



## Wessex Springs and Seepage project

Springs and Seepages are often overlooked as there is little awareness of their importance. Buglife's Wessex Springs and Seepages project aimed to identify key spring and seepage sites for Invertebrates in the Wessex Water area, and to provide management advice for their care and preservation.

### Project reports

**1) The Blackdown Hills** on the Devon / Somerset border were surveyed in the first year of the project with sites located within seven different SSSI sites; Blackdown & Samford, Hense Moor, Ruttersleigh, Deadman, Ashculm Turbary, Ringdown and Southey and Gotleigh Moor.

Invertebrate and bryophyte survey work was conducted on 16 survey sites in August 2010 and May 2011 and bryophyte surveys were carried out on the same sites in March 2011. A total of 121 aquatic invertebrates and 291 terrestrial invertebrates were recorded and these include one possible Red Data Book and 14 Nationally Scarce species. Ashculm Turbary was the site which had the greatest number of species of high nature conservation value (a total of seven Nationally Scarce species recorded).

Listed below are the species of conservation concern recorded in the Blackdown Hills area during the 2010 / 11 surveys:

**Red Data Book:** *Tabanus miki*

**Nationally Scarce:** *Agabus melanarius*,  
*Chaetarthria seminulum*, *Laccobius*  
*atratus*, *Tipula yerburyi*, *Dixa maculata*,

*Ptychoptera longicauda*, *Sphegina verecunda*, *Xylota florum*, *Sapromyza basalis*, *Sapromyza zetterstedti*, *Psacadina verbekei*, *Tetanocera punctifrons*, *Elachiptera pubescens*, *Meonura minutissima*.

[Blackdown Hills Invertebrate Survey Report](#)  
[Blackdown Hills Bryophyte Survey Report](#)

**2) The coastal cliffs around Lyme Regis** in Dorset were the second area to be surveyed and several sites between Stonebarrow Hill near Charmouth east and Eype Mouth were surveyed.

Invertebrate surveys were conducted on 12 sites within three different areas in September 2011 and again in May-June 2012. The bryophyte surveys were carried out in March 2012. A total of 143 aquatic and 24 terrestrial invertebrates were recorded from the seepages themselves and a further 221 species were recorded by sweep netting the surrounding area. Nine Red Data Book, two IUCN Near Threatened and twenty-eight Nationally Scarce species were recorded.

The cliffs to the east of Lyme Regis were exceptional for invertebrates associated with seepages and springs. These sites are of National importance.

Listed below are the species of conservation concern recorded in the Lyme Regis area during the 2011 / 12 surveys:

**Red Data Book:** *Aphaniosoma socium*, *Odontomyia ornate*, *Stratiomys longicornis*, *Platycephala umbraculata*, *Libellula fulva*, *Cylindera germanica*, *Limonia goritiensis*, *Orimarga virgo*.

**IUCN Near Threatened:** *Eubria palustris*, *Syntormon mikii*, *Forficula lesnei*, *Conocephalus discolour*, *Platycleis albopunctata*, *Tetrix ceperoi*, *Plectrocnemia brevis*, *Microvelia pygmaea*, *Agabus melanarius*, *Cercyon depressus*, *Ochthebius auriculatus*, *Ochthebius nanus*, *Heterocerus flexuosus*, *Heterocerus fossor*, *Gonomyia conoviensis*, *Limonia stigmatica*, *Thaumastopectera calceata*, *Odontomyia tigrina*, *Oxycera pygmaea*, *Vanoyia tenuicornis*, *Hercostomus plagiatus*, *Syntormon spicatus*, *Psacadina verbekei*, *Tetanocera punctifrons*, *Elachiptera pubescens*, *Lipara rufitarsis*, *Oscinella angustipennis*, *Odynerus melanocephalus*, *Nomada fucata*.

**Nationally Scarce:** *Marpissa nivoyi*.



Long-horned general (*Stratiomys longicornis*) © Steven Falk



Cliff tiger beetle (*Cylindera germanica*) © Roger Key

[Lyme Regis Invertebrate Survey Report](#)

[Lyme Regis Bryophyte Survey Report](#)

**3) The Mendip Hills** were the third area to be surveyed for invertebrates in 2012-13. Fifteen sites were surveyed, located within Somerset.

[Mendips Invertebrate Survey Report](#)

[Mendips Bryophyte Survey Report](#)

Invertebrate survey work was started in April 2012, however, wet Springs in 2012 and 2013 delayed some of the terrestrial invertebrate surveys until July 2012; July 2013 and September 2013.

Bryophyte surveys were undertaken at nine of the invertebrate sample sites, mostly in January 2014 (one site in October 2013). Sites with longstanding tufa deposits (Titwell Wood and Packsaddle Bridge Fields) supported the richest bryophyte floras.

A total of 76 aquatic invertebrate species were recorded in spring 2012, 75 in summer 2012 and 105 in 2013. A total of 214 terrestrial species were recorded in 2013 and these included two Red Data Book, five Lower Risk (Nationally Scarce) and fourteen Nationally Scarce/Notable species. The Red Data Book 1 crane fly *Ellipteroides alboscuteolata* was the most noteworthy species recorded. Hurdlestone Wood was an exceptional site with a large population of the Red Data Book 1 crane fly *Ellipteroides alboscuteolata* as well as 5 Nationally Scarce or notable species.

The results so far indicate that the Mendips still possess valuable, and at times, exceptional spring and seepage habitat. However, some sites appear to have been lost and degraded and this appears to be an ongoing process.

Listed below are the species of conservation concern recorded in the Mendip Hills during the 2012 / 13 surveys:

**Red Data Book 1:** *Ellipteroides alboscuteolata*.

**Red Data Book 3:** *Gonomyia abbreviate*.

**Lower Risk (Nationally Scarce):** *Dixa maculate*; *Thaumalea truncate*; *Chelifera angusta*; *Hemerodromia adulatoria*; *Hemerodromia laudatoria*.

**Nationally Scarce/Notable:** *Plectrocnemia brevis*; *Tinodes unicolor*; *Hydroporus marginatus*; *Riolus subviolaceus*; *Elodes elongate*; *Pytho depressus*; *Limonia trivittata*; *Molophilus corniger*; *Paradelphomyia nielsenii*; *Beris fuscipes*; *Oxycera pardalina*; *Ptiolina obscura*; *Sphegina verecunda*; *Tetanocera punctifrons*.

**4) Wiltshire** (some of the spring complexes of the Wiltshire chalk and limestone) was the fourth and final area to be surveyed in 2013/14. Seven sites were surveyed for invertebrates in the summer and autumn of 2013, the cold and wet Spring again delaying the planned spring survey.

[Wiltshire Invertebrate Survey Report](#)

[Wiltshire Bryophyte Survey Report](#)

A total of 75 aquatic invertebrate species were recorded, along with 21 terrestrial invertebrates accidentally taken in the pond net, as well as 2 species represented by pupal exuviae. A total of 220 terrestrial species were recorded by sweep netting. One Red Data Book and eleven Nationally Scarce species have been recorded. Church Springs was the best site for rare and uncommon species of the sites sampled, at which eight noteworthy species were recorded.

The bryophyte surveys were carried out in March and April 2014. Twelve springs or streams in seven of the localities sampled for invertebrates were visited in March and April 2014. The sites with the highest value for bryophytes were associated with oolitic limestone, in Colerne Park and Monk's Wood SSSI.



These results suggest that Wiltshire has sites of local and county importance.

Church Springs © Sharon Pilkington

Listed below are the species of conservation concern recorded in the Wiltshire area during the 2013 surveys:

**Red Data Book 3:** *Caricea brachialis*.

**Nationally Scarce/Notable:** *Elodes elongate*; *Atyopthalmus inustus*; *Limonia trivittata*; *Paradelphomyia nielsenii*; *Dixa maculate*; *Ptychoptera longicauda*; *Oxycera pardalina*; *Oxycera pygmaea*; *Stratiomys potamida*; *Sphegina verecunda*; *Sapromyza basalis*; *Geomyza venusta*.

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