

Landscape and wildlife

wintorsbourne
medieval
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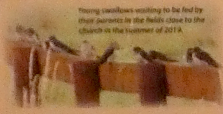
Field, hedgerow and churchyard

The countryside around Wintorsbourne Medieval Barn, St Michael's Church and the houses that make up this tiny community, have on the level of Church Lane, has not changed significantly for centuries. It is an historic rural landscape where traditional farmland species, many of which are elsewhere, can still be seen.

These include birds like the Yellowhammer and the Linnet. Birds require a good supply of plant seeds.

Lighter also include the Spotted Flycatcher and Swallow. Both species catch insects on the wing. Their presence is a healthy indication of a healthy population of flying insects.

Young swallows waiting to be fed by their parents in the fields close to the church in the summer of 2014.



Insects, particularly beetles and grasshoppers, are the staple diet of the Little Owl, which will also take small or young weevils, frogs and mammals. Many of these insects will be discovered in the grass and wild flower margins that border the fields. These provide food and shelter for butterflies like the Gatekeeper and the Ringlet.

Old warm summer days bring for the calls of grasshoppers and crickets, as you follow the footpaths around the area.

Some of these species find their way into the churchyard, where rather areas are left to grow, providing more valuable habitats for wildlife.

They will be joined by other species known to favour churchyards as a habitat, such as the Holly Blue butterfly. The lichen-covered headstones provide places for insects to sun themselves and hunt their prey.

A Zebra Jumping Spider signals a warning to another, encroaching on its patch.



Yellowhammer



Skylark



Spotted Flycatcher



Gatekeeper



Little Owl



Soldier Beetle



Short-winged Conehead