

Lytchett Bay - birds and wildlife 2022



Welcome to the 31st consecutive Lytchett Bay annual report. The data that we have gathered & published over the period constitutes a comprehensive log of the site's ornithological importance since 1992. Since 2014, thanks to work led by **Nick Hull**, we have widened the report to cover a much wider taxa, interest in this section is growing year on year (page 47). **Joe Parker** has again prepared of the bird ringing report (page 7) and ringing data.

Overall it was a much more settled year weather wise. In fact for the large part it was unremarkable. A notable hot spell toward the end of July led to UK record temperatures in many areas. This led us into a settled and hot first half of August for the first time for more than 20 years. The Autumn lacked a European high pressure system and was dominated by low pressure from the west. A cold spell in December failed to produce any cold weather movements.

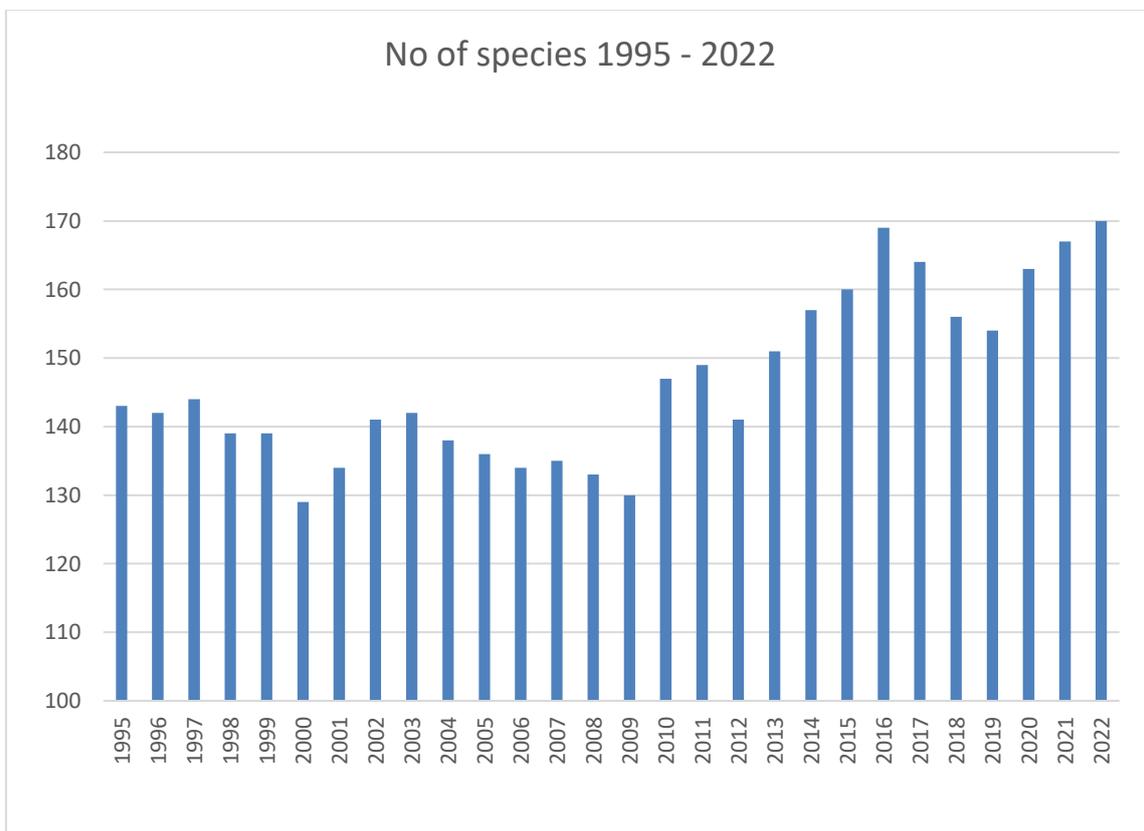
From early January we enjoyed good diversity and good numbers. From the beginning it felt like a special year. 170 species were recorded, the most ever! This total included considerable quality throughout the systematic list. 2 new species were added to the Lytchett Bay list moving it on to 234. A good number of new record counts and early and late date records were established. Ringing effort was down on the last couple of years due to competing demands on volunteer time but the overall numbers ringed were comparable. Demonstrating to some degree what a good year for birds this was at Lytchett Bay.

The highlights of the year included our first **Bean Geese** and **Bonaparte's Gull**. The 3rd **Green-winged Teal**, 4th **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Black Tern**, 5th **Common Scoter**, 5th & 6th **Great Northern Diver**, 5th - 10th **Goshawk**, 6th **Common Crane & Wryneck**, 6th & 7th **Glossy Ibis**, 9th – 10th **Aquatic Warbler** (3 birds), 10th & 11th **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 11th **Honey-buzzard**.

Egyptian Goose, Grey Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Jack Snipe, Common Sandpiper, Black-headed Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Marsh Harrier, Raven and Firecrest occurred in greater numbers than ever before.

Shaun Robson, Mar 2023.

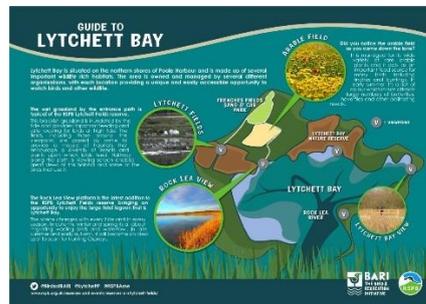
Cover photos: *Bean Goose & White-tailed Eagle (Ian Ballam), Bonaparte's Gull (Steve W Smith), Aquatic Warbler & Green-winged Teal (Peter Moore)*



Lytchett Bay – people and wildlife

2022 built on the foundations that have been put in place in recent years. Several projects that were developing during the previous year came to fruition.

The approval, funding, construction and opening of Rock Lea View in October was a major step forward in improving and managing access to the north shore of Lytchett Bay and is already proving to be a very popular attraction for both bird watching visitors and local people.



Many organisations and individuals made this possible and the RSPB would like to give thanks to the funders, Wessex Water and Birds and Recreation Initiative (BARI), all of the contractors who did a fantastic job and of course the landowners, The Lees Family for their strong support.

A special mention and thank you must go to the growing band of Lytchett Bay volunteers (mostly local birders and photographers) who helped in many ways including ground works and building the viewing screen. Hopefully they will all be rewarded with great birds and birding from Rock Lea View in the years to come.

Rock Lea View adds further variety to RSPB Lytchett Fields. Usually best on a rising or falling tide, the light improves as the day goes on especially on clear sunny days. We are sure that August in particular is going to be a popular month for Osprey watchers providing opportunities to enjoy spectacles like this one captured by Mark Wright.





The House Martin tower was installed by Birds of Poole Harbour near the SANG carpark in May and we all have our fingers crossed that the local birds like it and that it helps the local colony of this declining species.

After much work by Lytchett Minster & Upton Town Council, their open space at Lytchett Bay View was designated a local nature reserve. This is another step forward in protecting and enhancing the shore and hinterland around the Bay. The meadow was again managed with a cut and collect process and the area was awarded a Gold award in the South-East in Bloom conservation category!



© Stuart Crowley

BARI and BCP installed signage as a first step to reduce disturbance on the Turlin Moor saltmarsh.



With all of this going on it was time to redesign the **Guide to Birding Lytchett Bay**.



Thanks to Liv Cooper and her colleagues at Birds of Poole Harbour this is now available at [Guide to Birding Lytchett Bay vs2 \(birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk\)](https://birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk)

With the continued support of the RSPB and volunteer donations Ian Ballam maintained the **winter bird feeding station** at the Pool viewpoint at Lytchett Fields – an increasingly popular aspect of the site for local people.

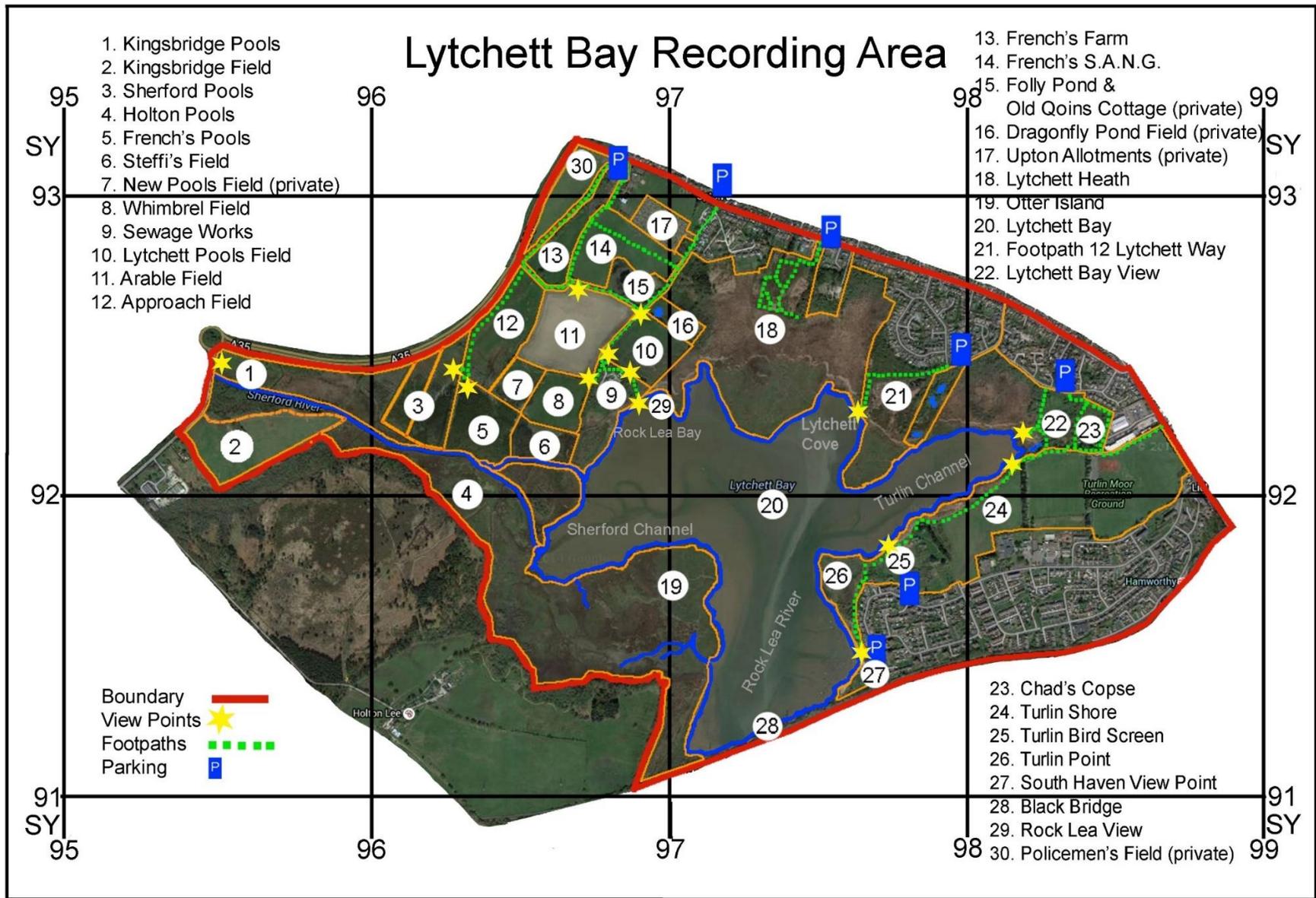
During the autumn, in partnership with Stour Ringing Group, Birds of Poole Harbour again delivered their **Bearded Tit ringing demonstrations at Lytchett Bay**. This year the weather was not quite so kind but again the guests enjoyed some close up experiences together with the quality engagement and education that is the trademark of the Birds of Poole Harbour team. We are very grateful Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) and Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (ARC) for access and hope to repeat these events in 2023.

A good number of **Volunteer events** were undertaken throughout the year. These included a litter pick with DWT, reed cutting at the Turlin Screen with BCP, path laying with the RSPB and Birds of Poole Harbour at Lytchett Fields.



After 30 years on this patch SR was asked to write about his Lytchett Bay history by the journal **British Birds**.

The best way to stay connected with all that is going on at Lytchett Bay is to follow one of our **social media** channels where we share news of sightings, discoveries and events. Twitter (@LytchettP) now has 955 followers and Facebook (Friends of Lytchett Bay) 509 friends. Please help us bring these to life by posting your news and photographs on a regular basis.



Nick Hull's map above gives a complete overview of the recording area. Whilst we have named as many sites as we can, please remember that some areas remain private and we would be grateful if visitors stick to the extensive network of public and permissive pathways that are available. There is a wide selection of viewpoints that provide visibility of the area.

Bird Ringing 2021 – Joe Parker

Collectively, ringing activities took place on 56 dates (down 45% on last year) but strong autumn migration made up for the reduced effort. A total of 2434 new birds of 57 species were ringed, only a couple of busy autumn ringing sessions short of another consecutive record-breaking number with more than 100 birds ringed on six sessions! Efforts were spread between three sites: Lytchett Fields (RSPB), Lytchett Heath (ARC and DWT) and Sandy Close Pond (Private Garden).

The 31 visits to Lytchett Heath predominantly involved mist netting passage passerines, with 10 visits including the reedbed rides, as well as a single Pied Wagtail and two Swallow roost sessions. Lytchett Fields sessions are grouped by nocturnal wader surveys (five visits from Jan to Mar), passerine mist netting targeting Aquatic Warbler along the seawall (11 visits) and focussed Rock/Water Pipit projects (9 visits). Sandy Close Pond operates primarily as a winter site for training SRG members, receiving eight visits.



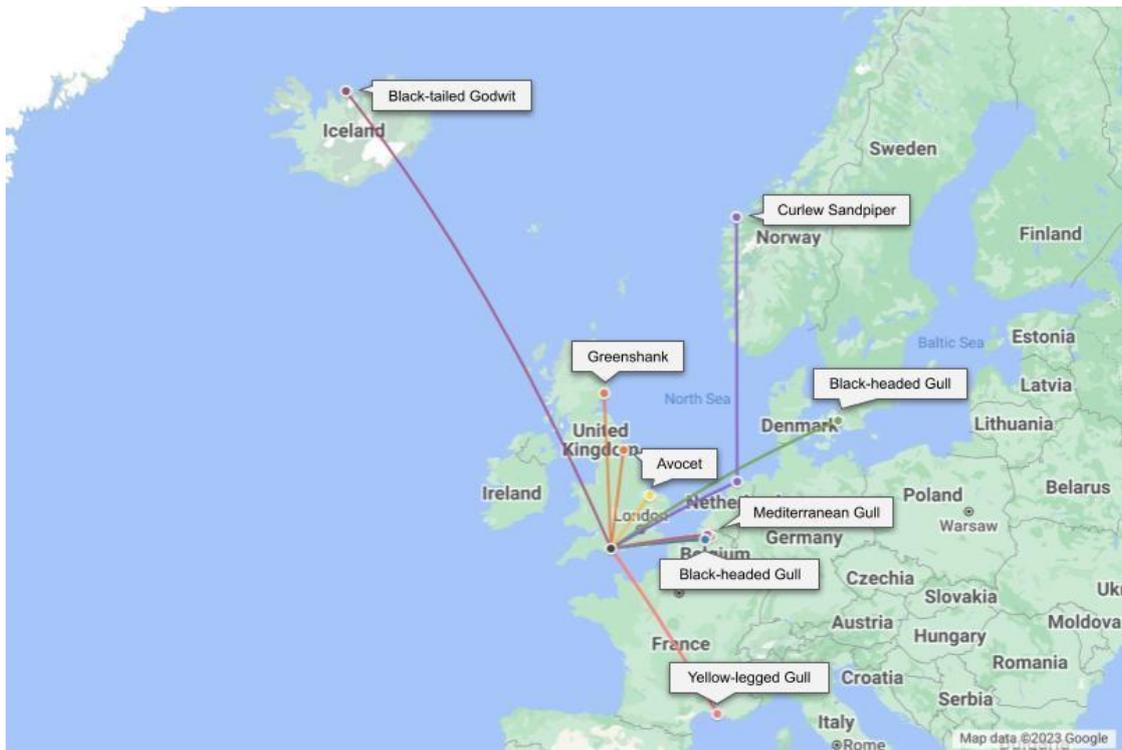
This montage created by Nick Hull provides an instructive comparison of Sedge Warbler and Aquatic Warbler. From L to R – Adult Sedge, Juvenile Aquatic, Juvenile Sedge. Lytchett Heath August 2022.

A good year for Aquatic Warbler migration through Britain and Ireland saw birds recorded across Dorset, Cornwall, Devon, Gwent and Cork. Of the five Dorset birds, three were ringed at Lytchett Bay! Kestrel became the latest species to be added to the ringing list for the site. Continued Bearded Tit studies, coupled with the highly-popular series of Bearded Tit ringing demonstrations delivered by Birds of Poole Harbour and SRG, continue to provide conservation and public engagement value. However, nocturnal wader surveys at Lytchett Fields were curtailed in line with RSPB's HPAI guidelines.



Grasshopper Warbler © Peter Moore

Lytchett Bay 2022 colour-ring sightings map



Appendix 2 summarises species ringing totals. Details of recoveries and controls are detailed under species accounts. Since 1983, at least 34,738 birds of 88 species have been ringed at Lytchett Bay. We continue to research historical data and add new data and discoveries as we find them.

Our ringing data is published on Trektellen. We are endeavouring to add our historical data to this accessible database. All input data is available at [\[Trektellen.org\]](https://trektellen.org) - [Totals Lytchett Bay RS \(Dorset, England\) - 1](#)

Acknowledgements:

The Birds of Poole Harbour & Dorset Bird Club host this and our previous annual reports on their websites which is hugely appreciated.

SR would like to add particular thanks to Ian Ballam for his continued commitment to birding and bird recording at Lytchett Bay and for his support with various volunteer activity at Lytchett Fields (especially during his absence in the last 3 months of the year). To friends at Stour Ringing Group for companionship and hard work. Many thanks his fellow editors Nick Hull, Joe Parker for their survey work and assistance in researching and writing this report. To Stephen F Smith for his work on plants at RSPB Lytchett Fields.

Stour Ringing Group would like to thank the RSPB, Post Green Estate, DWT & ARC for their kind permission to ring at Lytchett Bay.

Many thanks to all the observers who supplied records and comments via BirdTrack, e-Bird, Twitter and other information sources. Finally, to everyone who has allowed us to use their excellent images which brighten and decorate this report. Please keep them coming.



Symmetry and reflections – Juv Curlew Sandpipers © Ian Ballam

Systematic List 2022 - Shaun Robson, with ringing data by Joe Parker

3971 specific records were collated during the year via the @BirdTrack and @Team_eBird databases covering 170 species. In addition, many more records of common species were submitted via “complete lists” to both databases. Each of the main sites at Lytchett Bay have been set up as e-Bird “Hotspots” – including the new Rock Lea Viewpoint. Users of e-Bird are encouraged to log their sightings against these. If anyone would like advice on the use of e-Bird then SR is very happy to try and support. BirdTrack’s site mechanism is based around 1km squares, again records logged against the actual square are most helpful.

BTO Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS) are conducted monthly from September to March. RSPB Lytchett Fields is surveyed completely bi-weekly on the high tide. This data is incorporated within the species accounts.

Nocturnal sound recording conducted by **Nick Hull** at Lytchett Way continues to provide new and fascinating information about the unseen migration over our area and the highlights of this research are included in the systematic list.

BirdTrack functionality has been used to generate graphs showing the weekly maxima throughout the year for some regularly occurring species. The interpretation of these requires some caution as not all “graphed” species are counted every week; this can lead to gaps in the data. Where necessary this is clarified in the text.

Bird records were received from the recording area on all but 4 days as set out below.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	28	29

The systematic list follows the latest IOC list as followed by the Dorset Bird Club.

Species names are followed by 2 or 3 numbers. The first is the record known count recorded at the Bay. This now includes historical counts by observers going back to 1975. The middle figure is the maximum day count in the period since 1992 (if less than the first). The final figure is the number of years in which the species has been recorded since 1992 (max 31), the year in which the current spell of comprehensive coverage began.

The symbol which follows each species name shows the direction of travel of the species status at Lytchett Bay over the last 5 years. We think these are quite intuitive; strongly increasing, increasing, stable, declining and strongly declining. Hopefully this feature will enable others to compare the data from this site with experiences at their own site and engender some debate and understanding.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose: (144 – 23) ↔

Common winter visitor. Present until 10th Feb and from 12th Oct after which birds were present almost daily until the year end. Max 70 on 11th Jan & 81 on 16th Dec.

Canada Goose: (602 – 31) ↗

Increasingly frequent visitor. 2 pairs bred. Max, a rather low, 148 on 24th Sep.

Barnacle Goose: (50 – 12)

Scare migrant, some records refer to feral residents. Birds sound recorded calling over the Lytchett Way listening station on 20th Oct was the only record of the year.

Greylag Goose: (40 – 23) ↔

Uncommon feral wanderer. Recorded in 5 months on at least 15 dates. Max 9 on 2 dates.

Tundra Bean Goose:

First record. Barely on the radar as a species for the Bay given the general rarity of wild grey geese in the area over the last 20 or so years. 3 flew in to Lytchett Fields on 29th Jan (IB et al). 2 were still present the next morning but were flushed when the sound of wildfowlers gun fire rang out from the Bay. The first of many many highlights in this year's systematic list. Presumably the same trio that spent the Christmas period around Holes Bay and were subsequently re-found in the Swineham area?



A first of Lytchett Bay that even with the occurrence of the Holes Bay birds wasn't on our "predicted additions list". Grey Geese rarely land on the site so this was very special (© Ian Ballam)

Mute Swan: (58 – 31) ↔

Uncommon resident, increases in winter. Bred between 2002-2007 and in 2015. A rather poor year. Apart from a spring visit by 20 on 5th May numbers rarely reached double figures.

Egyptian Goose: (13 – 9) ↗

Scarce feral visitor, records continue to increase year on year. The first record was in 2011. Recorded on 12 dates. 13 over Lytchett Heath on 28th Sep was a record count.

Shelduck: (645 – 548 – 31) ↘

Occasional breeder and winter visitor. 2 family parties noted in Jun. The max count was a disappointing 58 on 15th Jan. The poorest year since 2012, which was the worst year on record.

Garganey: (3 – 8)

Rare visitor. First records since 2018. A popular drake was in Lytchett Bay on 20th Mar (IB et al), our earliest record. A pair arrived at Lytchett Fields on 24th Apr and remained until 4th May giving hope of local breeding, alas there was no evidence of this (PS et al).

Shoveler: (28 – 30) ↔

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. 19 bird-days on 8 dates. Max 4 on 10th Aug.

Gadwall: (73 – 25) ↗

Increasingly frequent visitor and occasional breeder. 4 juveniles seen on 2 dates in mid-Jul confirmed breeding. Most birds in late spring and early summer are presumed to be non-breeding individuals. Max 23 on 12th Jun.

Wigeon: (732 – 31) ↔

Common winter visitor. Absent from 16th Apr until 27th Aug. Max 493 on 12th Jan & 568 on 30th Oct.

Mallard: (123 – 31) ↔

Breeds at several sites around the recording area. Very regular on Sandy Close Pond. Fewer in winter. Max 46 on 23rd Aug.

Northern Pintail: (21 - 23) ↔

Scarce visitor. A typical year with 32 bird-days on 19 dates until 27th Apr and from 11th Sep. Max 4 on 15th Jan.

Teal: (1345 – 31) ↗

Winter visitor and passage migrant. 2 juveniles on 19th Jul suggested that breeding occurred on site. Max 832 on 28th Oct. A first-winter male was ringed on 6th Jan during a nocturnal wader survey. Only the second Teal to be ringed at Lytchett Bay, with the first bird ringed on exactly the same date 21 years ago!

Green-winged Teal: (1 – 3)

A male was present at Lytchett Fields from 4th – 18th Apr (IB et al). Our 3rd record of this North American duck. Previous records in 2000 and 2016-17.

Tufted Duck: (20 – 18) ↔

Rare visitor. 4 on 6th Nov was the only record.

Common Scoter: (? – 2)

5th record. One day we will see one swimming on the water in the Bay, until then we will continue to enjoy the sounds of nocturnal migrants. At least 1 at 01:07 on 27th Mar, perfect date for spring migration, over the Lytchett Way listening station.

Goosander: (4 – 11)

Rare visitor. 2 records. A drake on 22nd Jan and a redhead on 14th Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 – 31) ↔

Winter visitor. Recorded on at least 55 dates until 20th Mar and from 25th Nov. The period of occurrence seems to be contracting year on year. April departures and October arrivals were once the norm. Max 10 on 28th Feb.

Pheasant: ↔

Common resident.

Nightjar: (3 – 22) ↔



Irregular breeder. Present at Lytchett Heath from 3rd Jun into mid Jul but breeding not thought to have occurred. One heard churring at Turlin Moor for second year running in Aug. Migrants recorded at Lytchett Fields in late Aug.

Four ringed between 8 - 11th Aug, marking a new record annual total for the site!

A rare opportunity to photograph this nocturnal species during daylight © Ian Ballam

Swift: (113 – 31) ↔

Passage migrant and occasional local breeder. Recorded between 29th Apr - 25th Aug in very small numbers. Max count 30 on 4th Jul was the only double figure count!

Cuckoo: (2 – 30) ↔

Scarce visitor in spring. Not so good as 2021, recorded on 10 dates as opposed to 20. The first was at Lytchett Heath on 29th Apr and the last on 16th Jun. All singles.



© Ian Ballam

Stock Dove: (72 – 31) ↗

Uncommon resident, increasing. At least 2 pairs bred in the vicinity of Lytchett Fields. The arable field proved attractive in both winter periods. Max 63 on 12th Apr.

Woodpigeon: (17,785 – 31) ↔

Common resident and autumn migrant. Autumn movements were few. Max 1500 on 12th Nov. 1 ringed.

Collared Dove: (18 – 31) ↔

Resident. Recorded across the site on a daily basis. Max 11 at on location on 4th Nov.

Water Rail: (67 pairs – 31) ↔

Common resident and winter visitor. No perceived change in status after 2013's complete breeding survey found 67 prs. Single bird ringed during a Birds of Poole Harbour Bearded Tit ringing demonstration on 14th Oct.

Moorhen: (18 – 31) ↗

Common resident. Breeds widely across the area, much more so than in the past. A pair bred at Sandy Close Pond for the fourth year in a row. Max full grown birds at any one site was 10 at Lytchett Fields in Jan.

Coot: (62 – 20)

Very scarce visitor, though night recording is proving that they are very frequent overhead nocturnal migrants. The first was sound recorded on 21st Mar at the Lytchett Way listening station and on a further 22 dates in spring until 2nd May! 1 was actually seen at Lytchett Fields on 18th May. Sound recorded on 5 dates in autumn.

Common Crane: (8 – 4)

Rare visitor. 6th record. 8 flew west over Lytchett Fields on the afternoon of 27th Sep (IB, RP). What an experience this must have been. The birds looked like they might land but having circled they regained height and carried on. The first multiple occurrence of this species and surely wild migrants (none appeared to be ringed in the photographs taken and all were adults).

Previous records:

1975 – 1 on 16th Aug.

1999 – 1 on 19th Sep - 10th Oct (on and off) at Lytchett Fields.

2016 - 2 flew SE on 6th Mar, 1 flew N on 3rd Jun.

2019 – 1 on 28th Sep flew over Lytchett Fields.



An afternoon autumn surprise. A number of this year's remarkable records were down to "time in the field". The increased coverage is in part responsible for the growing annual list. "Fly by's" like this would almost certainly have been missed in the past. (© Roly Pitts)

Little Grebe: (12 - 31) ↔

Winter visitor. Present in the Bay, and occasionally on Lytchett Fields, on many days until 4th Mar and from 16th Aug. Max 11 on 12th Oct. Nocturnal migrants were sound recorded on 2nd, 3rd, 17th Apr.

Great Crested Grebe: (7 - 28) ↗

Increasingly frequent visitor. A similar number to 2021. Seen on 30 dates in 9 out 12 months across the year. Max 2 on several dates.

Oystercatcher: (400 – 30) ↔

A common winter visitor and passage migrant. Turlin Fields and Turlin Shore at high tide remain the favored locations, with fewer birds remaining in the bay to feed at low tide. Increasingly birds are seen on Lytchett Fields, particularly in spring and summer.

Whilst birds were seen frequently at Lytchett Fields in spring there was no repeat of 2020's breeding attempt. A very poor year in terms of numbers, max 80 on 18th Nov. The first year where there has been no 3 figure counts.

Pied Avocet: (327 – 30) ↗

Increasingly regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Year on year occurrence seems less reliant on cold weather. Present almost daily until 5th Apr and from 13th Oct.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
186	69	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	7	75	176

Ym+GY (ET07291) - present at Lytchett Bay with mid-winter with observations on 25th Nov & 14th Dec 2021, 11th & 14th Jan 2022.



*Ringed as a pullus on 18th Jun 1999 at Snettisham RSPB Reserve, Norfolk, UK making the bird at least 22 yrs old.
Remarks: Yellow ring on right leg has slipped partially over metal ring.*

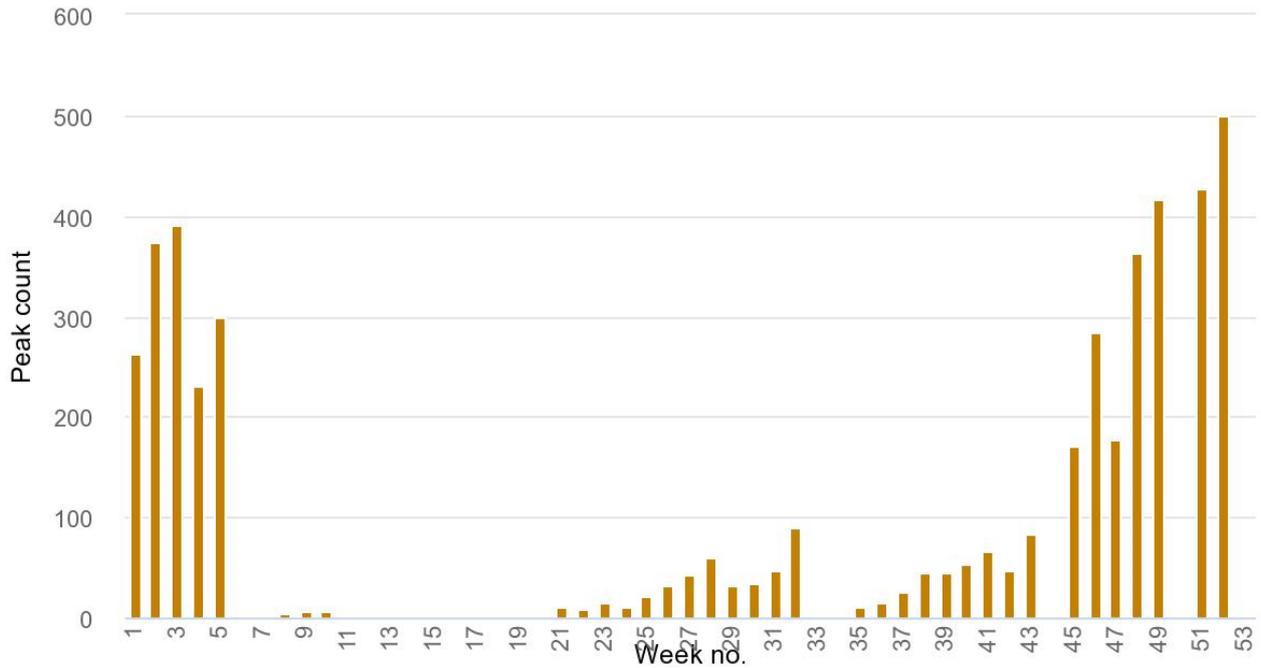
© Shaun Robson

RB+GN (EY04575) - Present at Lytchett Bay on 16-17th Jan 2022. It was ringed as a pullus on 14th Jun 2012 at Saline Lagoon, Greatham Creek, Stockton-on-Tees, UK. The bird has also been observed at in Lincolnshire between 2016-2019.

Lapwing: (3000 – 31) ↔

Formerly bred, now a non-breeding visitor in smaller numbers. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. 1 or 2 birds were again present during Apr & May but there was no evidence of a breeding attempt. Birds were recorded in every month. The max count of 500 was on 27th Dec.

Single bird ringed during Lytchett Fields nocturnal wader survey on 22nd Mar. First ringed since 2006!



3 colour ringed Lapwing give some insight as to the origins of our winter flock. Not too far away based on these birds.

Nfl//WN+N//Bm - present at Lytchett Bay on 4th Feb 2022.



It was ringed as a pullus on 9th Jul 2021 at Avon Tyrell South, Hampshire, UK. A movement of 20 km. The bird was also observed at Lytchett Bay on three dates in Nov 2021.

© Ian Ballam

G//GN + Nfl//Bm - present at Lytchett Bay on 24th May, 17th Jun, 22nd & 24th Jul and 6th Oct 2022.



It was ringed on 16th Apr 2021 as an adult female at Watton's Ford, Avon Valley, Hampshire, UK. A movement of 24 km. The bird has previously been observed at Lytchett Bay in Oct & Dec 2021.

© Ian Ballam

N(fl)//GN + N/Wm - present at Lytchett Bay on 22nd Apr 2022.



It was ringed in the Avon Valley nr Fordingbridge in June 2019

© Ian Ballam

Golden Plover: (160 – 17)



Scarce visitor, surprisingly so. First records since 2018!

1 on 26th Jan, 1 on 19th Aug, 1 on 4th Sep, 2 on 30th Oct & 2 on 4th Nov.

Laying your eyes on a Golden Plover in Poole Harbour in August or September gets the pulse racing. "Unfortunately" both of this year's birds were just that. One day.....© Ian Ballam

Grey Plover: (18 – 25) ⇔

Scarce visitor. A much better year than 2021 largely thanks to a long staying individual at the year end. The first was a single on 19th Aug. Recorded on a further 24 dates. 17 at Lytchett Fields on 1st Nov was the second biggest flock ever, 18 on 1st Jan 2015 being the record. 1 remained until 22nd Dec.

Ringed Plover: (50 – 27) ⇔

Passage migrant, previously scarce. 393 bird-days on 81 dates. Notably more than the last 2 years.

Spring migration 1st Mar – 13th Jun. Max 18 on 1st May. Autumn migration 13th Jul – 3rd Oct. Max 27 on 14th Sep. The majority of records in both seasons coming from Lytchett Fields.

Little Ringed Plover: (15 – 20) ↗

Increasingly frequent summer visitor. The first was on 16th Mar. Birds were then seen almost daily until mid-Jul. The peak count was 6 on several dates. It appeared that these had settled into 3 pairs and copulation was witnessed but hopes of successful breeding were not realised.

Summer merged into return passage. For the second year in a row this was weak. Peak of 5 on a couple of dates in Jul. Only 1 record in Aug, a single bird from 27th - 31st.

Whimbrel: (157 – 31) ⇄

Passage migrant, most numerous in Spring. The first on 15th Apr was followed by 157 bird-days up until 15th May, max 21 on 28th Apr. Significant nocturnal migration was recorded at the end of Apr – early May including 51+ calls between 21:46hrs & 04:16hrs on 2nd - 3rd May.

Autumn passage occurred between 19th Jul – 16th Sep involving 70 bird-days, max 8 on 5th Aug.

Curlew: (116 – 31) ⇄

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Frequently seen on Lytchett Fields in small numbers.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
26	33	8	4	5	18	42	20	29	26	28	n.c.

M//R+R//WR (FP45756) - present at Lytchett Bay during winter 2021/22 until at least 25th Feb, arriving back the following season on 18th Jun 2022 and continuing into 2023.



It was ringed as an adult female at Stodgemoor, Burley Street, New Forest, Hampshire, UK on 25th May 2018. The bird was fitted with a GPS tag, but unfortunately this fell off one month after fitting. It was seen in the Avon Valley, Hants in Mar 2019, presumably on its way back to its breeding site. First encountered at Lytchett Bay on 16th Sep 2018, the bird has returned to over-wintered every year since. Many thanks to Pete Potts for this information.

© Ian Ballam

Bar-tailed Godwit: (110 – 27) ⇄

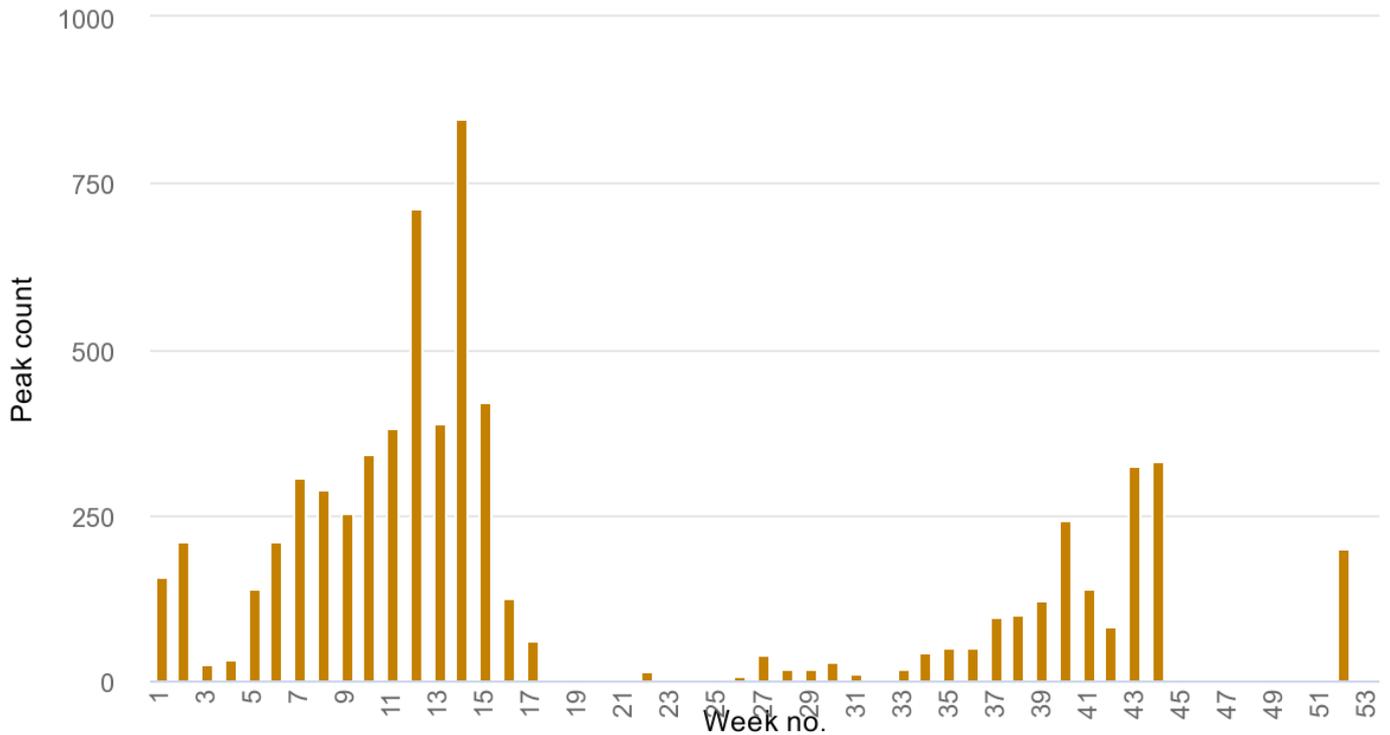
Scarce visitor. 23 bird-days on 14 dates. Spring passage between 24th Apr - 5th May. Max 3 on 2 dates. In autumn between 1st – 20th Sep. Max 3 on last date.



© Ian Ballam

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 – 31) ↔

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Spring passage was especially strong. Max 805 on 7th Apr. The non-breeding flock present in the early noughties during June seems to have moved elsewhere. The first juv of the year was seen on 4th Aug. The gap in records at the year-end is due to a recording error rather than absence. LG+RO on occurred again in Feb. (see below for more details).



Over the last 26 years colour ringed birds have proved that birds visiting Lytchett Bay breed in Iceland (*L.l.islandica*). Birds seen at Lytchett Bay also visit western France, Portugal, Ireland, Scotland, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, E England as well as many locations along the south coast.

LG+RO - present at Lytchett Bay on 14th Feb 2022.



© Ian Ballam

Ringed as an adult female on 27th Jun 2002 at Langhús, Fljót, ICELAND. This makes the bird at least 21 years old(!). Although this individual continues to be the oldest recorded at Lytchett Bay, there's another 11 years to go until she breaks the longevity record for the species. It has previously visited Lytchett Bay in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2021. During its life this bird has also been seen in Portugal, western France, Humberside and Hampshire.

LNL+YRY - present at Lytchett Bay on 25-26th Feb 2022.



© Ian Ballam

It was ringed at Axe Estuary, Seaton, Devon on 10th Nov 2013. It has previously been encountered at Lytchett Bay in 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2021. All recent records are from Poole Harbour.

BOL+RNR - present at Lytchett Bay on 8th & 25th Feb 2022 and again on 1st Aug 2022.



© Ian Ballam

It was ringed as an adult female at Harty, The Swale, Kent on 28th Aug 2019. The bird has previously been encountered at Lytchett Bay every year from autumn 2020.

Left leg always given first, all rings above the tibia (unless preceded by the mark //). Recently some birds have been marked with leg flags rather than rings. Colours are:

O = Orange	L = Lime (this can look very washed out in the field, approaching white)
R = Red	G = Green
W = White	B = Blue
Y = Yellow	N = Niger

Many thanks to Pete Potts and the Farlington Ringing Group, Böðvar Þórisson and the Iceland Wader Group for supplying this information.

Red Knot: (48 – 22) ↔

Scarce visitor. A poor year with records on only 7 dates between 31st Jul – 7th Oct. Max 4 on 27th Sep & 6th Oct.

Ruff: (11 – 27) ↔

Scarce visitor. 32 bird-days in autumn (similar to last 3 years). After 1 on 5th Jul there were no more records until 20th Sep. After which seen regularly until 3rd Nov. All autumn records at Lytchett Fields bar an adult in Bay on 7th Oct. Max 2 on 1st Oct.



This year we have focused on waders in flight. This is an interesting capture of a juvenile Ruff taking off by © Richard Stephenson

Curlew Sandpiper: (13 – 16) ↗

Scarce autumn migrant. A record year by a considerable margin. 236 bird-days on 68 dates between 5th Sep – 23rd Nov. Max 13 on 29th Sep. Eclipsing the previous best in 2016 (158 bird-days) and previous record count (9 on 21st Aug 2016). Most birds, but not all, were juveniles.

We also had an exceptional colour-ringed record.....

Rm+Y(ASE) (8N69111) - present at Lytchett Bay on 23-28th Sep 2022.



It was ringed on 10th Sep 2022 as a juvenile at Makkevika, Giske Ornithological Station, NORWAY. A SW movement of 1,395 km. Amazingly, the bird was also seen at Moddergat, NETHERLANDS during its journey to us on 13th Sep 2022(!).

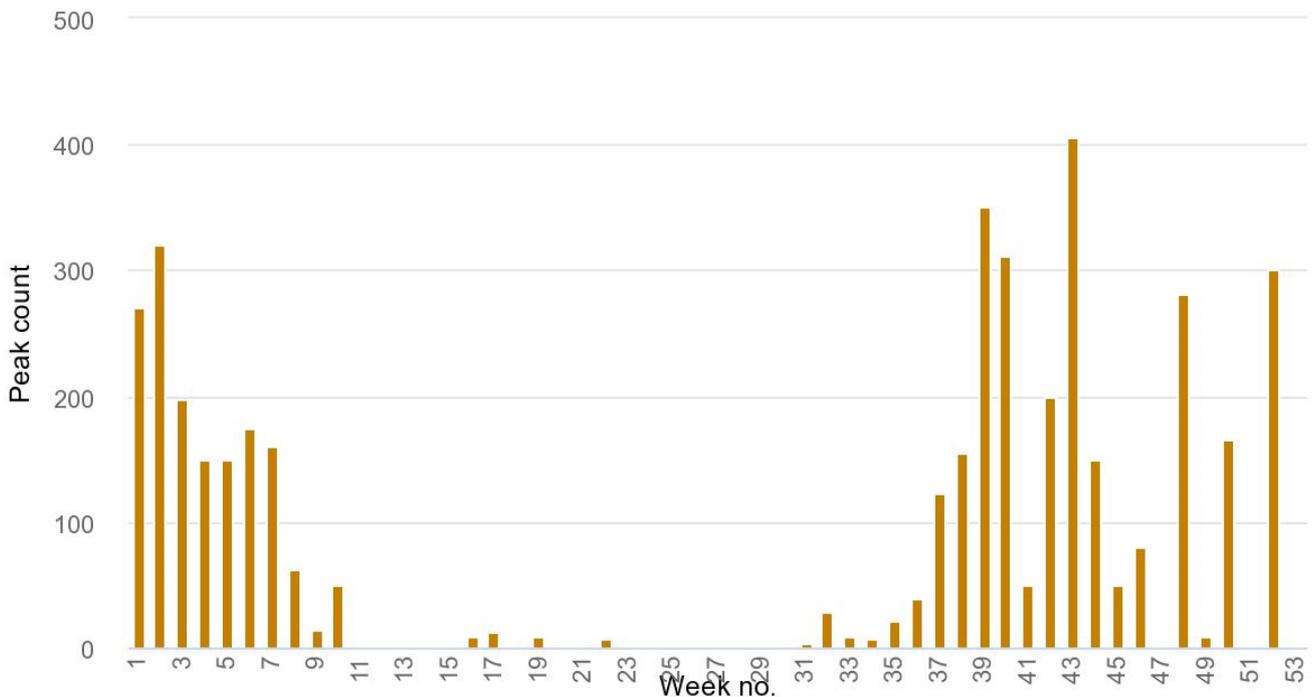
© Ian Ballam

Sanderling: (7 – 7)

Rare visitor. 2 records after a blank year in 2021. Singles at Lytchett Bay on 16th May (IB et al) and Lytchett Fields on 4th Sep (PS et al).

Dunlin: (1800 – 1200 – 31) ↔

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Both winter periods were again decent by recent standards, though spring migration was a bit of a none-event. The first returning bird was on 15th Jul after which autumn migration was very good. Max 405 on 26th Oct. The huge majority of birds were seen at Lytchett Fields. Single bird ringed during Lytchett Fields nocturnal wader survey on 6th Jan.



Little Stint: (7 – 16) ↗

Scarce autumn migrant. The second best year on record (after 2017). 32 bird-days on 23 dates between 23rd Aug & 25th Oct (the latest ever). 2 recorded on many dates but change over in individuals was considerable.

Pectoral Sandpiper:

4th record. An adult at Lytchett Fields on 26th Jul (CW et al) was an excellent mid-summer find.



© Shaun Robson

Woodcock: (5 – 21) ↔

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. The number of records of this species is largely a reflection of the effort made to see them. Nick Hopper studied Woodcock during early 2014 on behalf of The Birds of Poole Harbour. Following transects at Lytchett Bay the estimated winter population was predicted to be 8 birds (No more than 5 have ever been seen on one visit). Relatively little survey effort this year but birds seen in Jan, Feb and Dec. The most interesting record was 2 at Lytchett Heath on the morning of 14th Aug. Single bird ringed during Lytchett Fields nocturnal wader survey on 6th Jan.

Jack Snipe: (6 - 22) ↔

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. Like Woodcock, records are to a degree a reflection of birder / survey effort as much as presence. Another good year and a record count. 32 bird-days, until 9th Apr and from 30th Sep. The use of a thermal imaging scope is changing our awareness and knowledge of this secretive species. 6 on 6th Jan was a record count (previously 5 on 14th Apr 2004). Ten new birds ringed between 6th Jan and 27th Feb.

NV75658 - becomes the second record of winter site fidelity for Lytchett Bay. Originally ringed as a first-winter on 17th Feb 2021, the bird was encountered back at Whimbrel Field 398 days later on 22nd Mar 2022.

Snipe: (160 – 132 – 31) ↘

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded until 24th Apr, returning on the 24th Jun (earliest return date). Max 32 in 1st period and 42 in 2nd. Three ringed in January during Lytchett Fields nocturnal wader surveys.

Common Sandpiper: (18 – 31) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. 8 bird-days in spring between 27th Mar (earliest date) – 11th May. Record breaking autumn passage 19th Jun – 27th Sep. The previous record of 14 (2015 & 2020) was broken twice. 15 on 17th Aug and then again with a vocal single flock of 18 on the Fields on 9th Sep. 3 ringed.

Green Sandpiper: (30 – 31) ↗

Common non-breeding visitor. Lytchett Fields and western most part of the Bay is the favored area. Present until 1st May and from 19th Jun. After which birds were seen on most visits until the year end. Max 15 on 19th Jul & 1st Aug.



Four eye catching images capturing some of our waders in flight. Curlew, 2 Wood Sandpipers, Juvenile Spotted Redshank & Common Redshank (© Mark Wright)



Redshank: (608 – 436 – 31) ↘

Common winter visitor. It looks like this species has become the latest breeding extinction at the Bay. There were no confirmed breeding records again this year. The last breeding took place in 2018. Many of the saltmarshes at Lytchett Bay are now either heavily grazed by Sika or patrolled by foxes. Disturbance from dog walkers has declined in the last 2 years thanks to work by local land managing partners. Max 236 on 12th Nov.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
111	126	n.c.	37	1	17	78	78	130	231	236	n.c

Wood Sandpiper: (5 – 19)

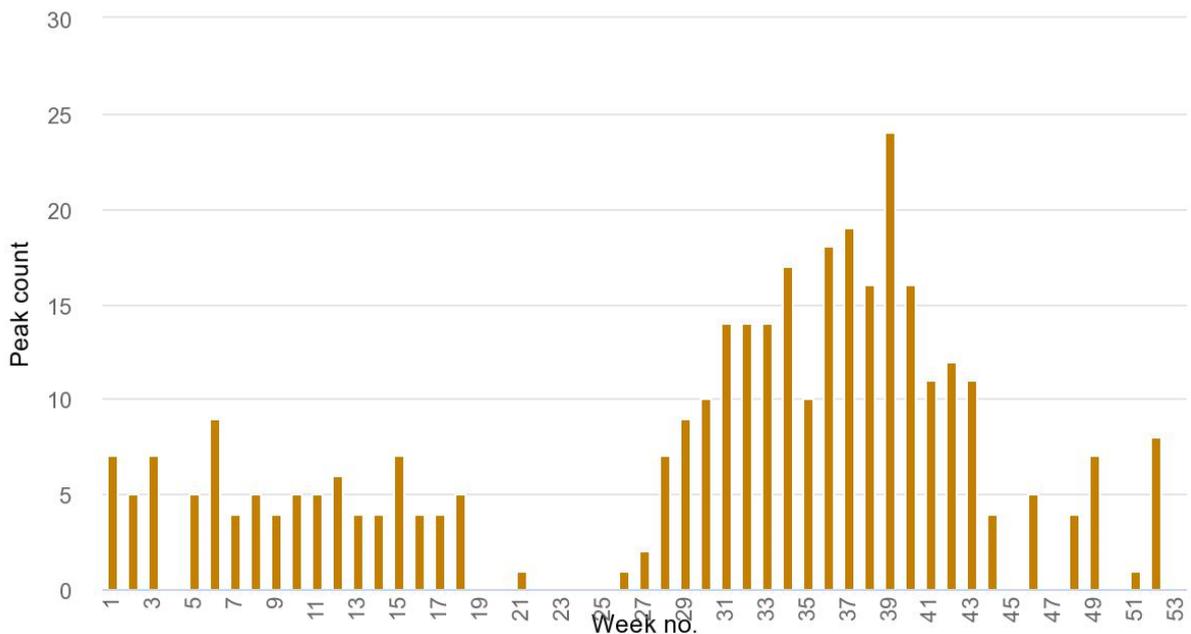
Scarce migrant. 5 records. A rare spring bird on 30th Apr was the earliest ever (previously 8th May 1996). 1 on 2nd Aug, 2 on 16th Aug, 1 on 14th Sep & 1 on 18th Sep.

Spotted Redshank: (68 – 42 – 31) ↔

Scarce passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. A much better year with presence on 122 dates with 188 bird-days. Present until 24th Apr, max 3 on 5th Apr. From 6th Aug till the year end. Max 4 on 9th Sep & 26th Sep. 3 on 28th Dec.

Greenshank: (49 – 27 – 31) ↔

Common non-breeding visitor. Another excellent year. There were no records between 28th May and 1st Jul but present almost daily outside that period. Max 24 on 26th Sep, the best count since 27 on 18th Aug 1997. Lytchett Fields was by far the most used habitat.



RN+GB (DT00415) was present from the beginning of the year until at least 10th Apr 2022. It returned for its 8th season on 16th Jul 2022 and continued into 2023.



© Ian Ballam

It was ringed as a juvenile at Seabrook, Montrose Basin, Scotland on 29th Sep 2015. A seasoned visitor to Lytchett Bay, it was first encountered on 4th–12th Apr 2016, returning for the non-breeding seasons of 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22. It was recorded at Steart, Somerset in Dec 2015.

R+Yfl(CSL) – ringed as part of the NORWEGIAN scheme. Unfortunately the details could not be read with 100% confidence and therefore the precise details could not be confirmed. Present at Lytchett Bay on 1st Jul 2022.

Bonaparte's Gull:

First record. This species had always been on the radar when watching the evening gull roost. However with only 9 county records up to the end of 2021 it was always going to be a long shot, especially given that our commonest gull is the similar looking Black-headed Gull.

On the evening of 9th Feb brief views of a probable adult were obtained (SR) but without further sightings they would be insufficient for acceptance. Local observers were put on alert to look for the bird the following day. Amazingly, and to the relief of the finder, the bird was present the following morning (PVH) and showed well until around 3pm enabling a good number of local birders to see it. By 3:30pm it could not be found and it was not seen again. (See finders report on page 43)



Never close, we were grateful that © Steve W Smith managed to get these very decent record shots.

Black-headed Gull: (15000 – 31) ↔

A very common visitor. Excellent numbers visited the Bay pre-roost during mid - late February. Observer effort was increased as a result of the Bonaparte's record and this produced a series of good counts peaking at an all-time record of 15,000 on 27th Feb (previously 12,000 on 14th Mar 1981). The first local juv was seen on 21st Jun.

25S9 (white ring) (EY83259) - present at Lytchett Bay on 13th May 2022. Although previous records go back every year to 2019, the individual has only now been traced! It was ringed as a pullus on 4th Jun 2016 at Hosehill Lake NR, Hampshire, UK.

The individual has also been observed at Lytchett Bay on 24th May & 2nd Jul 2019, 28th May 2020, 12th & 23rd Jun 2021.

T58 (white ring) - present at Lytchett Bay on 22nd Jul 2022. It was ringed at Svanemøllebugten, København, DENMARK on 19th Mar 2011. A movement of 1,120 km. It has previously been encountered at Lytchett Bay in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021.

EL22 (yellow ring) (8T47376) - present at Lytchett Bay on 22nd Jul 2022. It was ringed as a pullus on 26th May 2020 at Molsbroek, Oost-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM.

Mediterranean Gull: (205 – 30) ↔

Spring and early summer visitor, occasional at other times. Assessing actual numbers in spring is very difficult due to the number of calling birds passing overhead. A record year, with large numbers visiting throughout the spring. 205 on 27th Feb was the best count achieved though the actual numbers was likely to have been somewhat higher.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
11	205	160	86	150	51	6	2	1	1	3	1

3860 (white ring) (E947766) - present at Lytchett Bay on 7th Jun 2022.



It was ringed as a pullus on 9th June 2018 at Antwerp, Flanders, BELGIUM. A W movement of 450 km.

The bird has also been observed in Portugal during 2019 & 2021, as well as Cornwall & Hampshire.

© Ian Ballam

39LL (white ring) (E438192) - present at Lytchett Bay on 7th Jun 2022.



It was ringed as a pullus on 11th Jun 2020 at Beveren, Kieldrecht, Oost-Vlaanderen, Flanders, BELGIUM.

© Ian Ballam

Common Gull: (3000 – 31) ↔

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. Max 520 on 23rd Feb. Not recorded between 9th May and 13th Jul.

Great Black-backed Gull: (151 – 31) ↔

Daily visitor throughout the year in small numbers. The max count for the site of 151 was way back in 2003 when Corfe Mullen Tip was in its hey-day. Max 17 on 1st Oct.

Herring Gull: (2500 – 31) ↔

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Numbers much lower than 90's/early 00's when Corfe Mullen tip attracted large numbers of gulls to the wider area. Max 420 on 25th Sep.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 – 30) ↓

Increasingly uncommon visitor. Recorded on only 9 dates, another new low since the species was first recorded in 1992. All were singles between Apr and Dec except for 2 on 11th Apr.

29A:C (green ring) (K000311) - present at Lytchett Bay on 22nd Sep 2022, a most exciting record!



It was ringed as a pullus on 31st May 2022 at Carteau, Port-Saint-Louis-du-rhône, Bouches-du-Rhône, FRANCE. A N movement of 968 km (83 days after ringing).

© Ian Ballam

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 – 31) ↔

Common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Numbers are much lower now than they were in the 90's/early 00's when up to 2000 would occur associated with Corfe Mullen Tip. A very poor year with no counts greater than 25.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (L.f.intermedius)

A very black-backed adult on 3rd Jan was considered to be of this race.

Sandwich Tern: (14 – 31) ↔

Uncommon summer visitor. 66 bird-days on 32 dates between 27th Mar - 10th Oct. Max 5 on 18th Jun.

Little Tern: (10 – 7)

Rare visitor. 2 in Lytchett Bay on 10th May (SR et al).

Common Tern: (26 – 31) ↔

Uncommon summer visitor. 44 bird-days recorded on 28 dates between 9th May – 29th Aug. Max 3 on 30th Jun. Records split between the Bay and Lytchett Fields.

Black Tern: (3 - 1 - 4)

Rare visitor. Only the 4th record since 1992. A juv was dip feeding over Sherford Pool on the 6th Sep before flying off towards Wareham (SR, IB). All records fall within a very narrow window.



Previous records:

1 on 3rd Sep 1995

1 on 23rd Sep 1997

1 on 10th - 16th Sep 2008

A real record shot but when it's the first photo of a species on site, let alone a rare one, then we will take it. © Ian Ballam

Great Northern Diver: (1 – 4)

5th & 6th records. The first year with 2 records. 1 on 12th - 13th Nov off the Turlin Shore (DW et al) and another from Rock Lea View on 25th – 27th Nov (IB et al)



© Ian Ballam

Cormorant: (500 – 31) ↗

Daily visitor. Large feeding flocks now occur frequently in autumn. Max 500 on 29th Oct was a record count (previously 370 on 14th Nov 2017).

Glossy Ibis: (1 – 4)

6th & 7th records and our first truly long staying bird. One flew over the Approach Field on 12th Jan (IB, SR et al) and then settled into a pattern of arriving in the Bay in the late afternoon as it left its day-time feeding spot in Lytchett Minster. It was last seen on 24th Jan. Another arrived on 23rd Aug and remained until the following day (IB, SR). Both birds were seen by the editor over his garden!

Spoonbill: (25 – 13) ↔

Increasingly frequent visitor. A poor year by recent standards. 17 bird-days on 12 dates. No records between 22nd Feb and 2nd Aug. Max 4 on 16th Oct.

B(AE)+W(AE) was present on 30th Nov 2022.



It was ringed as a pullus at Schiermonnikoog, NETHERLANDS on 19th Jul 2006, and is now 15 years old! A familiar visitor to Lytchett Bay, it has previously been encountered in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020 & 2021. The bird commutes back and forth between SW England and the Netherlands. In previous years, the bird has also been seen en route at Somme, FRANCE during late Sept and Oct.

© Ian Ballam

Cattle Egret: (5 – 9) ↗

Increasingly frequent visitor. 41 bird-days on 23 dates between 21st May and year end was the most ever. Max 4 on 2 dates. A still black-billed juvenile with 2 adults between 5th – 7th Sep was intriguing.

Grey Heron: (13 – 31) ↔

Daily visitor in small numbers. Max 6 on 27th Feb & 1st Oct.

Great White Egret: (7 – 10) ↗

Scare visitor. Recorded on 11 dates between 20th Apr & 22nd Dec. All singles. Over the last 4 years the range for number dates seen is a very narrow 11 to 14.

Little Egret: (67 – 30) ↔

Daily visitor. The largest counts occur in the early morning or late afternoon when birds arrive from or prepare to set off to roost. Max 30 on 18th Jul.

Osprey: (4 – 30) ↔

Annual passage migrant. Recorded on 52 dates. A momentous year for Poole Harbour. Ospreys bred for the first time in 200 years.

Our first was on 28th Mar. Seen on 13 further spring dates to the 2nd May. There were no further records until 20th Jun and then none again until 6th Aug. After which there were frequent records until 3rd Oct. The confirmed maximum count was again 4, though on 19th Aug it was thought that perhaps twice that number visited the bay during the day!

It is worth noting that no juveniles were introduced into the Harbour this year.

Honey-buzzard: (1 – 8)

11th record. One was seen over the western Bay on 19th Aug (SR).

Sparrowhawk: (4 – 31) ↔

Uncommon. Recorded on at least 83 dates throughout the year. Breeding not known to have occurred this year.

Goshawk: (1 – 5)

Rapidly increasing visitor. Prior to this year we had only recorded 4 ever!

Male on 3rd Apr (IB)

1 on 15th Jul (RS)

Juv on 27th Jul (TF)

Juv on 28th Aug (IB)

Juv on 24th Sep (PK)

Female on 22nd Dec (IB)

Marsh Harrier: (6 – 30) ↗

Increasingly regular visitor. Noted on at least 219 dates, the most ever. Not surprising as this species continues to prosper in Poole Harbour and Dorset. Breeding was successful in Poole Harbour and the Wareham Channel roost reached a record 31 birds in Nov. Recorded in every month of the year. Max 4 on several dates. 1 roosted occasionally at both ends of the year.

Hen Harrier: (2 – 30) ↔

Irregular Visitor. Recorded on at least 9 dates, typical of recent winters. A ringtail was seen on 5 dates up to 11th Feb and on 4 dates between 15th Nov and year end.

Red Kite: (29 – 17) ↗

Scarce migrant, increasingly expected on spring migration. A better year than 2021 with birds recorded on at least 26 dates between 5th Feb & 31st Aug. Max 2 on several dates. Surprisingly no records after this date.



Raptors are now a big draw for visitors to Lytchett Bay. Marsh Harriers, Ospreys fishing, Sparrowhawks and frequent, newly arrived, White-tailed Eagles (© Mark Wright)



White-tailed Eagle: (3 – 2)

Scarce wanderer from Isle of Wight reintroduction scheme. This scheme started in 2019 and 25 birds have been released by the summer of 2021, though at the moment they are still too young to begin breeding. These birds have satellite tags and are tracked. Many have made prolonged explorations away from the release area before returning to the island, one as far as Germany. Wild European birds are also possible vagrants. The European population is doing well and expanding towards the North Sea coast. In 2020, 2 untagged birds were recorded in Dorset.

Even after our first records in 2021, nothing prepared us for 2022! Birds were seen on an incredible 44 dates! On four occasions 3 were seen together! These birds clearly love Poole Harbour and Lytchett Bay. Rock Lea View is set to become a prime eagle watching location.

The future looks bright and hopefully this magnificent creature will be a regular feature in these reports. The project can be followed at [White-tailed Eagle Reintroduction on the Isle of Wight - Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation](#)

Common Buzzard: (15 – 31) ↔

The commonest raptor of the area. Breeds widely in the vicinity. Max 9 on 20th Mar.

Barn Owl: (2 – 21)

Bred at French's Farm until 2009. Shortly after this the nest box was removed. Since then the species has been hard to see. A better year with sightings on 5 dates – 6th Jan, 27th Feb, 6th Mar and 6th - 7th Nov. All at Lytchett Fields. Nocturnal sound recordings at Lytchett Way on 4 dates in spring and 4 dates in autumn.

Short Eared Owl: (1 – 9)

Rare visitor. 1 over Lytchett Bay on 15th Nov (IB). The first since 2019.

Tawny Owl: (2 territories – 31) ↔

Uncommon resident. Heard throughout the year from 3 locations – Sandy Close Pond, Lytchett Heath and Rock Lea View. Successful breeding thought likely but not proven.

Kingfisher: (5 – 31) ↔

Passage migrant and uncommon, but frequently seen, winter visitor. Bred in 2000, 2020, 2021 and possibly in other years.

Recorded from all round the Bay until 12th Mar and from 28th Jun. One at Sandy Close Pond on 3 dates in autumn was notable. 11 ringed.



A good catch © Ian Ballam

Wryneck: (1 – 5)

6th record. One in the Approach Field on 10th Sep was appreciated by those who were nearby when found (PK et al). Another great bird in a year of great birds.



Wryneck sunning in the brambles by finder © Paul Kirby

Great Spotted Woodpecker: ↗

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly in most parts of the Bay. Drumming heard in most areas during spring. 1 ringed.

Green Woodpecker: ↓

Breeding resident but uncommon. This species went from being a frequently encountered resident to rare in the space of 12 months. During 2021 it became apparent that our two core observers were not recording it. We now ask that all records of this species are submitted to enable us to monitor it more closely.

Recorded on only 17 dates between 11th Feb and 29th Sep.

Kestrel: (3 – 31) ↔

Uncommon resident. Recorded in every month except May. The nest box was not used and there was no evidence of local breeding. 2 birds were seen occasionally. First ever ringing record for Lytchett Bay. First-winter male ringed during Lytchett Fields pipit session on 30th Sep.

Merlin: (2 – 27) ↔

Scarce visitor. Recorded on 8 dates until 26th Mar and 5 dates from 24th Oct. All singles. A typical year after the excellent 2021.



This male took up a regular day time lookout © Ian Ballam

Hobby: (4 – 29) ↔

Irregular summer visitor. 13 bird-days on 12 dates between 25th Apr – 14th Oct. Max 2 on 9th Aug. A relatively poor showing by recent standards.



Fine in flight images
© Richard Stephenson

Peregrine: (3 – 30) ↔

Frequent visitor. Noted in every month of the year on at least 50 dates as 2021. With successful breeding taking place in Poole it might be thought that more would be seen here than there were?

Jay: (20 – 31) ↔

Resident. Regularly seen throughout the year but most often in autumn.

Magpie: ↔

Common Resident.

Jackdaw: (610 – 31) ↔

Resident. Recorded throughout the year. 400 passed over Lytchett Heath on their way to roost on 12th Nov.

Rook: (185 – 31) ↗

Breeds on edge of recording area. 16 nests were found at the Watery Lane colony (11 – 25 nests 2010 – 2021).

Carrion Crow: (100 – 31) ↔

Common Resident. Breeds widely across the area.

Raven: (15 – 28) ↗

Uncommon but increasing. Recorded throughout the year, in particular during autumn. Max 15 on 4th Sep was a record count (previously 13 on 18th Nov 2020).

Coal Tit: ↗

Uncommon resident, increasing. Recorded from most sites across the calendar. 5 ringed.

Marsh Tit: (1 – 7)

Rare visitor. The 3rd record in 4 years. One was at Chad's Copse, Lytchett Bay View on 4th Nov (1B). Interesting that all three records have been in this part of the Bay.

Blue Tit: ↔

Common resident. 95 ringed.

Great Tit: ↔

Common resident. 37 ringed.

Bearded Tit: (40 – 31) ↗

Scarce breeder and uncommon passage migrant. The survey in 2019 found at least 4, and possibly 8, pairs east of the Sherford. Bred successfully but no survey undertaken, 8 juveniles ringed in July. Present around Lytchett Heath throughout the year. Max 16 on 8th Oct. 28 ringed.

Skylark: (781 - 31) ↔

Scarce breeder and passage migrant. Singing males were recorded in Mar - Jun but breeding success is unknown. 3+ were in the arable field throughout Jan and Feb. Autumn passage began on 3rd Oct and peaked with 40 on 18th Oct, 30 on 22nd Oct and 20 on 4th Nov. Very scarce in second winter period. Three ringed during Lytchett Fields nocturnal wader survey on 27th Feb.

Sand Martin: (5000 – 31) ↘

Common passage migrant. Recorded from 17th Mar until 24th Sep. Spring passage was again decent peaking at 130 on 1st May. Autumn was poor, no longer a surprise. Max 55 on 23rd Jul. 3 ringed.

Swallow: (1000 – 800 – 31) ↔

Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. Recorded from 26th Mar until 8th Nov. A good year. Spring migration peaked with 471 (through in 145 mins) on 1st May. 650 roosted on 19th Sep. 28 ringed.

House Martin: (1800 – 31) ↔

Common passage migrant, breeding colony on edge of recording area at Watery Lane. Present from 15th Apr until 2nd Oct. Max 150 on 4th Jul. An unusual date.

The colony at Watery Lane continues spread into Seaview Road and has extended into Slough Lane and Policeman's Lane, but numbers are not increasing. Hopefully the newly installed House Martin nest tower (see above) will prove attractive in 2023.

No of House Martin nests at the Watery Lane colony 2008 – 2022. No of nest collapsed or destroyed in brackets.

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
13	15	8	13	2	4	?	7	10	18	17	12	18	11	10
(8)	(5)	(7)	(4)	(0)	(1)		(3)	(4)	(?)	(?)	(4)	(-)	(-)	(-)

Cetti's Warbler: (11 males – 30) ↔

Breeding resident. At least 5 singing males in an almost complete survey (as 2021), less than half the peak population of 2007 & 2015. Sika deer grazing seems to be limiting habitat in the eastern end of the Bay. 8 juveniles were ringed in the breeding season. 29 ringed.

ANJ0474 - A male ringed at Haseley Manor, Arreton, Isle of Wight on 23rd Jul 2020 was re-trapped 645 days later on 29th Apr 2022 at Lytchett Bay. A W movement of 58 km. This individual first appeared at Lytchett Bay last year and was encountered on 5 occasions between 2nd May - 6th Oct 2021.

Long tailed Tit: ↗

Common resident. Regularly recorded from most sites at the Bay. 29 ringed.

LCK667 - An individual ringed on 7th Oct 2021 at Lytchett Heath was found dead 127 days later in another area of Lytchett Bay. A movement of 3 km.

Yellow-browed Warbler: (1 – 8)

10th & 11th records. One was around the arable field on 26th Oct (IB) and another was at Rock Lea View on 30th - 31st Oct (IB)

Willow Warbler: (60 – 31) ↔

Passage migrant. This species has been lost as a regular breeder. Recorded between 6th Apr & 3rd Oct. A now customary poor spring was followed by a reasonable autumn. Max 33 on 6th Aug. 117 ringed.

NVN246 - A first-winter ringed on 2nd Sep 2022 at Bardsey Island, UK was re-trapped 9 days later on 11th Sep at Lytchett Heath. A SE movement of 295 km.

LCN244 - A first-winter ringed on 10th Aug 2021 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped 361 days later on 6th Aug 2022 at Middleton NR, Lancashire, UK. A N movement of 372 km.

Chiffchaff: (142 – 31) ↗

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. No breeding survey was undertaken but the population seemed stable at 7 – 10 territories east of the Sherford found in 2019.

Typically singles were seen at Lytchett Bay View, Lytchett Fields, Sandy Close Pond occasionally in Jan & Feb. 3 on 12th Mar probably signaled the start of spring migration. Autumn migration excellent and judging by the number ringed, a record year by some margin. Peaks included 111 on 24th Sep & 91 on 28th Sep. All time site record of 419 ringed. A record-breaking 111 individuals were trapped and released at Lytchett Heath on 24th Sep.

LCK584 - A first-winter ringed on 12th Sep 2021 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped 226 days later on 26th Apr 2022 at Portland Bill, Dorset, UK. A SW movement of 37 km.

Siberian Chiffchaff: (1 - 10)

Very scarce migrant. 14th record. One was at Lytchett Way on 8th Mar.

Aquatic Warbler: (2 – 8)

9th & 10th records (involving 12 individuals). Recorded for the 3rd year in a row.

In early - mid Aug for the first time in many years a classic high pressure system over Europe drew warm south-easterly winds over southern Britain. On the 7th Aug we made a mistake in not going out and paid the price when one was caught 10km away at Longham Lakes.

The following weekend the weather again looked good. On the 12th we caught and ringed our first at Lytchett Heath since 1983 (JSP et al). The following day, 13th, we reverted to our preferred site at RSPB Lytchett Fields and caught two (ANG, SH, JSP, SR et al). All 3 birds were 1cy and none were seen after release.



Three Aquatic Warblers. Lytchett Heath bird followed by 1st and 2nd Lytchett Fields birds. All 1cy. © Shaun Robson

Overall 2022 was a much better year in the UK for this globally threatened species with birds recorded across Dorset, Cornwall, Devon, Gwent and Cork. Probably the best since 1997 (to be confirmed), demonstrating that with the right weather patterns southern Britain still lies within the species main migration corridor.

All previous records:

1983 – 1 on 22nd Aug trapped and ringed.

2005 – 1 heard singing on 16th Aug. This bird was never seen, it went silent and could not be located.

2011 – 1cy on 20th Aug trapped and ringed.

2012 – 2 x 1cy on 18th Aug trapped and ringed. Amazingly these birds were in the net next to each other and were presumably migrating together?

2014 – 2cy + on 25th Jul trapped and ringed. The earliest ever Dorset record. Adults migrate earlier than juveniles.

2016 – 1cy on 31st Aug – 1st Sep found in the field where it stayed until the following day, singing for a period on its second day. A 2-day stay is most unusual and the bird obviously found the wet rushy habitat to its liking.

2020 – 2cy+ on 12th Aug trapped and ringed. This bird was subsequently re-trapped in Spain on its migration south.

2021 – 1cy on 17th Aug trapped and ringed.

Sedge Warbler: (219 – 31) ↔

Passage migrant. Yet another desperate spring. Recorded on only 4 dates between 29th Apr & 14th May. Autumn passage was good. Commencing on 10th Jul and continuing to 8th Oct. Max 88 on 6th Aug. 533 ringed.

Four records of typical southbound migration movements within the same season.

AXL7945 - A juvenile ringed on 10th Aug 2021 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped 5 days later on 15th Aug 2021 at Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE. A S movement of 378 km.

Z807094 - A juvenile ringed on 5th Aug 2016 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped 5 days later on 10th Aug 2016 at Le Bonhomme, Saint-Philbert-de-Grand-Leiu, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE. A S movement of 407 km.

AYR4008 - A juvenile ringed on 17th Aug 2022 at Lytchett Fields was re-trapped 6 days later on 23rd Aug 2022 at Donges, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE. A S movement of 380 km.

AYR4971 - A juvenile ringed on 11th Aug 2022 at Lytchett Fields was re-trapped 7 days later on 18th Aug 2022 at Donges, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE. A S movement of 380 km.

One record of a bird re-trapped the following year on potential breeding grounds.

AJF5353 - A juvenile ringed on 29th Aug 2021 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped 290 days later on 15th Jun 2022 at Brockholes Quarry, Lancashire, UK. A N movement of 342 km.

Three records of birds re-trapped on subsequent migrations.

APR3520 - An adult ringed on 4th May 2022 at Teifi Marshes, Ceredigion, UK was re-trapped 85 days later on 28th July 2022 at Lytchett Fields. A SE movement of 234 km.

AXL6309 - An adult ringed on 1st Aug 2021 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped 355 days later on 22nd July 2022 at Aros Moss, Campbeltown, Argyll and Bute, UK. A NNW movement of 578 km.

AYR3162 - A juvenile ringed on 19th Aug 2021 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped 342 days later on 22nd Jul 2022 at Plaisance, Saint-Froult, Charente-Maritime, FRANCE. A S movement of 540 km.

One record of a bird “coasting” west before heading south to wintering grounds.

AKT9061 - A juvenile ringed on 10th Aug 2022 at Icklesham, East Sussex, UK was re-trapped 8 days later on 18th Aug 2022 at Lytchett Fields. A W movement of 192 km.

Reed Warbler: (107 males – 31) ↔

Common summer visitor. Present between 12th Apr and 24th Sep. 107 singing males were recorded in a full survey in 2019. 344 ringed, a record annual total, 17 up on 2021! Max 49 on 6th Aug.

One record of a bird re-trapped on subsequent migrations.

AXL6654 - A first-winter ringed on 13th Sep 2021 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped on 23rd Jun and 18th Jul 2022 (283 and 308 days later respectively) at Tidmoor, The Fleet, Dorset, UK. A WSW movement of 36 km.

Two records of typical southbound migration movements within the same season.

ABD4790 - A juvenile ringed on 26th Jul 2022 at Kenfig NNR, Bridgend, UK was re-trapped 56 days later on 20th Sep 2022 at Lytchett Heath. A SE movement of 149 km.

AYR3703 - A juvenile ringed on 22nd Jul 2022 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped 30 days later on 21st Aug 2022 at Cabanot, Audenge, Gironde, FRANCE. A S movement of 677 km.

A not untypical movement of a young bird seemingly going the “wrong way” in autumn.

AYR3906 - A juvenile ringed on 8th Aug 2022 at Lytchett Fields was re-trapped 3 days later on 11th Aug 2022 at Squire's Down, Dorset, UK. A NW movement of 35 km. Interestingly, **AJF5660** made exactly the same movement between these sites and on near identical dates in Aug 2020.

One record of a bird “coasting” east before heading south to wintering grounds.

AHZ5214 - A first-winter ringed on 10th Sep 2022 at Tidmoor, The Fleet, Dorset, UK was re-trapped 1 day later on 11th Sep 2022 at Lytchett Heath. An ENE movement of 36 km.

Grasshopper Warbler: (33 – 24) ↔

Passage migrant, predominantly in autumn. Under recorded. Bred in 1986.

No spring records. 59 bird-days between 23rd Jul & 20th Sep. 57 of which were ringed. Max 13 on 29th Aug.

Blackcap: (75 – 31) ↗

Passage migrant, summer visitor and scarce winter visitor. No breeding survey undertaken but population felt stable at 14 -18 territories found in 2019.

Seen regularly at Sandy Close Pond, Lytchett Way, Lytchett Bay View and Lytchett Fields in the first two months.

10 at one location on 13th Apr was the best day of spring. Autumn was again good with 50 on 11th Sep and 42 on 18th Sep. 188 ringed.

Garden Warbler: (7 – 29) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. 3 in spring, singles 22nd & 29th Apr at Sandy Close Pond and 23rd Apr at Lytchett Fields. 12 bird-days in autumn between 6th Jul – 3rd Sep. Max 3 on 31st Aug. 7 ringed.

Lesser Whitethroat: (3 – 26) ↔

Scarce passage migrant, which occasionally breeds or holds territory.

Poorest year since 2017. Singles on 13th May and 12th Sep. The last blank year was in 2012.

Whitethroat: (18 – 29) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. Bred in 2013. A poor year. 5 bird-days in spring between 22nd Apr - 4th May. In autumn, 19 bird-days between 10th Jul – 24th Sep. Max 5 on 31st Aug. 9 ringed.

Dartford Warbler: (2 pairs – 28)

1 pair present at Lytchett Heath, probably bred successfully. 2 ringed.

Firecrest: (9 – 19) ↗

Recent colonist, previously scarce migrant. Building on last year's first breeding record, it is thought that two pairs bred this year. Young were seen at one site in Jul and another pair were present throughout the breeding season.

In addition to this, birds were found much more easily than in recent years and recorded in every month. At least 9 on 18th Oct was a record count for the Bay. 3 ringed.

Goldcrest: (27 – 31) ↔

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. Present during the breeding season at Lytchett Fields. Autumn migration was better than recent years. Max 13 on 14th Oct. Widespread but only in small numbers during both winter periods. A record-breaking 45 individuals were ringed. Notable ringing totals included 12 and 13 (8th & 14th Oct respectively), marking the second and third highest counts for the site.

Wren: ↔

Common resident. 22 ringed

Nuthatch: ↔

Uncommon. Seen occasionally throughout the year from sites stretching from Lytchett Fields to Sandy Close Pond, seen frequently in the summer and autumn.

Treecreeper: ↔

Scarce resident. Recorded occasionally across the year from Lytchett Way to Kingsbridge. Probably present throughout but the population is obviously small.

Starling: (35000 – 5600 – 31) ↔

Common resident. 250 on 5th Feb was the only notable count submitted. 3 ringed.

Song Thrush: (1256 – 31) ↔

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Estimated population 11 pairs. No diurnal migration witnessed. 12 ringed.

Mistle Thrush: (60 - 20 – 31) ↔

Uncommon resident. 1 pr present throughout the spring at Lytchett Fields, probably bred. There were records throughout the year. Max 5 on 13th Sep & 6 on 18th Oct at Lytchett Fields.

Redwing: (1000 – 514 – 31) ↔

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded until 9th Apr and from 22nd Sep (our earliest return date, previously 28th Sep 2007) - both noc-mig.

A regular flock around Lytchett Fields in the first two months peaked at 40. Noc-mig recordings were frequent at Lytchett Way peaking with 157 - between 21:00 hrs and 05:37 hrs on 30th - 31st Mar.

Diurnal migration included 307 at Lytchett Fields on 20th Oct, with 190 there the next day. On the night of 19th – 20th Oct 734 contact calls were recorded at Lytchett Way. 3 ringed.

Blackbird: (45 – 31) ↔

Common Resident. No significant records submitted. 15 ringed.

LL20965 - A juvenile male ringed on 14th Aug 2021 at Lytchett Heath was found dead 230 days later on 1st Apr 2022 at Upton, Dorset, UK. A N movement of 2 km.

LE75928 - A juvenile male ringed on 13th Jul 2016 at Lytchett Heath was found dead 2,017 days later on 20th Jan 2022 at a garden in Upton, Dorset, UK. A N movement of 2 km. Remarks: Hit shed window.

Fieldfare: (559 – 31) ↘

Uncommon winter visitor. This attractive thrush becomes scarcer year on year. There were no records until 20 on 21st Oct. After which it remained scarce. 59 on 12th Nov was the only notable count.

Ring Ouzel: (3 – 13)

Rare migrant. 1 was seen at Lytchett Fields on 20th Oct. 1+ was sound recorded at the Lytchett Way listening station on 29th Sep.

Spotted Flycatcher: (8 – 6 – 31) ↘

Passage migrant, previously bred. In spring single on 15th May at Sandy Close Pond and 16th May at Lytchett Fields. 20 bird-days in autumn, a decent number, between 21st Aug & 13th Sep. Max 5 on 12th Sep at Lytchett Fields. 1 ringed, first ringing record since 2016.

Robin: ↔

Common resident. 19 ringed.

Black Redstart: (1 – 8)

Rare visitor. First record since 2019. 1 at Lytchett Fields on 11th Apr was the only record (IB).

Common Redstart: (2 – 25) ↔

Scarce autumn migrant. Spring records are always good - 1 on 27th Apr. 5 in autumn between 12th Aug - 16th Sep. 2 ringed.

Whinchat: (11 – 29) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. 1 on 22nd Apr at Turlin Moor. 27 bird-days in autumn between 15th Aug – 18th Sep was very respectable. Max 3 on 12th Sep

Stonechat: (23 – 31) ↗

Returning breeding resident (7 pairs in 2002). We never understood why this species disappeared as a breeding species in 2006 and now we don't understand why they are coming back. After a gap of 12 years, they bred again in 2018 and each year since. Surprisingly given recent events only 1 pair. Breeding success unknown.

Present in every month of the year and recorded at a wide range of sites around the bay. Max 12 on 10th Aug. 8 ringed.

Northern Wheatear: (39 – 31) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. Almost every record of this species occurs in the north-west of the recording area. Short grass habitat preferred by this species has declined in recent years.

35 bird-days in spring from 31st Mar – 4th Jun. Max 7 on 25th Apr.

14 bird-days between 25th Aug – 15th Sep. Max 5 on 9th Sep, unusually including 2 at Turlin Moor.

House Sparrow: (101++ – 31) ↔

Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe, seems to be doing well in many areas around the Bay. No additional effort was made to follow up on the 6 roosts identified at the end of 2017. No significant counts submitted. 9 ringed.

Dunnock: ↔

Common resident. 12 ringed.

Yellow Wagtail: (150 – 31) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. 3 spring records between 15th – 25th Apr. Max 8 on 23rd. Autumn migration was average with only 163 bird-days between 13th Jul - 10th Oct. Max 20 on 14th Sep. Almost exclusively at Lytchett Fields.



Brambling was a popular attraction at the feeding station (© Peter Moore). Song Thrush, alert formation and good light. Firecrest always a joy but never easy to photograph

as ever (© Peter Corbin) Wheatear giving © Ian Ballam the stare. Starlings posing in (both © Ian Ballam)



Grey Wagtail: (15 – 31) ↔

Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Records in every month. Presence at Lytchett Fields in the breeding season suggested that a pair bred. Max 4 on 9th Aug. 4 ringed.

Pied Wagtail: (650 – 31) ↔

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully. Spring peak at Lytchett Fields, 92 on 12th Mar. Birds roost at various points around the Bay during peak migration in October. No roost surveys conducted this year. 74 ringed.

White Wagtail: Scarce migrant. Even better than last year. 14 bird-days between 24th Mar & 8th Apr. Max 8 on 4th Apr – no doubt a record count for this race. All at Lytchett Fields.



Wagtails looking their best in spring. A fine comparison of male Pied and White Wagtails © Mark Wright

Meadow Pipit: (460 – 31) ↔

Historic breeder, now common passage migrant and winter visitor. Up to 47 spread around the Bay in Jan. First returning bird on 26th Jul. Max in autumn 120 on 24th Sep. A record-breaking 106 individuals were ringed.

ACN7886 - A first-winter was ringed on 18th Sep 2021 at Forest of Dean, UK was re-trapped 377 days later on 30th Sep 2022 at Lytchett Fields. A SSE movement of 125 km.

Tree Pipit: (18 – 27) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. A dreadful year. No spring records and only 9 bird-days in Autumn between 21st Aug - 11th Sep, max 5 on 27th Aug. 3 ringed.

Water Pipit: (20 – 25)

Scarce winter visitor. Records have returned to the previous levels since the creation of Lytchett Fields. A reasonable year with records on 50 dates (Likely that birds were present throughout the winter). Present until 1st Apr, max 3 on several dates. The first returning bird for the second autumn was the welcome appearance of "1k" (see below) on 10th Oct. After which birds were encountered regularly until the year end. Max 3 on 14th Nov.

Four individuals ringed and colour marked as part of a national project. A total of 15 birds have now been colour-marked at Lytchett Bay since Nov 2020!

1K (yellow ring) - A first-winter ringed at Lytchett Bay on 7th Nov 2020 remained until 4th Feb & returned for a third consecutive season on 10th Oct. It was then present throughout the winter.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit: (50 – 31) ↔

Common winter visitor. All Rock Pipits at Lytchett Bay are considered to be from Scandinavia of the race *littoralis*. Recorded until 27th Feb and from 16th Sep, earliest return date (previously 9th Oct 1992). Up to 13 thought to be present in first winter period.

12 individuals ringed and colour marked, bringing the overall project total to 42 birds. Surely a Scandinavian recovery is just around the corner?!



Left - Water Pipit (3V) and Right - Rock Pipit (CK) in the hand before release © Joe Parker

Chaffinch: (450 – 31) ⇄

Breeding resident and winter visitor. No significant counts submitted. 1 ringed

Brambling: (10 – 26)

Scarce winter visitor. An excellent set of records, the best for many years. The Lytchett Fields feeding station attracted birds between 4th Feb & 31st Mar (joint latest date with 1994), with at least 47 bird-days. 3 males were present on 1st Mar and 2 females on 14th Mar. The turnover of individuals was significant.

There were no records in the second half of the year.

Hawfinch: (2 – 5)

Rare visitor. Recorded for the 3rd year in a row, and this year's birds was actually seen!

One flew over the Approach Field on 26th Apr (IB).

Bullfinch: (20 – 31) ⇄

Uncommon, recent increases now seem to be reversing and this species was a less obvious this year. Most records came from the eastern end of the recording area. Breeding proven near Sandy Close Pond where a juvenile seen in early Aug. Max 5 at Lytchett Bay View in Jan. 8 ringed.

Greenfinch: (60 – 31) ⇄

Uncommon breeding resident, which has declined due to on-going Trichomoniasis disease in the population. This arrived in late summer 2006 and has had a severe impact on English Greenfinch populations. Bred widely in small numbers and the small signs of a recovery first noted in 2020 continued. Seen widely around the Bay with groups of between 10 – 15. 12 ringed.

TX40418 - A first-summer male was ringed on 1st Jul 2017 at Lytchett Heath and was found 1806 days later on 11th Jun 2022 at Lytchett Minster, Dorset, UK. A NW movement of 3 km. The bird appeared in poor condition but recovered and was not seen later.

Linnet: (250 – 31) ⇄

Uncommon breeding resident. Probably bred at Lytchett Fields. The arable field proved very attractive in both winter periods. Up to 107 used the field into mid-Mar. Visible passage was noted in spring with 35N on 25th & 39n on 28th Apr. Flocks arrived in the arable field in Jul and built to 125 by Oct remaining until the year end. 9 ringed.

Lesser Redpoll: (40 – 25) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. After 2 excellent years this was a terrible one. Up to 2 at Lytchett Way from 16th - 18th Jan. 1 on 14th Aug. The only records of the year.

A YR4549 - A first-winter male ringed on 13th Nov 2021 at Lytchett Heath was re-trapped on 5th and 12th Mar 2022 (112 and 119 days later respectively) at Blashford Lake Centre, Hampshire, UK. A NE movement of 25 km.

Crossbill: (21 – 16)

Scarce passage migrant. A typical year. An unseen flock flew SW on 1st Jul at Lytchett Fields, 4 over there on 23rd Jul & 1 at Lytchett Way on 27th Aug.

Goldfinch: (120 – 31) ↔

Common breeding resident and passage migrant. Notable counts included 70 at Lytchett Fields on 19th Aug, 50 on Turlin Moor on 15th Sep, 50 at Lytchett Way on 4th Jan. 8 ringed.

Siskin: (280 – 28) ↔

Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the year in small numbers. Probably bred at Lytchett Heath. Max 16 on 19th Oct at Lytchett Bay View.

Yellowhammer: (13 – 20)

Extinct breeding species. Scarce passage visitor. Singles on 11th Feb, 11th Apr and 29th Sep at Lytchett Fields were the only records of the year.

Reed Bunting: (110 – 31) ↔

Breeding resident, c23 prs found in 2019 survey. Regularly seen at Lytchett Fields and Sandy Close Pond feeding stations. 64 ringed.

A YR4523 - A first-winter male ringed at Lytchett Heath on 13th Nov 2021 was found dead 132 days later on 25th Mar 2022 at Wimborne Minster, Dorset, UK. A NNE movement of 8 km. Remarks from finder: Hit patio window whilst being chased by Sparrowhawk.

Records received from: I.Ballam (IB), M.Constantine, Mo Constantine, A.Collyer, A.Copeland, P.Corbin, T.Elborn, P. Forest, D.Foster, T.Furnell (TF), R.Gifford, R.Goad, A.N. Gould (ANG), S.Haggett (SH), P.V.Harvey (PVH), G.Hayman, M&L Highfield, C Hilder, F.Hockey, J.Hull, N.Hull, S.Isherwood-Harris, P.Kirby (PK), L.Lambert, S.G.Levy, I.M.Lewis, B.Maxted, G.Moors, P.Morton, N.Mudge, G.Owen, J.S.Parker (JSP), R.Pitts (RP), S.Robson (SR), R.Stephenson (RS), P.Sutton (PS), P.Swann, A.Taylor, C.Walker (CW), S.Walls, J. Westacott, L.Westacott, D.White (DW), G.White, N Whitehouse, M.Wood, L.Woodford, C.Wilcox, M.Wright. With additional information from Bird Track, e-Bird, Birds of Poole Harbour, Rare Bird Alert and the Dorset Bird Club. Apologies for any omissions.



Evening gulls at low tide with setting sun against Turlin Moor © Ian Ballam

Appendix 1 – Finders accounts

Tundra Bean Geese, 29th - 30th Jan 2022 – Ian Ballam

The 29th January was a nice and bright winters day at Lytchett and as it was almost the end of the month my thoughts were focused on trying to get 100 species on my Lytchett list in January for the 1st time ever. I was on 99 so I decided my best bet would be to try for Siskin. I am a volunteer for the RSPB at Lytchett Fields and decided to combine my search with checking the latest state of the breaches in the seawall following recent high tides. I walked behind French's Pools and kept an eye on the sky from Oak Copse towards Holton Lee. I watched for about 30 minutes with no luck and with not much of anything visibly moving I started to head back.



As I walked along the sea wall that runs behind the reeds fringing the eastern shore of the bay I noticed 3 "grey" geese flying towards me fairly high from the direction of the Baker's Arms . I got my bins on to them just as they were passing me but I couldn't positively ID them except to say they were not Greylags , they continued past me heading off over the bay. I thought I had blown my chance, no ID and I also hadn't tried to get a record shot, but wait they were turning and yes they're heading straight back towards me. This time I decided to try and get some pictures. I fired off as many shots as I could as they flew past me. They continued on but were visibly losing height towards the fields, they circled a couple of times and came down on French's Pool. I quickly got my scope on them, they were distant but I was now thinking they were 3 Tundra Bean Geese, presumably the 3 that had been at nearby Upton Country Park at the turn of the year. Odd as they had reportedly relocated to Cornwall for the last couple of weeks?

I got the news out that I had possible Tundra Bean Geese at the fields but still needed to definitely ID them. I high footed it round to the Approach Field to get better views and met a couple of "harbour listers" who had already arrived. The views from here confirmed the ID as Tundra Bean Geese, a first record for Lytchett! They remained on the fields for the rest of the day allowing a number of people to see them.

2 birds were in Whimbrel Field the next morning. Unfortunately wildfowlers were also at Lytchett that morning and as the first shots rang out the 2 remaining birds were spooked and flew. I saw them a couple of times later in the morning circling the bay but they never landed on site again.

Bonaparte's Gull, 9th – 10th Feb 2022 – Shaun Robson

On the afternoon of 9th February I headed to the Bay hoping the tide would be right for gulls. Arrived at 4pm and the tide was perfect. Lots of gulls. Interestingly, 20 Meds mostly very close to the viewpoint. All very enjoyable but despite there being nearly 1500 BHG there was overall little variety.

Then at 16:45 my eye settled on a bird with a strong deep grey shawl on the hindneck and nape. "Wow that's distinctive". It was about 250m away but with scope zoomed the views weren't too bad. The bill looked all dark but not particularly short. The bird overall was may-be a little smaller than BHG but not massively so. It kept preening but I could not see the underwing. It was an adult. Was the ear spot that obvious? Before I had time to look again it was off. Flying directly away, low. No chance of seeing the underwing. Then it briefly dropped its legs – pale pink! Thinking for a moment that it would do the decent thing and land, I had it in the scope. Then it rose and flew directly off over Otter Island. With the Black-heads it looked a little smaller and the black edge to the P's was very sharp. Total viewing time may be 45 seconds. I was speechless. This was my 31st year here and I'd always hoped for a Bonaparte's, now this!

I rang Paul Morton, more out of frustration than anything else! He informed that a good number of BHG's had been roosting off Hamworthy Park. A good bet, I drove straight down but by the time I got there the light was going and the birds were a little way offshore. It was hard enough to pick out Med's.

I returned to the car confident in what I had seen but knowing that without seeing the bird again, and in particular the underwing, the record would go nowhere.

I called Paul Harvey, who was visiting family in Upton and a keen ex-patcher, and Ian Ballam and told them what I had seen. We hatched a plan to look the following afternoon when hopefully the bird would return to the pre-roost.

On the 10th February, Ian and I were working for the RSPB doing some brush cutting of a path. During a break just before 11am I received a call from Paul. "Shaun, I have got your bird, it is a Bonaparte's!". With no further ado Ian and I were stumbling across the reserve as fast as we could to reach Paul 1km away. Thankfully when we arrived it was still on view feeding in the Bay. It turned out that Paul had found it at 10:20 and rung us 3 previous times without reply!!

The bird was in the bay with a half neap tide giving a nice mix of mud and water. It remained at a distance of 300 - 700m over the next 2 hours. At one point the whole flock was flushed by a Red Kite but we soon relocated it on the water feeding with hundreds of BHG.

The following description was taken. Full Ad winter plumage.

Most striking feature is the strong grey shawl on the hind neck spreading on to the breast sides. This was the same colour as the upperparts, and contrasts strongly with the white fore-neck. The upperparts were a couple of shades darker than the nearby BHG's when examined closely at the same angle. On the several occasions when it needed to be relocated it was best picked out by the grey nape and shawl and the fact that this merged into the mantle - lacking the stark contrast between the white lower neck and grey mantle of the BHG.

The ear spot was more-clear today. Larger than the eye and isolated. From side and front views, the crown and face were white, lacking the vertical dark bars of BHG but from the rear there was more of an apparent dark band across the upper nape, this was not apparent from any other angle and may have just been due to the feather contours?

The bill was confirmed to be black and more-slender than BHG. However it was not short, looking longer than anticipated but spiky – some references suggest that this means that the bird is likely to be a male.

The size of the bird was near to, but not as big as, BHG. However it was a lighter more dainty bird with a smaller head and thinner neck. Its rear end also seemed less full in the area of the vent, again contributing to a lighter appearance – typically Phalarope like with its upright neck and fast surface pecking and dipping.

In flight the clear white translucent under primaries could be seen with the sharp black trailing edge neatly defined. When flying among a flock of BHG the whiteness of the underwing was eye catching and the bird stood out easily from the flock.

One one occasion the bird walked out on to the mud partially revealing its legs, tibia and upper tarsus. These were pale pink as expected and as briefly glimpsed the night before.

Other observers arrived as soon as the news was broadcast. Despite never coming close Steve W Smith managed a couple of record shots. Paul and Steve left the site at around 13:00.

Paul and I returned at around 15:30 and were joined by other observers. There were 3000+ BHG present and we did not relocate the bird. A local news group report suggested that it flew off at 15:00. Despite considerable searching it was not seen again in the following days.



A bird's eye view for any approaching migrant from the south. Otter Island on the left, South Haven on the right © Andrew Francis

Appendix 2 – Bird ringing at Lytchett Bay 2022

Species	# ringed	# subsequent encounters re-trap / controls
Teal	1	0
Nightjar	4	0
Woodpigeon	1	0
Water Rail	1	0
Lapwing	1	0
Dunlin	1	0
Woodcock	1	0
Jack Snipe	10	2
Snipe	3	0
Common Sandpiper	3	0
Kingfisher	11	3
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	0
Kestrel	1	0
Coal Tit	5	2
Blue Tit	95	37
Great Tit	37	5
Bearded Tit	28	11
Skylark	3	0
Sand Martin	3	0
Swallow	28	0
Cetti's Warbler	29	18
Long-tailed Tit	29	10
Willow Warbler	117	3
Chiffchaff	419	2
Aquatic Warbler	3	0
Sedge Warbler	533	7
Reed Warbler	344	57
Grasshopper Warbler	57	0
Blackcap	188	1

Lytchett Bay

Non-Avian Wildlife Report



Striped Hawk-moth © Nick Hull
Short-winged Conehead © Paul Swann
Wall Brown © Ian Ballam
Sallow Clearwing © Ian Ballam

This past year seems to be a year of getting back to normal and as always recording the wildlife within the Lytchett Bay recording area has continued. It always amazes me, though it shouldn't, how we continue to record new species. This year there has been 1,101 records added to the database recording 548 species, with records coming from most areas around the bay. Of the 548 species 55 species have designations of one kind or other and of these 8 species are designated as threatened. We have recorded 123 species for the first time, 33 moths, 29 flies, 20 beetles, 12 spiders, 11 bug sp. 7 bee sp, 6 Sawfly, 4 Wasp & 1 Cricket.

If you haven't submitted your sightings but would like to it's never too late, you can e-mail me Nick Hull at nickh4142@gmail.com or you can post sightings and photographs on the Lytchett Bay Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2469123376495268> or tweet to Lytchett Bay Nature @LytchettP it's getting so easy to let us know what you're seeing. The more we know about the patch and its wildlife, no matter how small, it is valuable to keep Lytchett Bay and its heathland, fields and green space for us all to enjoy whatever your interest.

I have to thank the following contributors for their contributions and records in no particular order: Shaun Robson, Marie Smith, Ian Ballam, Jackie Hull, David Foster, Paul Morton, Liz Woodford, Martin Wood, Ian Lewis, Joe Parker, Alison Copland, Stephen Smith, John Westacott, Colin Lamont, Lyn Lambert, Frazer Hockey, Paul Swann, Jem Bee, Wayne Copperthwaite and Denise Cuthbert. Hopefully I haven't left anyone out. I apologise now if I have.

I also like to thank the following people for their help in verifying identification of various species groups. Tony Allen (Beetles); Jez Martin (Spiders); Paul Harris and Phil Sterling (Moths) and members from Dorset Bat Group, Diptera, Hoverfly and various experts from BWARS (Bees Wasps & Ants) FaceBook groups and Britain Arachnid Society & Steven Falk via Twitter; whose help has been invaluable with identifying and advise on some of the more difficult and rare species of bee.

A number of species listed in the species account may have 'agg' written next to the name, this means for a definitive identification the species requires to be dissected to determine the species. I do not 'gen-det' as we do not believe in killing something that has a purpose on this earth and it should be able to fulfil that purpose before it dies. If I find a dead specimen, I have no problem in carrying out any procedure to find a definitive identification. There may come a time where one or two species may have to be collected to prove identification. If work is required for their conservation, we would need to know their exact species in order to manage their habit correctly.

This year I've included the species designation for those that have them. The designations are explained on page 68.

Thank you, Nick Hull

Photograph Acknowledgements

Big thank you to all who have allowed me to use their photographs in this report. Unless stated otherwise all photographs are copyright of the individual photographer.

Mammals

This group changes very little from year to year. Sika Deer are our commonest along with Fox, Grey Squirrel, Rabbit, Rat, Wood Mouse, Hedgehog and Mole. The mustelids Otter, Stoat, Weasel and Badger are much scarcer in fact only Otter was recorded this year. Pipistrelle Bat is the only species that gets recorded annually and the only species recorded / reported in 2022. Though we know there are other species of bat that have been recorded in the area in previous years.

Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* - UK(2007); NERC (2006)S41

Hedgehog are still regularly seen in around the gardens south of Sandy Lane and the Upton Hedgehog Group are always keen to receive your sighting of live and of road casualties as it adds to the data of their distribution within Upton and surrounding area. My first Hedgehog I recorded on the night of 4th April snuffling around the back garden.

Otter *Lutra lutra* - (Hab (1992); HR (2010); W&C(1981); UK(2007); NERC (2006)S41; Near Threatened-GB

Only a single record this year with one seen at Kingsbridge by Ian Ballam on 26th February.

Reptiles & Amphibians

No surveys took part this year but I have received many casual records from visitors, many of seeing Adder along the Lytchett Fields boundary and also Sand Lizard on Lytchett Heath. The only Frog and Palmate Newt records came from my own pond, though there were no signs of spawn this year. Toad still remains a bit of a mystery species and only a single casual record was received from a neighbour.



Male Adder © Ian Ballam



Male Sand Lizard © Ian Ballam

If you live in the boundary of the Lytchett Bay recording area and have a pond or see any reptile or amphibian in your garden or on a walk please let me know as all data is useful. All you need to record is species, location, date and time and drop me an email. If you aren't sure of the id take a phone shot and send it to me it can't be simpler.

Adder *Vipera berus* - (W&C (1981); UK(2007); NERC(2006)S41)

The first record was from the Approach Field on the 27th February of two freshly emerged males and animals were reported regularly until around the 19th March the highest count appears to be five, possibly six, individual males and possibly a female. I say possibly as it had all the attributes of a female but appeared very early and females tend to emerge later than the males but the individual had one main feature the end of the tail was missing so it will be interesting to see if it reappears in 2023.

I have one small request, if you are visiting the fields and looking for the Adders please keep at least 3m from the hedge-line and view with binoculars. It is very important not to disturb the adders as they need to absorb as much of the sun's UV to get them to be fit and healthy for breeding and to slough (shed their skin), continued disturbance can affect this and ultimately will drive them away.

Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis* - (Hab (1992); HR (2010); W&C (1981); UK (2007); NERC (2006)S41)

Our first Sand Lizard was noted on the 19th March on Lytchett Heath and around ten individual males were

seen and three females at different locations around the heath no doubt there are more. It is good to know our small population appears to be doing ok and holding their own on this remnant piece of heathland.

Common Lizard *Zootoca (Lacerta) vivipara* - (W&C (1981); UK (2007); NERC (2006)S41)

Only two records this year of three individuals it's hard to know how this species is doing other than to say they are still present in what appears to be dangerously low numbers. This is another species if you live in the Lytchett Bay recording area and have Common Lizards, in your garden we would love to hear from you.

Odonata - Dragonflies and Damselflies

Ian Ballam managed a new addition to our list bringing our total to 29 species. Otherwise we only recorded 9 species in 2022. After such a good year in 2021 this is the poorest year for Odonata since we began recording in 2014. It can only be, the very wet cold spring and then the hot summer wasn't to their liking and it remains to be seen if they spring back in 2023.

Norfolk Hawker *Aeshna isoceles* - W&C(1981); UK(2007); NERC(2006)S41; Endangered-GB

Seen by Ian Ballam in the New Pools area on 4th July. This species is also known as the Green-eyed Hawker for obvious reasons and is known mainly from East Anglian but in recent years it has been regularly seen at Radipole Lake where it appears to be breeding. There have been sightings at various other sites in the Weymouth area. The habitat of Lytchett Bay being saltmarsh isn't ideal for this species as they prefer fresh water so this was most likely a migrant or an exploring individual.

Scarce Chaser *Libellula fulva* - (Near Threatened-GB)

Ian Ballam came across this species whilst exploring Lytchett Heath on 14th May. This is the fifth year in succession that we have recorded this nationally scarce species. I think it's likely that we have a small breeding population which I hope will grow.

Keeled Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*

This is a species that we have recorded since we started recording in 2014 and this is the first year that we haven't recorded any which is a tad worrying.

Orthoptera & Allied Insects - Grasshoppers, Crickets, Earwigs, Cockroaches, Stick insects & Mantids.

Of the fifteen species that we have recorded only six have been reported this year. Field Grasshopper *Chorhippus brunneus* and Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*, Oak Bush-cricket *Meconema thalassinum*, Roesel's Bush-cricket *Metrioptera roeselii*, Dark Bush-cricket *Pholidoptera griseoaptera* and a new species Short-winged Conehead *Conocephalus dorsalis*.



Scarce Chaser © Ian Ballam

Short-winged Conehead *Conocephalus dorsalis* - (Notable in Dorset) (See front cover)

This is a species that both Ian and myself have thought we had found in the past but could get a good photograph of or indeed catch to prove that it was indeed this species. This year Paul Swann managed to photograph one in the approach field hedge on 20th July, an excellent record confirming what we have suspected for a few years.

Hemiptera - Bugs

Three Shieldbug and one Mirid species of the thirteen recorded this year were new and added to the 53 we have already recorded in the area. I'm sure there are many more out there waiting to be found.

Pied Shieldbug *Tritomegas bicolor*

This will be our 15th species of shieldbug recorded for the Lytchett area. Found by Paul Swann along Slough Lane 31st March.

At 5.5-7.5 mm in length this is a distinctively marked black and white shieldbug which is unmistakable as an adult. Like other members of



Pied Shieldbug © Paul Swann

this family, it is a ground-dwelling species, but may be found feeding on the aerial parts of the main host plants. The sexes can vary considerably in size.

Common Flower Bug *Antholoris nemorum*

Recorded on 29th July on Lytchett Heath. This is probably one of the most common on the Anthocoridae and can be found across the UK. They are a predatory species and can be found on almost any plant but preferring lower vegetation to trees.

Miridae Bugs

Stripe-legged Nettle Bug *Plagionathus arbustorum*

Recorded on the 18th of June in the Approach Field and is a common species throughout Britain on a range of plants particularly nettles.

Dryophilocoris flavoquadrimaculatus

Recorded on the 16th May on Lytchett Heath. This species main habitat is Oak and commonly found during Spring throughout Britain.

Deraeocoris flavilinea

Found in the Approach Field on 19th June, this species was first found in the UK in 1996, and now is reported to be established and common across south central Britain. The host plants for this species are Sycamore and Field Maple. Although they are frequently found on other trees and shrubs.

Nabidae Bugs

Marsh Damsel Bug *Nabis limbatus*

Found on the 23rd July on Lytchett Heath. This is a species that is usually found in damp grassland and marshy and wet meadow areas. They are widespread in the UK.

Tingidae Bugs

Spear Thistle Lacebug *Tingis cardui*

Recorded 13th May near the Green Sandpiper Pool. This is a common species throughout Britain and found mostly on Spear Thistle. They overwinter as adults and lay in spring and early summer. The new adult generation is complete from July onwards.

Stenopsocidae Bug

Narrow Barklice *Graphopsolus cruciatus*

Recorded on the 16th May in the Quoins Fields. This is a species that is found on a wide range of trees and shrubs and other microhabitats. They can be found all year though scarcer in winter. They are common and widespread in Britain.

Mirid Bug *Lygus pratensis* - (Nationally Rare)

This individual I found in my moth trap on the 28th August and I hadn't realised until writing this that it is a nationally rare species. A really nice species to add to the garden list as well as the Lytchett Bay recording area.



Lygus pratensis © Nick Hull

Coleoptera – Beetles

We have recorded 56 species of beetle in 2022 of which 36 have been recorded for the first time, bringing our total to 114 species.

Abax parallelepipedus

Quite a common species throughout Britain which was found on the road by the sewage work at the end of Slough Lane on the 14th February. This is a large ground beetle species measuring between 17-22mm which is usually found under logs in woods and on damp moorland.

Striped Flea Beetle *Phyllotreta striolata*

Found on the 23rd May near the Sherford River. This species is usually found in various habitats on various wild and cultivated brassicaceae. They overwinter as adults and have been known to cause crop damage.

Common Sexton beetle *Nicrophorus vespilloides*

Recorded 29th July on Lytchett Heath is the fifth species of burying/Sexton beetles we have recorded in the Lytchett Bay recording area. This black and orange/yellow banded species is widespread over Britain and Northern Ireland.

Rose Stem Girdler *Agrilus cuprescens*

Recorded on Lytchett Heath on 10th June. Also known Blackberry and Raspberry-Rose Stem Girdler and are a pest species on *Rosa* and *Rubus* spp. There seem to be very few recorded in the UK and little information is available.

***Ampedus sanguinolentus* - (Nationally Scarce, Notable A)**

This was a really nice find by Ian Ballam on Lytchett Heath on 30th April. The typical habitats are damp lowland and low-mountain deciduous forests, wooded river valleys and acid heath and moorland with suitable host-material; in the UK it is generally a species of ancient deciduous woodland and acid heaths 'chiefly at the roots of heather'. Host plants include various deciduous trees but especially oaks, alders, lime and birch; in the UK it is usually associated with birch but it has been recorded under oak bark in the New Forest.



Ampedus sanguinolentus © Ian Ballam

Aphodius rufipes

This is a 9-13mm dung beetle found in my moth trap on 28th August. It is a widespread species in Britain which is often found in gardens, pony paddocks etc. It is a very regular visitor to gardens. Although feeding in cow or horse dung, these beetles fly great distances at night to find new food sources, and regularly turn up around outside lights in gardens, well into towns away from potential sources of food.

Cantharis pallida

This is a species that is widespread and fairly common in Britain, which I almost certainly have caught before. These orangey coloured soldier beetles look very alike and need someone with more expertise than myself to identify them. As I found this one deceased in my moth trap on the 19th July, I sent it to Tony Allen, a friend who is very experienced in identifying beetles who was able to identify it with certainty. Making this the sixth *Cantharis* species we have recorded in the area.

Cantharis pellucida

Recorded 13th May near the Green Sandpiper Pool. This is a species of soldier beetle that can be found in meadows and on hedgerows and frequently found on the umbellifers and flowers where they feed on both nectar and pollen and predate other insects. They are found throughout Britain.

Cerapheles terminatus

Found near the Black Pipe on 17th May. As with others in the Malachiidae which are small to medium sized beetles. Which are often found on flowers though this species is one of three which are associated with wetlands and considered local and rare in the South of Britain.

Rosemary Beetle *Chrysolina americana*

This one was found by my Grandson on our Lavender on 2nd September. This is a very attractive metallic green beetle with purple bronze stripes measuring around 5-8mm. Despite its name 'americana' it is a native and common species in Southern Europe, North Africa and the Near East and Middle East. Which has become an established pest in Britain since the 1990's. They can usually be found on Rosemary, Lavender, Thyme, Sage and some other related plants.



Chrysolina americana © Nick Hull

Weevil *Curculio glandium*

I often catch weevil in my moth trap and this year I caught several on the 7th August and thanks to a friend who passed on to me a small microscope, I've been able to identify this species from its very similar relative *C. nucum*. They are a relatively common species in Southern Britain which lives in Oak trees where the female uses the long rostrum (snout) to bore into the centre of an acorn to lay her egg. The larva feeds within the acorn and eventually bores its way out. The larvae are short, and cylindrical in shape, and move by means of ridges on the underside of the body.

Strawberry-root Weevil *Otiorhynchus ovatus*

Found in the moth trap on 19th July. This is a weevil of around 4.5-5mm which is a native species to Eurasia which is also common in North America. They have a single generation per year and overwinter as larvae or as an adult in the soil or leaf litter. The Larvae live in the soil and feed continuously on the roots of seedlings. The adults feed at night on leaves and berries of herbaceous plants including Strawberries.

Weevil *Exapion ulicis*

This is another newly identified weevil species for the area found by Ian Ballam on Lytchett Heath on 26th March. They are relatively small weevils at 2-3mm in length. The adult weevil is light grey in colour with the female having a long rostrum half as long as its body. The male's rostrum is only about as long as the pronotum, and shorter than the antennae. They can be found in gorse in spring and summer and are a fairly widespread species in England and Wales.

Dasytes aeratus

This is another species found in my moth trap on 19th July. They are a small 5mm grey-black and hairy beetle which are a fairly widespread species in Britain and can often be found visiting flowers in late spring and summer.

Tumbling Flower Beetle *Mordellochroa abdominalis*

Found by the Sherford River on 23rd May. To be seen on umbellifers such as Cow Parsley and Hogweed, especially in shady, well wooded areas. Widespread in much of England and fairly frequent in some areas.

Rove Beetle *Atheta (Mocyta) orbata*

Found in my moth trap this very small staph beetle is fairly common across England and Wales. Though very little is known about it.

Rove Beetle *Philonthus cognatus*

Found in my moth trap this small staph beetle is common and widespread in Britain. Often found in semi-natural habitats with damp soils, such as open woodland and heath grassland.

Dung Beetle *Aphodius rufipes*

Found in my moth trap on 28th August. This is a species that is widespread and common in Britain. They are often a common visitor to gardens and animal paddocks with cattle and horses as both adult and larvae feed on the dung. They can also be found in town gardens attracted by the lights. Their peak period is in late summer and autumn.

Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus* - (Hab(1992); W&C(1981); UK(2007); NERC(2006)S41; Nationally Scarce; Notable B)

Several were observed by a neighbour emerging from a dead wood pile in her garden over several days around the 21st May. Unfortunately she couldn't remember the precise dates. This species was last recorded in the area in 2016 and 2017 so is an excellent record confirming they are still present within the Lytchett Bay recording area. Stag Beetles are Britain's largest Beetle species and are found mainly in the Southeast of England particularly south and west London. They prefer Oak woodland and develop over six years. The larvae depend on old trees and rotting wood to develop before they pupate and turn into adults.



Stag Beetle © Nick Hull

Leaf Beetle *Oulema melanopus/duftschmidi* agg.

Recorded on the 5th May in the Approach Field. This is a species that needs close examination by an expert and couldn't be identified from a photograph. *Oulema* beetle species feed on grasses and cereal crops and are seen usually in late spring to early autumn.

Luperus longicornis

This is another beetle that found its way into my moth trap on 19th July. They are a fairly widespread locally common species found in mainly damp areas. Their host plants are mainly young bushes and trees. Adults rarely survive past September, therefore presumably overwinter as eggs and/or larvae. Adults feed on willow & birch leaves (possibly also pollen e.g. of hawthorn), larvae probably on grass roots.

Leaf Beetle *Plateumaris sericea*

Recorded on the 16th May in the Approach Field. This is a fairly widespread and common species which can be found from May to July. Their typical habitat where they are often found in ponds where the larvae food plants are present which is bur-reeds.

Grooved Leaf Beetle *Donalia semicuprea*

Recorded on the 16th May in the Approach Field. This is a species of wet areas where Reed Sweet-grass is found. They are a widespread species throughout England north to south Yorkshire, but local depending on availability of the food plant, and scarce or absent from some areas such as the south west of England.

Lepidoptera - Butterflies & Moths

76 records of butterfly were received this year concerning 19 species. Overall it wasn't a great year. The wet spring was probably the main cause though things did improve over the summer period and second broods seemed to be more productive particularly with the Butterflies. I have recorded 709 moths of 290 species of these 34 were recorded for the first time. This brings the total number of moths caught to 12,464 of 594 species.

All species noted below have been caught for the first time unless mentioned otherwise in the individual account.

Butterflies

Silver-studded Blue *Plebes argus* - (W&C (1981); UK(2007); NERC(2006)S41; Vulnerable-GB)

Recorded on 13th July Lytchett Heath. This species was first found on the patch in 2018, 2019 and 2020 but no records were received for 2021. So it was very nice to know that there is still a small population of the species on Lytchett Heath.



Silver-studded Blue © Nick Hull

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* - (UK(2007); NERC(2006)S41); Near Threatened-GB) (see cover photograph)

Recorded 25 April at Lytchett Heath After having a conversation the day before with Ian that we hadn't recorded this species this year, he promptly went out the next morning and found one and our only record for the year. This is only the third record since we started recording back in 2014 they have all been single individuals.

Moths

White-barred Gold *Micropterix aruncella* 1.004

Found in the Pools Field on the 13th May This species occurs widely over most of the British Isles and can be seen in the daytime between May and August. It rarely flies far and can be found in shade and weak sunshine. The adults feed especially on pollen in hawthorn flowers but also on creeping buttercup and other species. The lower flowers of hawthorn are worth investigating. The early stages are not well described, but the larvae are believed to feed at the bases of herbaceous plants.



Micropterix aruncella © Ian Ballam

Green Long-horn *Adela reaumurella* 7.006

Recorded on 14th May on Lytchett Heath. A fairly common species in England, Wales and southern Scotland, more local in Ireland. The males have long, whitish antennae, the females shorter, both sexes having bronzy or metallic greenish forewings. The moths fly in the daytime during May and June, sometimes occurring in swarms. The caterpillar lives in a portable case and feeds on leaf-litter.

Plain Fanner *Glyphipterix fuscoviridella* 19.003

Found on Lytchett Heath on 17th May. This is a relatively plain species with a slight metallic sheen, which is relatively common in England and Wales, but only extends as far north as southern Scotland. It occupies dry grassland habitats and can be found on the wing in May and June. The larvae feed in the stems of wood-rush species during the early spring.

Cocksfoot Moth *Glyphipterix simplicella* 19.007

Trapped on 28th August in my garden moth trap. This is a very common species in much of Britain and Ireland, it can be found in good numbers between May and July visiting flowers, especially those of buttercup (*Ranunculus*). There can sometimes be 20 or more to one flower. The larval foodplant is mainly the grass cock's foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), where the tiny caterpillars feed on the seeds, later pupating in the stem. The moths are tiny (3 or 4mm long) and are easily overlooked, but when inspected closely can be seen slowly 'pumping' their wings slightly open and closed.

Fleabane Fanner *Digitivalva pulicariae* 19.010

Trapped 9th July garden moth trap This is a locally distributed species, occurring from southern England northwards to Northumberland, Wales and Ireland. The larva mines the leaves of common fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), forming brownish or whitish inflated blotches. The adult moths fly from August and hibernate over winter, reappearing up to May the following spring.

Gorse Crest *Brachmia blandella* 35.028

Caught on 9th July. Widespread in Britain as far north as Yorkshire, this species occupies habitats where its foodplant, gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) occurs. The species overwinters as a small larva in a slight spinning on gorse, and is full fed by early June, or earlier, when it pupates. Adults are on the wing in July and early August, when they can be disturbed from large old gorse bushes in the early evening.

Cinerosus Neb *Bryotropha terrella* 35.040

Caught on the 7th August. This is a common species that can be found in long grass and can easily be flushed during the day. Its larvae feed at the base of grasses on the stems.

Thatch Neb *Bryotropha basaltinella* 35.045 agg.

Trapped on the 18th August Having a somewhat disjunct distribution in Britain, this moth occurs in many of the southern English counties, and then is rather scattered northwards to Northumberland. Adult moths are on the wing between late May and August, often near buildings. The larvae feed on mosses during the spring.

Bright Neb *Argolamprotes micella* 35.064 - (Nationally Scarce)

Caught on 7th July. This species is very local in Britain only occurring in the south-west of England and South Wales and was first discovered in 1963. Its larval food plants are Raspberry and Blackberry where they can be found feeding in the flowering shoots.

Pointed Groundling *Scrobipalpa acuminatella* 35.109 agg.

Trapped on 6th May this is a widely distributed across much of the British Isles, this species occupies rough and open ground where thistles abound. The larvae mine the leaves of various thistles, forming a pale, sometimes slightly inflated blotch. Generally there are two generations, with adults on the wing in April to June and again in July to September.



Argolamprotes micella © Nick Hull

Large Clover Case-bearer *Coleophora trifolii* 37.033

Caught on 19th July. One of the larger of the Coleophoridae, this species has a metallic green sheen to the forewings. It occurs in areas of open waste ground and grassland and is on the wing in June and July.

Neat Mompha *Mompha divisella* 41.005 agg.

Caught on 26th March. This moth was agg'd as it wasn't genetically examined and is similar to *M. bradleyi* and *M. jurasicella*. They are locally distributed in the south of England. The larvae feed on willowherb inside the stem, causing a distinctive gall at one of the nodes.

Citron Plume *Hellinsia carphodactyla* 45.039

Caught on 9th July. This is a species that has expanded its range in recent years to as far north as South Yorkshire. The larvae feed on the crowns and flower-heads of ploughman's spikenard (*Inula conyzae*), the second brood overwintering in the larval stage.

Nettle-tap *Anthophila fabriciana* 48.001

Recorded in the Pools Field on 5th October. This is a small, but very common species, occurring throughout Britain. It is sometimes referred to as the Nettle-tap. It flies in the daytime from May throughout the summer and can sometimes be found in large numbers around clumps of nettle, the larval foodplant.

Knapweed Conch *Agapeta zoegana* 49.110

Caught on 9th July. This distinctive species is distributed over much of Britain but is scarcer in the northern parts. Like its close congener, *A. hamana*, it flies from dusk into the night and is attracted to light. Its main food plant is common knapweed. (Which did very well in our garden this year).

Smoky-barred Marble *Lobesia abscisana* 49.183

Caught on 19th July. They are a smallish moth, and darker than related species, it is locally distributed mainly in the south and south-east of England, with some records from further north into Yorkshire. The larvae feed in spinings on the shoots of creeping thistle.



Agapeta zoegana © Nick Hull

Rush Marble *Bactra lancealana* 49.194 agg.

Caught 28th August. It is believed to be this species but has been agg'd as it wasn't genitally checked and could possibly be *Bactra lacteana* which is similar. They are rather common throughout Britain, it occupies marshes and heaths, and the larvae feed on various rushes including *Juncus* and *Scirpus*.

Cherry-bark Moth *Enarmonia formosana* 49.200

Caught on 18th August. This species is locally common in Britain the larvae feeds on the bark of fruit and ornamental cherry trees, and the species occurs in gardens, parks and orchards where these occur.

Common Roller *Ancylis badiana* 49.214

Found on Lytchett Heath on 5th September Two generations of this moth occur during the year, the first in April and May, and later from July to August. It is active in the late afternoon into the evening and inhabits a range of woodland and open ground biotopes. The larvae feed on the leaves of pea, vetch and clover. The second generation larvae overwinter in a state of diapause.

Pine Bell *Epinotia rubiginosana* 49.251

Caught on 22nd June. This species is generally distributed throughout mainland Britain and is reasonably common in places. The larvae feed between spun needles of Scots pine and stone pine during September and October.

Spotted Shoot *Rhyacionia pinivorana* 49.307

Caught 6th May. The species is distributed widely over much of the British Isles, being common in some areas. Like other members of the genus *Rhyacionia*, the food plant of this species is Scots Pine, the larvae feeding internally in the shoots and buds.

Plum Fruit Moth *Grapholita funebrana* 49.357

Caught 22nd June. This species is locally common in the southern half of England with scattered records further north and in Wales, and a few in Scotland. The larvae feed on the fruits of Sloe and Plum and other *Prunus* species. The entrance hole, near the stalk on plums, often oozes brown liquid surrounded by frass.

Blotched Piercer *Pammene albuginana* 49.365 agg.

Caught on 19th July This species is locally distributed in England, mainly south and east, ranging northwards to Lancashire. It frequents deciduous woodland and the moths are on the wing generally during May and June. The pale or creamy blotch on the dorsal area is not always so pronounced. The larva feeds on oak (*Quercus*), inside galls formed by other, usually hymenopterous insects. It frequents deciduous woodland and the moths are on the wing generally during May and June. The pale or creamy blotch on the dorsal area is not always so pronounced. The larva feeds on oak (*Quercus*), inside galls formed by other, usually hymenopterous insects.



Pammene albuginana © Nick Hull

Sallow Clearwing *Synanthedon flaviventris* 52.009 - (Nationally Scarce; Notable B) (see cover photograph)

Photographed on the 6th June by Ian Ballam in the Approach Field. This is the third species of Clearwing now recorded in the Lytchett Bay area. Sallow Clearwing was only discovered in Britain in 1926. This species is considered locally common in parts of central southern England. It inhabits woodland and damp places, and the moths are on the wing in June and July. The larvae live in the stems of willow (*Salix*), forming a distinctive gall. The species has a two-year life cycle, with adults present mostly in even years.

Oak Eggar *Lasiocampa quercus* 66.114

A Caterpillar was photographed near the Green Sandpiper Pools by Ian Ballam whilst carrying out bird count on 13th May. A species occurring widely across Britain, the larva feeding on a wide range of shrubs and plants. In Dorset, the species is most often seen in open unimproved habitats, and it is particularly common in coastal districts. The male is active during the day when it may be seen flying vigorously, if a little haphazardly, in pursuit of the female pheromone. Assembling with a virgin female may lead to the rapid appearance of several male suitors.

Striped Hawk-moth *Hyles livornica* 69.015 (see cover photograph)

Caught on 2nd July. This scarce migrant occurs in small numbers in most years, mainly in the south. Most records are of adults attracted to light, but in good years, caterpillars can also be found. The progeny of earlier arrivals feed on low plants such as willowherb, bedstraw and dock. The species generally arrives between April and October.

This is possibly for me the best moth of the year, as it is one that I have always hoped to catch. It was also one I nearly lost. As I had taken the top-off to check the trap to go through all the egg cartons in the trap. When I had finished and went to replace the top I noticed a movement on the underside of some tape that covered the sharp edge of the perspex joint and had a bit of a shock, grabbed a pot quickly and captured it.

Brown Silver-line *Petrophora chlorosata* 70.222

Found in the Pools Field on 13th May this is a common species in Britain, the larva feeding on bracken. In Dorset, the moth is common to abundant wherever bracken is dominant in woods, hedge banks and on dry heathland, also on leached soils overlying chalk. The species tends to remain within the confines of its habitat and wanderers are rarely encountered well away from bracken communities.

Wormwood Pug *Eupithecia absinthiata* 70.179

Caught on 18th August. This is the first record of this common Britain species, the polyphagous larva feeding on the flowers of many plants including yarrow, mugwort, ragwort, goldenrod, wormwood and goosefoot. In Dorset, the moth is widely distributed and at low density. It is commonest along the coast where yarrow and wormwood abound, and rare on open heathland and in woodland.

Elsewhere, the moth is frequent on unimproved grassland along the Purbeck Ridge and on the north Dorset downs where larvae have been found on ragwort. The national norm is a single brood in June and July. In Dorset a small number in May have possibly originated from the Continent where a partial first generation is noted in some years,



Brown Silver-line © Ian Ballam

March Moth *Alsophila aescularia* 70.245

Caught 26th March. This is one of the moth species in which the females are wingless (apterous). As their name suggests Occurring in March and April, when the females may be found crawling on tree-trunks at night, and the males can be attracted to light. It is fairly well distributed over most of Britain and reasonably common. In Dorset, the moth is one of the first species to emerge in the year. It is common in deciduous woods and amongst scrub but absent from open coastal areas. The pale green larvae feed on a range of deciduous trees, including hawthorn, oak and fruit trees.

Mottled Umber *Erannis defoliaria* 70.256

Caught 12th November. Is the second record, the first was on 27th December 2015. This is a common species in southern Britain, less so further north, the larva feeding on a variety of deciduous tree and shrub species. The female is wingless. In Dorset, this highly variable moth is widespread and common, particularly so in deciduous woodland.

Waved Umber *Menophra abruptaria* 70.257

Caught 2nd June. This is a distinctive species, occurring reasonably commonly in the south of England and Wales, becoming scarcer into the northernmost English counties. It inhabits woodland, parks and gardens, and flies in a single generation from April into June. The larvae feed on garden privet and lilac. In Dorset, the moth is frequently seen in suburbia where lilac is grown in gardens and garden privet is used in hedges. Away from towns, the moth is frequent on calcareous clay soil and chalky soil where it probably feeds on ash and privet, both native *Oleaceae* plant species. Elsewhere, the moth is seldom seen.

Ringed Carpet *Cleora cinctaria* 70.263 - (Nationally Scarce, Notable A)

Caught 24th April. This is a local species in Britain, the larva feeding on birch, bilberry, bog myrtle, and heather species. In



Ringed Carpet © Nick Hull

Dorset, the moth is common very locally in situations where bog myrtle occurs, chiefly in alder-swamps, bogs and marshes on sandy soil across the Poole basin. The moth may occasionally be found at rest on the trunks of isolated heathland birches or pines. Much of the moth's wetland habitat falls within existing conservation areas; it is recommended that this species be included in management plans for more habitat containing bog myrtle.

Alder Moth *Acronicta alni* 73.036

Caught night 4th May. This moth is local species in England and Wales, the larva feeding on birch, alder and other deciduous tree species. In Dorset, the moth is generally at low density, but frequent locally along river valleys or in fens and swamps containing alder, and in old damp deciduous woodland on clay soils. Although it has been recorded from birch-rich localities, instances are surprisingly few from any single site considering birch is a quoted foodplant, and it does appear that alder is preferred by the moth, at least in this county.

Tawny Pinion *Lithophane semibrunnea* 73.036

Caught 24th April. This moth is distributed sparsely in the southern part of England and Wales, occasionally reaching northwards to the northern counties. The species flies late in the autumn, in October and November, and then hibernates, reappearing in April and May. In Dorset, the moth is widespread but local and at low density. It favours isolated ash trees or ash trees forming hedgerows in open situations such as river valleys rather than those dominating woodland. The moth has been noted from most soil types. A third more sightings occur during the spring than during the autumn.

Oak Rustic *Dryobota labecula* 73.223 - (Nationally Scarce)

Caught 10th November. After being first recorded in the Channel Islands in 1991, this species is gradually being recorded more regularly and has subsequently been noted on the Isle of Wight. It is quite a late autumn flyer, being on the wing from October to December, when it is rarely found except at light. The larval food plant is evergreen oak. Small populations have been noted at Durlston and Highcliffe Castle since the first records in Dorset in 2005.



Oak Rustic © Nick Hull

Brindled Green *Dryobotodes eremita* 73.225

Caught 28th September. This is the second record, the first was on 22nd September 2017. A widespread species in southern Britain, more local further north, the larva feeding on oak (*Quercus spp.*) and on hawthorn. In Dorset, the moth occupies the same oak-rich habitats as the Merveille du Jour and is as numerous. It also colonises districts where reasonable quantities of mature hawthorn grow.

Hedge Rustic *Tholera cespitis* 73.252 - (UK20007 NERC (2006) S41

Caught 26th August. This is a widespread species in south-east England but sparsely distributed elsewhere, the larva feeding on hard-bladed grasses notably mat-grass, tufted hair-grass and wavy hair-grass. In Dorset, the moth is at low density. The current low ebb of the moth contrasts markedly with historical observations of abundance at Bloxworth, Chamberlaynes, Lytchett Minster and Poole, all localities on sandy soils. The few seen in recent years have tended to be recorded from damp woodland, grassland on sandy soil and scrub-rich chalky downland.



Hedge Rustic © Nick Hull

The Nutmeg *Anarta trifolii* 73.255

Caught 30th May. This species is found throughout south-east England but becoming scarcer further north and west, the larva feeding on goosefoots, and oraches. In Dorset, the moth is frequent in the vicinity of pebble beaches or muddy shores where orache and sea purslane grow, notably the Fleet, Portland Harbour and Poole Harbour. Elsewhere, inland records suggest that the species colonises, albeit at low density, high-nutrient arable land, gardens and allotments possibly feeding on

many-seeded goosefoot (*Chenopodium polyspermum*), fat hen or spear-leaved orache.

Six-striped Rustic *Xestia sexstrigata* 73.358

Caught 18th August. This is a widespread species in Britain, the larva feeding on various herbaceous plants. In Dorset, the moth occurs widely but is generally at low density rising to frequent in damp woodland, marshes and on unimproved grassland on chalky soils.



Six-striped Rustic © Nick Hull

Diptera

Flies are probably one of the most disliked families of insects though some can be quite stunning and interesting species. This year I logged 93 records concerning 70 species, 29 of which haven't been recorded before.

Crane fly *Tipula vernalis*

Recorded on 10th July in my garden. This is the eighth species of crane fly for the Lytchett Recording area. This is a common and widely known species in Britain, whose larvae feed on plant roots and the adult flies feed on nectar.

Notched-horned Cleg *Haematopota pluvialis*

Recorded on 6th June, This common and widespread species has probably been overlooked amongst all the other horsefly species that we have found in and around the bay. The female in this species of Horsefly is a blood-sucking insect which can give a painful bite. The male is harmless and feeds on nectar. The larvae live in damp soil and rotten wood. As their name suggests they are found around horses, cattle, etc, and often in damper or well wooded areas.

Brown Heath Robberfly *Tolmerus cingulatus*

Found near to Kingsbridge at the far western end of our recording area on 25th July. This is the seventh species of robberfly we have recorded around the Lytchett area. This is a fairly common and widespread species over the southern half of Britain though records have come from further north.

Hoverfly *Baccha elongata*

Recorded on the 10th June near the Rock Lea VP by Ian Ballam. This is an easy hoverfly to identify as it has a thin body and bulbous end. Common throughout Britain they are found along woodland rides and hedgerows, seeking out the sunny patches. The larvae predate on aphids.

Hoverfly *Platycheirus albimanus*

Two records 28th March Lytchett Heath & 29th June my garden. This is a common and widespread species in Britain that inhabits Hedgerows and gardens. The larvae are found on low growing bushes where they eat aphids.

Hoverfly *Platycheirus granditarsus*

Found along Watery Lane on 10th June this is a widespread and often abundant species found in and around wet meadows and the margins of ponds and ditches.

Slender Boxer Hoverfly *Platycheirus angustatus*

Recorded on 27th June on Lytchett Heath This is a widespread and locally common species found in a variety of grassy habitats and wetlands. The larvae are aphidophagous in low vegetation, including Winter Wheat.

Hoverfly *Xanthandrus comtus*

Found along Watery Lane on 11th of June. This species usually occurs in woodland edge (deciduous and coniferous) and scrub where adults are usually found visiting flowers or resting on vegetation in clearings or along tracks. The larvae prey on the caterpillars of various micro-moths.

Hoverfly *Sphaerophoria rueppellii* - Dorset notable

Recorded 4th May; 20th April Lytchett Heath; 5th May in the Approach Field; 20th April Lytchett Fields; and 20th June in my garden. This species has almost certainly been overlooked in the past as the species was recorded on five occasions, This is a southern and coastal species, inland records are less frequent. This species favours open, sparsely-vegetated habitats where plants such as goosegrasses, oraches, knotweeds and mayweeds are plentiful. It can be abundant at saltmarsh edges (often straying onto sea-lavender flowers some way out) and the margins of tidal rivers, but also likes brownfield sites well inland. The aphidophagous larvae have been found on goosefoots, brassica and sowthistles. It is most frequent in the south, but scattered records exist as far north as Scotland.



Sphaerophoria rueppellii © Ian Ballam

Hoverfly *Xanthogramma stackelbergi*

Recorded in the approach Field on 11th June, this species was first added to the British list in 2012. They are very similar to *Xanthogramma pedissequum* and care is required to distinguish the two species. They can be found in grassland and woodland with open rides preferring short turf and some bare ground such as pathways. The species is quite frequent in southern England south of a line from 'The Wash' to the south Wales coast.

Hoverfly *Leucozona laternaria*

Found on Lytchett Heath on 16th June. Fairly common throughout Britain, though less frequent in eastern areas. It likes lowland habitats with lush vegetation, especially woodland edges where umbellifers are present. The larvae feed on aphids, usually on Hogweed and other umbellifers.

Hoverfly *Didea fasciata*

Recorded on Lytchett Heath on 20th June, they are widespread but generally scarce. It is usually found in woodland, including ancient semi-natural and coniferous but occasionally turns up in urban habitats and seems to be a highly mobile species.

Hoverfly *Epistrophe nitidicollis* - Dorset notable

Recorded 9th May on Lytchett Heath. This is a widespread species, most frequent in the south of England. This species occurs in a variety of habitats. Adults like the flowers of hawthorns, roses, brambles and umbellifers. The larvae feed on aphids from a variety of broadleaved trees and shrubs.

Hoverfly *Epistrophe eligans*

Found on the 14th May in the Approach Field, this species is widespread throughout most of Britain though more scarce in the North. They like hot, sunny woodland edges and hedgerows, favouring Blackthorn and Hawthorn.



Epistrophe nitidicollis Ian Ballam

Burdock Blacklet *Cheilosia impressa*

Found in the Approach Field on 16th May. This widespread and fairly frequent *Cheilosia*, usually found in the vicinity of woodland and scrub. Adults fly from May to September as two generations, one peaking in late spring, the other in late summer. The adults of both generations are particularly keen on umbellifer flowers including Cow Parsley, Hogweed, Wild Parsnip and Angelica. The larvae develop in the roots or stems of burdocks.

Green Marsh Hoverfly *Lejogaster metallina*

Recorded 30th June in my wildlife garden. They are a widespread and frequent species in suitable localities throughout Britain. Found in all types of open wetland habitats including wet meadows, marshes, fens and flushes (including mildly acidic conditions), especially where *Juncus* is abundant. Adults are frequently found visiting flowers, *Ranunculus* being especially favoured, usually close to breeding habitat. Larvae are aquatic and found amongst plant roots just below the water surface in slow flowing situations.

Splendid Marsh Hoverfly *Lejogaster tarsata*

Found near Rock Lea VP on 6th June. This is a scarce but widespread species of wetlands mostly in southern Britain but with records extending north to the west coast of Scotland. The habitat preferences seem to vary in different parts of Britain. In southern England it tends to be associated with the ditches of coastal levels and it has even been recorded in mildly brackish coastal marsh. However, it has also been recorded from boggy flushes, floodplain grassland and wet woodland well away from the coast in central England and uses freshwater seepages on the shoreline of Scottish sea lochs. The larvae probably develop amongst vegetation and detritus of shallow water. Adults fly from May to September and particularly like the flowers of Celery-leaved Buttercup.

Hoverfly *Chrysogaster virescens* - Dorset notable

Recorded 25th April Lytchett Heath. Although widely distributed, this species appears to occur mainly in the north and west and is locally frequent in the Scottish Highlands. In the south-east it seems to be confined to acid heathland locations. The larvae of this genus are aquatic, but the larva of this species remains unknown. Associated with boggy, acidic locations with carr, wooded stream-sides or damp scrub. Adults are frequently found at flowers, including those of Rowan, white umbels Meadowsweet and buttercups.



Chrysogaster virescens © Ian

Snouted Duckfly Hoverfly *Anasimyia lineata*

Found near Rock Lea VP on 29th May. This is considered a widespread and locally common species of swampy water margins and ditches where plants such as Reed Sweet-grass, Greater Pond Sedge, Bulrush, Great Willowherb and Yellow Iris are present. The strongly protruding mouth allows easy separation from other *Anasimyia* species.

Bog Ant Hoverfly *Microdon myrmicae*

Recorded on Lytchett Heath on 14th May. This is a scarce but widespread species of wet habitats such as valley mire in heathland districts of southern England, wet meadows in the Culm grassland of SW England and wet heathland and upland mire within Wales and northern Britain. seems to favour wet tussocky habitats with Purple Moor-grass or rushes. The slug-like larvae have been found in nests of the ant *Myrmica scabrinodis* in such tussocks plus Sphagnum moss. Adults fly from May to July and do not visit flowers. They are best located by sweeping low vegetation.

Small Forest Hoverfly *Chalcosyrphus nemorum*

A frequent and widespread small normally associated with wet woodland where willows and Alder are present. Also sometimes associated with old/fallen Beech trees or log piles in much drier woodland. The larvae develop under the bark of logs and fallen trunks in which decay is not advanced. Adults are typically seen sunbathing on trunks and logs or nearby foliage.

Hoverfly *Xylota sylvarum*

Recorded on 17th August in my garden. This is a species that is more common in the south of Britain, becoming scarcer further north. Their preferred habitat is woodland and well wooded areas. The larvae have been found in wet decaying roots of Beech stumps, but where Beech is not present Oak and Birch are considered possible substitutes.

Hoverfly *Loxocera albiseta*

Found by the Rock Lea VP on 4th August. This species seems to be widespread and fairly frequent in England and Wales although difficulty of identification makes exact status difficult to determine. *L. albiseta* is very similar to some other members of the genus. It can be distinguished by examination of the specimen or very detailed images, because *Loxocera albiseta* has an all-yellow face, and just a small triangular patch of short white hairs below the eye. They are associated with *Juncus* species such as Soft-rush and occur where *Juncus* species are present.

Picture-wing Fly *Ceroxys urticae*

Recorded near to the Rock Lea VP on 11th June. *C. urticae* is a species of marshland and fens with lush vegetation and organically-rich mud. This includes freshwater reed beds and sedge beds but also the reed beds and Sea Club Rush beds of brackish marsh, upper saltmarsh and coastal grazing marsh. The larvae have been found in manure and decaying vegetation. Adults have been recorded from May to September and are readily swept from marsh vegetation.



Ceroxys urticae © Ian Ballam

Narrow-banded picture-winged fly *Ceroxys latiusculus*

Recorded in the Approach Field on 5th July. I've been unable to find much information on this species. Other than the larvae feed on ragworts and groundsels. They overwinter as adults and can often be found sunning themselves on walls.

Flat-headed Shoot Fly *Platycephala planifrons*

Found at Kingsbridge on 10th July. Larvae hatch at the end of July/August, move down to the soil, and enter shoot buds prepared for the next year. Larvae hibernate close to the growing point and are lifted in spring with the emerging shoot. In May intense feeding starts. Only one larva is found per shoot. *P. planifrons* pupates in June in shoot tips, and adults emerge at the end of June/July. Eggs are laid until October on shoot bases near soil level.

Vagabond Cluster Fly *Pollenia vagabunda*

Recorded on the 6th June in the Approach Field. This is our rarest cluster fly with a thin scattering of records across Britain as far north as the Scottish Highlands, most of which are old. There is no obvious habitat preference. The larvae are presumed to attack worms, as in other cluster flies.

Tachinid fly sp. *Tachina fera*

Found in the Whimbrel Field by Ian Ballam on 19th May. This is a common and widespread species in England and Wales. Which can often be seen in moist and well vegetated locations where it feeds on umbellifers and waterside plants. Larvae are parasites of caterpillars and other young insects.

Hymenoptera - Bee, Wasps, Ants & Relatives

Sawfly *Tenthredo livida*

Found in the Approach Field on 18th June. This is a widespread and common British species, found along hedgerows and woodland rides. Adult flies from May to August and the larvae are nocturnal grazers, feeding on a variety of leaves, such as Hazel, Willow and Honeysuckle.

Sawfly *Abia aenea* agg.

Recorded on 9th April at Lytchett Heath. *Abia aenea* is very similar to *Abia lonicerae* and is widespread across southern England and Wales north to Yorkshire. Both species share the same habitat and food plants, but the larvae have subtle differences. Adults cannot usually be determined from images, but specimens can be determined by antennal shape and the micro-sculpture of the mesepisternum. The female of this species has more slender antennae, with the fourth antennomere (the one after the long segment) being about three times as long as broad, (viewed side on) and both sexes have dense micro-sculpture between the punctures on the mesepisternum. Larvae feed on honeysuckles and other members of the Caprifoliaceae. Larvae of this species have been reared from eggs deposited on *Leycesteria formosa* in a garden. They are very similar in appearance to *Abia lonicerae* larvae but lack a black mark posterior to the spiracle (postspiracular lobe) on each abdominal segment. This mark is present in *Abia lonicerae*. Note: do not confuse with the black mark present on the suprapedal lobe at the top of each abdominal leg which is present in both species.



Sawfly *Abia aenea* agg © Ian Ballam

Sawfly *Nematus myosotidis*

Recorded 8th August in my garden. It is widespread and fairly frequent in Britain usually during May to July. It can be found in Hedgerows and well vegetated areas.

Small yellow girdled Tenthredo *Tenthredo temula*

Found on Lytchett Heath on 16th May. Fairly widespread and frequent in Britain and found along Hedgerows and meadows where the food plants are present. The adults take small insects as well as pollen and nectar from various plants such as Hogweed, Hawthorn and Bramble.

Chalsid Wasp *Torymus erucarum*

Found near Rock Lea VP 17th May. I was unable to find out much information on this species. In general Chalsid wasps are often parasitoids on insects of several orders. This species appears to be a parasite of Gall Wasps of *Andricus quercusradicis* (Knopper gall); *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Sweet Chestnut Gall Wasp). As we have none of the latter but lots of the former on the oaks in the Lytchett area it seems we should look for them around the Knopper galls.



Torymus erucarum © Ian Ballam

Ichneumon Wasp *Itopectis conquisitor*

Recorded by the Green Sandpiper Pool on 13th May. Though this appears to be not an uncommon species there is very little known about their preferences of habitat and it is presumed that they parasitise moth caterpillars for the host of the larvae.

Yellow and Black Darwin Wasp *Dusona falcator*

Found at Kingsbridge on 10th July. The status in the UK of this species is unknown. It is thought they are parasitic on small caterpillars which they find around the hedgerows and meadows.

Spider Hunter Wasp *Anoplius viaticus*

Recorded on Lytchett Heath on 14th June. Considered not uncommon this species occurs from Cornwall to Kent and north to Westmorland. In Ireland, there are a few old records from Wicklow, Fermanagh, Armagh and Antrim. The species is widely distributed across Europe and central Asia and found in areas of sandy soils supporting heaths, dunes and open, heathy woodland.

Digger Wasps *Ectemnius cavifrons* agg.

Recorded in my garden 28th June. This is one of the largest *Ectemnius* species. They are very hard to identify from photographs and a specimen is usually required. The males can sometimes be identified from a good view of the knobby antennae. The females require an even closer view of the ventral plates and clypeus. They are a widespread species across Wales and southern and central England. A scattering of records from Scotland and Northern Ireland. They can be found around hedgerows, grasslands and brownfield sites from June to October. Spiders of the family *Lycosidae* form the bulk (up to 70%) of the prey taken with Gnaphosidae, Agelenidae, Thomisidae and Salticidae accounting for the rest

Bees

The addition of these four species brings the recording area list to 69 species of bee.

Little Yellow-faced Bee *Hylaeus pictipes* - (Nationally Scarce, notable A)

Recorded by Rock Lea VP on 11th June. This is a species of open woodland, fens, coastal dunes and shingle, and occasionally urban gardens. Their nests have been found in burrows in bramble and rose stems. Others were located in the vacated burrows of *Anobium punctatum* (Common Furniture Beetle) in dead gorse stems.



Hylaeus pictipes © Ian Ballam

White-footed Furrow Bee *Lasioglossum leucopus*

Recorded on Lytchett Heath on 28th June. Although being a common and widely distributed species, nothing is known about its nesting habits apart from the fact that it nests in the ground. They have been recorded visiting a wide variety of flowers from several plant families. They have been found in a variety of different habitats.

White-zoned Furrow Bee *Lasioglossum leucozonium*

Recorded 27th August in my conservatory. This solitary mining bee can usually be found in open areas, mainly on sandy and calcareous soils, scarcer on heavy clay. They tend to visit Yellow flowered Asteraceae are most frequently visited but visits to creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and other plants have been observed. Females can be found from late March to late October or early November. The male appears by mid-July but possibly earlier.

Orange-vented Mason Bee *Osmia leaiana*

Two records Lytchett Heath 29th April & my garden 18th July. Generally found on the wing between May and August. Almost anywhere in England and Wales, but it requires cavities in dead wood, walls or cliffs for nesting. They can be seen visiting a wide variety of flowers from a number of different plant families for nectar, but oligolectic on Asteraceae for pollen.

Coast Leafcutter Bee *Megachile maritima*

Recorded 14th June visiting my garden. As the species name implies, this handsome leaf-cutter bee is mainly found on the coast, especially where there is light, sandy soil. Other populations occur on lowland heaths and, more rarely, on chalk grassland. They have a flight period from early June to mid-August. They visit a variety of flowering plants such as Bramble, restharrow, hogweed and many more.

Marsham's Nomad Bee *Nomada marshamella*

Recorded 25th March on Lytchett Heath. This cuckoo bee is easily confused in the field with its close relative *Nomada fulvicornis* which we have also recorded. Distributed throughout much of Britain, from southern England to northern Scotland. Similarly widespread in Ireland. This is a very common species, occurring in many habitats, both coastal and inland. Regularly observed in private gardens in rural and urban



Nomada marshamella © Ian Ballam

situations. This species is mainly a cleptoparasite of *Andrena carantonica* but has possible other andrena bees too.

Fork-tailed Flower Bee *Anthophora furcata*

Found on Lytchett Heath on 1st July. This species has been reported from gardens, woodland, grassland, moors, heaths and fenlands. They nest by creating cells by excavating burrows in rotten wood. They feed on a wide variety of flowers.

Arachnids - Spiders

Pachygnatha clercki

Recorded on 20th June in the Pools Field. Is a ground-living species usually found in wet habitats such as bogs and marshes, and on the margins of streams, rivers and lakes. Which is widespread and fairly frequent in Britain, though never common.

Angular Orbweb Spider *Araneus angulatus*

Recorded 6th July on Lytchett Heath by Wayne Copperthwaite. Largely confined to the southern coastal counties of England, seldom occurring more than 30 miles from the south coast, though further inland in Surrey it was present in some numbers in 1985 at Great Oaks, Claygate and was again found in that county in 2001. There is also a recent record from South Wales. It is widespread in western and central Europe, but the species is included on the Red List for Sweden (Gardenfors 2000) and has not been recorded from Ireland.

Long-jawed Orbweb Spider *Tetragnatha nigrita*

Recorded 6th July Lytchett Heath by Wayne Copperthwaite. The species is widespread but very local across the southern half of England and Wales north to Cheshire. The orb webs of this species are most commonly found on trees and shrubs but it will also build them in the vegetation of the field layer. Although most often found near water, this spider can also be found in drier situations. Adults of both sexes are found from early to mid-summer, occasionally into August.

Common Cucumber Spider *Araniella cucurbitina*

Recorded 26th April Lytchett Heath. The species is widely distributed in Britain, becoming more scattered in the west and north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe. The spider is found in a wide variety of situations, but most commonly on trees (particularly oaks) and bushes in woodland, scrub and hedgerows, as well as on nearby low vegetation. It occurs in similar habitats to *A. opisthographa*, with which it is often, but not always, found. Adults of both sexes have been recorded between May and July, with a peak in June. Females have occasionally persisted as late as September.

Spider sp. *Pardosa nigriceps*

Recorded on 3rd July Lytchett Heath by Wayne Copperthwaite. The species is widespread throughout most of Britain. It is widespread in most of western and central Europe. *P. nigriceps* is found on the ground, on low vegetation and bushes in a variety of habitats such as grasslands, sea walls, dyke edges, dunes, heathland, moorlands, blanket bog, mires, woodland clearings, old quarries and roadside verges. It tends to live higher in the vegetation than other *Pardosa* species. The spider is adult in spring and early summer, females persisting later.

Spider sp. *Padosa prativaga*

Found near to the Green Sandpiper pools on 13th May. this species is widespread in the southern half of Britain, with very scattered records further north. They occur on open ground and herbage in various open habitats including grasslands, waste ground, fields, heathland, woodland clearings, dunes, old quarries and roadside verges as well as in wet places such as dyke edges, fens, marshes and bogs.



Araniella cucurbitina © Ian Ballam

Crab Spider *Xysticus kochi*

Recorded in the Approach Field on 14th July. Widespread but scattered, mainly in the south and found on bushes and undergrowth, rough grassland.

Running Crab Spider *Philodromus cespitum*

Recorded 5th August in my Garden. The species is widespread in much of the southern half of Britain in lowland areas, but records are scattered in the north. It is widespread in north-western and central Europe. The species is found in heathland and heathery bogs, hedgerows, scrub and wooded habitats. It is more often associated with scrub and herbage than *P. aureolus* but is sometimes found on trees and also occasionally enters houses. A very distinct variety occurs where the dorsal abdominal cardiac mark and chevrons are replaced by a pale yellow dorsum. Adults of both sexes are found mainly in early to mid-summer, females occasionally persisting into the autumn, although one male has been recorded in October (Croker & Daws 1996) on ivy on the rear wall of a house.



Philodromus cespitum © Nick Hull

Common Sheetweb Spider *Linyphia triangularis*

Recorded on Lytchett Heath on 3rd July. Abundant and widespread in Britain and can be found in bushes and vegetation. Look for a sheet-like web which this 6mm spider creates.

Long-jawed Orb-weaver *Tetragnatha extensa*

Found on the 22nd May in the Approach Field. A common and widespread species throughout Britain. Found on low growing vegetation often near water or boggy areas. Like all spiders in this genus they adopt the habit of stretching their legs out in front and behind to produce a stick-like effect and can be very difficult to detect on vegetation. Even when exposed on the web they can look just like vegetative litter.



Tetragnatha extensa © Ian Ballam

Long-jawed Orb-weaver (Cave Spider) *Metallina segmetata*

Found near to Rock Lea VP on 16th July. It is widespread and common in Britain. This is a spider that can be found all year round but is more prevalent in the warmer months of summer through to autumn. Found in woods, gardens and wasteland amongst any vegetation or structure where it can build its web. This spider spins orb-shaped (rounded) webs. During the mating season the male moves onto the web of the female.

Comb-footed Spider *Anelosimus vittatus* (*Selimus vittatus*)

Recorded in the Approach Field on 3rd June. This species is fairly common in much of England, but rare elsewhere in Britain. Both sexes mature in late spring and summer, with a peak between May and July, females occasionally surviving through to late autumn. This species constructs its scaffold webs on bushes, trees and tall plants in a wide variety of habitats, perhaps with a preference for oaks.

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Species Database Review

I began recording in my garden in 2012. Following the positive conservation developments that began in 2014, including the DWT/ARC Great Heath Project, RSPB improvements at Lytchett Fields and Lytchett Bay View becoming a Local Nature Reserve, I decided to gather information on what species inhabit the whole recording area. I wanted to see if we had any important species that may need protection or conservation work to help them in the future. To achieve this I am transferring all of the records on to the Living Record database. I'm still in the process of transferring records between 2012-2018 from my personal database into Living Record.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of recording I have decided to go back and review the figures. So far I've inputted 6,936 records of 1,091 species. There are 482 records concerning 121 species that have some kind of designation. The recording area is around 3.50 sq/km (1.35sq/miles) and about a quarter is housing and urban sprawl. I think the following list is pretty good and shows what these relatively small areas can hold and how important they are to our surviving wildlife.

Designation and meaning

W&C (1981)	-	Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
UK (2007)	-	UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species list
HR (2010)	-	Habitats Regulations (1994) includes those now covered by Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)
NERC (2006)S41	-	NERC Act (2006), Section 41 list Species of Principle Importance in England
UK BAP	-	UK Biodiversity Action Plan
Notable A	-	JNCC Rarity Status Nationally Scarce invertebrate species found in 16-30 10km squares nationwide
Notable B	-	JNCC Rarity Status Nationally Scarce invertebrate species found in 31-100 10km squares nationwide JNCC Rare Status
Nationally Scarce	-	JNCC Rarity Status occurring in sixteen to one hundred 10km squares nationwide. JNCC Rarity Status
Nationally Rare	-	JNCC Rarity Status Occurring in less than sixteen 10km squares nationwide
Vulnerable-GB	-	National Red Data Book per lists from JNCC web-site
Near Threatened-GB	-	National Red Data Book per lists from JNCC web-site Lower Risk
Dorset Notable	-	Dorset Notable Species Lists Species are chosen as indicators of good unimproved or semi-improved habitat to assist in the selection of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest.
Dorset Rare	-	Dorset Notable Species Lists Species found in three or less sites in Dorset since 01/01/1990
Web spinners	-	Dorset Notable Species Lists - Web spinning moths and mites, easily confused with some pest species.

A list of designated species recorded in the Lytchett Bay Recording area follows below.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation
Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Hab (1992) HR (2010) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Hab (1992) HR (2010) W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Near Threatened-GB
Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Greater Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Hab (1992) HR (2010) W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	W&C(1981) HR(2010):UKBAP
Leisler's Bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	W&C(1981) HR(2010)
Serotine Bat	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	W&C(1981) HR(2010)
Pipistrelle species	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	HR (2010)
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	W&C(1981) HR(2010):UKBAP
Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	W&C(1981) HR(2010):UKBAP
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca (Lacerta) vivipara</i>	W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Hab (1992) HR (2010) W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	W&C (1981)
Palmate Newt	<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>	W&C (1981)
Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	W&C (1981)
Velvet Ant	<i>Mutilla europaea</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Wasp sp	<i>Smicromyrme rufipes</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Wasp sp	<i>Eumenes coarctatus</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable A
Wasp sp	<i>Microdynerus exilis</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Wasp sp	<i>Podalonia hirsuta</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Wasp sp	<i>Crabro scutellatus</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable A
Wasp sp	<i>Lestiphorus bicinctus</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Bee-wolf	<i>Philanthus triangulum</i>	Vulnerable-GB
Bee sp.	<i>Hylaeus pictipes</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable A
Bee sp.	<i>Andrena bimaculata</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Bee sp.	<i>Andrena labiata</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable A
Bee sp.	<i>Lasioglossum leucopus</i>	Nationally Rare
Bee sp.	<i>Macropis europaea</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable A

Bee sp.	<i>Dasygaster hirtipes</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Bee sp.	<i>Nomada fulvicornis</i>	Nationally Rare
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Bird-cherry Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>	WebSpinner
Apple Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta malinellus</i>	WebSpinner
Spindle Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta cagnagella</i>	WebSpinner
Moth sp.	<i>Coleophora vibicella</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Moth sp.	<i>Ethmia bipunctella</i>	Vulnerable-GB
Moth sp.	<i>Argolamprotes micella</i>	Nationally Scarce
Moth sp.	<i>Bryotropha basaltinella</i>	Nationally Scarce
Moth sp.	<i>Calamotropha paludella</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Moth sp.	<i>Crambus silvella</i>	Nationally Rare
Moth sp.	<i>Pediasia contaminella</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Moth sp.	<i>Eudonia delunella</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Moth sp.	<i>Cynaeda dentalis</i>	Nationally Rare
Moth sp.	<i>Synaphe punctalis</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Moth sp.	<i>Oncocera semirubella</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Moth sp.	<i>Pempelia genistella</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable A
Moth sp.	<i>Nephoterix angustella</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Oak Hook-tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Dingy Mocha	<i>Cyclophora pendularia</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Nationally Rare
Blood-Vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Mullein Wave	<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Lesser Cream Wave	<i>Scopula immutata</i>	Dorset Rare
Smoky Wave	<i>Scopula ternata</i>	Dorset Rare
Silky Wave	<i>Idea dilutaria</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Nationally Rare
Oblique Carpet	<i>Orthonama vittata</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Spinach	<i>Eulithis mellinata</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Grass Rivulet	<i>Perizoma albulata</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Dorset Rare
Dingy Shell	<i>Euchoeca nebulata</i>	Dorset Rare
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Jersey Tiger	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	Hab (1992)
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41

Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Heath Rustic	<i>Xestia agathina</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Broom Moth	<i>Melanchra pisi</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Oak Rustic	<i>Dryobecula labecula</i>	Nationally Scarce
Hedge Rustic	<i>Tholera cespitis</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Mythimna comma</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Flame Wainscot	<i>Senta flammea</i>	Nationally Rare
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Sallow	<i>Cirrhia icteritia</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Knot Grass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Rosy Rustic	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Large Wainscot	<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Anomalous	<i>Stilbia anomala</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Common Fan-foot	<i>Pechipogo strigilata</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Angle-barred Pug	<i>Eupithecia innotata</i>	Dorset Rare
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Vulnerable-GB
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Near Threatened-GB
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Vulnerable- GB
Fly sp.	<i>Chrysops sepulcralis</i>	Endangered-GB
Fly sp.	<i>Stratiomys potamida</i>	Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Stratiomys singularior</i>	Nationally Scarce
Dotted bee-fly	<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Nationally Scarce
Hornet robberfly	<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Didea fasciata</i>	Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Lejogaster tarsata</i>	Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Volucella inanis</i>	Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Volucella zonaria</i>	Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Xanthandrus comtus</i>	Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Conops vesicularis</i>	Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Leopoldius signatus</i>	Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Eustalomyia hilaris</i>	Nationally Scarce
Fly sp.	<i>Ampedus sanguinolentus</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable A
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Hab (1992) W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Nationally Scarce Notable B
Beetle	<i>Helops caeruleus</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B

Beetle	<i>Trypocopris pyrenaicus</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable A
Beetle	<i>Paederus fuscipes</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Beetle	<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Beetle	<i>Cerapheles terminatus</i>	Nationally Rare
Beetle	<i>Pterostichus anthracinus</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Beetle	<i>Calomicrus circumfusus</i>	Nationally Scarce Notable A
Bugs	<i>Lygus pratensis</i>	Nationally Rare
Scarce Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>	Near Threatened-GB



Green-eyed Flower Bee © Nick Hull



Minotaur Beetle © Nick Hull



Megachile maritima © Nick Hull



Oncocera-semirubella © Nick Hull