

DORSET LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY HABITAT ASSEMBLAGES

Habitat assemblage:	Species of the built environment, greenspaces and brownfield habitats
Broad Habitat type:	Farm, town and village
S41 and Priority Habitat type:	
Composite species assemblages:	<p>Building-nesting birds</p> <p>Bats of the built environment and brownfield habitats</p> <p>Amphibians of ponds in the wider countryside and suburban gardens</p> <p>Invertebrates of ponds in the wider countryside and suburban gardens</p> <p>Invertebrates of open early succession grassland on brownfield sites</p> <p>Plants of ancient and unimproved meadows and pastures</p> <p>Fungi of ancient and unimproved grasslands</p> <p>Lichens and bryophytes of churchyards</p> <p>Lichens, fungi and bryophytes of mature and veteran wayside and pasture trees</p>

Habitat assemblage description:	<p>A broad range of habitats are included here including towns and villages where habitats include gardens, parks, churchyards, cemeteries, allotments, ponds, tree avenues, old walls and road verges. The buildings themselves are important proving nest sites for birds, and as roost and maternity roosts for bats. Brownfield habitats are included where they developing flower-rich grasslands or contain pools and ponds and other ecologically important features.</p> <p>Also included are recently abandoned mineral workings plus old mine adits and man-made caves, these are mostly found in the wider landscape rather within urban environments.</p> <p>The more urban areas of Dorset support a wide range of features and micro-habitats for a large number of species including several that are scarce or threatened within the county. This is now being recognised and the mowing regimes of parks, road verges and churchyards have been altered to allow herbs to flower for longer; wildflower and pollinator patches have also been established. Churchyards and cemeteries in particular can support small area of ancient semi-natural grassland with a rich flora and can also be important for grassland fungi such as waxcaps. Sandy grasslands near the coast in the conurbation are nationally important for their acid grassland flora with a number of nationally scarce and Red List species present.</p> <p>There significant numbers of trees in parks, large gardens, churchyards and as avenues along roadsides. These form important foraging habitat for bats, and provide valuable habitat for birds and insects. Veteran trees present in some areas (e.g. Upton Country Park) and are important for invertebrates, fungi and lichens. The southeast of the county, including the conurbation, is the stronghold for stag beetle in Dorset, the larvae developing in dead wood.</p> <p>Built structures can also be important especially older building that provides cavities for bat roosts, and breeding sites for birds such as Swift. Old walls and</p>
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	mediaeval churches are noted for their assemblages of lichens.
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Other related assemblages	
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Pressures and Threats	
PA14	Use of chemicals in agriculture and horticulture
	Pesticides are used in gardens and around the urban environment to the detriment of the flora and fauna.
PC13	Mining and extraction activities not referred to above
	The restoration of old quarries and mines could, inadvertently, block crevices and entrances to mine adits that are used by bats to access roost sites. The lack of maintenance also may result in these features being lost.
PE01	Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure
	Alterations to infrastructure such as demolishing or repairing bridges may lead to the loss of roost sites for bats. Loss of trees and hedges reduce foraging habitats for bats and other species. Erecting new lighting along roads discourages some bats (slower flying species) from foraging and disrupts their emergence and flight lines.
PE05	Land, water and air transport activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters
	Run-off from roads and associated hard surfaces can cause pollution to ditches and ponds. Ponds constructed as part of transport infrastructure such as those on the Weymouth Relief Road have been planted with reeds to filter pollution can address the issue and provide valuable habitat.
PE06	Land, water and air transport activities generating air pollution
	Along the busiest urban roads there are raised levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates which cause the enrichment of tree bark and vegetation adjacent to the roads.
PF02	Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing built-up areas
	Infilling in urban green space which might remove small (or not so small) foraging habitats or commuting routes for bats, such as gardens (or networks of gardens that, together, form a commuting route out to the wider landscape or a dark foraging area within the urban environment) or result in increased lighting in otherwise dark corridors. Alterations to existing buildings such as roof conversions, extensions etc, could impact on existing roosts and remove habitat for nesting birds such as swifts. The demolition of buildings could mean the loss of houses and other structures that contain bat roosts.
PF05	Sports, tourism and leisure activities
	Parks, large and are very important and popular places for recreation and leisure activities, if unmanaged this can have a detrimental impact on

	biodiversity. Disturbance is a particular pressure on nesting, feeding or roosting birds. Litter left irresponsibly can be harmful to some species that either consume the litter or smaller species that may be trapped within it. Dogs treated with chemicals (flea treatments) to prevent external parasites are entering watercourses releasing toxic chemicals into the water that are harmful to aquatic invertebrates and amphibians.
PF07	Residential and commercial activities and structures generating pollution to surface or ground waters
	The expansion of hard, impermeable surfaces is leading to rapid and excessive run-off which will find its way in to ponds and water-courses leading to pollution.
PF08	Industrial activities and structures generating pollution to surface or ground waters
	The expansion of hard, impermeable surfaces is leading to rapid and excessive run-off which will find its way in to ponds and water-courses leading to pollution.
PF12	Residential, commercial and industrial activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution
	Change of use of sites, leading to additional or increased lighting at new/existing sites to facilitate their use can discourage bats (slower flying species) from foraging and disrupt their emergence and flightlines. Equally changes in use of a site that increase noise levels in a previously quiet area can cause abandonment of roost sites.
PH05	Tree surgery, felling/removal of roadside trees and vegetation for public safety
	Urban areas have trees avenues and many trees in parks and gardens these can include veterans and old tree trees with deadwood and rot features, these trees could be providing roosting and foraging habitat for bats and birds. Trees that are diseased or unstable are felled due to safety concerns and fallen dead wood is removed from the ground removing habitat for many species.
PH08	Other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above
	Abandoned buildings, tunnels, mines and other structures can be utilised by bats for roosts and maternity roosts. Where these are not fenced off disturbance (accidental in most cases) by humans can cause abandonment of these roosts.
PI02	Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)
	Plants frequent seed naturally from gardens into surrounding areas such as road verges. Some species do not compete with the native flora but others spread rapidly and can smother smaller species. An additional threat is hybridization between the non-native plant and the closely related native one (e.g. Spanish Bluebell and Bluebell). Non-native amphibians and fish can be released into waterbodies to the detriment of the native species either predated them or by spreading disease.

PI04	Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests
	Diseases can be spread in certain situations, for example unhygienic bird feeders spreading Trichomonosis leading to a significant decline in Greenfinch. Garden ponds are a very important habitat for amphibians, two diseases in particular (Chytridiomycosis and Ranavirus) are spread by human activity including the release of non-native species into waterbodies.
PL06	Physical alteration of water bodies (mixed or unknown drivers)
	Rivers and streams in urban situations are canalised altering the flow and reducing or eliminating the development of marginal vegetation.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Building nesting birds

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Birds	<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	Red	LC	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Birds	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin	Red	LC	n/a	1								
Birds	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	Red	LC	n/a	1								
Birds	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Black Redstart	Red	LC	n/a	1								
Birds	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	Red	LC	n/a	1								

Micro-habitat assemblage: Amphibians of ponds in the wider countryside and suburban gardens

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Amphibians	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Great Crested Newt	LC	LC	n/a	3	PA04	PA04	PA05	PA17	PF01	PF07	.	.
Amphibians	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	NT	NT	n/a	2	PA04	PA04	PA05	PA17	PF01	PF07	PI02	PI04
Amphibians	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog	LC	LC	n/a	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Bats of the built environment and brownfield habitats

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Bats	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Greater Horseshoe Bat	LC	LC	NT (GRL)	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	LC	LC	NT (GRL)	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubenton's Bat	LC	LC	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	Brandt's Bat	DD	DD	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Whiskered Bat	DD	DD	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natterer's Bat	LC	LC	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Myotis species</i>	Whiskered / Brandt's / Alcatheo					.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Bechstein's Bat	LC	LC	NT (GRL)	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Leisler's Bat	NT	NT	n/a	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Serotine	VU	VU	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Common Pipistrelle	LC	LC	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano Pipistrelle	LC	LC	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Nathusius' Pipistrelle	NT	NT	n/a	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Western Barbastelle	VU	VU	NT (GRL)	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bats	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Brown Long-eared Bat	LC	LC	n/a	4								
Bats	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	Grey Long-eared Bat	EN	EN	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Plants of ancient and unimproved meadows and pastures

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
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Plants	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Greenweed	LC	VU	n/a	1	PA05	PA08
Plants	<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	Spiny Restharrow	LC	NT	n/a	2	PA05	PA08	PK04
Plants	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	NT	VU	n/a	1	PA05	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	Autumn Lady's-tresses	NT	NT	n/a	2	PA05	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Fungi of ancient and unimproved grasslands

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Fungi	<i>Cuphophyllus flavipes</i>	Yellow-foot Waxcap	n/a	n/a	VU(Eur)	1								
Fungi	<i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>	Crimson Waxcap	n/a	n/a	VU(Eur)	1								
Fungi	<i>Hygrocybe quieta</i>	Oily Waxcap	n/a	n/a	VU(Eur)	1								
Fungi	<i>Porpolomopsis calyptriformis</i>	Pink Waxcap	n/a	n/a	VU(Eur)	1								