

18th July 2017

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Site 1 – Trout Farm, ST8644 1418

Old cress beds with concrete margins, very little semi-natural vegetation present, and very little ecological interest.

Site 2. Claysmore School, behind King's, ST8652 1429

Old plantation woodland with a number of mature trees that are beginning to show features of veteran trees. Some of these may provide habitat for bats and a bat survey would be required if the trees were to be affected by the proposed development.

Site 3. – Miles Field, ST8711 1459

Mostly an arable field. The hedgerow along the northern (road) boundary is an important feature and the roadside bank supports a woodland-type ground flora including the Red Listed (Near Threatened) Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca*. A Hedgerow Regulations survey would be required if the hedge was going to be affected by the proposed development.

Site 4. – Brooklman's Farm Bungalow, ST8700 1451

Grassland semi-improved, no notable plant species noted. Main interest is in the hedgerow along the eastern edge.

Site 5. – Devine House, ST8689 1437

Two Dorset Notable plants in the lawn and one around the pond, but these only rare to occasional. Woodland strip along the southern edge includes a number of trees with features of veteran trees, especially the Beech. These may provide habitat for bats, and a bat survey would be required if the trees were to be affected by the proposed development. The garden contains a chalk spring which is one of the sources for the River Iwerne and therefore protection of the water course and groundwater will be an important consideration during any development.

Site 6. – Church Path, ST8673 1447

The bulk of the site is mown grassland which is semi-improved with a varied flora but only one Dorset Notable plant species was noted in the south of the site.

Site 7 – Lower Field Barn, ST8644 1418

Little ecological interest, vegetation mainly ruderal and tall-ruderal plants reflecting the enriched soils. The older building may provide roost sites for bats, and a bat survey would be required if the buildings were to be affected by the proposed development.

Site 11. – Woodlynch Fruit Farm, ST8657 1465

The grassland is semi-improved and no Red Listed or Dorset Notable plant species were seen. The mature trees along the western edge are beginning to gain features of veteran trees with branch wounds and small holes, the latter may provide habitat for bats, and a bat survey would be required if the trees were to be affected by the proposed development.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site 1 – Trout Farm, ST8644 1418

Situated on former water-cress beds adjacent to the River Iwerne south of Claysmore School the proposed site is restricted to the concrete walled ‘pond’s’ and does not include any semi-natural vegetation except for a narrow strip of semi-improved mown grassland by a track along the northern edge of the proposed area. The concrete ponds are around two foot deep and used for raising trout. There is very little vegetation around the margins on the concrete, but a few scattered plants of Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Square-stemmed St John’s-wort *Hypericum tetrapterum*, Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata* and Gypsywort *Lycopus europaeus* are present. There is no vegetation in the ponds themselves. No Red Listed or Dorset Notable plant species were recorded.

Site 2. Claysmore School, behind King’s, ST8652 1429

The southeast corner of the Claysmore School complex comprises a strip of plantation woodland which originates from the landscape plantings associated with the house in what was formerly Iwerne Minster Park.

The closed canopy comprises Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Norway Maple *Acer platanooides* and Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, with Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* and Common Lime *Tilia x vulgaris*. There is little understorey apart from saplings of Sycamore and Norway Maple, plus, along the western edge, scattered Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and regenerating Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra* was noted in one area. Planted shrubs including Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus* and Garden Privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium* are also present. The dense shade cast by the tree result in a poor ground flora dominated largely by Ivy *Hedera helix*, with very scattered Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Dog’s Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, Stinging Iris *Iris foetidissima* and Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*. Species noted along the western edge include Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Ground Elder *Aegopodium podagraria*, Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* and False-brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*. The local hoverfly *Volucella zonaria* was noted here on Garden Privet flowers.

Site 3. – Miles Field, ST8711 1459

Situated in the northeast of the village the bulk of this site is an arable field and contained wheat at the time of the survey. Most ecological interest is confined to the field edges and the small copse of willow in the northwest corner. Grey Willow *Salix cinerea* and Goat Willow *Salix caprea* are both present with Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* present also. The field layer is well developed around the edge with abundant Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. with Ivy *Hedera helix* locally abundant on the ground. Along the field margin there is a narrow grassy margin with False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Common Couch *Elytrigia repens*, Barren Brome *Anisantha sterilis* and Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, plus a few herbs including Red Campion *Silene dioica*, Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*.

The hedge along the northern boundary has a very steep bank on the road side. The hedge itself is composed of Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Ash, Hazel *Corylus avellana* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, with Dogwood *Cornus sanguineus*, Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Yew *Taxus baccata*. The ground layer is dominated by Ivy *Hedera helix* with locally frequent False-brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, plus scattered woodland plants such as Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Common Dog-violet *Viola riviniana*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum* and Sanicle *Sanicula europaea*. Several patches of the Red Listed Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca* were also noted.

Site 4. – Brookland's Farm Bungalow, ST8700 1451

A former field now a garden on the eastern edge of the village, mostly comprising mown lawn with planted hedges and individual exotic trees plus a large fruit cage. The grassland comprises abundant Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, with Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*. Herbs are in places a significant percentage of the sward with locally abundant White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, plus more scattered Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Slender Speedwell *Veronica filiformis*, Daisy *Bellis perennis* and Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg. No Red Listed or Dorset Notable plant species were recorded. The eastern boundary is an overgrown hedge of mature Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with Bullace *Prunus domestica* and Elder *Sambucus nigra*. The shaded ground layer is dominated by Ivy *Hedera helix* with scattered Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cows Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*, Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvestris*, Black Horehound *Ballota nigra* and Cuckoo Pint *Arum maculatum*.

Site 5. – Devine House, ST8689 1437

The grounds of the house are a mixture of mown lawns, a strip of woodland plus a spring-fed pond and small stream in the south-west.

The lawns comprise abundant Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, with smaller quantities of Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*. Herbs form a significant percentage of the sward with abundant White Clover *Trifolium repens* with occasional to locally frequent Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Daisy *Bellis perennis* and Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg. Of most interest is the presence of scattered patches of Hoary Plantain *Plantago media* and Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* both of which are Dorset Notable plants and typically associated with semi-natural chalk grassland. The grassland is best described as semi-improved neutral grassland with a slight calcareous influence. The lawns have scattered plant exotic trees and shrubs. The margins of the pond have tall herb vegetation with Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* (Dorset Notable), Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*, with Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum*, Watercress *Nasturtium officinale* and Greater Reedmace *Typha latifolia*.

There is a strip of woodland along the southeast and southern margins with mature trees of Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Yew *Taxus baccata* and Beech *Fagus sylvatica*. There is a very sparse shrub layer of Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Hazel *Corylus avellana* and the planted Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*. The very shaded ground layer is dominated completely in places by Ivy *Hedera helix*, with scattered plants of Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, Stinking Iris *Iris foetidissima* and Cuckoo Pint *Arum maculatum* present in the few open patches or along the edge.

Site 6. – Church Path, ST8673 1447

An area of open ground behind houses on the southern side of Church Path, presumably an old garden as there are several old fruit trees and a small building, it is now mainly mown grassland. The grassland sward is comprises frequent to abundant Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* and Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*. Herbs locally form a significant part of the turf with frequent to abundant White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris* and Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg., plus occasional Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Smooth Hawk's-beard *Crepis capillaris*. In the south of the area there are many patches of Marjoram *Origanum vulgare* a Dorset Notable plant. Part of the site has been fenced (to keep chickens) and is heavily shaded by trees.

Site 7 – Lower Field Barn, ST8644 1418

An isolated set of farm buildings and associated hard-standing, and apart from the barn are little used and surrounded by scrub and tall herb vegetation. The vegetation reflects the past use and the stands of tall-herb and ruderal vegetation comprise abundant Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cleavers *Galium aparine* and Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* with frequent Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, plus scattered Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Hemlock *Conium maculatum*, Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* and Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*. There are also stands of dense Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. scrub plus Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Grey Willow *Salix cinerea* and Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, with Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, Cleaver *Galium aparine*, Nipplewort *Lapsana communis* and Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*. There is a mature Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* in the northeast corner and a Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* in the northwest. No Red Listed or Dorset Notable plant species were recorded.

Site 11. – Woodlynch Fruit Farm, ST8657 1465

A varied site in the north of the village formerly a fruit farm now mown grass with patches of scrub and a line of mature trees along the western edge by the road. The grassland comprises abundant Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* with more scattered Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. Herbs include abundant White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, with more scattered Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Lesser Trefoil *Trifolium dubium*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and Daisy *Bellis perennis*, with taller species such as Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica* at the edges.

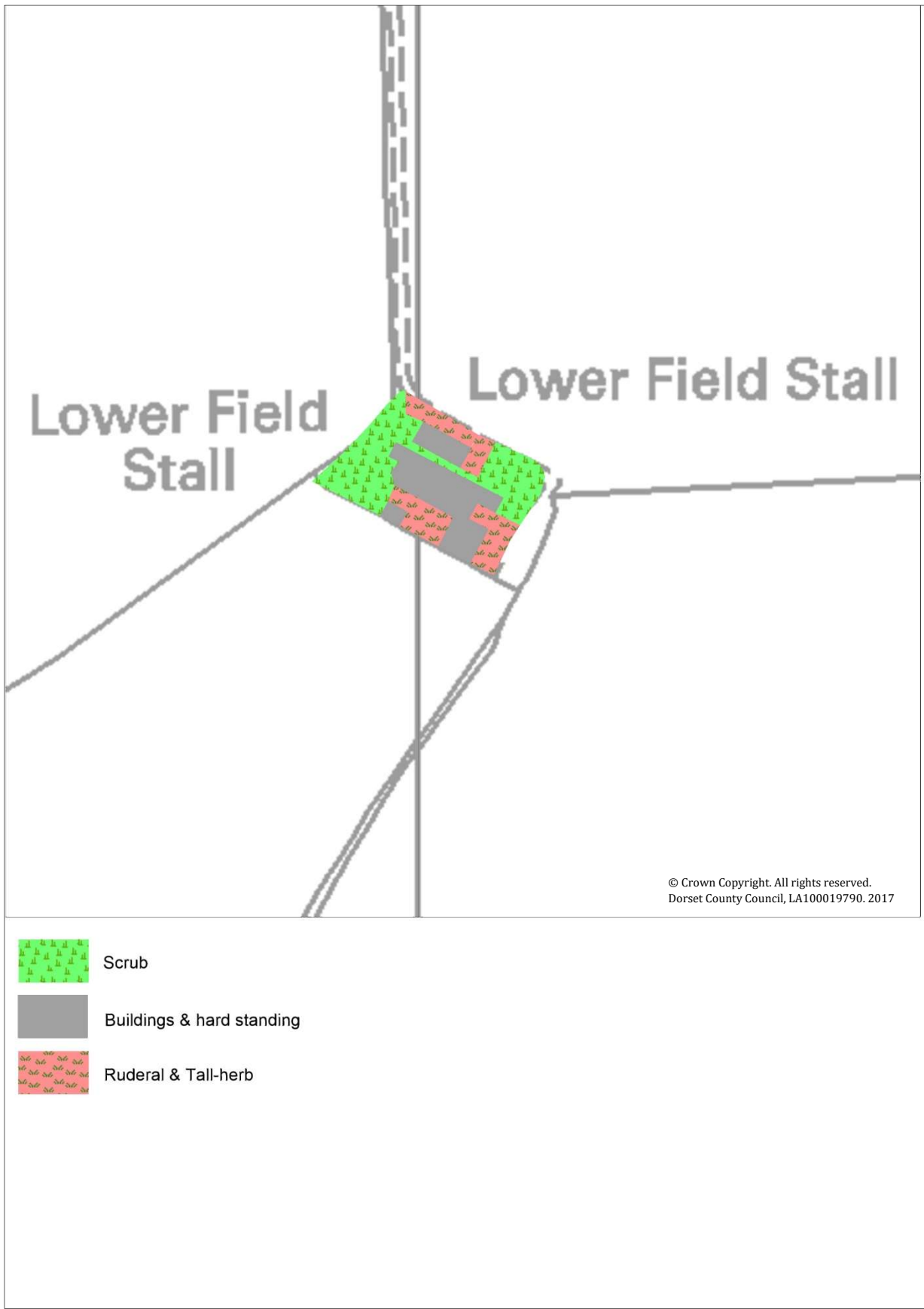
There is a line of mature trees along the western edge which is effectively a stand of linear plantation woodland. Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* are most abundant with Common Lime *Tilia x vulgaris* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* also present. The very shaded ground flora is dominated by Ivy *Hedera helix* with locally frequent Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, plus scattered Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* and Stinking Iris *Iris foetidissima*.

No Red Listed or Dorset Notable plant species were recorded

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	Neutral grassland; semi-improved		Open water
	Neutral grassland; Semi-improved, species-poor		Buildings & hard standing
	Ruderal & Tall-herb		Hedgerow
	Arable		Hedgerow & mature trees
	Broadleaved woodland		Trees & shrubs
	Scrub		

MAP 3. Habitat map (Lower Field Barn)



Protected species

No protected species were found on the site, but the DERC Database has records for three species of Bat within the village and within 200 metres of sites **2, 5, 6 & 7**. Several of these sites do support suitable habitat for bats such as mature and veteran trees with holes in.