

MONITORING ON THE PLAIN

2014



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MONITORING THE PLAIN - SUMMER 2014

THE CONTEXT

In recent years concern has been expressed about the fate of ground-nesting birds, in particular skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*), on The Plain at Wimbledon and Putney Commons (Figure 1 - attached). No successful breeding has occurred since 2007 (Wills, 2013a; 2013b; personal communication, 2014). Recent British Trust for Ornithology data show the skylark population in the UK has declined by one-third (three-quarters of a million pairs) since 1986 (Moss, 2014). In this context the absence of successful breeding on the relatively small area of The Plain is perhaps unsurprising. Nevertheless in nearby Richmond Park, with the benefit of some protection, the skylark population bred successfully in the early part of this century, though more recently numbers have again declined from a peak of 23 breeding pairs in 2008 and 2009 to just 8 breeding pairs in 2013 (Wilczur, 2013). However in 2014 the population appeared to recover with 19 territories noted and some breeding success though the overall number of successful broods is not known (Wilczur personal communication, 2015).

Concern has been expressed by various interest groups regarding the recent management of The Plain which is currently governed by a higher level stewardship agreement with Natural England. This acknowledges its importance as a remnant acid grassland site and, in the absence of grazing, has outlined a mowing regime which is aimed at maintaining the wildlife value of the site. This embraces both floral species management for a diverse sward as well as the opportunities for associated insect and bird diversity including ground-nesting birds species such as, but not only, skylarks. The principal management element is late-summer mowing (Table 1) of the target conservation area (9.7 ha, about 4/5ths of the total area of The Plain, 11.7ha,) with 1 hectare left uncut as a refuge of longer grass-herb sward for the benefit of ground-nesters and, presumably, also making an overwintering refuge for some insect species, small mammals and reptiles e.g. lizards. From spring roughly 1/5th of The Plain experiences a regular mowing regime to maintain its suitability for general recreational use; the remainder, the conservation area, is left uncut until late summer except for three mown pathways to allow the public to traverse the area. Annually, this un-mown area is declared a restricted access zone to all users and especially to dog walkers and their dogs from 1st March to 31st July to protect breeding birds from disturbance.

Over time, at least in the public eye, the skylark has become talismanic and understanding of the wider wildlife value of the site has been somewhat overlooked at least in public perception. This has led to conflicting management requests from different interest groups. In 2014, the Conservators' Natural History Sub-Committee (NHSC) recommended systematic recording of the site to unravel:

- a. The pressures on the site that might be deterring successful breeding by skylarks
- b. Public response to the restricted zone
- c. Floral species present in the conservation zone
- d. Insect diversity
- e. Bird species diversity
- f. Other associated fauna
- g. Sward height
- h. Key environmental factors such as soil acidity

It was also agreed to complement this activity with a summer 'BioBlitz'. This would engage the public with record taking and help to highlight the wider benefits of the area, in particular the floral interest and associated insect diversity.

Table 1 Mowing dates for the Conservation Area of The Plain

Year	Date mowed	Year	Date Mowed
2008	September 27th	2012	August 30th
2009	September 17th	2013	September 20th
2010	August 24th	2014	August 7 th
2011	August 25th		Experimental earlier mowing designed to promote a longer sward the following spring

Note: work under the HLS agreement started in 2008

A. SYSTEMATIC RECORDING

METHODS

A meeting with known local volunteer recorders of the Commons was convened in spring 2014 (Appendix A1). The purpose was to identify an effective strategy to achieve records for The Plain that could inform future management and which were readily achievable by *ad hoc* volunteers. It emerged that with good will and small adjustments good records for birds on The Plain could be gathered (coordinated by DW). Several people were also willing to assist with floral recording, which was a priority since no systematically recorded data were available for The Plain. Floral data were coordinated by RT and another volunteer undertook to provide regular observations on disturbance factors on The Plain (JW). However, gathering data on 'bug life' was potentially more problematic since the area did not coincide with regular monitoring locations of existing volunteers. Subsequently, through seeking help for the associated BioBlitz event, new expertise was found for invertebrate recording (LH, DS, AE, SR). Mammal and other faunal data were gleaned from observational records from the public and recorders when on site for other groups.

Sward Height

Sward height, a key concern, was recorded for the late spring phase only. In autumn 2013 problems with contractors meant the conservation area cut had been delayed until late September leaving little recovery growth period before the winter season. The cut had also been short c.10cm. This coupled with the very wet weather in late winter and early spring gave concerns that The Plain was not in a good condition to attract ground-nesting birds. The NHSC resolved to ensure that in future the conservation area cut took place earlier in the late summer phase and, as far as practicable, left a longer residual sward c.15cm. Research suggests the sward, at least in patches, needs to achieve 20cm in height by the following spring to encourage ground-nesting species (Frank, 2010). It was agreed to monitor the outcome of this (2015 onwards) and to include records from spring 2014 as an initial point of reference.

Flora

Achieving baseline good floral records was a prime objective. Recording focused on the conservation zone with some initial observations noted for the recreation area. Records began in late April and continued until late July. The conservation zone sward was cut in early August. The main recorders were RT and US with periodic assistance from JW, IK and DD. It became clear from pilot surveys that objectively recorded species abundance records (as favoured in academic practice) would be too time consuming for volunteers to achieve and would deflect recorders from achieving comprehensive coverage of the overall conservation area. Instead, a series of walks were undertaken for 2-3 hours duration at each main recording visit. In response to concerns about disturbance to potential ground-nesting birds, recording initially observed from the mown pathways and close proximity. However, following advice from the bird recorders, data gathered in late May, June and July included searching into the heart of the conservation area. Recorders wore 'high-visibility' jackets so that the public would be aware they were not trespassers but scientific recorders.

Public use of The Plain - Disturbance Factors

Public use of The Plain was recorded from May to August. This included records for dogs which were anticipated a major disturbance factor for the area. Particular attention was given to the extent to

which the public complied with the signage for the restricted access zone protecting prospective ground-nesting birds. Records were noted at 5-7 day intervals by a volunteer (JW) who regularly walked that area of the Commons. This information was supplemented on an informal basis by those taking bird and floral records for The Plain.

Birds

Volunteers from the existing extensive network of bird recorders on the Commons agreed to include regular monitoring of The Plain as part of their regular reporting (DW, JWz, AP). This would include observations on common species, e.g. crows (*Corvus corone*) which were otherwise not included in the regular monthly updates of interesting sightings on the Commons. Records were further supplemented by observations from plant recorders when on site (US, RT), from the regular monitoring of people behaviour (JW) and by the Commons' staff.

Insects

Most insect data derives from the BioBlitz, reported in section B. Illness and other commitments delayed start on this recording. New enthusiasts willing to contribute came forward later in the season and current indications are that these new volunteers should be able to augment the insect records in 2015, assuming the plant survey, linking to feeding sources, is repeated.

Other fauna

This was not a major focus. All recorders noted the presence, or evidence, of small mammals, reptiles and amphibians seen during recording work on The Plain or reported by the public.

Environmental Data

Time pressures have restricted this to simple pH records for 2014. Fuller nutritional and textural data could be achieved in collaboration with Kingston University (facilities have been offered) if an additional local volunteer to support this could be found and assuming this seems useful. Eutrophication data may be helpful given the significant dog presence and the objective of high plant biodiversity which is favoured by low soil fertility.

OUTCOMES

Sward height

Over much of The Plain sward height remained very short through the early nesting phase. Typical grass heights recorded ranged from 7 to 18 cm with 30% of all records less than 10cm and 60% less than 15cm (See Appendix A2 for full details). In the southern part of the area, rabbit grazing was probably responsible for the consistently low grass height.

In the 2014 Wimbledon Common Bird Report, it was noted that a pair of skylarks were observed on The Plain in April but did not nest (Wills, 2014). This is unsurprising since field observations show that except in wetter areas, where rushes (*Juncus* spp.) predominated, the grassy sward was still short, often less than 10cm, in late April and remained so for most of May. Large flocks of crows scavenged The Plain. Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were observed w/c 12/5 (RT and JW) emphasising that the area was unsuitable for ground-nesting birds being too wet and lacking ground cover and warmth.

It had been proposed that sward height measurements could be undertaken by, for example, a work placement trainee. However, no-one was available and by late May the plant recorder, who tried to undertake this work, needed to prioritise floral records in the time available for field recording. From late May onwards sward height records are intermittent.

Flora

The detailed floral records are shown in Appendix A3. Eighty plant species were noted over 6 full visits starting on 27th April through to 10th July. These were complemented by shorter visits to verify particular plant's presence; as noted for late May /early June and early July. Some grass data needs further confirmation, particularly the records for the assorted bent grasses *Agrostis capillaris/A.stolonifera* and meadow foxtail, *Alopecurus pratensis*. Verifying the presence of these species and supporting this activity with archive specimens of key grasses would make a useful specific focus for subsequent survey work. The current survey benefited from the discovery of an archive collection file from an earlier survey of the Commons in general. It should also be noted that mosses, though present, and lichens were not recorded during these visits

The survey revealed the high diversity of flora present and testified to a thriving meadow community. This has subsequently been confirmed by feedback from a survey by Natural England from summer 2013, a report not made available until autumn 2014 (Haldane, personal communication, 2014) and not including floral species details.

It was noted that small flowering species such as tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and speedwell (*Veronica persica*) and the hairy sedge (*Carex hirta*) were very evident in the early phase of recording (Figure 2),



Figure 2 – The Plain vista – early season short turf with tormentil

whereas by high summer the characteristic appearance of The Plain was a mosaic of flowering grasses, especially velvet bent (*Agrostis canina*) purple moor grass, (*Molinia caerulea*) and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) with other patches of vetches, especially tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*), birds foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) (Figure 3 and Figure 4).



Figure 3 - The Plain vista – high season, knapweed amongst flowering grasses



Figure 4 – The Plain – high season, tufted vetch with flowering grasses

In wetter locations assorted rushes were thriving (*Juncus* spp. and *Luzula* spp.) and extensive areas with young heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) were noted as well as an established more mature heather patch. A distinctive flora was evident in areas where ground water had persisted long into the summer including redshank (*Polygonum persicaria*) and marsh cudweed (*Gnaphalium uliginosum*). Highlights included the occasional presence of southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*), heath spotted orchid (*D. maculata*) and bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) and a patch of adders tongue fern, (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) (Figure 5). Bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*) was recorded and photographed early in the season but later summer records are all for creeping buttercup and meadow buttercup (respectively *R. repens* and *R. acris*). Among the monocots, sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and hairy sedge were most noticeable early in the season with the taller bent grasses and purple moor grass more striking later (when in flower). On the southern side of The Plain a more scrubby area with invasive Poplar seedlings was noted. These were however, being heavily predated by the red poplar beetle (*Chrysomela populi*) (Figure 6).



Figure 5 - Adder's tongue fern



Figure 6 Red poplar beetle on aspen

Various observers noted that yellow rattle (Figure 7) appears to be spreading on The Plain. Some concern was expressed that this species may have been accidentally introduced during work by contractors (not confirmed) and its presence might therefore be detrimental to the objective of good floral diversity. This plant is partially parasitic on the roots of grasses. Research (Westbury, 2004; Natural England personal communication to Haldane, 2014) suggests that this may be beneficial in reducing grass vigour and thereby giving opportunities for a diversity of herb species which might otherwise be swamped by tall grasses. It therefore seems unlikely that its presence is a concern. Yellow rattle was flowering throughout most of the recording period adding to the colourful mosaic that emerged on The Plain and, it must be assumed, adding to the opportunities for associated insect fauna.



Figure 7 – Yellow rattle

Particularly useful in this survey was the pattern of recording at two to three weekly intervals and wherever possible with volunteers surveying jointly. This gave an opportunity to become familiar with the flora making later surveys more rapid; gave greater certainty of identifications; and revealed the gradual pattern of seasonal change. A good initial base line has been achieved which can inform management of the area and testifies to its wildlife value. Regular follow up surveys would be beneficial in terms of monitoring the spread of yellow rattle; the development and spread of heather; alerting to new species and especially garden escapes such as Goats rue (*Galega officinalis*) on the southern margin; and building a reference collection of grasses at different developmental stages to give greater confidence in identification. Some late summer recording, post cut, may also prove useful. General observation showed that tormentil rapidly recovered and flowered after the August 7th cut but no detailed surveying was undertaken at this time. There can be little doubt that other low growing species possibly also become more prominent following removal of the taller vegetation. Confirmatory details would be useful.

Public Use of The Plain - Disturbance Factors

Regular observations showed that the public largely respected the ‘restricted zone’ notices posted for The Plain. Walkers crossing The Plain restricted themselves to the mown paths, and dog walkers commonly leashed their animals when crossing the area. Some minor disturbance was seen at the margins from dogs chasing into the area and rummaging about especially from the path to the (south) western edge of The Plain (e.g. noted 9th May, 25th May). Occasional picnickers (17th May) and sunbathers (19th July) were seen near the heather patch but these events were exceptional. Nevertheless, while the public clearly were respecting the requests for calm in the potential ground-nesting area the site is small and the abundance of noisy crows, as noted by this recorder, Appendix A4, and the presence of birds of prey make this a less than ideal location for ground-nesting birds. In 2014 the persistence of standing water following the wet winter and spring was an additional unfavourable factor in terms of early spring nesting. Given all these factors and the wider context of the national decline in song birds it is perhaps unsurprising that skylarks have not bred successfully on The Plain at Wimbledon since 2007 nor indeed nested since 2012 (Wills 2013a: 2013b; 2014). The full record of public use taken across the summer period is included in Appendix A4. Observations of birds on The Plain and some general floral comments were also taken as part of these routine reports (JW).

Birds

Local volunteer ornithologists regularly record on Wimbledon and Putney Commons. Their sightings are routinely collated into an annual report (Wills, 2014). Though their focus is broad and interest is enthused by noting rare visitors and breeding success across all the Commons, volunteers from among this group agreed to ensure regular records for The Plain throughout the spring and summer season of 2014 (DW, JWz, AP). 28 bird species were observed on The Plain during 51 visits made in this period (Table 2). Crows and wood pigeons (*Columba palumbus*) overwhelmingly predominated. Skylarks though noted did not breed on The Plain in 2014. The presence of birds of prey, such as kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), may be a potential threat or deterrent to smaller birds using The Plain. The bird observers also noted when public behaviour appeared to be causing disturbance to the site supplementing the ‘public use’ records. The full data are shown in Appendix A5.

Table 2 Birds of The Plain: Spring - Summer 2014(51 visits between 5th March and 23rd September, 2014)

Species observed	Total number seen	Status	Species observed	Total number seen	Status
Crow	375	Breeding resident	Reed Bunting	7	Winter visitor, formerly bred
Woodpigeon	142	Breeding resident	Blackbird	7	Breeding resident
Starling	93	Breeding resident	Mistle Thrush	7	Breeding resident
Meadow pipit	43	Winter visitor, formerly bred	Stonechat	6	Migrant, spring and autumn
Jackdaw	26	Resident, occasional breeder	Black-headed Gull	6	Winter visitor
Swallow	26	Breeding summer visitor	Whinchat	5	Migrant, spring and autumn
Mallard	21	Breeding resident	Woodcock	2	Winter visitor
Wheatear	17	Migrant spring and autumn	Skylark	2	Migrant, formerly bred
Redwing	17	Winter visitor	Dunnock	1	Breeding resident
Stock Dove	16	Breeding resident	Jack Snipe	1	Winter visitor
Kestrel	13	Breeding resident	House Martin	1	Migrant, formerly bred
Swift	12	Non-breeding summer visitor	Chiffchaff	1	Breeding summer visitor
Magpie	9	Breeding resident	Sparrowhawk	1	Breeding resident
Common Snipe	8	Winter visitor	Jay	1	Breeding resident

Scientific names are given in Appendix A5

Insects

Most insect records for The Plain post-date the main floral recording phase. It was not until the BioBlitz in July 2014 that expert volunteer assistance with this recording became routinely available. After the BioBlitz some further recording was undertaken both before and after the area was cut in early August. The data are shown in Appendix A6a (which also covers the wider areas of the BioBlitz walks (DS)); Appendix A6b where the recorder (SR) focused on butterflies of The Plain and sampled with particular reference to 'expected species' and in Appendix A6c (DW) which gives a very useful record indicating species changes from 3rd July to 22nd September. Data in Appendix A6a relate specifically to surveying on July 13th including work undertaken later that day after the main BioBlitz activities had finished. The data in Appendix A6c clearly show the fall in butterfly diversity and abundance following the August cut. The record includes 6 species not noted by the two other individual recorders which were also not found during the main BioBlitz events, the guided walks with the public. These are red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), green-veined white (*Pieris napi*), small white (*Pieris rapae*), small copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*), brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) and ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*).

It was clear to the plant recorders that by June the area held abundant insect life and at the time of the BioBlitz several noteworthy butterfly species were recorded including, purple hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*), Essex skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*), small skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*), marbled white (*Melanargia galathea*) and common blue (*Polyommatus icarus*). Meadow browns (*Maniola jurtina*) were by far the most abundant species recorded with over 100 observed in the July-September record, followed by gatekeepers (*Pyronia tithonus*) (26), small/Essex skippers (21) and small heath (*Cenonympha pamphilus*) (20). Of particular interest is the link between insect species present and their food sources, as noted already for the Poplar beetle on the regenerating aspen scrub and seen also e.g. for marmalade hover fly (*Episyrphus balteatus*) on hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) in the 'weedy patch' at the start of the BioBlitz walks. Further information on the link between insect species and preferred food sources would make a useful focus for subsequent survey work and give valuable information for future management.

Other fauna

There was no systematic programme for recording other fauna on The Plain. Rabbits were regularly noted in the southern area in the early evening when plant recording. Their grazing activity led to very short turf on the area close to Somerset Ride. Other fauna were noted during the course of the BioBlitz and a fuller list is given in that section.

Environmental Data

To date only pH records have been taken from 10 locations across The Plain using a simple chemical field testing kit. Values ranged from pH 6-6.5 showing a moderately acid environment.

REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Useful data have been achieved in particular giving insights into floral diversity of The Plain. However, improvements could be made in subsequent surveys. This first season's coordinated recording was challenging in that all recorders found themselves working either differently to past precedent or needing to establish new protocols *ab initio*. Given this pilot work has now been achieved there can be little doubt that a follow up survey in 2015 would be beneficial and that longer-term an agreed interval for repeat surveying should be established, together with agreed protocols for the different recording groups. The protocols should be documented so that in the future new volunteer personnel still record in a similar manner or, at the very least, note clearly changes in procedure adopted. Consistency is essential for good management records (Sutherland, 2006). It would be beneficial to gain some abundance data for flora (Dawson, 2012), though the floral recording group need to consider how this can be achieved without imposing an undue burden given all recorders are volunteers. Similarly, earlier season records for insects would be a good addition if volunteers with time available can be found. Again, with more time, a deeper insight into disturbance factors could be gleaned from the data presented here in Appendix A2 and from similar future surveys. Some daily dog counts, for example at hourly intervals, would be useful. Baseline data on soil nutrient levels especially nitrate and phosphate status, would be helpful since soil enriched by these nutrients, which may occur where dog soiling is not removed, is unlikely to produce a diverse flora.

B THE BIOBLITZ WEEKEND 12-13TH JULY 2014

A general report of the BioBlitz is available on the WPCC website or as a leaflet from the office and is also appended here (Appendix B1a); the programme of events is shown in Appendix B1b. The focal area was The Plain and adjacent scrub, heathland and woodland extending through to the pond at Bluegate gravel pit (Figure 8 - attached) This gave a good range of habitats for the wildlife walks on Sunday 13th encompassing searches for birds, bugs, other fauna and plants. These activities were complemented on Saturday evening by a bat walk centred on Queensmere led by JT from the Bat Conservation Trust, and moth recording in woodland near the Windmill car park coordinated by AE from the Ranger's Office and LHI from Butterfly Conservation. On Sunday morning the Quekett Microscopical Society added to the investigative options while the Wildlife Watch Club organised some fun scientific observational events for young children e.g. spotting leaves that had been chewed and the resulting shapes. The principal aim was to engage with the local public in recording the flora and fauna of the area and to explain the management objectives for the locations visited.

The floral records shown for the BioBlitz are those recorded for The Plain on 10th July supplemented by observations during the BioBlitz walk Appendix B2. The main additions are woodland species, such as oak (*Quercus robur*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), the water marginal plant, yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus* and abundant flowering willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) found in disturbed locations near the heathland area and in the tree clearance zone near Bluegate. Birds observed on the early morning walk on Sunday 23rd July are shown in Appendix B3. These included a young kestrel perched on dead timber in the scrub area of The Plain. The full invertebrate list from the BioBlitz walks is shown in Appendix B4 but this should be integrated with the data shown in Appendix A6a since these records taken by Duncan Sivell from the Natural History Museum were gathered later on Sunday 13th July after the extended morning of the BioBlitz. The July records for butterflies in Appendix A6c, recorded by DW are also pertinent. Moths recorded during the moth-trapping event are shown in Appendix B5. The weather conditions were not ideal for moth-recording and no significant species were noted although one presumed migrant, European Corn Borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*) was recorded. Mammals noted either directly or indirectly from animal tracking and other signs are listed in Appendix B6. These included the two bat species, pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*) noted during the bat walk on the evening of July 12th.

Overall during the focal BioBlitz activities **238** species were noted

Plants	71		
Invertebrates	33	(from the walks only)	
DS data	55	(minus overlaps 11)	net gain is 44
DW data for butterflies	15	(minus overlaps 8)	net gain is 7
Moths	42	(+ 1 from DW survey)	net gain is 43
Birds	32	(excludes owls heard during Bat walk +1)	overall 33
Mammals	7		

These highlight the abundant biodiversity in the small area studied. Even so some species will have been missed. As is typical of almost all ecological recording, with more time more species would be found. Weather conditions on the day were damp with occasional showers which may have led to some species being missed. Sampling across a full 24hour period would be likely to yield a wider range of small mammal species and extend the bird records. A fuller plant record would have been achieved had there been time and opportunity for a small team of botanical enthusiasts to continue recording immediately

after, as well as during, the BioBlitz. The needs of the public participants to find the most attractive, the most unusual, or to understand ecological management of meadow sites does not fully coincide with the time and patience needed for identification and recording. It is important to record scientific as well as vernacular names as was seen when cross checking to eliminate double counting between the different invertebrate lists.

REFLECTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

The BioBlitz yielded much positive feedback. Public participants found it enjoyable and asked for more events. Managers of neighbouring public open-spaces have been inspired to offer similar events in their own local areas (Haldane, personal communication 2015). New volunteer recorders were found as part of the preparation for the event and all of these have volunteered to participate in BioBlitz 2015. Much useful scientific information was gathered since no comprehensive survey of this type had previously been undertaken in the area.

For the future it should be noted:-

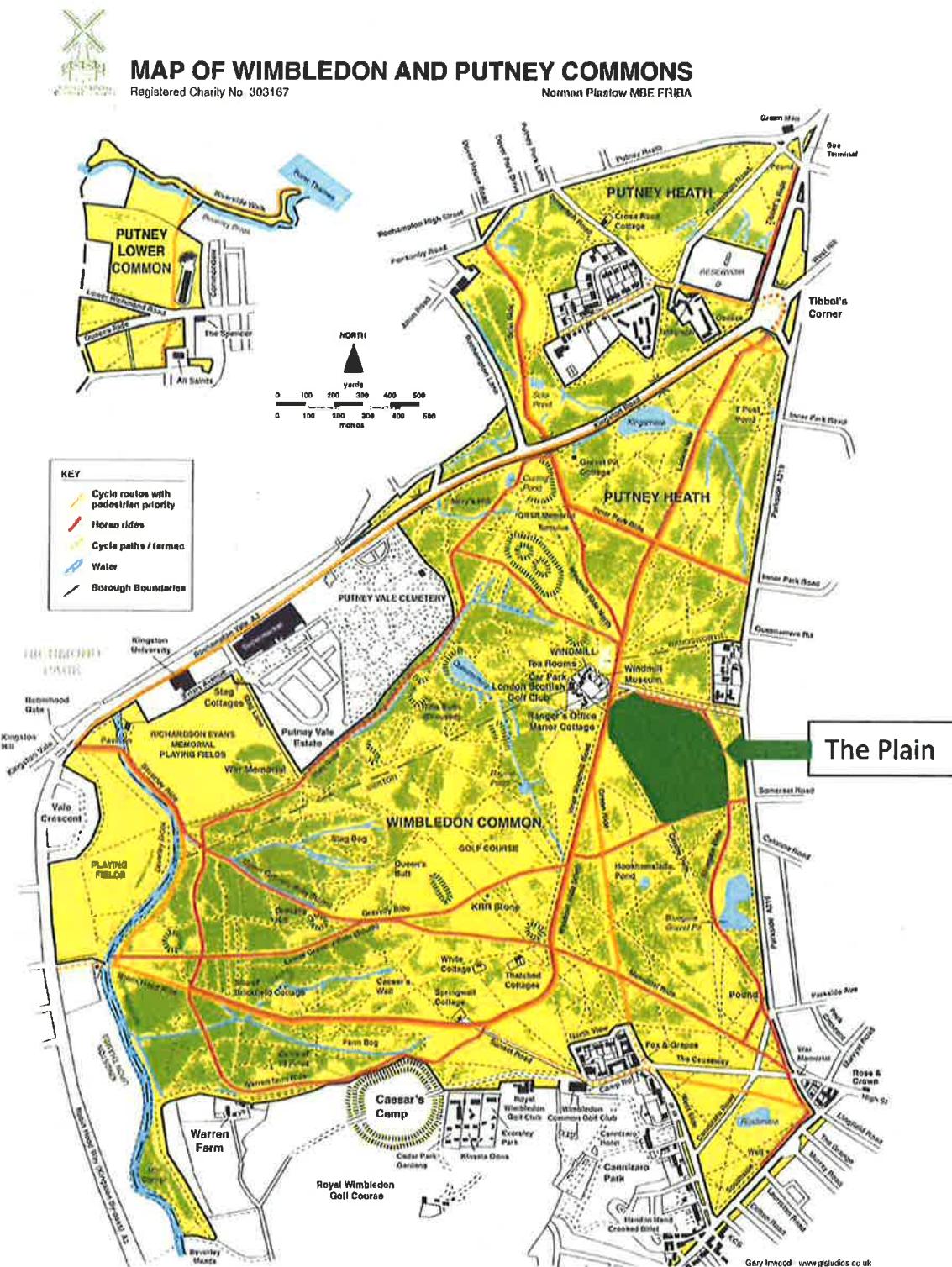
- a. Agreeing the BioBlitz date in good time would help ensure the support of more exert volunteers. In 2014 several potential helpers were on vacation.
- b. An earlier BioBlitz would be better for The Plain flora since by mid-July the flowering period is drawing to a close for many species.
- c. A post BioBlitz event for recorders (with food and drink) would avoid data losses due to poor record keeping.
- d. The timing of the general walks needs better spacing to ensure a more leisurely exploration; to promote better note taking; to avoid leader exhaustion; and to avoid the public experiencing delays at the start of the second event. Better data may also be achieved by having events running morning and afternoon rather than early and late morning events.
- e. More effective use could be made of the Quekett Microscopical area e.g. by collecting, in advance, water samples from Bluegate and infected leaves from the area under search by the childrens' event.
- f. The organisers of the Wildlife Watch club need to be better integrated into the general planning for the BioBlitz.
- g. Consideration should be given to collating data that can be forwarded to GiGL. The recent purchase of handheld GIS equipment should assist in this but an extra handheld GIS recorder would be advantageous so that, for example, the bird walk leader could take GIS observation notes as well as the plant and invertebrate recorders.

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Figure 1 – Location of The Plain on Wimbledon and Putney Commons





NORTH



Scale 2.5cm = 100m

Appendix A1 Volunteer Recorders

Ecological Advisory Group of Volunteers

Name	Initial identifier in text	Active field recorder for the survey of The Plain PM or BioBlitz BB 2014 (main focus or other survey role indicated)	
Kim Bailey	KB		Public use survey for WPCC
Rachel Burgess	RB		BioBlitz advisor
Gay Carr	GCa		Butterfly advisor
Graham Collins	GC		County Moth Recorder
Dave Dawson	DD	PM	Flora
Tony Drakeford	TD		Insects
Dennis Fullwood	DF	BB	Quekett Microscopical
Alison Fure	AF		Contact for bat survey, general conservation matters
Andrew Harding	AH		Flora
Irene Kettle	IK	PMBB	Flora
Les Hill	LH	BB	Butterfly and moth expert
Adrian Podmore	AP	PM	Birds
Simon Riley	SR	PM	Butterflies
Una Sutcliffe	US	PM	Flora
Duncan Sivell	DS	PMBB	Insect expert from NHM
John Tovey	JT	BB	Bat walk for BioBlitz and subsequently
John Weir	JW	PMBB	Flora and disturbance
Jan Wilczur	JWz	PM	Birds
Dave Wills	DW	PMBB	Birds; collator of ornithological volunteer records

WPC Staff and Conservators recording in the field

Name	Initial identifier in text	Active field recorder for the survey of The Plain PM or BioBlitz BB 2014 (main focus or other survey role indicated)	
Angela Evans	AE	BB	Butterflies and moths
Peter Haldane	PH	BB	General ecology and management
Simon Lee	SL	BB	General ecology and management
Ros Taylor	RT	PMBB	Flora and ecological management

Wildlife Watch Club

Auriel Glanville	AG	auriel.glanville@btopenworld.com
Alison Pelikan	APk	alipelikan@btinternet.com

Appendix A2 Sward Height Data

Spring-Summer 2014 (RT)

Date	General location	Juncus sp. height cm	Grass height cm	Comments
27 th April 14	Sample site 1 SW corner close to Somerset ride and Centre Path	23,25,23,20,21, 20,20,18,20,26 Mean 21.6	9,8,10,5,8, 5,5,8,8,13 Mean 7.9	<i>Juncus</i> sparse but noticeably taller than grassy areas. Grass mainly very short. <i>Carex hirta</i> locally abundant (very short); sparse clover. This area may also by affected by rabbit grazing.
	Sample site 2 Immediately S of most western reference post TQ232721	29,20,34,27,22, 18,23,23,20,23(29) Mean 24.4	10,9,10,6,10, 9,8,12,10,8 9.2	Wetter area with noticeably more lush vegetation, but patchy, still much standing water.
	Sample site 3 <i>Juncus</i> patch between posts 2 and 3 Approx. TQ232722	36,42,36,43,44, 56,47,41,50,29 Mean 42.5	10,14,7,15,11, 16,24,16,24,15 15	Some previous season <i>Molinia caerulea</i> heads seen, up to 70cm tall. Main new growth is much shorter c. 10-15cm but with occasional taller tussocks up to 24 cm.
	Sample site 4 Beside mown path near post 2 (meaning 2 nd post from Windmill Road c. TQ232723)	30,31,27,23,28, 30,31,32,31,40 Mean 30.3	13,15,15,15,19, 16,14,13,13,17 Mean 15	Ribwort Plantain, <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , abundant here.
	Sample site 5 A short distance further E along same mown path (away from Windmill)	Not present	19,19,25,19,16, 16,17,16, 15,15 Mean 17.7	<i>Carex hirta</i> abundant here.
6 th May 14	Mown path to E (Vicinity site 4)	Not present	Mean grass height 15	Noted extensive patches with very fine leaved grass e.g. fescue at 5cm.
12 th May 14	Sample site 1 SW corner close to Somerset Ride and Centre Path	30,29,35,32,32, 25,34,42,39,38 33.6	9,5,12,8,9 2,2,2,11,11 7.1	Suspect rabbit grazing may be impacting on grass height.
	Sample site 2 Close to westernmost post TQ232721	35,37,34,24,21 20,26,23,25,27 27.2	13,12,9,10,11 14,12,11,8,10 11.0	Crows abundant; 2 girls sitting in middle of conservation area. Tallest grass is <i>Molina caerulea</i>

Appendix A4 Public Use of The Plain: Disturbance Factors and Other General Observations

Spring to Summer 2014 (JW)

Meadow Report Friday 9th May 1800 – 1830

Birds

Carrian Crows – 4

Stock Doves – 2

Starlings – 1

Wood Pigeons – numbers flying over

Dogs

One on lead and one not on lead but under control. Both being taken around the SW marginal pathway.
One not on a lead and being allowed to rummage in the margins of the uncut square.

Walkers

Two keeping to the pathways.

Meadow Report: 12 May (4-5 pm)

Birds

Carrian crows: 5 –15 (either on the ground feeding or flying around)

Whinchat – 1 (female in the uncut square)

Wood Pigeons – occasional ones flying around.

Dogs

1 unleashed running around, but not inside, the uncut square

3 unleashed but under control being taken along the mown pathways

6 unleashed but under control walking along the Triangle margin pathway.

Walkers etc.

8 PE exercising near to Inner Windmill Rd.

4 walking on the mown pathways

Botany etc.

The whole Meadow area is looking particularly verdant obviously benefitting from the copious supply of ground water. Now that the flooded areas have virtually dried up there has been a strong recovery of grasses (the reseeded areas, mainly with Perennial Ryegrass, are showing strong growth). It's too early to confirm any evidence of casualties resulting from the prolonged flooding but these are most likely to be Creeping Buttercups, Cinquefoil, Tormentil, Daisies and Cranesbills.

Grasses

All are obviously benefiting from the mild late winter and early spring. In flower at the moment are Sweet Vernal, and Meadow Foxtail.

Flowers

Creeping Buttercup and Tormentil colonies are showing colour.

Sedges and Rushes

Wood Rush is flowering. Hard rush although yet to flower should benefit from the very moist boggy conditions.

Meadow Report: 17 May (6 – 6.30 pm)

Birds

Carrian Crows – 30 + (By the time I left they had all departed to the surrounding trees).

Dogs

1 unleashed running around close to the horseride along the Meadow's SE margin

1 on lead being taken across the newly mown area

Numerous unleashed but under control being walked along the Triangle border pathway.

Walkers etc.

2 picnicking groups (2 and 4 persons) close to the Heather Patch

1 group of 16 persons playing ball games in the NW corner of the Meadow's recently mown area.

Botany etc.

Grasses

Annual Meadow Grass and (particularly early) Moor Mat Grass in flower. Cocksfoots, Fescues and Bromes all showing panicle extension

Flowers

Meadow Buttercups in full flower (no Bulbous Buttercups in the Meadow). Although not yet in flower Ribwort Plantain, having benefitted from the ample ground water is very much in evidence. Common Sorrel, coming into flower, is also very much in evidence in the uncut square.

Plain/Meadow Report 25 May (6 pm – very brief visit)

Birds

Carrion Crows: 10 – 15

Starlings: 2

Swifts: 4

House Martins: 2

Dunnock: 1

Dogs

1 unleashed rummaging in the Meadow margin alongside the Triangle Border pathway.

1 unleashed running around on the W side of the uncut square – encouraged by retrieving a ball being thrown around.

1 unleashed being taken along Inner Windmill Rd. until at the Meadow, where it was then put on its lead, and taken towards Parkside along the mown pathway past the uncut square. This dog was one of the Retriever group, particularly prone to rummaging around in the undergrowth.

6 unleashed under control being led along the Triangle Border pathway.

Walkers etc.

Numerous walkers and a group playing ball games in the recently mown area adjacent to Inner Windmill Road.

A group of 4 walking along the E edge of the uncut square.

Botany etc.

Midseason grass species now coming into flower. Spotted the first Yellow Rattle flowers, very early.

Plain/Meadow Report 29 May, early pm

Birds

Carrion Crows: 5 max, flying around or foraging.

Kestrel: 1

House Martin: 1

Dogs

1 unleashed, running around and rummaging along the western edge of the Heather Patch. It was there for a considerable time while its owner was resting on the ground.

2 on leads being led by their owners across the Meadow along the E edge of the uncut square.

Walkers

Ros, Una and me in the Meadow, uncut square etc.

Plain/Meadow Report 10 June, 6 pm (brief visit)

Birds

Apart from 3 carrion crows on the ground and nothing flying around, so far as I could see, the area was bereft of any obvious bird life.

Dogs

1 dog being taken SE along the Triangle side of the recently mown area of the Plain. It was unleashed and running around retrieving a tennis ball. Just before they came to the Meadow area it was put in a lead and walked alongside the Meadow towards the Windmill.

2 dogs unleashed being taken across the recently mown area alongside the Inner Windmill road.

Walkers etc.

1 walker keeping to the central mown pathway in the Meadow area.

2 walkers and a runner crossing the W side, parallel with the Inner Windmill road, of the recently mown area.

2 sunbathers on the recently mown area.

Botany etc.

The Meadow mid-season grasses (fescues and holcus in particular) growing strongly providing a vista of flowering panicles. The only breaks in this were the numerous extensive areas of yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), patches of buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*, *R. acris*) and, occasionally, sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*). In the areas of shorter grass patches of tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) are now evident while hidden in the longer vegetation are small colonies of heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and lesser stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*). Hidden away in the longer grass a few solitary grass vetchlings (*Lathyrus nissolia*) are now coming into flower.

Plain/Meadow Report 18th June (5.30 pm)

Birds

Carriion crows – 8 (2 juveniles)

Starlings – 8

Swallow – 1.

Dogs

One, off the lead, being kept to heel and taken across the recently mown area. Several dogs, all leashed, being walked along the Triangle border pathway.

Walkers etc.

Walkers on the newly mown area – 6

Walkers on the Meadow – 2 on the central mown pathway

Sunbathers – 2 on the newly mown area.

Plain/Meadow Report 20th June (5 pm)

Birds

Carriion crows – 2

Wood pigeons – plenty of activity on the wing.

Dogs

Nothing actually on the Plain/Meadow but several, all on leads, being led along the Triangle border pathway.

Walkers etc.

One person sunbathing and 2 walking on the newly mown area.

Botany etc.

Have eventually found a small colony of wavy hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) located just beyond the SE corner of the uncut square in amongst a large patch of purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*). It is also growing in other locations on the Common and almost always in association with purple moor grass.

The two colonies of yellow loosestrife (*Lysimachia punctata*) – garden escapes I assume – growing in the SE corner of the Plain are nicely in flower at the moment.

Plain/Meadow Report 26th June, 5.30 pm (brief visit)

Birds

Carriion crows – 2

Starlings – 9
Swallows – 1
Wood pigeons – several flying around.

Dogs

1 on a lead being walked along the edge of the Meadow on the recently mown area.
1 unleashed but kept to heel led by a woman wheeling a pram on the recently mown area alongside the Inner Windmill Road.

Walkers etc.

1 person sunbathing on the recently mown area at the Meadow margin.
1 runner on the recently mown area.
1 cyclist resting on the recently mown area.
2 persons waking across the recently mown area close to the Meadow margin.

Botany etc.

A few days ago I came across a colony of tufted hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) near Ladies Mile. It's very likely to be around somewhere on the Meadow – we must keep a lookout for it.

Plain/Meadow report 29 June (mid am)

Birds
Carrion crows – 2
Swallow – 1

Dogs

1 – Off lead running freely in the newly mown area.
1 – Off lead being kept to heel and led across the newly mown area.
Numerous, mainly on leads, being led along the Triangle border pathway. Two of the unleashed ones strayed on to the edge of the Meadow but the remainder stayed on the pathway.

Walkers etc.

1 – walking along the central mown pathway on in the Meadow.
1 – walking off the pathways in the Western part of the Meadow.
At least 5 walking across the recently mown area.
3 groups of sunbathers/ballgame players in the recently mown area.

Botany etc.

Have found two small clumps of marsh (floating) foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*) growing in one of the shallow depressions along the central mown pathway on the Meadow. Their creeping and genuflect growth habit makes them easy to spot. The depressions normally remain slightly flooded or at least boggy through the winter and spring but over the past few years much drier conditions have been less favourable for this species thus leading to a substantial decline and their incidence. This year's wet spring has probably saved them from becoming completely absent from the Meadow.

Plain/Meadow Report, 2 July (mid morning)

Birds
Carrion crows – 4
Starlings – 8
Wood pigeons – 3
Swallows – 1 (it was interesting to see it 'quartering' the whole Meadow area collecting flying insects).

Dogs

1 – unleashed following its owner along the W edge of the recently mown area, running around and rummaging in the ditch undergrowth alongside Inner Windmill Rd.
1 – leashed being led across the recently mown area.

Walkers etc.

- 2 – persons walking across the newly mown area.
- 2 – sunbathers on the newly mown area close to the edge of the Meadow.

Plain/Meadow Report, 6 July (mid am)

Birds

- Wood pigeons – 12
- Starlings – 1
- Swallows – 2

Dogs

- 3 – unleashed; 2 being led to-heel and 1 running around more freely but all on the recently mown area.
- 1 - leashed, being led across the recently mown area.

Walkers

- 1 – walking on the Meadow's central pathway.

Botany

It's interesting to note that the herbage recovery at the Southern end of the recently flooded area alongside Inner Windmill Road consists almost exclusively of common cudweed (*Filago vulgaris*) and plantain seedlings – most probably greater plantain (*Plantago major*).

Butterflies and moths

Butterfly activity, meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*) and small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), at the moment is largely confined to the hogweed patch at the centre of the Meadow. There are also small moths flying around which I have yet to identify.

Plain/Meadow Report, 15th July 2014 (6.30 pm)

Birds

- Carrion crows – 5
- Wood pigeons – 5
- Starlings – 3
- Swallows – 2

Dogs

- 1 – unleashed, running around and rummaging on the W edge of the recently mown area.
- 1 – unleashed being led along the Triangle pathway, running short distances onto the recently mown area and Meadow.
- 1 – unleashed being led, close to heel, on the recently mown area along the edge of the Meadow.

Walkers etc.

- 2 – walking across the recently mown area.
- 1 – running across the recently mown area.
- 4 – walking along the central mown pathway across the Meadow.

Plain/Meadow Report, 19th July (6.30 pm)

Birds

- Nil.

Dogs

- 1 – unleashed being led along the Somerset Ride and running around rummaging in the long grass on the edge of the Plain.

Walkers etc.

- 5 – a group, walking off the mown track, across the S quarter of the Plain.
- 3 – walking across the recently mown area.
- 3 – sunbathing close to the W edge of the heather patch.

Botany

One result of our wet Spring and early Summer is the myriads of seedling birch, willow and aspen now showing particularly in the Meadow area!

Lepidoptera

Butterfly activity, although now more widely spread, is still confined to meadow brown and small heath species. There are large numbers of diurnally active moths flying around, mainly confined to the shorter grass/rush areas of the Meadow: very small with a wing-span of approximately 2 cm and difficult to identify. The closest match I can get is one of the Pug (*Eupithecia*) family but it needs an expert's identification.

Plain/Meadow Report, 1st August 2014 (9.30 am)

Birds

Carrion crows – 4

Wood pigeons – 2

Starlings – 1

Dogs

5, all unleashed, being led along the Triangle footpath - 4 were keeping close to their owners and 1 was running around on the edge of the Meadow.

2 unleashed being taken to heel across the recently mown area.

3 unleashed being taken across the Meadow mown footpaths - 2 following more or less to heel and 1 running off the central footpath rummaging around recovering a ball.

Comment: It was interesting to note that all the dogs were unleashed – pure coincidence or were the dog walkers reacting to the end of the leashed-imposition period?

Walkers etc.

A group of 2 runners crossing the newly mown area.

2 sunbathing on the newly mown area.

Botany

The Meadow's heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) patch, now in full flower, is looking much better since having been cleared of birch and willow scrub. It reminded me that we still have some cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*) in the Ladies Mile area but the small bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) patch, once in the 'rough' along-side the 17th fairway, has long since gone.

Butterflies and moths

Numbers of meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*) butterflies, appearing throughout the Meadow area, has substantially increased. There are also a few gatekeepers (*Maniola tithonius*), brown argus (*Aricia agestis*) and adonis blues (*Polyommatus bellargus*) all to be seen in the Meadow area. The small moths I saw earlier last month have virtually disappeared

Plain/Meadow Report, 11th August 2014 (6 pm)

Birds

Carrion crows – 4

Wood pigeons – 7

Starlings – 8

Dogs

2 – unleashed on the Meadow.

1 - unleashed on the Regularly Mown area.

Walkers etc.

1 – walking along the E edge of the Heather Patch.

Group of 3 resting/sunbathing on the W edge of the Heather Patch.

Botany etc.

Now that the Meadow has been mown the recent wet weather should have supplied sufficient soil moisture to establish favourable conditions for a strong herbage regrowth response in time for the winter.

Plain/Meadow Report – 19th August 2014 (5.30 pm)

Birds

Wood pigeons – 2

Dogs

1 unleashed , running around, being taken across the Meadow (avoiding the uncut square)

1 leashed, being led across the Meadow (avoiding the uncut square).

Walkers etc.

1 walker crossing the Meadow alongside the uncut square.

Botany etc.

After virtually three months in flower the extensive colonies of tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) are still putting on a good show. The small patches of heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) in the southern section of the Meadow are doing well: partly helped, I suspect, by the annual mow.

Plain/Meadow Report 23rd August, 6.30 pm

Birds

Carrion crows – 14

Wood pigeons – 3

Swallows – 2

Dogs

1 –unleashed being led across the Meadow (keeping out of the uncut square).

Walkers etc.

2 – leading the dog.

Botany etc.

There are at least 3 thriving clumps of creeping willow (*Salix repens*) on the Meadow.

Plain/Meadow Report 27th August, 6 pm

Birds

Carrion crows – 24

Magpie – 1

Swallows – 2

Dogs

1 – unleashed being led alongside Somerset Ride.

2 – unleashed being led across the Meadow alongside the uncut square.

1 – unleashed on the Meadow beside the Heather Patch running around retrieving a ball.

Walkers etc.

Total of 4 with the dogs.

A group of 4 kicking a football around on the Regularly Mown area of the Plain.

Plain/Meadow Report 31st August, 6 pm.

Birds

Carrion crows – 11.

Meadow pipits – 3 (in the uncut square).

Dogs

3 dogs unleashed being led across the Meadow.

Walkers etc.

10 (3 of which leading the dogs) either walking or resting mainly in the Meadow.

2 flying a large kite, in the Regularly Mown area .

2 throwing boomerangs, in the Meadow.

Appendix A5 Birds on The Plain, Wimbledon and Putney Commons - March to October 2014

Sheet 1 of 2

Date	Time	Observer	Species	Birds/ disturbance
05-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Stonechat, 13 Crow, 4 Black-headed Gull, 4 Mallard, 6 Woodpigeon, 1 Blackbird	walker with one loose dog
06-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Jack Snipe, 17 Crow, 7 Redwing, 2 Mallard, 8 Woodpigeon, 2 Starling	
10-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Reed Bunting, 7 Crow, 2 Black-headed Gull, 4 Woodpigeon, 2 Starling	
13-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Common Snipe, 6 Crow, 4 Woodpigeon, 2 Mallard, 2 Starling, 1 Streaked	
15-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Skylark, 1 Woodcock, 1 Common Snipe, 1 Reed Bunting, 1 Streaked, 13 Crow, 5 Woodpigeon, 2 Mallard	Two people walking through uncut section
17-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Common Snipe, 8 Crow, 4 Woodpigeon, 2 Mallard	
19-Mar	pm	Adrian Podmore	1 Woodcock, 31 Crow	
20-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Wheatear, 1 Meadow Pipit, 9 Crow, 7 WP.	
22-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Wheatear, 1 Reed Bunting, 14 Crow, 6 WP., 5 Starling	
27-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Meadow Pipit, 7 Crow, 2 Blackbird, 4 Starling, 1 Jackdaw	walker with two loose dogs
28-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Meadow Pipit, 2 Common Snipe, 4 Crow, 3 Starling	
30-Mar	am	Dave Wills	1 Common Snipe, 5 Woodpigeon, 3 Starling	
31-Mar	am	Dave Wills	10 Redwing, 11 Crow, 9 Woodpigeon, 3 Starling	
06-Apr	am	Dave Wills	8 Stock Dove, 8 Crow, 8 Woodpigeon, 4 Starling, 2 Jackdaw	
09-Apr	am	Adrian Podmore	1 Wheatear, 5 Crow, 4 Woodpigeon	
10-Apr	am	Dave Wills	2 Wheatear, 5 Crow, 7 Woodpigeon, 5 Starling	
11-Apr	am	Dave Wills	1 Common Snipe, 11 Crow, 4 Starling, 2 Stock Dove,	
13-Apr	am	Dave Wills	1 Wheatear, 1 Reed Bunting, 13 Crow, 4 Woodpigeon, 2 Jackdaw, 3 Starling	
14-Apr	am	Jan Wilczur	1 Wheatear	
16-Apr	am	Jan Wilczur	1 singing Skylark	
17-Apr	am	Dave Wills	3 Wheatear, 8 Crow, 2 Jackdaw, 9 Starling, 4 Woodpigeon	
19-Apr	am	Jan Wilczur	Skylark (singing bird), 4 Woodpigeon, 1 Dunnock, 1 House Martin	
24-Apr	am	Jan Wilczur	1 Wheatear	
26-Apr	am	Dave Wills	3 Swallow, 7 Crow, 7 Starling, 2 Woodpigeon, 2 Mistle Thrush	
29-Apr	am	Jan Wilczur	2 Swallows	
04-May	am	Dave Wills	9 Crow, 5 Woodpigeon, 6 Starling, 1 Blackbird, 1 Jackdaw	
06-May	am	Jan Wilczur	3 Swallows, 2 Wheatear, 1 Whinchat, 10 Swifts, 10 Crow, 3 Mistle Thrush, 2 Jackdaw	
07-May	am	Dave Wills	2 Wheatear, 4 Jackdaw, 4 Crow, 9 Woodpigeon	
15-May	am	Jan Wilczur	1 Whinchat, 17 Crow, 2 Mistle Thrush, 2 Jackdaw, 1 Swallow	
15-May	am	Dave Wills	30 Crow, 2 Jackdaw	
18-May	am	Jan Wilczur	14 Crow, 3 Mallard, 2 Starling, 2 Woodpigeon, 2 Blackbird	
19-May	am	Dave Wills	1 Kestrel, 3 Crow, 2 Woodpigeon, 2 Starling	
21-Jun	am	Dave Wills	2 Crow, 2 Woodpigeon, 6 Starling, 2 Swift	
28-Jun	am	Dave Wills	5 Crow, 2 Swallow	
29-Jun	am	Dave Wills	7 Starling, 3 Crow, 2 Swallow, 2 Woodpigeon, 1 Magpie	
03-Jul	am	Dave Wills	3 Kestrel, 1 Reed Bunting, 2 Crow	
04-Jul	am	Dave Wills	Dave Wills	
08-Jul	am	Dave Wills	3 Woodpigeon, 2 Crow, 1 Stock Dove, 1 Swallow, 1 Kestrel	
09-Jul	am	Dave Wills	7 Starling, 5 Swallow, 2 Woodpigeon, 1 Reed Bunting	
28-Jul	am	Dave Wills	4 Crow, 3 Swallow, 2 Kestrel, 1 Reed Bunting	
01-Aug	am	Dave Wills	2 Crow, 1 Woodpigeon, 1 Whinchat	
05-Aug	am	Dave Wills	2 Kestrel, 2 Crow, 1 Woodpigeon	
06-Aug	am	Dave Wills	6 Crow, 2 Woodpigeon, 2 Magpie, 1 Kestrel, 1 Chiffchaff	
06-Aug	am	Dave Wills	7 Crow, 6 Woodpigeon, 1 Swallow	
10-Aug	am	Dave Wills	5 Crow, 3 Stock Dove, 2 Swallow, 2 Kestrel	
14-Aug	am	Dave Wills	5 Crow, 3 Woodpigeon, 2 Magpie, 2 Swallow, 2 Wheatear	
22-Aug	am	Dave Wills	6 Crow, 3 Stock Dove, 2 Woodpigeon, 2 Magpie, 1 Swallow, 1 Whinchat	
29-Aug	am	Dave Wills	7 Crow, 4 Jackdaw, 1 Kestrel, 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 Wagtail	
05-Sep	am	Dave Wills	5 Crow, 4 Meadow Pipit, 2 Woodpigeon, 1 Jackdaw	
18-Sep	am	Dave Wills	13 Crow, 3 Jackdaw, 2 Woodpigeon	
21-Sep	am	Dave Wills	15 Meadow Pipit, 3 Crow, 2 Stonechat, 1 Whinchat	
23-Sep	am	Dave Wills	20 Meadow Pipit, 6 Crow, 2 Stonechat, 1 Jay, 1 Magpie, 1 Common Snipe	
				51 visits to date

Symptoms removed

Sheet 2

Summary of Species observed (28) in 51 visits

Scientific Name	Vernacular English name	total number observed	Status
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Crow	375	Breeding Resident
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Woodpigeon	142	Breeding Resident
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	93	Breeding Resident
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	41	Winter visitor, formerly bred
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Jackdaw	26	Resident, occasional breeder
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow	26	Breeding Summer Visitor
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	21	Breeding resident
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Wheatear	17	Migrant spring and autumn
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing:	17	Winter visitor
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove	16	Breeding resident
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	13	Breeding Resident
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	12	Non-breeding summer visitor
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	9	Breeding resident
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	8	Winter visitor
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting	7	Winter visitor, formerly bred
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird	7	Breeding Resident
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	7	Breeding resident
<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Stonechat	6	Migrant, spring and autumn
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	6	Winter visitor
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat	5	Migrant spring and autumn
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Woodcock	2	Winter Visitor
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	2	Migrant, formerly bred
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	1	Breeding Resident
<i>Lymnocryptes minimus</i>	Jack Snipe	1	Winter Visitor
<i>Delichon urbica</i>	House Martin	1	Migrant, formerly bred
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Chiffchaff	1	Breeding Summer Visitor
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk	1	Breeding Resident
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Jay	1	Breeding resident

A6a Invertebrates found on The Plain and Nearby Locations (DS)

species	common name	location 1	location 2	grid ref	date	habitat	sex	recorder
	order							determiner
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	Chilopoda	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ229718	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland		Duncan Sivell
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	Chilopoda	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ232718	13/07/14	deciduous woodland		Duncan Sivell
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	centipede	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ232718	13/07/14	deciduous woodland		Duncan Sivell
<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	centipede	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	mixed habitats		Duncan Sivell
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	2-spot ladybird	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	mixed habitats		Duncan Sivell
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	7-spot ladybird	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland		Duncan Sivell
<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	7-spot ladybird	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland		Duncan Sivell
<i>Halyzia sedecimguttata</i>	orange ladybird	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>	millipede	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>	millipede	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	millipede	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	millipede	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	millipede	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Lucilia caesar</i>	blowfly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Nephrotoma flavipalpis</i>	cranefly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Tipula helvola</i>	cranefly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Tipula urufa</i>	cranefly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Campsicnemus curvipes</i>	dolly fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Campsicnemus scambus</i>	dolly fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Dolichopus unguatus</i>	dolly fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Gymnopternus aeronus</i>	dolly fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m&f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Gymnopternus aerosus</i>	dolly fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Medetera saxatilis</i>	dolly fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Neurigonia suturalis</i>	dolly fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Sciapus platypterus</i>	flat-footed fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Callomyia amoena</i>	fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Meiosomya rorida</i>	fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Oponyta geminatioris</i>	fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Suilla atricornis</i>	fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Tricholaxania praestuta</i>	fly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Baccha elongata</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Cheilosia pagana</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	Hookhamstead Pond	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	f	Duncan Sivell
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2372	13/07/14	meadow		Duncan Sivell
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	mixed habitats		Duncan Sivell
<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland		Duncan Sivell
<i>Melanostoma scalare</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland		Duncan Sivell
<i>Molophilus aprediculatus</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	meadow		Duncan Sivell
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland		Duncan Sivell
<i>Episyphus balteatus</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland		Duncan Sivell
<i>Episyphus balteatus</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Baccha elongata</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Cheilosia pagana</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Melanostoma scalare</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Molophilus aprediculatus</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Myathropa florea</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Xylota segnis</i>	hoverfly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2371	13/07/14	deciduous woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Dioclea baumhaueri</i>	robber fly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2372	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Dioclea lineans</i>	robber fly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2372	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Leptogaster cylindrica</i>	robber fly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2372	13/07/14	meadow	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Sepsis neocynipsea</i>	sepid fly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2372	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Chrysopilus asiformis</i>	snipe fly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ2372	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell
<i>Rhago lineola</i>	snipe fly	Wimbledon Common	The Plain	TQ229718	13/07/14	birch / oak woodland	m	Duncan Sivell

<i>Rhagio tringarius</i>	Diptera	snipe fly	Wimbledon Common	TQ229718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Myrmica ruginodis</i>	Hymenoptera	ant	Wimbledon Common	TQ229718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Myrmica ruginodis</i>	Hymenoptera	ant	Wimbledon Common	TQ232718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	Isopoda	woodlouse	Wimbledon Common	TQ229718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	Isopoda	woodlouse	Wimbledon Common	TQ232718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	Isopoda	woodlouse	Wimbledon Common	TQ229718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	Isopoda	woodlouse	Wimbledon Common	TQ232718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i> agg.	Isopoda	woodlouse	Wimbledon Common	TQ232718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Ochrodes sylvanus</i>	Lepidoptera	large skipper	Wimbledon Common	TQ232718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Eurytropa hortulana</i>	Lepidoptera	small magpie	Wimbledon Common	TQ232718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Leistes sponsa</i>	Odonata	emerald damselfly	Wimbledon Common	TQ232718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Omocestus viridulus</i>	Orthoptera	common green grasshopper	Wimbledon Common	TQ232718	Duncan Sivell
<i>Omocestus viridulus</i>	Orthoptera	common green grasshopper	Wimbledon Common	TQ233714	Duncan Sivell
<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	Orthoptera	meadow grasshopper	Wimbledon Common	TQ23272	Duncan Sivell
<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	Orthoptera	meadow grasshopper	Wimbledon Common	TQ233714	Duncan Sivell
<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>	Orthoptera	Roesel's bush cricket	Wimbledon Common	TQ23272	Duncan Sivell
<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>	Orthoptera	Roesel's bush cricket	Wimbledon Common	TQ233714	Duncan Sivell
<i>Stenobothrus lineatus</i>	Orthoptera	stripe-winged grasshopper	Wimbledon Common	TQ233714	Duncan Sivell
<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	Squamata	common lizard	Wimbledon Common	TQ232718	Duncan Sivell

Appendix A6b Butterflies of the Plain - Expected Species and Those Recorded (SR)

	14-Jul-14	07-Aug-14	21-Aug-14	
	Pre-cut	Post-cut	Post-cut	Notes
Small skipper				
Essex skipper				
Small Essex skipper				
Large skipper				
Clouded yellow				
Brimstone				
Large white				
Small white				
Green-veined white				
Orange tip				
Purple hairstreak				
Small copper				
Common blue				
Holly blue				
White admiral				
Red admiral				
Painted lady				
Small tortoiseshell				
Peacock				
Comma				
Silver-washed fritillary				
Speckled wood				
Marbled white				
Gatekeeper				
Meadow brown				
Ringlet				
Small heath				
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>				
<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	4			largely in main grassland area
<i>Ochlodes faunus</i>		1		
<i>Colias croceus</i>				
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	x			
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	x			
<i>Pieris napi</i>				
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>				
<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>	1		2	present in short turf area at south end of plain (where there is bird's foot trefoil)
<i>Lycena phlaeas</i>				
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>				
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>				
<i>Limenitis camilla</i>				
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>				
<i>Aglais urticae</i>				
<i>Inachis io</i>				
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	x			
<i>Argynnis paphia</i>				
<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			1	
<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	1		2	
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	14		17	pre-cut largely nectaring on knapweed in main grassland area
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>				
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>				
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	1		4	mostly in short turf area at south end of plain
			3	

The species listed are 'expected' for this general ecological situation. Data entries are those recorded during 3 visits

Appendix A6c Butterflies on The Plain - July to September 2014 (DW)
Sheet 1 of 2

Date	Species
03-Jul	13 Meadow Brown, 2 Small White, 2 Red Admiral, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Small Essex Skipper, 1 Small Copper
04-Jul	7 Meadow Brown, 1 Small White, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Heath,
09-Jul	9 Meadow Brown, 2 Small Heath, 1 Marbled White, 1 Woodland Ringlet
12-Jul	5 Meadow Brown, 2 Small Skipper, 2 Small Heath, 1 Brimstone
14-Jul	6 Meadow Brown, 4 Small Essex Skipper, 2 Large Skipper, 1 Brimstone
16-Jul	6 Gatekeeper, 5 Meadow Brown, 3 Small Essex Skipper, 2 Small Heath, 1 Red Admiral
24-Jul	4 Small Essex Skipper, 2 Large Skipper, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Heath, 1 Green-veined White
26-Jul	5 Small Essex Skipper, 3 Meadow Brown, 2 Large Skipper, 1 Small Copper, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Common Blue
26-Jul	Six-Spot Burnet (moth)
28-Jul	9 Gatekeeper, 7 Meadow Brown, 2 Small Essex Skipper, 1 Large Skipper
29-Jul	11 Meadow Brown, 5 Gatekeeper, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Common Blue
01-Aug	7 Meadow Brown, 3 Gatekeeper, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Peacock
06-Aug	10 Meadow Brown, 3 Gatekeeper, 3 Common Blue, 1 Small Heath
14-Aug	7 Meadow Brown, 3 Gatekeeper, 3 Common Blue, 1 Small Heath
19-Aug	3 Meadow Brown, 1 Holly Blue
24-Aug	3 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Heath
29-Aug	2 Small Heath, 1 Meadow Brown
02-Sep	1 Meadow Brown, 1 Red Admiral
05-Sep	2 Small Heath, 1 Meadow Brown
07-Sep	1 Meadow Brown, 1 Common Blue
11-Sep	1 Small Heath, Red Admiral
19-Sep.	1 Small Heath, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Small Copper
22-Sep	2 Small Heath

Sheet 2
Summary of species observed: butterflies 15; moth 1 (23 visits)
In order of frequency

Scientific Name	Vernacular English Name	total number observed
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown	101
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper	26
<i>Thymelicus spp.</i>	Small/Essex Skipper	21
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	20
<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	Large Skipper	8
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral	8
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue	5
<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White	4
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White	3
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper	3
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone	2
<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	Marbled White	1
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Woodland Ringlet	1
<i>Celastrina argiolis</i>	Holly Blue	1
<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock	1
<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	Six-spot Burnet (moth)	1



BioBlitz

Wildlife on Wimbledon and Putney Commons

The weekend of July 12/13th saw the first ever Wimbledon and Putney Commons BioBlitz - a series of events which aimed to discover more about the wildlife of the Commons, particularly on The Plain and the surrounding woodland.

Saturday 12th July - Creatures of the Night

The event launched at dusk on Saturday evening with a bat walk led by John Tovey from the London Bat Group and Bat Conservation Trust. Despite heavy rain around 7pm, a group of around 40 people of all ages, from juniors to senior citizens, gathered to enjoy the night-time woodland experience. Owls were calling and even badgers were spotted. John's account of bat behaviour, and the sight of Pipistrelle and Daubenton's bats swooping down to Queensmere for insects and drinks, kept us all enthralled for hours. Bat detectors and guide leaflets on British bats also helped to enhance the experience.



The group then stumbled back through the darkness towards a light in the trees where Angela Evans from the Ranger's Office and Les Hill, who runs Butterfly Conservation's National Moth Recording Scheme, had set up a moth trap to attract moths.



Another enthralling experience which, despite the apparent simplicity of the display - a suspended white sheet, similar ground sheet and a very bright light - was incredible and clearly demonstrated the vast array of moths that can be found flying around the Commons woodland at night, including some stunning visitors such as the Black Arches and September Thorn.

Sunday 13th July



Sunday began with the opening of a moth trap that had been run overnight. Les Hill gave an engaging account of the species present and their preferred food and behaviour. Some we were told had travelled from main land Europe.



The organised walks then began in full swing with Dave Wills, our local bird expert, leading one of his ever popular morning bird walks, which despite being led during one of the quieter periods of the birding calendar, still managed to record 32 different species, including the juvenile Kestrel pictured.



Back at base at the Ranger's Office, Quekett Microscopical Club based themselves in the Information Centre and opened up a whole new world to visitors through their microscopes.



And regular visitors, the Wildlife Watch Club, led forays into the Nature Trail for our younger visitors.

(Photographs courtesy of Auriel Glanville, Wildlife Watch Club)

Two general walks followed, one at 10am and the second at 12 noon. The walks were led by plant expert, and one of our Conservators, Dr Ros Taylor and our Wildlife & Conservation Officer, Peter Haldane, ably assisted by local volunteer insect expert, Duncan Sivell from the Natural History Museum and butterfly and moth expert, Les Hill. Dave Wills also added to the pot of experts on hand.



Starting on The Plain, the route took the 20 or so visitors through a range of habitats and vegetation communities and thereby also opened up the chance to search for diverse butterflies, moths, beetles and other minibeasts.



By Bluegate pond the damselflies and dragonflies were prolific; the light afforded by recent opening up of surrounding scrub has clearly benefited flora and fauna in the area.



One particular side benefit of the nature walks was exploring the area of the Plain which had been under restricted access during the nesting season. While regrettably it is known that no sky larks or other ground nesting species chose to nest there this year, routine plant recording since April has noted more than 80 different plant species including occasional orchids and a beautiful mosaic of floral patches dominated by tormentil, vetches, yellow rattle and, in wetter patches, rushes and heather have emerged. Red and white clover, creeping and meadow buttercup are scattered throughout and woodrushes and grasses such as Yorkshire fog, cocksfoot and common bent contribute to the mosaic.

Look out on our website for the date for next year's event!

www.wpcc.org.uk - Twitter: @wimbledoncommon



Wimbledon and Putney Commons

BIOBLITZ!

Saturday 12th July - from 8.30pm to midnight

Sunday 13th July - from 8.15am to 3pm

- Join us to record the different species of wildlife on Wimbledon and Putney Commons
- Walks led by local experts in birds, butterflies, insects and flora
- Open to all ages and abilities - a chance to increase or share your wildlife knowledge
- Learn about the conservation work we carry out on the Commons
- Activities for children led by the Wimbledon Common Nature Club
- Borrow pots and nets to collect your own samples to be ID'd by our staff and experts

Quekett Microscopical Club will be here to show you your finds as you've never seen them before!

Parking and refreshments available.

See reverse for the full programme or contact the Ranger's Office for more information



Ranger's Office, Manor Cottage, Windmill Road, Wimbledon Common London SW19 5NR - 020 8788 7655 -
rangersoffice@wpcc.org.uk - www.wpcc.org.uk - Twitter @wimbledoncommon

Come and join local experts, the Conservators and Commons' staff and local experts, for our first ever BioBlitz on 12th/13th July 2014.

The aim of a BioBlitz is to record the flora and fauna in a given area, and that is part of this event, but it is also an opportunity for us to showcase the Commons and give you the opportunity to learn more about our wildlife and the work we do here.

If you don't want to join a walk, you can go out on your own and either record or collect samples of insects (please do not pick flowers - take photographs only) - we will have supply of pots and nets at the Ranger's Office for you to borrow - which you can bring back for our staff and experts to help identify.

Saturday 12th July

- 8.45pm** **Bat Walk led by John Tovey** - Meet at the Ranger's Office at 8.30pm
Please wear sensible footwear and warm clothing. Bring torches, and waterproofs if poor weather.

- 9.45pm** **Moth trapping, Nature Trail** - Meet at Ranger's Office 9.30pm
This will run until at least midnight but you can leave at any time. Please wear stout footwear and warm clothing. It would be useful to bring waterproofs, a torch and a folding chair. (No moths are harmed when trapped and are all released)

Sunday 13th July

- 8.30am** **Bird Walk led by Dave Wills** - Meet at the Ranger's Office at 8.15am

- 9.30am** **Checking the Moth Trap** at the Ranger's Office – come along and see what we've collected in the moth trap overnight

- 10.00am & 12 noon** **Walk the Commons** - with local experts and Commons' staff – learn about the management of the Commons, spot the flora and fauna in their favourite habitats.

Quekett Microscopical Club will be in the Information Centre and Wimbledon Common Nature Club will have activities for children at the Ranger's Office



Appendix B2 **Floral List for the BioBlitz**
Sheet 1 of 2

The Plain

x indicates noted during BioBlitz

Ferns (and mosses)	
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	
Pines and allies	adderstongue

Flowering plants

Dicotyledons	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris agg.</i>	x x
<i>Arctium minus</i>	cow parsley
<i>Betula sp.</i>	lesser burdock
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	silver birch seedlings
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	ling (heather)
<i>Ceratium fontanum</i>	knapweed
<i>Ceratium holosteoides</i>	common mouse ear
"	"
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed
<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>	southern marsh orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	heath spotted orchid
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	rosebay willowherb?
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	goats rue
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	heath bedstraw
<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	marsh cudweed
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	hogweed
<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	common catsear
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	grass vetchling
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	birds foot trefoil
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	yellow loosestrife
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black meddick
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	bee orchid
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain
<i>Populus sp (tremula)</i>	poplar(aspen) seedlings
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	tormentil
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	redshank

and as tree in wood

<i>Quercus robur</i>	oak saplings	x
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	turkey oak seedlings	x
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	meadow buttercup	x
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	bulbous buttercup	
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	creeping buttercup	x
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	yellow rattle	x
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	bramble	x
<i>Rumex acetosella agg.</i>	common sorrel	x
<i>Rumex acetosella agg. ??</i>	sheep's sorrel	x
<i>Salix caprea agg. ??</i>	goat willow	x
<i>Salix repens</i>	creeping willow	x
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	ragwort	x
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	lesser stitchwort	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion	x
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	hop trefoil	
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	lesser trefoil	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover	x
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover	x
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	stinging nettle	x
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	germander speedwell	
<i>Veronica persica</i>	common field speedwell	
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	tufted vetch	x
<i>Vicia sativa agg.</i>	common vetch	x
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	smooth tare	x
Monocotyledons		
<i>Agrostis canina subsp. canina</i>	velvet bent	x
<i>Agrostis capillaris (tenuis)</i>	common bent	x
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	creeping bent	
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	meadow foxtail	
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal grass	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat grass	
<i>Carex hirta</i>	hairy sedge	
<i>Carex nigra</i>	common sedge	
<i>Carex ovalis</i>	oval sedge	x
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot	x
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	wavy hair grass	x
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	giant fescue	x
<i>Festuca ovina agg.</i>	sheeps fescue	x
found again walking after last meeting		

<i>Festuca rubra</i>	red fescue
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	creeping soft grass
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	toad rush
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	compact rush
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	soft rush
<i>Juncus squarrosum</i>	heath rush
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	slender rush
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	rye grass
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	field woodrush
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	heath wood rush
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	great wood rush
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	purple moor grass
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	matt grass
<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow grass

Continued on sheet 2

56 records

Sheet 2

Main addenda from woodland section of the BioBlitz walk

<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore	x
<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple	
<i>Carex pendula</i>	pendulous sedge	x
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	sweet chestnut	x
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn	x
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	beech	x
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash	x
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly	x
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	x
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken	x
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	rowan	x
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	wood sage	x

Other additions

<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	rosebay willowherb	x	heathland area and near Bluegate Pond
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	tufted hair grass	x	area near Bluegate Pond
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellow flag	x	pond marginal
<i>Luzula syvatica</i>	great wood rush	x	woodland margins between Bluegate Pond and The Plain

15 additions for extended area of BioBlitz walk

total for bioblitz 71

Recorder RT

NB Rosebay willowherb was abundant near the heathland area of the BioBlitz walk and common in the recently cleared area near Bluegate Pond. Occasional individual specimens seen on The Plain on this date only were recorded as *Epilobium angustifolium*? These IDs need clarification in 2015.

Appendix B3 Birds Observed During Bioblitz Walks with the Public
13th July 2014

Listed In Order of Frequency

Scientific name	Common English name	Number observed
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	14
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Crow	13
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood pigeon	12
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	8
<i>Carduleis chloris</i>	Green finch	7
<i>Psittacula</i>	Ring-necked parakeet	7
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow	7
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada goose	6
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	6
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Black bird	4
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted duck	4
<i>Turdus philomelus</i>	Song thrush	4
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Blue tit	4
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	4
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Black cap	3
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	3
<i>Parus major</i>	Great tit	3
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Pied wagtail	3
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Coot	2
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring gull	2
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	1
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	1
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch	1
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black headed gull	1
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey heron	1
<i>Falco tinniculus</i>	Kestrel	1
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Cormorant	1
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed bunting	1
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle thrush	1
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed tit	1
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden warbler	1
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great spotted woodpecker	1

Appendix B4 Invertebrates Noted During Bioblitz Walks with Public 13/07/14

Vernacular name	Scientific name	Location observed
Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Eristalis batteatus</i>	Hogweed patch
Drone fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	Hogweed patch
Scorpion fly	<i>Phanorpa communis</i>	Hogweed patch
Purple hairstreak butterfly	<i>Favonius quercus</i>	Woodland adjacent to Hogweed patch
Marbled white butterfly	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	Heather adjacent to Centre path
Essex skipper butterfly	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	The Plain
Meadow brown butterfly	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	The Plain
Gatekeeper butterfly	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	The Plain
Holly blue butterfly	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Heather adjacent to Centre path
Large skipper butterfly	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	Heather adjacent to Centre path
Peacock butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>	Hogweed patch
Comma butterfly	<i>Polyommata icarus</i>	Hogweed patch
Small skipper butterfly	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Skylark protection zone
Speckled wood butterfly	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Woodland near Bluegate
Common blue butterfly	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Bluegate Gravel Pit
Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Hogweed patch
Emperor dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Bluegate Gravel Pit
Ruddy darter dragonfly	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	Bluegate Gravel Pit
Emerald damselfly	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	Bluegate Gravel Pit
Roesel's bush cricket	<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>	The Plain
Common green grasshopper	<i>Omocestus viridulus</i>	The Plain
Meadow grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	The Plain
7 spot ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	The Plain
Harvestman	<i>Phalangium opilio</i>	Woodland near Bluegate
Red poplar beetle	<i>Chrismela populi</i>	The Plain
Millipede	<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	Woodland near Bluegate
Striped wood louse	<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	Woodland near Bluegate
Pygmy wood louse	<i>Trichoniscus pusillus agg.</i>	Woodland near Bluegate
Soldier beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	Hogweed
White lipped banded snail	<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	Hogweed
Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	The Plain, Heath & Bluegate
Common frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Heather adjacent to Centre path
		common red?

Appendix B5 Moths noted during Bioblitz Moth Trapping Event

Wimbledon and Putney Commons - on The Plain and in Woodland Close to The Plain

12th/13th July 2014

Acleris forsskaleana
Agriphila straminella
Agrotis clavis (Heart & Club)
Apamea monoglypha (Dark Arches)
Axylia putris (Flame)
Biston betularia (Peppered Moth)
Cabera pusaria (Common White Wave)
Carcina querhana
Chrysoteuchia culmella (Garden Grass-veneer)
Cosmia trapezina (Dun-bar)
Crocallis elinguaria (Scalloped Oak)
Cyclophora albipunctata (Birch Mocha)
Cyclophora punctaria (Maiden's Blush)
Drepana falcataria (Pebble Hook-tip)
Dypterygia scabriuscula (Bird's Wing)
Eilema complana (Scarce Footman)
Eilema griseola (Dingy Footman)
Eilema lurideola (Common Footman)
Elophila nymphaeata (Brown China-mark)
Endotricha flammealis
Ennomos erosaria (September Thorn)
Eupithecia nanata (Narrow-winged Pug)
Eurrhypara hortulata (Small Magpie)
Hadena bicruris (Lychnis)
Herminia tarsipennalis (Fan-foot)
Hoplodrina alsines (Uncertain)
Hoplodrina blanda (Rustic)
Idaea aversata (Riband Wave)
Idaea biselata (Small Fan-footed Wave)
Idaea fuscovenosa (Dwarf Cream-wave)
Idaea rusticata (Least Carpet)
Lycophotia porphyrea (True Lover's Knot)
Lymantria monacha (Black Arches)
Miltochrista miniata (Rosy Footman)
Mythimna ferrago (Clay)
Noctua pronuba (Large Yellow Underwing)
Ostrinia nubilalis (Corn Borer)
Phalera bucephala (Buff Tip)
Pleuroptya ruralis (Mother of Pearl)
Protodeltote pygarga (Marbled White Spot)
Scoparia ambigualis
Thyatira batis (Peach Blossom)

Appendix B6 Mammals Noted During Bioblitz Weekend

Scientific name	Common English name	Specimen observed	Tracks / signs noted
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	rabbit	x	
<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	muntjac		x
<i>Microtis agrestis</i>	vole	x	
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubenton's bat	x	
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	pipistrelle	x	
<i>Meles meles</i>	badger		x
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	squirrel		x