



**Phase 1 Habitat Survey
Maidenhead
2017**

Surveyor	Mark Hemmings
Acknowledgements	I am grateful to Brian Clews for his review and significant additional botanical records, and to Simon Miles for his patient guidance and help to make the GIS map possible
Phase 1 Habitat Survey	<p>What is a Phase 1 Habitat Survey?</p> <p>After the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was passed, the Nature Conservancy Council, now Natural England, created the Phase 1 Habitat Survey in 1986 as a conservation tool.</p> <p>The Manual presents a standardised system for classifying and mapping wildlife habitats in all parts of Great Britain, including urban areas.</p> <p>It provides a summary record of semi-natural and wildlife habitats such as grasslands and woodlands. Vegetation is relatively simple to record but most animals are difficult to observe so comprehensive faunal surveys are not practical.</p> <p>The mapping is done at 1:10,000. There are 90 habitat types which are often observed from footpaths with binoculars. The observations are used to create coloured maps, target notes and statistics.</p> <p>The survey is used by Local Authorities for planning and, for considering protection, such as SSSIs or LNR local trust wildlife sites etc.</p> <p><i>(Definition from the Joint Nature Conservancy Council)</i></p>

Immediate threats to biodiversity from Borough Local Plan development

There are four immediate threats to biodiversity from Borough Local Plan development:

- Toad depletion by development at land south of Ray Mill Road East (HA14)
- Glow worms on land east of Strande Park Cookham (HA39) is one of the last site in the Borough where they exist, after a landowner inadvertently destroyed a site
- Potential mitigation of development by improving woodland behind HA39
- Clearing the overhang along The Cut at Braywick Park, and persistent vegetation clearing of Cookham streams, as part of the Maidenhead Waterway Project (maidenheadwaterways.org)

Summary and Conclusions

The Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the ten wards covered by Wild Maidenhead gives an overview of the habitats in which our wildlife lives.

It is not intended to provide in-depth reviews of UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species for identification and appropriate protection, or Berkshire BAP priority habitats, as this requires specialist surveys

Background

The whole of the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead was classed as Metropolitan Green Belt in 1974. The Berkshire Structure Plan 2001-2016 (Adopted in July 2005) sets out the general boundaries of the Green Belt. The boundaries of the Green Belt are set out in the Proposals Map of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan 1999 (Incorporating Alterations Adopted in June 2003). You can see a copy of the Proposals Map and the Local Plan on-line at www.rbwm.gov.uk. The Government provides guidance on Green Belts (available from www.communities.gov.uk) and RBWM own planning policies for the Green Belt as set out in the Local Plan.

Green Belt has five main purposes. These are to:

- check the unrestricted spread of large built-up areas
- protect the countryside from more developments
- prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another
- preserve the special character of historic towns
- help urban regeneration (redevelopment) by encouraging people to re-use derelict land

Summaries of key findings

Farming

Arable: In the Borough, farming is concentrated on Wheat and Rapeseed crops in the south of Maidenhead, and Barley in the north.

Animal husbandry and similar: A large percentage of farmland is given over to grazing horses, and there are two polo clubs in the Borough. There are no dairy herds, just four herds of beef cattle and three large flocks of sheep. There are also smallholdings with a few animals.

Businesses: Copas Turkeys and Pick your Own are significant in Cookham.

Trees

We are fortunate to have magnificent and notable trees throughout Maidenhead. Many are on ancient woodland sites that have been identified as Local Wildlife Sites or Sites of Special Scientific Interest. There are three notable exceptions to Ancient woodland not so designated, being at Little Thrift Wood (map 45), Canny Grove, Robinswood, Burchetts Green (map 26), and Little Round Wood with Long Wood (map 64). Ancient woodlands are best seen in May when many have woodland floors carpeted with Bluebells.

The Woodland Trust identified ancient trees in the Borough on Ancient-Tree-Hunt.org.uk:

- Common Yew No.3060 SU85517755 Girth 5.78m
- Common Yew No.10723 SU84107710 Girth 6.37m
- Common Yew No 10717 SU82907700 Girth 4.57m
- Field Maple No.100244 SU8281278000 Girth 2.57m
- Sweet Chestnut No 10118 SU86198221 Girth 5.82m

Hedgerows

The countryside of Maidenhead is overwhelmingly surrounded by hedgerow, which has made this survey more difficult. The hedgerows are predominantly poor in species richness, being mainly Hawthorn and Blackthorn. It is the few species rich hedgerows that will require further surveys.

Most valuable tree species for Invertebrates (insects) from the Woodland Trust:

Tree or Scrub	Associate Insect Species
Oak (pedunculated and sessile)	284
Willow species	266
Birch (silver and downy)	229
Hawthorn	149
Blackthorn	109

We can therefore see why Maidenhead is an important area for invertebrates as it is rich in these tree and hedgerow species.

Farmland Birds

Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting, Grey Partridge and Yellow Wagtail are no longer regarded as local breeding species, whilst **Lapwing, Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting** are increasingly struggling to maintain their breeding status here (all of which are UK BAP priority species).

Rook, Jackdaw, Starling and House Sparrow remain widespread, but they are becoming concentrated in small localised areas.

This survey has looked at recent records and made a survey count, but the number of birds in the Borough can only be an estimate.

The birds that require action are:

Dunnock - small numbers seen in hedgerows

Swallows* - nine breeding pairs identified. These birds are so dependent on the few derelict outbuildings and a few farm buildings that they will probably be gone from the Borough in the foreseeable future

Skylarks** - ten recorded singing over arable fields

Linnet*** - five seen in small groups, mainly over grassland

House martins**** - only remain nesting in about five sites.

The number of **Owl** and **Kestrel** in the Borough are small and have been declining.

Our town and villages have seen a gradual loss of natural **Swift** nest sites and a steep decline in numbers.

Nectar and Pollen

The bee population and other pollinators are in serious decline, and this survey has shown that the countryside around Maidenhead is severely depleted of nectar plants, so that the solution can only be to use common land to grow wild flowers.

The fields are either mono-crops, with high usage of herbicides, or improved grassland for horses or golf courses, none of which allow for wildflowers to flourish.

The other land available is made up of Commons, road verges and set-aside under the Higher Stewardship Scheme.

Bees require a constant supply of nectar and pollen from early March until the first frosts in October, and currently that is now limited mainly to road verges and gardens.

The addition of green roofing on future office building would contribute to an improved situation. Any plan to reverse the decline needs to look at converting common grassland to nectar rich habitat and then using the old hay meadow cutting regime of only cutting when the seed heads have formed, leaving the cut meadows to set their seed, and later clearing away the hay.

“Some crops (fruit, many flowers, rapeseed, alfalfa etc.) rely on the services of wild insects to pollinate them. This service has been estimated to be worth £691 million to the English economy” (Breeding Bird Survey)

Housing

The modern design of new housing, and modification of existing properties, prevents access for nesting birds.

The problem faced by Swifts has been mitigated by some amazing work by the Maidenhead, Marlow and Cookham Swift Group installing over 200 Swift nest boxes around the Borough in 2016. Developers do have the opportunity to include special bricks for Swift nests in new structures, as these bricks have been shown to be very well used.

Ownership and Management

The countryside is largely owned by a small number of farmers and landowners, and only a small amount is owned by the Borough. We are therefore fortunate that the landowners value their woodlands and wildlife and our concentration needs to be to assist landowners to maximise any improvement for wildlife, particularly with the Higher Stewardship Scheme. We are also fortunate that the Borough, National Trust and Woodland Trust has identified most of the ancient and fragile habitats and these sites have been classified for protection. Additionally, the Borough employs an ecologist into the planning department, which allows for important ongoing protection.

In conclusion, a recent study of *The British Garden* by scientists and ecologists, funded by BBC4, showed that the richest habitat for biodiversity were not those left wild but those with a mixture of:

- Trees and shrubs
- Flowering plants
- Year-round flowers for nectar and pollen
- Wilder patches

We have the trees and shrubs and wilder patches, but what we lack is the year-round wildflowers for nectar and pollen.

How are we to pay for improvements to biodiversity?

In recent years, government has developed programmes that can be adopted to achieve net gain for nature, which is usually referred to as Biodiversity Accounting.

[Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#) places a duty on all public authorities in England and Wales to have regard, in the exercise of their functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. A key purpose of this duty is to embed consideration of biodiversity as an integral part of policy and decision making throughout the public sector, which should be seeking to make a significant contribution to the achievement of the commitments made by government in its [Biodiversity 2020 strategy](#).

Guidance on statutory obligations concerning designated sites and protected species is published separately because its application is wider than planning and links are provided to external guidance. Local planning authorities should take a pragmatic approach – the aim should be to fulfil statutory obligations in a way that minimises delays and burdens.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes **moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature**, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.

Defra.gov.uk/publications/ provide the ‘Technical paper: The metric for biodiversity offsetting pilot in England’ March 2012, whereby developers pay a levy, the size of which is based on the size, condition and the distinctiveness of the land that they wish to develop, and the size of the levy is mitigated by the work the developers do to mitigate the loss of biodiversity in the development. In some places, people building extensions and similar pay a levy as they are also reducing biodiversity. The success of the pilots and the NPPF move to achieve net gains for nature has resulted in many counties across England adopting Biodiversity Accounting. The Borough Local Plan calls for the building of 6,000 new homes in Maidenhead before 2023, and the Borough Planning Department is aware of the success of the scheme elsewhere. It therefore requires the political will to implement it.

Wildlife corridors

Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy (BBS) 2014-2020 Objective 1.4 Increase habitat connectivity by encouraging targeted habitat creation with the BOAs by 2020.

The mapping of the Borough gives us a great opportunity to see the natural corridors that our wildlife is likely to take. The corridors are developed to prevent inbreeding, support migration, or the ‘rescue effect’ of re-establish populations where they have been lost through development of roads, buildings, or farm usage, flooding, or disease. These corridors allow animals and plant seeds to move between larger areas of habitat that are their refuge.

Wildlife corridors are made up of riparian ribbons/water corridors of rivers and streams or land corridors, often linear in nature, connecting larger woodland areas. ‘However, they can also be as simple as a line of shrubs along a sidewalk’ (Fleury 1997). Species of plant, reptile, amphibian, bird, insects, or small mammal can spend their entire lives in linear habitats if conditions are right (Beier and Loe 1992).

Threats to Wildlife Corridors	What can be done?
Residential development	Working with decision makers
Unsympathetic landscaping and trees	Working with landowners
Planting local native plant species	Working with landowners
Predation by domestic cats and feral animals	Keeping cats inside at night, eradication of feral animals
Barriers to movement including fences, roads and loss of continuous canopy or undergrowth	Working with decision makers
Death and injury caused by vehicles	Road signs, speed bumps, tunnels
Lighting	Working with decision makers

(greenway.org.au)

Together

It would be wrong to complete the summary without identifying one of the major hindrances to progress in wildlife conservation, and this is the difficulty sometimes encountered obtaining wildlife data from individuals and organisations. We do have to be very aware that even in this Borough there are reports of badger bating with dogs and hare coursing, and we have to protect sensitive breeding sites. However, if we are going to engage the public, most of whom have never seen a badger, hare or water vole, records need to be made available to the public at large. In complete contrast, the most sensitive records of Sites of Special Scientific Interest are already available to download, as is most government data, but at County and Trust levels, records are not readily available. Additionally, we do not have access to many sites in Maidenhead, as the public does not have 'the right to roam', as is the law in Scotland.

Surveys for the future

1. We should survey to identify and help preserve our most magnificent trees. Several huge oak trees on Borough Local Plan area HA7, south of the Maidenhead Golf Course were recently felled.

We could follow the Ascot Wildlife example and concentrate our survey resources on creating a tree database. This was their priority after the successful legal challenge on a developer who received planning permission to fell ancient woodland. They were unable to provide details of the trees felled, and if we had a similar situation, we too would not be able to identify individual trees, at this time.

Alternatively, or in addition to, we could run a competition to find the 30 or 50 most important trees in Maidenhead, as judged by luminaries such as the TVERC Projects Manager, BBOWT Conservation and Education Director (Berkshire), the Borough Ecologist, Woodland Trust Regional Conservation Officer, National Trust Area Ranger, Martin Woolner for WM, and open tree nominations up to members and non-members. (The Woodland Trust currently identified 6 ancient trees in Borough)

2. Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy 2014-20 (BBS) Objective 1.11 Increase the area of priority habitat designated as LWS by 2020: TVERC have a Local Wildlife Site Criteria which can be downloaded from their website. How about WM members setting their sights on meeting the criteria for 2 new sites to be created in the Borough? Should also 1 new biological SSSI status granted by Natural England be our targets? Sites of particular significance for various taxonomic groups may be selected e.g. birds, dragonflies, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians etc. We already have The Pennyroyal site granted for one plant species in the Borough. The July walk with butterflies in The Thicket must make that place a contender? "In Berkshire 3.8% of land is designated as SSSI, compared to the national average of 7.7%" (BBS).
3. Section 41 National Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 list 1150 species thought to be of 'principal importance' to biodiversity conservation. In Berkshire, 788 species have been recorded, and are listed on BBS 2014-2020 Appendix 4. Berkshire Priority Species was amended in 2017 to 228 species. BBS says "By focusing on landscape scale habitat conservation we envisage that these species will benefit as a result. Most species require a number of elements in order to complete their life cycle; for example, small patches of bare ground, tall flower-rich vegetation or veteran trees. Ensuring that these elements are found throughout the landscape will enable many of these species to thrive and move across the landscape."
 - a. The Phase 1 Habitat Survey 2017 has made a start on the botanical survey (vascular plants) of Maidenhead, but there is potential for a huge amount more botanical surveys to build a more complete picture. We need to be identifying, for conservation of rare plants.
Great research has been done on Moths and Butterflies in the Borough, but we have no geographical survey records yet on the other species identified in the UK BAP species list: Amphibian, Mammal (perhaps with Simon Holmes from Berks and South Bucks Bat Group), Bryophyte, Fungus, Lichen, Stonewort, Ant, Bee (perhaps with Trevor Smith), Beetle, Bug, Caddisfly, Cricket, Fly, Millipede, Mollusc, Spider (perhaps with Colin Anderson), or Wasp.
 - b. The initial bird surveys suggest a very concerning picture of our UK BAP species, and we now need to link our surveys with programmes for conservation.
4. We have not considered surveying of Freshwater at this stage in our development. We have no information on Freshwater habitats that are progressing towards "Good Ecological Status" under the Water Framework Directive. The mapping in this survey has identified ponds, streams, ditches, and the River Thames which makes up the northern and eastern boundaries of the Borough. We have a large area of floodplain. Water is therefore a very important ecological fact in the wildlife of the Borough, and a survey plan should be created.
5. This survey has identified that most of the land in the Borough is privately owned and we therefore should consider a closer working relationship with landowners if we are to preserve wildlife and improve their habitat. BBS 2014-2020 Objective 1.3: Provide advice and support to help landowners achieve favourable conditions of priority habitat. They go on to say that "in Berkshire 6634 hectares of priority habitat is currently under either 'Higher Level Stewardship' or 'English Woodland Grant Schemes' and therefore receive grants for positive management". We will need to have knowledge of the schemes so that our surveys will give landowners greater potential for being accepted onto these schemes.
6. The BBS 2014-2020 has different classifications for land than are used in Phase 1 Habitat Surveys in grassland, woodland, orchards and fresh water, and we should therefore include these classifications in all new surveys.

Bird count of this Survey:

*Swallows at Canon Court Farm, Sweeps Cottage Pinkney, Juddemonte farms Warren Row, Waltham Place, Smewins farm White Waltham, Grove Barn Coningsby Lane Fifield, Braywoodside, White Waltham Airfield, Taylor made Livery Strande Lane (December 2017). Latter had five nesting sites for the Swallows in the stalls in 2017, and that they had all fledged broods successfully. The owner confirmed that while the Swallows were prepared to build as low as seven feet, they all chose the darkest sites for their nests.

**Skylarks in fields close to or on Cookham Dean Common, Canon Court Farm, Maidenhead Road Cookham, Park Farm Waltham, Bray Village, Waltham Place, Gale Lane Holyport, Braywoodside, either side and south of Chalkpit Bridge, Waltham St Lawrence, and White Waltham Airfield.

***Linnets on grassland at Juddemonte Farms Warren Row, Long Lane Holyport, Coningsby Lane Fifield, Cookham Moor, Braywick Park playing fields, and Lower Mount Farm Cookham.

****House martins at Hearne Drive Holyport, Paley Street Farm (By July there was no certainty of numbers previously observed, or whether bred, at Church Farm, Waltham St Lawrence, Woodlands Farm Cookham Dean, In Cookham north of SGP SU8985, Waltham Airfield, Odney Club Cookham 6 nests 10.07.15 SU9085

Local Wildlife Sites

With grateful thanks to Gill Evans for providing the Ordinance Survey references for the following sites:

Local Wildlife Site	Parish	Site Code	Easting	Northing
Grassland Opposite Blackthorn Farm	Ruscombe	SU87C08	481932	175352
Milley Wood	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87D02	481667	177112
Windsor Ait	Waltham St Lawrence, Ruscombe	SU87D05	481344	176420
Kiln Copse	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87G01	483440	173484
Surrell's Wood	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87G02	482054	173750
Warren Copse	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87G04	482827	172900
Bushy Lees	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87G06	482963	173342
Hammonds Wood	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87G07	483917	173861
The Gravel Pits/Old Gravel Pits	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87H01	483006	173882
Crockford's Copse	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87H04	483654	175458
Bear's Copse	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87I01	482325	176001
Gunsbrook/Near Gunsbrook	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87I02	482440	176641
Wet Meadow	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87I03	483461	176332
Mire Ditches (Mire Lane Arm)	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87I06	482036	176078
Downgrove Lower Ditches (east)	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87I08	481787	176384
Buck Farm Copse	White Waltham	SU87M01	485753	174499
Pond Wood	Shottesbrooke	SU87M09	484909	175666
Great Wood	Shottesbrooke	SU87N01	485329	176321
Marsh Wood	Shottesbrooke	SU87N05	484857	176795

Stratton's Copse	White Waltham	SU87S01	486045	174266
Woods by Waltham Place	White Waltham	SU87T01	485975	177045
Paddock Wood	White Waltham	SU87T02	486937	177315
Triangular Wood, Paley Street	White Waltham	SU87T03	487050	176750
Woodland Along The Cut	White Waltham	SU87T04	487215	176685
Ockwells Manor Wood	Cox Green	SU87U01	487450	178550
Lordlands Wood	Bray	SU87W01	488314	173951
Fernygrove Copse	Bray	SU87X01	488499	174264
Woodland Adjacent to Hogoak Lane	Bray	SU87X03	489084	174334
Hogoak Lane	Bray	SU87X06	489132	174379
Mount Skippett Copse	Bray	SU87X08	489230	176067
Braywick Park LWS	Maidenhead urban area	SU87Z02	489642	179812
Cayton Park Woods	Hurley	SU88A02	481025	180357
Common South-East of Warren Row	Hurley	SU88A03	482700	180000
Hurley Chalk Pit Reserve	Hurley	SU88B02	481269	182032
Frogmill Farm and Islands	Hurley	SU88B08	481144	183557
Pinnock's Wood	Hurley	SU88F01	484054	180805
Ashley Hill Forest and Dellars Copse	Hurley	SU88F02	482531	181019
High Wood, Hurley	Hurley	SU88G01	482749	182658
Temple Golf Course	Bisham	SU88G02	483802	183039
Hurley Lock and Islands	Hurley	SU88H03	482608	184304
Maidenhead Thicket	Non civil parish	SU88K01	485500	180500
Park Woods, Gouldings Wood	Bisham	SU88L01	485413	183935
Carpenters Wood, Dungrove Hill	Bisham	SU88L03	484350	182850
Carpenters Wood - Other Areas	Bisham	SU88L03	484559	182379
Bradnam Wood	Bisham	SU88L04	484918	184132
Cannon Court Wood	Cookham	SU88R01	487348	183207
Beeching Grove Wood	Cookham	SU88R05	486796	183492
Pigeonhouse Wood	Cookham	SU88S02	486693	184129
Longridge	Bisham	SU88S09	486066	185740
The Islands, Cookham Dean	Cookham	SU88T04	487052	186416
York Stream	Non civil parish	SU88V02	489135	180917

Summerleaze Gravel Pit	Non civil parish	SU88W01	489289	183142
Greenway Corridor	Bray and Cookham	SU88X06	488688	183534
Cockmarsh	Cookham	SU88Y01	488708	186799
Bray Pit Reserve	Bray	SU97E01	490400	178727
Saches Island Meadow	Cookham	SU98C02	490113	185604
Bank near Hurley	Hurley	SU88G03		

Proposed Local Wildlife Site

Proposed Extensions to Local Wildlife Sites

Crockfords Copse Proposed extension north	Waltham St. Lawrence	SU87H04
Crockford Copse Proposed extension south	Waltham St Lawrence	SU87H04
Maidenhead Thicket	Bisham	SU88K01
Maidenhead Thicket	Pinkneys Green South	SU88K01

Ordinance Survey references for the SSSIs:

Name	Easting	Northing
Bisham Woods	485750	185050
Cock Marsh	488350	186650
Cannoncourt Farm Pit	487750	183050
Bray Meadows	489750	180050
Bray Pennyroyal Field	491550	178250
Great Thrift Wood	487150	178150

Ordinance Survey references for the Local Nature Reserves:

Name	Easting	Northing
Braywick Park	489516	179722
The Gullet	488026	180439
Ockwells Park	487964	178870

Mapping

78 Sheets of 1:10,000 Maps of 2 Square Kilometres, each with the OS reference of the bottom left hand corner e.g. SU840760 is the same as 484000,176000:

					1.SU880870		
				2.SU860860	3.SU880860		
			4.SU840850	5.SU860850	6.SU880850	7.SU900850	
		8.SU820840	9.SU840840	10.SU860840	11.SU880840	12.SU900840	
	13.SU800830	14.SU820830	15.SU840830	16.SU860830	17.SU880830	18.SU900830	
	19.SU800820	20.SU820820	21.SU840820	22.SU860820	23.SU880820	24.SU900820	
25.SU780810	26.SU800810	27.SU820810	28.SU840810	29.SU860810	30.SU880810	31.SU900810	
	32.SU800800	33.SU820800	34.SU840800	35.SU860800	36.SU880800	37.SU900800	
		38.SU820790	39.SU840790	40.SU860790	41.SU880790	42.SU900790	
		43.SU820780	44.SU840780	45.SU860780	46.SU880780	47.SU900780	
	48.SU800770	49.SU820770	50.SU840770	51.SU860770	52.SU880770	53.SU900770	54.SU920770
	55.SU800760	56.SU820760	57.SU840760	58.SU860760	59.SU880760	60.SU900760	61.SU920760
	62.SU800750	63.SU820750	64.SU840750	65.SU860750	66.SU880750	67.SU900750	68.SU920750
	69.SU800740	70.SU820740	71.SU840740	72.SU860740	73.SU880740		74.SU920740
	75.SU800730	76.SU820730	77.SU840730		73.SU880730		
		78.SU820720					

Target Notes of Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Maidenhead in 2017

References

RBWM.gov.uk Know your neighbourhood, Adopt a tree map – Approximately 5,000 trees looked after by RBWM

Berksbirds.co.uk records of B D Clews, S M Meads, M S Whitaker, B Reeve, B Crathorne, S K Proddow, S A Graham and L Ahlgren – Local bird records

Jncc.defra.gov.uk – UK BAP and UK Priority Species and Habitats NERC Act 2006

Berkshire ancient Woodland (NCC 1986) – book in Maidenhead Library

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map?easting=488946andnorthing=180115andaddress=100080351534> - Flood risk
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=Maidenhead> - Geology of Maidenhead

<http://berkshirelnp.org/index.php/what-we-do/strategy/biodiversity-action-plan> - Berkshire Biodiversity Action Plan

<http://berkshirelnp.org/index.php/what-we-do/strategy/biodiversity-opportunity-areas> - Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

https://web.archive.org/web/20110525103720/http://www.english-nature.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1002979.pdf - Citations of SSSIs

<http://mol.rbwm.gov.uk/mol/inc/?p=aat> - map of adopted and not adopted trees maidenheadwaterways.org.

Britishbugs.org.uk

The Birds of Berkshire 2007-11 from Berkshire Ornithological Club

Bisham Barn Owl Group

Maidenhead, Marlow and Cookham Swift Group

Target notes by grid references and map(s)

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU880870, SU860860 and SU880860 Map 1, 2 and 3

Site Name: Cookham Ward, Cook Marsh

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chilterns Escarpment BOA (runs from Wargrave to Cookham including some steeper sloped chalk valleys. The area is largely chalk with patches of glacial gravel deposits on the gentler slopes and at the top of the escarpment and in small areas is Reading Beds {Lambeth Group}. The riverside land is alluvium and river gravel. Some chalk grassland).
- Cock Marsh SSSI
- The Islands, Cookham Dean LWS

Habitat: Northern boundary of Maidenhead bordered by the River Thames, and floodplain areas of arable and improved grassland

2. Sarah Wright Flora list 11.08.2007 of The Lea Orchard, Cookham Dean SU881865

Vetch spp. *Vicia* spp., Autumn Hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*, Black Horehound *Ballota nigra*, Bladder campion *Silene vulgaris*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Common mallow *Malva sylvestris*, Common mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*, Common nettle *Urtica dioica*, Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Dark Mullein *Verbascum nigrum*, Dock spp. *Rumex* spp., Doves foot or small flowered cranesbill *Geranium cinereum/molle*, Field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Green alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens*, Hedge parsley *Torilis* spp., Hemlock or Fools Parsley *Conium maculatum/aethusa cynapium*, Herb robert *Geranium robertianum*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Ivy *Hedera helix* ssp. *Helix*, Lords and ladies *Arum maculatum*, Old man's beard *Clematis vitalba*, Perforate St.Johns Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Ragwort *Senecio* spp., Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, White bryony *Bryonia dioica*, White campion *Silene latifolia*, White clover *Trifolium repens*, White dead nettle *Lamium album*, Woody nightshade *Solanum dulcamara*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*.

2.1 Cock Marsh SSSI and LWS has its report on english-nature.org.uk. Home to many rare plants notably Brown Galingale *Cyperus fuscus*.

2.2 The islands of Cookham Dean LWS are privately owned and not readily accessible

3.1 Winter Hill Golf Course

Sarah Wright Flora survey list 25.08.2007 of Winter Hill Golf Club SU881865

Autumn hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis* Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* Common bent *Agrostis capillaris* Common centaury *Centaureum erythaea* Common chickweed *Stellaria media* Common mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* Common nettle *Urtica dioica* Cranesbill spp *Geranium* spp *Cirsium arvense* False oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* Fat hen *Chenopodium album* Field pansy *Viola arvensis*, Field speedwell (prob. Grey) *Veronica* spp (*polita*), Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* Greater plantain *Plantago major* Ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea* Hedge bindweed *Convolvulus sepium*, Hedgerow cranesbill *Geranium pyrenaicum* Hemlock *Conium maculatum* Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* Lesser hawkbit *Leontodon saxatilis* Marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* Ragwort *Senecio* spp. Ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* Rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Scarlet pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis* Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, Sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, Spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Speedwell spp *Veronica* spp., Stork's bill *Erodium cicutarium*, Timothy *Phleum pratense* Vetch spp *Vicia* spp. Weld *Reseda luteola* White campion *Silene latifolia* White clover *Trifolium repens*, White dead nettle *Lamium album* Wood forget-me-not *Myosotis sylvatica* Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU840850 Map 4

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Bisham Woods

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chilterns Escarpment BOA
- Inkydown Wood (Map 9), Fultness Wood and Quarry Wood are SSSIs and their reports are open data on english-nature.org.uk.
- Bradnam Woods LWS (Map 9)
- RBWM Conservation Area: Bisham Village

Habitat: The woodlands are commonly known as Bisham Woods. The arable land to the west is mainly Wheat and to the east is mainly Rapeseed.

4.1 One hundred Rook *Corvus frugilegus* and Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* were feeding on the grassland because the beef cattle are cutting up the soil and providing insects from their dung.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU860850 Map 5

Site Name: Cookham Ward, Cookham Dean

Survey: June

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chilterns Escarpment BOA
- Quarry Wood SSSI
- RBWM Conservation Area: Cookham Dean

Habitat: The woodlands are commonly known as Bisham Woods. The arable land is mainly sown with wheat and the improved grassland is mainly for horses. There are three orchards

5.1, 5.2 and 5.4 Orchards

5.3 Allotments

5.5 Quarry Wood was identified as ancient semi-natural woodland by NCC in 1986 and is now owned by the Woodland Trust. Entered the woodland from south east along the Cookham Bridleway Circuit:

Trees included: A notable Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* at the entrance and a number of notable Beech *Fagus sylvatica* in the woodland. Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, and some Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*. European Larch *Larix decidua* appears to be being thinned out with specimens left.

Woodland Floor: Dead wood and old stumps. Patches of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, clear, moss on earthworks

Ferns: Broad Buckler Fern *Dryopteris dilatata*, Common Polypody *Polypodium vulgare*, Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*

Plants: Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Wood and Changing Forget-me-not *Myosotis sylvatica* and *Myosotis discolor*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*, Red Dead-nettle *Lamium purpureum*, Ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Common Sorrell *Rumex acetosa*, Herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum*

Brian Clews Flora List of Quarry Wood SU864856 02.06.2017

Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Primrose *primula vulgaris*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Woodruff *Galium odor*, Wood Speedwell *Veronica montana*, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Dog Violet *Viola riviniana*, Wood avens *Geum urbanum*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Cuckoo Pint, Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg., Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Green Alkenet *Pentaglottis sempervirens*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, Dogs Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Wood Meadow Grass, Wood Mellick *Milium effusum* Cleavers *Galium parisiense*, Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU880850 Map 6

Site Name: Cookham Ward, Cookham Dean

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chilterns Escarpment BOA
- RBWM Conservation Area: Cookham Dean

Habitat: Cookham village, with Cookham Moor owned by the National Trust, Grange Lane Golf Course, arable and fields for horses.

6.1 Anglo Saxon Burial Mould

6.2 Jill Spaul was fishing in the small lake under the bridge at Cookham Moor, which she says is good because of the lack of Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Fish regularly caught are Common Roach *Rutilus rutilus*, Common Bream *Abramis brama*, European Perch *Perca fluviatilis*, Tench *Tinca tinca*, Gudgeon *Gobio gobio* and Common Carp *Cyprinus carpio*. The small fish are mainly Common Bleak *Alburnus alburnus* and Common Dace *Leuciscus leuciscus*. Recent catch at Bolters Lock was a Miller's Thumb (European Bullhead) *Cottus gobio* which is important as it only lives in clean rivers.

Other: Bulrush *Scirpus lacustris* at the side of the lake and Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* on the Moor.

6.3 The fields to the north of Cookham around Terrys Lane are mainly owned by the Copas family who have an office in Hedsor, John Lewis Partnership, Simone and Carol Gilbert-Smith, the sisters who live at Heronscourt, Cookham, and one field by Michael Shanley Development

6. Brown Trout recently seen near Olney Lane in River Thames by Mike Vogul and a fisherman.

"Brown Trout *Salmo trutta* is a UK BAP species. The habitat requirements are unpolluted, free flowing rivers and streams with gravel beds for spawning and aquatic plants providing invertebrate prey" (Bracknell Forest Council BAP 2012-17)

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU900850 Map 7

Site Name: Bisham and Cookham Ward, North Eastern boundary

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

- Saches Island meadow LWS

Habitat: Northern eastern boundary of Maidenhead bordered by the River Thames, and floodplain areas improved grassland

7.1 Saches Islands meadow LWS is privately owned and not readily accessible

Alice Fenton Flora list 22.06.2009 of Sache Island field margin and bank of Thames SU902858

Trees: Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*,

Grasses: False Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Rye grass *Lolium perenne*, Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*.

Sedges: Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*,

Plants: Ivy *Hedera helix*, Hop *Humulus lupulus*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Ground-elder *Aegopodium podagraria*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, Meadow Crane's-bill *Geranium pratense*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Ground-Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Square-stalked St John's-Wort *Hypericum tetrapterum*, Nipplewort *Lapsana communis*, Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*, Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata*, Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, Colt's-foot *Tussilago farfara*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*.

Alice Fenton Flora list 22.06.2009 of Sache Island in the meadow SU902858

Trees: Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*, Aspen *Populus tremula*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Poplar *Populus* sp.

Grasses: Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Quaking-grass *Briza media*, Cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Couch *Elytrigia repens*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Downy Oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum*, Rye grass *Lolium perenne*, Timothy *Phleum pratense*, Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass *Poa angustifolia*, Smooth Meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*, Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*.

Sedge: Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Spiked Sedge *Carex spicata*

Plants: Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Cut-leaved Crane's-bill *Geranium dissectum*, Dove's-foot Crane's-bill *Geranium molle*, Meadow Crane's-bill *Geranium pratense*, Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Common Restharrow *Ononis repens*, Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, Burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifrage*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Hoary Plantain, *Plantago media*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Curled Dock *Rumex crispus*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Prickly Sowthistle *Sonchus asper*, Goat's-beard *Tragopogon pratensis*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Vervain *Verbena officinalis*, Mistletoe *Viscum album*.

7. Alice Fenton and Sarah Wright Flora List of Mill Eyot Cookham SU901856 on 05.07.2009

Trees: Norway Maple *Acer platanoides* Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* Alder *Alnus glutinosa* Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* Beech *Fagus sylvatica* Copper Beech *Fagus sylvatica* *Purpurea* Group Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* Ivy *Hedera helix* Apple species *Malus* sp. Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris* Poplar species (Fastigate) *Populus* sp. Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* Rose species *Rosa* sp. Dewberry *Rubus caesius* Elder *Sambucus nigra* Lime *Tilia x europaea*

Grasses: False Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*

Plants: Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* Butchers Broom *Ruscus aculeatus* Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata* Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris* Greater Burdock *Arctium lappa* Black Horehound *Ballota nigra* Welled thistle *Carduus crispus* Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* Enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare* Hemlock *Conium maculatum* Smooth Hawk's-beard *Crepis capillaris* Wild Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum* Cleavers *Galium aparine* Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* Cut-leaved Crane's-bill *Geranium dissectum* Dove's-foot Crane's-bill *Geranium molle* Meadow Crane's-bill *Geranium pratense* Wood Avens *Geum urbanum* Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* Perforate St John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum* Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* Stinking Iris *Iris foetidissima* White Dead-nettle *Lamium album* Nipplewort *Lapsana communis* Gypsywort *Lycopus europaeus* Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis* Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata* Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris* Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus* Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata* Ragwort *Senecio jacobea* Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* Chickweed *Stellaria media* Hedge-parsley species *Torilis* sp. White Clover *Trifolium repens* Nettle *Urtica dioica* Dark Mullein *Verbascum nigrum* Vervain *Verbena officinalis* Germander *Speedwell* *Veronica chamaedrys* Common Field-speedwell *Veronica persica*, *Viola* sp.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU840840 Map 8

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Hurley/River Thames

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Hurley Lock and Islands LWS

Habitat: Frontal to the River Thames at Hurley and Maidenhead northern boundary

8.1 Hurley Lock and Islands LWS

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU840840 Map 9

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Bisham Woods

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chilterns Escarpment BOA
- Inkydown Wood, (Fultness Wood and Quarry Wood) are SSSIs and their reports are open data.
- Bradnam Woods LWS

Habitat: The woodlands are commonly known as Bisham Woods. The arable land to the west is mainly Wheat and to the east is mainly Rapeseed.

9.1 Inkydown Wood is managed by the Woodland Trust. Ancient semi-natural Woodland NCC 1986: The path leads north from a track off the Marlow Road. At the south end are a bank of Sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, but the main woodland has notable Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, with Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Other single notable trees include a Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa* and a Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*. The undergrowth is in patches with Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Moss, Seedlings mainly Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, patches of Bracken *Rubus fruticosus* and Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*.

Plants along the bridle path: Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, Wood Speedwell *Veronica montana*, Woodruff *Galium odor*, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, are all Ancient woodland vascular plants (NCC 1986) as is a large patch of Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, and Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*.

Brian Clews Flora list of Inkydown Wood SU853845 30.05.2017

Wood Millet *Milium effusum*, Wood millet *Melica altissima* 'Alba', Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Common Avens, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica* Cleavers *Galium parisiense*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolate*, Wood Crane's-bill *Geranium sylvaticum*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Wild Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Cuckoo Pint *Arum maculatum*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Remote Sedge *Carex remota*.

9.2 Bradnam Woods LWS is managed by the Woodland Trust. Ancient semi-natural Woodland NCC 1986: This narrow woodland runs steeply upward along the noisy A404, Maidenhead to High Wycombe road. The woodland gives the impression of being felled about 30 years ago and large stumps of veteran trees are throughout the site. This suggests that Stag Beetles and others may be numerous here. The woodland appears to have been left to self-regenerate and has younger Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, with a few notable Beech *Fagus sylvatica* and some coppiced Hazel *Corylus avellana*. Beneath the soil is chalk and the undergrowth plant is mainly Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*. Plants along the footpath: Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Wood and Germander Speedwell *Veronica montana* and *Veronica chamaedrys*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, Cleavers *Galium parisiense*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca*, Ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, some Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*.

9.3 To the north of this wood is a field that is surrounded by the woodland, and managed by the Woodland Trust. We hope that it is part of the LWS as it is among the rarest habitats in Maidenhead. This is unimproved Lowland calcareous grassland, a Priority Habitat under the UK and Berkshire BAPs. It may have already had a full botanical survey, but we are not in possession of it. If not, then it certainly deserves one. A very quick flora review: Chalk Milkwort *Polygala calcarea*, Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Greater Bird's Foot Trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina*, Common Vetch *Vicia sativa*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*, Wild Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*, Silverweed *Potentilla anserino*, Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca*, Ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, and Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*. Brian Clews adds the 80 Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, and some Mullein *Verbascum* sp. seen this year.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU860840 Map 10

Site Name: Cookham Ward, south of Cookham Dean

Survey: May and June

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chilterns Escarpment BOA
- Pigeonhouse Wood LWS

10.1 Pigeonhouse Wood LWS. Brian Clews has identified Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*, breeding Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* and Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* here. The wood has been equipped with a suite of nest boxes including Barn Owl boxes on the woodland margin.

10.2 Orchards "Pick your own" at Copas Farms open each day except Monday

10.3 Orchard with increasing planting

10.4 Cookham Dean Common: Owned and managed by the National Trust. Large grassland common with a veteran Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*, surrounded by deciduous trees and at the margin Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, and Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Pignut *Conopodium majus*, Silverweed *Potentilla anserino* and Red Campion *Silene dioica*.

Flora in the grassland in May: Common Sorrell *Rumex acetosa*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Greater Plantain *Plantago major*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, White Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*.

Grasses include: Creeping Soft-Grass *Holcus lanatus*; Cock'sfoot *Dactylis glomerata*; Soft Brome *Bromus hordeaceus*; Common Couch *Elymus repens*; Sweet Vernal-Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*
Butterflies: Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*, Peacock *Inachis io*. Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*, Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* and Marble White *Melanargia galathea* by Brian.

Bird: Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

10.5 At Woodland Farm entrance: Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (nest site being demolished shortly), Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, and Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*. Barn Owl *Tyto alba* and Little Owl *Athene noctua* using nest boxes behind existing buildings (Brian Clews).

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU880840 Map 11

Site Name: Cookham Ward, Cookham Rise

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any): RBWM Conservation Area: Cookham High Street

Habitat: Mainly arable with barley crop, and some improved grassland, away from Cookham Rise 11.1 and 2. Allotments

11.3 Widbrook Common owned by National Trust, with semi improved grassland

11.4 Cemetery – this falls into Map 17

HA38, 39 and 40 as identified in January 2017 Borough Local Plan for future development of 60, 20 and 200 homes respectively.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU900840 Map 12

Site Name: Cookham Ward, White Place farm, Cookham

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Improved grassland and marshy grassland for hay meadow on flood plain to sustain a herd of beef cattle.

12.1 Marshy grassland usually floods, and is, late in the summer, cut for hay. Met with the owner of the farm, who had wished to be included in the Higher Stewardship Scheme, with the National Trust, but had been declined. Spoke of “too many badgers” but Caroline safeguards her herd from TB by not buying in cattle. Other animals around the farm include Little Owl *Athene noctua*, Common Lizard *Lacerta vivipara*, and either stoat or weasel. Brian Clews has arranged owl boxes and both Barn Owl *Tyto alba* and Little Owl *Athene noctua* have bred this summer. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* and Hobby *Falco Subbuteo* have all been hunting over the farm. Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* were observed mating on the farm in June. Caroline has suggested a meeting, and she may be willing to consider a botanical survey next spring and summer.

12.2 Line of Lime trees *Tilia x vulgaris* along the driveway. Much of the tree-scape on the farm is not in good condition and many significant trees have been lost in recent years. There may therefore be opportunities for replacements.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU800830 Map 13

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward,

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Frogmill Farm and Islands LWS

Habitat: This is north west boundary of Maidenhead where most of the fields are arable fields of wheat.

13.1 The LWS is mainly Willow *Salix* sp., Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* trees on the islands. Water birds nesting: Greater Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* plus three chicks and Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* with five chicks. Canada Geese *Branta Canadensis*, Coot *Fulica atra*, and Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. The rare Ivy Bee *Colletes hederae* was discovered there last autumn.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU820830 Map 14

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Hurley

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chiltern Escarpments BOA
- Temple Golf Course LWS
- RBWM Conservation Area: Hurley Village

Habitat: Covers the village of Hurley, with its large caravan site to the north, which is on the River Thames. The arable land is all wheat fields.

14.1 This LWS has not been surveyed and the reasons for its designation is not known. Brian Clews: However, several owl and kestrel nest boxes have been erected, Barn owl *Tyto alba* breeds successfully here, and it is one of the only East Berks site for breeding Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* in recent years.

14.2 Honey Lane/ Henley Road: Dove's foot Cranesbill *Geranium molle*, Red Campion *Silene dioica*, Sheep's Sorrell *Rumex acetosella*, Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*, White Campion *Silene*

latifolia, White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*, Common Vetch *Vicia sativa*, Pignut *Conopodium majus*. Presumed to have been planted as a wild flower meadow by the Grassland Institute.

14.3 The map refers to the water course as the drain, and there is a sewage works east of Hurley village. However, the drain is up to 6 metres across at the Temple Farm entrance with a lot of reed growth and very slow water movement. Large Red Damselflies *Pyrrosoma nymphula* and Emerald Dragonfly *Lestes sponsa*

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU840830 Map 15

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Bisham Woods

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chilterns Escarpment BOA
- Park Woods LWS and Gouldings Wood LWS
- Bradnam Woods LWS

Habitat: The woodlands are commonly known as Bisham Woods and managed by the Woodland Trust (Mark Franklin, Regional Conservation Officer). The arable land to the east and central is sown with Rapeseed, while in the north east is wheat fields.

15.1 Park woods: Ancient Woodland partly Semi Natural and partly replanted (NCC 1986). The major large trees are Sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, but there are also Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, and coppiced Hazel *Corylus avellana*. There is less than 10% coniferous (no cones for identification) Purple Rhododendron patch has taken hold, and is spreading. Woodland Floor: Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, seedlings of Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Moss, Cleavers *Galium parisiense*, Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. Large patch of Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* to the south.

Flora along the Bridlepath mainly to the north: Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Yellow Pimpernell *Lysimachia nemorum*, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Wood Speedwell *Veronica montana*, Deadly Nightshade *Atropa belladonna*, Wood Forget-me-not *Myosotis sylvatica*

Birds: Greater Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*, Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*, Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Willow warbler *Phylloscopus tochtillus*, and Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone* roost. Mammal: Grey squirrel *Aciurus carolinensis*

Brian Clews Flora list of Park Wood SU850840 30.05.2017

Woodruff *Galium odor*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Common Avens, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cleavers *Galium parisiense*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, Wood Cranesbill *Geranium sylvaticum*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Yellow Pimpernell *Lysimachia nemorum*, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Germainder Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Wood Sedge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Wild Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Cuckoo Pint, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Remote Sedge *Carex remota*. (We are now seeing Ash Die-back here).

15.2 Gouldings Wood: Ancient Woodland Semi Natural NCC 1986 – The Sessile oak *Quercus petraea* is the most significant tree, although generally younger than in Park Wood. Other trees: Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and coppiced Hazel *Corylus avellana*.

Flora at the gated entrance: Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*. A large part of the woodland floor is covered in Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*.

Grasses: Wood Millet *Milium effusum* and Wavy Hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*

Brian Clews Flora List of Gouldings Wood SU855835 31.05.2017 Map 15.2

Wood Speedwell *Veronica montana*, Wood avens *Geum urbanum*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Wood Millet *Milium effusum*, Wood millet *Melica altissima* 'Alba', Woodruff *Galium odor*, Common Dog Violet *Viola riviniana*, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Cuckoo Pint, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* Wood Meadow Grass.

15.3 see notes on Map 4

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU860830 Map 16

Site Name: Cookham Ward, north of Furze Platts

Survey: June

Conservation Status (if any):

- Maidenhead Thicket and Commons BOA
- Beeching Grove Wood LWS
- Canon Court Farm Pit SSSI (Palaeolithic) SU878831 and Canon Court Wood LWS

Habitat: Mainly arable

16.1 Canon Court Farm Pit SSSI and Canon Court Wood require permission of either Fenella Jagger who lives at Canon Court House, or the Copas Partnership to visit. Deciduous woodland.

16.2 Beeching Grove Wood LWS SU860830

Brian Clews: Flora Species list for Beeching Grove Wood.14.05.1985

Field Maple, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolate*, Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Lesser Burdock *Arctium minus*, Lords-And-Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, False-Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, White Bryony *Bryonia dioica*, Wood-Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Traveller's Joy *Clematis vitalba*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Tufted Hair-Grass *Deschampsia caespitosa*, Broad Buckler-Fern *Dryopteris dilatata*, Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* agg., Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, Woodruff *Galium odoratum*, Herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Herb Bennet *Geum urbanum*, Ground-Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Ivy *Hedera helix*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris* sens.str., Wood Melick *Melica uniflora*, Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Wood Millet *Milium effusum*, Wood Meadow-Grass *Poa nemoralis*, Rough Meadow-Grass *Poa trivialis*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Goldilocks Buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus*, Bulbous Buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, Red Currant *Ribes rubrum*, Field Rose *Rosa arvensis*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Raspberry *Rubus idaeus*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Common Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*, Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, Whitebeam *Sorbus aria* agg., Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Bog Stitchwort *Stellaria uliginosa*, Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg., Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra*, English Elm *Ulmus procera*, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Wood Speedwell *Veronica montana*, Wayfaring-Tree *Viburnum lantana*, Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*, Violet *Viola*, Early Dog-Violet *Viola reichenbachiana*, Common Dog-Violet *Viola riviniana*

Flora species list 22.07.1999 Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*, Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, Butterfly-Bush *Buddleja davidii*, Common Centaury *Centaureum erythraea*, Enchanter's-Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, Pignut *Conopodium majus*, Cricetidae, Broad-Leaved Willowherb *Epilobium montanum*, Cut-Leaved Crane's-Bill *Geranium dissectum* Jew`s Ear *Hirneola auricula-judae*, Hairy St.

John's-Wort *Hypericum hirsutum*, Soft Rush *Juncus effuses*, Perennial Rye-Grass *Lolium perenne*, Apple *Malus sylvestris sens.lat.*, Wood Forget-Me-Not *Myosotis sylvatica*, Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*, Greater Plantain *Plantago major*, Smooth Meadow-Grass *Poa pratensis sens.lat.*, Barren Strawberry *Potentilla sterilis*, Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Gooseberry *Ribes uva-crispa*, Clustered Dock *Rumex conglomeratus*, White Champion *Silene latifolia*, Bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara*, Common Chickweed *Stellaria media*, Colt's-Foot *Tussilago farfara* Great Mullein *Verbascum thapsus*, Thyme-Leaved Speedwell *Veronica serpyllifolia*

16.3 Road verge leading past Canon Court Wood

Flora: Wild Onion *Allium vineale*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*, White Champion *Silene latifolia*, Common Sorrell *Rumex acetosa*, Goat's beard *Tragopogon pratensis*, White and Red Deadnettle *Lamium album* and *Lamium purpureum*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Common mallow *Malva sylvestris*, Deadly nightshade *Atropa belladonna*, Bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara*, Oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Beaked Hawk's-beard *Crepis vesicaria*, Black Horehound *Ballota nigra*, Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.

Grasses: False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Wall Barley *Hordeum murinum*, Common couch *Elymus repens*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, Common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*

16.4 The extended field north of Malders Lane is sown with Barley, a cereal crop mainly in the north of the Borough. Leading North West from Malders Lane is the Cookham Bridleway Circuit.

Birds: Swallows *Hirundo rustica* in T Jones and Sons buildings near Canon Court Wood, Skylark *Alauda arvensis* in the field, Hedge Sparrow/Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, and Buzzard *Buteo buteo* over Canon Court Wood.

Brian Clews: Linnets *Carduelis cannabina* nesting in lane-side hedgerow, significant numbers of Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* feeding on adjacent grassland, c100 Swifts *Apus apus*, feeding on aerial insects, Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, and Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella* singing on territories this summer. Buzzard *Buteo buteo* nested in Canon Court Wood last year. Previously we have once had Quail *Coturnix coturnix* and regular passage Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* on the paddocks there.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU880830 and SU900830 Map 17 and 18

Site Name: Bisham and Cookham Ward, north of Summerleaze

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

- Greenway Corridor LWS
- Summerleaze LWS

Habitat: Mainly arable with Barley crop on map 17 and Beef cattle farming on map 18

17.1 Greenway Corridor – Brian Clews: This year I have had singing Yellowhammer and Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* along there, territorial Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and Reed Buntings *Emberiza schoeniclus* on the parallel stream west of the Greenway path, Skylarks *Alauda arvensis* singing on both sides, calling Little Owl *Athene noctua* in the vicinity of two LO nest boxes, and up to 100 Stock Doves *Columba oenas* there last winter.

17.2 Widbrook Common – with grazed marshy grassland. Brian Clews: This summer, singing Skylarks *Alauda arvensis*, feeding Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta*, several Variable Damselflies and hunting Hobby *Falco Subbuteo*.

17.3 Summerleaze gravel pit and LWS – Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* seen in 2017 Plus Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

, c50 Sand Martins Riparia riparia.

17.4 Maidenhead Road verge flora: Rock Stonecrop Sedum forsterianum, Duke of Argyll's Teapant Lycium barbarum, Ragwort Senecio jacobaea, Common Toadflax Linaria vulgaris, Agrimony Agrimonia eupatoria, Field Bindweed Convolvulus arvensis, Rosebay Willowherb Chamerion angustifolium, Bramble Rubus fruticosus, Garlic Mustard Alliaria petiolata, Yarrow Achillea millefolium, Spear Thistle Cirsium vulgare, Common Mallow Malva sylvestris, Fat-hen Chenopodium album. Skylark Alauda arvensis in Barley field

17.5 This area has been put as Semi-improved grassland but it may be part of the set-aside under the farm higher stewardship plan. This site was identified in the 2007 Cookham Phase 1 Habitat Survey as a potential area for the Common Lizard.

HA21 of the Borough Local Plan in January 2017 Spencers Farm, north of Lutman lane, Maidenhead to build 300 homes. Plans for a four-form secondary school have also been included in the draft local plan.

17. SU886835 This area along the White Brook has thin lines of Common Reed Phragmites australis growing, and one patch of Bulrush Typha latifolia. 18 November 2017 Male Eurasian Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula, 3 Skylark Alauda arvensis and a Meadow Pipit. There is also evidence that otter appear to have made a slide into the brook. (Summerleaze lake is fairly close, and otters are noted for distance travel over land. The lake has fish, as it is currently sustaining 7 Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo. Other birds on the lake, a family of Mute Swan Cygnus olor with 3 signet, fully grown, and 2 other Swans, and a good number of Coot Fulia atra).

18.1 Probably the finest collection of mature cedar trees in Maidenhead at the corner of Islet Park Drive. It is to be hoped that the BLP HA19 development will safeguard these magnificent trees. Red Kite Milvus milvus has bred for the last two years in these trees.

HA19 In January 2017 the Borough Local Plan identified land east of Whitebrook Park, Lower Cookham Road, Maidenhead, for 75 homes. Retention of trees and existing public space, as well as managing flood risk, is listed as a priority for this site.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU800820 Map 19

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Robinswood

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any): Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA

Habitat: Grassland for sheep

19.1 There has been considerable planting of a natural deciduous woodland in Robinswood

19.2 Hodgedale Lane is now a narrow footpath but has wild plants: Germander Speedwell Veronica chamaedrys, White Dead-nettle Lamium album, Red and White Campion Silene dioica and Silene latifolia, Field Forget-me-not Myosotis arvensis, Violet Viola sp., Dock Rumex sp. and Stinging Nettle Urtica dioica.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU820820 Map 20

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Robinswood

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chiltern Escarpments BOA
- High Wood LWS and Temple Golf Course LWS

Habitat: Mixture of arable for Wheat and Rapeseed, and grassland some for beef cattle. Skylark Alcedo atthis at Park Farm over rapeseed.

20.1 Crop of Willow

20.2 Part of Temple Golf Course LWS

20.3 High Wood LWS that has not been surveyed

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU840820 Map 21

Site Name: Pinkneys Green Ward, Pinkneys Green

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chiltern Escarpments BOA to the west and Maidenhead Thicket and Commons BOA to the east
- Carpenters Wood and Dungrove Hill LWS, and Carpenters Wood other areas LWS
- RBWM Conservation area: Pinkneys Green

Habitat: The arable fields are put to wheat.

21.1 Carpenters Wood

Brian Clews Flora List of Carpenters/Duncombehill Wood SU844824 13.06.2017

Burdock *Arctium* sp., Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg. Cuckoo Pint *Arum maculatum* Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium*, Bladder Campion *Silene vulgaris* Sorrel *Rumex* sp. Cleavers *Galium parisiense* Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Dark Mullein *Verbascum nigrum*, Fat-hen *Chenopodium album*, Common Evening-primrose *Oenothera biennis* Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina* White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*, Traveller's-joy *Clematis vitalba*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Wood Forget-me-not *Myosotis sylvatica* Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*, Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolate*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Common Milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, White Campion *Silene latifolia*, Dogs Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca*, Wild Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Wild Mustard *Sinapis arvensis*, Wood Mellick Yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor*

21.2 This large field has an unusual crop of a mixture of Wheat and Couch Grass

21.3 Pinkneys Common north of Pinkneys Drive is owned and managed by the National Trust:

Flora: Bulbous and Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus* and *Ranunculus acris*, Spreading Hedge-Parsley *Torilis arvensis*, Hoary Ragwort *Senecio erucifolius*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense* and Zigzag Clover *Trifolium medium*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, White Campion *Silene latifolia*, Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*.

Grasses: Soft Brome *Bromus hordeaceus*, Annual Meadow-grass *Poa annua*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, and Cock's Foot *Dactylis glomerata*

Other: 2 Small Copper butterflies *Lycaena phlaeas*, Swallows *Hirundo rustica* at Sweeps Cottage.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU860820 Map 22

Site Name: Pinkneys Green Ward, Furze Platt

Survey: June

Conservation Status (if any):

- Maidenhead Thicket and Commons BOA
- RBWM Conservation Area: Furze Platt Triangle

Habitat: Pinkneys Green to the west and arable fields to the north are put to wheat.

22.1 SU863829 The Brick and Tile Works, 14.48 acres off Winter Hill Road, managed by the National Trust. "There are still traces of the old rails and equipment left. Now this is great little woodland with ponds and marshy areas. Orchids to be seen in early Summer. Silver birch and limes are amongst the colonising trees. Herons can be seen fishing. The main entrance is wheelchair accessible."

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU880820 Map 23 and 24

Site Name: Furze Platt and Maidenhead Riverside Ward, North Town and Summerleaze

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

- Summerleaze Gravel Pit LWS
- RBWM Conservation area: Maidenhead Riverside

Habitat: Gravel workings at North Town, with amenity North Town Moor owned by the National Trust and playing fields.

23.1 Summerleaze Gravel Pit

23.2 Toad patrols each February and July on local roads to move the toads safely from the fields to Summerleaze Lake

23.3 Allotment

HA14 is in the Borough Local Plan of January 2017 for 60 homes and HA24 for 80 homes. There has been a 1300 signature petition against HA14 because of the toads.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU800810 Map 25 and 26

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Burchetts Green

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chiltern Escarpment BOA
- Hurley Chalk Pit Reserve LWS
- RBWM Conservation area: Burchetts Green

Habitat: This area is dominated by Juddmonte Farms which is primarily a horse farm, but at this time the farms are about to change hands, and so the horses have gone, and sheep are in the fields. (The manager is David Tompkins, whom I did not meet)

26.1 Hurley Chalk Pit Reserve is managed by BBOWT. It is a beech *Fagus sylvatica*, woodland with the chalk pit in the south. The boundary has a number of notable ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees.

26.2 This Woodland, Canny Grove at Robinswood, is ancient woodland recognised by NCC in 1986, with the eastern edge as semi-natural woodland and the remainder is ancient replanted woodland. This is one of the few pieces of ancient woodland that has not been designated as an LWS and is therefore vulnerable to being removed without any concerns being raised.

26.3 There are three lakes down the drive to Juddmonte Farms, the one closest to the buildings dries in the summer. I was shown two Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus*

in the damp under the shop-bought bags of compost in one of the gardens. (Reported: Toads used to be in the ponds. Red Kite *Milvus milvus* was seen taking a Little Owl *Athene noctua* in flight at the farms. I have seen Red Kite *Milvus milvus* removing baby Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone* from a tree top nest this year near Maidenhead Bridge)

26.4 Birds at the farm: Swallows *Hirundo rustica*, Linnets *Carduelis cannabina* and House Sparrows *Passer domesticus*.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU820810 Map 27

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Cockpole Green

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Ashley and Bowsey Hills BOA
- Ashley Hill Forest and Dellars Copse LWS
- Pinnocks Wood LWS

Habitat: This area is north of Ashley Hill forest mainly improved grassland.

27.1 The Byway runs along the north side of Ashley Hill Forest. This Forest path has Wood Melick *Melica uniflora* which is identified with ancient woodland, and this forest was identified by the NCC 1986 as ancient replanted woodland. Other flora: Common Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*, Herb

Robert Geranium robertianum, Hairy Brome Bromus ramosus, Bugle Ajuga reptans and Sun Spurge Euphorbia helioscopia. The path leading to the north is part of the Chiltern Way Berkshire Loop. The forest is of mixed deciduous trees with a floor of Bluebells Hyacinthoides non-scripta, and less than 20% of Bracken Pteridium aquilinum.

27.2 Line of veteran Lime trees Tilia x vulgaris, some in poor condition

27.3 This is part of Hall Place (Berkshire School of Agriculture). Notice from Ryan Kingston "This field is being managed as a traditional flower and grass meadow". It has some reed and a part is planted with younger Pedunculate Oak Quercus robur. Over the fence from this field are veteran trees of Beech Fagus sylvatica, Ash Fraxinus excelsior and Oak Quercus sp. which warrant recording. Moles Talpa europaea.

27.4 These two fields have been planted with willow Salix sp. with multiple stems from the bases suggesting that this is for use in the basket weaving industry.

27.5 Flock of sheep

27.6 Pinnocks Wood is in the Berkshire Agricultural College grounds. Brian Clews: Usually has a good-sized Rookery Corvus frugilegus, Nuthatch Sitta europaea, Treecreeper Certhia familiaris, with Silver-washed Fritillary Argynnis paphia.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU840810 Map 28

Site Name: Pinkneys Green Ward, Pinkneys Green

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Maidenhead Thicket and Commons BOA
- Maidenhead Thicket LWS

Habitat: Maidenhead Thicket on the outskirts of Maidenhead town with mainly arable fields to the north and west, and the large Pinkneys Common between.

28.1 Pinkneys Common: This large area of common land passed to the National Trust is semi improved grassland which in past times would have been grazed but is now managed.

Plants: Cowslips Primulas veris, White and Red Clover Trifolium repens and Trifolium pratense, Yellow Rattle Rhinanthus minor, Oxeye Daisy Leucanthemum vulgare, Common Vetch Vicia sativa, Greater Plantain Plantago major, Common Bird's Foot Trefoil Lotus corniculatus, Bulbous and meadow Buttercup Ranunculus bulbosus and Ranunculus acris, Ground Elder Aegopodium podagraria, Salad Burnet Sanguisorba minor

Grasses: Meadow Brome, Cock's Foot Dactylis glomerata, and many more

This whole area requires a botanical survey

28.2 St James the Less Church, Stubbings, is an old graveyard with notable Common Yew Taxus baccata and on semi improved grassland.

8th July 2017 Butterfly Walk in Maidenhead Thicket led by David Fuller with Brian Clews, and with Trevor Smith providing bee identification: Green-veined White Artogeia napi 2, Ringleet Aphantopus hyperantus 25, Marbled White Melanargia galathea 5, Meadow Brown Maniola jurtina 21, Large White Pieris brassicae 1, Comma Polygonia c-album 6, Large Skipper Ochlodes venatus 3, Small Skipper Thymelicus sylvestris 2, Small White Artogeia rapae 12, Silver Winged Fritillary Argynnis paphia 43, Speckled Wood Pararge aegeria 2, Red Admiral Vanessa atalanta 2, Brimstone Gonepteryx rhamni 1, Purple Hairstreak Quercusia quercus 3, Essex Skipper Thymelicus lineolus 3, Gatekeeper Pyronia tithonus 1, White Letter Hairstreak Strymonia w-album 4, Brown Argus Brown agestis 1, Common Blue Polyommatus icarus 2, Small Copper Lycaena phlaeas 2, Peacock Inachis io 1.

Other: Emperor Dragonfly, Dingy Footman Moth 1, Cinnabar Moth Larvae 1, Cinnabar Moth 1, Bee Bombus terrestris 2, Bee Bombus lapidaries 4, Bee Bombus terrestris/lucorum 1, Bee Bombus hypnorum 1, Bee Chelostoma camanularum 1, Bee Hylaeus communis 1. Flora: Black Bryony (Scarce overall but locally common- Collins), Common Centaury, Hairbells, Pyramid orchid. Other butterflies

seen in the Thicket: White Admiral *Ladoga camilla* and Purple Emperor *Apatura iris*. Brian Clews: Two pairs of Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* have also been on territory this summer.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU880810 Map 29

Site Name: Belmont and Pinkneys Green Wards, St Marks

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

- RBWM Conservation Areas: All Saints Boyn Hill Maidenhead

Habitat: Residential with hospital and park

29.1 Oaken Grove Park is mainly amenity grassland with sports facilities but some areas are being set aside for community flowers. Brian Clews: Tawny owl *Strix aluco* has been heard and suitable nest boxes provided. A small pond has also been installed.

29.2 Cemetary Brian Clews: Tawny owl *Strix aluco* has been heard and suitable nest boxes provided. HA16 Osbornes Garage, St Marks Road Maidenhead – 20 homes

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU880810 Map 30 and 31

Site Name: Boyn Hill, Oldfield and Maidenhead Riverside Wards, Town Centre Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

- RBWM Conservation Areas: Maidenhead Town Centre and Castle Hill Maidenhead
- Maidenhead Waterway Project

Habitat: Town Centre with park areas.

HA1 Maidenhead Railway Station – 150 homes on this mixed-use site

HA2 Reform Road Maidenhead – 150 homes and a primary school and better flood defences

HA3 Saint-Cloud Way, Maidenhead – 640 homes on the Magnet site, with a new 'landmark building'.

HA4 West Street, Maidenhead, 240 homes with improved walking and cycling routes

HA14 Land south of Ray Mill Road East, Maidenhead – 60 homes

The Maidenhead Waterway Project is to restore York Stream and Moor Cut to create a circular waterway for small boats.

We are starting a Swift Survey of the Borough which will be ongoing.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU800800 Map 32

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Warren Row

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Ashley and Bowsey Hills BOA
- Cayton Park Woods LWS

Habitat: Cayton Park Woods covers most of this map, to the boundary of Maidenhead.

32.1 Flock of sheep

32.2 This footpath has a mixed species hedgerow on one side and veteran oaks on the other.

Warrants a survey.

32.3 West of the entrance to Juddmonte Farms has a small wet woodland in which are growing Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Lady and Male Fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and *Dryopteris filix-mas*.

32.4 Cayton Park Woods LWS identified as Ancient semi-natural woodland by NCC 1986. It has some coniferous trees but less than 10% and is mainly deciduous trees. Dead wood lying.

32.5 Lot Wood is identified as Ancient replanted woodland by NCC 1986. Deciduous woodland with Oak *Quercus sp.*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and others, and across Pudding Hill road are veteran oak. Undergrowth of Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. There is new tree planting along the road from Knowl Hill to Warren Row.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU820800 Map 33

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Knowl Hill

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Ashley and Bowsey Hills BOA
- Ashley Hill Forest and Dellars Copse LWS

Habitat: This area is south of Ashley Hill with a mix of improved grassland and wheat fields.

33.1 Lot Wood: There are earthworks running parallel to the road with ancient beech trees *Fagus sylvatica* in shapes more usually seen in coppicing. Behind the earthworks is new planting of a birch wood *Betula pendula*, and this area should be considered for the potential for Woodcock and Nightjar nesting.

33.2 This Semi-improved grassland is inundated with Red Clover *Trifolium pratense* and Creeping and Meadow Buttercups *Ranunculus repens* and *Ranunculus acris*. Black grass *Alopecurus myosuroides* on the boundary. Cock'sfoot grass *Dactylis glomerata* and Yorkshire fog grass *Holcus lanatus* further in. Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella* and Shepherd's Purse *Capsella bursa-patoris* present. Worthy of a survey.

33.3 For sale. Not particularly species rich.

33.4 This woodland is well managed. Oak *Quercus* sp. and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* with diameter of about 50 cms.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU840800 Map 34

Site Name: Pinkneys Green Ward, Pinkneys Green

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Maidenhead Thicket and Commons BOA
- Maidenhead Thicket LWS

Habitat: Maidenhead Thicket on the outskirts of Maidenhead town with mainly arable fields to west, and Burchett's Green.

34.1 Triangle of woodland from A4 to Burchetts Green with Knowl Hill Bridleway on the west side: Dense in places of Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Field maple *Acer campestre*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea* with undergrowth of Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*

34.2 Maidenhead Thicket – Managed by the National Trust. Rides opened by heavy machinery. This is deciduous woodland with less than 10% coniferous with a planting of Larch. The large ride through to Stubbings has veteran trees of Sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Lime *Tilia x vulgaris* and Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*. Other trees in the open woodland are Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Field maple *Acer campestre*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.

Plants: White clover *Trifolium repens*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Dock *Rumex* sp., Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Field forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*, Sun Spurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Plantain *Plantago* sp., Pignut *Conopodium majus*, Teasel *Dipsacus* sp., Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*

Grasses: Wood Millet *Milium effusum*, Soft Brome *Bromus hordeaceus*, Reed Sweet Grass *Glyceria maxima* – indicators of wet woodland

Other: Mosses, Lichen and Lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina*

34.3 Little Thicket – deciduous woodland south of A4 at part of Maidenhead Thicket managed by the National Trust. This is very dense woodland making it dark and with moss and Bracken *Pteridium*

aquilinum undergrowth. Dead wood lying. Trees of Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, with some notable Sessile and Pedunculate Oaks *Quercus petraea* and *Quercus robur*. The rides have Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Sorrell *Rumex* sp., Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, Goosegrass *Galium aparine*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*, White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, and Pignut *Conopodium majus*.

(Maidenhead Thicket management plan was not available to download)

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU860800 Map 35

Site Name: Oldfield, Boyn Hill and Pinkneys Green Wards, Altwood

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

- RBWM Conservation Area: Altwood, Maidenhead

Habitat: Mainly residential with two secondary schools

35.1 The railway embankments and the woodland along the motorway are some of the few corridors for wildlife

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU880800 Map 36 and 37

Site Name: Oldfield, Boyn Hill and Oldfield, Braywick

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any): The Gullet and Braywick Park Local Nature Reserves

Habitat: South of Town Centre, mainly residential with Maidenhead Golf Course and Braywick Playing fields and Local Nature Reserve

36.1 The Gullet Local Nature Reserve is located off Ludlow Road as a small valuable piece of woodland next to the main railway line. Wide range of trees, flowering plants, and a mixture of woodland, scrub and rough grassland.

36.2 Braywick Road Local Nature Reserve is a reclaimed landfill site including grassland, woodland and a pond, with a range of important habitats, and running along one side is The Cut, a flood relief ditch providing wetland habitat for Teal *Anas crecca*, Gadwell *Anas strepera*, Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* and Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*.

36.3 Braywick Park Playing Fields. Redevelopment has been approved for a new leisure centre, built to replace the Magnet, which will be built where the Golf Range is now. In addition, behind Stafferton Lodge Restaurant and Braywick Heath nurseries will be built the new Forest Bridge School. Floodlit lit pitches/courts will go behind the new leisure centre. There are plans for Sportsable to greatly enlarge into premises taking over the current athletics block, but there are questions as to whether funding will be raised.

Current Wildlife: On 20th February 2017 the playing fields had 510 Black headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus*, and these pitches are an important wintering roost for this species. The fields also have a resident family of Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (UK BAP species) and Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* ssp. *yarellii*. Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* are also resident.

HA1 Maidenhead Railway Station – 150 homes on this mixed-use site

HA5 York Road -320 homes with key aspects from the Maidenhead Waterways project.

HA6 Maidenhead Golf Course with HA7 and HA8 south of Harvest Hill Road and Manor Lane – 2530 homes with education, health, retail and recycling facilities.

HA12 and HA15 Boyn Valley Road – 345 homes

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU820790 Map 38

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Knowl Hill and Littlewick Green

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- RBWM Conservation Area: Littlewick Green

Habitat: Arable fields of wheat and rapeseed. Golf course to the south

38.1 This species rich hedgerow is accessed by a Byway from Littlewick Green village, with Semi-improved grassland and a defunct vineyard leading south to the arable fields where the hedgerow has multi-species and warrants a survey. Growing in the hedgerow is Honeysuckle At the side of the hedgerow was Giant Fescue (suggesting calcareous soil) and Reed Canary Grass.

38.2 The Common at Knowl Hill warrants a species review. Brian Clews: The rare Forester Moth *Jordanita globulariae* is known to exist here alongside Small Heath Butterfly *Coenonympha pamphilus*. Unfortunately, the entire Common was mowed at an inappropriate time this spring, greatly reducing its biodiversity value for this year.

The Broadleaf woodland has a floor of Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*. The pond is very well maintained with Bullrush *Scirpus lacustris*, Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*, Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*, and Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, with Willow *Salix* sp. and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* tree surround. Brian Clews: Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*, and both Common Blue *Enallagma cyathigerum* and Azure *Coenagrion puella* Damselflies were seen ovipositing here.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU840790 Map 39

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Woolley Green

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA for SU840800
- Within Maidenhead Thicket and Commons BOA for SU850800

Habitat: Arable fields of wheat.

39.1 Dexter cattle

39.2 Within the gardens of the cottages is a defunct orchard with veteran trees

39.3 BBOWT sign: "Field margins managed for wildlife". There is set-off around the arable field and along the road is a planted woodland with a very large diversity of nature trees including Wild Cherry".

39.4 Semi-improved grassland with Pignut *Conopodium majus*, Black Grass *Alopecurus myosuroides* and White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*.

39.5 The vineyard has been left unpruned, and without sign of management.

HA22 Borough Local Plan: Land between Breadcroft Lane and the railway line – 100 homes as well as housing provision, access will also be retained for Network Rail.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU860790 Map 40

Site Name: Cox Green Ward, Cox Green

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Mainly residential with schools and an industrial park north of the motorway.

40.1 The railway line embankments form a natural wildlife corridor

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU860790 Map 41

Site Name: Oldfield and Bray Wards, Braywick

Survey: July

Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Mainly residential with schools and an industrial park north of the motorway.

41.1 See notes from Map 36 and 37.

HA9 This development has now been removed since BLP January 2017

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU900790 Map 42

Site Name: Bray Ward, Bray

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any): RBWM Conservation Area: Bray Village

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU820780 Map 43 SU840780 Map 44

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Knowl Hill

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA

Habitat: Amenity grassland for the golf course and airfield, and arable fields of wheat and rapeseed.

Mammal survey warranted for the Airfield.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU860780 Map 45

Site Name: Bray Ward, Ockwells

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- LWS: Ockwells Manor Wood.
- SSSI Great Thriftwood

Habitat: Thrift Farm has recently been acquired by RBWM and is currently being joined with Ockwells Park as an amenity.

45.1 Great Thrift Wood. There is an open-data report of the condition of this SSSI in 2011. The northern outskirts of the wood has The Cut running through, with overhanging trees of Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, Chestnut *Castanea sp.* and Oak *Quercus sp.*. Internally are a large number of Oak with a similar breast height measurement of 80 cms. diameter. The water edges support Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus* and Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, while there is no growth in the stream at this part of The Cut. The woodland has a mixed floor of Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and Stinging Nettles *Urtica dioica*, with dead wood. Ivy *Hedera helix*

on the trees. Brian Clews: Martin Woolner has found Wild Service tree *Sorbus torminalis* here.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* have bred this summer, Barn Owl *Tyto alba* feathers were found in one of the nest boxes, and some 50 nest boxes in total have been installed, including bat, Little Owl, Tawny Owl and Barn owl boxes.

The Semi-Improved grassland to the north is mainly of Black Grass *Alopecurus myosuroides*, with Meadow Fescue *Alopecurus* and Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* at the stream edge. Other plants include Field Forget me not *Myosotis arvensis*, Goosegrass *Galium aparine*, Greater Plantain *Plantago major* and Common Field Speedwell *Veronica persica*. On the western edge of the main woodland area are veteran oak trees that would warrant a bat survey

45.2 Ockwells Manor Wood LWS. Mature broadleaved woodland of Oak *Quercus sp.*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, some Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, grass

and Bramble wood floor with oaks at about 80 cms. diameter. Brian Clews: Peregrine Falco peregrinus and Raven Corvus corax seen this summer.

45.3 Little Thriftwood Mainly oak of varying ages with Bluebell floor and grass. Ancient semi-natural woodland (NCC 1986)

HA20 Borough Local Plan: 300 homes, sports pitches, and improved cycle and pedestrian links

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU880780 Map 46 and SU900780 Map 47

Site Name: Bray Ward, Bray

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

- LWS: Bray Pit reserve (BBOWT)
- SSSI Bray Pennyroyal

46.1 This area has heaps of earth in readiness for building work, but we understand that planning permission was not forthcoming

46.2 This woodland has been researched, as it was not quoted as ancient woodland. We believe that this is because the survey by NCC 1986 excluded all sites of less than 2 hectares.

However, the oak woodland has three features that are likely to confirm its ancient status: 1. It has a name on map of 1931 "The Gravel Pit", 2. There are earthworks running through the site, 3. Notable coppiced beech trees along the earthworks. (In June review I identified a woodland floor of Bluebells Hyacinthoides non-scripta and some Bramble Rubus fruticosus, the oaks are Sessile Quercus petraea with some Ash Fraxinus excelsior, and a mammal survey would confirm that the woodland has some legal protection). There is also a field to the north of the woodland unimproved grassland on which are many red ant mounds attesting to lack of cultivation for generations, and marshy woodland where the Cut and the Brook meet close to the roundabout (M4 Jnt.8/9). The Cut runs the length of the north of The Triangle (field) and there is a historic mould in the northeast corner of the field. Wild Maidenhead has therefore requested the Borough in their submission to the BLP to make the north and west of the site including the woodland as a new LWS.

In June 2017, a further review was made of this site:

Grasses include: Soft Brome Bromus hordeaceus, Creeping Soft-grass Holcus lanatus, Common bent Agrostis capillaris, Cock'sfoot Dactylis glomerata, Floating Sweet-grass Glyceria fluitans in The Cut, Wavy Hair-grass Deschampsia flexuosa, Tall Fescue Festuca arundinacea, Common Couch Elymus repens, Black Bent Agrostis gigantea, Wall Barley Hordeum murinum, Timothy Phleum pratense. Sedges and Rushes include: False Fox Sedge Carex otrubae, Compact Rush Juncus conglomeratus, Spiked Sedge Carex spicata, Remote Sedge Carex remota

Plants include: Male Fern Dryopteris filix-mas, Common Sorrell Rumex acetosa,, Common Chickweed Stellaria media, Common Nettle Urtica dioica, Meadow Buttercup Ranunculus acris, Lesser Celandine Ranunculus ficaria, Spring Cinquefoil Potentilla neumanniana, Agrimony Agrimonia eupatoria, Red and White Clover Trifolium pratense and Trifolium repens, Hogweed Heracleum sphondylium, Russian Comfrey Symphytum x uplandicum, Wood Speedwell Veronica montana, Greater Plantain Plantago major, Oxeye Daisy Leucanthemum vulgare, Yarrow Achillea millefolium, Cat's Ear Hypochaeris radicata, Goat's-beard Tragopogon pratensis, Creeping thistle Cirsium arvense, Field-rose Rosa arvensis, Wood Avens Geum urbanum, Tufted Vetch Vicia cracca, Common Vetch Vicia sativa, Grass Vetchling Lathyrus nissolia, Common Bird's foot-trefoil Lotus corniculatus, Greater Bird's foot-trefoil Lotus pedunculatus, Cow parsley Anthriscus sylvestris, Lady's Bedstraw Galium verum, Field Forget-me-not Myosotis arvensis, Wild Teasel Dipsacus fullonum, Common Ragwort Senecio jacobaea, Dock Rumex sp..

Birds: Skylark Alauda arvensis, Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs, Greenfinch Carduelis chloris, Wren Troglodytes troglodytes.

Damselflies.

46.3 Access to the farm is restricted by gates, but there are a number of notable oaks, one measured at 140cms dia.

47.1 SSSI Bray Pennyroyal SSSI -This site has an open data report in 2016 showing expansion of the pennyroyal plant, supported by the control of grassland by black beef cattle. The site is semi improved grassland with scrub and bordered by a scrub and bramble hedge.

47.2 This flooded gravel quarry site is full of reed with encroaching trees, and is not suitable for entry as it includes quick sands.

47.3 Bray Pit reserve is managed by the BBOWT, with reed-beds supporting the open water that leads into Bray Lake. The water boundary is Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Willow *Salix* sp. and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, and the surrounding area is grass currently displaying Cowslips *Primula veris* in bloom, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and young saplings managed. Dead wood remains as part of the management plan. Wild Pear trees were planted many years ago, by a previous warden.

Bray Lake also has reed-beds in several areas around the lake. The northern lake is an important haven for wildfowl in the winter with large numbers of Tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Gadwell *Anas strepera*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, as well as Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*, Canada Geese *Branta canadensis*, and Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. The lake has had Smew *Mergus albellus*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Shellduck *Tadorna tadorna* and Scaup *Aythya marila* on some winters. In the summer the lake has a small number of Tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* and Canada Geese *Branta canadensis*. The area along the north west and north east of the northern lake supports wild flowers: Birds Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*, Germander *Speedwell* *Veronica chamaedrys*, Common vetch *Vicia sativa*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina*, as well as White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*. The waterside is encroached by unmanaged Willow *Salix* sp. Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. On departure through the north gate there is a small body of young trees planted including Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Horse-Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Notable bank of trees along the M4 so a bat survey would be appropriate, and this could be extended to the notable Horse Chestnut trees *Aesculus hippocastanum* along Old Mill Lane. Brian Clews adds: The Cut, running between the sailing lake and the quieter lake towards the M4 has had several calling Cetti's Warblers *Cettia cetti* in recent years. A family with 4 juvenile Kingfishers *Alcedo atthis* were photographed here this summer.

HA9 Borough Local Plan in January 2017: Land bounded by A308, A308M and M4 Holyport, known as the Triangle – 150 homes. Development will be concentrated on the eastern side, where the flood risk is lowest. There is planning permission now granted for the eastern side and centre to be used to store materials for the Smart Motorway development of the M4 from Junction 3 to Junction 12, and is expected to take 6 years.

HA6, HA7 and HA8: Maidenhead Golf Course, land south of Harvest Hill Road and south of Manor Lane – 2530 homes: The biggest single area in the Borough Local Plan. As well as retaining as much green space as possible, there are also plans for education, health, retail and recycling facilities.

HA17: Tectonic Place, Holyport Road Maidenhead – 25 homes

HA18: Land between Windsor Road and Bray Lake – 140 homes in addition to housing plans for this site include the relocation of Thames Hospice.

HA23: Land west of Monkey Island Lane, including water treatment works – 100 homes. Flood risk is one of the main concerns for the site, as well as environmental protection

This area is currently owned by Summerleaze, used as an area to store large piles of sand and gravel after being separated on-site. There are two lines of mature poplar trees.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU800770 Map 48 and SU820770 Map 49

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, Shottesbrooke

Survey: June

Conservation Status (if any): None

Habitat: Largely arable with cereal crops

48.1 Milley Wood LWS is said to be at ref. SU817771. This is a row of terraced Victorian houses. A local resident when asked referred to Milley Wood as the woodland a half a mile on the right over the railway bridge – this is Scarletts Wood, over the border at Hare Hatch. Location needs clarification.

49.1 At the top of the path up from The Street to the railway, 2 Skylark Alcedo at this singing overheard (UK BAP Priority species). White Bryony Bryonia dioica all along the old defunct hedgerow

49.2 Roman Temple SU822777– “There is evidence of the existence of a Roman temple in Weycock Field in the parish. The word Weycock is thought to be a corruption of the Saxon word, *Vic-cope* meaning 'the road on the hill'. Most of the coins found from the site are of the lower empire (except for a silver one of Amyntas, the grandfather of Alexander the Great) and the area was occupied until AD 270.”(Wikipedia)

49.2 SU838774 Shottesbrooke Park is identified as ancient replanted woodland by NCC 1986. An old pond was renovated in the grounds a few years ago.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU840770 Map 50

Site Name: Hurley and Waltham Ward, West End

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA

Habitat: Two large estates of Shottesbrooke Park and Waltham Place which supports some woodland, with most of the remaining land arable, with rapeseed or cereal crops

50.1 Shottesbrooke Park owned by John Smith, with a tree-lined drive of Poplar trees, shrub borders, woodland and pond.

50.2 Waltham Place owned by the Oppenheimer family since 1984 and managed organically for wildlife. Open to the public. This 220 acre parkland has recorded 49 moth species, 88 bird species, 7 bat species and 24 butterfly species. Its gardens are inspired by the writings of Helk Gerritsen. It is particularly home to:

Reptiles: Common lizard *Lacerta vivipara*, Grass snake *Natrix natrix* and Slowworm *Anguis fragilis*

Amphibean: Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*, Smooth Newt *Triturus vulgaris*

Mammals: Stoat family *Mustela erminea*, Badger *Meles meles*, Fox *Vulpes vulpes*, Mole *Talpa europaea*, Reeves Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi*, Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*.

Birds: Spotted Flycatcher (to 2016), Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*, Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, Swift *Apus apus*, Barn Owl *Tyto alba*, Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*, Little Owl *Athene noctua*, Buzzard *Buteo buteo*, Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, Skylark *Alcedo atthis*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, and Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Insects: There are huge numbers of insects including the Lesser Stag Beetle *Dorcus parallelipipedus* and Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus*.

(Tim Collins chanch.746@gmail.com is the staff invertebrate expert and member of the AES).

Trees: Its notable trees include the Wild Service Tree *Sorbus torminalis* and the Field Maple *Acer campestre*, and with a woodland floor of bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* suggests to ancient woodland. I shall hope to contribute bird surveys in 2018. (Contact with Niki McCann)

50.3 Broadleaved woodland with woodland floor of Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica* and Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and dead wood.

50.4 White Waltham Cricket Club and grounds.

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU860770 Map 51 (top left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Hurley and Waltham Ward. Paley Street and Waltham Place

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any):

- Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- Paddock Wood LWS Ancient woodland.

Habitat:

Woodland of Paddock Wood either side of the motorway M4 and either side Marshy Grassland with Arable land to the north. Eastern edge of Waltham Place.

51.1 Parked at Paley Street Farm, with permission, on their grass. House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* (UK BAP Priority Species), and walked up the path over the bridge. The Paddock Wood is magnificent on both sides with carpets of Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. Started north of M4 with a pathway past a wet ditch with Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*, through the woodland carpeted with bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, and then out into the Marshy Grassland with thistle, Sedges, Vetch and clover (not in flower) in the site known as the "50 acre" field owned by the Oppenheimer family. Scrub of mixed height Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Willow *Salix* sp., and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

51.2 Walked on to the eastern border of Waltham Place woodland SU862775: Veteran Oaks *Quercus* sp. over 100cm dia., Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and Chestnut *Castanea* sp. with ground carpeted in bluebells – fenced.

Birds: Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Blackcap Male *Sylvia atricapilla*, Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*, Skylark *Alcedo atthis* (UK BAP Priority species), Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* and 3 Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*, Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*, Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone*. (Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* are known to winter in this field).

- Butterflies: Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* and Peacock *Inachis io*
- Woodland Plants: Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Protected species WandCA 1981); Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*; Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*.
- Mammals: 1 Roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* and Moles *Talpa europaea*

Marshy Grassland with Scrub is worthy of a further survey

51.3 South of the M4 there is a field path to Paddock Wood and round to the Woodland along the Cut. Fabulous Bluebell carpeted the floor with Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea* and Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*. Marshy grassland beyond. The farmer, Peter Headington and Partners won the Duke of Edinburgh Award for Nature Conservation in 2014. Pond full of Common Reed *Phragmites aquatilis* in one of the improved grassland fields. On another arable field-edge he had planted with a bank of Cowslips *Primula veris* – now in beautiful bloom.

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU880770 Map 52 (top left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. Holyport and Stud Green

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any): RBWM Conservation Area: Holyport

Habitat: Mainly improved grassland and amenity grassland for horses and residential

52.1 Allotment

52.2 Beef cattle

52.3 'Heroes' – small holding with Llama, Goat and Duck

52.4 The stream is The Bourne

52.5 Alder Willow carr on the Holyport Green

52.6 Broadleaf woodland at Gale Lane with scrub undergrowth and dead wood lying. Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (UK BAP Species) at Oak Tree Farm

52.7 Rolls Lane walked up the lane onto the footpath, past a broadleaved woodland with a wet ditch and Hartstongue, *Phyllitis scolopendrium* below old coppiced trees bordering the wood, and into the horse fields. One of the horse fields has been made into Amenity Grassland. The horses were being exercised by the stable boys. Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* and Peacock *Inachis io* butterflies. Opposite Rolls Lane off Stud Green is a fishing lake and a large pond in an adjoining garden with breeding Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU900770 Map 53 (top left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. Fifield

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Mainly improved grassland and arable with rough grassland to the north east

53.1 Landfill site

53.2 Small holding with black sheep flock, a horse and a donkey

53.3 The arable land has a ring of set-aside grassland under the Higher Stewardship Scheme

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU920770 Map 54 (top left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. Oakley

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Mainly grounds of Oakley Court Hotel with two small ponds in the east, and with cemetery on the other side of A308 with improved grassland and arable fields to Maidenhead boundary. Brian Clews: Little Owl *Athene noctua* and Barn Owl *Tyto alba* have been noted in the cemetery and suitable nest boxes installed.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU800760 Map 55 and SU820760 Map 56

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, West End

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- LWS: Gunsbrook/near Gunsbrook, Wet Meadow, Mire Ditches (Mire Lane Arm), Downgrove Lower Ditches (east)
- RBWM Conservation Area: Waltham St Lawrence

Habitat: Improved grassland fields for horses and amenity grassland for polo horses.

55.1 Downgrove Lower Ditches (east) LWS SU818764 These are wet ditches (standing water) along the field edges that have an abundance of aquatic plants growing in them. Warrants further survey

55.2 Windsor Ait LWS SU813764 These two pieces of woodland are a deciduous plantation of mainly Poplar *Populus* sp.. Marshy woodland floor at close to the road.

55.3 The amenity grassland is cut for polo.

56.1 Gunsbrook/near Gunsbrook SU824766 Semi-natural broadleaved woodland

56.2 Wet Meadow ref:SU835763. Waltham Farm has grazing beef cattle on the marshy grassland wooden fenced and surrounded by scrub and trees.

- Birds: Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus tohilus*, Wren Troglodytes troglodytes and Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*
- Opposite at Five Oaks Farm are almost bare ground small fields with horses trying to graze, and rubble piles.
- Subsequent to making this survey, it is identified that part of this land is owned by RBWM and that it is to be made available as the new "Sherlock Row Open Space Project"

56.3 Mire Ditches:

- Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* along Mire Lane at Twyford Brook, reported to Borough Council.
- On the east is a large field of Semi-Improved Grassland with: Greater Celendine *Chelidonium majus*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and Yorkshire Fog grass *Holcus lanatus*.
- South along Mire Lane is Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Dock *Rumex* sp.. The lake is used by the West End Fishery. Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris* in flower. Wet ditches on either side of Mire Lane.

56.4 Pond at Y junction SU833757

56.5 Graveyard and football pitch on Amenity Grassland in Waltham St Lawrence. Song thrush *Turdus iliacus*.

56.6 SU836766 Halls Lane and along the Broadmoor Road wet ditches with Mint Menth sp. growing

Grid ref (1km sq.): SU840760 Map 57 (top left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Hurley and Waltham Ward. Shottesbrooke Survey April 2017

Conservation Status (if any):

- RBWM Conservation Area St Marys Church and Bury Court, White Waltham
- Great Wood LWS

Habitat: Deciduous Woodland, improved grassland for horses, and Arable

57.1 Great Wood: Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* woodland floor. Wet ditch running around the west side. Old coppiced trees along the field edge. Dead wood on the woodland floor. Oaks *Quercus* sp. up to 90cm dia. Deciduous woodland identified as ancient semi natural woodland by NCC 1986

57.2 SU849766 Marshy Grassland. Moles *Talpa europaea*, Thistle *Cirsium* sp., Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Clover *Trifolium* sp., Buttercup *Ranunculus* sp., Barley Sedge *Carex hordeistichos*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Heath Rush *Juncus squarrosus*, Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*. First Swallow *Hirundo rustica* of the year. Kestrel (F) *Falco tinnunculus*

Marsh Wood LWS has a path from the road that can lead to the Wet Grassland. Mature trees, ivy *Hedera helix*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* undergrowth, Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*.

57.3 Across the road from the Great Wood westward is the White Waltham Polo Club (Home of Carlitos' Polo) Smewins Farm. Met Carlito who has an interest in wildlife, but suggested that if Wild Maidenhead wished to contact in the future that we contact his wife Mrs Kim Sherman 07748670587.

57.4 SU842765 3 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (UK BAP Priority species) feeding in horse field, but no mating displays

57.5 South Wood is identified as an ancient semi natural woodland by NCC 1986

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU860760 Map 58 (top left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Hurley and Waltham Ward. Paley Street and Waltham Place

Survey: April

- Conservation Status (if any): Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- Triangular Wood LWS and the 'Woodland along the Cut' LWS

Habitat: Mainly improved grassland for horses and some arable.

58.1 'Woodland along the Cut LWS' and 'Triangular Wood LWS' and north of Touchen End not surveyed due to lack of access

58.2 Paley Street (north). Reedbed *Phragmites australis* (UK BAP Priority species) of 60m at roadside SU869764. Birds: Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* 2, Great Tit *Parus major*, Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. Intact Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* hedgerow running south of road.

Grid ref: SU880760 Map 59 (top left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. Holyport and Stud Green

Survey: April

- Conservation Status (if any): Mount Skippet Copse LWS

Habitat: Cereal crops are being grown on the largely arable ground, with a rapeseed crop in the south. Improved grassland is mainly for horses and the fields with wooden fencing.

Harford Farm entrance is being redesigned at the road and the planted area up the long drive on the right has been cleared and a few trees newly planted. The large building/house (?) is surrounded by Mount Skippet Copse LWS. Brian Clews: This area has been one of the very few in Berkshire to host the rare Turtle Doves *Streptopelia turtur* in Berkshire in recent years.

59.1.1 The woodland area in front of the building has been cleared and parkland trees have been developed in the field to the north. This field was an arable field but the northern part by the Forest Green road has now become grazing for sheep and the remainder appears to be changed to improved grassland. The LWS is a broadleaf woodland with plant undergrowth, and some management is evident. Brian Clews: Buzzard *Buteo buteo* nest here

59.2 Long Lane has amenity grassland to the east which is for turf. At the bottom of Long Lane a sign reads: "Be careful. Poachers are setting snares and catching dogs". The lane has an older hedgerow with wet ditches which would warrant a further survey.

59.1.2 Birds: Linnets *Carduelis cannabina* 2 and Dunnock *Prunella modularis* (UK BAP Priority Species), and Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. Grass: Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* (suggesting neutral soil).

Grid ref: SU900760 Map 60 (top left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. Fifield

Survey: May

- Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Rapeseed and wheat crops are being grown on the arable ground. Improved grassland is for horses and the fields with wooden fencing. East of Fifield is the Fifield Polo Club with extensive amenity grassland for playing. Along the Forest Green Road is the amenity grassland for the cricket ground

60.1 Permission would need to be sort from Fifield Polo Club, but there is a hillock and woodland with the stream which would warrant a survey.

60.2 Grove Barn, Coningsby Lane has Swallow *Hirundo rustica* nesting, and in the fields 4 Linnets *Carduelis cannabina* (UK BAP Priority Species)

Grid ref: SU920760 Map 61 (top left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. Oakley Green

Survey: May

- Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Rapeseed and wheat crops are being grown on the arable ground. Improved grassland is for horses and the fields with wooden fencing. Maidenhead boundary. Tarbay Lane (Private Road) makes it possible to view large areas of grassland.

61.1 Extensive Alder-Willow carr worthy of a further survey.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU800750 Map 62 and SU820750 Map 63

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward, West End.

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- LWS: Crockford's Copse, Bear's Copse

Habitat: Improved grassland fields for horses and amenity grassland for polo horses; with some copse, and the fields mainly bordered by deciduous hedgerow, usually of Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* mainly intact without gaps, but not of great age or species rich

62.1 SU820752 Deciduous Woodland at the Blackthorn Farm with no evidence of management. Dead wood. Undergrowth: Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* scrub, Ivy *Hedera helix* on the ground. Oaks *Quercus* sp. to 50cm dia. Some conifers made a border with the farm house.

62.2 Grassland opposite Blackthorn Farm is LWS SU819754. The modern farm house appears to be subject to planning permission and the gates are currently chained. The LWS requires further identification.

63.1 Crockford's Copse ref:SU837755 Has Twyford Brook running east along the northern and eastern edge. In the copse is a large pond surrounded by broadleaved woodland with ivy *Hedera helix* and scrub undergrowth and fallen dead wood. Pair of Canada Geese *Branta Canadensis* on the large pond. Yellow Flag Iris *pseudacorus* on the Brook and stinging nettles *Urtica dioica*. The Brook is worthy of further survey

- Birds: Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*, and 10 Rooks *Picus viridis* in the adjoining field.

63.2 Bear's Copse ref: SU823760 Broadleaved woodland.

63.3 SU828756 North edge of improved grassland field. Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* hedge over 15m with deciduous and conifer trees. Hedge cut back to boundary with dry ditch. Field gate entrance 150m long mainly Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Dock *Rumex* sp., Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg., Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and young scrub

63.4 SU826756 On the northern corner of Plough Lane from Station Road is a deciduous copse running in a wedge shape for 120m. Largest Oak *Quercus* sp. 50cm dia. The hedge at the road is Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. The 1st garden on Plough Lane is large with improved grassland for horses and veteran Oak *Quercus* sp. and Chestnut and a small copse.

63.5 Down Baileys Lane to SU822755. On the west of the field is a conifer hedge and on the SW, a deciduous tree hedge with gaps and mature trees. Along Bailey Lane is a Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* hedge without gaps with some mature Oaks *Quercus* sp.. At 100m one Oak dia. 100cm. (suggested age 150 years). On the left is a long garden with 17 Oaks on their verge up to 50cm in dia. And a 2m cut Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* hedge.

63.6 Footpath on the right at Baileys Cottage (6 apple trees on the verge) allows for views south onto arable land; in the north is a cereal crop, and rapeseed to the south, past the road crossing

west<east where there is a deciduous hedgerow with gaps. In the middle of the arable field is a west<east deciduous hedgerow SU824751 with no gaps cut at 2m. To the right of the footpath in the garden is a 60m garden pond with Mallard.

63.7 SU825754 Further down Baileys Lane looking over arable land is a complete hedge with a dry ditch and 4 oaks <80cm dia. On the left looking towards Station Road, an Old Hedgerow of mainly Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, with dry ditch. Verge: Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*, Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg., Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Early dog-violet *Viola reichenbachiana*. At the corner with Station Road, Bluebells and a veteran Oak dia. 120cm.

63.8 SU827758 Large display of White Comfrey *Symphytum officinale* opposite Old Oak Cottage on road between Waltham St. Lawrence to West End. Swallows *Hirundo rustica* at Paradise Barn.

63.9 Byway with wet ditches either side and Ferns and Hartstongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium*.

Grid ref (1km sq.): SU840750 Map 64 (bottom left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward. Shottesbrooke

Survey April

Habitat: Woodland LWS. Improved and amenity grassland for horses and Arable

64.1 Pondwood LWS with scrub woodland floor, road leading down to Pondwood Fisheries, being a lake within the woodland. Beyond the fishery is a heavy lorry scrap area, and beyond that is a chicken free range farm with bare earth fields.

64.2 Little Round Wood – Broadleaved Woodland with undergrowth of Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica* and dock *Rumex* sp.. Dead wood. Mixed deciduous. Oaks *Quercus* sp. up to 50cm. dia. Conifer ridge between this wood and Long Wood.

Both woods identified as ancient woodland semi natural by NCC 1986

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU860750 Map 65 (bottom left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward, Braywoodside.

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any): None

Habitat:

Improved grassland for horses, Amenity grassland for turf, or arable land for cereals.

65.1 On Drift Road Shottesbrook Hill Farm with Ostrich.

65.2 80 Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone* feeding on improved grassland SU867749.

65.3 North up the footpath at Grebelands Farm with improved grassland – small herd of Belted Galloway cattle. Farm pond SU867749 in poor condition. At SU871754 Skylark *Alcedo atthis* singing overhead, 2 Linnets *Carduelis cannabina* (Both UK BAP Priority species), Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. Orange tip butterfly *Anthocharis cardamines*. Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (conclusion: Neutral Soil) Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg.. Common Vetch *Vicia Saliva* and Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*. 20 Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone* and 20 Rook *Corvus frugilegus* on the grassland.

65.4 Amenity grassland for turf cutting

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU880750 Map 66 (bottom left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. Foliejon Park

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Mainly arable with cereal and rapeseed

66.1 Plants at the Blackbird Lane: Garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, Herb Robert *Geranium*

robertianum, Wild mustard *Sinapis arvensis*, Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, Bluebells

Hyacinthoides non-scripta

66.2 Mixed woodland at Blackbird Cottage with undergrowth of Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and Dog mercury *Mercurialis perennis*. Dead wood. Alder-Willow carr along the northern edge.

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU900750 Map 67 (bottom left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. South of Fifield

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Mainly arable with cereal and rapeseed to the West, and improved grassland for horses to the East running into Windsor Forest

67.1 There are a number of veteran oak trees *Quercus* sp. in the fields to the west of Braywood House Hotel, and a Beech copse. One of the smaller oaks was 160cm in dia., so this area warrants a tree survey

67.2 There is no public access along this path, where the stream runs and the aerial map shows broad leaved woodland

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU920750 Map 68 (bottom left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. South of Oakley Green

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Arable wheat crop north of Windsor Forest, elsewhere improved grassland for horses to Maidenhead boundary

68.1 Set-aside (Higher Stewardship Scheme) evident in the arable field

68.2 Windsor Forest is mainly mixed deciduous broadleaved in this part, but there are some coniferous trees.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU800740 Map 69 and SU820740 Map 70

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward. Shurlock Row

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- RBWM Conservation Area - Shurlock Row

Habitat: Arable land surrounding improved grassland fields for horses and amenity grassland for polo horses.

69.1 SU833742 South East of Sherlock Row is semi-improved grassland is worthy of further survey.

69.2 Sherlock Row village pond at crossroads ref: SU833746

69.3 Hedgerow on west side of Station Road – No gaps to 2m cut flat topped of Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. Verge up to 10m and from Plough Lane south 100m Oak 70cm Dia., 20m Oak 90cm dia. And further 20m Oak of 70cm dia. Russian Comfrey *Symphytum x uplandicum* on verge

- Birds: Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* 1, Blackbird *Turdus merula* 1, Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* 2, Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone* 3, Robin *Erithacus rubecula* 3, Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* 1, Magpie *Pica pica* 1, Great Tit *Parus major* 1, Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* 1, Jay *Garrulus*

glandarius 1, Woodpigeon *Columba livia* 1, Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* 1, 2 Rooks *Corvus frugilegus*.

- Butterflies: Orange tip *Anthocharis cardamines* 1, Peacock Peacock *Inachis io* 1, Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* 2, Small White *Artogeia rapae* 1, Large White *Pieris brassicae* 1.

69.4 The north of Surrell Wood is broadleaved woodland of mixed ages, appears to be actively managed. Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and scrub undergrowth. In the south of Surrell Wood is Mixed Woodland with conifer plantation and new deciduous planting. Undergrowth scrub and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* (acid soil). To the east of Surrell Wood is a large field with green crop bordered by a blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* cut hedge to 1.5m and a dry ditch. To the north across Straight Mile Road is a large field of rapeseed. Three Roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* at SU836757. Horse fields, wooden fencing and mature trees and scrub along the fencing.

Grid ref (1km sq.): SU840740 Map 71 SU860740 Map 72 (bottom left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward. White Waltham

Survey April

Conservation Status (if any):

- The east side of this map is in the Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- Buck Farm Copse LWS and Stratton Copse LWS

Habitat: Woodland LWS. Improved and amenity grassland for horses and Arable Amenity grassland for golf course.

71.1 SU859743 Broadleaved Woodland at Stratton Copse with bluebell floor and dead wood. Mire/Pond in southern end. On the east, The Cut (stream) is fast flowing clear water with good underwater growth.

71.2 Buck Farm Copse LWS Broadleaved with The Cut running through. Warrants a further survey.

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU880740 and SU880730 Map 73 (bottom left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward. Foliejon Park

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any):

- Chawridge Valley BOA
- Woodland adjacent to Hogoak Lane LWS; Fernygrove Copse LWS; Lordlands Wood LWS

Habitat: Mainly arable land on the east of the Chawridge Valley BOA where the SSSI is in the Bracknell Forest Borough.

73.1 Fernygrove Copse LWS and the other woodland in the fields are not accessible at this time of the year, but would warrant a survey. Broadleaf.

73.2 Lordlands Wood LWS is broadleaf woodland with undergrowth of Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and fern

73.3 Cruch Lane is a bridle-path which has been improved on the path with wood chipping for the horses. On the south end the path is about a metre below the fields speaking for its antiquity. Plants: Yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*, Fern, Hartsbourne *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, Herb robert *Geranium robertianum*, Lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*

73.4 Woodland adjacent to Hogoak Lane LWS – Mixed aged deciduous broadleaf: Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, and Oak *Quercus* sp., with bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* undergrowth, and dead wood.

73.5 SU888746 Hillock that appears to be man-made with a flat top, with scrub over it. More information is needed.

Grid ref (2km sq.): SU920740 Map 74 (bottom left point of 2Kms)

Site Name: Bray Ward.

Survey: May

Conservation Status (if any):

Habitat: Windsor Forest with grassland either side

73.1 This amenity grassland is a large property with notable rows of Cedar Cedrus sp. and Poplar Populus sp. trees (gated property)

73.2 This grassland is between the Crown Estate of Windsor Forest, without access and Legoland, and has therefore been surveyed only from aerial maps.

Grid ref: (2km sq.) SU800730 Map 75 and SU820730 Map 76 and SU840730 Map 77

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams Ward. South west of Shurlock Row

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- LWSs': Surrell Wood, Bushy Lees, Kiln Copse, The Gravepits, Hammond's Wood

Habitat: Arable land surrounding woodland

75.1 and 76.1 Surrell Wood ref: SU821738 – Ancient semi-natural woodland in northern section, and Ancient replanted woodland in southern section (NCC 1986)

- North is broadleaved woodland of mixed ages, appears to be actively managed
 - Bramble and scrub undergrowth
- South is mixed woodland with conifer plantation and new deciduous planting
 - Undergrowth scrub and bracken – suggests acid soil

76.2 Bushy Lees ref: SU830733 – Ancient semi-natural woodland (NCC 1986). Broadleaved.

76.3 Kiln Copse ref: SU834735 – Ancient replanted woodland (NCC 1986) reduced by construction of M4 motorway. Broadleaved.

76.4 The Gravepits/ Old Gravel Pits ref: SU830739 – Ancient semi-natural woodland (NCC 1986) The two pieces of woodland are broadleaved copses with Bramble Rubus fruticosus, Common nettle Urtica dioica and dead wood undergrowth

76.5 Hammond's Woods ref: SU839739 – Ancient semi-natural woodland (NCC 1986) Broadleaved

76.6 ref: SU825739 is a large field with green crop.

Grid Ref: (2 km sq.) SU820720 Map 78

Site Name: Hurley and Walthams. Billingbear

Survey: April

Conservation Status (if any):

- Within Waltham to Binfield Woodlands and Parklands BOA
- Warren Copse LWS

Habitat: Woodland within golf course on the south west boundary of Maidenhead

78.1 Billingbear Golf Club

78.2 Warren Copse ref. SU828729. Identified as Ancient semi-natural Woodland (NCC 1986) Broadleaf.