

Nature Conservation Management Plan

Table 2: Project list and prescription with details of the programme of work, including season when work should be carried out, frequency (no. of times per year) of operations and responsibility, as appropriate. The programme will commence as soon as planning consent is granted (= Year 1).

KEY: A = Autumn, W = Winter, Sp = Spring, S = Summer E = Ecological scientists D/C = developers/contractors BE = **Betts Estates**.

PROJECT	PRESCRIPTION	YEAR(S)	SEASON	FREQ. (per yr)	RESPONSIBILITY
4.1.1 Badgers: Pre-Construction Phase	Undertake a badger survey of the development site. Apply for a licence permitting badger disturbance from Natural England. Install protective fencing around the sett, as requested.	Before planning application. Before any work begins within 20-30m of the active setts.		1 1 1	E E D/C
4.1.2 Badgers: Construction Phase	Instigate a programme of monitoring visits. Check the integrity of the protective fencing. Report and repair any damage. All steep sided ditches and excavations are to be provided with an escape route for badgers. All site staff should be made aware of Natural England's guidelines on badgers and disturbance (refer to Annex 3). Care should be taken that no site investigations prior to development disturb or damage the badger setts.	Ongoing until construction is complete.		Defined by badger licence. Defined by badger licence. 1	E E D/C
4.1.3 Badgers: Post Construction Phase	Continue monitoring programme to ensure that the local badger population has not been adversely affected. Take action to remedy any negative impact.	From end of construction As identified.		Defined by badger licence. As necessary	E E
4.1.4 Wooded bank:	Ensure that retained trees are protected in line with BS5837:2005 Trees in Relation to Construction.	1	Protection (all)	As required	D/C

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PROJECT	PRESCRIPTION	YEAR(S)	SEASON	FREQ. (per yr)	RESPONSIBILITY
Pre-construction Phase	Check for nesting birds as required.	1	Birds (Sp, S)	As required	E
4.1.5 Wooded bank: Construction Phase	Ensure that retained trees are protected in line with BS5837:2005 Trees in Relation to Construction.	1	Protection (all)	As required	D/C
	Check for nesting birds as required.	1	Birds (Sp, S)	As required	E
4.1.6 Wooded bank: Post-construction Phase	Woodland should be managed to establish a pre-dominantly ash with pedunculate oak canopy and an under-storey of hazel and hawthorn. This should be achieved through thinning and long-term removal of sycamore, thinning of ash and the coppicing of shrub layer species including hazel. Localised patches of hawthorn should be retained to provide cover in the shrub layer. A minimum of five trees should be retained grown on to standards, which in the long-term will provide a standing dead wood resource.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	A/W	1	D/C, BE
	Remove non-native species including Indian balsam.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Sp/S	1	D/C, BE
	Inspect woodland during monitoring visits to ensure this does not become re-established.	2, 3, 4, 5	Sp/S	1	D/C, BE
	Erect six Schwegler bat boxes, made from long lasting woodcrete material, in the mature trees within the woodland on the bank.	1	A/W	-	D/C, BE
	Monitor the bat boxes installed on the trees for use by bat species in the NCMP monitoring visits.	1	A/W	-	D/C, BE
	Where feasible, reposition any bat boxes not used within two years.	3, 5	A/W	-	D/C, BE

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PROJECT	PRESCRIPTION	YEAR(S)	SEASON	FREQ. (per yr)	RESPONSIBILITY
	Provide new nesting opportunities for birds within on trees within the landscaped park and the canal bank i.e. nest boxes. Install ten bird boxes of varying sizes in trees. Fifty percent of the boxes provided should be suitable for tits, 30% should have a larger diameter entrance hole, suitable for sparrows etc., and 20% should be open-fronted robin boxes.	2	A/W	-	D/C, BE
	Establish localised areas of scrub on the woodland bank to provide resting habitat for otter.	1	A/W	-	D/C, BE
	Log piles will be created during thinning operations to provide a dead wood habitat.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	A/W	-	D/C, BE
4.1.7 Riparian zone: Pre-construction Phase	Ensure that retained trees are protected in line with BS5837:2005 Trees in Relation to Construction. Check for nesting birds as required.	1 As required	Protection (all) Birds (Sp/S)	As required As required	D/C E
4.1.8 Riparian zone: Construction Phase	Ensure that retained trees are protected in line with BS5837:2005 Trees in Relation to Construction. Remove non-native species including Indian balsam. Inspect woodland during monitoring visits to ensure that this does not become re-established.	1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 2, 3, 4, 5	All Sp/S Sp/S	As required 1 1	D/C D/C, BE D/C, BE
4.1.9 Riparian zone: Post-construction Phase	Maintain a well-vegetated margin between the watercourse and development area. Provide optimal habitat for water vole by ensuring that sections of the stream remain clear of trees to allow light to penetrate the stream banks. These areas should support a diverse array of native marginal and aquatic vegetation.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	All A/W	Ongoing Ongoing	D/C, BE D/C, BE

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PROJECT	PRESCRIPTION	YEAR(S)	SEASON	FREQ. (per yr)	RESPONSIBILITY
	Remove non-native species including Indian balsam.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Sp/S	1	D/C, BE
	Inspect woodland during monitoring visits to ensure that this does not become re-established.	2, 3, 4, 5	Sp/S	1	D/C, BE
	Install artificial holts to encourage use of the site by otter.	1	A/W		D/C, BE
	Monitor the riparian habitat for use by protected species.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	All	2	E
4.1.10 Established formal gardens: Pre-construction Phase	Any clearance of vegetation must be supervised by ecologists in order to avoid damage or destruction of bird nests and concomitant breaches of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	Before any site stripping begins		-	E
4.1.11 Established formal gardens: Construction Phase	Retain standard, ivy-covered trees to the rear of the buildings and on the boundaries of the site within the scheme of development wherever feasible. Protect retained trees in line with British Standard BS5837 Trees in Relation to Construction (2005).	Ongoing until construction is complete.		Ongoing Ongoing	D/C D/C
4.1.12 Established formal gardens: Post-Construction Phase	Proposed planting should consist of site specific species.	During work on this feature	During work on this feature	-	D/C, BE
4.1.13 Miscellaneous: Pre-construction Phase	Formal instruction of site-based personnel will be undertaken. A site manager will be identified to ensure the measures prescribed in this NCMP are upheld on a daily basis and that good environmental practice is observed at all times. A log book of all maintenance, by persons appointed by the site manager, will be kept that can be inspected by appointed scientists, statutory authorities and other authorised	Permanent	Any	-	D/C & E

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PROJECT	PRESCRIPTION	YEAR(S)	SEASON	FREQ. (per yr)	RESPONSIBILITY
	<p>personnel.</p> <p>Undertake an intensive pre-site clearance search prior to any site stripping. Avoid any site stripping at the site during the bird nesting season (March - August inclusive) or, if this is not possible, conduct site stripping and vegetation removal under the direction of a suitably experienced ecologist.</p>	Before site stripping begins.	Before site stripping begins.	-	E
4.1.14 Miscellaneous: Construction Phase	A suitably licensed ecologist should be present during the work on trees identified as being of "moderate value" for bats.	During work on this feature.		-	E
4.1.15 Miscellaneous: Post- construction Phase	Produce and install an interpretive sign board.	Once site construction is complete		-	D/C, BE
4.1.16 Monitoring, recording and reviewing: Pre- construction Phase	Develop and establish the comprehensive programme to monitor the development project at all stages.	Once site construction is complete		-	E
4.1.17 Monitoring, recording and reviewing: Post- construction Phase	<p>Conduct monthly site inspections during the construction phase.</p> <p>Conduct a daily inspection of the protective fences and repair as necessary.</p>	<p>Until development is complete</p> <p>Until development is complete</p>		<p>12</p> <p>Every day during construction</p>	<p>E</p> <p>D/C</p>
4.1.18 Monitoring, recording and	Following construction, maintain the monitoring and management programme designed during the pre-construction phase.	Once construction is complete.	All	4	E

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PROJECT	PRESCRIPTION	YEAR(S)	SEASON	FREQ. (per yr)	RESPONSIBILITY
reviewing: Post-construction Phase	Update written and photographic records following each site visit. Amend NCMP as necessary.	All.	All	As required	E
	Review and update the NCMP following each site visit. Issue compliance certificate annually.	All.	All	4	E
	Carry out the full quinquennial reviews.				

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SECTION C: SUPPORTING INFORMATION and ANNEXES

This section contains:

References and Bibliography

Abbreviations

- Annexes:
1. Site Description
 - Location
 - Summary of Physical Features
 - The Physical Environment
 - The Biological Environment
 2. Site Data
 - Cartographic Database
 - Photographic Database
 - Biological Database
 3. Supporting Information
 - Monitoring and review
 - Data trawl
 - Planting list
 - Badgers and disturbance

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ABBREVIATIONS

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CBEB	Christopher Betts Environmental Biology
CRoWA	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
EPS	European Protected Species
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
NCMP	Nature Conservation Management Plan
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

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ANNEXES

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ANNEX 1: SITE DESCRIPTION

Location

The site, located at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SO 528 391 and covers approximately 1.1ha. It lies on the banks of the River Wye in the eastern suburbs of Hereford and is bounded by a mix of garden fences and hedges. The River Wye runs along the southern boundary and the Fownhope Road runs along the northern boundary, whilst gardens abut the site to the east and west.

Summary of Physical Features

The proposed development footprint was found to comprise established, formal gardens attached to the Hampton Grange Nursing Home and a steep, wooded bank sloping towards the River Wye which runs along the southern boundary of the site. A plan is provided in Annex 2, Figure 1.

The Physical Environment

The formal gardens are on flat ground at 60m above ordnance datum. The ground falls steeply to the River Wye at 50m above ordnance datum to the rear of the existing buildings.

The site is located on freely draining, loamy, floodplain soils. Soils are waterlogged at the base of the slope on land adjacent to the River Wye. There is no permanent standing water at the site.

The site is situated within the Central Herefordshire Natural Area, a region landscape is predominantly lowland in character. The Natural Area contains the floodplains of the River Wye, which flows across the area from west to south-east, and the River Lugg, which flows north to south and joins the River Wye east of Hereford City. The River Wye is regarded as an internationally significant river system. (<http://www.magic.gov.uk>).

The Biological Environment

The biological environment is described in some detail in the *Ecological Extended Phase I Survey Report, Hampton Grange Nursing Home, Hereford* (CBEB 2007a).

The steep slopes on this bank are designated as a SINC and have been neglected, with the resultant vegetation comprising of self established secondary woodland. The trees present are a uniform age structure with predominantly semi-mature ash and sycamore with the occasional older specimens and abundant seedlings and saplings. The canopy also supports a smaller number of wild cherry, domestic apple, elder and holly. The ground flora is dominated by nettle, cleavers, garlic mustard and herb Robert.

A band of flat, waterlogged ground runs along the bottom of the slope, adjacent to the River Wye. This is a SAC, SSSI and SINC and supports semi-mature ash and sycamore, with occasional alder and elder. The River Wye is lined with young crack willow. The ground flora is dominated by Indian balsam and nettles.

Established, formal gardens run along the northern, eastern and western sides of the house. It comprises lawns, flower beds, shrubberies and mature trees. The lawns are typical of their age with a mix of fescues, perennial rye grass, self heal, white clover and sorrel. Formal trees are predominantly located along the southern boundary of the site and consist of beech, lime, cedar, magnolia, mulberry and a handkerchief tree.

The boundaries consist of a mixture of garden hedgerows and fences. Those in the formal garden area are managed with a Leyland's cypress hedge along the western boundary, a young beech hedge along the northern boundary and fencing along the eastern boundary. Boundaries along western and eastern edges of the land to the south of the buildings are neglected, but have been managed as privet and cherry laurel hedgerow in the past. These boundaries also support and number of mature sycamore, holly and ash.

The River Wye runs along the southern boundary of the site. The River Wye is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is identified as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EC Habitats Directive, as it is regarded as an internationally significant river system. Common otter, water vole, Atlantic stream crayfish and freshwater pearl mussel have been recorded on the River Wye and are also listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. Populations of native crayfish, otter and two rare fish, the twaite and allis shad, contribute to the selection of the Wye as a candidate SAC.

Several mature trees were recorded on site although none were assessed as having any significant potential to support roosting bats. Ivy clad oak trees (target note 2) and boundary trees to the rear of the buildings are assessed as being of "moderate value" for bats. (Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Bat Survey Guidelines Consultation Draft 2007.)

The building will not be developed as part of this proposal, but is assessed as being of "high value" for roosting bats. Bats using this or surrounding buildings may use the tree cover along the banks of the River Wye for foraging. Pipistrelle, Daubenton's, lesser horseshoe, brown long-eared and Natterer's bat have been recorded within 1km of the site.

A small and active badger sett was identified on the slopes to the south of the house although this is not a main sett. Several holes were observed in the riparian zone. The site is used by badgers with evidence of tracks and snuffle holes.

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ANNEX 2: SITE DATA

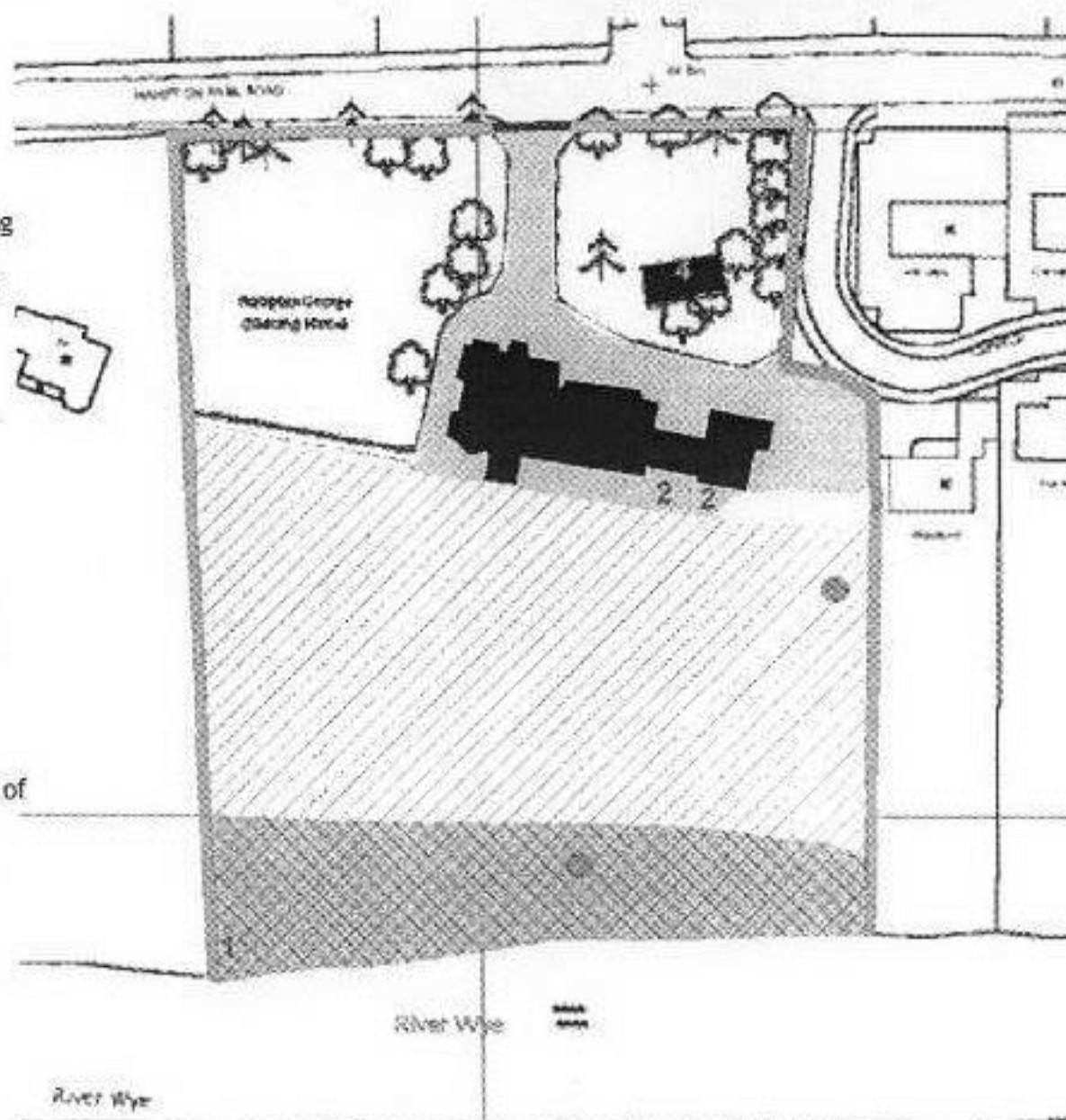
Cartographic Database

Sets of plans are held by site owners, their agents and professional advisors, and at **Betts Estates** offices. Figure 1 below shows the site and its main features.

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Legend

-  Buildings
-  Driveway and decking
-  Ornamental gardens
-  Wooded bank
-  Riparian zone
-  Fence
-  Garden hedgerows
-  Badger sett
-  Approximate extent of SSSI and SAC
-  Extent of SINC
-  Target note
-  Trees



Location of site

Client: Foxley Tagg Planning Ltd..
 Site: Hampton Grange Nursing Home.
 Title: Extended Phase I Survey
 Ref: 5631
 Date: July 2007

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Photographic Database

Photographs have been taken of the site and its features. These are held at *Betts Ecology Offices*.

Plates 1-6 provide an overview of the site.



Plate 1: Ornamental lawns with standard trees



Plate 2: Wooded bank



Plate 3: Indian balsam in the riparian zone



Plate 4: Badger sett on the bank

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Biological database

Species lists

Species lists are compiled on a visual encounter basis and, since many are cryptic, mobile and/or seasonal, they are not exhaustive. For nomenclature, please see "ECOLOGICAL ESTATE SERVICES - INTRODUCTORY NOTES", above.

Vascular plants

Scientific name	Vernacular name	Betts Estate Comment	Date	DAFOR ³
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore	Wooded bank	16.07.07	A
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	creeping bent	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	A
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	garlic mustard	Wooded bank	16.07.07	A
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	alder	Riparian zone	16.07.07	R
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	meadow foxtail	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	wild angelica		16.07.07	O
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat-grass	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	lords-and-ladies	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy	Lawn	16.07.07	R
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	false brome	Wooded bank	16.07.07	O
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	wavy bitter-cress	Riparian zone	16.07.07	R
<i>Carex pendula</i>	pendulous sedge	Riparian zone	16.07.07	R
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	wood-sedge	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	common mouse-ear	Lawn	16.07.07	R
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	enchanter's nightshade	Wooded bank	16.07.07	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	traveller's-joy	Wooded bank	16.07.07	O
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn	Wooded bank	16.07.07	O
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cock's-foot	Throughout site	16.07.07	O
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove	Wooded bank	16.07.07	O
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> agg.	male-fern agg.	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	great willowherb	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	R
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	beech	Ornamental	16.07.07	R
<i>Festuca rubra</i> s.l.	red fescue	Lawn	16.07.07	F
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	A
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	common fumitory	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	A
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb-Robert	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	A
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	wood avens	Wooded bank	16.07.07	O
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	ground-ivy	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	F
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	A
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	hogweed	Riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	Throughout site	16.07.07	O
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	cat's-ear	Lawn	16.07.07	R
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly	Wooded bank	16.07.07	O
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Indian balsam	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	A
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial rye-grass	Lawn	16.07.07	O

³ DAFOR stands for Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional, Rare. It is a nominative scale used to indicate the abundance of species within a survey area. L = locally. Note that "Rare" in this classification has nothing to do with the species' conservation status.

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Scientific name	Vernacular name	Betts Ecology Comment	Date	DAFOR ⁴
<i>Malus domestica</i>	domestic apple	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Malva moschata</i>	musk-mallow	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	early forget-me-not	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Plantago major</i>	greater plantain	Wooded bank and lawn	16.07.07	R
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow-grass	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Populus tremula</i>	aspen	Riparian zone	16.07.07	R
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal	Lawn	16.07.07	O
<i>Quercus robur</i>	pedunculate oak	Gardens	16.07.07	R
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup	Riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	bramble agg.	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	A
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	common sorrel	Lawn	16.07.07	R
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	curled dock	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Salix cinerea</i> agg.	grey willow	Riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	crack-willow	Riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	F
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	common ragwort	Wooded bank	16.07.07	O
<i>Silene dioica</i>	red campion	Riparian zone	16.07.07	O
<i>Stellaria media</i>	common chickweed	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	dandelions	Lawn	16.07.07	R
<i>Tilia</i> sp.	lime	Ornamental	16.07.07	R
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover	Lawn	16.07.07	F
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	colt's-foot	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	common nettle	Wooded bank and riparian zone	16.07.07	F
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	great mullein	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	germander speedwell	Lawn	16.07.07	R

Bryophytes, lichens and fungi

Scientific name	Vernacular name	Betts Ecology Comment	Date	DAFOR ⁴
<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>	red-stemmed feather-moss	Lawn	16.07.07	R
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	common feather-moss	Wooded bank	16.07.07	R

Birds

Scientific name	Vernacular name	Betts Ecology Comment	Date
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	greenfinch	Heard on site	16.07.07
<i>Columba livia</i>	feral pigeon	Heard on site	16.07.07
<i>Corvus corone</i>	carrion crow	Seen on site	16.07.07
<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	blue tit	Heard and seen on site	16.07.07
<i>Picris viridis</i>	green woodpecker	Heard on site	16.07.07
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	wren	Heard on site	16.07.07
<i>Turdus merula</i>	blackbird	Heard on site	16.07.07

Mammals

Scientific name	Vernacular name	Betts Ecology Comment	Date
<i>Meles meles</i>	badger	Sett on site	16.07.07
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	rabbit	Evidence of their use of the site	16.07.07

⁴ DAFOR stands for Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional, Rare. It is a nominative scale used to indicate the abundance of species within a survey area. L = locally. Note that "Rare" in this classification has nothing to do with the species' conservation status.