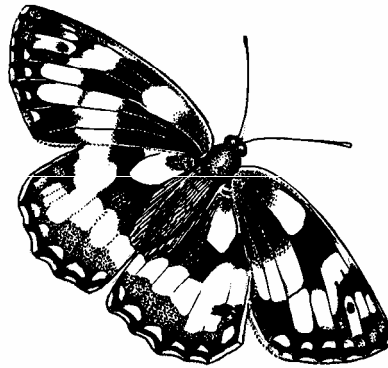




## Recording Wiltshire's Wildlife



# Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre Surveyor's Pack



### Contents:

Notes for Volunteers

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List of Indicator Species

Recording forms:

- Single species
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## Recording Wiltshire's Wildlife



### Notes for Volunteers

Firstly a big 'thank you' for expressing an interest in helping to record Wiltshire's biodiversity, your sightings will go towards providing a clearer understanding of the health of our wildlife.

#### **About Us**

The Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) provides a central reference point for environmental information on geology, habitats, sites and species in the County of Wiltshire and the Borough of Swindon.

Based within the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's headquarters in Devizes, the Records Centre is managed by the Trust as a partnership whose current members include Natural England, all the local authorities, Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (WANHS) and the County Recorders.

A small team of staff and volunteers ensure that environmental records collected by a wide range of different organisations and individuals are brought together in one place, checked and processed to provide an overall picture of the county's natural environment. By continually updating this information, we can monitor the changing status and distribution of both habitats and species.

The information is used to ensure that important areas for wildlife are taken into account when considering plans for new developments and that environmental organisations are able to target their resources more effectively. Information supplied by the Records Centre also supports both the Wiltshire and the Swindon Biodiversity Action Plans by helping to identify those habitats and species that require priority action.

Our records come from a number of different sources. Some information comes from paid surveyors in different organisations but most species records are collected by volunteers. A network of approved volunteer experts, the County Recorders, provide us with most specialist records but we also rely upon general recorders to keep us up-to-date on what is happening in the county.

## **Recording Wiltshire's Biodiversity**

We encourage the submission of any wildlife records, from Frogs to Puffballs and from Robins to Water Voles. Just because a species is not rare that does not mean that we are not interested in recording its presence. If the WSBRC does not have the data then we can not tell what is present or absent in any given area, and hence can not advise local government, consultants, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust or local recorders amongst others. Every planning application in Wiltshire is screened by the W&SBRC for noted species, the more information we have for a site, the more we can advise the planner.

### **Recording**

You can record any species that you see. Recording some species may be more difficult than other, for example mammals are often elusive and most are at their most active throughout the night. This means that you rarely see live mammals but mammals leave signs of their presence. Badgers will often follow the same paths each night on their foraging trips. If you see a path through vegetation that would seem impossible for a human to have made it is worth scouting around and looking for latrines (piles of dung that act as territory markers) or on barbed wire where you might find a few hairs. There are many books on this subject you will find some listed in the recommended reading section. Mammals are of course not the only animals that leave signs, birds build nests and broken egg shells that may help you deduce what species made it. It is like being a nature detective.

When you are trying to record difficult species it is often important to think about; what type of habitat you are in, is that species normally found in this type of habitat? What time of year is it? If the species is migratory will it already have left on its winter migration? What is the species distribution? Are they usually found in this part of the country?

Having a good guidebook is also important, you will find examples of some in the recommended reading section.

Lastly only record species that you are confident about identifying. If you have a good camera it is always worth taking photos, which you can then send into the County Recorders for verification.

If you are not sure of the specific species it is always worth noting the group from which the species came. For example you may see a bat flying over, there are 17 species in the UK and all are protected by law so even if you can not record the particular species it is still important to know that Bats are present in an area.

### **Be safe**

As a member of the public you carry out these surveys at your own risk but we do recommend that you always go out in pairs and that you carry a mobile phone with you in case of an emergency.

## Getting started...

Firstly it is important to know what information is essential for a record to be valid. As a minimum you must record the 4 Ws –

- Who** - your name
- Where** - grid reference, postcode or detailed description (a sketch map can be really useful)
- When** - date and time and
- What** - the species you saw (if you are not confident with identification you can send in photos)

and then any other relevant information including a note of numbers, interesting behaviour, gender, age or weather.

## Submitting your records

You may keep a notepad on you to jot down sightings when you see them you then write them up when you get back home. If you are confident with using computers you can download a recording form from the WSBRC website. You can either print out a copy or download and fill it in digitally and email a copy back to the WSBRC.

You will find some recording forms enclosed with this pack for you to fill out and send back as hard copies. If you prefer to record species in this way then please contact the WSBRC for further copies.

Another option is to purchase MapMate (a cheap software package designed to make entering records easy) which is compatible with our own database.

Check out the 'on-line' recording form under 'your records' on the WSBRC web site [www.wsbrc.org.uk](http://www.wsbrc.org.uk) for any rare or unusual sightings.

If you have any queries or require further information or copies, do not hesitate to contact the WSBRC at the Trust, where someone will be able to help you.

**Please send all your records back once a year (perhaps at the end of the season), as it makes it easier for us to efficiently enter your records into the database.**

### Contact Details:

W&SBRC  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust  
Elm Tree Court  
Long Street  
Devizes  
Wiltshire  
SN10 1NJ

Tel: (01380) 725670  
Email: [brc@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:brc@wiltshirewildlife.org)  
Web: [www.wsbrc.org.uk](http://www.wsbrc.org.uk)

## Casual Recording

Sightings can also be reported on a ad hoc basis:

- **Road casualties;** tell us a lot about what mammal and bird species are present in an area, many of which are nocturnal and rarely seen.
- **Garden visitors;** You can record the species you attract to your bird table or in your garden pond (as long as they have got there naturally and not been planted).
- **Out and about;** If you enjoy getting out in the countryside you can note down species that you chance upon.

## Long-term Site Monitoring

Long term monitoring is one of the most useful ways of surveying; it results in long-term data for a site, which can reveal otherwise unseen changes in the species present in a community. Recording the species present in a site during different seasons can reveal species movements. Monitoring a site over a number of years can reveal changes brought about through climate change or mismanagement of a site, revealing trends that might otherwise have been missed and producing reliable evidence to support it..

## Biodiversity Indicators Project

This project was first set up in 2004 and ran for two years with a full time Project Officer. It finished in early 2006 but the method is still extremely useful for others to follow and the data that it generates extremely useful.

Firstly the volunteer has to choose a suitable site to monitor. It can be any local green space that is either open access or that the landowner is happy for you to visit.

You should visit your chosen monitoring site at least four times a year, preferably for many years to come, so that a picture can be built up of the health of that particular site – the more years of sightings the better the knowledge. However, don't feel that you are obliged to be the one visiting the site for years and years – others can take over if necessary! You can either walk the same route each time for consistency, like surveying a transect, or you can wander around and if possible you make a note of the time you spend surveying, try and survey for a similar period of time each time you visit.

It is recommended that you visit your site as often as you can, including the winter months if possible. Vary the times you visit if you can, on a calm and warm day during the lunch time hours you will see more butterflies and other insects or an early evening for birds and mammals.

## Indicator Species

In this pack you will find a list of the 'Indicators'<sup>1</sup> or chosen species that were developed for use by volunteers of the project. You may find them a useful starting point if you do not want to specialise on a particular group. The list includes 32 species, which were chosen for a variety of reasons. Some are common and changes in their distribution and numbers reflect changes in the environment, others are indicators of rarer habitat types and others are protected/notable or BAP species on which the records centre holds very little data.

### **BRERC 'Local Patch Initiative' Methodology**

The Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC) have organised a similar project called the 'Local Patch Initiative'. You can download the project methodology from their website at [www.brerc.org.uk](http://www.brerc.org.uk) or ask someone at the WSBRC to send you a copy. The methodology is extremely comprehensive and I really recommend using it if you want to become involved in surveying a local site. The WSBRC should be able to offer you species list and maps as mentioned in the BRERC methodology.

## **WSBRC Volunteer Monitor Projects**

### **Volunteer Recorders**

There are a number of schemes available for volunteer recorders and full training will be given for each role. Ideally you need to be self-motivated, have an interest in wildlife and enough spare time to undertake these roles. As you will see, different schemes require different levels of commitment.

### **River Monitors**

The river monitors scheme was relaunched in January 2007. The volunteers now focus their efforts on recording the biological diversity in their given stretch of river. Volunteers first decide on a 500m stretch of river that is either public access or a site where the landowner has given their permission for the survey to go ahead. During monthly visits to the site they carry out kick samples and record the aquatic invertebrates that they capture. The focus is mainly on

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<sup>1</sup> The term 'Indicator species' refers to species that are a good indicator of the quality or health of a habitat. Their disappearance or absence from a habitat may indicate that dramatic changes have occurred.

Riverflies as the presence or absence of a particular species can reveal a lot about the health of the river. Volunteers can also choose another group of species that they are interested in recording, for example bird, riverine mammals, flying invertebrates or plants.

### **Protected Road Verge Monitors**

Some fifty or so road verges in Wiltshire are designated as Protected Road Verges because of the importance of their fauna, flora or geological features and are subject to special management by the County Council or the Highways Authority. Some of the verges support populations of rare habitats in particular ancient woodland and chalk grassland others support population of species that are either nationally or locally rare, this includes species like Tower Mustard that grows in only 30 other sites in the country. Volunteers for this project are assigned a road verge that is within easy reach of their home. They visit the verge on a number of occasions throughout the year and check that the verge is being managed according to the schedule and **keep** an eye on the condition of the verge and the performance of those species or communities for which the verge was designated the special interest. Management of the verges is carried out by Wiltshire County Councils highway maintenance contractors Mouchal Parkman. Volunteers report their findings back to the WSBRC on a yearly basis. This information is then fed back to Mouchal Parkman and the County Council who are partners in the project. Volunteers for this project will preferably develop strong links with the local landowners and have a knowledge of botany, although this is not essential.

### **Living Churchyard Scheme**

Churchyards have usually been carved out of meadowland or ancient pastures and are often remarkably rich in species. Even small ones of less than an acre commonly have well over a hundred different flowering plants and ferns. Churchyards managed by traditional methods of cutting or grazing will have escaped artificial fertilisers and other chemicals. Most churchyards contain a wide variety of habitats such as rough grassland, closely mown grass, disturbed ground, stone, paths, walls and areas of scrub and trees.

The Living Churchyards and Cemetery's Scheme requires volunteers to record the wildlife that finds a safe haven in selected churchyards and cemeteries across the county. You will be expected to undertake an initial planning survey of churchyard, including a list of species within the churchyard, and then to assist the churchwarden in managing the churchyard for the benefit of the species present.

### **County Recorders**

Most counties have a number of volunteers who are experts at recording and identifying species from their chosen group (or taxon). They have an incredibly important role in ensuring that all the counties species data is accurate and correct. Much of the data that is received by the biological records centre either comes via the county recorders or is sent to them from the records centre before it is entered into the database. They check through the records and highlight any records that seem unlikely, they may visit the site where the species was recorded and check that the species is present or contact the original recorder to verify that they were 100% sure about what they saw. This results in the data that is held within the WSBRC database being as accurate as possible. I have included the list of Wiltshire County Recorders

you can use their expertise by sending them photos or specimens of species that you are having trouble identifying.

To be a County Recorder you do need to have had some previous recording experience. The role can be as active or passive as you like, you could simply act as a repository for records, if possible verifying them to ensure they are not an extremely rare species in an unlikely place, or you can be more active by running courses or training sessions. If you would like to become a County Recorder, then please contact the WSBRC to discuss available opportunities.

**See separate sheet for the County Recorders contact details.**

### **How do I get involved?**

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the fore mentioned projects please contact the Volunteer Monitor Support Officer at the WSBRC.

Contact details:  
Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre  
C/o Wiltshire Wildlife Trust  
Elm Tree Court  
Long Street  
Devizes  
Wiltshire  
SN10 1NJ

### **Hedgerow surveyors**

Hedgerows are extremely important for wildlife, they act as corridors for dispersal between areas of suitable habitat and as places in which animals can shelter, nest and forage for food. As yet little is known about the quality of hedgerows in Wiltshire and this is what we are hoping to change. The Wroughton Hedgerow Project was set up as a pilot in 2003 with the aim to map every hedgerow in the parish. Good progress has been made with a small team of volunteers - at present they have surveyed about 50% of the parish hedgerows. The volunteer surveyors assess the age, structure and species composition of the hedgerow and identify the presence of associated features (banks and ditches).

If you are interested in helping to survey the remaining hedgerows in Wroughton or in surveying an area of hedgerow near you please contact Graham O'Mahoney, [grahamomahoney@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grahamomahoney@hotmail.co.uk). He will be able to provide training in survey methodology and species identification if required.

## Habitat surveying

The WSBRC are attempting to build up a comprehensive map of all Habitat types for the whole of Wiltshire and Swindon, this will be held in electronic format using a Geographical Information System (GIS) and will be used for similar purposes to our species records. Currently (August 2007) around 25-30% of the County has been mapped although some of the information is undoubtedly out of date, and so we would welcome any interested volunteers to assist in gathering more up to date and/or missing information.

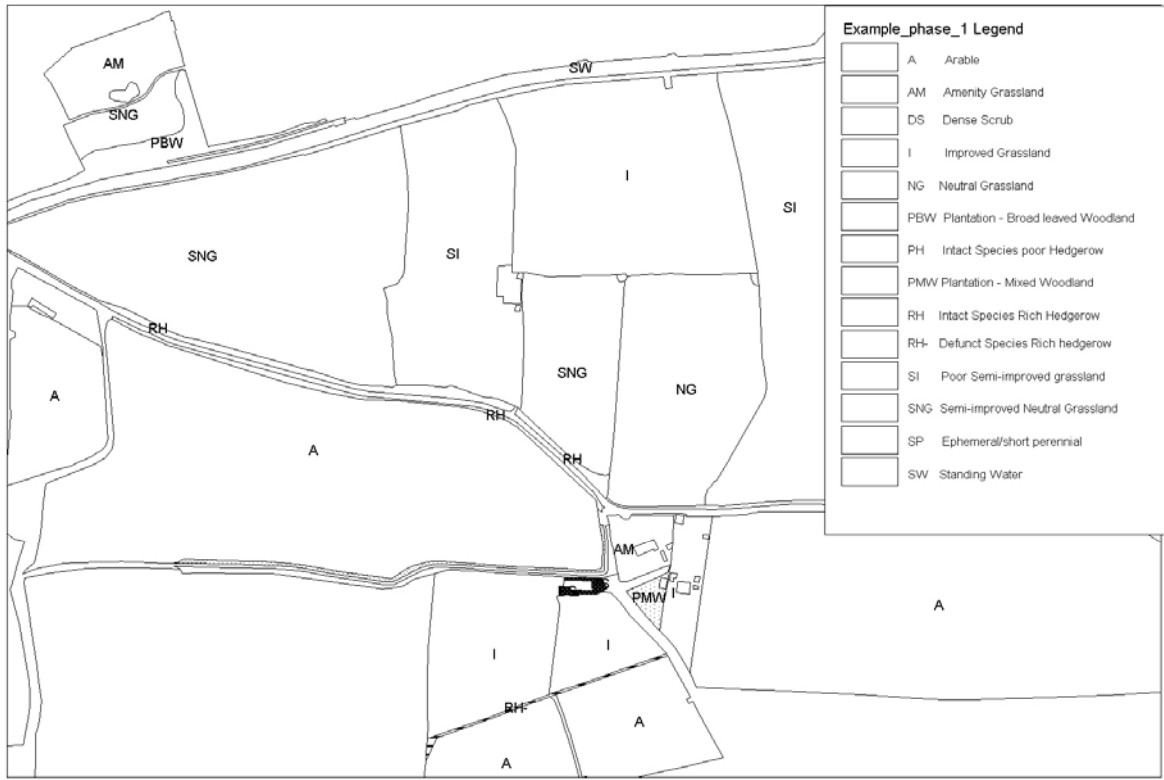
Several techniques/methods of Habitat surveying are in common use and the one chosen by the WSBRC is called the Integrated Habitat System (IHS). Two other frequently used ones are Phase 1 Habitat Survey and the National Vegetation Classification system (NVC). Both IHS and NVC do require a fairly high degree of specific knowledge, but Phase 1 is relatively straightforward and is a good 'starting point', which can be easily translated into IHS by the WSBRC staff. Phase 1 allows for classification of just over 100 habitat types which may sound daunting, but includes a number of habitats not found in Wiltshire, e.g. Sand Dunes, Saltmarsh etc..

Phase 1 uses three different codes to identify habitats: Colour coding, Hierarchical Alphanumeric coding and Lettered coding. Some example:

<u>Habitat type</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Hierarchy code</u>	<u>Letter Code</u>
Unimproved Neutral Grassland	Orange	B.2.1	NG
Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland	Green	A1.1.1	BW
Standing Water	Indigo	G1	SW

In practice it usually easier to use the lettered code and this is, in most cases, meaningful and is, therefore, more easily to remember.

An example map is shown below.



Basic training in Phase One can be given to interested volunteers together with outline maps for reference and recording habitat types onto.

For more information please contact the WSBRC at the address given earlier.

Recommended Reading:

Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey, Nature Conservancy Council, 1990. ISBN 0-86139-636-7

This handbook can be difficult to obtain, but your local library should be able to obtain a loan copy.

## Particular Interests

You may be particularly interested in a particular species group for example birds, plants, fungi or beetles and may want to focus your attention on this species group to begin with and you may want to get involved with one of the national or local recording groups whose details are given below.

You can carry out specific surveys for individual species or groups of species. Invertebrate sampling of rivers, live trapping small mammals and using quadrats to sample vegetation are all examples of specific surveys.

### Amphibians & Reptiles:

- ❖ Wiltshire Amphibians & Reptile group  
Email: [WiltshireARG@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:WiltshireARG@hotmail.co.uk)
- ❖ Amphibian & Reptile Group  
Website: [www.arg-uk.org.uk](http://www.arg-uk.org.uk)

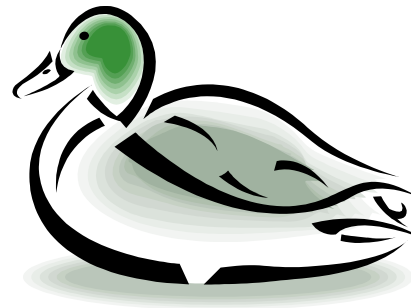


### Birds:

- ❖ Wiltshire Ornithological Society  
Website: [www.wiltshirebirds.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirebirds.co.uk)
- ❖ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
The RSPB  
The Lodge  
Sandy  
Bedfordshire  
SG19 2DL  
United Kingdom  
Tel: 01767 680551  
Website: [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)
- ❖ Local RSPB Groups:

North Wiltshire - Derek Lyford  
Tel: 01793 520997  
E-mail: [derek.lyford@virgin.net](mailto:derek.lyford@virgin.net)  
Website: [www.RSPB.org.uk/groups/northwiltshire](http://www.RSPB.org.uk/groups/northwiltshire)

South Wiltshire - Tony Goddard  
Tel: 01725 510309  
E-mail: [goddard543@hotmail.com](mailto:goddard543@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.RSPB.org.uk/groups/southwiltshire](http://www.RSPB.org.uk/groups/southwiltshire)



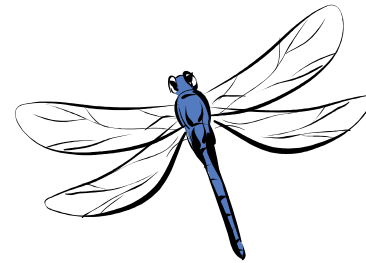
**Invertebrates:** There are far too many groups to list here. We have county recorders in Wiltshire who specialise in the following areas; Spiders, Grasshoppers & Crickets, Hoverflies & Woodlice, Sawflies, Beetles and Ants, Bees & Wasps. If you are interested in recording any of

the species groups then please contact the relevant county recorder on the sheet included and they will be happy to advise you.

- ❖ **Wiltshire Dragonflies and Damselflies**  
Email: [www.wiltshiredragonflies.org.uk](http://www.wiltshiredragonflies.org.uk)

- ❖ **Royal Entomological Society**  
41 Queen's Gate  
London  
SW7 5HR

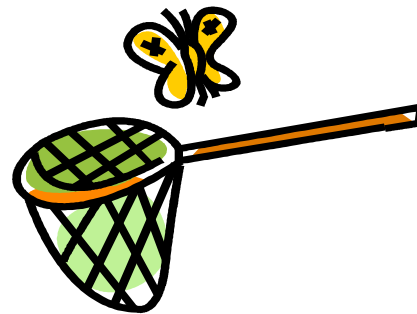
Tel: 020 7584 8361  
Fax: 020 7581 8505  
Website: [www.royensoc.co.uk](http://www.royensoc.co.uk)



- ❖ **Buglife-The Invertebrate Conservation Trust**  
170A Park Road  
Peterborough  
CAMBS  
PE1 2UF  
Tel: (0)1733 201 210  
Email: [info@buglife.org.uk](mailto:info@buglife.org.uk)  
Website: [www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk)

## Butterflies:

- ❖ **Butterfly Conservation**  
Website: [www.butterflyconservation.org.uk](http://www.butterflyconservation.org.uk)  
Email:  
Address:



## Moths:

Contacts:  
See butterfly.

## Mammals:

- ❖ **Wiltshire Badger Group**  
Website: [www.wiltshirebadgergroup.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirebadgergroup.org.uk)  
Email: [info@wiltshirebadgergroup.org.uk](mailto:info@wiltshirebadgergroup.org.uk)
- ❖ **Wiltshire Mammal Group**  
Email: [wiltshiremammalgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wiltshiremammalgroup@hotmail.co.uk)
- ❖ **Mammal Trust UK**  
15 Cloisters House,  
8 Battersea Park Road,

London SW8 4BG  
E-mail: [enquiries@mtuk.org](mailto:enquiries@mtuk.org)  
Tel: (+44) 020 7498 5262  
Fax: (+44) 020 7498 4459  
Website: [www.mtuk.org](http://www.mtuk.org)

❖ **Mammal Society**

2B, Inworth Street  
London SW11 3EP  
Tel: 020 7350 2200 between 11am and 1pm on weekdays  
Fax: 020 7350 2211  
Website: [www.abdn.ac.uk/mammal/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/mammal/)

**Bats:**

NB: It is an offence for anyone who does not hold a bat license to intentionally disturb



- **Wiltshire Bat Group**  
Email: [shlawrence@aol.com](mailto:shlawrence@aol.com)
- **The Bat Conservation Trust**  
Unit 2, 15 Cloisters House  
8 Battersea Park Road  
London SW8 4BG  
Tel: 020 7627 2629  
Fax: 020 7627 2628  
Website: [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

**Flowering Plants:**

❖ **Wiltshire Botanical Society**

For further details of events please contact:  
Pat Woodruffe,  
Tel: 01794 884436

For details of membership please contact:  
Rosemary Duckett,  
Tel: 01373 858296

Website: [www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/wiltshirebotanicalsociety/](http://www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/wiltshirebotanicalsociety/)



❖ **The Botanical Society of the British Isles**

Website: [www.bsbi.org.uk](http://www.bsbi.org.uk)

❖ **Plantlife International**

The Wild-Plant Conservation Charity  
14 Rollestone Street  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire

SP1 1DX  
UK

Tel: +44 (0)1722 342730  
Fax: +44 (0)1722 329035  
e-mail: [enquiries@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@plantlife.org.uk)  
Website: [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)



## Fungi:

- ❖ **British Mycological Society,**  
The Wolfson Wing,  
Jodrell Laboratory,  
Royal Botanic Gardens,  
Kew,  
Surrey  
TW9 3AB  
  
Email: [admin@britmycolsoc.info](mailto:admin@britmycolsoc.info)  
Website: [www.britmycolsoc.org.uk](http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk)

See Plantlife International in Plants section

## Lichens:

- ❖ **The British Lichen Society,**  
c/o Dept. of Botany,  
The Natural History Museum,  
Cromwell Road,  
London SW7 5BD  
Tel: 0207 942 5250  
Email: [bls@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:bls@nhm.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.thebls.org.uk](http://www.thebls.org.uk)

**This list is by no way exhaustive and if you are interested in recording a group of species that are not mentioned please contact the WSBRC.**

**For more information on recording in Wiltshire please visit the WSBRC website at [www.wsbrc.org.uk](http://www.wsbrc.org.uk).**



# Recording Wiltshire's Wildlife



## RISK ASSESSMENT

This risk assessment has been compiled by the Trust after identifying the possible hazards associated with surveying or monitoring sites by volunteers. However, it is up to the volunteer to assess the situation on the day and use his/her judgement as to the safety of the conditions. You should do this each time you go onto the site.

Date:	Site Name:
Hazard:	Precautions:
Weather: sun/rain/cold/hot etc	Wear suitable clothing, take suitable precautions and spare clothes. Halt survey if conditions are severe
Working Alone:	Take someone along or operate the 'Buddy System' – inform a relative of where you are, what time expected back and who to contact in an emergency
Personal Attack:	Survey within sight of others where possible, carry a mobile, survey during daylight hours only
Ground Conditions: slipping/tripping	Wear suitable footwear. Be aware of any steep banks, open water, trip hazards
Tetanus/Leptospirosis/Lyme Disease:	Volunteers advised to have a Tetanus injection and information given of other risks associated with long grass and water. Check skin and clothing for ticks after each survey
Major Roads/Traffic:	Sites chosen not to cross major roads but visibility jackets can be issued if a route is bordered by busy roads
Nearest Hospital:	Nearest Phone or Mobile No: (if a mobile – check it works at the site first)

**Remember that any near misses or accidents must be reported to the Wildlife Trust on the next working day.**

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, SN10 1NJ

## List of indicator species

This is the complete list of species that was originally being specifically looked at through the Wildlife Counts project. It is neither exclusive nor exhaustive and sightings of other species are welcome, however, these species were chosen because we have few records for them, because they are spreading or declining or because their presence indicates a good habitat. So sightings of these are particularly welcome.

\* denotes UK and Wiltshire BAP priority species

^ denotes Wiltshire BAP priority species

↪ denotes special protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act or European Law

### Birds

Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Skylark*	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Song Thrush*	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Tree sparrow*	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Barn Owl <sup>^</sup> ↪	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Kingfisher <sup>^</sup> ↪	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>

### Amphibians and Reptiles

Common frog↪	<i>Rana temporaria</i>
Common toad↪	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
Slow worm↪	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>
Grass snake↪	<i>Natrix natrix</i>

### Mammals

Brown hare*	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
Water vole*↪	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>
Otter↪	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>

### Dragonflies and damselflies

Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>
White-legged Damselfly <sup>^</sup>	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>

### Spiders

The wasp spider	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>
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### Beetles

Glow worm	<i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>
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### Butterflies

Marsh Fritillary Butterfly*↪	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>

### Plants

Devil's Bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>
Ragged Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>
Quaking grass	<i>Briza media</i>
Marsh marigold (Kingcup)	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>
Cuckoo Flower (Lady's Smock)	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>

### Aliens

Himalayan balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
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# Recording Wiltshire's Wildlife Single Species Recording Form



\* This is required information

## Personal Information

\*Your Name:

\*Your Address:

\*Your Email Address/phone no.:

## Species Information

\*Common Name:

And/or

Latin Name:

\*Date Seen:

\*Grid Reference: (6 Fig Ref OS Map)

And/or

Detailed Location:

Number Recorded:

Life Cycle Stage: (pupa, juvenile, adult)

Breeding Activity: (egg laying, mating)

Survey Method: (field record)

Reference Used for Identification: (Wild Flower Key by Francis Rose)

**Additional Notes:** (habitat description, weather, unusual activities or circumstances of species seen etc)

Please return form(s) to the WSBRC once a year (at the end of the main season, in October/November) either by post to  
WSBRC, Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1NJ  
or by email to [brc@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:brc@wiltshirewildlife.org) or try the on-line recording form at [www.wsbrc.org.uk](http://www.wsbrc.org.uk)





## Recording Wiltshire's Wildlife General Species Recording Form



Name of Recorder:

Species: (Common &/or latin name)	Date: DD/MM/YY	Grid Ref: (6 Fig.).	Location: (e.g. wood, canal, garden pond, roadside, barn).	Descriptive / Observational notes: (e.g. number, sex, age, time behaviour, etc).
<b>Lysandra bellargus</b> Adonis blue b'fly <b>EXAMPLE ONLY</b>	27/07/03	SU002654	Beacon Hill/Olivers Castle junction of bridle ways. Chalk downs.	Approx 20 males/females seen on bright sunny day around 3.00pm.

Please return form(s) to the WSBRC once a year (at the end of the main season, in October/November) either by post to WSBRC, Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1NJ or by email to [brc@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:brc@wiltshirewildlife.org) or try the on-line recording form at [www.wsbrc.org.uk](http://www.wsbrc.org.uk)

## Recommended Reading Guides

### **Birds**

'Bird Guide'

By K Mullarney, L Svensson, D Zetterström, & P J Grant (1999)  
Collins

'The Shell Guide to the Birds of Britain and Ireland'

By I Ferguson-Lees, I Willis & J T R Sharrock  
Michael Joseph

### **Dragonflies**

'Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland'

By S Brooks and R Lewington  
British Wildlife Publishing

'Britains Dragonflies' Photographic guide

By D Smallshire and A Swash  
WildGuides

### **Butterflies**

'How to Identify Butterflies'

By R Lewington (1999)  
Collins

'A Field Guide to the Caterpillars of Butterflies and Moths of Britain and Europe'

By D J Carter and B Hargreaves  
Collins

### **Insects**

'Field Guide to the Insects of Britain and Western Europe'

By M Chinery  
Collins

### **Mammals**

'The Mammals of Britain and Europe'

By G Corbet and D Ovenden  
Collins

'The Handbook of British Mammals'

By G Corbet and H N Southern  
Blackwell

### **Amphibians and Reptiles**

'A Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Britain and Northern Europe'

By E N Arnold, J A Burton and D W Ovenden  
Collins

### **Flowers**

'The Wildflower Key'

By F Rose  
Frederick Warne

'The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe'

By A & R Fitter and N Blamey (1985)  
Collins

**Trees**

'Trees'

By A Fitter and D More (2002)

Collins Gem

'A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe'

By A Mitchell (1974)

Collins

**Grasses**

'Grasses' - 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

By C E Hubbard (1984)

Pelican

**Mushrooms and Toadstools**

'Collins Guide to Mushrooms and Toadstools'

By M Lange and F B Hora (1985)

Collins

The Field Studies Council produce simple, nicely illustrated pull-out guides to most species and groups for less than £3.50. For details and to order, phone: (01743) 852140 or email: [fsc.publications@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:fsc.publications@ukonline.co.uk) or check out the website [www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org)

## **Lyme and Leptospirosis Information**

As with all potential diseases, sensible precautions will ensure that any risk is severely reduced – long trousers, washing of hands and above all awareness, will help to make sure that everyone can enjoy the countryside without cause for concern.

### **Ticks and Lyme Disease**

It is caused by a bacterium carried by ticks. People who walk in the countryside, especially those walking through grass, rough vegetation or wild areas, such as heathland, are most at risk. Can be year round but mostly April to October.

**Prevention** is by wearing long trousers, tucked into socks and long sleeved shirts, with insect repellent on collars and cuffs (also on dog collars) Inspect clothing and body for ticks every few hours and at the end of your day's outdoor activity, undress completely and check for ticks (especially the warm, moist areas). They will crawl around for a few hours before biting and it can be up to 24 hours before any potential disease is spread.

If bitten, remove the tick as soon as possible by grasping it close to the skin with tweezers and twisting anti-clockwise (the head may detach but it is the engorged body that transfers the disease). Save the tick in a sealed container in case symptoms develop later.

**Symptoms** are flu-like to begin with, often with a red rash around the bite developing 3-30 days later. Headaches, swollen glands and aching muscles can also be symptomatic. Seek medical advice if symptoms develop and inform the doctor that you have been bitten by a tick.

### **Weil's Disease or Leptospirosis**

An infection that comes from rats and urine, often associated with slow moving, water-courses. People at risk are those that work on or near water, or with cattle.

**Prevention** is from covering all wounds, cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters or surgeon's gloves and wash hands thoroughly after any contact with animals, water or other potential sources.

**Symptoms** are flu-like to begin with, often with persistent and severe headaches, leading to vomiting and muscle pains. Ultimately can lead to jaundice or meningitis. Seek medical help if these symptoms are apparent and warn that you may have been in contact with Weil's disease.