

Western Chalk BCA

Key species

The following table lists species of conservation concern found within the BCA.

Abbreviations:

S41 = Section 41 species of Principal Importance list in the NERC Act (2006)

IUCN Red List categories:

NT = Near Threatened

VU = Vulnerable

EN = Endangered

CR = Critically Endangered

Rarity:

NR = Nationally Rare (1-15 10-km squares in Britain)

NS = Nationally Scarce (16-100 10-km squares in Britain)

Dorset Status:


DR = Dorset Rare

DS = Dorset Scarce


DN = Dorset Notable

Key

 = Section 41 species of Principal Importance

 = Red Listed species with IUCN categories CR, EN, VU & NT

 = Nationally Scarce or Nationally Rare species

 = Dorset Rare or Scarce species, declining in the county or particularly characteristic of the BCA

Key species for the Western Chalk BCA:

Group:	Species	Status	Broad Habitat	Priority habitat	
Plants	<i>Anacamptis morio</i> Green-winged Orchid	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Meadows	Rare in neutral grassland
Plants	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> Kidney Vetch		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Plants	<i>Arabis hirsuta</i> Hairy Rock-cress	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Rare in short chalk turf
Plants	<i>Briza media</i> Quaking-grass	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Widespread in short chalk turf
Plants	<i>Campanula glomerata</i> Clustered Bellflower		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Plants	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> Harebell	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Widespread in short chalk turf
Plants	<i>Carex paniculata</i> Great Tussock-sedge		Woodlands	Wet Woodland	
Plants	<i>Carex pulicaris</i> Flea Sedge	NT	Wetlands	Lowland Fens	Very local in basic fens
Plants	<i>Carlina vulgaris</i> Carlina Thistle	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Short turf species
Plants	<i>Catabrosa aquatica</i> Whorl-grass	VU	Wetlands	Rivers	Rare along river margins
Plants	<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i> Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage		Woodlands	Wet Woodland	Local in wet woodland and along wooded streams
Plants	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i> Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage		Woodlands	Wet Woodland	Characteristic of wet woodland along springlines
Plants	<i>Cirsium dissectum</i> Meadow Thistle		Grasslands	Purple Moor-grass & Rush-pasture	
Plants	<i>Coeloglossum viride</i> Frog Orchid	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Now scarce in Dorset, one site in this BCA
Plants	<i>Colchicum autumnale</i> Meadow Saffron	NT	Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	
Plants	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i> Crosswort	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Scarce in scrubby chalk grassland
Plants	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i> Few-flowered Spike-rush		Wetlands	Lowland Fens	Scarce in Dorset
Plants	<i>Epipactis palustris</i> Marsh Helleborine	NT	Wetlands	Lowland Fens	One site in a base-rich fen
Plants	<i>Eriophorum latifolium</i> Broad-leaved Cottongrass		Wetlands	Lowland Fens	One of only 3 Dorset sites
Plants	<i>Euphrasia tetraquetra</i> Western Eyebright	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Plants	<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i> Dropwort		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Very local on this part of the Dorset chalk
Plants	<i>Gentianella amarella</i> Autumn Gentian	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Local in chalk grassland
Plants	<i>Gentianella amarella</i> subsp. <i>anglica</i> Early Gentian		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Several small populations
Plants	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> Chalk Fragrant Orchid		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Plants	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> Rockrose	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Widespread in short chalk turf an important foodplant for invertebrates
Plants	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i> Horseshoe Vetch		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Short turf species, important butterfly woodland
Plants	<i>Juncus subnodulosus</i> Blunt-flowered Rush		Wetlands	Lowland Fens	Very local in basic fens

Group:	Species	Status	Broad Habitat	Priority habitat	
Plants	<i>Knautia arvensis</i> Field Scabious	NT	Grasslands		Local in ungrazed chalk grassland
Plants	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i> Toothwort		Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Local in ancient woodland
Plants	<i>Lithospermum officinale</i> Common Gromwell		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Rare in chalk scrub
Plants	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i> Bird's-nest Orchid	VU	Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	One site in woodland on the chalk scarp
Plants	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i> Fly Orchid	S41; EN	Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Rare in woodland and calcareous grassland
Plants	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i> Herb Paris		Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Rare in ancient woodland
Plants	<i>Pedicularis palustris</i> Marsh Lousewort	VU	Wetlands	Lowland Fens	One recent site in a base-rich fen
Plants	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i> Lousewort	VU	Heathlands	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Local in acid grassland above the chalk
Plants	<i>Persicaria bistorta</i> Bistort		Grasslands	Purple Moor-grass & Rush-pasture	Rare in old watermeadows in chalk valleys
Plants	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i> Greater Butterfly-orchid	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Very local in woodland and calcareous grassland
Plants	<i>Polygala calcarea</i> Chalk Milkwort		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Scattered in short chalk turf
Plants	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i> Heath Milkwort	NT	Heathlands	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Local in acid grassland above the chalk
Plants	<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i> Wood Club-rush		Grasslands		Scarce in base-rich fens
Plants	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i> Ragged-Robin	NT	Grasslands	Purple Moor-grass & Rush-pasture	Scattered in marshy grassland
Plants	<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i> Autumn Lady's-tresses	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Requires short turf
Plants	<i>Succisa pratensis</i> Devil's-bit Scabious	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Abundant on northern and western chalk slopes; an important insect foodplant
Plants	<i>Triglochin palustre</i> Marsh Arrowgrass	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Fens	Rare in open base-rich fens
Plants	<i>Valeriana dioica</i> Marsh Valerian	NT	Woodlands	Wet woodland Purple Moor-grass & Rush-pasture	Scarce in wet woodland and base-rich fens
Plants	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i> Common Valerian	NT	Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	
Plants	<i>Veronica officinalis</i> Heath Speedwell	NT	Heathlands		Local in acid grassland above the chalk
Plants	<i>Vicia sylvatica</i> Wood Vetch		Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	
Plants	<i>Viola canina</i> Heath Dog-violet	VU	Grasslands		
Bryophytes	<i>Climacium dendroides</i> Tree-moss		Wetlands		Rare in base-rich fens
Bryophytes	<i>Entodon concinnus</i> Montagne's Cylinder-moss		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Very local in short chalk turf
Bryophytes	<i>Ephemerum recurvifolium</i> Strap-leaved Earth-moss	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Several sites on open chalk grassland
Bryophytes	<i>Heterocladium heteropterum</i> Slender Tamarisk-moss		Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Very local on flints in woodlands on the chalk scarps
Bryophytes	<i>Hookeria lucens</i> Shining Hookeria		Woodlands	Wet Woodland	Local in wet woodland
Bryophytes	<i>Lejeunea lamacerina</i> Western Pouncewort		Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	

Group:	Species	Status	Broad Habitat	Priority habitat	
Bryophytes	<i>Lophocolea fragrans</i> Fragrant Crestwort		Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Very local on flints in woodlands on the chalk scarps
Bryophytes	<i>Neckera smithii</i> Prince-of-Wales Feather-moss		Woodlands Farm & Village	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Hedgerows	Dorset the UK stronghold
Bryophytes	<i>Palustriella commutata</i> Curled Hook-moss		Woodlands	Wet Woodland	Very local around calcareous springs and in fens
Bryophytes	<i>Trichocolea tomentella</i> Handsome Woollywort	NT	Woodlands	Wet Woodland	Rare in wet woodland
Bryophytes	<i>Weissia sterilis</i> Sterile Beardless-moss	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Fungi	<i>Hypocreopsis rhododendrii</i> Hazel Gloves	S41	Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	One site on old Hazel stems
Fungi	<i>Microglossum nudipes</i> (part of <i>Microglossum olivaceum</i> complex)	S41	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	The only Dorset site in fungal-rich grassland
Fungi	<i>Cuphophyllum colemannianus</i> Toasted Waxcap	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Several sites
Fungi	<i>Cuphophyllum flavipes</i> Yellowfoot Waxcap	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Dry Acid grassland	Several sites
Fungi	<i>Gliophorus reginae</i> Jubilee Waxcap		Grasslands	Lowland Dry Acid grassland	Recently added to the Dorset list from the area
Fungi	<i>Hygrocybe citrinovirens</i> Citrine Waxcap	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Dry Acid grassland	Several sites
Fungi	<i>Hygrocybe intermedia</i> Fibrous Waxcap	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Dry Acid grassland	Several sites
Fungi	<i>Hygrocybe punicea</i> Crimson Waxcap	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Dry Acid grassland	Widely scattered
Fungi	<i>Hygrocybe splendissima</i> Splendid Waxcap	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Dry Acid grassland	Several sites
Fungi	<i>Porpolomopsis calyptriformis</i> Pink Waxcap	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Dry Acid grassland	Several sites
Fungi	<i>Entoloma bloxamii</i> Big Blue Waxcap	VU	Grasslands		
Fungi	<i>Entoloma griseocyaneum</i> Felted Pinkgill	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Dry Acid grassland	
Fungi	<i>Entoloma porphyrophaeum</i> Lilac Pinkgill	VU	Grasslands		
Fungi	<i>Entoloma prunuloides</i> Mealy Pinkgill	VU	Grasslands	Lowland dry acid grassland	
Fungi	<i>Clavulinopsis umbrinella</i> Beige Coral		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Two sites in fungal-rich grasslands
Fungi	<i>Cortinarius epsomensis</i>		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Associated with Rockrose
Fungi	<i>Cortinarius cisticola</i>		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Associated with Rockrose
Fungi	<i>Tricholoma hemisulphureum</i>		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Associated with Rockrose
Lichens	<i>Bacidia incompta</i>	S41; VU	Farm & Village		Associated with veteran trees
Lichens	<i>Catapyrenium psoromoides</i>	S41; CR			Very rare in UK; on one Ash tree
Lichens	<i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i>		Woodlands	Wood-pasture & Parkland	Now rare in Dorset associated with veteran trees
Lichens	<i>Sticta sylvatica</i>		Woodlands	Wood-pasture & Parkland	The only Dorset on two Oak trees

Group:	Species	Status	Broad Habitat	Priority habitat	
Lichens	<i>Usnea articulata</i>	S41; NT	Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Wood-pasture & Parkland	West Dorset a UK stronghold
Lichens	<i>Wadeana dendrographa</i>	S41; NT	Farm & Village		Associated with veteran Ash trees
Butterflies	<i>Hamearis lucina</i> Duke of Burgundy	S41; VU	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Several colonies on western and northern chalk slopes. Now very rare in Dorset
Butterflies	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> Marsh Fritillary	S41; VU	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Several colonies on chalk downland rich in Devil's-bit Scabious
Butterflies	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i> Grizzled Skipper	S41; VU	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Scattered colonies across the chalk
Butterflies	<i>Erynnis tages</i> Dingy Skipper	S41	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Widespread on the chalk
Butterflies	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i> Adonis Blue	VU	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Scattered colonies on south-facing chalk slopes
Butterflies	<i>Cupido minimus</i> Small Blue	S41; NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Very local
Butterflies	<i>Plebeius agestis</i> Brown Argus		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Widespread in chalk grassland
Butterflies	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> Small Heath	S41; VU	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Widespread in chalk grassland
Butterflies	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i> Dark Green Fritillary	NT	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Very local in chalk grassland
Butterflies	<i>Lasiommata megera</i> Wall	S41; EN	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Local in chalk grassland; a declining species inland
Moths	<i>Hemaris tityus</i> Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk	S41	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Several colonies on chalk slopes with abundant Devil's-bit Scabious
Moths	<i>Parasemia plataginis</i> Wood Tiger		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Several colonies on the chalk
Moths	<i>Adscita geryon</i> Cistus Forester	NS	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Rare in chalk grassland with abundant Rockrose
Moths	<i>Adscita statices</i> Forester	S41	Grasslands		One site in neutral grassland
Moths	<i>Pyrausta nigrata</i>		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Moths	<i>Sedina buettneri</i> Blair's Wainscot		Grasslands		One site in abandoned watermeadow
Bees	<i>Osmia bicolor</i> Red-tailed Mason Bee		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Widespread in scrubby chalk downland
Bees	<i>Andrena bucephala</i> Big-headed Mining Bee		Farm & Village	Hedgerows	Several sites; forages from Hawthorn
Bees	<i>Andrena fulvago</i> Hawk's-beard Mining Bee		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Bees	<i>Andrena hattorfiana</i> Large Scabious Mining Bee		Grasslands		One site; associated with <i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Bees	<i>Andrena trimmerana</i> Trimmer's Mining Bee		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Bees	<i>Lasioglossum xanthopus</i> Yellow Footed Furrow Bee		Grasslands		
Bees	<i>Melitta haemorrhoidalis</i> Gold-tailed Melitta		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Forages from Hareball
Bees	<i>Nomada flavopicta</i> Blunthorn Nomad Bee		Grasslands		Cleptoparasite of <i>Melitta</i> species
Bees	<i>Nomada hirtipes</i> Long-horned Nomad Bee		Farm & Village	Hedgerows	Scarce in Dorset

Group:	Species	Status	Broad Habitat	Priority habitat	
Flies	<i>Bomylius discolor</i> Dotted Beefly		Grasslands	Hedgerows	Widely distributed; increasing?
Flies	<i>Nemotelus pantherinus</i> Fen Snout	NS	Wetlands	Lowland Fens	Several sites in base-rich fens
Flies	<i>Oxycera rare</i>		Wetlands	Lowland Fens	Several sites in base-rich fens
Flies	<i>Oxycera trilineata</i>		Wetlands	Lowland Fens	Several sites in base-rich fens
Flies	<i>Sargus flavipes</i> Yellow-legged Centurion	NS	Farm & Village		
Flies	<i>Sargus iridatus</i> Iridescent Centurion		Farm & Village		
Flies	<i>Stratiomys potamida</i> Banded General		Wetlands		Local in fens; possibly increasing
Flies	<i>Thecophora fulvipes</i> Orange-thighed Beegrabber	NS	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Flies	<i>Xanthogramma citrofasciatum</i>		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Very local associated with Yellow Meadow Ant.
Flies	<i>Criorhina floccosa</i>		Woodlands		
Flies	<i>Chalcosyrphus eunotus</i>	NS	Woodlands	Wet woodland	Found on dead wood in streams
Beetles	<i>Altica brevicollis</i>	NS	Farm & Village	Hedgerows	Associated with Hazel; Dorset a stronghold
Beetles	<i>Lebia cruximinator</i>	EN	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	One site; rare in the UK
Beetles	<i>Timarcha goettingensis</i> Lesser Bloody-nosed Beetle		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Found in short chalk turf
Beetles	<i>Cryptocephalus aureolus</i>		Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Associated with yellow composites
Beetles	<i>Cryptocephalus bipunctatus</i>	NS	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Beetles	<i>Meloe rugosus</i> Rugged Oil-beetle	NS	Farm & Village		Several sites in churchyards
Beetles	<i>Mononychus punctumalbum</i> Iris Weevil	NS	Wetlands	Lowland Fens	Associated with Yellow Iris
Bugs	<i>Thyreocoris scarabaeoides</i> Scarab Shieldbug	NS	Grasslands	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Associated with Hairy Violet in short chalk turf
Birds	<i>Apus apus</i> Swift	Red	Farm & village		Breeds very locally in some villages
Birds	<i>Delichon urbicum</i> House Martin	Red	Farm & village		
Birds	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> Swallow		Farm & village		
Birds	<i>Columba oenas</i> Stock Dove	Amber	Farm & village		
Birds	<i>Tyto alba</i> Barn Owl		Farm & village		
Birds	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> Kingfisher	Amber	Wetlands	Rivers	
Birds	<i>Picus viridis</i> Green Woodpecker		Farm & village		
Birds	<i>Falco subbuteo</i> Hobby		Farm & village		
Birds	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> Kestrel	Amber	Farm & village		
Birds	<i>Poecile palustris</i> Marsh Tit	S41; Red	Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Local in woodlands

Group:	Species	Status	Broad Habitat	Priority habitat	
Birds	<i>Alauda arvensis</i> Skylark	S41; Red	Farm & Village		
Birds	<i>Sylvia curruca</i> Lesser Whitethroat		Grasslands		Associated with scrub
Birds	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i> Dipper	Amber	Wetlands	Rivers	
Birds	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i> Mistle Thrush	Red	Farm & Village		
Birds	<i>Turdus philomelos</i> Song Thrush	S41; Amber	Farm & Village	Hedgerows	
Birds	<i>Muscicapa striata</i> Spotted Flycatcher	S41; Red	Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Now very local in woodland and parkland
Birds	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> Grey Wagtail	Amber	Wetlands	Rivers	
Birds	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> Bullfinch	S41; Amber	Farm & Village	Hedgerows	
Birds	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i> Linnet	S41; Red	Farm & Village		
Birds	<i>Emberiza calandra</i> Corn Bunting	S41; Red	Farm & Village		Very local in mixed farmland on the chalk
Birds	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i> Yellowhammer	S41; Red	Farm & Village		Widespread
Mammals	Dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	S41; VU	Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Hedgerows	Scattered records in woods and hedgerows; perhaps overlooked
Mammals	Harvest Mouse <i>Micromys minutus</i>	S41; NT	Farm & Village		
Mammals	Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	S41; EN	Wetlands	Rivers	Recorded from several rivers
Mammals	Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	S41	Farm & Village		Records mainly in the east of the area
Mammals	Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	S41	Farm & Village		
Mammals	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	S41	Wetlands	Rivers	Recorded from most of the rivers
Mammals	Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	S41	Woodlands		
Mammals	Brown Long-eared Bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	S41	Woodlands		
Mammals	Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	S41	Woodlands		