



ROTTINGDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

BEACON HILL NATURE RESERVE

Gateway to the South Downs National Park

TQ 364028

ANNUAL NATURE REPORT

2022/23



Photo Credit Philip Forsyth

From the Beacon Hill NR Stewardship Group of
Rottingdean Parish Council

Beacon Hill NR Stewardship Group and Report Distribution

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Cllr Bernard Turnbull	Rottingdean Parish Council and Beacon Hub Trustee
Louise Arnold	Friends of Beacon Hill Secretary
John Cumming	Founder of Beacon Hill LNR
David Larkin	Conservation Manager BHCC & Founder
Nick Lane	Countryside Ranger
Peter Whitcomb	Wildlife Co-ordinator and Specialist
Joanne Spickett	Specialist
Angela Swinn	Allotment Representative
Bernadette Skinner	Ovingdean Residents & Preservation Society
Colin Dellar	Rottingdean Heritage
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Blind Veterans UK	
The Keep	

NB This Annual Wildlife Report can be downloaded free of charge from the Rottingdean Parish Council website: www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk along with quarterly Nature Notes for Beacon Hill NR. The species records of BHNR are regularly uploaded onto irecord by Peter Whitcomb, Wildlife Co-ordinator for BHNR 2

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Photo credit Colin Dellar

CHAIR'S REPORT

by Cllr Sue John

How lovely to return to being unhampered by Covid restrictions on activity on our wonderful Beacon Hill Nature Reserve. Despite visitors coming from near and far, it is still possible to enjoy tranquil moments amongst the grasslands and as ever, there are plenty of natural delights to observe.

As we move into autumn, additional sheep have been helping to thin out and cut back the grass sward to encourage new growth and a plethora of wild flowers. Although new grazing patterns have been adopted, constant liaison takes place between our Ranger and our band of volunteers to allow the programme to be tweaked as necessary to deal with annual fluctuations in growth across the different areas of the Reserve. Sadly, vandalism means that the Friends had to spend some of their valuable time mending the netted fencing but they set to the task without a grumble.

There are plans to plant a number of euonymus trees to fill the gaps at the western end of the Reserve, adjacent to the Blind Vets site.

Peter Whitcomb has continued to supply quarterly Nature Reports, counting butterflies and collating reports from himself and other keen observers of bird and insect life as well as cataloguing the wide range of plants and wild flowers which populate the Reserve.

In addition to the stimulating natural environment, there have been added cultural attractions with a number of Open Days and exhibitions at the Windmill, as well as a photographic display at Beacon Hub, where an increase in volunteers has enabled the Skylarks Café to be opened more regularly, raising funds towards an eco-educational centre there.

In June a fire beacon was lit to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This was organised by the Rottingdean Branch of the Royal British Legion who made arrangements to keep attendees to the paths to avoid disturbing the nesting skylarks and carried out a thorough clean-up operation afterwards.

Earlier in the year, Ranger Nick Lane and I shared our thoughts that composer Ralph Vaughan Williams may well have heard his first skylarks here on Beacon Hill while attending what became St Aubyns School. I'm delighted that Nick's idea of a tribute to mark Ralph Vaughan Williams 150th anniversary this October will take place with a procession of skylark lanterns made by local children before a concert of Vaughan Williams music in St Margaret's Church.



Photo credit Claire Mulligan

THE MANAGEMENT REPORT

by Nick Lane

There is a green hill, not so far away, peppered with splashes of seasonal colour, inhabited by a wonder of wildlife and within the parish bounds!

Grazing Sheep

The Autumn '21 and Spring '22 grazes both took place, largely as planned. My thanks to volunteers from the Friends of Beacon Hill who attended in all weathers to help construct, move, and pack up the temporary sheep enclosures. The number of graze days fell well within the defined 4-month allocation. I am aiming to reduce the grass thatch that has formed across the extension area - this is something I am looking to achieve this autumn and over spring 2023.

Fence and Gate Replacement

The oak post and chestnut rail fence along Marine Drive was renewed earlier this year. Thank you to people visiting Beacon Hill for their patience while this was taking place. Damaged rails or those unlikely to survive the next 15 to 20 years were replaced. Jeremy and his colleague Mark from Akita did a very neat job. This autumn I will remove to below ground level the remaining metal rods that propped up the rotten fence posts.

A new pedestrian gate was installed near the Blind Veterans UK building, on the western side of the hill.

Step Works

We have begun the process of replacing and renewing steps in North Wood, but there is plenty more to be done – this will be a target for the year ahead.

Platinum Jubilee Beacon

A fire beacon took place on Beacon Hill on Thursday 2nd June 2022 to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee for the Late Queen Elizabeth II. The event was coordinated by the Royal British Legion and in my opinion the event was well-organised and well-attended by good-spirited and in 99% of cases, well-behaved people. The stewards were excellent – friendly, welcoming, and providing clear and valuable advice to attendees that they engaged with – keeping to paths, having dogs on leads, nearest exit etc. The clear up operation on following days was also most efficient.

Drought

As you are all aware, we experienced an extremely prolonged, dry period leading up to the month of August. This led to some fire-risk concerns on the hillside. I made many site patrols during the summer, combined with remedial works and litter picks but did not see any fires/BBQs however sadly there was at least one report of an abandoned, lit BBQ – thankfully no fires resulted. The recent rain and unseasonably warm weather has led to rapid grass growth, providing plenty of grazing material for the sheep this autumn.

Rottingdean Village News

I continue to submit short articles for each bi-monthly edition of the Rottingdean Village News and try to theme these with some information of interest pertaining to Beacon Hill.

Fence Vandalism

Sadly, we experienced some vandalism to the temporary electric fence at the end of the Autumn 2021 graze period. Many sections of the fence were deliberately cut. To end on a positive however, I am grateful to Friends of Beacon Hill volunteers. With their cheerful help we laid the damaged panels across the Beacon Hub Car Park and sat on chairs borrowed from the Hub, mending the holes – one might almost say it was ‘as in the days of yore, when fisherfolk mended their nets in the Old Steine’!

The Lark Ascending

Although not strictly of the hill, I wanted to mention and commend those involved with both organising and delivering the skylark lantern parade and concert in Rottingdean on 12th October 2022. This commemoration of the 150th birthday of Ralph Vaughan Williams, who attended school in the village, was a truly moving and very beautiful event - a fantastic reflection of this most exquisite and graceful resident of the hillside.

The Year Ahead

Over the coming year, with the valued support of the Friends of Beacon Hill and advice from members of the Beacon Hill Stewardship Group, I look forward to us continuing with the hillside grazing programme, installing a Versalok fence along the eastern euonymus hedge boundary, continuing step and handrail construction in North Wood and reducing scrub encroachment across the hill.



Photo credit Philip Forsyth

FRIENDS OF BEACON HILL

by Louise Arnold



Volunteers working on the steps in the woods

On 29 September 2021 approximately 12 students and 2 teachers from Brighton College Make a Difference Day attended a day's scrub bashing session as part of the college's contribution to get involved in supporting local communities all over the Brighton and Hove area. Our ranger Nick and 3 Friends volunteers helped run the session. The students worked hard on the day, were good natured and polite. They were excellent ambassadors for the college and got us off to an excellent start on the Northeast side of the Reserve. We are looking to fix a date with them for another session approximately the end of the September, beginning of October.

On the same area, we had two visits from Neil's roving ranger's group. This group led by a Brighton park ranger supports all areas across the Brighton and Hove area, rather than having their own area to work on. We were due a visit from The Green Gym group, however it was sadly rained off. We will fix another date with them next year. They run free outdoor volunteering sessions across the UK. This is the local group that covers the Brighton area.

In the period Sept 2021 to April 2022, we held 14 Scrub bashing sessions. For the autumn graze in 2021 we held 5 fencing sessions for the various sheep's grazing area. For the spring graze in 2022 we held 3 fencing sessions. The sheep were on the hill for 90 days in autumn 2021 and 20 days in spring 2022.

In May 2022 we held 2 sessions pulling Hoary Cress off the Reserve. This is an invasive super spreader weed which is all along the coast road. So far, our efforts have restricted it to the front of the Reserve around the entrance and the hub area. In June/July we held 3 sessions trimming the hedges all around the borders to help keep the paths clear.

We also had one session pulling ragwort from the horses field by the Recreation Ground. In August we had 2 sessions repairing sheep fencing in the Beacon Hub Carpark.

We like to be involved in local events 1 of our volunteers took part at the Green Day event in Ovingdean Village Hall, representing Friends of Beacon Hill. This was for all local groups to provide information on their activities. In August we had a stall at the Rottingdean Village Fair run by 6 volunteers. They chatted to members of the public interested in our work. We had a raffle and a guess the number of snail shells in a jar. We raised £102.00, £51.00 for Friends of BH funds and £51.00 to the South Coast and Sussex Bird/Gull who urgently needed funds as they were inundated with birds suffering from avian flu.

We held 68 sessions in the 2021/22 season. This covered 642 hours in total which equates to 1 person working for 18 weeks based on a 36 hour working week. We averaged 9 volunteers per session. The most people we have had in one session was 18. We have had 7 new members so far this year. This means we currently have 175 people on our mailing list who like being updated on our activities. 34 of these actively take part in our work sessions. We have had over 40 different volunteers during 2021/22.

We will be continuing our twice monthly sessions on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Friday of each month. One date for the diary is the Annual Clean Up Day of 19th February 2023.

To get involved please contact us on fobeaconhill@gmail.com



The Windmill

By Colin Dellar

We have been fortunate this year as we have had two art exhibitions at the Mill this summer. In May Amanda Rosenstein Davidson had an exhibition entitled 'Tall Tales from the Mill' and this was open every Saturday and Sunday afternoon during the month, attracting 870 visitors in total.

In July, Jo Goddard, another local artist had an exhibition called 'Tall Tales from the Mill'. This exhibition was on for the middle two weekends in July and it was seen by 778 visitors. We are hopeful that next year we will be able to have at least two art exhibitions during the summer.

We have had the Mill open every Sunday afternoon between May and September and this has proved to be very popular as we have had a total of 2595 visitors which is a new record. The increased opening days are useful not only for bringing people into the Mill but also for attracting visitors to the village of Rottingdean.

No major works have taken place at the Mill and the Mill is in good condition. The metal plate which surrounds the shaft on the outside was due for replacement this summer but this has now been rescheduled for early next year.



Photo credit Colin Dellar

STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING REPORTS

PLANT REPORT BEACON HILL LNR 2022

by Peter Whitcomb
Photos by Peter Whitcomb

Early April saw the usual early flowers such as **Cowslip, Alexanders, Cow Parsley, Green Alkanet, Danish Scurvygrass** and violets. **Three-cornered Leek** was a garden escape. Towards the end of April Cowslips were flourishing in really good numbers and **Blackthorn** was coming in to flower. **Spring Starflower** showed alongside the allotments.

Many more plants were now coming in to flower, the most significant being **Lesser Celandine, Red Dead-nettle, and Sainfoin. Star of Bethlehem** was missing this year from the edge of South Wood, but owing to the thick grasses and difficult access it may well have been present. The patch of **Salsify** and **Goatsbeard** just south of the windmill had survived the sheep grazing again, and two hybrids between the two was found again. Mid May saw the first signs of **Yellow Rattle** and **Bramble**. Beside the allotments were **Tree Mallow** and **Russian Comfrey**.



Spring Starflower



Salsify hybrid



Sainfoin

June saw masses of **Dropwort** in the northern stretches and **Tufted Vetch** and **Wild Carrot** was everywhere around the reserve. I was pleased to see my planting of some **Harebells** last autumn had survived the winter. In the SW corner of the extension area **Wild Thyme** was proving popular with various bees. By the end of the month the summer specialities were all appearing – **Rest Harrow, Lady's Bedstraw, Houndstongue, Yarrow, and Greater Knapweed**.



Yellow Rattle



Pyramidal Orchid



Black Horehound

During the summer the Pride of Sussex, the **Round-headed Rampion**, had a particularly good year but due to the long spells of hot weather didn't last into September. **Knapweed Broomrape**, did not appear this year, neither did **Common Spotted Orchid**, and some **Rock Sea Lavender** and **Sea Beet** had encroached into the reserve from the coastal area. **Black Horehound**, **Melilot** and **Marjoram** were also found, the latter being a good source of nectar for bees and insects. Grasses had particularly taken over some areas and especially the SE section and smaller plants like **Red Bartsia** and **Hedge Bedstraw** were seemingly lacking in numbers. The old pitch & putt area was dominated by **Wild Carrot** this year.

I did one diversion up in to the old dewpond area and was pleasantly surprised to see some **Pyramidal Orchids** as well as the specialities such as **Squinancywort** and **Bastard Toadflax**. Plenty of **Round-headed Rampion** there too.

Of the 103 plants and grasses listed as being typical of Chalk Grassland 2A category, we have 72% of these recorded at Beacon Hill LNR.



Wild Carrot and Greater Knapweed

THE BUTTERFLY MONITORING REPORT 2022

by Peter Whitcomb

Photos by Peter Whitcomb except where shown

It has been a difficult year with a bigger percentage of missing weeks than I would have liked. Notably I missed two weeks in July when some of the butterflies are reaching their peaks. So the results for **Meadow Brown** and **Gatekeeper** cannot be compared with previous years. The other common summer species was **Marbled White** which actually did rather well.

The only plus point for 2022 was the high total of 88 **Small Skipper**, the best season since 2014. It became clear that even during the hot spells of summer butterfly numbers were only average or falling behind. The larger butterflies such as **Red Admiral**, **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Dark Green Fritillary** were all below par. There were a few **Painted Ladies** around, but these too did not do well. **Small** and **Large White** too were also sadly lacking in numbers, rather strange considering how well Large White performed in the National Big Butterfly Count.



Comma



Large White



Common Blue

As mentioned earlier my visits to Beacon Hill were less regular for various reasons, one of which is that I do two weekly transects. My other transect is more local and convenient, and making trips over to Rottingdean is sometimes difficult to arrange. I have come to the conclusion that running two butterfly transects is not an ideal situation so it is my intention to back down next year and let someone else take over at Beacon Hill. UK Butterflies has been informed and I will continue into 2023 so that I can brief and walk round with a new volunteer. I have done twelve years and have enjoyed my transect walks round this Reserve and monitoring the butterflies.



Holly Blue



Gatekeeper by Jess Bavinton



Marbled White by Jess Bavinton

Here are the details of the butterflies counted on my transect walks in 2022, with the average number over the last eight years in brackets. The italic shows the normal flight periods:

SMALL/ESSEX SKIPPER 88 (65) *End June/July*

A well above average tally and the best total since 2014. The peak was 36 on 10th July. The two species are linked together as they are almost inseparable in the field.

LARGE SKIPPER 1 (4) *June/July*

A very poor year with only one noted.

DINGY SKIPPER 0 (1) *Mid May/June*

None found this year. The last record was in Spring 2013.

GRIZZLED SKIPPER 0 (1) *May*

None this year but area where seen last year is overgrown.

CLOUDED YELLOW 4 (2) *Aug/Sep*

Two sightings in August and two in September.

BRIMSTONE 0 (2) *End Mar-May, Aug/Sep*

Lack of visits during early Spring accounted for this negative result.

LARGE WHITE 21 (34) *End May/Jun, Aug/Sep*

A below average year the highest count being only 8 on 9th August.

SMALL WHITE 45 (108) *May/Jul, Aug/Sep*

After a record-breaking year last year, a complete opposite for this year with a well below total. There were two flight periods with peaks in June and early September. As Small Whites are more likely to be seen, there has been a general assumption over the recording years that most of the 'smaller' whites are recorded as such, rather than female Orange-tips or Green-veined Whites.

GREEN-VEINED WHITE 1 (2) *May/Jun, Aug-early Sep*

Only one seen close enough to identify in August. (see above).

ORANGE-TIP 0 (1) *May/Jun*

None seen this Spring. Like Brimstone it prefers woodland glades rather than edges and therefore tends to miss my regular route.

SMALL COPPER 1 (2) *May, Aug-end Sep*

As is usual at Beacon Hill, the only sighting was in the second flight period.

BROWN ARGUS 0 (2) *May/Jun, Aug/Sep*

A good close-up view or a photograph is necessary to clinch the identification, as brief in-flight views are very similar to female Common Blues.

COMMON BLUE 111 (132) *Mid May-end Jun, Aug/Sep*

Below average with peaks of 27 on 23rd July and 32 on 9th August. While all blue males are easy to spot there was a good sprinkling of females noted during the second flight period.

CHALK HILL BLUE 0 (1) *Mid Jul-end Aug*

No sightings again, an unfortunate decline from 15 in 2012 and 4 in 2013 and 2014. The caterpillar's is Horseshoe Vetch and although adding plug plants was suggested last year, nothing was actioned. This attractive butterfly is a South Downs speciality and it deserves to be a regular sight here at Beacon Hill.

ADONIS BLUE 0 (1) *End May-mid Jun, end Aug-Sep*

This is the blueist of all blue species and has not been found since 2018 here as its larval foodplant Horse-shoe Vetch is quite scarce. Same sentiments as above.

HOLLY BLUE 5 (7) *Apr/May, Aug-mid Sep*

Slightly below average numbers, most seen along the woodland edges.

RED ADMIRAL 5 (9) *Jun-Oct*

A very poor year with just two seen during August and three in late September attracted to the ivy flowers.

PAINTED LADY 4 (5) *Jun, Aug/Sep*

An average year by the Reserve's standards with an early sighting on 22nd May, two in June and one in July. No influx this year.

SMALL TORTOISESHELL 3 (5) *Mar/Apr, Jul-end Sep*

The extraordinary demise of this attractive species is difficult to explain. We have to go back to 2015 with 19 and 2014 with 30 to get decent counts. No caterpillars were seen on nearby nettles.

PEACOCK 7 (6) *Mar/Apr, Aug/Sep*

A better year with three seen in the first flight period, and four in July.

COMMA 3 (2) *Apr-early May, Jul-Oct*

Never a regular species here, but three sightings were above average.

DARK GREEN FRITILLARY 3 (5) *Jul/Aug*

After a run of decent counts it was back to below average for this beautiful chalk grassland speciality.

SPECKLED WOOD 4 (5) *Apr-Oct*

A rather poor year with all sightings along the woodland edges.

WALL BROWN 10 (6) *May/Jun, Aug-mid Sep*

Another decent year with sightings from end July until mid September.

MARbled WHITE 162 (154) *End Jun-mid Aug*

This summer speciality is always a pleasure to see on the hill. The peak count was 52 on 26th June. Their flight period generally extends into August but the last here were 6 on 23rd July.

GATEKEEPER 157 (159) *Jul/Aug*

The counts were spot on the average but a reduced total after a run of three good years. The peak count was 71 on 23rd August.

MEADOW BROWN 298 (379) *Mid Jun-early Sep*

Still the most numerous butterfly on the Reserve but below average. Peak count was only 58 on 23rd July but very few seemed to linger into September.

SMALL HEATH 238 (233) *May/Jun, Aug/Sep*

Back to average numbers after a poor showing last year. Noted from every single walk from 5th May to 17th September. The highest early year count was 25 on two dates. The second flight period which can often bring high counts in sunshine proved correct as the peak was 46 on 24th August. This species has a distinctive habit of keeping its wings closed when alighting, so it is nigh on impossible to see a photograph with open wings.

RINGLET 0 (2) *End Jun/July*

None seen this year.

MOTHS & MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

The summer of 2022 will be remembered for the good numbers of Hummingbird Hawkmoths that appeared on the reserve and in gardens. A new moth species for the reserve was an Elder Pearl noted on 23 July and Dotted Bee-fly was also new to the reserve. On my walks round I noted caterpillars of Cinnabar moth and dozens of Six-spot Burnet chrysalis but the actual adult moths strangely appeared in much smaller numbers than would have been anticipated. Azure Damselflies were seen, and some Migrant Hawker dragonflies. Other insects included Green Lacewing and St Mark's Flies as well as an assortment of bees and hoverflies.



Dotted Bee-fly



Scorpion Fly



Hummingbird Hawkmoth

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Dotted Bee-fly



Scorpion Fly



Hummingbird Hawkmoth

Weekly Butterfly Count 2022

Week	2	3	5	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	17	19	21	23	25	26	Total							
Date	13.4	18.4	5.5	18.5	22.5	2.6	21.6	26.6	3.7	10.7	23.7	9.8	24.8	4.9	17.9	30.9	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Small/Essex Skipper							8	13	21	36	10						88	67	59	53	57	58	64	78
Large Skipper								1									1	3	6	3	1	6	7	9
Dingy Skipper																			0	0	0	0	0	0
Grizzled Skipper																		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clouded Yellow												1	1			2	4	1	1	0	1	2	0	3
Brimstone																			0	7	2	0	0	0
Large White								1		3	5	8	1	1	2		21	18	40	19	81	10	31	51
Small White			7	4	7	11	2	3			1		4	6			45	223	61	139	94	80	123	100
Green veined White												1					1	1	1	3	5	1	7	0
Orange Tip																		2	0	2	4	0	0	0
Small Copper													1				1	3	3	2	1	4	1	0
Small Blue																			0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Argus																		1	2	1	3	0	2	1
Common Blue				3	7	3	1	2	1	2	27	32	15	14	4		111	105	201	53	198	189	51	145
Chalk Hill Blue																			0	0	2	0	0	0
Adonis Blue																			0	0	3	0	0	0
Holly Blue			2		1	1							1				5	1	1	4	16	7	15	7
Red Admiral											1	1				3	5	10	7	13	3	11	16	8
Painted Lady					1		2				1						4	8	0	27	0	0	0	4
Small Tortoiseshell	1					1		1									3	2	1	0	1	8	6	19
Peacock	1	1	1						2	2							4	9	2	12	1	6	3	6
Comma										1		1		1			3	3	1	1	6	2	1	1
Dark Green Fritillary								2	1								3	7	7	6	7	6	0	5
Speckled Wood			1			1								2			4	2	0	4	9	6	5	9
Wall Brown											3	4		1	2		10	3	19	11	1	0	0	2
Marbled White							38	52	20	46	6						162	193	178	169	126	111	150	149
Gatekeeper									8	66	71	12					157	233	239	222	125	81	80	134
Meadow Brown						1	41	25	25	47	58	47	41	13			298	363	402	370	349	444	454	353
Small Heath			1	25	19	12	25	20	18	20	7	24	46	18	3		238	144	321	249	477	314	62	66
Ringlet																		2	0	11	0	0	0	2
WEEKLY TOTALS	2	1	12	29	35	30	117	120	96	223	190	131	110	56	11	5	1171	1406	1493	1382	1571	1346	1078	1153
Temperatures	13	13	15	17	18	17	18	18	18	21	21	23	23	21	17	17								
% Sunshine	40	20	50	70	100	80	20	100	90	100	100	100	100	100	90	70								
Wind Direction	SW	N W	N W	S	SW	SE	E	SW	W	SW	SW	SE	SE	SE	NE									
Wind Force	2	3	3	2	2	4	3	4	4	2	4	3	2	3	3									

THE BIRDS OF BEACON HILL 2022

by Peter Whitcomb

Photos by Peter Whitcomb except where shown.

In the first couple of months there was very little to report. **Rooks**, **Crows** and **Jackdaws** were all present and seen gathering nesting material. Our **Skylark** numbers fluctuate at this time of the year and only 7 singing males were logged, but this was due to lack of reporting. On 25 Feb a **White tailed Eagle** was seen along the coast in Newhaven. Tracing device showed it flew over Beacon Hill but unfortunately no-one actually saw it over Rottingdean. This would have been one of the birds from the Isle of Wight introduction scheme.

In March a pair of **Kestrels** were seen mating, harried by a passing **Merlin**. The **Skylarks** were settling down on territories, but no counts were received, but a displaying **Meadow Pipit** may have been an indication of breeding here. **Peregrine** and **Red Kite** were among the more notable species seen in April, while the usual Spring migrants were reported - **Wheatear**, **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff**.

In early May **Blackcaps** and **Common Whitethroats** were seen and settling down to breed, as well as a small group of **Swallows** flying north. **Linnets** were also positively noted as nesting.



Whitethroat by Simeon Elliott



Robin



Whinchat

In early June there was a bonfire lit to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. This controversial event had taken place after a u-turn. Respect for nature on a Nature Reserve with red listed Skylarks was ignored in favour of tradition and local voicing. Three **Ravens** went over on 26 June.

There were few reports during July and Aug, but young **Starlings** feeding on the reserve was a feature and young **Buzzards** were calling from the woods. A few **Wheatears** were noted and in early Sep three **Whinchats** were seen around the old allotments. Plenty of **Chiffchaff** were around the woods in the second half of the month and a **Common Redstart** was along the western fence line on 17th. A visiting birder reported 5 **Stonechat** on 24th.



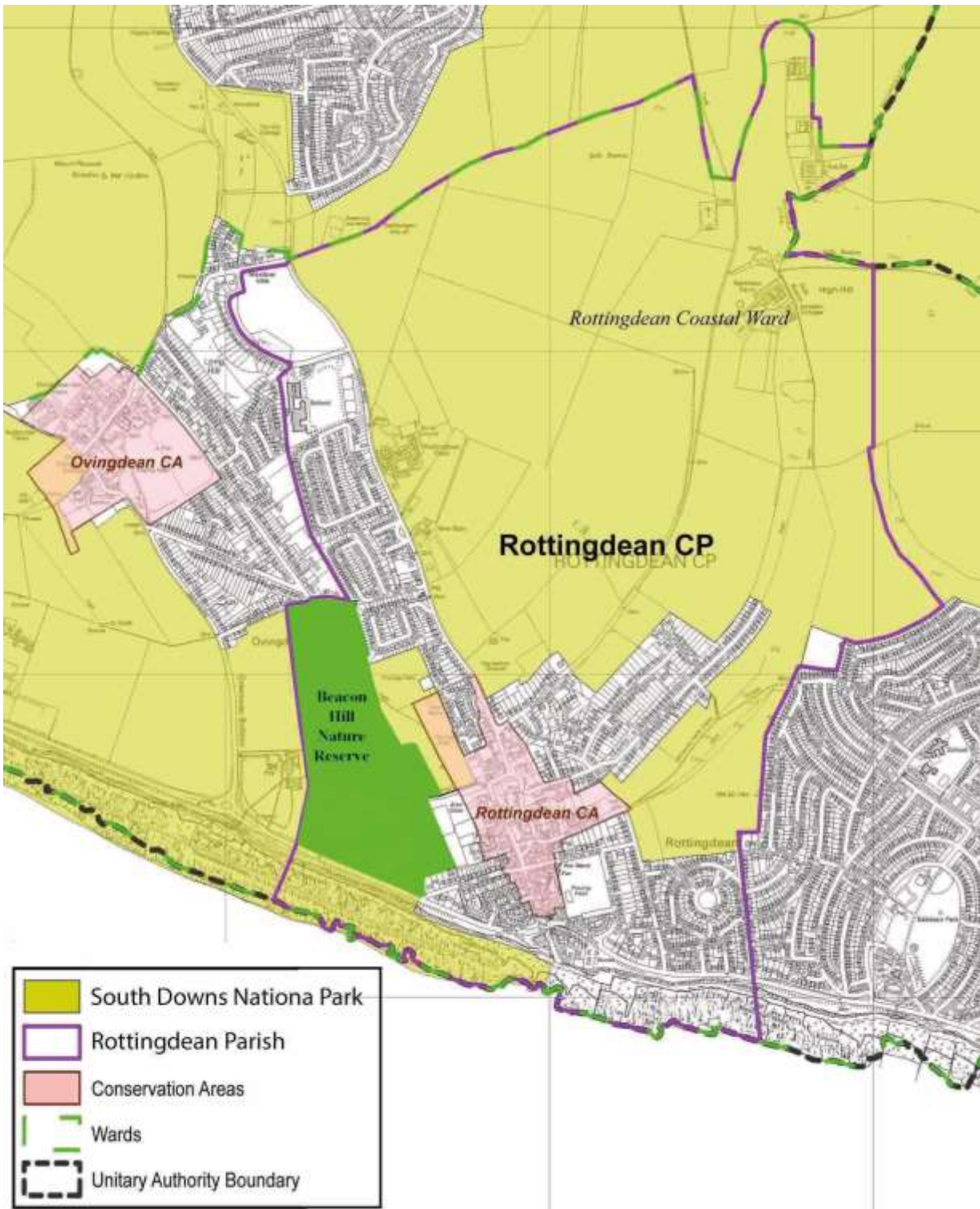
Skylark by Simeon Elliott

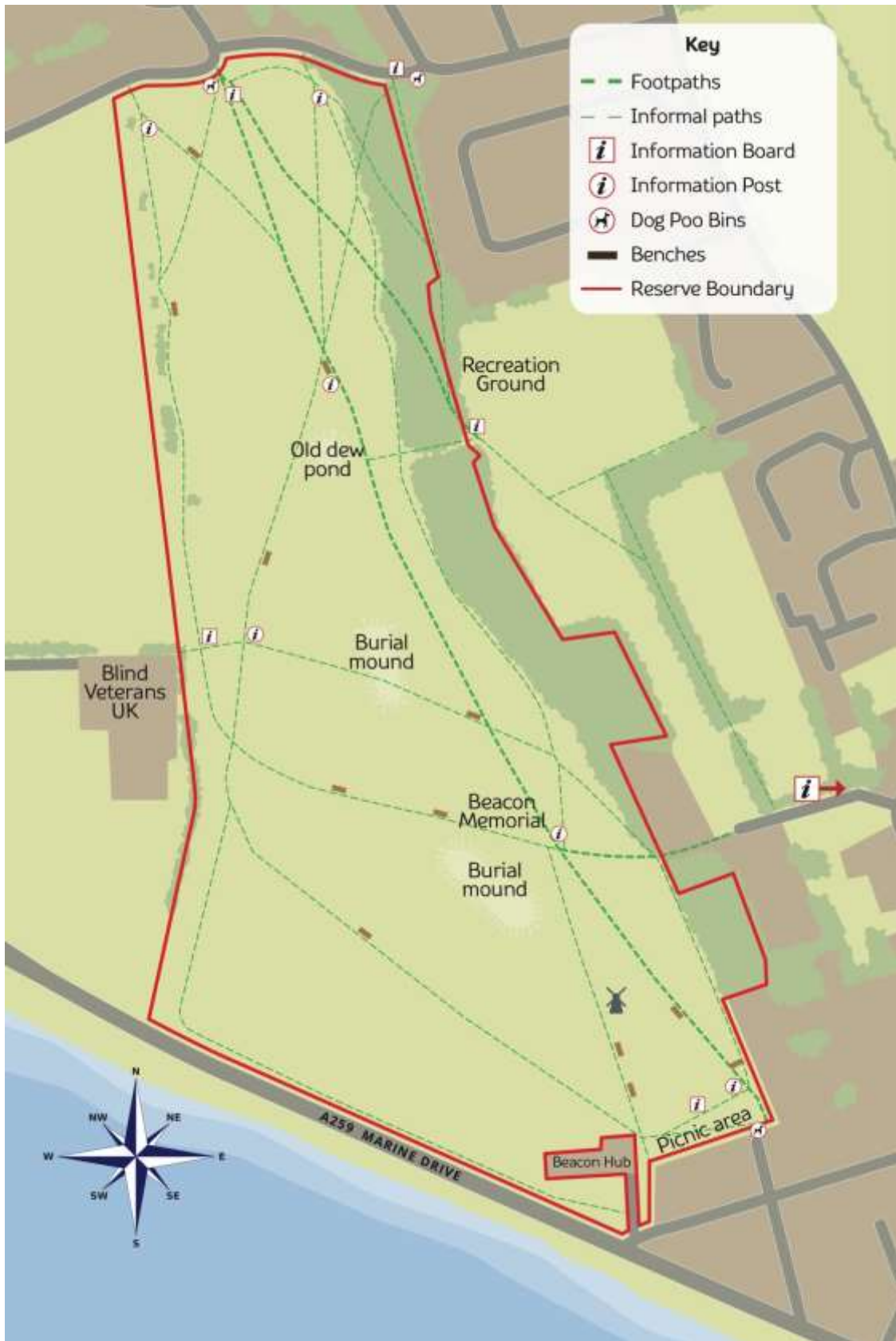


Juvenile Starlings

Since Colin Brooks stopped visiting the reserve, it has been obvious that regular reports are still very much needed. Common birds like Blackbird, Wood Pigeon, Stock Dove, Jay, Dunnock, Goldfinch and others are noted, but do we actually know their true numbers and distribution?

MAPS OF BEACON HILL





IMAGES OF BEACON HILL

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