

ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED GARDEN COMMUNITY IN MARDEN

Red-listed birds in Marden



Yellowhammer



Turtle dove

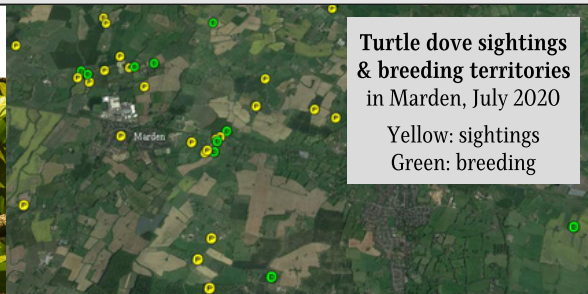


Linnet



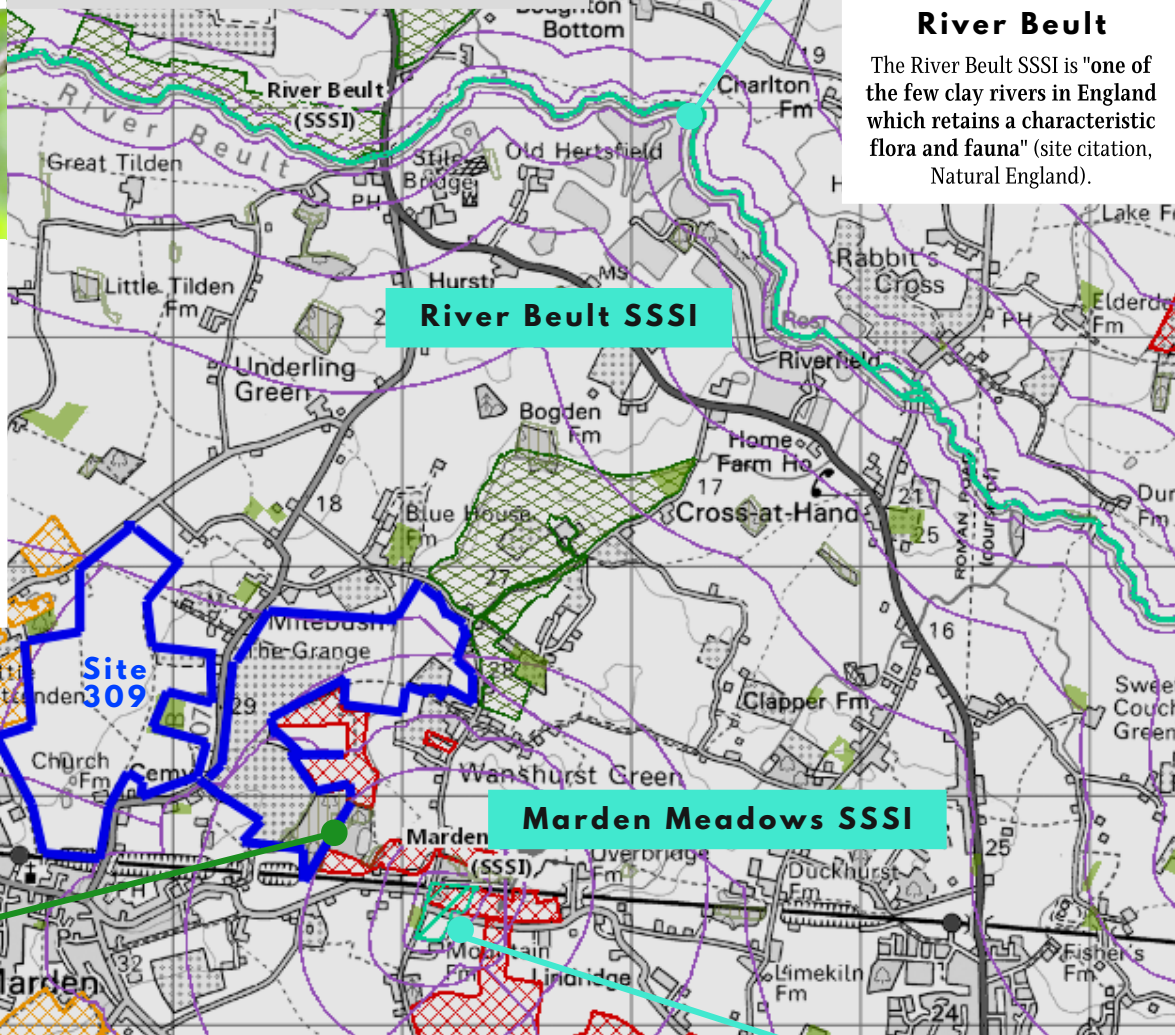
Nightingale

The Low Weald and especially the area around Marden holds one of Kent's largest concentrations of the turtle dove, which is the fastest declining bird on the 'red list' of the UK's most threatened species (down 94% since 1995) and is at risk of global extinction. Other red-listed birds that nest in the Marden area include yellowhammers, linnets and nightingales (the population of the latter has declined by more than 90% in the last 50 years). Figures from the British Trust for Ornithology's national ringing scheme show that more than 75% of yellowhammers and linnets ringed in Kent are ringed in Marden. Maintaining the population of both turtle doves and nightingales are targets in the Kent Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2045.



Turtle dove sightings & breeding territories in Marden, July 2020
Yellow: sightings
Green: breeding

Turtle dove map for Marden



River Beult SSSI

Marden Meadows SSSI



River Beult

The River Beult SSSI is "one of the few clay rivers in England which retains a characteristic flora and fauna" (site citation, Natural England).

Legend

- Ancient Woodland (England)**
 - Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland
 - Ancient Replanted Woodland
 - Priority Habitat Inventory - Traditional Orchards (England)
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
 - SSSI Impact Risk Zones - to assess planning applications for likely impacts on SSSIs/SACs/SPAs & Ramsar sites (England)
- Countryside Stewardship Agreement Management Areas (England)**
 - Countryside Stewardship (Middle Tier)
 - Countryside Stewardship (Higher Tier)
 - Countryside Stewardship - Arable Offer (Middle Tier)
 - Feasibility Study and Historic Building Restoration
 - Hedgerows and boundaries
 - Implementation plan
 - Woodland Creation Grant
 - Tree Health Improvement
 - Tree Health Restoration
 - Woodland Management Plan
- Environmental Stewardship Agreements (England)**
 - Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
 - Entry Level Stewardship
 - Higher Level Stewardship
 - Organic Entry Level Stewardship
 - Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship



Bridgehurst Woods

Bridgehurst Woods is an area of ancient woodland. Its ownership is divided, with half of it included within the proposed site and the other half adjoining it. The Woodland Trust states that ancient woodland is our richest and most complex terrestrial habitat and home to more threatened species than any other. According to the NPPF, "development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons...".



Marden Meadows

Managed by Kent Wildlife Trust, Marden Meadows SSSI lies less than 500m from the boundary of the proposed site and is "one of the best examples of unimproved neutral grassland remaining in Kent" (site citation, Natural England). The site features several scarce species – including Adder's tongue, Green-winged orchid and Meadow saxifrage – as well as ancient ponds and hedgerows. Lowland meadow is a Priority Habitat in the Kent Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2045.