

Thames Valley

Environmental Records Centre



Sharing environmental information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire

01865 815 451

tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.tverc.org

Follow us on Twitter @TVERC1

LAND EAST OF REDBRIDGE PARK & RIDE

PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY REPORT

2018



ABOUT TVERC

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) is a 'not for profit' organisation covering Berkshire and Oxfordshire. We are run by a partnership and are one of a national network of local records centres. We are a member of the Association of Local Records Centres (ALERC) and the National Biodiversity Network (NBN). Our funding partners include all the local authorities in Oxfordshire & Berkshire plus the Environment Agency. We also work closely with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). We provide our funding partners with annually updated species and sites information, and undertake surveys of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). We also carry out data analysis for the monitoring of local authority Local Plans. We provide information to parish councils, local people, conservation bodies, land-owners, students and commercial organisations such as ecological consultants and utilities companies via data searches, data licensing and data exchanges.

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SITE NAME:

Land East of Redbridge Park & Ride

GRID REFERENCE:

SP521037

DATE SITE SURVEYED:

30th August 2018

SURVEYOR(S):

Julie Kerans

DISTRICT / UNITARY:

Oxford City

ASSESSMENT OF SURVEY (inc time taken, weather conditions and any limitations)

Approximately 3.5 hours were spent on site in sunny conditions. All the main habitats on the site were seen but dense areas of scrub were observed from the edges. Some sections of the grassland were grazed short at the time of the survey and additional species may be present but not recorded.

LANDSCAPE CONTEXT:

Grassland and scrub between the Redbridge Park and Ride/Abingdon Road and Weirs Mill Stream in Oxford. Iffley Meadows SSSI is to the east.

SITE AREA (Ha):

4.9

MAJOR ASPECT:

None

MAJOR SLOPE:

Flat ground

ALTITUDE (m):

55

GEOLOGY (solid / drift from Geology maps)

Bedrock: WEST WALTON, AMPHILL CLAY, OXFORD CLAY, KELLAWAYS AND KIMMERIDGE CLAY FORMATION

Superficial: ALLUVIUM

SPECIAL INTEREST OF SITE:

Habitats: Semi-improved (good) grassland with a few species indicative of unimproved grassland and marginal wetland species

1. SITE DESCRIPTION

HABITATS ON SITE (Phase 1 and/or S41 habitat of principal importance)	ADJACENT LAND USE / HABITAT (Phase 1 classification)	BOUNDARIES TO SITE (river, ditch, fence, hedgerow etc)
Semi-improved neutral grassland	Urban development	Road
Scrub	Floodplain meadow	Fence
Marginal vegetation		Running water
Tall herb		

1.1. BRIEF OVERVIEW

The site is semi-improved (good) neutral grassland. It has abundant broadleaved herbs including yarrow and wild carrot. There are also smaller amounts of species typical of unimproved grassland including lady's bedstraw, common bird's-foot-trefoil and black knapweed. Part of the site was ungrazed at the time of the survey with other areas fenced with temporary electric fencing and short grazed by horses.

A watercourse flows along the eastern edge of the site. The banks are largely wooded with trees and scrubs including crack willow, grey willow, ash, sycamore, hawthorn, dog rose and locally frequent domestic apple. Open areas include marginal wetland vegetation with reed sweet-grass, common reed, wild angelica, purple loosestrife, flag iris, gipsywort and watermint.

1.2. DESCRIPTION

The site is predominantly grassland with areas of tall herb and scrub. The grassland is moderately species-rich. Ungrazed areas had a rough sward locally dominated by false oat-grass and red fescue with crested dog's-tail, cock's-foot, perennial rye-grass, creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, meadow foxtail and small-leaved cat's-tail. Broadleaved herbs are abundant especially yarrow and wild carrot with field bindweed, ribwort plantain, goat's-beard, smooth hawk's-bit, perforate St. John's-wort, red clover and white clover. There are some areas with locally frequent common bird's-foot trefoil and smaller amounts of many other species including black knapweed, lady's bedstraw and red bartsia.

In short-grazed areas fewer species were identifiable but include the grasses crested dog's-tail, cock's-foot, red fescue, perennial rye-grass and creeping bent. Broadleaved herbs include creeping buttercup, common sorrel, black medick, curled dock, greater plantain, dandelion, daisy, creeping cinquefoil and red clover.

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Areas of tall herb are dominated by nettle with horse radish, mugwort, teasel, wild parsnip, weld, common ragwort, curled dock, hogweed, tall melilot, creeping thistle and spear thistle.

Dense scrub includes areas of bramble and marginal strips with a mixture of broadleaved trees and shrubs. To the east, this includes crack willow and domestic apple with grey willow, hawthorn, alder, osier, sycamore and dog rose. The western boundary is more open but includes hawthorn, elder and white poplar. Scattered scrub includes hawthorn, elder, ash, dog rose and domestic apple.

To the east, the watercourse margin is largely wooded but there are a few open sections including great willowherb, common reed and reed sweet-grass with wild angelica, purple loosestrife, meadowsweet, flag iris, gipsywort and watermint. There is one patch of the invasive, non-native species – Himalayan balsam.

2. TYPICAL SPECIES

The site includes semi-improved neutral grassland with a few species typical of unimproved conditions. A range of wetland species were also recorded at the watercourse margin.

Table 1. Species typical for unimproved grassland. Some areas had been partly grazed and additional species may be present but not recorded in 2018

Taxon Group	Taxon Name	Common Name
Higher Plants	Lotus corniculatus	Common bird's-foot trefoil
Higher Plants	Centaurea nigra	Common knapweed
Higher Plants	Galium verum	Lady's bedstraw
Higher Plants	Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet
Total		4

Table 2. Species typical for wetland.

Taxon Group	Taxon Name	Common Name
Higher Plants	Vicia sativa	Common vetch
Higher Plants	Glyceria fluitans	Floating Sweet-grass
Higher Plants	Epilobium hirsutum	Great willowherb
Higher Plants	Carex riparia	Greater Pond-sedge
Higher Plants	Calystegia sepium	Hedge bindweed
Higher Plants	Cirsium palustre	Marsh thistle
Higher Plants	Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet
Higher Plants	Lythrum salicaria	Purple loosestrife
Higher Plants	Glyceria maxima	Reed Sweet-grass
Higher Plants	Mentha aquatica	Water mint

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Taxon Group	Taxon Name	Common Name
Higher Plants	Angelica sylvestris	Wild angelica
Total		11

3. PRESENT USE AND MANAGEMENT OF SITE

Use: Pasture

Management: Part grazed by horses

Other details:

RECOMMENDATIONS

The site lacks priority habitat but includes areas of moderately species-rich grassland with a high abundance of broadleaved herbs. Based on the current level of recorded interest and the lack of public access to the site, it is unlikely to meet the Oxford City Wildlife site criteria. However, the site has good potential to develop further interest and provides potential habitat of value for a wide range of species including invertebrates, reptiles, birds and mammals (including otter and bats).

Type of recommendation	Tick	Description
Boundary change	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	The site is unlikely to meet the Oxford City Wildlife site criteria, based on current recorded interest.



4. LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: HABITAT MAP

Land East Redbridge Park & Ride



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APPENDIX 2: TARGET NOTES & PHOTOGRAPHS

Target note 1. Semi-improved (good) neutral grassland with areas of tall herb and bramble scrub. It has a rough sward locally dominated by false oat-grass and red fescue with crested dog's-tail, cock's-foot, perennial rye-grass, creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, meadow foxtail and small-leaved cat's-tail. Broadleaved herbs include locally abundant yarrow and wild carrot with black knapweed, field bindweed, red clover, white clover, common bird's-foot trefoil, ribwort plantain, goat's-beard, creeping cinquefoil, black medick, smooth hawk's-bit and perforate St. John's-wort. There is a small amount of lady's bedstraw, red bartsia and hairy sedge. Tall herb is dominated by nettle with locally frequent horse radish and mugwort. There are smaller amounts of teasel, common ragwort, curled dock, hogweed, creeping thistle and spear thistle. The grassland includes some large anthills.



Target note 2. Tall herb and bramble. It is dominated by nettle and bramble with hogweed, cleavers and hedge bindweed. At the edge of the watercourse, there is also wild angelica, meadowsweet, reed sweet-grass and a patch of the non-native invasive species - Himalayan Balsam.

Bramble scrub



Tall herb with patch of Himalayan balsam



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Target note 3. Semi-improved neutral grassland. This area of grassland was short grazed at the time of the survey. It includes creeping bent, crested dog's-tail, cock's-foot, red fescue, rough meadow-grass, perennial rye-grass and small-leaved cat's-tail. Broadleaved herbs include creeping buttercup, common sorrel, curled dock, greater plantain, dandelion, black medick, daisy, silverweed, creeping cinquefoil and red clover.



Target note 4. Scrub. It is locally dominated by crack willow and grey willow with small amount of alder and osier. The central part of the eastern bank includes several domestic apple trees with sycamore, ash, hawthorn and dog rose. The field layer includes nettle, ivy, rough meadow-grass and ground ivy with small amounts of nipplewort, garlic mustard and tufted hair-grass.



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Target note 5. Marginal vegetation. This is a strip of common reed and reed sweet-grass at the water's edge. There is also wild angelica, hedge bindweed, purple loosestrife, flag iris, gipsywort and watermint. The bank is dominated by nettle with creeping thistle and great willowherb.



Target note 6. Semi-improved neutral grassland with marginal scrub. It has a rough sward dominated by false oat-grass with cock's-foot, red fescue, Yorkshire fog, tufted hair-grass, meadow foxtail and creeping bent. Broadleaved herbs include abundant wild carrot with yarrow, red clover, ribwort plantain, perforate St. John's-wort, creeping buttercup, black medick, ground ivy, hogweed, smooth hawk-bit, common vetch and nettle. There is a locally frequent wild parsnip and weld with small amount of teasel, common ragwort, curled dock and hairy sedge. Scrub includes bramble, hawthorn, dog rose, crack willow and domestic apple.



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APPENDIX 3. SPECIES RECORDS

The following table lists the species recorded during the survey carried out on 30th August 2018. They include estimates of species abundance using the DAFOR scale. The DAFOR scale ranks species according to their relative abundance within a particular area of vegetation and bare no relevance to the status of the species in the wider landscape. The following abbreviations are used; D – dominant, A – abundant, F – frequent, O – occasional, R – rare. The abbreviation L is also used to indicate species that are local in their distribution. Where the abundance of a species could not be determined 'P' has been entered to indicate the species was present.

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	R
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	LA
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	LA
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	R
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	R
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	O
Knopper Gall	<i>Andricus quercuscalicis</i>	P
Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	O
Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	R
Horse-Radish	<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	LF
False Oat-Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	LD
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	LA
Black Horehound	<i>Ballota nigra</i>	R
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	O
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	R
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	LA
Hairy Sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>	R
Greater Pond-sedge	<i>Carex riparia</i>	R
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	R
Common Mouse-Ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	O
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	O
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	R
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	O
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	LF
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	LF
Smooth Hawk's-Beard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	O
Crested Dog's-Tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	LA
Cock's-Foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	LA
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	A

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Common name	Scientific name	Abundance
Tufted Hair-Grass	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	R
Wild Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	O
Common Couch	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	R
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	O
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	P
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	R
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	LD
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	R
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	O
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	R
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	R
Cut-Leaved Crane's-Bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	R
Dove's-Foot Crane's-Bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	LF
Ground-Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	O
Floating Sweet-Grass	<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	R
Reed Sweet-Grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	R
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	O
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	O
Yorkshire-Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	LF
Perforate St. John's-Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	O
Cat's-Ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	O
Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	O
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	R
Prickly Lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	R
White Dead-Nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	R
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	R
Perennial Rye-Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	LA
Common Bird's-Foot-Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	VLF
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	1
Gipsywort	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	R
Purple-Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	R
Apple	<i>Malus pumila</i>	LF
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	O
Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	O
Tall Melilot	<i>Melilotus altissimus</i>	R
Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	R
Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites vernus</i>	R
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	1
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	O

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Common name	Scientific name	Abundance
Redshank	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	O
Smaller Cat's-Tail	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	R
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	R
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	R
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	P
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>	R
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	1
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	1
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	LA
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	O
Rough Meadow-Grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	LF
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	22
White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	R
Lombardy-Poplar	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	R
Hybrid Black-poplar	<i>Populus nigra x deltoides = P. x canadensis</i>	R
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	R
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	LA
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	R
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	R
Weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>	F
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	F
Dewberry	<i>Rubus caesius</i>	R
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	LD
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	R
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	O
Broad-Leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	O
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	LF
Crack Willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	O
Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>	R
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	O
Water Figwort	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	R
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	R
White Champion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	R
Prickly Sow-Thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	R
Smooth Sow-Thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	R
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	O
Goat's-Beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	O
Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	R
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	LA

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Common name	Scientific name	Abundance
White Clover	Trifolium repens	LF
Common Nettle	Urtica dioica	LA
Common Vetch	Vicia sativa	R