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Oxford City Biodiversity Surveys

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Feedback

If you have any feedback on this project, please email tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxford City Biodiversity Surveys 2025

Summary

Oxford City Council are assessing development potential of sites for allocation through the Local Plan process. The biodiversity surveys detailed in this report form part of the first phase in assessing the potential ecological interest of six sites, with briefer scoping carried out for an additional seven sites.

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Introduction

This report describes the results of habitat surveys carried out using Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology for six sites in Oxford City. These are listed in Table 1. Brief scoping was also carried for an additional seven sites, as listed in Table 2. Figures 1 & 2 below show the site locations.

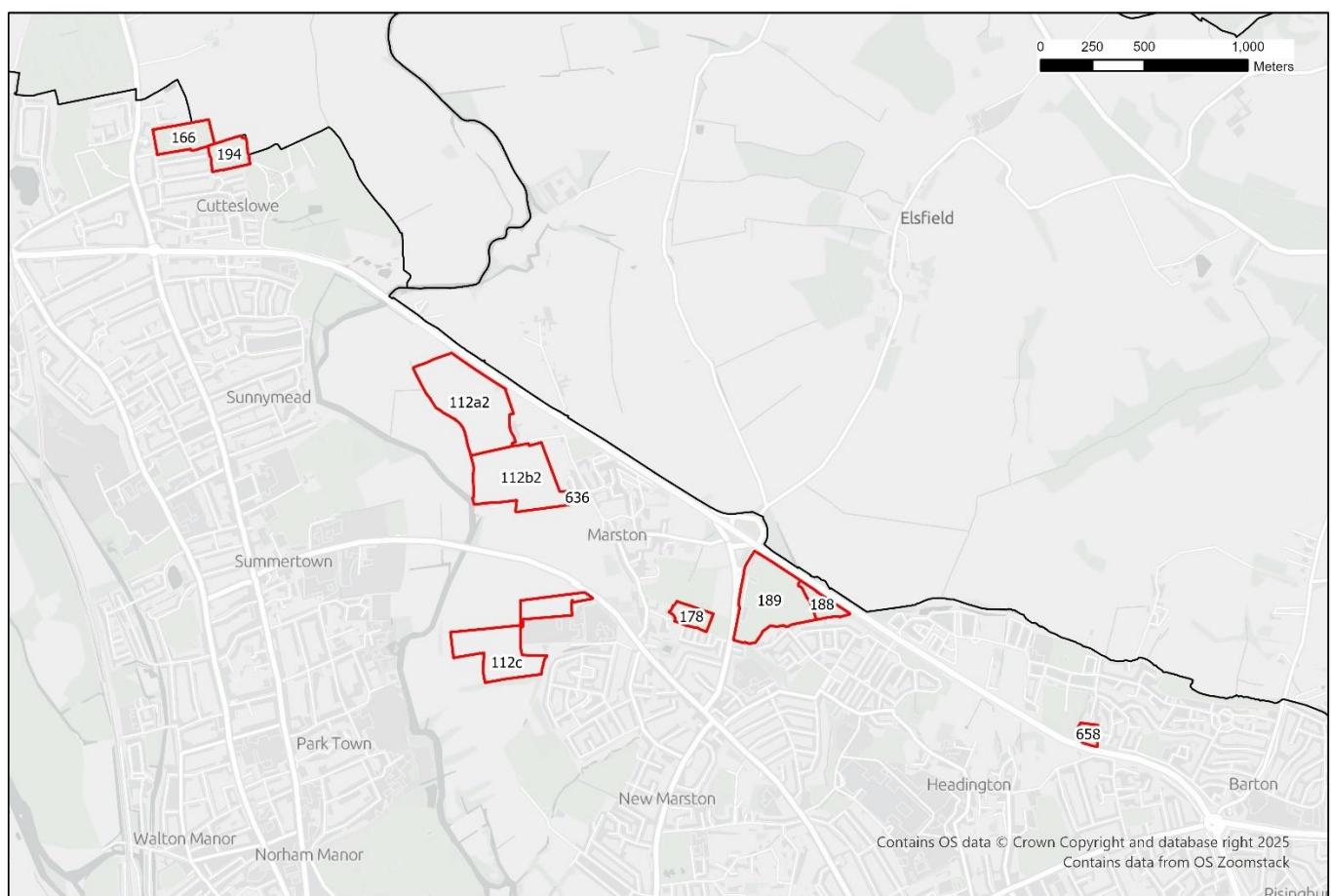
Table 1: Phase 1 sites surveyed in 2025

Site Ref (SHLAA no.)	Site name	Location	Size (ha)	Grid reference
188	Court Place Farm – East	Marston	1.71	SP5363 0849
636	Land off Mill Lane	Marston	0.36	SP5245 0901
658	Land to the rear of Harolde Close	Barton	0.86	SP5492 0786
112a2	Green Belt Land at Cherwell Valley/Old Marston, (southern part of previous site 112).	Marston	13.2	SP5194 0946
112b2	Land at Old Marston (formerly #112b(5-6))	Marston	11.13	SP5211 0910
112c	Brasenose Land (within Land at Old Marston site)	Marston	10.21	SP5205 0825

Table 2: Scoping sites 2025

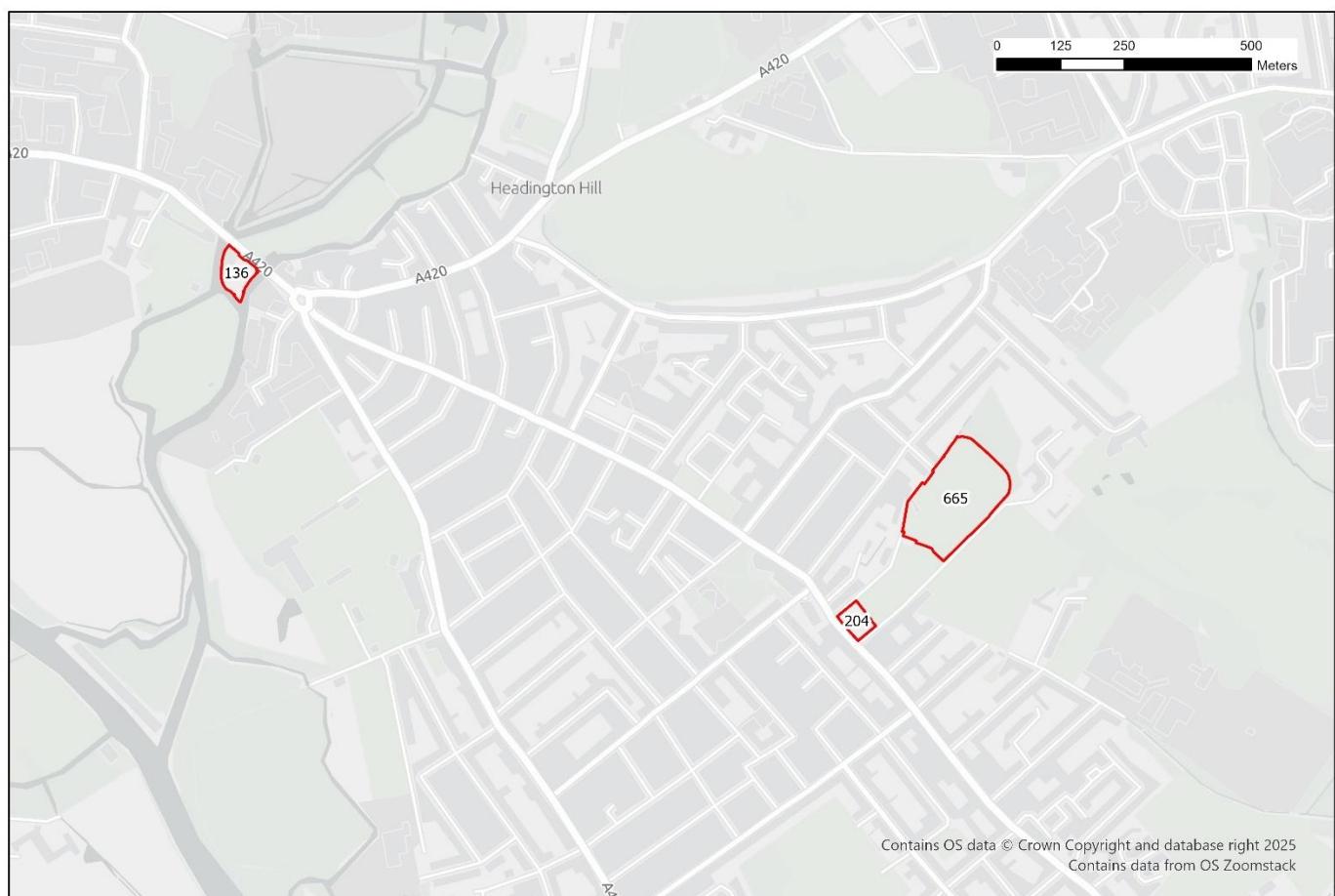
Site Ref (SHLAA no.)	Site name	Location	Size (ha)	Grid reference
136	Wildlife Corridor at River Cherwell	The Plain	0.45	SP5214 0603
166	Banbury Road North Sports Club	Marston	3.47	SP5054 1075
178	Boults Lane Recreation Ground	Marston	1.74	SP5300 0844
189	Court Place Farm – West	Marston	10.33	SP5337 0853
194	Cricket pitch Cutteslowe Park	Marston	2.50	SP5077 1067
665	Oriel College Sports Ground	Cowley Road	2.95	SP5354 0558
204	Bartlemas former Bowling Green	Cowley Road	0.30	SP5336 0535

Figure 1.1: Oxford City Survey Sites 2025 – North Oxford Sites



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Figure 1.2: Oxford City Survey Sites 2025 – Sites in St. Clements and Hollywell Wards



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Method

1.2 Preliminary desk study

Ecological and nature conservation data relevant to the site were examined to identify recent and historical biodiversity records for the site, including priority species and invasive species.

1.3 Phase 1 Habitat surveys

The field surveys were based on Phase 1 Habitat methodology (JNCC, 2010¹) with some more detailed botanical species recording where potential priority habitat was identified. The surveys were carried out on 30th July; 6th, 26th and 27th August; and 3rd September 2025. The weather conditions prevailing during the visits are provided in Table 4 below.

The Phase 1 Habitat surveys involved walking over the accessible areas of the site, mapping the habitat types and compiling target notes. They included the recording of all the plant species observed with an assessment of the relative abundance of each species using the DAFOR scale. Botanical names follow Stace (2019) for higher plants. Incidental sightings of other wildlife using the site were also noted.

A Phase 1 Habitat map was digitised using the data gathered during the field survey and accompanied by photographs and associated Target Notes.

The information collected during the habitat survey was used to assess the level of biodiversity interest likely to be present at each site.

Table 3: Weather conditions for surveys and field scoping visits

Survey date	Weather conditions	Sites visited
30 th July 2025	Overcast with a gentle breeze, 22°C	Court Place Farm – East (188), Court Place Farm – West (189); and Boults Lane Recreation Ground (178)
6 th August 2025	Hot, sunny conditions	Banbury Road North Sports Club (166); and Cricket pitch Cutteslowe Park (194)
26 th August 2025	Overcast with some sunny spells	Brasenose Land (within Land at Old Marston site) (112c),

¹ JNCC (2016) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey. Available at: <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/9578d07b-e018-4c66-9c1b-47110f14df2a/Handbook-Phase1-HabitatSurvey-Revised-2016.pdf>

Survey date	Weather conditions	Sites visited
27 th August 2025	Warm with a mix of sunny and overcast conditions. Rain later in the day.	Land at Old Marston (formerly #112b (5-6)) (112b2); and Land off Mill Lane (636)
3 rd September 2025	Overcast with some sunny spells and showers	Green Belt Land at Cherwell Valley/Old Marston (southern part of previous site 112). (112a2); and Land to the rear of Harolde Close (658) Oriel College Sports Ground (665), Bartlemas former Bowling Green (204); and Wildlife Corridor at River Cherwell (136)

1.4 Limitations

The surveys were carried out at the end of the survey season in a year of drought. This may have limited the range of plants that were visible at the time of the site visits.

For woodland habitats, the range of spring-flower field layer herbs recorded is likely to have been reduced due to the timing of the surveys and additional species are likely to be present. These may include key indicator species for long-established woodland.

The six survey sites were largely accessible except for some denser areas of scrub. Some areas of grassland had been recently mown, which limits the confidence with which they can be assessed. Additional species, to those recorded in these surveys, are likely to be present. Further surveys would be required to fully assess these areas.

Some of the scoping sites were not fully accessed, and this limits the confidence with which they can be assessed. Further surveys would be required to fully assess these areas, particularly at Wildlife Corridor at River Cherwell (136), which was only viewed from outside the site.

Results

1.5 Desk Study

Statutory and non-statutory sites within 1 km of the survey sites are detailed in Table 4 below and their locations shown on Figures A1.1.1 to A1.1.13 in Appendix 1.

A summary of protected and notable species records returned from the desk-based study is described below and summary species lists are presented in Appendix 1.2. A copy of all the individual protected and notable species records returned from the data search can be made available but due to the large amount of data this is in the format of a separate Excel spreadsheets (Appendix 1.3).

1.5.1 Designated sites

Table 4: Summary of statutory and non-statutory designated wildlife sites

Survey site (SHLAA no.)	Statutory designated sites within 1km	Non-statutory designated sites within 1km	Notes
Court Place Farm East (188)	None	Showman's Field LWS Bayswater Brook OCWS Peasmoor Piece OCWS Dunstan Park OCWS Oxford Heights East CTA	
Court Place Farm West (189)	New Marston Meadows SSSI	Showman's Field LWS Milham Ford Field & Quad LWS Marston Brook Meadow LWS Peasmoor Piece OCWS Dunstan Park OCWS Bayswater Brook OCWS Oxford Heights East CTA and Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	
Land off Mill Lane (636)	New Marston Meadows SSSI	Almonds Farm and Burnt Mill Fields LWS Marston Brook Meadow LWS Showman's Field LWS Bypass Meadows pLWS Victoria Arms Spinney OCWS Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	

Survey site (SHLAA no.)	Statutory designated sites within 1km	Non-statutory designated sites within 1km	Notes
Land to the rear of Harolde Close (658)	Magdalen Quarry SSSI	Dunstan Park OCWS Bayswater Brook OCWS	
Green Belt Land at Cherwell Valley/Old Marston (southern part of previous site 112). (112a2)	New Marston Meadows SSSI	Almonds Farm and Burnt Mill Fields LWS Bypass Meadows pLWS Victoria Arms Spinney OCWS Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	The site is adjacent to two LWS, with Almonds Farm and Burnt Mill Fields to the south and Bypass Meadows to the north
Land at Old Marston (formerly #112b (5-6)) (112b2)	New Marston Meadows SSSI	Almonds Farm and Burnt Mill Fields LWS Marston Brook Meadow LWS Showman's Field LWS Bypass Meadows pLWS Victoria Arms Spinney OCWS Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	The western part of the site overlies the eastern section of Almonds Farm and Burnt Mill Fields LWS
Brasenose Land (within Land at Old Marston site) (112c)	New Marston Meadows SSSI	Marston Brook Meadow LWS Almonds Farm and Burnt Mill Fields LWS Showman's Field LWS Milham Ford Field & Quad LWS Victoria Arms Spinney OCWS University Parks OCWS Peasmoor Piece OCWS Park Farm Meadows OCWS Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	The southern edge of the site is adjacent to part of the northern edge of New Marston Meadows SSSI
Wildlife Corridor at River Cherwell (136)	New Marston Meadows SSSI	Long Meadow LWS	The site links a much wider corridor of semi-natural habitat along the river

Survey site (SHLAA no.)	Statutory designated sites within 1km	Non-statutory designated sites within 1km	Notes
	Magdalen Grove SSSI	Magdalen Meadow LWS St Hilda's College Meadow LWS Great Meadow LWS St. Cross Cemetery (part) OCWS Astons Eyt and The Kidneys OCWS University Parks OCWS Long Meadow North pOCWS Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	
Banbury Road North Sports Club (166)	None	Linkside lake OCWS Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	
Boults Lane Recreation Ground (178)	New Marston Meadows SSSI	Almonds Farm and Burnt Mill Fields LWS Showman's Field LWS Milham Ford Field & Quad LWS Marston Brook Meadow LWS Peasmoor Piece OCWS Victoria Arms Spinney OCWS Dunstan Park OCWS Bayswater Brook OCWS Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	Showman's Field LWS adjoins NE corner of site
Cricket pitch Cutteslowe Park (194)	None	Bypass Meadows pLWS Linkside lake OCWS Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	

Survey site (SHLAA no.)	Statutory designated sites within 1km	Non-statutory designated sites within 1km	Notes
Oriel College Sports Ground (665)	Lye Valley SSSI Lye Valley LNR	Lye Valley and Cowley Marsh LWS Lye Valley LGS Boundary Brook Nature Reserve OCWS Barracks Lane Meadow OCWS Warneford Meadow and Orchard OCWS Churchill Hospital Field OCWS Mileway Gardens OCWS	
Bartlemas former Bowling Green (204)	None	Lye Valley and Cowley Marsh LWS Long Meadow LWS Boundary Brook Nature Reserve OCWS Barracks Lane Meadow OCWS Warneford Meadow and Orchard OCWS Mileway Gardens OCWS Astons Eyot and The Kidneys OCWS Thames and Cherwell at Oxford CTA	

Abbr.

Statutory: SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest; LNR = Local Nature reserve

Non-statutory: LWS = Local Wildlife Site; pLWS = proposed Local Wildlife Site; OCWS = Oxford City Wildlife Site; pOCWS = proposed Oxford City Wildlife Site; LGS= Local Geological Site

1.5.2 Protected and notable species - Summary of key species records (pre-survey)

The table below provides a summary of the protected and notable species records available for the sites prior to the 2025 surveys. This does not refer to all the species but indicates main taxon groups and some key species. See Appendix 1 for full lists of the previously recorded protected and notable species.

Survey site (SHLAA no.)	On-site record summary	Off-site 1km search area summary
Court Place Farm East (188)	None	125 Protected and Notable Species (with 525 individual records) Five amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 49 protected and/or notable bird species; Devil's bolete fungus, 36 vascular plants; 17 invertebrates (including 5 moths, <i>Elodes elongatus</i> beetle, Southern Yellow Splinter true fly, Brown hairstreak and Common Darter); Mammals (including 9 species of bat, badger, brown hare, harvest mouse, hedgehog, otter and water vole); and reptiles - grass snake.
Court Place Farm West (189)	Great crested newt; House sparrow (but location details suggest this was off-site)	169 Protected and Notable Species (with 743 individual records) Five amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 52 protected and/or notable bird species; Devil's bolete and Yellowlegged Fanvaulf fungi, 52 vascular plants; 39 invertebrates (including 11 moths, 6 beetles, 2 true bugs, Picture-winged Fly and Southern Yellow Splinter true fly, Brown hairstreak and Common Darter); Mammals (including 9 species of bat, badger, brown hare, harvest mouse, hedgehog, otter and water vole); and 2 reptile species - grass snake and slow worm.
Land off Mill Lane (636)	Marginal swift record	119 Protected and Notable Species (with 569 individual records). Four amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 45 protected and/or notable bird species; Devil's bolete fungus; 34 vascular plants; 17 invertebrates (including 6 moths, 3 beetles, Brown hairstreak and Common Darter); Mammals (including 9 species of bat, badger, brown hare, hedgehog and otter); and reptiles - grass snake
Land to the rear of Harolde Close (658)	Badger (but location details for the record indicate that this was off-site)	118 Protected and Notable Species (with 766 individual records). Four amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 45 protected and/or notable bird species; Devil's bolete fungus; 33 vascular plants; 17 invertebrates (including 4 moths, Stag beetle, Brown Hairstreak, Small Heath, white admiral and Common Darter); Mammals (including 9 species of bat, badger, brown hare, harvest

Survey site (SHLAA no.)	On-site record summary	Off-site 1km search area summary
Green Belt Land at Cherwell Valley/Old Marston (southern part of previous site 112). (112a2)	<p>Brown tree-ant (<i>Lasius brunneus</i>) and Bladder sedge (<i>Carex vesicaria</i>)</p> <p>Marginal Badger and Harvest Mouse records</p>	<p>mouse, hedgehog, otter and water vole); and reptiles (including grass snake and slow-worm)</p> <p>129 Protected and Notable Species (with 828 individual records).</p> <p>Four amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 47 protected and/or notable bird species; 43 vascular plants; 21 invertebrates (including 10 moth species, Stage beetle and Brown Hairstreak); Mammals (including 5 species of bat, badger, harvest mouse, hedgehog, otter and water vole); and reptiles (including grass snake and slow-worm)</p>
Land at Old Marston (formerly #112b (5-6)) (112b2)	<p><u>Non-LWS area</u></p> <p>Brown Hairstreak; Marginal Rugged Oil-beetle (<i>Meloe rugosus</i>)</p> <p><u>LWS section</u></p> <p>Bird – Common sandpiper; Higher plants - Flat sedge, tubular water drop-wort, slender spike-rush, devil's-bit scabious, marsh ragwort, marsh arrow-grass, small fleabane, strawberry clover, lesser spearwort, marsh valerian, common valerian, hoary plantain; True fly - <i>Pherbellia nana</i>; Brown Hairstreak; mammals - Harvest mouse</p> <p>And marginal Bullhead (<i>Cottus perifretum</i>), Greater Water-parsnip and Water violet</p>	<p>156 Protected and Notable Species (with 1462 individual records).</p> <p>Four amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 61 protected and/or notable bird species; 44 vascular plants including Creeping marshwort and Fen violet; 25 invertebrates (including 13 moths, true fly - <i>Eustalomyia hilaris</i>, beetles - <i>Paraphotistus nigricornis</i>, Rugged Oil-beetle and Stag beetle, Brown hairstreak and Common Darter); Mammals (including 8 species of bat, badger, brown hair, harvest mouse, hedgehog, otter and water vole); and reptiles (including grass snake and slow-worm)</p>
Brasenose Land (within Land at Old Marston site) (112c)	Strawberry clover, badger and brown hairstreak	<p>232 Protected and Notable Species (with 2891 individual records).</p> <p>Five amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 85 protected and/or notable bird species; 63 vascular plants (including Creeping marshwort and Greater water-parsnip); 56 invertebrates (including 23 moths, beetles - Rugged Oil-beetle, Stag beetle, <i>Ceutorhynchus insularis</i> and <i>Paraphotistus nigricornis</i>; true bugs - <i>Eustalomyia</i></p>

Survey site (SHLAA no.)	On-site record summary	Off-site 1km search area summary
Wildlife Corridor at River Cherwell (136)	None	<p><i>hilaris</i>, <i>Acinia corniculata</i>, <i>Nysius graminicola</i> and <i>Anthocoris minki</i>; Brown hairstreak, Small blue and Common Darter); mammals including 9 species of bat, badger, harvest mouse, Hedgehog, Otter and Water Vole; Reptiles – Grass snake and slow-worm</p> <p>152 Protected and Notable Species (with 1260 individual records)</p> <p>Four amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 56 protected and/or notable bird species; 4 bony fish; 37 higher plants; 35 invertebrates (including 13 moths, 10 Ants, Bees, Sawflies & Wasps), Stag Beetle, Brown hairstreak, Chalk Hill Blue, Common Club-tail and Common Darter); mammals including 7 bats; Badger, Hedgehog, Otter and Water Vole; Reptile – Grass snake</p>
Banbury Road North Sports Club (166)	None	<p>98 Protected and Notable Species (with 521 individual records)</p> <p>Five amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 54 protected and/or notable bird species; 12 higher plants; 9 invertebrates (including 4 beetles, Small Heath, Brown hairstreak, Common darter and Marsh Pond Snail); mammals including 7 species of bat, Badger, Brown hare, Hedgehog, Otter, Polecat; reptiles – Grass snake and slow-worm.</p>
Boult's Lane Recreation Ground (178)	Brown hairstreak; House sparrow	<p>169 Protected and Notable Species (with 730 individual records)</p> <p>Five amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 54 protected and/or notable bird species; Devil's bolete fungus, 52 vascular plants; 39 invertebrates (including 11 moths, 6 beetles, 2 molluscs, 2 true bugs, Picture-winged Fly, Brown hairstreak and Common Darter); Mammals (including 9 species of bat, badger, brown hare, harvest mouse, hedgehog, otter and water vole); and 2 reptile species - grass snake and slow worm.</p>
Cricket pitch Cutteslowe Park (194)	Brown hairstreak	<p>96 Protected and Notable Species (with 543 individual records)</p> <p>Three amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 56 protected and/or notable bird species; 13 higher plants; 9 invertebrates (including 4 beetles, Brown hairstreak, Small Heath, Common Darter); mammals including 6 species of bat, Badger, Brown hare, Hedgehog, Otter; reptiles – Grass snake.</p>
Oriel College Sports Ground (665)	Large Black Slug and marginal Badger record	<p>187 Protected and Notable Species (with 1646 individual records)</p>

Survey site (SHLAA no.)	On-site record summary	Off-site 1km search area summary
Bartlemas former Bowling Green (204)	Marginal record for Swift	<p>168 Protected and Notable Species (with 1424 individual records)</p> <p>Four amphibian species recorded including Great crested newt; 52 protected and/or notable bird species; 54 higher plants; 43 invertebrates (including 17 moths, 10 true flies, 7 beetles (including Stag beetle), 5 Ants, Bees, Sawflies & Wasps, Brown Hairstreak, Chalk Hill Blue and Common Darter; mammals including 6 species of bat, Badger, Hedgehog, Otter; reptiles – Grass snake and slow-worm</p>

1.6 Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Below are summary descriptions of the habitats found on each of the survey sites. More detailed descriptions and site photographs are provided in Appendix 3. Phase 1 Habitat maps showing the locations of each habitat within the sites can be found in Appendix 2. Lists of the species recorded during the surveys are included in Appendix 4.

1.6.1 Site description and habitats

1.6.1.1 Phase 1 survey sites

1.6.1.1.1 COURT PLACE FARM EAST (188)

This small site forms Court Place Farm Nature Park and includes glades of semi-improved grassland, secondary woodland, tree belts, scrub and hedgerows.

At the time of survey, most of the grassland areas had been cut, making species identification/abundance assessment more difficult. The grassland sward has abundant Yorkshire-fog with frequent Cock's-foot, Common knapweed, Ribwort Plantain, Red fescue, Creeping Bent, Rough Meadow-grass and False Oat-grass. There is occasional Meadow buttercup, Yarrow, Greater Plantain and Hogweed with sparse Smaller Cat's-tail, Creeping Thistle, Red Clover and Oxeye Daisy.

An area of uncut grassland between a hedge and group of trees and scrub at TN 1 contains abundant False Oat-grass with frequent Yorkshire-fog, Cock's-foot and Red Fescue. There are locally dominant stands of tall ruderal species, such as Creeping Thistle, Great Willowherb and Bramble as well as locally frequent Hogweed. Small amounts of additional herbs include Meadow Buttercup, Common Vetch, Hop, Hedge Woundwort, Common Ragwort and Goldenrod.

Hedgerows and boundary trees at TN 2 and TN 6 are typically dominated by Field Maple, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Ash with occasional Wild Cherry, Horse Chestnut and Silver Birch.

A stand of Blackthorn suckering into the grassland at TN 4 had been recently cut and an adult Brown Hairstreak was recorded here.

Secondary woodland occurs along the southern site boundary at TN 5. Canopy species include frequent Ash and Field Maple and small amounts of Sycamore, Alder and Horse Chestnut. There is a group of Crack Willow trees at the western end where ground conditions are wetter. Understorey species include frequent Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Hazel with a little Elder, Holly, English Elm and Apple. The ground flora comprises abundant

Common nettle and ivy with locally abundant Pendulous sedge. There is frequent Bramble, Herb-Robert and Bittersweet with occasional herbs such as Hedge Woundwort, Wood Avens, Lords-and-ladies, Creeping Buttercup and Dewberry. Rarely recorded species includes Hogweed, Male-fern, Soft-rush and Field Horsetail.

1.6.1.1.2 LAND OFF MILL LANE (636)

This small field has grassland with the east side used as a sports pitch and rougher semi-improved neutral grassland to the west. The field is bounded by hedges on three sides with section of woodland at the margin to the north.

The amenity grassland to the east was short mown at the time of the survey. Much of the vegetation was dead and shrivelled but it included locally abundant perennial rye-grass with cock's-foot, rough meadow-grass, yarrow, ribwort plantain and autumn hawkbit. Other species are likely to be present.

The western side of the field was uncut and had a taller, rough sward including locally abundant false oat-grass and ribwort plantain with frequent autumn hawkbit and yarrow. Other species include locally frequent cow parsley and creeping bent with occasional forbs including field bindweed, creeping buttercup, and red clover. There are small amounts of smooth hawk's-beard, selfheal, hogweed, common ragwort, dandelion and common mouse-ear.

The boundary hedges have hawthorn, bramble and dogwood with many trees including field maple, oak, ash, wild cherry, crack willow, lime species and horse chestnut.

1.6.1.1.3 LAND TO THE REAR OF HAROLDE CLOSE (658)

This small site is secondary woodland and scrub with an open grassland glade. There is a watercourse along the western edge of the site. The woodland has semi-natural ash, wild cherry, field maple and an area of hazel coppice. It includes some large hazel stools. To the south, there is a block of secondary broadleaved plantation that is starting to develop a more semi-natural structure in places. It includes ash, wild cherry and silver birch with smaller amounts of field maple, horse chestnut, sycamore and Norway Maple. Shrubs include locally abundant hazel and bramble with frequent hawthorn. There is also elder, field rose, dog rose and guelder-rose. The field layer is sparser in some areas including areas of denser hazel but generally has abundant ivy with nettle, red currant, herb Robert, wood avens, cow parsley, ground ivy, false brome, hedge woundwort, bramble and garlic mustard. There are small amounts of wood sedge, pendulous sedge, hairy brome, primrose, male-fern, giant fescue and lord's-and-ladies. Crack willow is frequent to the west with some goat willow, comfrey, bittersweet and hedge bindweed.

The glades and rides have rough grassland with locally abundant great horsetail, nettle and patches of bramble scrub. Other species include false oat-grass, cock's-foot, hairy sedge, hogweed, cleavers, ground ivy, yarrow and spear thistle.

1.6.1.1.4 GREEN BELT LAND AT CHERWELL VALLEY/OLD MARSTON (112A2)

The site comprises two grassland fields bounded by hedgerows, adjacent to an existing development site. They are largely species-poor, semi-improved neutral grassland with scattered scrub to the north and more diverse wetland areas along the western side.

The southern field is mainly species-poor rough grassland with abundant false oatgrass. Other species include cock's-foot, Yorkshire-fog, creeping bent and field bindweed. There are small amounts of common ragwort, common mouse-ear, yarrow, nettle, creeping cinquefoil, ribwort plantain and hogweed. To the south side, there is a section with abundant creeping thistle.

To the south side of the southern field, there are lower lying damper areas with locally abundant hairy sedge, silverweed and creeping bent. There are patches with abundant water mint, frequent Yorkshire-fog and occasional tufted hair-grass. The dampest patches include common spike rush. There are small amounts of other species including lesser pond-sedge, greater pond-sedge, false fox-sedge, great willowherb, meadow foxtail, amphibious bistort, hard rush, creeping buttercup, meadow buttercup, meadow vetchling, creeping cinquefoil, yarrow and red clover. One patch of common fleabane was recorded and there were four unidentifiable orchid spikes at approximately SP51978 09279. There are some large anthills in the grassland areas to the west.

The western side of the field grades to a strip of trees and scrub along a watercourse at site boundary. Here, there are four veteran poplar trees with features including rotten heartwood, lost crowns, split trunks, large lost branches, rot holes and insect boring. Other woody species include abundant hybrid crack willow with ash, poplar species, aspen, wild cherry, hawthorn, dogwood, buckthorn, elm species and bramble. To the northwest corner, there is a wider patch of scrub – mainly bramble with hazel, elder, hawthorn, blackthorn, ash and crack willow. The grassland areas along the western margin also include a wider range of species with locally abundant black knapweed to the north. Other species include sweet vernal-grass, red clover, meadow foxtail, hoary ragwort, mugwort, lesser burdock, greater burdock, broad-leaved dock, yarrow and black horehound.

The northern field comprises rough semi-improved neutral grassland with scattered scrub (mainly hawthorn). The scrub becomes locally denser to the east side of the field. It also includes some blackthorn, bramble and rose species. There is a small block of broadleaved plantation woodland to the southeast corner of the field.

The grassland has abundant false oat grass with creeping bent, cock's-foot and red fescue. There are smaller amounts of tufted hair-grass, sweet vernal-grass, common couch and meadow foxtail. Forbs include locally frequent creeping thistle and field bindweed with occasional common sorrel, selfheal, ribwort plantain, meadow vetchling, yarrow, curled dock, oxeye daisy, marsh ragwort and hogweed. There are small amounts of other forbs including common bird's-foot-trefoil, agrimony, meadowsweet, red clover, germander speedwell, wild carrot, smooth hawk's-beard, common meadow-rue, field scabious and black knapweed.

The field slopes down on the western side with the bank including sections of wetland vegetation indicating possible springs and wet seepages. These include locally abundant hairy sedge, greater pond-sedge and glaucous sedge with brown sedge, water mint, common fleabane, false fox-sedge, wild angelica, creeping thistle, valerian species, meadow vetchling and 30+ orchid flower spikes (unidentifiable this late in the season). There are some large anthills in the grassland.

The small block of broadleaved plantation woodland to the southeast includes ash, oak and field maple. Shrubs include occasional hawthorn. The field layer is poorly developed with much bare ground but includes small amounts of ivy, ground ivy and garlic mustard.

Hedges include field maple, hazel and hawthorn with blackthorn, elder and dog rose. Hedgerow trees include ash, pedunculate oak, turkey oak, field maple and poplar species. Field layer species at the base of the hedges include ivy, cleavers, garlic mustard, wood avens, herb Robert, ground ivy and nettle. The southern and central dividing hedge include a few large hazel coppice stools.

Other species recorded include common blue butterfly, speckled wood, wasp spider, grey squirrel, wood pigeon, wren and red kite flying over.

1.6.1.1.5 LAND AT OLD MARSTON (112B2)

This site comprises three grassland fields bounded by hedgerows. The western field forms part of the Local Wildlife Site - Almond Farm and Burnt Mill Meadow LWS.

The southeastern field has short-mown grassland on ridge and furrow. It includes locally abundant perennial rye-grass and creeping bent with Yorkshire-fog and cock's-foot. Other grasses include red fescue and, at the field margins, false oatgrass. There is also some hairy sedge. Forbs include locally frequent common sorrel and occasional lady's bedstraw, ribwort plantain, creeping cinquefoil, field bindweed, red clover and broad-

leaved dock. There is also a small amount of creeping thistle, spear thistle, cut-leaved crane's-bill, autumn hawkbit, creeping buttercup, yarrow, dandelion, cat's-ear and black knapweed.

The field to the northeast had a short-mown sward at the time of the survey, limiting what could be identified. Grasses include cock's-foot, crested dog's-tail, creeping bent and perennial rye-grass with red fescue and false oat grass. Forbs include locally abundant creeping buttercup with locally frequent yarrow, ribwort plantain and field bindweed. There is occasional common sorrel, red clover, amphibious bistort and smooth hawk's-beard with small amounts of cat's-ear, common bird's-foot-trefoil, lady's bedstraw, hoary ragwort, autumn hawkbit, common mouse-ear, wild carrot, dandelion, common ragwort, goat's-beard, creeping thistle and hogweed. Black knapweed is occasional and becomes locally frequent to the east side of the field. There is a lusher strip to the north side of the field. It is species-poor with perennial rye-grass, creeping bent, cock's-foot and ribwort plantain.

The field to the west is included in Almond Farm and Burnt Mill Meadow LWS. The eastern side of the field has a flat area of grassland with a bank on the west side down to the watercourse that forms the western site boundary. The other three field boundaries have native hedgerows.

The flatter section of grassland had been recently cut so could not be fully accessed. It includes Yorkshire-fog, cock's-foot, false oat-grass, creeping bent, red fescue and Timothy with some perennial rye-grass, soft brome and meadow fescue. There is also occasional hairy sedge and a small amount of jointed rush. Forbs include locally abundant black knapweed with frequent common sorrel and locally frequent creeping buttercup, red clover and yarrow. There is occasional meadow vetchling, common bird's-foot-trefoil, meadow buttercup and smaller amounts of rough hawkbit, common mouse-ear, selfheal, creeping cinquefoil, creeping thistle, great willowherb, broadleaved dock, silverweed, red bartsia, silverweed and autumn hawkbit.

The grassland bank had a tall, uncut sward at the time of the survey. The species richness of the sward was variable with moderately rich false oat grass dominated grassland and species-rich wetland areas. The rough grass areas include abundant false oatgrass with meadow vetchling, hairy sedge, cock's-foot, tufted hair-grass, sweet vernal-grass, tufted vetch, locally abundant black knapweed, creeping bent, ribwort plantain, common sorrel, common bird's-foot-trefoil, nettle, cleavers, hogweed, silverweed, meadow fescue, wild angelica, autumn hawkbit, Timothy, creeping thistle, yarrow, creeping cinquefoil, lady's bedstraw, creeping buttercup, red bartsia and hard rush.

Springs and flushes include locally abundant brown sedge, bryophytes and lesser pond-sedge with water mint, floating sweetgrass, creeping bent, wild angelica, common fleabane, silverweed, meadow vetchling, hop, hedge bindweed, glaucous sedge, marsh woundwort, meadowsweet, gypsywort, false fox-sedge, bittersweet,

field horsetail, purple loosestrife, square-stalked St. John's-wort, water chickweed, red shanks, skullcap, greater pond-sedge, hard rush, marsh ragwort, marsh valerian, marsh thistle and devil's bit scabious.

The watercourse channel has abundant reed canary-grass with lesser pond-sedge, bulrush, floating sweetgrass, flag iris and greater pond-sedge. There is also some water dock. The bank includes small amounts of orange balsam. Trees and scrubs include osier and crack willow.

Hedgerows include hawthorn and blackthorn with field maple, elder, hazel, crack willow, elm species, apple, bramble, dogwood, poplar species, pedunculate oak and ash.

1.6.1.1.6 BRASENOSE LAND (WITHIN LAND AT OLD MARSTON SITE) (112C)

The site consists of four damp grassland fields. They have moderately species-rich, semi-improved neutral grassland with marshy grassland elements locally where rushes and wetland forbs become abundant.

The smaller field to the northeast has semi-improved neutral grassland grading to patches of marshy grassland. It has locally abundant hard rush, Yorkshire-fog, creeping bent and creeping buttercup. There is locally frequent tufted hair-grass, crested dog's-tail, cock's-foot, water mint, perennial rye-grass and creeping thistle; and occasional Timothy, nettle, white clover, hairy sedge, red fescue, rough meadow-grass, meadow foxtail, and false oat-grass. Other species include creeping cinquefoil, common mouse-ear, common ragwort, false fox sedge, lesser stitchwort, hoary ragwort, soft rush, silverweed and meadow buttercup.

The other three field have semi-neutral grassland on ridge and furrow. Grasses include Yorkshire-fog and creeping bent with crested dog's-tail, perennial rye-grass, Timothy, soft brome, meadow barley, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, cock's-foot, tufted hairgrass, tall fescue, meadow fescue, false oatgrass and meadow foxtail. Common forbs include creeping buttercup and creeping thistle with red clover, creeping cinquefoil, dandelion, common mouse-ear, field bindweed, white clover, common sorrel, common ragwort, ribwort plantain and dock species. Richer areas include locally frequent common bird's-foot-trefoil with lesser stitchwort, meadow vetchling, common cat's-ear, yarrow, selfheal, silverweed, tufted vetch, pepper saxifrage, black knapweed and meadow buttercup. A small amount of strawberry clover was also recorded. Other species include locally frequent hard rush and hairy sedge with a small amount of greater pond-sedge, false fox sedge and field horsetail. The southern field (TN13) includes some scattered scrub.

There is a small block of scrub at the southeast corner. It includes veteran willow pollards and ash. There is also a seasonal pond. Other woody species include hawthorn and crab apple. The field layer is shaded and includes areas of bare ground but also nettle, rough meadow-grass, wood avens, herb Robert, giant fescue,

ivy, wood dock and garlic mustard. There is also a small amount of lord's-and-ladies, broadleaved dock and remote sedge.

There are two other small ponds marked on the Ordnance Survey maps (at TN14 and TN15). These areas were visited but were either found to be covered in dense bramble or lacked indicative wetland species so their presence could not be confirmed.

The field boundaries have hedgerows including hawthorn, blackthorn, bramble, English elm, wych elm, field maple, ash, crack willow, goat willow, pedunculate oak and small amounts of Midland hawthorn, apple, field rose, spindle, holly, privet, dog rose, hazel and poplar species. Some of the hedges have associated ditches.

1.6.1.2 Scoping survey sites

1.6.1.2.1 WILDLIFE CORRIDOR AT RIVER CHERWELL

This site was not accessed and was only seen from the publicly accessible bridge to the north. It is an island with a small amenity grassland sports pitch bounded by clipped hedges and a strip of broadleaved woodland. The marginal areas to the south and east along the riverbanks also appear to have short mown amenity grassland.

1.6.1.2.2 BANBURY ROAD NORTH SPORTS CLUB

Grassland areas were largely short mown at the time of the survey, as is typical for amenity grassland. This limits the recording of some species. Only the southern and western parts of the site were accessed, though most of the site could be seen from here. Sections marked 'members only' were not accessed.

The site is largely artificially surfaced sports pitches with smaller areas of amenity grassland (including some of the tennis courts and marginal strips of grassland at the site edge). To the west side, there is a hard surfaced car park and buildings. Between some of the central courts there are some sections of hedge. These were not closely inspected but appear to be dominated by cherry laurel. The site boundaries have hedges with sections to the south fenced. The hedge to the north was not closely inspected by appears to be dominated by non-native conifers. Hedges to the east and partial sections to the south include – hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, elder, bramble, ash and apple. Climbers include ivy, white bryony and bittersweet.

1.6.1.2.3 BOULTS LANE RECREATION CENTRE

The majority of the site is a recreation grassland field of short-mown, amenity grassland surrounded by boundary tree-lines and hedgerows. There is an area of hardstanding and recreational buildings (Scouts and football club) at the western end of the site and a small, fenced children's play space at the western edge of the grassland.

The amenity grassland is dominated by Perennial Rye-grass with a very limited range of herbs such as Daisy, Greater plantain, Ribwort Plantain, White Clover, Smooth Hawk's-beard and Yarrow.

There is a line of semi-mature Ash, Field Maple, Small-leaved Lime, Pedunculate Oak and ornamental oak trees and a shrubby hedgerow along the eastern boundary fence. The hedge is dominated by Hawthorn with some Elder and Ash.

A tall hedgerow marks the northern boundary and contains frequent Hawthorn, Dogwood and English Elm with occasional Blackthorn. There are small amounts of Crab Apple, Hazel and Wild Cherry.

Along the western edge of the amenity grassland there is a small, fenced children's play space containing play equipment on cushioned surface material and amenity grass. To the south of this there is a line of semi-mature trees including Field Maple, Sycamore, Ash, Small-leaved Lime, Common Lime and Wild Cherry. A short section of planted hedge comprising Hawthorn, Field Maple, Hazel and Dogwood also occurs along the grassland edge.

At the western end of the site there is a Scouts building and Football Club building with associated hardstanding. Ash trees and Elder occur along the western boundary behind the infrastructure.

The western half of the southern site boundary has a line of mostly Field Maple trees with a couple of Pedunculate Oaks. The eastern half of the boundary is marked by a gappy hedgerow of mostly Hawthorn and Elder with Sycamore and Ash. Climbers include Hedge Bindweed, Ivy and an ornamental rose species. The ground flora includes Wood Avens, Common Nettle and Stinking-iris.

1.6.1.2.4 COURT PLACE FARM WEST

The majority of the site contains infrastructure for various sports club grounds and fitness centres including a mix of artificial courts, pitches and amenity grassland areas with hardstanding car-parks and associated buildings. This is concentrated in the western half of the site. The eastern half has close mown amenity grassland and there are two wetland areas along the southern boundary that support fen and pond habitats. Boundary habitat includes trees and hedgerows along the western and northern borders. The fenced sports pitches with surrounding buildings had restricted access so this area was not closely inspected.

The main amenity grassland area is short mown turf dominated by Perennial Rye-grass with frequent Rough Meadow-grass, locally frequent Autumn Hawkbit and rare Soft-brome. Typical herbs such as Ribwort Plantain, Dandelion, Greater Plantain, Cat's-ear, Creeping Cinquefoil, and White Clover occur occasionally with small amounts of Smooth Hawk's-beard, Yarrow, and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil. There are a couple of uncut grassland strips towards the south-west of the site where saplings including Rowan, Hawthorn, Birch, Blackthorn, Hazel and Wild Cherry have been planted.

Strips of amenity grassland around the car parking areas comprise Perennial Rye-grass, Red Fescue, Cock's-foot, Common Couch, Yarrow, Creeping Cinquefoil, Autumn Hawkbit, Ribwort Plantain, White Clover, and Dandelion. Margins of taller, uncut, grass are dominated by False Oat-grass with Common Nettle and Hogweed.

A low-lying area of ground at the southern site boundary contains swamp habitat including abundant Reed Sweet-grass, Lesser Pond-sedge and Hedge Bindweed with frequent Purple Loosestrife, Bulrush, Water Mint and Great Willowherb with scattered White and Grey Willow scrub and occasional Common Nettle and Tufted Vetch. A few plants of the rare Marsh-mallow were recorded here, which is typically a coastal species, so likely to be garden escapes or deliberate plantings. A short bank, that is probably seeded, bounds the northern end, and is dominated by False oat-grass with frequent Yorkshire-fog, Barren Brome and abundant Common Knapweed. There is frequent Creeping Cinquefoil and small amounts of Common Vetch, Yarrow, Common Bird's-foot-trefoil and Hairy Tare. An area of wet grassland between the bank and swamp area is dominated by Creeping Bent with frequent Creeping Thistle, Yorkshire-fog, Creeping Buttercup, Cock's-foot and Hairy Sedge with some Amphibious Bistort, Hard-rush, False Fox-sedge, Silverweed, Common Fleabane, Common Vetch, Square-stalked St. John's-wort and Hogweed.

A second, smaller, swamp area is situated in the south-eastern corner of the site. It supports abundant Marsh-mallow, Hairy Sedge and Creeping Bent with areas dominated by Reed Sweet-grass and scattered Crack-willow scrub. Other wetland herbs include Purple Loosestrife, Meadowsweet, Gypsywort, Meadow Vetchling, Brooklime and Water-plantain. Towards the south-eastern corner of this lower-lying area there is a pond overgrown by Bulrush and bounded by willow shrubs. No open water was visible due to the prolonged drought conditions this summer. There is a 2022 record for Great-crested Newt for this pond. On the surrounding, drier, banks there is False Oat-grass, Common knapweed, Cock's-foot, Hogweed, Broadleaved Dock, Yorkshire-fog, Curled Dock, Wood Dock, Common Figwort, Common Nettle, Red Campion, Creeping Thistle, Hedge Bindweed and Red Clover.

A couple of planted species-poor hedgerows occur along the perimeter of the pitches area and car park. These are dominated by Field Maple with a few additional species such as Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Elder, Ash and Buckthorn. Boundary trees along the western and northern margins include a mix of native and non-native species such as Ash, Field, Maple, Common Lime, Small-leaved Lime, Cherry Plum, White Willow, Pedunculate Oak, Sycamore, Horse-chestnut, Turkey Oak and Hornbeam.

1.6.1.2.5 CRICKET PITCH CUTTESLOWE PARK

The site is a short-mown amenity grassland field used as a cricket pitch. A section to the west side has artificial surface with some grassland species and is used as a car park. The northern and eastern site boundaries have species-poor native hedgerows. To the south, there is a tarmacked road and, to the east, there are garden fences and a double line of planted trees (mainly conifers). To the northwest, there is small, fenced area with artificial surface. The site margins to the north and east include small areas of rougher grassland with false

oatgrass. To the north, the marginal areas include trees including several horse chestnut, hybrid poplar, lime species, ash, turkey oak, and maple species. By the car park edge, there are a small number of younger planted trees including whitebeam species. A few faunal species were recorded including the birds - carrion crow, jackdaw, robin, wood pigeon, mistle thrush, blue tit and long-tailed tit. Butterflies include large white and small white.

1.6.1.2.6 ORIEL COLLEGE SPORTS GROUND

The site is a frequently mown sports pitch with a limited range of plant species. There is locally abundant perennial rye-grass with red fescue, cock's-foot, creeping bent and Yorkshire-fog. The grassland is grass-dominated with low abundance of forbs but they include locally frequent yarrow and white clover with rare greater plantain, ribwort plantain, red clover, daisy, broadleaved dock, black medick, common mouse-ear, nettle and creeping thistle. There is a slightly richer strip towards the woodland edge to the north including common bird's-foot-trefoil and meadow vetchling. The field margins include sections of native hedgerow, garden hedge, wall, fence and to the north woodland edge.

1.6.1.2.7 BARTLEMAS FORMER BOWLING GREEN

The site is a small amenity grassland field with a short-mown sward, and strips of rougher marginal grassland to the south and east. The site is bounded by species-poor native hedgerows. The amenity grassland has abundant red fescue with cock's-foot, perennial rye-grass, Yorkshire-fog and creeping bent. Forbs include locally abundant creeping thistle, locally frequent yarrow and knotgrass, occasional smooth hawk's-beard and small amounts of white clover, red clover, black medick, germander speedwell, creeping buttercup, ribwort plantain, field bindweed, dandelion and creeping cinquefoil.

There are rougher marginal strips include thistle, aster species, nettle, false oatgrass, mugwort, ragwort, buddleia, cow parley, bramble and some suckering elm.

Discussion

Most of the area surveyed appeared to be of limited value in terms of biodiversity interest comprising of widespread, common habitats with a limited range of species recorded. However, part of one site (Land at Old Marston (112b2)) falls within Almonds Farm and Burnt Mill Fields LWS and is deemed to be of County level interest for the wildlife interest that it supports. The other section of this site would benefit from re-survey when it had not been recently mown, but based on what could be recorded, is assessed as being of moderate biodiversity interest. Brasenose Land (within Land at Old Marston site) (112c) is deemed to be of moderate biodiversity interest. Moderate to high localised biodiversity interest was identified on other sites including Court Place Farm – East (188), Court Place Farm – West (189), Land to the rear of Harolde Close (658) and Green Belt Land at Cherwell Valley/Old Marston, (southern part of previous site 112). (112a2).

The sites also included boundary and, in some cases, internal native hedgerows. Hedgerows comprising native species are a priority habitat (NERC Act Section 41 Habitat of Principal Importance).

A summary of findings in terms of level of wildlife interest for each site is as follows:

- Wildlife Corridor at River Cherwell (136) – The site appears to comprise common widespread habitats of low to moderate distinctiveness (amenity grassland, hedgerow and secondary broadleaved plantation woodland). The visit here only involved a brief scoping survey from the adjacent bridge and the site was not closely inspected. It includes a small sports pitch with short mown amenity grassland, sections of hedge and a small, wooded area to the west with play equipment. There are some marginal trees by the bridge that are semi-mature.
- Banbury Road North Sports Club (166) - A mix of artificially surfaced sports pitches/courts and amenity grassland with hedgerows and line of trees. The grassland has limited biodiversity interest and is of low distinctiveness.
- Boult's Lane Recreation Ground (178) - Confirmed amenity habitat with limited interest. The main biodiversity interest is restricted to boundary habitats, including a 2017 record for brown hairstreak in one of the hedgerows. The majority of the site is a recreation grassland field of short-mown, amenity grassland of low distinctiveness, surrounded by boundary treelines and hedgerows of medium to high distinctiveness. There is an area of hardstanding and recreational buildings (Scouts and football club) at the western end of the site.
- Court Place Farm – East (188) – A small site that is designated as Court Place Farm Nature Park and has biodiversity interest. It includes glades of semi-improved grassland, secondary woodland, tree belts,

scrub and hedgerows of medium to high distinctiveness. The grassland had been cut, so some species may have been missed. Brown hairstreak butterfly was recorded by blackthorn scrub during the survey. Other protected and notable species recorded include wren, woodpigeon and alder buckthorn.

- Court Place Farm – West (189) - Confirmed amenity habitat – the western half of the site contains infrastructure for various sports club grounds and fitness centres including a mix of artificial courts, pitches and amenity grassland areas with hardstanding carparks and associated buildings. The eastern half has close-mown amenity grassland of limited interest and is of low distinctiveness. There is, however, biodiversity interest in two wetland areas along the southern boundary that support swamp and pond habitats of high distinctiveness. There is also a 2022 record for Great-crested Newt for the pond. Further assessment of these areas is likely to be required, including hydrological impacts. The fenced sports pitches with surrounding buildings had restricted access so this area was not closely inspected. Protected and notable species recorded during the survey include marsh-mallow and woodpigeon.
- Cricket pitch Cutteslowe Park (194) - Amenity grassland with marginal strip of rough grassland, boundary hedgerow and lines of trees. The grassland has limited biodiversity interest and is of low distinctiveness. There is a previous record for brown hairstreak.
- Land off Mill Lane (636) - Amenity grassland with section of semi-improved neutral grassland (species-poor) to the west. There are boundary hedgerows. The grassland has limited biodiversity interest and is of low distinctiveness.
- Land to the rear of Harolde Close (658) - Barton Village Nature Park – This site has a mix of wooded habitat with rides and a central grassland glade. It includes semi-natural woodland (with a small area of hazel coppice), broadleaved plantation woodland and scrub. The site includes some small, standing dead trees and the area of hazel coppice includes some large hazel stools. The site is not included on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory and it is likely to be secondary woodland. It does however include small amounts of some ancient woodland indicator species (with herbs including primrose, wood sedge, pendulous sedge, stinking iris, harts-tongue fern and hairy brome; and woody species including holly, wild cherry, red currant and guelder-rose). Caution is needed when interpreting the presence of the woody species component on sites, such as this, where these trees and shrubs may have been planted. A spring survey would help provide a full assessment of the richness of the field layer as this survey was too late in the year to record some early flowering species. The habitats recorded here are of medium to high distinctiveness.

- Oriel College Sports Ground (665) - Amenity grassland with some boundary hedges. Frequently mown, species-poor grassland with very low abundance of forbs. The grassland has limited biodiversity interest and is of low distinctiveness.
- Green Belt Land at Cherwell Valley/Old Marston, (southern part of previous site 112). (112a2) – The site is predominantly species-poor grassland, but with more interest along the western side of both fields and to the southwest of the southern field. Interest includes springs/wet seeps in the bank with wetland species and unidentifiable orchid spikes. These wetland habitats are likely to depend hydrologically on the catchment areas covered by the grassland to the east. Other habitats include marginal hedgerows and scrub and a small block of broadleaved plantation woodland in the corner of the north field. Some boundary hedges include large hazel coppice stools. The south field includes some veteran poplar trees to the southwest. Further assessment is likely to be required for the western areas and possibly the wider areas of the site for potential hydrological impacts. The main areas of grassland habitat are of low distinctiveness, but the western wetter sections are of medium to potentially high distinctiveness. Protected and notable species recorded during the surveys include the higher plants – common valerian and field scabious, and birds - woodpigeon, wren and red kite. Previous records include brown tree-ant (*Lasius brunneus*) and bladder sedge (*Carex vesicaria*) with marginal badger and harvest mouse records.
- Land at Old Marston (formerly #112b(5-6)) (112b2) – The western part of the site falls within a Local Wildlife Site. It includes species-rich grassland and a bank with springs and wetland interest. Other areas include ridge and furrow. Most of the grassland had been recently cut and the short sward limited what could be recorded, but there were several desirable forbs recorded as present. Further investigation is likely to be required to fully assess the area outside the LWS. The section of the site that falls within the LWS is of high distinctiveness and recognised as being of County significance for its biodiversity interest. The wetland interest in the LWS may depend on the water catchment from wider areas of the site. Protected and notable species recorded during the survey include devil's-bit scabious, marsh ragwort and marsh valerian. In the LWS, there are previous records for common sandpiper, flat sedge, tubular water drop-wort, slender spike-rush, marsh arrow-grass, small fleabane, strawberry clover, lesser spearwort, common valerian, hoary plantain, True fly - *Pherbellia nana*, brown hairstreak and harvest mouse with marginal records of bullhead (*Cottus perifretum*), greater water-parsnip and water violet. Previous records for the non-LWS parts of the site include brown hairstreak and a marginal record for rugged oil-beetle (*Meloe rugosus*).

- Brasenose Land (within Land at Old Marston site) (112c) – It has good semi-improved neutral grassland with a small area of marshy grassland. The fields are on ridge and furrow and the grassland is of medium distinctiveness. There is at least one seasonal pond (with other possible locations not accessible due to dense bramble). The boundaries have native hedgerows/ marginal woodland strips with ditches and include some veteran willow pollards. The notable plant strawberry clover was found during the 2025 survey and there are previous records for badger and brown hairstreak.
- Bartlemas former Bowling Green (204) - Amenity grassland with boundary native hedges and some marginal strips of semi-improved rough neutral grassland. The grassland has limited biodiversity interest and is of low distinctiveness.

About TVERC

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) are 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.

What we do

We provide our funding partners with annually updated species and sites information and undertake surveys of local wildlife sites. 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. We provide other services such as ecological surveys, data analysis & presentation and training.

Our records

We hold over 5 million records of flora and fauna in Berkshire and Oxfordshire plus information about Local Wildlife and Geological Sites, NERC Act S41 Habitats of Principal Importance (previously called UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats) and Ecological Networks (Conservation Target Areas and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas). We collect this data from the general public, skilled volunteer /amateur recorders, professionals working for wildlife charities (BBOWT and RSPB), professionals working for government agencies (the Environment Agency and local authorities) and ecological consultants. This information is used: by planning authorities and developers to make informed decisions on the design and location of sustainable development; to help farmers, landowners and conservation organisations manage land in the best way to enhance biodiversity by nature; by partnerships to direct wildlife conservation work by teachers, students and scientists for education and scientific research.

For more information, please visit our website: www.tverc.org

Appendices

List of Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Desk-based study results

- 1.1 Statutory and non-statutory site locations
- 1.2 Summary lists of the recorded pre-survey protected and notable species
- 1.3 Pre-survey species records (Protected and notable species) – Separate set of Excel spreadsheets [JK1]

APPENDIX 2: Phase 1 Habitat Maps

APPENDIX 3: Target notes and photographs

APPENDIX 4: Species records from 2025 Surveys