

Phase 1 Botanical Survey Target Notes for additional Oxford City sites – October 2017

These surveys were carried out on 23-24/10/2017 as requested by Oxford City Council. The timing of these sites visits is sub-optimal for recording botanical species interest, with some sites being grazed or recently cut. The following target notes indicate the general habitat type (Phase 1 categories) present on each site but further surveys are likely to be required to fully assess sites, especially where some diversity is indicated. There are many species that are less likely to be recorded at this time of year and additional survey is highly likely to result in additional species being recorded.

Map 1. Dunstan Park and Ruskin Fields

Dunstan Park and Ruskin fields



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Dunstan Park (23/10/2017)

Dunstan Park is a small area of parkland. It has open areas of short mown amenity grassland with planted trees and small broadleaved woodland. It includes a tufa-depositing stream with previous records for important invertebrate species.

Target Note 1. Parkland with improved amenity grassland (short mown) with 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, white clover, red clover, broadleaved dock, curled dock, ribwort plantain, common mouse-ear and dandelion. Trees include Norway maple, horse chestnut, silver birch, wild cherry and sycamore.



Amenity grassland

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



Broadleaved woodland

Target Note 3. Tufa depositing stream. The stream had been recently cleared at the time of the survey and much of the vegetation had been trampled. It includes areas of flag iris with brooklime, bittersweet, great horsetail, giant fescue, 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.

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



Stream bed with area of flag iris



Small pool in stream bed



Tufa deposits



Oak tree

Target Note 4. Veteran tree. At the north east corner of the site, along the boundary, there is a large English oak tree.

Ruskin fields (23/10/2017)

Ruskin fields consists of a series of neutral grassland fields. They appear semi-improved ranging from species-poor to moderately species-rich (semi-improved – good) with species including locally frequent black knapweed and meadow vetchling. Some of the boundary hedges are wide and dense and likely to have value of birds. To the south, the site also includes a small orchard, ponds and area of tall herb.

Target Note 1. Tall herb and an area of short mown amenity grassland. The tall herb is locally dominated by nettle and great willowherb with teasel, creeping thistle, cock's-foot, forget-me-not species, common ragwort, bladder campion, ground ivy, hairy sedge, silverweed, false oat-grass and red fescue.



Amenity grassland



Tall herb

Target Note 2. Semi-improved neutral grassland with some patches of nettle and, at the bottom of the slope, hard rush. Grasses comprise mainly robust species with cock's-foot, meadow fescue and false oat-grass but also include red fescue and creeping bent. More abundant broadleaved herbs include common nettle, creeping thistle, broadleaved dock, hogweed, creeping buttercup and cleavers. More locally there is black knapweed, hairy sedge, meadow vetchling, yarrow, dove's-foot crane's-bill, common sorrel, red clover and white clover. The sward is generally dense and closed with a thatch of dead plant material in some places.



Semi-improved neutral grassland



Tussocky sward with some thatch

Target Note 3. Semi-improved neutral grassland. It is bounded by hedges including hawthorn, holly, ash, sycamore and bramble. Cock's-foot and red fescue are locally dominant with other grasses including Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass, creeping bent and small-leaved Timothy. There appears to be some moderate interest here with locally frequent black knapweed and other species including meadow vetchling, yarrow, common sorrel, creeping cinquefoil, red clover, common vetch, selfheal, square-stalked St. John's-wort, hedge bedstraw, creeping buttercup and meadow buttercup. Other broadleaved herbs include tall herbs such as creeping thistle and curled dock. Additional survey is recommended at a more appropriate time of year.



Semi-improved neutral grassland



Richer areas with locally abundant black knapweed

Target Note 4. Semi-improved neutral grassland. This small field is bounded by thick hedges with areas of outgrowth dominated by blackthorn and bramble. The hedges also include hawthorn, apple and sycamore. Grasses include abundant cock's-foot with red fescue, false oat-grass and creeping bent. Broadleaved herbs include frequent black knapweed, creeping buttercup, red clover, with lesser stitchwort, square-stalked St. John's-wort, hogweed, broadleaved dock, common mouse-ear, ribwort plantain, meadow vetchling, creeping cinquefoil and curled dock. There is small amount of common bird's-foot-trefoil. Centrally, there is a patch with abundant hard rush. It includes some meadow fescue and cuckooflower.



Semi-improved neutral grassland

Target Note 5. Pond. It is a small area of depressed ground dominated by great willowherb with smaller amounts of reed canary-grass, pendulous sedge, hard rush and brooklime. A drainage pipe flows into the pond.



Target Note 6. Orchard. Includes several mature domestic apple trees. The grassland is short mown and appears semi-improved. This area may have value for invertebrates and fungi and as S41 habitat.



Target Note 7. Strip of broadleaved secondary woodland. It is dominated by young to semi-mature cherry. The field layer has bramble with ivy and ground ivy with small amounts of male-fern and hedge woundwort.



Map 2. Wadham Park and Park Farm

Wadham Park and Park Farm



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Wadham Park (23/10/2017)

Wadham Park is a small area of improved amenity grassland. At the eastern edge, there is a semi-improved grassland bank with planted trees. There is a wet ditch along the northern edge. It is bounded by hedges to the north, south and west. The western hedge widens to a strip of trees and shrubs.

Target Note 1. Wet ditch. No aquatic or emergent vegetation was seen. The northern bank has short mown amenity grassland. The southern bank is wooded with field layer species including pendulous sedge, tutsan, nettle, hedge bindweed, bramble, garlic mustard and cleavers. Woody species include ash, elder, blackthorn, hawthorn and one small crack willow pollard.

Target Note 2. Trees and scrub. At the western edge of the site, there is a wooded strip including crack willow, goat willow, elder, English oak, dogwood, field maple and poplar species. Field layer species include bramble, ivy, nettle and cleavers.

Target Note 3. Improved grassland. The central area of the site is short mown amenity grassland. It is strongly dominated by grass species including perennial rye-grass, cock's-foot, creeping bent and red fescue. Broadleaved herbs include white clover, dandelion, daisy and yarrow.

Target Note 4. Semi-improved grassland bank with line of trees. The field layer has creeping bent, red fescue, fox and cubs, scarlet pimpernel, black medick, common chickweed, ribwort plantain, selfheal, barren strawberry, creeping cinquefoil, common mallow, dove's-foot crane's-bill, yarrow, autumn hawkbit, rough hawkbit and daisy. Trees and shrubs include hawthorn, larch, elder and non-native alder species (*Alnus* species).



Park Farm (23/10/2017)

The site was only seen from edges of the site. The site is divided into horse paddocks with temporary electric fencing. There were several horses in these fields at the time of the survey. The northern areas had a very short sward and appeared improved. Areas to the south/south east had a longer sward including abundant buttercups and clover.

Target Note 1. Improved/semi-improved neutral grassland. Grasses include rough meadow-grass, cock's-foot and red fescue. It includes abundant red clover and creeping buttercup with meadow buttercup, yarrow and ribwort plantain.

Target Note 2. Improved grassland. This area was short grazed at the time of the survey and few species could be identified but appears strongly grass dominated.

Target Note 3. Species-poor hedgerow. It is dominated by hawthorn with blackthorn and small amounts of ash and dog rose.



Map 3. Land north of St. Clements

Land north of St. Clements



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Land north of St. Clements (24/10/2017)

The site was seen from the adjacent churchyard only. Most of the site appears to be semi-improved rough grassland with areas dominated by tall herb. It includes areas dominated by nettle and false oat-grass with creeping thistle, hogweed, cleavers and cocks-foot. There are patches of bramble.

Target note 1. Buildings and hardstanding with a marginal semi-improved grassland strip.

Target note 2. Semi-improved neutral grassland with tall herb. It is dominated by false oat-grass with cock's-foot, rough meadow-grass and patches of nettle and bramble. There is also yarrow, cow parsley, mugwort, hedge bindweed, dock species, creeping buttercup, ribwort plantain, ground ivy, wood avens and herb Robert. Trees at the margin include sycamore, ash, hawthorn and some conifers.

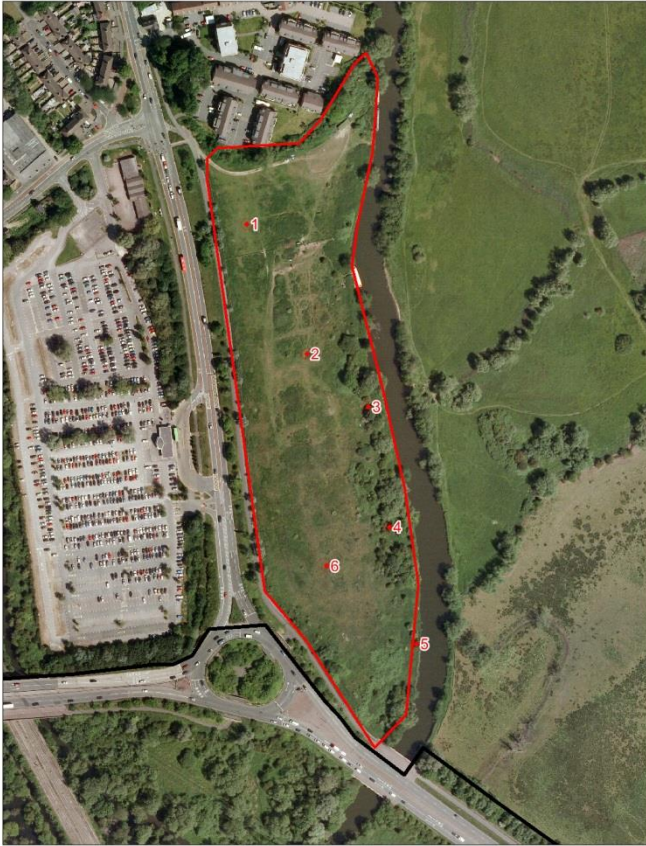
Target note 3. Semi-improved neutral grassland with tall herb. It is locally dominated by false oat-grass and nettle with creeping thistle, hogweed, cleavers, nipplewort, germander speedwell, cock's-foot and rough meadow-grass.



Previous records (2001) include 2 notable fly species - *Cheilosia soror* and *Volucella inanis*.

Map 4. Land east of Redbridge Park and Ride

Land east of Redbridge Park & Ride



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Land east of Redbridge Park and Ride 24/10/2017

The site is semi-improved neutral grassland (with affinities to MG6 and MG1 communities). Most of the site is rough grassland with some areas fenced with temporary electric fencing and being horse grazed at the time of the survey.

Target note 1. Semi-improved neutral grassland with small areas of bramble scrub. It has a rough sward dominated by false oat-grass with crested dog's-tail, cock's-foot, red fescue, perennial ryegrass, creeping bent and small-leaved Timothy. Broadleaved herbs included locally abundant yarrow with red clover, wild carrot, white clover, common bird's-foot trefoil, ribwort plantain, nettle, creeping buttercup, black medick, black knapweed, smooth hawk-bit, common vetch and lady's bedstraw. There is a small amount of horse radish, shepherd's purse, teasel, common ragwort, curled dock, red bartsia, hairy sedge, mugwort, wild parsnip and hedge mustard. Blackening waxcap was also seen.

Target note 2. Semi-improved neutral grassland. The grazed areas had a very short sward and few species were identifiable but included crested dog's-tail, cock's-foot, red fescue, perennial ryegrass and creeping bent. Broadleaved herbs include creeping buttercup, common sorrel, black medick, hop trefoil, creeping cinquefoil and red clover.

Target note 3. Semi-natural broadleaved woodland. The central part of the eastern bank included an area dominated by domestic apple trees with sycamore, hawthorn, crack willow and dog rose.

Target note 4. Semi-natural broadleaved woodland. The eastern site edge is wooded river bank with crack willow, grey willow and small amount of alder.

Target note 5. River margin with tall herb. The bank is dominated by nettle with creeping thistle and great willowherb. There are areas of common reed and reed sweet-grass at the water's edge.

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, tufted hair-grass and creeping bent. Broadleaved herbs included locally abundant yarrow with red clover, wild carrot, ribwort plantain, nettle, creeping buttercup, black medick, ground ivy, smooth hawk-bit, common vetch and nettle. There is a small amount of nettle, shepherd's purse, teasel, common ragwort, curled dock, red bartsia, hairy sedge, Scrub includes bramble, hawthorn, dog rose, domestic apple and small amounts of osier.



Semi-improved neutral grassland (north end of site)



Grazed areas with temporary electric fencing



Central areas of semi-improved neutral grassland



Semi-improved neutral grassland with areas of scrub



River margin

Map 5. Land at Meadow lane, Iffley

Land at Meadow Lane



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Land at Meadow lane, Iffley (24/10/2017)

The site was only seen from the site edge along Church Way and meadow Lane. The site could not be fully assessed but areas seen appear to comprise rough grassland (semi-improved neutral grassland) with areas of tall herb. Parts of the site could not be seen.

Target note 1. Semi-improved neutral grassland. The sward dominated by rough grasses with abundant false oat-grass. There is also Yorkshire fog, red fescue and cock's-foot with red clover, creeping buttercup, smooth hawk's-beard and ribwort plantain. There are some small patches of common reed. Tall herbs include locally abundant hogweed with nettle, dock species and garlic mustard. Marginal areas include wood avens, bramble, ivy and hawthorn. Trees include common lime.

Target note 2. Semi-improved neutral grassland with tall herb. The grassland appear similar to that described for TN1 with locally dominant hogweed and some areas of bramble. There are some English oak trees at the site edge.

Target note 3. Improved grassland. This part of the site is horse grazed. It was short-grazed at the time of the visit and few species could be identified. The hedge at the edge of the field includes elder and hawthorn with nettle, bramble, cleavers and ivy.



Grassland at TN1



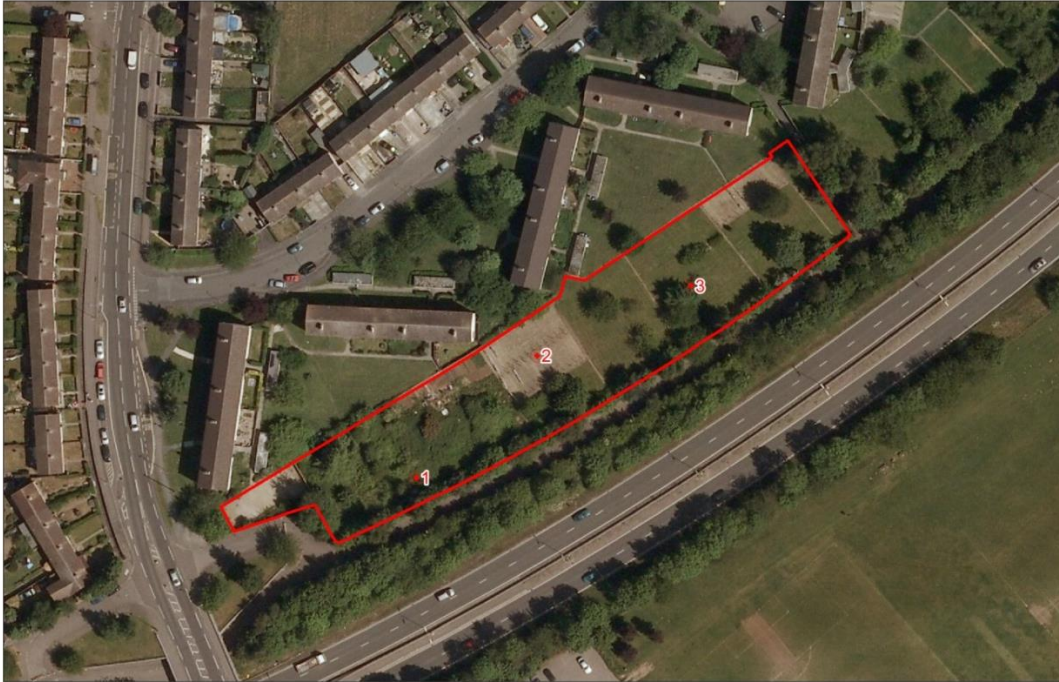
Grassland at TN2



Pasture at TN3

Map 6. Former Barns Road East allotments

Former Barns Road East Allotments



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Former Barns Road East allotments (24/10/2017)

The site was only seen from the site edge as it is fenced with locked gates. The interest here appears limited with most of the area comprising short mown grassland. There are some greenhouses and areas of hard standing. There are trees including several cherries, silver birch and some areas of bramble scrub.

Target note 1. Short mown amenity grassland with trees. The grassland appears improved with bare ground in shaded areas under trees. It includes perennial rye-grass, red fescue and cock's-foot. Trees include sycamore, silver birch and conifers. There are some greenhouses and patches of bramble scrub.

Target note 2. Hardstanding.

Target note 3. Short mown amenity grassland with trees. The grassland appears improved. Trees include several cherries with conifers ash, sycamore, Norway maple and silver birch. Shrubs at the site edge include field maple, hawthorn, rose species and blackthorn.





Map 7. Railway lane, Littlemore

Railway lane, Littlemore



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Railway lane, Littlemore (24/10/2017)

Only the eastern part of Railway Lane was seen during the site visit. To the west, of this, there is dense scrub, restricting access to other areas. Habitats in eastern parts of the site include scrub, secondary woodland, rough grassland, tall herb, short sward grassland on degrading areas of hard standing and areas of gravel/rubble. There is an embankment to the western edge of the surveyed area.

The area seen includes features of open mosaic on previously developed land (S41 habitat) and is locally botanically quite species-rich. It has potential value for birds, reptiles and invertebrates. No rare plants were recorded but additional survey is desirable as additional species are likely to be present.

Target note 1. Mosaic of rough grassland, tall herb, short sward grassland on degrading areas of hard standing and areas of gravel/rubble. Grass species include false oat-grass, cock's-foot,

Yorkshire fog, creeping bent and red fescue. It includes black medick, mugwort, red clover, yarrow, wild carrot, rough hawkbit, daisy, dove's-foot crane's-bill, hop trefoil, ox eye daisy, common vetch, hedge bedstraw, common ragwort, tare species, common mouse-ear, Verbascum species, Michaelmas daisy (Aster species), colt's-foot and ribwort plantain. There is some traveller's-joy, buddleia, goat willow and aspen.

Target note 2. Broadleaved woodland. It includes poplar species, goat willow and some conifers. The field layer has bramble and nettle.

Target note 3. Dense scrub. It includes goat willow, buddleia, sycamore, bramble and poplar species.



Mosaic of early successional vegetation, short sward grassland, rough grassland and tall herb



Broadleaved woodland



Earth bank and areas of dense scrub

Map 8. Little Park, Littlemore

Little Park, Littlemore



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Little Park, Littlemore (24/10/2017)

Little Park, Littlemore is small strip of improved, short mown, amenity grassland with some planted trees. The site edges have trees and shrub and there is a bank with young to semi-mature trees at the road edge to the north.

Target Note 1. Improved grassland. The sward is strongly dominated by perennial rye grass with some Yorkshire fog, creeping bent and cock's-foot. Broadleaved herbs include white clover, yarrow, dandelion, ribwort plantain, creeping buttercup and common mouse-ear. To the north at the road edge, there is an embankment. It is wooded with young to semi-mature ash, sycamore, wild cherry and silver birch trees. There is also some hawthorn and a small amount of holly. The field layer has area of ivy and bramble with some areas of rough grass dominated by false oat-grass with hedge bedstraw, cleavers, black horehound and red dead nettle. To the south, there is a fence with marginal trees and shrubs including snowberry, lilac, buddleia, garden privet, dog rose, ash and sycamore.

Target note 2. Improved grassland with planted trees. To the west, there are some semi-mature ash and poplar trees with young rowan.

Target note 3. Ornamental planting. At the western end of the site, there is ornamental planting including Fuchsia, Japanese anemone, dogwood, grape hyacinth, iris species and pampas grass.



Improved grassland (eastern end of the site facing west)



Bank to the north with trees



Improved grassland with trees to the west



Western end of the site facing east