

Thames Valley
Environmental Records Centre



*Enabling data-driven decisions to better enhance and protect our
natural environment*

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Biodiversity Annual Monitoring Report

2018

Introduction

This document provides biodiversity information to be used by Bracknell Forest Council in the production of its Annual Monitoring Report. The biodiversity information in this report is based on figures from the 2018-2019 business year unless otherwise indicated. The approach of this report is to set Bracknell Forest data in a unitary context, with further national or regional perspectives where appropriate. The biodiversity information associated with each indicator is accompanied by a brief commentary, containing guidance on the interpretation of the information, issues of data quality and the sources of the data.

Whilst a large proportion of the information contained within the report is derived from TVERC sources, the report acknowledges the assistance provided by various individuals and recording groups in the updating and interpretation of the biodiversity information.

The information provided in this report is as follows:

- Changes in the area of biodiversity importance (LWS/LGS)
- Changes in the area of UK S41 priority habitats
- Changes in the number of UK S41 priority species
- Changes in the condition and status of Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Distribution and status of farmland birds

Key Findings

- There are 61 Local Wildlife Sites in Bracknell Forest, totaling 403.1 hectares. The area of these LWS has increased by 50.5ha since 2017. The area of Local Geological Sites has not changed.
- There are 1181.76ha of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats in Bracknell Forest. This has decreased by -9.27ha. since 2017.
- There have been records of 78 priority species in Bracknell Forest within the last 10 years. However we have not received records from 1 priority species since 2009.
- There are 23 SSSI units in favourable condition, which is 76.3% of the total SSSI area within Bracknell Forest.
- The farmland bird index for Bracknell Forest for 2018 is 0.79, which shows the index fell by 0.09 from 2017.

Change in Areas of Biodiversity Importance

About this indicator

This indicator analyses the changes in the area of sites which are recognised for their intrinsic environmental value, specifically those sites designated for their local significance.

The area local authorities cover is determined in GIS, and this calculates the percentage of designated sites. For Bracknell Forest this is 10937.05 hectares.

Areas of Biodiversity Importance

There are 61 Local Wildlife Sites in Bracknell Forest

The area of Local Wildlife Sites has increased by 50.5 hectares since last year.

The area of Local Geological sites has not changed since last year.

Table 1: Areas of Sites Designated for Intrinsic Environmental Value

Designation	2018	2019
Local Geological Site	NA	1.4
Local Wildlife Site	353	403.1

Information sources

Local Wildlife Sites

TVERC maintains the Local Wildlife Site boundaries on GIS. Alterations are made to these boundaries as decisions are made by the site selection panel during the course of the year, or boundary errors are corrected. Figures for changes in area are derived from an analysis of digitised site boundary files following the site selection panel meeting of the year of analysis.

Local Geological Sites

Formerly known as Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites. Site information was digitised in GIS using site documentation provided by Berkshire Geoconservation Group and the Oxford Geology Trust.

Changes in area of UK priority habitats

About this indicator

This indicator identifies the UK NERC Act section 41 habitats of principal importance (priority habitats) within Bracknell Forest, as maintained on the TVERC digital mapping system.

UK priority habitat

Table 2 provides details of the UK priority habitats which have been identified within Bracknell Forest. The changes in the UK priority habitats are mostly attributable to new information such as confirmation of boundaries or habitat types, rather than the creation or loss of habitat.

Table 2: UK Priority Habitat Resource

BAP Habitat	Total Area (ha) 2018	Total Area (ha) 2019
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	21.19	21.2
Eutrophic standing waters	53.90	54.4
Lowland beech and yew woodland	1.11	1.1
Lowland dry acid grassland	16.74	16.8
Lowland fens	12.98	13.0
Lowland heathland	192.36	192.8
Lowland meadows	36.65	32.1
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	730.59	728.2
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	68.07	68.1
Mesotrophic lakes	1.99	2.0
Oligotrophic and dystrophic Lakes	0.71	0.0
Oligotrophic and Dystrophic Lakes	3.09	3.8
Ponds	5.92	4.0
Purple moor grass and rush pasture	6.24	6.2
Reedbeds	2.96	3.0
Rivers	3.11	3.1
Traditional orchards	9.65	9.7
Wet woodland	23.76	18.4
Lowland wood pastures and parkland	0.00	4.0
Total	1191.03	1181.8

Changes in number of UK priority species

About this indicator

The indicator uses records of UK NERC Act Section 41 species of principle importance (priority species) which have been reported in Bracknell Forest during the period year to year.

The list of priority species is a reflection of recording effort and the speed at which records are added to the TVERC database. A priority species may have been seen a number of years ago, but these records might only have been shared with TVERC and added to the database since the production of the last report.

The absence of a species from the list does not necessarily indicate that it is definitely not present, rather that it may not yet have been found. Equally, the absence of a species since year might not point to a genuine extinction, rather no recorder are surveying for these species.

Number of UK priority species

The number of priority species in Bracknell Forest is 78. One species has been removed from the list, as no new records have been made in the last 10 years. The species lost is shown in Appendix 1. Table 5 shows the change in the number of UK priority species recorded since last year. A list of priority species recorded in Bracknell Forest can be found in Appendix 2.

Table 5: UK Priority species recorded in Bracknell Forest

Data	2008-2018	2009-2019
Number of UK Priority species	79	78

Information sources

The sources of information used for this indicator are: National list of UK priority species, maintained by the JNCC Species database of verified and validated records held by TVERC

Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest

About this indicator

Natural England publishes condition assessments for all SSSIs in England. These are assessments, to a standard method, of the quality of these sites, describing the condition of features for which the site was originally scheduled. SSSIs are monitored every 5-6 years.

Condition of SSSIs

There are 9 SSSIs wholly or partly in Bracknell Forest, representing approximately 0.16% of the total land area.

Summary data for SSSI condition is provided in Table 6, based on condition assessments carried out by Natural England between 2009 and 2019.

Table 6: SSSI condition

Condition	No. of SSSI units	Area (ha)	Percentage of Total SSSI Area
FAVOURABLE	23	1359	76.3
UNFAVOURABLE NO CHANGE	2	9	0.5
UNFAVOURABLE RECOVERING	8	412	23.1

No SSSIs were assessed during 2018-2019 in Bracknell Forest.

Distribution and status of farmland birds

About this indicator

This indicator uses an established list of 19 species, identifiable as farmland birds, compiled by the RSPB.

Survey data were obtained from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey. Data from the specific 1 km by 1 km squares were used to determine a farmland bird index. The index was calculated using a method established by RSPB Central England Office staff, and is used in the national State of Nature report.

To establish a timeframe from which any kind of meaningful trend can be identified, a shifting baseline has been used. Changes in bird populations in subsequent years (over a 10 year period) are then stated relative to that baseline. This latest assessment of the farmland bird index uses a baseline of year.

Distribution and status of farmland birds

Farmland bird density and the index are given in Table 7. There was a change in the index compared with 2017. Survey effort was changed compared to last year. Most species have shown declines in population density compared to last year, but the index remains higher than the baseline in 2018 Total numbers of farmland birds are reported in Appendix 3.

Table 7: Farmland bird index

Common Name	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Goldfinch	6.86	6.55	6.40	11.45	9.4	8.75	8.44	14.20	12.67	11.33
Greenfinch	14.57	7.27	7.00	7.45	9.6	8.75	9.78	7.80	8.67	5.11
Grey Partridge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jackdaw	19.43	17.09	32.80	28.36	26.0	21.25	26.22	33.00	28.89	21.78
Kestrel	0.57	0.36	0.60	0.73	0.6	0.00	0.44	1.00	0.44	0.00
Lapwing	0.57	0.91	0.00	0.36	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Linnet	0.86	3.64	0.00	1.82	2.0	0.75	1.56	0.60	2.89	2.44
Reed Bunting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rook	0.00	0.18	0.60	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Skylark	0.86	3.09	2.20	2.00	1.4	0.25	2.00	1.00	0.67	0.22
Starling	32.00	12.36	15.20	24.00	19.4	32.00	34.00	19.20	17.56	15.11
Stock Dove	0.57	0.91	1.20	3.27	1.8	2.50	3.33	5.60	6.22	6.00
Turtle Dove	0.00	0.36	0.20	0.00	0.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whitethroat	0.86	1.27	2.00	3.82	3.8	2.50	2.44	1.60	2.00	0.67
Woodpigeon	73.14	42.36	58.60	52.36	60.2	69.50	62.89	55.20	51.78	55.78
Yellowhammer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Index	1.00	0.64	0.85	0.90	0.9	0.98	1.01	0.93	0.88	0.79

The data provided this year includes new data for previous years, based on new survey information. Therefore, the index values reported this year are slightly different to those reported last year.

Quality of the data

The reliability of the species records is dependent on the number of 1 km squares surveyed each year. This varies from year to year. As such, the reliability of bird density data is open to debate, but the approach has been used in the national State of Nature report and therefore is considered robust.

Appendix 1

Priority species removed from the list - no new records since 2008 This does not mean that they are not present, only that no records have been added to the TVERC database since 2008.

Common Name	Taxon Name	Last Recorded
Variable Chafer	<i>Gnorimus variabilis</i>	2008

Appendix 2

List of priority species recorded in Bracknell Forest since 2019

Common Name	Taxon Name	Last Recorded
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	2018
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	2018
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	2013
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	2018
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	2014
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2018
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i> subsp. <i>fario</i>	2009
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	2018
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2017
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	2015
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	2018
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	2016
Crystal Moss-animal	<i>Lophopus crystallinus</i>	2009
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2015
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	2009
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2018
European Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	2009
European Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	2017
Figure of Eight	<i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>	2011
Forester	<i>Adscita statices</i>	2014
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	2010
Goat Moth	<i>Cossus cossus</i>	2017
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	2018
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	2018
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele semele</i>	2013
Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	2018
Green-brindled Crescent	<i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	2011
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	2014
Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>	2014
Heart Moth	<i>Dicycla oo</i>	2018

Common Name	Taxon Name	Last Recorded
Heath Rustic	Xestia agathina	2009
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	2017
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	2013
Juniper	Juniperus communis	2016
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	2018
Latticed Heath	Chiasmia clathrata	2018
Lesser Redpoll	Acanthis cabaret	2014
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos minor	2012
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	2018
Marsh Stitchwort	Stellaria palustris	2012
Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris	2011
Minor Shoulder-knot	Brachylomia viminalis	2011
Neglected Rustic	Xestia castanea	2013
Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	2017
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	2018
Nyctalus Bat species	Nyctalus	2017
Oak Hook-tip	Watsonalla binaria	2018
Oak Lutestring	Cymatophorina diluta	2011
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	2018
Rustic	Hoplodrina blanda	2018
Sallow	Cirrhia icteritia	2011
September Thorn	Ennomos erosaria	2018
Silver-studded Blue	Plebejus argus	2018
Silver-studded Blue	Plebejus argus cretaceus	2012
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	2016
Slow-worm	Anguis fragilis	2018
Small Blue	Cupido minimus	2017
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	2018
Small Phoenix	Ecliptopera silaceata	2018
Small Square-spot	Diarsia rubi	2015
Smooth Snake	Coronella austriaca	2016
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	2018
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	2018
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	2013

Common Name	Taxon Name	Last Recorded
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	2017
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2018
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2017
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2010
Unidentified Bat	<i>Myotis</i>	2018
West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	2019
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>	2018
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	2013
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	2014
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	2015
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	2017
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i> subsp. <i>flavissima</i>	2013
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2014
Zoned Rosette	<i>Podoscypha multizonata</i>	2018

Appendix 3

Breeding bird survey results from BTO (2009 to 2018)

Total number of farmland birds recorded in Bracknell Forest from 2009 to 2018

Common Name	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Goldfinch	48	72	64	126	94	70	76	142	114	102
Greenfinch	102	80	70	82	96	70	88	78	78	46
Grey Partridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackdaw	136	188	328	312	260	170	236	330	260	196
Kestrel	4	4	6	8	6	0	4	10	4	0
Lapwing	4	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linnet	6	40	0	20	20	6	14	6	26	22
Reed Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rook	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skylark	6	34	22	22	14	2	18	10	6	2
Starling	224	136	152	264	194	256	306	192	158	136
Stock Dove	4	10	12	36	18	20	30	56	56	54
Turtle Dove	0	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Whitethroat	6	14	20	42	38	20	22	16	18	6
Woodpigeon	512	466	586	576	602	556	566	552	466	502
Yellowhammer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Data provided by the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey is a partnership jointly funded by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), with fieldwork conducted by volunteers.