



Dane Valley Woods, Margate

Breeding Bird Census 2017 Summary



Kent Wildlife Trust

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Dane Valley Woods Community Woodland in Margate is owned by Thanet District Council and managed by the volunteers of Dane Valley Woods Community Group. It was an operational landfill site for domestic waste until the 1960s or 1970s. The site now consists of rough grassland, scrub and a few mature trees such as ash and sycamore. There is no wetland habitat. A wide variety of native deciduous tree species have been planted over the last decade. Substantial parts of the site are covered in bramble and non-native Alexanders *Smyrnium olusatrum* is abundant in places. The site is surrounded by arable farmland, closely-mown amenity grassland, allotments and houses.



Linnet (A Vidler)

The breeding birds at Dane Valley Woods were surveyed using a standard method known as the Common Bird Census (CBC). A map of the survey area, which is approximately 5 ½ hectares (13 acres) in extent, is attached. This particular technique was devised by the British Trust for Ornithology (B.T.O) and was used to monitor populations of breeding birds in the UK between 1962 and 2000 (<https://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdtrends/2011/methods/common-birds-census> for more information). It was superseded by the less time-consuming Breeding Bird Survey but it remains a widely used method for surveying breeding birds at a local scale. It is a means of determining the location of breeding bird territories and provides an estimate of the number of breeding pairs in a given area. A CBC does not involve searching for nests, nor is the aim to confirm breeding has taken place.

Three early morning visits were made in April / May (see below for details) and the location of all bird species was recorded on a map. A total of 15 species qualified as breeding and the results are summarised in the table below.

2 RECORDING VISITS (ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PAIRS / BREEDING TERRITORIES)

Visit letter	Date	Time	Weather including estimated wind direction and force (Beaufort Scale)
A	6 th April	06:25 – 08:30	Sunny, cloud cover 1/8 or less, little wind (NW 0-2), approximately 7 degrees Celsius
B	20 th April	06:00 – 08:00	Sunny start, light cloud 8/8 cover by 07:00, little wind (SW 0-1), approximately 5 degrees C
C	2 nd May	05:30 – 08:00	Sunny throughout, cloud 1/8 or less, negligible wind. Approximately 9 degrees C

3 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Species	No. #	Comments	Conservation Designations
Wood pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	3		
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	10		
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	15		BoCC (A)
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	3 - 4		
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	9		
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2		KRD (2), BAP(P)
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	1 - 3	One singing visit B; 3 on visit C (all singing).	
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	5 - 12	Five singing visit B; 12 singing visit C	
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	6		
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	3		
Long-tailed tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	2		
Blue tit <i>Parus caeruleus</i>	3		
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	3		
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	3	One nest discovered. Group of 10 on visit A.	
Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	10+	Parties of up to 11.	KRD (2), BAP(P) BoCC (R)

estimated numbers of breeding territories / pairs

Key to abbreviations

[Type text]

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BoCC (A) = International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Birds of Conservation Concern Amber List Species

BoCC (R) = IUCN Birds of Conservation Concern Red List Species

RSPB (2009). More information:

https://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/birdsofconservationconcern4_tcm9-410743.pdf

KRD = Kent Red Data Book (levels 1 – 3 in brackets) as listed in *The Kent Red Data Book*, Anne Waite (2000)

UK RDB = UK Red Data Book Species. *1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals*, K.S. Walter & H.J. Gillett (1996)

<http://www.kentbap.org.uk>

BAP = Species listed in UK Biodiversity Action Plan **(P)** = BAP Priority Species

<http://tna.europarchive.org/20110303145238/http://www.ukbap.org.uk/default.aspx>

4 ADDITIONAL RECORDS

The following 16 species recorded during the survey did not qualify as ‘breeding’ under CBC rules. A number of these are likely to be breeding in the surround area and the site may form part of their extended territories and or provide foraging opportunities e.g. house sparrow, starling, collared dove, greenfinch and goldfinch. The possibility for migrants to stop off briefly before moving on may also apply to certain species e.g. willow warbler, snipe and sedge warbler.

Species	No. #	Comments	Conservation Designations
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	Flying over visit A; male on railway embankment visit B.	BoCC (A)
Grey partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	2	Pair flushed by dog flew onto arable field to north of recording area on 26 th March (not during CBC visit).	KRD (1), BAP (P) UK RDB BoCC (R)
Common snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	Flushed from north-west corner visit B	KRD (1), BAP
Collared dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	4	singles on visit A and B; up to 4 calling and displaying in allotments outside recording area on all three visits.	
Ring-necked parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	1	One near north-west corner visit A; singles flying over visit C	
Green	1	Briefly visit A then flew towards allotments	

woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>			
Swallow <i>Hirundo ristica</i>	1	Briefly visit C, not lingering	
Sedge warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1	Singing visit B	
Willow warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1	Singing visit C in mature tree near road.	BoCC (A)
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1	Briefly visit A flew off in the direction of the allotments	
Carrion crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	1	Perched, calling repeatedly visit A	
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	24	Foraging parties, records concentrated in south part of site and adjacent mown grassland.	BoCC (R)
House sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	16	Foraging birds recorded on all three visits. Records concentrated in south of site.	KRD (3) BoCC (R)
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1	one singing close to south east corner during visits A and C	
Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	1	Singing visit B and outside recording area (allotments) visits A and C	
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2	One singing on east boundary visit A; two close to south boundary visits A and C	

maximum number of individuals (not pairs) recorded at a single point in time

