

Lime Kiln Meadow Bird Survey, Friday 6 June 2014

Weather conditions: sunny, breezy, 13 degrees C

Time: 9am to 10am

Carried out by: Sue Walker and Tony Goddard

1 Birds with breeding territories in Lime Kiln Meadow and surrounding hedgerows

Dunnock
Robin
Blackbird
Common Whitethroat (5 pairs)
Lesser Whitethroat
Blackcap
Blue Tit
Linnet (3 or 4 pairs)
Greenfinch
Yellowhammer (3 or 4 pairs)
Corn Bunting

2 Birds in flight over Lime Kiln Meadow and surrounding fields

Grey Heron
Wood Pigeon
Collared Dove
Swift
Skylark
House Martin
Magpie
Starling
Goldfinch
Bullfinch

3 Summary

Linnet, Yellowhammer and Corn Bunting are of Red Conservation status nationally; Common Whitethroat is of Amber Conservation status. Locally these species (especially Corn Bunting) together with Lesser Whitethroat are uncommon.

We know of no other site so close to Salisbury with these five species breeding.

4 Other interest

Pyramidal Orchids (2)
Large Skipper butterfly
Cinnabar moth
Yellow Shell moth
Drinker moth caterpillar

5 Management Suggestions

The tall, spreading mixed hedgerow is an excellent wildlife resource. The amount of scrub is generally good but there will need to be some future scrub control to ensure the site retains suitable proportions of scrub and grassland.

The grassland is currently mostly rather long and rank and undermanaged. Chalk grassland species of plants and invertebrates will be lost unless some grassland management is undertaken. A patchwork of short and long sward is desirable. There is currently some grazing by a tethered horse but lack of control of the time spent on each area and where the grazing is carried out will ultimately be detrimental to the site. Supplementary feed (hay) will also eventually lead to nitrification.