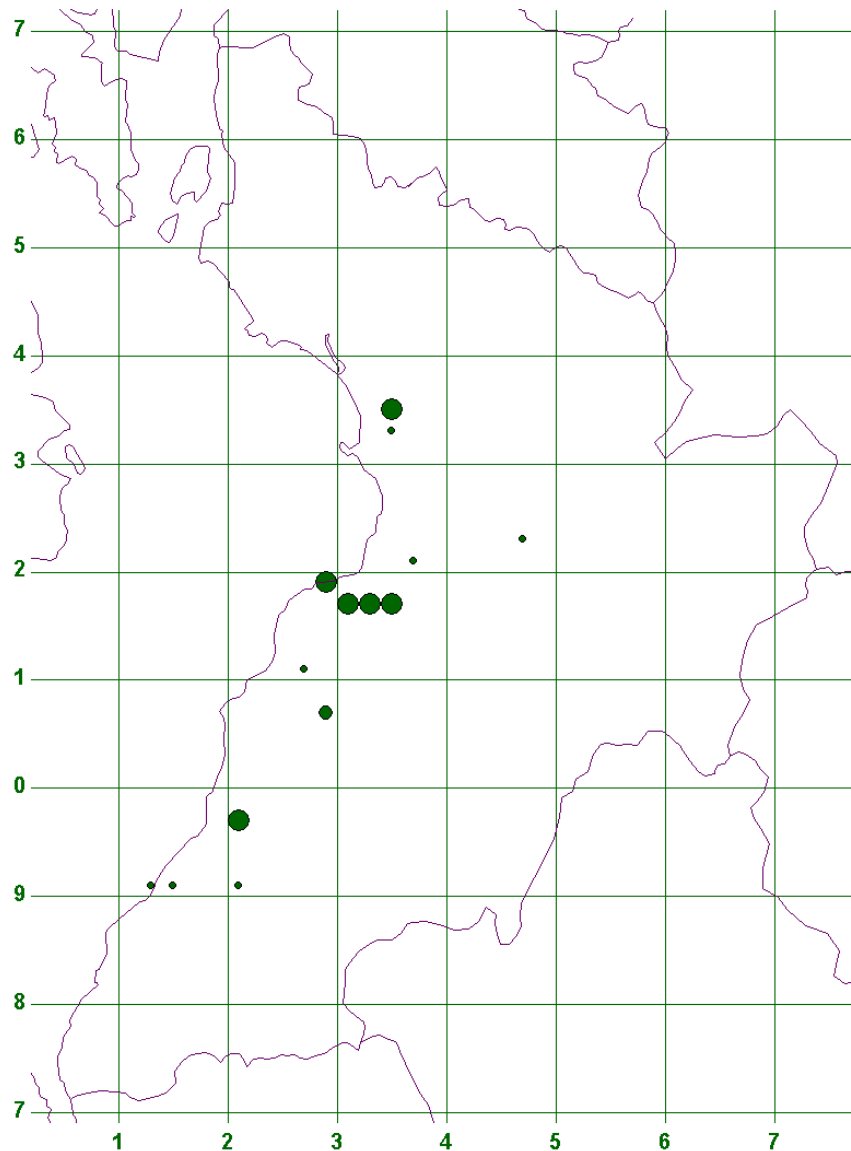


Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)



Status: Scarce breeder

Current trend: Lesser Whitethroats staged a range expansion into Ayrshire, beginning in the early 1980s. Since then, their progress, although very slow, has been steady, and is probably limited by habitat availability. Extensive work has been carried out by Tom Byars since the species' arrival in the county, and it may be that much of this expansion is linked to climate fluctuation, being on the North-western edge of its range. The map shows sites discovered between 1991 and 1997, its numbers and distribution having expanded since then.

Future work: It is extremely important that the habitat currently present at the limited number of Lesser Whitethroat sites is afforded full protection.