

- In December 2023, a Merlin was seen by Peter Stuckey, landowner at Channel View Farm, Back Lane, Kingston Seymour (verified by a birdlife expert). Merlin is an endangered species in the UK, with only 1,300 pairs in the UK, mainly in North Yorkshire.
- There have been multiple sightings of Fieldfare, Tawny Owl, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Greenfinch, Tree Sparrows, Wagtails, Swallows, Buzzards and Kestrels at Mendip View Farm and by the Congresbury Yeo recently in 2024 and in previous years.
- Bob Watts of Middle Lane Kingston Seymour is an expert on birds and wildlife and has conducted bird surveys and bat surveys in Kingston Seymour. His records include sightings of the following:
Red List - Greenfinch – species on the Green list previously (sudden decline), Linnet, Tree Sparrow, House Sparrow, Starling, Skylark, Yellow Wagtail, Mistle Thrush, Field Fair, Spotted flycatcher, Cuckoo, Curlew, Merlin, Lapwing, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Herring gull and Swift
Amber List – Oyster Catcher, Teal, Moorhen, Cattle Egret, Sparrowhawks, Wrens, Redshank, Kestrel, Rook, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Redwings

Indicator Species – Owls and Frogs

Birds of prey such as owls are often referred to as Indicator Species reflecting the health of an ecosystem including healthy breeding. Where owl numbers plummet, this shows conservationists that their natural habitat of rough grassland is declining or at risk, and the other wildlife which depends on this habitat, such as bats, butterflies and insects, and other wildlife may be under threat.

<https://thewildlifecommunity.co.uk/pages/owls#:~:text=Owls%20as%20Indicator%20Species&text=If%20owls%20are%20in%20decline,wildlife%20%E2%80%93%20may%20be%20under%20threat.>

- **Orchards at Ham Farm and Mendip View Farm (Ham Lane and Yeo Bank Road, Kingston Seymour) both have a healthy breeding population of Little Owls, as confirmed by Chris Sperring MBE, the Owl Expert. Chris is a professional wildlife Conservationist working for the Hawk and Owl Trust, he also presents and broadcasts on TV and Radio. In some areas these owls are critically endangered due to habitat destruction, agricultural practice (insecticides). Orchards are the Little Owls' preferred habitats and their presence in Kingston Seymour indicates that the overall ecosystem in this area is in good health.**
- Dowlais Farm on Lower Strode Road Kingston Seymour has healthy populations of Barn Owl, Tawny Owl and Little Owl, which indicates that the surrounding ecosystem is healthy.

Frogs are also an indicator species. Frogs are spotted on a regular basis all over Kingston Seymour including in the ditches and rhynes and in residential gardens.

Rare and endangered wildlife make a home in Kingston Seymour:

- **River otters are seen often in the rhynes and ditches of the Congresbury Yeo and Lower Strode Road. The Village Facebook page regularly shows videos of otters in these areas of Kingston Seymour. The presence of otters is a sign of improving water quality.**
- **Rare and endangered butterflies**

- Rare orchids e.g. Wasp Orchids close to Wharf Farm and along the sea wall, as seen by Jo Hedger.

Species	Species types	Notes
Amphibians	Common Frog	
	Common Toad	
	Great Crested Newt	Endangered Species
	Smooth Newt	
	Palmate Newt	
Bats	Greater Horseshoe Bat	Red List
	Daubenton's Bat	
	Serotine Bat	
	Common Pipistrelle Bat	
	Sopano Pipistrelle Bat	
Birds	Magpie	
	Jay	
	Carrion Crow	
	Jackdaw	
	Raven	
	Rook	Amber List
	Greenfinch	Red List
	Goldfinch	
	Linnet	Red List
	Chaffinch	
	Bull Finch	Amber List
	Tree Sparrow	Red List
	House Sparrow	Red List
	Hedge Sparrow	
	Brambling	
	Yellow Bunting	
	Reed Bunting	Amber List
	Starling	Red List
	Skylark	Red List
	Pied Wagtail	
	Grey Wagtail	
	Yellow Wagtail	Red List
	Tree Creeper	
	Nuthatch	
	Goldcrest	
	Great Tit	
	Coal Tit	
	Blue Tit	
	Long Tailed Tit	
	ChiffChaff	Red List

	Sedge Warbler	Amber List
	Reed Warbler	
	Blackcap	
	Whitethroat	Amber List
	Garden Warbler	
	Mistle Thrush	Red List
	Song Thrush	Red List
	Black Bird	
	Fieldfare	Red List
	Redwing	Amber List
	Robin	
	House Martin	
	Swallow	
	Spotted Flycatcher	Red List
	Wren	Amber List
	Green Woodpecker	
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	
	Cuckoo	Red List
	Swift	Red List
	Kingfisher	
	Barn Owl	
	Little Owl	
	Tawny Owl	Amber List
	Buzzard	
	Peregrine	
	Falcon	
	Sparrow Hawk	Amber List
	Kestrel	Amber List
	Hobby	
	Red Kite	
	Cormorant	
	Mute Swan	
	Canada Goose	
	Shelduck	Amber List
	Mallard	
	Teal	Amber List
	Tufted Duck	
	Goosander	
	Heron	
	Little Egret	
	Common Snipe	
	Redshank	Amber List
	Curlew	Red List

	Green Sandpiper	
	Common Sandpiper	Amber List
	Lapwing	Red List
	Ringed Plover	Red List
	Oystercatcher	Amber List
	Herring Gull	Red List
	Lesser black backed gull	Amber List
	Black headed gull	Amber List
	Water Rail	
	Moorhen	Amber List
	Coot	
	Stock Dove	
	Wood Pigeon	Amber List
	Collared Dove	
	Pheasant	
	Black Winged Pratincole	
Butterflies	Small Skipper	
	Large Skipper	
	Brimstone	
	Clouded Yellow	
	Large White	
	Small White	
	Orange Tip	
	Green Veined White	
	Small Copper	
	Brown Pireus	
	Common Blue	
	Holly Blue	
	Red Admiral	
	Painted Lady	
	Small Tortoiseshell	
	Peacock	
	Comma	
	Speckled Wood	
	Marbled White	
	Gatekeeper	
	Meadow Brown	
	Ringlet	
Dragonflies / Damselflies	Banded Demoiselle	
	Common Blue Damselfly	

	Emperor Dragonfly	
	Southern Hawker	
	Blue Tailed Skimmer	
	Broad Boded Chaser	
Fish	Roach	
	Tench	
	Rudd	
	Pike	
	Stickleback	
	Perch	
Mammals	Hedgehog	
	Mole	
	Common Shrew	
	Pygmy Shrew	
	Water shrew	
	Rabbit	
	Brown Hare	
	Grey Squirrel	
	Bank Vole	Red List for Mammals
	Field Vole	Red List for Mammals
	Wood Mouse	
	Brown Rat	
	Red Fox	
	Badger	Protected status
	Otter	
	Stoat	
	Weasel	
	Mink	
Otter	River Otter	Protected status
Reptiles	Grass Snake	
	Slow Worm	
Watervole	Water vole	Red List for Mammals

None of these species will thrive in a coastal / saline environment. Saltwater incursion would destroy the natural ecosystem and habitat for a huge number of species. Destroying one habitat to create another less biodiverse habitat is unethical and environmentally damaging, threatening hundreds of species some of which are already endangered. This would amount to environmental vandalism.