HOLES BAY NATURE PARK BIRDS AND WILDLIFE REPORT 2025

The birds, wildlife and ecology of Holes Bay & Upton Country Park.

CONTENTS

BIRDS RECORDED IN HOLES BAY AND UPTON COUNTRY PARK IN 2025

Martin Adams, Jackie Hull, Stephen F. Smith and Nick Woods

The following list of birds includes all those species known to have been reported from the recording area in 2025.

Records have been obtained from individual recorders, the E-bird and Birdtrack online recording systems, the website and news forum of the Dorset Bird Club, the website of the Birds of Poole Harbour and from the Holes Bay Nature X (formerly Twitter) account.

The Holes Bay Nature Park was established in 2015 by a partnership of the Poole Harbour Commissioners, Dorset Wildlife Trust, and the Borough of Poole (now Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council).

Upton Country Park is owned and managed by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. A map showing the names used for different locations within the Country Park is included within the report. There is no public access to the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Abbreviations:

BoPH – Birds of Poole Harbour

BTO – British Trust for Ornithology

WeBS – Wetland Bird Survey (carried out by volunteers from the BTO)

SANG – Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace

This report is based on records and information from the following observers:

Martin Adams, Richard Adams, Tracey Akehurst, Sally Bailey, Ian Ballam, Mya Bambrick, Ian Barber, Ed Betteridge, Birdguides, Birds of Poole Harbour, Anne Booth, Kit Britten, Mick Brooks, Martin Bugler, Pete Cadogan, Joe Cockram, T. Coldwell, Andy Collyer, Peter Corbin, Richard Cordery, Jim Coyle, Ann Crawford, Karyn Cuglietta, Beris Cumming, Ian Cumming, Martin Daniel, Tina Dawkins, Andy Day, Joshua Dickerson, Dorset Bird Club, John Down, Joel Edwards, David Foster, Frankie Gamble, Tony Gaston, Rene Goad, Allan Hansford, Caroline Hebditch, Shazz Hooper, Peter Hopkin, Geoff Horn, Jackie Hull, Nick Hull, Alice Jenkinson, Alice Jenkinson, Ian Julian, Scott Keyes, Adrian King, Axel Kirby, Kevin Lane, Mark LaRose, Luton Lass, Angus Layton, Zoe Leclerc, Paul Levey, Ian Lewis, Mark Litjens, Max Luckhurst, Katie Mcmahon, Ben Mead, Garry Moors, Nick Mudge, Benjamin Nankervis, Chris Newman, Jaiden Orchard, Glyn Owen, David Parkinson, Stu Parr, Ken Penhillman, Paul Pickering, Dave Piper, D. Platt, Philip Precey, Paul Roebuck, Dave Rudland, Andy Ryde, Sam Ryde, Emma Sajic, Phil Saunders, John Severn, Casper Singleton, Stephen F. Smith, Di Stedman, Melissa Stone, Julian Strauss, Alex Turner, Callum Turner, Peter Twamley, Andrew Upton, Carol Upton, Patrick Ward, Anthony Weston, Tom Whetmore, David White, Paul White, Adam Wigley, Nick Woods, Mark Wright, Martin Wright, Arnie Van Orsouw,

With apologies for any errors or omissions (note: some recorders using Ebird or Birdtrack do not provide a name, so may be omitted from the above list).

The following photographers have also provided photos for use in the report:

Martin Adams, Andy Collyer, Pete Corbin, Karyn Cuglietta, Tina Dawkins, Rene Goad, Allan Hansford, Peter Twamley, Nick Woods, Mark Wright.

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main entrance
front field
Bascombe's pond
Upton Park Farm
Roper's Lane
SANG car park
Upton House
east field
13 acre field
Creekmoor field
Creekmoor channel
car park
duck pond
Llewellin wood
walled garden
north-east shoreline
play area
kennel mead
the stone bench
the bridge
The Grove (Grove woodland)
drying ground field
bird hide (site of)
Pergins Island
back drive
Allens Lane
boardwalk
Grove pond
half-moon field
lambs leas field
bird screen (observation point)
Jack's wood
Symes Road
the lodge
UPTON COUNTRY PARK
Field names and other names used by bird watchers and others for particular areas or feataures within the Park.
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Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla)*

Still the scarcer of the two 'black geese' regularly recorded, but increasing in Holes Bay. All records so far have been of the Dark-bellied race B. b. bernicla.

Brent Goose ©Allan Hansford

Monthly maxima for 2025:

	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	**12**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
2021	**26**	8	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2022	**56**	15	13	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10
2023	**87**	18	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	26
2024	**122**	38*	24	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	32
2025	**154**	45 (20th)	34 (2nd)	23* (9th)	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 (24th)	13 (24th)	29* (28th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *.

The year 2025 saw a record count of 45 on 20th January and our first October records. The first column in the table simply gives the aggregated monthly maxima for each year, and is included to illustrate the strong rise in numbers since 2020. Somewhat more meaningful, however, is a winter-by-winter average of the maxima for the five months November – March inclusive:

Winter 2020 – 21: 7
Winter 2021 – 22: 8
Winter 2022 – 23: 15
Winter 2023 – 24: 23
Winter 2024 – 25: 28

Almost all records were south of the railway, with birds now using SE sector as well as SW.

Extreme dates in 2025: 18th March and 24th October.

Canada Goose *(Branta canadensis)*

The commonest of the 'black geese', with flocks in the hundreds sometimes seen in Holes Bay and flocks also feeding on the fields at Upton Country Park; at least one pair has bred at Upton Country Park in the past (2011).

Monthly maximum counts in 2025

Mean	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
89	87 (15th)	51 (3rd)	4 (3rd)	2 (10th)	62 (28th	181 (4th)	144 (14th)	89 (25th)	205 (16th)	56 (26th)	101 (15th)	87 (21st)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *.

The mean monthly maximum for 2025 was 89, which makes this a slightly low year compared with the long-term trend, which has remained stable at just over 100 over the past six years. As usual, numbers were low in spring, when birds were on their breeding areas. Birds returned to Holes Bay in midsummer once young were fledged. Our all-time Holes Bay maximum was 610 in October 2021.

The mean monthly maxima for Holes Bay across the six years 2020-2025 are as follows:

Mean	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
103	47	19	4	2	62	206	170	41	171	303	105	111

An interesting dimension to the status of Canada Goose in Holes Bay is their use of 13 Acre Field for grazing. A request from Wessex Water for data prompted a trawl through old records, and although recording in this field has always been sporadic, the following table shows that the geese use the field in significant numbers, especially in winter:

Maxima		**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2016												150	121
2017		108											
2018		149							4				242
2019		none	this	year									
2020		7											134
2021												87	55
2022			2									65	91
2023													62
2024		56	18								18	198	46
2025		82	45						2	24	56	101	84

Barnacle Goose *(Branta leucopsis)*

A rare winter visitor or passage migrant to Dorset, though feral birds may also occur.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Greylag Goose *(Anser anser)*

The only 'grey goose' regularly recorded, the birds being part of a widespread feral population small numbers sometimes seen in Holes Bay, often with Canada Geese. Birds have been colour-ringed in Poole Park in a study of the local population (sightings of such birds can be reported to pooleparkgreylags@gmail.com).

Greylag © Allan Hansford

2025 was another typical year, with five records: 5 on 10th Apr, 2 on 7th Apr, 4 on 24th Apr, and 'present' [no number given] on 1st May and 23rd Oct.

Tundra Bean Goose *(Anser serrirostris)*

A very rare winter visitor to Dorset, with very few recent records from Poole Harbour.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons)*

A rare winter visitor and passage migrant to Poole Harbour, with few recent records from Holes Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Mute Swan *(Cygnus olor)*

A few pairs often breed around Holes Bay, with larger numbers found in winter.

Mute Swans with cygnets ©Tina Dawkins

Three pairs bred in 2025:

[a] One pair based in the PCW channel, first noted with 2 small young on 18th May. These survived until at least 10th June.

[b] One pair in SW sector north of Cobbs Quay, with 4 young on 24th June.

[c] One pair in the 'boat graveyard' in SW sector, first noted with 5 young on 25th May; these had fallen to 3 young by 24th June.

After the young had become more mobile, it became impossible to distinguish the different broods, but 4 were reported in SW sector on 14th July. The latest record of the summer was of 2 in the NW on 24th July. 'Some' young undoubtedly survived until the year's end, but these were not recorded.

Maxima	Mean	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2024	**26**	20	22	23	24	33	21	11	30	30	34	34	33
2025	**23**	23*	17	11*	15	19	17	19	33*	22	31	40	28

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *.

Black Swan *(Cygnus atratus)*

An introduced Australian species, now seen in small numbers in Poole Park and at other sites across Dorset.

Black Swan © Martin Adams

Two birds present in NE Holes Bay on 29th and 30th July 2025.

Egyptian Goose *(Alopochen aegyptiaca)*

A species introduced into Britain and now spreading, one or two occasionally recorded in recent years.

Two records in 2025: 8 on 12th Jan, and 7 on 22nd Feb. The annual totals of bird-days over the past six years suggest that the species makes increasing use of Holes Bay:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Bird-days	2	2	0	5	17	15

Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)*

A few pairs breed around Holes Bay or nearby, with groups of young birds seen in summer; flocks in winter may increase in cold weather (650 recorded in Holes Bay in 1987).

Shelduck ©Allan Hansford

Shelduck juveniles ©Martin Adams

Breeding: A slight improvement on last year's disappointing results. The most definite record in 2025 was made in NW sector on 18th Aug, when 1 adult was seen with 5 young of two different sizes, so presumably a small crèche. Before that there had been six records of 4 young, presumed one brood, on 7 dates in July and August, and all in NW.

The species is present all year round in Holes Bay, although numbers fall drastically in late summer, when the adults move to the Wattenmeer regions of coastal Germany for their wing-moult, returning

in numbers from November onwards. The ‘mean’ in the table below is taken from the maxima for all 12 months of the year. The qualifying level for national importance is currently 470.

Monthly maxima for 2025:

	Mean [T÷12]	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2024	64	251*	168	87	33	8	11	10	11*	6	5	29	151*
2025	76	237* (12th)	111 (6th)	125* (9th)	74 (7th)	35 (2nd)	15 (28th)	26 (7th)	6* (10th)	8 (4th)	14 (29th)	97 (27th)	204* (28th)

The figures for July and August include this year’s young. Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *.

The annual mean figures of monthly maxima over the past four calendar years are as follows:

2020: 64 2021: 49 2022: 56 2023: 65 2024: 64 2025: 76

These figures suggest that the local adult population is currently stable after a fall of about 30% over the years 2000-2020, and counts of over 200 in January and December 2025 are encouraging.

Shoveler *(Spatula clypeata)*

A regular winter visitor to Holes Bay, with numbers increasing strongly.

Shoveler ©Rene Goad

The qualifying level for national importance is currently 190. Monthly maximum counts for 2025:

Mean [6m]	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
106	128* (12th)	46 (2nd)	9* (9th)	-	4 (5th)	2 (4th)	5 (16th)	-	18 (24th)	49 (29th)	186 (11th)	219 (23rd)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *.

Looking at the figures winter by winter and taking the mean maximum for the six months October to March inclusive, the winter 2024–25 did not continue the upward trend of previous winters:

2020-21: 82 2021-22: 46 2022-23: 95 2023-24: 161 2024-25: 79

Annual maxima as given in Holes Bay annual reports. Strangely, the maxima for the first three years were all exactly the same!

2020	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
130	130	130	312	215	219

Gadwall *(Mareca strepera)*

Mainly a winter visitor to Holes Bay, usually in small numbers.

Gadwall ©Nick Woods

Four the sixth year running, a pair lingered in the PCW channel throughout the breeding season, with up to 5 present on 15 dates throughout April. However, no further evidence of breeding was obtained.

Monthly maximum counts in 2025:

Mean [T÷12]	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	10 (10th)	2 (m)	2 (m)	5 (10th)	2 (7th)	1 (18th)	6 (26th)	-	1 (m)	8 (28th)	1 (27th)	8* (28th)

The mean monthly maximum has also remained constant at 4 over the past two years.

Wigeon *(Mareca penelope)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay, with numbers greatly increasing in recent years to outnumber all the other duck species, and with counts of over 1,000 often being made. The bird's loud whistling call is a characteristic sound on the salt marshes.

Wigeon ©Martin Adams

Wigeon ©Tina Dawkins

The monthly maxima for 2025 were as follows, with the 'mean' in the first column being calculated from the six months Jan–March and Oct–Dec inclusive.

Mean [6m]	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
1417	2045* (12th)	1044 (9th)	337* (9th)	30 (3rd)	2 (7th)	-	1 (30th)	1 (20th)	491 (4th)	1190 (29th)	2050 (27th)	1836* (28th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *.

The winter mean monthly maxima below are obtained by taking the mean for the six consecutive months October to March inclusive for each winter. The results for the past five winters show that wintering numbers in Holes Bay remain consistently at a very high level, although we have some way to go before we reach the qualifying level for national importance – currently 4500!

2020-21: 1242 2021-22: 1469 2022-23: 1175 2023-24:1373 2024-25: 1244

Mallard *(Anas platyrhynchos)*

Together with Shelduck, Mallard is the only duck species known to breed in the area, with pairs often present on the larger ponds in Upton Country Park and small flocks also seen in Holes Bay. A variety of domesticated birds also occur.

Mallard ©Rene Goad

Breeding: all breeding records came from the PCW channel.

[a] 9 young on 23rd March, all of which survived until at least 5th April.

[b] A second pair produced 14 young on 3rd April which all survived until at least 24th April.

The last record of the breeding season was of 6 well-grown young on 26th May.

A pair was also noted at Grove Pond on 5th April, but no further evidence of breeding.

Monthly maximum counts; no mean is given as these figures include counts of young.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17 (3rd)	18 (5th)	22 (17th)	34 (23rd)	25 (4th)	20 (4th)	39 (30th)	30 (4th)	37* (7th)	18 (4th)	50 (18th)	50 (12th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *.

Pintail *(Anas acuta)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay, with numbers increasing in recent years and counts of over 100 now regularly being made.

Pintail ©Pete Corbin

2025 was another excellent year for this species. The first column in the table gives the mean for the six winter months Jan-March and Oct-Dec over the current calendar year:

Mean [6m]	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
147	188* (12th)	218 (6th)	54* (9th)	3 (8th)	-	-	-	1* (10th)	11 (26th)	76 (29th)	145 (27th)	187* (28th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

The mean maxima from the six months from October to March over the past five winters confirm the spectacular increase in Pintail:

2020-21: 40 2021-22: 49 2022-23: 66 2023-24: 86 2024-25: 132

As a preview of next year's report, an all-time Holes Bay record count of 291 Pintail was made on 3rd Jan 2026, so we are likely to see another record-breaking winter average for 2025–26. The WeBS qualifying level for a population on national importance is 200 for Pintail, and this has been exceeded in Holes Bay over the three winters 2023–26.

Annual maxima as given in Holes Bay annual reports:

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
50	100	85	142	224	218

Teal *(Anas crecca)*

Usually the second most abundant duck (after Wigeon) in Holes Bay; steadily increasing, with winter maxima over 1000 in three recent years.

Teal ©Rene Goad

The table below shows monthly maximum counts. As Teal is less of an exclusively winter species than Wigeon, Shoveler and Pintail, the 'mean' figure here is the average for the 12 months of the calendar year.

Mean [÷12]	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
454	659* (12th)	782 (6th)	445* (9th]	256 (2nd)	2 (28th)	3 (4th)	14 (30th)	165 (28th}	550 (24th)	501 (29th)	830* (16th)	1241* (28th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *.

The mean winter maxima for the six months Oct–Mar inclusive show a healthy upward trend over the past five winters:

2020-21: 300 2021-22: 327 2022-23: 731 2023-24: 494 2024-25: 540

Annual maxima as given in Holes Bay annual reports:

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
603	515	996	1144	1047	1241

Pochard *(Aythya farina)*

Once a regular winter visitor to Holes Bay, occurring in most years, with over 100 birds recorded in the 1987 cold spell, but now rarely seen and then usually in very small numbers.

One record of the species being 'present' on 13th Dec. This is our first record since a group of 6 in September 2022, and efforts are being made to trace the observer to obtain a figure.

Tufted Duck *(Aythya fuligula)*

A few birds usually occur in Holes Bay in the winter, though this species and the other 'diving ducks' are much less abundant than the various species of 'dabbling duck'.

Most records come from the PCW channel. As last year, the table shows bird-days per month rather than maxima, and the year's total contrasts sadly with last year's figure of 84. This once-commonplace duck seems to be disappearing before our eyes.

	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bird-days	29	5	8	4	8	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2

Velvet Scoter (*Melanita fusca*)

Regarded as a very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in Dorset, as far as is known, this species has not previously been recorded in Holes Bay.

Two birds in Holes Bay south on 27th January 2025 were seen whilst the observer was driving and initially noted as Common Scoter until one bird showed white patches on its wing; it is assumed both birds were this species. It is thought the birds may have been sheltering from the tail end of Storm Eowyn.

Scaup *(Aythya marila)*

A scarce winter visitor to Holes Bay, with the most recent records in Jan – Fen 2020.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Goldeneye *(Bucephala clangula)*

A scarce winter visitor to Holes Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Goosander *(Mergus merganser)*

An uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant in Dorset; a rare visitor to Holes Bay.

Goosander ©Martin Adams

One redhead in SW sector on 17th Jan 2025.

One redhead in NE sector on 5th March 2025, joined by a drake on 6th; one bird remaining on 7th.

Red-breasted Merganser *(Mergus serrator)*

Irregular winter visitor in small numbers to Holes Bay.

Red-breasted Merganser ©Allan Hansford

This species is in serious decline in Holes Bay and in Poole Harbour as a whole, and the table now gives bird-days rather than maxima.

	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bird-days	73	20	19	23	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Maxima		3	4	4	1							1	5

Bird-day totals in recent years: 2022: 27 2023: 9 2024: 103 2025: 73

Pheasant *(Phasianus colchicus)*

Formerly seen regularly at Upton Country Park (prior to the conversion of much of the adjacent farm to SANG), now rarely reported from the recording area.

Pheasant ©Nick Woods

Three records: singles on 26th April 2025 and 6th May 2025, the latter a male in the east field at Upton Country Park, and 7 recorded in Holes Bay north-west on 22nd May 2025.

Red-legged Partridge *(Alectoris rufa)*

An introduced species which is released in the county for sporing purposes. There are few known recent records from the recording area though shooting was carried out on the Upton estate in the past.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Nightjar *(Caprimulgus europaeus)*

Although breeding widely on local heathlands a bird rarely if ever reported from the recording area, though given its crepuscular or nocturnal habits, it may be under-recorded.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Swift *(Apus apus)*

A summer visitor to Britain which has declined greatly in recent years. Birds may be seen feeding over the recording area and measures are being taken to provide safe nesting sites on buildings nearby.

Recorded on 26 dates between 1st May 2025 and 5th August 2025, most records were of small numbers (less than 10) but the following larger counts were made: 31 over Upton Country Park / Holes Bay on 21st July 2025, 18 at Holes Bay on 22nd July 2025 and 15+ on 5th August 2025.

Cuckoo *(Cuculus canorus)*

An uncommon passage migrant in the recording area.

A single record of one bird on 30th April 2025 at Upton Country Park.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *(Columba livia)*

Feral pigeons, in various colour patterns, are thought to breed on many buildings and bridges (including Poole Bridge) and along the railway line around the recording area.

Feral Pigeon, Upton House basement ©Nick Woods

Recorded in every month of the year and usually present in urban areas, where breeding probably occurs. A single pair raised two young inside the basement of Upton House, as far is known, this is the first time this species has bred at this building. The birds gaining access via a route used by bats to access a bat roost. Efforts are now being made to exclude the pigeons whilst still allowing access for bats. The maximum number recorded was 26 at the PCW channel on 14th October 2025.

Stock Dove *(Columba oenas)*

Less conspicuous, lacking the white wing bars of the more abundant Wood Pigeon, the Stock Dove is found in much smaller numbers; its distinctive song can be heard from many wooded areas.

Stock Dove ©Nick Woods

Recorded in all months of the year. The largest count was 11 on 1st September 2025 but probably overlooked amongst the commoner Wood Pigeon. Birds likely to have bred in Upton Country Park but no conclusive evidence of breeding, though 2 territories were reported in the Grove on 27th March 2025.

Wood Pigeon *(Columba palumbus)*

A common breeding species, the Wood Pigeon also forms feeding flocks, often seen in the fields at Upton Country Park. Flocks apparently migrating sometimes recorded, with a large roost sometimes noted on Pergins Island. Probably under-recorded.

Always present at Upton Country Park and breeding confirmed at the PCW channel (occupied nest) and probable at Upton Country Park (birds seen nest building). Counts of 50 or more included: 52 on 3rd March 2025, 59 on 1st & 50 on 16th September 2025, 83 on 13th, 100+ on 16th, 70 on 24th, 80 on 25th, 68 on 26th & 50 on 28th October 2025 and 107 on 3rd, 50 on 18th, 62 on 27th November and 53 on 5th December 2025. Some of the higher counts relate to birds scattered in small groups (e.g. around Upton Country Park). However, the counts in the autumn may reflect the presence of migrant flocks.

Collared Dove *(Streptopelia decaocto)*

Small numbers seen around the recording area, may breed.

Collared Dove ©Rene Goad

Recorded in all months at various locations, but most frequently around the north-east shoreline of Holes Bay and the PC World drain. Records all of 1-3 birds with no confirmed breeding records.

Water Rail *(Rallus aquaticus)*

A secretive bird, rarely seen, its presence often revealed by its squealing call, present in the reed beds around Holes Bay and occasionally on the ponds in Upton Country Park.

Recorded in all months of the year, usually 1-2 birds (maximum 5+ on 13th November 2025) from the main reed beds around Holes Bay with no definite evidence of breeding though this may have occurred; most records refer to birds heard. More frequently recorded in spring, and especially, in autumn/winter (bird-days shown below) – possibly a reflection of migrant birds being present. Remains of one bird found on 20th November 2025 beneath the ASDA flats on the south edge of Holes Bay were probably a Peregrine kill.

Bird Days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	7	7	7	2	1	5	1	5	7	12	2

Water Rail ©Nick Woods

Moorhen ©Nick Woods

Moorhen *(Gallinula chloropus)*

A few pairs breed around Holes Bay and on several of the ponds at Upton Country Park.

Recorded in Upton Country Park and around the Bay (including the PC World Drain) in all months of the year. Breeding was confirmed at the PC World drain, with 6 young and 5 adults there on 3rd May 2025 and 4 young with 5 adults on 11th September 2025, suggesting at least two pairs may have been present and multiple broods may have been raised.

Coot *(Fulica atra)*

Occasionally seen in Holes Bay and thought to have previously bred on the Grove pond in Upton Country Park.

Recorded on 37dates in all months of the year, except March and June (though with only single records in February, April, May, July and August); a large increase from 2024. Most records were of a single bird, with 2 birds recorded on 15th January 2025 and 17th February 2025. Most records were from the PC World drain or from the north-west of Holes Bay, though one bird was seen in south-west Holes Bay on 24th December 2025.

Little Grebe *(Tachybaptus ruficollis)*

A small flock regular in Holes Bay (often seen near the railway line) in the winter, thought to have previously bred on the pond in the Grove at Upton Country Park.

Little Grebe ©Allan Hansford

Small numbers in January-February and July-December (monthly maxima below), with last spring record 4 on 25th February 2025 and first autumn record 1 on 18th July 2025; usually seen close to the railway in Holes Bay.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2 (multiple dates)	6 (22nd)	-	-	-	-	1 (18th)	3 (14th & 28th)	4 (multiple dates)	4 (19th)	10 (15th)	9 (2nd)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Great Crested Grebe *(Podiceps cristatus)*

Small numbers present in Holes Bay, mainly in the winter but is seen almost the whole year. Nearby, birds regularly breed on sites such as Hatch Pond.

Reported in Holes Bay in all months of the year (32 dates) except June, July, September and October 2025; a decrease on 2024 when the bird was recorded on 93 dates. Most of the records were from the south of the railway line (though many records are not precise on location). Most records were of 1-3 birds, with the maxima of 4 on 12th January 2025 and 17th February 2025.

Black-necked Grebe *(Podiceps nigricollis)*

Rarely recorded in Holes Bay despite being an annual visitor to other parts of the Harbour and Studland Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)*

Occasional (usually unsuccessful) breeding bird around the margins of the Bay. Present all year round but more common in winter. The wintering population in Poole Harbour has declined since 1990.

Oystercatcher ©Allan Hansford

Recorded from all months of the year in Holes Bay.

A pair was seen copulating in the Asda Saltmarsh 29th April 2025, and birds were seen frequently flying onto the flat roofs of 2 buildings along West Quay Road in May and June. A chick was observed on the lower roofed of the 2nd building on the 12th June 2025, but activity stopped soon after this and it is not thought that any chicks were fledged. Birds were seen flying and calling around the Grove on 30th June and 1st July 2025, suggesting breeding activity again on the roofs of the Industrial Units on Factory Road.

In winter, high tide roosts often assemble on the south side of the railway embankment, usually on the east side of the Bay, with 95 on 2nd February 2025 the highest count. Anecdotally, these roosts seem to have declined in number in the last 20 years, in line with a national and local decline in wintering numbers. The UK wintering population declined by 17% between 1997 and 2022.

Also occasionally seen on the verges of the cycleway in Holes Bay East, and in the school fields in the SW corner of the Bay, with 21 in the school field on 1st November 2025.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
78 (29th)	95 (2nd)	53* (9th)	14 (1st)	7 (26th)	10 (19th)	14 (24th)	26 (28th)	42* (7th)	50 (14th)	52* (16th)	74* (28th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

2020's Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2026
84	110	101	114	99	95

Avocet *(Recurvirostra avosetta)*

Appearing in late autumn, flocks in Holes Bay can number over 400 in winter with numbers having increased in recent decades. Poole Harbour is one of the most important wintering sites in the UK for Avocet.

Avocet ©Peter Corbin

Avocet ©Martin Adams

Large numbers in winter, mainly in northern parts of Holes Bay. Avocet numbers tend to be less dependent on tides than other waders, as their long legs mean they can roost and feed in deeper waters, and are less dependent on exposed mud to feed.

The rise of a bird that was not recorded annually, or once in double figures, by WeBS counters in the 1990's, is extraordinary. The UK wintering population soared by 210% between 1997 and 2022. (In Holes Bay, the highest count in 1997 was 1, so 484 in 2022 represents an absurd 48,400% increase!!) Poole Harbour now has one of the largest wintering populations in the country, and the Holes Bay figures now regularly exceed the national threshold of 87.

Absent from 28th May to 17th September 2025.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
304 (14th)	211* (9th)	21 (7th)	1	1				3 (17th)	52 (25th)	220 (25th)	450 (12th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

2020s Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
299	238	484	288	402	450

Lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay in small numbers, often best seen from the boardwalk in Holes Bay NW. Has been seen in the fields at Upton Country Park, especially in prolonged cold spells. Formerly bred on the fields that the Upton bypass now goes through.

Lapwing ©Martin Adams

Just 6 records, another decrease in a bird that is not common in the recording area, as shown by the table below. The UK wintering population fell by 45% between 1997 and 2022.

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
23	30	23	23	11	6

2 records of singles in the first winter period, and 4 records in the second winter period, with 19 on 26th December 2025 the highest count.

Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)*

A passage migrant or winter visitor to Holes Bay, birds being reported more often in recent years.

3 records:15 on the 23rd of January 2025, 1 on 25th March 2025 and 12 on 24th September 2025.

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
		30	6	5	3

Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)*

A rare winter visitor to Holes Bay.

Recorded as Peregrine prey, after a head was found at the base of the Asda building on the 6th January 2025.

Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)*

Usually an occasional visitor to Holes Bay, mainly as a passage migrant, with small flocks rarely seeming to stay long.

A record count of 70 during WeBS on 7th September 2025 split between the NW and NE, and a higher-than-average number of records for a bird that perhaps favours sandier shores.

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	0	18	2	2	5

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius)*

A rare visitor to Holes Bay previously with single records in 2011 and 2016.

One on 3rd April 2025 in Holes Bay NE flew off eastwards (over McDonalds) calling.

Whimbrel *(Numenius phaeopus)*

A regular spring and autumn passage migrant seen in Holes Bay singly or in small numbers. Often found in the under-watched "Boat Graveyard" South of Cobb's Quay in Holes Bay South-West.

Whimbrel ©Martin Adams

The first spring record was 2 weeks earlier, and the last autumn record 1 week later than in 2024, although there was no repeat of the 2024 winter records this year. The number of records was broadly similar to the previous year's, with birds seemingly ever present during peak passage, but the spring maximum of 12 was the best count of the decade so far.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			12 (24th)	11 (8th)		5 (30th)	5 (8th/14th)				

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

2020's Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
8	7	4	7	9	12

Curlew *(Numenius arquata)*

Can be seen in Holes Bay in all months of the year with counts of 50 or more in the winter, favouring Pergins Island and the saltmarsh south of the railway embankment. Can also be seen feeding in the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Curlew ©Pete Corbin

Sadly, the lowest yearly maximum of the decade.

Counts of 200 were commonplace in the 1990's, with the average maxima 198 and a peak count of 277 in the winter of 1992/93. The UK wintering population declined by 38% between 1997 and 2022, so this means that the local decline reflects the national picture, although the average maxima of 102 this decade represents a 52% decline from the 1990's. The erosion of the salt marsh in Holes Bay may be a reason for this, and this is possibly true of other species that use the saltmarsh, such as Oystercatcher, Redshank and Shelduck.

Recorded on 15 dates in 13 acre Field; with 14 of these between 6th January 2025 and 11th April 2025 (maximum 84 birds on 23rd March 2025) and 11 birds present on 10th December 2025. There was also one record from the Upton Park fields north of the bypass, a single bird in the eastern most field on 22nd January 2025.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
58* (12th)	68* (9th)	84 (23rd)	38 (6th)	2 (5th)	14 (30th)	75 (21st)	70 (18th)	38 (14th)	36 (9th)	73 (2nd)	73 (13th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

2020's Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
122	107	116	88	96	84

There were 25 records of a flagged female Curlew, Y27f. This bird was released as part of a re-introduction project at Cranborne in Dorset on the 19th July 2024, and first seen in Holes Bay on 22nd November 2024, 22km from the release site. She was seen in 13 Acre Field 7 times and Holes Bay NW once until 25th March 2025. A yellow flagged bird was then seen in Holes Bay SW on 8th May 2025, then Y27f was seen 10 times in Holes Bay NW and 3 times in the NE between 6th July 2025 and 2nd December 2025 (Not all records specify location.) There are no records away from Holes Bay as of the end of 2025.

Curlew ©Nick Woods

Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)*

Occasional winter visitor to Holes Bay. In Poole Harbour this species is more characteristic of Whitley Lake and Brownsea Island, and vastly outnumbered by the Black-tailed Godwit.

All records: 2 birds on 25th March 2025, 5 in Holes Bay NW on 20th August 2025, 1 in Holes Bay NW on 18th September and 1st October 2025, 1 on 26th December and 4 on 29th December 2025.

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
8	3	10	8	1	6

Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)*

Numerous and greatly increased winter visitor. Internationally important numbers, representing over 1% of the East Atlantic Flyway's population are regularly recorded in Holes Bay. The Poole Harbour wintering population is thought to be exclusively of the Icelandic race (Limosa limosa icelandica) the population of which is estimated at 50-70,000 individuals.

Black-tailed Godwit ©Allan Hansford

Black-tailed Godwit ©Peter Corbin

Numbers weren't quite as spectacular as in the previous couple of years: Counts of 1000 were exceeded in 3 months and 2000 in 1 month; in 2024 3000 was exceeded once, 2000 twice and 1000 3 times. There was no big freeze that drove the exceptional maxima of 2023 and 2024, but also at times higher than expected water levels.

This is a threat going forward, with sea levels predicted to rise, and a sign that, even with the extraordinary numbers currently being recorded, that nothing lasts forever. Holes Bay will suffer from coastal squeeze, where rising sea levels coming against man-made barriers will mean that inter-tidal habitats will be lost.

Climate change is also associated with wetter than normal autumns and winters. Holes Bay is shallow and slow draining, with a lot of fresh water draining into it. When there has been a lot of rain about, the high tide levels are noticeably higher than the predicted levels, and strong Southerly winds also seem to push the water levels up.

Nevertheless, it is still an impressive set of figures; although the threshold for international importance was raised from 1100 to 1700 in 2025, reflecting the increased UK wintering

population (138% increase 1997-2022) Holes Bay still exceeded this number, making it an important site for a bird that is a key species for the Poole Harbour SPA.

There were 17 records in 13 Arce Field: 5 records between 25th March and 9th April 2025, with a maximum of 27 on 26th March 2025. 12 records from 2nd November 2025 onwards, with a maximum of 310 on 16th November 2025.

There were also 29 Blackwit on the school field next to Holes Bay SW on 14th September 2025, and 8 on 1st November. Appropriately, the majority of these birds were juveniles!

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1104* (12th)	912 (18th)	657 (16th)	654 (16th)	90 (4th)	14 (24th)	211 (25th)	301 (28th)	1142 (24th)	838 (16th)	1422* (16th)	2535 (27th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1290	2000	1504	4120	3212	2535

Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay often seen (usually distantly) on the Railway Embankment.

A new Holes Bay record count of 26 was set in January, and this was the highest number recorded this decade, although curiously there were no records in December.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
26 (6th)	24 (9th)	31 (4th)	8 (2nd)					12 (24th)	10 (9th)	10 (27th)	

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	10	14	20	14	26

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	10	22	22	36	38

Seen frequently on the (non-stoney) saltmarsh in Holes Bay SW in the autumn and second winter period. Not recorded between 18th May 2025 to 14th September, broadly in line with the previous year.

Knot *(Calidris canutus)*

An occasional winter visitor to Holes Bay, probably appearing more regularly in recent years.

Knot ©Nick Woods

Not as numerous in the second winter period as they have been the last few years, but the trend of being ever present in winter, rather than the irregular flocks and occasional passage birds that were typical at the start of the decade, has continued.

Holes Bay is amongst the best place to see Knot in Dorset, although they are not always easy to pick out amongst the more numerous Godwit that they tend to associate with.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
31 (15th)	54 (7th)	42 (9th)	1 (7th)					3 (4th)	2	44 (25th)	29 (29th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

2020's Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
51	40	25	57	60	54

Ruff *(Calidris pugnax)*

Occasionally seen in Holes Bay or on the fields of Upton Park Farm, but not recorded every year.

Three birds (possibly 2 males and a smaller female) in Holes Bay NE ON 21st March 2025.

Curlew Sandpiper *(Calidris ferruginea)*

A scarce passage migrant in Holes Bay – recorded occasionally, and not necessarily every year.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Probably under-recorded amongst the often-distant flocks of similar-looking Dunlin.

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2	-	2	1	-	-

Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)*

The smallest wader commonly found in Holes Bay, winter flocks may number 500 or more, and when disturbed will form tight flocks.

Dunlin ©Martin Adams

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
619* (12th)	911 (9th)	500 (3rd)	5 (1st)			6 (30th)	12 (20th)	34 (14th)	48 (28th)	600+ (27th)	1090 (13th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

2020 Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
458	754	1168	503	643	1090

Larger flocks seem to be increasing in frequency over the last few years: there were no months where counts exceeded 600 in 2023, 3 in 2024, and 4 in 2025, including 1000+ in December.

It is worth noting that despite seeing such large numbers these birds are on the Red List due to the decline in wintering numbers: the UK wintering population declined by 24% between 1997 and 2022.

The average Holes Bay WeBS maxima in the 1990's was 580, compared to an average of 769 for all records this decade. As the latter figures represent all records, rather than the snapshot of a monthly WeBS count, it would tend to be higher. Nevertheless, it does seem that the population in Holes Bay is at least holding steady and has probably increased.

Woodcock *(Scolopax rusticola)*

Rarely recorded and then usually single birds flushed from some of the less disturbed woodland areas in winter, or more recently as Peregrine prey.

A single bird was recorded at Lifeboat Quay on 14th January 2025 though no details were given, so it is not clear if this was a record of a live bird or possible Peregrine prey remains. It was also recorded as Peregrine prey in December 2025, when a head was found during maintenance to the nest area (the bird was not necessarily taken in December.) It's possible that the Peregrines took this bird as it migrated over at night.

Jack Snipe *(Lymnocryptes minimus)*

A scarce winter visitor, seen infrequently in Holes Bay – probably associated with cold spells and not recorded each year.

Recorded on WeBS in Holes Bay NW on the 9th February 2025, the first record since 2017.

Snipe *(Gallinago gallinago)*

An inconspicuous wader often lurking on the edges of the reed beds in Holes Bay in winter.

Snipe ©Tina Dawkins

Less numerous in the second winter period than in recent years, especially in the South West. It is possible that wet weather made inland sites more attractive, although there were no records this year from the fields of Upton CP or Upton Farm.

The saltmarsh in the South West, especially the area between Monkey Island and Cobb's Quay is usually the most productive, followed by the Boardwalk in The North West, and the corner of Pergins Island in the North East.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
43 (15th)	54 (24th)	3 (25th)	1 (14th)					1 (1st)	5 (9th)	12 (27th)	16 (20th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

2020's Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
41	24	Not known	24	70	54

Grey Phalarope ***(Phalaropus fulicarius)***

Very rare winter visitor.

1 "possible" recorded 28th November 2025. The only previous record was 1 on 22nd November 2004.

Common Sandpiper *(Actitis hypoleucos)*

Mainly a spring or autumn migrant in Poole Harbour (and more rarely a winter visitor); usually seen around the edge of Holes Bay, often frequenting the railway embankment or the shore along the Holes Bay cycleway.

Common Sandpiper ©Rene Goad

2 records in the first winter period: 2 birds on the 17th of February and 1 on the 19th of February 2025.

3 Spring records between 9th and 16th of May, with a highest count of 4 on former date.

24 autumn records between 8th July and 11th October 2025,

1 second winter period record of 2 birds on 26th November 2025.

Birds on the Railway Embankment are often flushed by passing trains, where they can be easily identified from within the train by their distinctive flight. There were 4 records obtained this way this year.

Green Sandpiper *(Tringa ochropus)*

A scarce passage migrant or winter visitor, usually of single birds. Sometimes frequents the channels in Holes Bay NE.

2 records of single birds. In Cabot Lane Sewage Works on 14th January 2025 and in Holes Bay 17th November 2025. The higher-than-average 2024 records were mostly due to 7 records in Upton Park Farm.

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3	3	2	3	11	2

Redshank *(Tringa totanus)*

Present in Holes Bay for most of the year, and may have bred in the past, it's piping call is one of the signature sounds of wetland habitats. Passage or wintering flocks can number more than 200.

Redshank ©Rene Goad

Redshank ©Tina Dawkins

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
208 (6th)	216* (9th)	200 (9th)	48 (2nd)		26 (30th)	185 (31st)	352 (28th)	412 (24th)	321* (19th)	417* (16th)	248 (28th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

2020's Yearly Maxima

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
354	306	323	292	405	417

There appear to be a slight increase in maxima over the decade, and numbers in the autumn and into the second winter period were particularly strong. November's count of 417 is the highest of the decade so far. It is worth noting however, that the maxima was only twice under 400 in the 1990's, with a high of 1120 in winter 1992-93.

The average all counts maximum this decade is 349, compared to 669 for the 1990's WeBS counts. As WeBS is a once-a-month snapshot, there is less chance that the biggest flock of the month would be recorded, compared to all records this decade.

However, there are 4 species that have declined gradually, but are still common and numerous, and are present most of the year large parts of the year: Redshank, Curlew, Oystercatchers and Shelduck. These birds tend to be quite evenly distributed around The Bay, so take more effort to count than birds that can be concentrated in flocks. They also perhaps attract slightly less focus, falling in between those species with spectacular numbers, and those that are less frequent and more notable. For these reasons, WeBS counts this decade form a slightly higher proportion of monthly maxima.

It does seem that these species numbers in Holes Bay may have declined more than they have nationally. The UK wintering population fell by 21% between 1997 and 2022 so it certainly seems that the local population has suffered a steeper decline, with the average maximum this decade 52% lower than in the 1990's.

This is possibly due to the loss of saltmarsh – all these species seem to use the salt marsh in Holes Bay, with Redshank and Curlew for example more than likely to be seen foraging in the edges of the vegetation compared to Black-tailed Godwit or Dunlin that are more characteristic of the mudflats that have replaced the saltmarsh.

It is worth noting too, that Redshank were thought to have bred in the saltmarsh in Holes Bay prior to the 1990's.

Spotted Redshank *(Tringa erythropus)*

Once a regular winter visitor or passage migrant with one or two birds being regularly seen along the Northern fringes of Holes Bay, this species has become much less frequent in recent years. In the last couple of years, it has been recorded more frequently in the South-West.

Spotted Redshank ©Tina Dawkins

13 records up to 25th March 2025, including 2 on 18th January 2025.

4 records between 23rd July and 25th of August 2025, including 2 records of 2 birds on 23rd and 26th July.

9 records of single birds from 1st November onwards.

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2	8	24	29	16	26

Greenshank *(Tringa nebularia)*

An uncommon but annual passage migrant or winter visitor to Holes Bay. As with Spotted Redshank, this is a bird that has become less common in recent years.

Greenshank ©Martin Adams

The most records this decade, and surprisingly seen in every month of the year. The peak period was during the expected autumn passage period, with 16 records between 16th July and 16th September 2025, including an impressive 10 birds on 25th July 2025.

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
11	10	16	12	26	27

Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)*

A rare visitor to Holes Bay, though breed in small numbers it is common on passage along the Dorset Coast.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)*

Present all year in Holes Bay, flying over and on the fields of Upton Country Park. Breeds elsewhere in Poole Harbour and the strikingly patterned juveniles may attract attention in late summer. Large flocks may be seen flying to and from Holes Bay.

Seen in all months of the year with high counts in the winter months. A full high winter count of 3,058 was made on the 24th January 2025. However, an estimated 5000 were seen on 18th February 2025. The first juveniles were recorded on the 30th June 2025.

Black-headed Gull (juvenile) ©Martin Adams

Black-headed Gull ©Rene Goad

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3058 (24th)	c5000 (18th)	286* (9th)	52 (7th	80 (8th)	21 (16th)	80 (16th)	517* (10th)	667* (7th)	1000+ (14th)	545* (16th)	1443 (24th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Little Gull *(Hydrocoloeus minutus)*

A very scarce visitor.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Mediterranean Gull *(Ichthyaetus melanocephalus)*

The distinctive calls of overflying birds of this species are a feature of early spring and birds may also be seen in Holes Bay or on the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Mediterranean Gulls ©Nick Woods

Recorded in most months of the year with busiest periods January-April, peaking in February. None were recorded in May, June, August or December and only a few autumn records in 2025. The highest count was made on 18th February of 154 with the large flock of Black-headed Gulls.

There was an interesting record of an apparent Mediterranean and Black-headed Gull hybrid. Initially looking like an unusual 2nd winter Mediterranean Gull, but the structure, especially the head and bill, with the primary/upper wing pattern not fitting with Mediterranean Gull.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	154 (18th)	50> (6th & 16th)	15 (7th)	-	-	2 (14th)	-	1 (1st)	1 (24th/25th)	2 (29th)	-

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Common Gull *(Larus canus)*

Recorded in spring, winter, and autumn, usually in Holes Bay.

Good numbers seen during autumn and winter lingering into April 2025, the last spring record was of a single bird on the 7th April, 2025, though unusually a single bird was seen on 4th May 2025. First returning autumn birds were recorded on 10th August 2025.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
39* (12th)	51 (7th)	13* (9th)	1 (7th)	1 (4th)	-	-	21* (10th)	23* (7th)	7* (19th)	27* (16th)	50 (15th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Great Black-backed Gull *(Larus marinus)*

This large and intimidating gull is usually present in low numbers in Holes Bay.

Great Black-backed Gull ©Peter Corbin

Seen in all months of the year usually in small numbers.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6 (15th)	7 (7th)	6 (9th)	1 (2nd)	6 (22nd)	5 (19th)	5 (25th)	9* (10th)	4 (18th)	10 (25th)	2* (16th)	10 (28th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Herring Gull ©Allan Hansford

Herring Gull breeding ©Martin Adams

Almost always present in Holes Bay. Usually breeds on buildings in Poole town and on industrial buildings nearby. Two birds seen visiting possible nest site on 28th April 2025, then of an occupied nest on 19th May 2025. On 15th June 2025 several pairs recorded with chicks on the Asda and surrounding buildings. An unusually high count of 1898 birds recorded on 12th January 2025.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1898* (12th)	300 (23rd)	125* (9th)	53 (7th)	100 (8th)	100 (19th)	6 (7th)	525* (10th)	446* (7th)	50 (24th)	169* (16th)	165* (28th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Yellow-legged Gull *(Larus michahellis)*

Once a regular visitor to Holes Bay in small numbers, this species is now only seen occasionally.

Seven records received in 2025, all of single birds on 17th February, 8th and 25th July, 4th, 5th, 7th and 14th October 2025.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *(Larus fuscus)*

Regularly present in small numbers in Holes Bay.

Lesser Black-backed Gull ©Tina Dawkins

Seen in all months of the year. On 25th April 2025 a pair nested again on a roof on Factory Road Industrial Estate. On the 19th May a pair were nesting on an industrial estate roof east of Holes Bay.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4 (30th)	6 (17th)	16* (9th)	3 (25th)	12 (8th)	10 (19th)	5 (18th)	9* (10th)	7 (30th)	7 (24th)	4 13th)	8* (28th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Sandwich Tern *(Thalasseus sandvicensis)*

Breeding locally on Brownsea Island and an occasional visitor to Holes Bay particularly during passage time.

Sandwich Tern ©Allan Hansford

A single bird was seen on 24th February 2025 before the first Spring sighting of a single on 14th April, with just only 6 further sightings up until two seen on 14th August 2025. During Autumn two

were recorded between 9th October 2025 and 20th December 2025. The highest count was three on 12th October and 17th November 2025.

Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)*

Like the Sandwich Tern, this summer migrant breeds on Brownsea Island but relatively few visit Holes Bay and then usually only 1 or 2 birds at a time.

Only three sighting were recorded during the summer of 2025, all single birds on 19th May, 28th May and 2nd July 2025.

Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradisaea)*

Rare migrant.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Forster's Tern *(Sterna forsteri)*

A rare North American visitor seen in Poole Harbour in 2023 and in Spring 2024

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Arctic Skua *(Stercorarius parasiticus)*

Regarded as a locally common passage migrant in Dorset, this species is usually recorded over the sea with few records as far 'inland' as Holes Bay. First known record for Holes Bay in 2024.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Razorbill *(Alca torda)*

A coastal species rarely found in the inner harbour. As far as is known, not previously recorded in Holes Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Red-throated Diver *(Gavia stellata)*

A very scarce winter visitor to Holes Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Black-throated Diver *(Gavia arctica)*

Regarded as an uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant in Dorset; typically seen on the coast. The first known record for Holes Bay was in 2024.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Great Northern Diver *(Gavia immer)*

A very scarce winter visitor to Holes Bay, not recorded in every year and then usually single birds.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)*

On the coast this species is regarded in Dorset as a locally common breeding resident and passage migrant. However, it is very unusual away from the coast and is not thought to have been previously noted around Holes Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

White Stork *(Ciconia Ciconia)*

Potentially a rare vagrant but also a scarce visitor from a reintroduction scheme (one previous known record of 30 birds from the Knepp reintroduction scheme in 2021).

Three birds flying over Upton towards Holes Bay on 1st May 2025.

Shag *(Phalacrocorax aristotelis)*

Breeding along the cliffs of Dorset, this species, unlike the Cormorant, is rarely seen in the inner parts of Poole Harbour.

Shag ©Nick Woods

One or two birds reported on 6 dates in January-February and November-December 2025, usually in the south part of Holes Bay.

Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)*

Often present in small numbers in Holes Bay, much larger flocks are occasionally recorded.

Cormorant ©Tina Dawkins

Cormorant ©Allan Hansford

Present in Holes Bay throughout the year, usually with 20 or less birds being recorded but with the following large counts (50 or more birds): 63 on 6th February 2025, 127 on 9th, c400 on 24th,50 on 25th & c250 on 31st October, 100+ on 28th November 2025 and c180 on 5th December 2025. The large counts usually referring to feeding flocks of birds in the south part of Holes Bay, possibly belonging to the race *sinensis*.

Spoonbill *(Platalea leucorodia)*

An occasional visitor to Holes Bay though now regularly seen in some numbers in Poole Harbour as a whole.

Spoonbill ©Allan Hansford

Relatively few records in the first winter period with 4 on 7th & 1 on 10th January 2025 and then a small flock reported on 16 dates from 27th October to 14th December 202, maximum count of 21+ on 4th November 2025.

Cattle Egret *(Bubulcus ibis)*

Once a rare passage migrant, the Cattle Egret is now regularly recorded at sites across Dorset and has bred in the county.

Only two records: single birds on 28th & 31st October 2025.

Grey Heron *(Ardea cinerea)*

Usually present in Holes Bay, with birds sometimes seen roosting at high tide along the railway line; sometimes visits Grove pond in Upton Country Park.

Grey Heron ©Allan Hansford

Grey Heron ©Rene Goad

Recorded (usually in single figures) in all months of the year in Holes Bay with maximum counts of 8 on 9th February 2025 and 7th September 2025. Birds were seen roosting on the railway embankment at high tides.

Great White Egret *(Ardea alba)*

Rarely recorded in Holes Bay, though with increasing numbers being reported in Dorset (as a passage migrant and winter visitor) perhaps likely to become more frequent.

Single birds recorded on 6th September 2025 and 8th, 9th, 19th & 21st October 2025.

Great White Egret ©Nick Woods

Little Egret ©Peter Corbin

Little Egret *(Egretta garzetta)*

Usually present in Holes Bay, sometimes with large high tide roosts along the railway line or in the trees along the shore of Upton Country Park.

Recorded in all months of the year often in Holes Bay and/or feeding on the fields of Upton Park Farm. Larger counts sometimes refer to birds at the Pergins Island roost or on the railway embankment at high tide.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
19 (1st)	10 (13th)	11 (5th)	9 (14th)	22 (26th)	45 (28th)	110 (29th)	136 (12th)	31* (7th)	61 15th)	16* (16th)	15 (12th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Osprey *(Pandion haliaetus)*

Regularly seen in Holes Bay on migration, with sightings having increased in recent years. In the autumn, one or more birds may be present for several weeks. A project to reintroduce the Osprey to Poole Harbour is currently being run by the Birds of Poole Harbour.

Osprey ©Allan Hansford

No spring records, and just 4 autumn records between 8th August and 15th September 2025, down on the last 2 years, and a lot down on the peak of 17 autumn records in 2022 and 2023.

Sparrowhawk *(Accipiter nisus)*

Regularly seen flying over Upton Country Park and around Holes Bay– probably breeds locally.

Sparrowhawk ©Allan Hansford

Recorded in every month of the year except May, with 2 recorded on 18th November 2025. No breeding evidence this year.

Marsh Harrier *(Circus aeruginosus)*

Occasional visitor to Holes Bay, birds flying over the saltmarsh or reed beds usually causing havoc amongst the waders and wildfowl.

3 records from eBird: 14th and 15th of January 2025 and 10th March 2025.

Hen Harrier *(Circus cyaneus)*

Very rarely recorded in Holes Bay, though at least one previous record: one near Upton Country Park in 1983.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Red Kite *(Milvus milvus)*

Increasing numbers seen in south-east Dorset, especially in spring of 2020, several records for Holes Bay, Upton Country Park and nearby areas.

3 records of single birds on 9th March, 24th April and 2nd June 2025.

White-tailed Eagle *(Haliaetus albicilla)*

Birds from the Isle of Wight re-introduction scheme are becoming an increasingly common and popular sight in Poole Harbour.

White-tailed Eagle ©Rene Goad

2 records of 2 birds over the margins of the recording area: 2 over Creekmoor on 15th of March 2025 and 2 high over Poole Train Station on 6th May 2025. The former birds were male G639 and female G717, both of which fledged on the Isle of Wight in 2024 as part of the reintroduction project.

Buzzard *(Buteo buteo)*

The most frequently seen bird of prey in the recording area, and has bred in Upton Country Park. Once scarce it spread rapidly in south-east Dorset in the 1980s and 1990s.

Buzzard ©Allan Hansford

Recorded in every month of the year around Upton CP, Holes Bay, 13 Acre Field, Upton Park Farm. There were several records of 2 birds, including of presumed pairs together, although there were no confirmed breeding records.

Barn Owl *(Tyto alba)*

Occasionally recorded at Upton Country Park, though rarely in recent years.

A single record of a bird hunting over the salt marsh north of Pergins Island on 10th October 2025.

Tawny Owl *(Strix aluco)*

Usually reported from woodland areas notably in Upton Country Park where it has bred.

One or two birds (both male and female) on 9 dates in January-March and September-November 2024. Most records refer to birds heard calling and all from Upton Country Park. No confirmed records of breeding but probably under-recorded as few observers visit at night.

Kingfisher *(Alcedo atthis)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay (when at least one bird is often present), with movement through in autumn, the birds starting to appear in August. Often seen perched on posts (or a shopping trolley) close to the Holes Bay cycleway and occasionally visits ponds in Upton Country Park.


Kingfisher ©Allan Hansford

Recorded on 25 dates from 2nd January 2025 to 25th March 2025 and on 95 dates from 9th July 2025 to 31st December 2025: usually a single bird but occasionally 2 or 3, and on one occasion (8th December 2025) 4 birds. Mainly recorded from around Holes Bay with two records from the Grove pond in Upton Country Park. Monthly bird-days shown below.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
23	6	3	-	-	-	9	15	35	29	14	18

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker ***(Dryobtes minor)***

Regarded as a scarce and declining resident in Dorset; there is concern that this species, once regularly reported from Upton Country Park, is now disappearing from the County.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *(Dendrocopos major)*

Widespread and conspicuous in woodland areas and gardens, breeding at Upton Country Park and probably other areas.

Great Spotted Woodpecker ©Martin Adams

One to two birds (with 4 on 15th January 2025 and 3 on 5th May 2025) regularly recorded in all months of the year except June, usually at Upton Country Park. At least two drumming birds present, usually recorded from the Grove or Jack's Wood. Probably bred in recording area though there were no confirmed breeding records.

Green Woodpecker *(Picus viridis)*

The distinctive 'yaffle' call of this species is frequently heard in Upton Country Park (often from the fields behind the stone bench) and the bird probably breeds in the park and possibly in other areas. Locally there is some concern that numbers may be declining.

Green Woodpecker ©Nick Woods

Singles reported on 32 dates from 2nd January 2025 to 10th July 2025 and then, following a long gap, on 15th & 18th December 2025. A decline from records received on 40 dates in 2024. Records were often of birds calling in the vicinity of 13-acre field in Upton Country Park or towards Upton House.

Kestrel *(Falco tinnunculus)*

Seen occasionally hunting over Upton Country Park and along the Holes Bay Road.

Kestrel ©Allan Hansford

Only 4 records: 1 hunting over the verges in Holes Bay SE on 7th January 2025, one flying past Asda with prey on 18th June 2025, one SW 19th July 2025, and one in Holes Bay on 21st October 2025.

The habitat in the SE has not changed, at least until the flood defence works at the very end of the year. There was a flurry of records in 2022 and 2023, boosted by 11 records in 2022 and 12 in 2023 in Upton Country Park. This was thought to be due to changes in management making more rough area suitable for small mammals, which is still there, so it is a puzzle as to why this has not continued.

Number of records

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3	13	18	26	15	3

Hobby *(Falco subbuteo)*

A summer migrant, the Hobby breeds in Dorset's heaths and forests, and birds are occasionally seen in the recording area.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Peregrine *(Falco peregrinus)*

After several years of records in Holes Bay South on the Asda building, a pair successfully bred on Barclay's House in 2021 after a failed attempt in 2020. This pair died due to Avian Influenza after breeding in 2023, and a new pair failed to breed in 2024.

Following last year's failed breeding attempt, a pair successfully bred on a new site, the Harbour Sails building next to Asda in Poole, hatching and fledging 4 young.

See separate article.

Jay *(Garrulus glandarius)*

A common breeding bird in Dorset with additional birds often arriving in autumn and conspicuous in the woodland and parkland of Upton Country Park.

Jay ©Martin Adams

Recorded in small numbers in all months of the year, with a maximum count of 4 twice (3rd January and 24th October 2025.) No records of breeding.

Magpie *(Pica pica)*

A common bird, probably breeding around the recording area.

Recorded all months of the year, with 10 on 24th October 2025 the highest count. In the past, large roosts have been recorded around Grove Lake. No breeding evidence recorded.

Jackdaw *(Coloeus monedula)*

Often the most abundant member of the crow family, with flocks frequenting the fields of Upton Park Farm. Probably breeds in trees and buildings in the recording area. Large roosts regularly form on Pergins Island.

Jackdaw juveniles ©Martin Adams

Recorded in all months of the year and particularly notable for the large roosts that form on Pergins Island. 2000+ were recorded regularly, but true numbers of mobile flocks, often seen in poor light, are hard to assess. Interestingly roosts of 500+ were noted in April, suggesting the possibility of large numbers of non-breeding birds.

Large pre-roosts form before sunset in the fields of Upton Park Farm and the surrounding trees. The flock then departs to Pergins Island around sunset, where they spend the night, before leaving before sunrise. The roosts seem to largely head back west, with some heading back north west. In poor weather, more birds seem to head north west.

There are no known records of this roost before winter 2020/21 suggesting that it may be a new phenomenon. A survey of Corvid roosts by Birds of Poole Harbour in 2007/08 did not record a roost on Pergins Island, although it did record them flying over the Island upon leaving a roost on Upton Heath.

Juveniles noted on 5th April and 9th June 2025 in Grove Woods

Rook *(Corvus frugilegus)*

Recorded much less often than the Jackdaw, with which it will feed, thought to have previously bred on the Upton Estate.

Rook ©Rene Goad

Recorded in every month of the year, most notably as part of the corvid roost on Pergins Island, with 287 on 1st September 2025 the highest figure.

Pre-roosts gather on the power lines around Grove Lake, and birds tend to fly to and from the roost over the Boardwalk. (Jackdaws tend to fly over closer to the Lookout).

Often found in Upton Park Farm in the day, usually in single figures. Seen visiting an apparent nest site in a tree on the Old Railway Embankment near Allen's Lane in March and April.

Carrion Crow *(Corvus corone)*

A resident species probably breeding in the recording area.

Carrion Crow ©Tina Dawkins

Carrion Crow juvenile ©Martin Adams

Recorded in every month of the year. Ever present in Upton CP and Upton Park Farm, with 46 in Upton Park Farm on 13th February 2025 the highest count.

There are also significant numbers recorded in Holes Bay SE, where birds move between the Saltmarsh Triangle in the middle of Holes Bay South and the industrial estates to the East. 150 on 11th December is the highest count.

Carrion Crows also join the corvid roost on Pergins Island, tending to come from the south-east. They often form a pre-roost on the saltmarsh in Holes Bay NE, with 100 on 4th May 2025 the highest count.

A juvenile begging from an adult was noted in East Field 19th June 2025.

Raven (*Corvus corax)*

In recent years the Raven has been recorded regularly in the area and is believed to have bred on Pergins Island, reflecting the bird's increasing presence in Dorset. Its distinctive call is often heard over Upton Country Park.

Recorded in every month of the year, with 2 present most of the year, suggesting a resident pair, and 3 on 27th April 2025 and 4 on 14th July 2025 suggesting possible breeding.

Recorded chasing a Sparrowhawk in Holes Bay SW 24th February 2025.

Waxwing *(Bombycilla garrulus)*

An irruptive winter visitor to Dorset but rarely noted in the Holes Bay area – with the most recent historic record of 13 overhead in 2011.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Coal Tit *(Periparus ater)*

Frequent in woods and gardens and probably breeding widely in the recording area.

Recorded in all months of the year, except May. Maximum recorded count was 5 at Upton Country Park on 6th & 15th January 2025. Majority of records from Upton Country Park, with some also from PC World drain. No evidence of breeding but may well have done so.

Marsh Tit *(Poecile palustris)*

An uncommon and declining breeding resident in Dorset, very rarely reported from the recording area.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Blue Tit *(Cyanistes caeruleus)*

Widespread and common as a breeding bird.

Blue Tit ©Tina Dawkins

Recorded in all months of the year. Maximum count was 16 in Upton Country Park on 15th January 2025. Breeding was confirmed at Upton Country Park (adults visiting nest site near the duck pond on 7th May 2025) and in south-east Holes Bay (recently fledged chicks seen on 20th May 2025).

Great Tit *(Parus major)*

Probably widespread and common as a breeding bird around the recording area.

Recorded in all months of the year with a maximum count of 17 on 3rd March 2025 (combined count for all areas of Upton Country Park). At the PC World drain 2 extremely pale birds were seen on 24th September 2025 and one on 15th December 2025. Breeding was not confirmed, though probably took place; birds were seen nest building in Upton Country Park on 5th April 2025.

Bearded Tit *(Panurus biarmicus)*

A very scarce autumn or winter visitor to the more extensive reedbeds – often only one or two birds and not recorded in every year.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Skylark *(Alauda arvensis)*

Rarely reported from the recording area though a possible migrant.

A single flyover bird at the PC World drain on 16th October 2025.

Sand Martin *(Riparia riparia)*

The scarcest of the three hirundines (Swallows and Martins) which are regular summer visitors, though a few are usually seen over Holes Bay on migration.

A good series of records with birds recorded on ten dates from 22nd April 2025 to 20th August 2025. Most records of 1–6 birds but the following counts represent significant migrant flocks: 20+ on 17th, c70 on 18th & 30+ on 20th August 2025.

Swallow *(Hirundo rustica)*

A few pairs often breed on buildings at Upton Country Park with flocks seen feeding over Holes Bay and the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Swallow ©Allan Hansford

Regularly recorded from 31st March 2025 to 14th October 2025. Usually in small numbers (20 or fewer birds), though the larger counts were made in the autumn, including the following of 20 or more birds: 40 on 16th & 30+ on 31st July 2025, 100+ on 27th & 50+ on 28th August 2025 and 51 on 1st & 45 on 23rd September 2025. Birds are thought to have bred in the north-east corner 'turret' or ice-house of the walled garden at Upton Country Park.

House Martin *(Delichon urbicum)*

Regular on migration with flocks often assembling in autumn, sometimes resting on prominent buildings such as Upton House.

House Martins ©Nick Woods

Recorded on 25 dates from 5th May 2025 to 25th September 2025. Only 6 records of 10 or more birds (compared to 18 in 2024) probably representing flocks on migration: 10+ on 20th & 30+ on 24th July, 22 on 4th, c150 on 15th, 30+ on 18th & 30+ on 25th August 2025. The largest count of c150 birds included flocks of 65 and 60 settling on the buildings of Upton Park Farm and the Tearooms in Upton Country Park.

Cetti's Warbler *(Cettia cetti)*

The sudden, indignant song of this inconspicuous resident warbler has been heard regularly along the shoreline since 2017 when a pair is first thought to have bred at Upton Country Park.

Cetti's Warbler ©Nick Woods

Recorded on 66 dates in February-April and August-December 2025. At least 54 of the 76 records received were from the PC World drain, in contrast to relatively few records at that location in 2024. Singing birds were heard at the PC World drain, Upton Country Park (at the boardwalk, Grove Pond and near the stone bench) and, in November-December near the railway embankment at the Holes Bay Road, though it is unclear if any birds bred.

Long-tailed Tit *(Aegithalos caudatus)*

Probably a widespread breeding bird, the noisy flocks formed in the winter and roving around woodlands and gardens are more conspicuous.

Long-tailed Tit ©Allan Hansford

Long-tailed Tit juvenile ©Nick Woods

Recorded (usually 1-10 birds) in all months of the year, with larger counts including: 12 on 6th & 14 on 7th August 2025,15 on 1st, 18 on 2nd & 12 on 29th September 2025, 12 on 13th October 2025, 29 on 3rd & 20 on 27th November 2025 and 27 on 5th & 15 on 12th December 2025. Breeding: fledged young were seen at the PC World drain (20th May 2025, 21st & 22nd July 2025 and 4th August 2025), Upton Country Park (16th June 2025 and 22nd July 2025) and Holes Bay south (26th May 2025). Several pairs probably bred.

Yellow-browed Warbler *(Phylloscopus inornatus)*

A very scarce visitor with a few records from wet scrubby areas around Holes Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Willow Warbler *(Phylloscopus trochilus)*

Once thought to be a regularly breeding bird at Upton Country Park, the Willow Warbler has declined as a breeding bird and is now usually seen on spring or autumn migration, although the attractive song can sometimes be heard in spring and occasionally in autumn.

One or two birds recorded on 30 dates from 27th March2025 to 1st September 2025, with birds recorded in all months from March to September except June. There were no records of more than two birds. There were several records of singing birds in Upton Country Park, including some in the SANG near Roper's Lane, where a bird was believed to hold territory in 2024, but no evidence of confirmed breeding. Most of the records in April and May were in Upton Country Park

and all the records bar one from 27th July 2025 to 1st September 2025 were at the PC World drain suggesting these were migrants.

Chiffchaff *(Phylloscopus collybita)*

In recent years, far commoner than the similar Willow Warbler; can be difficult to see but the simple 'chiff-chaff' song can be heard from woodland and scrub. A common passage migrant and found as a winter visitor.

Recorded in all months of the year at both the PC World drain and Upton Country Park. Whilst the former is a 'traditional' site for wintering birds, year-round records from the Park may reflect that this species is increasingly common in the winter. Most large counts (10 or more birds) were from the PC World channel with 10 or more birds being present in all months except April-June; maximum counts there were at least 30 on 13th January 2025 (first half of the year) and 40 on 21st & 30th September 2025 (second half of the year). Singing birds were widespread in spring, including 10 at the PC Word drain on 27th February 2025 and 13 at Upton Country Park on 7th April 2025. Some of these birds were probably breeding, though the only confirmed report of breeding was of fledged young at the PC World drain on 22nd July 2025.

Chiffchaff ©Rene Goad

Siberian Chiffchaff ©Rene Goad

Siberian Chiffchaff *(Phylloscopus collybita tristis)*

The Siberian Chiffchaff is usually regarded as a different subspecies to the bird commonly found in Britain; difficult to distinguish on plumage it has a distinctive call and is regarded as a scarce autumn migrant and increasing winter visitor in Dorset.

A possible bird of this subspecies was reported from the PC World drain on 22nd January 2025, based on its call (the bird was not seen).

Sedge Warbler *(Acrocephalus schoenobaenus)*

Usually reported as a migrant passing through, though sometimes singing in one place for a few days – much less frequent than the Reed Warbler.

Recorded on 2 dates in spring: single birds at the PC World drain on 13th & 14th April 2025. In the autumn single birds were reported at the PC World drain on 15th, 22nd & 28th July and 7th, 12th &

14th August. In addition, there were two birds at Upton Country Park on 16th July 2025 and 2 from an unspecified area in Holes Bay on 18th July 2025.

Reed Warbler *(Acrocephalus scirpaceus)*

The song of this summer migrant is regularly heard from reed beds around the Bay and in wet habitats such as the Grove pond and duck pond at Upton Country Park.

Reed Warbler ©Tina Dawkins

Regularly recorded in low numbers (maximum 11 on 24th April 2025) from 11th April 2025 to 29th September 2025. Singing birds were widely reported from around Holes Bay and on the duck pond and the Grove pond in Upton Country Park and several pairs probably bred, though breeding was not confirmed. Probable migrants also recorded at various sites, including the PC World drain.

Blackcap *(Sylvia atricapilla)*

Mainly a summer migrant, with a few birds sometimes being found in winter, the clear, tuneful song is widely heard from woodland and scrub.

Blackcap (male) ©Nick Woods

Blackcap (female) ©Rene Goad

Three records from the first winter period: 2 (male and female) in Holes Bay on 2nd & 1 male at the PC World drain on 6th January and 1 male at the PC World drain on 24th February 2025. Then regularly recorded from 7th March 2025 to 30th October 2025, with an additional record of one bird on 17th November 2025. Early spring and autumn records often from the PC World drain, including

maxima of 34 on 3rd May 2025 and 10 plus on 21st & 30th September 2025, these probably being mainly migrants. Singing birds widespread in woodland and scrub areas especially at Upton Country Park and the PC World Drain, with breeding confirmed at the latter (fledged young seen on 16th June 2025). A count of 9 birds at Upton Country Park on 5th May 2025 probably represents resident birds.

Lesser Whitethroat *(Sylvia curruca)*

Rarely reported passage migrant in recording area; less frequently seen than the Whitethroat.

A single bird at the PC World drain on 21st September 2025 was the only record.

Garden Warbler *(Sylvia borin)*

Much scarcer than the similar sounding Blackcap, the Garden Warbler may occur occasionally on passage but tends not to breed in the recording area.

Single birds recorded on 3 dates at the PC World drain: 1st August 2025 and 11th & 20th September 2025.

Whitethroat *(Sylvia communis)*

Much more frequent than the Lesser Whitethroat on passage recorded most years, with birds sometimes singing and possibly breeding.

Whitethroat ©Rene Goad

Presumed migrants included a single bird at the PC World drain on 10th April 2025 and 1–2 birds at the PC World drain on 14 dates from 30th July 2025 to 23rd September 2025. Between 2nd May 2025 and 9th June 2025, a singing bird was present on at least 6 dates in scrub on the east side of Holes Bay between the cycleway and shoreline near the railway line with a bird also heard singing in the scrub between the PC World drain and Creekmoor channel. Although there were no further indications of breeding, it is possible a bird held territory there.

Subalpine Warbler *(Sylvia cantillans)*

A very rare vagrant with only one known previous record (in 2013 at the PC World drain).

A ‘possible’ of this species was reported in shrubs opposite ASDA on the south side of Holes Bay on 28th April 2025.

Firecrest *(Regulus ignicapilla)*

Previously a scarce winter visitor to areas such as Upton Country Park, the Fircrest has greatly increased as a breeding bird in recent years, with singing birds heard in a number of locations. Wintering birds are widely found in woodland and garden areas with good cover.

Small numbers recorded on 62 dates in all months of the year, with a maximum of 3 on 20th June 2025. Monthly bird-days (given below), were similar to those in 2023 and 2024, with a peak in October 2025. At Upton Country Park singing birds were regularly reported near the large Cedar adjacent to Upton House and occasionally at several other locations, though there was no evidence of confirmed breeding. Wintering birds recorded at various locations including Upton Country Park and at the PC World drain.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	6	9	3	6	5	2	2	4	11	7	9

Goldcrest *(Regulus regulus)*

A common breeding bird in woodland and gardens, still far outnumbering the Firecrest, which has recently increased as a breeding bird.

Recorded in all months except June, mainly from Upton Country Park, and the PC World drain and also Holes Bay in general, maximum counts of c 10 on 26th September 2025 (at Upton Country Park) and 8 on 28th October 2025 (at north-west Holes Bay). Singing birds reported from the Grove and Jack’s wood in Upton Country Park; no evidence of confirmed breeding was reported though this probably took place in Upton Country Park and elsewhere.

Wren *(Troglodytes troglodytes)*

Widespread and common in woodland, scrub and gardens as a breeding bird, occupying even small areas of suitable habitat.

Wren ©Tina Dawkins

Recorded in all months of the year, with a maximum count of 19 birds from all areas of Upton Country Park on 5th May 2025. Singing birds noted but no evidence of confirmed breeding was reported, though this probably took place in Upton Country Park and elsewhere.

Nuthatch *(Sitta europaea)*

Widely distributed as a breeding bird in woodland and gardens, one of the noisiest and most conspicuous woodland birds.

Recorded in all months of the year, mainly from Upton Country Park and widespread in woodland and gardens there. Maximum count of 6 birds on 3rd March 2025 and 7th April 2025 (count from all areas of Upton Country Park). Singing birds noted in Jack's Wood and recently fledged young seen on the path through the east field at Upton Country Park confirming that breeding took place there.

Treecreeper *(Certhia familiaris)*

Much quieter and far less conspicuous than the Nuthatch, the Treecreeper is widely distributed in woodland, usually seen creeping up the trunks of the larger trees.

Recorded on 21 dates, from every month except February and September 2025; all records of single birds and most from Upton Country Park, including the Grove, the east field and Jack's Wood. A recently fledged juvenile was seen on the hedged path through the east field at Upton Country Park, on 16th June 2025, confirming that at least one pair bred in the Park.

Starling *(Sturnus vulgaris)*

Starlings ©Martin Adams

Most obvious for the passage or winter flocks, often seen feeding on grassland or perched on pylons and electricity transmission lines, e.g. on the Hamworthy side of Holes Bay. Starlings may also breed in trees or buildings.

Starling ©Allan Hansford

Recorded in all months of the year. Recently fledged young were reported in the south-west of Holes Bay on 8th & 15th May 2025 suggesting birds may have bred locally. There were 20 counts of 20 or more birds: 40 on 2nd & c 40 on 22nd January 2025, 42 on 3rd, 90 on 7th & 48 on 10th March 2025, 20 on 13th April 2025, 20 on 19th May 2025, 20 on 24th June 2025, c 50 on 9th July 2025, 67 on 11th August 2025, 60 on 15th & 36 on 16th September 2025, 35 on 27th & 20 on 28th October 2025, c 350 on 1st November 2025 and 20 on 12th & 25 on 27th December 2025.

Fieldfare *(Turdus pilaris)*

Mainly a winter visitor with some birds also passing through, numbers may increase with flocks of over 100 birds being seen in really cold weather, but often a relatively scarce visitor to the area.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Song Thrush *(Turdus philomelos)*

A widespread breeding species with its repetitive song of clear phrases heard from gardens and woodland.

Songthrush ©Martin Adams

Songthrush ©Rene Goad

Recorded in all months of the year, usually in small numbers (one to three birds) but with a maximum of 7 on 2nd January 2025; most records from Upton Country Park and the PC World drain. Several records of singing birds and birds seen carrying food or faecal sacs in north-east Holes Bay on 23rd April 2025 and in Upton Country Park on 24th June 2025 indicating at least 2 pairs bred. Three birds dropping from height into scrub at the PC World drain on 30th September 2025 were thought to be migrants.

Mistle Thrush *(Turdus viscivorus)*

A widespread species, perhaps more comfortable away from cover than the Song Thrush it is often seen in the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Mistle Thrush ©Rene Goad

Recorded mainly from Upton Country Park on 16 dates in January-May 2025, July 2025 (1 date) and November-December 2025. Records usually of 1 or 2 birds but 4 on 12th & 3 on 22nd December 2025. No evidence of breeding.

Redwing *(Turdus iliacus)*

Like the Fieldfare a winter visitor also seen on passage, often more abundant than the Fieldfare with birds present in woodland areas for much of winter and large flocks numbering several hundred in severe weather.

Redwing ©Rene Goad

Recorded on 20 dates in the first winter period (from 3rd January 2025 to 19th March 2025) with a maximum of 117 on 7th March 2025. In the second winter period recorded on 10 dates (from 13th October 2025 to 31st December 2025) with a maximum of c 20 on 13th October 2025. Most of the records from Upton Country Park.

Blackbird *(Turdus merula)*

A common breeding bird and prominent singer, the Blackbird is also a migrant and winter visitor though these are difficult to distinguish from the residents, often seems more abundant in winter.

Blackbird ©Allan Hansford

Recorded in all months of the year, mainly from Upton Country Park and the PC World drain. Several pairs probably bred, though there were no records of confirmed breeding. Maximum counts were 14 on 4th May & 21 on 5th May 2025, the latter being a count from all areas of Upton Country Park.

Spotted Flycatcher *(Muscicapa striata)*

A declining summer visitor in Dorset, the Spotted Flycatcher is now a characteristic autumn migrant often seen in scrub around the farm fields at Upton Country Park where individuals will make fly-catching sorties and usually return to the same perch.

Spotted Flycatcher ©Nick Woods

Records of singles on 22nd May 2025 and 25th June 2025 may represent locally breeding birds; autumn passage of 1–2 birds recorded on 15 dates from 12th August 2025 to 23rd September 2025). Majority of the records were from the PC World drain, but with 8 from Upton Country Park, typically from the east field where a location was specified.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	-	-	1	1	-	6	13	-	-	-

Pied Flycatcher *(Ficedula hypoleuca)*

Very scarce passage migrant in recording area.

A single bird reported on 16th September 2025 at the PC World drain.

Robin *(Erithacus rubecula)*

Widespread and common as a breeding bird and, where fed, happy to approach people; migrant birds probably increase numbers in winter.

Robin juvenile ©Martin Adams

Robin ©Tina Dawkins

Recorded in all months of the year with maximum counts of 18 birds from Upton Country Park on 15th January 2025 and 5th May 2025. Several pairs probably bred at the Park and elsewhere in the recording area, with fledged young reported behind the bird hide on 7th May 2025.

Nightingale (Luscinia megarhynchos)

Regarded as an uncommon and declining breeding visitor and passage migrant in Dorset. Prior to 2024 the most recent record at Holes Bay/Upton Country Park is believed to have been in 2011.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Redstart *(Phoenicurus phoenicurus)*

A scarce passage migrant around Holes Bay.

A male bird in the east field of Upton Country Park on 16th September 2025 with a female type in the hedgerow between lambs leas and half moon fields of the park on the same date.

Redstart ©Nick Woods

Whinchat *(Saxicola rubetra)*

A scarce passage migrant in the recording area.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Stonechat *(Saxicola rubicola)*

A common breeding bird on nearby heaths but seen in the recording area mainly in autumn/spring and winter – when birds may occasionally be found on the shoreline or in the fields at Upton Country Park.

Stonechat ©Tina Dawkins

First winter-period/spring records of a male on 22nd February 2025, a female on 4th & 1 on the 8th March 2025. A pair were in the hedge / scrub between lambs leas and half moon field in Upton Country Park visiting a possible nest site and a male was reported in the same location the next day. However, there were no subsequent records until 16th September 2025, from that date until 31st December 2025 1 or 2 birds were recorded on 9 dates until 31st December 2025. Although there were a few records from the south-east and south-west of Holes Bay, most were from Upton Country Park, especially from the area where the pair were seen in March.

Wheatear *(Oenanthe oenanthe)*

An uncommon passage migrant, sometimes seen in areas such as Upton Country Park and along the Holes Bay Road.

Only three records – a single bird at Upton Country Park on 14th April 2025 & 2 at Holes Bay on 26th April 2025 with a single bird on 14th October 2025.

House Sparrow *(Passer domesticus)*

A once abundant bird that is known to have declined in many areas, probably still breeds in residential areas around Holes Bay and small flocks may be seen on the fringes of Upton Country Park.

Sparrow ©Tina Dawkins

Probably an under-recorded species, it was recorded in all months of the year, except February and April. Most records from the south part Holes Bay (often between monkey island and Symes Road) where at least one local resident has bird feeders on the edge of the reedbed, with occasional records from other parts of the recording area. Most records were of 1–10 birds but 8 records of 20 or more birds, the maximum of 60 birds on 7th July 2025. Birds were seen carrying food or a faecal sac in south-west Holes Bay (on 30th June 2025) and north-east Holes Bay (on 7th July 2025) suggesting birds bred in these areas.

Dunnock *(Prunella modularis)*

A widespread breeding resident.

Dunnock ©Tina Dawkins

Recorded in all months of the year except April, usually in small numbers (maximum count 6 on 27th & 29th July 2025. Probably a common breeding bird - singing birds present but no evidence of confirmed breeding.

Yellow Wagtail *(Motacilla flava flavissima)*

A scarce passage migrant in the recording area.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Grey Wagtail *(Motacilla cinerea)*

Usually, a passage migrant or winter visitor, with one or two birds seen along the shoreline or on streams and ditches.

Grey Wagtail ©Rene Goad

Small numbers, 1–3 birds, with a maximum of 4 birds (at the PC World drain) on 11th March 2025. Recorded on 105 dates in all months of the year, except July 2025. Monthly bird days given below. The pattern of occurrence was similar to that in 2024, when a pair bred around the PC World drain; a pair was seen visiting a probable nest site in that area but, unlike 2024, breeding was not confirmed. There was again a peak in numbers recorded in September 2025, possibly birds moving through the area. Many of the records were from the PC World drain and nearby areas.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	13	31	15	4	1	-	5	27	19	10	5

Pied/White Wagtail *(Motacilla alba)*

A few pairs may breed and small parties are found on passage in winter, often in farm fields. Characteristic 'chis-ick' call often heard from birds flying over.

Pied Wagtail ©Martin Adams

Recorded in all months except June 2025, usually in small numbers – with four counts of 10 or more birds: 20 on 26th, 17 on 21st, 10 on 25th and 10 on 27th October 2025 and 24 on 3rd November 2025. There was no evidence of confirmed breeding. Although some observers recorded the birds as 'White Wagtails' there were no known records of the subspecies *alba*.

Meadow Pipit *(Anthus pratensis)*

Seen on passage or in winter with occasional birds or small flocks seen, usually in grasslands or in farm fields.

Recorded in small numbers (less than 10 birds) on 24 dates in January-March 2025 and September-December 2025, with maximum counts of 7 on 29th January 2025 and 4 on 23rd November 2025 and 23rd December 2025.

Water Pipit *(Anthus spinoletta)*

A scarce passage migrant or winter visitor with very few records.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Rock Pipit *(Anthus petrosus)*

Usually seen in winter along the shoreline, the rock used for coastal protection along the Holes Bay Road helping to provide suitable habitat.

Rock Pipit ©Rene Goad

Recorded on 12 dates (compared to 18 in 2024) in January-March and October-December 2025 (usually single birds but 2 on 16th January 2025, 10th March 2025 and 12th November 2025. Monthly bird-days given below, most records from around Holes Bay, often along the Holes Bay Road.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1

Chaffinch *(Fringilla coelebs)*

A widespread and common breeding species with small flocks sometimes found at Upton Country Park.

Chaffinch ©Martin Adams

Recorded in all months (except July 2025), usually in small numbers, highest count 12 from Upton Country Park on 5th May 2025. Singing birds present in some areas but no records of confirmed breeding.

Brambling *(Fringilla montifringilla)*

A very scarce winter visitor or passage migrant to the recording area.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Hawfinch *(Coccothraustes coccothraustes)*

Regarded as a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor in Dorset; the last record in the Holes Bay is thought to have been in 2017.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2025.

Bullfinch *(Pyrrhula pyrrhula)*

Despite the colourful plumage of the male, the Bullfinch can be surprisingly inconspicuous and is probably under-recorded (helped by its weak song); may be seen all around the area and probably breeds.

Bullfinch male ©Nick Woods

Bullfinch female ©Martin Adams

Recorded (one or two birds) on 13 dates in January-March, May, July and November-December 2025. Most records from Upton Country Park but also recorded at the PC World Drain.

Greenfinch *(Chloris chloris)*

A resident bird often breeding in loose colonies e.g., in the scrubby areas of Upton Country Park recently taken over from the adjacent farm.

Greenfinch ©Nick Woods

Recorded in small numbers (usually 10 or less) in all months of the year in Upton Country Park and in other areas around Holes Bay, maxima: 16 on 10th January 2025, 18 on 2nd & 10 on 5th May 2025. There were no reports of confirmed breeding, though singing males were recorded in several areas around Holes Bay and in Upton Country Park.

Linnet *(Linaria cannabina)*

Singing birds have been found along the edge of some of the fields of Upton Park Farm possibly indicating breeding. In winter, flocks of 100 or more have also been recorded – possibly taking advantage of seeds from farming operations or weeds as areas have been taken out of agricultural production.

A single record – 4 birds at Upton Country Park on 2nd June 2025; this is the fewest number of records since these reports began in 2020 (and the lowest maxima recorded); small flocks and the occasional singing bird were once regularly seen e.g. along the shoreline of half moon field in Upton Country Park.

Lesser Redpoll *(Acanthis cabaret)*

Once thought of as an 'occasional winter visitor,' now reported vary rarely.

One record of 15 birds flying over the PC World drain on 13th October 2025.

Goldfinch *(Carduelis carduelis)*

Probably breeds locally and flocks occur in autumn and winter.

Goldfinch ©Rene Goad

Recorded in all months of the year (usually 1–10 birds); most often from Upton Country Park. No reports of breeding but this may have occurred. Small flocks regularly present, with maximum counts of 20 on 10th January 2025 and 18 on 27th November 2025.

Siskin *(Spinus spinus)*

Small flocks occasional in winter in Upton Country Park and the PC World drain, often feeding on the Alders planted at those sites.

Siskin ©Rene Goad

Recorded on 33 dates in January-March, June and September-December 2025. Most records from Upton Country Park and the PC World drain (sometimes of birds feeding on Alders in the car park by KFC). Most records of 1-10 birds with 30 on 2nd, c20 on 3rd, 20 on 6th, 25 on 7th, 15 on 10th, 20 on 21st & 25 on 24th January 2025, 12 on 5th February 2025 and 30 on 12th & 15th December 2025.

Reed Bunting *(Emberiza schoeniclus)*

Although the male is strikingly marked, its song is easily overlooked but several pairs probably breed in the reed beds along the shoreline.

Only recorded on 11 dates in January, March, May, July and December 2025 (a reduction from 17 dates in 2024, itself a reduction from 37 dates in 2023). All records of single birds. Records from Upton Country Park, the PC World drain and other locations around Holes Bay. No evidence of confirmed breeding – though singing birds were reported on a few occasions in Upton Country Park and in south-west Holes Bay (between Monkey Island and Symes Road). As in 2024, this suggests a local decline of this characteristic reed bed species but could be due to observers failing to report a species perceived as common.

HOLES BAY BIRD CHECKLIST, 1900 – PRESENT

Stephen F. Smith

Only one species was added to the Holes Bay list this year: a record of Montagu's Harrier which appeared in the Dorset Bird Report for 1991. On the minus side, Green-winged Teal has been removed from the list, as it has now been re-lumped with Eurasian Teal.

References and abbreviations

BoD Green, G.P.: *The Birds of Dorset*. Helm, London, 2004

BoPH Birds of Poole Harbour species list

DBR Dorset Bird Reports

HBR Holes Bay Wildlife Reports 2020-24

PCW PC World Drain, local name for Fleetsbridge Channel

UCP Upton Country Park

WeBS Wetland Bird Survey

All statistics in this list refer to Holes Bay, not Poole Harbour as a whole.

Steve Smith - WEBs Count ©Martin Adams

Species list

1	Brent Goose [Dark-bellied]	Winter visitor; recent max 38 on 21st Jan 2024 [HBR]
2	Canada Goose	Common and increasing; max 455 in Nov 2015 [DBR]
3	Barnacle Goose	Rare winter visitor, presumed mainly feral birds
4	Greylag Goose	Occasional visitor; recent max 6 on 11th Oct 2021 [HBR]
5	Tundra Bean Goose	1988: 1, undated; 2021–22: 3 from 20th Dec to 1st Jan
6	White-fronted Goose	Rare winter visitor, most recently 2 on 7th Feb 2021 [HBR]
7	Mute Swan	Breeding resident; recent max 104 in Dec 2020 [WeBS]
8	Bewick's Swan	1988: 5 overhead on 30th Nov [DBR]
9	Black Swan	Occasional visitor; feral or escaped birds only
10	Egyptian Goose	Occasional visitor; feral birds only
11	Shelduck	Winter visitor and breeder, recent max 251 in Jan 2024 [WeBS]

12	Ruddy Shelduck	1986: 1 on 2nd Mar, of unknown origin [DBR]
13	Mandarin Duck	1 present for much of 1997 and Sep-Oct 2003 [DBR]
14	Garganey	Rare migrant; recent max 4 on 11th Apr 2018 [DBR]
15	Shoveler	Winter visitor, recent max 312 in Dec 2023 [HBR]
16	Gadwall	Regular non-breeding visitor, recent max 10 in Jan 2022 [HBR]
17	Wigeon	Winter visitor, max 2862 in Jan 2024 [WeBS]
18	Mallard	Breeding resident, recent max 51 in Dec 2024 [HBR]
19	Pintail	Winter visitor; recent max 322 on 20th Jan 2026 [HBR]
20	[Eurasian] Teal	Numerous year-round visitor, max 1144 in Feb 2023 [HBR]
21	Pochard	Scarce winter visitor, most recently 1 on 6th Feb 2020 [HBR]
22	Red-crested Pochard	1 on 10th Nov 1984 and 19th Nov 1988, origin unknown
23	Tufted Duck	Winter visitor in small numbers, recent max 37 in Dec 2022 [HBR]
24	[Greater] Scaup	Scarce winter visitor, most recently 6, Jan-Feb 2020 [HBR]
25	Goldeneye	Scarce winter visitor, most recently 1 in Nov 2024 [HBR]
26	Goosander	Rare winter visitor, most recently 1 in March 2024 [HBR]
27	Red-breasted Merganser	Declining winter visitor, recent max 19 on 23rd Feb 2020 [HBR]
28	Smew	Rare winter visitor, most recently 1 in Jan-Feb 2017 [DBR]
29	Ruddy Duck	Now presumed eradicated in UK; most recently 2 in late 1990s, undated [SFS]
30	Pheasant	Old records of released or feral birds
31	Red-legged Partridge	Old records of released or feral birds [NW]
32	Nightjar	Breeds on Upton Heath; only Holes Bay records 2008 and 2024 [DBR]
33	Swift	Declining summer visitor, recent max 30 on 17th June 2024
34	Cuckoo	Occasional records until 1989, now rare [NW]
35	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	Common breeding resident
36	Stock Dove	Common breeding resident in UCP, recent max 7 on 3rd June 2024 [HBR]
37	Woodpigeon	Breeding resident, under-recorded; 750 at roost on Pergins I, Dec 2021 [HBR]
38	Collared Dove	Resident in built-up areas, under-recorded
39	Water Rail	Resident, 2-3 pairs [BoPH survey 2013]
40	Corncrake	Shooting records from the early 1900s [NW]
41	Moorhen	Breeding resident, recorded in single figures
42	Coot	Occasional visitor, usually single birds in PCW channel
43	Little Grebe	Winter visitor, max 21 on 18th Nov 2014 [DBR]
44	Great Crested Grebe	Winter visitor, recent max 5 in May 2023 [HBR]
45	Black-necked Grebe	Rare visitor, most recently 1 in Nov and Dec 2021 [HBR]
46	Oystercatcher	Resident, max 114 in Dec 2023 [HBR]
47	Avocet	Increasing visitor, max 484 in Jan 2022 [WeBS]
48	Lapwing	Declining winter visitor, now rarely more than 5
49	Golden Plover	Occasional visitor, most recently 14 on 18th Mar 2018 [WeBS]
50	Grey Plover	Scarce passage migrant, recent max 11 on 3rd Oct 2022 [HBR]
51	Ringed Plover	Winter visitor, recent max 50 on 7th Sep 2024 [HBR]
52	Little Ringed Plover	1 on 26th Aug 2011 [DBR] and 1st Sep 2016 [CW]
53	Dotterel	1961 Feb 12th: 1 in 'the inner harbour', local name for Holes Bay [DBR]
54	Whimbrel	Passage migrant; recent max 11 on 8th May 2025 [HBR]
55	Curlew	Migrant and winter visitor; recent max 122 in 2020 [WeBS]
56	Bar-tailed Godwit	1-2 birds recorded annually, most recently 1 on 30th Dec 2024 [HBR]
57	Black-tailed Godwit	Numerous migrant and winter visitor, max 3212 on 18th Jan 2024 [HBR]
58	Turnstone	Regular winter visitor, max 20 in Dec 2023 [HBR]
59	Knot	Regular winter visitor, recent max 69 on 11th Jan 2026 [HBR]
60	Ruff	Irregular migrant, most recently 3 on 21st Mar 2025 [HBR]
61	Curlew Sandpiper	Scarce migrant, most recently 4 on 4th Oct 2023 [HBR]

62	Sanderling	2020: 22 on 12th Nov in NW sector seems to be the only record [HBR]
63	Dunlin	Numbers reaching 500 most winters; recent max 1090 on 13th Dec 2025 [HBR]
64	Little Stint	Rare migrant, most recently 1 on 11th Sep 2019 [DBR]
65	Woodcock	Winter visitor to UCP in small numbers [NW]
66	Jack Snipe	Occasional winter visitor, most recently 1 on 11th Jan 2026 [WeBS]
67	[Common] Snipe	Winter visitor, recent max 70 in Dec 2024 [HBR]
68	Grey Phalarope	2004: 1 on 22nd Nov [DBR]
69	Wilson's Phalarope	1988: 1 on 20th June [DBR]
70	Common Sandpiper	Migrant, max 10 on 18th Aug 2020 [HBR]
71	Green Sandpiper	Migrant in single figures, usually near Upton Farm [HBR]
72	[Common] Redshank	Migrant and winter visitor; recent max 354 on 18th Aug 2020 [HBR]
73	Wood Sandpiper	2022: 1 on 3rd Sep [DBR]
74	Spotted Redshank	Historical max 8 in early 2007 [DBR]; now annual maxima of 2
75	Greenshank	1-2 recorded most months; 2 in Nov 2024 [HBR]
76	Collared Pratincole	1977: 1 on 24th May [DBR]
77	Kittiwake	2022: 1 on 22nd Nov, apparently sick [HBR]
78	Black-headed Gull	Ever-present, max 2627 in Feb 2024 [HBR]
79	Little Gull	Very scarce visitor, most recently 2 in May 2023 and 1 in Nov 2024 [HBR]
80	Mediterranean Gull	Regular visitor, recent max 160 on 3rd April 2024 [HBR]
81	Common Gull	Regular visitor, mainly in winter; recent max 40 in Oct 2024 [HBR]
82	Great Black-backed Gull	Usually present in single figures; max 31 in Nov 2024 [HBR]
83	Herring Gull	Ever-present in double figures; max 489 in Jan 2024 [HBR]
84	Iceland Gull	Most recent record 1 on 24th Apr 2016 [DBR]
85	Yellow-legged Gull	Max 312 in Sep 2001 [DBR]; now single figures only
86	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Ever-present, recent max 23 in Apr 2023 [HBR]
87	Ring-billed Gull	Most recent record 1, 3rd-9th Apr 1994 [DBR]
88	Sandwich Tern	Fairly frequent visitor, max 4 on 30th Mar 2024 [HBR]
89	Little Tern	Included in a list of records 1980-83, but no other details [NW]
90	Roseate Tern	2021: 1 probable on 3rd Sep [HBR]
91	Common Tern	Occasional wanderers from Brownsea; recent max 3 in July 2023 [HBR]
92	Arctic Tern	1991: 2 on 27th April [DBR]
93	Forster's Tern	2024 - 25: 1, multiple records in spring and autumn [DBR]
94	Black Tern	1996: 1 on 11th May [DBR]
95	Arctic Skua	2024: 1 on 28th Nov [HBR]
96	Razorbill	2023: 1 on 11th Nov [HBR]
97	Red-throated Diver	Rare winter visitor, most recently 1 on 10th Dec 23 [DBR]
98	Black-throated Diver	2024: 1 multiple records in Jan and Dec [DBR]
99	Great Northern Diver	Single birds, most recently Nov 2024 [HBR]
100	Leach's Petrel	1991: 1 on 9th Jan [DBR]
101	Fulmar	2024: 1 seen from Poole Quay on 9th June appeared to fly into Bay [HBR]
102	White Stork	2021: 30 on 16th Dec, from Knepp reintroduction project [HBR]
103	Cormorant	Ever-present, mainly in south; max 370 on 19th Oct 2024 [HBR]
104	Shag	Sometimes present in southern part of Bay, recent max 3 in Jan 2024 [HBR]
105	Glossy Ibis	2010: 1 on Aug 13th [DBR]
106	Spoonbill	Increasing winter visitor, recent max 16 in Nov 2024 [HBR]
107	Bittern	Rare winter visitor, most recently 1 on 30th Nov 2012 [DBR]
108	Cattle Egret	Occasional visitor, max 27 at roost on 3rd Oct 2024 [HBR]
109	Grey Heron	Common resident, recent max 17 on 27th Sep 2020 [HBR]
110	Great White Egret	Occasional visitor, most recently 7 in Oct 2023 [HBR]
111	Little Egret	Ever-present; recent max 114 on 21st Aug 2024 [HBR]

112	Osprey	Increasing spring and autumn migrant, seen on 16 dates in 2024 [HBR]
113	Honey-buzzard	1997: 1 on 24th May [DBR]
114	Sparrowhawk	Resident, may breed on Pergins Island
115	Goshawk	2007: 1 on 19th Feb [DBR]
116	Marsh Harrier	Scarce autumn and winter visitor: most recently 1 in Jan 2024 [HBR]
117	Hen Harrier	1983: 1 near UCP [NW] and 2020: 1 on 19th and 21st Nov [HBR]
118	**Montagu's Harrier**	**1991: 1 at UCP on 22nd July [DBR]**
119	Red Kite	Increasing spring migrant, seen on 11 dates in 2024 [HBR]
120	White-tailed Eagle	Increasing since 2021, seen on 10 dates in 2024 [HBR]
121	[Common] Buzzard	Common resident, breeding locally.
122	Barn Owl	Rare, most recent record 1 in July 2024 [HBR]
123	Little Owl	Most recent definite record 2008 [BoPH]
124	Short-eared Owl	1986: 1 on Pergin's Island on 18th Apr [DBR]
125	Tawny Owl	Breeding resident; heard on 8 dates in 2024 [HBR]
126	Hoopoe	2017: 1 on 21st Nov in Upton Country Park [DBR]
127	Kingfisher	Non-breeding visitor; 2-3 ever-present in winter [HBR]
128	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Formerly bred UCP, most recent records spring 2017 and Dec 2024 [DBR/HBR]
129	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Breeding resident
130	Green Woodpecker	Breeding resident, may still breed [HBR]
131	Kestrel	Formerly common, now irregular; seen on 17 dates in 2024 [HBR]
132	Merlin	Rare visitor, most recently 1 in Mar 2016 [DBR]
133	Hobby	Scarce summer visitor, most recently 1 from Holes Bay path in May 2024 [DBR]
134	Peregrine Falcon	Breeding species on tall buildings SE of Holes Bay [HBR]
135	Jay	Common resident
136	Magpie	Common resident
137	Jackdaw	Ever-present at Upton Farm; roost on Pergins Is, max 2000 in Dec 2023 [HBR]
138	Rook	Normally present at Upton Farm, recent max 219 in Dec 2024 [HBR]
139	Carrion Crow	Numerous resident; recent max 150 in June 2024 [HBR]
140	Raven	Regular visitor, may breed on Pergins Island [HBR]
141	Waxwing	2011: 13 overhead on 20th Jan [DBR]
142	Coal Tit	Resident, probably breeds in UCP [HBR]
143	Marsh Tit	Now rare; most recently 1 in Jan 2022 [HBR]
144	Blue Tit	Common breeding resident; recent max 28 in UCP, Feb 2023 [HBR]
145	Great Tit	Common breeding resident; recent max 20 in UCP, Jan 2023 [HBR]
146	Willow Tit	1984: 1 on 16th Apr [DBR]
147	Bearded Tit	2016: 2 on 10th Feb [DBR]
148	Woodlark	Rare visitor, max 17 in Dec 1976 [BoD]
149	Skylark	Formerly bred; most recent record 1 in Oct 2021 [HBR]
150	Sand Martin	Migrant, regular in small numbers; max 12 on 2nd May 2024 [HBR]
151	Swallow	Summer visitor, bred in walled garden 2021 and max 12 on 2nd May 2024 [HBR]
152	House Martin	Summer visitor, breeding; max 50 in Sep and Oct 2024 locally [HBR]
153	Cetti's Warbler	Breeding population estimated at 2 pairs, 2017-21 [DBR 2017]
154	Long-tailed Tit	Common resident, max 20 in Oct 2024 [HBR]
155	Yellow-browed Warbler	Rare autumn migrant; most recently 1 on 19th Oct 2020 [HBR]
156	Willow Warbler	Passage migrant; seen on 37 dates in 2024, max 10 on 29th Aug [HBR]
157	Chiffchaff	Common breeding visitor and migrant; max 80 in PCW drain in Oct 2024 [HBR]
158	Sedge Warbler	Scarce migrant, seen on 15 dates in 2024, max 3 on 27th Apr [HBR]
159	Reed Warbler	Breeding summer visitor, 20 territories in 2023 [HBR]
160	Grasshopper Warbler	Most recently 1 on 17th Aug 2021 in PCW Drain [HBR]
161	Blackcap	Breeding summer visitor and migrant, max 20 in PCW drain, 9th Oct 2024 [HBR]

162	Garden Warbler	Migrant, mainly in PCW Drain; seen on 8 dates in 2024 [HBR]
163	Lesser Whitethroat	Migrant, recent max 4 bird-days in 2024 [HBR]
164	[Common] Whitethroat	Scarce migrant; 1 pair bred in 2023 [HBR]
165	Dartford Warbler	Most recently 1 on 14th Oct 2021
166	Subalpine Warbler	2013: 1 seen on 19th Apr in PCW Drain [DBR]
167	Firecrest	Increasing migrant and winter visitor, recent max 15 bird-days in Oct 2024 [HBR]
168	Goldcrest	Breeding species and migrant; recent max 8 in Oct 23 [HBR]
169	Wren	Common breeding resident; max 24 in May 2023 [HBR]
170	Nuthatch	Common breeding resident; max 11 in Sep 2023 [HBR]
171	Treecreeper	Breeding resident, perhaps 2 pairs [HBR]
172	Starling	Breeding resident, under-recorded
173	Song Thrush	Resident, one pair confirmed breeding in 2024 [HBR]
174	Mistle Thrush	Resident, breeding no longer certain [HBR]
175	Redwing	Winter visitor; recent max 150 in 13-Acre Field, Jan 2024 [HBR]
176	Blackbird	Common breeding resident, max 24 in Feb 2023 [HBR]
177	Fieldfare	Winter visitor; max 200 in Jan 2013 [DBR], recent max 15 in Feb 2024 [HBR]
178	Ring Ouzel	2016: 1 on 6th Oct in PCW Drain [DBR]
179	Spotted Flycatcher	Late-summer migrant, recent max 23 bird-days in Sep 2024 [HBR]
180	Robin	Common breeding resident, recent max 20 in Mar 2024 [HBR]
181	Nightingale	Now a rarity: most recent record 1 in trees beside A350 on 8th Apr 2024 [HBR]
182	Pied Flycatcher	Scarce migrant, most recently 1 in PCW drain, on 16th Sep 2024 [HBR]
183	Black Redstart	2013: 1 in car park on several dates in Jan [NW]
184	[Common] Redstart	Late-summer migrant, recent max 6 in PCW drain, 30th Aug 2023 [HBR]
185	Whinchat	Migrant, most recently 1 on 21st and 22nd Sep 2023 [HBR]
186	Stonechat	Migrant and winter visitor, recent max 3 in Oct 2024 [HBR]
187	Wheatear	Migrant, usually on rocks beside A350; seen on 9 dates in 2024 [HBR]
188	House Sparrow	Common breeding resident, max 500 in SW in Jan 2024 [HBR]
189	Dunnock	Common breeding resident, recent max 14 in Mar 2023 [HBR]
190	Yellow Wagtail	Declining passage migrant, recent max 5 in 13-acre field, Aug 2023 [HBR]
191	Grey Wagtail	1 – 2 ever-present in PCW drain in winter; bred in 2024 [HBR]
192	Pied / White Wagtail	Common resident; recent max 62 in 13-acre field, Nov 2023 [HBR]
193	Meadow Pipit	Migrant and winter visitor, max 40 in 13-acre field, Nov 2023 [HBR]
194	Tree Pipit	Migrant: records of 1-2 from 1980s, scarce thereafter [NW]
195	Water Pipit	Scarce winter visitor, most recently 1 on 11th Dec 2021 [HBR]
196	Rock Pipit	Regular winter visitor, recent max 14 in SW in Dec 2021 [HBR]
197	Chaffinch	Resident, perhaps breeding; recent max 15 in Dec 2024 [HBR]
198	Brambling	Rare winter visitor, most recently 1 on 6th Jan 2019 [DBR]
199	Hawfinch	2017: 3 on 15th Oct during national influx [DBR] and 2024: 1 on 17th Oct [HBR]
200	Bullfinch	1 -2 pairs bred in UCP in 2023 [HBR]
201	Greenfinch	Breeding resident, 2-3 pairs in 2023 [HBR]
202	Linnet	Present all year, recent max 200 in Feb 2019 [DBR] and 33 in Jan 2024 [HBR]
203	[Lesser] Redpoll	Scarce winter visitor, recent max 30 on 20th Jan 2017 [DBR]
204	Crossbill	1 on 1st Sep 1984, 10 overhead on 18th Feb 2006 [IML]
205	Goldfinch	Common resident, recent max 90 in Oct 2024 [HBR]
206	Siskin	Winter visitor, recent max 37 in Jan 2024 [HBR]
207	Yellowhammer	Old records, most recently 1 singing on 13th Apr 1985 [NW]
208	Reed Bunting	Present in reedbeds; 1-2 pairs bred in 2023 [HBR]

POOLE PEREGRINES 2025

©Martin Adams

Following last year's failed breeding attempt, a pair successfully bred on a new site, the Harbour Sails building next to Asda in Poole, hatching and fledging 4 young.

©Jason Fathers

It was not, however, the same pair as last year: in 2024, an un-ringed pair had taken over from the deceased former breeding birds. A female with a red colour ring had been seen late in 2024 on the Asda Building, as Harbour Sails – a currently unoccupied residential tower - is known to the local Peregrine watchers, but the resident female was subsequently seen back on her territory. However, on 14th January 2025 the red ringed female was seen with the male on Barclays, where he had gifted her a Pigeon.

©Rene Goad

Either the new ringed female chased off the original female or took over after that bird perished in the winter. Either way, she was now established as a pair with the male, and on 2nd February the ring was read: she was VTR, a female ringed as a juvenile on Winchester Cathedral in 2023, known to the locals as “Rosie”.

On 3rd February, a nest box was installed on the North side of the building by Jason Fathers of Dorset Raptor Study Group with permission from the owners, Stonewater. This was a better location than the one installed last year on the west side of the “tower,” as it would allow the birds more space to swoop down as they leave it, and swoop up as they land, as they prefer. The birds were not, however, initially seen visiting the box.

©Rene Goad

As Barclays House is being redeveloped as housing, the Peregrines had to be deterred from using the balconies to nest there again. The previous pairs had always preferred Asda anyway, but that had not been a suitable location, due to the remedial work that had needed to be carried out on that building.

The pair were seen copulating on Barclays House on 1st March, but it soon became apparent that, rather than either of the nest boxes, they favoured the gutter on the roof of Asda as a nest site! A nest tray was hastily installed on 13th March, along with a low-resolution camera to monitor it, and thankfully the pair soon took to it.

On the 22nd and 23rd of March the female was on the tray, and by the 24th almost certainly incubating. By the 29th of April, she was sat low and hunched up – a sign that the chicks were either vocalizing from within the eggs, or they were piping. At least 3 eggs were seen for the first time during a changeover on 30th April.

©Karyn Cuglietta

On 1st of May, the female belatedly visited the North nest box, the first time a bird had been seen using either box. On 2nd May, chicks were seen on the camera for the first time, a fantastic result for a couple of first-time breeders on a territory that had been successfully relocated to a different location.

The male was seen on the box on 4th of May, and from then on, the adults regularly used the boxes as “sentry boxes” to look over the chicks when they weren’t brooding them. There was a shadow hanging over the nest after it was reported that the Christchurch breeding Peregrines had succumbed to bird flu, but better news came on the 19th of May, when 4 chicks were confirmed.

The eyasses had their first experience of rain on 21st May, and they were seen huddled together on the nest. Fortunately, by this stage their feathers were sufficiently developed to keep them warm.

©Jason Fathers

On the 23rd of May, the young were ringed under license by DRSG. The parents were particularly vocal and aggressive during this process, and it was determined that there were 3 females and a male. The rings were blue with white lettering, and the ring numbers were DZ, HD, HF & HG (the latter being the male.)

By the 3rd of June, the juveniles were starting to stretch their wings, and they were seen “helicoptering” soon after. Although the nest was in an unusual location, the large flat roof worked to their advantage, giving the young birds plenty of chances to (literally) stretch their wings and strengthen up ready for their first flight.

©Karyn Cuglietta

On 12th of June, the male HG had fledged; he had made it to the railings of one of the balconies below the nest site and was subsequently twice seen flying. (It is normal for the smaller males to fledge first.)

This is a dangerous time for young Peregrines, and especially for urban birds. Recently fledged birds have got themselves trapped, stranded, and killed in collisions with buildings in the first week of each successful breeding season in Poole. On the 14th of June, at least one of the sisters had fledged, and HF promptly got herself trapped behind one of the glass balconies. At this stage, juveniles don’t have the nous to free themselves, so she had to be rescued the next day and released onto the roof.

©Rene Goad

One of the young made it as far as the Travelodge opposite the nest site on the 16th, where it was mobbed by gulls, before colliding with the Asda building on its return journey. Thankfully it was unharmed, but there was more drama as HD later got herself trapped behind a balcony. She also had to be freed, flying strongly after she was released onto the roof on the 17th. A juvenile was again trapped behind the balcony that evening, but this time it managed to free itself, although it plunged a few floors before flying off! At this stage, the birds were all flying well, although they were still struggling to master landings.

©Jason Fathers

On the 18th, HG was behind a balcony, but managed to free himself, and on the 20th another balcony bird extricated itself. On the 20th and 21st, HG and DZ were seen swooping at gulls and pigeons. They had survived their first week, and on 22nd a juvenile was seen in Holes Bay SE, over 100 meters away from the nest, although it was soon chased back home by the gulls!

©Pete Twamley

On the 24th, the young were seen play fighting, and on the 28th, all four were seen together on the North nest box. After this, it became harder to see all the juveniles: on 4th July, there were no juveniles at all visible on the Asda building for a time. On the 7th, a blue-ringed juvenile was seen flying to a pylon at the top of Holes Bay SE, then 3 juveniles were over Oakdale and 2 over Poole Town Centre on the 9th. On the 13th of July, a blue ringed juvenile was seen in Upton, and on 17th DZ was photographed in Lytchett Bay.

©Rene Goad

The 27th of July, 2 juveniles were seen for the last time, but one bird remained. HG was confirmed on 22nd August, and several other observations in August and July pointed to the juvenile present being most likely the smaller male, especially when seen in comparison with the adult female. A juvenile was hunting in Holes Bay NW on 30th July 2025.

©Mark Wright

HG was photographed in Christchurch Harbour on 2Nd September, but was still returning to Asda in November. It is not unusual for males to return to check out if the natal site if vacant, or even to stay around. They have even been known to help out with the next brood the next summer.

Both adults remained on their territory, as is normal for urban Peregrines. If they have plenty of food in their winter territory then it makes sense for them to stay and defend it. Indeed, prey in Holes Bay and the wider Poole Harbour area is, if anything, more abundant over winter than in the summer months.

©Jason Fathers

The adults were often seen together on the same balcony, which is less normal. Peregrines are naturally aggressive to their conspecifics, and while this aggression is to an extent switched off by the breeding bond, paired birds generally keep their distance from each other, especially given the sexual dimorphism.

On 2nd of November, a juvenile Peregrine was seen roosting on the railway embankment next to a high tide roost of apparently unconcerned Oystercatchers.

There were 4 records in total of birds hunting in Holes Bay North over the year, although there were numerous records from “Holes Bay,” which are assumed to be on Asda unless specified.

In late November and into December, the adults were both spending more time in the box, and “scraping,” suggesting that they might (belatedly!) see it as a potential breeding spot. HG was still regularly seen, and even scraping the nest box, suggesting an interesting new year.

©Jason Fathers

Prey List

The total of recorded prey species for the various Poole Peregrines now stands at 32 Species. Over 130 prey species have been record in the UK, and over 1000 worldwide.

©Peter Twamley

Little Grebe remains ©Martin Adams

Teal	Redshank
Cuckoo	Knot
Feral / Domestic Pigeon	Sanderling
Woodpigeon	Dunlin
Collared Dove	Common Tern
Water Rail	Sandwich Tern
Little Grebe	Kittiwake
Avocet	Black-headed Gull
Grey Plover	Mediterranean Gull
Golden Plover	Herring Gull
Ringed Plover	Kingfisher
Whimbrel	House Martin
Bar-tailed Godwit	Starling
Black-tailed Godwit	Redwing
Woodcock	Fieldfare
Snipe	House Sparrow

©Peter Twamley

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF THE EASTERN AREAS OF UPTON COUNTRY PARK, SQUARE SY 99 92

Stephen F. Smith

On 31st May 2025, the Dorset Flora Group visited:

- newly-cleared areas immediately to the north of the ‘Lookout’ viewpoint
- the shoreline walk eastwards towards the eastern gate of the Country Park.

Our thanks are due to Jean and Tom Smith for compiling this list of the species found.

Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
Aethusa cynapium	Fool's Parsley
Ajuga reptans	Bugle
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard
Anisantha sterilis	Barren Brome
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass
Arctium minus agg.	*Lesser Burdock*
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass
Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort
Atriplex portulacoides	Sea-purslane
Atriplex prostrata	Spear-leaved Orache
Bolboschoenus maritimus	Sea Club-rush
Brassica nigra	Black Mustard
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge
Carex remota	Remote Sedge
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear
Chamaenerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle
Conopodium majus	Pignut
Crassula tillaea	Mossy Stonecrop
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Crepis vesicaria	Beaked Hawk's-beard
Crithmum maritimum	Rock Samphire
Cymbalaria muralis	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove
Dipsacus fullonum	Wild Teasel
Elymus athericus	Sea Couch
Epilobium tetragonum	Square-stalked Willowherb
Ervilia hirsuta	Hairy Tare
Ervum tetraspermum	Smooth Tare
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Galium album	Hedge Bedstraw
Galium aparine	Cleavers

Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
Geranium robertianum	Herb-robert
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens
Glechoma hederacea	Ground-ivy
Hedera hibernica	Atlantic Ivy
Helminthotheca echioides	Bristly Oxtongue
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog
Hordeum secalinum	Meadow Barley
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear
Ilex aquifolium	Holly
Jacobaea vulgaris	Common Ragwort
Juncus bufonius agg.	Toad-rush
Juncus effusus	Soft-rush
Juncus gerardii	Saltmarsh Rush
Juncus maritimus	Sea Rush
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy
Limonium vulgare	Common Sea-lavender
Linaria purpurea	Purple Toadflax
Lotus corniculatus	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
Lycopus europaeus	Gypsywort
Lysimachia arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel
Lysimachia maritima	Sea-milkwort
Malus pumila	Apple
Matricaria discoidea	Pineappleweed
Medicago arabica	Spotted Medick
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock Water-dropwort
Oxalis articulata	Pink-sorrel
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed Canary-grass
Phragmites australis	Common Reed
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
Plantago major	Greater Plantain
Plantago maritima	Sea Plantain
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass
Polypogon monspeliensis	Annual Beard-grass
Polypogon viridis	Water Bent
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed
Poterium sanguisorba	Salad Burnet
Puccinellia maritima	Common Saltmarsh-grass
Pulicaria dysenterica	Common Fleabane
Quercus robur	Pedunculate Oak
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup
Ranunculus sardous	Hairy Buttercup
Ranunculus sceleratus	Celery-leaved Buttercup

Reseda luteola	Weld
Rosa canina agg.	Dog Rose
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock
Rumex sanguineus	Wood Dock
Salix viminalis	Osier
Saponaria officinalis	Soapwort
Silene dioica	Red Campion
Silene flos-cuculi	Ragged-Robin
Silene latifolia	White Campion
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle
Spergularia media	Greater Sea-spurrey
Stellaria holostea	Greater Stitchwort
Tamus communis	Black Bryony
Tanacetum parthenium	Feverfew
Tragopogon pratensis	Goat's-beard
Trifolium dubium	Lesser Trefoil
Trifolium repens	White Clover
Triglochin maritima	Sea Arrowgrass
Tripleurospermum inodorum	Scentless Mayweed
Tripolium pannonicum	Sea Aster
Ulex europaeus	Gorse
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Verbascum thapsus	Great Mullein
Verbena bonariensis	Argentinian Vervain
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell
Vicia sativa subsp. sativa	Common Vetch
Vulpia bromoides	Squirreltail Fescue

Sea-milkwort *Lysimachia maritima*

Found on southern side of shoreline trail, opposite the northern end of Pergins Island. Despite its name, this is not a member of the Milkwort family, but belongs to the same genus as several of the Loosestrife species, in the family *Primulaceae*. The flowers are about 5 mm across.

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF THE NORTHERN SHORE OF HOLES BAY, 1-KM SQUARE SZ 99 92

On 31st May 2025, the Dorset Flora Group visited the northern shore of Holes Bay between the eastern entrance to Upton Country Park and the Fleetsbridge Channel (PC World Drain). This area corresponds to areas NE 09, 08, 07 and 06 in the article published in the Holes Bay report for 2024.

Three of the more interesting species found:

Annual Sea-blite *Suaeda maritima*

Fairly numerous between the cycleway and the shoreline.
The inconspicuous green flowers are just visible here.

Sea Arrow-grass *Triglochin maritimum*

The spiked flower-heads make this species unmistakable.

Greater Sea-Spurrey *Spergularia maritima*

Diameter of flowers 12 mm
(Lesser Sea-spurrey has flowers of diameter 6-8 mm.)

Our thanks are due to Jean and Tom Smith for compiling the following list of species found.

Acaena novae-zelandiae	Pirri-pirri-bur	invasive, ex-Antipodes
Acer pseudplatanus	Sycamore	
Acilliea millefolium	Yarrow	
Alliaria petiolatum	Garlic Mustard	
Allium roseum	Rosy Garlic	
Anacamptis pyramidalis	Puramidal Orchid	
Anisantha sterilis	Barren Brome	
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	
Anthyllis vulneraria	Kidney Vetch	many at Creekmoor Bridge
Arctiu minus agg.	Lesser Burdock	
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	
Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort	
Atriplex littoralis	Grass-leaved Orache	
Atriplex prostrata	Spear-leaved Orache	shoreline
Beta vulgaris	Beet	shoreline
Brassica nigra	Black Mustard	esp shoreline
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft Brome	
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly-bush	
Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed	
Carex divulsa	Grey Sedge	
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	
Centaurea scabiosa	Greater Knapweed	near Creekmoor Bridge
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	
Cerastium glomeratum	Sticky Mouse-ear	
Chaerophyllum temulum	Rough Chervil	
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	
Cratageus monogyna	Hawthorn	
Crepis vesicaria	Beaked Hawk's-beard	
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	
Cytisus scoparius	Broom	
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot	
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove	
Dipsacus fullonum	Wild Teasel	
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail	
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel	
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	
Galium aparine	Cleavers	
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	
Geranium pyrenaicum	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	
Geranium rotundifolium	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort	
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear	
Jacobaea aquatica	Marsh Ragwort	
Jacobaera vulgaris	Common Ragwort	
Lathyrus latifolius	Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea	

Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy	
Linum bienne	Pale Flax	
Polium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	
Lotus subbiflorus	Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil	
Malva sylestris	Common Mallow	
Myosotis arvensis	Field Forget-me-not	
Myosotis ramosissima	Early Forget-me-not	
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock Water-dropwort	
Oxalis articulata	Pink-sorrel	
Parietaria judaica	Pellitory-of-the-wall	
Phragmites australis	Common Reed	
Plantago coronopus	Buck's-horn Plantain	
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	
Poa pratensis agg.	Smooth Meadow-grass	
Populus alba x tremula = P. x canescens	Grey Poplar	
Rhamnus cathartica	Buckthorn	
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	
Saponaria officinalis	Soapwort	
Scirpoides holoschoenus	Round-headed Club-rush	
Sedum acre	Biting Stonecrop	
Sinapis arvensis	Charlock	
Sisyrinchium striatum	Pale Yellow-eyed-grass	
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet	
Sonchus arvensis	Perennial Sow-thistle	
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle	
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle	
Spergularia media	Greater Sea-spurrey	shoreline
Suaeda maritima	Annual Sea-blite	
Taraxacum officinale agg.	Dandelion	
Tragopogon pratensis	Goat's-beard	
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	
Triglochin maritima	Sea Arrowgrass	
Tripleurospermum maritimum agg.	Sea Mayweed	
Tripolium pannonicum	Sea Aster	
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	
Vicia sativa subsp. segetalis	Common Vetch	

THE UPTON HOUSE BAT SURVEY 2025

Nick Woods

SUMMARY

(i) In 2025 bat activity in the basement of Upton House was monitored by a static bat detector, trail cameras and DNA analysis of droppings. Monitoring was restricted to the area known as the bat cave, with the detector inside the building approximately 2 metres from the entrance used by bats and a trail camera was placed near the bat detector. The equipment remained in this location for a full calendar year, in contrast to 2024 when the equipment was only in use from mid-April to December and moved between several locations. A second trail camera was placed outside near the entrance used by bats for part of the year.

(ii) Improved management of the detector meant that it operated on 94% of the days it was in situ (compared to 76% in 2024). The detector recorded a total of 277,988 files of which 248,994 were identified as 'noise' by Kaleidoscpe Pro software, the remaining 28,994 files were analysed using Kaleidoscope Pro and the British Trust for Ornithology's Acoustic Pipeline app. The detector data tabulated in this report uses the identifications provide by the Acoustic Pipeline with a probability value of 0.5 or higher (34,198 of such files being produced by the app).

(iii) The same six species of bat recorded in 2024 were again found to be present. **Geater Horseshoe bat**, **Brown Long-eared bat** and **Natterer's bat** produced large numbers of sound files and were also confirmed by DNA analysis of droppings. **Common**, **Soprano** and **Nathusius's pipistrelles** were confirmed from sound files only. **Noctules** also produced a significant number of sound files, but there was a possibility that these originated from bats flying by and not entering the building and the presence of **Leisler's bat** was also suggested by the recorded files, but it was felt that the quality of the recordings was not good enough to confirm this. During the year a single **Brown Long-eared bat** was found in another part of the basement, with one also in the courtyard of the tearooms nearby. A **Bechstein's bat** was caught in a mist-net by a licensed bat worker nearby in the grounds.

(iv) Bats were recorded by the detector in all months of the year and almost every day from April to October, although the level of activity (measured as the number of files produced by the Acoustic Pipeline per day the detector was operational) was generally less than in 2024. This may have been due to the detector being moved between several locations in 2024. The Greater Horseshoe bat accounted for 83% of the files identified, though this high percentage may partly reflect that the distinctive files produced by this species are relatively easy to identify.

(v) The information collected demonstrated several interesting points about the species present including:

- **Greater Horseshoe bats** visit the house in all months of the year. This species was also prone to fly in daylight and to temporarily hang in the doorway to the bat cave, though it was never seen to roost there. On one occasion at least two individuals were present which seemed to engage in some social interaction. In addition, trail camera clips suggested possible interactions between an individual of this species and bats of other species, following or even chasing the other bat.

- The trail camera clips showed some bats, especially Long-eared bats (presumed to be **Brown Long-eared bats**) entering cervices where the doorframe of the bat cave would have been; suggesting they may be using these sites to roost.

- The three species of pipistrelle were recorded at lower levels than in 2024, especially the **Soprano** and **Nathusius's pipistrelles**, which may be more strongly associated with other parts of the building (the areas where the detector was moved to in 2024). This was less striking for the

Common Pipistrelle which, in addition to being recorded in every month of the year, was recorded on most days from May to September inclusive.

- Data for **Natterer's bat** peaked in September / October and this may reflect courtship behaviour.

(v) A pair of Feral Pigeons nested in the basement near the bat cave using the same entrance used by bats. However, this did not seem to affect the level of bat activity. To deter the pigeons, bird spikes were installed in the base of the entrance hole at the end of October. The evidence suggests that this did not affect bat activity and the trail cameras showed that bats could fly into the building over the spikes. Unfortunately, the spikes did not keep out the pigeons and further action may be taken by the managers of the buildings to exclude the pigeons.

1. INTRODUCTION – BAT RECORDING AT UPTON HOUSE

1.1 Historic records of bats at Upton House

1.1.1 Historic records of bats found in Upton House (and nearby areas) were summarised in 2023 [1]. Between 1976 and 2023 nine species of bats (**Greater Horseshoe bat**, **Serotine**, **Bechstein's bat**, **Daubenton's bat**, **Natterer's bat**, **Noctule**, **Brown Long-eared bat** and **Common and Soprano pipistrelles**) were recorded in Upton House, with four additional species reported in the Park or nearby (**Barbastelle**, **Whiskered bat**, **Leisler's bat** and **Nathusius's pipistrelle**). The majority of bat records in Upton House were from the basement, most often in the room referred to as the 'bat cave'. However, there had been relatively few records of bats in the years immediately preceding the installation of a static detector in April 2024.

1.2. Bat recording in 2024

1.2.1 In 2024 a Titley Ranger bat detector was installed in Upton House. The files recorded by the detector from 17th April to 17th December 2024 were subsequently analysed [2]. For most of this period the detector was positioned near an entrance used by bats frequenting the bat cave. However, the recorder was moved to other locations in the basement (the old bakehouse, the squash court and the coal store) from 19th August 2024 to 23rd September 2024 and bats were found to visit all the additional areas investigated. In some instances, the detector failed to operate due to battery failure, problems with memory cards or other technical issues. For these reasons the detector was only operational on 198 days out of the 259 days when it was in situ (76%).

1.2.2 Analysis of the files recorded in 2024 was undertaken with the help of the BTO Acoustic Pipeline app. This suggested a wide range of species were present, though it was felt that not all such identifications could be regarded as proven.

1.2.3 Additional recording in 2024 was undertaken by means of trail cameras and DNA analysis of droppings collected from several locations in the basement. Six species of bat were regarded as having been proved to be present in 2024: **Greater Horseshoe Bat**, **Brown Long-eared bat**, **Natterer's bat** plus **Common**, **Soprano** and **Nathusius's pipistrelles**, the latter a species not previously recorded in Upton House [2]. In addition to the bat detector data the first four of these species were confirmed by DNA analysis of droppings.

1.3 Bat recording in 2025

1.3.1 In 2025 the static detector was left in one location (near the entrance hole at the bat cave) for the whole year to gain a more complete understanding of bat activity at this location. This report is based on the files recorded from 1st January 2025 to approximately 11.00 am on 31st December 2025, when the detector was relocated to another site in the basement. It was also hoped to reduce the number of days the detector was not operational, based on the experience

gained in 2024. The days the detector was in situ and operational for the two years are shown in **Table 1**. In addition to the detector being in situ for a full year, the estimated proportion of days it was operational increased from 76% in 2024 to 94% in 2025.

	2024		2025	
MONTH (number of days)	**Days detector in situ**	**Days detector operational (% of days in situ)**	**Days detector in situ**	**Days detector operational (% of days in situ)**
January (31)	-	-	31	24 (77%)
February (28/9)*	-	-	28	28 (100%)
March (31)	-	-	31	31 (100%)
April (30)	14	12 (86%)	30	30 (100%)
May (31)	31	17 (55%)	31	27 (87%)
June (30)	30	30 (100%)	30	27 (90%
July (31)	31	31 (100%)	31	28 (90%)
August (31)	31	28 (90%)	31	31 (100%)
September (30)	30	28 (93%)	30	30 (100%)
October (31)	31	15 (48%)	31	31 (100%)
November (30)	30	19 (63%)	30	30 (100%)
December (31)	31	18 (58%)	31	25 (81%)
TOTAL (365/6)*	**259**	**198 (76%)**	**365**	**342 (94%)**

***Table 1** – Estimated days detector in situ and operational (based on days when detector activated by bats or other cause). * Note: February 2024 had 29 days due to it being a leap year.*

1.3.2 The detector was usually accompanied by a trail camera within the building and, for the latter part of the year, by a second trail camera in the outside courtyard. The second camera was installed when a pair of Feral Pigeons began to use the basement, gaining access by the bat entrance hole (see below). A limited number of bat droppings were DNA tested as well and records of bats seen in the House or in the grounds were also kept.

2. SURVEY RESULTS IN 2025

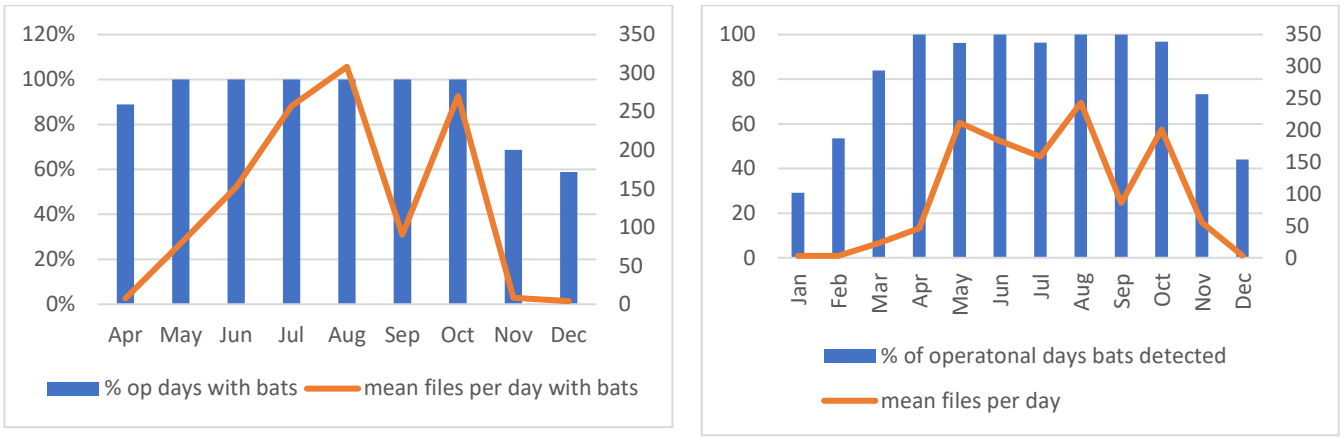
2.1 Results from static bat detector – level of bat activity

2.1.1 As in 2024 the recorded files were analysed by Kaleidoscope Pro (two free licences being generously provided by Wildlife Acoustics Ltd) and by the Acoustic Pipeline app (provided by the British Trust for Ornithology). The detector recorded a total of 277,988 files during the year. Kaleidoscope Pro identified 248,994 of these files as ‘noise’ (i.e. probably not produced by bats). Although not quantified, it was felt that large numbers of noise files were generated by heavy rain. The remaining 28,994 files were processed by the Acoustic Pipeline, the results of which have been used to estimate the level of bat activity and the species present. The Acoustic Pipeline breaks down files into 5 second segments and will also identify multiple species from a single file (effectively creating two or more separate files). It also attaches a probability value (referred to as ‘p’ for the species identification of each file). Unless otherwise indicated, the analysis in this report uses files with a p value greater or equal to 0.5. The Acoustic Pipeline also distinguishes between echo-location calls, social calls and feeding buzzes. However, of the 34,198 files generated by the Acoustic Pipeline (and identified as bat species with a p value of 0.5 or greater) 33,254 (97%) were classified as echo-location calls and only 945 as social calls (with none classified as feeding buzzes). Unless otherwise stated no distinction has been made between these different types of call in this report.

2.1.2 It is recognised that the locating the bat detector in a relatively confined space, with a low ceiling and close to walls is not ideal for the recording of bat calls, with echoes likely to be recorded from those surfaces as well as directly from the bats themselves. However, this is the

only practical way to monitor bats accessing this part of the basement. This constraint does mean that it may be difficult to accurately identify the species responsible for calls.

2.1.3 A simple measure of the bat activity through the year in 2025 is illustrated in **Fig 1** (which also shows comparable figures for that part of 2024 that the detector was used). In both years bats were recorded on around 90% or more of days from April to October, with some bats recorded in all months the detector was operational. In both years the number of files recorded peaked in August with an additional peak in October. In 2024 the detector was moved away from the bat cave for the period 16th July to 6th September, so this may have influenced the pattern recorded; this does seem broadly similar in both years, though the peak file numbers were less in 2025.



2024 **2025**

Fig 1 - *Bat activity in Upton House in 2024 and 2025. Number of days per months bats recorded as % of days detector was operational (left-hand y axis) and mean number of files identified as due to bats by the Acoustic Pipeline per day (right-hand y-axis). Note: the detector was used in three locations in 2024 but kept in the same location for 2025.*

2.2 Species present - species recorded in 2024 and 2025

2.2.1 The number of files for each species 'identified' by the Acoustic Pipeline are shown by month in **Table 2**. It should be noted that 28,265 (83%) of the files were identified as being from Greater Horseshoe bats. This species has very distinctive calls, likely to be identified with a high degree of accuracy.

2.2.2 As in 2024, three species of **Pipistrelle** were identified, though for all three species the number of files was much less in 2025 (despite the detector being operational for many more days). This discrepancy was least apparent with **Common pipistrelle** (the presence of which was confirmed by DNA analysis in 2024) with 4,170 files in 2025 (5350 in 2025) but much more striking with Soprano pipistrelle (122 files in 2025; 2,464 files in 2024) and **Nathusius's pipistrelle** (2 files in 2025; 36 files in 2024). The discrepancy could be due to variation between years but may also reflect that these species may be more strongly associated with areas of the basement away from the bat cave.

2.2.3 Although both species of long-eared bat are suggested by the Acoustic Pipeline analysis, these species are regarded as very difficult to separate from sound files (and the **Grey Long-eared** bat is a very rare species). The much commoner, **Brown Long-eared** bat was identified from DNA in both 2024 and 2025 (and an individual of this species found in the basement in 2025).

	Alcathoe Bat	Brown Long-eared Bat	Common Pipistrelle	Daubenton's Bat	Greater Horseshoe Bat	Grey Long-eared Bat	Leisler's Bat	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Nathusius' Pipistrelle	Natterer's Bat	Noctule	Serotine	Soprano Pipistrelle	Whiskered Bat	(blank)	Grand Total	Number of species	Days detector operation	Days bats recorded	% of operational days with bats recorded	FILES PER DAY
Jan	1		6		10					4						21	4	24	7	29%	0.9
Feb		1	12		13	2				19				1		48	6	28	15	54%	1.7
Mar		49	375		72	43	22			25			15			601	7	31	26	84%	19.4
Apr	3	55	296		957	39	19	2		5	1		7			1384	10	30	30	100%	46.1
May		12	127		5218	5	92	1	1	38	2	1	9			5506	11	27	26	96%	203.9
Jun		15	104		4769	4	24	1		13	15		7			4952	9	27	27	100%	183.4
Jul	3	70	909	1	2956	50	179	1		13	81	2	16	5		4286	13	28	27	96%	153.1
Aug	4	22	1350		5896	8	178	2		8	40	1	32			7541	11	31	31	100%	243.3
Sep	7	56	759		1557	18	55		1	94	5		8	9		2569	11	30	30	100%	85.6
Oct		26	164		5727	8	8			75	5		24			6037	8	31	30	97%	194.7
Nov	5	8	58		1080	4				62						1212	5	30	22	73%	40.4
Dec			10		10					17			4			41	4	25	11	44%	1.6
Total	18	314	4170	1	28265	181	577	7	2	373	149	4	122	15		34198	14	342	282	82%	100.0

Table 2 – *Suggested species identifications by Acoustic Pipeline app (p >= 0.5) of files recorded in 2025.*

2.2.4 The identifications of other species suggested by the Acoustic Pipeline is likely to be less accurate. Sound files generated by *Myotis* species (which include **Alcathoe bat**, **Daubenton's bat**, **Natterer's bat** and **Whiskered bat**) are particularly difficult to distinguish, though it may be significant that 92% of the calls attributed to *Myotis* were identified as **Natterer's bat** – a species confirmed as present by DNA analysis in both 2024 and 2025. Having said that other *Myotis* species have been recorded in the past in Upton House [1] – so their occurrence, at least infrequently, should not be ruled out. However, at this stage such identifications are regarded as unconfirmed.

2.3 Potential additional species in 2024 and/or 2025

2.3.1 The Acoustic Pipeline results suggest the possible presence of four other species in 2025: **Noctule**, **Leisler's bat**, **Lesser Horseshoe bat** and **Serotine** though the numbers of files for the last two of these species were very low in 2025 (7 and 4 respectively). A subjective assessment was made of a small selection of the files attributed to these species from both 2024 and 2025 (focussing on those for which the Acoustic Pipeline gave a high p value). In the case of those files attributed to **Lesser Horseshoe bats**, the calls were not at all convincing (in some cases an apparent harmonic at around 120 kHz perhaps accounting for what seems to be a misidentification of a **Greater Horseshoe bat** call). The files attributed to **Serotine** were also felt not to be distinctive enough to warrant the identification.

2.3.2 In contrast, relatively large numbers of files were attributed to **Noctules** (149 files in 2025) and **Leisler's bats** (577 files in 2025) and both these species were also suggested by the Acoustic Pipeline in 2024 (with 208 files attributed to **Noctules** and 704 to **Leisler's bats**). **Noctules** are described as producing two main call types, with frequencies of maximum energy at around 24.5 kHz and 19.3 kHz respectively, whilst **Leisler's bats** typically produce two main call types with slightly higher frequencies of maximum energy at around 27.1 kHz and 23.5 kHz [3]. Screenshots of sonagrams of two files attributed to these species are shown in **Figs 3** and **4**.

2.3.3 The (roughly) alternating patterns of calls and frequencies in these, and some of the other files, are broadly compatible with both the **Noctule** and **Leisler's bat** identifications, although the allocation of individual calls to species by Kaleidoscope Pro (as shown in Figs 3 and 4) is far less conclusive. In addition, it has been pointed out that **Noctules** are large, typically high-flying bats that rarely enter buildings and their echolocation calls can travel long distances; **Leisler's bat** is also not common in Dorset [5 and 6]. The bat detector is inside the basement, approximately 2 m from the entrance used by bats, which is in an internal courtyard of the basement (**see Fig 5**) enclosed by the main structure of the building. Despite the location of the detector, it is possible

that it is picking up **Noctules** flying past rather than entering the building. The identification of the **Leisler's ba**t files examined were less convincing, though possible, and although this species is known to use buildings it is generally regarded as rare in Dorset.

2.3.4 Although Acoustic Pipeline analysis of the files recorded in both 2024 and 2025 suggest species other than the six regarded as confirmed in 2024 may be using Upton House, no additional species have been identified with certainty, though the detector recordings show **Noctules** are at least flying in the vicinity of the building and **Leisler's bats** could be present. The use of the basement by other species remains a possibility and could be confirmed by a more detailed analysis of the sound files recorded (ideally with improved auto-identification technology). Even better, would be identification or confirmation by DNA analysis of droppings. However, given that a large proportion of the droppings accumulating in the House are probably from **Greater Horseshoe bats** or other frequently occurring species and the small samples usually tested, this would require very careful selection of samples or good fortune.

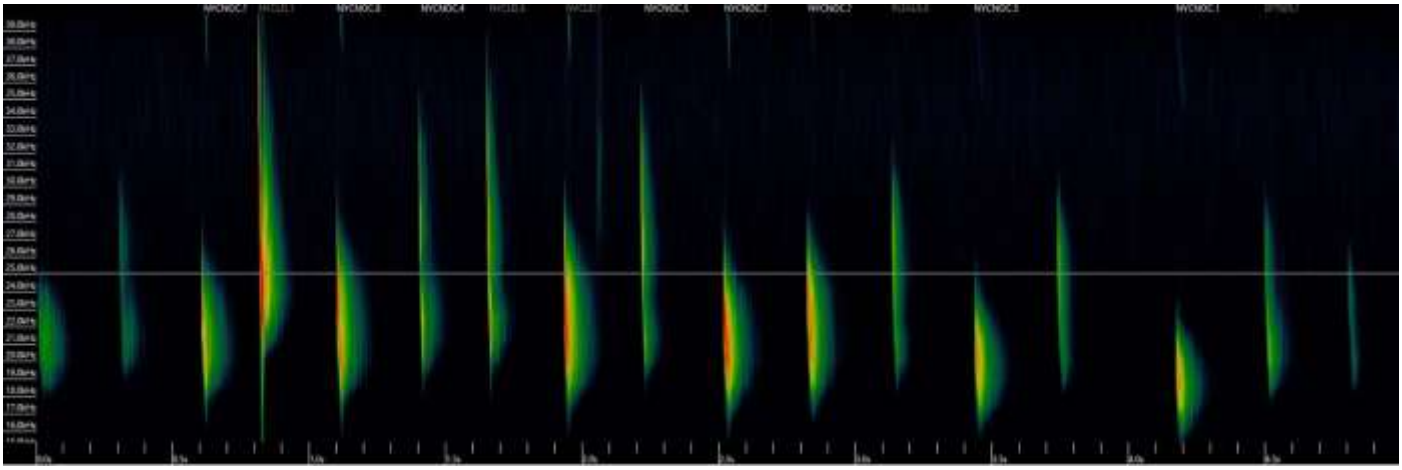


Fig 2 – *Sonagram for possible Noctule bat recorded on 20th August 2024 (file POSS NOCTULE us_2024-08-20_05-38-37_p1.wav). Note – this file was identified as a Noctule by the Acoustic Pipeline with (p = 0.98) and the annotations 'NYCNOC1' etc at the top of the screenshot show suggested identifications by Kaleidoscope Pro (NYCNOC being the abbreviation for Noctule).*
The horizontal white line is at a frequency of 25 kHz.

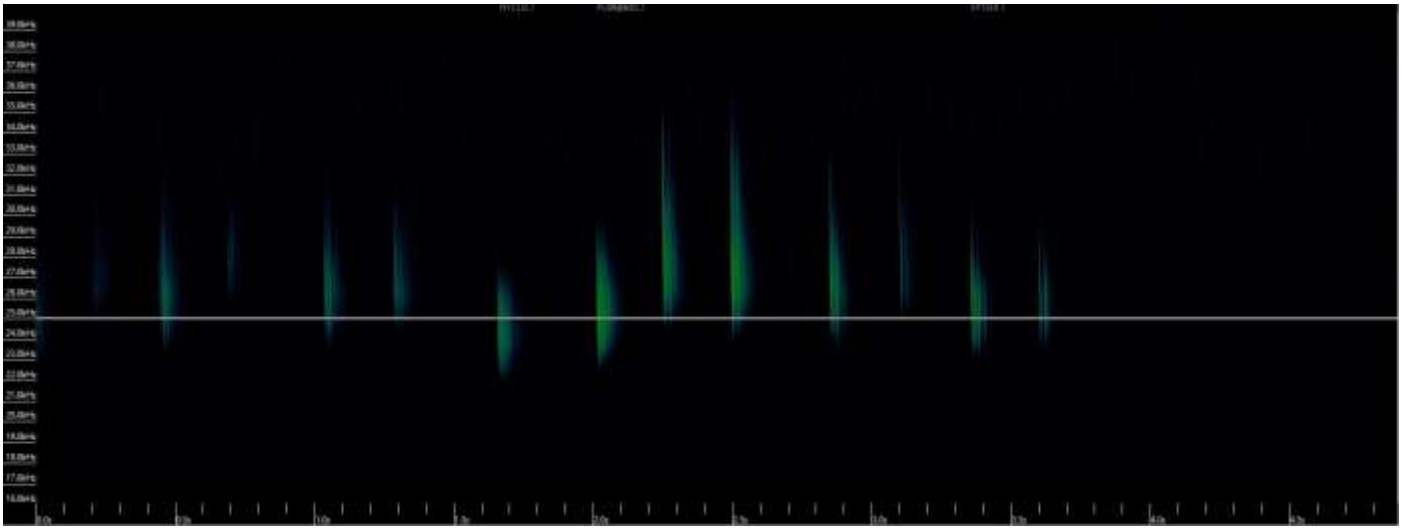


Fig 3 – *Sonogram for possible Leisler's bat recorded on 19th July 2024 (file POSS LEISLERSus_2024-07-19_22-33-32_00000_000.wav. Note – this file was identified as a Leisler's bat by the Acoustic Pipeline with (p = 0.99) and the annotations at the top of the screenshot show possible identifications by Kaleidoscope Pro (NYCLEI being the abbreviation for Leisler's bat, and PLEAUS being Grey Long-eared Bat and EPTSER being Serotine – the '?' suffix indicating an uncommon call type for the species and hence a possible mis-identification [4]). The horizontal white line is at a frequency of 25 kHz.*

2.4 Seasonal occurrence of selected species in 2025

2.4.1 **Fig 6** shows the number of days a species was recorded in each month (as a percentage of the days the detector was operational) and the mean number of files per day the species was detected. It should be noted that the scale of the y-axis varies for the different species and small numbers of files may not be apparent in the graphs. It should also be remembered that not all bats may be picked up and bats hibernating nearby may not be detected. Equally, the totals may not be proportional to the number of bats involved, since a single bat flying around could generate many files. Different species may also be more easily identified by the Acoustic Pipeline, notably the **Greater Horseshoe bat**. It was also found in 2024 that bats use other areas of the basement in addition to the bat cave (so absence of records in that location does not mean the bat is absent from the building as a whole). Despite these caveats, **Fig 6** does suggest considerable variation in the pattern of occurrence and the level of activity of different species in the vicinity of the bat cave.

Fig 4 – *Upton House location of basement courtyard (left) and ground level view of courtyard (right). To enter the basement, bats need to drop down from above the building (as shown by the red arrow).*

2.4.2 The **Greater Horseshoe bat** illustrates a number of these points, for example there were 10 and 13 files recorded in January and February respectively, though this is not apparent on the graph due to the many thousands of files recorded in other months. In fact, this species was recorded in all months of the year, though the 10 files in January were all recorded on a single date (12th January 2025 from 16:28 to 16:52 GMT) and the thirteen files in February on two dates (on the 20th from 21:10 to 21:14 GMT and on the 22nd February 2025 with most files between 20:46 and 20:48 GMT, and one at 23:26 GMT). Similarly, the ten files in December were recorded on one date (2nd December 2025 between 05:41 and 05:43 GMT). These results may reflect a single bat being present and, occasionally, interrupting its hibernation in the winter months. The results from 2025 show, probably for the first time, that this species is probably present all year round at Upton House. As would be expected, the levels of apparent activity were generally much higher in the period May to October, though reduced somewhat in July and September. The vast majority (83%) of the detector files identified with a p value of 0.5 or more by the Acoustic Pipeline were identified as this species. This high figure may partly reflect that calls of this species are very distinctive and easy to identify.

2.4.3 **Brown Long-eared bat** files were identified in all months except January and December, with a peak in July and apparent reduced level of activity in May-June and August. Although, 314 files were allocated to this species, another 181 were allocated to the **Grey Long-eared bat**, a rare species unlikely to be present. However, files of the two species are difficult to separate, so the number of files per month for allocated for both species have been aggregated and are shown

as ‘Long-eared bat sp’ in **Fig 6**. In fact, the level of activity for files allocated to both species through the year was very similar, as was the case in 2024.

2.4.4 Overall the **Common pipistrelle** was detected on more days than any other species (61% of the days the detector was operational). The yearly pattern shows a high level of activity in July to September with a clear peak in August. This is an almost identical pattern to that in 2024, though the number of files in August 2025 (1350 files) was much lower than in 2024 (3065 files). In 2024 from 19th to the 31st of August the detector was moved to the old bakehouse or coal store and 2313 of the files (75%) for that month were recorded in those locations. In 2024 it was felt that this species may be particularly associated with those areas rather than the bat cave – the 2025 results are in line with this.

2.4.5 Results for the **Soprano pipistrelle** also showed a peak in August, though with a reduction in September and a lower secondary peak in October. There was a huge reduction in the number of files recorded from 2024 (2464 in approximately 9 months) to 122 in 2025. The total in 2024 was largely due to 2392 files recorded in August of that year (97% of the total for the year). As with the **Common pipistrelle** this may reflect a particular association with areas of the basement away from the bat cave. Interestingly, only two files were allocated to **Nathusius’s pipistrelle** in 2025, compared to 36 in 2024 (of which 25 were in August). It is possible that this migratory species is, along with the other pipistrelle species, more strongly associated with parts of the basement other than the bat cave.

2.4.6 As indicated above, it is difficult to distinguish the different *Myotis* species on the basis of the sound files. However, the vast majority of calls attributed to *Myotis* bats were allocated to **Natterer’s bat** and its presence was confirmed by DNA analysis of droppings in both 2024 and 2025. Hence, it is likely that the pattern shown by the sound files allocated to this species by the Acoustic Pipeline is a true reflection of its occurrence. This shows a very strong autumnal peak – with daily presence highest in October and the level of activity (as the mean number of files per day) strongly peaked in September. This may reflect mating activities and Natterer’s bat is a species known to ‘swarm’ in the autumn [7].

2.4.7 As indicated in section 2.3.4 the difficulty of identifying **Leisler’s bat** from sound files means the presence of this species is regarded as unconfirmed (and there is scope for confusion with Noctule sound files, possibly being generated by bats flying by). However, in 2025 this species had the third highest number of files allocated to it by the Acoustic Pipeline (after **Greater Horseshoe bat** and **Common pipistrelle**). If present, the pattern of occurrence seems similar to other species, with a peak in both days present and the number of files in late summer/early autumn.

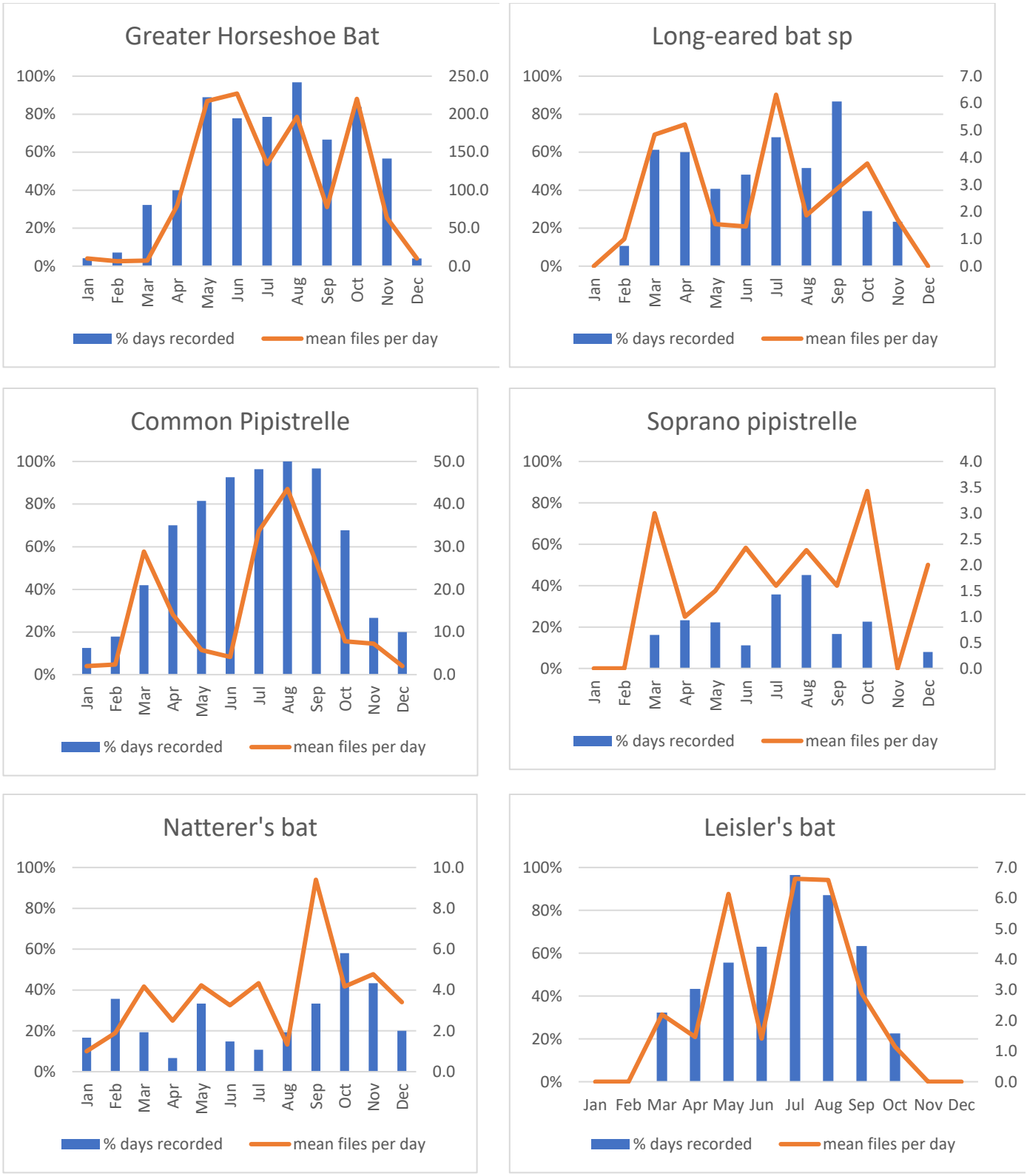


Fig 5 – *Monthly occurrence of selected species. Blue bars show the number of days recorded (as % of the days the detector was operational); orange line shows the mean number of files per day identified as the species when the detector was operational. Note for some species with high overall numbers of files (e.g. Greater Horseshoe bat, very low numbers of files in winter months may not be visible on the graphs).*

3. OTHER BAT RECORDS IN 2025

3.1 DNA analysis of bat droppings

3.1.1 As in 2024 several samples of droppings were collected and analysed for DNA by Swift Ecology / Ecotype Genetics Ltd to confirm identifications suggested by the bat detector recordings or potentially add additional species to those known to be using the basement. The droppings were all collected from beneath the cavity in the ceiling of the bat cave, this location is the only known place where droppings regularly accumulate. To remove samples without closely approaching any roosting bats paper sheets were laid beneath the cavity, each connected to a 'draw string' (a strip of wallpaper c 4 m in length); this enabled the top sheet to be removed from a distance and droppings collected (**Fig 7**). Although some of the sheets did become tangled this enabled several samples to be withdrawn remotely without approaching the roost location, and for the period when these droppings were deposited to be known.

3.1.2 The right-hand photo in **Fig 7** shows the extracted dropping sheet number 5 which was removed on the 5th of August, the previous sheet (number 6) having been removed on the 29th May 2025. Hence the droppings (100+) on the sheet had accumulated in the 68 days between these two dates and give an indication of the rate of dropping accumulation.

Fig 6 – *collection of bat droppings from beneath ceiling cavity in the bat cave. Left – bat dropping collection sheet in situ; centre 'draw string' to remove sheet; right - bat dropping collection sheet no 5, examined on 5th August 2025.*

3.1.3 DNA analysis is carried out on a relatively small sample (perhaps 10 droppings). Although, droppings selected for testing include a variety of shapes and sizes it is quite possible that not all species present are represented, especially when most droppings are likely to be from those species present at the highest levels (e.g. the **Greater Horseshoe bat**). The larger dark objects on the dropping sheets are wings of Peacock Butterflies, several of which hibernate in the basement. It is possible that these butterflies had been predated by bats.

3.1.4 The results of the DNA testing are shown in **Table 3**. The following species were identified from droppings: **Greater Horseshoe bat**, **Natterer's bat** and **Brown Long-eared bat**. Each of these species had been identified from droppings collected from various parts of the basement in 2024, though only the **Greater Horseshoe bat** was previously identified from the bat cave, **Natterer's bat**, **Brown Long-eared bat**, and an additional species (**Common pipistrelle**) having been identified from droppings found in the squash court.

Swift Ecology order number	Date collected	Sheet number	Species identified
3521	29th May 2025	6	Greater Horseshoe bat, Natterer's bat
3715	5th August 2025	5	Greater Horseshoe bat, Natterer's bat
3859	7th October 2025	3	Greater Horseshoe bat, Natterer's bat and Brown Long-eared bat

Table 3 – *Results of DNA testing of droppings carried out in 2025.*

3.2 Trail camera records in 2025 – number of records and number of bats per video clip

3.2.1 A single trail camera was maintained for the year (removed on 31st December 2025) inside the building and covering the entrance to the bat cave. This recorded 1,768 video clips of which 716 included bats (499 clips included pigeons see below). The number of clips per month, together with how many individual bats were seen in each clip is shown in **Table 4**.

		NUMBER OF BATS IN INDIVIDUALVIDEO CLIP				'TOTAL'=
MONTH		1	2	3	4	NO.CLIPS x NO.OFBATS
JANUARY		23				23
FEBRUARY		23	1	1		28
MARCH		52	15	3		91
APRIL		26	7	3		49
MAY		95	33	1		164
JUNE		90	6			102
JULY		65	5	2		81
AUGUST		81	13	1		110
SEPTEMBER		66	27	6	1	142
OCTOBER		44	8		1	64
NOVEMBER		9	2			13
DECEMBER		5	1			7
GrandTotal		579	118	17	2	

Table 4 – *Results from indoor trail camera (covering gateway to bat cave):video clips containing bats and number of bats on individual clips.*

3.2.2 Some care is needed in interpreting this table as it is known that the trail camera does not always pick up bats and its field of view is limited (it has it been assumed that a bat disappearing then apparently re-appearing is the same individual – though that is not necessarily the case). These figures suggest possible peak periods of activity in May and September; similar to that suggested by the detector results. However, peaks of activity may straddle two months and may vary for different species. In addition, variations in size, flight characteristics and behaviour may affect how likely different species are to trigger the camera.

3.2.3 Ninety-six of the clips included bats flying in 'daylight' (though in the summer this could be early or late in the day). Sixty-four of these clips showed **Greater Horseshoe bats**, with these often seen hanging in the doorway to the bat cave, though bats were never seen roosting in this location. There were 13 trail camera clips of bats entering cracks in the brickwork at the entrance to the bat cave, of which 11 were thought to be **Brown Long-eared bats**. This was in addition to other clips which showed bats flying circling around this area. At night the trail camera only records a 20 second clip and although bats may have been hanging or had disappeared into a crevice for a up to 20 seconds, it is not possible to tell if they stayed in those locations for long

periods. It is possible that the crevices around the door frame are used by some bats to roost, but it is not known how deep such crevices are or, for example, if the crevice at the top of the doorway gives access to a void above the ceiling.

3.2.4 A second trail camera was set up in the boiler house courtyard covering the access used by the bats on 16th September 2025, prompted by concern over feral pigeons accessing the building (see below). The number of video clips containing bats recorded by this camera is shown in **Table 5**. In terms of the number of files and number of bats visible in each video clip, the results were similar for the trail camera inside the building (note: this camera was not installed until mid-September).

		NUMBER OF BATS IN INDIVIDUAL VIDEO CLIP				'TOTAL' =
MONTH		1	2	3	4	NO. CLIPS x NO. OF BATS
SEPTEMBER		34	10			54
OCTOBER		40	3			46
NOVEMBER		12				12
DECEMBER		7	1			9
Grand Total		93	14			

Table 5 *–Exterior trail camera (in boiler house courtyard covering bat entrance to basement):video clips containing bats and number of bats on individual clips.*

3.3 Trail camera records in 2025 – behaviour captured

3.3.1 Several interesting aspects of bat behaviour were recorded by the trail cameras. For these appropriate detector recordings have also been sought, though the time clocks in trail camera and bat detector do not always synchronise and it is not possible to match the two up exactly; the sonagrams shown are as near as possible to the time of the video clips.

3.3.2 **Fig 8** shows frames from a video clip recorded on 28th May 2025, when two bats flew into the bat cave and then reappeared, with one, then the second, hanging upside down in the doorway. The second bat then shuffled over to the first. These are believed to be **Greater Horseshoe bats** and the sonogram shown does suggest more than one bat was active at around this time. As far as is known this is the first time, more than one **Greater Horseshoe bat** have been recorded in Upton House. Although, this behaviour could be related to courtship, this normally takes place later in the year.

3.3.3 **Figs 9** and **10** both seem to show interactions between two bats. In both cases what appears to be a **Greater Horseshoe bat** follows a Long-eared bat, with, in **Fig 9**, the Long-eared bat leaving the basement. When the video is watched the impression gained is of the **Greater Horseshoe ba**t ‘chasing’ the Long-eared bat, though it is not possible to tell the precise nature of what seems to be an interaction between two bats,

3.4 Actual records of bats

3.4.1 Although bats are regularly present in the basement (probably most, if not, every day in spring to autumn), the only known accessible location where bats regularly roost is the bat cave (and especially the cavity in the ceiling there) as can be seen from the accumulation of droppings. However, the author is not licensed to disturb roosting bats and bat monitoring has largely been restricted to ‘remote’ methods. However, some direct observations of bats were made in Upton Country Park in 2025 and these are reported in this section (and illustrated in **Fig 10**)

3.4.2 The bat cave was visited during the day on 5th March, and 6th & 7th October 2025 by licenced bat workers. No bats were found in the bat cave on 5th March or 7th October 2025. However, an

unidentified bat was present mid to late morning (Jez Martin) on the 6th October 2025. The bat was not present earlier that morning and is thought to have subsequently flown to another part of the basement. Detector results suggest **Greater Horseshoe bats** (and other species) were present on all three of the above dates. It is possible that bats were present in the building but roosting in another location; the **Greater Horseshoe bat** (and most other species recorded) were known to have visited the old bakehouse, coal store and squash court in 2024. This supports the idea that when absent from the bat cave, a **Greater Horseshoe bat** (or bats) may be present elsewhere in the building.

3.4.3 In addition, a young **Brown Long-eared bat** was found near the wine cellar in the basement of Upton House (Roger Brewer) on 9th July 2025. There is no known connection between this area and the bat cave; a closed fire door being between the two areas and it is not known how the bat accessed the basement. This again suggests there may access points and/or roost sites in the building not known to recorders. The bat was rescued by a licenced bat worker and released unharmed.

3.4.4 In Upton Country Park a **Bechstein's bat** was trapped in a mist-net operated by a licenced bat worker on 31st July 2025 (Jan Freeborn) and a presumed **Brown Long-eared bat** was found on the ground in the Tearooms courtyard on 3rd November 2025; the bat subsequently disappearing and assumed to have flown off (Pete Abbot / Roger Brewer).

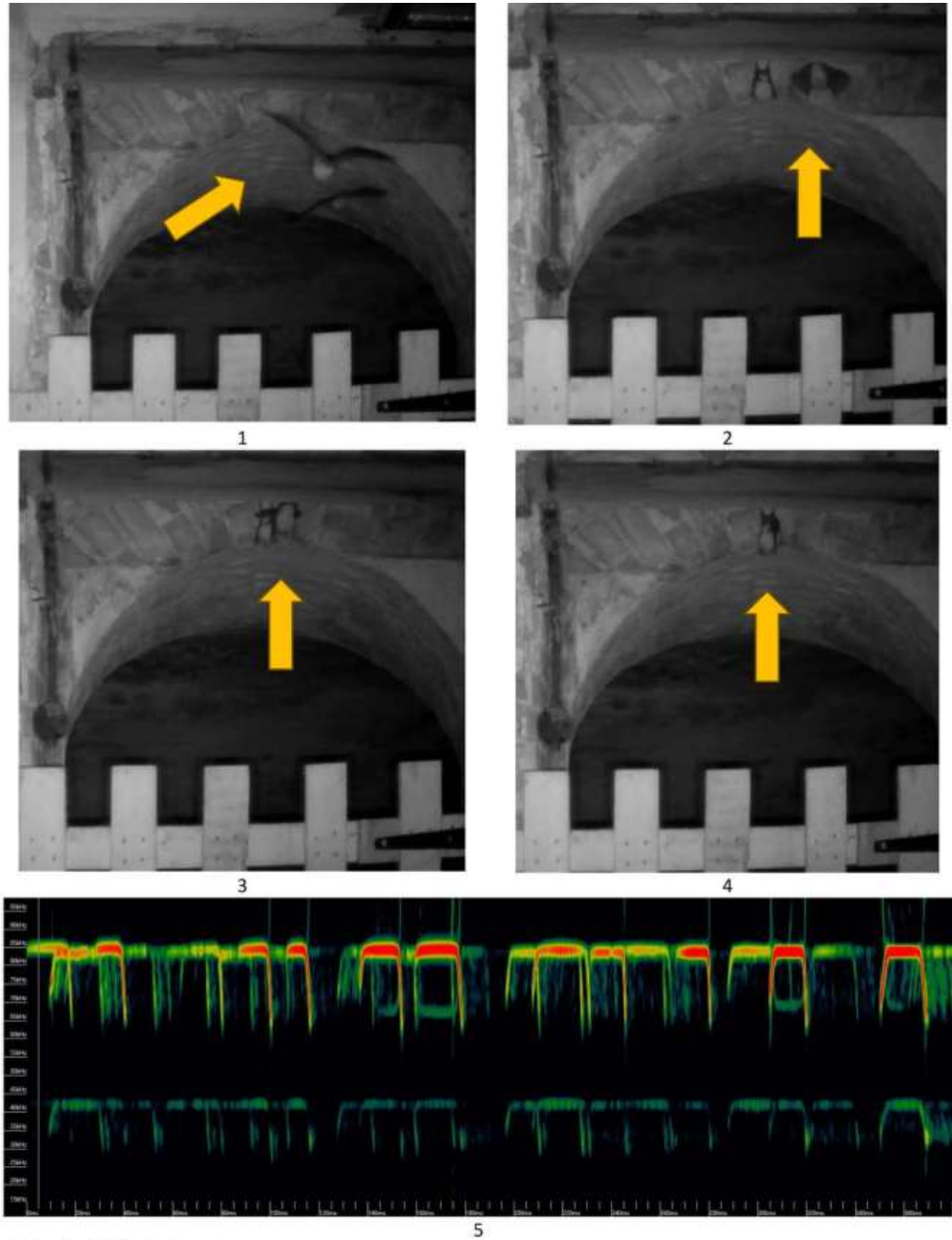


Fig 7 – *Greater Horseshoe bats recorded by trail camera (28/05/2025 approximately 02:19 am GMT).*

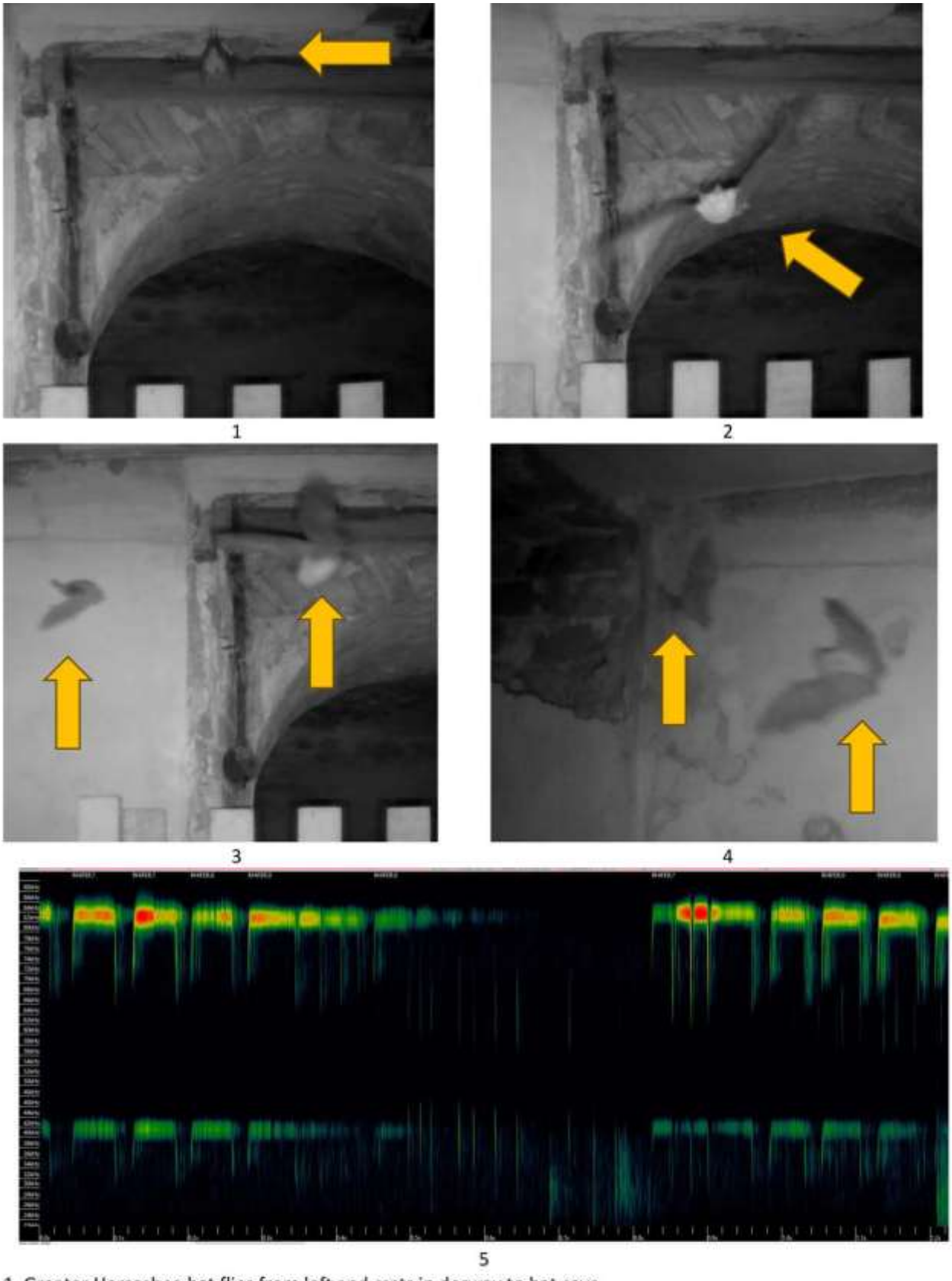
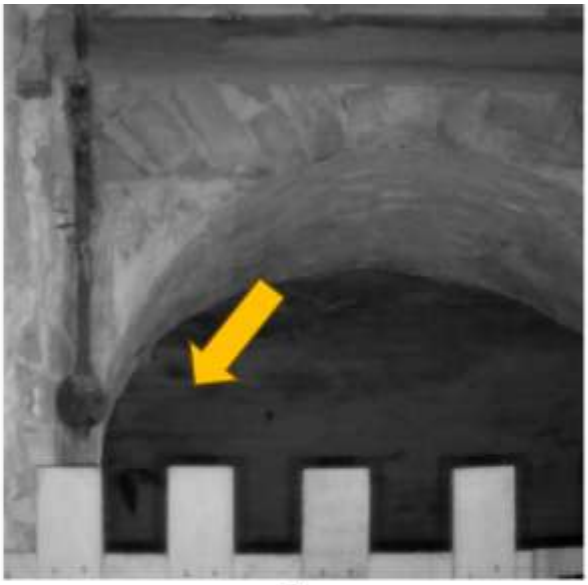


Fig 8 –*Greater Horseshoe bat 'following' Long-eared bat (28/05/2025 approximately 8:19 pm GMT).*

1



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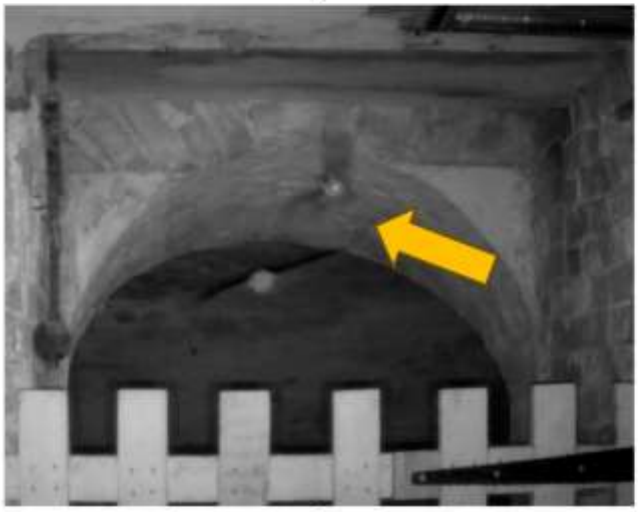

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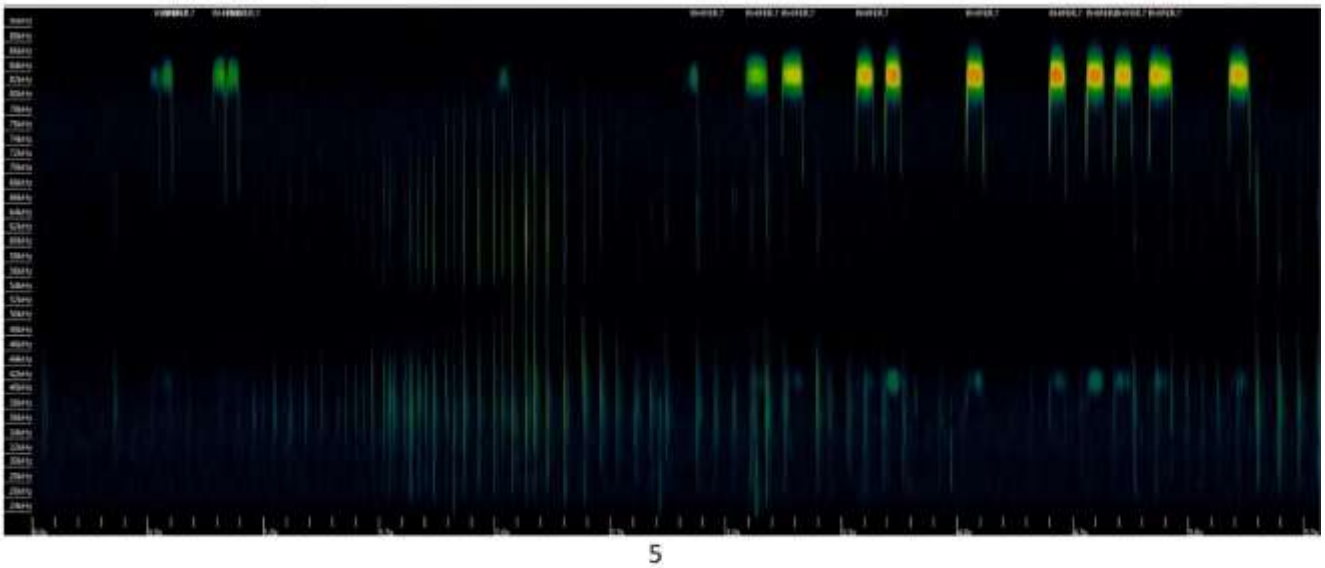

5

1 -Long-eared Bat flies around, leaves via entrance hole but another or the same Long-eared bat flies in and enters bat caves on right hand side.
2. Second bat appears on left-hand side, apparently dropping down (possibly from cavity in ceiling).
3. Long-eared bat followed by the second bat.
4. Second bat follows Long-eared bat – possibly chasing it to right hand side of frame
5. Sonagram from approximately the same time – showing both Greater Horseshoe bat and Long-eared bat calls
Trail cam stills from IMG_0023 20 08 2025 07 19:37 GMT/sonagram section from us_2025-08-20_19-34-41.wav

Fig 9 - *Probable Greater Horseshoe bat following Long-eared bat (20/08/2025 approx. 07:35 pm GMT).*

Fig 10 – *Left: Bechstein's bat caught in mist-net by licensed bat worker; Centre – unidentified bat in ceiling cavity in bat cave (Jez Martin); Right – Long-eared bat in Tearooms courtyard (Pete Abbott / Roger Brewer).*

4. POTENTIAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE BAT ROOST - NESTING BY FERAL PIGEONS

4.1 Birds accessing the basement areas used by bats

4.1.1 Trail cameras were used in several locations in the basement in 2024 and small birds (e.g. wrens) were sometimes recorded when the cameras were placed at the entrances to rooms used by bats which are accessible directly from the outside (the old bakehouse and coal store). However, the cameras did not pick up any bird activity inside the basement itself, although birds may be too quick to trigger and be caught on the trail cameras.

4.1.2 A single Swallow was picked up on the trail camera in the lobby to the bat cave flying through the entrance hole near the bat cave on 17th May 2025 (**Fig 11**) and the same bird (presumably) was picked up leaving a short while later. Although birds such as the Swallow could be too quick to be recorded by the trail cameras, this was the only instance of Swallows picked up by the cameras (inside or outside the building) so it was probably a one-off visit.

Fig 11 – *Birds accessing the bat roost area. Left: Swallow near entrance to bat cave 17th May 2025; Right: Feral pigeon at entrance to bat cave 20th July 2025.*

4.1.3 More significantly, a feral pigeon was recorded by the trail camera in the lobby to the bat cave on 4th March 2025 and two or more pigeons were regularly recorded by the trail camera there from 20th July 2025 until the end of the year. One of the birds was believed to be sitting on eggs in a flue opening close to the entrance hole on 18th August 2025 (**Fig 12**). The pair raised two young which were subsequently recorded inside the basement, including perching on the gate to the bat cave on 11th September 2025 after fledging (**Fig 12**). The parent birds were believed to be a bird

similar to a ‘proper’ Rock Dove in appearance (**Fig 11**) and an almost pure white bird (**Fig 12**). The offspring were almost pure white with some darker markings (**Fig 12**).

Fig 12 – *Nesting feral pigeons near the bat cave. Left: Pigeon on nest in basement 18tH August 2025; Right: adult and young in basement 11th September 2025.*

4.2 Potential impact of nesting pigeons on bat activity

4.2.1 The white pigeon was first observed to be settled (presumably on eggs or young) in the chimney flue on 8th August 2025. A crude assessment of whether the presence of the pigeons was affecting bat activity was made by comparing the level of bat activity over similar periods in 2024 and 2025 and the results are shown in **Table 6**. There is some variation in the level of activity (expressed both as the number of days species were present and the number of files recorded) between the two years, but the figures for some species suggest more activities and others less, and this could be affected by many factors. From the available data there is no evidence of a direct negative effect on bats from the presence of the nesting pigeons.

‘Species’ (as identified by Acoustic Pipeline with p>=0.5)	**2024 Records for 02/08/2024 - 15/08/2024 14 days of bat detector operation (no pigeon activity)**		**2025 Records for 05/08/2025 - 18/08/2025 (pigeons active in basement)**	
	Days recorded (max 14)	**Total no. of files**	**Days recorded (max 14)**	**Total no. of files**
Greater Horseshoe bat	12	2180	**14**	**3054**
Long-eared bat species	6	13	**8**	**15**
Myotis species	9	16	**5**	**8**
Common Pipistrelle	13	660	**14**	**503**
Soprano Pipistrelle	7	16	**5**	**9**
Noctule/Leisler’s bat	13	120	**14**	**152**
Serotine	1	2	**0**	**0**
		TOTAL FILES	**3007**	**3741**

Table 6 - *A comparison of the level of bat activity recorded in 2024 and 2025, around the date (in 2025) when the pigeons were first confirmed as nesting in the basement. Comparison has been based on 14 days of the detector being operational. Figures for 2025 are in green when the level of activity was higher in 2025 and red when lower.*

4.3 Measures to control pigeon access

4.3.1 Given the problems Feral Pigeons nesting inside the building could cause the site managers sought advice from local bat experts and it was decided that adequate access for bats would be maintained if ‘pigeon spikes’ were installed on the lower edge of the entrance hole used by bats (and pigeons) as the trail camera showed that the pigeons invariably perched on the edge of the

opening before entering the building. The spikes were installed on 30th October 2025 after the young pigeons had fledged.

4.3.2 The initial pigeon spike installation and its subsequent modification are shown in **Fig 13**. The spikes were modified by realigning the rows of spike across the opening and adding spikes to the front of the opening as shown. Unfortunately, the spikes proved ineffective in preventing access, the pigeons being able to push their way through the spikes as shown in **Fig 14**. However, trail cameras did show that bats were still able to enter the basement (**Fig 14**) after the spikes were fitted.

Fig 13 *Left: pigeon spikes installed on 30th October 2025; Right – modified pigeon spikes installation.*

Fig 14 *Left – pigeon 'walking' through pigeon spikes; Right: trail camera frame showing bat flying in over pigeon spikes (6th November 2025).*

4.3.3 Given that the pigeon spikes were installed in the autumn when bat activity is likely to be decreasing, it is difficult to prove that the installation had no effect on the level of bat activity. However, **Fig 15** shows the number of bat files recorded for around 10 days before and after the installation of the spikes. The dates given are 'survey dates' (from 12 midday to 11.59 am – hence each date relates to a single night period). Although there is some variation from day to day, the figures suggest the level of bat activity was broadly the same before and after the spikes were installed. It is not possible to compare the level of activity for a similar period in 2024 as the

detector was not in operation for some days at the end of October / beginning of November in that year due to technical problems.

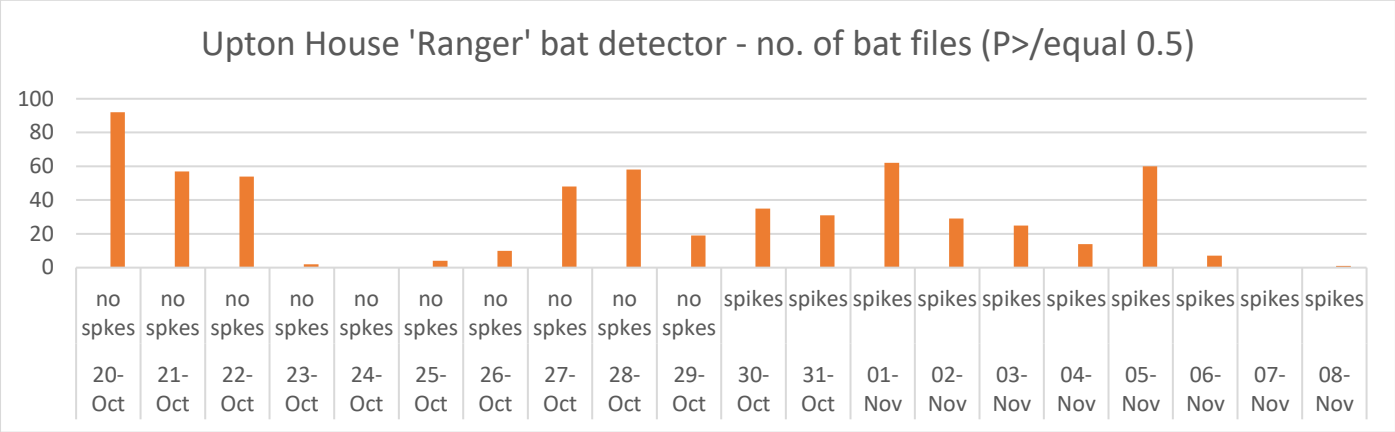

Fig. 15 - *Bat activity before and after installation of pigeon spikes*

4.3.4 The number of video clips recorded on the trail cameras which show bats entering the building are given in **Table 7**. There are generally fewer clips showing bats after the installation of the spikes, though it is clear bats can still enter the building and an apparent reduction may be due to seasonal changes or short-term effects (e.g. weather).

4.3.5 It is unfortunate that the pigeon spikes have not prevented pigeons gaining access. Further consideration is now being given as what other mechanisms might be effective by the managers of Upton House. Based on advice from local experts, one option may be a 'curtain' hanging approximately halfway down from the ceiling positioned inside the basement, approximately one metre from the entrance hole. This would hopefully deter the pigeons but would allow the bats to fly underneath the curtain into the bat cave and other areas they use. At the time of writing (6th February 2026) this is still under consideration.

Courtyard trail camera		
Date Range	**No. of video clips with bats**	**No. video clips with bats entering building**
20/10/25 to 30/10/25	15	12
30/10/25 to 08/11/25	7	7
Interior trail camera		
Date Range	**No. of video clips with bats**	**No. video clips with bats entering building**
20/10/25 to 30/10/25	6	0
30/10/25 to 08/11/25	2	0

Table 7 - *Trail camera video clips capturing bats before and after installation of pigeon spikes.*

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Level of bat activity

5.1.1 Recording of bat activity was improved over that done in 2024 as the detector was operated for a full year and was operational for a much higher proportion of the days it was in situ (due in part to the experience gained in terms of memory card capacity and battery life). Leaving the detector in a single location also means that results purely reflect activity there, rather than potential variation between different parts of the basement.

5.1.2 The pattern of activity was broadly similar to that in 2024, with bats being recorded on almost all (99%) of days in April to October and present in all the other months (including the winter, when bats are likely to be hibernating). However, for most of the year the mean numbers of files attributed to bats per day when bats were recorded was less than in 2024, reaching a maximum of just over 200 rather than just over 300 in 2024. This could be due to the moving of the detector to alternative locations in 2024 or to differences in weather between the two years.

5.1.3 The trail cameras continued to record bat activity. The maximum number of bats identified in any single video clip was 4 bats, compared to 5 in 2024, although the position of the camera when used in the squash court (where 5 bats were recorded in 2024) has a much wider field of view, and is therefore likely to be capture more bats at any one point in time. The recording of higher numbers of bats on the trail cameras peaked in September (compared to October in 2024); though the moving of cameras to different locations may have been a factor in the difference. Both results suggest more bat activity in the early Autumn (either the presence of more bats and/or more frequent passes in front of the detector).

5.2 Species recorded

5.2.1 The range of species suggested by the Acoustic Pipeline was similar to that in 2024. Unfortunately, a number of these are inherently difficult to confirm purely from sound recordings (and the location of the detector in a relatively confined space probably compounds this). **Greater Horseshoe bat**, **Brown Long-eared bat** and **Natterer's bat** were confirmed from DNA analysis of droppings. **Common** and **Soprano pipistrelles** were only identified from sound files, but these are identifications are generally regarded as sound. Only two files were classified as **Nathusius's pipistrelle** (recorded on 12th May and 26th September 2025) compared to 36 in 2024. A visual assessment by the author of the sonagrams for both these files suggest these identifications were correct. Hence all the six species regarded as confirmed in 2024 are regarded as also present in 2025.

5.2.2 Some effort was made to examine sound files for other species present. A significant number (149) of files were identified as **Noctules** by the Acoustic Pipeline and were felt to be that species. However, these may have been from bats flying nearby (**Noctules** are frequently recorded on 'bat walks' in the Park) and this species is generally thought to be unusual in buildings. A larger number of files (577) were allocated to **Leisler's bat** by the Acoustic pipeline, but it was felt the files were of insufficient quality to confirm the identification, although the number of files would allow some indication of its pattern of occurrence if confirmed.

5.2.3 The historic records and the detector results of the last two years, suggest other species could be present, albeit perhaps infrequently, but ideally this needs to be proven by direct observations or DNA results.

5.2.4 The accumulation of data for a complete year in a single location (with the detector operational for 94% of days) allows a much fuller picture to be obtained of bat activity in the vicinity of the bat cave. Bats use this area in all months of the year and virtually every day during the months of April to October inclusive. For several species activity (measured as the number of files generated) seems to peak in spring and in autumn, this trend being more pronounced in some species than others. This also seems to be reflected in the number of trail camera clips captured and the number of individual bats recorded in the clips.

5.2.5 The vast majority (83%) of the detector files identified with a p value of 0.5 or more by the Acoustic Pipeline were identified as **Greater Horseshoe bat**. This high figure may partly reflect that calls of this species are very distinctive and easy to identify. The data for 2025 combined with that collected in 2024, which showed this species does also visit other parts of the basement, indicate that this bat does use Upton House throughout the year; something not previously

demonstrated. It is also thought that the trail camera recording of two individuals is the first time that more than one bat of this species has been recorded. The interaction between the two individuals is also of note, as is the possible interaction between bats of this and other species. This species was recorded flying in daylight relatively often and on multiple occasions landing in the doorway to the bat cave, though no bats were found roosting in this location when the detector was visited.

5.2.6 Although it is difficult to separate the two species of Long-eared bat, the presence of **Brown Long-eared bat** was confirmed in both 2024 and 2025 by DNA analysis. The bat detector data suggests this species is present for at most, if not all, of the year though the % of days recorded was less than in some other species. There were 13 trail camera clips of bats entering cracks in the brickwork at the entrance to the bat cave, of which 11 were thought to be Long-eared bats. This was in addition to other clips which showed bats circling around this area. It is possible that bats, especially this species are roosting in these cracks.

5.2.7 Far fewer files were identified as either **Common pipistrelle** or **Soprano pipistrelle** in 2025 compared to 2024, the 2025 figure for the former being 78% and for the latter 5% of the number of files in 2024 (this is despite the detector being in operation for many more days in 2025). This does accord with the suggestion made last year that the pipistrelle species, especially the **Soprano pipistrelle** are much more strongly associated with the other areas of the basement, which the detector was move to in 2024. This may also be true of the **Nathusius's pipistrelle**, where only 2 files were identified in 2025 compared to 36 in 2024, though the total number of files in both years was relatively low for this species.

5.2.8 *Myotis* are difficult to identify from sound files though the fact that the **Natterer's bat** is the only species of this genus to be identified from droppings (2 out of 3 samples in 2024 and 3 out of 3 samples in 2025) and that the Acoustic Pipeline allocated 92% of the *Myotis* files to this species, suggest that the data may well accurately reflect its occurrence – with a peak of activity in September / October. This species is known to 'swarm' at this time of the year [7]. The historic records of other *Myotis* species suggest some other species may visit the building but perhaps only infrequently; regular visual observations of **Daubenton's bat** in the Park and the capture of a single **Bechstein's bat** there this year, both previously recorded in the building, mean that such species are found nearby and may be visiting the basement.

5.2.9 Two species of *Nyctalus* were suggested the Acoustic Pipeline, 149 files were identified as being **Noctules**, but this large bat is rarely recorded in buildings. The files may have been generated from bats passing by, although the detector was sited inside the basement adjacent to an internal courtyard below ground level and surrounded by walls on all sides. A greater number of files (577) were allocated to **Leisler's bats**, but the quality of the files was not felt good enough to regard this species as confirmed from the building.

5.3 Pigeon problems

5.3.1 The presence of nesting feral pigeons is regarded as undesirable by the managers of the building due to the potential for fouling. Although the pigeons nested close to the entrance from the exterior of the building, the birds were also observed in the squash court, the balcony of which houses the main electricity supply to the House. The data collected suggest no obvious effect on the bats due to the pigeons nesting. The data also shows bats were still able to access the bat cave after pigeon spikes were installed. Unfortunately, these measures did not stop pigeons gaining access.

5.3.2 Local experts have now suggested a curtain from the ceiling to approximately one metre above the floor placed around one metre inside the entrance hole may effectively discourage

pigeons whilst still allowing access by bats (which should be able to fly down and in below the curtain). The managers of the building are now investigating this and other options, which, it is hoped, will prevent access by pigeons. At present there is a single trail camera covering the entrance used by the bats (and pigeons) from the outside courtyard. It is hoped to install an additional trail camera and/or a bat detector temporarily near the bat cave to monitor use by bats if further action is taken to deter pigeons.

5.3 Future recording of bats in Upton House

5.3.1 At the end of 2025 the bat detector and one of the trail cameras were moved to the old coal store with the intention of monitoring this area for the whole of 2026. The aim would be to move the detector and trail camera to the old bakehouse and squash court in subsequent years. This would allow a full year of data for each of the three areas shown to be used by bats in 2024 to be collected to get a more detailed picture of the bat use of these areas. Ideally, these areas would be surveyed simultaneously, however available resources do not allow this.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MOTH LIST FROM <2020-2025

Common Name	Scientific Name		<2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
Acorn Piercer	*Pammene fasciana*	m				2	1	2	1	**6**
Alder Moth	*Acronicta alni*					2	1		1	**4**
Amber Mompha	*Mompha ochraceella*	m					1			**1**
Angle Shades	*Phlogophora meticulosa*		22		3	7	9	1	5	**47**
Antler Moth	*Cerapteryx graminis*		3							**3**
Apple Leaf-miner	*Lyonetia clerkella*	m	1			14	1	1		**17**
Ash-bark Knot-horn	*Euzophera pinguis*	m			1	4	3	2		**10**
August Thorn	*Ennomos quercinaria*		1		1					**2**
Australian Orange-tip (Ruddy Streak)	*Tachystola acroxantha*	m	1		5	4	5	2	6	**23**
Autumnal Rustic	*Eugnorisma glareosa*		22							**22**
Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	*Pandemis cerasana*	m	3	1	6	4	3	1		**18**
Barred Hook-tip	*Watsonalla cultraria*		3							**3**
Barred Marble	*Celypha striana*	m	1		4	5	8	6	2	**26**
Barred Red	*Hylaea fasciaria*		1							**1**
Barred Sallow	*Tiliacea aurago*		1		11	1	4	1	1	**19**
Barred Straw	*Gandaritis pyraliata (Eulithis pyraliata)*		3							**3**
Beaded Chestnut	*Agrochola lychnidis*				2	2	9	2		**15**
Beautiful Brocade	*Lacanobia contigua*						1	1		**2**
Beautiful Hook-tip	*Laspeyria flexula*		2		7	3			13	**25**
Beautiful Oak Knot-horn	*Acrobasis repandana*	m					1	1		**2**
Beautiful Plume	*Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*	m			1		1		1	**3**
Beautiful Yellow Underwing	*Anarta myrtilli*		1					1		**2**
Bee Moth	*Aphomia sociella*	m			1	2		3		**6**
Beech Mast Piercer	*Cydia fagiglandana*						1	1		**2**
Birch-borer Tortrix	*Epinotia tetraquetrana*	m				1				**1**

Birch Mocha	*Cyclophora albipunctata*							1		**1**
Bird-cherry Ermine	*Yponomeuta evonymella*	m				7				**7**
Bird's Wing	*Dypterygia scabriuscula*		8		1	1				**10**
Bittersweet Moth	*Scrobipalpa costella*	m				2				**2**
Black Arches	*Lymantria monacha*		7	4	3	27	8	12	6	**67**
Black Cloak	*Notocelia cynosbatella*	m						1	2	**3**
Black Rustic	*Aporophyla nigra*		88		2	5	11	5		**111**
Black-fronted Straw	*Cochylichroa atricapitana (Cochylis atricapitana)*	m	1			1	1		1	**4**
Black-marked Tortrix (Small Birch Bell)	*Epinotia ramella*	m			3		1			**4**
Black-spotted Snout	*Dichomeris alacella*	m				2			1	**3**
Blackthorn Knot-horn	*Acrobasis suavella*	m				1				**1**
Blackthorn Tip Moth	*Argyresthia spinosella*	m				1				**1**
Blair's Mocha	Cyclophora puppillaria							2		**2**
Blair's Shoulder-knot	*Lithophane leautieri*		3			2	1			**6**
Blood-Vein	*Timandra comae*		32		4	3	10	5	3	**57**
Blue-bordered Carpet	*Plemyria rubiginata*				1				1	**2**
Bordered Beauty	*Epione repandaria*		1						1	**2**
Bordered White	*Bupalus piniaria*		4							**4**
Box-tree Moth	*Cydalima perspectalis*	m		52	159	53	218	20	18	**520**
Bramble Blotch-miner	*Coptotriche marginea*	m				1	1			**2**
Bramble Shoot Moth	*Notocelia uddmanniana*	m			1	1	2	1	3	**8**
Brassy Y	*Argyresthia goedartella*	m			2	1	1		3	**7**
Brick	*Sunira circellaris (Agrochola circellaris)*		4		1					**5**
Bright Straw	*Agapeta zoegana*	m		1						**1**
Bright-Line Brown-Eye	*Lacanobia oleracea*		36		11	25	5	10	9	**96**
Brimstone Moth	*Opisthograptis luteolata*		58	2	14	7	1	8	3	**93**
Brindled Beauty	*Lycia hirtaria*				2	8	1	4	2	**17**
Brindled Buff	*Agonopterix arenella*	m			1					**1**

Brindled Green	*Dryobotodes eremita*		80		4	1	1	1		**87**
Brindled Poplar Tortrix	*Epinotia nisella*	m				1				**1**
Brindled Pug	*Eupithecia abbreviata*		2		1			2	10	**15**
Brindled White-spot	*Parectropis similaria*				1					**1**
Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	*Hemaris fuciformis*		1							1
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	*Noctua fimbriata*		28	9	3	9	22	9	1	81
Broken-barred Carpet	*Electrophaes corylata*				1	1	1		7	**10**
Broken-barred Oak Dot	*Ectoedemia subbimaculella*	m					1			**1**
Broom Moth	*Ceramica pisi*		1							**1**
Brown Bark Moth	*Crassa unitella*	m					2	2		**4**
Brown China-mark	*Elophila nymphaeata*	m	3		2					**5**
Brown House-moth	*Hofmannophila pseudospretella*	m	1		2	2	2	1	3	**11**
Brown Moss-moth	*Bryotropha terrella*	m			1		1			**2**
Brown Rustic	*Rusina ferruginea*		7			1				**8**
Brown Silver-line	*Petrophora chlorosata*		8		1	2	2	1	5	**19**
Brown-spot Pinion	*Anchoscelis litura*		1							**1**
Brown-tail	*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*		4	1	1	1	1	2	1	**11**
Brussels Lace	*Cleorodes lichenaria*		2		8	25	18	12	4	**69**
Buff Arches	*Habrosyne pyritoides*		13		1	21	1	2	7	**45**
Buff Ermine	*Spilosoma lutea*		37			11	2	4	5	**59**
Buff Footman	*Eilema depressa*		9		3	5	1	2		**20**
Buff Mompha	*Mompha epilobiella*	m				2	2	1		**5**
Buff-tip	*Phalera bucephala*		41	1	15	9	4	5	9	**84**
Bulrush Veneer	*Calamotropha paludella*	m					2	2		**4**
Burdock Seedhead Moth	*Metzneria lappella*	m				1			1	**2**
Burdock Straw (Burdock Conch)	*Aethes rubigana*	m						1		**1**
Burnet Companion	*Euclidia glyphica*					48	10	6	1	**65**
Burnished Brass	*Diachrysia chrysitis*		11		1					**12**
Cabbage Moth	*Mamestra brassicae*		12		2	1		1		**16**
Canary-shouldered Thorn	*Ennomos alniaria*		4		3	2	2		1	**12**

Carnation Tortrix	*Cacoecimorpha pronubana*	m				1	3			**4**
Centre-barred Sallow	*Atethmia centrago*		2		3		6	1		**12**
Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix	*Pandemis corylana*	m			4	4	4			**12**
Chequered Grass-moth	*Catoptria falsella*	m				1	1			**2**
Chequered Grey	*Scoparia basistrigalis*	m				1			2	**3**
Chequered Pine Knot-horn	*Dioryctria sylvestrella*	m						2		**2**
Chestnut	*Conistra vaccinii*		33		3	3	4	5	9	**57**
Chevron Grass-moth	*Agriphila geniculea*	m			2	2	1			**5**
Chinese Character	*Cilix glaucata*		2		1					**3**
Chocolate-tip	*Clostera curtula*		4			1	1			**6**
Cinnabar	*Tyria jacobaeae*		9			10			2	**21**
Clay	*Mythimna ferrago*		48			11	5	1	1	**66**
Clay Triple-lines	*Cyclophora linearia*		3	1		2	3	1	1	**11**
Clifden Nonpareil	*Catocala fraxini*					1		1		**2**
Cloaked Minor	*Mesoligia furuncula*		2			7	2	2	6	**19**
Clouded Border	*Lomaspilis marginata*		19	1	7	2	7	5	11	**52**
Clouded Drab	*Orthosia incerta*		4		3	16	4	9	8	**44**
Clouded Silver	*Lomographa temerata*		2		1	1	5	1	4	**14**
Clouded Slender	*Caloptilia populetorum*	m	1							**1**
Cnephasia agg. (Tortrix agg.)	*Cnephasia agg.*	m		1		3	3	3	4	**14**
Coastal Buff (Coastal Flat-body)	*Agonopterix yeatiana*	m						2		**2**
Cocksfoot Moth	*Glyphipterix simpliciella*	m						1		**1**
Codling Moth	*Cydia pomonella*						1			**1**
Coleophora sp. (Case-bearer)	*Coleophora sp.*	m		1		27	1	5	13	**47**
Common Brindled Brown/ Banded Brindled Brown	*Agonopterix heracliana/ ciliella*	m			1					**1**
Common Carpet	*Epirrhoe alternata*		23		2	1	4	3	1	**34**
Common Emerald	*Hemithea aestivaria*		16		1	2	1	1		**21**
Common Footman	*Eilema lurideola*		173	7	35	34	74	31	14	**368**
Common Gorse Moth	*Cydia ulicetana*	m				2		1		**3**
Common Grass-moth	*Agriphila tristella*	m	1	2		16	4	2		**25**

Common Lance	*Bactra lancealana*	m				1				**1**
Common Lance/ Sedge Lance	*Bactra lancealana/ lacteana ag.*	m			1				2	**3**
Common Lutestring	*Ochropacha duplaris*					1	2	1		**4**
Common Marble	*Celypha lacunana*	m		2	4	8	6	9	4	**33**
Common Marbled Carpet	*Dysstroma truncata*		7		8	5	7	6	4	**37**
Common Marbled Straw	*Aethes smeathmanniana*	m				1				**1**
Common Masoner	*Blastobasis adustella*	m			12	49	37	4		**102**
Common Plume	*Emmelina monodactyla*	m				1		4	1	**6**
Common Pug	*Eupithecia vulgata*		4			4	4	1	1	**14**
Common Purple & Gold	*Pyrausta purpuralis*	m			1		1			**2**
Common Quaker	*Orthosia cerasi*		50		58	151	31	73	151	**514**
Common Rustic agg.	*Mesapamea secalis agg.*		128	2	8	36	71	29	23	**297**
Common Spring Jewel	*Dyseriocrania subpurpurella*	m				1		1		**2**
Common Swift	*Korscheltellus lupulina*		152		3	1	16	18	3	**193**
Common Thistle Miner	*Scrobipalpa acuminatella*	m		1						**1**
Common Wainscot	*Mythimna pallens*		200		13	7	27	1	5	**253**
Common Wave	*Cabera exanthemata*		16			2	4	5	1	**28**
Common White Wave	*Cabera pusaria*		3			4	1		2	**10**
Common Zebra Moth (Orange Crest)	*Helcystogramma rufescens*	m						1		**1**
Convolvulus Hawk-moth	*Agrius convolvuli*						1			**1**
Copper Underwing	*Amphipyra pyramidea*		24				1			**25**
Copper Underwing agg.	*Amphipyra pyramidea agg.*			1	7	4	2	4		**18**
Copper-fringed Drab (Little Ermine)	*Swammerdamia pyrella*	m						1		**1**
Coronet	*Craniophora ligustri*		1		1	20			2	**24**
Coxcomb Prominent	*Ptilodon capucina*					1				**1**
Cream Wave	*Scopula floslactata*		1							**1**
Cream-bordered Green Pea	*Earias clorana*							1		**1**
Cream-spot Tiger	*Arctia villica*		1							**1**
Crescent	*Helotropha leucostigma*				1					**1**

Crescent Striped	*Apamea oblonga*		15							**15**
Crescent Tortrix	*Epinotia bilunana*	m			1					**1**
Cyclamen Tortrix	*Clepsis spectrana*	m				1		2		**3**
Cypress Carpet	*Thera cupressata*		2				1	2		**5**
Cypress Pug	*Eupithecia phoeniceata*						1			**1**
Dark Arches	*Apamea monoglypha*		96	2	26	76	69	20	21	**310**
Dark Brocade	*Mniotype adusta*		22							**22**
Dark Dagger	*Acronicta tridens*		21							**21**
Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix	*Pandemis heparana*	m		1	1	1		1	1	**5**
Dark Spectacle	*Abrostola triplasia*		1		1			3		**5**
Dark Sword-grass	*Agrotis ipsilon*		16		2	5	6	7	1	**37**
Dark-barred Tortrix	*Syndemis musculana*	m					1	1		**2**
Dark-bordered Pearl	*Evergestis limbata*	m				1	1			**2**
Dark-dotted Longhorn	*Nematopogon metaxella*						3		2	**5**
Dark-marked Tortrix/ Strawberry Tortrix	*Acleris laterana/comariana*	m		1	7	2		1	1	**12**
December Moth	*Poecilocampa populi*		35		11					**46**
Deep-brown Dart	*Aporophyla lutulenta*		2				1			**3**
Delicate	*Mythimna vitellina*					1				**1**
Diamond-back Moth	*Plutella xylostella*	m	6	1	2	4	3	1	8	**25**
Dingy Footman	*Eilema griseola*		35		20	19	2	12		**88**
Dingy Shears	*Apterogenum ypsillon*		3							**3**
Dog's Tooth	*Lacanobia suasa*		3							**3**
Dot Moth	*Melanchra persicariae*		10			2				**12**
Dotted Border	*Agriopis marginaria*							1	1	**2**
Dotted Oak Knot-horn	*Phycita roborella*	m	1		1	9				**11**
Double Dart	*Graphiphora augur*		3							**3**
Double Lobed	*Lateroligia ophiogramma*					1				**1**
Double Square-spot	*Xestia triangulum*		18		10	16	18		10	**72**
Double-striped Knot-horn	*Cryptoblabes bistriga*	m				2				**2**
Double-striped Pug	*Gymnoscelis rufifasciata*		40	1	23	51	13	21	30	**179**

Double-striped Tabby	*Hypsopygia glaucinalis*	m	1		1	1	3			**6**
Drab Pine Knot-horn	*Dioryctria simplicella*	m	1							**1**
Drinker	*Euthrix potatoria*		7							**7**
Dun-bar	*Cosmia trapezina*		115		2	6	25	5	8	**161**
Dusky Brocade	*Apamea remissa*		5			1				**6**
Dusky Pearl	*Udea prunalis*	m				1				**1**
Dusky Thorn	*Ennomos fuscantaria*		5		2	7	9			**23**
Dwarf Cream Wave	*Idaea fuscovenosa*		5		2		6	4		**17**
Dwarf Pug	*Eupithecia tantillaria*		1					2		**3**
Ear moth agg.	*Amphipoea oculea agg.*		6		1	1				**8**
Early Grey	*Xylocampa areola*		1		6	2	2	5	4	**20**
Early Reveller	*Diurnea fagella*	m			1	2				**3**
Early Thorn	*Selenia dentaria*		11		2			1	1	**15**
Early Tooth-striped	*Trichopteryx carpinata*					1				**1**
Elder Pearl	*Anania coronata*						2	3		**5**
Elephant Hawk-moth	*Deilephila elpenor*		15		1	7		4		**27**
Engrailed	*Ectropis crepuscularia*		9						1	**10**
Ephestia sp.	*Ephestia sp.*	m				1	1		1	**3**
Ermine sp.	*Yponomeuta sp.*	m			7	4	5	42	17	**75**
European Corn-borer	*Ostrinia nubilalis*	m				3	1		1	**5**
Eyed Hawk-moth	*Smerinthus ocellata*							1		**1**
Eyed Rush Moth	*Glyphipterix thrasonella*	m			1	1	1			**3**
Fan-foot	*Herminia tarsipennalis*		3		4	8	1	5		**21**
Feathered Cutter	*Incurvaria masculella*						2			**2**
Feathered Gothic	*Tholera decimalis*		1							**1**
Feathered Thorn	*Colotois pennaria*		46		1		2	6	1	**56**
Fen Wainscot	*Arenostola phragmitidis*		1			1	2			**4**
Festoon	*Apoda limacodes*		3		1		1		2	**7**
Figure of Eighty	*Tethea ocularis*		5		3	2	2			**12**
Five-spot Burnet	*Zygaena trifolii*		5							**5**
Flame	*Axylia putris*		19		4	12	4	3	7	**49**

Flame Carpet	*Xanthorhoe designata*		1	1	14		3	6	11	**36**
Flame Shoulder	*Ochropleura plecta*		105		20	71	17	31	28	**272**
Flounced Rustic	*Luperina testacea*		107	3	8	13	3	1		**135**
Four-dotted Footman	*Cybosia mesomella*		42						2	**44**
Four-spotted Footman	*Lithosia quadra*					12		2	22	**36**
Fox Moth	*Macrothylacia rubi*		8							**8**
Foxglove Pug	*Eupithecia pulchellata*		1		2			2	1	**6**
Freyer's Pug	*Eupithecia intricata*					1		1		**2**
Frosted Green	*Polyploca ridens*		8		6	13	4		2	**33**
Frosted Orange	*Gortyna flavago*		13				1			**14**
Garden Carpet	*Xanthorhoe fluctuata*		7	2		2	1			**12**
Garden Grass-moth	*Chrysoteuchia culmella*	m	1	5	49	31	68	34	32	**220**
Garden Grey	*Eudonia mercurella*	m			3	3	3		3	**12**
Garden Pearl	*Udea olivalis*	m			1					**1**
Garden Pebble	*Evergestis forficalis*	m				1	1			**2**
Garden Rose Tortrix	*Acleris variegana*	m			1		1		1	**3**
Garden Straw	*Agapeta hamana*	m		1	1		1	1	2	**6**
Garden Tiger	*Arctia caja*		8							**8**
Ghost Moth	*Hepialus humuli*								1	**1**
Goat Moth	*Cossus cossus*		1							**1**
Gold Spot	*Plusia festucae*		1							**1**
Gold Triangle	Hypsopygia costalis	m							1	1
Gold W	*Argyresthia brockeella*	m	1		1				1	**3**
Gorse Wanderer	*Brachmia blandella*	m				1	3	2	2	**8**
Gothic	*Naenia typica*		14							**14**
Grass Emerald	*Pseudoterpna pruinata*		3							**3**
Great Prominent	*Peridea anceps*					1	5	6	13	**25**
Green Carpet	*Colostygia pectinataria*		21	3	13	2		1	2	**42**
Green Longhorn	*Adela reaumurella*	m						2		**2**
Green Oak Tortrix	*Tortrix viridana*	m	3		2		15	4	1	**25**
Green Pug	*Pasiphila rectangulata*		7		3	3			7	**20**

Green Silver-lines	*Pseudoips prasinana*		7		3					**10**
Green-brindled Crescent	*Allophyes oxyacanthae*				1		1	1	2	**5**
Grey Arches	*Polia nebulosa*		5			3				**8**
Grey Oak Knot-horn	Acrobasis consociella	m							1	**1**
Grey Pine Carpet	*Thera obeliscata*		33	1	12	7	9	8	3	**73**
Grey Pug	*Eupithecia subfuscata*		2			1		1		**4**
Hawthorn Knot-horn	*Acrobasis advenella*	m			1		2	2	1	**6**
Hawthorn Moth	*Scythropia crataegella*	m				1	2			**3**
Hazel Slender	*Parornix devoniella*	m	1							**1**
Heart & Club	*Agrotis clavis*		14		1		3	1	1	**20**
Heart & Dart	*Agrotis exclamationis*		720		42	53	91	48	67	**1021**
Heath Elder	*Aristotelia ericinella*	m		1						**1**
Heath Rustic	*Xestia agathina*		3	1						**4**
Heather Knot-horn	*Pempelia palumbella*						1			**1**
Hebrew Character	*Orthosia gothica*		25		38	37	20	33	47	**200**
Hedge Beauty	*Alabonia geoffrella*						1			**1**
Hedge Rustic	*Tholera cespitis*						1			**1**
Herald	*Scoliopteryx libatrix*		3		3	2		2		**10**
Hoary Tortrix	*Eucosma cana*	m			2	4		4	2	**12**
Holly Tortrix	*Rhopobota naevana*	m			1	4	1	1	6	**13**
Hollyhock Seed Moth	*Pexicopia malvella*	m				2				**2**
Hook-streak Grass-veneer	*Crambus lathoniellus*	m	1							**1**
Horse Chestnut	*Pachycnemia hippocastanaria*		1							**1**
Horse-chestnut Leaf-miner	*Cameraria ohridella*						4		1	**5**
House Moss-moth	*Bryotropha domestica*	m				1	1		1	**3**
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	*Macroglossum stellatarum*					1	1	1		**3**
Ilex Leaf-miner	*Phyllonorycter messaniella*						1			**1**
Ingrailed Clay	*Diarsia mendica*		20		1	6	3		1	**31**
Iron Prominent	*Notodonta dromedarius*		4			2		3		**9**
Italian Bark Moth	*Metalampra italica*						1			**1**

Jersey Tiger	*Euplagia quadripunctaria*				111	22	21	12	2	**168**
July Belle	*Scotopteryx luridata*						1			**1**
July Highflyer	*Hydriomena furcata*		14							**14**
Kent Black Arches	*Meganola albula*		1			2				**3**
Knot Grass	*Acronicta rumicis*		38		1	2		7	3	**51**
Lackey	*Malacosoma neustria*		7				1			**8**
L-album Wainscot	*Mythimna l-album*		4	1	4	8	8	8	1	**34**
Large Fruit-tree Tortrix	*Archips podana*	m	1		2					**3**
Large Ivy Tortrix	*Lozotaenia forsterana*	m			1					**1**
Large Longhorn	*Nematopogon swammerdamella*						2		1	**3**
Large Pale Masoner	*Blastobasis lacticolella*	m			4	3	10	1	2	**20**
Large Wainscot	*Rhizedra lutosa*		19	2		4	2	1		**28**
Large Yellow Underwing	*Noctua pronuba*		668	34	77	73	185	69	64	**1170**
Lead-coloured Tortrix	*Acleris sparsana*	m			2			1		**3**
Least Black Arches	*Nola confusalis*		1			2			5	**8**
Least Brown (Small Purple Flat-body)	*Agonopterix purpurea*	m						2		**2**
Least Yellow Underwing	*Noctua interjecta*		4	1	1		9			**15**
Leek Moth	*Acrolepiopsis assectella*	m				1				**1**
Leopard Moth	*Zeuzera pyrina*		1							**1**
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	*Noctua janthe*		89	8	42	80	49	16	8	**292**
Lesser Common Rustic	*Mesapamea didyma*		8							**8**
Lesser Swallow Prominent	*Pheosia gnoma*		10		1	1	4	1		**17**
Lesser Tawny Crescent	*Batia lunaris*						4			**4**
Lesser Wax Moth	*Achroia grisella*						1			**1**
Lesser Yellow Underwing	*Noctua comes*		30	6	6	4	16	7		**69**
Light Arches	*Apamea lithoxylaea*		2							**2**
Light Brocade	*Lacanobia w-latinum*		4		2	1	11	8	1	**27**
Light Brown Apple Moth	*Epiphyas postvittana*	m	1	4	6	7	11	7	8	**44**

Light Emerald	*Campaea margaritaria*		54	8	42	15	30	19	6	**174**
Lime Hawk-moth	*Mimas tiliae*		1							**1**
Lime-speck Pug	*Eupithecia centaureata*		13		2	3	1	4		**23**
Little Grey	*Eudonia lacustrata (Dipleurina lacustrata)*	m	1							**1**
Lobster Moth	*Stauropus fagi*		1				1			**2**
Long-legged Tabby	*Synaphe punctalis*	m			3	3	7	3		**16**
Lunar Marbled Brown	*Drymonia ruficornis*		3		3	3	5	5	6	**25**
Lunar Underwing	*Anchoscelis lunosa (Omphaloscelis lunosa)*		630	17	10	12	45	6		**720**
Lychnis	*Hadena bicruris*		1		2	2	1	1		**7**
Magpie	*Abraxas grossulariata*		3							**3**
Maiden's Blush	*Cyclophora punctaria*		16		10	21	8	5	8	**68**
Mallow Seed Moth	*Platyedra subcinerea*	m			1	1		1		**3**
Many-plumed Moth (Twenty-plume Moth)	*Alucita hexadactyla*	m			1		1	1		**3**
Maple Pug	*Eupithecia inturbata*					2				**2**
Marbled Brown	*Drymonia dodonaea*		6			2	2	2		**12**
Marbled Fern (Golden-Brown Fern Moth)	*Musotima nitidalis*							2		**2**
Marbled Minor agg.	*Oligia strigilis agg.*	m	19	1	5	33	40	15	19	**132**
Marbled Orchard Tortrix	*Hedya nubiferana*	m	2		1			1		**4**
Marbled Piercer	*Cydia splendana*	m	1		8	10	18	29	2	**68**
Marbled White Spot	*Protodeltote pygarga (Deltote pygarga)*		12		1	12	2	3	11	**41**
March Moth	*Alsophila aescularia*				2	8	1	1	6	**18**
Mathew's Wainscot	*Mythimna favicolor*		2							**2**
May Highflyer	*Hydriomena impluviata*					1	1	1		**3**
Merveille du Jour	*Griposia aprilina*		7		2	1	2	3	2	**17**
Middle-barred Minor	*Oligia fasciuncula*		10		1		4		4	**19**
Miller	*Acronicta leporina*		1		2	2				**5**
Mint Moth	*Pyrausta aurata*	m				1	1			**2**

Mother of Pearl	*Patania ruralis (Pleuroptya ruralis)*		18		17	8	6	15	9	**73**
Mother Shipton	*Callistege mi (Euclidia mi)*		6			4	5			**15**
Mottled Beauty	*Alcis repandata*		19		1	2	5	5	1	**33**
Mottled Oak Tortrix	*Zeiraphera isertana*	m			1			1	10	**12**
Mottled Rustic	*Caradrina morpheus*		78	4	14	11	11	21	10	**149**
Mottled Umber	*Erannis defoliaria*				1					**1**
Mouse Moth	*Amphipyra tragopoginis*							1		**1**
Mugwort Pearl	*Loxostege sticticalis*	m			1					**1**
Mullein	*Cucullia verbasci*		3							**3**
Mullein Wave	*Scopula marginepunctata*		11							**11**
Muslin Moth	*Diaphora mendica*		8		2	2	2	16	3	**33**
Narrow-winged Grey	*Eudonia angustea*	m		1	7		2			**10**
Narrow-winged Pug	*Eupithecia nanata*		2		2	5			3	**12**
Neglected Rustic	*Xestia castanea*		6							**6**
Netted Argent	*Argyresthia retinella*	m	1							**1**
Nettle-tap (Common Nettle-tap)	*Anthophila fabriciana*	m				1	1	1		**3**
November moth agg.	*Epirrita dilutata agg.*		12			2		21	9	**44**
Nutmeg	*Anarta trifolii*		6							**6**
Nut-tree Tussock	*Colocasia coryli*		1		1	10	1	8	5	**26**
Oak Beauty	*Biston strataria*				3	4	2	6	4	**19**
Oak Blotch-miner	*Tischeria ekebladella*	m					2			**2**
Oak Cloud	*Acrocercops brongniardella*	m					2			**2**
Oak Eggar	*Lasiocampa quercus*							1		**1**
Oak Hook-tip	*Watsonalla binaria*		51	2	7	7	8	7	5	**87**
Oak Longhorn	*Carcina quercana*	m	1	1		6	3	5	4	**20**
Oak Nycteoline	*Nycteola revayana*		7		1	3	2	1	6	**20**
Oak Stilt/ Shaded Oak Stilt	*Caloptilia alchimiella/ robustella*	m				2				**2**
Oak-tree Pug	*Eupithecia dodoneata*							5	11	**16**
Oblique Carpet	*Orthonama vittata*				1					**1**

Obscure Snout	*Anarsia spartiella*						1			**1**
Obscure Wainscot	*Leucania obsoleta*		3			1	2	1	7	**14**
Ochreous Pug	*Eupithecia indigata*						1			**1**
Oegoconia sp.	*Oegoconia sp.*							1		**1**
Olive	*Ipimorpha subtusa*		2			1				**3**
Olive-tree Pearl	*Palpita vitrealis*	m				1				**1**
Orange Footman	*Eilema sororcula*				12	23	3	12	18	**68**
Orange Sallow	*Tiliacea citrago*		1			1				**2**
Orange-tipped Nest Moth	*Tinea semifulvella*	m					1			**1**
Pale Brindled Beauty	*Phigalia pilosaria*						2		2	**4**
Pale Mottled Willow	*Caradrina clavipalpis*		11		1		2		1	**15**
Pale Pinion	*Lithophane socia*				1	1	2	3	3	**10**
Pale Prominent	*Pterostoma palpina*		7	1	3	1	3	1	1	**17**
Pale Tussock	*Calliteara pudibunda*		8		1	13	3	1	4	**30**
Pale-streaked Grass-moth	*Agriphila selasella*	m				1	1		1	**3**
Pea Moth	*Cydia nigricana*	m				1				**1**
Peach Blossom	*Thyatira batis*		1			3		1		**5**
Peacock Moth	*Macaria notata*		11							**11**
Pearl Grass-moth	*Catoptria pinella*	m				1	1	1		**3**
Pebble Hook-tip	*Drepana falcataria*		7		2	4		3		**16**
Pebble Prominent	*Notodonta ziczac*		5			1		7	1	**14**
Peppered Moth	*Biston betularia*		20		6	17	6	7	1	**57**
Phyllonorycter sp. (Leaf-Miner)	*Phyllonorycter sp.*	m					2			**2**
Pied Grey	*Eudonia delunella*	m	1		3	6	5	13	20	**48**
Pied Rabbit Moth	*Ypsolopha sequella*	m			1				1	**2**
Pied Tortrix	*Eucosma campoliliana*	m				1			1	**2**
Pine Beauty	*Panolis flammea*		1			1		1		**3**
Pine Carpet	*Pennithera firmata*		4				7	7		**18**
Pine Hawk-moth	*Sphinx pinastri (Hyloicus pinastri)*		2		1	1	1		1	**6**

Pine Knot-horn	*Dioryctria abietella*	m			1					**1**
Pine Leaf-mining Moth	*Clavigesta purdeyi*	m		1					1	**2**
Pinion-streaked Snout	*Schrankia costaestrigalis*		2				1	1		**4**
Pink-barred Sallow	*Xanthia togata*		12		2		1	1		**16**
Plain Wave	*Idaea straminata*		1			1				**2**
Poplar Grey	*Subacronicta megacephala*		4		3	5		3	2	**17**
Poplar Hawk-moth	*Laothoe populi*		27		9	4	3	2	7	**52**
Poplar Kitten	*Furcula bifida*							1		**1**
Poplar Needle-moth	*Batrachedra praeangusta*	m				1				**1**
Portland Ribbon Wave	*Idaea degeneraria*						1	2		**3**
Powdered Quaker	*Orthosia gracilis*				2	5				**7**
Privet Hawk-moth	*Sphinx ligustri*					6			1	**7**
Purple Clay	*Diarsia brunnea*		8			2			1	**11**
Purple Thorn	*Selenia tetralunaria*		6				1			**7**
Purple-shot Case-bearer	*Coleophora deauratella*	m					3			**3**
Puss Moth	*Cerura vinula*						1			**1**
Red Chestnut	*Cerastis rubricosa*				8					**8**
Red Twin-spot Carpet	*Xanthorhoe spadicearia*		12		2	1	4			**19**
Red Underwing	*Catocala nupta*		2							**2**
Red-barred Tortrix	*Ditula angustiorana*	m			1	4	18	5	7	**35**
Reddish Light Arches	*Apamea sublustris*		1							**1**
Red-green Carpet	*Chloroclysta siterata*				6	3	5	6	1	**21**
Red-line Quaker	*Leptologia lota (Agrochola lota)*		9			1		2	2	**14**
Reed Veneer	*Chilo phragmitella*	m						1		**1**
Riband Wave	*Idaea aversata*		92	1	17	15	26	38	23	**212**
Ringed China-mark	*Parapoynx stratiotata*	m			2		1	4	4	**11**
Rolled Grass-moth	*Pediasia contaminella*	m			1					**1**
Rose Shoot Moth	*Notocelia rosaecolana*	m				1			1	**2**
Rose Tortrix	*Archips rosana*	m				1				**1**
Rosy Footman	*Miltochrista miniata*		19	3	25	16	5	20	11	**99**

Rosy Knot-horn (Rosy-striped Knot-horn/ Rhubarb & Custard)	*Oncocera semirubella*	m		1		4	4	5		**14**
Rosy Marbled	*Elaphria venustula*					1			1	**2**
Rosy Rustic	*Hydraecia micacea*		91			2	3	1		**97**
Rosy Tabby	*Endotricha flammealis*	m		1		1	1	1		**4**
Rosy Wave	*Scopula emutaria*		1							**1**
Round-winged Muslin	*Thumatha senex*		1							**1**
Ruby Tiger	*Phragmatobia fuliginosa*		4			6		3		**13**
Rufous Minor	*Oligia versicolor*		16							**16**
Rufous Pearl	*Udea fulvalis*	m				2		1		**3**
Rufous Tortrix	*Clepsis consimilana*	m			1	2	4		1	**8**
Rugged Bryony Beauty (Rough-winged Conch)	*Phtheochroa rugosana*	m	1		3		1	1		**6**
Rush Veneer	*Nomophila noctuella*	m	2		1	72	2	1	6	**84**
Rustic Shoulder-knot	*Apamea sordens*		5			1	1			**7**
Rusty Acorn Piercer	*Cydia amplana*	m			2	1	3	3	1	**10**
Rusty-dot Pearl	*Udea ferrugalis*	m			5	3	5	3	4	**20**
Sallow	*Cirrhia icteritia*		27		10	10	1	1		**49**
Sallow Kitten	*Furcula furcula*		1							**1**
Saltern Ear	*Amphipoea fucosa*		4							**4**
Saltmarsh Knot-horn	*Ancylosis oblitella*	m				1				**1**
Saltmarsh Plume	*Agdistis bennetii*	m				3				**3**
Sandy Carpet	*Perizoma flavofasciata*						4	9	9	**22**
Satellite	*Eupsilia transversa*		4		1		1		2	**8**
Satin Beauty	*Deileptenia ribeata*		3							**3**
Satin Grass-moth	*Crambus perlella*	m			1					**1**
Satin Wave	*Idaea subsericeata*		13							**13**
Scalloped Hazel	*Odontopera bidentata*		1		1					**2**
Scalloped Hook-tip	*Falcaria lacertinaria*		3							**3**
Scalloped Oak	*Crocallis elinguaria*		20							**20**

Scarce Bordered Straw	*Helicoverpa armigera*				1					**1**
Scarce Footman	*Eilema complana*		103			9	20	6	1	**139**
Scarce Silver-lines	*Bena bicolorana*		2			1	1	1		**5**
Scarce Umber	*Agriopis aurantiaria*		3		1					**4**
Scorched Carpet	*Ligdia adustata1*								1	**1**
Scorched Wing	*Plagodis dolabraria*		8		2	9	1	1	2	**23**
Sea-lavender Case-bearer	*Coleophora limoniella*	m				1				**1**
September Thorn	*Ennomos erosaria*		6		1					**7**
Seraphim	*Lobophora halterata*		1			2	3	3	2	**11**
Setaceous Hebrew Character	*Xestia c-nigrum*		119	4	15	50	39	15	16	**258**
Shaded Broad-bar	*Scotopteryx chenopodiata*		1							**1**
Shaded Oak Stilt	*Caloptilia robustella*	m	1							**1**
Shaded Tortrix	*Eucosma obumbratana*	m				1		1		**2**
Sharp-angled Carpet	*Euphyia unangulata*		1							**1**
Sharp-angled Peacock	*Macaria alternata*		4			2	2		1	**9**
Short-cloaked Moth	*Nola cucullatella*		4							**4**
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	*Leucania comma*		19				3			**22**
Shuttle-shaped Dart	*Agrotis puta*		178	2	9	38	27	5	22	**281**
Silky Wainscot	*Chilodes maritima*		1				1		1	**3**
Silver Y	*Autographa gamma*		37		17	8	54	30	2	**148**
Silver-ground Carpet	*Xanthorhoe montanata*		1							**1**
Single-dotted Wave	*Idaea dimidiata*		26			1	5	4	4	**40**
Six-spot Burnet	*Zygaena filipendulae*		11	1		415	28	29	169	**653**
Six-striped Rustic	*Xestia sexstrigata*		35		1	2		4		**42**
Slender Brindle	*Apamea scolopacina*				1					**1**
Small Angle Shades	*Euplexia lucipara*		2			3			1	**6**
Small Blood-vein	*Scopula imitaria*		4							**4**
Small Brindled Tortrix	*Gypsonoma minutana*	m				1				**1**
Small China-mark	*Cataclysta lemnata*	m			1	1				**2**
Small Clouded Brindle	*Apamea unanimis*					1				**1**
Small Dotted Buff	*Photedes minima*		27							**27**

Small Dusty Wave	*Idaea seriata*						2			**2**
Small Elephant Hawk-moth	*Deilephila porcellus*					1				**1**
Small Emerald	*Hemistola chrysoprasaria*		3							**3**
Small Fan-foot	*Herminia grisealis*		4			1	1	1	1	**8**
Small Fan-footed Wave	*Idaea biselata*		49		2	5	7	8	3	**74**
Small Magpie	*Anania hortulata*	m	1		3	2	1	1	1	**9**
Small Mottled Willow	*Spodoptera exigua*						1			**1**
Small Phoenix	*Ecliptopera silaceata*		1		4	7	1	3	3	**19**
Small Quaker	*Orthosia cruda*		2		20	33	9	13	24	**101**
Small Rufous	*Coenobia rufa*						1		1	**2**
Small Seraphim	*Pterapherapteryx sexalata*		2		1	1				**4**
Small Square-spot	*Diarsia rubi*		52		5	22	3	5		**87**
Small Wainscot	*Denticucullus pygmina*		9							**9**
Small Yellow Wave	*Hydrelia flammeolaria*		3				1			**4**
Smoky Wainscot	*Mythimna impura*		169	1		5	1	2	1	**179**
Snout	*Hypena proboscidalis*		12	1	13	5	9	9	2	**51**
Sombre Brocade	*Dichonioxa tenebrosa*					2	1			**3**
Southern Wainscot	*Mythimna straminea*						3	2	4	**9**
Spectacle	*Abrostola tripartita*		6	1	8	9	2	6	7	**39**
Spindle Knot-horn	*Nephopterix angustella*	m						1		**1**
Spotted Knot-horn	*Phycitodes binaevella*	m					2	1		**3**
Spring Harbinger	*Tortricodes alternella*	m							1	1
Spring Usher	*Agriopis leucophaearia*								2	**2**
Spruce Carpet	*Thera britannica*		4		5	1	2	1	1	**14**
Square-spot Rustic	*Xestia xanthographa*		424	1	14	11	30	9	2	**491**
Straw Dot	*Rivula sericealis*		40		13	12	7	21	21	**114**
Straw Grass-moth	*Agriphila straminella*	m	1	1	2	5	4	3	5	**21**
Straw Underwing	*Thalpophila matura*		4			1	1			**6**
Straw-barred Pearl	*Pyrausta despicata*	m					1			**1**
Streamer	*Anticlea derivata*							2		**2**
Striped Sorrel Moth	*Aroga velocella*	m					2		1	**3**

Striped Wainscot	*Mythimna pudorina*		3				1			**4**
Sulphur Bark Moth (Sulphur Tubic)	*Esperia sulphurella*	m					2			**2**
Svensson's Copper Underwing	*Amphipyra berbera*		5							**5**
Swallow Prominent	*Pheosia tremula*		8		6	1	4	6	6	**31**
Swallow-tailed Moth	*Ourapteryx sambucaria*		13							**13**
Sycamore	*Acronicta aceris*		4							**4**
Tawny Grey	*Eudonia lacustrata*	m			2	8	9	5	6	**30**
Tawny-barred Angle	*Macaria liturata*		5			7	3	1	1	**17**
Tawny Marbled Minor	*Oligia latruncula*		19							**19**
Tawny Oak Tortrix/ Tawny Birch Tortrix	*Acleris ferrugana/notana*	m				1	2			**3**
Tawny Pinion	*Lithophane semibrunnea*					1		1		**2**
Tawny Speckled Pug	*Eupithecia icterata*		4		1					**5**
Tawny-fronted Straw	*Neocochylis molliculana (Cochylis molliculana)*	m			1	3	2			**6**
Thistle Conch	*Aethes cnicana*	m	1							**1**
Thistle Ermine	*Myelois circumvoluta*	m				1				**1**
Treble Brown Spot	*Idaea trigeminata*		3		1		2		1	**7**
Treble Lines	*Charanyca trigrammica*		62		45	28	39	21	12	**207**
Treble-bar	*Aplocera plagiata*					2				**2**
Tree-lichen Beauty	*Cryphia algae*				1			1		**2**
Triangle-marked Roller	*Ancylis achatana*	m	2							**2**
Triple-spotted Clay	*Xestia ditrapezium*		1							**1**
Triple-spotted Nest Moth	*Tinea trinotella*	m			2				1	**3**
True Lover's Knot	*Lycophotia porphyrea*		9		1	4	3	19	4	**40**
Tufted Oak Knot-horn	*Acrobasis tumidana*						1			**1**
Turnip Moth	*Agrotis segetum*		45	2	1	4	1		1	**54**
Twin-barred Knot-horn	*Homoeosoma sinuella*	m			1		2	1		**4**
Twin-spotted Quaker	*Anorthoa munda (Orthosia munda)*				8	8	4	4	5	**29**
Uncertain	*Hoplodrina octogenaria*						13			**13**

Uncertain/Rustic agg.	*Hoplodrina octogenaria/blanda*		308	3	17	23	52	18	14	**435**
Vapourer	*Orgyia antiqua*		1							**1**
Varied Ochre	*Ypsolopha ustella*	m				1				**1**
Varied Tortrix	*Acleris hastiana*						1		1	**2**
Variegated Golden Tortrix	*Archips xylosteana*	m			4		1		2	**7**
Vestal	*Rhodometra sacraria*		1	1		2	6			**10**
Vine's Rustic	*Hoplodrina ambigua*		199	2	23	26	66	13	10	**339**
V-pug	*Chloroclystis v-ata*					1	1		4	**6**
Water-dropwort Brown (Dingy Flat-body)	*Depressaria daucella*	m						1		**1**
Water Veneer	*Acentria ephemerella*	m			3	1		1	1	**6**
Wax Moth	*Galleria mellonella*	m						1		**1**
White Cloaked Tortrix	*Gypsonoma aceriana*	m				1		2	1	**4**
White Crescent	*Teleiodes luculella*	m			1	3	4	3	2	**13**
White Ermine	*Spilosoma lubricipeda*		14		7	9	5	12	11	**58**
White Plume	*Pterophorus pentadactyla*	m	2		2	3	1		1	**9**
White Satin Moth	*Leucoma salicis*						2			**2**
White-banded Dot	*Ectoedemia albifasciella*	m					1			**1**
White-banded Grass-moth	*Crambus pascuella*	m	1	1					1	**3**
White-faced Straw	*Neocochylis dubitana (Cochylis subitana)*	m							1	**1**
White-line Dart	*Euxoa tritici*		2							**2**
White-point	*Mythimna albipuncta*				7	10	22	5	4	**48**
White-shouldered House-moth	*Endrosis sarcitrella*	m			2		2			**4**
White-shouldered Marble	*Apotomis turbidana*	m	3							**3**
White-spotted Pug	*Eupithecia tripunctaria*					1				**1**
White-streaked Grass-moth	*Agriphila latistria*	m				1				**1**
Willow Beauty	*Peribatodes rhomboidaria*		52	7	35	16	27	16	22	**175**
Willow Ermine	*Yponomeuta rorrella*					2	1	19		**22**
Winter Moth	*Operophtera brumata*		9				1			**10**

Yellow Belle	*Aspitates ochrearia*		2			1		1		**4**
Yellow Horned	*Achlya flavicornis*				1		1		2	**4**
Yellow Oak Button	*Aleimma loeflingiana*	m	4							**4**
Yellow Shell	*Camptogramma bilineata*	m	3			2	1	5	1	**12**
Yellow-banded Longhorn	*Nemophora degeerella*						13	4		**17**
Yellow-line Quaker	*Leptologia macilenta (Agrochola macilenta)*		15		1			3		**19**
Yellow-spotted Tortrix	*Pseudargyrotoza conwagana*	m			1					**1**
Yellow-tail	*Euproctis similis*		7							**7**
Total No of Species: 562			**7864**	**240**	**1713**	**2819**	**2459**	**1615**	**1599**	**18309**
Highlighting indicates Moth Species New for Site in 2025										
Former Names are shown in brackets m=macro										
Some species Not Verified at the time of publication										