

DORSET LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY HABITAT ASSEMBLAGES

Habitat assemblage:	Species of longer calcareous grassland, and scrub margins
Broad Habitat type:	Grasslands
S41 and Priority Habitat type:	Lowland Calcareous Grassland
Composite species assemblages:	Invertebrates of longer calcareous grassland, scrub edge and marginal habitats Plants of longer calcareous grassland and marginal habitats

Habitat assemblage description:	Calcareous grassland covers a wide range of grassland types in a variety of situations. Longer flower-rich grassland occurs on flatter ground along trackways and droves, around old quarries and along field margins. This type of habitat has declined significantly through loss, abandonment and the general enrichment of the wider countryside. The tussocky nature of the sward along with the shelter afforded by scattered scrub supports a wide range of invertebrates and number of declining plants several of which are threatened with extinction in Dorset.
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Other related assemblages	Species of short, open chalk and limestone grassland Species of species-rich scrub and scrub edges
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Pressures and Threats	
PA04	Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.)
	The cessation of traditional small-scale management on farms has led to the loss of features such as trackways, and small quarries which were not regularly grazed and supported tall grassland and scattered scrub.
PA07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock
	The typical grazing found on downland slopes is too intensive for some plants and many invertebrates which prefer longer swards or are reliant on plants that are sensitive to more intensive grazing regimes. Intensive grazing through the summer can reduce the availability of flowers for foraging insects.
PA08	Extensive grazing or under-grazing by livestock
	While over-grazing is most detrimental the lack of any grazing will eventually lead through natural succession to encroachment of scrub and eventually trees and the development of secondary woodland. Periodic grazing especially in late winter is most beneficial and less damaging to invertebrates.
PA13	Application of natural or synthetic fertilisers on agricultural land

	By their very nature marginal habitats are close to agricultural land where the regular applications of artificial fertilizers can lead to enrichment favouring robust nitrogen-tolerant plants such as hogweed, cow parsley, stinging nettle, false oat-grass and cock's-foot leading to a reduction in plant diversity.
PI02	Other invasive alien species
	Invasive non-native shrubs and trees such as cotoneaster and sycamore can invade marginal habitats and shade out smaller herbs and other shrubs.
PI03	Problematic native species
	A number of species can be invasive in marginal habitats on chalky soils, particularly dogwood and traveller's-joy can encroach on grassland and smother smaller plants.
PK04	Atmospheric N-deposition
	Low level deposition of nitrogen and ammonia compounds has a fertilizing effect on vegetation favouring nitrogen-demanding grasses and herbs (see PA13) over species of ancient grasslands that generally require infertile soils.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Invertebrates of longer calcareous grassland, scrub edge and marginal habitats

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Beetles	<i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>	Glow Worm	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Flies	<i>Chaetorellia loricata</i>	a tephritid or gall fly	VU	n/a	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hoverflies	<i>Chrysotoxum elegans</i>	Zipperback	LC	n/a	n/a	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hoverflies	<i>Doros profuges</i>	Phantom hoverfly	NT	n/a	n/a	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	<i>Andrena hattorfiana</i>	Large Scabious Mining Bee	.	n/a	NT(ERLB)	2	PA05	PA07	PA08	PA14	.	.	.	.
Bees	<i>Lasioglossum xanthopus</i>	Yellow-footed Furrow Bee	.	n/a	NT(ERLB)	2	PA05	PA08	PA14	.	.	.	.	.
Bees	<i>Nomada armata</i>	Armed Nomad Bee	EN	n/a	NT(ERLB)	1	PA05	PA07	PA08	PA14	.	.	.	.
Butterflies	<i>Hamaeris lucina</i>	Duke of Burgundy	EN	n/a	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Butterflies	<i>Spayeria aglaja</i>	Dark Green Fritillary	NT	n/a	n/a	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	<i>Nemophora metallica</i>	Scabious Longhorn; Brassy Longhorn	.	n/a	n/a	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	<i>Adscita statices</i>	Forester	LC	n/a	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Moths	<i>Jordanita globulariae</i>	Scarce forester	.	n/a	n/a	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Micro-habitat assemblage: Plants of longer calcareous grassland and marginal habitats

Group	Species	Common Name	IUCN GB	IUCN Eng	IUCN other	Criteria	Threats / Pressures							
Plants	<i>Allium oleraceum</i>	Field Garlic	VU	LC	n/a	1	PA07	PA13	.	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Mouse-ear	.	NT	n/a	2	PA05	PA07	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's-tongue	NT	NT	n/a	2	PA05	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Hypericum montanum</i>	Pale St John's-wort	NT	.	n/a	2	PA05	PA07	PA08	PK04	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	LC	NT	n/a	2	PA05	PA07	PA08	PI04	PK04	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	LC	NT	n/a	2	PA05	PA07	PK04	.	.	.	.	.
Plants	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Cat-mint	VU	VU	n/a	1	PA04	.	.	.	.	.	.	.