

Work for the Stinsford plan – Summary of Wildlife Interest
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Sources- Nature of Dorset
British Geological Survey
Butterfly Conservation
Wikipedia
The River Restoration Centre(report on the Frome)
National Biodiversity Network atlas
DEFRA
Geology

The geological features bounding the Parish are;
To the north, towards Waterston Ridge, Mesozoic(65million+years old) layers of the Upper Chalk.
To the south, alluvial deposits created by the River Frome and its associated channels.
In between these two are Quaternary (less than 2.5 million years old)deposits, mostly poorly stratified clays and sandy clays, often with flints washed out from the Chalk during the last Ice Age.
Below is a Geological Map covering the Parish.

map to be inserted

The yellow green areas represent chalk, the pale yellow alluvial deposits associated with the river Frome. In between the two are the Quaternary deposits.

Wildlife Habitat Types.	Example
Broadleaved Wood	Thorncombe wood
Mixed Broadleaved and Coniferous wood.	TBC
Parkland.	Kingston Maurward
Calcareous Grassland. limited strips	Waterston Ridge, very
Dry Heath.	Small amount near edge of Thorncombe Wood
Watermeadow.	Floodplain of the River Frome
Ditches and streams.	Either side of the Hardy Way south of Kingston Maurward
Ponds.	Heedless William Pond
Rivers.	The River Frome and its associated channels

Clearly the wildlife present is determined by the habitats available.

Many of the species recorded are associated with the watercourses, rivers and other bodies of water in the parish.

Mammals

Large mammals noted are badgers, foxes, roe deer and otters.

Otters have made a major comeback in the county- a DEFRA survey of 2001/2002 reported widespread signs of them on the River Frome.

Smaller mammals noted include the dormouse, the water vole and the water shrew. (Bats...)

Reptiles and Amphibians

All 3 British Snakes have been sighted (Adders, Grass and Smooth Snakes-the last near Thornecombe Wood)

Palmate and Smooth Newts (in ponds).

Fish

With good water quality reported there are a number of species seen including brown trout and salmon. Grayling, dace and roach breed in the Stinsford Branch of the River Frome. Eels (personal sighting) and lampreys have been seen.

Birds

Again many of the species are associated with water.

Notably kingfisher, water rail, grey wagtail, marsh tit and mute swan.

Also reed, sedge and Cetti's warblers.

Local raptors include little, barn and tawny owls as well as

Sparrow hawks and kestrels, with buzzards being the most often seen.

Large numbers of jackdaws roost in the oriental plane next to Stinsford Church.

There is a large rookery next to the A35 south of Higher Kingston Farm.

Insects and spiders

Butterfly Conservation has recorded 28 butterfly species within the parish.

Of these the most spectacular is the Silver Washed Fritillary (Thornecombe Wood), a species noted for its spectacular courtship flight.

A less common species is the Silver Studded Blue found on the dry heath near Thornecombe Wood.

Also the dry heath the green tiger beetle is noted.

The watery habitats are good for dragonflies including Emperor and Golden Ringed Dragonflies and the less common 4 Spotted Chaser.

Also associated with water are the Wolf Spider and the more fully aquatic Raft Spider- one of Britain's largest species.

Plants

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