

Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre



WSBRC

Putting Wiltshire & Swindon on the map

Map the Gap

Project Newsletter 2016

Since we are now well into 2017, it's a good time to take a look back on the previous year and see what achievements have been made by the project.

TRAINING



Training course © A Mitchell

In 2016 & 2015, we trained 18 people in Basic Botany skills and 26 people in Phase 1 Habitat Surveying skills.

Sharon Pilkington, our County Plant Recorder, did a fantastic job of delivering this training. Courses were kindly funded by The Wildflower Society and the Wild Connections project, to which we have many thanks.

HOW MUCH HAVE WE MAPPED?

18 volunteers decided to put their new skills to use and complete a total of 23 surveys for the project. Those 23 surveys equate to approximately 4km² of Wiltshire now complete with habitat information, available to anyone who may need it.

HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS

Traditional orchard, calcareous grassland, mixed deciduous woodland and species rich hedgerow were identified during project surveys. These habitats are listed as priority habitats, meaning they are those most in threat and in need of conserving. They are also those most often rich in wildlife due to their semi-natural origin.

Now that their presence is known in our dataset, those who use our information can act accordingly to protect it.

SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

We've had a great number of species records sent in as part of habitat surveys, over **850** records!

Pyramidal orchid & Bee orchid were spotted on sites in Trowbridge and Coombe Bissett.

Yellowhammer & Corn bunting were spotted on sites at Bradford on Avon and again, at Coombe Bissett.

	Total no. records	Most commonly recorded
Vascular plants	752	Ash
Mammals	10	Mole
Birds	74	Magpie
Butterflies & Moths	16	Meadow brown/ Ringlet

2017 PLANS

- ⇒ **More Phase 1 Habitat Surveys**
- ⇒ **Basic Survey Skills AQA certificates**
- ⇒ **Wiltshire Hedgerow Survey**

Hedges are great for wildlife, so we are looking for volunteers who would like to add to our map of species-rich hedges! To help get volunteers started, we are holding an informal training course to give a basic introduction to the survey and the ID skills needed.

'Introduction to Hedgerow Surveying' Free event
8th Apr '17 (11am-2.30pm) WWT Reserve Lower Moor Farm

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact wsbrprojects@wiltshirewildlife.org

To book a place, please visit www.wiltshirewildlife.org/Event/introduction-to-surveying-hedgerows

Thank you to all who have volunteered for the Project so far

Hope to see you out and about this year,
All at WSBRC