# Biodiversity Surveys of

# Land at the Triangle adjacent to Stratfield Brake East Woodland

## Judith A Webb, BSc, PhD, BEM

## Independent Ecological Consultant

## For Friends of Stratfield Brake

Version 2, March 2024





Triangle northern ride flowers and central area with Osier coppice and Common Fleabane in flower 12.08.2023 and 29.08.2023

# Contents

Summary	2
Introduction	3
Aim	
Visits	3
The Triangle, History and Habitats present	4
Fig 1 Sketch Map of the Triangle and Habitats Present	6
Vegetation types (habitats) present today in the Triangle	6

Soil and ground conditions within the Triangle area	6
Results of species surveying	7
Plants	7
Herbaceous Plants (forbs) and Mosses	7
Woody Plant Species	9
Willow Coppice	9
Marginal mixed scrub, woodland and marginal woodland belts	10
Deadwood	10
Fungi	10
Vertebrates	11
Invertebrates	11
<b>Comments on Invertebrates of Conservation Importance found</b>	11
Conclusions and Discussion	14
Acknowledgments	17
References	17
Appendix I Photographs of Habitats, Flooding and Species of Note from the Triangle	18
Appendix II Tables of Species Recorded in the Triangle	
Including Conservation Status definitions and criteria for rarity	29

### **Summary**

- Results are presented of species survey visits to the Triangle site from Late June 2023 to February 2024. This is an update to my first report in August 2023.
- Considerable biodiversity of **314** species so far was found, including a small number of uncommon to rare species; although these surveys report only a small proportion of the total invertebrate biodiversity which might be expected here, with further surveys at different times of year using different methods.
- Thick species-rich marginal scrub and woodland belts with mature trees surround the central area planted up with Osier willows, harvested annually in blocks for fencing, and with wide mown access rides, provide a valuable combination providing a diverse **mosaic of habitats** beneficial to overall biodiversity.
- The willow (Osier) coppice is not a monoculture, generates only light shade and has temporary glades resulting from willow cutting, so there is a complete rich diverse ground flora under all the blocks as well as in glades and the rides.

- The very winter-wet (often flooded) heavy clay soil has developed a specific flora of a number of marsh or wetland plants adapted to the soil being inundated in winter and completely dried-out in summer. The most abundant wetland plant on site is a vast population of Common Fleabane with golden daisy-type flowers in many thousands in mid-August which feed many pollinator insects.
- Specific insects were found which breed in the Fleabane, one of them a rare fly.
- A number of uncommon wild roses are present on site with a probable rare hybrid.
- Very good numbers of common butterflies are found, with the breeding presence of rare Brown Hairstreak Butterfly confirmed.
- Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule bats are confirmed as using the site for foraging.
- The willow (Osier) coppice supports dependent insects, some of them (willow beetles) in vast numbers, which will provide much food for insectivorous birds.
- The Triangle habitats support and connect via mobile species (like deadwood-breeding beetles) to the Ancient Woodland Priority Habitat (Cherwell District Wildlife Site) of Stratfield Brake, the east section of which is contiguous with the southern margin of the Triangle.

### Introduction

I am an experienced Independent Freelance Ecologist who has lived in Kidlington since 1984. I have been employed on species survey work in Oxfordshire by Natural England, BBOWT, Oxford City Council, private landowners and Local Wildlife Groups. I am very familiar with the habitats in the general Stratfield Brake area, especially the hedgerows and verges (I have assisted in botanical verge survey of Frieze Way with a local Natural History Society). I and my family helped plant trees in the new Woodland Trust woodland at Stratfield Brake west section in the 1990s. My particular expertise is identification of plants, invertebrates and fungi. I have 45 years of experience of the first group and 30years of experience in identifications of the other groups. I am a regular voluntary species recorder in these groups for Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC).

I received permission to enter The Triangle and record species from the tenant who runs the sustainable willow coppice business.

### Aim

To catalogue as much of the biodiversity present on site as possible, considering it is to be subject to a development application for a proposed football stadium. The main focus was plants, invertebrates and fungi, but all groups were recorded as skill allowed. A much richer biodiversity would be found with more visits spaced out through the year and covering spring and early summer as well.

#### Visits

From summer 2023 to February 2024 11 visits were carried out on the following dates:

25.06.2023 08.07.2023 27.07.2023 06.08.2023 12.08.2023 19.08.2023 07.09.2023 22.09.2023 23.09.2023 01.10.2023 11.12.2023 17.02.2024

All mid-year visits were in warm, sunny conditions, ideal for recording flying insects. Between one and three hours were spent on site at each visit. For insects, all the rides and scrub margins were visited and swept with a long-handled net, this being the only method used apart from photography. All photographs within this report are my own from the site apart from where indicated. Willow coppice blocks were walked through and swept as was the northern fenced off scrub area. The hedgerows/belts of trees and scrub on the west and east margins were viewed from outside on roads and from the inside of the Triangle, but not entered, due to the difficulty of access; mostly plant species were recorded in these marginal areas.

Several site visits in summer are usually sufficient to locate the vast majority of all plant species on site, but are inadequate to assess the full invertebrate biodiversity present. Four or five visits spaced throughout the year in good weather and using a variety of trapping methods are necessary to have a reasonable assessment of invertebrate biodiversity. The invertebrates found in the current surveys will be only some of the very many species which probably live there. Many more are to be expected by surveys at other times of year (especially spring and early summer) and using additional methods such as pitfall-trapping, suction-sampling, rearing from fungi and deadwood, use of pheromone lures and light-trapping for moths.

### The Triangle, History and Habitats present

This triangular plot of land (just under 5 hectares, central Grid Ref. SP4986 1206) is in the **Green Belt** and is bounded to the south by a strip of Ancient Woodland (termed here Stratfield Brake East, see my report on this) which was once connected to the Stratfield Brake main Ancient Woodland section (here termed Stratfield Brake West) on the west side of Frieze Way (A4260). This historic connection of the two woodland strips is obvious from examination of older maps of the area (1). The construction of Frieze Way must have bisected this Ancient Woodland. That this southern woodland strip is Ancient Woodland is indicated for example by the large population of native Bluebells present in the ground flora, easily visible in flower in spring as one walks along the verge on Frieze Way. 'Stratfield Brake' (both sections either side of Frieze Way) is part of a designated Cherwell District Wildlife Site (DWS) Code 41V21, area 20.98ha.

On the **western margin of the Triangle**, the open area is bounded by a thick belt of trees and scrub of 5-6m wide adjacent to the raised ground along which Frieze Way (dual carriageway) runs. Within this strip there is a drainage ditch plus one wooden fence and, in some places, two wire fences. No street lighting is present along Frieze Way for most of its length, except near the roundabouts.

On the **eastern margin of the Triangle** the open area is bounded by a thick belt of trees and scrub of 12-15m wide along the margin of the A4165 Oxford Road, which runs on raised ground. Within this marginal belt there are the remains of an old wooden fence plus two newer wire fences to the inside of this. For part of the distance a drainage ditch runs through this belt and in one place it widens out to a long wet hollow, which has standing water in winter. Street lighting is present along Oxford Road.

To the north, in the truncated 'point' of the Triangle, is a wire fenced-off section (approximately 0.46ha inside the marginal hedge/tree belts ) which has developing diverse scrub inside thick

hedge/tree belts, with five large Lombardy poplar trees (*Populus nigra* var *italica*) in the very northern margin just south of the roundabout. There is an area with dumped rubble just inside the fenced-off scrub, to the north of the access gate off Oxford Road. The ground slopes down gently from this north end adjacent to the roundabout, to the south end adjacent to Stratfield Brake East woodland.

The history of the Triangle area from personal observations since I moved to Kidlington in 1984 and some research is as follows:

It was an arable field in 1984 when I first knew it. Available historic aerial photographs from 1943-4 (11) show that it has been arable for a very long time as the clear patterning of 'ridge and furrow' cultivation can be seen, these ridges and furrows from cultivation with ox/horse ploughs in the historic 'open field' farming system before the Enclosures.

In the late 1990s it was occupied by a **motocross track** which had constructed humps for motorcycle racing, but this track was closed when some rubble was dumped there.

The area of scrub at the north end of the triangle was planted with ash trees in 2008 by the Oxfordshire Woodland Group with the aim of providing tree cover, wood fuel and eventually high quality ash timber (2) (It is not known what happened to majority of the ash but this area is now mixed scrub (I estimate around 15years old), predominantly Common Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, with few Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and with some evidence of planting of species like Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*, Hazel *Corylus avellana* and Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* (remains of tree tubes around bases). Just inside this fenced-off scrub area is a wooden plinth with a metal plate inscribed with the comment that this area was 'woodland planting in memory of a friend and *colleague RICHARD CURRY*, 27.1.68 - 7.6.09'.

The willow coppice (Osier or Basket Willow) occupying blocks in the Triangle site centre (Short Rotation Coppice or SRC, harvested every 3-4years) was first planted around 2006, with the aim of producing wood fuel to heat a primary school (3).

Currently the willow coppice blocks are harvested in rotation several times a year for construction of fencing by the land tenant as part of his 'Wonderwood' business. At any one time there are blocks of willow in all stages of re-growth from the coppice stools.

The willow species planted in blocks appears to be the fast growing Common Osier *Salix viminalis*, which has long narrow leaves and very upright growing stems, meaning the coppice stools can be planted quite closely and numerous straight long branches are produced. Because the willow has very upright branches, it casts only very light shade, so that a rich ground-cover flora has developed under and between the coppice stools. The willow coppice has occupied the site centre for just short of 18 years. Planted as a monoculture, it is no longer a single species habitat; the blocks having been extensively invaded by a diversity of scrub species today.

Around and between the coppice willow blocks are wide rides with herbaceous vegetation. These look as if they are occasionally cut short to ensure access; this mowing will have helped to preserve the biodiversity of herbaceous flora. At the northern end a wider area is cut short running west-east to the south of the fenced off scrub. This open area is under over-head cabling, maybe a 'way leave' that would have had to be left unplanted by willow to allow any access to the cabling for maintenance. This open area is also over a major gas main that supplies Yarnton.

When the coppice block sections have branches cut down to the coppice 'bole' a temporary open 'glade' is created which lasts until the willow grows up again. Thus open glade areas move around the site as willow sections are harvested. This temporary glade creation benefits overall biodiversity by stopping the willow becoming tall and dominant and providing new warm sunny sheltered open areas for herbaceous plants (forbs) and invertebrates to colonise.

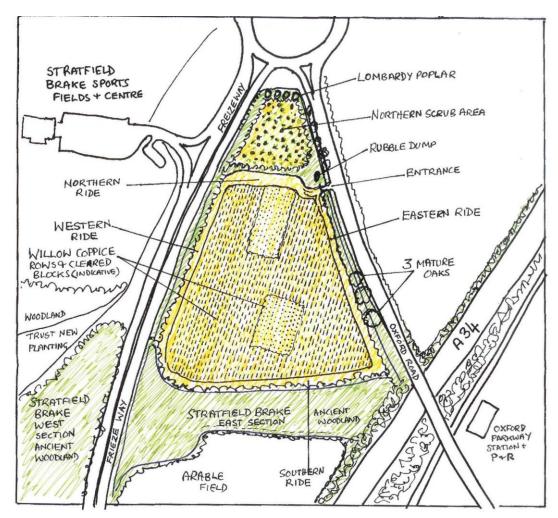


Fig 1. Sketch map of the Triangle and Habitats Present

### Vegetation types (habitats) present today in the Triangle

- Marginal diverse mature scrub/tree belts and ancient woodland including wet ditches
- Young diverse, mostly naturally regenerating, scrub (some shrubs planted)
- Willow (Osier) coppice (mainly willow held at scrub stage by rotational cutting)
- Ground cover herbaceous vegetation, partly shaded within the willow coppice blocks
- Grassy flowery rides and temporary open glades in full sun within willow coppice and around site margins

### Soil and ground conditions within the Triangle area

During my surveys, the soil was observed to be heavy clay, with evidence of much winter waterlogging, which was abundantly confirmed in autumn, winter and spring 2023-2024 with flooding and water pooling all over the site for four months (see photographs in the Appendix I). It's been the wettest year and last 18 months across England since records began in 1871 (National Hydrological Monitoring Programme) and with accelerating Climate Change, predictions are that such extreme flooding could be even worse in future with rain concentrated in winters and much less rain in summers. Winter water-logging is not a recent problem at this site, but a long-standing issue – as evidenced from aerial photos from 1943-4 in the USAAF collection (11) showing pooling of floodwater as white markings in patches and along old furrows. Historic ridges and furrows were obviously aligned to drain the site firstly towards the western margin and then southwards with ridges running towards the woodland. Recent attempts by Southern Gas Network to repair a gas leak from the main gas pipe to Yarnton which crosses under the site have been severely hampered by the extensive flooding and difficult ground conditions (see photo in Appendix I).

Summer visits revealed all the clay soil was dried hard and cracked in June, July and August. The ruts in the rides were full of mats of aquatic dried filamentous algae and of a sub-aquatic moss typical of very water-logged conditions. All indications are that the site functions ecologically as a **temporary wetland marsh habitat**. Plants indicating this are discussed below. Over the years, travelling on the bus to Oxford along the A4165 I have regularly observed the south west corner of the site, (just before the start of the bridge over the A34) to be badly flooded in winter with the hedge plants and a mature oak tree surrounded by standing water often for some weeks.

This winter water-logging has is prevalent despite the deep ditches which run all around the Triangle except on the northern section margins. These marginal ditches **are noted to receive road run-off at intervals** from east and west sides (Oxford Road and Frieze Way) compromising their ability to drain the site centre. Water collected by marginal ditches is drained offsite from the middle of the western margin under Frieze Way to Stratfield Brake West ditches.

Such regular very wet winter soil conditions are ideal for the growth of willows, which are, in the majority, wetland species which thrive in waterlogged soil.

### **Results of species surveying**

Where possible, rough abundance or numbers of species was estimated. Invertebrate species were recorded by sweep-netting, hand collection and photography. I'm grateful for the help of expert entomologist John Paul for some of the identifications. Plants, invertebrates and fungi found were the main focus, however six birds, four mammals and an amphibian were incidentally identified during my visits and I am grateful for the assistance of Andy Pedley with his aural bat detector on a site evening walk in September. Photographs of habitats and notable species found are Appendix I. Tables of all species recorded are in Appendix II. All species records have been sent to Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre.

### Plants

In total **127** species of Vascular Plants were found in the Triangle. This is a very good total for a site of this area that has a lot of one type of shrub (Osier willows).

### Herbaceous Plants (forbs) and Mosses

**104** species of forbs were found in the scrub and wood margins, the rides and in ground flora under the willow (sallow) coppice. This includes 15 species of grasses, four species of rush and nine species

of sedge plus one horsetail. Additionally four species of common moss were present on the soil of the very winter-wet areas.

All forbs were common, except two. The first is the **Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil** *Lotus tenuis*, which is Scarce in Oxfordshire, being on the county Rare Plants Register (4). Five plants of this were found along the southernmost open ride (see Appendix I) It is local in eastern and south eastern England south of the Humber, rarer elsewhere. One of its Oxfordshire sites is the grassy verges to Frieze Way (I helped record it there), so it is perhaps not surprising it has colonised the Triangle from the adjacent verges. Frieze Way is one of only 10 sites for this species in the County. The second uncommon species is **Corn Mint** *Mentha arvensis* which is on the New England Red List (5) due to declines. Large clonal patches of this plant are present mostly under the light shade of the Osiers in the wettest areas of coppice and along some rides.

There were a number of common species characteristic of drier soils such as: Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Common Vetch *Vicia sativa*, Grass Vetchling *Lathyrus nissolia*, Hairy St John's-wort *Hypericum hirsutum*, Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Common Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Prickly Ox-tongue *Helminthotheca echioides*, Common and Hoary Ragworts *Jacobaea vulgaris* and *J erucifolia*, Wild Parsnip *Pastenaca sativa*, Smooth Tare *Vicia tetrasperma*, Common Centaury *Centaurium erythraea*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Hop Trefoil *Trifolium campestre*, Agrimony *Agrimomia eupatoria*, and Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*. Notable amongst the drier flora in June were **43 Pyramidal Orchids** *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and, more typical of moist/wetter soils, were **52 Common Spotted Orchids** *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. A lot of these orchids occurred in the light shade under the willow coppice amongst Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*. I will not have found all the orchids on site due to limited time of surveying; both orchid counts will be underestimates. Pyramidal Orchids seem to be benefitting from Climate Change and are increasing on roadside verges and dry meadows in Oxfordshire but a site with good numbers of two species of orchids is still a valuable one.

Most notable, however, was the greater number of forb species of wet and waterlogged soils – four species of rush (Juncus or Eleocharis sp.) and nine species of sedge (Carex sp.) and a less common rhizomatous grass of wet woods, ditches and fens – Wood Small Reed Calamagrostis epigejos, plus the wet-tolerant grasses: Creeping Bent Grass Agrostis stolonifera, Marsh Foxtail Alopecurus geniculatus and Black Bent Agrostis gigantea. Broad-leaved forbs of wet soils included: Bugle Ajuga reptans, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil Lotus pedunculatus, Cuckoo Flower Cardamine pratensis, Amphibious Bistort Persicaria amphibia, Great Willow-herb Epilobium hirsutum, Square-stalked St John's Wort Hypericum tetrapterum, Tufted Vetch Vicia cracca, Hemp Agrimony Eupatorium cannabinum, Curled Dock Rumex crispus, Corn Mint Mentha arvensis and, lastly and most spectacularly - vast swathes of **Common Fleabane** Pulicaria dysenterica which extend from the rides as a monoculture understory to the majority of the willow coppice occupation area. In mid- to late-August the yellow daisy-type flowers of this plant resemble a 'golden flood', alive with insects seeking nectar and pollen (see photographs in Appendix I). Areas of willow coppice not dominated by Common Fleabane on the ground on the west side were dominated by a wetland ground flora of rushes, sedges, Creeping Bent-grass and Corn Mint. Extensive mats of inundation-tolerant Kneiff's Hook-moss Drepanocladus aduncus indicate raised water levels for prolonged periods in winter.

The majority of the ground flora could be described as belonging to wet grassland or even marsh habitat (especially all the rushes, sedges and Common Fleabane super-abundance). However this is an unusual wetland flora that tolerates complete drying-out to hard cracked clay every summer. **This** 

**vegetation type is probably impossible to assign to any of the broad UK Habitat types.** Because it does not neatly fit into any classification, it does not mean it lacks important wildlife and is therefore of conservation value. The nearest habitat classification perhaps might be possibly be a type of wet **Neutral Grassland;** but the presence of Compact Rush may indication the development of a degree of acidity, common on waterlogged clay soils. The source of the water will be only rainwater, so relatively low nutrient conditions are likely.

Common flowers present such as Common Fleabane, Hogweed, Wild Carrot and Wild Parsnip are known big pollen and nectar attractants in summer; and the flowers of these on site were well visited by butterflies, bees, flies, beetles and wasps, many of which were identified.

Species probably relict of the field's arable past (i.e. 'arable weeds') seen occasionally included: Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*, Twitch/Couch-grass *Elymus repens*, a presumed Fodder Vetch, Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, and Black Bent Grass.

### **Woody Plant Species**

18 woody species were found in the area including the northern scrub section. Scrub is typically Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. of various types, Dewberry *Rubus cesius*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Common Hawthorn, Grey Willow *Salix cinerea* Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, Hazel, English Elm *Ulmus procera* and a Small-leaved Elm *Ulmus* sp, Common Dog Rose *Rosa canina* and rare Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*, Hazel and Guelder Rose. The willow coppice Osier blocks are a type of scrub which was originally one species but woody plant biodiversity has increased by colonisation of other scrub species from the margins. Additionally and unusually, a number of hybrid wild **Sweet Briar** roses *Rosa* sp (**Eglantine**, with glandular apple-scented leaves and pink flowers, see Appendix I) are present on margins, but also spreading into the willow coppice. One very unusual, wild rose with white flowers is probable hybrid involving the very scarce **Small-leaved Sweet Briar** *Rosa agrestis*, found on the eastern fence line at the site margin. This needs more expert botanical opinion on its identity; with more time this can be achieved.

**Trees** present included: Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, Pedunculate Oak, Ash, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, English Elm *Ulmus procera* (mostly affected by of Dutch Elm Disease) and a couple of unknown Elm species resembling Small-leaved Elm and a larger Smooth-leaved Elm, both of which are present in extensive suckered thickets (most likely originally planted) all along the western margin to Frieze Way and invading from there. Five large planted Lombardy Poplars (a cultivated variety of Black Poplar) are at the northern end of the site nearest the roundabout. Three mature Pedunculate Oaks are present on the Oxford Road margin, the largest of which was estimated to have a trunk diameter at chest height of 72cm, meaning it could be over 100 years old, in my experience. It is noted that these now have Tree Preservation Orders on them.

### **Willow Coppice**

This occupies a large area of the site centre and is composed of one species of planted willow known as **Common Osier** (*Salix viminalis*) which has very long upright branches and long narrow leaves with silver undersides. This central area might be assumed to be of low ecological value as a monoculture of species held by cutting at the young scrub stage; however this would be a wrong assumption. Firstly the coppice willow has become invaded and diversified by other scrub species such as: wild roses, Common Hawthorn, Blackthorn and suckering Elm clones. The osier willows were seen in spring 2024 to be composed of both males and females; large numbers of male pollenbearing catkins being particularly valuable as willow is a hugely important nectar and pollen source in

spring and flowering on young wood is common. The majority of the willow branches were in abundant flower by spring 2024. Willow can support a big total diversity of invertebrate species; one quote is up to 450 dependent species, which will include: bugs, bees, beetles, flies and moths. This is not to say all those associated species will be present here, but my brief surveys do indicate a small number of willow-associated insect species. Also the Osiers restricted and vertical growth ensures only a very light leaf canopy, casting little shade and thus allowing enough light through to result in a complete ground cover flora underneath the coppice blocks with a diversity of species including Common Fleabane, Corn Mint (new England Red List), wetland grasses, sedges and rushes with notably **Common Spotted** and **Pyramidal Orchids** (see photographs in Appendix I). This adds considerably to the total diversity of the willow blocks.

The amounts of **Common Fleabane** under the willow coppice are **truly extraordinary**. As mentioned, in late August the thousands of yellow daisy-type flowers open here present a short-lived stunning spectacle which makes the willow coppice look like a flower garden.

### Marginal mixed scrub, woodland and marginal woodland belts

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland habitat adjacent to the Triangle to the south in Stratfield Brake East is a Priority Habitat (Habitat of Principal Importance, NERC act 2006) and features mainly mature Pedunculate Oaks, Ash, Sycamore and various scrub species. It fulfils all the criteria for Ancient Woodland. The Triangle east and west margins (not hedgerows, more woodland/scrub belts) provide a thick and valuable habitat with abundant Bramble, Dewberry, Grey Willow, Hawthorn, various Elms and Blackthorn with occasional trees as above. The ditches within the margins provide linear shaded wetland habitat for much of each year, benefitting mostly specific invertebrates. **Scrub is the most valuable habitat for bird diversity** and will support many insects plus the marginal strips will be corridors for foraging, hunting bats. The lack of street lighting along Frieze Way for most of its length makes the marginal belt on the west side especially important to commuting bats.

The northern scrub area contains planted species not found elsewhere (Hazel, Buckthorn, Guelder Rose and Dogwood) with an abundance of Common Hawthorn, Sallow and Bramble patches. The bushes are young enough to mostly still have a rich and varied ground flora between them. As in the willow coppice to the south, Common Fleabane is very abundant with the addition of occasional large patches of Michaelmas Daisy *Aster* sp. and clumps of Hemp Agrimony.

### Deadwood

The marginal hedge/tree and scrub belts contain much deadwood. This should not be seen as detrimental or a problem because it is an important food and habitat resource for specific wildlife. The English Elm which occupies a good stretch of the eastern margin to Oxford Road is affected by Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and most trees are now standing dead or fallen thus offering much opportunity for deadwood (saproxylic) invertebrate breeding. Trees may be dead but the English Elm as a species is very much alive - abundantly suckering new growth is present and not yet large enough to be subject to DED. Elm foliage-breeding insects will still be supported.

Within the Willow (Osier) coppice blocks there are occasional piles of small diameter dead willow wands (harvested but presumably unsuitable for use) which provide an important deadwood-breeding resource within the site centre for deadwood-breeding (saproxylic) invertebrates that use small diameter wood. See discussion of such invertebrate species found below.

### Fungi

Seven fungal species were found, one not yet fully identified. In my experience these are all common except the rare (Nationally Red Data Listed) **Scented Bracket** *Trametes suaveolens* (strong aniseed smell) which always grows on dead willow wood and is found within the Osiers at this site on **eight coppice stools**. Two species of toadstool were found near willows (a fibre cap *Inocybe* sp. and a Poison pie Hebeloma *sacchariolens*) and are known mycorrhizal root associates of willow. Further fungal species associated with willow tree roots and deadwood might be expected.

### Vertebrates

Despite concentrating mainly on invertebrates, mammals were noted. Two species of deer use the site. A Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesii* was heard barking and repeatedly a female Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus* was surprised in the willow coppice, and on all occasions she immediately ran off to the south and into the Stratfield Brake East woodland strip. One adult and a number of juvenile (3cm long) Common Frogs *Rana temporaria* were seen. There is limited potential for frog breeding on site, depending on how long water remains in the marginal ditches, especially where one is widened to a long temporary pool on the eastern margin. All the frogs are big enough to have been able to cross Frieze Way from the wetland near the Woodland Trust new planting, although traffic would limit survival. As to birds Chiff Chaffs *Phylloscopus collybita* and Wrens *Troglodytes troglodytes* were heard and adult Wrens plus a group of Wren fledglings were seen foraging for food within the Osier coppice. A mixed tit group was seen on site in late autumn (Long-tailed Tit, Blue tit and Great Tits).

The Triangle habitats are a good foraging area for bats. A walk with Andy Pedley and his hand held bat aural detector (Wildlife Acoustics Echo Meter Touch 2 for Android) around the inside of the Triangle on 22.09.2023 recorded **Soprano Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and **Noctule** *Nyctalus noctula*. These bats are both **Priority Species (Section 41 Species of Principal Importance** under the **2006 NERC Act in England** (Previously UK BAP Priority Species). The greatest density of bat calls was in the southern ride, adjacent to Stratfield Brake East where we actually saw the bats hunting just over our heads in the dusk. The bats will be using the nearby Ancient Woodland of Stratfield Brake East for roosting as it has mature trees and plenty of standing deadwood with peeling loose bark habitat. Further bat surveys are needed. Moths are an important source of food for bats and these flying insects will be generated by caterpillars feeding on scrub and trees including the coppice Osiers and other willows. Currently Frieze Way has no street lights for most of its length so there is little to dissuade bats from commuting across it from the bigger Stratfield Brake western woodland block and Woodland Trust plantings.

#### Invertebrates

**161** invertebrate species so far have been identified (42 beetles, 17 butterflies, 7moths,1 lacewing, 4 dragonflies & damselflies, 20 true bugs, 17 bees & ants & wasps, 1 sawfly, 6 grasshoppers & crickets, 30 true flies, 2 molluscs, 14 spiders & harvestmen. This is just a small range and nothing like the full species diversity of invertebrates that will be present using other collecting methods and visiting in spring and early summer as well. The greater the plant species diversity on any site, the greater the expected invertebrate diversity of generalists plus highly specialised invertebrates linked to specific habitat conditions or specific food plants. Just one example of the latter is the finding of the **St John's-wort beetle** *Cryptocephalus moraei* which lives on the leaves of St John's Worts (three species present: Hairy, Perforate and Square-stalked St John's Worts).

The willow (Osier) coppice has been in place on site for around 18 years. This is plenty of time to accumulate a good associated invertebrate fauna feeding on the leaves and flowers. Much damage to

the willow leaves caused by the grazing of larvae of leaf beetles was seen (see Appendix I). These larvae were likely of the common **Brown Willow Beetle** *Galerucella lineola* and **Willow Leaf Beetle** *Lochmaea caprea*, seeing as a numerous adults of both these species were swept from the site in July. The willows probably therefore provide abundant beetle food resource for insect-eating birds and bats.

Less common invertebrates found breeding specifically in willows include for example the **Red-tipped Clearwing Moth** *Synanthedon formicaeformis*, larvae of which breed in willow branches, particularly Osiers (see Appendix I). One adult was found, but this could be more frequent on site. All clearwing moths are rarely recorded unless using specific pheromone lures to attract males during the flight period.

Common plants can support rare insects; this is the case for the Common Fleabane on site. It was a surprise to sweep several individuals of the small rare picture wing fly (Tephritid) *Myopites inulaedyssentericae* which breeds in Fleabane flower-heads forming a specific gall there (see discussion below and Appendix I). I regularly sweep fleabane in other fen wetlands in Oxfordshire at the right time, but have never before found this fly. Two other insects breeding in the Fleabane were found, the **Dusky Plume Moth** *Oidaematophorus lithodactyla* (see Appendix I) and a leaf-mining fly.

The **Swiss-cheese Tephritid (Picture-wing) fly** *Merzomyia westermanni* with its strangely patterned wings (see discussion below and Appendix I) is a further example. This breeds in Hoary Ragwort, which is on site and common in Oxfordshire, but the fly is **very uncommon**.

Nearly all common species of **Bumble Bee** were recorded on site visiting the abundant summer flowers for nectar and pollen: Buff-tailed *Bombus terrestris*, Red-tailed *Bombus lapidarius*, Whitetailed *Bombus lucorum* agg, Common Carder *Bombus pascuorum* and Early Bumble Bees *Bombus pratorum* were seen (workers and newly emerged Queens). Common Carders were the most numerous. A number of smaller solitary bees were seen, some still to identify. Examples are the Wood-carving Leafcutter Bee *Megachile ligniseca* and the Chalk Yellow-face Bee *Hylaeus dilatatus*. By far the most numerous type of bee on all flowers (but particularly on the Fleabane) was workers of the Honeybee *Apis mellifera* – perhaps foraging out to the Triangle from kept hives in a south Kidlington garden. Willow catkins are a very important food source for spring bees; both specific spring solitary bee species and especially newly emerged Bumble Bee queens building up resources to found new colonies. Spring insect surveys are much needed.

There are numerous **anthills** in the drier parts of the site. Mostly these are the Common Black Ant *Lasius niger*, but there are also numbers of Yellow Meadow Ant *Lasius flavus* anthills, usually an 'old meadow' species. The density of anthills is responsible for my record of the associated uncommon **Ant Ladybird** *Platynaspis luteorubra*, the first time I have seen this.

A good range of common **butterflies** (16 species) was found on site, most in small numbers. The most numerous were Gatekeepers *Pyronia tithonus*, seen on the wing in July and Speckled Woods *Parage aegeria*, on the wing in August. It is likely that caterpillar food plants for all these are present, so likely breeding on site. Earlier spring butterflies like Orange Tip will have been missed in these late visits, but are likely present because the food plant Cuckoo Flower is found. In addition a female of the rare **Brown Hairstreak** *Thecla betulae* was seen in September 2023 and one egg of this species was found on Triangle blackthorn in February 2024. Whilst not found in these surveys, **White-letter Hairstreak** *Satyrium w-album* may be present on site due to a record on Frieze Way three years ago (discussed below). **Black Hairstreak** *Satyrium pruni* are known from Blackthorn in the Woodland Trust planting area only just over Frieze Way from the Triangle (pers. comm. Dave

Wilton of Butterfly Conservation). There is plenty of Blackthorn around the site margins, so searches specifically for rare Black Hairstreak and more surveys for Brown Hairstreak butterflies need to be carried out by specialist recorders. **Purple Hairstreaks** *Favonius quercus* are also known from Stratfield Brake East oak trees immediately adjacent to the Triangle. **19 butterfly species** in total are noted on site or adjacent in hedges.

**Common Blue Damselflies, Blue-tailed Damselflies, Common Darter** and **Emperor Dragonfly** were seen to be using the Triangle as a hunting ground to catch flies; but their breeding site will almost certainly be the nearby Stratfield Brake West constructed wetland or the canal adjacent to that. They will have crossed Frieze Way to access the Triangle for food.

Amongst the **42 beetle species** so far found it is interesting that three species of dead-wood breeding (saproxylic) long-horn beetles were found as single specimens out in the Triangle rides feeding on flowers such as Wild Carrot, Hogweed and Fleabane. They are Black-striped Longhorn *Stenurella melanura*, Spotted Longhorn *Rutpela maculata* and Four-spotted Longhorn *Leptura quadrifasciata*. Whilst none of these are rare nationally, they are biggish impressive beetles found in low numbers and are indicative of the importance of nearby abundant deadwood for their larval development on site or in the adjacent Stratfield Brake Woodland East. Also needing deadwood is the **pintail or tumbling flower beetle** *Variimorda villosa* (no common name) is uncommon and local. The star beetle find was a rare click beetle *Paraphotistus nigricornis*; all these are discussed further below and photographs are in Appendix I.

### **Comments on Invertebrates of Conservation Importance found (7)**

*Myopites inulaedyssentericae*. A picture-wing (Tephritid) fly with no common name (could be imagined to be the 'Fleabane Picture-wing') which only breeds in the flower-heads of Common Fleabane. Several individuals were swept and on one occasion a female was seen ovi-positing (egg-laying) in a fleabane flower. See photographs in Appendix I. This still has a Conservation Status of 'RARE (RDB3)' in older assessment texts (6), but seems to be likely to be increasing with Climate Change and discussion with other entomologists indicates it is now being found more widely. However, it seems to require long-established, large stands of Fleabane for a breeding population - small patches or one or two plants are not enough to support this species. This is the first time I have found this fly in Oxfordshire, despite regularly sweep-netting in wetlands with Common Fleabane in small patches. Distribution maps produced by a specialist in this group of flies (7) show no previous Oxfordshire records at all.

**Paraphotistus nigricornis**. A click Beetle (Elateridae) See photograph in Appendix I. One was swept from a flowery ride on 25<sup>th</sup> June. This is a beetle I have previously only rarely encountered in ancient diverse and protected Oxfordshire meadows. Specifically Oxford Meadows SAC and New Marston Meadows SSSI, neither of which are a long way away. Current Conservation Status 'RARE (RDB3). Its habitat is quoted as wet meadows, wet broadleaved woodland and wetland especially near Sallows. Larvae apparently develop in waterlogged soil. It has a scattered distribution in southern England to northern England, with an old record for south Wales (8).

*Merzomyia westermanni*, the Swiss-cheese Tephritid (picture-wing) fly. One of these spectacular flies was swept from flowers of Hoary Ragwort on 23.09.2023 (See photograph in Appendix I). This species breeds in flowerheads of both Common and Hoary Ragwort found on site. It used to be Notable (Nationally Scarce) but may be being found more widely these days, so a better description might be 'extremely Local across the south of UK'.

*Variimorda villosa* (a tumbling flower beetle or pintail beetle, family Mordellidae). See photograph in Appendix I) Nine adults of this species were swept from flowers on 9<sup>th</sup> July and similar numbers swept from flowers on every visit thereafter. Adults feed on pollen and nectar. Larvae are likely to be in deadwood or plant stems and it is often found near willows; could be breeding in the piles of dead willow poles left from coppicing or in the abundant deadwood in the nearby mature woodland. I have previously encountered this beetle only rarely in Oxon and never seen the frequent numbers found here. Currently this species is described as 'widespread though very local in woodlands across the south of England and Wales' (9).

**Cinnabar Moth** *Tyria jacobaea*. The banded yellow and black caterpillars of this striking black and red day–flying moth species were noted feeding on Hoary Ragwort on 9<sup>th</sup> July. This species has Conservation Status as a Section 41 Species of Principal Importance under the 2006 NERC Act in England (Previously UK BAP Priority Species). It is however fairly common in good habitats with ragworts in Oxfordshire.

White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrium W-album*. Whilst not found in the current surveys actually on the Triangle site, I found a single caterpillar of this butterfly under an Elm leaf on Frieze Way on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (see photograph in Appendix I). It is therefore highly likely to be also breeding on the Elms on the Frieze Way side of the Triangle as well, or the Elms in Stratfield Brake East woodland. It is a habitat specialist butterfly that has shown national decline. The charity Butterfly Conservation records and calculates population trends in butterflies. They calculate an abundance trend of -30% for White Letter Hairstreak (State of UK Butterflies 2022). Adults can move regularly between trees up to 300m apart. Many colonies are restricted to a small group of trees, but dispersal appears quite common and individuals have been seen several kilometres from known breeding sites (10). This species has **Conservation Status as a Section 41 Species of Principal Importance** under the 2006 NERC Act in England (Previously UK BAP Priority Species).

**Brown Hairstreak** *Thecla betulae*. One adult female butterfly was photographed inside the Triangle on 07.09.2023. (see photograph in Appendix I). This butterfly breeds on blackthorn suckers in sunny and sheltered situations. It is known also from blackthorn at the Stratfield Brake Woodland Trust site across Frieze Way. It is local species that lives in self-contained colonies that breed in the same area year after year. It is listed as Vulnerable on the new Butterfly Red List. **Conservation Status as a Section 41 Species of Principal Importance** under the 2006 NERC Act in England (Previously UK BAP Priority Species). A brief survey for eggs in spring (17.02.2024) on the blackthorn revealed **one egg**, but there was not time to search all likely bushes, could easily be more so the Triangle is a potentially important breeding site.

### **Conclusions and Discussion**

The Triangle has been shown here to be a site with considerable biodiversity of plants and invertebrates, with some rare species and interesting records in a few other groups such as fungi and bats. Any assumption that the big area of willow coppice in the site centre means low biodiversity has been shown to be wrong, mainly because (unknown before these surveys) underneath the coppice is a complete herb layer with a diversity of herbaceous plants, flowering in abundance in summer, dominated by Common Fleabane, with the red-listed Corn Mint and including two species of Orchids. This community is adapted to the heavy clay winter-wet soil plus the management regime and in my opinion would be very difficult to re-create. The tenant's non-intensive rotational willow coppice management of the site centre is the best thing that could have happened here to maximise biodiversity, especially of flowers and invertebrates. Abundance of common insects is important as

well as diversity. The sheer abundance of common leaf-feeding beetles on the osier coppice growth will be important as a food resource for all species higher up the food web, particularly insectivorous birds and bats. Recent decline of insect populations is causing much concern, but insect decline is not observable here.

Apart from the good overall invertebrate biodiversity it is particularly notable how the abundant summer and late summer flower resource supports the needs of all vital pollinating insects that are in national decline (bees, flies etc.) **at a time when flower resource in other habitats, such as verges or meadows, is not available** (due to being in seed or cut for hay).

#### Why is the Triangle so rich in biodiversity?

- 18 years from willow coppice planting time for natural colonisation of an abandoned field/motocross track wildlife has had plenty of time to move in from rich woodland & hedgerows that surround it on all sides.
- No public access for 18yrs. No dog mess and nutrient pollution. No fires to damage deadwood.
- Low nutrient clay soil (probably 20 years of no arable and fertilizer input and willow harvesting removes nutrients) wildflowers thrive in low nutrient soil.
- No use of pesticides, in particular insecticides.
- Diversity of soil type and hydrology some areas drier soil, much of the site wetter heavy waterlogged clay soil, (even small scale variation like deep rutting from heavy vehicles creates localised micro-wetland habitats in water-filled ruts).
- Winter waterlogging selects for range of wetland plants that can tolerate inundation BUT also stand complete summer soil drying, such as: Common Fleabane, Great Willow Herb, and Corn Mint that provide an **abundant late summer pollen and nectar resource for all pollinating insects**,
- Marginal species-rich old thick hedgerows or tree belts good colonisation by seed of plant species from these edges and from the ancient woodland (to south) allowing species previously limited to margins to move in and colonise centre quite quickly.
- Proximity to Stratfield Brake East to the south and Stratfield Brake West Ancient Woodland and Woodland Trust new tree-planting and the new wetland complex on the western side of Frieze Way, nearer the sports ground. Mobile species from all these areas can cross Frieze Way to use the food resources available in the Triangle (beetles, flies frogs,bats, dragonflies, damselflies)
- Planting of a big area of the centre of the site with Osiers for harvesting for fencing. A species of Willow all species of Willow tree can support a great diversity of invertebrates.
- Planting of a diversity of trees and scrub at the northern end intention to create a new diverse woodland with shrubs, somewhat limited by subsequent ash dieback removing some planted trees; but with natural colonisation by grey willow and hawthorn compensating for this loss.
- Coppice management of rotational cutting keeps willow at the shrub stage and the upright (non-spreading) growth of the Osier branches prevents excessive shade developing underneath, therefore many different herbaceous plants including **orchids** can live actually under and between the Osiers.
- ROTATIONAL Willow coppicing (cutting down blocks of willow shoots) moves around the site annually the regular creation of new sunny sheltered glades is ideal for flowers and warmth-loving insects like butterflies that like to bask. By the time the willow in a block has

re-grown again, a new sunny glade is being formed nearby. Management promotes biodiversity.

- This results in the site centre being a mosaic of old, uncut tall willow, half regrown sprouting willow and newly cut bare areas. **Vegetation mosaics are always good for overall biodiversity**, especially of bird and invertebrate life.
- Cutting of the access rides vegetation annually (at least) provides a type of meadow management that promotes herbaceous plant and insect diversity in these permanently open sunny areas.

I consider there is sufficient diversity of plants and invertebrates at this Triangle site for it to be **worthy of consideration for District Wildlife Site Status**, it would be a good extension to the existing Stratfield Brake DWS. Currently the Triangle habitats and species are valuable in themselves, but they also perform a very important role in supporting and protecting the wildlife of the narrow strip of priority habitat Ancient Woodland to the south (Stratfield Brake East) which is also in the **core zone of the Proposed Nature Recovery Network for the County** (12). Without the Triangle as it is now, a carefully managed sustainable willow coppice, this valuable small woodland site will suffer damaging isolation.

The aim of these surveys has been to find the biodiversity present and results so far show it is a rich site; even if the habitats in the site centre do not pigeon-hole to any Priority Habitat on the UK Habitats Inventory. Biodiversity is species-richness - the total of all plant, animal and fungal species on any site. It has been amply demonstrated that this is a high biodiversity site. The total of all species so far found is 314 without even full surveys. There will be many more species to find.

I would expect a very high percentage of the plant and invertebrate species found (including most of the rare or notable ones) to be eliminated by plans for development of a football stadium and associated structures. Mobile animals like bats would be disadvantaged by having to find another feeding area.



### Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to the tenant who manages the sustainable willow coppice for access to the site, sometimes at short notice. Thanks are due to Andy Pedley for a walk with his bat detector and to entomologists Roger Booth and John Paul for help with beetle identifications.

### References

1. Old Maps showing Stratfield Brake woodland published 1882-1887 <u>https://www.british-history.ac.uk/os-1-to-10560/oxfordshire/033</u>

2. https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/2186840.growing-problem-no-longer/.

3. <u>http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/changing\_willow.html</u> If you search for 'Kidlington' on the page you will find reference to the Triangle planting in the middle of this text:

"Slough Heat and Power is part of Thames Valley Energy, committed to growing biomass alternatives. This field is owned by Oxfordshire County Council and is growing coppice Willow to be harvested and used to heat Shortenills Primary School. It had the first cut Figure 6 Field at Kidlington Oxford. Map Ref FP 499121 (author's photo) in winter 2007 and will now be grown on for three more years before being harvested. At that time the Willow will be expected to be yielding about 10 od tonnes / ha (oven-dried tonnes/fuel per hectare) It can continue being harvested every two or three years for up to twenty years."]

4. Erskine S.E., et al. 2018. Oxfordshire's Threatened Plants: a register of the rare and scarce plants of the administrative county, and of vice-county 23. Pisces Publications

5. The New England Red Data List of Vascular Plants

https://bsbi.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm\_uploads/England\_Red\_List\_1.pdf

6. Falk. S 1991 A Review of the Scarce and Threatened Flies of Great Britain (part1) JNCC

7. Clemons, L., 2004 A provisional atlas of the Tephritidae (Diptera) of Britain and Ireland version 2. Bulletin of the Dipterists Forum No 57.

8. Hyman, P.S. (revised Parsons, M.S.). 1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain. Part 1*. UK Nature Conservation: 3. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

9. Variimorda villosa in https://www.ukbeetles.co.uk/mordellidae

10. White-letter Hairstreak in <u>https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/white-letter-hairstreak-psf.pdf</u>

11. UAAAF photos 1942-43 online https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerialphotos/record/us 7ph gp loc271 v 5014

12. Proposed Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire: <u>https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/oxfordshires-nature/oxfordshires-nature-recovery-network</u>

## **Appendix I**

## Photographs of Vegetation types (Habitats) present in the Triangle, Flooding and Species of Note (all photographs are my own)



Northern fenced scrub and tree planted area, Fleabane field layer just starting to flower 12.08.2023



Northern fenced off mixed scrub area. Berrying Hawthorn with Flowering Fleabane field layer (left) and berrying Guelder Rose (right).12.08.2023.



Eastern ride adjacent to marginal tree belt along Oxford Road. Very winter-wet sedgedominated area at the south (on left) 12.08.2023, Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* dominated eastern ride further north (on right) 19.08.2023



Southern most grassy and Common Fleabane-rich ride adjacent to Stratfield Brake (left) - 29.07.2023. Western margin of thick Elm and bramble scrub margin adjacent to Frieze Way (right) - 25.06.2023.



Eastern marginal ride adjacent to Oxford Road, yellow Wild parsnip *Pastenaca sativa* flowers in foreground (left). Mature Oak trees and Blackthorn scrub on this margin further to the south (right) - both 29.07.2023.



English Elm *Ulmus procera* on eastern margin next to Oxford Road, dying due to Dutch Elm Disease, much standing deadwood. Flower-rich scrub and buried fence in the foreground. 29.07.2023



Two views of the wide grassy ride at north end of site in full flower, wet meadow-like flora with abundant flowers of yellow Common Fleabane, white Wild Carrot and pink Great Willow herb. Under overhead cabling - 12.08.2023.



Sheets of Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* in full golden flower under Osier coppice blocks - 06.08.2023 & 12.08.2023



Osier willows cut and bundled ready for use. A new temporary glade created - 29.07.2023

Flooding and ground conditions in the Triangle during autumn, winter 2023 and spring 2024



Winter flooding of the site, photographs from 02.01.2024 to 17.02.2024. Last photo shows how flooding is making leaking gas main repair by SGN very difficult

### Photographs of Species of Note found in the Triangle



Osier willow leaves extensively grazed by beetle larvae of various common leaf beetles and the Willow Leaf Beetle *Lochmaea caprea* (one of the several species responsible for the feeding damage).



All common insects love Fleabane flowers. Buff-tailed Bumble bee *Bombus terrestris* queen (left). Large numbers of Honey Bees *Apis mellifera* (centre) also use the flowers as do hoverflies e.g. *Volucella inanis* (right). 12.08.2023



*Myopites inulaedyssentericae.* A rare small picture-wing (Tephritid) fly which breeds in the flower heads of Common Fleabane. Here females are shown, one (right) actually in the process of oviposition (egg-laying) into the Fleabane flower head - 20.07.2023.



**The Swiss-cheese Tephritid (picture-wing) fly** *Merzomyia westermanni*. This Notable/Very Local fly breeds in flowers of Hoary Ragwort. One swept on 23.09.2023.



White Letter Hairstreak *Satyrium w-album* butterfly adult and caterpillar. Adult photo from my personal archive, (not within the Triangle) but the caterpillar on right was found on an elm leaf on adjacent Frieze Way on 15.05.2020



**Brown Hairstreak Butterfly** *Thecla betulae*, photographed resting under an Elm leaf on the inside of the Frieze way hedge to the Triangle on 07.09.2023. Egg on blackthorn nearby 11.02.2024



**Red-tipped Clearwing Moth** *Synanthedon formicaeformis* (left). Caterpillars breed in willow twigs, especially Osiers. Found in the Triangle on 06.08.2023. **Dusky Plume moth** *Oidaematophorus lithodactyla* (right). Caterpillars breed in Fleabane flowers. 20.07.2023.





**The deadwood-breeding pin-tail Mordellid beetle** *Variimorda villosa*.29.07.2023 The right hand photo shows this beetle (centre) and 3 other metallic green beetles *Oedemera lurida* on the flowerhead of Wild Carrot at the Triangle, A maroon single flower in the centre is normal for Wild Carrot.



*Paraphotistus nigricornis*. A rare click beetle swept from a ride at the Triangle on 25.08.2023. Note the golden hairs which tend to rub off. Photo from my personal photo archive, from Oxford Meadows SAC in 2016, a site a short distance to the south-west of the Triangle.



Three deadwood-breeding Longhorn Beetles found on flowers in the Triangle. Spotted Longhorn beetles *Rutpela maculata*, mating pair on Hogweed flowers (left). Four-spotted Longhorn *Leptura quadrifasciata* on Teasel flowers (centre) and Black-striped Longhorn *Stenurella melanura* on Rose flower (right). All common, but spectacular deadwood breeding beetles. Various dates in July and August.



Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus tenuis* (Scarce in Oxon, in county Rare Plants Register) on 09.07.2023 in a ride (left) and Corn Mint *Mentha arvensis* under Osier coppice (on New England Red List) 29.07.2023 (right).



**Sweet Briar (Eglantine, apple scented leaves) wild rose** *Rosa rubiginosa* (top left) and the rare small-leaved **hybrid white flowered Sweet Briar Rose** that awaits identification by a wild rose expert (right and below). This last on the eastern ride along the wire fence line 09.07.2023 and 07.09.2023.



Male Osier willow catkins flowering on 24.02.2024. Food for early flying insects, providing nectar and pollen which can also taken by birds such as Blue Tits, example here.



Common spotted orchids *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (left) and Pyramidal orchids *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (right) under willow coppice and surrounded by Common Fleabane plants, 25.07.2023



**Fungi**. Sweet Poison Pie *Hebeloma sacchariolens* (left) and a Fibre cap *Inocybe* sp. (right). Both mycorrhizal with the roots of the Willows (Osiers) 12.08.2023 & 29.07.2023.



Rare **Scented Bracket** *Trametes suaveolens* on dead wood of eight old Osier coppice stools on 17.02.2024

#### Dr J A Webb March 2024

#### Appendix II Tables of Species Recorded in the Triangle

(YELLOW highlighting indicates species of especial note or designated Conservation Status - see discussions in main text above)

#### Conservation Status definitions and criteria for rarity:

UKBAP - UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species, now known as Species of Principal Importance or Section 41 species in the NERC Act 2006.

**RDB** - Red Data Book listed

**RDB1** - Endangered (at risk of extinction)

**RDB2** -Vulnerable (species declining or in vulnerable habitats, or with low populations, likely to move to Endangered due to factors such as habitat destruction)

**RDB3** – Rare / Lower Risk (Near Threatened) (small populations, at risk, species estimated to exist in only 15 or fewer modern 10km squares nationally)

NT - Near Threatened (as above)

N or NS Notable / Nationally Scarce - Lower Risk species estimated to occur within the range of only 16-100 modern 10km squares nationally ('a' category more uncommon than 'b' category)

Local - Restricted distribution, usually confined to specific habitats

**RPR - Rare Plants Register** for Oxfordshire, produced by the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire (published as 'Oxfordshire's Threatened Plants'). A species is included in the final register, if it occurs in 10 or fewer sites in the county (scarce) and three or fewer sites (rare). Also included are all species on the UKBAP priority list, irrespective of how common they are in Oxfordshire, and species on the national red list.

The Triangle	Species Surveys 2023	Judith A Webb		Grid ref SP 4986 1206			
Scientific name	Common name	group	date	Abundance	Method	Habitat	Comment
PLANTS, INC HORSETAIL	& MOSSES						
Acer campestre	Field Maple	flowering plant	29.07.2023	numerous	field observation	hedge line along eastern side	
Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	drier areas
Agrostis gigantea	Black Bent	flowering plant	12.08.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	east and southern side
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	flowering plant	25.06.2023	frequent	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	
Ajuga reptans	Bugle	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	wetter areas
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard	flowering plant	09.07.2023	rare	field observation	under trees on west side tree belt	near Stratfield Brake East woodland
Alopecurus geniculatus	Marsh Foxtail	flowering plant	29.07.2023	1 x 4m patch	field observation	willow coppice	
Anacamptis pyramidalis	Pyramidal Orchid	flowering plant	25.06.2023	43	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	
Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel	flowering plant	09.07.2023	rare	field observation	open rides and wayleave area	
Arctium minus	Lesser Burdock	flowering plant	29.07.2023	1	field observation	southern most ride margin	
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Aster sp.	Michaelmas Daisy	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	rthern scrub & open grassy flowery rid	most in northern scrub area
Bellis perennis	Common Daisy	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	near entrance, path	east side
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	flowering plant	12.08.2023	rare	field observation	scrub	northern area
Betula pubescens	Brown Birch	flowering plant	12.08.2023	rare	field observation	scrub	northern area
Brachypodium sylvaticum	Wood False-brome	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	south side nr Stratfield Brake east
Bromopsis ramosa	Hairy Brome	flowering plant	29.07.2023	rare	field observation	woodland margin	argin to Frieze way nr Stratfield Brake Ea
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft Brome	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Bromus racemosus	Smooth Brome	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	
Calamagrostis epigejos	Wood Small-reed	flowering plant	29.07.2023	2 large clonal patches	field observation	under willow coppice	
Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	marginal scrub/tree belt	
Cardamine pratensis	Cuckoo Flower	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Carex disticha	Brown sedge	flowering plant	29.07.2023	rare 2 patches	field observation	willow coppice	
Carex flacca	Glaucous Sedge	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	
Carex hirta	Hairy Sedge	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Carex otrubae	False Fox-sedge	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	especially in the south-east corner
Carex remota	Remote Sedge	flowering plant	09.07.2023	rare	field observation	marginal hedge/tree belt	Frieze way side
Carex riparia	Greater Pond-sedge	flowering plant	09.07.2023	one 5m patch	field observation	under willow coppice	west side
Carex spicata	Spiked Sedge s.l.	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Carex sylvatica	Wood Sedge	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and willow coppice area	
Centaurea nigra	Black knapweed	flowering plant	12.08.2023	1 plant	field observation	northern scrub area	
Centaurium erythraea	Common Centaury	flowering plant	09.07.2023	rare	field observation	open rides and wayleave area	
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	scrub	planted in scrub at northern end of site
Corylus avellana	Hazel	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	scrub	planted in scrub at northern end of site
Crataegus monogyna	Common Hawthorn	flowering plant	25.06.2023	frequent	field observation	arginal scrub/trees & in Willow coppi	young, colonising willow coppice area

Scientific name	Common name	group	date	Abundance	Method	Habitat	Comment
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's Tail	flowering plant	09.07.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Dactylis glomerata	Cocksfoot grass	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	Common Spotted Orchid	flowering plant	25.06.2023	52 flower spikes	field observation	grassy rides around willow coppice	also under willow coppice
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted Hair-grass	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Dioscorea communis	Black Bryony	flowering plant	29.07.2023	rare	field observation	woodland margin	urgin to Frieze way nr Stratfield Brake Ea
Dipsacus fullonum	Teasel	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides in wetter ruts	
Eleocharis palustris	Common Spike-rush	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	under willow coppice	in the winter wettest areas
Elymus repens	Common Couch or Twitch	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willow-herb	flowering plant	09.07.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	winter wettest areas
Epilobium parviflorum	Hoary willow herb	flowering plant	12.08.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Epilobium tetragonum	Square-stalked Willow-herb	flowering plant	09.07.2023	casional to locally freque	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Erigeron acer	Blue Fleabane	flowering plant	29.07.2023	1 plant	field observation	open grassy flowery ride	
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	flowering plant	29.07.2023	1	field observation	outhern margin next to Stratf brake ea	st
Eupatorium cannabinum	Hemp Agrimony	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	rthern scrub & open grassy flowery rid	les
Festuca rubra	Red Fescue	flowering plant	09.07.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Galium aparine	Cleavers	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	flowering plant	25.06.2023	frequent	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Glechoma hederacea	Ground Ivy	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	margins nr woodlland	
Helminthotheca echioides	Prickly Ox-tongue	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	adjacent to ancient woodland to south
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	flowering plant	25.06.2023	frequent	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Hypericum hirsutum	Hairy St John's-wort	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Hypericum tetrapterum	Square-stalked St John's Wort	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	
Jacobaea erucifolia	Hoary Ragwort	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Jacobaea vulgaris	Common Ragwort	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and wayleave area	
Juncus conglomeratus	Compact Rush	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	in the winter wettest areas
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	in the winter wettest areas
Juncus inflexus	Hard Rush	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	in the winter wettest areas
Lathyrus nissolia	Grass Vetchling	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	in the drier northern areas
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil	flowering plant	29.07.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	drier areas to north
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	flowering plant	09.07.2023	locally frequent	field observation	rides and under the willow coppice	
Lotus tenuis	Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil	flowering plant	09.07.2023	5 small clumps	field observation	open ride in ruts	south side, winter wet area
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and wayleave area	
Melilotus officinalis	Ribbed Melilot	flowering plant	29.07.2023	1plant	field observation	open grassy flowery ride	
Mentha arvensis	Corn Mint	flowering plant	29.07.2023	locally frequent	field observation	willow coppice	
Myosotis arvensis	Field Forget-me-not	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	

Scientific name	Common name	group	date	Abundance	Method	Habitat	Comment
Pastenaca sativa	Wild Parsnip	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Persicaria amphibia	Amphibious Bistort	flowering plant	09.07.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Phleum bertolonii	Smaller Cat's-tail	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and wayleave area	
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Poa nemoralis	Wood Meadow-grass	flowering plant	29.07.2023	rare	field observation	woodland margin	argin to Frieze way nr Stratfield Brake Ea
Poa trivialis	Rough-stalked Meadow-grass	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	flowering plant	23.09.2023	rare	field observation	open flowery grassy rides	wet area
Potentilla reptans	Cinquefoil	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally abundant	field observation	open ride and under willow coppice	
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	hedgerow and Willow coppice	young, colonising willow coppice area
Pulicaria dysenterica	Common Fleabane	flowering plant	25.06.2023	abundant	field observation	ssy rides, scrub & under willow copp	ice
Quercus robur	Pedunculate Oak	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	marginal hedge/tree belt	
Rhamnus cathartica	Purging Buckthorn	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	marginal hedge/scrub and tree belt	
Rosa canina	Dog Rose	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	marginal hedge/scrub and tree belt	
Rosa canina hybrids	hybrid Dog Roses	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	marginal hedge/scrub and tree belt	
Rosa rubiginosa	Sweet Briar rose	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	within coppice area and margins	mostly southern end
Rosa sp., agrestis hybrid	small-lved Sweet Briar hybrid	flowering plant	25.06.2023	1 bush	field observation	marginal hedge/scrub and tree belt	east side next to wire fence
Rubus cesius	Dewberry	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	marginal hedge/scrub and tree belt	
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	marginal hedge/scrub and tree belt	
Rumex conglomeratus	Clustered Dock	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	wettest areas
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Rumex sanguineus	Wood Dock	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open rides and scrub margins	
Salix cinerea	Grey Willow or Sallow	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	scrub/woodland strips plus within cop	pice area
Salix fragilis	Crack Willow	flowering plant	09.07.2023	rare	field observation	marginal hedge/tree belt	western side next to Frieze Way
Salix viminalis	Osier or basket willow	flowering plant	25.06.2023	abundant	field observation	willow coppice, site centre	the main willow used as coppice growth
Sambucus nigra	Elder	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	marginal hedge/tree belt	
Schedonorus arundinaceus	Tall Fescue	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Sison amomum	Stone Parsley	flowering plant	09.07.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	north side
Sonchus arvensis	Perennial Sow-thistle	flowering plant	06.08.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	flowering plant	29.07.2023	rare	field observation	woodland margin	argin to Frieze way nr Stratfield Brake E
Torilis japonica	Upright Hedge Parsley	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Trifolium campestre	Hop Trefoil	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	drier areas, near entrance
Trifolium repens	White Clover	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Tussilago farfara	Coltsfoot	flowering plant	29.07.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Ulmus procera	English Elm	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	woodland/hedge strip	ast side woodland/hedge to Oxford Road
Ulmus sp.cf. U minor	poss. Small-leaved Elm	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	woodland/hedge strip	west side hedge /woodland to Frieze Way
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	site margins to woodland	
Veronica persica	Common Field-speedwell	flowering plant	06.08.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	

Scientific name	Common name	group	date	Abundance	Method	Habitat	Comment
Veronica serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	flowering plant	25.06.2023	rare	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Viburnum opulus	Guelder Rose	flowering plant	29.07.2023	few	field observation	northern scrubby area	planted
Vicia cf. narbonensis	possibly a fodder vetch	flowering plant	09.07.2023	2 plants	field observation	near the entrance	<u> </u>
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	marginal scrub/woodland tree belts	
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch	flowering plant	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open rides and wayleave area	
Vicia tetrasperma	Smooth Tare	flowering plant	25.06.2023	locally abundant	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Viola sp	a violet	flowering plant	12.08.2023	rare	field observation	western margin	
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail	horsetail	25.06.2023	occasional	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Brachythecium rutabulum	Rough-stalked Feather-moss	moss	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	rides and willow coppice & scrub	
Calliergonella cuspidata	Common Spear-moss	moss	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	rides and willow coppice	wetter areas
Cratoneuron filicinum	Fern-leaved Hook -moss	moss	09.07.2023	rare	field observation	under willow coppice	wet area west side, lime encrusted
Drepanocladus aduncus	Kneiff's Hook-moss	moss	25.06.2023	locally frequent	field observation	open rides and under willow coppice	in the winter wettest areas
FUNGI							
Hebeloma sacchariolens	Sweet Poisonpie	fungus	12.08.2023	5caps	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	adjacent to grey willow shrub
Inocybe sp	a fibre cap toadstool	fungus	29.07.2023	1	field observation	willow coppice	associated with roots of willow
Laccaria laccata	The Deciever	fungus	06.08.2023	4 caps	field observation	under fence east side	east side margin
Phellinus pomaceus	Cushion Bracket	fungus	06.08.2023	1 bracket	field observation	marginal scrub	east side on dead blackthorn branch
Psathyrella candoleana	Common Brittlestem	fungus	12.08.2023	2 toadstools	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	on soil
Trametes suaveolens	Fragrant Bracket fungus	fungus	17.02.2024	brackets on 8 stools	field observation	on cut willow coppice stool	on deadwood
Trametes versicolor	Turkey tail	fungus	17.02.2024	brackets on 11 stools	field observation	on cut willow coppice stool	on deadwood
ANIMALS							
VERTEBRATES							
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	amphibian	06.08.2023	5 juveniles	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	2-3cm juveniles
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	amphibian	12.08.2023	1 juvenile	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	open grassy flowery rides
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	amphibian	29.07.2023	1 adult	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	amphibian	23.09.2023	1 juvenile	field observation	open flowery grassy rides	
Capreolus capreolus	Roe Deer	mammal	29.07.2023	1	field observation	willow coppice	ran from coppice to Strat Brake east
Capreolus capreolus	Roe Deer	mammal	12.08.2023	1 female	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	southern ride
Capreolus capreolus	Roe Deer	mammal	11.12.2023	1f	field observation	in the willows	
Muntiacus reevesii	Muntjac deer	mammal	25.06.2023	1	field observation	woodland margin	heard barking
Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Soprano pipistrelle	mammal	22.09.2023	present (10 passes)	Aural Bat Detector	open ride next woodland	south side next Stratfield Brake East se
Nyctalus noctula	Noctule	mammal	22.09.2023	present(3 passes)	Aural Bat Detector	open ride next woodland	west and south sides
Aegithalos caudatus	Long-tailed tit	bird	01.10.2023	4	field observation	in the willows	
Cyanistes caeruleus	Blue Tit	bird	01.10.2023	1	field observation	in the willows	
Cyanistes caeruleus	Blue Tit	bird	17.02.2024	1	field observation	in the willows	
Parus major	Great Tit	bird	07.09.2023	1	field observation	scrub	feeding in willow coppice
Parus major	Great Tit	bird	01.10.2023	1	field observation	in the willows	
Phylloscopus collybita	Chiff chaff	bird	25.06.2023	1	field observation	scrub woodland margins	heard calling
Prunella modularis	Dunnock	bird	17.02.2024	1	field observation	in the willows	
Troglodytes troglodytes	Wren	bird	09.07.2023	1	field observation	woodland	heard singing
Troglodytes troglodytes	Wren	bird	29.07.2023	2 fledglings	field observation	willow coppice	

Scientific name	Common name	group	date	Abundance	Method	Habitat	Comment
INVERTEBRATES							
Altica lythri	a flea beetle	beetle	09.07.2023	2	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Aphthona lutescens	a leaf beetle	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Aphthona lutescens	a beetle	beetle	23.09.2023	3f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Ischnopterapion loti	a beetle	beetle	23.09.2023	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Atheta (s. str.) aquatica	a staphylinid beetle	beetle	29.07.2023	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Cassida rubiginosa group	a tortoise beetle	beetle	29.07.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Chaetocnema concinna	Mangold Flea Beetle	beetle	09.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Chaetocnema hortensis	a beetle	beetle	23.09.2023	1m	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Coccidula rufa	a small ladybird	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Coccinella septempunctata	Seven-spot Ladybird	beetle	25.06.2023	6	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Cortinicara gibbosa	a beetle	beetle	23.09.2023	1m	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Crepidodera aurata	Willow Flea Beetle	beetle	09.07.2023	2	swept	rides and willow coppice	
Crepidodera fulvicornis	a leaf beetle	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Crepidodera plutus	a leaf beetle	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Cryptocephalus moraei	a leaf beetle	beetle	25.06.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	fromHairy St John's Wort
Cryptocephalus pusillus	a leaf beetle	beetle	09.07.2023	3	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Exochomus quadripustulatus	Pine Ladybird	beetle	07.09.2023	3	swept	open flowery grassy rides	beaten from oak foliage
Galerucella lineola	Brown Willow Beetle	beetle	09.07.2023	5	swept	rides and willow coppice	
Gastroidea viridula	Green Dock Beetle	beetle	25.06.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Gastrophysa viridula	Green Dock Beetle	beetle	09.07.2023	3	swept	on dock leaves	
Harmonia axyridis	Harlequin Ladybird	beetle	06.08.2023	2	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Harmonia axyridis	Harlequin Ladybird	beetle	07.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Hypera meles	a weevil	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Leptura quadrifasciata	Four-banded Longhorn Beetle	beetle	12.08.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	southern ride, on teasel flowers
Lochmaea caprea	Willow Leaf Beetle	beetle	29.07.2023	very numerous	swept	from osiers & willow scrub	
Longitarsus luridus	a beetle	beetle	23.09.2023	4f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Longitarsus lycopi	a beetle	beetle	23.09.2023	2m,3f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Meligethes gagathinus	a pollen beetle	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Meligethes lugubris Sturm	a pollen beetle	beetle	23.09.2023	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Oedemera lurida	a flower beetle	beetle	09.07.2023	3	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on wild carrot flowers
Oedemera nobilis	Thick-kneed Flower-beetle	beetle	09.07.2023	1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Paraphotistus nigricornis	a click beetle	beetle	25.06.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Perapion hydrolapathi	a small grey-green weevil	beetle	09.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Phratora vulgatissimus	Blue Willow Beetle	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Phyllotreta vittata	a leaf beetle	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Platynaspis luteorubra	Ant Ladybird	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Propylea 14 punctata	14 spot Ladybird	beetle	07.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Propylea 14-punctata	14 Spot Ladybird	beetle	09.07.2023	2	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Protapion trifolii	Lesser Clover Seed Weevil	beetle	09.07.2023	2	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata	22 spot Ladybird	beetle	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery ride	

Scientific name	Common name	group	date	Abundance	Method	Habitat	Comment
Rhagonycha fulva	Orange Soldier Beetle	beetle	09.07.2023	numerous	swept	open rides, site margins	on hogweed flowers
Rutpela maculata	Spotted Longhorn	beetle	09.07.2023	mating pair	field observation	woodland edge	on hogweed flower
Sitona lineatus	Pea Leaf Weevil	beetle	09.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Stenurella melanura	Black-striped Striped Longhorn	beetle	25.06.2023	1	tubed	scrub margin	feeding on rose flower on ride margin
Sunius propinquus	a beetle	beetle	01.10.2023	1m	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Variimorda villosa	a pintail beetle(Mordellidae)	beetle	09.07.2023	9	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Variimorda villosa	a pintail beetle(Mordellidae)	beetle	07.09.2023	2	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Aglais io	Peacock	butterfly	29.07.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Aphantopus hyperantus	Ringlet	butterfly	09.07.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Aricia agrestis	Brown Argus	butterfly	29.07.2023	3	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Gonepteryx rhamni	Brimstone	butterfly	09.07.2023	1m	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Maniola jurtina	Meadow Brown	butterfly	25.06.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Maniola jurtina	Meadow Brown	butterfly	09.07.2023	2	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Melanargia galathea	Marbled White	butterfly	25.06.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Ochlodes sylvanus	Large skipper	butterfly	09.07.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Parage aegeria	Speckled Wood	butterfly	06.08.2023	5	field observation	scrub margin	west side
Pararge aegeria	Speckled Wood	butterfly	07.09.2023	1	field observation	open flowery grassy rides	
Pararge aegeria	speckled wood	butterfly	23.09.2023	1	field observation	open flowery grassy rides	
Pieris brassicae	Large White	butterfly	09.07.2023	2	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Pieris brassicae	Large White	butterfly	06.08.2023	1m	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Pieris napi	Green -veined White	butterfly	09.07.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Pieris rapae	Small White	butterfly	29.07.2023	3	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Polygonia C-album	Comma	butterfly	25.06.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Polyommatus icarus	Common Blue	butterfly	29.07.2023	1m	field observation	open grassy flowery ride	
Pyronia tithonus	Gatekeeper	butterfly	09.07.2023	more than 10	field observation	open rides and scrub margins	especially on bramble flowers
Thecla betulae	Brown Hairstreak	butterfly	07.09.2023	1f	field observation	scrub, west side	record already submitted
Thecla betulae	Brown Hairstreak	butterfly	17.02.2024	1 egg	field observation	on young blackthorn	inside western hedge
Thymelicus sylvestris	Small Skipper	butterfly	25.06.2023	2	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Vanessa atalanta	Red Admiral	butterfly	09.07.2023	1	field observation	on oak leaves	
Acronicta rumicis	Knot Grass	moth	12.08.2023	2 caterpillars	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	eating leaves of fleabane
Archips podana	Large Fruit-tree Tortrix	moth	25.06.2023	1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Autographa gamma	Silver Y moth	moth	09.07.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Oidaematophorus lithodactyla	Dusky Plume moth	moth	29.07.2023	2	field observation	open grassy flowery ride	on Fleabane flowers (larval foodplant)
Synanthedon formicaeformis	Red-tipped Clearwing	moth	06.08.2023	1	field observation	southern most ride	sitting on leaves near osiers
Tyria jacobaeae	Cinnabar moth	moth	09.07.2023	7 caterpillars	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	on hoary ragwort plant
Caloptilia stigmatella	White-triangle Slender	moth	23.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Chrysoperla carnea	Common Green Lacewing	neuroptera	06.08.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Anax imperator	Emperor Dragonfly	odonata	09.07.2023	1f	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	hunting down rides
Enallagma cyathigerum	Common Blue Damselfly	odonata	25.06.2023	numerous	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Ischnura elegans	Blue-tailed Damselfly	odonata	25.06.2023	1m,1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Sympetrum striolatum	Common Darter	odonata	09.07.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	

Scientific name	Common name	group	date	Abundance	Method	Habitat	Comment
Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale	Hawthorn Shield Bug	hemiptera	07.09.2023	2 nymphs	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Aelia acuminata	Bishop's Mitre Bug	hemiptera	09.07.2023	3	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Aelia acuminata	Bishop's Mitre bug	hemiptera	07.09.2023	2	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Aelia acuminata	Bishop's Mitre bug	hemiptera	23.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Aphrophora alni	Alder Spittlebug	hemiptera	25.06.2023	3	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Capsus ater	a black bug	hemiptera	25.06.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Cicadella viridis	Green leafhopper	hemiptera	29.07.2023	1	field observation	willow coppice	
Coreus marginatus	Dock Bug	hemiptera	25.06.2023	1 adult, numerous nymphs	swept	open grassy flowery rides	swept from docks
Coreus marginatus	Dock Bug	hemiptera	23.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	*
Deraeocoris ruber	a bug	hemiptera	09.07.2023	1m	swept	scrub margin	
Dicyphus epilobi	a bug on willow herb	hemiptera	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Dolycoris baccarum	Hairy Shieldbug	hemiptera	29.07.2023	1	field observation	eastern hedge line	
Eurydema oleracea	Brassica Bug	hemiptera	12.08.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on Wild carrot flowers
Eurydema oleracea	Brassica bug	hemiptera	23.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Eurygaster testudinaria	Tortoise bug	hemiptera	23.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Eurygaster testudinaria	Tortoise bug	hemiptera	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery ride	
Leptopterna dolabrata	a grass bug	hemiptera	25.06.2023	1m,1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Orthonotus rufifrons	a small bug	hemiptera	09.07.2023	1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Palomina prasina	Common Green Shield bug	hemiptera	06.08.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	on fleabane flower
Pentatoma rufipes	Forest bug	hemiptera	09.07.2023	2	field observation	scrub margin	on elm leaves
Philaenus spumarius	Spittle bug	hemiptera	25.06.2023	3	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Stenodema calcarata	a grass bug	hemiptera	07.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Tetraneura ulmi	aphid fig gall on Elm leaves	hemiptera	25.06.2023	4 galls	field observation	on elms in western tree belt	caused by aphids
Troilus luridus	Bronze Shield bug	hemiptera	23.09.2023	2	swept	woodland margin	
Zicrona caerulea	Blue Shield-bug	hemiptera	09.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Zicrona caerulea	Blue Shield-bug	hemiptera	23.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Andricus kollari	Oak marble gall wasp	hymenoptera	07.09.2023	1	field observation	on oak east side hedge	as typical gall
Andricus quercuscalicis	Knopper Gall-wasp	hymenoptera	06.08.2023	occasional galls	field observation	on oak leaves, east scrub/tree	east margin
Andricus quercuscalicis	Knopper Gall wasp	hymenoptera	07.09.2023	numerous galls	field observation	on oak east side hedge	as typical gall
Apis mellifera	Honey Bee	hymenoptera	12.08.2023	very numerous workers	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	on fleabane& hoary ragwort fls
Biorhiza pallida	Oak Apple Gall wasp	hymenoptera	07.09.2023	as empty gall	field observation	on oak east side hedge	as typical gall
Bombus lapidarius	Black-bodied Red Tail bumble Be	hymenoptera	25.06.2023	1 worker	field observation	on bramble scrub margin	
Bombus lucorum agg	White -tailed Bumble Bee	hymenoptera	25.06.2023	1	field observation	on bramble scrub margin	
Bombus pascuorum	Common Carder Bumble Bee	hymenoptera	25.06.2023	1 worker	field observation	on bramble scrub margin	
Bombus pascuorum	Common Carder bumble bee	hymenoptera	23.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Bombus pratorum	Early bumblebee	hymenoptera	12.08.2023	1 worker	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	on flowers of hoary ragwort
Bombus terrestris	Buff-tailed Bumble bee	hymenoptera	12.08.2023	2 workers	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	on fleabane& hoary ragwort fls
Bombus terrestris	Buff tailed Bumble bee	hymenoptera	17.02.2024	1 Queen	field observation	in the willows	
Colletes hederae	Ivy Bee	hymenoptera	23.09.2023	1f	swept	flowery grassy ride	
Cynips quercusfolii	Cherry gall wasp on oak leaves	hymenoptera	07.09.2023	3	field observation	on oak east side hedge	as typical gall
Gasteruption assectator	Wild Carrot wasp	hymenoptera	09.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on wild carrot flowers

Scientific name	Common name	group	date	Abundance	Method	Habitat	Comment
Hylaeus dilatatus	Chalk Yellow-face Bee	hymenoptera	12.08.2023	1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on wild carrot flowers
Ichneumon sarcitorius	White-striped Darwin Wasp	hymenoptera	12.08.2023	1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on Wild carrot flowers
Lasius flavus	Yellow Meadow Ants	hymenoptera	29.07.2023	workers in nest	tubed	rides & N fenced off scrub area	
Lasius niger	Common Black Ant	hymenoptera	09.07.2023	3	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Megachile ligniseca	Wood-carving Leafcutter Bee	hymenoptera	06.08.2023	1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Aprocerus leucopoda	Zig zag sawfly	sawfly	07.09.2023	grazing sign on elm leaf	field observation	elm scrub, west side	as typical zig zag grazing mark on leaves
Chorthippus albomarginatus	Lesser Marsh Grasshopper	orthoptera	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Chorthippus paralellus	Meadow Grasshopper	orthoptera	12.08.2023	1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Conocephalus fuscus	Long-winged Conehead	orthoptera	29.07.2023	1f	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Leptophyes punctatissima	Speckled Bush Cricket	orthoptera	06.08.2023	1m	swept	elm scrubby margin	
Roeseliana roeselii	Roesel's bush cricket	orthoptera	29.07.2023	1f	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Tetrix undulata	Common Ground-hopper	orthoptera	06.08.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Cheilosa sp	a hoverfly	true fly (Diptera)	07.09.2023	1	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Chloromyia formosa	Broad Centurion	true fly (Diptera)	29.07.2023	1f	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Chrysops caecutiens	Splayed Deerfly	true fly (Diptera)	12.08.2023	1m	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on fleabane flower
Coremacera marginata	Sieve-winged Snail-killer	true fly (Diptera)	06.08.2023	1	swept	northern ride	under power lines
Episyrphus balteatus	Marmalade Hoverfly	true fly (Diptera)	12.08.2023	2	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on Fleabane flower
Eristalis nemorum	Stripe-faced Drone fly	true fly (Diptera)	12.08.2023	1m	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on fleabane flowers
Eustalomyia sp.	an Anthomyid fly	true fly (Diptera)	25.06.2023	1	swept	on leaf at woodland margin	
Herina lugubris	a picture winged fly	true fly (Diptera)	06.08.2023	3	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Limnia sp	a snail killing fly	true fly (Diptera)	06.08.2023	2	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Liriomyza erucifolii	Agromyzid fly on hoary ragwort	true fly (Diptera)	23.09.2023	mines on numerous lvs	field observation	open flowery grassy rides	mines on leaves of Senecio erucifolius
Lucilia sericata	Common Greenbottle fly	true fly (Diptera)	06.08.2023	3	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Melieria crassipennis	a picture wing fly	true fly (Diptera)	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Merzomyia westermanni	Swiss-cheese Tephritid	true fly (Diptera)	23.09.2023	1	swept	flowery grassy ride	northern ride
Myathropa florea	Batman Hoverfly	true fly (Diptera)	06.08.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on fleabane flowers
Myopites inulaedyssentericae	a Tephritid fly	true fly (Diptera)	09.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Myopites inulaedyssentericae	a Tephritid fly	true fly (Diptera)	29.07.2023	3	swept	northern scrubby area & ride	
Myopites inulaedyssentericae	a Tephritid fly	true fly (Diptera)	06.08.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Nyctia halterata	a Flesh fly	true fly (Diptera)	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on fleabane flowers
Phasia pusilla	a Tachinid fly	true fly (Diptera)		1m	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Phytomyza conyzae	an Agromyzid fly	true fly (Diptera)	12.08.2023	leaf mine	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	on leaves of Fleabane
Pipiza sp	a hoverfly	true fly (Diptera)	12.08.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	on fleabane flower
Sphaerophoria scripta	a hoverfly	true fly (Diptera)	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Sphenella marginata	a Tephritid fly	true fly (Diptera)	06.08.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Suillia variegata	a heleomyzid fly	true fly (Diptera)	em 09.09.2023	3	reared	willow coppice	from fungus Hebeloma sacchariolens
Tephritis cometa	a Tephritid fly	true fly (Diptera)	06.08.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Tephritis neesii	a Tephritid fly	true fly (Diptera)	06.08.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Tetanocera phyllophora	a snail killing fly	true fly (Diptera)	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Tipula paludosa	a cranefly	true fly (Diptera)		numerous	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Trypetoptera punctulata	a snail killing fly	true fly (Diptera)	29.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery ride	

Scientific name	Common name	group	date	Abundance	Method	Habitat	Comment
Urophora cardui	a Tephritid fly	true fly (Diptera)	29.07.2023	6 galls	field observation	grassy ride southern end	
Volucella inanis	a wasp mimic hoverfly	true fly (Diptera)	19.08.2023	1	field observation	grassy ride southern end	on fleabane flower
Volucella pellucens	Great Pied hoverfly	true fly (Diptera)	09.07.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Cepaea nemoralis	Brown-lipped Banded snail	mollusc	29.07.2023	2	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Monacha cantiana	Kentish Snail	mollusc	09.07.2023	1	field observation	open grassy flowery rides	
Araneus sp	a spider	arachnida	25.06.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Araniella cucurbitina	a spider	arachnida	06-08-23	2f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Diaea dorsata	a spider	arachnida	23.09.2023	1m	swept	oak tree	swept from west side
Dicranopalpus ramosus s.str.	harvestman	arachnida	07-09-23	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Dicranopalpus ramosus s.str.	harvestman	arachnida	19-08-23	2f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Dictyna sp.	a spider	arachnida	01.10.2023	juvs	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Enoplognatha cf latimana	a spider	arachnida	06-08-23	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Heliophanes flavipes	a spider	arachnida	07-09-23	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Metellina segmentata	a spider	arachnida	19-08-23	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Opilio canestri	harvestman	arachnida	07-09-23	2	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Philodromus cespitum	a spider	arachnida	09-07-23	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Pisaura mirabilis	Nursery Web Spider	arachnida	07.09.2023	numerous immatures	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Tetragnatha montana	a spider	arachnida	09-07-23	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Tetragnatha sp	a stretch spider	arachnida	09.07.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Theridion pictum	a spider	arachnida	09-07-23	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Tibellus oblongus	a spider	arachnida	06.08.2023	1	swept	open grassy flowery rides	
Xysticus cristatus	a spider	arachnida	01.10.2023	1f	swept	open flowery grassy rides	
Xysticus sp.	a spider	arachnida	07-09-23	1 juv	swept	open flowery grassy rides	