



Chidham, Hambrook and Nutbourne East Wildlife survey

The Parish is fighting to defend itself on many fronts, and a key one is the local environment. Unless we take action NOW to help the wildlife that lives in our parish, and that comes in daily from the South Downs and Chichester harbour, then future generations will lose a critical part of our local heritage.

Critical Wildlife Corridors link the South Downs with Chichester harbour. Despite being featured in the Chichester Council Local Plan, they are at risk from being built on for new housing by developers.

What we need you to do

Clear evidence of particular wildlife is essential to get Wildlife Corridors reinstated on future council plans, so we need to have as many people as possible within the parish recording details of local wildlife, which includes taking notes of exactly where you saw them and when, plus photos too if possible.

Protected wildlife to record – mammals and amphibians

Water vole



Habitat: waterways Jan to Dec
Length: 14-22 cm (blunt nose)
Tail: 10 - 14 cm (furry)
Weight 150 – 300g (rat size)

Dormouse



Habitat: up in trees Apr to Oct
Length: 6 - 9 cm
Tail: 6 - 7 cm (fluffy)
Weight 15 – 40g (mouse size)

Badger



Habitat: woods, farms Jan-Dec
Length: 75 - 100 cm
Tail: 15 cm
Weight 8 – 12 Kg

Great Crested Newt



Habitat: clean ponds Mar-Oct
Length: up to 17cm
Lifespan: 6 – 15 years

Otter



Habitat: coast, rivers Jan-Dec
Length: 60 - 80 cm
Tail: 32 - 56 cm
Weight 6 – 8 Kg (badger size)

Bats (many species)



Habitat: trees at dusk Mar-Oct
Length: 5 - 7 cm
Wingspan: up to 30cm
Weight 12 – 20g (mouse size)

British bats:

Alcathoe bat, whiskered bat, serotine, natterer's bat, Leisler's bat, grey long-eared bat, Daubenton's bat, Brandt's bat, lesser horseshoe bat, greater horseshoe bat, Bechstein's bat, barbastelle bat, brown long-eared bat, noctule, common pipistrelle. **Note:** you can buy bat detectors from around £20 plus.

Trees and hedgerows

Trees and hedgerows are just as important to wildlife and species diversity as animals and birds.

- Ancient woodland and old veteran trees – trees can be recorded using the ‘treezilla mobile App’

Birds

The UK's birds are split in to three categories of conservation importance - red, amber and green.

Endangered ‘red listed’ birds are those that used to be common in our gardens and hedgerows like the thrush, starling, skylark, curlew and lapwing, and puffins have joined other species like cuckoos, house sparrows and turtle doves on the list of birds whose populations are currently in big trouble.

The full list of ‘red listed’ birds on the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List (BoCC4) is below:

Aquatic warbler	Grey partridge	Pied flycatcher	Spotted flycatcher
Arctic skua	Grey wagtail	Pocharda	Starling
Balearic shearwater	Hawfinch	Puffin	Tree pipit
Black grouse	Hen harrier	Red-backed shrike	Tree sparrow
Black redstart	Herring gull	Red-necked grebe	Turtle dove
Black-tailed godwit	House sparrow	Red-necked phalarope	Twite
Capercaillie	Kittiwake	Redwing	Velvet scoter
Cirl bunting	Lapwing	Ring ouzel	Whimbrel
Common scoter	Lesser redpoll	Ringed plover	Whinchat
Corn bunting	Lesser spotted woodpecker	Roseate tern	White-fronted goose
Corncrake	Linnet	Ruff	White-tailed eagle
Cuckoo	Long-tailed duck	Savi's warbler	Willow tit
Curlew	Marsh tit	Scaup	Wood warbler
Dotterel	Marsh warbler	Shag	Woodcock
Fieldfare	Merlin	Skylark	Yellow wagtail
Golden oriole	Mistle thrush	Slavonian grebe	Yellowhammer
Grasshopper warbler	Nightingale	Song thrush	

What to record

- Exact date and the number of individual animals seen of the particular species
- Location name (please state Chidham and Hambrook Parish and road and specific location)
- UK national grid reference (ideally 6 figure or greater) e.g. TQ294246
- Please provide your full name and contact details, to distinguish between different recorders and it also helps with follow-up detail checks if necessary.
- Other details you know such as whether it was a female or male, if it was feeding, how many etc.

Note: although lovely to see, deer are not protected as we have more deer now than 100 years ago, and this species will unfortunately not give weight to the importance of the wildlife corridor in the parish.

What to do with your wildlife survey information

Please send all the information and data to the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre, details below:

- Recording wildlife (including using iRecord) - <http://sxbrc.org.uk/recording/shareData.php>
- Identifying specific British wildlife - <https://www.ispotnature.org/>