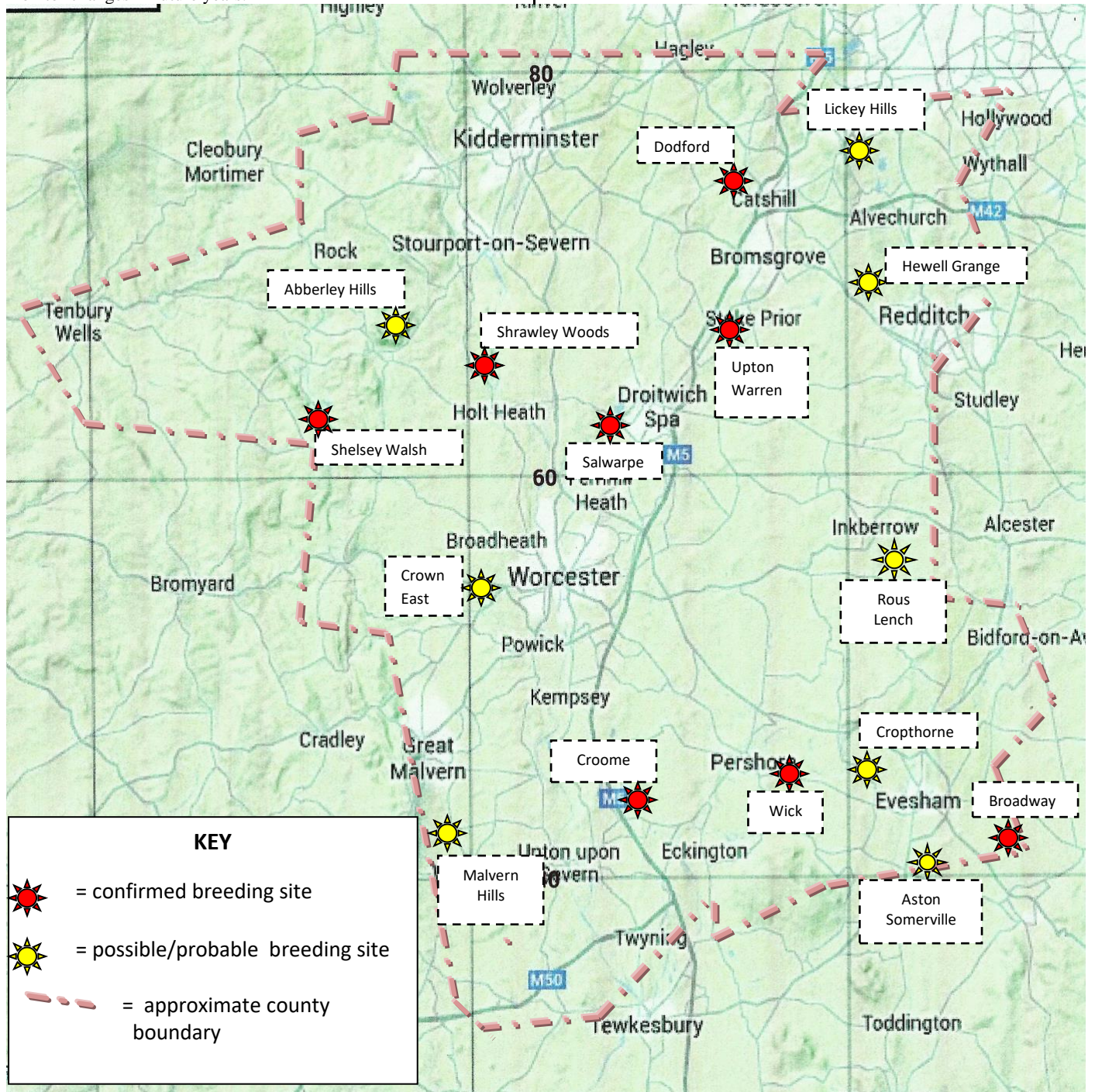


Ravens breeding in Worcestershire – 2016 update

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I previously wrote about the range expansion of ravens in Worcestershire, summarising the period from 2008 to 2011 (Metcalf 2015). Since then, I have attempted to survey as many breeding sites as possible and this brief update gives the 2016 findings. The longer term aim is to be able to quantify the breeding population and monitor changes in future years.

The map locates both confirmed breeding sites (where adults with young were observed) and possible breeding sites (where adults were displaying territorial behaviours by a suspected nest site). The information comes from my own observations and those of several experienced birdwatchers around the county. I hope to expand this putative network of recorders in future years to generate a more complete picture.



01. Confirmed and possible breeding raven sites in Worcestershire – 2016

Details of each site are as follows:

CONFIRMED

Dodford: One fledged young seen with adults. Nest also used in 2015.

Shrawley Woods: Two/three young being fed in nest. Fledging success unknown. Nest used in previous years.

Upton Warren: Two young seen in nest. Possibly two seen fledged with adults. Nest also used in 2015.

Shelsey Walsh: One fledged young seen with adults.

Salwarpe: One fledged young seen with adults. Same nest site used in several previous years with greater fledging success.

Croome: Pair seen nesting at site used in several previous years.

Wick: Adults seen at nest. Fledging unknown.

Broadway: Three fledged young seen with adults. Breeding observed in previous years.

POSSIBLE

Lickey Hills: Adult seen carrying food towards previous years' nest site.

Abberley Hills: Adults seen displaying over potential nest site.

Hewell Grange: Adults seen on suspected nest site.

Rous Lench: Adults seen defending previous years' nest site.

Crown East: Adults seen defending potential nest site used in a previous year.

Crophorne: Adults seen at potential nest site and reported to have bred near previous year's site.

Aston Somerville: Adult seen patrolling previous year's nest site.

Malvern Hills: Adults regularly seen around northern and southern quarries. Possibly two pairs suspected of breeding in this and previous years.

There are some glaring gaps in this summary of breeding sites, notably Wyre Forest, around Tenbury Wells and the exact status of ravens on the Malverns. These gaps will become a focus for 2017. Another interesting feature of this summary is the apparently poor fledging success of some nests, for which I have no obvious explanation. Once again, I invite readers of *Worcestershire Record* to send me any comments or observations to the email address above. Many thanks in advance.



01. Raven digiscoped from my flat in Worcester in November 2012.
Mike Metcalf

Reference

Metcalf, M. 2015. The spread of the Northern Raven *Corvus corax* in Worcestershire. *Worcestershire Record* 38:33-34.

Image

01. Raven digiscoped from my flat in Worcester in November 2012.
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