



Desktop Biodiversity Report

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

ESD/15/310

Prepared for Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

30th April 2015



**Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
report regarding
land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted
30/04/2015**

**Prepared for Simon Davis
Arun District Council
ESD/15/310**

The following information was requested:

Maps	☒
Sussex Protected Species Register	☒
Sussex Bat Inventory	☒
Sussex Bird Inventory	☒
UK BAP Species Inventory	☒
Sussex Rare Species Inventory	☒
Sussex Invasive Alien Species	☒
Full Species List	☒
Environmental Survey Directory	☐

SNCI
None

SSSI
None

Other Designations/Ownership
Environmental Stewardship Agreement; Local Nature Reserve.

Habitats
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.

Important information regarding this report

It must not be assumed that this report contains the definitive species information for the site concerned.

The species data held by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) is collated from the biological recording community in Sussex. However, there are many areas of Sussex where the records held are limited, either spatially or taxonomically.

A desktop biodiversity report from SxBRC will give the user a clear indication of what biological recording has taken place within the area of their enquiry. The information provided is a useful tool for making an assessment of the site, but should be used in conjunction with site visits and appropriate surveys before further judgements on the presence or absence of key species or habitats can be made. It may be that the content of this report guides the reader as to which surveys should be carried out on the site.

This report was compiled using data held at SxBRC at the time of production. SxBRC takes data validation very seriously, but cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of data included in this report.

Copyright

The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre must be acknowledged in all documents containing any part of the information contained in this report. You can also use the whole of a SxBRC report (unedited) as an appendix in your own report.

The SxBRC operates as agent to the individuals and groups who provide their records free of charge. The data suppliers retain copyright on their data, while SxBRC retains copyright on its desktop biodiversity reports.

Data usage

The data contained within this report is for use in the project for which the data was requested. It is not to be shared with third parties for use in other projects, unless permission is granted from SxBRC.

The data may be used for 12 months, after which a replacement SxBRC report must be requested. This ensures the most up-to-date information is being used.

Ordnance Survey maps

Members of the public wishing to reproduce maps made by SxBRC under East and West Sussex County Council or Brighton and Hove City Council licences must use copying facilities that have been authorised by Ordnance Survey (OS). Further information can be found on the [OS website](#).

Impartiality

SxBRC functions as custodian of biological data. Our role is to collect, manage and disseminate wildlife and habitat data. As such, we have to remain impartial and cannot offer opinions on the biodiversity value of a given site. Similarly, we cannot put forward objections to planning applications or be involved in campaigns.

Supplying records

Our desktop biodiversity reports are only as good as the data we hold. We rely on the continuous submission of records to keep our database up-to-date. We are always grateful to receive records from ecological consultants and members of the public alike. We accept records in many different formats – please see our [website](#) for more details.

Confidential Records

The following species are not included in desktop biodiversity reports

Badgers

Badgers are one of our most recognisable native British mammals. They are not considered rare but are protected along with their setts under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended).

It is an offence to kill, injure, or take a badger or interfere with a badger sett.

“Interference” is defined by section 3 of The Protection of Badgers Act and includes damaging or destroying a badger sett, obstructing any entrance to a sett and also disturbing a badger when it is occupying a sett. If you need to do any work near to a sett (within 30m) you must contact Natural England for guidance as your activities may require a licence.

With continued persecution of badgers, often for the most cruel and barbaric ‘sport’, badger records are not included in our species inventory reports, as it has been requested that they remain confidential.

If you need further information about badgers in your enquiry area please contact the Badger Trust Sussex. Contact details can be found on their website: www.badgertrust-sussex.org.uk



Otters

Otters are slowly making a return to Sussex after becoming extinct in the 1960s, but are nowhere near their former numbers and remain very vulnerable.

If there is a river or tributary within 1km of your enquiry area please be aware of the potential for otters in the vicinity, especially if you are undertaking operations that may impact potential otter habitat.

Otters are protected by European and UK law. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to kill, injure or take an otter from the wild without a licence; to damage or obstruct a holt; or disturb an otter in its resting place. Licences are required for checking holts or for carrying out work that may disturb otters, such as the management of trees that are known to be used as resting sites. Natural England are responsible for issuing these licences in England.

If you need to find out if otters have been recorded in your enquiry area, please get in touch with the Record Centre.



Wood White and Duke of Burgundy butterflies

These two rare butterfly species have a very restricted range in Sussex and records have been made confidential based on advice given from Butterfly Conservation Sussex Branch.

Other confidential records

SxBRC holds records of other species that are confidential. Confidentiality can be for a variety of reasons but is usually to benefit the site or the species. If you need to know if any confidential records have been recorded in your enquiry area, please get in touch with the Record Centre.

MAPS

There are three maps included in a standard desktop biodiversity report which show designated sites (statutory and non-statutory); habitats and natural features; and ownership and management.

The key on a map only shows those layers which are located within the enquiry area or immediate area. Below is a list of all layers which we currently show on our maps, with details of the data source. Citation sheets and further information on each layer can be found towards the back of the pdf report.

Designated sites	
Statutory	
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Downloaded from NE website.
Country Park	Downloaded from NE website.
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Downloaded from NE website.
Marine Site of Nature Conservation Importance (MSNCI)	Supplied by ESCC in 2005.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	Downloaded from NE website.
National Park	Downloaded from NE website.
Ramsar	Downloaded from NE website.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Downloaded from NE website.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Downloaded from NE website.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Downloaded from NE website.
Non-Statutory	
Local Geological Site (LGS)	Originally supplied as hand drawn maps by the Booth Museum (Brighton) in 2009, LGS boundaries were digitised by SxBRC. Site boundaries are now administered by SxBRC and the Sussex Geodiversity Partnership and have been further improved as a result of ground surveys between 2010 to 2012.
Notable Road Verge	Owned and provided by ESCC and WSCC.
Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)	Supplied by WSCC, ESCC & BHCC.
Habitats and natural features	
Ancient/veteran tree	Merged dataset created in July 2009. Data from Ancient Tree Hunt (national survey carried out in 2007/2008) and Tree Register of the British Isles (a charity which collates and updates data on notable trees).
Ancient woodland	Downloaded from NE website.
Black poplar	Created by SxBRC based upon species records arising from Sussex Wetland Landscapes Project.
Chalk stream	Created and owned by SWLP and SxBRC.
Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh	Downloaded from NE website.
Coastal saltmarsh	Supplied by EA, based on data from the SRCMP Habitat Mapping Project.
Coastal sand dune	Supplied by EA, based on data from the SRCMP Habitat Mapping Project.
Coastal vegetated shingle	Downloaded from NE website.
Ghyll woodland	Boundaries drawn on paper maps by Dr Francis Rose which were then digitised by SxBRC. Not ground-truthed.
Intertidal chalk	Supplied by EA, based on data from the SRCMP Habitat Mapping Project.

Intertidal mudflat	Supplied by EA, based on data from the SRCMP Habitat Mapping Project.
Lowland calcareous grassland	Merged dataset from NE and SDJC sources, created in 2005. Administered by SxBRC.
Lowland fen	Created by SxBRC in June 2011. Layer is an amalgamation of all the fen data currently available to SxBRC.
Lowland heathland	High Weald Heathland data created by the High Weald Unit in 2006. The rest of Sussex Heathland data was created by SxBRC, with funding from WSCC and RSPB in 2007.
Lowland meadow	Downloaded from NE website.
Maritime cliff and slope	Supplied by EA, based on data from the SRCMP Habitat Mapping Project.
Open water	Derived from OS mapping. This includes inland and tidal, running and standing water.
Reedbed	Created by SxBRC in June 2011. Layer is an amalgamation of all the reedbed data currently available to SxBRC.
Saline lagoon	Created by SxBRC.
Traditional orchard	Downloaded from NE website.
Wood-pasture & parkland	Downloaded from NE website.
Ownership and management	
Environmental Stewardship Agreement	Downloaded from NE website.
National Trust property	Owned and provided by National Trust.
RSPB reserve	Owned and provided by RSPB. Downloadable from their website.
Sussex Wildlife Trust reserve	Created and maintained by SxBRC on behalf of SWT.
Woodland Trust site	Owned and provided by the Woodland Trust.

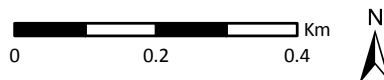
Abbreviations

BHCC	Brighton and Hove City Council
EA	Environment Agency
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
NE	Natural England
PTES	People's Trust for Endangered Species
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SDJC	South Downs Joint Committee
SRCMP	Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme
SxBRC	Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
SWLP	Sussex Wetland Landscapes Project
SWT	Sussex Wildlife Trust
WSCC	West Sussex County Council

Natural England datasets

These are available for anyone to download and use in their own Geographical Information System (GIS). Visit www.gis.naturalengland.org.uk for more information and register as a user.

Prepared for Simon Davis (Arun District Council) - 30/04/2015



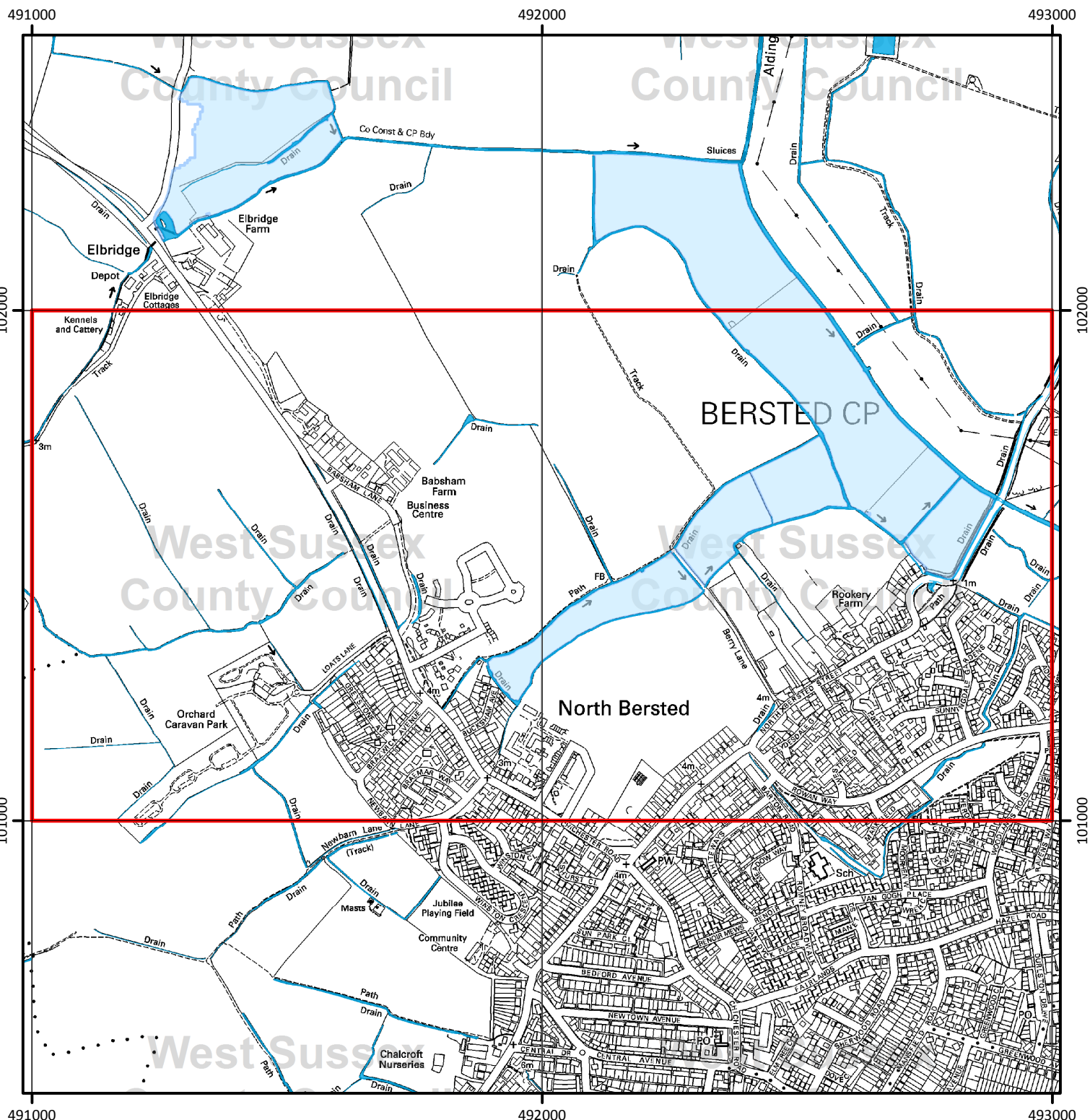
 Enquiry area
 LNR

RAMSAR, Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), National Nature Reserve (NNR), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Country Park data reproduced with permission of Natural England. Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) data provided by East and West Sussex County Councils, and Brighton & Hove City Council. Notable Road Verge data supplied by East and West Sussex County Councils. Local Geological Site (LGS) data created by SxBRc in partnership with Sussex Geodiversity Group. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved 2015.

Habitat & Natural Features Map (ESD/15/310)

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

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Key to Map:

- Enquiry area
- Open Water
- Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh

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Ancient woodland, traditional orchards, woodpasture and parkland, vegetated shingle and saline lagoon data reproduced with permission of Natural England. Revised coastal and floodplain grazing marsh data remains provisional and is also reproduced with permission of Natural England. Chalk grassland data supplied by Natural England and South Downs Conservation Board. Black Poplar data supplied by Sussex Wetland Landscapes Project. Ghyll woodland data supplied by Dr Francis Rose. Reedbed data funded by Environment Agency and West Sussex County Council is provided by Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and maintained by RSPB. Heathland data funded by West Sussex County Council, RSPB and High Weald AONB Unit. Ancient/veteran tree data derived from results of the Ancient Tree Hunt Project and the Tree Register of the British Isles (TROBI). South East Coastal Habitat Mapping data reproduced with permission of Environment Agency. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved 2015.

Habitat data held by Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (Sxbrc) are created in-house or obtained from a variety of dataset providers. Sxbrc continually strive to further improve and update these data wherever possible. However, this map should be treated as indicative rather than definitive: data may be generated from a range of field survey and/or predictive methods, each of which may have its own inherent limitations. In some situations a recent ground survey may be required to establish definitively the current status of a particular habitat at a specific location.

Ownership & Management Map (ESD/15/310)

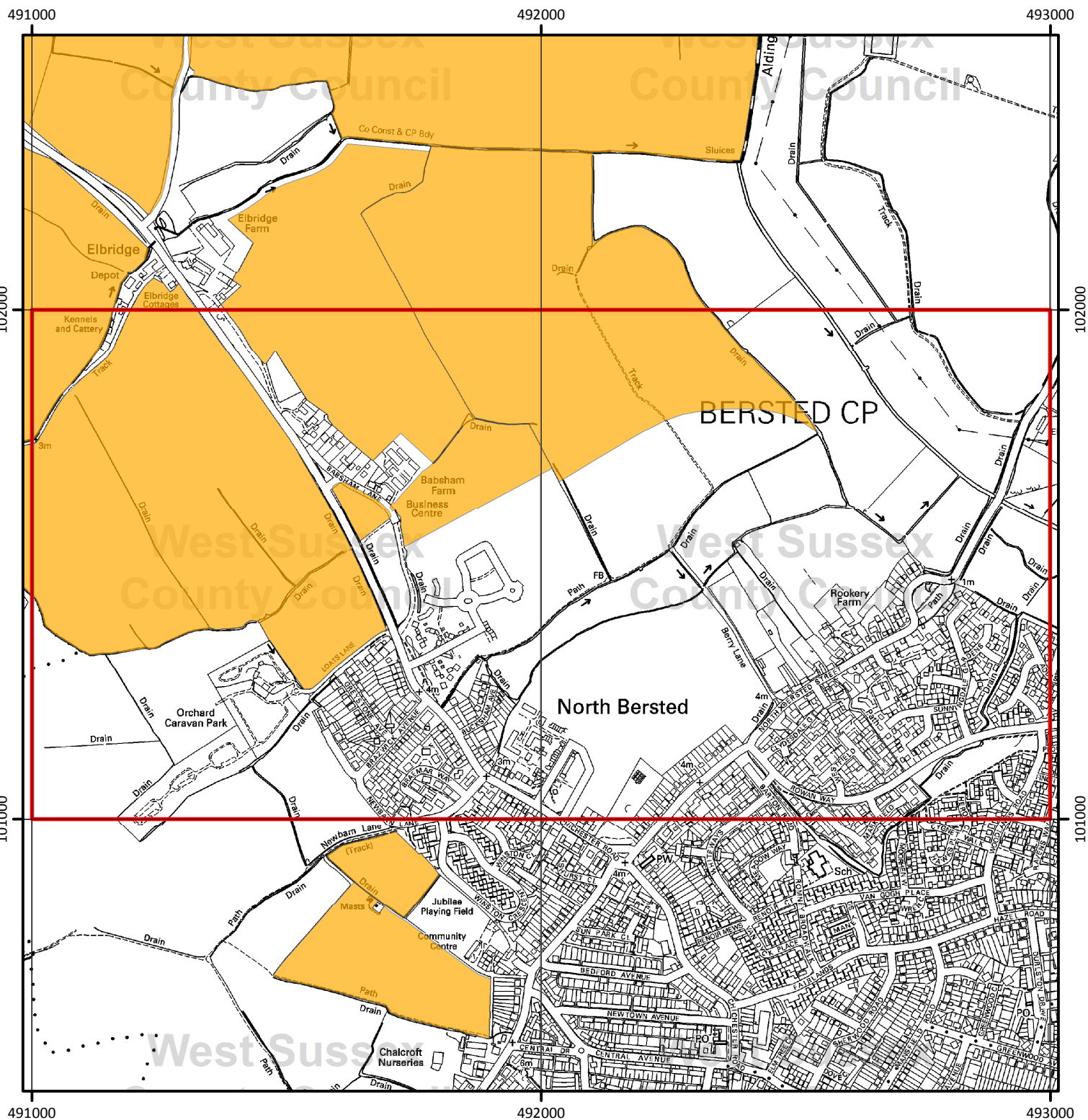
Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

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**Sussex
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Key to Map:

Enquiry area

Environmental Stewardship Agreements:

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)

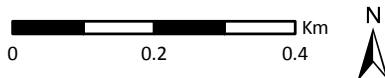
Organic ELS

Organic ELS plus HLS

ELS plus HLS

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Environmental Stewardship Agreement data reproduced with permission of Natural England. Other datasets reproduced respectively with permission of the Woodland Trust, National Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved 2015.



SUMMARY REPORT

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015 ESD/15/310 Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201
Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Protected Species Register (not including bats, badgers, otters or birds)

Number of species recorded	1
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European Protected Species

Number of species recorded	2
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Bats

Number of species recorded	2
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Birds

Number of species recorded	88
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Number of BoCC Red list species recorded	16
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Number of BoCC Amber list species recorded	33
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Number of W&CA Schedule 1 species recorded	7
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Number of significant breeding bird records	6
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BAP species (not including bats or birds)

Number of species recorded	1
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Rare Species (not including bats, birds or otters)

Number of species recorded	2
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Invasive Alien Species

Number of species recorded	1
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SUSSEX PROTECTED SPECIES REGISTER

The Protected Species Register does not include bat, bird, badger or otter records.
Bat and bird records are included in separate inventories, while badger and otter records are not included in SxBRC reports.

The Sussex Protected Species Register (PSR) consists of species of plants, fungi and animals that are protected under Schedules 5, 6 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and other legislation.

Please note the following limitations to the PSR:

- PSR records are labelled so that only one record per species per grid reference is included in a SxBRC report. This will usually be the most up to date record.
- If a protected species record appears in a SxBRC biodiversity report it does not mean that the species is still present. It means that the protected species was recorded last at that time and place by the recorder listed. The implications of the record should be further evaluated, and a survey to establish the current status of the species may be required.
- If there is no record of any particular protected species, this does not confirm that the species is absent from the site in question. It may mean that it has not been recorded, that the site has not been surveyed for this species, or that the Record Centre has not been informed of its presence.
- Some sites are part of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme (NDMP) and therefore we are likely to hold historic records/more detailed information. If NDMP is mentioned in the location name of a record and you would like the historic dormouse data for that site, please contact the SxBRC.

Wildlife Protection Legislation in England

Legislation that protects wildlife in England exists at the European and national level.

European law

Legislation produced at a European level is an EU Directive, produced to have an effect at national level as regulations. The most relevant regulation for biodiversity is the 'Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (informally known as 'The Habitats Directive'). Further information can be found here: www.naturenet.net/law/habsregs.html

National law

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended), strengthened by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, are together the most important legislation aimed at protecting wildlife in England. The Wildlife and Countryside Act is divided into four parts, details of which are available from: www.naturenet.net/law/wcagen.html

Species protection is provided under Schedules 1, 5, 6 and 8 of the WCA:

Schedule 1: Birds – Please refer to the Sussex Bird Inventory results and explanation sheet in your SxBRC biodiversity report.

Schedule 5: Protected animals (other than birds)

Intentional or reckless killing, injuring, taking, possessing, disturbing and selling (including parts and derivatives) as well as damaging, destroying or obstructing access to any structure or place of refuge etc. are prohibited. N.B. Protection of some species is limited to certain sections of the Act, which are indicated in the lists as follows:

Section 9(1) Protection limited to intentional killing, injury or taking.

Section 9(2) Protection limited to possessing and controlling.

- Section 9(4a)** Protection limited to damaging, destroying or obstructing access to any structure or place used by the animal for shelter or protection.
- Section 9(4b)** Protection limited to disturbing the animal while it is occupying any structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection.
- Section 9(5a)** Protection limited to selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead animal, part or derivative).
- Section 9(5b)** Protection limited to advertising for buying or selling such things.

Schedule 6: Animals which may not be killed or taken by certain methods

Methods include traps and nets, poisons, automatic weapons, electrical devices, smokes/gases and various others. Even humane trapping for research requires a licence.

Schedule 8: Protected plants and fungi

Intentional picking, uprooting, destroying, trading (including parts and derivatives) etc. are prohibited. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, all wild plants in Britain are protected from intentional uprooting by an unauthorised person. Land owners, land occupiers, persons authorised by either of these, or persons authorised in writing by the Local Authority for the area are however exempt from this, except for Schedule 8 species which you can see on this website: www.naturenet.net/law/sched8.html

Legislation protecting bats

Please refer to the explanation sheet of the Sussex Bat Inventory within your SxBRC biodiversity report, or visit the [SxBRC website](#).

Legislation protecting badgers and otters

Please refer to the 'Confidential Records' sheet at the start of the report for information on badger and otter records in Sussex.

SUSSEX PROTECTED SPECIES REGISTER REPORT

Please note that bat, bird, badger and otter records are not included in this report.

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015 ESD/15/310 Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201
Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Arvicola amphibius

European Water Vole

Terrestrial mammal

The fastest declining native British mammal, the water vole was 'Ratty' in Wind in the Willows. Water voles prefer slow flowing streams, rivers and dykes with steep earth banks and luxuriant emergent vegetation. They have been in decline for over a century mainly due to loss of habitat while the presence of American mink has greatly hastened this decline. In many areas of mainland Britain water voles are already extinct but there are still some strong populations in Sussex. A legally protected species, listed on the Sussex Rare Species Inventory and the subject of a Sussex Species Action Programme.

Designations

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (sec; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan; Sussex Protected Species Register; Sussex Rare Species Inventory; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.1 killing/injuring; 9.1 taking; 9.2; 9.4; subdivision a; 9.4b; 9.5a; 9.5b; Schedule 5)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
SU920013	Dennis Robbins;Marja Kivisaari	July 2005	Bersted Brooks, Bognor North Bersted

Bat species

There are 18 species of bat which are resident in the UK (17 of which are known to be breeding here), all of which have been recorded in Sussex:

Barbastella barbastellus **Barbastelle**

Eptesicus serotinus **Serotine**

Myotis alcathoe **Alcathoe**

Myotis bechsteinii **Bechstein's**

Myotis brandtii **Brandt's**

Myotis daubentonii **Daubenton's**

Myotis myotis **Greater mouse-eared**

Myotis mystacinus **Whiskered**

Myotis nattereri **Natterer's**

Nyctalus leisleri **Leisler's**

Nyctalus noctula **Noctule**

Pipistrellus nathusii **Nathusius's pipistrelle**

Pipistrellus pipistrellus **Common pipistrelle**

Pipistrellus pygmaeus **Soprano pipistrelle**

Plecotus auritus **Brown long-eared**

Plecotus austriacus **Grey long-eared**

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum **Greater horseshoe**

Rhinolophus hipposideros **Lesser horseshoe**

Four other bat species have been recorded in Sussex as vagrants: Savi's pipistrelle (*Hypsugo savii*), Kuhl's pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus kuhlii*), parti-coloured bat (*Vespertilio murinus*) and Geoffroy's bat (*Myotis emarginatus*).

Five species are included in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive: Barbastelle, Bechstein's, greater mouse-eared, greater horseshoe and lesser horseshoe. All 18 species are included in Annex IV.

Seven species are included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Barbastelle, Bechstein's, brown long-eared, greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe, noctule and soprano pipistrelle.

Background

Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight. Those found in the UK feed exclusively on insects and use a sophisticated form of sonar to navigate and catch their prey at night. In late spring and summer, female bats form maternity colonies to raise their young. This is when they are most obvious to us, as they leave the roost at or after sunset in search of food. Bats hibernate during the winter when insects are scarce, usually at a different site to the maternity roost where a constant cool temperature can be found i.e. in underground sites or within deep crevices in trees or buildings. **Bats return to the same roost sites every year, so even if the animals themselves are not present, the roost is still legally protected.**

Unfortunately there are many misconceptions about bats. They are in fact sociable, intelligent, clean animals that rarely come into contact with humans. They do not build nests and very rarely cause structural damage to buildings.

Current status and threats

Bat populations have suffered huge declines in the last century. The common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) remain the most abundant and widespread species of bat, but are thought to have suffered from a huge reduction in numbers. Estimates from a National Bat Colony Survey suggest a population decline of around 70% between 1978 and 1993.

This reduction in bat numbers is largely due to their roosts being disturbed or destroyed, a loss of suitable feeding and flightline habitat (e.g. hedgerows) and a reduction in insect numbers (e.g. through farming intensification and the use of pesticides). A number of species are now included in the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP), run by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), which gives up-to-date information on population trends.

Bats are also particularly vulnerable to human interference for the following reasons:

- They have a low reproductive rate; generally one pup a year.
- They require specific conditions for each of their roost types.
- They are very secretive and often go unnoticed until discovered by building works or home improvements.

Consequently, bats and their roosts receive some of the highest levels of legal protection.

Bats and the law

All species of bat and their roosts are protected by UK and European law. Bats and their roosts may also be protected by site designations, for example if their roost site or feeding grounds are notified as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

You could be committing a criminal offence if you:

1. Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat
2. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats
3. Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)
4. Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost
5. Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat

It is **not** illegal to:

Tend/care for a bat solely for the purpose of restoring it to health and subsequent release. (This should always be done by an experienced bat handler, contact details of which can be found through the Sussex Bat Group.)

Licensing

If you have a bat roost in your property, it does not necessarily mean that building work cannot take place. Work can be planned so as not to interfere with the roost and at a time that bats may be absent. If you are planning any sort of work that may interfere with bats, advice must be sought first from Natural England (see contact details below). Similarly, if you discover bats after work has begun, you must stop and contact Natural England for their advice before continuing.

Licences to permit illegal activities relating to bats and their roost sites can be issued for specific purposes. It is an offence not to comply with the terms and conditions of such a licence. If you carry out work affecting bats or roosts without a licence, you will be breaking the law.

Further advice and information:

Bat Conservation Trust

The national charity working for bat conservation.

Website: www.bats.org.uk

Bat helpline: 0845 1300 228

Email: enquiries@bats.org.uk

Natural England

The government body responsible for issuing licences for work that may affect bats or their roosts.

Website: www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/species/bats.aspx

General and licensing enquiries. Tel: 0845 601 4523 (local rate).

Sussex Bat Group

A local voluntary group working for the conservation of bats in Sussex.

Website: www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk

Email: contact@sussexbatgroup.org.uk

SUSSEX BAT INVENTORY REPORT SUMMARY

Please note that all species of bat and their roosts are protected by UK and European law, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) in the UK and the Habitats Directive in the EU. Bats and their roosts may also be protected by site designations, for example if their roost site or feeding grounds are notified as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

You could be committing a criminal offence if you :

1. Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat. 2. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in the roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats. 3. Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time). 4. Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost. 5. Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat.

Key to Indicators

M/S Mating/Swarming
H Hibernaculum
FR Feeding Roost
MR Maternity Roost
UR Unspecified Roost
D Droppings

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015

ESD/15/310

Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201

Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Common Name	Latin Name	No of Records	M/S	H	FR	MR	UR	D
Bat sp.	<i>Chiroptera</i>	1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pipstrelle sp.	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



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 www.sxbrc.org.uk
 01273 497521

SUSSEX BAT INVENTORY REPORT

Please note that all species of bat and their roosts are protected by UK and European law, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) in the UK and the Habitats Directive in the EU. Bats and their roosts may also be protected by site designations, for example if their roost site or feeding grounds are notified as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

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Key to Indicators

M/S	Mating/Swarming
H	Hibernaculum
FR	Feeding Roost
MR	Maternity Roost
UR	Unspecified Roost
D	Droppings

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015

ESD/15/310

Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201

Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Chiroptera

Bat sp.

Chiroptera (from the ancient Greek for 'wing hand') is the natural group, or order, that covers all the bats. In Britain we have 18 bat species and all have the highest level of legal protection. Many people simply record bats in general when they are not able to assign them to a particular species and these are then included under Chiroptera in our reports.

Date	Location	Grid Reference	Recorder	Sampling Method	M/S	H	FR	MR	UR	D	Abundance	Notes
July 2005	Bersted Brooks, Bognor North Bersted	SU920013	Dennis Robbins; Marja Kivisaari	Field Observation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Taxon Present	Sighted in the area up to July 2005.

*Pipistrellus***Pipstrelle sp.**

There are three species of Pipistrelle bat found in the UK; common (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano (*P. pygmaeus*) and Nathusius (*P. Nathusii*). Common and soprano pipistrelles were previously recorded as one species, but they are now recognised as separate species, with a peak frequency echolocation at 45 kHz and 55 kHz respectively. The following records refer to an aggregate of the two species, where the audio frequency or specific species is undetermined. Little is known about the Nathusius pipistrelle, but the other two species are found in all types of countryside (except very exposed areas) as well as in towns and suburbs. Summer roosts are usually in buildings, though tree holes and bat boxes are also used. Hibernation sites are in buildings and tree holes. Both common and soprano pipistrelles are widespread in Sussex, while Nathusius' is much rarer.

Date	Location	Grid Reference	Recorder	Sampling Method	M/S	H	FR	MR	UR	D	Abundance	Notes
23/08/1998	The Rookery, North Bersted, nr. Bognor, West Sussex (VC13)	SU928013	Recorder @ Sussex Bat Group	Grounded Bat	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1 Injured male	Injured then died.

SUSSEX NOTABLE BIRD INVENTORY



The Sussex Notable Bird Inventory is based on a list of birds that are particularly scarce or vulnerable to development in Sussex. This report has been created with ecological consultants in mind, to help sort the more sensitive bird species from the more common. These records are only available to ecological consultants due to the sensitivity of the data. The Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) has kindly shared this data with us, with the view that better planning decisions can be made with the availability of this data. Please see the appended list of species included in this report and the date ranges/criteria for each species' inclusion.

Icons used in the Notable Bird Inventory:



Schedule 1 birds

Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides an additional tier of protection so that rare species are specially protected by increased penalties and cannot be intentionally or recklessly disturbed when nesting. **Schedule 1 status also infers a right of arrest** by a police officer if someone is suspected of committing certain offences against one of these species.



Biodiversity Action Plan Species (UK BAP)

Twenty-six species of bird are identified as Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), each the subject of a dedicated action plan which seeks to reverse their declines and protect vulnerable populations. Any Priority Species recorded within your enquiry area will be indicated in the species information of the bird report. Further details of BAP bird species can be found on the [JNCC website](http://jncc.gov.uk).



Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act

There are 49 bird species on the England Biodiversity List which was drawn up to meet the requirements of Section 41 of the Act. Further details of the NERC Act can be found on the [Natural England website](http://naturalengland.gov.uk).

Birds of Conservation Concern 3 (2009)

Every five years the leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK review the population status of the 247 species of bird that are regularly found in the UK. There are three lists – Red, Amber and Green – into which each of the species has been placed. 40 species are Red-listed, 121 are Amber-listed and 86 are Green-listed. The status decisions are based on several factors which include: the species' global and European conservation status; recent and historical decline; whether it is a rare breeder; if it is only confined to a few sites in the UK; and if the species is of international importance.



Red List species are those that are **Globally Threatened** according to IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has decline rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.



Amber List species are those with **Unfavourable Conservation Status** in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.

Green List species are those that do not fulfil any of the above criteria. Some of these species are however protected by law and the list includes some Schedule 1 species which have the highest level of protection. A green icon will not appear in our reports.

This information has been obtained from '**Birds of Conservation Concern 3' (BoCC3)** which can be downloaded from the [RSPB website](http://rspb.org.uk).

Other bird legislation and conservation measures:

Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981

All British birds, their nests and eggs are protected by UK law. It is an offence to take, kill or injure any wild bird or to take, damage, destroy any nest or egg of any wild bird under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedules 1-4.

Hedgerow removal and birds

It is advisable not to trim, cut or remove hedgerows during the bird nesting season. You will be violating the Wildlife and Countryside Act if there are birds nesting within it due to the disturbance or destruction of their habitat whilst nesting. The Hedgerows Regulations were introduced in 1997 to protect important hedgerows in the countryside. The regulations state that it is a criminal offence, unless an exception applies, to deliberately remove or otherwise destroy a hedgerow without permission. Please apply to your local planning authority for a Hedgerow Removal Application. Domestic hedges are not included in this regulation, however it is still illegal to cut or remove any hedges if birds are suspected to be nesting in it.

Birds in roofs

There are various species that may nest in roofs. Unless they are causing a health hazard, the nests, eggs and chicks are protected by law. The parent birds must not be prevented from gaining access to their nest. Many of the birds that use roof spaces are now species of conservation concern because of their population decline over the past 25 years. Starlings and House Sparrows are Red-listed, while Barn Owls, House Martins and Swallows are Amber-listed (see next page for details). Roofs are also important for Swifts.

Further information about birds and the law can be found on the [RSPB website](#).

Environmental Stewardship Target Species

Farmland birds are one of the key targets of which a landowner can be awarded points through the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. Each Joint Character Area (e.g. High Weald, South Downs, South Coast Plain etc.) has specific key bird species whose populations must be maintained or enhanced to gain points as part of the land owner's 'Farm Environment Plan'. This can be done through a combination of management practices which should provide year round habitat requirements, in locations where these birds are known to be present or within 2km of such sites. If a key farmland bird species appears in your report, it will show to which Joint Character Area it is linked.

Further information about agri-environment schemes can be found on the [RSPB website](#).

EU Birds Directive

The Birds Directive addresses the conservation of all wild birds throughout the European Union, including marine areas, and covers their protection, management, control and exploitation. It applies to the birds, their eggs, nests and habitats. It places a broad requirement on Member States to take necessary measures to maintain the populations of all wild birds at levels determined by ecological, scientific and cultural needs. In doing so, Member States must also consider economic and recreational needs.

The Directive divides into two main parts: **habitat conservation** and **species protection**. In summary, it requires Member States to preserve, maintain and re-establish sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all wild birds.

Annex 1:

Species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat to ensure their survival and reproduction. This includes the designation of areas as Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Annex 2:

Annex 2 of the Birds Directive lists birds that can be hunted under the legislation of the Member States. The Directive bans certain non-selective methods of hunting and defines the limits within which Member States can set the hunting season.

Further information about the EU Birds Directive can be found on the [BirdLife website](#).

IUCN Red List

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has been assessing the conservation status of species, subspecies, varieties and even selected sub-populations on a global scale in order to highlight taxa threatened with extinction, and therefore promote their conservation. The IUCN Red List (different from the previously mentioned Red List) is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species. It uses a set of criteria to evaluate the extinction risk of thousands of species and subspecies. These criteria are relevant to all species and all regions of the world. With its strong scientific base, the IUCN Red List is recognized as the most authoritative guide to the status of biological diversity.

Further information about the Red List can be found on the [IUCN website](#).

SUSSEX NOTABLE BIRD LIST

Species	Search criteria 1	Search criteria 2	Designations			
Eurasian Wigeon	Positive breeding status	Late May- early July records	A			
Gadwall	Positive breeding status	Late May- early July records	A			
Pintail	Positive breeding status	Late May- early July records	A			
Garganey	Positive breeding status	Late May- early July records	A	!		
Common Pochard	Positive breeding status	Late May- early July records	A			
Grey Partridge	Positive breeding status	March - August records	R		BAP	N
Common Quail	Positive breeding status	March - August records	A	!		
Eurasian Bittern	All records	March - August records	R	!	BAP	N
Little Egret	Confirmed breeding records + recognised roosts	May and June records	A			
Grey Heron	Confirmed breeding records	March - May records				
Honey-buzzard	March - August records		A	!		
Red Kite	Positive breeding status + recognised roosts	March -August records	A	!		
Marsh Harrier	Positive breeding status + recognised roosts	Mid May-July records	A	!		
Hen Harrier	Winter roosts	3 or more birds	R	!		N
Montagu's Harrier	Mid May-July records		A	!		
Goshawk	January - August records	All records		!		
Osprey	Mid May-July records		A	!		
Hobby	Positive breeding status	April - August records		!		
Peregrine Falcon	Positive breeding status	March - August records		!		
Spotted Crake	Positive breeding status	March - August records	A	!		
Avocet	Positive breeding status	April - July records	A	!		
Stone-curlew	March - August records		A	!	BAP	N
Little Ringed Plover	Positive breeding status	March - July records		!		
Northern Lapwing	Positive breeding status	April -June records	R		BAP	N
Common Snipe	Positive breeding status	April - July records	A			
Black-tailed Godwit	Positive breeding status	late May-June	R	!		
Eurasian Curlew	Positive breeding status	April - July records	A		BAP	N
Common Redshank	Positive breeding status	April -June records	A			
Kittiwake	Positive breeding status		A			
Mediterranean Gull	Positive breeding status	May-June records	A	!		
Little Tern	Positive breeding status		A	!		
Common Tern	Positive breeding status		A			
Turtle Dove	Positive breeding status		R		BAP	N
Barn Owl	All records		A	!		
Long-eared Owl	Positive breeding status + recognised roosts	March - August records				
Common Swift	Confirmed & probably breeding records		A			

Barn Swallow	Confirmed & probably breeding records		A			
House Martin	Confirmed & probably breeding records		A			
Common Kingfisher	Positive breeding status	March - August records	A	!		
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	All records		R		BAP	N
Raven	Positive breeding status	February - July records				
Firecrest	Positive breeding status	March - August records	A	!		
Willow Tit	All records		R			
Bearded Tit	Positive breeding status	March - August records	A	!		
Wood Lark	Positive breeding status	March - August records	A	!	BAP	N
Cetti's Warbler	Positive breeding status	March - August records		!		
Wood Warbler	Positive breeding status	April - August records	R		BAP	N
Dartford Warbler	Positive breeding status	March - August records	A	!		
Savi's Warbler	Positive breeding status	April - August records	R	!	BAP	N
Marsh Warbler	Positive breeding status	April - August records	R	!	BAP	N
Black Redstart	May-July		A	!		
Tree Sparrow	All records		R		BAP	N
Yellow Wagtail	Positive breeding status + recognised roosts	May-June records	R		BAP	N
Common Crossbill	Positive breeding status	February - July records		!		
Hawfinch	All records				BAP	N
Corn Bunting	All records		R		BAP	N

Key to symbols (see main explanation sheet for detail on these designations):

- ! Schedule 1
- R BoCC Red List Species
- A BoCC Amber List Species
- BAP Biodiversity Action Plan Species
- N Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act Species

Selection based on:

Positive Breeding = where a bird has been confirmed as breeding, or there are signs that there is probable breeding.

Date = a date range which represents each species' breeding season, this criteria will be used where breeding has not been confirmed. Please note that this criteria will also bring up non-breeding records which may not be relevant to the data user.

Roost = where a species has been recorded as being in a recognised roost or a winter roost.

All Records = where all records for a species are flagged up.

SUSSEX BIRD INVENTORY REPORT SUMMARY

N.B. This summary report gives details of a ALL bird records. Details of notable bird records appear after this summary.

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015

ESD/15/310

Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201

Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Common Name	Latin Name	First Date	Last Date	No. of Rec's	Total Abundance	Max. Abundance
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	01/02/1979	03/02/1979	2	240	140
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	02/02/1979	04/02/1979	2	153	100
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	31/07/2005	02/05/2008	3	5	3
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	10	10
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	16/06/2005	02/04/2012	2	2	1
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	31/07/2005	26/04/2012	2	3	3
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	06/06/2005	-	1	1	1
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	11/09/2004	23/06/2011	6	19	12
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	2	2
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	20	20
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0

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Common Name	Latin Name	First Date	Last Date	No. of Rec's	Total Abundance	Max. Abundance
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	14/09/1989	12/09/2010	5	4	1
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	11/09/2004	26/04/2012	3	2	1
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	31/07/2005	26/04/2012	2	1	1
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	11/09/2004	27/04/2012	5	5	2
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	15/01/1984	31/07/2005	3	55	30
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	31/07/2005	26/04/2012	2	1	1
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	11/09/2004	02/08/2005	3	2	1
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	26/04/2012	-	1	1	1
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	4	4
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	1	1
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	10	10
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	1	1
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	2	2
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	11/09/2004	02/05/2006	3	12	11
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	31/07/2005	16/04/2007	2	1	1
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	12/03/2003	26/04/2012	3	3	2
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba subsp. yarrellii</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	2	2
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	19/10/1943	-	1	1	1
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	31/07/2005	15/09/2013	2	1	1

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Common Name	Latin Name	First Date	Last Date	No. of Rec's	Total Abundance	Max. Abundance
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	31/07/2005	26/04/2012	2	1	1
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	3	3
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	31/07/2005	10/12/2007	9	8	1
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	11/09/2004	31/07/2005	2	2	2
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	31/07/2005	06/02/2012	2	1	1
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	11/10/1989	15/09/2013	4	8	4
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	31/07/2005	-	1	0	0
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	20/11/2009	21/01/2012	3	3	1

SUSSEX NOTABLE BIRD REPORT

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015 ESD/15/310 Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201
 Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Larus melanocephalus

Mediterranean Gull

Fairly common throughout the year and increasing globally. Has bred annually since 1994, with an established breeding colony at Rye Harbour. This gull is slightly larger than a Black-headed Gull, with a bright red beak; it feeds on insects, fish, offal and carrion.

Bern Convention Appendix 2; Bird Population Status - amber; Birds Directive Annex 1; Convention on Migratory Species; Appendix 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU9201	Anon @ SOS Website	16/06/2005	Deanlane End nr Rowlands Cstle	1 Present	Date

Numenius arquata

Curlew

Formerly a very scarce breeder; this large wader is a common passage migrant and winter visitor. Mainly recorded from marshes, mudflats and saltmarsh, but sometimes elsewhere. Easily recognisable by its long down-curved bill which it uses to catch worms, shellfish and shrimps, and its distinctive bubbling call.

Bird Population Status - amber; Birds Directive Annex 2.2; Convention on Migratory Species; Appendix 2; Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (sec; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU920013	Dennis Robbins;Marja Kivisaari	July 2005	Bognor North Bersted	Taxon Present	Date

Alcedo atthis

Kingfisher

A scarce to fairly common resident, and possibly very scarce winter visitor, which is widespread across Sussex, but often declines following hard winters. A brilliantly coloured blue and orange bird which can be found in lowland freshwater areas such as rivers, ponds and streams, and during the winter on the coast and in estuarine areas. Nests in hole in riverbank or sandpit.

Bern Convention Appendix 2; Bird Population Status - amber; Birds Directive Annex 1; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU920013	Dennis Robbins;Marja Kivisaari	July 2005	Bognor North Bersted	Taxon Present	Date

Milvus milvus

Red Kite

This unmistakable large bird of prey is a very scarce breeding resident (first bred in 2004) and scarce but increasing visitor. Red kites were almost extinct in the UK by the early 1900s but in the last two decades, they have been re-introduced to England and Scotland, with magnificent results. It is easily recognised by its red colour and forked tail. It feeds on carrion, worms and small mammals.

Bird Population Status - amber; Birds Directive Annex 1; Convention on Migratory Species; Appendix 2; EC CITES Annex A; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU919014	Recorder @ WildCall	30/03/2012	West Sussex (VC13)	7 Present	Date

Perdix perdix

Grey Partridge

A medium-sized gamebird with a distinctive orange face, which is a scarce and decreasing resident species that has suffered a major decline nationally. It was formerly widespread on the South Downs but is now very scarce there. Found in arable areas where it feeds on leaves, seeds and insects. However, it continues to be recorded in larger numbers in the far East of the county around Rye Bay.

Bird Population Status - red; Birds Directive Annex 2.1; Environmental Stewardship Target Species (High Weald); Environmental Stewardship Target Species (Low Weald); Environmental Stewardship Target Species (Pevensey Levels); Environmental Stewardship Target Species (Romney Marsh); Environmental Stewardship Target Species (South Downs); Environmental Stewardship Target Species (Wealden Greensand); Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (sec; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU920013	Dennis Robbins;Marja Kivisaari	July 2005	Bognor North Bersted	Taxon Present	Date

Porzana porzana

Spotted Crane

Very scarce spring and autumn passage migrant and rare winter visitor. This starling-sized bird feeds on insects, snails, worms, small fish and plant materials. An easily overlooked species recorded from time to time in Sussex, mainly from coastal locations.

Bern Convention Appendix 2; Bird Population Status - amber; Birds Directive Annex 1; Convention on Migratory Species; Appendix 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU9201	Sussex List (RJ Fair website)	11/08/1973	Aldingbourne Rife	1 Male	Date

Cettia cetti

Cetti's Warbler

A small, but loud, skulking bird that is a scarce but increasing resident; passage migrant and winter visitor. First recorded from Sussex in 1962 and slowly increasing. Most records are from coastal locations where it's favoured habitat of thick, damp overgrown vegetation is most common.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU9201	BTO Birdtrack data	26/04/2012	Bognor North Bersted	1 Present	Date

Emberiza calandra

Corn Bunting

A non-descript brown bunting that is a fairly common but decreasing resident with most records from the Downs and the east of East Sussex. One of the few UK bird species largely dependent on cropped land and it seems particularly to like barley. It feeds on seeds and insects. It can also be found on heathland and open countryside. Its has had a dramatic population decline in the UK.

Bird Population Status - red; Environmental Stewardship Target Species (Romney Marsh); Nerc Act 2006; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU920013	Dennis Robbins;Marja Kivisaari	July 2005	Bognor North Bersted	Taxon Present	All records

Regulus ignicapilla

Firecrest

Scarce breeder; passage migrant and winter visitor. A bird that shows a preference for the edges of mature spruce plantations. This tiny beautiful bird is recorded from only a few scattered locations in our area.

Bern Convention Appendix 2; Bird Population Status - amber; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU920013	Dennis Robbins;Marja Kivisaari	July 2005	Bognor North Bersted	Taxon Present	Date

Tyto alba

Barn Owl

A distinctive and much loved bird of the countryside, this scarce breeding resident declined substantially during the last century mainly due to loss of habitat, particularly areas of rough grassland where it hunts for mice, voles and shrews. The position has been improving recently with many nest boxes being erected, although the conversion of barns in Sussex has had a negative impact on potential breeding sites.

Bern Convention Appendix 2; Bird Population Status - amber; EC CITES Annex A; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality	Abundance	Selection Based On
SU9101	BTO Birdtrack data	20/11/2009	Bognor North Bersted	1 Present	All records
SU9101	BTO Birdtrack data	15/02/2010	Bognor North Bersted	1 Present	All records
SU9101	BTO Birdtrack data	21/01/2012	Bognor North Bersted	1 Present	All records

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN SPECIES INVENTORY

The BAP Species Inventory does not include bat, bird or otter records.
Bat and bird records are included in separate inventories, while otter records are not included in SxBRC reports.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), published in 1994, was the UK Government's response to signing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The new **UK post-2010 Biodiversity Framework** replaces the previous UK level BAP, though the lists of priority species agreed under the UK BAP still form the basis of much biodiversity work in the UK. The current strategy for England is '**Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services**'. Although the UK BAP has been succeeded, Species Action Plans (SAPs) developed under the UK BAP still remain important and valuable reference sources for background information on Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

The new framework includes five internationally agreed strategic goals and supporting targets to be achieved by 2020. The five strategic goals agreed were:

- **Strategic Goal A:** Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society
- **Strategic Goal B:** Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- **Strategic Goal C:** To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- **Strategic Goal D:** Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- **Strategic Goal E:** Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Further information on the UK BAP and details of the species and habitat action plans can be found on the [JNCC website](#).

BAP species within this report

- BAP records are labelled so that only one record per species per grid reference is included in a SxBRC report. This will usually be the most up to date record.
- Species which appear in the 'England Biodiversity List' to meet the requirements of Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006)* are labelled with the symbol **N**.

* Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act

The NERC Act (2006) was established with the intention to help ensure that biodiversity becomes an integral consideration in the development of policies, and that decisions of public bodies work with nature and not against it.

The England Biodiversity List has been drawn up to meet the requirements of Section 41 of the Act. The S41 list consists of **943 species** and **56 habitats** of principal importance in England and will be used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act.

Further details of the NERC Act can be found on the [Natural England website](#).

UK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN SPECIES INVENTORY REPORT

Please note that bat, bird and otter records are not included in this report

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015 ESD/15/310 Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201

Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Arvicola amphibius

European Water Vole

N

Terrestrial mammal

The fastest declining native British mammal, the water vole was 'Ratty' in Wind in the Willows. Water voles prefer slow flowing streams, rivers and dykes with steep earth banks and luxuriant emergent vegetation. They have been in decline for over a century mainly due to loss of habitat while the presence of American mink has greatly hastened this decline. In many areas of mainland Britain water voles are already extinct but there are still some strong populations in Sussex. A legally protected species, listed on the Sussex Rare Species Inventory and the subject of a Sussex Species Action Programme.

Designations

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (sec, Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan, Sussex Protected Species Register, Sussex Rare Species Inventory, UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring)), Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (taking)), Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.2), Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4, subdivision a), Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4b), Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5a), Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5b), Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
SU920013	Dennis Robbins;Marja Kivisaari	July 2005	Bersted Brooks, Bognor North Bersted

SUSSEX RARE SPECIES INVENTORY

The Rare Species Inventory does not include bat, bird or otter records.
Bat and bird records are included in separate inventories, while otter records are not included in SxBRC reports.

The Sussex Rare Species Inventory (RSI) contains over 3,400 species. These species are selected according to strict criteria of rarity associated with their occurrence in Sussex.

The criteria for selection of species are listed below:

- All species in the British Red Data Books including all Notable fauna and Nationally Scarce flora and British endemic taxa which have ever occurred in Sussex whether extinct or not.
- Species included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP species).
- Internationally rare taxa cited in the Bern Convention, IUCN Red Data lists, or EU Habitats Directive which are not covered by any of the above.

The RSI has been designed to be comprehensive for species but representative for records. This is managed in several ways:

- RSI records are labelled so that only one record per species per grid reference gets flagged up. This will usually be the most up to date record.
- SxBRC does not hold marine information other than coastal species and cetaceans.
- The following species are relatively common in Sussex but are in the RSI because they are Notable or Nationally Scarce. Only *one* record of these species is labelled per 2km tetrad:

Round-headed Rampion	<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>
Frogbit	<i>Hydrocharis morus-ranae</i>
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>
Long-winged Conehead	<i>Conocephalus discolor</i> (syn. <i>C. fuscus</i>)
Variable Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulea aenea</i>

For records of rare vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens the Record Centre recommends the Sussex Rare Plant Register, compiled by the Sussex Botanical Recording Society. This gives information on the distribution and status of over 400 Sussex Rare Plants, putting data from RSI reports into a Sussex-wide context. Please see [our website](#) for more information.

IUCN Categories of Rarity

The following is a summary of the IUCN categories of rarity. For further information visit the [IUCN website](#).

Extinct (EX)

A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died.

Extinct in the Wild (EW)

A taxon is Extinct in the Wild when it is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range.

Critically Endangered (CR)

A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Endangered (EN)

A taxon is Endangered when it is considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Vulnerable (VU)

A taxon is Vulnerable when it is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

Near Threatened (NT)

A taxon is Near Threatened when it is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.

Least Concern (LC)

A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated against the criteria and does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened.

Data Deficient (DD)

A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status.

Not Evaluated (NE)

A taxon is Not Evaluated when it has not yet been evaluated against the criteria.

Regionally Scarce (NR)

Occurs in 5 or fewer 10km squares in a particular region of Britain. Locally determined.

SUSSEX RARE SPECIES INVENTORY REPORT

Please note that bat, bird and otter records are not included in this report

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015

ESD/15/310

Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201

Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Arvicola amphibius

European Water Vole

Terrestrial mammal

The fastest declining native British mammal, the water vole was 'Ratty' in Wind in the Willows. Water voles prefer slow flowing streams, rivers and dykes with steep earth banks and luxuriant emergent vegetation. They have been in decline for over a century mainly due to loss of habitat while the presence of American mink has greatly hastened this decline. In many areas of mainland Britain water voles are already extinct but there are still some strong populations in Sussex. A legally protected species, listed on the Sussex Rare Species Inventory and the subject of a Sussex Species Action Programme.

Designations

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (sec; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan; Sussex Protected Species Register; Sussex Rare Species Inventory; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.1 killing/injuring; 9.1 taking; 9.2; 9.4; subdivision a; 9.4b; 9.5a; 9.5b; Schedule 5)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
SU920013	Dennis Robbins;Marja Kivisaari	July 2005	Bognor North Bersted

Potamogeton trichoides

Hairlike Pondweed

Flowering plant

Designations

Sussex Rare Species Inventory

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
SU92980159	Frances Abraham	31/05/2009	Aldingbourne Rife

SUSSEX INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES REPORT

The Sussex Invasive Alien Species Report is produced in order to help minimise the threat posed by invasive alien species in Sussex. Records are labelled so that only one record per species per grid reference is included - this will usually be the most up to date record.

Most alien species pose no threat to native species, and indeed many naturalised non-natives represent important additions to our flora and fauna. An older record of an alien invasive species may denote that there was once a problem at this site, but it has subsequently been dealt with. However, the problem may still persist but no up to date information is available.

What is an Invasive Alien Species?

The term alien is synonymous with the term non-native. An invasive alien is defined as an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threatens biological diversity. Invasive alien species are referred to by several names, which are often used interchangeably: non-natives, introduced, non-indigenous, exotic, foreign, noxious, aggressive, pest or harmful species.

What's the problem?

With no natural predators and a benign climate, invasive alien species can out-compete our native plant and animal species. For example, some invasive alien plants species can change light levels, decrease dissolved oxygen in water, change soil chemistry and its structure, and increase surface run-off and soil erosion. On a more subtle level, invasive alien species can affect ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycling, pollination and regeneration of soils. Invasive fauna can compete with native species, displace them, consume them, act as parasites or transmit diseases, reduce growth and survival rates, cause the decline or extinction of local populations or even entire species.

What control is in place?

Section 14 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) is the principal legislation dealing with the release of non-native species. This has been amended by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) in England and Wales. Section 14 of the Act makes it illegal to allow any animal which is not ordinarily resident in Great Britain, or is listed on Schedule 9 of the Act, to escape into the wild, or to release it into the wild. It is also illegal to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant listed on Schedule 9 of the Act.

What to do if there is an invasive alien species on your site

If you have any of the species listed in this report on your site, firstly investigate the recommended control for the particular species. You can search by species name on the [GB non-native species secretariat website](#) for further advice.

If there are invasive alien species at your site that are not in this report please contact us on sxbrc@sussexwt.org.uk or 01273 497521 so that we can update our database.

SUSSEX INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES REPORT

Please note that bird records are not included in this report.

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015 ESD/15/310 Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201
Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Neovison vison

American Mink

Terrestrial mammal

A member of the weasel family introduced in the 1920s for the fur trade and now found in the wild in much of Britain. Mink take bird's eggs and chicks and have caused a serious decline in water voles. They also damage fisheries and poultry farms. Attempts to control them are usually ongoing.

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
SU9201	Richard Cowser	15/05/2006	Manor Farm, Aldingbourne Rife

FULL SPECIES LIST (Excluding Birds)

Land at Bucksham Avenue, Bersted

30 April 2015 ESD/15/310 Search Area: SU9101 and SU9201

Simon Davis (Arun District Council)

Latin Name	Common Name	Taxon Group	First Date	Last Date	No. of Rec's
<i>Rhizodiscina lignyota</i>		fungus	05/04/2013	-	1
<i>Hyaloscypha leuconica</i> var. <i>leuconica</i>		fungus	05/04/2013	-	1
<i>Hyaloscypha hyalina</i>		fungus	05/04/2013	-	1
<i>Cheiromycella microscopica</i>		fungus	05/04/2013	-	1
<i>Trifolium ornithopodioides</i>	Bird's-foot Clover	flowering plant	11/06/2006	-	1
<i>Crocus angustifolius</i> x <i>flavus</i> = <i>C. x stellaris</i>	Yellow Crocus	flowering plant	12/02/2009	-	2
<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Garden Parsley	flowering plant	31/12/1997	-	1
<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Wild Celery	flowering plant	23/05/2009	-	1
<i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	Hairlike Pondweed	flowering plant	31/05/2009	-	1
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed Damselfly	insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	17/08/1997	-	1
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	02/08/2009	8
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Hedge Brown	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	11/07/2007	2
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	02/08/2009	7
<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood	insect - butterfly	21/04/2007	02/08/2009	7
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	15/06/2007	4
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady	insect - butterfly	19/05/2009	30/07/2009	6
<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	30/07/2009	7
<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	10/04/2009	8
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange-tip	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	10/04/2009	4
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone	insect - butterfly	25/05/2009	30/07/2009	4
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	02/08/2009	12
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	02/08/2009	13
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White	insect - butterfly	31/12/1998	02/08/2009	7
<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White	insect - butterfly	10/04/2009	-	2
<i>Neovison vison</i>	American Mink	terrestrial mammal	15/05/2006	-	1
<i>Chiroptera</i>	Bat sp.	terrestrial mammal	31/07/2005	-	2
<i>Pipistrellus</i>	Pipstrelle sp.	terrestrial mammal	23/08/1998	-	2
<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	European Water Vole	terrestrial mammal	31/07/2005	-	1

MAP CITATION SHEETS

KEY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SITE DESIGNATIONS

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

National Nature Reserves are statutory reserves established under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. NNRs may be owned by the relevant national body (e.g. Natural England in England) or established by agreement. A few are owned and managed by non-statutory bodies, for example the Sussex Wildlife Trust. NNRs cover a selection of the most important sites for nature conservation in the UK. There are six NNRs in Sussex.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Special Areas of Conservation are sites designated by Member States under the EC Habitats Directive. The aim is to establish a European network of important high quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving habitats and species considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level. There are 12 SAC sites in Sussex.

Special Protection Area (SPA)

Special Protection Areas are designated under the EC Birds Directive, to conserve the habitat of certain rare or vulnerable birds and regularly occurring migratory birds. Any significant pollution or disturbance to or deterioration of these sites has to be avoided. All SPAs are also designated as SSSIs. There are six SPA sites in Sussex.

Ramsar

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. Under the Convention, each government must select its best wetlands according to very clear criteria, which include: a wetland that regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds; a wetland that regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird. Wetlands are broadly defined to include marsh, fen, peatland and water. All designated Ramsar sites are also designated as SSSIs. There are four Ramsar sites in Sussex.

National Park

National Parks are beautiful, spectacular and often dramatic expanses of countryside. In the UK people live and work in the National Parks and the farms, villages and towns are protected along with the landscape and wildlife. They differ from Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in that each National Park has its own authority for planning control and other services.

The creation of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) was confirmed on 12th November 2009 and came into being on 1st April 2010.

Further information can be found on the [SDNP Authority website](#).

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are areas of high scenic quality that have statutory protection in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of their landscapes. They differ from National Parks in their more limited opportunities for extensive outdoor recreation and by the way they are managed. AONBs are designated by Natural England under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

There are two AONBs in Sussex covering approx. 114,000 hectares; Chichester Harbour and High Weald. Each has an associated body concerned with the area's conservation:

Chichester Harbour Conservancy www.conservancy.co.uk

High Weald AONB Unit www.highweald.org

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Local Nature Reserves are for both people and wildlife. All district and county councils have powers to acquire, declare and manage LNRs. To qualify for LNR status, a site must be of importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. Some are also SSSIs. There are 36 LNRs in Sussex.

Country Park

Country Parks were established as a result of the 1968 Countryside Act to provide a wide range of opportunities for recreation, health, education and improve the quality of life for local communities. Natural England recognises Country Parks as significant places that contribute to England's accessible natural green space. There are 11 Country Parks in Sussex, the details of which can be obtained from the local authorities.

Local Geological Site (LGS)

Previously known as Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGGS), LGS are non-statutory designations that have been identified by local geodiversity groups as being of importance. There are over 120 LGS in Sussex which have been assessed by the Sussex Geodiversity Partnership. The features identified as being important become a material consideration in any future development, and should be taken into account by the relevant local authority.

A selection of LGS with public access in Sussex can be viewed on the [Sussex Geodiversity Partnership's website](#).

Marine Site of Nature Conservation Importance (MSNCI)

Marine Sites of Nature Conservation Importance are non-statutory sites identified on account of the special interest of their marine habitats, the fauna and flora, or for unusual geological and geomorphological features. They are an extension of the series of terrestrial SNCIs. The identification of these sites is to highlight their importance for marine wildlife and to emphasise the risks of certain operations damaging their interest. There are 23 MSNCIs off the Sussex coast.

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship is an agri-environment scheme managed by Natural England that provides funding to farmers and other land managers to deliver effective environmental management.

There are four elements to Environmental Stewardship, three of which are relevant in Sussex:

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) goes beyond the Single Payment Scheme requirement to maintain land in good agricultural and environmental condition.

Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) is the organic strand of ELS. It is geared to organic and organic/conventional mixed farming systems and is open to all farmers not receiving Organic Farming Scheme aid.

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) involves more complex types of management where agreements are tailored to local circumstances.

Further information can be found on the [Natural England website](#).

Further information on many of the designations listed above can be found on the [Natural England website](#).

COASTAL & FLOODPLAIN GRAZING MARSH

Grazing marsh is periodically inundated pasture, or meadow with ditches that maintain the water levels, containing standing brackish or fresh water. Sites may contain seasonal water-filled hollows and permanent ponds with emergent swamp communities.

Why is it important?

- Wading birds such as redshank feed on invertebrates forced close to the surface by the high water table and shallow surface floods.
- Around 500 species of vascular plant have been recorded from grazing marsh including rare species such as narrow-leaved water-dropwort.
- It supports large numbers of invertebrates including over a thousand nationally notable species.
- Drainage channels and open water associated with grazing marsh support a number of fish species and can provide important spawning areas.
- Water filled ditches are often used by otter, water vole, and various dragonflies.



Lapwing

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh in Sussex

Sussex has around 14,000 hectares of grazing marsh, with the rivers Arun, Adur, Ouse and Cuckmere all having important areas. Just under half of Sussex's floodplains consist of wet grassland, however much of this has been agriculturally improved decreasing its value for wildlife. Pevensey Levels is one of only three sites in Britain where the large fen raft spider is found, and two rare species of ramshorn snail can also be found in Sussex.

What are the threats?

- Conversion to agriculture through drainage and fertilizer application.
- Drainage and flood defences can disrupt the hydrology of sites.
- Overgrazing, neglect or early grazing, can affect breeding birds.
- Water pollution, which can be exacerbated if concentrated by over-abstraction.
- Floodplain development, aggregate extraction and recreational pressure.
- Isolation and fragmentation of sites reduces dispersal opportunities making species more susceptible to extinction.

Some associated species

- Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
- Merlin *Falco columbarius*
- Marsh mallow moth *Hydraecia osseola*
- Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*
- Greater water parsnip *Sium latifolium*
- Star sedge *Carex echinata*

Further information

- Floodplain Meadows Partnership: www.floodplainmeadows.org.uk
- Sussex Wetland Landscapes Project: www.sussexotters.org

(Illustration courtesy of Natural England.)

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

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Tel: 01273 497521

Email: info@sxbrc.org.uk

Website: www.sxbrc.org.uk

The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre is managed by the Sussex Wildlife Trust as a partnership project.
A list of our current funding partners can be found on our website: www.sxbrc.org.uk/about/partners

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