

Worthing A27 Option D Downland Section: Impact on ground nesting bird species

Grey partridge and Corn Bunting breeding territory Purpose 1, SQ 2,3,4

The fields between Lambleys Lane and Church Lane have been successfully brought into sympathetic management to provide breeding and feeding habitat for wild Grey Partridge, Corn Bunting and other ground nesting farmland birds which now breed there.



The Estate's Managing Trustee is on the Steering Group of the South Downs Farmland Bird Initiative, a partnership between land managers, the Park Authority, RSPB GWCT and others.

These two Red List species are iconic target species for conservation in this part of the South Downs National Park. They are dependent on the kind of mixed rotational farm habitat associated with traditional chalk downland livestock farm management with spring barley, fodder crops and grassland, as practised by Sompting Estate.

Reduction in available habitat for their breeding territories would be particularly damaging in this narrowest section of the Park (only 3 miles from here to Steyning, whereas most of the Park is 6-15 miles across).