

Avon Wildlife Trust Research

The Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) has conducted research on the wildlife species in various land and farm holdings in Kingston Seymour over several years. As part of their North Somerset Wetland Programme Restoration Small Grant Scheme, they conducted a land survey of Pool Farm in Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour on 25 September 2013. The survey included a comprehensive review of the wildlife and flora and fauna in the ditches, banks and surrounding grassland (mainly invertebrates and plants).

The 2013 review found the following:

- 33 Invertebrate species were found in one ditch and 31 in the second ditch. So, 63 in total. Invertebrates found included Amber Snail, 15 types of beetle, Bivalve mollusc, Bladder snail, Hoglouse, Leeches, Mayfly, Mus snail, Pond snail, Ramshorn snail (5 different species), 2 types of Shrimp (native and non-native), True bug, True fly, Valve snail, Water boatman (5 species). **Of the 63 invertebrates found, only one Shrimp *Gammarus zaddachi* is able to tolerate brackish water or any salinity. The remaining species are unable to tolerate any salinity.**
- Non-native shrimps and bladder snails were identified in the survey.
- **49 plant species were identified in the survey (in the ditches and banks), most species identified were either intolerant to salinity or were slightly tolerant. Only a few plants tolerated both saline and non-saline environments.**

This is one small example of the rich biodiversity of the ditches and rhynes in Kingston Seymour. Other examples of research carried out are available upon request.

This survey shows that the freshwater rhynes and ditches of Kingston Seymour are rich in biodiversity of invertebrates and plants, and any saltwater incursion would have a highly detrimental effect on their future survival.

Bird surveys by residents utilising the Merlin app



A Firecrest, January 2024

Up until recently and over many years, resident bird watchers and wildlife experts have spotted rare and endangered birds in Kingston Seymour on land proposed for salt marsh.

- In January 2024, a Firecrest was seen at Greenacres, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour and confirmed by an expert. See above photo. The Firecrest is incredibly rare in the UK.