

THE ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF CHILLING AND BROWNWICH

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1.

Bird species of Chilling and Brownwich.

Species	Status
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	Resident breeder
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Resident breeder
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	Resident breeder
Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	Resident breeder
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	Resident breeder
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunoulus</i>	Resident breeder
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Resident breeder
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Resident breeder
Blackbird <i>Turdus menula</i>	Resident breeder
Wood pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Resident breeder
Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Resident breeder
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Resident breeder
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Resident breeder
White Throat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	Resident breeder
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Rare visitor?
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Resident breeder
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Resident visitor
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Resident breeder
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	Resident breeder
Long-Tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Resident breeder
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Resident breeder
Starling <i>Stumus vulgaris</i>	Regular visitor
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhychos</i>	Resident breeder
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Resident breeder
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Resident breeder
Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	Resident breeder
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	Resident breeder
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Resident breeder
Tree Creeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Resident breeder
Gold Crest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	Resident breeder
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Resident breeder
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus</i>	Resident breeder
Spotted Fly catcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Resident breeder
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Resident breeder
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Rare winter visitor
Pied Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	Resident breeder
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Resident breeder
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Summer visitor
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Summer visitor
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	Summer visitor
Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Resident breeder
Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	Rare visitor?

Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla</i>	Regular visitor
Sky Lark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Resident breeder
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	Regular visitor
Black headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Regular visitor
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Regular visitor
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Regular visitor
Oyster Catcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Regular visitor
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax</i>	Regular visitor
Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	Resident breeder
Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	Resident breeder
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Resident breeder
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	Resident breeder
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Resident breeder
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	Resident breeder
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Resident breeder
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Resident breeder
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Regular visitor
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Resident breeder
Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Resident breeder
Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	Resident breeder
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Resident breeder

Total number of bird species identified : 63

Special interest:

Sky Larks successfully breed each year in the fields proposed for gravel extraction and landfill. Because of their decline in numbers, they are now on the Red list.

The population of Buzzards in this area have reached 9 since 2006. They are resident breeders of Hook, Chilling and Brownwich.

The area has at least two pairs of breeding Barn Owls which are located right next to the area intended for development. They use the Chilling and Brownwich area for their main hunting grounds. (The number of Barn Owls have fallen by 70% across the UK in the last 50 years, this is mainly due to insufficient prey to feed their young and reduction of availability of food = not breeding). As a species they are dependent on open, rough grassland. Approx only 2000 pairs remain in the UK.

3.

Reptiles and amphibians of Chilling and Brownwich:

Species	Status
Viviparous Lizard <i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	Resident breeder
Slow Worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Resident breeder
Grass Snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Resident breeder
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>	Resident breeder
Common Frog <i>Rana temporaria</i>	Resident breeder
Common Toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Resident breeder
Smooth Newt <i>Triturus vulgaris</i>	Resident breeder

Total number of reptile and amphibian species identified: 7

Special interest:

Several Lizards have been seen along the cliff edge of Chilling where scrub and dense cover has been allowed to grow.

Brownwich pond is a haven for dragonflies, damselfies.

4.

Mammals of Chilling and Brownwich:

Species	Status
Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	Resident breeder
Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Resident breeder
Roe deer <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Resident breeder
Wood mouse <i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	Resident breeder
Field vole <i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Resident breeder
Grey Squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Resident breeder
Pipistrelle Bat <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Resident breeder
Brown Rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Resident breeder
Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Resident breeder
Common Shrew <i>Sorex araneus</i>	Resident breeder
Mole <i>Talpa europaea</i>	Resident breeder
Field Vole <i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Resident breeder
Hazel Dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Resident breeder- numbers unknown
Weasel <i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Resident breeder
Stoat <i>Mustela erminea</i>	Resident breeder
Bank vole <i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i>	Resident breeder
Common seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Rare visitor

Total number of Mammal species identified: 17

Special interest:

The local bird of prey population are dependent on small mammals like field voles.

Dormice are supposedly breeding, but due to restrictions of study the number is not known.

There has been sightings of the Common seal off the coast of Chilling.

5.

Tree and shrub species of Chilling and Brownwich:

Species
Silver Birch <i>Betula alba</i>
Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>
English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>
Sea Buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>
Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>
Sweet Chestnut <i>Castanea sativa</i>
Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>
Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Hawthorn <i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i>
Blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Elm <i>Ulmus campestris</i>
Willow <i>Salix alba</i>
Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Crab apple <i>Pyrus malus</i>
Rowan <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Spindle <i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Holm Oak <i>Quercus ilex</i>
Wild Service <i>Sorbus torminalis</i>

Total number of tree and shrub species identified: 21

Special interest:

Since losing hundreds of Elm trees in the area due to Dutch elm disease in the past, this species has at last started to make a come back locally.

Ancient Holly trees of Chilling.

Sea Buckthorn- a rare site in this area.

Important established hedging support wildlife by linking the farmland together.

6.

Plant species of Chilling and Brownwich:

Species
Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>
Ribwort Plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Cowslip <i>Primula veris</i>
Ramsons <i>Allium ursinum</i>
Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Dogs mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
Sun spurge <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>
Honey Suckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Violet <i>Viola odorata</i>
Primrose <i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Wood anemone <i>Anemone nemorosa</i>
Meadow buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Common poppy <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
Teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Yarrow <i>Archillea millefolium</i>
Foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Marsh-marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i>
Creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Lesser celandine <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Wild radish <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>
Field penny-cress <i>Thlaspi arvense</i>
Shepherd's purse <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>
Cuckoo flower <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>
Garlic mustard <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
St Johns-wort <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Chickweed <i>Stellaria media</i>
Greater stitchwort <i>Stellaria holostea</i>
Good King Henry <i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>
Sea beet <i>Beta vulgaris</i>
Herb-robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Wood sorrel <i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
White clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>
Red clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Bird's-foot-trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Vetch <i>Vicia sativa</i>
Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i>
White bryony <i>Bryonia cretica</i>
Enchanter's nightshade <i>Circaea lutetiana</i>
Mare's tail <i>Hippurus vulgaris</i>
Chives <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>
Knotgrass <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>

Sheep`s sorrel <i>Rumex acetosella</i>
Broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>
Yellow pimpernel <i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>
Scarlet pimpernel <i>Anagallis arvensis</i>
Common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i>
Selfheal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Greater Plantain <i>Plantago major</i>
Cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>
Greater burdock <i>Arctium lappa</i>
Butcher`s-broom <i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>
Early purple orchid <i>Orchis mascula</i>
Lords and ladies <i>Arum maculatum</i>
Common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i>
Gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i>

Total number of plant species identified: 57

Special interest:

Important nectar plants for bees and butterflies.

Important meadow grasses for small mammals.

Cowslips have made a comeback.

Orchids have made a comeback.

Bluebells at Chilling.

8.

The unique location of Chilling and Brownwich.

Chilling and Brownwich is situated at a unique location by our Hampshire`s coastline and is a vital part of our English heritage, providing a range of habitats which supports a wide diversity of plant and animal species, these having ecological importance.

This is mainly due to Chilling and Brownwich having several habitats and these being linked together, mainly by established hedging:

- Coastal
- Woodland
- Farmland
- Meadow and grassland
- Ditches
- Linking of established hedging
- Ancient trees
- Ponds
- Wetlands
- Stream
- Cliff edge
- Varied gradients, from sea level to several metres above.
- Verges
- Pathways

The relationship between the environment, individual species and human activity in this area will have a consequence should environmental change occur. In this case being the proposal of mineral extraction and landfill.

Species will be affected and may die out as each are intertwined and dependent on each other for the survival of the species. One example in this area is the Barn Owl. Being at the top of the food chain this species is dependent on the small mammal population and should they decrease in number will create a rupture in the food chain. This may cause an ecological crisis to one or more species and having further impact on the survival of other species.

As a local resident of Hook village I am faced with the task of guarding against upsetting this natural balance and our valuable ecosystem. I hope you can appreciate that this study is by no means complete. I have only touched on this vast subject. The insect, bee, butterfly and moth population has not been represented, but are still valid.

In a time when we are pressured to act for the environment and live in an eco friendly way, how better than to do our bit for conservation on our own door step?

“Think globally, act locally.”