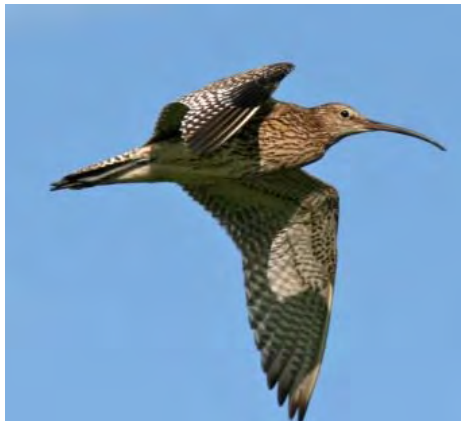


Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group

Annual Report 2012



This project is part financed by the Shropshire Hills LEADER programme,
part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2007-2013: Europe investing in rural areas



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
investing in rural areas



WEST MIDLANDS
**RURAL
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME**



Annual Report 2012

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INTRODUCTION

Community Wildlife Groups (CWG)

There are several Community Wildlife Groups in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These Groups involve local people in looking for wildlife which is declining, so existing populations and habitat can be conserved.

The Groups

- Bring together people interested in wildlife
- Undertake survey work to establish the status of key bird and plant species and habitats
- Encourage and enhance local interest in wildlife
- Actively promote conservation.

The Groups are open to anyone who lives or works in each area, and who wants to actively contribute to local knowledge and conservation. They are for everyone in the community, not just experts. Interest in the area, and enthusiasm, are far more important than detailed knowledge. Most of the target birds and plants are important and easy to recognise and search for. Initial training on identification and simple survey methods is provided, and regular support and advice is also provided, so members learn a lot, and the work is very enjoyable.

Clee Hill

A new project started in October 2011 to support three existing Community Wildlife Groups, and develop three new ones. Clee Hill was selected as a potential area for one of the new groups because it is an important area for wildlife, which is likely to be valued by the local community.

The initiative had the support of the Clee Hill Partnership, and it was decided initially to focus on the Partnership's area: "It does not need to be defined by a rigid boundary. It is centred on the open hill land of Titterstone Clee and Clee Hill common, and includes the surrounding land which provides the landscape and community setting of the Hill, extending approximately as far as Knowlegate and Knowbury to the south, Bitterley to the west, Cleedownton and Bromdon to the north, and Catherton Common and Doddington to the east".

A Steering Committee was set up, consisting of 20 people, many representing local and wildlife organisations, along with some interested individuals, to plan the public launch meeting.

Interest and support for a Community Wildlife Group was generated through a press release sent to all AONB press contacts and titles covering the Clee Hill area, an article in 'West of the Clee Hill' local parish magazine, posters displayed throughout the whole area, (parish, church and village hall notice boards, and local shops), emails or letters sent to interested individuals and local groups, and posting information on the AONB website.

This publicity promoted the launch meeting for the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group on February 29th 2012 at Clee Hill Village Hall. Over 70 people attended. There was lots of interest in the area's wildlife and enthusiasm for the community wildlife group. The aim was to bring together people interested in wildlife to do something positive for local species and give people the opportunity to get out in the countryside to discover and help the wildlife on their doorstep. Members were given training to record and monitor wildlife, with a particular focus on rare and threatened species.

Other Community Wildlife Groups, the Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust, other local Wildlife organisations active nearby, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and West Midlands Butterfly Conservation were invited to put up displays or make presentations at the initial meeting.

Five different projects were supported for work in 2012:-

- Clee Hill Big Butterfly Survey
- Peregrine Protection
- Bird Survey at The Novers
- County Wildlife Site Surveys
- Curlews, Lapwings And Other Birds Survey

This report describes their work, and highlights what they have achieved in the first year of operation.

Several of the projects have been monitoring species or habitats targeted by the Government's UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which is designed to arrest their decline.

The Steering Group has also met on two occasions, to review progress on the projects and offer support where necessary, co-ordinate production of a newsletter and this Annual Report, and plan the first Annual Public Meeting.

All the projects will continue next year, and each section of this report details plans for 2013.

Community Wildlife Groups Website

A new website has been set up, www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk, which provides information about each of the Community Wildlife Groups.

All future events will be listed. The Clee Hill CWG Steering Group has agreed that John Handley and Andrew Heideman will keep the Clee Hill part of the site up to date.

Funding for Community Wildlife Groups

Funding has been secured, from October 2011 until June 2013, to support three existing Community Wildlife Groups, and develop three new ones, in the Shropshire Hills AONB. This is to enable and encourage local people to survey and record local wildlife of conservation concern, and participate in action to protect and enhance species and habitats through the appropriate BAP Priority Areas for Action.

The Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group is one of the three new CWGs that is receiving financial support from the project. The National Trust is the lead organisation and banker. The project will be co-ordinated on their behalf by Leo Smith. A Project Management and Advisory Committee oversee the project, including the National Trust, Shropshire Council

Biodiversity Team, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust, Clee Hill Partnership and Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The three existing Community Wildlife Groups are invited to join the Committee, as is each new CWG when established.

This Clee Hill Annual Report and Annual Public Meeting, and all the plans and initiatives being taken forward from it, will be financed through this project until June 2013.

The funding has been secured from the “LEADER in the Shropshire Hills” programme, co-ordinated by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership with Defra as the Managing Authority.

Thanks to the Shropshire Hills AONB LEADER Local Action Group for approving the project. This support is hereby gratefully acknowledged:-

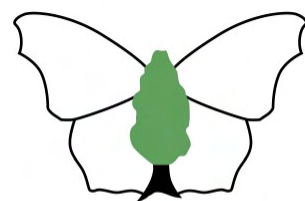
“LEADER in the Shropshire Hills: Project part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2007-2013: Europe investing in rural areas”.



CLEE HILL BIG BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Introduction

The Clee Hill area has long been recognised as important for its butterflies and moths by Butterfly Conservation, but awareness of this amongst the local community is currently low. Regionally important and nationally declining species like Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Dark Green Fritillary have been recorded in the past but their current status outside well visited areas like Cramer Gutter is largely unknown. West Midlands Butterfly Conservation has few active recorders living locally, so the majority of the area is generally under-recorded and known populations of key species are not well monitored.



**Butterfly
Conservation**

The aim of the Clee Hill Big Butterfly Survey therefore was:

- To increase public awareness and interest in the importance of Clee Hill for its butterflies
- To recruit and train volunteer recorders drawn from the local community
- To encourage wider recording of identified key species during the summer months
- To identify specific areas where key butterfly species occur and determine population strength
- To take appropriate conservation action to protect important populations as and when required

How

A presentation on the Butterflies of Clee Hill was made at the initial public meeting and names were collected at the end of the meeting of those who expressed an interest in taking part in the survey.

Five target species were chosen for particular attention: Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillary, Wall Brown, Small Heath and Green Hairstreak. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wall Brown and Small Heath are all now UK BAP priority species while Dark Green Fritillary and Green Hairstreak have been identified as of regional importance by Butterfly Conservation. A regular email was sent out over the course of the summer to let people know when target species had been seen and to generally encourage recording.

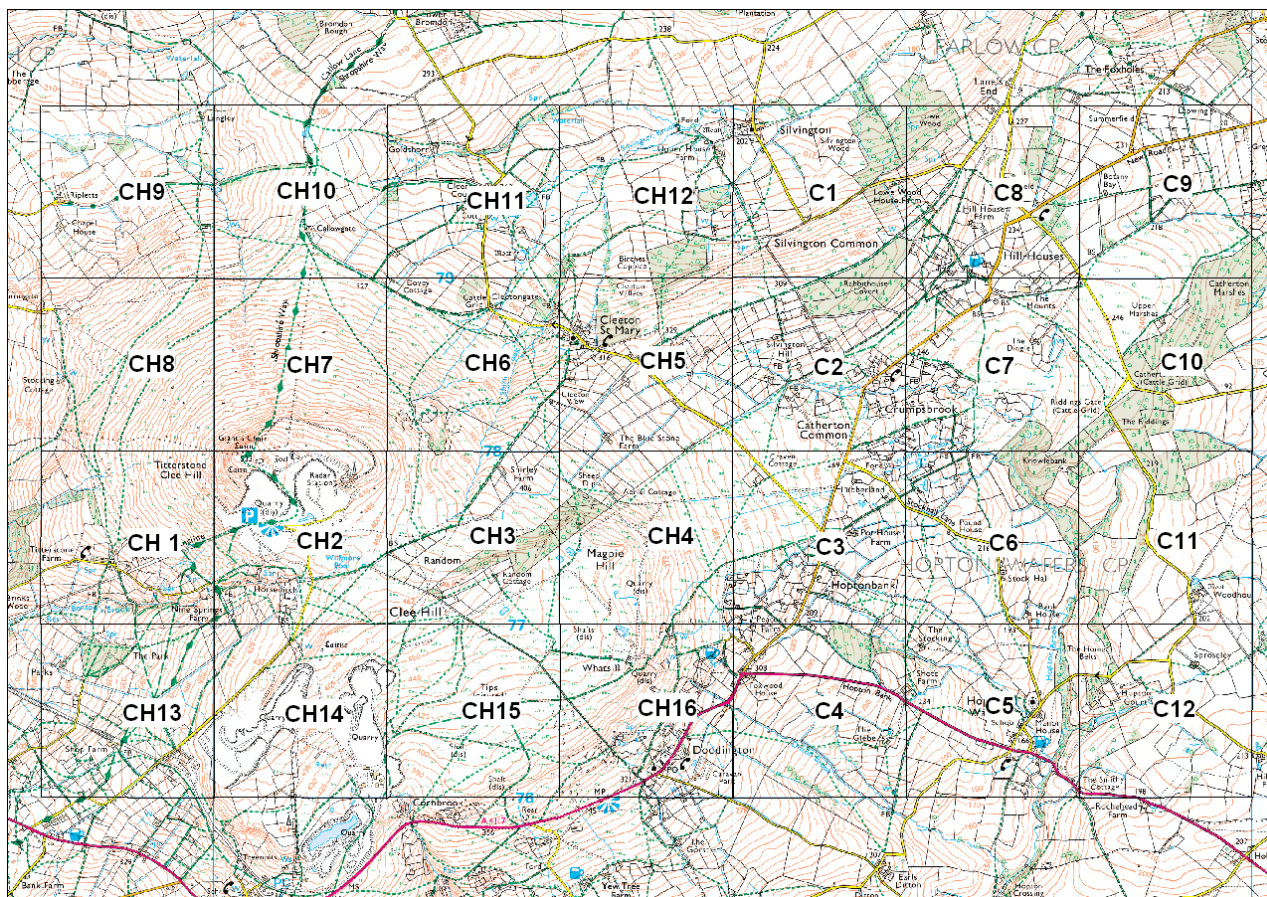
A training day was planned for 3rd June to help volunteers with butterfly identification and to enable them to recognise the kind of habitats favoured by different species. In the event, bad weather on the day meant that this was cancelled and rearranged for 15th June. Unfortunately, the rearranged date was also affected by extremely poor weather and the day had to be cut short after the first hour because of heavy rain and waterlogged ground conditions. Recording forms were subsequently emailed or posted out to volunteers.

Where

Clee Hill and Catherton Common were split into 28 1km recording squares shown in Map B1

Each person who volunteered at the public meeting was sent a map and recording form covering one or more squares (see Appendix B1 for copy of recording form).

Map B1. Butterfly Survey Recording Area and Survey Squares



C 1-12 = Catherton Common

CH 1-16 = Clee Hill

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Who

A list of 20 names was gathered at the public meeting and five further volunteers were recruited subsequently. Most were drawn from the immediate Clee Hill area but there were three additional volunteers from Ludlow and one from Bridgnorth. Twenty-five of the 28 squares were allocated to volunteers (the unallocated squares were CH11, CH12 and CC3).

Results

2012 was an extremely difficult year for butterfly recording and response to the survey was mixed with one square receiving several visits but, in other cases, volunteers struggled to find a time when good weather and their own availability coincided. Nevertheless, reports have been received for 12 squares: CH1, CH5, CH7, CH8, CH9, CH10, CC2, CC7, CC9, CC10, and CC12 which represents a 48% return of allocated squares, plus three sets of garden records.

Efforts were made to allocate recording squares in close proximity to where volunteers lived but this was not always possible.

Most recorders used the official recording form and included detailed grid references but, in some cases, recorders emailed their findings. As far as the target species were concerned,

we received no reports of Wall Brown (which may now be extinct in the area) and only a single report of Dark Green Fritillary from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust reserve at Cramer Gutter. There were also few reports of Green Hairstreak whose main flight season coincided with the worst of the weather. Much more encouraging were reports of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary from a number of new areas and a possible first record for its close relative Pearl-bordered Fritillary which we hope to confirm next year. It was good news as well for Small Heath which was widely reported. In some cases, recorders noted the presence of Marsh Violets, a key larval foodplant for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, at locations where no butterflies were seen, so these will be helpful for targeting future recording efforts. A report of Grayling for which we have no previous records for the area is also something to follow up next year.

As well as the target species, a number of volunteers made a note of other species seen, including the more widespread species. During the course of the summer, 22 different butterfly species were recorded: Large Skipper, Large White, Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Brimstone, Small White, Green Hairstreak, Small Copper, ?Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary, Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Painted Lady, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, ?Grayling, Speckled Wood and Small Heath. There are a number of other species like Common Blue, Holly Blue and Small Skipper which almost certainly also occur but were not recorded as part of this survey in 2012. No specific attempt was made to record moths but both Cinnabar (CH8) and Common Emerald (CH5) were reported. A summary of all butterfly records received is included in Table B1.

Plans for 2013

The plan for 2013 is to build on the encouraging start made this year, hopefully in rather better weather conditions. The initial results have demonstrated that the Clee Hill area remains extremely important regionally for its butterflies and that there is much more to be discovered regarding the occurrence and distribution of the rarer species found. Further volunteers and recording are required to ensure that we obtain all the information needed to develop a conservation strategy for Clee Hill to ensure that important butterfly populations are maintained and enhanced.

It is therefore intended to run the Big Butterfly survey again next year, but make some improvements based on this year's experience.

- Start earlier in the year to ensure more complete coverage.
- Extend coverage to the area south of the main Cleobury-Ludlow road.
- Place more emphasis on the importance of recording common and garden species as a means of encouraging greater involvement.
- Hold a Butterfly Group meeting in the early spring to discuss best ways of tackling recording and allocating squares.
- Arrange a series of recording days and group activities over the summer rather than rely on volunteers acting singly.

Consideration should be given to ways in which members of other survey groups might also be encouraged to record butterflies and examine the possibility of running joint events and activities.

Table B1. – Summary of Butterfly Records received: Squares recorded & Max Count

Species seen:	CH1	CH5	CH6	CH7	CH8	CH9	CH10	CC2	CC7	CC9	CC10	CC12
Small Pearl-bordered Frit		c.30	7					1	14	8		
?Pearl-bordered Fritillary		1										
Green Hairstreak								1		1	1	
Dark Green Fritillary										1		
Small Heath	4+	3	4	4+	10+			4	1	5		
Small Tortoiseshell 1*				1	3							
Red Admiral 1*							1					
Comma							1					
Painted Lady 1 *												
Peacock 1*							1					
Ringlet 1*					4		2			10		
Gatekeeper 1*				1								
Meadow Brown 2*				2			5			8		
?Grayling 1*												
Speckled Wood							1			2		
Large Skipper										2		
Small Copper 1*										1		
Orange Tip 3*												
Large White 1*2*										12		
Small White 3*												
Brimstone 3*												
Green-veined White 1*				1	1		3			1		

NB

NB

NB = Square visited but no butterflies recorded

1* = Garden record SO601759

2* = Garden record SO584775

3* = Garden record SO551729



Success at last.

Photo: Andrew Heideman

PEREGRINE PROTECTION



Introduction

Peregrines have nested at Clee Hill quarry for some years, but they have suffered considerable persecution here. The Shropshire Peregrine Group (SPG), together with the local police, has therefore organised protection, and requested help from the Community Wildlife Group. Eighteen people volunteered to help at the public meeting, and further helpers were subsequently recruited.

Objectives

In view of the continuing and well documented threat to nesting peregrines at this site, SPGs objectives were:

- i) to monitor and record nesting/breeding data on behalf of Natural England and the British Trust for Ornithology.
- ii) to offer advice and guidance to landowners, agencies and individual groups concerned with the protection of Schedule 1 birds.
- iii) where appropriate, to offer specialist site protection, work with agencies, e.g. police and RSPB to prevent nest disturbance/destruction, and to secure and preserve evidence to support the arrest and prosecution of offenders.

Method

The site has presented unique problems over several years, which include the danger of carrying out protection work in a remote and harsh environment, (i.e. quarry site at high altitude with extreme weather conditions), aggravated by the determination of certain elements within both the local community and nationally to kill adult birds and generally disrupt breeding at this site.

The combination of these factors has meant that the SPG has endeavoured to focus its' very limited resources on offering specialist protection in conjunction with landowners, and with the support of police and RSPB Investigations Unit. At the same time the Group has tried to offer guidance and direction to local people who have wished to volunteer to help protect the birds. The SPG has found through experience that in order to carry out certain elements of protection work, that, reluctantly, it has had to restrict information to those directly involved with this work. The Group has at all times to be mindful that any prosecution which may be pursued by the police can be compromised by too much information being available within the public domain. It is a difficult balance to be drawn between this and keeping everyone involved in protection work fully informed of activities. Both the SPG and police are convinced however, that a successful prosecution of the offender/s responsible for peregrine persecution at this site will act as the ultimate deterrent, and all protection work is carried out with this aim.

SPG therefore appointed a volunteer co-ordinator site warden to be responsible for liaising with police, and organising and briefing volunteer patrols in the area outside the working quarry, specifically the “incline” site.

Numbers

More than 20 volunteers carried out patrols in the area between April and June. They are listed in the Acknowledgements on page 28.

The volunteers were drawn from various local groups including the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group. In addition the Ludlow Police provided two officers operating in a supervisory role. Assistance was also provided by the quarry manager and senior staff of Hanson’s Aggregates.

Results

The traditional nest site at the “incline”, where the nesting peregrines had been killed (poisoned) in 2010 was not used this year. Instead the birds nested at a site in the working quarry (Hanson’s Aggregates), which has also been used on occasions in the past, in close proximity to the ledge used in 2011.

The pair returned to Titterstone Clee in late March, and incubation commenced on or about 10th April. The number of eggs laid is not known, however, it is believed that the clutch comprised the usual number of 3-4 eggs.

Incubation proceeded normally for approximately two and half weeks with activity at the nest being recorded on camera. Extremely adverse weather conditions over the weekend of 28-29th April, (prolonged heavy rain combined with below average temperatures), resulted in the female peregrine spending less time at the nest and leaving the eggs exposed to the elements. This behaviour continued for several days and on 4th May the site warden confirmed that the nest had been abandoned, although the resident pair of birds remained on site. It is most probable that the nest failed due to adverse weather conditions which resulted in the eggs becoming chilled and infertile. Elsewhere in the county no less than nine peregrine nests suffered a similar fate.

Volunteer patrols at Clee continued until the end of May as a precautionary measure since the peregrines remained in the area and were in the habit of roosting at the quarry site and therefore remained under threat.

Plans for 2013

Although the protection measures at Clee this year provided a significant deterrent to potential offenders, the threat to these rare falcons from certain local elements is likely to continue next year and therefore similar measures will again be necessary.

Depending on the nest site selected, volunteer patrols will be required again, possibly operating from a temporary observation hide located at the existing public view point, and with a direct communication link to the local police.

In conclusion the Shropshire Peregrine Group are grateful for the support for the peregrine protection project this year provided by the residents of Clee Hill and in particular the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group, and also the Ludlow Police whose officers devoted a great deal of time and effort to the project. In spite of the failure of the breeding attempt this year due to natural causes, the Clee Hill peregrines survived, and live to breed again next year.



COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE SURVEYS

Introduction

Survey work of the numerous County Wildlife Sites (CWS) in the Cleve Hills has been patchy in the past and insufficient data for these sites exists. Wildlife Sites are important refuges for plants and animals and form links in a fragmented landscape for species reproduction and dispersal. Since they were designated, mostly in the 1970s, many sites have declined in conservation value, so that mobility for organisms depending on their existence has been severely compromised.

Some plant records, but little other data, are available for most of these sites, and landowner contact has been inconsistent over the years.

At the inaugural meeting of the Community Wildlife Group, Shropshire Wildlife Trust suggested that people might like to pick up skills in plant identification and surveying techniques, and this would then serve the purpose of gaining much needed information on the Wildlife Sites. This project was one of those supported.

Objectives

A botanical survey group was therefore set up for the purposes of training group members, re-establishing owner contact, updating the land ownership database, collecting plant data, checking site boundaries and assessing the condition of ten CWSs this year.

Methodology

A group leader, with both training and botanical skills was appointed to lead the surveys, which involved training a group of volunteers in plant identification whilst at the same time collecting the data about CWSs. Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) provided site boundary maps, site visit cards and recording sheets and arranged for access to the various sites.

The sites chosen were generally clustered together but one of the main limiting factors in choosing sites was landowner permission which could not always be obtained. The SWT database of site ownership is out-of-date, so tracing ownership can be extremely time consuming, with sometimes poor results. In addition to this, permission for site visits is not always granted.

The sites visited are listed in Appendix WS 1.

Visits to sites took place at weekends between May and August with pre-arranged meeting points. About fifteen people had shown interest in the survey work and they were all contacted.

The survey work covered the whole of each Wildlife Site where possible and all plant species seen were recorded using Shropshire Botanical Society recording cards. These allow full

biological records to be made, since grid references, recorder's names, site names and dates must all be filled in.

In addition 'site visit cards' were also completed (see Appendix WS2) so that habitat and condition information could be collected. The maps provided allowed site boundaries to be checked and surveyors were asked to provide as much information about the extent of each habitat where possible by annotating maps. The group leader used a GPS to note 8 figure grid references for rare species.

Other species data was collected where possible, for example butterfly and some bird records were made on most sites.

The data collected from each survey was then sent to SWT for processing.

Results

Twelve sites were visited and eleven of these had full surveys carried out. Eight sites were already CWS, the other four were either 'site alerts', local farms or areas of interest noted by other survey groups. In addition a SWT nature reserve was visited for the purposes of carrying out the annual Marsh Gentian count and another nearby SSSI was visited out of interest.

The status of the different sites in the area is shown in the Map opposite.

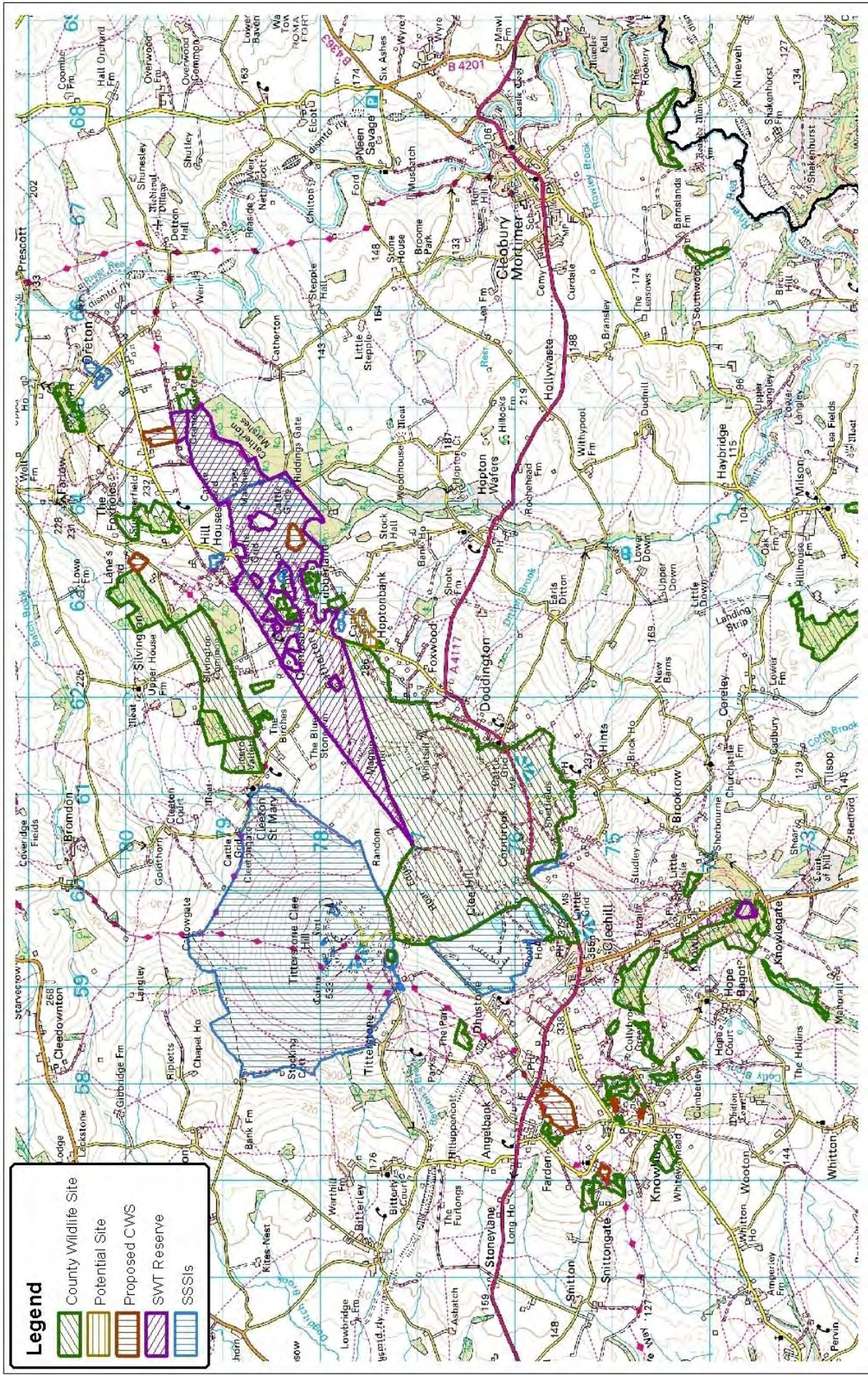
Twelve people took part with nine people surveying on a regular basis. Participants are listed in the Acknowledgements on page 28.

Several hundred plant records were made and 70 Shropshire axiophytes were recorded (see Appendix WS3). These are the uncommon species and indicators of good habitat, important for determining the condition of a site.

It was mainly grassland habitats that were surveyed, acid and neutral and both pasture and hay meadow but mire and woodland sites were also surveyed. Six of the eleven sites fully surveyed in the Clee Hills were found to be in 'Favourable' condition. Five sites were found to be in 'Unfavourable' condition and four of these were CWSs.

Discussion and interpretation

For woodland sites, "favourable condition" means that age structure of trees and shrubs showed good variation, that good regeneration potential existed, there were few invasive and negative indicator species and ground flora was rich. For grasslands in favourable condition, there were high numbers of positive indicator species and low frequencies of negative indicators. Grazing levels were good so that swards were kept open but not over-grazed and poaching was not occurring.



Legend

- County Wildlife Site
- Potential Site
- Proposed CWS
- SWT Reserve
- SSSIs



Date: 29/11/2012
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 Ordnance Survey 100050351

Wildlife Rich Sites Clee Hills

Shropshire Wildlife Trust
 193 Abbey Foregate
 Shrewsbury SY2 6AH
 Tel: 01743 264280
www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



Of the four CWSs in unfavourable condition, one site was under-grazed and therefore undermanaged, another needed more active management, a third was recovering from poor past management and the fourth site had very little wildlife interest remaining, with the reasons for this unknown.

Other Survey Work in the Clee Hills

The Wildlife Group's work complemented other botanical survey work in the Clee Hills this year, which included the regular condition monitoring work carried out by SWT on their two local nature reserves, Cramer Gutter and Catherton Common, and survey work, particularly on lower plants, carried out by Natural England (NE). An extensive survey of Titterstone Clee and Silvington Common was carried out by an Ecological Consultant working for NE this year.

Decline of Wildlife Sites

Since their adoption in the 1970s, Wildlife Sites have been in decline all over Shropshire but nationally too. The reasons for this are many, with agricultural improvement being the main factor. Horse grazing on many sites has also been hugely detrimental but so has neglect, leading to sites scrubbing over and losing their conservation value. There are other reasons too: development, forestry, infilling of ponds, recreation and invasive species introduction. The root cause of the problem is of course poor protection, but unawareness, lack of responsibility, lack of incentives, inappropriate incentives, lack of equipment, non-farmer ownership and lack of conservation staff time are all contributory factors.

The loss or decline of the 12 sites in this survey year at 50% was not as low as expected. Figures have been higher in previous years, but any loss is a cause for concern. SWT will be visiting the owners/managers of the four sites this autumn and offering advice and help where possible and appropriate.

Summary for 2012

This was a successful survey year, with a good number of people taking part and survey work of a very high standard achieved. The training was also very successful with everyone increasing their knowledge of survey and recording techniques and at least two volunteers becoming very proficient at botanical identification.

Plans for 2013

The Botanical Group intends to carry out a further suite of CWS surveys next year with more training included. In addition to this SWT will be running three training courses (Grasses, Sedges and Bryophytes) for all Wildlife Site surveyors in the county.

A Clee Hills walk will be advertised early in the year to give new people a taster of what Wildlife Site surveying involves. Our hope is to recruit new members to the botanical group next year but also to hold on to those we already have in the group!



Clee Hill Surveyors – Andrew, Julia and John



Water Mint and Horsetail



Devil's Bit Scabious

BIRD SURVEY AT THE NOVERS

Introduction

The Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust (TCHT) manages a woodland at The Novers. It provides a base venue for wildlife events, and is managed as a sustainable working forest with the long term aims to increase biodiversity and provide an increased public awareness of the need to consider the holistic environment. Woodland management is already underway, and TCHT requested help at the public meeting in carrying out a bird survey.

The plan in year one was to set the baseline and establish which species are in The Novers, how many and where the territories are. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Common Bird Census (CBC) methodology was used to conduct the survey. Three survey visits were made to the north end of The Novers, where woodland management is taking place.

Results

1. The positions of all birds were mapped together with their behaviour – for example singing, feeding or gathering food, all signs of nesting. Summary maps were made of each of the 24 bird species with all their records from the three visits.
2. These species maps were then independently assessed, using nationally applied criteria developed by a BTO officer with long experience of the method. The results were species maps with lines around apparent breeding territories evidenced by at best three, of lesser significance two and of little real value just single visits.
3. Table 1 below lists the number of territories identified by three or two visits. Also listed are other species seen and mapped only once.

Table N1. Apparent bird territories at The Novers woodland study site in 2012.

Number of apparent territories evidenced by presence on two or three visits.

The four summer migrants from Africa are in **bold**.

Also listed, alphabetically, are the species recorded only once.

Robin	11
Wren	10
Blue Tit	7
Blackbird	7
Song Thrush	6
Chiffchaff	5
Blackcap	5
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3
Stock Dove	2
Great Tit	2
Garden Warbler	2
Dunnock	2
Willow Warbler	1
Chaffinch	1

Also: Bullfinch, Buzzard, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Jackdaw, Magpie, Marsh Tit, Mistle Thrush, Nuthatch and Pheasant.

This tells us which species were most numerous, through to the least. Over the coming years these numbers will change in part because of natural events such as bad winters or good summers; man-made changes in the woodland will also induce changes.

The species maps also show where the territories were and this is significant because a key question in the project is *“How are the birds reacting to the changes being made by management work, such as tree felling or coppicing and scrub clearance?”*

As with the numbers, the positions of territories will change from year to year and over the coming years the shifts in territory positions will start to answer this question.

Plans for 2013

It is intended to do the same survey in future years, with support for the surveyor with paperwork.



The Novers Woodland



Blackcap



Wren

CURLEWS, LAPWINGS AND OTHER BIRDS SURVEY

Introduction

A presentation was made to the launch meeting on the option of carrying out a survey to estimate the population of Curlew and Lapwing in the area, and record other species of conservation concern. The three existing Community Wildlife Groups have already carried out similar surveys for several years. Eighteen people volunteered to help, and another three volunteers were recruited subsequently.

Objectives

Volunteers were asked to find out where Curlew and Lapwing occur in the breeding season, record behaviour indicative of breeding, and record the locations of 19 other species, most of which are of nature conservation importance (i.e. they are Target Species for Natural England's Higher Level Scheme, are on the *Red List* or *Amber List* of *Birds of Conservation Concern* because they have suffered large declines in the last 25 or 50 years, and are Target Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan).

In addition to Lapwing and Curlew, the target species were:-

- Kestrel
- Red Kite
- Barn Owl
- Grey Partridge
- Snipe
- Skylark
- Meadow Pipit
- Cuckoo
- Dipper
- Swift (nest sites only)
- Yellow Wagtail
- Dunnock
- Wheatear
- Spotted Flycatcher
- Tree Sparrow
- Linnet
- Bullfinch
- Yellowhammer
- Reed Bunting

Methodology

The area covered by the Group (the same as the Clee Hill Partnership) was divided up into 20 tetrads (2x2 kilometre squares, made up of four of the one kilometre squares shown on Ordnance Survey maps). Map BS1 shows all tetrads in the area, with the Tetrad Reference code.

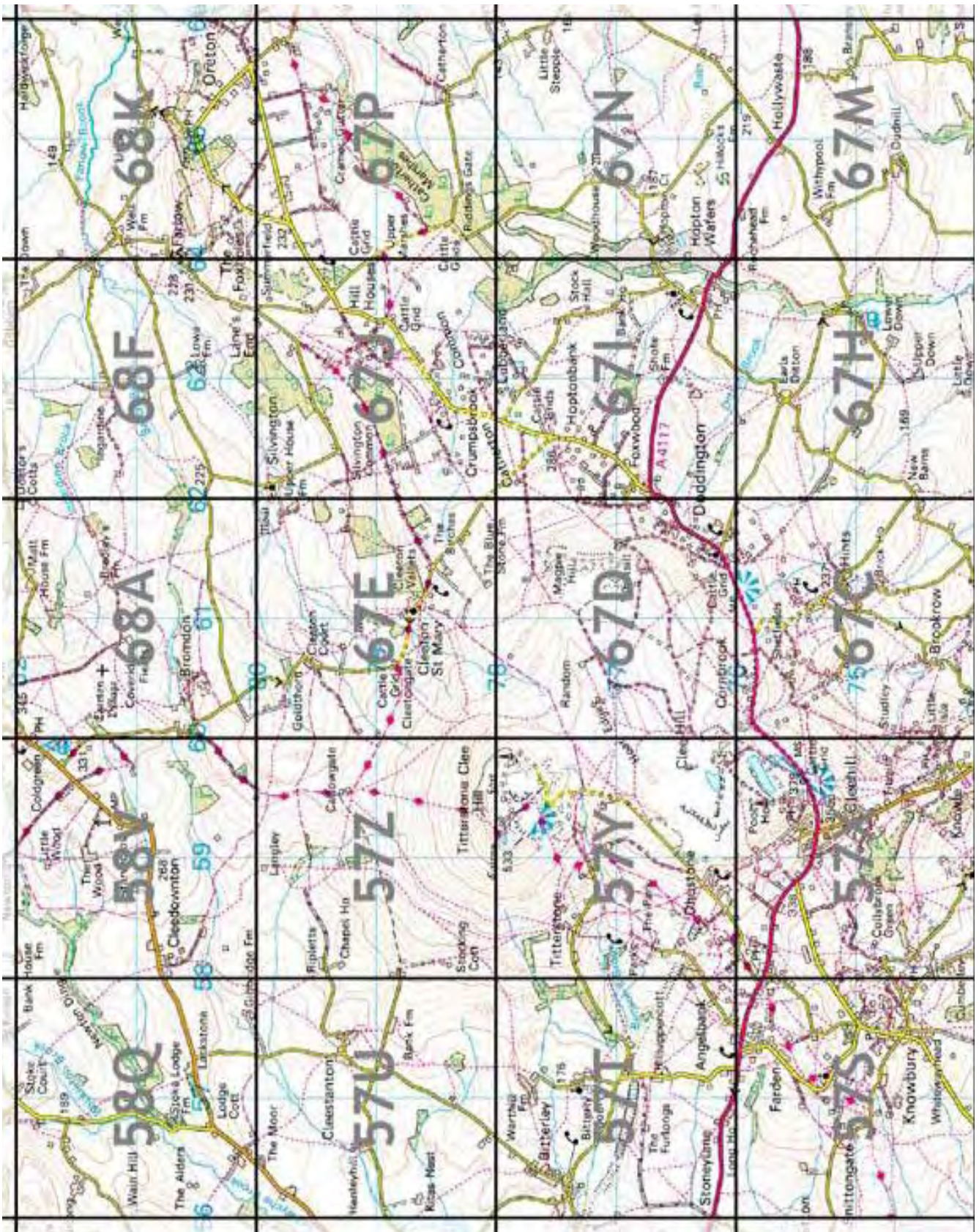
Those who agreed to help were allocated a square / tetrad, and requested to survey it once during each of three specified two week periods, around 1st April, 1st May and mid June.

1. The first period follows the arrival of Lapwing and Curlew back on the breeding grounds. This is the best time to find breeding Lapwing (first egg date is usually around 1st April).
2. The second period is the best time to find breeding Curlew (first egg date is usually around 30th April).
3. The third period is timed to find any Curlews that have successfully hatched and still have chicks. It is also the best time to find the Other Target Species.

The Methodology is described in full in the separate report on the bird survey: *Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group: Curlews, Lapwings & Other Birds Survey 2012*.

A fieldwork training session was held for the members that wanted it, at Cleeton St Mary on the morning of Saturday 31st March. Nine people attended, and three pairs of Curlew were seen.

Map BS1. The Bird Survey Area, showing Square Boundaries and Tetrad Codes



A feedback meeting was held on April 23rd, to present the results of the first survey, discuss them and seek clarification where necessary, and iron out any difficulties experienced by the participants. Eighteen people attended. A further feedback meeting was held on 16th August, to consider the results of the full survey, and seek support to repeat the survey next year, and discuss the development of the Group. 14 people attended.

In total, members spent over 200 hours on survey work (excluding the additional time spent when couples or friends surveyed a square together) – an excellent effort.

Curlew

The location of Curlews found during the surveys, or reported on Casual Record maps, is shown on the map opposite. The observations are described in detail in the Bird Survey Report.

From the observations and analysis, it is estimated that the Curlew population in the area is currently 6 – 7 breeding pairs, with another two pairs in adjacent tetrads (SO 68B & L).

Breeding success has been very poor, probably because of the atrocious wet weather. It is likely that the 4 – 5 pairs near Cleeton St Mary and Hopton Wafers (SO67D, E, I & J) raised no young. Pairs with young are usually very noisy, and young would be unlikely to fledge before mid-July at the earliest. However, a resident at Cleeton St Mary reported that “there has been little activity this year, and much less than other years, with only odd single birds about and occasional calling. Normally, when they have young, I hear them all through the night and see much more of the adults” (Tim Lee, *pers.comm.*). Also, members of the Group living at Pot House Farm (SOI) kept a diary, and recorded Curlews up until 3rd July, but not subsequently.

The outcome at the other sites is unknown, but the pair at Stoke Court Farm (SO58Q) behaved as if they had chicks on the final survey visit.

Lapwing

The location of Lapwings found during the surveys is shown on page 22. Again, the observations are described in detail in the Bird Survey Report.

From the observations and analysis, it is estimated that the Lapwing population in the area is currently three breeding pairs, with another pair to the north in SO68L.

Again, breeding success was very poor. Only one pair, the one seen driving off crows near Hillocks Farm on the very late date of 11th August, may have successfully fledged any young, but the outcome is not known.




Anecdotal Evidence for the Decline of Lapwing and Curlew

Members of the Bird Group who live in the area, or other local residents, say that Lapwings and Curlews are less common now than they used to be. Some members talked to local farmers in the course of their surveys, and they too said that Lapwings and Curlew are less common now than they used to be. Lapwings have apparently declined much more than Curlews.

**Clee Hill
Community
Wildlife Group**

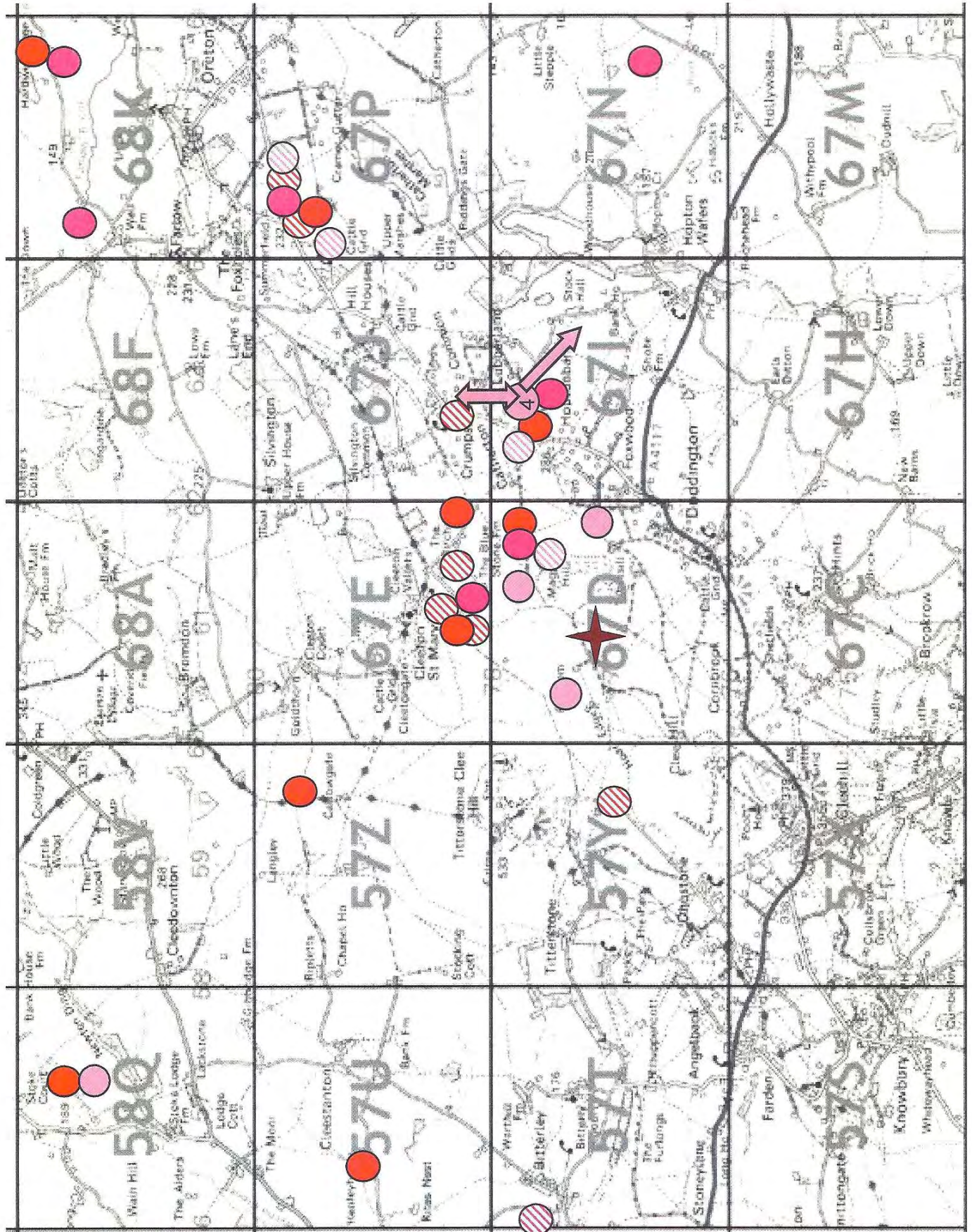
Area covers 20 2x2
kilometre squares,
known as "tetrads"

Curlew

-  **First Survey**
March-April 2012
-  **Second Survey**
April-May 2012
-  **Third Survey**
June 2012

Casual Records

-  **Nest with 4 eggs found**
13 May
- Other Casual Records** use the colour for the survey period, with hatching



Other Target Species

The other Target Species recorded during the surveys, and on casual records, are summarised in Table 1 below.

Note that members were asked to record individual birds, not pairs (so at some locations both the birds in the pair were recorded, and in the final survey some recently fledged juveniles may have been recorded as well). Numbers of Linnet and Yellowhammer may be exaggerated by the presence of winter flocks moving onto the breeding grounds, before dispersing to the individual breeding sites, during the second survey.

Table B1. Other Target Species - Summary

Square (Tetrad)	Species											
	Kestrel	Red Kite	Skylark	Meadow Pipit	Dunnock	Wheatear	Stone-chat	Spotted Flycatcher	Linnet	Bullfinch	Yellowhammer	Reed Bunting
57S			2		2				1	1		
57T					11						28	
57U			12		3				2	1	2	
57X	2	2	3			3	3		5			
57Y			10	15		20	3				1	
57Z	1	1	18									5
58Q					1			4			1	
58V	(Not surveyed)											
67C	1			7	2	13			2			
67D	6		17	36		23	2		2			1
67E	3	1	5	40	15	2	2		10		8	8
67H			4		8				2		13	
67I	2		2				1			1		1
67J								1		1		4
67M			6		9				5	2	9	
67N			3		5				4	2	16	
67P	2	1	13	29	12	2	4		42	3	11	1
68A	(Not surveyed)											
68F							2					
68K	1		7	14	22				6	7	16	
TOTALS	18	5	102	141	90	63	17	5	81	18	105	20

As expected in a survey of this type, the expertise of members, and the time they had available to undertake the surveys, varied considerably. The survey squares also vary considerably, in accessibility and terrain. The “detectability” of the birds themselves also varies considerably, according to prevailing weather conditions, time of day, stage in the breeding cycle, and the normal behaviour of each species. In particular, birds are most conspicuous when they are feeding young (either in the nest or recently fledged), but the poor weather this year, characterised by frequent very heavy downpours of rain, has meant that breeding success for many species has been very poor. Thus the survey results will

give an indication of the species present, but only a very small proportion will have been recorded.

Additional records were supplied by a Shropshire Bird Atlas worker in Tetrads 67D, E, J and P. They too are included in the results for the relevant tetrad in Table 1 above if they are apparently additional to those found during the survey of that actual Tetrad (Jon Lingard, *pers.comm.*).

It will be seen that Skylark, Dunnock and Yellowhammer are widespread and numerous, Meadow Pipit, and to a lesser extent Wheatear, are numerous in restricted parts of the area where suitable habitat still exists (the Commons), and the remaining species that were found are present only in their specific habitats, and in small numbers.

Kestrels are conspicuous, and forage over large areas, so an assessment can be made of their population. A nest was reported in SO67I (Angela & Kirsty MacKirdy, *pers.comm.*), and six (presumably a family party) were seen near Cornbrook (SO67D). Two birds seen near Clee Hill village during the first survey, before nesting, may have been this pair. One or two birds were seen around Cleeton St Mary (mainly in SO67E, but also in SO57Y and SO67D) on each survey visit, representing a third pair. Individuals were also seen once in SO67C, SO67P and SO68K, with the latter sightings suggesting a further pair. This gives an estimate of 3 – 4 pairs. Further observations in future years will help clarify the estimate.

Several of the Target Species were not recorded at all during the surveys – Barn Owl, Snipe, Dipper, Swift (nest sites only), Yellow Wagtail or Tree Sparrow.

Three Target Species not shown in the Table were recorded in only one square - Grey Partridge (a pair in SO67E), Cuckoo in SO67P and Spotted Flycatcher (two pairs feeding young in the nest) in SO58Q. However, casual records for Cuckoo were also received from SO67E & J. Cuckoos range far and wide, and these records probably relate to one breeding pair.

The Grey Partridge were unexpected, but it is believed that captive bred birds have been released in the area by the Burwarton shoot (Eric Davis, *pers.comm.*).

A Barn Owl bred in a nestbox in SO67P. Two owlets fledged this year (four each in the two preceding years) and have been ringed by the Shropshire Barn Owl Group (Eric Davis, *pers.comm.*).

In addition, a Dipper family and a Spotted Flycatcher were seen in SO67J (Jon Lingard, *pers.comm.*).

Decline of Lapwing and Curlew

Lapwing and Curlew are in decline, nationally, here, and elsewhere in Shropshire. The decline in the Clee Hill area is shown graphically in Figure 1. This compares the distribution maps representing the results of the current survey in 20 tetrads with the relevant parts of the maps shown in *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire*, based on six years fieldwork 1985-90, and published in 1992. Both maps have been compiled on the same basis and it is likely that more fieldwork has taken place in the current period, so the decline is undoubtedly real.

A large dot indicates that breeding was proved in the tetrad (usually a nest was found, or a bird was seen incubating, or dependent young were seen), a middle size dot indicates probable breeding (usually a pair was seen, or territorial behaviour was observed), and a small dot indicates possible breeding (a bird was seen or heard in the breeding season).

Such an observation needs to occur at least (but perhaps only) once in the whole Atlas / survey period, and it gives no indication of the number of breeding pairs. These distribution maps therefore probably overestimate the population:-

- Lapwings have specific nesting habitat requirements, which in this area usually means they nest on arable fields planted with spring crops, which get moved each year by crop rotation on farms. Therefore one pair, or a small colony, may breed in several different tetrads over a period of years.
- A pair of Curlew may also move their nest from place to place within their large territories, so again one pair may nest in several tetrads in the Atlas period. Nests are difficult to find, but pairs and territorial display are relatively easy to find, but may be observed anywhere within the large territory, so one pair may be recorded in several tetrads.

Even so, it is clear from the distribution maps in Figure 1 that both species are much less widespread here than they were 20 – 25 years ago.

Other evidence for the decline of Lapwing and Curlew, nationally and elsewhere in Shropshire, is set out in the Bird Survey report.

Action to attempt to reverse these declines is being taken. Both species have been designated as UK Biodiversity Priority Species by the Government, as part of its commitment to international biodiversity targets, precisely because of the rapid decline. Both species, but particularly Lapwing, nest on farmland, and the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (part of the system of payments to farmers through the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union) includes provision to reward farmers for sensitive management of habitat on their farms, and providing other environmental benefits.

Farmers applying to join the scheme have to take into account the habitat requirements of a number of breeding birds, including Lapwing and Curlew, if they breed on or near the farm, or use land there for feeding. HLS includes specific prescriptions, and payments, for Lapwing and Curlew habitat, if the farmer wants to take them up.

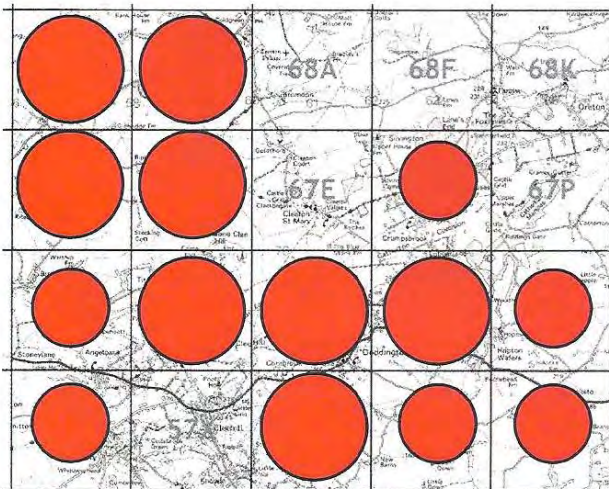
The data provided by Community Wildlife Groups, on the location and habitat of these priority species, helps Natural England (the Government Agency responsible both for achieving the biodiversity targets, and administering the Environmental Stewardship Scheme) to target its limited resources more effectively to achieve this objective.

Bird Survey Report

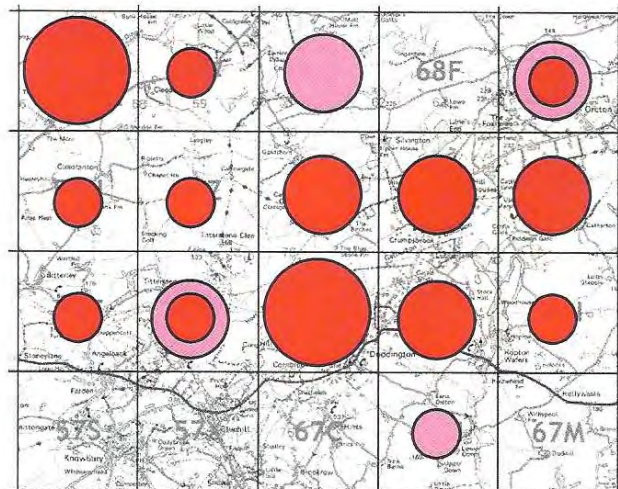
A full report on the Bird Survey *Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group: Curlews, Lapwings & Other Birds Survey 2012*, has been prepared. This includes a full description of the methodology and the detailed observations that have fed into the distribution maps, population estimates and Table of Other Species. It also includes more information on the decline of Lapwings and Curlews, and their habitat requirements.

Figure 1. Distribution of Curlew and Lapwing in the Clee Hill area: Comparison between 1985-90 and 2008 – 12

Curlew

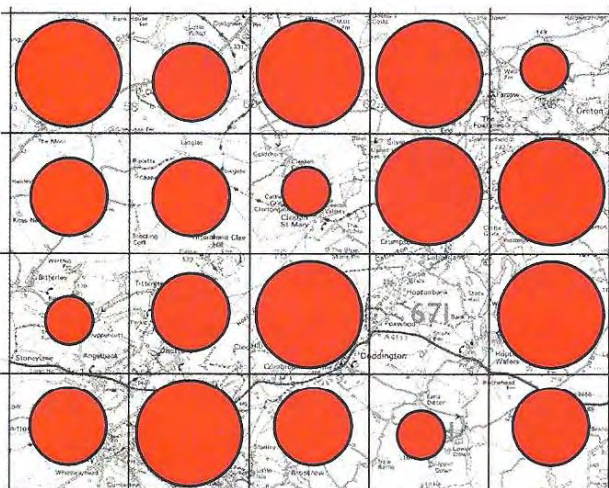


1985 – 90 From An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire (1992)

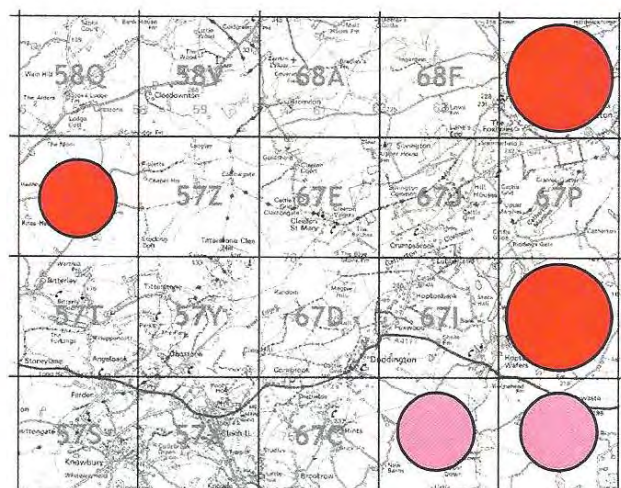


2012 Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group survey (additional records in Pink from the Shropshire Bird Atlas survey 2008 – 11)

Lapwing



1985 – 90 From An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire (1992)



2012 Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group survey (additional records in Pink from the Shropshire Bird Atlas survey 2008 – 11)

Key

The background map is the 20 tetrads (2x2 kilometre squares) surveyed by the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group in 2012.

Each dot represents at least one observation during the Atlas period

Large dot = Confirmed Breeding

Middle dot = Probable Breeding

Small dot = Seen or heard in suitable habitat

A copy of the Bird Survey report has been supplied to all people who contributed to the surveys, or supplied additional records, and to Natural England. Copies are available (electronic .pdf versions or paper copies) from Leo Smith, The Bryn, Castle Hill, All Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6JP. Phone: 01694 720296 email leo@leosmith.org.uk.

Summary 2012

This report summarises a very successful first year for the Bird Group. Members showed a high level of commitment, in spite of the poor weather.

All except two of the 20 tetrads were surveyed, and we now have a good understanding of the population and distribution of Lapwing and Curlew, and the status of the Other Target Species. This is valuable information for the conservation of these species. Further survey work in future years will add to this baseline, and establish population trends in the area.

Plans for 2013

The Bird Group intends to repeat the Bird Survey next year. New participants are needed, so we hope to recruit new members.

There is also interest in starting a nest box scheme for woodland birds, and perhaps Barn Owl and Dipper; promoting the BTO Garden Bird Survey; and organising a programme of local bird walks and other activities. Further consideration will be given to these ideas, and any other proposals people want to make, at the next public meeting on 14th November, and at a further Bird Group meeting prior to the next breeding season.



Lapwing and chick

Acknowledgements

Most importantly, thanks to the Group members who undertook the site and survey work:-

Big Butterfly Survey

John Cherry
David & Jean Faulkner
Salli Forster
Ann Hadfield
Andrew Heideman
Kate Jones
Guy Lester
Lorraine Munn
Gareth Thomas

Peregrine Rota

Colleen & Charlotte Baldwin
Sean Boden
Mike and Maureen Carroll
Noreen Cole
George Cummings
Hugh Fletcher
Rosie Jones
Theresa Mackrow
David Marriott
Chris Neal
Mr & Mrs Parker
Anton Schooley
Liz & John Smith
Margaret and Graham Thompson
Carol Vinciguerra
Kerryn Wynn

The Novers Bird Survey

Iain Prentice

County Wildlife Site Surveys

Sarah Anstis-Smith
Sue Dawes
Martin Godfrey
Fiona Gomersall
John Handley
Andrew Heideman
Angela & Kirsty Mackirdy
Loli Ruiz
Linda Senior
Julia Walling
Lucy Walling
Geert Wassink

Curlews, Lapwings and Other Birds Survey

Clare Allaway
Chris Bargman
John Bayliss
Edwin ("Titch") Carter
Eric Davies
David & Jean Faulkner
Andrew Heideman
John Lyden
Angela & Kirsty Mackirdy
Jim Martin
Nina Mills
Iain Prentice
Peta Sams
Jill Saunders
Anton Schooley
Leo Smith
Margaret & Graham Thompson

Thanks also to the compilers of the different sections of this report, who also undertook the organisation of, and training for, the surveys and site work

- The Big Butterfly Survey: Mike Williams, Butterfly Conservation
- Clee Hill Peregrine Watch: John Turner, Shropshire Peregrine Group
- The Novers Bird Survey: John Tucker
- Wildlife Sites Survey: Fiona Gomersall, Conservation Officer SWT
- Curlews, Lapwings and Other Birds Survey: Leo Smith

John Handley led the Botanical Surveys Group, and also provided much of the training.

Some of the Projects received other help and support, which is gratefully acknowledged:-

Peregrine Protection

- Mr David Jamieson, Quarry Manager, Hanson's Aggregates, Clee Hill
- Nigel Butcher, RSPB/Investigations Technical Unit
- West Mercia Police - PC Tony Sewell and PCSO Shaun Cullis.

The Peregrine Protection Project also received financial support from the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership's Sustainable Development Fund and Hanson's Aggregates

The Bird Survey at The Novers

- Dawn Balmer (British Trust for Ornithology) for analysing the survey data.

Curlew, Lapwing and Other Birds Survey

- Tim Lee, Jonathon Lingard and Gareth Thomas, for additional records and information.
- Matt Cotterill of Natural England, who provided the survey maps.
- Allan Dawes (BTO Regional Representative for Shropshire), who provided the Breeding Bird Survey figures reproduced in the separate Bird Survey Report

Thanks also to all those who helped at the public launch, especially Alvis Cummings and Pat Hancox who served the much needed refreshments.

The Group would not have been formed, or developed, without the active contribution of the Current Steering Group members:

1. Glynn Barratt – Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust
2. Alan Barrel - British Deer Society
3. Henry Chance – Clee Hill Partnership
4. Shaun Cullis - West Mercia Police
5. George Cummings - Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum
6. Dave Fulton - Chelmarsh Ringing Group
7. Fiona Gomersall - Shropshire Wildlife Trust
8. John Handley – Wildlife Sites and plant surveys
9. Andrew Heideman - CWG volunteer
10. Cath Landles – Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership and CWG coordinator
11. Di Monether - Shropshire Wildlife Trust
12. Chris Neal - Clee Hill Commoners Association
13. Richard Rallings – Natural England
14. Leo Smith – Bird Group
15. Neil Sutton – Small holder and Farlow and Oretton Parish Council
16. John Tucker - The Novers Woodland Bird Survey
17. John Turner - Shropshire Peregrine Society
18. Fay Vass - British Hedgehog Preservation Society
19. Julia Walling - Woods for Wellbeing
20. Mike Williams – Butterfly Conservation

In particular, the whole project development and the work of the Steering Group has been led and co-ordinated by Cath Landles, the AONB Partnership Community Officer, without whom nothing would have been achieved.

DISTRIBUTION

Paper copies of this Report are being distributed to the people listed above in the acknowledgements, and to the following individuals and organisations:-

Natural England

- Chris Hogarth (Team Leader, Shropshire Land Management, Parkside Court, Telford)
- Richard Rawlings (Natural England Lead Adviser responsible for the area)

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

- Phil Holden (AONB Manager)

Shropshire Wildlife Trust

- Colin Preston (Director)

Shropshire Council

- Dan Wrench (Biodiversity Officer, Natural Environment Team, Shirehall)

Electronic Versions (in .pdf format) of this Report are being distributed to the following individuals and organisations

Natural England

- Roger Owen (Area Manager, West Midlands)
- Robert Duff (Lead Adviser, Landscape & Biodiversity, and NE representative on the Shropshire *Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group*)
- Jeff Edwards (Senior Adviser, Landscape & Biodiversity Delivery, Parkside Court, Telford)
- Frances McCullagh (Lead Adviser (Ecologist), Shropshire Land Management Team, Parkside Court, Telford)
- Phil Grice (Senior Specialist, Ornithology, Peterborough)

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

- Cath Landles (Community Officer)

The separate full Bird Survey Report will be distributed to

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

- Frank Lucas (Conservation Manager, Central England Regional Office, Banbury)

British Trust for Ornithology

- Rob Fuller (Director of Habitats Research, Thetford)
- Allan Dawes (Shropshire Regional Representative)

Shropshire Ornithological Society

- Geoff Holmes (County Bird Recorder)

Birds in Counties

- David Balance (Minehead, Somerset)

THE REPORT

The Group's Report is printed on re-cycled paper.

Additional Copies (either paper or electronic .pdf files), can be obtained from Cath Landles Community Officer, Shropshire Hills AONB Office, The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9NZ (Tel: 01588 674084).

CONSERVATION ACTION

The results of the first year's work will have considerable benefits for the conservation of the species and habitats surveyed.

As the Group develops this work, and establishes trends and is more able to highlight priority sites, the results will become even more valuable.

Use of Cleve Hill Community Wildlife Group Survey Results

Most importantly, the Cleve Hill CWG survey results, with maps and lists of species, habitat type and condition, are made available to Natural England. They show the importance of particular areas for wildlife, which will hopefully encourage farmers to manage their land more sensitively, and provide Natural England with objective evidence to judge individual farm applications to join Environmental Stewardship, and information to target the use of their limited resources more effectively. Environmental Stewardship is the national farm payments system, whereby Natural England pays farmers to manage their farms to provide environmental benefits, including for wildlife.

County Wildlife Sites have to meet particular criteria before they are adopted. Adoption also requires the landowner's consent. The sites are monitored by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, who encourage the landowners to manage the sites sensitively, so they retain their value for wildlife. Most sites are adopted because of their plant communities, but increasingly sites are also being recognised for their bird communities.

The presence of a County Wildlife Site on a farm indicates the possibility of good wildlife habitat, and it will increase the chances of a farm being accepted into HLS, if the farmer is willing to carry out the relevant options to maintain this habitat. Habitat and species data collected from these Wildlife Sites also assists farmers or their agents with preparing a "Farm Environment Plan" (FEP), which is normally a pre-requisite for the HLS application.

Sites other than CWSs which were surveyed and satisfied the relevant criteria will be put forward as candidates for new Wildlife Sites. There were three this year.

The results also reinforce and supplement the results from other Community Wildlife Groups operating in the Shropshire Hills, which together now cover over 400 square kilometres, more than half of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The botanical records will also be supplied to the Shropshire Botanical Society for incorporation into the Shropshire Flora. The Flora should be published around the end of 2012.

The Bird records at tetrad level will also be supplied to Shropshire Ornithological Society for incorporation into the Shropshire Bird Atlas. The Atlas project is now in the fifth of its six years 2008-13, and results should be published around the end of 2014.

The surveys at The Novers will inform the management of the woodland by the Titterstone Cleve Heritage Trust.

Recommendations

Natural England is recommended to encourage farmers with

- 1. breeding Lapwing or Curlew on or near their land, and / or*
- 2. a County Wildlife Site on their land*

to join the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme, utilising the appropriate options to maintain and enhance the habitat for these priority species and habitats

APPENDICES



Appendix B1 – Example Butterfly recording forms

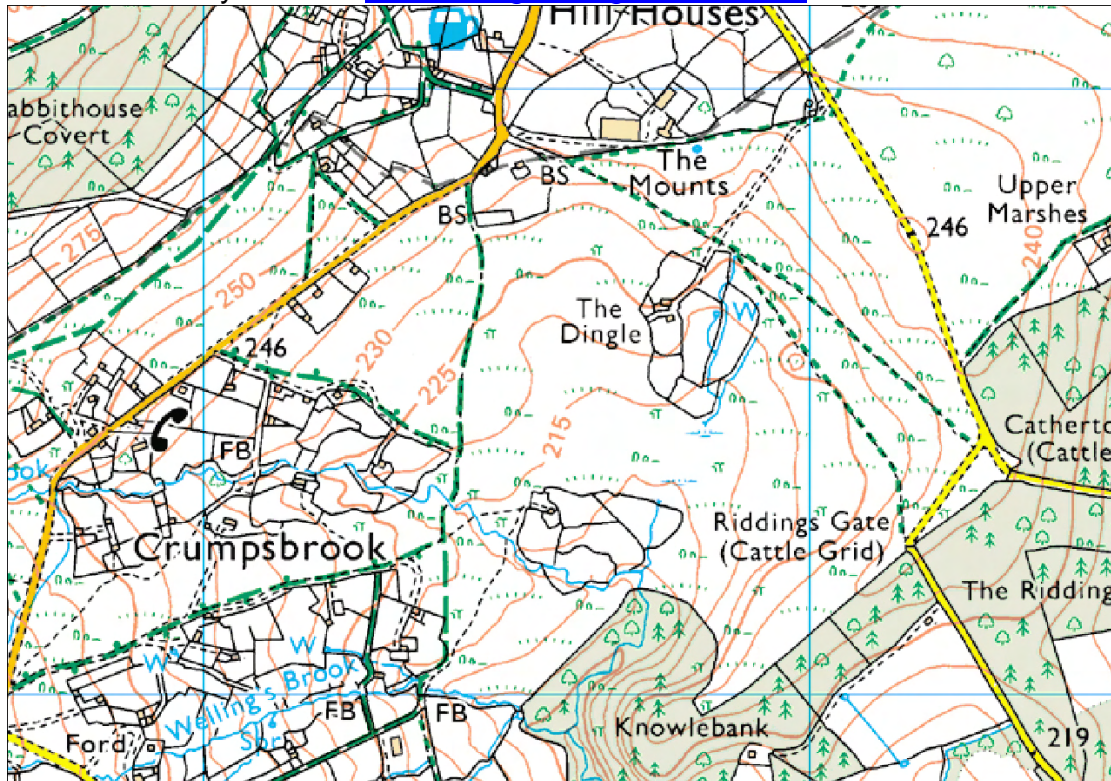
Clee Hill Big Butterfly Survey 2012: Catherton Common 7

Time to be taken: As required

Times of year to cover for key species: April - August (June key month)

Details: Please mark recording area on map and if possible provide a grid reference

Please return completed form by post to Mike Williams, 2 Dewberry Close, Stourport, Worcs, DY13 8TB or by email to mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk



RECORDER NAME & contact details	
SITE LOCATION (INC. GRID REF IF POSSIBLE)	

Date (Day:Month:Year)		Start time	
Sunshine (mean %)		Mean temp (°c)	
Wind speed (0 {no wind} →6 {very strong})		Wind direction	

Key Species	Numbers seen
Green Hairstreak	
Small pearl-bordered fritillary	
Dark Green Fritillary	
Small Heath	
Wall Brown	
Other species (please list)	

WEST MIDLANDS BUTTERFLY RECORDING FORM

Name:

Address:



	GR	LN	GR	LN	GR	LN	GR	LN	GR	LN	GR	LN
GR = Grid reference (4 or 6 figure including 100 km letters) LN = Locality name												
Date												
Species	Q	S	Q	S	Q	S	Q	S	Q	S	Q	S
Small Skipper												
Essex Skipper												
Large Skipper												
Dingy Skipper												
Grizzled Skipper												
Wood White												
Clouded Yellow												
Brimstone												
Large White												
Small White												
Green-veined White												
Orange-tip												
Green Hairstreak												
Purple Hairstreak												
White-letter Hairstreak												
Small Copper												
Small Blue												
Silver-studded Blue												
Brown Argus												
Common Blue												
Chalkhill Blue												
Adonis Blue												
Holly Blue												
White Admiral												
Red Admiral												
Painted Lady												
Small Tortoiseshell												
Peacock												
Comma												
Small Pearl-bordered Frit.												
Pearl-bordered Fritillary												
Dark Green Fritillary												
Silver-washed Fritillary												
Marsh Fritillary												
Speckled Wood												
Wall												
Marbled White												
Grayling												
Gatekeeper												

Meadow Brown												
Small Heath												
Ringlet												
Other species:												

Please send completed forms to Nigel Stone, 8 Grove Lane, Keresley End, Coventry, CV7 8PN.

Appendix WS1. Table of Wildlife and other Site Visits by the Clee Hill Community Wildlife (Botanical Survey) Group in 2012

Site name	Site code	Grid ref.	Area ha	Habitat 1	Habitat 2	Visit Date	No. of indicators	Notes
Birches Coppice	SO67.14	SO617791	7.05	Semi-natural woodland		5 5 12	3	Site appears to have declined in condition since last visit in 2000
Cleeton Vallets	SO67.11	SO614788	11.84	Species-rich grassland	Semi-natural woodland	27 5 12	18	Excellent site with small pearl-bordered fritillaries.
Gardener's Bank	SO67.40	SO678745	3.4	Semi-natural woodland	Species-rich grassland	20 5 12	25	Joint visit with Botanical Society. Site originally adopted for geology only.
Grassland N of Knowle Wood	SO57.44	SO598738	4	Neutral grassland	Woodland edge	30 6 12	10	Site appears to be declining through under management.
Lane's End	SASO67.44	SO634799	1.2	Species-rich grassland		18.8.12	13	Orchid rich grassland first noticed by Chris Margman. Only quick survey.
Meadow - Ditton Priors	SO68.01	SO606891	1.33	Species-rich grassland		2 6 12	12	Some damage incurred where pond introduced.
Meadows N of Cramer Gutter	SASO67.43	SO647796	3.8	Species-rich grassland		1 7 12	6	Hay meadows (4) a good candidate for Wildlife Site status
Milson Wood	SO67.29	SO639721	36.57	Semi-natural woodland		6 5 12	17	Last survey was carried out in 1977 when very few indicators recorded
Nickless Coppice	SO67.16	SO628726	26.2	Semi-natural woodland		29 4 12	11	Last survey carried out in 1997? Better list produced this time!
Pothouse Farm		SO627775	11	Neutral grassland		18 8 12	1	Owners are keen to seek advice to increase the wildlife value of their farm.
Rob's Acre	SASO57.47	SO518788	2.3	Species-rich grassland	Semi-natural woodland	26 5 12	12	Grassland is declining, scrubbing over & woodland has poor canopy.
The Novers	SO57.13	SO596738	21.3	Semi-natural woodland	Species-rich grassland	19 6 12	25	The Clee Hill heritage Group manages this woodland WS.

Appendix WS 2. Grassland Wildlife Site visit card

Visit details

Site Name & Location:	
Site Code:	
Surveyor/Officer name(s):	
Landowner name(s): address(s):	Landowner
Grid Ref:	Date:

Brief description of site:
Notable species:
Notes (including type of survey carried out and whether photographs were taken):

Invasive species (Percentage of the site)

Invasive sp.	<5%	5-25%	25-50%	>50%
Scrub (sp)				
Bramble				
Bracken				
Nettles				
Thistles				
Docks				
Other (specify)				

Social issues

Issue	Details
Fly-tipping	
Pollution	
Heavy recreational use	

Grassland

Feature	Details
Grassland type i.e. acid etc.	
Grazing (animal spp.)	
Mowing	
Anthills	
Ridge & furrow	
Poaching/bare ground	
% Rye grass & white clover	
Fertiliser application	
Average height (approx.)	
Grass/herb ratio	

Habitat

Habitat Type	Area (ha)
Acid grassland	
Neutral grassland	
Calcareous grassland	
Scrub (specify)	
Wet heath	
Dry heath	
Bog/mire	
Pond, stream (specify)	
Bare rock	

Condition of site

Condition category	Select most appropriate	Any comments?
Favourable maintained		
Favourable recovered		
Unfavourable recovering		
Unfavourable no change		
Unfavourable declining		
Destroyed (or partially)		

Appendix 3

Axiophytes recorded by Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group 2012

Vascular plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	Sneezewort	<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick
<i>Alchemilla filicaulis</i>	Common Lady's-mantle	<i>Milium effusum</i>	Wood Millet
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing Forget-me-not
<i>Aphanes australis</i>	Slender Parsley-piert	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid
<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Betony	<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early-purple Orchid
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb Paris
<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	Hairy Brome	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet-saxifrage
<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Nettle-leaved Bellflower	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	Heath Milkwort
<i>Carex caryophyllea</i>	Spring Sedge	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern
<i>Carex demissa</i>	Common Yellow Sedge	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane
<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star Sedge	<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks Buttercup
<i>Carex hostiana</i>	Tawny Sedge	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle
<i>Carex laevigata</i>	Smooth-stalked Sedge	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle
<i>Carex pallescens</i>	Pale Sedge	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge	<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Pill Sedge	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious
<i>Carex pulicaris</i>	Flea Sedge	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow Oat-grass
<i>Carex spicata</i>	Spiked Sedge	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry
<i>Carex strigosa</i>	Thin-spiked Wood-sedge	<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	Marsh Valerian
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood-sedge	<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Meadow Safron	<i>Viola palustris</i>	Marsh Violet
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted-orchid	<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog-violet
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	Heath-grass		
<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>	Small Teasel		
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Golden-scaled Male-fern		
<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>	Few-flowered Spike-rush		
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather		
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath		
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle		
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge		
<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>	Eyebright		
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff		
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell		
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Slender St John's-wort		
<i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel		
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Toothwort		
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter-vetch		
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax		
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Heath Wood-rush		

Bryophytes recorded (indicator species in bold)

<i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	Creeping Feather-moss	<i>Oxyrrhynchium hians</i>	Swartz's Feather-moss
<i>Anomodon viticulosus</i>	Rambling Tail-moss	<i>Oxyrrhynchium pumilum</i>	Dwarf Feather-moss
<i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	Common Smoothcap	<i>Pellia epiphylla</i>	Overleaf Pellia
<i>Aulacomnium androgynum</i>	Bud-headed Groove-moss	<i>Plagiochila porelloides</i>	Lesser Featherwort
<i>Barbula convoluta</i> var. <i>convoluta</i>	Lesser Bird's-claw Beard-moss	<i>Plagiomnium affine</i>	Many-fruited Thyme-moss
<i>Barbula unguiculata</i>	Bird's-claw Beard-moss	<i>Plagiomnium rostratum</i>	Long-beaked Thyme-moss
<i>Brachytheciastrum velutinum</i>	Velvet Feather-moss	<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	Hart's-tongue Thyme-moss
<i>Brachythecium rivulare</i>	River Feather-moss	<i>Plagiothecium denticulatum</i>	Dented Silk-moss
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	Rough-stalked Feather-moss	<i>Platyhypnidium riparioides</i>	Long-beaked Water Feather-moss
<i>Bryum capillare</i>	Capillary Thread-moss	<i>Pleuridium acuminatum</i>	Taper-leaved Earth-moss
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	Pointed Spear-moss	<i>Porella platyphylla</i>	Wall Scalewort
<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>	Redshank	<i>Pseudoscleropodium purum</i>	Neat Feather-moss
<i>Cirriphyllum piliferum</i>	Hair-pointed Feather-moss	<i>Radula complanata</i>	Even Scalewort
<i>Conocephalum conicum</i> sens. str.	Great Scented Liverwort	<i>Rhizomnium punctatum</i>	Dotted Thyme-moss
<i>Dicranella heteromalla</i>	Silky Forklet-moss	<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>	Springy Turf-moss
<i>Dicranoweisia cirrata</i>	Common Pincushion	<i>Sciuro-hypnum populeum</i>	Matted Feather-moss
<i>Didymodon fallax</i>	Fallacious Beard-moss	<i>Thamnobryum alopecurum</i>	Fox-tail Feather-moss
<i>Eurhynchium striatum</i>	Common Striated Feather-moss	<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>	Common Tamarisk-moss
<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>	Common Pocket-moss	<i>Tortula marginata</i>	Bordered Screw-moss
<i>Fissidens viridulus</i>	Green Pocket-moss	<i>Tortula muralis</i> var. <i>aestiva</i>	Summer Screw-moss
<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	Greater Water-moss	<i>Tortula muralis</i> var. <i>muralis</i>	Wall Screw-moss
<i>Frullania dilatata</i>	Dilated Scalewort	<i>Tortula truncata</i>	Common Pottia
<i>Funaria hygrometrica</i>	Common Cord-moss	<i>Trichostomum brachydontium</i>	Variable Crisp-moss
<i>Homalia trichomanoides</i>	Blunt Feather-moss	<i>Trichostomum crispulum</i>	Curly Crisp-moss
<i>Homalothecium sericeum</i>	Silky Wall Feather-moss	<i>Zygodon conoideus</i>	Lesser Yoke-moss
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	Cypress-leaved Plait-moss		
<i>Isothecium myosuroides</i>	Slender Mouse-tail Moss		
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	Common Feather-moss		
<i>Lophocolea heterophylla</i>	Variable-leaved Crestwort		
<i>Lunularia cruciata</i>	Crescent-cup Liverwort		
<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	Forked Veilwort		
<i>Mnium hornum</i>	Swan's-neck Thyme-moss		
<i>Orthotrichum affine</i>	Wood Bristle-moss		
<i>Orthotrichum diaphanum</i>	White-tipped Bristle-moss		
<i>Orthotrichum stramineum</i>	Straw Bristle-moss		

(Bryophytes recorded by Martin Godfrey)

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Bird Survey

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