

Flora and Fauna of the Langton & Stour Meadows

There are too many species to list here so this panel shows a few of each, which may be found at varying times of the year in the vicinity of the arches on both banks. Each bird species has a QR link to its own page on the RSPB site, including its song. Open Camera app, move phone towards code till yellow brackets appear on screen; click browser link.

Local Geology

The Stour flows southwards between the high points of Hod Hill in the East and Bulbarrow in the West, breaking through the elevated chalk ridge to form the Blandford section of the river. The reason for this route remains a mystery, but a likely theory might be fracturing of the Chalk above a reactivated underlying fault in the basement rocks below.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*



Otter *Lutra lutra*

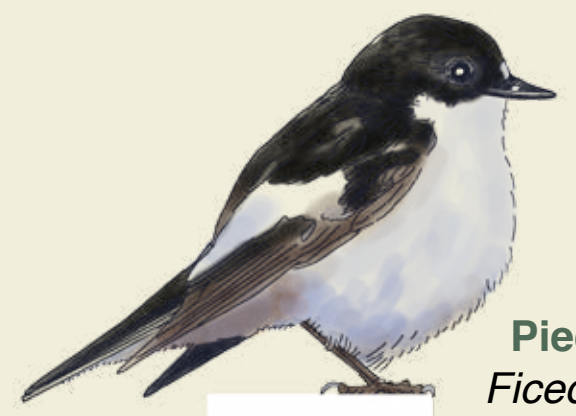


Goldfinch
Carduelis carduelis



Crows & Jackdaws - what's the difference?

The carrion crow *Corvus corone* (Left) has a longer beak than the jackdaw, *Corvus monedula* (Right). The carrion crow is all black while the jackdaw has grey feathers on his neck and a pale grey eye. Crows eat carrion, insects, worms, seeds, fruit, eggs and any scraps; jackdaws eat insects, young birds and eggs, fruit, seeds and scraps



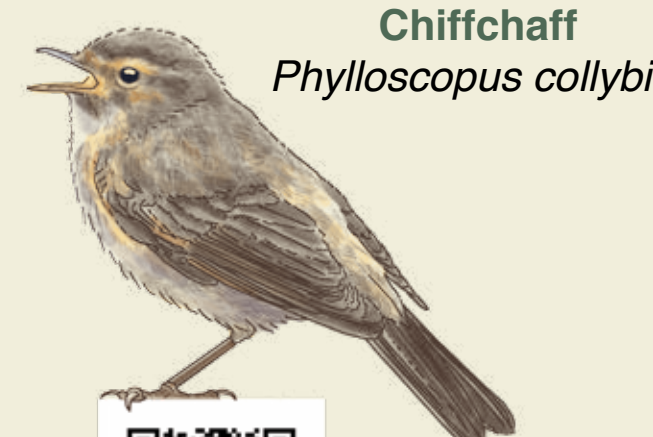
Pied Flycatcher
Ficedula hypoleuca



Blackcap
Sylvia atricapilla



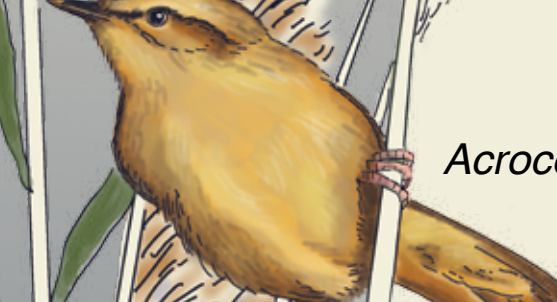
Hawfinch
Coccothraustes coccothraustes



Chiffchaff
Phylloscopus collybita



Little Egret
Egretta garzetta



Sedge Warbler
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus



Grey Heron
Ardea cinerea



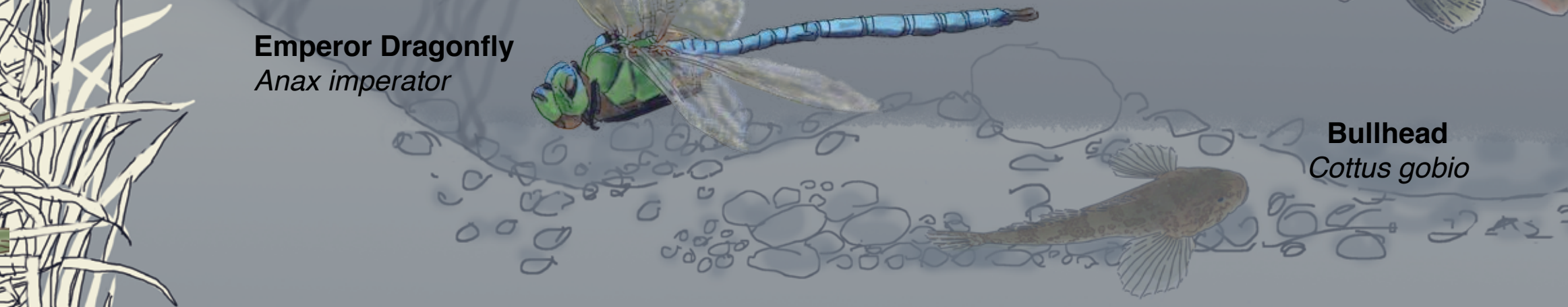
West Country Class 'Blandford Forum' heads The Pines Express, going South across the Stour from Manchester to Bournemouth.



Otter
Lutra lutra



Brown Trout
Salmo trutta



Emperor Dragonfly
Anax imperator



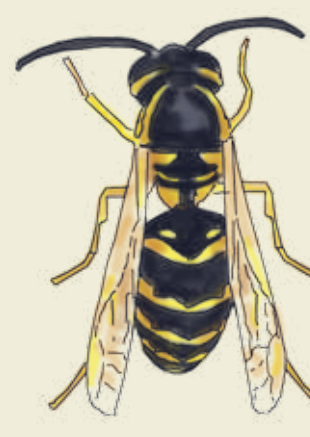
Bullhead
Cottus gobio



Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly
Aglais urticae



Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria

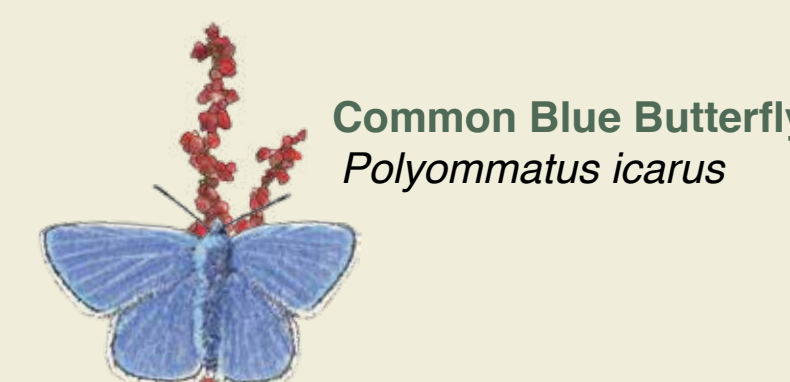


Wasp
Vespula vulgaris



Hoverfly
Volucella inanis

Don't swat the hover fly (Left): she's harmless and a good pollinator! She only looks like a wasp (Right) to stop birds from eating her. Her flight is different from the wasp's: she hovers in the air, then whizzes away, but the wasp zig-zags; she has only one pair of wings (the wasp has two pairs), and short, stubby antennae (the wasp's are long and slim); she has large round eyes (the wasp's are kidney shaped), and no real waistline (the wasp's waist is distinctively pinched in). Try not to kill wasps as they also pollinate plants and control garden pests



Common Blue Butterfly
Polyommatus icarus



Small Skipper
Thymelicus sylvestris



Grey Redshank
Persicaria maculosa



Water Forget-me-not
Myosotis scorpioides



Meadow Brown Butterfly
Maniola jurtina



Pineappleweed
Matricaria discoidea



Common Sorrel
Rumex acetosella

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*