

## Introduction

The purpose of this informal survey is to inform Rochford District Council and other interested parties what the residents of the properties which border the field to the west of Alexandra Road (allocation option GW3) have noted in the last 12 to 18 months. **The survey in respect of Exhibition Field is very restricted due to the limited accessibility.**

We have no problem with the results of this survey being made public. We have not as yet been made aware of the results of the developer's surveys. The results of this survey should be compared with the wildlife assessment(s) completed on behalf of ILDG when they become available.

## Scope of survey

Houses from 2 – 60 Alexandra Road were not included in the survey as there is land between them and the fields in question.

The land I know as Exhibition field is no longer accessible to the public and the only indication of what wildlife inhabits this is from the 4 residents consulted at the north end of Exhibition Lane as they also border GW3.

This is a total of 34 properties. A further person was invited to participate but declined as he felt wildlife could look after itself.

Any sightings where people were unsure are not included in the survey.

Any attempt to fabricate answers was sat on immediately and the offender told that any falsehoods would jeopardise the credibility of the survey.

## Findings

The following species have definitely been sighted, most of them, with the exception of some of the protected species, regularly throughout the year or within particular seasons. This list is not exhaustive.

**Protected Species** :-Badgers, Bats - in particular Pipistrelle Bats, Slow-worms, Grass Snakes, Adders (with the exception of Badgers, these also appear on the list of Species of Principal Importance).

**Species of Principal Importance** (Defined on the Natural England website) a total of 18 already identified including :- Common Lizard, Bullfinch, Common Cuckoo, Dunnock (Hedge Accentor), Grasshopper Warbler, House Sparrow, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Song Thrush, Starling, Tree Sparrow, Turtle Dove, Yellowhammer, Hedgehog and Cinnabar Moth.

**Other Species:-** Crested Newts, Frogs, Toads, Black Cap, Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaff, Goldfinch, heard Grass Hopper Warbler, Greenfinch, Heron, Kestrels, King Fishers, Owls, Red Legged Partridge, Reed Warbler, Sparrow Hawks, Tawny Owl, Thrush, Wagtail, Waxwings, Willow warblers, Woodpeckers, Field Vole, Hare.

## Survey of Wildlife Land West of Alexandra Road, Great Wakering

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The following were frequently seen in gardens of the houses:

Fox,	Jay	Blue Tit
Rabbit	Magpie	Great Tit
Blackbird	Moorhen	Long Tailed Tit
Collard Dove	Pheasant	Song Thrush
Chaffinch	Robin	Pied wagtail
Bullfinch	House Sparrow	Wood Pigeon
Greenfinch	Starling	

A tabulation is included of the main survey showing the percentages of species seen by the households and dog walkers.

### **Validation**

I attempted to validate the answers e.g. the resident of 64A Alexandra Road was adamant that they had seen an adder but described the incident as a snake with a frog in its mouth which then crossed their pond like lightning. Adders are not known to eat frogs or to like water but grass snakes do. This was put down as a sighting of a grass snake.

One knowledgeable person said he had seen Lesser and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. This probably warrants further investigation to determine if we have Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers.

### **Conclusion**

This information has been gathered in the space of about 6 weeks. The sheer number of species identified and photographs obtained, either already in the possession of the residents or taken since 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012 demonstrate the wealth of wildlife on the site. We are continuing to take photographs of the species and have yet to look in depth at invertebrates and plants.

Marion Sawyer

Great Wakering

April 2012

Survey of Wildlife Land West of Alexandra Road, Great Wakering

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**Summary of Survey**

**Protected Species = Red**

**Species of Principal Importance = Blue**

**Other = Black**

**Properties (Total number 34)**

Who	Badgers	Bats	Slow worms	Grass snakes	Adders	Lizard	Hedge hogs	Cuckoo (seen or heard)	Yellow Hammer	Turtle Doves	Crested Newts	Sparrow Hawks	Kestrel	Kingfisher	Wood-pecker Green	Spotted Wood-pecker
No. of Households who have seen	12	19	11	14	3	16	19	30 or heard	4	8	2	17	9	3	25	16
% of Households who have seen	35	55	32	41	8.8	47	55	88	11.7	23	5.8	50	26	8.8	83	47

**Dog walkers (Total number 5)**

Who	Badgers	Bats	Slow worms	Grass snakes	Adders	Lizard	Hedge hogs	Cuckoo (seen or heard)	Yellow Hammer	Turtle Doves	Crested Newts	Sparrow Hawks	Kestrel	Kingfisher	Wood-pecker Green	Spotted Wood-pecker
No. of dog walkers who have seen	1		1			2	1	4		1		3	4		4	3
% of dog walkers who have seen	20		20			40	20	80		20		60	80		80	60

**List of Species of Principal Importance in England - noted and by whom**

**(Extracted from Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England)**

Common name	Taxon group	Main Survey tabulation	Other species noted during survey	Additional species noted by users of field	Commonly seen in gardens	Noted by EWT on a single visit 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2012	Photographs available
Bats	Vertebrates	Y					
Adder	Reptile	Y					
Grass Snake	Reptile	Y					Y
Slow-worm	Reptile	Y					Y
Common Lizard	Reptile	Y					Y
Bullfinch	Bird					Y	
Common Cuckoo	Bird	Y					Y
Dunnock (Hedge Accentor)	Bird		Y			Y	y
Grasshopper Warbler	Bird			Y			
House Sparrow	Bird				Y	Y	Y
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Bird		Y				
Song Thrush	Bird				Y	Y	y
Starling	Bird				Y	y	y
Tree sparrow	Bird		y				
Turtle Dove	Bird	Y					y
Yellowhammer	Bird	Y					
Hedgehog	Mammal	y					
Cinnabar Moth	Invertebrates			y			y