

Thames Valley

Environmental Records Centre



Sharing environmental information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire

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DUNSTAN PARK, OXFORD

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.

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report

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SITE NAME:

Dunstan Park

GRID REFERENCE:

SP 541080

DATE SITE SURVEYED:

30th July 2018

SURVEYOR(S):

Julie Kerans

DISTRICT / UNITARY:

Oxford City

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

Approximately 3 hours were spent on site in sunny conditions. All the main areas of the site were accessible. The grassland was short mown at the time of the survey and additional species may be present but not recorded. The survey was too late in the season for recording some woodland spring herbs.

LANDSCAPE CONTEXT:

Small public park in Headington, Oxford

SITE AREA (Ha):

2.3

MAJOR ASPECT:

North-facing

MAJOR SLOPE:

Gentle

ALTITUDE (m):

75-90

GEOLOGY (solid / drift from Geology maps)

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

Superficial: ALLUVIUM

SPECIAL INTEREST OF SITE:

Habitats: Tufa depositing stream, pond and small area of calcareous fen

Species: S41 NERC species - Southern yellow splinter crane fly (*Lipsothrix nervosa*)

1. SITE DESCRIPTION

HABITATS ON SITE (Phase 1 classification)	ADJACENT LAND USE / HABITAT (Phase 1 classification)	BOUNDARIES TO SITE (river, ditch, fence, hedgerow etc)
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland with plantation	Residential development	Road
Spring & alkaline fen		Fence
Pond		Hedge
Swamp		
Semi-improved neutral grassland		

1.1. BRIEF OVERVIEW

Dunstan Park is a small public park with open areas of short mown amenity grassland with planted trees and areas of broadleaved woodland. It includes a small area of alkaline fen, pond and a tufa-depositing stream with previous records for the NERC S41 fly - Southern yellow splinter crane fly (*Lipsothrix nervosa*).

1.2. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The grassland is short mown with perennial rye grass, cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog, rough meadow-grass, creeping bent and red fescue. Broadleaved herbs include creeping buttercup, white clover, red clover, broadleaved dock, curled dock, ribwort plantain, common mouse-ear and dandelion. Some areas include locally frequent common bird's-foot-trefoil, yarrow, smooth hawk's-beard and autumn hawkbit. Trees include Norway maple, horse chestnut, silver birch, wild cherry and sycamore.

The secondary woodland is dominated by ash with field maple, aspen, horse chestnut, holly and sweet chestnut. Planted trees include wild cherry, Norway maple, grey alder, common lime and small-leaved lime. The shrub layer includes snowberry, planted dogwood, elder and a small amount of spindle. Wetter areas include crack willow and grey willow. The field layer has bramble, nettle, ivy, dog's mercury, wood avens, cleavers, ground ivy, wood sedge and, where heavily shaded, there are areas of bare ground. There is a small amount of giant fescue. Wetter areas include great horsetail, hairy sedge and pendulous sedge.

Running down the centre of the site, there is a tufa depositing stream. The channel was dry at the time of the survey but it included much deadwood (in the form of twigs and small branches) with some watercress, fool's watercress and water mint. Adjacent areas of wet ground have fen with great horsetail, water figwort, meadowsweet, toad rush, flag iris, brooklime, bittersweet, floating sweet-grass, marsh marigold, great willowherb and pendulous sedge. The surrounding area is wooded with ash and crack willow with some field maple, hawthorn, elder and hazel. The field layer in drier areas have ivy, cow parsley, hogweed and wood dock with wood avens, bramble and garlic mustard.

The site has value for invertebrates including the previously record of NERC S41 fly - Southern yellow splinter crane fly (*Lipsothrix nervosa*).

2. TYPICAL SPECIES

Table 1. Species typical for wetland. Some areas were short mown at the time of the surveys and the stream had been recently cleared so additional species may have been present but not recorded.

Taxon Group	Taxon Name	Common Name	2017	2018
Higher Plants	Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet		x

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Taxon Group	Taxon Name	Common Name	2017	2018
Higher Plants	Veronica beccabunga	Brooklime	x	x
Higher Plants	Glyceria fluitans	Floating Sweet-grass	x	x
Higher Plants	Epilobium hirsutum	Great willowherb	x	x
Higher Plants	Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Birds-foot-trefoil	x	
Higher Plants	Calystegia sepium	Hedge bindweed		x
Higher Plants	Carex acutiformis	Lesser Pond-sedge	x	
Higher Plants	Caltha palustris	Marsh marigold	x	x
Higher Plants	Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	x	x
Higher Plants	Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged robin	x	
Higher Plants	Mentha aquatica	Water mint	x	x
Higher Plants	Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum	Water-cress		x
Higher Plants	Angelica sylvestris	Wild angelica	x	x
Total			10	10

3. PRESENT USE AND MANAGEMENT OF SITE

Use: Public park

Management: The grassland areas are short mown. The woodland has had some areas of tree planting. The stream/pond area had been recently cleared to remove denser vegetation

Other details:

RECOMMENDATIONS

The main habitats of interest on the site are the spring-fed stream, pond and small area of alkaline fen. The stream is tufa-depositing and provides habitat for invertebrates including Southern yellow splinter cranefly (*Lipsothrix nervosa*). Other rare invertebrate species may be present in this uncommon habitat and invertebrate surveys are recommended. There is good access to the site for members of the public and it appears well used. The site is likely to meet the criteria for selection as an Oxford City wildlife site and should be proposed as such.

Type of recommendation	Tick	Description
Boundary change	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consider as proposed Oxford City Wildlife Site
Additional surveys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Invertebrate survey

4. LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: HABITAT MAP

Dunstan Park



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APPENDIX 2: TARGET NOTES & PHOTOGRAPHS

Target Note 1. Parkland with semi-improved neutral amenity grassland and planted broadleaved trees. The grassland includes perennial rye-grass, cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog, rough meadow-grass, creeping bent and red fescue with broadleaved herbs including creeping buttercup, meadow buttercup, white clover, red clover, broadleaved dock, curled dock, ribwort plantain, common mouse-ear and dandelion. Locally there are some slightly more diverse areas with yarrow, common bird's-foot-trefoil, smooth hawk's-beard and autumn hawkbit. Trees include Norway maple, horse chestnut, silver birch, wild cherry and sycamore. Rougher areas of grassland at the woodland margin have false oat-grass, nettle and hogweed with Yorkshire fog, cow parsley, rough meadow-grass and ground ivy.



Target Note 2. Broadleaved semi-natural woodland (with some planted trees). It is dominated by ash with field maple, aspen, horse chestnut, oak, aspen and sweet chestnut. Planted trees include wild cherry, Norway maple, common lime and small-leaved lime. The shrub layer includes holly, snowberry, planted dogwood, elder and a small amount of spindle. The field layer has bramble, nettle, wood avens, cleavers, dog's mercury, ground ivy, wood sedge and, where heavily shaded, there are areas of bare ground. Wetter areas include crack willow and grey willow with the field layer including great horsetail and pendulous sedge.



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Target Note 3. Tufa depositing spring and fen. It had been recently cleared and much of the vegetation was re-establishing. It includes flag iris, brooklime, bittersweet, great horsetail, giant fescue, creeping bent, fool's water-cress, floating sweet-grass, marsh marigold and great willowherb. There is a large amount of small diameter deadwood in the stream. Surrounding trees include ash and crack willow with hazel, elder, hawthorn and horse chestnut. Surrounding drier ground has ivy and rough meadow-grass with nettle, wood sedge, wood avens, wood dock, male fern, bramble and ground ivy.

Spring channels



Deadwood in channel



Target Note 4. Pond. Small spring fed pond with no aquatic or emergent vegetation recorded due to recent clearance. The banks include flag iris, bramble, nettle, ivy, watermint and great willowherb.



Target Note 5. Swamp. Small strip of tall vegetation at the woodland edge dominated by great horsetail with great willowherb, hogweed, Yorkshire fog, hairy sedge and common couch.

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Target Note 6. Veteran tree. At the northeast corner of the site, along the boundary, there is an English oak tree.



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APPENDIX 3. SPECIES RECORDS

The following table lists the species recorded during the survey carried out on 30th July 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.

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	O
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	F
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	F
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	LA
Horse-Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	LF
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	LA
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	R
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	R
Grey Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>	R
Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	R
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	LF
Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	R
False Oat-Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	LF
Lords-And-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	R
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	LF
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	R
Butterfly-Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	R
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	R
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	R
Hairy Sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>	R
Pendulous Sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i>	R
Wood-Sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	R
Sweet Chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	R
Common Mouse-Ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	O
Enchanter's-Nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	R
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	R
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	R
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	R
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	LF
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	O
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	F
Smooth hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	O

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Common name	Scientific name	Abundance
Crested Dog's-Tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	R
Cock's-Foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	O
Male Fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> agg.	R
Common Couch	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	O
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	LA
Broad-Leaved Willowherb	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	R
Hoary Willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	R
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	O
Marsh Horsetail	<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	R
Great Horsetail	<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	LD
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	R
Giant Fescue	<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	R
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	R
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	LD
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	LF
Cut-Leaved Crane's-Bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	R
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	O
Herb Bennet	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	LF
Ground-Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	LF
Floating Sweet-Grass	<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	R
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	LA
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	O
Yorkshire-Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	LD
Wall Barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	R
Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	R
Cat's-Ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	R
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	R
Indian Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	R
Stinking Iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	R
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	LA
Toad Rush agg.	<i>Juncus bufonius</i> agg.	R
Hard Rush	<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	R
Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>argentatum</i>	R
Autumnal Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	R
Perennial Rye-Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	LD
Common Bird's-Foot-Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	R
Gipsywort	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	R
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurcina</i>	P
Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	O
Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	LA

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Common name	Scientific name	Abundance
Redshank	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	R
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	P
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>	R
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	LF
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	O
Annual Meadow-Grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	R
Rough Meadow-Grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	F
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	P
Poplar	<i>Populus</i>	R
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>	LA
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	LF
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	O
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	O
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	LF
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	F
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	O
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	LA
Water-Cress	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	LF
Field Rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	R
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	R
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	LA
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	R
Broad-Leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	O
Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	R
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	O
Crack Willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	R
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	O
Water Figwort	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	R
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	R
Prickly Sow-Thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	R
Smooth Sow-Thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	R
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	R
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	O
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	O
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	LF
Tilia x vulgaris	<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>	R
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	O
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	LF
English Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	R
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	LA

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Common name	Scientific name	Abundance
Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	R
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	LF
Thyme-Leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	R
Guelder-Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	R