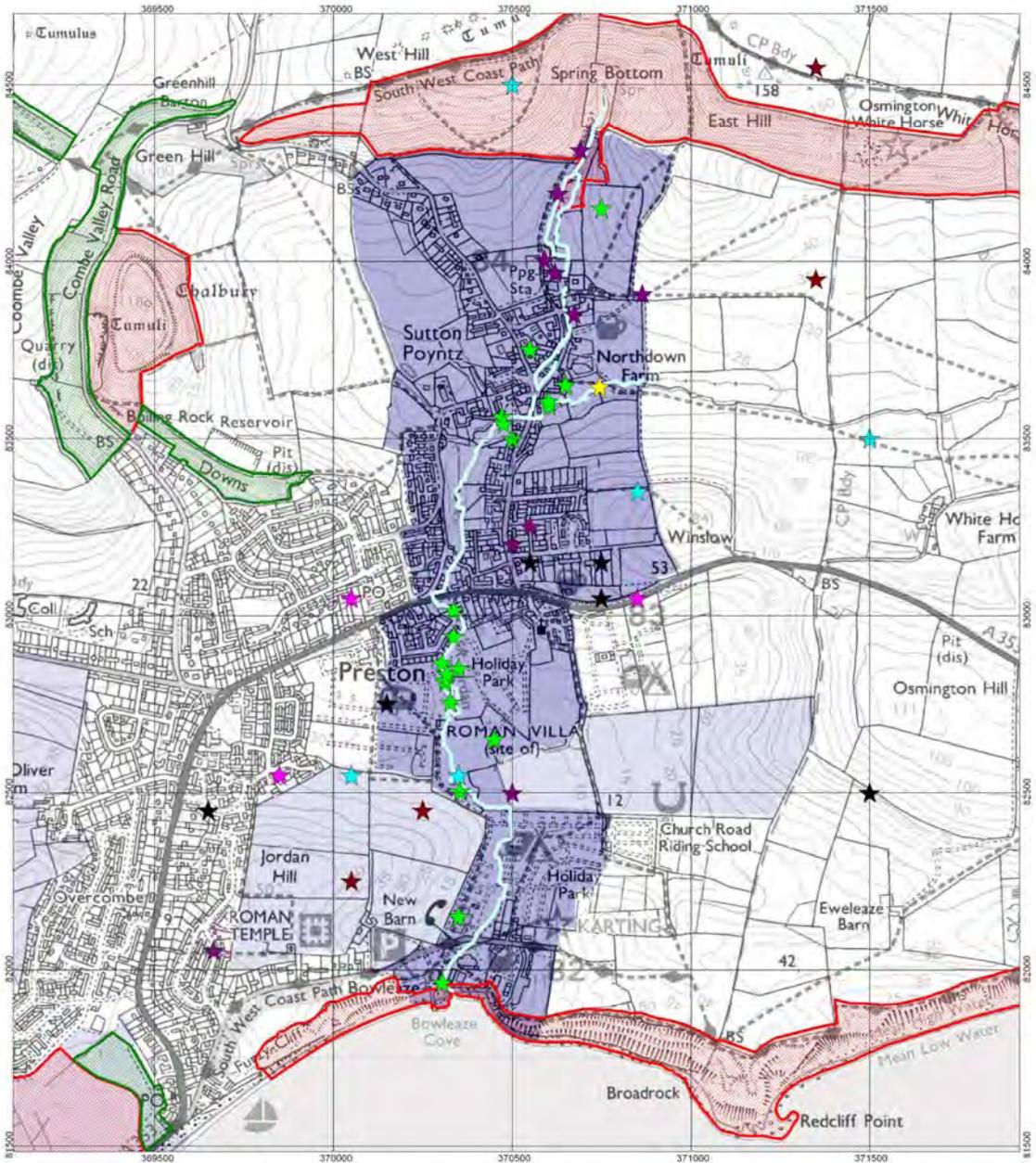
2009 - 10 bird survey records:

- Migratory birds
- Resident birds

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey data supplied with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction, storage in retrieval systems or transmission in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, is prohibited without prior permission of Dorset County Council. LIA 100010000 2010

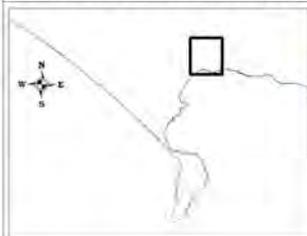


*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*



**River Jordan Floodplain Corridor**

Scale 1:15000



- Key:
- Wildlife corridor
  - SSSI
  - SNCI
  - River

Post-1995 species records:

- Badger
- Bats
- Brown Hare
- Deer
- Hedgehog
- Otter
- Water Vole

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2010. Information reproduced here is for general information only and is not intended for use in proceedings or legal proceedings.



Environmental Services  
County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important North-South Corridors

### 6. River Jordan Floodplain Corridor

The River Jordan supports an important water vole colony and provides a further north-south link through the borough. The river corridor is highly modified with relatively little habitat and is particularly restricted by urban development either side of the A353.

#### Evidence Base

1. Dorset Wildlife Trust has undertaken a Water Vole survey of the River Jordan. The results are shown on the adjacent map.
2. Dorset Bird Club records from Bowleaze Cove and the River Jordan cannot be easily separated. These species have been recorded from the area:

#### Red List and Amber List Birds Recorded from Bowleaze Cove and River Jordan

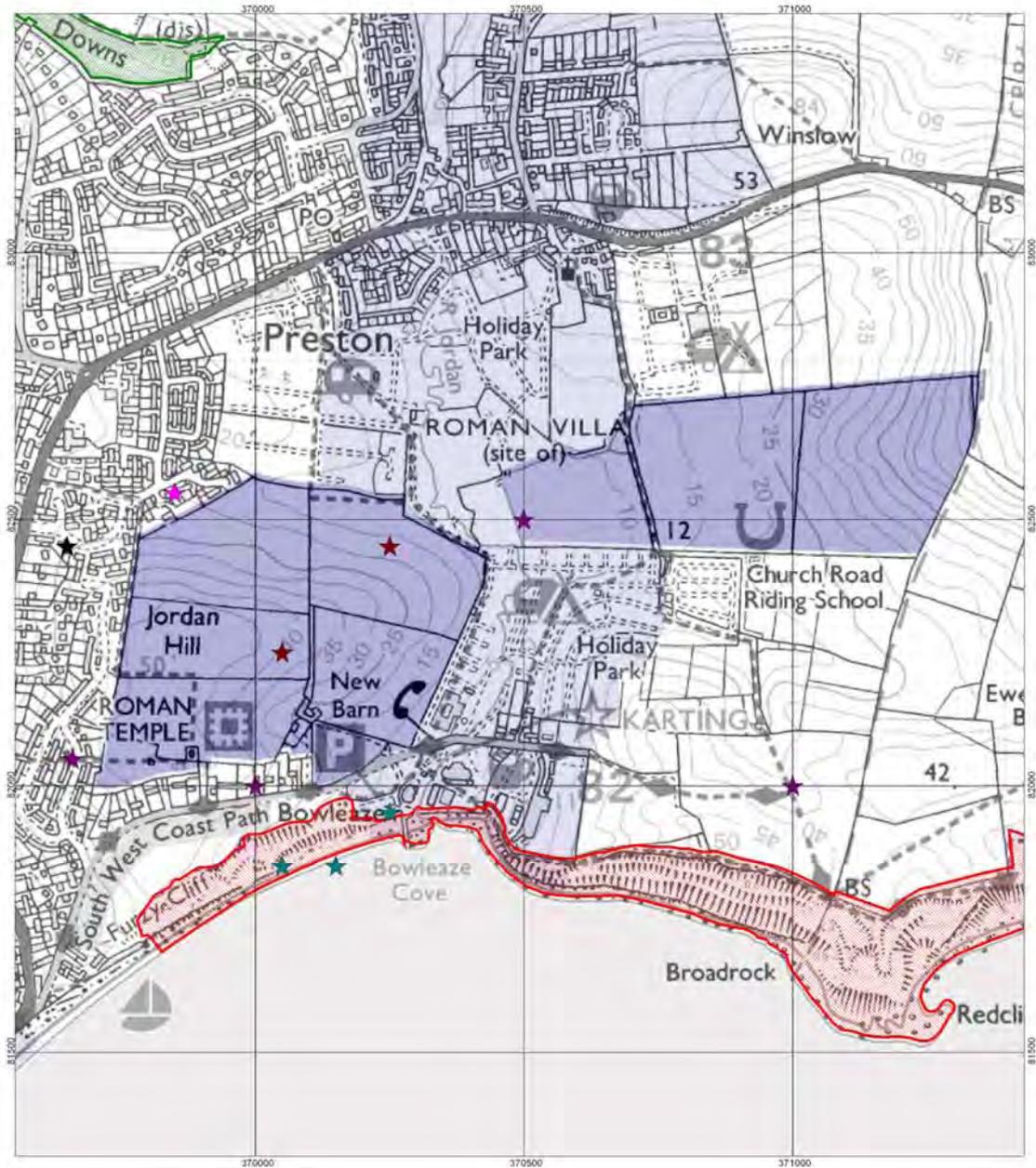
Common name	Protection	S41	Priority Species	Threat	Dorset status
Brent Goose	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Common Shelduck				AMBER	breeding/wintering
Great Northern Diver	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Osprey	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Ringed Plover				AMBER	wintering
Ruddy Turnstone				AMBER	wintering
Arctic Skua			UK	RED	passage migrant
Mediterranean Gull	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Black-headed Gull	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Mew Gull	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Yellow-legged Gull				AMBER	breeding
Barn Owl	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Green Woodpecker				AMBER	breeding
Tree Pipit		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Meadow Pipit				AMBER	breeding
Yellow Wagtail				RED	passage migrant
Common Nightingale				AMBER	breeding
Black Redstart	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Whinchat				AMBER	passage migrant
Northern Wheatear				AMBER	passage migrant
Fieldfare	EPS,WCA			RED	wintering
Song Thrush	EPS			RED	breeding
Common Grasshopper Warbler		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Whitethroat				AMBER	breeding
Dartford Warbler	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Reed Bunting		NERC S41	UK	AMBER	breeding

3. Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group has been gathering data for the last few years. This data has not yet been processed by DERC but their information will provide much more specific records for species recorded within this corridor and the adjacent farmland. The 2009 bird list from the group has records (in addition to those from Dorset Bird Club) for Gadwall, Turtle Dove, Lesser Whitethroat, Linnet, Willow Warbler, Wood Warbler and Golden Plover.
4. Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group has also provided additional data on Pipistrelle and Natterer's bats recorded within the corridor. The data is included on the Corridor map.

### **Recommendations**

1. Wildlife enhancement of the river corridor through the holiday parks would be beneficial.
2. Environment Agency flood defence work and investigations have potential to improve connectivity and enhance habitats.





**Bowleaze Gap Corridor** Scale 1:10000

	<b>Key:</b> Wildlife corridor SSSI SNCI	<b>Post-1995 species records:</b> Badger Bats Brown Hare Great Crested Newt	<small>This map is based upon OS's 25m Survey Digital data with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.          © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction, storage, copying or use in any form is prohibited without prior permission.          © Dorset County Council, Ltd. 100014750 3/10</small>
	 <b>DORSET</b> County Council Environmental Services County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ		

*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important East-West Corridors

### 7. Bowleaze Gap Corridor

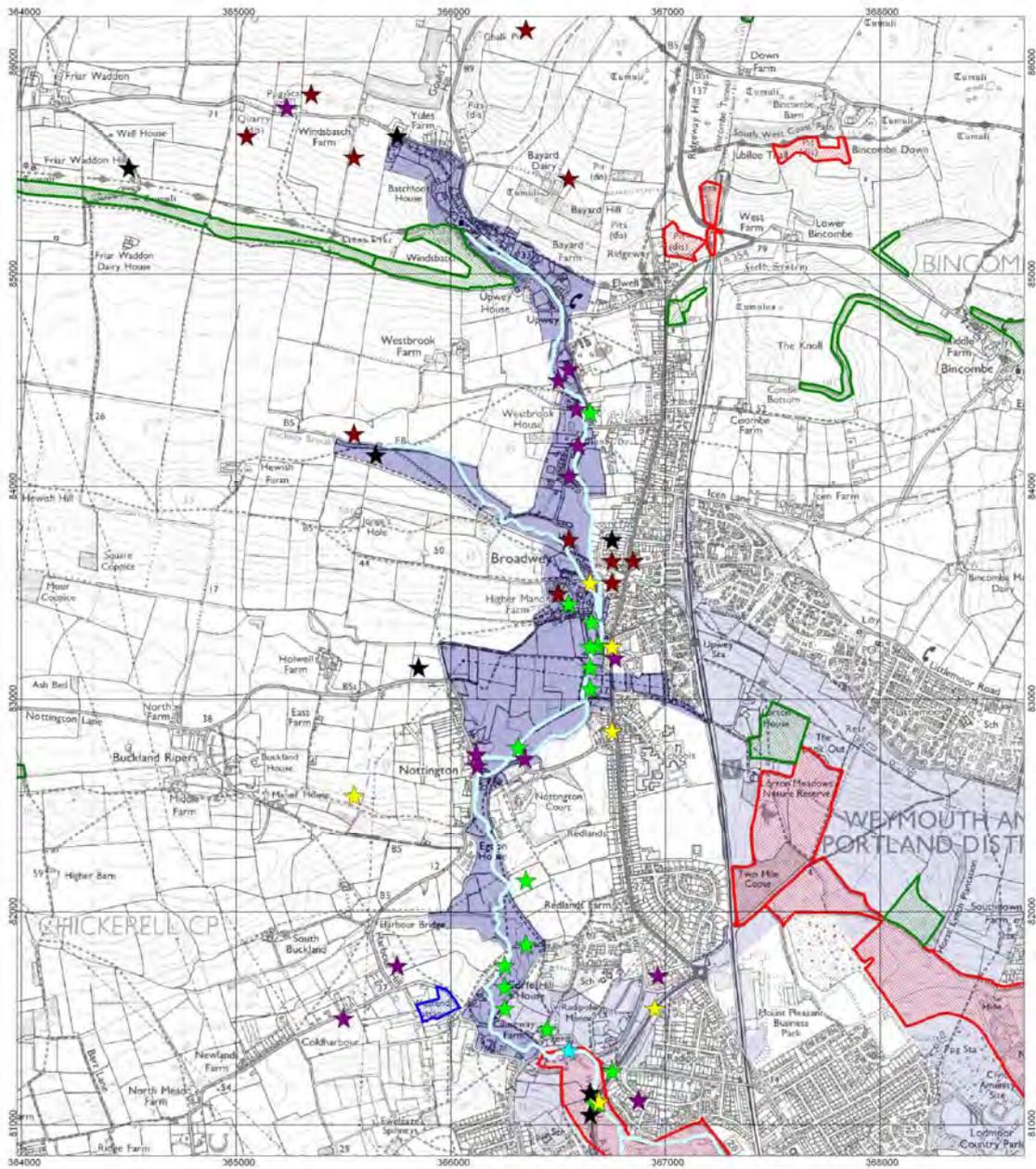
The fields surrounding Bowleaze and the Waterside Holiday Park provide a link from the wider countryside to the coastal slopes on Furzy Cliff, which in turn provides a partial link on to the habitats of the Lorton / Lodmoor Valley. Great Crested Newts have been recorded using ponds on Furzy Cliff.

#### Evidence Base

1. There is a poor level of evidence available for the importance of the corridor.
2. There is no specific bird data for this site (see 6. River Jordan Corridor).

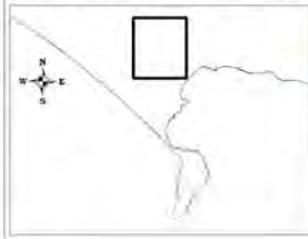
#### Recommendations

1. Restoration and enhancement of the hedgerows and field margins within the corridor would be beneficial.



**Lorton Farm Lane Corridor**

Scale 1:25000



- Key:**
- Wildlife corridor
  - SSSI
  - SNCI
  - River

**Post-1995 species records:**

- Badger
- Bats
- Brown Hare
- Deer
- Otter
- Water Vole

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright and may be used in accordance with the provisions of the Ordnance Survey Act 2003.



*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important East-West Corridors

### 8. Lorton Farm Lane Corridor

The Lorton Farm Lane Corridor links the River Wey corridor with the Lorton Valley and provides one of the shortest routes from the wider countryside into the Lorton Valley. The corridor currently consists of pony paddocks and school playing fields; however there would appear to be opportunities for habitat enhancement. The corridor is likely to provide opportunities for occasional movement into and out of the Lorton Valley by larger mammals such as Roe Deer, Badger and Otter. Bats are also likely to regularly use the corridor. The Weymouth Relief Road will provide a green bridge which should help to maintain connectivity.

#### Evidence Base

1. The map shows a scattering of records for mobile species along this corridor.
2. The table below list species recorded by the Dorset Bird Club.

#### Red List and Amber List Birds Recorded in Lorton Farm Lane Corridor

Common name	Protection	S41	Priority Species	Threat	Dorset status
Mallard	EPS			AMBER	
Little Egret	EPS			AMBER	breeding
European Honey-buzzard	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Red Kite	EPS,WCA			AMBER	other
Hen Harrier	EPS	NERC S41	UK	RED	wintering
Common Kestrel				AMBER	breeding
European Golden Plover	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Northern Lapwing	EPS	NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding/wintering
Mediterranean Gull	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Little Gull	EPS,WCA			AMBER	passage migrant
Herring Gull	EPS			RED	breeding
Sandwich Tern	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Barn Owl	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Common Kingfisher	EPS,WCA			AMBER	breeding
Green Woodpecker				AMBER	breeding
Sky Lark	EPS			RED	breeding
Barn Swallow				AMBER	breeding
Meadow Pipit				AMBER	breeding
Grey Wagtail				AMBER	breeding
Hedge Accentor				AMBER	breeding
Black Redstart	WCA			AMBER	breeding
Fieldfare	EPS,WCA			RED	wintering
Song Thrush	EPS			RED	breeding
Redwing	EPS,WCA			RED	wintering
Common Whitethroat				AMBER	breeding
Firecrest	WCA			AMBER	wintering
House Sparrow		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Eurasian Tree Sparrow		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Linnet				RED	breeding
Common Bullfinch				AMBER	breeding
Yellowhammer		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Reed Bunting		NERC S41	UK	AMBER	breeding
Corn Bunting				RED	breeding

#### Recommendations

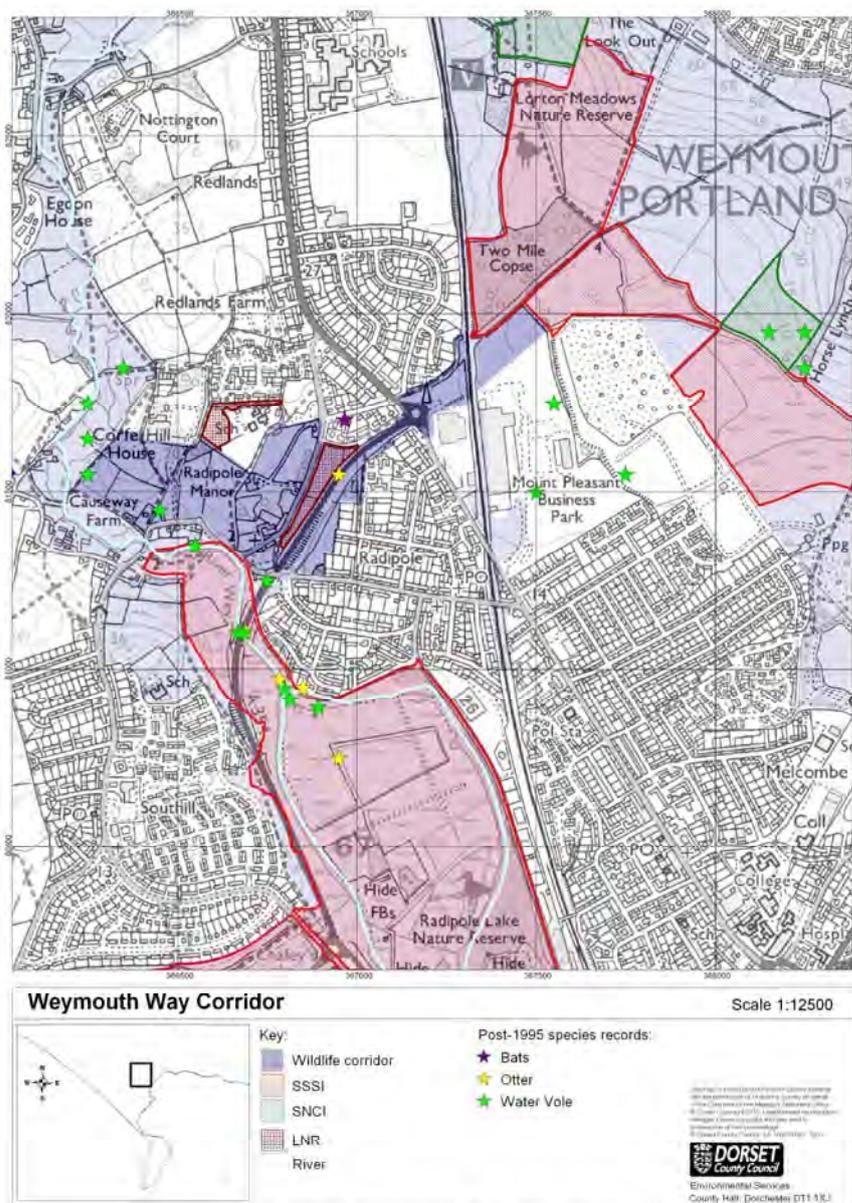
1. Bat surveys of the corridor may help establish the corridor as a regular bat commuting route. (Low priority).
2. A corridor habitat enhancement project would be beneficial.

## 9. Weymouth Way Corridor

The A354 and the adjacent Radipole Community Woodland LNR provides a corridor of scrub and woodland habitats that link the Radipole Lake SSSI with the habitats of the Lorton Valley. It is likely the corridor is of particular value to migratory birds and for local movement of key breeding birds, such as Bearded Tits moving between the reedbeds of Radipole Lake and Lodmoor.

### Evidence Base

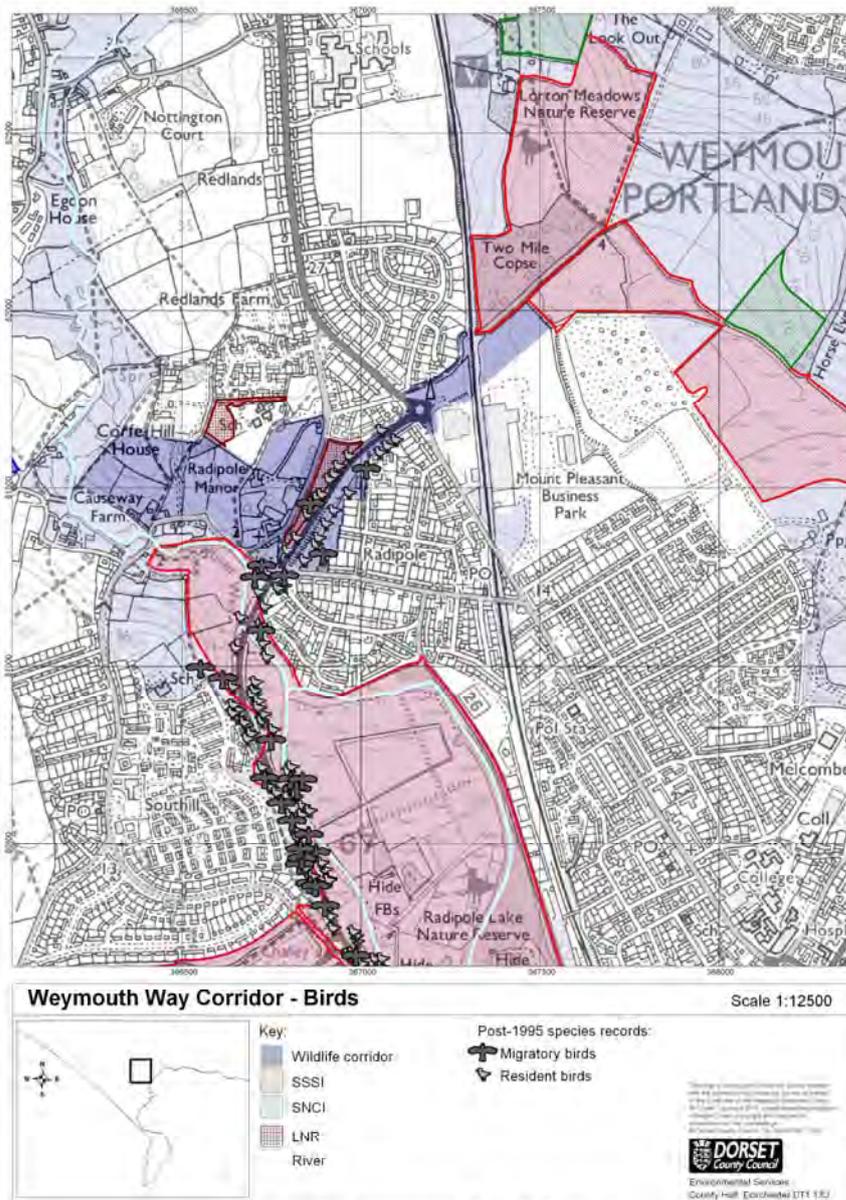
1. A spring bird survey in 2010 found several migratory species and summer residents using this corridor including Swallows, Martins, Swifts, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Whitethroat and Reed Warbler (see *Report on surveys for spring birds and other wildlife* by K. Cook 2010). The full report is included in Appendix 3.
2. There are few other records for this corridor except the Watervoles and Otters records illustrated on the following map.



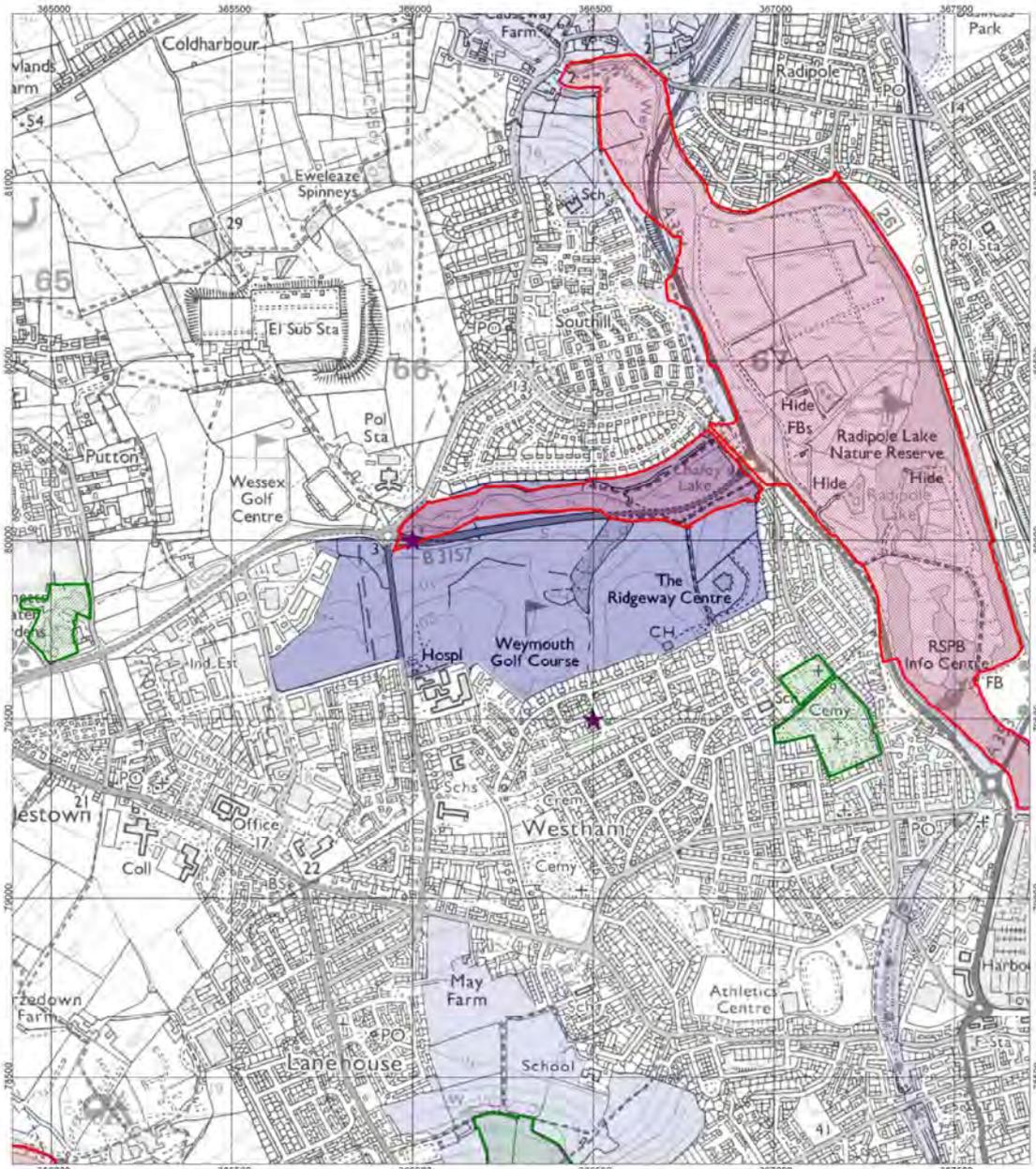
## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important East-West Corridors

### Recommendations

1. Bat surveys of the corridor may help confirm it as a regular bat commuting route. This is a low priority as the corridor is not considered to be under threat.
2. Encouraging the submitting of species records from the LNR would strengthen the evidence base for the corridor.
3. The management of the A354 road verge should recognise its role as a wildlife corridor.

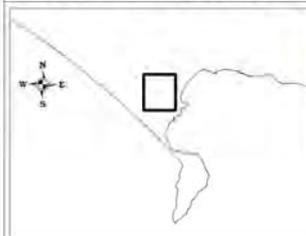


Dorset Environmental Records Centre



### Weymouth Golf Course Corridor and Stepping Stone

Scale 1:15000



- Key:**
- Wildlife corridor
  - SSSI
  - SNCI

- Post-1995 species records:**
- ★ Bats

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. It is issued as a public good. Information reproduced here is for general information only and may be subject to change without notice. © Dorset County Council, 2010



Environmental Services  
County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important East-West Corridors

### 10. Weymouth Golf Course Corridor and Stepping Stone

The Weymouth Golf Course along with the adjoining Chafey's Lake (part of the Radipole Lake SSSI) provides a wildlife corridor between Radipole Lake through to the Water Lily Farm (West Dorset) and the wider countryside.

#### Evidence Base

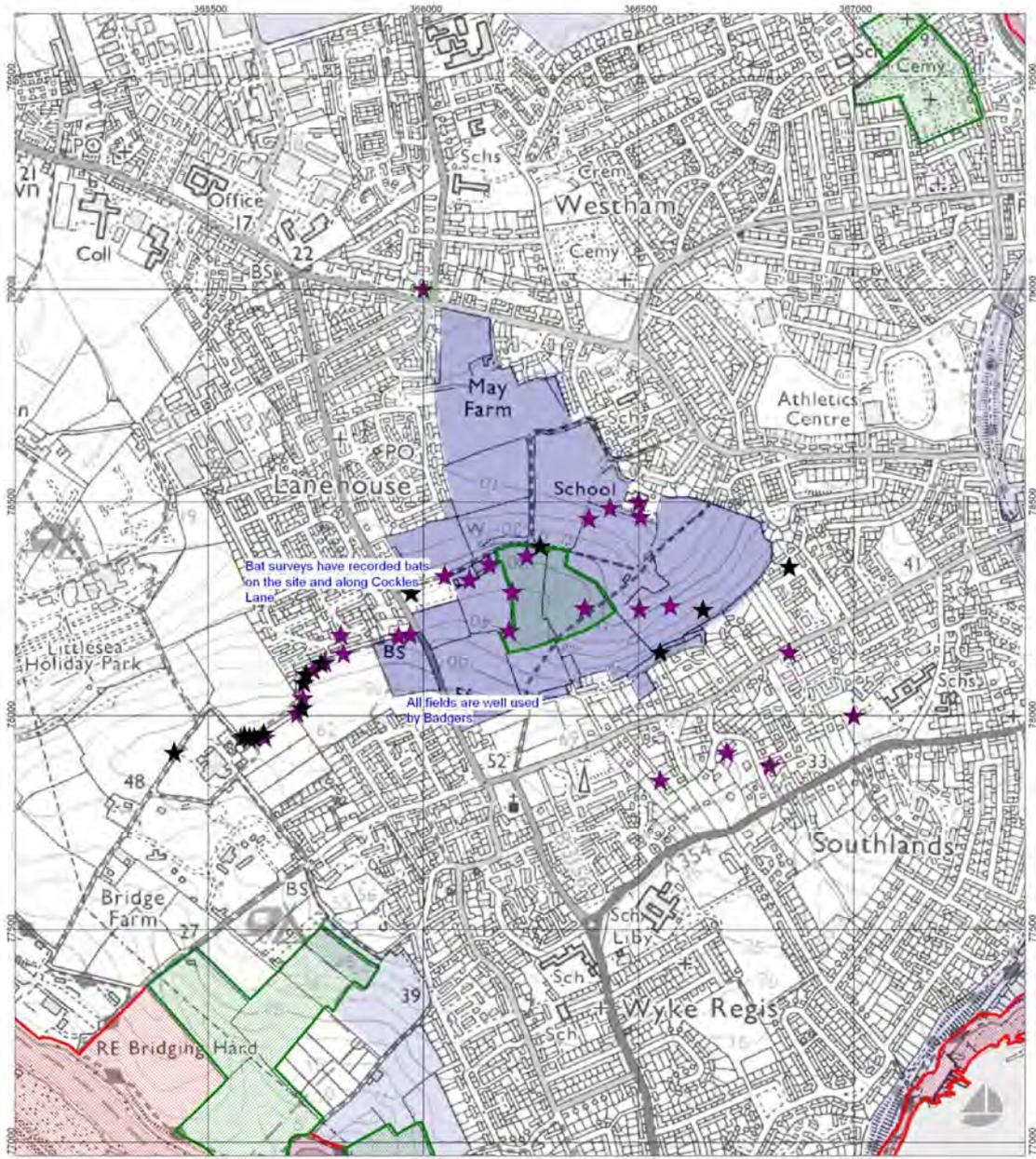
1. Insufficient evidence is currently available. The only data is from Dorset Bird Club.

#### Red List and Amber List Birds Recorded from Weymouth Golf Course and Chafey's Lake

Common name	Protection	S41	Priority Species	Threat	Dorset status
Eurasian Teal	EPS			AMBER	wintering
Mallard	EPS			AMBER	breeding/wintering
Little Egret	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Common Kestrel				AMBER	breeding
Eurasian Woodcock	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Barn Swallow				AMBER	breeding
House Martin				AMBER	breeding
Hedge Accentor				AMBER	breeding
Northern Wheatear				AMBER	passage migrant
Song Thrush	EPS			RED	breeding
Mistle Thrush	EPS			AMBER	breeding
Common Grasshopper Warbler		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Whitethroat				AMBER	breeding
Willow Warbler				AMBER	breeding
Firecrest	WCA			AMBER	wintering
House Sparrow		NERC S41	UK	RED	breeding
Common Bullfinch				AMBER	breeding
Reed Bunting		NERC S41	UK	AMBER	breeding

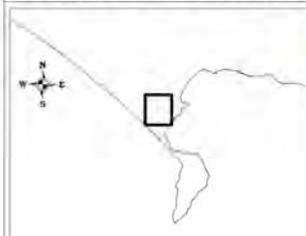
#### Recommendations

1. Migratory bird and bat activity surveys. Priority will be dependent on perceived development pressure for the golf course.
2. The management of golf course should recognise its role as a wildlife corridor. This might be best achieved through the adoption of a biodiversity enhancement plan for the course. The plan should aim to provide habitat enhancements that increase connectivity through the site.
3. Encouraging the submitting of species records from the golf course would strengthen the evidence base for the corridor.



### Fleet to Little Francis Corridor and Stepping Stone

Scale 1:12500



Key:

- Wildlife corridor
- SSSI
- SNCI

Post-1995 species records:

- Badger
- Bats

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. It is issued as a public good. Information reproduction in any form is prohibited without the prior written permission of Dorset County Council. © Dorset County Council. LA 10/01/09 2010



Environmental Services  
County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important East-West Corridors

### 11. Fleet to Little Francis Corridor and Stepping Stone

Little Francis provides an important stepping stone area with neutral grasslands, scrub and hedgerow habitats. The area is also linked by an east-west corridor to the Fleet hinterland. The corridor is likely to be used by the larger mammals such as Roe Deer and Badgers. The Little Francis area is also important to migratory birds.

#### Evidence Base

1. Detailed habitat information is available for the Little Francis SNCI.
2. Badgers are known to be present in the area.
3. During 2009 a survey of Little Francis provided some evidence of the importance of this site for passage birds. 59 bird species were recorded in the survey between July and October 2009. Of these, five Red listed species and 10 Amber listed species occurred at the site as migrants. Many of the migrants recorded were feeding on or over the site including a count of 269 Swallows, tens of House Martins and Meadow Pipits and several other migrants on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Summary results from the survey report (*Bird surveys of 'Fleet to Little Francis' and 'Wyke Oliver Farm gap'; two natural corridors in Weymouth, July to October 2009*):

Number bird species recorded	59
Number migrant bird species recorded	24 (including 6 Red and 12 Amber)
Number breeding bird species recorded (breeding behaviour and confirmed breeding)	16
Number of Red list birds species recorded	9
Number of Amber list bird species recorded	12

Migrants recorded from the site:

	Threat status		Threat status
Swift	Amber	Whitethroat	Amber
Skylark	Red	Garden Warbler	
Sand Martin	Amber	Blackcap	
Swallow	Amber	Willow Warbler	Amber
House Martin		Chiffchaff	
Tree Pipit	Red	Spotted Flycatcher	Red
Meadow Pipit	Amber	Chaffinch	
Yellow Wagtail	Red	Greenfinch	
Grey Wagtail	Amber	Goldfinch	
Redstart	Amber	Siskin	
Wheatear	Amber	Linnets	Red
Lesser Whitethroat		Reed Bunting	Amber

A complete list of species recorded including counts for each visit and a discussion on their importance can be found in the full report (Appendix 1).

4. A 2009 survey of Little Francis has provided some evidence of the importance of this site to the passage of bats. (*Bat Survey at: Weymouth, Fleet to Little Francis* by Dorset Ecology October 2009). The full report is included in Appendix 2. The additional bat records are included in the Corridor map opposite.

The survey found this area was used by Pipistrelles, a Long-eared Bat and Noctules. The bats, especially the Pipistrelles, were foraging along the hedgerows. Having established that the area is used by bats the survey report recommended that further work is done.

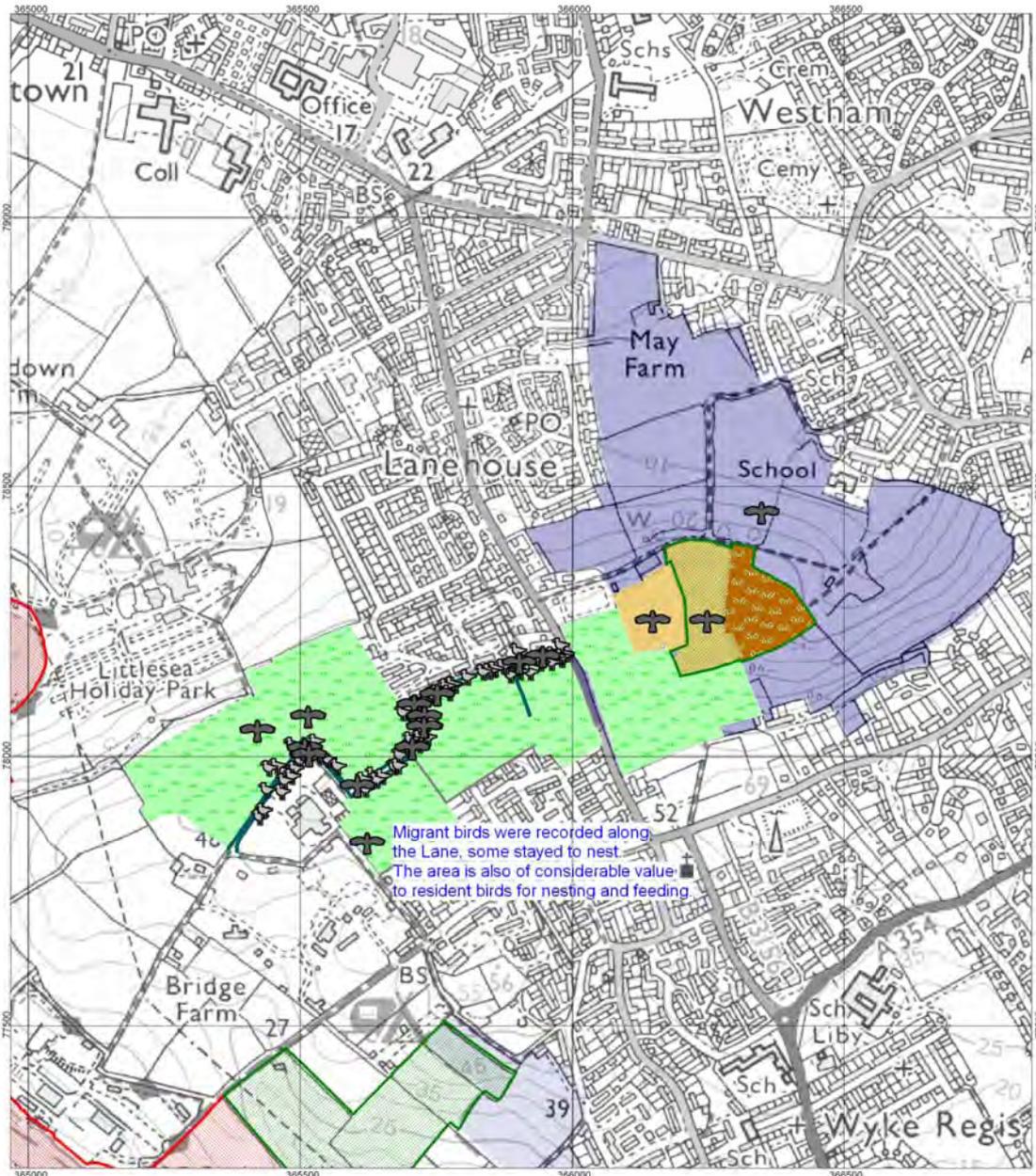
Surveyors were also asked to record any other mobile species using the area. They found evidence of Badgers and Barn Owls on the site. The Barn Owls maybe nesting and/or roosting in the buildings.

During Spring 2010 a survey of the fields to the west of Lanehouse Rocks Road was carried out (*Report on surveys for spring birds and other wildlife* by K. Cook 2010). The full report is included in Appendix 3.

5. Surveys in April and May recorded migrant species (Chiff-chaff, Blackcap and Whimbrel) moving through the site. Some migrants also stayed on or near the area to nest including Chiff-chaffs and Swallows.
6. A bat survey along Cockles Lane recorded three species of bat using the line of the hedge as a flyway, possibly heading out to the insect-rich reedbeds of the Fleet.
7. Several Badger setts were seen in this area and there was a lot of Badger activity. Live Badgers were recorded and the whole area has well-worn badger tracks throughout.

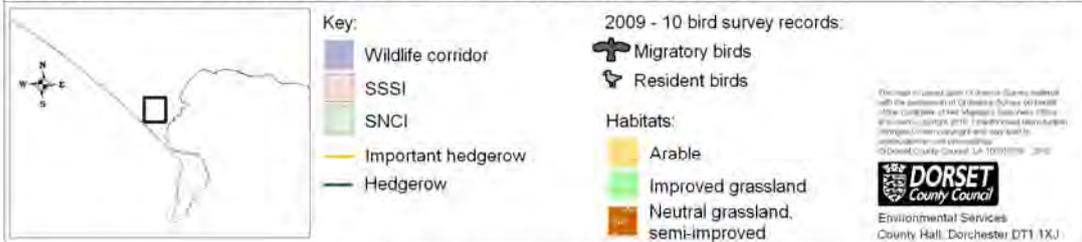
### **Recommendations**

1. Restoration of habitats outside the remaining SNCI.



**Fleet to Little Francis Corridor and Stepping Stone - Birds**

Scale 1:10000



*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*



**Portland West Corridors** Scale 1:27500

**Key:**

- Wildlife corridor
- SSSI
- SNCI
- LNR

**Butterfly colonies:**

- Butterfly foodplants
- Adonis Blue
- Chalk Hill Blue
- Silver Studded Blue
- Small Blue

This map is based upon OS/Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
© Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction without Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or legal proceedings.  
© Dorset County Council, LA 10019750 3/10

Environmental Services  
County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

*Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

## Key wildlife corridors and stepping stones: Important East-West Corridors

### 12. Portland West Corridors

Habitat links between the East and West Weares are considered important for the island's migratory bird interests and, perhaps more critically, Portland's important butterfly populations. The important butterfly species are Adonis Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Silver-studded Blue and Lulworth Skipper.

Three corridors are identified:

- Northern corridor includes SSSI and SNCI land in the Verne Yeates LNR, Kingbarrow Nature Reserve, Tout Quarry, Nicodemus Heights SSSI, northern Inmosthay and Admiralty Quarry.
- Central corridor includes land within Broadcroft Quarry, Independent Quarry, southern Inmosthay and Bowers Quarry.
- Southern corridor includes land within Combeheld Quarry, Suckthumb Quarry and at Stonehills

#### Evidence Base

1. An updated survey of butterfly colonies on Portland was completed in 2008 (*A Review of the Key Butterfly Species within the Isle of Portland*, Edwards, B. DERC 2009). The adjacent map shows the distribution of butterfly colonies for the most important species.
2. An appropriate assessment of the existing mineral permissions on the island has been undertaken. Dr Phil Sterling has identified important east-west corridors on Portland which allow the movement of butterflies across the island.
3. Other information on movement of birds across the island is likely to be available from the Portland Bird Observatory and DERC already has much data within the Dorset Bird Club dataset. The observed species list is in excess of 290 species and has not been included here.

#### Recommendations:

1. Restoration of worked quarries should aim to restore and strengthen the east-west corridors as a priority.
2. Working of existing mineral permissions should as far as possible minimise disruption to the identified corridors.
3. Management of SSSI and SNCI habitats on the island is a conservation priority.



## References

Eaton, M. A., Brown, A.F., Noble, D.G., Musgrove, A.J., Hearn, R., Aebischer, N.J., Gibbons, D.W., Evans, A. and Gregory, R.D. 2009. Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. *British Birds* 102, pp 296-341

Edwards, B. 2009 *A Review of the Key Butterfly Species within the Isle of Portland* SSSI. DERC.

## Data Sources

Alder, D. 2005, Weymouth Relief Road. *Report on a Bat Detector Survey at Lorton Valley Meadows*. Dorset County Council.

Billington, G. 2003, Weymouth Relief. Road. *Report on Bat Survey of Two Mile Copse, Weymouth*. Greena Ecological Consultancy.

Billington, G. 2004, Weymouth Relief Road. *Report on bat radio tracking research conducted in and around Two Mile Copse and the route of the proposed Weymouth Relief Road, Draft Version 1*. Greena Ecological Consultancy.

Brown, J. 2003, Weymouth Relief Road. *Badger Survey, Consultation Draft Report*, September 2003. Ecological Planning & Research.

Clarke, M.J. 2003, Weymouth Relief Road. *Bat Survey Work, Consultation Draft Report*, October 2003. Ecological Planning and Research.

DERC General Records 1990-1999

DERC General Records 2000-present

Dorset Badger Group

Dorset Bat Group

Dorset Biodiversity Initiative

Dorset Bird Club

Dorset Mammal Group

Dorset Otter Group - 2001, Dorset Otter Group Survey Data 1998/2000

Dorset Wildlife Trust - 1998, Water Vole Survey 1996-1997

Dorset Wildlife Trust Reserves Database

DWT Projects

DWT Rivers and Wetlands Project

EN Batdata

Environment Agency

Greenaway, F. & Clarke, M.J. 2003, Weymouth Relief Road. *Specialist Bat Survey 2. Consultation Draft Report*, September 2003. Ecological Planning and Research.

Smith, P. 2003, Weymouth Relief Road. *Specialist Bat Survey 1. Consultation Draft Report*, September 2003. Ecological Planning and Research.

Stobart, J. 2002, Mammal records, imported files

Strange, A. - 2003, Weymouth Relief Road. *Water Vole and Otter survey. Consultation Draft Report*, September 2003. Ecological Planning and Research.

Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group

Temple, P. 1999, *GCN Survey, Central South Dorset, Stage 1*, September 1999

Temple, P. 2000, *Ponds and the Great Crested Newt; West Dorset Survey 2000*.

Williams, S. 2003, *Brown Hare Survey 2002-2003*. Dorset Wildlife Trust

**Appendix 1 Weymouth Bird Surveys**

**Bird surveys of 'Fleet to Little Francis' and 'Wyke Oliver Farm gap'; two natural corridors in Weymouth, July to October 2009**

**A report to *Dorset Environmental Records Centre***

**David Chown**

**October 2009**

## **1 Introduction**

These surveys were commissioned by Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) on behalf of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council (WPBC), in response to a draft paper prepared by Dorset Wildlife Trust and Natural England.

The paper highlighted the need for data on the use of 'natural corridors', or 'stepping stones' within the borough by birds and other mobile species. Surveys at Little Francis and Wyke Oliver Farm Gap were highlighted as priorities for bird surveys.

The objective of the surveys was to record the presence of 'mobile' species, whether migrants or more local birds making feeding or roost movements.

## **2 Survey areas**

### **2.1 Fleet to Little Francis (Figure 1)**

The site is approximately 45ha in extent, bounded largely by residential areas except at the south-west end, where it is connected to farmland bordering The Fleet. Land-use is chiefly grassland; there were no livestock during the survey period. Two fields (9 and 10, see Figure 1) consist of a mosaic of scrub and relatively herb-rich grassland. There is a copse on the southern edge of the site. Field boundaries are mainly hedges, some of them with trees. The site is heavily used for recreation, particularly by dog-walkers, with the central and eastern parts being essentially open access.

### **2.2 Wyke Oliver Farm gap (Figure 2)**

This site, approximately 50ha in extent, is part of the larger Lorton Valley corridor. For the purposes of this survey, the western boundary was treated as the north-south hedge-line which runs from Littlemoor Road to Southdown Farm. The northern boundary is Littlemoor Road, and the eastern and southern boundaries are defined by housing. Land-use is primarily grassland, with some grazing during the survey period (cattle, horses and goats), and poultry around the farm itself. Wheat was growing in fields 11 and 12. There is a linear copse (mainly Ash) west of the farm. Field boundaries are mainly hedges. Field 2 and the north edge of field 1 were fenced off and unmanaged as a result of works along Littlemoor Road.

Figure 1. Fleet to Little Francis

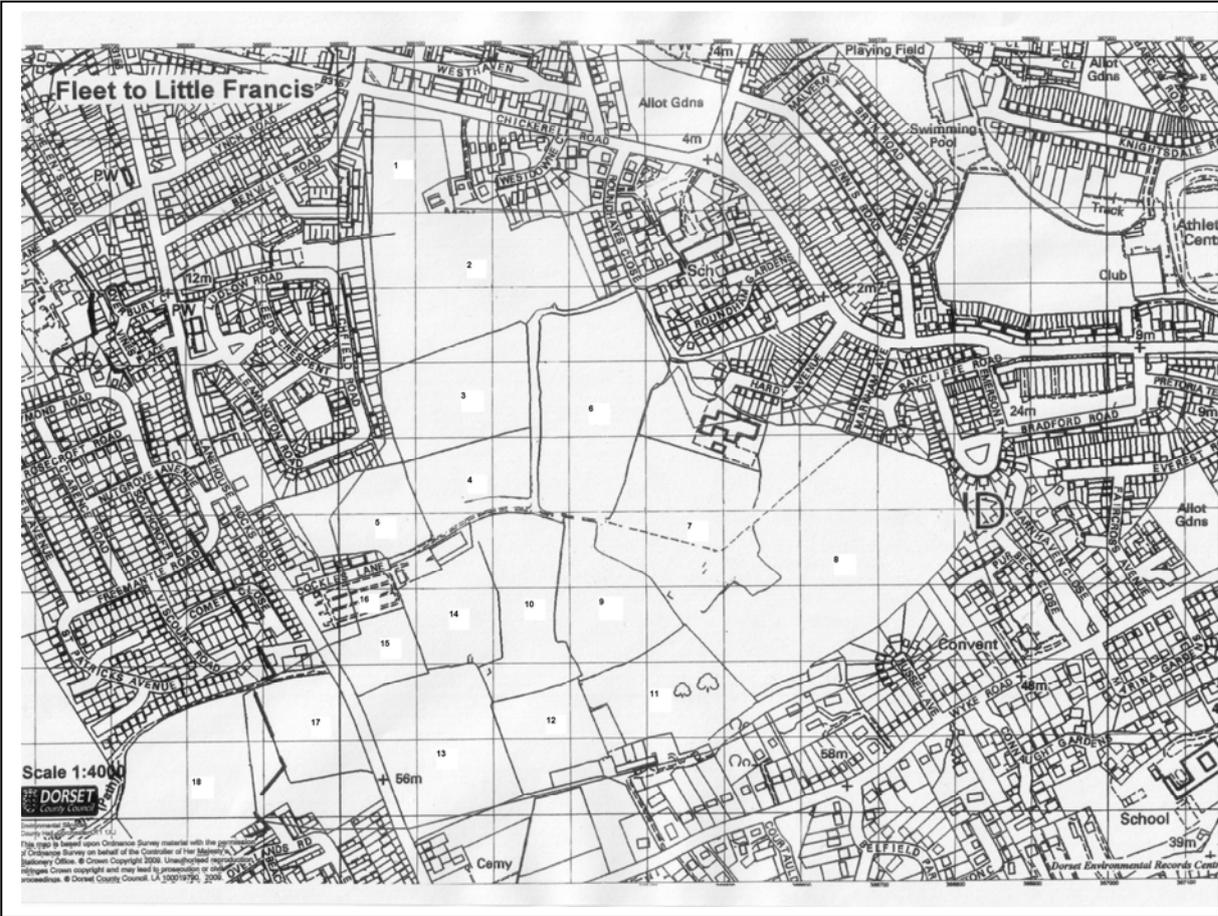
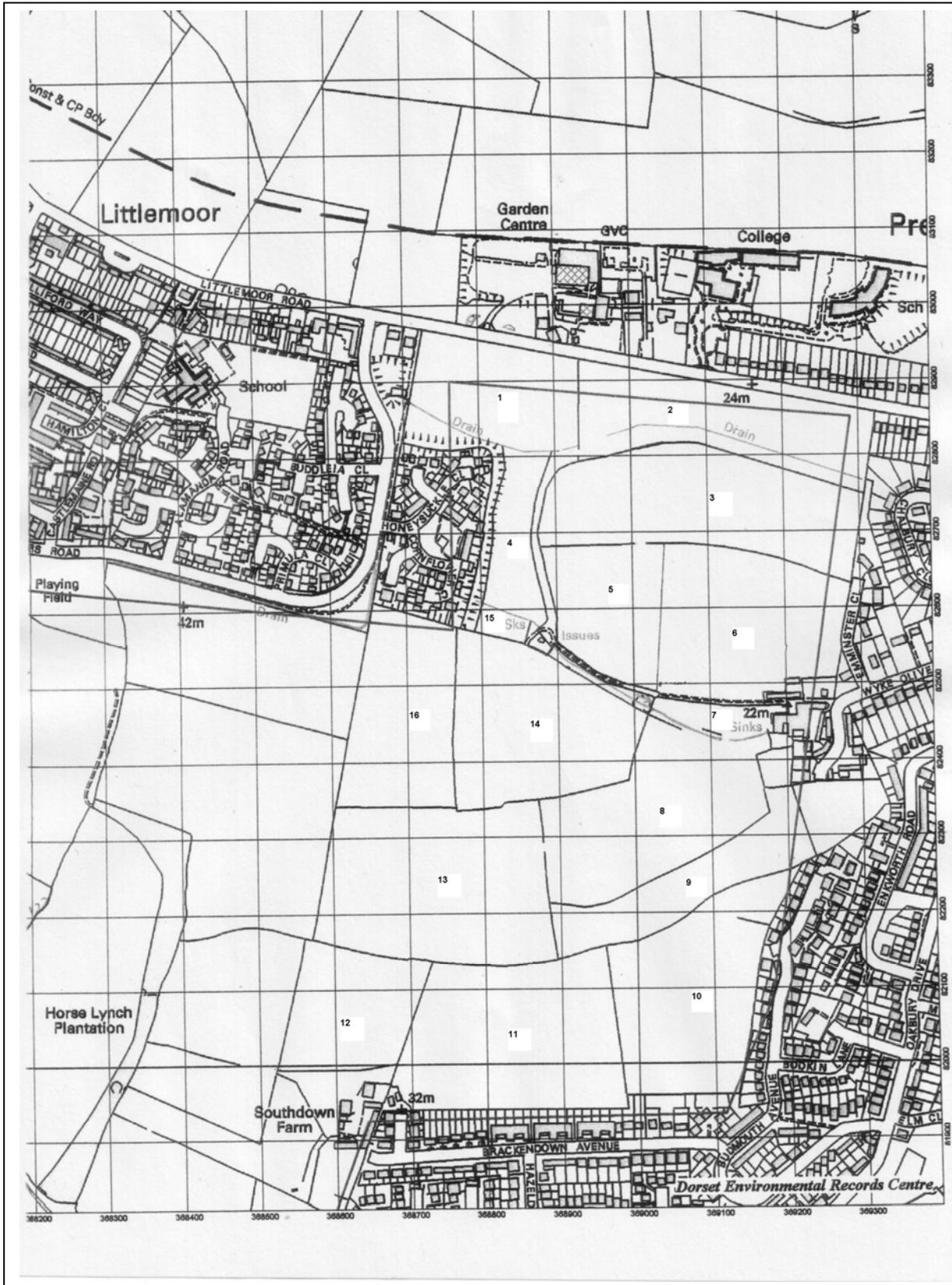


Figure 2. Wyke Oliver Farm Gap



### **3 Methods**

Each site was visited 10 times. With the exception of the first visit to Fleet to Little Francis on July 10<sup>th</sup>, visits were made at intervals (minimum four days, maximum 20 days) from August to October, thus sampling a large part of the autumn migration period.

Survey followed a simple 'walk-over' method, whereby the observer walked slowly around the site recording and mapping all birds using BTO species codes on 1:4000 field maps. The route walked was also recorded. It was suggested that effort should be greatest on the parts of the sites contiguous with the adjacent rural areas (John Stobart pers. comm.). Therefore, effort was concentrated in the south-west half of Fleet to Little Francis and the northern half of Wyke Oliver Farm gap, such that most ground was approached to within 100m or less on most visits. Remaining areas (fields 1, 2, 7, 8, 11 and 12 at Fleet to Little Francis; and fields 9 to 13 and 16 at Wyke Oliver Farm) were visited infrequently or viewed from a distance.

Survey was carried out in the morning (before 13:00BST), and lasted around two hours per visit. Poor weather conditions (rain, poor visibility or winds above Beaufort force 4) were avoided.

After each visit, counts were tabulated. Birds using the site and those passing over were differentiated. Where possible, migrants were also distinguished from 'residents' or other local birds making feeding or roosting movements. This was generally straightforward except in species where the presence of small numbers of migrants was potentially masked by local birds, as in the case of robin and blackbird.

Fauna other than birds were also recorded on a casual basis.

Field maps were archived with DERC.

### **4 Results**

Counts for Fleet to Little Francis and Wyke Oliver Farm are shown in Tables 1 and 2 respectively. Obtaining precise estimates of bird populations is extremely difficult, and was not the objective of these surveys. Instead, the data indicate the presence and broad level of abundance of species occurring at a particular time of year on the two sites.

The dates and times of the 10 visits to each site are shown in Appendix I.

Records of fauna other than birds are listed in Appendix II.

**Table 1. Counts of birds using and passing over the Fleet-Little Francis site, July-October 2009**

For each date there are counts of birds using the site ('count', including birds feeding over the site) and birds passing through overhead ('overhead').

'Birds of conservation concern' (Eaton et al 2009): **Red-list** and **Amber-list** species are highlighted in the appropriate colour.

Summary status (final column) Migrants and other transient species; summary of status during survey:

M: species occurring as a migrant (shaded cells indicate the dates when birds considered to be migrants were observed).

PM: species potentially occurring as a migrant, but migrants not distinguishable from local birds.

L: 'local' birds making relatively short distance movements, e.g. feeding or roosting movements.

The breeding season was still in progress at the time of the first visit to this site. Species for which breeding behaviour was recorded are indicated with a 'b' and species confirmed to be breeding are indicated with 'b\*'

Area covered (see text, section 3)	Date		10-Jul		11-Aug		18-Aug		27-Aug		08-Sep		13-Sep		19-Sep		09-Oct		14-Oct		21-Oct		Summary status
	All		All	SW	SW & C	SW & C	SW	SW & C	SW & C	SW & C	SW & C	SW & C	SW & C	Centre	SW & C	SW & C	SW & C	SW & C	SW & C	SW & C	SW & C		
Species	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	
Cormorant												5											L, PM
Sparrowhawk			1				2		1						1						1		PM
Common Buzzard <sup>b*</sup>	2		1		2		2		2	1	1		1		1		1		1		1		L
<b>Kestrel</b>												2					1	1	1				L, PM
Peregrine															1								L
Pheasant <sup>b</sup>	2														1								
<b>Mediterranean Gull</b>																	7						L
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>						1		1														2	L, PM
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>																						1	L, PM
<b>Herring Gull</b>				10		5		14		6		15		8		7		8			12		L, PM
Great Black-backed Gull												1		4		1							L, PM
<b>Common Tern</b>		1																					L
<b>Stock Dove</b>	1																						
Wood Pigeon <sup>b</sup>	28		20		33		30		24		23		17		8		12				20		L
Collared Dove						1								2									L

Table 1 (continued)

Date Area covered (see text, section 3)	10-Jul All		11-Aug SW		18-Aug SW & C		27-Aug SW		08-Sep SW & C		13-Sep SW & C		19-Sep SW & C		09-Oct Centre		14-Oct SW & C		21-Oct SW & C		Summary status
	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	
Swift	5										1										L, M
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1						1		1		1				1		1	1	1		
Green Woodpecker							1						1						1		
Skylark																3				2	M
Sand Martin												1									M
Swallow			1					3		11		269	1	21		10				1	L, M
House Martin	5				1		1					32		12							L, M
Tree Pipit							1														M
Meadow Pipit						1				4	2	26		29		37		5	1	8	M
Yellow Wagtail												1									M
Grey Wagtail								2				1						1			M
Pied Wagtail																31	2	7			L, M
Wren <sup>b*</sup>	9		6		5		7		5		5		8		7		6		12		
Duncock <sup>b*</sup>	4		1		4		3		7		8		9		4		6		7		
Robin <sup>b*</sup>	6		10		6		7		9		12		19		10		11		13		PM (Sept/Oct)
Redstart									1												M
Wheatear											1										M
Blackbird <sup>b</sup>	3		7		4		4		12		13		20		17		11		18		PM (Oct)
Song Thrush	1										1				3	1	5		3	1	PM (Oct)
Mistle Thrush															1						L, PM (Oct)
Lesser Whitethroat	1		3		3		2		1		1										M
Whitethroat	1				1		1		1		2										M

Table 1 (continued)

Date Area covered (see text, section 3)	10-Jul All		11-Aug SW		18-Aug SW & C		27-Aug SW		08-Sep SW & C		13-Sep SW & C		19-Sep SW & C		09-Oct Centre		14-Oct SW & C		21-Oct SW & C		Summary status
	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	
Garden Warbler			1		1						1										M
Blackcap <sup>b</sup>	2						2		3		5		10						3		M
Willow Warbler			1		1		2				1		1								M
Chiffchaff <sup>b*</sup>	7		2		6		5		5		10		17		4		5		5		M
Spotted Flycatcher			1				6		2		1		1								M
Long-tailed Tit	4				8				4		10		7				8				
Blue Tit	2		6		7		6		13		10		7		3		10		4		
Great Tit	2		3		5		4		9		5		9		7		8		5		
Magpie <sup>b*</sup>	7		5		4		5		7		6		7		5		11		5		
Jackdaw	3			6			2	2	19		8	2	10	15	10	10	5	5	12	18	L
Rook												1		6		1		16	2	15	L
Carrion Crow <sup>b*</sup>	14		8		8		3		10		6		7	2	12		7		5		L
Raven				1				3				3								2	L
Starling										19								12		1	L, PM (Oct)
House Sparrow			3		23						3		3				9		5		
Chaffinch <sup>b*</sup>	1		2		5		6	3	9		7		6	5	4	14	9	2	8	1	L, M
Greenfinch <sup>b*</sup>	10		10		4		4		5		8		5		12	10	2	3	14	2	L, M
Goldfinch <sup>b*</sup>	11		1	7	2		10	1	1	2	2			2	4	3	4	1	64	1	L, M
Siskin																		1		1	M
Linnet <sup>b*</sup>	1		1													36		10			M
Bullfinch <sup>b*</sup>	2		3		1		5		3		2		3		2		3		4		
Reed Bunting											1										M

**Table 2. Counts of birds using and passing over Wyke Oliver Farm site, August-October 2009 (see notes to Table 1)**

Area covered	Date		10-Aug		18-Aug		27-Aug		31-Aug		08-Sep		14-Sep		19-Sep		09-Oct		14-Oct		21-Oct		Summary status
	(see text, section 3)	N & C	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N & C	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		
Species	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	
Canada Goose				201				44					46				43		180		31	L	
Mallard	1		2										2				2	3		7			L
Cormorant				1																		2	L, PM
Grey Heron															1								L
Sparrowhawk	1		1				1									1					1		PM
Common Buzzard	1		2		1		2		1			2		1					2		1		
Kestrel			1		1		1		1					1						1			L
Moorhen	1											1											
Black-headed Gull				2									2	80			11		54	2	3		L, PM
Lesser Black-backed Gull													1										L, PM
Herring Gull		15		55		3		19		6			36	1	7		31	1	18		9		L, PM
Stock Dove	1		1		1		1						1	1							1		L
Wood Pigeon	24		20		20		41		10			8		33		8		26		15			L
Collared Dove	1				1							5	2						7				L
Swift	1																						M
Green Woodpecker			2		1				1									1		1			
Skylark																			3		25		M
Sand Martin					3								2										M
Swallow	35		24		30		33	1	32			50	100	100	100	5	8				3		M
House Martin	2		12		7		3		9			100	200	100									M
Tree Pipit		1							1														M
Meadow Pipit						1						13	15	23	3	39	44	50	10	13			M
Yellow Wagtail									4						1								M

Table 2 (continued)

Area covered (see text, section 3)	Date		10-Aug		18-Aug		27-Aug		31-Aug		08-Sep		14-Sep		19-Sep		09-Oct		14-Oct		21-Oct		Summary status
	N & C	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N & C	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Species	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	
Grey Wagtail								1					3	1	1		3			3			M
Pied Wagtail														2	4	9	10	5	5	3			L, M
Wren	3		3		2		6		4		4		3		7		9		3				
Dunnock	1		6				1		7		4		3		3		8		3				
Robin	4		3		7		7		12		7		10		7		10		5				PM (Sept/Oct)
Redstart							2																M
Whinchat									1		2		3										M
Stonechat																	2		2				M
Wheatear									1		4		3										M
Blackbird	2		2		4		4		5				4		7		12		5				PM (Oct)
Song Thrush															2								PM (Oct)
Redwing																		7	2				M
Mistle Thrush																		2					M
Dartford Warbler																	1						M
Lesser Whitethroat							2		1														M
Whitethroat			1		2				2		2		1										M
Blackcap							1				1												M
Willow Warbler					4																		M
Chiffchaff	1		2		3		1		2		3		8		3		4		2				M
Spotted Flycatcher													1										M
Long-tailed Tit									4		10		2								1		
Blue Tit	1		5		1		1		3		4		4		2		4	1	1				
Great Tit	2		4		4		2		3		3		3		2		2		4				
Magpie	4		3		4		5		11		4		4		5		6		2				

Table 2 (continued)

Date Area covered (see text, section 3)	10-Aug N & C		18-Aug N		27-Aug N		31-Aug N		08-Sep N		14-Sep N & C		19-Sep N		09-Oct N		14-Oct N		21-Oct N		Summary status
	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	count	overhead	
Jackdaw			5	2	10	2	7		4	4	1	5		1	10			23	7	4	L
Rook	9		35		20		12		37	2	5	18	10	3	60	10	4	10	40	14	L
Carrion Crow	9		7		5		2		6		2		4		2		5	2	5		L
Raven						4								1							L
Starling		11						3				8		4			27	4		19	L, PM (Oct)
House Sparrow	2		56		14		91		84		31		25		24		10		42		
Chaffinch			1		1		2		3		1		1		5	5	7		2	1	L, M
Greenfinch	1	1	4		17		7		15	1	8		10		4		8	2	5	2	L, M
Goldfinch	12	2	43	2	85		7	1	51		9		18	2	13	2	51	1	19	4	L, M
Siskin																		3			M
Linnet	1	4	3		7		5		8		15	8	21		1	16	2	23	4	1	L, M
Bullfinch									1												
Reed Bunting											2										M



## 5 Discussion

### 5.1 Fleet to Little Francis

Fifty-nine species were recorded, including nine Red list and 21 Amber list species (Table 1). Among these, six Red species (**sky lark**, **tree pipit**, **yellow wagtail**, **song thrush**, **spotted flycatcher** and **linnet**) and 12 Amber species occurred at the site as migrants. Many of the migrants recorded were feeding on the site. These included species typically associated with rural rather than urban or suburban habitats, such as **tree pipit**, **meadow pipit**, **redstart**, **wheatear**, **lesser whitethroat** and **reed bunting**. The numbers of birds involved were generally small, six **spotted flycatchers** on August 27<sup>th</sup>, and 10 **blackcaps** and 17 **chiffchaffs** on Sept 19<sup>th</sup> being perhaps the most notable counts.

Movements of migrants overhead included an easterly passage of at least 269 **swallows** on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, and maxima of 32 **house martins** (Sept 13<sup>th</sup>) and 37 **meadow pipits**, 31 **pieb wagtails** and 36 **linnets** (Oct 9<sup>th</sup>). Small numbers of several other migrants passed overhead (Table 1). Overhead movements were generally on a broad front, such that all counts are inevitably under-estimates.

Seven **Mediterranean gulls** flew east on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, probably from The Fleet to Radipole Lake RSPB Reserve. The Fleet has recently become an important feeding area for this increasing species, and birds regularly commute to Radipole Lake, which is used as a loafing area (pers. obs.). A **common tern** which flew west on July 10<sup>th</sup> is very likely to have been a breeder from the colony at Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, commuting to feed in Lyme Bay. A hunting **peregrine** flew through on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>.

Local movements of other 'resident' species also occur; these movements are easy to observe in the case of corvids and gulls, but local thrushes, tits and finches will also be moving around (and potentially to and from) the site. Among the 'resident' birds, the presence of **common buzzard** (confirmed breeding) is notable given the site's size and location within the town. **Lesser whitethroats** were also present in the breeding season.

### 5.2 Wyke Oliver Farm gap

Sixty species were recorded, including 10 Red list and 22 Amber list species (Table 2). These included six Red species (**sky lark**, **tree pipit**, **yellow wagtail**, **redwing**, **spotted flycatcher** and **linnet**) and 14 Amber species occurring as migrants. Many migrants were feeding on the site, and these included species characteristic of the 'rural' habitats present (rather than of the surrounding urban and suburban habitats), most notably a **Dartford warbler** (a heathland specialist with a small UK population centred on Dorset and Hampshire) in the hedge on the north-west side of field 3 on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, but also **tree pipit**, **meadow pipit**, **yellow wagtail**, **redstart**, **whinchat**, **wheatear**, **stonechat** and **reed bunting**. Counts were generally small, but included maxima of 100 **swallows** (Sept 19<sup>th</sup>), 100 **house martins** (Sept 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) and 50 **meadow pipits** (Oct 14<sup>th</sup>).

Some active migration was observed, with **swallows** (maximum 100 north-east on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> and 100 east on 19<sup>th</sup>) and **house martins** (max. 200 north-east on Sept 14<sup>th</sup>) most prominent; other maxima including 44 **meadow pipits** north and east on Oct 9<sup>th</sup> and 25 **sky larks** mainly south on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>; and smaller numbers of other species (see Table 2). Because these movements were on a broad front, a dedicated count of 'visible migration' from a suitable vantage point would have produced higher totals.

Movements of **Canada geese** (maximum 201 on Aug 18<sup>th</sup>) commuting between feeding sites on local farmland and Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, which is used as a loafing and roosting site, were a regular feature. As at Fleet to Little Francis, feeding and/or roosting movements of corvids and gulls were noted. Many of the other 'resident' species are also likely to be moving around – and potentially to and from - the site.

'Resident' species on the site included **common buzzard**, **kestrel** and **stock dove** (all species characteristic of rural habitats) and a healthy population of the Red-listed **house sparrow** (maximum count 91).

## 6 Conclusions

These surveys should not be regarded as a definitive assessment of bird usage of the sites, which would require considerably greater survey effort distributed throughout the year.

Both sites support relatively diverse bird populations compared with urban or suburban areas. These include a number of species of conservation concern (Red list and Amber list species; Eaton *et al* 2009), some of which are migrants characteristic of 'rural' landscapes rather than urban or suburban areas because of their association with more extensive or open habitats (e.g. grasslands).

Although the counts of migrants were small in comparison to those at coastal migration 'hot-spots' such as Portland Bill, the results show that both sites support a variety of migrant birds and that both also experience movements of diurnal migrants overhead. Furthermore, the occurrence of migrants is inherently erratic and unpredictable, with large numbers occurring on relatively few days. For this reason, a survey of limited effort, such as this, will inevitably under-estimate the maximum potential of a site to support migrants.

It may be that the value of both sites for migrant and other birds is enhanced by the connection to larger areas of undeveloped land. However, proving this would require a more intensive study.

## 7 Reference

Eaton, M. A., Brown, A.F., Noble, D.G., Musgrove, A.J., Hearn, R., Aebischer, N.J., Gibbons, D.W., Evans, A. and Gregory, R.D. 2009. Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. *British Birds* 102, pp 296-341.

## Appendix I. Visit details: date, time and weather conditions

### Appendix Ia. Visit details at Fleet to Little Francis

Visit	Date	Start	Finish	Weather
1	10-Jul	10:50	13:20	Dry. Partial cloud cover. Wind W to WSW 1-3.
2	11-Aug	09:30	11:20	Dry and fine. Wind NW 2-3.
3	18-Aug	11:00	12:45	Dry. Partial cloud cover. Warm. Wind variable 1-3.
4	27-Aug	08:20	10:05	Dry. 2 to 4/8 cloud cover. Wind SW 3.
5	08-Sep	08:30	10:20	Dry. 6 to 8/8 cloud cover. Wind SSW 2-3.
6	13-Sep	07:30	09:35	Dry. 0 to 2/8 cloud cover. Wind NE 3-4.
7	19-Sep	08:05	10:10	Dry. 0-1/8 cloud cover. Wind N to NE 2.
8	09-Oct	08:30	10:15	Dry. 8/8 cloud cover. Wind NE 2-3.
9	14-Oct	10:55	12:45	Dry. 6/8 cloud cover decreasing 2/8. Wind NE 1-2.
10	21-Oct	08:30	10:30	Dry. Mild. 6/8 decreasing 4/8 cloud cover. Wind SE 3-4.

### Appendix Ib. Visit details at Wyke Oliver Farm gap

Visit	Date	Start	Finish	Weather
1	10-Aug	10:25	13:05	Some light drizzle . Cloudy; low cloud on hills. Wind SW 3-4.
2	18-Aug	08:25	10:35	Dry. Partial cloud cover. Warm. Wind variable 1-3.
3	27-Aug	10:50	12:45	Brief light shower. Cloud 4/8 increasing 8/8. Wind SW 2-3.
4	31-Aug	09:00	10:55	Light drizzle briefly. Cloudy. Wind S 1-2.
5	08-Sep	10:45	12:45	Dry. 6 to 8/8 cloud cover. Wind SSW 2-3.
6	14-Sep	08:45	11:10	Dry. Cloud 1/8 increasing 3/8. Wind NE veering NNE 4.
7	19-Sep	10:30	12:35	Dry. 0-2/8 cloud cover. Wind N to NE 2-3.
8	09-Oct	10:35	12:20	Rain for last 30 mins. 8/8 cloud cover. Wind E veering SE 3
9	14-Oct	08:20	10:30	Dry. 6 to 8/8 cloud cover. Wind NE 1-2.
10	21-Oct	10:50	12:35	Dry. Mild. 4/8 cloud cover. Wind SSE 3-4.

## Appendix II. Casual records of fauna other than birds

### Appendix IIa. Casual records of fauna other than birds at Fleet to Little Francis

Species		Details
<b>Mammals</b>		
	Rabbit	Scarce (diurnal activity possibly suppressed by presence of dogs).
	Grey Squirrel	Present
	Badger	Presence indicated by foot-print on path between fields 10 and 6 on Sept 8th.
	Sika Deer	Two stags in field 5 on Oct 9th (apparently regular, per local dog-walker).
	Roe Deer	Buck in field 16 on Sept 19th.
<b>Butterflies</b>		
	Red Admiral	Present
	Painted Lady	Present, including 20 on Aug 11th.
	Small Tortoiseshell	Present, including 8 on Aug 11th.
	Peacock	Present, including 8 on Aug 11th.
	Large White	Present
	Small White	Present
	Green-veined White	Present
	Meadow Brown	Frequent during early visits.
	Gatekeeper	Present
	Speckled Wood	Frequent
	Ringlet	Present in field 10 on July 10th.
	Small Copper	Present if field 10 on Aug 27th.
	Common Blue	Frequent in fields 9 and 10,
	Holly Blue	One by Lanehouse Rocks Road on July 10th.
<b>Other invertebrates</b>		
	Buff-tailed Bumblebee	Present on Aug 18th.

### Appendix IIb. Casual records of fauna other than birds at Wyke Oliver Farm gap

Species		Details
<b>Mammals</b>		
	Roe Deer	Up to 6 regularly, incl. at least 2 large young; mainly in fields 1 to 4 (esp. 2).
	Rabbit	Present.
<b>Butterflies</b>		
	Red Admiral	Present.
	Painted Lady	Present.
	Comma	3 on Sept 19th
	Small Tortoiseshell	Present.
	Large White	Present.
	Small White	Present.
	Green-veined White	Present.
	Meadow Brown	Frequent during early visits, especially in fields 2 and 3.
	Gatekeeper	Present.
	Speckled Wood	Present.
	Small Copper	Present in field 2.
	Common Blue	Present in field 2.
<b>Moths</b>		

	Silver-Y	Present.
	Yellow Shell	One in field 5 on Sept 8th.
<b>Dragonflies and damselflies</b>		
	Common Blue Damselfly	One in field 13 on Aug 10th.
	Common Darter	c10 on Sept 19th; small numbers still present on final visit (Oct 21st).
	Migrant Hawker	Present.
	Southern Hawker	One on Aug 27th.
<b>Other invertebrates</b>		
	Argiope bruennichi	Adult female in field 3 on Aug 18th.
	Long-winged Conehead	One imm. on track between fields 3 and 4 on Aug 18th and 2 adults Sept 8th.
	Meadow Grasshopper	Present.
	Bumblebee sp.	1 photographed in field 2 on Aug 27th believed to be B.humilis or B.muscorum.
	Red-tailed Bumblebee	Present.

# Dorset Ecology



**Bat Survey at:**  
Weymouth, Fleet to Little Francis

**For:**  
Dorset Environmental Records Centre



Dorset Ecology  
Brooklands Farm  
Forston  
Dorchester  
Dorset DT2 7AA

## Bat Survey

Fleet to Little Francis, Weymouth

CONTROLLED COPY

01 OF 02

01 DORSET ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE  
02 DORSET ECOLOGY

This study was conducted and compiled by  
Davog McCloskey MIEEM

*This report is the responsibility of Dorset Ecology  
It should be noted, that whilst every effort is made to meet the client's brief,  
no site investigation can ensure complete assessment  
or prediction of the natural environment*



Brooklands Farm  
Forston  
Dorset DT2 7AA

Tel: 01305 217972  
Fax: 01305 251120

E-Mail: [info@dorsetecology.co.uk](mailto:info@dorsetecology.co.uk)

Reference Number: DEC/1735

Surveyor: Davog McCloskey, Anna Muckle, Bronwen Bruce, Sue Wreford  
Survey date: 30.9.09  
Grid Reference: SY6629078420  
Weather: 15°C at sunset, windforce 2, 0% cloud cover  
Client/contact: Carolyn Steele (Dorset Environmental Records Centre)

## **1. Site Description**

This site is located in the centre of Weymouth. It is a series of fields with different agricultural uses with an area of Neutral Grassland SNCI (Little Francis) in the centre. The fields are separated by hedgerows with different management regimes, age structures and diversity and there are several derelict buildings on site. The site is approximately 46 hectares in all. It is surrounded by housing, development and roads on all sides, however there is a green corridor that leads south west to the Fleet.

The site was surveyed for its use by bats, particularly any potential use as a green corridor between Weymouth and the Fleet.

## Site Boundary



Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Dorset Wildlife Trust, license number 29185.  
This map remains the property of Dorset Wildlife Trust and must be returned on demand.

## Field Layout



Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Dorset Wildlife Trust, license number 29185.  
This map remains the property of Dorset Wildlife Trust and must be returned on demand.

## **2. Brief**

To survey the site for its use by bats.

## **3. Methodology**

The site was surveyed using four surveyors to cover areas with different potential for commuting and foraging animals using torches and bat detectors with recording equipment. Survey effort was concentrated on the bat flightlines on hedges and across fields however other incidental records were recorded.

Surveyors 1 & 2 followed a set route around the site. Surveyors 3 & 4 looked at some of the additional features, particularly the hedgerows.

The survey took place at 1845 and carried on until 2130.

#### 4. Survey Results

##### Surveyors1&2



Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Dorset Wildlife Trust, license number 29185.  
This map remains the property of Dorset Wildlife Trust and must be returned on demand.

### Surveyor 1&2

1. Noctule flying overhead
2. Pipistrelle flying across field
3. Pipistrelle by the hedge to the south of school
4. Soprano pipistrelle by hedge to south of school
5. Soprano pipistrelle
6. Pipistrelle
7. Pipistrelle

A tawny owl and pigeon were heard near the SNCI also

### Surveyor 3

1. Blackbirds moving along hedgerow (by Cockle Lane Gate) 1850
2. Buzzard from Cockles Lane to field a, south of Cockles Lane
3. Badger Sett (Start of Cockles Lane – north of field A – SY6597278289)
4. Pipistrelle moving along hedgerow (48khz) 1944 – north of field c – SY6615378356

### Surveyor 4

1. Kestrel flying across fields a, b and c - 1910
2. Crickets recorded in hedgerow along cockles lane
3. Barn Owl Roost SY6597478294 (As alerted by neighbour)
4. Blackbird in hedgerow along cockles lane, to north of field c – SY6616078380
5. Fox passing into SNCI from field c, along southern boundary of field c – SY6619078200
6. Pipistrelle passing along hedgerow, between SNCI and field c.
7. Bat (Possible long eared – 2015) recorded foraging between SNCI and field c – SY6620078200
8. Pipistrelle 2030 – along cockles lane – SY6605078330
9. Pipistrelle feeding, cockles lane – SY6601078320

- All the buildings have some bat potential as they are in a state of dilapidation and therefore different crevices exist for bats as well as nesting birds.
- A barn owl roost was known by a neighbour and we were alerted to this in a building adjacent to cockles lane. Other buildings have potential for roosting barn owls.

## **5. Conclusions**

The site has shown that there is some bat potential. Pipistrelles, long eared bat and noctules were all recorded at the time of survey. Pipistrelles tended to stick to the hedgerows on site and were found to be commuting and foraging especially on the hedgerows around cockles lane and to the east of field c. The hedge to the south of the school in field h was also well used by foraging pipistrelles. The habitat surrounding fields g and I were also suitable for foraging and commuting bats. The hedgerow to the west of the SNCI in field c is especially thick and the area to the south of the hedgerow had a foraging long eared bat. Most of the hedgerows surveyed by surveyor 3 recorded some crickets present and this could indicate that they have good invertebrate interest. The buildings would require an emergence survey to determine if there are any bat roosts present.

A badger sett was recorded adjacent to Cockles Lane and a resident mentioned that badgers use the area surveyed on a regular basis. She also mentioned that other badger setts were present near the SNCI boundary, however no evidence of these was recorded during the survey. One fox was recorded moving around the site along the south of field c to the SNCI.

A barn owl roost was recorded at SY6597478294. No signs of nesting barn owls were recorded during the survey. Blackbirds, kestrels a tawny owl and pigeons were all recorded around the site also.

There is high potential for bats and birds to use the green corridor from the site to the Fleet, however Lanehouse Rocks road intersects this route for mammals, making it more difficult for them to use it as a safe passage.

## **6. Recommendations**

- Further survey work would be required to determine how the site is used as a green corridor by bats and birds. This would require in depth surveys to be carried out at different times of year to monitor movements throughout the site.
- A resident mentioned that there is a 'Friend of Little Francis', group who monitor the area. This group should be contacted to share any species records they have.
- A bat emergence survey should be carried out on the buildings on site to determine their bat interest.
- Barn owl monitoring should take place to record where the nesting sites are and the roosting sites should be monitored to check if they change into nesting sites.
- The hedgerows on site have some invertebrate interest. The invertebrate interest of the site would give further information on its importance.



**FIELDWORK Ecological Services Ltd.**

(Kevin Cook B.Sc. and Associates)

**REPORT ON SURVEYS FOR SPRING BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE  
Weymouth and Portland Wildlife Corridors**

Kevin Cook 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010

70 Back Lane, Okeford Fitzpaine, Dorset. DT11 0RD  
Phone 01258 861557 Mobile: 07809017874  
E-mail: [kevin@cook5381.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:kevin@cook5381.freeserve.co.uk)  
Company No.4844924

# REPORT ON SURVEYS FOR SPRING BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE Weymouth and Portland Wildlife Corridors

Kevin Cook 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010

## REPORT SUMMARY

- All 4 sites surveyed showed some degree of spring bird migration.
- The Wey Valley showed the most obvious migration being influenced by its strong navigational features and mix of important habitats on the Radipole Nature Reserve.
- No sites showed high levels of migrant birds – this is not unexpected during ‘snapshot’ type surveys.
- All sites had a wide range of common nesting birds throughout.
- All sites except the Weymouth Way had obvious signs of badgers.
- No signs of brown hare were recorded, the only suitable site being at Wyke Oliver Gap, particularly the northern fields of Bincombe Marsh Dairy.
- Bats were surveyed for at Lanehouse Rocks fields, and it was shown that three species use the scrub and hedgeline for feeding and as a route to other locations.
- All sites showed habitat features of value to local biodiversity, none had any substantial plant communities of high ecological significance though some fields at Lanehouse had less improved diverse swards.

# REPORT ON SURVEYS FOR SPRING BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE Weymouth and Portland Wildlife Corridors

## 1. Introduction

Fieldwork Ecological Services Ltd. was commissioned to evaluate the use of 4 sites around Weymouth for their value to wildlife, particularly spring migrating birds. Studies were undertaken as below:

- Lorton Valley – Wyke Oliver Gap including fields to the north: Migrant birds and habitat features
- Rodwell Trail – migrant birds and habitat features
- Weymouth Way – migrant birds and habitat features
- Little Francis (fields west of Lanehouse Rocks Road) – migrant birds, bats and habitat features

Additionally any field signs of notable species such as badgers and hares were recorded.

Note: resident birds were also surveyed. This reinforces the validity of the survey technique and gives an indication of the value of these sites to resident birds. Some of the resident species, such as house sparrows, blue and great tits were using the surveyed areas mainly for feeding, nesting elsewhere in trees or houses outside of the survey area. Their presence though shows the value of these corridors to such species.

## 2. Methodology for Migrating Birds study

### 2.1 Migration – general notes

Peak spring migration for songbirds starts in March and continues into mid-May, though some migration continues into June. Birds arrive from southern countries in waves of activity, different species arriving at different times throughout this period, for example chiffchaffs are recorded at Portland Bird Observatory from February until late June but spotted flycatchers are strictly a May and June species. Migration occurs throughout the day and night, with birds either flying over sites or filtering through scrub, hedges, reedbeds etc. A feature of migration is the ‘fall’ of migrants at particular spots, most southerly peninsulas such as Portland being favoured by exhausted birds, especially if strong headwinds tire them – falls at Portland are typical during difficult weather.

Migrant birds can be divided into 2 categories: passage birds that are moving through to northern nesting grounds, and summer residents that stay to breed. Timing migrating bird studies is not a precise science – falls are unpredictable and weather conditions can stop migration or cause birds to travel through Dorset without significant falls. Thus a methodology has to be adapted that is flexible and relies upon the ‘normal’ filtering of birds through hedgerows and other natural features, relying upon analysis of their behaviour and differences in the populations at different survey times.

### 2.2 Bird Migration study Methodology

- a. Each site was visited at least twice during the peak migration period.
- b. Migration activity was checked using the Portland Bird Observatory website for daily updates.

- c. During each visit the route was walked slowly, stopping at intervals, at least twice – an outward and a return journey.
- d. Resident birds and migrant birds were noted on maps, recording both singing males and any bird presence. At this time of the year any bird recorded will either be a bird on territory or one passing through.
- e. Any birds apparently on territory on a second visit were carefully checked to see if they stayed or moved on.
- f. To test for the possibility of migration, migrant birds were recorded and interpreted in the following way:
  - Northern nesting species and species outside of their normal habitats (such as a grasshopper warbler in a field hedge) are likely to be migrants passing through.
  - Species not present on return journeys of a visit or on following survey visits are likely to be migrant birds.
  - Species seen on a site on later visits but not on the first were noted but this test for migration is not totally reliable unless their behaviour showed a strong migration tendency (birds flying over and not being seen again)
  - Species filtering through hedges or flying over fields etc., singing or quiet, and generally moving in a northerly direction are very likely to be migrant birds.
- g. Routes were walked slowly recording birds within 20 metres or so – generally though the surveys were limited to hedges and roadside plantings as the habitat dictated (sites mainly used by common migrants).
- h. Flying hirundines (swallows etc.) were also noted but high-flying swifts are characteristic of urban areas, feeding on aerial insects, and not necessarily linked to wildlife corridors. Small numbers of swifts could be a breeding population, larger numbers are more likely to be migrating.
- i. Survey times varied – 2010 was a very late season, first early morning surveys in April were very cold. Sites were subsequently visited evenings and later mornings the latter proving the most productive. Surveys started on the 20<sup>th</sup> April and finished on the 20<sup>th</sup> May.

### Constraints

There are limitations to the surveys as below

- There is an irregular nature to bird migration, for example many migrating birds are likely to pass over coastal areas during good weather (southerly winds) and keep flying north.
- Interpreting results where small numbers of birds are involved can lead to error. However the methodology of observation and using singing/calling birds is quite reliable at this time of the year with few birds likely to be undetected. Nesting birds are territorial and limit their singing and activity to defined areas – migrant birds will tend to move on after feeding and may not give their full song.
- 2010 was a very cold and late spring. Portland Observatory updates showed considerably lower numbers of migrants at periods (e.g. mid May) that are usually much busier.
- Road traffic noise was a considerable constraint in listening for birds along the Weymouth Way, even in early morning.

### **3. Survey Results**

Bird sightings have been mapped on MapInfo – those files are the main data source and should be viewed independently but for this report relevant maps have been extracted to back up the conclusions.

On the maps resident birds were recorded in **blue** and migrant birds in **brown** for the first visit, **red** for the second visit and **green** for the third visit.

Each site is reported below to include all survey results including habitat features, birds and any other wildlife in each section. Graphics have been included within each section too, rather than in appendices, so that each site can be extracted independently if required.

Birds were recorded using standard codes as below:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Resident/Migrant</i>
B	Blackbird	R
BC	Blackcap	M
BT	Blue tit	R
BF	Bullfinch	R
CW	Cetti's warbler	R
CH	Chaffinch	R
CC	Chiffchaff	M
D	Dunnock	R
GW	Garden warbler	R
Go	Goldfinch	R
GH	Grasshopper warbler	M
GT	Great tit	R
GR	Greenfinch	R
HM	House martin	M
HS	House Sparrow	R
LW	Lesser whitethroat	M
LI	Linnet	R
LT	Long-tailed tit	R
MA	Mallard	R
RW	Reed warbler	M
R	Robin	R
S or SK	Skylark	R
ST	Song thrush	R
SG	Starling	R
SL	Swallow	M
SI	Swift	M
WH	Whitethroat	M
WM	Whimbrel	M
WW	Willow warbler	M
WR	Wren	R
YH	Yellowhammer	R

Note – corvids, feral pigeons and wood pigeons were not recorded. House sparrow records usually represent a group of 2 or more birds as it was not practical or necessary to record the numbers of such a mobile species.

### 3. Wyke Oliver Gap

#### 3.1 Wyke Oliver Gap Habitat Features

This is divided into two survey areas: the south – known as Destiny Fields most fields formerly part of Wyke Oliver Farm, some now owned by a developer, – and the north, fields belonging to Bincombe Marsh Dairy. Both are currently farmed fields with hedges: Destiny Fields is all pasture, Bincombe Marsh (see aerial below) is largely arable with the exception of field BM6 that is permanent pasture and the overgrown site of a former nursery at BM5 – this is now a wildlife rich spinney of blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.* etc. All hedges (H) on this site are predominantly thorn – blackthorn and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* with typical flora of nutrient rich ground such as hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, wild arum *Arum maculata* etc. The southern boundary is a fence.

*Aerial view of fields of Bincombe Marsh Dairy fields*



### 3.1.1 Destiny Fields

This was the subject of an earlier survey by Fieldwork for the owners – a synopsis is below.

#### Ecological survey of land at Destiny Fields, Littlemoor, Dorset (Extract)

Survey date: 22nd October 2009

Surveyor: Kevin Cook



#### Field survey

The fields F1, F3 and F4 are typical improved pastures (F4 and F3 were being grazed by horses at the time of the survey) with low species diversity and dominated by coarse grasses: rye grass *Lolium perenne* and large quantities of coarse grasses mainly false-oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* with only a few additional herb species – all common agricultural ‘weed’ plants such as creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and bristly oxtongue *Picris echiodes*. The latter is dominant where the ground has been disturbed as in F2 and the northern section of F1 that has been fenced off. In these areas other ruderal species prevail: creeping thistle *Cirsium pratense*, spear thistle *C. vulgare* teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* and common coarse grasses. F2 continues southwards as tall sward grassland on a boundary bank just west of the survey area fence H8.

F5 is a strip of tall sward grassland, an overgrown farm track, between two thicketty hedges. It is made up of largely cocksfoot and false-oat grass, with some hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, false brome *Brachypodium sylvatica*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and hard rush *Juncus inflexus* and a small number of common wayside herbs.

Boundary H1 All hedges were surveyed using recommended techniques within the Hedgerow Regulations. This is a hedge of low diversity containing blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* with a ground flora of ivy *Hedera helix*, nettle *Urtica dioica*, and stinking iris *Iris foetidissima*.

Boundary H2 Fenced roadside boundary and a parallel fence 10 or so metres south.

Boundary H3A boundary fence against a mature hedge of blackthorn, hawthorn, willow *Salix caprea*, privet, ivy etc with low ground flora diversity.

Boundary H4A fence with thicket growth alongside, predominantly bramble

Boundary H5 The western boundary of the farm track – a wide thicket of hawthorn, bramble, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, elder, dog rose *Rosa canina*, stinking iris and white bryony *Bryonia dioica*.

Boundaries H6 and H7 Tall hedges affected by horse browsing of hawthorn, bramble etc. To the east of H6 are some taller ash trees behind the boundary fence. H6 is against a deep ditch with running water but few aquatic plants, only fool's water cress *Apium nodiflorum* being noted.

Boundary H8 Wire fence

Boundary H9 This is a thick hedge of common hedgerow species that follows north of a deep drain that has a tangle of coarse common plants such as teasel, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*, tansy *Tanacetum vulgare* and fool's water-cress.

### **Destiny Fields Reptiles and amphibians assessment**

Reptiles: As farmed fields, the site generally is likely to be poor for reptiles but the thicker hedges such as H1 and H9, the old farm track, F5 and ditches are likely to support common species such as slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, and possibly common lizard *Lacerta vivipara*.

Amphibians: There are no suitable breeding areas within the site for amphibians but common species are likely to roam in the densely vegetated areas.

### **Destiny Fields Bats assessment**

There are no trees on the site that are suitable for bat roosts (only hedgerow scrub). However, the hedges and especially the former track F5 are likely to be used by bats as corridors for movement and feeding.

### **Destiny Fields Badgers and other mammals assessment**

Signs of feeding mammals and tracks were found throughout the site in suitable tall grass areas. None of these were confidently identified as being from badgers -no signs of badgers (setts, latrines, hair, large tracks etc.) were found around the edges of the fields and beyond nor were any feeding holes or tracks found within the survey fields. Tracks appear to be from roe deer *Capreolus capreolus*, rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and fox *Vulpes vulpes*. However the presence of foraging badgers on an occasional basis should not be discounted. The survey only shows the status at a particular time and in this case there was nothing to lead the surveyor into thinking the site is currently being used by badgers. ( NB Later surveys for the migration project showed 7 badger prints in F5 and a latrine in F2)

The fields do not have the openness that would attract hares but it is possible that hares could access the area from more suitable less disturbed fields to the south.

### **Survey Summary**

- The area is not within 400 metres of any protected sites or important wildlife sites.
- There are no important habitats or notable flora on the site. The fields are species poor and typical of improved fields. With a low variety of common plants the fields have only low value to local wildlife. However the tall swards and thickets of H5 are a significant resource to local biodiversity.
- The hedges have a low variety of plants but do have some conservation significance although no scarce species are supported – none score in the procedures to detect hedges protected under the Hedgerow Regulations.
- The boundaries could support some common reptiles and common amphibians.
- There are no suitable features for bat roosts to be affected on the site but bats are likely to use the area for casual feeding.
- Badgers use the fields on a casual basis with no setts within the area.
- Nesting birds will use hedges and therefore any boundary removal should be done outside of the bird nesting period.

*F2 looking northwest to F1 and H1 and H5 right*



*F5 looking north, with H4, left*



*Looking south from F3 to F4*



### 3.2 Wyke Oliver Birds

Survey times:

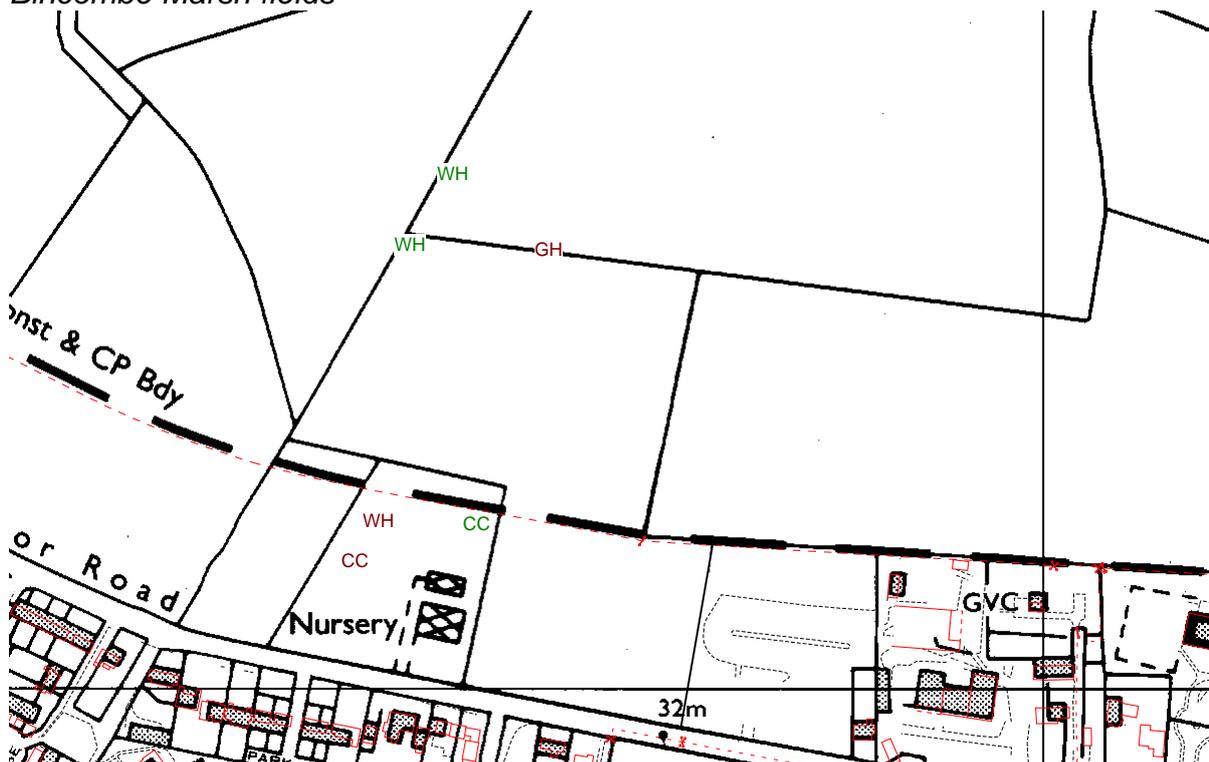
Date	Start	Weather
20 <sup>th</sup> April	0620	4deg., clear, still, bright
4 <sup>th</sup> May	1845	12 deg., sunny periods, occ. cloud slight breeze N/NE
20 <sup>th</sup> May	1755	18 deg, cloudy, still

#### **Migrant birds**

##### *Bincombe Marsh Dairy fields*

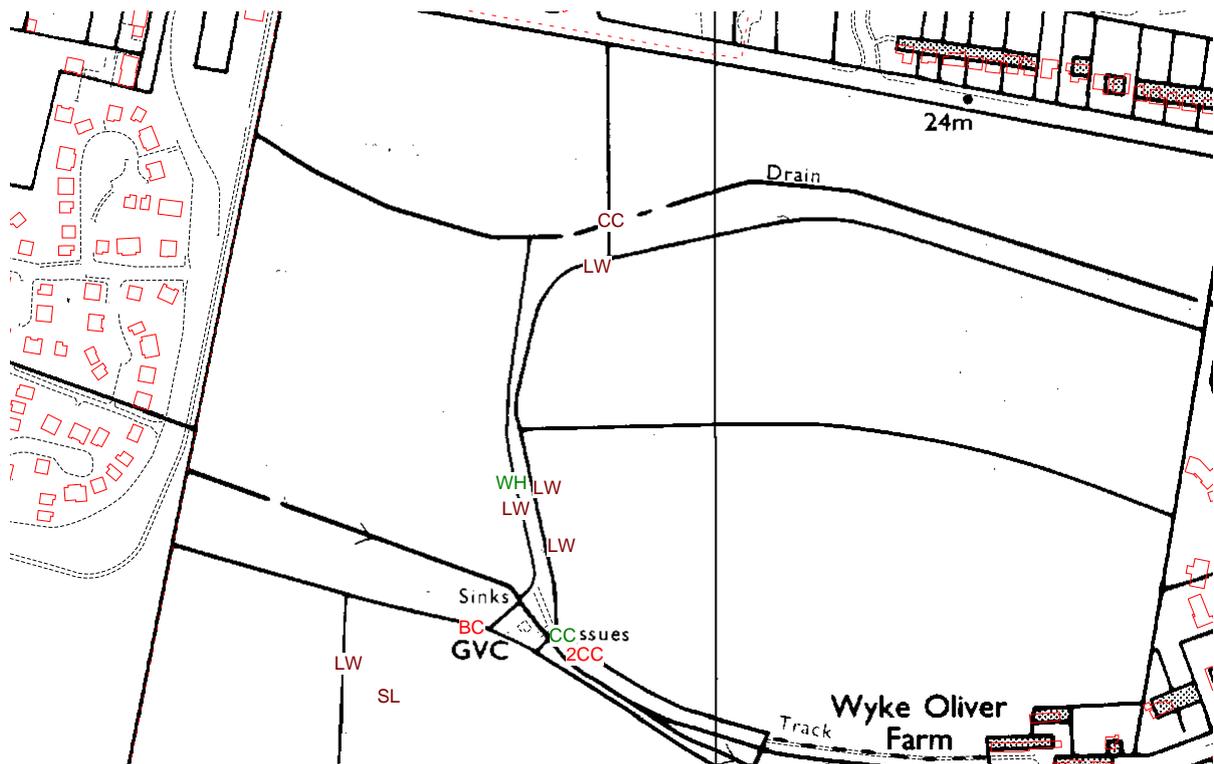
First map shows the Bincombe Marsh fields. These had only a few migrant birds as shown – later surveys did not find the Whitethroat in the spinney suggesting this may have been a migrant or may have been one of the birds later found further north. The confirmation of the site being used by migrant birds is the Grasshopper warbler (GH) in a hedgerow. At the time the Portland daily updates showed Grasshopper warblers moving through as this one had been.

##### *Bincombe Marsh fields*



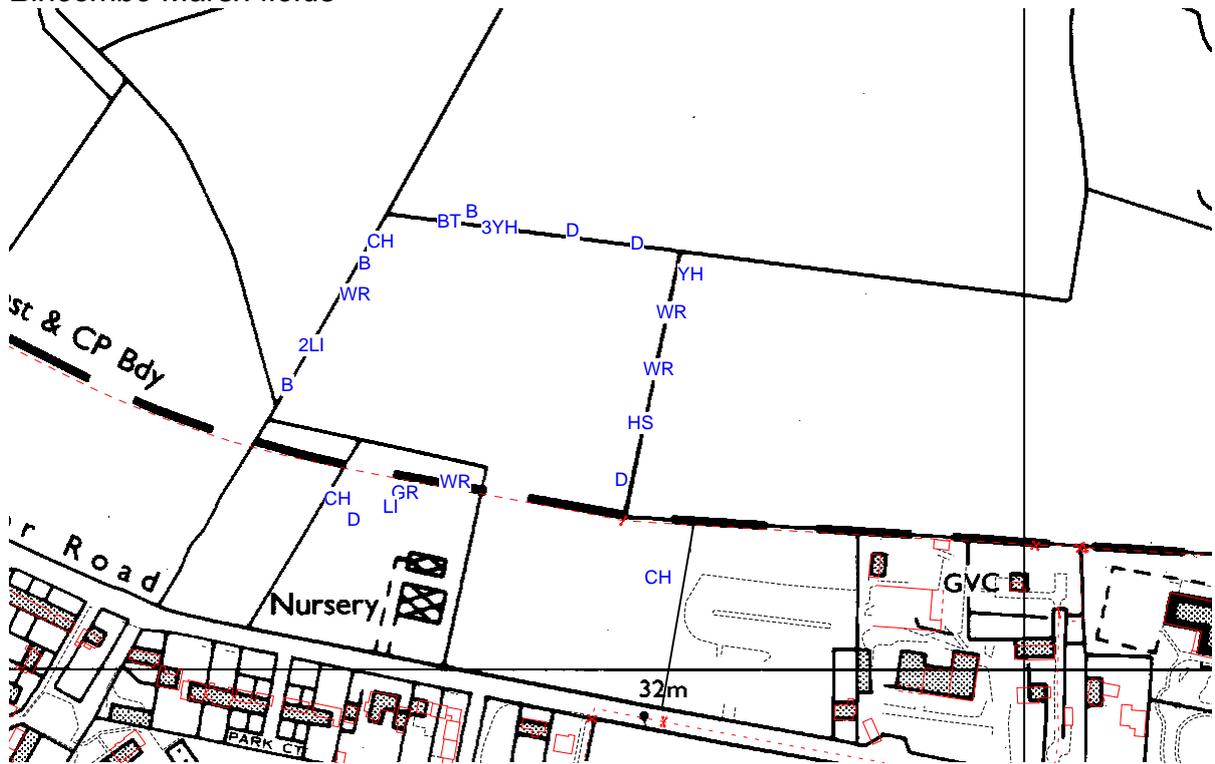
### *Destiny Fields*

Lesser whitethroats (LW) were recorded on 3 spots on the first survey, none later. This confirms that these were using the site as passage migrants. Also a blackcap (BC) was recorded for the middle visit but not seen later. A single whitethroat was recorded on the last visit – this may have stayed to breed as the habitat is suitable. An early chiff-chaff in the north may have moved on but the two sightings on the last two visits showed a pair of chiff-chaffs on territory. The swallow (SL) flew from the south to the north not to return, and so was quite probably passing through.

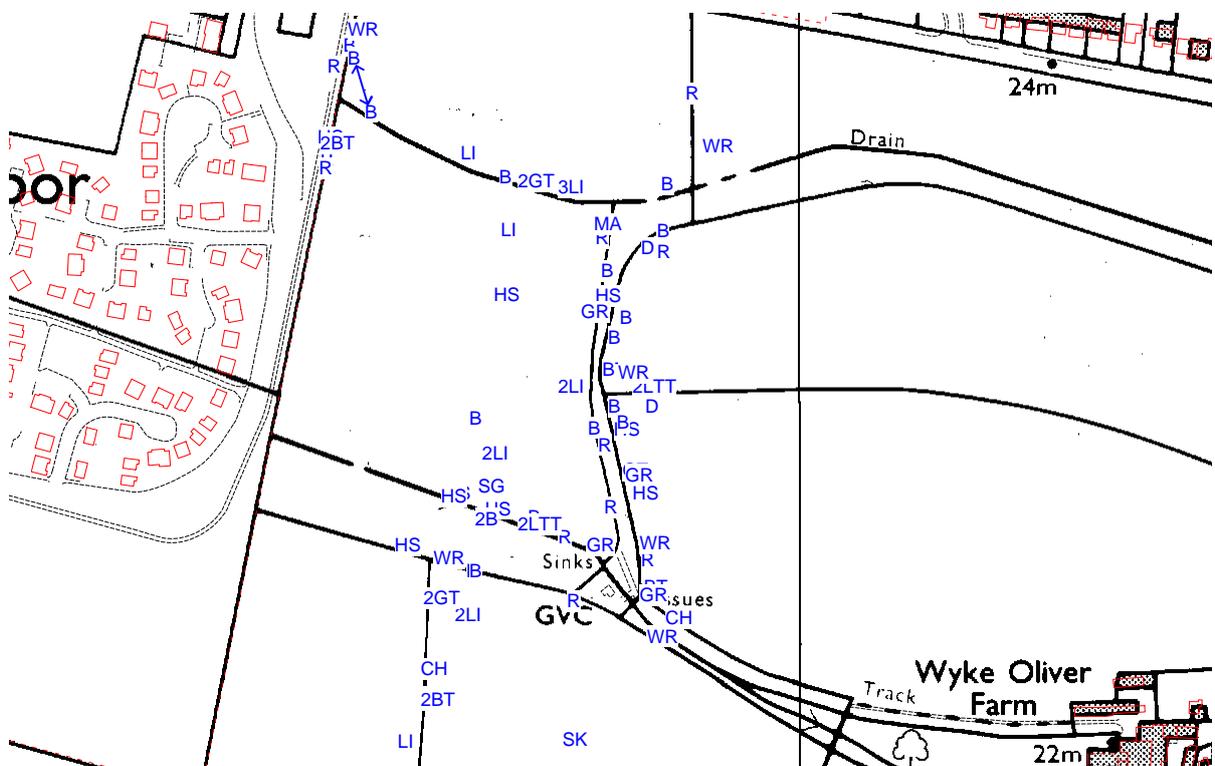


**Resident birds**

The following two maps show the value of the hedges to resident birds  
*Bincombe Marsh fields*



*Destiny Fields*



## 4 Rodwell Trail

### 4.1 Rodwell Trail Habitat Features



The Rodwell Trail has no habitats of high ecological significance, for the most part being a complex of semi-natural (former railway cuttings and embankments) open grass and scrub, sycamore woodland, and open verge habitats summarised in the table below. The most interesting part is the coastal grassland in the south where eastern banks are less nutrified, coastal and more diverse.

Code on Map	Description
A	Grassy pathside with scrub: Coarse grasses (cocksfoot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , False oatgrass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> dominant) , common hedgerow and ruderal plants – nettles <i>Urtica dioica</i> , cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> , Alexanders <i>Smyrnium olusatrum</i> , bramble, thorn scrub, elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> etc.

		
B	<p>Mainly mature sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> with shaded understorey of ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>, arum <i>Arum italicum</i>, lesser celandine <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>, creeping buttercup <i>R. repens</i>, pendulous sedge <i>Carex pendula</i>, and harts tongue fern <i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>. There are many badger tracks here and at least one sett.</p> 	
C	<p>More open areas with willow <i>Salix caprea</i>, low sycamores, bramble and blackthorn – Alexanders becomes more dominant along verge as path progresses south because of coastal influence.</p>	

		
D	<p>Path opens out as predominantly coarse grass with patches of thorn and gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i>. The southern cutting has a dense block of gorse and bramble to the west with open grass and occasional low scrub to the east and shore.</p>	

#### 4.2 Rodwell Trail birds

Survey times:

Date	Start	Weather
29 <sup>th</sup> April	0730	7 deg. still, cloudy, misty
11 <sup>th</sup> May	0815	6 deg. still, cloudy, slight breeze

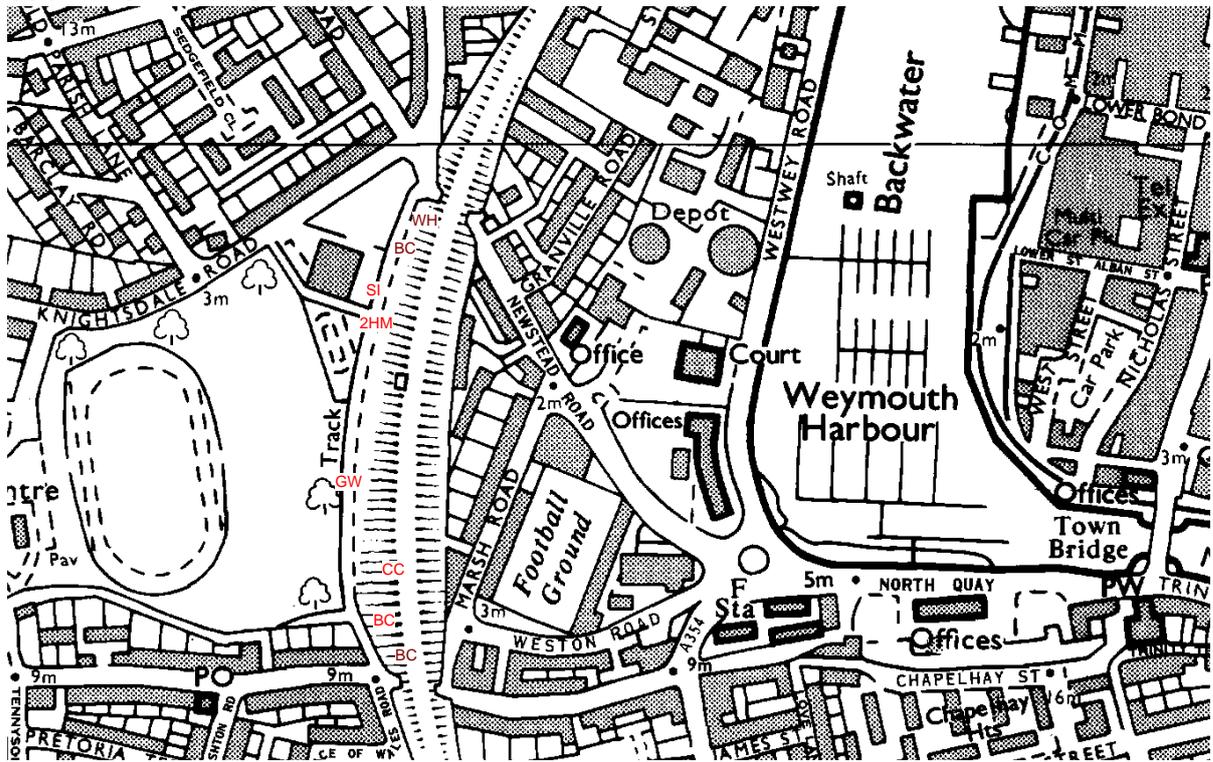
#### **Migrant birds**

Some evidence of migration was found and several migrant birds were settling as summer residents to breed. Whitethroats, garden warbler, blackcap, chiffchaff, swallows, house martins and swifts were found throughout the trail. Typically scrub nesting birds such as blackcaps and whitethroats were found in the northern and southern sections with woodland birds such as chiffchaff using the central sycamore zone.

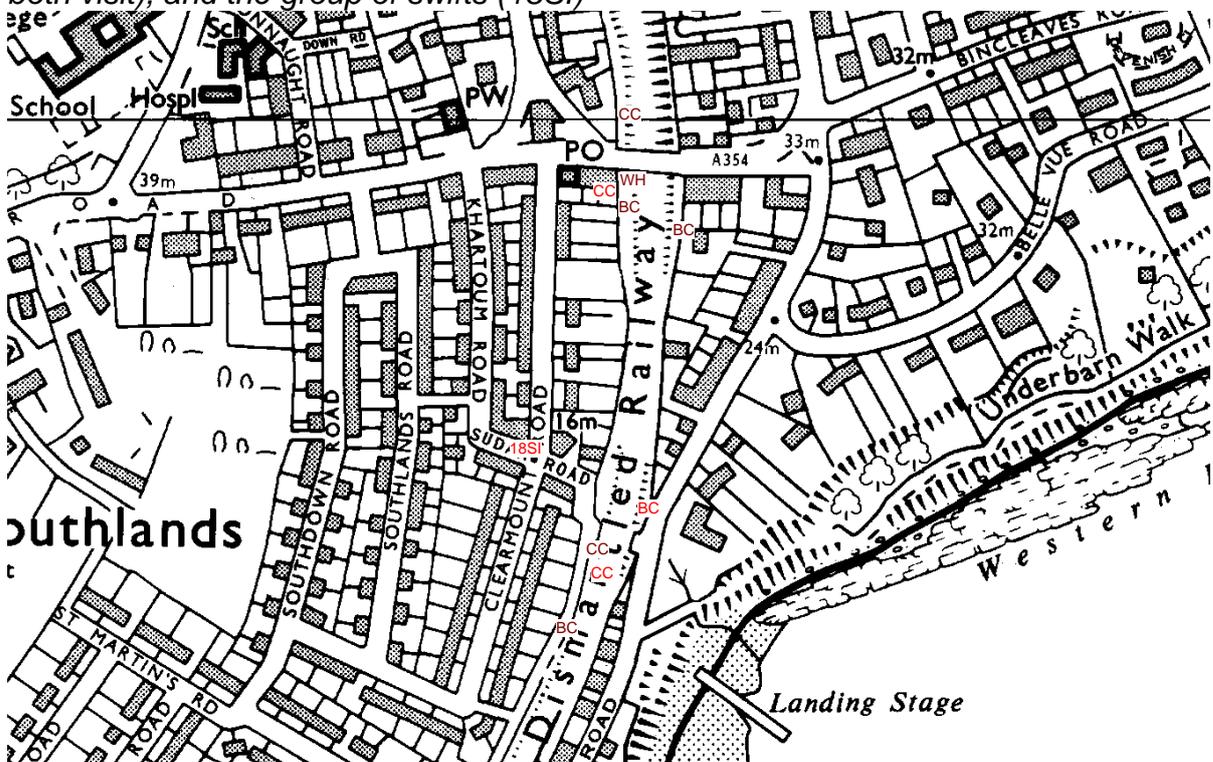
Migration was proved by:

- The presence of a reed warbler in scrub at the back of a garden, not a nesting habitat for the species and only recorded on one outward journey.
- A few swallows and housemartins were clearly flying north up the line of the trail. A group of 18 swifts were seen flying near the trail, feeding on insects and, because of the numbers, are likely to have been migrating north
- However only a few birds were seen in the first visit but not recorded in the later visit – most appeared to stay and breed.

The map below shows: a whitethroat (WH ) and a swift (SI) and 2 housemartins (2HM) probably on passage, and blackcaps (BC) probably summer residents as seen in similar locations on both visit

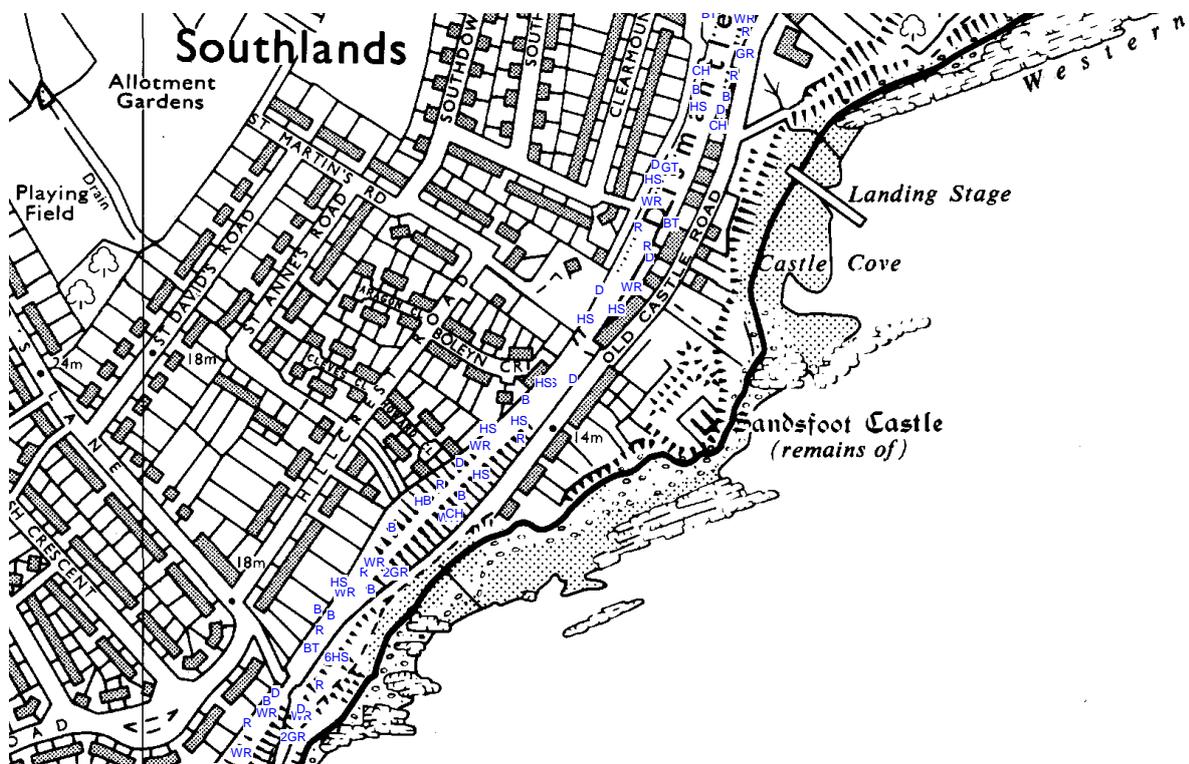
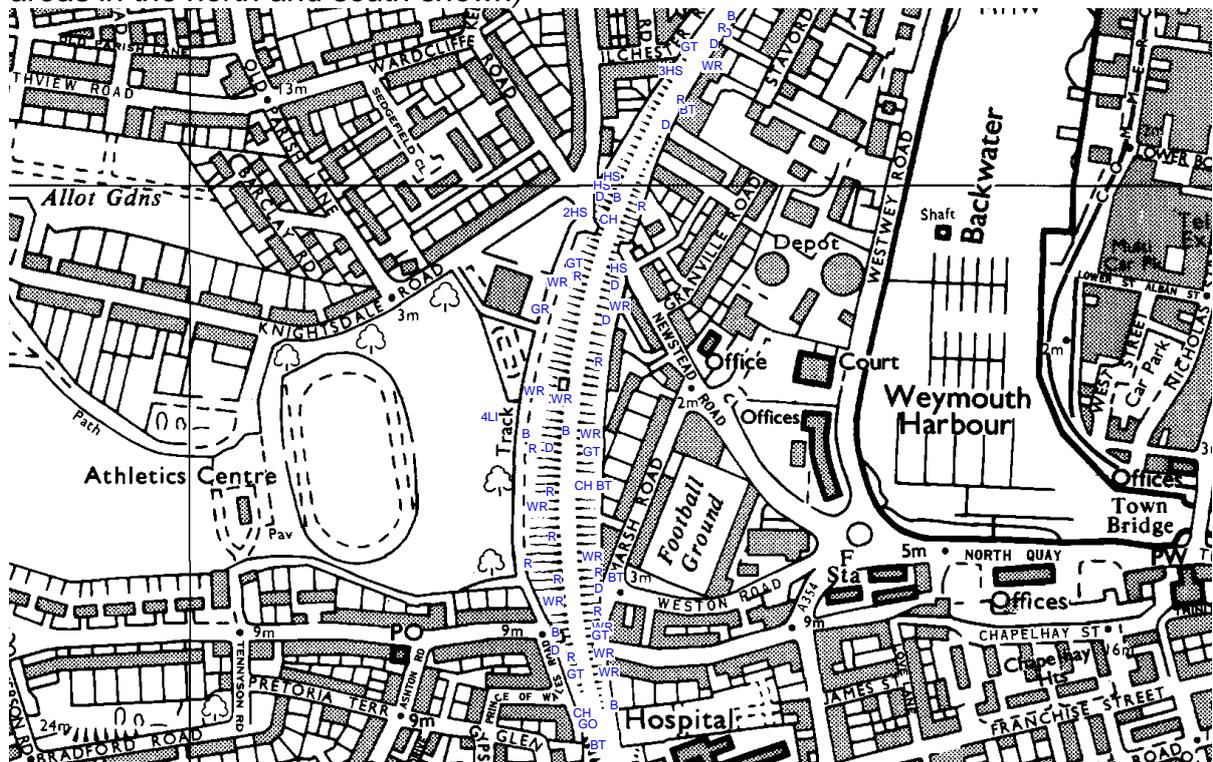


The map below shows: a whitethroat (WH) probably on passage, chiffchaff (CC) and blackcaps (BC) (probably summer residents as seen in similar locations on both visit), and the group of swifts (18SI)



## Resident birds

The maps below clearly show the value of the Trail to nesting resident birds (sample areas in the north and south shown)





## 5. Lanehouse Rocks Road fields

### 5.1 Lanehouse fields Habitat Features



The gap between housing west of Lanehouse Rocks Road is entirely pasture (probably all grazed by horses). F1, F3, F4, F5 and F6 are all moderately improved neutral agricultural leys and relatively species poor except where overgrazing has caused an increase in ruderal plants. F2 however has more species diversity on its less improved more calcareous northern slopes, being characterised in places by frequent sheeps fescue *Festuca ovina*, patches of wood tor grass *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, (presumably following scrub clearance), glaucous sedge, *Carex flacca*, field garlic *Allium oleraceum*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and a few dozen cowslips *Primula veris*.

Boundaries are mostly fenced (F) apart from the most significant double-hedged track (H). This is mainly made up of blackthorn with varying amounts of elder, elms (in the east), bramble with a ground flora of harts tongue fern, nettles, wild arum, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* etc There is much bare ground under the scrub, due to shading and considerable badger activity (see later).

*Eastern section of path*



*North section of path*



*F2 looking east  
(note pale area of *Brachypodium*, top right)*



*Hilltop field F3*



## 5.2 Lanehouse fields birds

### Survey times

Date	Start	Weather
26 <sup>th</sup> April	0655	8 deg. light cloud, slight southerly breeze, sunny by 0815
7 <sup>th</sup> May	1715	12 deg. still, cloudy with sunny periods, slight occ.breeze
20 <sup>th</sup> May (bats and birds)	1945	16 deg. light cloud, sunny, still

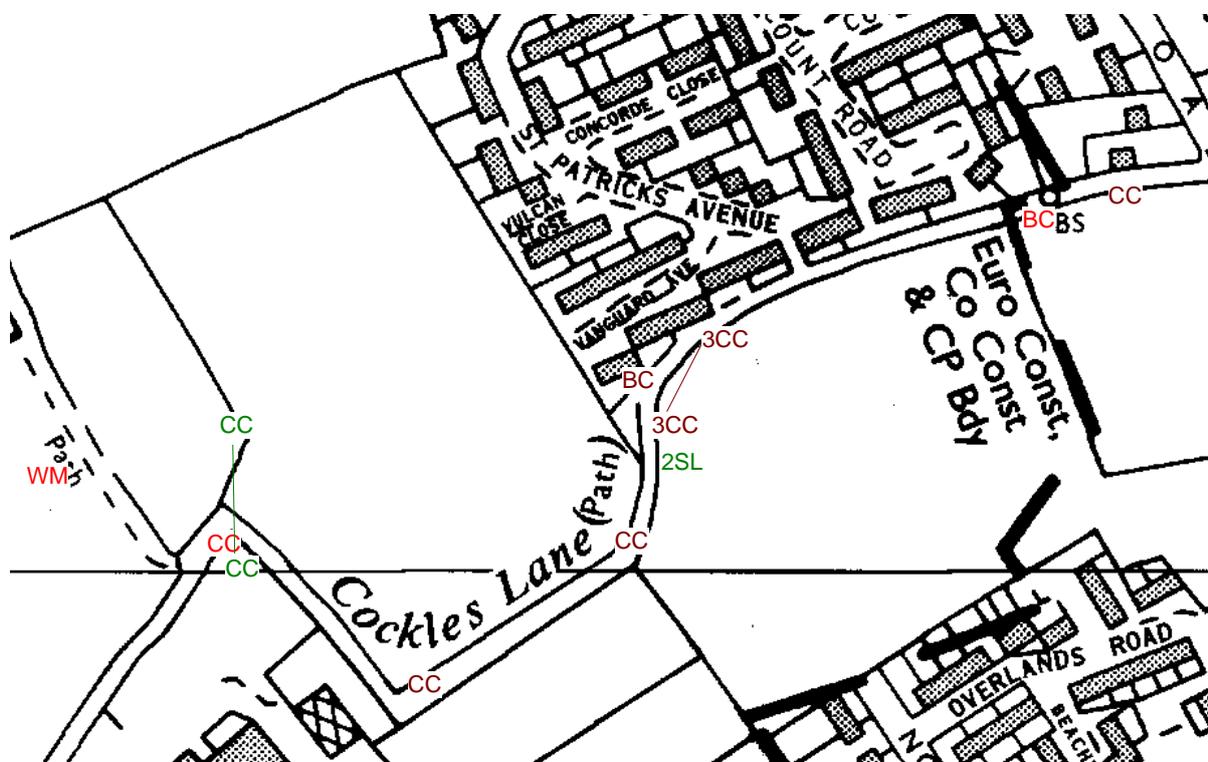
The main habitat for study was the central double-hedged path and the open fields.

### Migrant birds

The presence of migration was confirmed by:

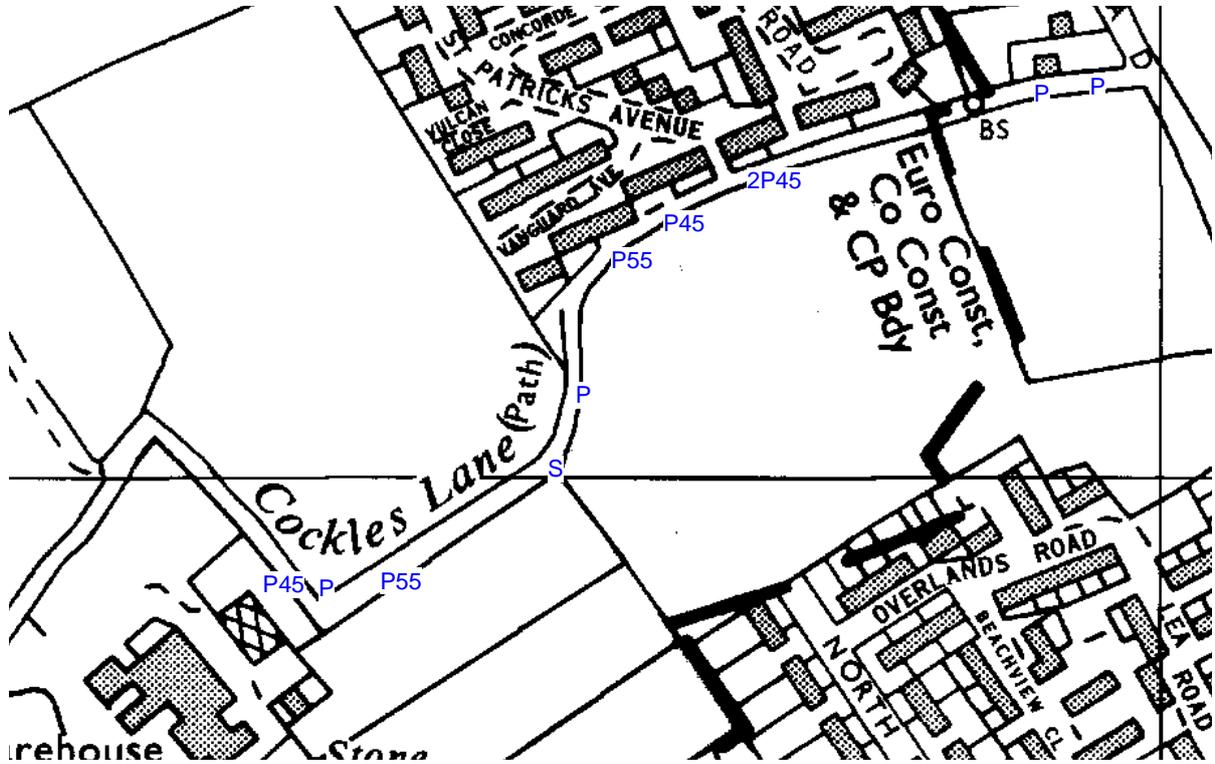
- Chiffchaffs filtering and feeding through the hedge in a SW to NE direction during the April visit (brown on map) but not staying.
- Blackcaps on the first and second visits (brown and red) but not the third.
- A whimbrel (WM) flying across fields to the west on the second visit (this is a northern nesting species)

Some migrant birds stayed to nest – a pair of chiffchaffs was on territory for the second and third visit as shown (red and green). Swallows recorded were circling during most of the survey time and could be birds nesting nearby.



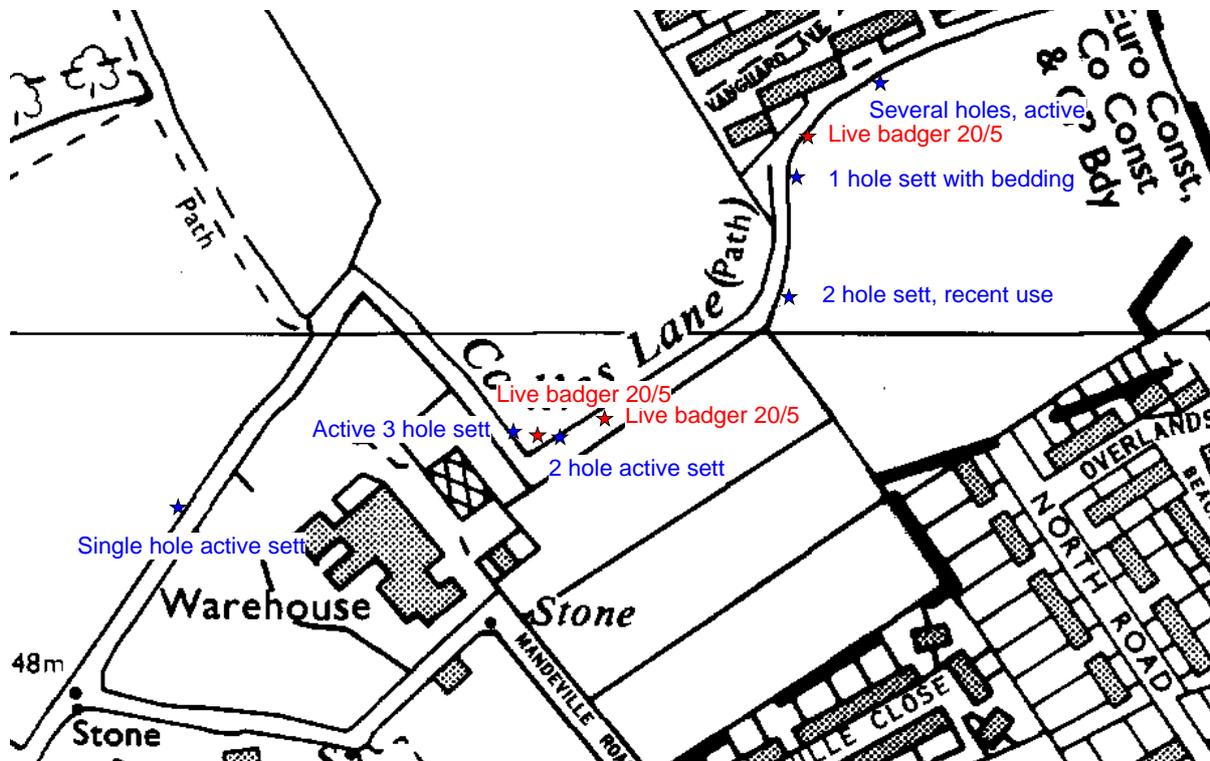


recorded once and when the Anabat was checked on the computer only short bursts of pipistrelle activity were recorded with no repetitive flying over. With little mature woodland in the area it is not surprising that woodland species were not recorded though some building species such as long-eared bats *Plecotis sp.* are likely to be missed by detectors. However no unidentified bats were observed flying past the surveyor.



#### 5.4 Lanehouse fields Badgers

The central hedge shows a remarkable amount of badger activity – several setts were seen and others could exist beneath the denser scrub. Live badgers were also recorded and the whole area has well-worn badger tracks throughout.



#### 5.5 Lanehouse hares

The fields are unlikely to be suitable for hares as they are enclosed, grazed tight by horses and the southern fields are walked over by people and dogs on a daily basis.

## 6 Weymouth Way

### 6.1 Weymouth Way Habitat Features

Ignoring the higher conservation value of the surrounding Radipole Nature Reserve, the Weymouth Way vegetation is largely a strip of planted trees and seeded grassland following its construction. However some of the grassland is diverse and some dense areas of scrub are present, important for nesting, feeding and migrating birds.

Dividing the Way into crude zones as shown on the aerial photograph, the vegetation is as below:



Zone	Description
A	<p>Western roadside: Semi-mature planted woodland on both sides with mainly field maple <i>Acer campestre</i>, sycamore <i>Acer campestre</i>, dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> and shedded ground flora with common hedgerow plants such as wild arum, goosegrass <i>Galium aparine</i>, hogweed etc. Some calcareous verge grassland with spotted medick <i>Medicago arabica</i>. wild carrot <i>Daucus carota</i> etc.</p>  <p>Field ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>, some nests of meadow ants <i>Lasius flavus</i> and patches of open grassland with tor grass.</p>

B	Wooded bank of ash, hawthorn, sallow <i>Salix cinerea</i> , field maple, bramble and ivy. Some Alexanders in more open areas.
C	<p>Block of thorn scrub below embankment, extending up the western hillside.</p> 
D	<p>Western roadside: Semi-mature mixed deciduous planting of hawthorn, field maple, ash etc. Verge plants include knapweed <i>Centaurea nigra</i>, teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>, comfrey <i>Symphytum officinale</i>. yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>, mugwort <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> etc. Eastern roadside- patchy grassland/scrub.</p> 
E	Going southwards various deciduous plantings of hawthorn, blackthorn, ash with increasing amounts of cherry <i>Prunus sp.</i>

F

Dense patch of low mainly thorn scrub with some semi-mature crack willows *Salix fragilis*.  
 Eastern roadside alongside R. NR: Mainly patches of sallow, gorse and thorn in grass verge.



## 6.2 Weymouth Way birds

Survey times:

Date	Start	Weather
21 <sup>st</sup> April	0615	0 deg. sunny, still, no cloud
14 <sup>th</sup> May	1000	12 deg. still, cloudy with sunny periods, slight occ.breeze

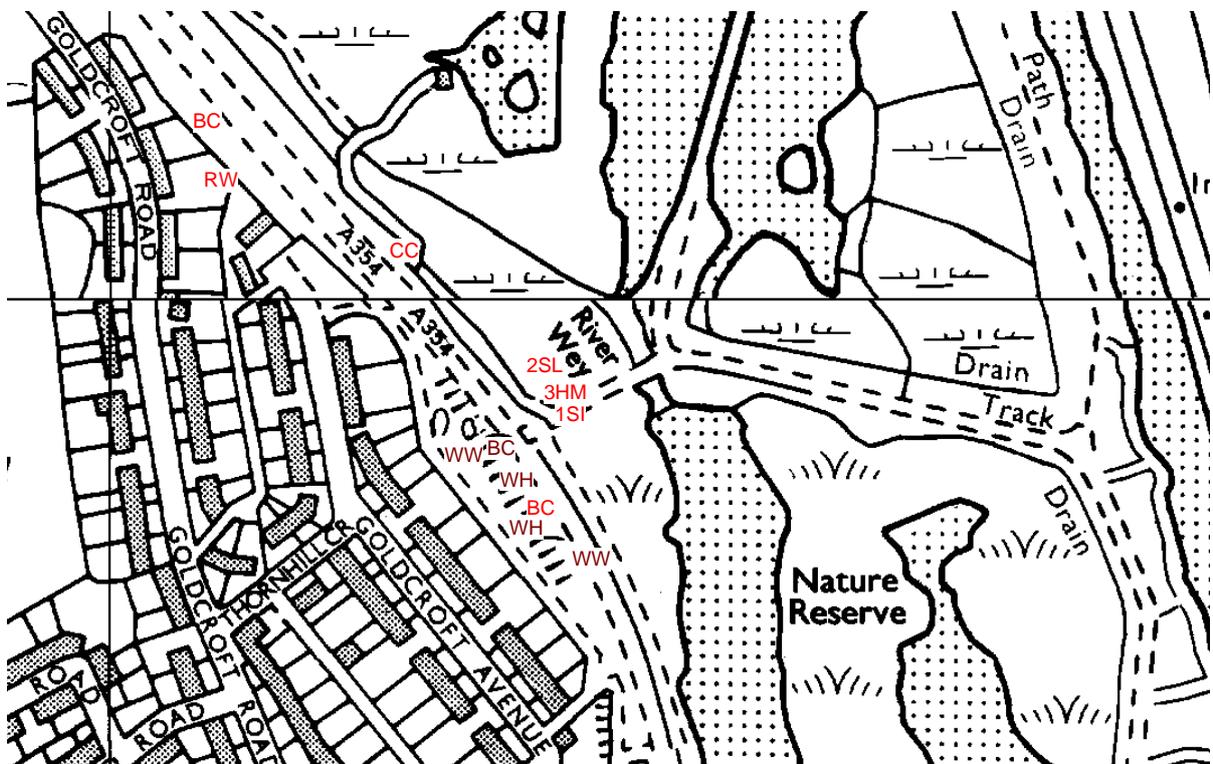
## **Migrant birds**

Migrating birds and summer residents were found throughout the Weymouth Way. Migration was confirmed by:

- Groups of swallows (SL), martins (HM) and swifts (SI) moving strongly south-north, not circling and feeding.
- Willow warblers (WW), blackcaps (BC), chiff chaffs (CC), whitethroats (WH) and a reed warbler (RW) being in sub-optimum habitat (eg reed warbler in rear garden scrub and willow warblers feeding in scrub) or present only on the first visit (see brown in map below).

This is shown on the sample map below.

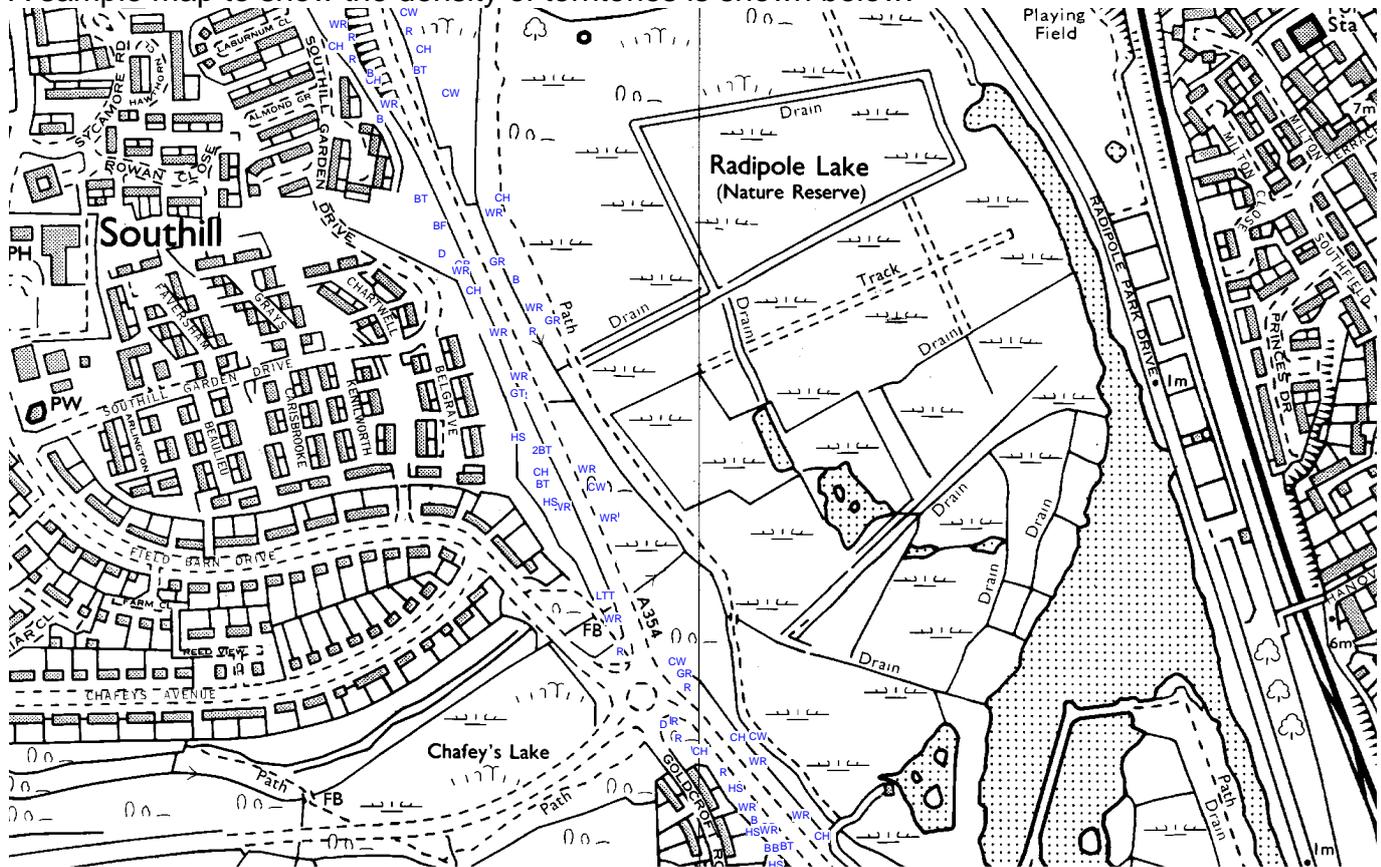
The southern section of scrub shown below (Zone F) proved to attract migrant birds. Birds were clearly using the valley as a navigation aid, dropping into the scrub to feed during their migration.



## Resident birds

Resident birds exploited the habitats in a normal fashion, not appearing to be affected by road noise and disturbance.

A sample map to show the density of territories is shown below:



## Weymouth Way Other Wildlife

No signs of badgers were noted during the surveys but their presence cannot be discounted