

Appendix 6 – Conservation Plan

Bletchington and Hampton Gay and Poyle
Neighbourhood Development Plan

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Acknowledgements

Many people inevitably lend a hand in a project like this, and we are particularly indebted to those who are listed below.

For grant aid: The Big Lottery Fund ‘Awards For All’ Grant Scheme. We have been incredibly fortunate and we are deeply grateful for this financial assistance.

For access to private land: Chris Lane, Paul Bagnell, Nick Crawford, Trevor Taylor, Edward Hedges, Dr Peagram, Graham Hill, Martin Hill, Aubrey Calcutt: Trustees of A. Deeley. Without this privilege this report would not have been as complete.

For organising and writing the plan: Julie Benton

For conservation plan logo: Will Ralph

For front and back cover photographs: Nick Williams, Fiona Teddy, Will Ralph, Julie Benton, Roger Burgman, Elizabeth Hodgson

For the bird and moth surveys: Julian Howe

For photographs: All photographs courtesy of the residents of Bletchingdon parish unless otherwise stated.

For background information, survey reports, old maps, hedgerow survey material, weather information and general advice: Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre (TVERC), in particular Gavin Bird and Julie Kerans, Butterfly Conservation, Sue Marchand the Oxfordshire County Council Biodiversity & Countryside Officer, Claire Phillipson of Countryside Service Oxford County Council, Cynth Napper of Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum (ONCF), The Kirtlington Wildlife and Conservation Society (KWACS), notably Chris Mason, Oxfordshire County Library, Oxfordshire History Centre, Reg Tipping of Oxfordshire Bat Group, British Trust for Ornithology (Oxfordshire bird recorders), Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, Campaign to Protect Rural England (Oxfordshire) (CPRE), Land Management Adviser, Mike Robinson, of Natural England (Bucks & Oxon team) and Met Office.

For volunteering: We would very much like to thank all the volunteers that have helped in the production of this plan. Producing the plan has been very much a community event and many people have been involved in it – attending meetings, making comments, researching data, taking photographs, fund raising and carrying out surveys.

S.0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: THE BLETCHINGTON PARISH CONSERVATION PLAN
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- S.1 This report assesses the wildlife present in the parish of Bletchingdon. It is a record of each of the main habitat types and areas of particular wildlife value present in the parish. It concentrates on plant and animal wildlife and sets out some suggestions for looking after it.
- S.2 The study comprised of three main phases: habitat classification and evaluation (brief general survey), more detailed survey of each habitat type (selected sites surveyed), a written conservation plan (present report).
- S.3 In addition to the above, relevant information was also gathered from a variety of organisations, notably from Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC).
- S.4 Habitats were classified according to their vegetation types or local character areas. Of the 16 main habitat types identified in the habitat surveys, eight can be identified as UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats and are included in the Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan. A total of 4 habitats were not surveyed.
- S.5 There are five Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within the parish of Bletchingdon and one Conservation Target Area.
- S.6 The habitats of 64 sites within the parish have been surveyed. Sites varied, one from another, in both size and appearance as well as in number and the selection of plants found growing within each. Most sites were visited several times in order to record earlier and later flowering species.
- S.7 The map provided by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) showed 536 hedgerows existing within Bletchingdon parish boundary, and 132 of these have been located and visited in the survey.
- S.8 Bletchingdon parish supports a tremendous range of species, some of which are UK & Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species.
- S.9 A total of 92 bird species have been recorded for the parish of Bletchingdon including 19 UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority bird species, 16 species on the red list and 26 species on the amber list.
- S.10 The Bletchingdon parish butterfly fauna is 43% of the UK butterfly fauna and includes the rare Black Hairstreak butterfly.
- S.11 A very large number of moths were recorded: 197 macro species and 77 micro species.

- S.12 Overall, Bletchingdon Parish contains a wide range of wildlife habitats and species which contribute to its biological, economic and social well-being.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Bletchingdon Parish Council is committed to conserving its biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006. This conservation plan has been prepared by Julie Benton on behalf of the Bletchingdon Parish Council to fulfil this responsibility. This conservation plan was prepared between March 2011 and August 2012. **The content was reviewed and updated in 2024 and 2025 to support the development of the Bletchingdon and Hampton Gay and Poyle Neighbourhood Plan. New wildlife observations that have been reported. There have been no significant changes in land use and hence habitat designation.**

The council recognises that the special character of our parish is highly valued and must be retained. Over the years the parish has always changed and will continue to do so. Some change is inevitable and desirable as we seek to balance the social, economic and environmental demands. But change should be well managed, and good management requires reliable information to measure progress, stimulate debate and inform decisions. This conservation plan on the wildlife present in Bletchingdon Parish is one such source of information.

This conservation plan is a record about each of the main habitat types and areas of particular wildlife value present in the parish. It concentrates on plant and animal wildlife and sets out some suggestions for looking after it. It includes some geology, because the soils and underlying rocks have a great influence on vegetation. It also takes account of some archaeology and history, because there is a long history of human settlement and movement through the parish, and the human communities and their management of the land have had a major impact on the wildlife communities. Present and future land use are also included.

Whilst building on the experience and foundations laid by previous surveys, this conservation plan is the result of many hours in the field. Producing the plan has been very much a community event and many people have been involved in it – attending meetings, making comments, researching data, taking photographs, fund raising and carrying out surveys.

All plants and animals mentioned in the text can be found locally, many are common, some less often seen, and some may be restricted to a particular habitat, but all were recorded within the parish boundary. There are a few, however, which grow on private land away from paths of any kind. We are grateful to the various landowners who, without exception, gave the surveyors permission to look at otherwise inaccessible places. It is out of consideration for those landowners that information

about exact locations of some of the plants and animals mentioned in the text has been restricted.

No Parish Conservation Plan is ever going to be comprehensive and a complete record of everything growing or living in an area. It can only provide a statement of what the recorder saw during a particular period of time.

Living systems are dynamic, changing all the time. Nevertheless, the lists that follow throughout the text and appendices give a good indication of the present plant and animal wildlife within Bletchington Parish.

As guardians of our community and our landscape so to speak, the main purpose of the plan was to conduct a wildlife survey to provide an overview of all the different wildlife habitats within the parish, and put forward guidelines to help how they may be maintained or improved not only for current conservation work but also as a lasting legacy for generations to come. This plan has suggestion boxes throughout.

1.2 Methodology

- 1.2.1 The aim of the plan was to establish and maintain a record of the wildlife present in the parish of Bletchington. The plan included all land within the parish boundary of Bletchington. The parish boundary is shown in figure 1.0. (page 12). Previous environmental surveys have used the parish boundaries.

The plan comprised of three main phases:

1. Habitat classification and evaluation (brief general survey)
2. More detailed survey of each habitat type (selected sites surveyed)
3. Written conservation plan (present report)

The plan was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines for Parish Nature Conservation Appraisal: A Practical Guide.

1.2.2 The objectives of the Conservation Plan

The main objectives of the plan which produced the present report were therefore:

- Identifying all the different habitat types within the parish
- Conducting surveys of the plants and animals within each habitat
- Identifying and suggesting ways to enhance the aesthetics of the parish
- Suggest ideas on how local wildlife resources may be maintained or improved
- Bringing local people together to discover, learn, enjoy and help look after the wildlife in their local area
- Using the data of the report to create an interactive website which local residents will be able to continually update and maintain

1.3 Habitat Classification and Evaluation – Phase One

1.3.1 Field surveys to establish the different habitat types in the parish were carried out in March and April 2011. Habitats were classified according to their vegetation types or local character areas and presented in a simple format. These were mapped on the ordnance survey map of scale 1:25,000 Pathfinder series. A full description of the various habitat types found within the parish is given in chapter 3.

1.3.2 A five point scale was used to rank the habitat types as follows:

- A. High conservation interest
- B. Conservation value
- C. Some conservation value
- D. Low conservation value but potential for habitat creation or improvement
- E. Not surveyed

There are two main reasons why some sites were not surveyed between March 2011 and August 2012:

- 1. no access gained to site location
- 2. available time needed to survey each site

1.4 Field Survey Methodology – Phase Two

1.4.1 It was considered necessary to supplement the existing information with field surveys for the following reasons:

- some sites not covered by existing designations could be of conservation value;
- it would enable the identification of sites which require more detailed survey work; and
- it could highlight potential sites suitable for habitat creation or habitat improvement

1.4.2 As most botanical information is best obtained during spring and summer months when plant identification is much easier field surveys were generally carried out between April and September 2011 and April to June 2012.

The surveys were organised by drawing up a list for a number of separate, localised areas within the overall boundary of the Parish. The term ‘sites’ is used to refer to these local focal points. We selected a range of sites, spread across the parish, embracing all of the habitat types to be found in the parish. Each site was chosen as a unit of a particular type of habitat: a woodland, for example, or a grassland. The sites contain, between them, as broad a cross-section view of the parish’s wild flowers as it was possible to make, and the records for these sites, taken together, provide the bulk, of the total number of species recorded.

Sites varied, one from another, in both size and appearance as well as in number and the selection of plants found growing within each. Most sites were visited several times in order to record earlier and later flowering species. Some sites changed dramatically during the course of the survey. Thus, for example, one grassland site was ploughed to become arable land.

Apart from boundary habitats, surveys were carried out by walking from north to south or east to west, passing through the centre (as near as), of each habitat type. Plants were recorded within about a 2m strip either side of where we walked and target notes were also made of the fauna observed. Particular effort was made to record any birds, butterflies, reptiles and mammals.

1.5 Consultation

1.5.1 In addition to the field surveys, information was also gathered from the following resources listed below:

- a) Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre (TVERC)
- b) Butterfly Conservation (butterflies & moths)
- c) Oxfordshire County Council Biodiversity & Countryside Officer
- d) Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum (ONCF)
- e) The Kirtlington Wildlife and Conservation Society (KWACS)
- f) Oxfordshire County Library
- g) Oxfordshire History Centre
- h) Oxfordshire Bat Group
- i) British Trust for Ornithology (Oxfordshire bird recorders)
- j) Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
- k) Campaign to Protect Rural England (Oxfordshire) (CPRE)
- l) Natural England (Bucks & Oxon team).
- m) Met Office

2.0 THE BLETCHINGTON PARISH CONSERVATION PLAN

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The Parish of Bletchington, which includes the hamlets of Enslow and Heathfield, is situated in the North Oxfordshire District of Cherwell and lies roughly mid-way between Oxford and Bicester. It covers an area of approximately 2,654 acres and is twice as long as it is broad. The parish, roughly like an axe head in shape, is bordered to the west by the River Cherwell which flows from north to south under Enslow Bridge. To the north are the parishes of Tackley and Kirtlington whilst Shipton, Hampton Gay, Hampton Poyle and Islip are neighbouring parishes along the southern boundary. The north east boundary is defined by Mill Stream which enters at Stonepit Ford and runs more or less along the entire eastern boundary with Weston-on-the-Green.

2.1.2 Geology and soil

The rocks underlying Bletchington parish were laid down millions of years ago as sediment by rivers, coastal lakes or the sea. Sands were deposited mainly along the shorelines and gravel along the rivers whereas clay was laid down in lakes and on the sea bed. Limestone formed where the sea was a coral reef.

Most of the south and east landscape of the parish lies on a level area of Oxford Clay while much of the elevated central area around Bletchington Village is capped with deposits of the Hanborough Terrace Gravel. The main outcrop can be clearly seen following the footpath behind Springwell Close towards Tackley. These free draining sandy gravel soils contrasting with the areas of seasonally wet heavy clay soils.

Apart from the alluvium found mostly by the banks of the River Cherwell in the west much of the clay here is bordered successively by Cornbrash, Forest Marble and Great Oolite (oolitic or rubbly). Cornbrash formation limestone is also found to the north and north east of the parish. Limestone is well-drained, alkaline and nutrient-poor.

These limestones of the Great Oolite Group in the past have yielded outstanding building stone for buildings, sculpture and stone slates for roofing. Much of this is evident in Bletchington particularly the 17th and 18th century style houses which edge Bletchington Park and the Village Green; all are constructed of natural limestone rubble with slate or stone-slate roofing. As well as the use of the stone for building the underlying geology is made obvious around the whole parish by the dry stone walls enclosing fields and dwellings.

2.1.3 Topography

Altitudes within the parish range from 212ft at its lowest on the eastern and south-eastern boundary to 328ft at Bletchington village roughly in the middle of the parish; descending again to 220ft at the River Cherwell level in the west.

2.1.4 Climate and hydrology

Bletchington parish has a temperature climate with an average annual temperature of about 14.1° C and about 642mm annual rainfall.

2.1.5 History of land use

Current land use patterns and trends in Bletchington parish reflect the parish's rich agricultural history, a post-medieval water mill, medieval manor, medieval field strip system, extensive heathlands, early land enclosure, turnpike road from Worcester to London, the building of the Oxford Canal and railway, and the growth and expansion of mechanised farming and additional roads.

There is mention of the parish from as early as the 7th century but the first written evidence appears in the Domesday Book of 1086AD. The parish's historical development is closely tied to its location near the River Cherwell where early settlements were developed at Enslow, the post-medieval watermill, for example, was already in existence at this time. The medieval manor, now known as Bletchington Park, was in the ownership of Gilbert of Robert d' Oilly, and was an estate evaluated at 8 hides (500-900 acres). During this time the manor also had links with the d'Amory family.

The land within the parish at the time of Domesday was a mixture of rough pasture, heathland (majority in the east of the parish at Heathfield) and cultivated plough-land and was divided between two estates, Gilbert d'Amory and Alwi the sheriff, both of which were cultivated by serfs. However, by the 13th century this had changed from serfdom to tenants.

The Domesday survey of 1086 focuses attention on open field farming. A farmer's land was divided into strips scattered over 2 or 3 great open fields. The strips were aggregated into furlongs and these into fields. Hedges were few and did not form enclosed circuits. The strips were ploughed in such a way as to form ridge-and-furrow. This ridge-and-furrow is still evident in some of the fields in Bletchington parish, particularly at Frognest Farm where two fields have not been ploughed since 1939.

With the steady growth of population from late Saxon times until the great plagues of 1348-50 meant that pastureland was eaten into to provide more arable land and the strip fields constantly expanded. However, having killed perhaps about a third of the peasant farmers the plagues disrupted manorial farming in the open fields.

Reduced demand from a smaller population forced down grain prices and brought new economic pressures and a gradual change in land-holding and farming methods. When the landlords of Bletchingdon parish could not find new tenants for the farms, the extensive heathland encouraged them to turn to sheep farming during the 15th and 16th centuries. They consolidated their holdings in the open fields and hedged them in as large 'closes' for sheep and cattle.

Vincent Poure, who succeeded to Bletchingdon Manor in 1526, saw new advantages in a changeover from arable farming to sheep, and through eviction and rent increases was able to turn out tenants and hedge in more of the open fields. By the end of the 16th century at least 800 acres of the open fields in Bletchingdon had been hedged in. Therefore, much of the pre 1544 enclosure of the parish may be attributed to Vincent Poure.

Throughout the 17th century, new field crops, sainfoil, clover and turnips, and new implements and methods became available to the farmers. For greater productivity, the improving farmers needed greater control over their land. This led to a great many tithe disputes within the parish but eventually in 1623 a tripartite indenture agreement was signed, which in turn completed the enclosure of the open fields and heathland within the parish. This however was not the norm as most of Bletchingdon parish was enclosed before the majority of the 1750-1860 enclosure parliamentary acts were passed. Nevertheless, it is evident from the tithe disputes that farming was clearly changing back from sheep to arable but it took until 1850, when agricultural prices were really booming, that the proportion of arable to pasture had risen to as much as 2:1.

Trackways that led from village to village in Saxon times developed into medieval market roads due to a growth in market centres that started to profit from the distribution of agricultural produce. The nearest market town to the parish was at Islip where Bletchingdon farmers could sell any surplus produce. The road we now call the Islip road (B4027) was known as the 'London Way' during the 16th-18th centuries and was the main Worcester to London road which entered at Enslow Bridge, passed through Bletchingdon village and left the parish at Islip Gate. One of the chief duties of parliament in the 18th century was to pass Acts for making, or improving, particular roads. The 'London Way' was made a turnpike in 1718 where a levy had to be paid to use the road.

Local traffic and population increased throughout the parish and the coming of the canal in the late 18th century increased it still further. The settlement at Enslow increased, where the 'London Way' crossed the Cherwell, there was an inn 'The Rock of Gibraltar', a wharf with wharfinger's house and stables, a double water-powered corn mill, brickyards, tileries and quarries. The oolitic limestone which outcropped near the surface at Bletchingdon quarry was used locally for walling material in buildings and dry stone walls. Though, this independence on local materials ended with the construction of the canal.

The canal was a cheap mode of transport for heavy goods such as coal, limestone, tar and cement which the tradesmen at Enslow used on a regular basis. The canal also enhanced the position of Bletchingdon parish farmers as a means for supplying and collecting goods such as wool and livestock. By the 1840's the canal was at its peak but the ultimate blow to the canals trade came in 1850 with the construction of the faster railway. This meant their income fell steadily and the canals decline never recovered. The Oxford Canal is now a 'narrow' waterway and the boats are not barges but narrow boats. Nevertheless, while the canal boom ended, farming remained a way of life and work for some of the parish's residents. In 1851 there were 10 farms with 100 acres and six farms with between 200-400 acres. By this time much of the uncultivated heathland at Heathfield had been drained, hedged and put into production.

In the early and mid-19th century farming in the parish prospered due to the rapid growth of successful towns such as Bicester and Banbury. These growing towns provided a huge market and the railways made it easier to transport produce. However, farming practices needed to change to meet the demand for a growing population. Hedgerow removal was part of the transition of arable land from low intensity to high intensity farming. The removal of hedgerows made larger fields, making sowing and harvesting easier, faster and cheaper, and giving a larger area to grow the crops, which in turn increased yield and profits.

The process was hastened in 1902 when farming became mechanised. The introduction of the tractor powered by the internal combustion engine set the stage for intense agricultural changes. As technology made intensive farming possible, and the increasing population demanded more food from the land, more hedgerows were removed to make larger and larger fields. The same applies to modern fields found within Bletchingdon parish today, formed from reorganising ancient enclosed fields or where there had not been fields before.

Today, farming remains in Bletchingdon parish although now there are only 5 farms not 16. The water powered mill, brick yards, tileries, quarrying for limestone, cement works, railway station at Enslow, Old Red Lion Inn and Bletchingdon village shop and post office cease to function or exist. The medieval manor is now a Grade 11 listed 17th century elegant Palladian country house and remains in private occupation.

2.1.6 Archaeology

Archaeological interests within Bletchingdon parish are:

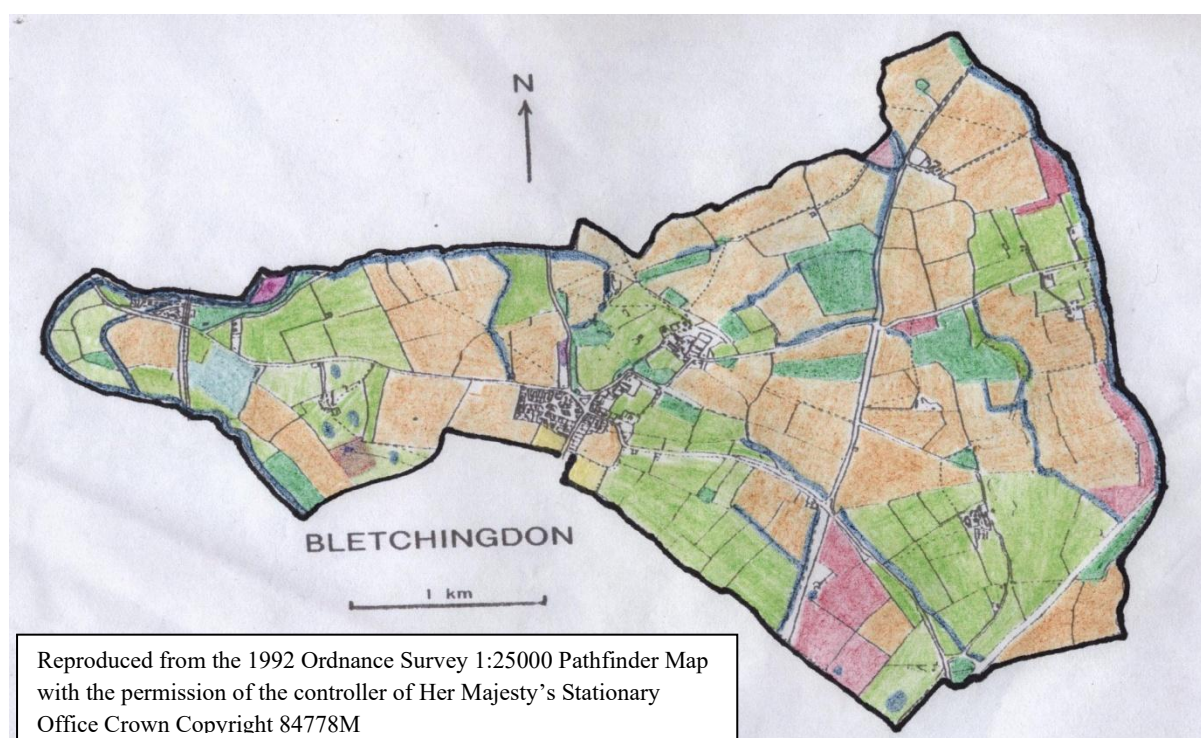
- Bletchingdon Village – 33 listed buildings within conservation area
- The Oxford Canal
- A post-medieval watermill
- A small ring ditch

- Ladder fields – fields with long wavy-edged parallel boundaries resulting from 16th and 17th century informal enclosure
- Wavy-edged fields – fields with wavy boundaries resulting from 17th and 18th enclosure
- Parliamentary fields – regularly shaped fields resulting from Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18th – 19th century.

2.1.7 Present and future land use

Present

Figure 1.0 shows the present land uses in Bletchington parish. The two largest uses of land within the parish are arable farmland and grassland. Woodland represents a small proportion of the land as does Bletchington Quarry and Enslow Marsh. Water bodies include the River Cherwell, Oxford Canal, streams and ponds of various shapes and sizes.



KEY: Parish Boundary	■	Woodland	■	Ley Grassland	■	Water	■
Enslow Marsh	■	Bletchington Quarry	■	Mixed Species Grassland	■	Arable	■
Recreational	■	Plantation	□				

Fig 1.0 Present land uses in Bletchington parish.

At present Smiths of Bletchingdon is the only major employer locally, but there is employment in services such as farming, at Greenhills Farm and Diamond Farm caravan parks, Heathfield Nursing Home, Oxfordshire Inn Hotel, Blacks Head Inn and Rock of Gibraltar. There are also a number of small businesses and professional consultancies.

Conservation Activities

Bletchingdon village has an active conservation group which undertakes habitat creation tasks, monitors the wildlife within the parish and uses the local countryside as an educational resource with the primary school children. It has been responsible for being awarded 420 tree saplings, some of which were planted by the school children to create a new hedgerow, whilst others have been planted elsewhere in the parish. Presently they are working with the parish council to establish a wild flower meadow on a strip of grassland known as 'The Slipe' and with a local farmer to create buffer strips to floristically enhance arable field margins within Bletchingdon parish.

Future

There are still 3 'lots' of land for sale at Heathfield in the east of the parish. Some of the fields that have been sold have been converted from grassland to arable and one consortium have been granted planning permission to build a new static caravan site on land adjacent to the A34 on an old disused golfing range. In addition, a further site in Bletchingdon village is ear-marked for future development, but to date no planning permission has been granted. It has been proposed that land behind Sands Close and Springwell Close will become a new development site for the new Bletchingdon Village Hall and Primary School Scheme. Part of the proposals is to also build more affordable housing as well as privately owned homes if this scheme were to go ahead.

3.0 WILDLIFE HABITATS IN BLETCHINGTON PARISH

3.1 Habitat Types

3.1.1 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

UK Conservation Priority: UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat

Status in Blethingdon Parish: A – High conservation interest



Moat Spinney

Lowland woodland forms part of the parish landscape and is a major wildlife habitat. There are 5, main wooded areas in Blethingdon Parish, with many small scattered stands of mixed woodland throughout, particularly in the east of the parish on areas of heavier soils. They vary widely in age and structure and each has its own individual character. Areas of wet woodland have also been recorded within the parish. In spring the woods are carpeted with flowers, and teeming insect life provides food for breeding songbirds.

Although woodland only occupies a relatively small area of ground within the parish in all they provide habitats for several wild plants that are not found elsewhere.

All areas of woodland within the parish contain a diverse selection of trees and shrubs of both native and foreign (exotic) origin. The most common native species are pedunculate oak and ash, with some holly, silver birch, beech, grey willow, wild cherry and alder. In those parts of the woodlands where native and introduced species, Lawson's Cypress and Norway Spruce for example, grow side by side, the indigenous species outnumber the introduced ones in many cases. All woodlands have some shrubs, climbers and young trees growing beneath the main canopy and this forms separate layers of leafy growth between tree tops and ground. This understorey is composed of climbers such as honeysuckle and white bryony with shrubs such as hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, spindle, dogwood, and elder with, here and there, some young holly, ash, oak, beech, white poplar, field maple and sycamore. On wet sites grey willow and Osier is common.

Ground conditions vary within each woodland and ground floras respond by forming mosaics of different plant communities, each one suited to the particular conditions.



Bugle found in Ash Wood

Along damp rides, where the sunshine percolates through the trees, square-stalked St John's-wort, tufted hair-grass, meadowsweet, cuckooflower and marsh thistle grow together in the dappled light, while in shadier places bugle and enchanter's-nightshade do best. Dry places have ground floras of red campion, foxglove and pignut. Bramble and ivy also form patches of ground cover.

One of the best known woodland flowers – the bluebell – is not restricted to any woodland but is locally abundant. It is regarded as an internationally important species.

The bluebell is just one of several woodland flowers which tend to remain faithful to their original sites. Plants such as wood anemone, false brome and dog's mercury can also persist for centuries and their presence in woodlands often indicates that the site has been wooded for a long time. When found outside woods such species suggest that the site was probably wooded at some time in the past. Some of Bletchingdon parish's hedgerows contain these woodland 'indicator' species which are probably relics from a time when Bletchingdon parish was much more heavily wooded than it is today.

Suggestions: Survey remaining areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland and encourage the development of a tree warden scheme to identify 'significant' trees within the parish's woodlands.

3.1.2 Plantation



Newly replanted Springwell Plantation

In addition to the woodlands just described there are also two small plantations in the parish. The newly planted Springwell plantation is 4 years old and was planted on previously coniferous dominated woodland. A line of the Scot's pine trees remain along with a few mature beech trees. The other plantation can be found at Greenhill's Farm in the west of the parish. This 15 acre site is about 5 years old and has been planted as a conservation area.

Both contain a good mix of broad-leaved trees such as oak, beech, ash, rowan, holly and silver birch. Shrubs include elder, guelder-rose, dogrose, dogwood, spindle, field maple, hazel and wild privet all of which add to the parish's botanical and other wildlife diversity. At present the ground flora contains a high proportion of common nettle, cow parsley, hogweed, willowherbs, hedge woundwort and thistles. Hedgehogs and grass snakes, both new UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, have been recorded at the newly replanted Springwell Plantation.

3.1.3 Agricultural Grasslands

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Bletchingdon Parish: C – Some conservation value

In Bletchingdon Parish there is grassland of some kind on every farm, managed either as grazing land or for hay, silage or haylage production. The map on page 12 shows the distribution of agricultural grassland in the parish for the year 2011.

At least 81 different species of wild grasses are known to grow in Bletchingdon Parish. On farmland they are poorly represented in ley pastures. The widest selection are recorded in permanent, mixed-species grasslands.

A ley is a planted grassland in which a single, pedigree strain of grass, usually perennial rye-grass, is grown either as a monoculture or, occasionally, with clover. Some leys are replanted as often as every three or four years while others are left unploughed for longer periods.

A ley is expected to produce several crops of grass each year for animal feed. The rate of grass production is boosted artificially by the regular use of fertilisers and on stock farms manure is usually spread. The grass grows rapidly, allowing little opportunity for wild plants to invade the sward, and frequent cultivation, including spraying further discourages them. The longer the sward remains in place, however, the more chance there is that wild plants will gain footholds in it. Meadow grasses, cock's-foot and timothy can be found in some of the older grasslands in the parish, along with buttercups, docks, red and white clover, speedwells and dandelions.



Grassland Ley

Permanent, mixed-species grassland may also be deliberately planted, but in this case a mixture of species is used rather than just one. Once established, the sward is then left in place (sometimes for many decades such as at Frognest Farm) in order that the plants can grow and spread and the turf develop and thicken. Naturally occurring, unplanted, grassland is rare in lowland areas and in Bletchingdon Parish most agricultural grassland of this type will have been planted at some stage in the past.



Permanent Mixed-species Grassland

The turf of some of Bletchingdon parish's permanent grasslands contains a tight-knit mixture of different species of grasses and wild flowers. Meadow foxtail, meadow grasses, cock's-foot, sweet vernal-grass, timothy and bents accompany the rye-grass in some of these fields and there are also flowers such as red clover, sorrel, tufted vetch, yellow rattle, meadow buttercup, black knapweed and cuckoo flower. They also support tall, moisture-loving species such as great burnet and meadowsweet.

Managed as grazing land this kind of permanent, mixed species grasslands is an extremely stable

and self-sustaining ecosystem in which nutrients are constantly recycled by a living community of plants and animals. The permanent pastures in Bletchingdon parish not only provide regular grazing but are also capable of producing crops of hay or silage, fertiliser. Those of grass species

A total of 11 have been of these of grasses and supports over 90



often without inputs of artificial that are fertilised retain their mixtures but tend to have few herbs.

permanent, mixed-species grasslands identified in Bletchingdon Parish. Six grasslands contain 73 or more species flowers. The richest pasture of all different flowering species.

These permanent pastures can support a rich insect community, including butterflies, grasshoppers and bumblebees. They can also provide important feeding areas for birds such as the linnet, little owl and meadow pipit, and bats and small mammals such as the field vole.

When compared with the remainder of the parish's grassland these few pastures are relatively botanically diverse. When compared to true wild flower meadows (such as exist elsewhere in Oxfordshire) they are, however, not especially rich. They are simply the best that now remain within the parish and as such are worthy of special note.

Suggestion: Survey remaining areas of permanent mixed species grassland and promote their conservation value for wildlife, especially schools and community groups.

3.1.4 Arable

The majority of the land area in the parish comprises arable farmland that is usually intensively cultivated with one crop. Cereals (wheat, barley, maize), rape, beans and flax (linseed) are all grown. There are no organic farms in Bletchington parish so weeds are controlled by use of herbicide sprays and field weeds are therefore restricted to those few species which are resistant to the particular herbicide used, or plants that germinate after spraying.



Searching for weeds among a standing crop is clearly impractical, and most of the observations made of arable land were made from gateways and the edges of fields where the selection of species is somewhat different from that found in the centre of the crop. Only four fields, one of rape, maize, bean and one of wheat, were fully traversed and in all cases the weed flora in the centre of the crop was noticeably reduced.

The commonest weeds found among the rape crop were common couch, red dead-nettle, annual meadow grass, common bent, cock's-foot, fat-hen, redshank, common chickweed and knotgrass. None was frequent enough to threaten the crop. Scentless mayweed, red and white clover, nettle and common poppy were present near the margin, though the poppy was rare, showing only three or four plants. The maize, bean and wheat fields contained all of the above species along with cut-leaved crane's-bill, field pansy, groundsel, black nightshade, mugwort, perennial sow-thistle, rough meadow grass, black grass, false oat-grass, thistles and field forget-me-not.

Amongst all the varying views about the impact of agriculture people sometimes forget how important arable farmland is for biodiversity. Many species of butterflies, grasshoppers, and plant bugs are associated with such sites. Invertebrates breed in crops, and spend the winter in grassy banks and where crops meet hedges and other features. In addition around seventy birds have been found to be in some way dependent on arable land.



Gatekeeper Butterfly

Some of the most beneficial weeds found in arable fields in Bletchingdon parish include two common grasses, common bent, which is important for the gatekeeper (sometimes called hedge brown) butterfly, and cock's-foot, a food source for the large skipper.

Wild plants of particular importance that have been recorded are those that are food sources for seed eating birds. These species include common chickweed and knotgrass, these are key food plants for farmland birds such as skylark and grey partridge. The presence of breeding skylark, grey partridge and meadow pipit are good indicators of wildlife suitability in the arable fields within the parish. Many butterflies including the gatekeeper have also been recorded in this habitat type. So although not very rich in wild flowers, arable fields provide nesting, and feeding areas for birds, butterflies, small mammals and many insect communities.

Suggestion: Work with landowners to keep monitoring farmland birds. A small mammal survey would also be beneficial.

3.1.5 Arable Field Margins

UK Conservation Priority: UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat

Status in Bletchingdon Parish: A – High conservation interest

Bletchingdon parish is fortunate in its arable field margins as most farms in the parish are proactively farming in a way that is of benefit to wildlife. Many of the crop fields have the tussocky type grass margins ranging between 1m to 6m wide. A glance along almost any field margin will be likely to reveal a selection of grasses such as cock's-foot, timothy, perennial rye-grass, tufted hair grass, wood meadow grass, black grass and meadow foxtail. They also include some of the finer grasses such as fescues and bents.



At least 142 flowering plant species grow in the field margins within the parish. **Typical arable field margin**

However, there are no records for any of the traditionally known common arable 'weeds' plant species such as corncockle and cornflower. The commonest flowers found among the grasses in the margins were red and white clover, shepherd's purse, scentless mayweed, red bartsia, pineapple mayweed, ox-eye daisy, greater and ribwort plantain, field forget-me-not, fat-hen, hop trefoil, common chickweed, St John's-wort, redshank, dandelion and groundsel.



Salsify

Herb species include birdsfoot trefoil, cowslip, broad-leaved willowherb, square-stalked St John's-wort, salsify, field scabious, greater knapweed and rough hawkbit along with woodland edge plants such as musk mallow and teasel.

As well as being valuable reservoirs for wild plants, arable field margins also provide habitats for animals and birds. These grassy margins make ideal habitat for ground-nesting birds such as yellowhammers, whitethroats and grey partridges which welcome a good food source provided by the grasshoppers, sawflies and other insects that use the margins. They also provide good cover and feeding areas for brown hares and rabbits and other small mammals such as voles and harvest mice, with the latter providing ideal hunting ground for barn owls and kestrels.

Suggestions: Continue to survey arable field margins and encourage their conservation. Work with landowners to create buffer strips to floristically enhance arable field margins within Bletchington parish.

3.1.6 Marshland – Sedge Swamp

UK Conservation Priority: UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat

Status in Bletchington Parish: A – High conservation interest



Enslow Marsh Sedgebed

This habitat type is confined to two sites in the parish, Enslow Marsh and an area adjacent to the River Cherwell within Bletchington Quarry. Although small in area, these patches of wetland habitat and the community of plants and animals it supports are probably among the most natural in the parish. The wettest parts of the sites are dominated by stands of typically marshland species including greater pond sedge, lesser pond sedge, common meadow rue, slender tufted sedge, hemlock water dropwort, skullcap, water horsetail, yellow iris, marsh marigold, great willowherb, bulrush, common valerian and purple loosestrife.

Of particular note is the occurrence of bottle sedge, a species which is rare in Oxfordshire.

More detailed information of this habitat type is contained within chapter 4 of this report

Suggestion: Promote the importance of Enslow Marsh and its associated habitats and species, particularly to schools and community groups.

3.1.7 Bletchingdon Quarry

UK Conservation Priority: Contains UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats & two Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)

Status in Bletchingdon Parish: A – High conservation interest

This disused limestone quarry site within Bletchingdon parish is now used for off-road motor sports. However, the wildlife interest of the quarry is not restricted to the quarry area itself but extends to the marshland adjacent to the River Cherwell. This swampy marshland area is dominated by lesser pond sedge and other wetland species such as wild angelica, brown sedge, marsh woundwort, meadow vetchling and great willowherb. Other areas of the site include grasslands rich in wildflowers, tall herb, short ephemeral vegetation and scrub. The site holds considerable importance for birds with 9 UK biodiversity action plan priority species including reed bunting, song thrush and curlew. More detailed information of this habitat type is contained within chapter 4 of this report.



Part of the marshland at Bletchingdon Quarry (photo by TVERC)

Suggestion: Raise the awareness of the local community about the significance of Bletchingdon Quarry and its associated mosaic of habitats and species.

3.1.8 Bletchingdon Park

UK Conservation Priority: Contains UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats

Status in Bletchingdon Parish: A – High conservation interest



One of the main landscape features of the parish is Bletchingdon Park. The park is one of 36 Conservation Target Areas (CTA's) in Oxfordshire. The grounds of Bletchingdon Park, which borders Bletchingdon village green, provide a parkland environment comprising large trees in grounds of short cut grass, a walled garden, wood-pasture and parkland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, open standing

water, arable fields with wide margins and hedgerows. Five of these habitat types are listed under UK & Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats.

Bletchingdon House a Grade II listed 17th century elegant Palladian country house has played a dominant role in the life of Bletchingdon village for many centuries. It is set in about 80 acres of beautifully landscaped parkland. The rest of the land is farmland where beans and wheat are the main crops.

The original house was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, and in subsequent centuries around 1300 and 1630 was rebuilt and then later remodelled around 1780 and to this day still retains much of its original 18th century design. There is much information available on past owners of the house and its history which is too lengthy to include in this report.

Nonetheless, the present owner, Dr Peagram, since purchasing the house in 1993 has done much in restoring and maintaining this elegant, historic house and parklands.

The parkland was established around the 1800's time to go with the house but there does not ever seem to have been a famous gardener involved in its design such as Capability Brown. As a result of the topography and land management there is a mixture of habitats within the park and they each have their own inhabitants. Public footpaths that cross through parts of the park offer beautiful walks and wildlife is abundant.

Much of our native fauna is nocturnal, so mostly of what we were able to record on our surveys of the park were bird-life; but the occasional roe deer, rabbit and red fox were recorded. Red kites and buzzards are on the increase within the parish and they were regularly seen soaring on the thermals above the arable fields and parkland trees. One notable visitor to the park is the Cuckoo whose call can be heard generally from April to September, although in 2012 was not heard for the first time in the parklands.

Pheasants are still bred for sport or food in neighbouring parishes; and these were recorded in the parklands strutting around the field margins and occasionally a grey partridge was observed. Moorhen and Coot breed on the large ponds as do Canada geese. Tree creeper and nuthatch were glimpsed on and around the trees in the mixed woodlands as was the ubiquitous grey squirrel, not our favourite introduced species as it does much damage to young trees; but in small numbers they do add to the life of the park and woods.



Canada Geese & their goslings

Although the smaller mammals such as voles, mice and shrews were not recorded; it seemed apparent that they were present as both the elusive Sparrowhawk was observed dashing over the hedgerows and the Kestrel hovering over the field margins looking for prey. Another common mammal, although rarely seen, is the Mole.



Meadowsweet

The well known molehill must be one of the most obvious of all indicators of any animal's presence and, although not a favourite in your garden, it does no real harm in the countryside and the spoils of its labour can throw out many insects which are enjoyed by various bird species.

One of the particular special habitats within the park is the series of large ponds. It is thought that the main ponds are Victorian in origin around the early 1800's. They support a range of wild flowers that thrive in damp soil, including ragged robin, purple loosestrife, marsh marigold, willowherbs, water figwort and watermint.

Other species include common reed, bamboo, pond sedges, bulrush, meadowsweet, common toadflax, musk mallow, bluebell and Square-stalked St John's-wort. It is an excellent habitat for a range of small insects which, although a valuable food source within the food chain, were difficult to identify. However, the more visible dragonflies and damselflies were recorded during field surveys. Species present include emerald, common blue, large red and blue-tailed damselflies along with brown, common and southern hawker dragonflies.

In spring and early summer there is a mixture of grasses and wild flowers on the sheep grazed pastureland. Timothy, meadow foxtail, crested dogs-tail, Yorkshire fog, rough meadow grass, red fescue and bents grow together with clovers, buttercups, cuckoo flower, sorrel, hawkweeds, common mouse-ear, dandelions, ox-eye daisy and field forget-me-not. This site typically supports numerous invertebrate species that feed on or hide in the long sward as well as providing cover for reptiles and amphibians.

Bletchington Park's has some remarkable trees which have been enjoyed by past and present owners, the public and wildlife for centuries. The present owner, commissioned a survey in 1993 to locate old trees of particular significance for the park's wildlife and heritage. At least 500 trees within the park qualified.



Large Red Damselfly

The largest trees in the park are the two Wellingtonia which probably date back to 1830's as it was 'fashionable' to introduce this species in parklands around that time. They are not only the highest trees in the park but around the whole district. In fact most of the mature oak, beech, chestnut and lime trees growing in the park probably date back to around the early 1800's, making many of them at least 200 years old. Yet there are no mature elms remaining, they obviously fell victim to Dutch Elm disease in the 1980's. There are some notable oaks which survive around the park whose girths suggest that they are probably much more than 200 years old.

Some of the trees may owe their longevity to the process of 'pollarding', a traditional technique which involves cutting the tree's timber at head height and then allowing it to regenerate its branches well out of reach of hungry deer and livestock. If done properly, the procedure can rejuvenate many broadleaved trees and extend their lives considerably.

Other species present include ash, alder, sweet chestnut, silver birch, Japanese larch, Japanese maple and Japanese walnut, holm oak, tulip tree and wild cherry. Wild cherry species in this country are known for profuse displays of white blossom each spring, which give way in summer to juicy fruit, which birds love to eat.



Crab Apple

Another tree present in good numbers, especially the hedgerows, is the crab apple, which produces bountiful crab apples in the autumn. This autumn fruit is an important source of food for birds at this time of year.

When walking along the footpaths that run through the park you can also enjoy from a distance some of the great collection of species therein, including patches of stately conifers. Species present include Scot's pine, Douglas fir, Norway spruce, blue

spruce, western red cedar, nootka cypress, Lebanon cedar, grand fir, Japanese plum yew, oriental spruce, European larch and Canadian Hemlock.

The private gardens around and near the house are highly maintained and contain a wide diversity of native and introduced plants, shrubs and trees whose flowers display an exuberant and colourful display and thus providing a place for wildlife to flourish.

Suggestions: Liaise with landowner to continue to identify ‘veteran’ trees within the park and to carry out surveys of the conservation value of the wood pasture areas identified. If possible arrange surveys of standing water areas to identify wildlife interest, especially small fresh water creatures.

3.1.9 St Giles – The Churchyard and Cemetery

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Bletchington Parish: C – Some conservation value



St Giles

St Giles is a rural churchyard and is the only area left in the parish that has escaped the pressures of modern farming and artificial fertilisers, and as a result provides a great place for wildlife. Although it remains a place of solitude and reflection for residents and visitors it is also home to a variety of wild flowers, lichens, trees, bats, birds, butterflies, small mammals and insect communities.

Except for its true origin, the history of the church has been well documented. One of the earliest clues to its existence is a grant of tithes made in 1074 by Robert d’Oilly to

whom the king had awarded land in ‘Bicestone’. Although St.Giles includes traces of Norman architecture its gothic 13th century chancel remains the oldest section of the present church which still has an original south window.

Much of the building is 15th century with further restorations and additions made in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. The churchyard is enclosed within Bletchington Park and both this and the cemetery can be accessed via a footpath over which residents have had a right of way since 1795.

Bletchington's churchyard, like most rural churchyards, is a predominantly grassy place. It is bounded on all sides by limestone dry stone walls and bordered by planted, mature beech, hawthorn and horse-chestnut trees. Mature yews, some holly and a few more ornamental trees stand among the gravestones and along the boundary edge.

The grass between and around the gravestones is mown during the summer months. The graveyard turf is still a mixture of wild flowers and grasses. At least 108 different species of wild flowers and grasses have been counted growing in the churchyard and cemetery at various times of the year.

In springtime goldilocks buttercup, wild primroses and common dog-violet cluster around the graves and in shady places beneath the trees there are pignut, dog's mercury and lesser celandine.



Lesser Celandine

In areas where the grass is left unchecked taller vegetation also provides a sanctuary for other wildlife; breeding butterflies, for example. Oxeye-daisy, black knapweed, common sorrel and common bird's-foot trefoil all flower in these mini hay-meadows.

More recently (spring 2012), a couple of old coniferous trees have been felled and cleared considerably increasing the amount of light and space around the back of the church which should encourage the emergence of more wild flowers.



Lords-and-Ladies

The regular mowing which is carried out elsewhere in the churchyard tends to encourage different species, such as common cat's-ear and autumn hawkbit, which have rosettes of leaves close to the ground and are especially favoured by the close cutting. In August the yellow flowers of these two species colour the turf between mowings.

In spring, though, before mowing begins, the churchyard is bright with all kinds of early flowers, both wild and planted – bluebell, lords-and-ladies, ivy-leaved speedwell, sweet violet, cuckoo flower, cowslips and primroses, including pink-flowered ones which are hybrid mixtures of wild and garden stock. Also, of course, there are members of the daffodil tribe, planted for their bright colour.

The dry stone walls surrounding the churchyard and cemetery are rich in lichen, ivy, fern, stonecrops and ivy-leaved toadflax which not only add colour and character but can also provide habitats for a number of species. Tits and wrens use ivy covered walls for nesting sites whilst butterflies, insects and birds feed on its flowers and winter berries. Along with holly, ivy is one of the main food plants of the Holly Blue butterfly. Some butterflies, for

example, the small tortoiseshell overwinter in crevices of walls, as do ladybirds and other insects. Although the ladybirds at present seem to enjoy hibernating in the church!

Other species in the cemetery include common nettle, red clover, daisy, cock's-foot and common bent. Common nettle in a sunny position could act as the food plant for butterflies such as comma, peacock and painted lady, and many moth species. During our field walks many spiders, beetles, slugs and snails were seen between the gravestones and in cool, damp, sheltered areas beneath the shady side of the stonewalls.



Comma Butterfly

A village churchyard is essentially a place which is central to the needs of the community it serves and it must fulfil a wide range of different purposes. Its role as a burial ground is fundamental but it is also a place where people come together to meet and to celebrate, to rest, to remember, or to simply stand and think. The feeling of peace and continuity that the churchyard offers is enhanced by the presence of its wildlife.

Suggestions: Liaise with St Giles church wardens to instigate a volunteer gardening group to maintain and improve the churchyard and cemetery. Raise public awareness of the importance of churchyards for wildlife; establish a 'wildlife in churchyard day', for example.

3.2 Boundary Habitats

There are four main types of boundary features within the parish, hedgerows, dry stone walls, ditches and grassland verges. Boundaries are primary habitats for mammals such as badger, shrews and bats; butterflies, especially the brown and black hairstreak, and a myriad of birds like linnet, kestrel, dunnoek, barn owl, yellowhammer, gold finch, green finch, blue tit, great tit, whitethroat and bullfinch.

3.2.1 Hedgerows

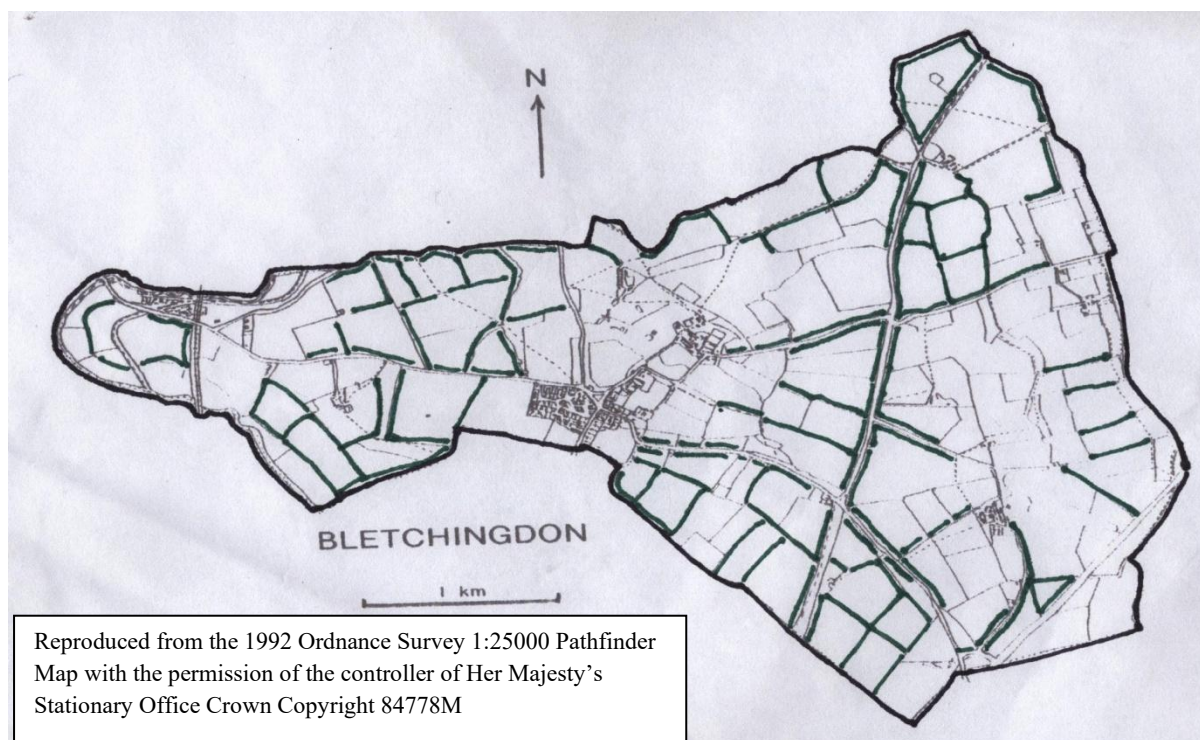
UK Conservation Priority: UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat

Status in Bletchingdon Parish: A – High conservation value



Hedgerow

Hedgerows are the dominant boundary within the parish and are the ‘motorway’ network for a great many mobile species. They are also some of the parish’s oldest undisturbed habitat, some of which are possibly hundreds of years old. The map provided by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) showed 536 hedgerows existing within Bletchingdon parish boundary, and 132 of these have been located and visited in the survey (Figure 2.0). Not only are our hedgerows visually attractive, but they divide our parish landscape into a patchwork of fields and enclosures.



KEY: Parish Boundary ■ Hedgerow Surveyed ■

Figure 2.0 Hedgerows surveyed within Bletchingdon parish.

During our field surveys, information about the hedgerows was recorded using the CPRE survey method. This method involved recording a series of detailed notes such as numbers of trees and shrubs, associated features, for example, a ditch, hedge management and structure and notes on any other wildlife present on each 30 metre section(s) of each individual hedgerow surveyed. In this report information is presented for the most general level, which also includes lists of plant species recorded within 2m of the centre of the hedgerow.

Some of the parish hedgerows are set on earth banks, many are associated with a ditch and some, for example, may comprise anything from very few species of recent origin, to possibly ancient hedges with high species diversity. Not only do they generally occur as continuous networks, rather than as discrete habitat patches, but also their character can be highly variable. They were found singly or in combinations of two, three or four connected together and either short, wide shrubby hedges, while some others were tall shrubby with trees or have just been allowed to mature and are more or less lines of trees. However, they are rich in wild fruits and, each autumn, fieldfares come to gorge on the abundant hawthorn berries.

Most of the hedgerows surveyed were found to be in a good healthy condition but a few were no more than just remnant, low tangles of vegetation. The total stock of hedgerows within the parish does not appear to have changed greatly within recent times. Over the last year (2011-2012) five hedgerows have been altered in both size and shape, two have been newly planted and some have had their gaps replanted.

The total length of hedgerow in the parish today is estimated at approximately 139km, making them an extremely significant wildlife resource.

The good hedges contain a wide range of trees and shrubs. Pedunculate oak and ash are by far the commonest species of hedgerow trees, although sycamore occurs in a few as a standard tree. Among the smaller species, wild fruit trees, damson and crab apple, are fairly common. Field maple is scarce as a mature tree, although it is present at the shrub stage in many hedges. Other woody species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, hazel, dogwood, wild privet and spindle are present. In damp situations there were willows and, occasionally, alder and guelder-rose. Other notable parish tree and shrub species worthy of a mention are the wild service tree and the barberry shrub which has only been recorded in three of the hedgerows so far.



Spindle



Honey Suckle

The permanent and shady nature of the hedgerow habitat makes it similar to that of woodland, though on a miniature and linear scale. Woodland plants such as dog's mercury and lords-and-ladies are very much at home, and common, in the parish's hedgerows. Less common, but still found in a few hedgerows, are primrose, common dog-violet, bluebell, herb-robert, wood meadow-grass and cowslip. Climbing plants like honeysuckle, ivy, bramble, hop, black and white bryony use hedgerows as support and, when given the opportunity to flower and fruit, provide useful food for birds.

Dog-and field-roses have colonised many hedges and the sweet smelling and uncommon small flowered sweet-briar grows in a few of the parish's hedgerows.

Nearly all of the parish's field boundary hedgerows are machine-cut and maintained at heights of between 1.5 and 2.5metres. A few have been left to grow and are cut only on one side or not at all. Some of the roadside hedges are cut on the field side only. Although this quick and non-selective form of hedgerow management may sometimes appear to be less than sensitive, it nevertheless helps to ensure the survival of the hedges, for few landowners would now have time to cut



Dog Rose

hedges by hand. Of the hedges surveyed, none had been laid, but in some of them there is evidence that they were laid in the past.

Information gathered in the hedgerow survey has been used to estimate the ages of the hedges. A way of estimating the age of hedges, commonly known as Hooper's method was applied in this survey. It required counting the number of different species of trees and shrubs in several 30 metre stretches of hedgerow. Using Hooper's method, the averages in Bletchingdon parish vary from 2 to 6.1. Several of the hedges were genuinely mixed hedges, with no dominant species whilst others had mixed stretches, but elsewhere in the hedge were largely hawthorn dominated, therefore had been modified by later planting. These mixed hedgerows had four or more species per 30 metres. These scores give an age that is consistent with documentary evidence, where enclosure of fields in the parish started before 1555, making some of our hedges (or parts of) over 400 years old. The more regular shaped fields within the parish which have dominantly hawthorn hedges are almost certainly part of the later Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18th and 19th century.

Bletchingdon parish's hedgerows are a rich and wonderful natural and historical resource. They can be enjoyed by anyone who walks the local lanes and footpaths. They are one of the most important habitats for wildlife and with correct management will support a good range of birds, small mammals, insects and plants as they do within this parish.

Suggestions: Encourage and assist the planting and maintenance of hedges within the parish and continue to survey hedgerows with a particular emphasis on hedgerows at risk and species rich hedgerows. Identify hedgerows which would qualify for 'Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation' (SINC) status.

3.2.2 Dry Stone Walls

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Bletchingdon Parish: C- Some conservation value



Wall showing ivy, polypody & stonecrop

The dry stone walls enclosing fields and dwellings throughout Bletchingdon parish not only add beauty and character to our rural landscape but are valuable habitats for a whole range of wild plants and animals. Each dry stone wall has an exposed, wet side and a dryer, warmer side. Inside between the stones it can be dry and snug.

The dry stone walls within the parish are host to many different lichens, mosses, liverworts and plants including escapees from gardens. Lichen favours the exposed face of the wall.

The commonest lichens to be found on the walls include the bright orange *Caloplaca flavescens*, the white to pale grey *Verrucaria baldensis*, and the chocolate brown to black *Verrucaria nigrescens*. In the more damp and shaded areas the walls are clothed in feather and cushion mosses, algae and liverworts. Species include creeping feather moss, rusty swan neck moss, showy feather moss, marsh bryum and cypress-leaved plait moss. Other frequent species were common polypody fern, ivy-leaved toadflax, ivy and members of the stonecrop and saxifrage families, wall barley, purple toadflax, groundsel, maidenhair spleenwort, wall rue, red valerian, ox-eye daisy, oxford ragwort, herb-robert, perennial rye-grass, cock's-foot, nipplewort and common hawkweed.



Derelict wall covered in moss

Around some of the sheltered bottoms of the walls plant species found were green alkanet, shepherd's purse, groundsel and sow-thistles.

These natural 'rock gardens' provide widespread cover for animals to move around from place to place, a vantage point for birds to perch, and nooks and crannies affording hideaways for a myriad of insects including woodlice, spiders, springtails, millipedes, bees and wasps. They also provide homes to everything from birds amphibians, bats, slow-worms and small mammals such as shrews, voles, field mouse, stoats and weasels.



Unmortared v's repaired mortared wall

Many of the old walls within the parish have been built traditionally without mortar or cement but a few new or repaired walls contain mortar reducing the amount of sheltered spaces. Clearly a dry stone wall without mortar has many more nooks and crannies to shelter in and therefore, benefits a whole host of species more than a mortared wall.

Some of the dry stone walls are in a semi-derelict state, however, this is more attractive to some wildlife than a tightly built wall since there are more sheltered spaces and more is covered in soil for mosses, liverworts and plants to take hold. Thus walls need to be

sympathetically maintained to provide varied habitats.

Suggestion: Carry out further surveys to establish importance of lichens, mosses and liverworts and carry out repairs in such a way as to preserve wildlife value.

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Blethingdon Parish: D – Low conservation value but with potential to improve

Ditches are entirely artificial habitats, created and managed by man, and wildflower conservation is not, and never was, their purpose. Even so, the ditch lines which criss-cross our parish support a good variety of wildflowers although due to time only 6 ditches were surveyed as part of this report and therefore, thought not to provide a reasonable representation of all ditches within the parish.

The ditches contain flowing water throughout the year while others are merely damp, linear hollows. Other ditches, especially through the spring and summer months are choked with vegetation.

Altogether a total of 63 flowering plant species grow along the parish ditch lines. The most commonly occurring wetland species are willowherbs, watermint, marsh marigold and meadowsweet. Others, especially those where the water is clear and flowing, contain pondweed, water plantain and watercress.

Ditch lines also support meadow flowers and along some ditch banks it is possible to find turf containing cuckooflower, common sorrel, meadow buttercup, hedge woundwort, vetches, and grasses such as bents, timothy, tufted hair grass and sweet vernal-grass.



Marsh Marigold

Water figwort, hard rush, marsh bedstraw, branched bur-reed, hemp agrimony, cleavers and horsetails were also recorded. A few ditches have willows growing on their banks along with ash and alder.

These same ditches also accommodate other forms of life – butterflies, dragonflies, damsel flies, water beetles, snails, frogs and newts and even some of the botanically poor ditches offer nesting sites and feeding places for birds. Owls, kestrels, warblers, herons, curlews and, in winter, snipe all use the ditch lines which criss-cross the parish.

To retain their value for wildlife, ditches need management and good quality water. In general, ditch management involves two processes: slubbing out and vegetation cutting.



A newly slubbed out ditch

Good examples of these processes within the parish are the newly managed ditches at Tolbrook Corner and the ditches running alongside Ash Wood up to the bridle path by Stonehouse Farm.

Suggestion: Carry out further surveys to establish conservation value of ditches within the parish.

3.2.4 Grassland Verges

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Bletchingdon Parish: B – Conservation value

There are approximately 11 kilometres of roadside verges in Bletchingdon Parish, almost all



Part of Weston Road verge

of which are associated with an adjacent hedgerow. One section on the north side of the B4027 Bletchingdon to Islip road has been designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) on the basis of its floral diversity and important population of the rare black hairstreak butterfly (see chapter 4).

Green lanes and trackways account for a further 4.5 kilometres of grassy wayside habitat. In some places the verge is separated from the hedgerow by a drainage ditch. Some verges are less than one metre wide, others reach widths of about 5 metres. Soil conditions vary greatly from place to place and this accounts for the variety of different

wild flowers, grasses, sedges and ferns which have been recorded growing on the verges in Bletchingdon parish.

Not all of the parish's verges are equally interesting from a botanical point of view. Apart from Bletchingdon East Verge (LWS) some of the richest collections of wild flowers are found occurring along Weston Road, Dolly's Lane and the lane from Tolbrook Corner to Stonehouse Farm. All these lengths of verge contain at least 60 different species of wild flowers, including several that are ancient woodland indicator species.

At the opposite end of the botanical scale there are some verges, particularly those which have soils so enriched that their vegetation is almost entirely dominated by common nettle, cleavers, greater burdock, broad-leaved dock and creeping buttercup.

These often grow with such vigour that other, smaller less competitive plants such as bird's-foot trefoil and meadow vetchling are excluded. Both these species being important larval food plants for butterflies.



Pyramidal Orchid

The majority, however, fall somewhere in between these two extremes. All of the parish verges, except for the most nutrient-rich ones, contain a broad selection of wild grasses, some of which are very decorative. At least 29 different species of grasses grow on verges in Bletchingdon parish, as well as a good variety of wildflowers. These include species such as agrimony, borage, common mallow, garlic mustard, great willowherb, greater knapweed, chicory, greater stitchwort, hedge bedstraw, herb

bennet, meadowsweet, pyramidal orchid, meadow crane'sbill, germander speedwell and rest harrow.

The selection of species varies from place to place depending upon the nature of the site, for example whether it is damp, dry, sunny or shaded. On the parts of the verges nearest the hedgerows, where shady conditions prevail, there are woodland plants such as dog's mercury, lords-and-ladies and false brome grass. On the wetter verges horsetails and pendulous sedge were present along with fragrant beds of meadowsweet and tufted vetch. The many variations and combinations of plants to be found indicate a correspondingly wide range of environmental conditions.

Verges often support scattered planted trees and scrub with coarse grasses and herbs beneath. The tree species recorded are predominantly ash, oak, sycamore, horse chestnut and lime and cherry species. Hawthorn, blackthorn, bramble and dog rose were the main shrub species present.

As well as being valuable reservoirs for wild plants, verges also provide habitats for a variety birds, butterflies, insects and reptiles. The long grass in these verges provide invertebrate habitat and shelter for small mammals, grass snakes and other wildlife whilst bees and other insects thrive on the flowers that have flourished.

It has been well documented that verge management policies over the past few decades have played a part in steadily reducing the botanical interest of some roadside verges.



Bee collecting nectar

They are either not cut at all or, when they are cut, they are subjected to repeated heavy mulchings of the cut vegetation. Either way, the build-up of dead plant material and the consequent increase in soil fertility appear to be resulting in verges which are more and more dominated by large plants such as cow parsley, hogweed and false oat-grass while smaller species, such as common bird's-foot-trefoil, vetches and germander speedwell, are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain a presence.

An awareness and appreciation of the rich, natural and historic resource, together with appropriate management, could help to ensure that the present interest of Bletchingdon parish verges is maintained in the future.

Suggestions: Continue to survey roadside verges and seek 'Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation' (SINC) designation for appropriate verges. Implement appropriate road verge cutting regimes and carry out further surveys to monitor the populations of butterflies, particularly the rare black hairstreak butterfly.

3.3 River Cherwell, Oxford Canal, Streams and Ponds

**UK Conservation Priority: Ponds - UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat;
Canal - UK Biodiversity Action Plan Broad Habitat (statement emphasises importance)**

Status in Bletchington Parish: A – High conservation interest

Bletchington parish has a number of interesting and important water environments. All are of importance to wildlife and they also contribute to our local landscape character. The River Cherwell, Oxford Canal and the streams which flow throughout the parish are, in essence, wildlife arteries providing continuous corridors along which species of flora and fauna can migrate.



River Cherwell

Ponds are a small feature of our parish. The rare Great Crested Newts are known to be present at three. At night time in the summer they attract such insect activity that they are a popular hunting ground for bats. In dry summers, they are badly needed watering holes for foxes and badgers.

A number of ponds, some of which tend to dry out during the summer, can be found scattered within the various other habitats within the parish including arable grassland and woods and spinneys. A further five man-made ponds are located within the caravan park at Greenhill's Farm and two are used for leisure activities such as fishing.

Although all of these water areas have been located, as yet, we have made no accurate surveys of the wildlife they support, but there is reason to believe that these habitat types have a diverse range of flora and fauna.

Suggestions: Where possible arrange surveys of River Cherwell, Oxford Canal and ponds within the parish.

3.4 Other habitats of interest

Although not identified as main habitats the local 'green' areas within our parish are just as important locally as a value to wildlife. Places such as private gardens, Bletchington village green, allotments and sports field are all areas in which wildlife can thrive. Local people benefit too, as 'green' spaces can provide a valuable educational resource, a space for recreation or somewhere just to relax and unwind.

3.4.1 Gardens

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Bletchington Parish: C – Some conservation value

Gardens form a major wildlife resource within the parish. Many residents have made their gardens welcome places for wildlife by acting upon ideas such as creating a pond or log pile, growing wildlife friendly plants, not being too tidy, making garden compost, providing nesting boxes for birds, mammals and insects and providing food and water for birds. Although many of the flowering plants tend to be non-native, many insects are happy to forage for nectar and pollen from these. In fact, some species of bee are now more common in gardens than in the countryside. Birds and small mammals thrive in leafy gardens and the provision of ponds, whilst fairly formal, may attract a good variety of wildlife including common frog, common toad, damselflies, dragonflies and butterflies.



Suggestions: Act as information source for gardeners wishing to improve to encourage garden wildlife.

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Bletchington Parish: C – Some conservation value

The allotments in Bletchington village play an important role, not only as a useful space for cultivation, but also in providing a valuable form of recreation. They also provide a fantastic area for wildlife as they provide both structural variety and different features at different times of year. Compost heaps, for example, provide a refuge and feeding area for insect and slug-eating creatures such as hedgehogs, birds, toads and grass snakes, whilst hollow stems left over the winter provide homes for insect larvae and pupae and, allowing some plants to go to seed provides food for seed eating birds.



Declines have been noted in many British insects, including those that visit flowers. These include some common butterflies, moths, hoverflies and bees. Allotments host a large variety of both wild and cultivated flowers and therefore, are increasingly recognised as important habitats where insects can find sources of nectar and pollen.

Suggestion: Continue to promote wildlife gardening at allotment site.

3.4.3 Bletchington Village Green

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Bletchington Parish: D – Low conservation value but with potential to improve



Bletchington Village Green

The village green provides a ‘green’ refuge in the centre of the village which can be accessed by all members of the community and offers a valuable area of public space. The green is lined by 15 large mature trees which not only contribute to the village scene but are refuges for a variety of birds, in particular corvid species, and grey squirrels are often seen foraging amongst the trees.

3.4.4 Sports Fields

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Bletchingdon Parish: D – Low conservation value but with potential to improve

Bletchingdon village is fortunate in having a recreational sports field for team games, especially cricket and football. The grassland that dominates the site is managed to some degree for its sporting or amenity purpose. However, it can still act as an important reservoir for wildlife outside of the managed areas. Along two sides of the main grassland area a proportion of trees and shrubs such as oak, ash, silver birch, hawthorn and beech line the perimeter and these can act as sanctuaries for a variety of wildlife species.



Sports Field

Suggestion: Work with conservation group to maintain and improve the value for wildlife of all recreational areas. Examples could include: where possible creating a village green meadow.

4.0 NATURE CONSERVATION SITES IN BLETCHINGTON PARISH

4.1 Nature conservation sites in Bletchington Parish

Some of the habitats found in the parish are of particular wildlife significance and have been designated for their nature conservation importance. There are five Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within the parish of Bletchington.

4.1.1 Local Wildlife Sites

LWSs are locally important wildlife areas. A LWS is a non-statutory designation generally administered by a local authority in partnership with conservation organisations. The designation recognises important habitats and species on sites that fall outside statutory site designations. Local government authorities have schedules of LWSs within their area and include policies in their Local Plans to safeguard these sites from inappropriate development.

4.1.2 Bletchington Verge East

UK Conservation Priority: None

Status in Bletchington Parish - LWS

This 3.6ha site is set on a level area of heavy Oxford Clay and is a long, narrow strip of trees and blackthorn scrub, with a road to the south, which carries an important population of the rare black hairstreak butterfly. Shelter is provided by trees along both the north side of the site and the south side of the road. These include oak, ash, field maple, crack willow and one each of sycamore and wild crab apple. As well as blackthorn, there is hawthorn, hazel, dogwood, privet and a little elder. Climbers include white bryony, dog rose and field rose. In the ground flora there is a male fern and ground ivy, as well as light requiring species such as cowslip. Along with field maple, there is also black bryony, three-nerved sandwort and



Part of Bletchington East Verge

wood meadow grass which are all ancient woodland indicator species.

The scrub is not continuous, but is interspersed with areas of tall herb vegetation including hairy willowherb, black horehound, tufted vetch, hemp agrimony, common teasel, bramble, thistles and hogweed.

The pond is rather shaded by grey willow, but has a few aquatic species such as duckweed, common watercress and fool's watercress, while the adjacent damp ditch has cuckooflower, marsh bedstraw, meadowsweet, water figwort, woody nightshade and hard rush.

A shaded stream runs along the northeast side of the site. The verge has a good range of wayside species such as meadow crane's-bill, everlasting pea, mugwort, common mallow, hedge parsley and rough chervil.

The site is good for birds including bullfinch which is a priority for conservation in the UK and lesser whitethroat. During field walks in 2011, two black hairstreak butterflies were seen along with orange tip, brimstone, peacock, holly blue, marbled white, ringlet, large skipper and speckled wood. In previous surveys carried out in 1991 and 2003 purple hairstreak, white letter hairstreak and Essex skipper were recorded.

The area appears to be unmanaged at present. Rotational cutting would be ideal to allow some young growth to develop. The blackthorn should be cut in July as soon as the butterfly is on the wing and before it has laid eggs.

Suggestion: Seek advice from Butterfly Conservation on how best to manage site, in particular for Black Hairstreak Butterfly

4.1.3 Bletchington Quarry

**UK Conservation Priority: Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land;
Lowland Fen – UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats**

Status in Bletchington Parish - LWS



Part of marshland area at Bletchington Quarry (photo by TVERC)

This important 6.7ha site comprises areas of pond sedge dominated fen adjacent to the river with a steep bank leading up to other areas of the site which have a mixture of grassland, tall herb, scrub and small short-lived vegetation. The site is a disused limestone quarry, part of which is now used for off-road motor sports. Much of the ground has been levelled for the scrambling tracks.

Some of the grassland habitat is species rich including ribwort plantain, creeping cinquefoil, germander speedwell, common mouse-ear, selfheal, scarlet pimpernel, parsley piert, common poppy, dove's-foot cranesbill,

Lady's Bedstraw

black medick, smooth hawk's-beard, common bird's-foot trefoil, lady's bedstraw, common centaury, field madder and ox-eye daisy.

An excellent diversity of grass species are present, including false oat-grass, upright brome, red fescue, Yorkshire fog, creeping bent, rough meadow grass, common bent, cock's-foot, meadow barley and small cat's-tail.

There are a number of introduced species including several garden species such as bear's breaches, Michaelmas daisy, red-hot-poker and evening primrose.



Tall herb and scrub vegetation occur in particular areas over the site. Species present include creeping thistle, ground elder, cleavers, bristly ox-tongue, hemlock, ragwort, weld, nettle and wild teasel. The scrub is largely hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple and a few buddleia bushes.

Elsewhere, in wetter ground adjacent to the river, the area is dominated by lesser pond sedge with reed sweet-grass, great willowherb, cleavers, watermint and amphibious bistort. Other species include wild angelica, hedge bindweed, field horsetail, marsh woundwort, common reed, yellow flag, hemp agrimony, water figwort, gypsywort, water chickweed, skullcap, hop and the invasive species orange balsam. In addition, other typical fen and lowland meadow species include fool's water-cress, branched bur-reed, reed canary grass, meadowsweet, bittersweet, marsh bedstraw, brown sedge, and rough hawkbit.

The area is important for birds with records including sedge warbler, reed warbler, grasshopper warbler, whitethroat, garden warbler, blackcap, chiffchaff, greenfinch, goldfinch, reed bunting, yellowhammer, kestrel, grey partridge, mistle thrush, dunnoek, swallow, swift, curlew, common starling, song thrush, house sparrow, mallard, greater spotted woodpecker and green woodpecker.

The hymenopteran (bees, wasps, ants & others) of the site is especially rich with 44 species recorded, and three of these are nationally rare species (*Lasioglossum* (Dialictu) *leucopus*, *Nomada lathburiana* and *Sphecodes niger*).

The site includes a local geological site, to the east, with an important section in highly fossiliferous cornbrash.

The site is privately owned and was last surveyed in July 2011 (TVERC records). The report suggests its current management maintains overall ecological interest and the site is in satisfactory ecological condition.

Suggestion: Continue to survey and monitor the site for its conservation value.

4.1.4 Black Leys Wood

UK Conservation Priority: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland – UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat

Status in Bletchingtondon Parish - LWS



Profusion of bluebells in spring

This 13ha wood is a lowland mixed deciduous woodland and is considered as a prime example of this habitat type. The woodland is not indicated as ancient in the English Nature Woodland Inventory but it does have records of eighteen typical woodland species including small amounts of the rare hard shield fern.

The main canopy species in this wood include oak (some large and mature), and ash with some silver birch. There are also small amounts of wild cherry, downy

birch, field maple and larch. Some woodland areas are plantation including

mixes of either Norway spruce, oak, silver birch, ash and Scot's pine or oak, ash, birch and wild cherry. Shrub species include hazel, elder, blackthorn, hawthorn, holly, field maple, English elm, and Midland hawthorn.

Woodland plant species include bramble, ground ivy, pignut, bluebells, nettle, male fern, selfheal, wood millet, false brome, creeping soft grass, lesser celandine, black bryony, foxglove, bugle, herb robert, creeping buttercup, wood sedge and sweet vernal grass. Other species present in wetter areas include branched bur-reed, hemp agrimony, lesser water parsnip, marsh thistle, common vetch, watermint, great willowherb, hard rush, meadowsweet, cuckooflower, wild angelica, greater bird's-foot trefoil and common spotted orchid.

There are no precise figures for the total of invertebrates in Black Leys Wood but the



Purple Hairstreak Butterfly

diversity of insects seen throughout the site suggests that there is a rich community of invertebrates in this woodland. Of particular note is the occurrence of the purple hairstreak butterfly which was recorded in 2011 surveys. Other species also include speckled wood, brimstone, large white, meadow brown, gatekeeper, holly blue and ringlet. The site formerly supported silver-washed fritillary, wall and white-letter hairstreak, but neither have been recorded for a number of years.

A good diversity of bird species are present including treecreeper, winter wren, great-spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, pheasant, blackcap, red kite, dunnoek, redwing, siskin, long-tailed tit, blue tit, great tit, common chiffchaff, common buzzard and tawny owl. Both roe and munjac deer are also present.

This wood is privately owned and was last surveyed in May 2011 (TVERC records). The report suggests its current management maintains overall ecological interest and the site is in satisfactory ecological condition.

Suggestions: Continue to survey woodland for its conservation value and work with owner to set up and monitor butterfly and moth surveys and other insects would be beneficial.

4.1.5 Ash Wood

UK Conservation Priority: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland – UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat

Status in Bletchingtondon Parish – LWS



Ash Wood

Ash wood is a 17.6ha lowland mixed deciduous woodland and is a most important wildlife habitat within the parish. The woodland is indicated as ancient in the English Nature Woodland Inventory and is an excellent example of this habitat type. It has records for 31 ancient woodland indicator species. Species include the rare hard shield fern, primrose, three-veined sandwort, wood millet, sanicle, wood anemone, broad-leaved helleborine and wood sedge.

Ash Wood is largely an established broadleaved woodland of oak and ash with hazel coppice. The canopy also includes silver birch, wild cherry and beech. There are areas of young plantation, mainly of oak and ash but some areas are more mixed.



Hemp Agrimony

Species present here include Norway spruce, Lawson's cypress, Scot's pine, larch, ash, beech and oak. In wetter areas juvenile oak, ash and birch are present along with pendulous sedge, greater pond sedge, watermint and wild angelica. Other wetland plants include meadowsweet, marsh thistle, common marsh bedstraw, creeping jenny, common fleabane, greater bird's-foot trefoil, hemp agrimony, marsh thistle, common vetch, fool's water-cress, cuckoo flower, and square-stalked St John's-wort.

The shrub layer has field maple, sycamore, hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood, spindle, wild privet, crab apple, red currant, wild gooseberry, elder and English elm. The woodland ground flora is rich in bluebells, greater stitchwort, common dog violet, sanicle, dog's mercury, scaly male fern, barren strawberry, yellow pimpernel, goldilocks buttercup, and pignut. In some areas, however, the vegetation is very typical of more acidic conditions and is dominated by bracken and bramble with bluebells and wood anemone.

The grassy rides are dominated by rough meadow grass and other grasses such as cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog and creeping soft grass. Broadleaved herbs include bugle, cow parsley, cleavers and germander speedwell. Both early purple orchid and common spotted orchid are present.

Similarly to Black Leys Wood there are no precise figures for the total of invertebrates in Ash Wood but the diversity of insects seen throughout the site suggests that there is a rich community of invertebrates in this woodland. Of particular note are the records for the white-letter hairstreak, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan species and the nationally scarce Hill Cuckoo Bee (notable B). Neither were recorded during the surveys in 2011. Butterfly species recorded include large and small skipper, woodland brown, ringlet, comma, peacock, speckled wood, brimstone, large white, meadow brown, gatekeeper and marbled white.

A good diversity of bird species are present including sparrowhawk, pheasant, duncock, lesser whitethroat, robin, blackbird, blackcap, woodcock, red kite, tree pipit, fieldfare, nuthatch, redwing, common buzzard, green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker, long-tailed tit, and green finch. Both roe and muntjac deer are also present.

This ancient woodland is privately owned and was last surveyed in May 2011 (TVERC report). Recent management of the wood has included some clearance of dead and dying timbers, clearance of shrub from part of the grassy rides and clearance of ditches along and through areas of the woodland. Overall current management maintains overall ecological interest and the site is in satisfactory ecological condition.

Suggestions: Continue to survey woodland for its conservation value and work with owner to set up and monitor butterfly and moth surveys and other insects and small mammal survey would be beneficial.

4.1.6 Enslow Marsh Sedgebed

UK Conservation Priority: Sedge Swamp – UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat

Status in Bletchington Parish – LWS



Enslow Marsh Sedgebed

The term marsh is generally used for a wetland, with a mineral soil, where the watertable is at or just above ground level for much of the year. Enslow Marsh sedgebed is one of the largest areas of such habitat in Oxfordshire.

The site, situated in the hamlet of Enslow in the west of the parish, is comprised of an extensive sedge swamp, willow woodland, scrub, reed sweetgrass swamp, and areas with mixed wetland and tall herb vegetation. The flora is typically marshland

species including greater pond sedge, lesser pond sedge, common meadow rue, slender tufted sedge, hemlock water dropwort, skullcap, water horsetail, yellow iris, marsh marigold, great willowherb, bulrush, common valerian and purple loosestrife. Of particular note is the occurrence of bottle sedge, a species which is rare in Oxfordshire.

Elsewhere, the sedgebed is fringed by two areas of willow woodland. Species present include crack willow, goat willow, ash, hawthorn and field maple. Besides sedge, the flora below the willow is mainly reed sweet-grass, reed canary grass, nettles, cleavers, ivy, wood avens, hedge woundwort, giant fescue, hairy brome and hop. In addition, wetland species include water chickweed, meadowsweet, watermint, ragged robin and water forget-me-not. In areas where willow has been removed balsam is particularly abundant along with marsh bedstraw, celery leaved buttercup, groundsel, willowherb and sow thistles.

The tall herb vegetation is dominated by great willowherb with cleavers being locally abundant along the river bank. Other species present include hogweed, common nettle, meadowsweet, meadow cranesbill, couch grass, wild angelica and creeping thistle. Scrub species are predominately hawthorn and blackthorn.

The fauna of the sedgebed is rich with at least 52 birds recorded and a further 114 different invertebrates species present. The site is of ornithological importance for both breeding and wintering birds, and is also probably an important stop-over point for passage migrants. The Red Data Book birds reed bunting and song thrush both breed on the site along with bullfinches, sedge warblers and a variety of other warblers.

Other species recorded include water rail, green woodpecker, fieldfare, redwing, blackbird, grasshopper warbler and tawny owl. Reed warblers use the site for feeding but breed in the reeds in the banks of the adjacent Oxford Canal. In addition, these banks also have a thriving population of water vole, a Red Data Book species. Other species include beetles, bugs, molluscs, ladybirds, flies, weevils, butterflies, damselflies, water shrews, moles, red fox and grass snakes a UK Biodiversity Action Plan herptile species.

Enslow Marsh Sedgebeds are owned by British Waterways and leased by Cherwell District Council. The site was last surveyed in 2004 (TVERC report). Overall current management suggests that the site has potential for improvement of ecological condition.

Suggestion: Work with owners to improve ecological condition by organising practical conservation work such as scrub removal.

5.0 ORNITHOLOGICAL SURVEY

5.1 Ornithological Survey



The ornithological survey was undertaken from March 2011 to June 2012. The survey aimed to provide a general account of the bird community within Bletchingdon parish. Recordings were taken throughout the year and at various times of day and all species seen or heard were noted, together with the habitat in which they were found. All field walks were led by Mr Julian Howe.

Information was also obtained using available data from previous studies including TVERC and BTO records. A local winter bird garden survey was also carried out. This survey involved twenty residents recording the occurrence of common garden birds which visited their gardens between October 2011 and February 2012.

A total of 92 bird species have been recorded for the parish of Bletchingdon including 19 UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority bird species, 16 species on the red list and 26 species on the amber list.

Suggestion: Continue surveying birds within the parish and carry out further garden bird surveys.

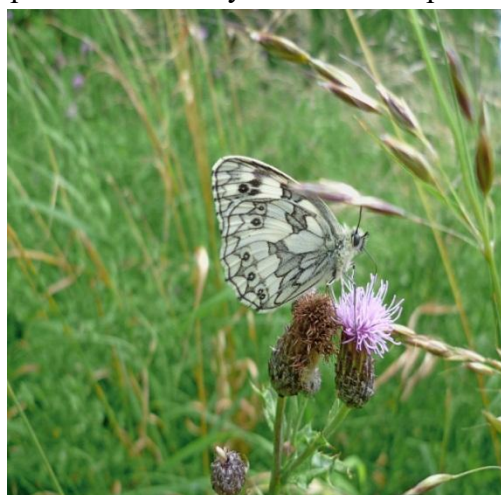
6.0 BUTTERFLY SURVEY

6.1 Butterfly Survey

Various UK butterfly species are declining with 24 species of butterfly now listed as priority species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Butterflies are very sensitive to changes in their environment and are excellent indicators of the health of their habitats.

A few of Bletchingdon parish residents have been involved in the monitoring of butterflies throughout the parish over the past year. The survey recorded the occurrence of butterflies seen within the parish boundary between March 2011 and July 2012. Sightings of butterflies were recorded informally during field walks of different habitat types and in parish gardens. A total of 25 butterfly species have been recorded for Bletchingdon parish so far. Butterfly guides vary in number of species said to compose the UK fauna. In this survey we used the Field Studies Council Publication, *Guide to the Butterflies of Britain*, which gives 58 species. The Bletchingdon parish butterfly fauna, therefore, is 43% of the UK fauna. Selected recordings were included in the 'Big Butterfly Count', an online survey of butterflies.



Marbled White

Suggestion: Work with gardeners and landowners to improve habitats for butterflies and moths and raise awareness of local butterfly and moth species. Continue to survey butterflies.

7.0 MOTH SURVEY

7.1 Moth Survey



Hum Bird Hawk Moth

Like butterflies, moths are very sensitive and are just as affected by habitat loss as butterflies so are good indicators of the health of their habitats. Many UK moth species are declining with 150 species of moth now listed as priority species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Moths far outnumber butterflies and come in a large variety of shapes, sizes and colours. It is well known moths are attracted to lights at night but there are also many day –flying moth species. A comprehensive one year survey using a moth trap was undertaken by Mr Julian Howe.

A very large number of moths have been recorded. However, no UK moth priority species were present. A total of 197 macro species and 77 micro species have been recorded for Bletchingdon parish so far. All records were forwarded to The National Moth Recording Scheme.

Suggestion: Work with gardeners and landowners to improve habitats for butterflies and moths and raise awareness of local butterfly and moth species. Continue to survey moths.

8.0 FLAGSHIP SPECIES WITHIN BLETCHINGTON PARISH

8.1 ‘Flagship’ species within Bletchingdon Parish

Bletchingdon parish’s habitats support a wonderful range of species, some of which are UK & Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Species. Tables showing details of notable species recorded within the parish are given in **Neighbourhood Plan Appendix 7 – TVERC Biodiversity Report**.

It would not be possible to review all of the species in this report, but it is possible to select ‘flagship’ species. Flagship species met one or more of the following criteria:

- They are priority species in the UK & Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan
- They have statutory protection
- They are indicators of the health of the habitat in which they live
- They are widely valued by the local community as a species of local importance.

8.8.1 Black Hairstreak Butterfly

The rare black hairstreak butterfly is only found in thickets of blackthorn growing in sunny, sheltered situations such as that at Bletchingdon East Verge, one of only 45 known sites where black hairstreak has been recorded. During surveys of the verge carried out in late June and early July 2011 two of this rarely seen butterfly were recorded. Unlike the brown hairstreak, the black hairstreak is not a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species but holds high priority conservation status within Butterfly Conservation.

8.1.2 Farmland Birds



Bullfinch

Just as the kingfisher can be seen as an indicator of the health of aquatic environments, farmland birds are taken as an indicator of the environmental health of agricultural land. Bletchingdon parish has 7 farmland birds listed as UK Biodiversity Action Plan species. These include skylark, linnet, corn bunting, yellowhammer, grey partridge, starling and lapwing. Other species present are gold finch, stock dove and whitethroat.

Although none of the parish’s farmland is managed organically most of the local farmers are sympathetic to wildlife with consequent benefits for wildlife, especially farmland birds.

8.1.3 Water Vole

The water vole is one of Britain's fastest declining species with numbers having fallen by as much as 94% over the last 100 years. Water voles are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority terrestrial mammal species and protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 5, Section 9 all parts. From data received by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre there are still water voles present in the River Cherwell adjacent to the Enslow Marsh Sedgebeds.

8.1.4 Brown Hare

Rabbit and hares both occur throughout the parish. The brown hare is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority terrestrial mammal species. Brown hares are most active at dusk and by night but can often be seen by day, particularly when scared and take flight. Brown hares rest in furrows, sides of ditches, under bushes and sometimes also in the middle of a field, consisting of a scrape into which its body fits.

8.1.5 Hedgehog



A young hoglet

The hedgehog is the only spiny British mammal and has been recorded during field walks in Bletchington parish and in private gardens. This terrestrial mammal has been newly added to the revised version of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species list due to its decline in numbers. The hedgehog is active at dusk and at night, and occasionally by day. Hedgehogs favour bushy ground, edges of woods and clearings, thickets, hedges and are still found in gardens and parks. Unfortunately, many are killed by traffic.

8.1.6 Bluebell

Southern England is one of the strongholds of the bluebell where it is one of the indicator plants for ancient semi-natural woodland. Although fairly common they can be threatened by illegal removal and by inappropriate woodland management so are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 8, Section 13 Part 2.

Bletchington parish is fortunate in having two spectacular bluebell woodlands, Ash Wood and Black Leys Wood, both create wonderful blue hazes under leafless trees in early spring.



Bluebell

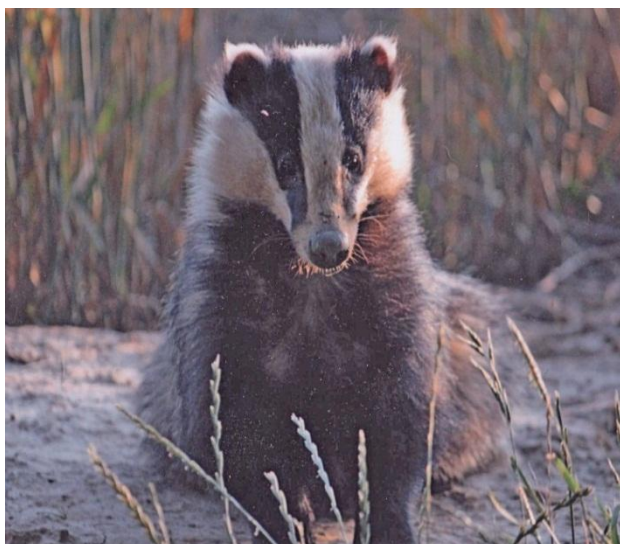
8.1.7 Barberry Shrub



A shrub that was once common in hedgerows until it was widely removed in the 1950's to prevent it from acting as host for wheat rust fungus. Within Bletchingdon parish only two hedges can boast a number of established barberry bushes. The barberry shrub is the food plant of one of the UK's rarest moths, the barberry carpet moth, classified as endangered and a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. Although recently discovered on a site in Oxfordshire, no sightings of the barberry carpet moth have been made in Bletchingdon parish so far.

8.1.8 The Grass Snake

The grass snake is Britain's most common and largest snake. In recent years it seems to have become scarcer and has been added to the list of UK priority species for conservation. It is also protected under section 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 5, parts 1 5(a) and (b). This attractive snake is olive green in colour with yellow markings on its neck, which leads to its other name of the Collared Snake. They are good swimmers and will often swim to escape from predators or to hunt for fish and frogs: they also eat small mammals. The grass snake is not dangerous to humans and has been identified on the road verges, in gardens, allotments, hedgerows and plantations throughout Bletchingdon parish.



8.1.9 Badger

Badgers are known to be active within the parish. Due to the sensitive nature of details locations of setts were not recorded. Their habitats are chiefly deciduous and mixed woods; also parklands and hedgerows, especially if this is near open cultivated land. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, protect badgers from being harmed and their homes damaged.

8.1.10 Deer

Two species of deer are commonly encountered within the parish: the small Chinese Muntjac and the larger Roe. Deer can adapt well to just about any habitat but prefer deciduous and coniferous woodland with dense shrubs for cover and shelter and the open farmland to graze in. In the parish they can often be seen feeding in the pasture areas.



8.1.11 Red Fox

The alert and very cautious red fox is common and widespread within Bletchington parish, especially in woodlands, thickets and hedgerows. Although mainly recorded around dusk it was quite often seen by day during field survey walks during March 2011 to July 2012. The red fox excavates earths (tunnels) with several shafts. Where it cannot make these large ground burrows, it takes over culverts under roads and hollows among roots of old trees.

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Conclusions

- Bletchingdon Parish contains a wide range of wildlife habitats and species which contribute to its biological, economic and social well-being.
- The identification of key habitats and species within the parish and the production of The Conservation Plan form a framework for the conservation of local wildlife.
- We hope that this report will help decision making and initiate community-based action to protect Bletchingdon parish's natural heritage.

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Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Flowering Plants recorded in Bletchington Parish

KEY:

W - Woodland

AG - Agricultural Grassland

A - Arable

AFM - Arable Field Margin

H - Hedgrows

D - Ditch

EM - Enslow Marsh

BQ - Bletchington Quarry

BP - Bletchington Park

STG - St Giles Church

DSW - Dry Stone Walls

GV - Grassland Verge

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>									*			*
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>							*		*		*	
Amphibious Bistort	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>					*							
Annual Meadow Grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Apple	<i>Malus pumila</i>	*					*	*					*
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	*				*	*	*		*		*	*
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>	*						*					
Autumn Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>					*			*				
Bamboo	<i>Bambusoideae sp.</i>							*					
Barren Brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	*	*		*		*	*	*	*			*
Barren Strawberry	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	*											
Bearded Couch	<i>Elymus caninus</i>	*											
Bear's Breaches	<i>Acanthus spp</i>						*						
Beauty Bush	<i>kolkwitzia amabilis</i>							*					
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	*											
Bird's Foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>				*		*	*	*	*			*
Biting Stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>										*		
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	*				*				*			*

Black Bindweed	<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>				*										
Black Bryony	<i>Tamix communis</i>	*					*				*			*	
Black Grass	<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>		*	*	*				*		*	*	*	*	
Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST	G	H	DSW	D	GV	
Black Horehound	<i>Ballota nigra</i>							*			*		*	*	
Black Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>		*		*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	*					*	*							*
Black Nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>			*	*			*			*				
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>							*							
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	*				*		*			*			*	
Bladder Campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	*	*					*						*	
Blue Anemone	<i>Anemone apennina</i>													*	
Blue Fleabane	<i>Erigeron acer</i>					*									
Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i>							*							
Blue Water-speedwell	<i>Veronica anagallis aquatica</i>					*									
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	*			*			*	*	*	*			*	
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>							*						*	
Bottle Sedge	<i>Carex rostrata</i>					*									
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	*			*			*						*	
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	*					*	*						*	
Branch Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>					*	*	*					*	*	
Bread Wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>		*	*	*			*	*	*	*				
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>						*	*						*	
Broad Buckler-fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	*													
Broad Leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>													*	
Broad-leaved Helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	*													
Broad-leaved Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>							*							
Broad-leaved Willowherb	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	*													
Bronze Hazelnut								*							
Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	*				*	*								
Brown Sedge	<i>Carex disticha</i>					*	*								
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>					*									

Buddlia	<i>Buddleja officinale</i>						*			*				*
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	*							*					*

Common Dog-violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	*				*					*			
Common Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>						*						*	*
Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV	
Common Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>						*							
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	
Common Figwort	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	*												
Common Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	*						*					*	
Common Fumitory	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>			*	*			*		*			*	
Common Gromwell	<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	*											*	
Common Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium vulgatum</i>		*					*	*		*			
Common Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>		*	*		*		*				*		
Common Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>									*				
Common Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>									*				
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	*			*			*		*			*	
Common Marsh-bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>						*						*	
Common Meadowrue	<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>					*	*							
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	*				*	*	*						
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	
Common Orache	<i>Atriplex patula</i>			*	*					*				
Common Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>			*	*		*	*		*			*	
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>					*	*	*						
Common Reedmace	<i>Typha latifolia</i>							*				*		
Common Sedge	<i>Carex nigra</i>							*						
Common Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>							*						
Common Soft-brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>						*							
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>		*		*	*			*	*		*	*	
Common Spike-rush	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>					*	*							
Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	*			*			*	*					
Common Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>				*			*		*			*	
Common Twayblade	<i>Listera ovata</i>	*												

Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis* * * *

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	*			*	*		*	*	*			*
Compact Rush	<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	*				*							
Copper Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica purpurea</i>							*					
Corn Mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	*		*									
Cornelian Cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>							*					
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	*			*				*	*			*
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>							*		*			*
Crack Willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	*				*	*						*
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	*			*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Creeping Jenny	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	*				*	*						
Creeping Soft-grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>	*								*			
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
Crested Dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>		*		*		*	*	*	*			*
Cuckoo Flower	<i>Cardamine pratense</i>	*	*			*		*	*			*	*
Cultivated Daffodil	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus ssp.major</i>							*	*				
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>		*			*	*	*	*				*
Cut-leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Damson	<i>Prunus insititia</i>									*			
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dewberry	<i>Rubus caesius</i>					*							*
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa Canina agg.</i>	*				*	*	*		*			*
Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>							*	*				
Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	*				*		*	*				
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	*				*	*	*		*			*

Douglas Fir
Dove's-foot Crane'sbill

Pseudotsuga menziesli
Geranium molle

*
*
*

Common Name

Scientific Name

W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
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		*	*		*			*			
*				*	*	*		*			*
		*	*			*		*			

European Larch
European Spindletree
False Acacia
Flax
False Brome
False Fox-sedge
False Oat-grass
Fat Hen
Fern-grass
Field Bindweed
Field Brome
Field Forget-me-not
Field Horsetail
Field Madder
Field Maple
Field Pansy

Latrux decidua
Euonymus europaeus
Robinia pseudoacacia
Linum usitatissimum
Brachypodium sylvaticum
Carex otrubae
Arrhenatherum elatius
Chenopodium album
Catapodium rigidum
Convolvulus arvensis
Bromus arvensis
Myosotis arvensis
Equisetum arvense
Sherardia arvensis
Acer campestre
Viola arvensis

Field Pennycress	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>					*			*		*			*
Field Rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	*							*					*
Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>		*						*					*
Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV	
Field Wood-rush	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	*	*											
Firs	<i>Compresses spp</i>							*						
Flattened Meadow-grass	<i>Poa compressa</i>						*							
Floating Sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>					*	*							
Fool's Parsley	<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>							*						
Fool's Water-cress	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	*												*
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia sp.</i>							*						
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	*						*	*					
Fragrant Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia procera</i>	*												
Fragrant Mockorange	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>							*						
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	*			*	*		*	*	*		*		*
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	*	*			*	*	*	*					*
Giant Fescue	<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	*				*								
Glaucous Sedge	<i>Carex flacca</i>	*												
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	*				*				*				
Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>		*		*			*		*				*
Goldilocks Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	*						*	*					*
Gooseberry	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	*												
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	*								*				
Grand Fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>							*						
Great Burnet			*											
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	*				*	*	*					*	*
Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	*				*								
Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	*	*		*	*		*		*		*		*
Greater Celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>							*	*					
Greater Knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>				*			*	*	*				*

Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Greater Pond Sedge	<i>Carex riparia</i>	*				*	*	*					
Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	*			*			*	*	*			*
Green Alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>							*	*		*		*

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
Grey Poplar	<i>Populus x canescens</i>									*			
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	*				*		*		*			*
Ground Elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	*			*		*	*		*			*
Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	*			*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>		*	*	*			*	*	*	*		*
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	*				*		*		*			
Gypsywort	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>					*	*						
Hairy Bindweed	<i>Calystegia pulchra</i>												*
Hairy Brome	<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>		*			*				*			
Hairy Sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>	*				*	*						
Hairy St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>	*											
Hairy Violet	<i>Viola hirta</i>	*											
Hard Rush	<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*	*			*	*
Hard Shield-fern	<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	*											
Hart's tongue	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	*										*	
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	*				*	*	*	*	*			*
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	*					*	*		*			*
Heath Speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	*											
Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>				*	*	*	*		*			*
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>					*				*			*
Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>							*	*			*	*
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	*			*	*		*		*	*	*	*
Hedgerow Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>				*			*	*	*			*
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	*					*						*

Hemlock Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>			*						
Hemp agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	*		*	*	*		*	* *	
Herb Bennet	<i>Geum urbanum</i>		*	*			*	*		*
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	*		*	*		*	*	*	*
Hoary Plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	*								

Japanese Plum Yew	<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i>
Japanese Walnut	<i>Juglans ailantifolia</i>
Jointed Rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>
Knotted Hedge-parsley	<i>Torilis nodosa</i>
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Large Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine amara</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST				
									G	H	DSW	D	GV
Large-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>							*					
Lawson's Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	*						*					
Lebanon Cedar	<i>Cedrus libani</i>							*					
Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	*			*	*		*		*			*
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	*				*		*	*				*
Lesser Pond Sedge	<i>Carex acutiformis</i>					*	*	*					
Lesser Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>					*	*						
Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	*											
Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>						*						
Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>							*					
Lords and Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	*			*	*		*	*	*			*
Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>										*		
Maize	<i>Zea mays</i>			*	*			*					
Male Fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	*						*					*
Marsh Bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>	*				*	*					*	
Marsh Foxtail	<i>Alopercurus geniculatus</i>						*						
Marsh Horsetail	<i>Equisetum palustre</i>					*	*						
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>					*		*				*	
Marsh Ragwort	<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>					*							
Marsh Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria palustris</i>					*							
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	*											
Marsh Woundwort	<i>Stachys palustris</i>					*	*						
Marsh Yellow-cress	<i>Rorippa palustris</i>					*							
Meadow Barley	<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>				*		*	*	*	*			*

Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>		*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
Meadow Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>		*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
Meadow Fescue	<i>Festuca pratensis</i>		*			*		*	*				
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	*			*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*		*		*	*

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
Michaelmas Daisy	<i>Aster spp</i>						*						*
Midland Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	*								*			
Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>					*							
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>		*				*	*	*				
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>		*	*	*			*		*		*	*
Musk Mallow	<i>Malva moschata</i>				*		*	*		*			*
Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>						*						
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>		*	*	*	*		*		*	*	*	*
Nootka Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>							*					
Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	*						*					
Orange Balsam	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>					*	*						
Oriental Spruce	<i>Picea orientalis</i>							*					
Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>	*										*	
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Oxford Ragwort	<i>Senecio squalidus</i>		*		*			*		*	*		*
Pale Persicaria	<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>					*							
Pale Sedge	<i>Carex pallescens</i>	*											
Parsley Piert	<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>			*	*		*						
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	*						*		*			*
Pendulous Sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i>	*						*					*
Perennial Flax	<i>Linum perenne</i>												*
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Perennial Sowthistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>		*	*	*			*	*	*	*		*

Perforate st John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>				*		*	*		*		*
Persian Ironwood	<i>Parrotia persica</i>							*				
Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	*							*			
Pineapple Mayweed	<i>Matricaria discoides</i>			*	*	*		*	*	*		*
Pink Water-speedwell	<i>Veronica catenata</i>					*						
Plicate Sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria notata</i>						*					
Polypody	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>								*		*	

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
Prickly Lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>					*							
Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>					*	*	*	*		*		*
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	*			*			*	*	*			*
Purple Toadflax	<i>Linaria purpurea</i>										*		
Purple-loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>					*		*					
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>						*						*
Ragged Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	*			*	*		*					
Rape	<i>Brassica oleifera</i>			*	*			*		*			*
Rape	<i>Brassica napus</i>			*	*					*			*
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	*											
Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites vemus</i>	*	*	*	*			*		*			
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>				*					*			*
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*			*
Red Currant	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	*											
Red Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>		*	*	*			*	*	*		*	*
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>		*		*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Red Goosefoot	<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>							*					
Red Shank	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
Red Valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>							*	*		*		
Red-hot-poker	<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>						*						
Reed Canary-grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>					*	*						
Reed Mace	<i>Typha latifolia</i>							*					

Reed Sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>					*	*							
Reflexed Stonecrop	<i>Sedum reflexum</i>										*			
Remote Sedge	<i>Carex remota</i>	*												
Restharrow	<i>Ononis repens</i>				*		*			*				*
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	*			*	*		*		*			*	*
Rough Chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>					*								*
Rough Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>		*		*					*				

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
Rough Hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis biennis</i>						*						
Rough Meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	*				*		*					*
Rue-leaved Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga triactylites</i>										*		
Sainfoin	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>				*					*			
Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>						*						
Sallow	<i>Salix sp</i>					*							
Salsify	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>				*					*			
Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	*											
Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>							*					
Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	*	*	*	*		*	*		*			
Scented Mayweed	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>			*	*			*					
Scentless Mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>			*	*		*	*	*	*			*
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	*						*					
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Sheep's Fescue agg.	<i>Festuca ovina agg.</i>		*				*						
Sheep's Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>		*		*			*					
Shepherd's Purse	<i>Capsella bursapastoris</i>		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	*						*	*	*			*
Silver Lime	<i>tilia tomentosa</i>							*					
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*	*				*

Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>					*	*							
Slender St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>							*						
Slender Tufted Sedge	<i>Carex acuta</i>				*	*								
Small Nettle	<i>Urtica urens</i>		*					*						
Smaller Cat's-tail	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>							*						
Small-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>								*					*
Smooth Hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>					*	*							
Smooth Meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	*							*	*				
Smooth Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	*		*	*	*		*	*	*				*

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>							*	*				*
Soft Brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>		*					*	*				
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*	*				*
Southern Beech	<i>betuloides or dombeyi</i>							*					
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	*			*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Spiked Sedge	<i>Carex spicata</i>	*											
Square-stalked St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum tetraperum</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*		*		*	*
Square-stalked Willowherb	<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>					*							
Sticky Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	*											
Sun Spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>			*	*			*					
Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	*				*				*			*
Sweet Chestut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>							*					
Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	*	*		*			*	*	*		*	*
Sweet Violet	<i>Viola odorata</i>	*						*	*				*
Swine-cress	<i>Coronopus squamatus</i>						*						
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	*						*		*			*
Tall Fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>					*							
Three-nerved Sandwort	<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	*											*

Thyme-leaved Sandwort	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>				*		*							
Thyme-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	*					*	*	*					*
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
Toad Rush	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>		*				*							*
Touch-me-not-Balsam	<i>Impatiens nolitangere</i>					*								
Traveller's Joy	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>					*	*	*		*				
Tufted Hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*	*	
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	*			*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>							*						
Upright Brome	<i>Bromopsis erecta</i>		*		*		*	*		*				*
Upright Hedge Parsley	<i>Torillis japonica</i>					*								*

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
Viburnum	<i>winter flower farreri</i>							*					
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	*											
Wall Barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>						*				*		
Wall Speedwell	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	*					*				*		
Wall-rue	<i>Asplenium rutamuraria</i>						*				*		
Water Chickweed	<i>Myosoton aquaticum</i>					*	*					*	
Water Dock	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>					*						*	
Water Figwort	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	*				*	*					*	*
Water Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis Scorpioidis</i>					*						*	
Water Horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>					*						*	
Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	*				*	*	*				*	
Water Plantain	<i>Alisma plantago aquatica</i>					*		*				*	
Watercress	<i>Rorippa nasturtium aquaticum</i>						*	*				*	
Wavy Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>					*							
Wavy Hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>		*					*					
Wayfaring Tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	*				*		*		*			
Weeping Willow	<i>Salix babylonica</i>	*											
Weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>						*	*					*
Wellentonia	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>							*					
Welsh Poppy	<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>							*					*

Wetted Thistle	<i>Carduus crispis</i>			*	*	*		*	*			*
Western Red Cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>							*				
White Beam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>							*				
White Bryony	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	*					*	*		*		*
White Campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
White Deadnettle	<i>Lamium alba</i>	*	*	*		*		*	*		*	*
White Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>							*				
White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>							*				
White Stonecrop	<i>Sedum album</i>					*				*		

Common Name	Scientific Name	W	AG	A	AFM	EM	BQ	BP	ST G	H	DSW	D	GV
White Water-Lily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>							*					
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	*				*		*		*			
Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	*	*			*	*	*		*		*	*
Wild Basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	*											
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	*						*					*
Wild Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>						*						
Wild Pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>			*	*			*					
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>				*					*			
Wild Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	*						*		*			*
Wild Radish	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>			*	*								
Wild Service Tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>									*			
Wild Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	*		*	*		*	*	*	*		*	*
Wintercress	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>				*			*		*			*
Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	*						*					
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	*				*							
Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	*				*	*						*
Wood Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>								*				
Wood Meadow-grass	<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	*	*		*			*		*			*
Wood Millet	<i>Milium effusum</i>	*											

Wood Sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	*									
Wood Stitchwort	<i>Stellaaria nemorum</i>	*									
Woolly Thistle	<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>					*					
Wych Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>								*		
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>		*		*	*	*	*	*		*
Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiasstrum galeobdolon</i>								*		*
Yellow Flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>				*	*	*				
Yellow Oat-grass	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>					*					
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>		*		*				*		
Yellow-loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>				*						
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>						*	*			
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*

APPENDIX 2 Mosses, Liverworts & Fungus recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011 - 2012

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Awl-leaved Earth-moss	<i>Pleuridium subulatum</i>	Hart's-tongue Thyme-moss	<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>
Bifid Crestwort- liverwort	<i>Lophocolea bidentata</i>	King Alfred's Cakes-fungus	<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>
Capillary Thread-moss	<i>Bryum capillare</i>	Kneiff's Feather-moss	<i>Leptodictyum riparium</i>
Common Feather-moss	<i>Eurhynchium praelongum</i>	Marsh Bryum	<i>Bryum pseudotriquetrum</i>
Common Pincushion	<i>Dicranoweisia cirrata</i>	Rambling Tail-moss	<i>Anomodon viticulosus</i>
Common Pocket-moss	<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>	Rusty Swan-neck moss	<i>Campylopus flexuosus</i>
Common Smoothcap-moss	<i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	Short-leaved Pocket-moss	<i>Fissidens incurvus</i>
Creeping Feather-moss	<i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	Showy Feather-moss	<i>Eurhynchium speciosum</i>
Cuspidate Earth-moss	<i>Tortula acaulon</i>	Silky Forklet-moss	<i>Dicranella heteromalla</i>
Cypress-leaved Plait-moss	<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	Small Hairy Screw-moss	<i>Syntrichia laevipila</i>
Dilated Scalewort	<i>Frullania dilatata</i>	Spreading Earth-moss	<i>Aphanorhegma patens</i>
Dotted Thyme-moss	<i>Rhizomnium punctatum</i>	Supine Plait-moss	<i>Hypnum resupinatum</i>
Forked Veilwort	<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	Swan's-neck Thyme-moss	<i>Mnium hornum</i>
Fox-tail Feather-moss	<i>Thamnobryum alopecurum</i>		

APPENDIX 3 Mammals recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011-2012

Bats	Common Pipistrelle		
	Long-eared		
	Brown Long-eared		
Other	Badger	Long-tailed Field Mouse	Red Fox
	Brown Hare	Mink	Roe Deer
	Common Shrew	Mole	Stoat
	Grey Squirrel	Muntjac Deer	Water Shrew
	Harvest House	Polecat	Weasel
	Hedgehog	Rabbit	
	House Mouse	Rat	

APPENDIX 4 Butterflies recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011-2012

Black Hairstreak	Orange Tip
Brimstone	Painted Lady
Brown Hairstreak	Peacock
Comma	Purple Hairstreak
Common Blue	Red Admiral
Gatekeeper	Ringlet
Green Hairstreak	Small Copper
Green-veined White	Small Heath
Holly Blue	Small Skipper
Large Skipper	Small Tortoiseshell
Large White	Small White
Marbled White	Speckled Wood
Meadow Brown	

APPENDIX 5 Dragonflies and Damselflies recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011 - 2012

Banded Demoiselle
Black-tailed Skimmer

Blue-tailed Damselfly
Brown Hawker
Common Blue Damselfly
Common Darter
Common Hawker
Emerald Damselfly
Emperor Dragonfly
Large Red Damselfly
Southern Hawker
White-legged Damselfly

APPENDIX 4 Butterflies recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011-2012

Black Hairstreak	Orange Tip
Brimstone	Painted Lady
Brown Hairstreak	Peacock
Comma	Purple Hairstreak
Common Blue	Red Admiral
Gatekeeper	Ringlet
Green Hairstreak	Small Copper
Green-veined White	Small Heath
Holly Blue	Small Skipper
Large Skipper	Small Tortoiseshell
Large White	Small White
Marbled White	Speckled Wood
Meadow Brown	

APPENDIX 5 Dragonflies and Damselflies recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011 - 2012

Banded Demoiselle

Black-tailed Skimmer
 Blue-tailed Damselfly
 Brown Hawker
 Common Blue Damselfly
 Common Darter
 Common Hawker
 Emerald Damselfly
 Emperor Dragonfly
 Large Red Damselfly
 Southern Hawker
 White-legged Damselfly

APPENDIX 6 Birds recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011-2012

Barn Owl	Grey Partridge	Red-legged Partridge
Barn Swallow	Grey Wagtail	Redwing
Black-billed Magpie	Herring Gull	Reed Bunting
Blackbird	Hobby	Reed Warbler
Blackcap	House Martin	Robin
Black-headed Gull	House Sparrow	Rook
Blue Tit	Jackdaw	Sedge Warbler
Brambling	Jay	Siskin
Bullfinch	Kestrel	Skylark
Buzzard	Kingfisher	Snipe
Canada Goose	Lapwing	Song Thrush
Carrion Crow	Lesser Black-headed Gull	Starling
Chaffinch	Lesser Redpoll	Stock Dove
Chiffchaff	Lesser Whitethroat	Swallow
Coal Tit	Linnet	Swift
Collared Dove	Little Egret	Tawny Owl
Coot	Little Grebe	Tern
Corn Bunting	Little Owl	Treecreeper

Crossbill	Long-tailed Tit	Tufted Duck
Cuckoo	Magpie	Water Rail
Curlew	Mallard	Whitethroat
Duncock	Mandarin Duck	Willow Warbler
Fieldfare	Marsh Tit	Winter Wren
Garden Warbler	Meadow Pipet	Wood Pigeon
Goldcrest	Mistle Thrush	Woodcock
Goldfinch	Moorhen	Yellowhammer
Grasshopper Warbler	Mute Swan	
Great Tit	Nuthatch	
Great-spotted Woodpecker	Pheasant	
Green Finch	Pied Wagtail	
Green Woodpecker	Raven	
Grey Heron	Red Kite	

APPENDIX 7 Macro Moths Recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011-2012

Angle Shades	Chestnut	Deep-brown Dart
Barred Sallow	Chinese Character	Dingy Footman (both forms)
Barred Straw	Chocolate Tip	Dingy Shears
Beaded Chestnut	Cinnabar	Dotted Border
Beautiful Hook-top	Clay	Dotted Rustic
Bight Line Brown Eye	Cloaked Minor	Double Square Spot
Black Arches	Clouded Border	Double striped Pug
Black Rustic	Clouded Drab	Drinker
Blair's Shoulder-knot	Clouded Silver	Dun-bar
Bletchington Macro List	Common Carpet	Dusky-lemon Sallow
Blood Vein	Common Emerald	Dwarf Cream Wave
Brick	Common Footman	Early Grey
Brimstone	Common Marbled Carpet	Early Thorn
Brindled Beauty	Common Pug	Elephant Hawkmoth

Brindled Green		Common Quaker	Engrailed
Brindled Pug		Common Rustic agg.	Fan-foot
Broad Bordered Yellow Underwing		Common Swift	Feathered Gothic
Brown Line Bright Eye		Common Wainscott	Feathered Thorn
Brown Rustic		Common Wave	Fern
Brown-spot Pinion		Common White Wave	Flame
Buff Ermine		Copper Underwing agg.	Flame Shoulder
Buff Footman		Coronet	Flounced Rustic
Buff Tip		Dark Arches	Freyers Pug
Burnished Brass		Dark Chestnut	Frosted Orange
Cabbage Moth		Dark Umber	Garden Carpet
Canary-shouldered Thorn		Dark Spinach	Ghost Moth
Centre barredSwallow		December Moth	
Green Carpet	Lunar Underwing	Plain Pug	
Green Pug	Magpie Moth	Poplar Hawk-moth	
Green-brindled Crescent	Maiden's Blush	Purple Thorn	
Grey Pine Carpet	Mallow	Red Chestnut	
Grey Pug	Marbled Beauty	Red Twin Spot Carpet	
Grey Shoulder Knot	Marbled Green	Red-green Carpet	
Heart and Club	Marbled Minor agg	Red-line Quaker	
Heart and Dart	March Moth	Riband Wave (both forms)	
Hebrew Character	Merveille du Jour	Rosy Rustic	
Herald	Middle Barred Minor	Ruby Tiger	
Humming Bird Hawk-moth	Minor Shoulder-knot	Rustic	
Ingrailed Clay	Mottled Beauty	Rustic Shoulder-knot	
July Highflier	Mottled Rustic	Sallow	
Lackey Moth	Mottled Umber	Satellite	
Large Nutmeg	Mouse Moth	Scalloped Oak	

Large Ranunculus	Muslin Ermine	Scarce Footman
Large Twin Spot Carpet	Muslin Footman	Scarce Tissue
Large Wainscot	November Moth agg.	Scarce Umber
Large Yellow Underwing	Nut-tree Tussock	Scarlet Tiger
Least Yellow Underwing	Oak Beauty	Scorched Wing
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	Old Lady	Setaceous Hebrew Character
Lesser Treble Bar	Orange Sallow	Shaded Broad-bar
Lesser Yellow Underwing	Orange Swift	Shears
Light Arches	Pale Brindled Beauty	Short Cloaked Moth
Light Emerald	Pale Mottled Willow	Shoulder Stripe
Lime-speck Pug	Pale Prominent	Shuttle-shaped Dart
Lobster Moth	Pale Tussock	Silver Y
Lunar Marbled Brown	Pebble Prominent	Silver-ground Carpet
Single Dotted Wave	Vapourer	
Six Spotted Burnet Moth	Vines Rustic	
Six-striped Rustic	V-Pug	
Small Blood Vein	Water Carpet	
Small Dusty Wave	White Ermine	
Small fan footed Wave	White-spotted Pug	
Small Phoenix	Willow Beauty	
Small Quaker	Winter Moth	
Small Rivulet	Yellow Shell	
Smoky Wainscot	Yellow Tail	
Snout	Yellow-line Quaker	
Spectacle		
Sprawler		
Spring Usher		
Spruce Carpet		

Square spot Rustic
 Straw Dot
 Straw Underwing
 Streamer
 Swallow Kitten
 Swallow-tail
 Tawny Marbled Minor
 Treble Lines
 Turnip Moth
 Twin-spot Quaker
 Uncertain

APPENDIX 8 Micro Moths recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011-2012

<i>Acentria ephemerella</i>	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	<i>Hypsopygia costalis</i>
<i>Acleris forsskaleana</i>	<i>Chrysoteuchio culmella</i>	<i>Myelois circumvoluta</i>
<i>Acleris Sparsana</i>	<i>Clepsis consimilana</i>	<i>Nematopogon metaxella</i>
<i>Acleris variegana</i>	<i>Crambus periella</i>	<i>Nomophila noctuella (Rush Veneer)</i>
<i>Acrobasis consociella</i>	<i>Crassa unitella</i>	<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>
<i>Aethes smeathmanniana</i>	<i>Cydia pomonella</i>	<i>Pandemis heparana</i>
<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	<i>Dipleurina lacustrata</i>	<i>Phlyctaenia coronata</i>
<i>Agonopterix arenella</i>	<i>Diurnia fagella</i>	<i>Phthechroe rugosana</i>
<i>Agonopterix heracliata</i>	<i>Donacula forficella</i>	<i>Phycita roborella</i>
<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>	<i>Ebulea crocealis</i>	<i>Phycitodes binaevella</i>
<i>Agriphila inquinatella</i>	<i>Endotricha flammealis</i>	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>
<i>Agriphila selasella</i>	<i>Epiblema foenella</i>	<i>Pseudargyrotoza conwagana</i>
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	<i>Epiblema uddmaniana</i>	<i>Pterophorus pentadactyla</i>

<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>
<i>Aleimma loeflingiana</i>	<i>Eucosma campoliliana</i>	<i>Pyrausta nigrata</i>
<i>Amiblyptilla acanthadactyla</i>	<i>Eucosma cana</i>	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>
<i>Aphomia Socielia</i>	<i>Eudonia angustea</i>	<i>Scoparia pyralella</i>
<i>Archips podana</i>	<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	<i>Stathmopoda pedella</i>
<i>Archips xylosteana</i>	<i>Eudonia pallida</i>	<i>Timothy Tortrix</i>
<i>Batla lunarls</i>	<i>Eurrhypara hortulata</i>	<i>Tortricodes alternella</i>
<i>Blastobasis lacticolella</i>	<i>Evergestis forficalis</i>	<i>Trachycera advenella</i>
<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>	<i>Gypsonoma dealbana</i>	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>
<i>Brachmia blandella</i>	<i>Gypsonoma sociana</i>	<i>Udea prunalis</i>
<i>Carcina quercana</i>	<i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>
<i>Catoptria falsella</i>	<i>Hedya salicella</i>	<i>Ypsolpha dentella</i>
<i>Catoptria pinella</i>	<i>Hofmannophila pseudopretella</i>	<i>Zeiraphera isertana</i>
<i>Ceiypha striana</i>		

APPENDIX 9 Reptiles and Amphibians recorded in Bletchington Parish 2011-2012

Adder	Grass Snake
Common Frog	Great Crested Newt
Common Toad	Slow Worm

APPENDIX 10 Other invertebrates recorded in Bletchington Parish

14-spot Ladybird	<i>Propylea quattuordecimpuncta</i>
22-spot Ladybird	<i>Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata</i>
2-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>
7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>
Beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Tachyporus hypnorum</i>

Beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Athous (Athous) haemorrhoidalis</i>
Beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Agriotes pallidulus</i>
Beetle (Coleoptera)	<i>Dasytes aeratus</i>
Blue Willow Beetle	<i>Phratora vulgatissima</i>
Blunt-tailed Snake Millipede	<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>
Brown Willow Beetle	<i>Galerucella lineola</i>
Budapest Slug	<i>Tandonia budapestensis</i>
Centipede	<i>Lithobius (Litorobius) forficatus</i>
Centipede	<i>Lithobius (Litorobius) melanops</i>
Cereal Leaf Beetle	<i>Oulema melanopus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Agonum (Agonum) viduum</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Agonum (Europhilus) fuliginosum</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Agonum (Europhilus) thoreyi</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Agonum obscurum</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Altica lythri</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Amara (Amara) communis</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Bembidion (Philochthus) biguttatum</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Bembidion (Philochthus) guttula</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Bembidion (Semicampa) gilvipes</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Cantharis decipiens</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Cantharis figurata</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Cantharis nigricans</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Chrysolina staphylaea</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Coccidula rufa</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Crepidodera fulvicornis</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Crepidodera plutus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Cyphon coarctatus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Cyphon ochraceus</i>

Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Datonychus urticae</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Demetrias (demetrias) atricapillus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Demetrias (Risophilus) imperialis</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Elaphrus (Elaphrus) cupreus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Epitrix pubescens</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Galerucella tenella</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Grammoptera ruficornis</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Malthodes minimus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Notiophilus biguttatus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Ocys harpaloides</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Paederus riparius</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Patrobus atrorufus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Phalacrus caricis</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Phyllobius (Metaphyllobius) pomaceus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Plagiodera versicolora</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Polydrusus (Eustolus) pterygomalis</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Psylliodes dulcamarae</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Pterostichus (Argutor) diligens</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Pterostichus (Argutor) strenuus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Pterostichus (Pseudomaseus) minor</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Rhagonycha testacea</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Stenolophus mixtus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Stenus (Hypostenus) solutus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Stomis pumicatus</i>
Coleoptera (beetle)	<i>Trichocellus placidus</i>
Common Chthonid	<i>Chthonius ischnocheles</i>
Common Chthonid	<i>Chthonius ischnocheles</i>
Common Earwig	<i>Forficula auricularia</i>

Common Flower Bug	<i>Anthocoris nemorum</i>
Common Ground-hopper	<i>Tetrix undulata</i>
Common Leaf Weevil	<i>Phyllobius (Phyllobius) pyri</i>
Common Pill Woodlouse	<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>
Common Pollen Beetle	<i>Meligethes aeneus</i>
Cream-spot Ladybird	<i>Calvia quattuordecimguttata</i>
Crustacean	<i>Androniscus dentiger</i>
Crustacean	<i>Haplophthalmus danicus</i>
Crustacean	<i>Trichoniscoides albidus</i>
Crustacean	<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i>
Crustacean	<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>
Crustacean	<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>
Crustacean	<i>Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii</i>
Crustacean	<i>Oniscus asellus</i>
Crustacean	<i>Cylisticus convexus</i>
Crustacean	<i>Porcellio scaber</i>
Crustacean	<i>Porcellio spinicornis</i>
Dark Green Apple Capsid	<i>Orthotylus (Orthotylus) marginalis</i>
Dark Green Apple Capsid	<i>Orthotylus (Orthotylus) marginalis</i>
Diptera (True Fly)	<i>Rhingia campestris</i>
Europeon Tarnished Plant Bug	<i>Lygus rugulipennis</i>
Field Damselbug	<i>Nabis (Nabis) ferus</i>
Figwort Weevil	<i>Cionus scrophulariae</i>
Garlic Snail	<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i>
Glossy Glass Snail	<i>Oxychilus nararricus subsp. Helveticus</i>
Green Dock Beetle	<i>Gastrophysa viridula</i>
Green Tortoise Beetle	<i>Cassida viridis</i>
Hairy Snail	<i>Trochulus (Trocholus) hispidus</i>

Harvestman (Opiliones)	<i>Nemastoma bimaculatum</i>
Harvestman (Opiliones)	<i>Paroligolophus agrestis</i>
Harvestman (Opiliones)	<i>Phalangium opilio</i>
Hemiptera (True Bug)	<i>Liocoris tripustulatus</i>
Hemiptera (True Bug)	<i>Orthops (Orthops) campestris</i>
Hemiptera (True Bug)	<i>Notostira elongata</i>
Hemiptera (True Bug)	<i>Stenodema (Stenodema) Laevigata</i>
Hemiptera (True Bug)	<i>Eysarcoris fabricii</i>
Hemiptera (True Bug)	<i>Calocoris quadripunctatus</i>
Hemiptera (True Bug)	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>
Hemiptera (True Bug)	<i>Cixius nervosus</i>
Hemiptera (True Bug)	<i>Javesella pellucida</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Acompus pallipes</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Agallia consobrina</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Anthocoris nemoralis</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Aphrophora alni</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Calocoris (Grypocoris) stysi</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Cicadula quadrinotata</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Deraeocoris (Deraeocoris) ruber</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Dicyphus (Dicyphus) constrictus</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Dicyphus (Dicyphus) epilobii</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Dicyphus (Dicyphus) errans</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Eupteryx aurata</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Heterotoma meriopterum</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Himacerus (Himacerus) apterus</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Ischnodemus sabuleti</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Liocoris tripustulatus</i>

Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Lygocoris (Neolygus) viridis</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Orthops (Orthops) campestris</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Phytocoris (Ktenocoris) varipes</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Plagiognathus (Plagiognathus) arbustorum</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Polymerus (Polymerus) nigrita</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Scolopostethus thomsoni</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Stenodema (Brachystira) calcarata</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Tingis (Tingis) cardui</i>
Hemiptera(true bug)	<i>Zicrona caerulea</i>
Hill Cuckoo Bee	<i>Bombus (Psithyrus) rupestris</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Andrena (Leucandrena) barbilabris</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Andrena (Melandrena) cineraria</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Andrena (Melandrena) nigroaenea</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Andrena (Melandrena) nitida</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Andrena (Micrandrena) minutula</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Andrena (Micrandrena) subopaca</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Andrena (Notandrena) chrysosceles</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Andrena (Zonandrena) flavipes</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Anoplius nigerrimus</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Anthophora (Anthophora) plumipes</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Arachnospila (Ammosphex) anceps</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Athalia rosae</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Bombus (Bombus) terrestris</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Bombus (Melanobombus) lapidarius</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Bombus (Psithyrus) vestalis</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Caliadurgus fasciatellus</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Halictus (Seladonia) tumulorum</i>

Hymenoptera	<i>Hylaeus (Spatulariella) hyalinatus</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Dialictus) leucopus</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Dialictus) morio</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Dialictus) smeathmanellum</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) calcceatum</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) fulvicorne</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) malachurum</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) minutissimum</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) pauxillum</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) punctatissimum</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) villosulum</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum (Lasioglossum) leucozonium</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasioglossum xanthopus</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasius fuliginosus</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Lasius niger</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Nomada flava</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Nomada goodeniana</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Nomada lathburiana</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Osmia (Helicosmia) aurulenta</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Passaloecus singularis</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Philaenus spumarius</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Priccnemis exaltata</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Schecodes niger</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Sphecodes ephippius</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Trypoxylon attenuatum</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Trypoxylon figulus</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Trypoxylon medium</i>
Hymenoptera	<i>Vespula (Paravespula) germanica</i>

Iris Flea Beetle	<i>Aphthona nonstriata</i>
Kentish Snail	<i>Monacha (Monacha) cantiana</i>
Lesser Marsh Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus albomarginatus</i>
Marsh Damselbug	<i>Nabis (Limnonabis) lineatus</i>
Marsh Slug	<i>Deroceras laeve</i>
Meadow Cranesbill Weevil	<i>Zacladus geranii</i>
Millipede	<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>
Millipede	<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>
Millipede	<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>
Millipede	<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>
Millipede	<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>
Mollusc	<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>
Mollusc	<i>Cepaea (Cepaea) hortensis</i>
Mollusc	<i>Deroceras (Deroceras) laeve</i>
Mollusc	<i>Physa fontinalis</i>
Mollusc	<i>Cochlicopa cf. lubricella</i>
Mollusc	<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>
Mollusc	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>
Mollusc	<i>Aegopinella pura</i>
Mollusc	<i>Nesovitrea (Perpolita) hammonis</i>
Mollusc	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>
Mollusc	<i>Aegopinella pura</i>
Mollusc	<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>
Mollusc	<i>Arion circumscriptus agg.</i>
Mollusc	<i>Candidula intersecta</i>
Mollusc	<i>Carychium minimum seg.</i>
Mollusc	<i>Cernuella virgata</i>
Mollusc	<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>

Mollusc	<i>Cochlicopa cf. lubrica</i>
Mollusc	<i>Euconulus cf. alderi</i>
Mollusc	<i>Lauria cylindracea</i>
Mollusc	<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>
Mollusc	<i>Oxychilus draparnaudi</i>
Mollusc	<i>Succinea putris</i>
Mollusc	<i>Trochulus striolatus</i>
Mollusc	<i>Vallonia costata</i>
Mollusc	<i>Vallonia pulchella seg.</i>
Mollusc	<i>Vitrea crystallina seg.</i>
Mollusc	<i>Zonitoides nitidus</i>
Netted Slug	<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>
Oak Bush-cricket	<i>Meconema thalassinum</i>
Parent Bug	<i>Elasmucha grisea</i>
Pied Shieldbug	<i>Tritomegas bicolor</i>
Rounded Snail	<i>Discus (Gonyodiscus) rotundatus</i>
Scorpion Fly (Mecoptera)	<i>Panorpa communis</i>
Skullcap Leaf Beetle	<i>Phyllobrotica quadrimaculata</i>
Slender Ground-hopper	<i>Tetrix subulata</i>
Small Green Nettle Weevil	<i>Phyllobius (Parnemoicus) roboretanus</i>
Small Nettle Weevil	<i>Nedyus quadrimaculatus</i>
Southern Garden Slug	<i>Arion (kobeltia) hortensis</i>
Spear Thistle Lacebug	<i>Tingis (Tingis) cardui</i>
Spider (Araneae)	<i>Cirurina cicur</i>
Spotted Snake Millipede	<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>
Thistle Tortoise Beetle	<i>Cassida rubiginosa</i>
Tree Slug	<i>Lehmannia marginata</i>
true fly (Diptera)	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>

true fly (Diptera)	<i>Leucozona lucorum</i>
Truefly (Diptera)	<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>
Truefly (Diptera)	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>
Truefly (Diptera)	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>
Truefly (Diptera)	<i>Syritta pipiens</i>
Vestal Cuckoo Bee	<i>Bombus (Psithyrus) vestalis</i>
Water Ladybird	<i>Anisosticta novemdecimpunctata</i>
White-legged Snake Millipede	<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>
Willow Flea Beetle	<i>Crepidodera aurata</i>