

THE WILDLIFE OF THE TRAP GROUNDS

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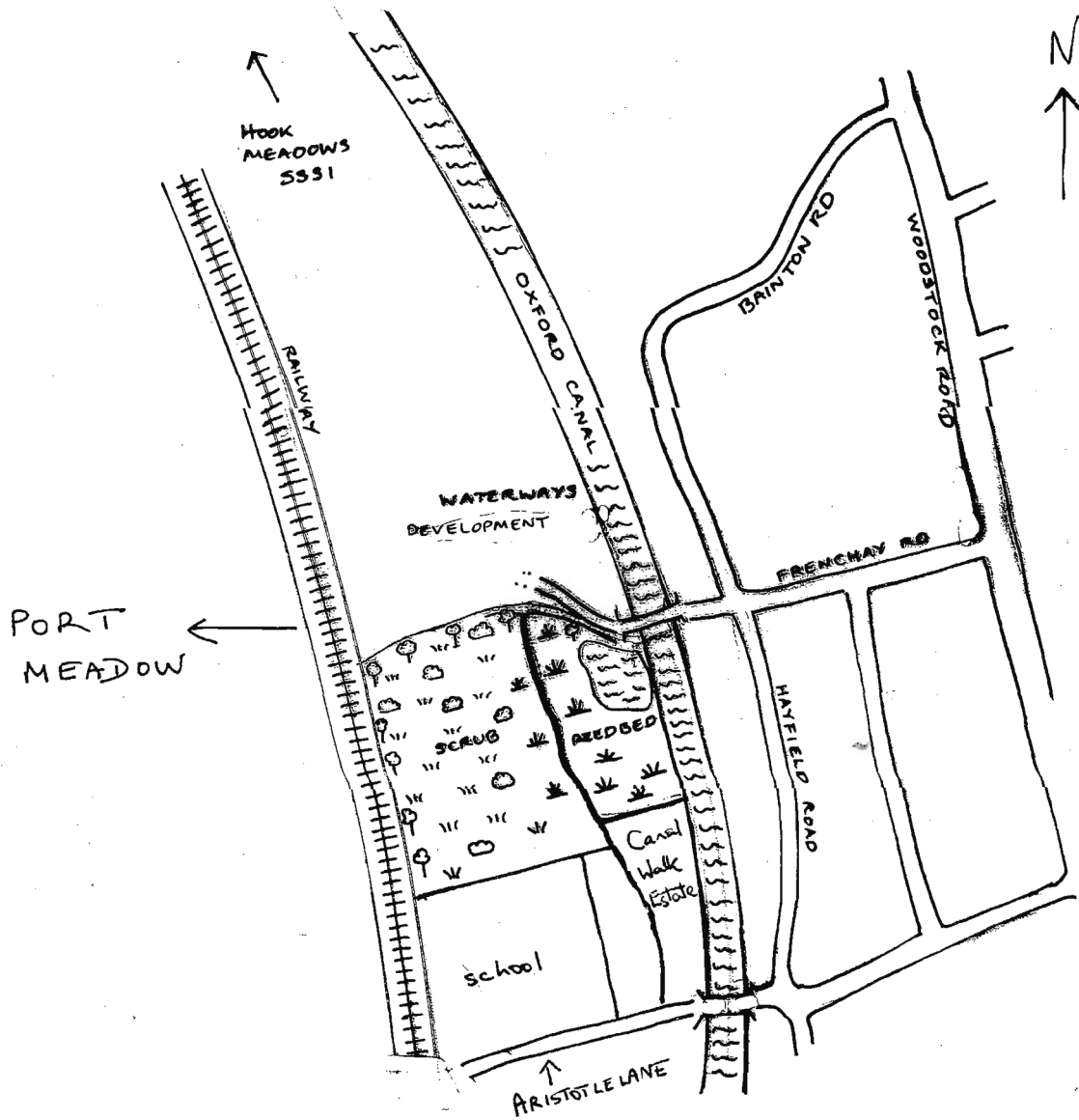
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Front cover: Water Rail, © Caroline Jackson-Houlston

Further information and copies of this booklet are available from
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SKETCH MAP OF THE TRAP GROUNDS

North Oxford

(grid reference: SP 503081)



INTRODUCTION

The Trap Grounds as we know the site today comprise six acres of reedbed, pond, scrubland, and woodland in north-west Oxford between the Oxford Canal and the railway line bordering on Port Meadow. To the south is the Aristotle Lane residential estate and the primary school of St Philip and St James; to the north is the Waterways residential development. Access is via the Frenchay Road canal bridge and a track known as Frog Lane, leading due west from the canal towpath.

The Trap Grounds were once far more extensive than they are today. A map of St Giles' Parish dated 1769 names a large area roughly equivalent to the modern Burgess Field as 'Extraparochial Lands'; this same area is labelled 'Trap Grounds' on the Enclosure Award plan of 1832, which names our little reedbed area as 'Stone Meadow'. The name 'Trap' is popularly supposed to derive from the practice of catching birds on the site, or parking pony-traps there during the annual Sheriff's Races held in the eighteenth century on Port Meadow. Or perhaps eels were caught here in traps made from willow withies. Alternatively, the use of the word 'trap' as college slang for 'privy' suggests that it might have been a site for the dumping of night-soil. But the most likely explanation is that 'Trap' is short for 'Extraparochial', denoting the fact that the land was exempt from the payment of church tithes.

The present-day Trap Grounds are crossed by a tributary of the Castle Mill stream which makes its way southwards through a series of ditches and culverts to the Thames. The water table fluctuates, but water is always present in the reedbed and hence it supports a specialised flora and fauna. Reeds and willows abound and provide sustenance and cover for a great variety of resident and migratory birds. The flourishing mixture of wild flowers, shrubs, and trees in the variety of habitats in the western half of the site attracts many butterflies. Mammals, birds, insects and other invertebrates increase as the site is left undisturbed. Even the elusive Water Rail breeds here, alongside a colony of Water Voles. The grassy scrubland harbours Oxford City's only known breeding colony of Common Lizard, together with Slow Worms and Glow Worms. The Trap Grounds are a rare – if not unique – habitat within a city boundary.

The land is owned by Oxford City Council. Local volunteers and wildlife enthusiasts maintain the site, with the active support of the council's Countryside Service. In 2002, The Friends of the Trap Grounds successfully argued at a public enquiry and, on appeal, at the High Court (2004) that the scrubland is a Town Green under the terms of the Commons Registration Act. The verdict was overturned by the Court of Appeal in 2005, but definitively confirmed by the House of Lords in May 2006. Oxfordshire County Council accordingly registered the scrubland as a Town Green in September 2006. In 2007 the campaign to save the Trap Grounds from development was recognised with an award presented by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

CONTRIBUTORS

This survey was made by the Trap Grounds Wildlife Group. Contributors include Alan Allport, Mike Bayliss, Jeremy Biggs, George Bloom, Cecily Duthoit, Clive Hambler, John Ismay, Caroline Jackson-Houlston, Linda Losito, Darren Mann, Peter Rawcliffe, Catherine Robinson, Kitty Southern, Phil Stirling, Maggie Stoppard, Joyce Thomas, Martin Townsend, Diane Wilson, and members of the Oxford Urban Wildlife Group. Valuable help and advice was also given by Camilla Lambrick. Andy Gosler helped with the production.

The site is changing all the time, as you can see from the website (www.trap-grounds.org.uk). Please send any new observations direct to C. M. Jackson-Houlston, 41 Netherwoods Road, Risinghurst, Oxford, OX3 8HF.

NAMES

Standard English names have been used wherever they are available, and scientific ones if not, or to avoid possible confusion.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

As the essays and species lists in this publication demonstrate, the Trap Grounds are a haven for wildlife close to urban Oxford. The site, once much larger than today, formed part of the Port Meadow and Oxford Meads complex; what remains still functions ecologically as a unit with these areas. Its value is recognised by the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire, the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Oxford Ornithological Society, the Oxford Preservation Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and the Oxford Urban Wildlife Group.

A five-year management plan has been commissioned, compiled by Martin Townsend, consultant ecologist. The aims of the plan are to maintain and enhance the mosaic of Trap Grounds wildlife habitats, to conserve the legally protected species, and to encourage overall diversity, while increasing public accessibility for recreational and educational activities. The first draft (January 2009) includes the following proposals.

- 1 **Pond:** thin out semi-mature trees (except Alder) along the north bank to encourage sedges and riparian herbs for the benefit of Water Voles; provide patches of bare ground for invertebrates and wading birds; retain overhanging branches as perching posts for Kingfishers and other birds.
- 2 **Grassland:** control brambles, sycamores, hawthorn, and invasive non-native species in order to establish areas of wildflower meadow; create a mosaic of open areas and more sheltered areas to optimise conditions for reptiles and other species; minimise disturbance to rubble mounds.
- 3 **Reedbed–grassland link:** create an east–west corridor to provide flight-paths for birds and insects and a new pathway for visitors that will avoid disturbance near the proposed bird-observation screen to the south of the swamp.
- 4 **Woodland:** leave western edges of the woodland and scrubland undisturbed, but remove dominant sycamores nearer the main path to create open glades and secondary paths; pollard over-mature and derelict willows to reduce shade.
- 5 **Reedbeds:** no major interventions are necessary at present.
- 6 **Accessibility:** to enable wheelchair access, create a boardwalk alongside the stream (subject to approval by the Environment Agency), leading to an observation screen overlooking the main reedbed.
- 7 **Further surveys and monitoring:** continue to gather data, particularly concerning amphibians and under-recorded invertebrate groups, and up-date the species lists regularly.

This is a diverse series of habitats with a great variety of wildlife. The site is easily accessed from nearby housing developments and has a network of footpaths. It is likely to be of interest to schools, to youth organisations such as the Scout and Guide movement, Woodcraft Folk, and the junior wing of the Wildlife Trusts, as well as local residents and others keen on wildlife. A range of educational uses is now feasible, from primary-school pond-dipping, through GCSE and A-level projects, to tertiary-level study.

MAMMALS, REPTILES, AND AMPHIBIANS

The mammals and herptiles of the Trap Grounds have received less attention than the bird and plant life, observations having come in the form of irregular instalments from individuals involved in other studies, or simply from casual observations.

The animal life reflects the division of the site into two distinct areas: on the one hand, the largely natural wetland habitat with its dense stands of Phragmites reed and lower-profile sedge beds and, on the other, the area of infill now covered with brambles, Dog Rose, Hawthorn, and developing Salix cover. We will consider the latter first.

The **Foxes** are ever-present but not often seen, as they slip away at the slightest disturbance. In 1988 a **Muntjac deer** was observed for the first time, reflecting this species' expansion into a suburban environment. Our native **Roe Deer** has recently been seen using the site. **Stoat** and **Weasel** find the broken terrain well suited to their stealth and opportunist hunting techniques. They no doubt help to keep the rabbit numbers in check. **Badgers** are occasionally seen, but no set has been discovered. The relatively arid warmth-retaining piles of bricks and rubble that underlie the surface vegetation harbour a richly varied insect life to sustain the mainly insectivorous **Hedgehog** on its nocturnal rambles. The **Common or Viviparous Lizard** also finds these conditions ideal, and it is not an uncommon sight to see them basking in the sunshine, especially in spring and autumn. Lizards and **Slow-worms** regularly breed on this site. On the trackways that criss-cross the rough grassland one may encounter a vole or shrew myopically making its cautious progress.

In the reedbeds lives the harmless **Grass Snake**; several are seen each year. Although they prefer the damper parts, they will venture out on to the infill where it is close to water and curl up on an exposed outcrop to sunbathe. Both the **Water Vole** and the delightful **Water Shrew** inhabit the narrow stream that separates the main reedbed from the other habitats. The Water Shrew, although widely distributed, is by no means common. Balmy summer evenings may reveal the occasional **Pipistrelle or Noctule Bat**, hawking over the reedbeds and adjacent canal in pursuit of the numerous aerial insects.

A most exciting discovery was made in the summer of 1989 during the continuing survey of Cuckoos and Acrocephalus warblers: a remarkable and unusual rasping call was heard coming from the waterside. A tape-recording was made, and subsequently listened to by the zoologist working on the television series 'Survival'. He considered that the voice belonged to a **Marsh Frog**. The habitat suggests *Rana ridibunda*, but the taxonomy of this group of three frogs is extremely complicated due to peculiarities in their chromosomes, and it will be necessary to capture and measure a frog to identify it to species, and unfortunately none has been heard recently. One thing is certain: no frog of this group has ever been recorded in Oxfordshire before. The species is a Continental one with only a few records from British sites, but there have been suggestions recently that marsh frogs may actually be native to Britain.

MIKE BAYLISS (up-dated by editor)

MAMMALS

Recorded by Mike Bayliss, 1980–88, with additions by Clive Hambler, Caroline Jackson-Houlston, Darren Mann, Catherine Robinson, and others.

Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
[Feral Cat]	
Stoat	<i>Mustela ermina</i>
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>
Muntjac Deer	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>
Common Shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>
Pygmy Shrew (C. Hambler)	<i>Sorex minutus</i>
Water Shrew	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>
Field Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>
Water Vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris*</i>
Bank Vole	<i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i>
Pipistrelle Bats	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus *</i> <i>P. pygmaeus</i>
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula*</i>
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Recorded by Mike Bayliss, 1980–89, CJH 2000–2, Clive Hambler 2004

Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i> (?)
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo*</i>
Smooth Newt	<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>
Common Lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara*</i>
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis*</i>
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix*</i>

Jeremy Biggs has also found newt tadpoles of undetermined species. There are unconfirmed reports of Great Crested Newt, which suggests that a survey (under licence) using bottle trapping would be advisable. The Marsh Frog has not been seen recently, but there is currently a good breeding population of both Common Lizard and Slow-worm in the scrub section.

* UK BAP Priority Species

BIRDS

The pocket wilderness of wet fen and scrub that exists at the Trap Grounds contains, in little more than eight acres,* among the richest and most varied animal life of any site in Oxford City. But it is the birdlife in particular that has excited most publicity and acclaim.

Foremost among the birds of the site is the elusive **Water Rail**. The Water Rail is resident throughout the year and is known to breed here, though it does not breed anywhere else in Oxford and there exists only a handful of sites in the whole county where it does so regularly. The opportunity of seeing adults feeding their chicks beside the narrow, reed-fringed ditch that bisects the site is pretty well unique so close to a city centre.

The waterlogged sedge and reedbeds sustain two closely related *Acrocephalus* warblers in summer: the **Reed Warbler** and the **Sedge Warbler**. The former is largely confined to the few acres of *Phragmites* reed, whereas the latter occupies a wider range of habitats, including the drier areas of scrub. Nevertheless, because of its communal nature, the Reed Warbler is the more numerous of the two by midsummer, and the dozen or so pairs that arrive at the Trap Grounds each year form the nucleus of the largest colony within the city boundary. Their deep nests are wonderfully woven around several reed stems. They are often astonishingly beautiful, with much external decoration of lambswool and the white fluffy seedheads of willow. A nest can measure seven inches from rim to base and be so well constructed that it persists through the winter into the following spring.

Another noteworthy regular is the **Reed Bunting**. It is equally at home in the reeds and in the surrounding rough grassland. The handsome males are a common feature during the breeding months, perched prominently on a tall spray of vegetation uttering their repetitive yet distinctive song. In winter they gather in a sizeable roost, often in company with wintering **Redwings**. In turn, they may tempt a marauding **Sparrowhawk** to try its luck at obtaining an easy meal with a lightning dash over the reed tops.

Numbers of **Snipe** visit the site during the bleak winter months, seeking a quiet refuge, especially after being disturbed from their main feeding ground on nearby Port Meadow. Among them the diminutive **Jack Snipe** may be present, preferring, like its larger relative, the more open area of sedge to the dense stands of reed.

Other species commonly associated with the waterside, typically **Mallard**, **Moorhen**, and the delightful **Kingfisher**, are regularly seen. The low-lying relic swamp contrasts with the higher surrounding scrub, which consists largely of willow, sallow, bramble, and Hawthorn. Not only does this habitat support a good number of our more common birds, but it is ideally suited to the needs of our warblers and finches. There are up to eight species of warbler present in summer. Of these, the most abundant is the **Willow Warbler**, whose deliciously delicate song defies being ignored as one falling cadence follows another.

One at least of these warbler species acts as host to the **Cuckoo**, which for some years now has been present in spring and early summer. This is one of the few spots where Cuckoos breed in urban North Oxford. Indeed, during 1988 there was much activity at the site during the filming of sequences of Cuckoo behaviour for a Channel 4 TV documentary. The film makers were particularly anxious to 'shoot' our nationally acclaimed Cuckoo X, laying in the nest of her chosen host. This was duly accomplished and further sequences followed, including a young Cuckoo ejecting the host's eggs and its subsequent development into a fledgling. More filming has taken place since. Cuckoo X holds the breeding-longevity record in this country, having returned to the same site for eight successive years. Furthermore, in 1988 she laid a remarkable 25 eggs, which is a world record by any cuckoo under natural conditions.

*At the time of the original survey. The site has now been reduced to six acres.

As one progresses through the scrub and rough grassland, rich in flowers, both native and escapes, the light, tinkling song of the **Linnet** is a regular feature, and may be heard from April well into August, when most other bird song has ceased. A welcome fairly recent colonist is the **Turtle Dove**, with a pair or two returning sporadically to add their remarkable catlike purring to the rich orchestra of bird song that greets visitor in May or June.

Since 1980 Mike Bayliss has monitored the breeding birds at the Trap Grounds. The total to date stands at 32 species, with a further five that have possibly bred. [A singing **Nightingale** in 2000 adds to these possibilities: *Ed.*]. In the next few years one would expect further species to colonise the invading scrub, for example, the Yellowhammer, and the Grasshopper Warbler. Careful management of the site, with the recent creation of open water, may induce Little Grebe to set up home. **Mute Swan** started breeding in 2002 on the pond that was created in 2000.

The comparatively small area of the Trap Grounds holds a very high number of total pairs and acts as a reservoir for the surrounding urban area. Its value to the immediate environs of North Oxford cannot be overstated. Its use as an educational resource is dealt with elsewhere. It is a high quality environment resource in having Water Rail and a Cuckoo whose achievements are of national and international significance.

On a final note, I might add that bird trapping and ringing has been a feature of the Trap Grounds from as long ago as the 1930s, involving many of our more eminent ornithologists, which, together with the television work, serves to prove the special qualities of the site and its value for future study.

MIKE BAYLISS
(updated by editor, 2002)

BIRDS

Key to Breeding Status: BC=Breeding confirmed (32 species); BR=Breeding probable (3); BO=Breeding possible (2); V=Vagrant/Visitor (36)

Mute Swan	BC		
Mallard	BC	Blackbird	BC
Teal	V	Song Thrush*	BC
Sparrowhawk	BO	Nightingale	V
Kestrel	V	Redwing	V
Hobby	V	Mistle Thrush	BR
Red-legged Partridge	BO	Grasshopper Warbler*	BO
Pheasant	BR	Sedge Warbler	BC
Water Rail	BC	Reed Warbler	BC
Moorhen	BC	Lesser Whitethroat	BC
Coot	V	Whitethroat	BC
Snipe	V	Garden Warbler	BC
Jack Snipe	V	Blackcap	BC
Woodcock	V	Chiffchaff	BC
Black-headed Gull	V	Willow Warbler	BC
Herring Gull	V	Spotted Flycatcher*	V
Lesser Black-backed Gull	V	Goldcrest	V
Wood Pigeon	BC	Long-tailed Tit	BC
Collared Dove	V	Marsh Tit*	V
Turtle Dove*	BC	Willow Tit*	V
Cuckoo*	BC	Blue Tit	BC
Kingfisher	V	Great Tit	BC
Green Woodpecker	V	Tree Creeper	BC
Great Spotted Woodpecker	BC	Magpie	BC
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*	V	Jackdaw	V
Skylark*	V	Carrion Crow	BC
Swift	V	Starling*	BC
Swallow	V	House Sparrow*	V
House Martin	V	Chaffinch	BC
Meadow Pipit	V	Brambling	V
Grey Wagtail	V	Bullfinch*	BC
Pied Wagtail	V	Greenfinch	BC
Wren	BC	Goldfinch	BR
Duncock	BC	Siskin	V
Robin	BC	Redpoll	V
Redstart	V	Linnet*	BC
Stonechat	V	Reed Bunting*	BC
Fieldfare	V	Tawny Owl	V

* UK BAP Priority Species

INVERTEBRATES

The best-recorded group of invertebrates at the Trap Grounds is the butterflies. We can be fairly sure that at least 21 species have found the site suitable for breeding, and there are records of a few more. However, for most other groups of invertebrates recording is patchier, and still actively continuing, particularly for the spiders and flies. The number of species so far found is very much a reflection of the amount of time spent on site by our local experts. Thus far we have found 58 micro- and 37 macro-moths, 86 species of spider, 51 beetles including 15 species of water-beetle, 14 species of dragonfly/damselfly, and others including a selection of flies (some of which are markedly uncommon), land-beetles, gall-wasps, shrimps, snails and flatworms.

As with the flowering plants and ferns, the invertebrates can be more or less divided into those favouring the reedbed habitat and those of the adjoining dry scrubland. The reedbed is more difficult to record in than the scrub, but, even so, it seems likely to support fewer species than the more open area. Nevertheless, a number of interesting wetland species have been recorded in the reeds: for example, the spider *Nesticus cellulanus*, which is nationally uncommon and only the second record in Oxfordshire (the first was in the Mitre Hotel!), and the Notable B species *Theridiosoma gemmosum*, in 2004. At the time of recording, the spider *Microlinyphia impigra* was new to the county, although it has now been found elsewhere. The **Ruddy Darter dragonfly**, *Sympetrum sanguineum*, now rarer than it used to be in England owing to loss of habitat, is often seen. The **Round-winged Muslin moth** (*Thumatha senex*), the larva of which feeds on lichens and moss, and the **Drinker moth** (*Philudoria potatoria*) are also commonly found within the reedy area. Among the sallow carr at the edge of the wetland characteristic moths such as the **White Satin** (*Leucoma salicis*) and the tortricid micro-moth *Acleris hastiana* are found.

The scrubland probably supports a wider range of invertebrates, particularly of butterflies and moths. The bright yellow **Brimstone butterfly** (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) is frequently seen; its larva feeds on the young leaves of Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*) which grows amongst the willows. The **Wall butterfly** (*Lasiommata megera*) is also found sunning itself on the rubble, and the nymphalid butterflies, such as the **Red Admiral** (*Vanessa atalanta*) and the **Peacock** (*Inachis io*), are often seen on the Buddleia, a garden escape which provides a superb nectar source for many insects. The roots of a wide range of plants in the Compositae, such as Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), provide food for a number of tortricid micro-moths of the genera *Epiblema* and *Dichrorampha*, and the seedheads of Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) provide food for the gelechiid micro-moth *Isophrictis striatella*. This last species was a new record for Oxfordshire. Recently added species include the **Buttoned Snout** (*Hypena rostralis*), whose larvae feed on Hop (*Humulus lupulus*). This is a UK BAP Priority Species, i.e. one marked out for conservation attention at a national level. Several species of moth are found flying during the day on the scrubland: the **Five and Six-spot Burnets** (*Zygaena lonicerae* and *Z. filipendulae*), the scarce **Emperor moth** (*Saturnia pavonia*), the local but spectacular **Scarlet Tiger** (*Callimorpha dominula*), and the **Cinnabar** (*Tyria jacobaeae*). Although some of the uncommon flies breed in swampy ground, they and other insects use the grassland for feeding. Insects are particularly attracted by plants in the family Umbelliferae, such as Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) and Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), rather than plants commonly grown in gardens. The six Notable B species on the site are all insects or spiders, most of them occurring to the west of the stream.

One of the insects of conservation interest and also high popular appeal is the **Glow Worm**. This species is rapidly declining nationally, but there is a long history of records here in the Trap Grounds scrubland.

To date we have found that the Trap Grounds supports a wide variety of species of invertebrate, reflecting the habitat diversity of the site. A few species of particular note have already been found, and new recording projects (from September 2000) are turning up more, suggesting that both the wetland and the scrubland are of marked conservation interest on the strength of their invertebrate species composition. The Trap Grounds' value for conservation extends beyond the merely local area, but it is particularly important for its proximity to the city; it is an important amenity for those keen on visiting and enjoying this relatively wild area so close to the heart of Oxford.

PHIL STERLING up-dated by editor, 2002, and Alan Allport, 2009

INVERTEBRATES RECORDERS

MB – Mike Bayliss 1980-88	JB – Jeremy Biggs
MC – Martin Corley	CD – Cecily Duthoit
CH – Clive Hambler	JI – John Ismay
DM – Darren Mann	CJH – Caroline Jackson-Houlston
PS – Phil Sterling 12.7.87	MT – Martin Townsend
AA – Alan Allport 2006-8	LL – Linda Losito, 2007–8

N.B. The arrangement of these lists varies; in some cases it is in taxonomic order where one observer has been responsible, but where the lists are composite ones, alphabetical order of families, and of species within families, has been used.

INSECTS

ODONATA (DAMSELFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES)

<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Banded Demoiselle
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed Damselfly
<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	Common Blue Damselfly
<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	Azure Damselfly
<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	Large Red Damselfly
<i>Anax imperator</i>	Emperor (egg-laying in pond, July 2003)
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Southern Hawker
<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	Brown Hawker
<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	Migrant Hawker (2008)
<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Broad-bodied Chaser
<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Four-spotted Chaser
<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Black-tailed Skimmer (2003)
<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	Ruddy Darter
<i>Sympetrum striatum</i>	Common Darter

ORTHOPTERA (CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS)

ACRIDIDAE

<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	Field Grasshopper	AA
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TETRIGIDAE

<i>Tetrix subulata</i>	Slender Ground-hopper
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TETTIGONIDAE

<i>Pholidoptera griseoptera</i>	Dark Bush Cricket	AA
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DERMAPTERA (EARWIGS)

Forficula auricularia (Common Earwig)

HEMIPTERA (TRUE BUGS)

SHIELD BUGS

<i>Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale</i>	Hawthorn Shield Bug	AA
<i>Elasmotethus tristriatus</i>	Juniper Shield Bug	AA
<i>Palomena prasina</i>	Green Shield Bug	AA
<i>Dolycoris baccarum</i>	Sloe Bug	AA
<i>Eurygaster testudinaria</i>	Tortoise Bug	AA
<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	A Squash Bug	AA

MIRIDAE (CAPSID OR MIRID BUGS)

Leptopterna dolabrata Meadow Plant Bug

WATER BUGS (HETEROPTERA)

<i>Notonecta</i> sp. larvae, prob.	Common Backswimmer
<i>N. glauca</i>	
<i>Hesperocorixa sahlbergi</i>	A Lesser Water Boatman

HOMOPTERA

<i>Centrotus cornutus</i>	A Tree Hopper
<i>Cicadella viridis</i>	A Leaf Hopper

COLEOPTERA (BEETLES)

Recorded by Phil Sterling, Darren Mann, John Ismay, Linda Losito, and Alan Allport. See also invertebrates recorded in fungi, below.

BYTURIDAE

Byturus tomentosus LL

CARABIDAE (Ground beetles)

<i>Bembidion harpaloides</i>	
<i>Dromius linearis</i>	
<i>Pterostichus cupreus</i>	AA

CERAMBYCIDAE (Longhorn beetles)

<i>Agapanthia villosoviridescens</i>	PS, AA
<i>Aromia moschata</i> (Musk Beetle)	AA
<i>Clytus arietis</i>	PS

CANTHARIDAE (Soldier Beetles)

<i>Cantharis fusca</i>	AA
<i>Rhagonicha fulva</i>	AA

CHRYSOMELIDAE (Leaf Beetles)

<i>Chrysolina geminata</i>	AA
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COCCINELLIDAE (Ladybirds)

<i>Adalia bipunctata</i> (Two-spot Ladybird)	LL
<i>Anisosticta 19-punctata</i>	PS

Calvia 14-punctata (Cream-spot Ladybird) AA
Coccinella 7-punctata (Seven-Spot Ladybird)
Halyzia sedemimguttata (Orange Ladybird) LL
Propylea 14-punctata AA

CURCULIONIDAE (Weevils)

Barypeithes pellucidus LL
Gymnetron pascuorum
Otiorhynchus sulcatus (Vine Weevil) AA
Otiorhynchus porcatus
Phyllobius pomaceus AA
Sciaphilus asperatus
Sitona hispidulus
Sitona humeralis
Sitona lineatus

DERMESTIDAE

Anthrenus verbasci (a Carpet Beetle)

ELATERIDAE (Click Beetles)

Athous haemorrhoidalis AA

MELYRIDAE (Soft-winged Flower Beetles)

Malachius bipustulatus PS, AA

OEDEMERIDAE (False Oil Beetles)

Oedemera lurida PS, AA
Oedemera nobilis AA

PYRRHOCHROIDAE (Cardinal beetles)

Pyrrhocroa serraticornis PS, AA

SCARABAEIDAE (Scarab Beetles and Chafers)

Amphimallon solstitialis (Summer Chafer) AA

STAPHYLINIDAE (Rove beetles)

Micropeplus fulvus
Philonthus cognatus
Quedius rufipes
Staphylinus stercorarius

LAMPYRIDAE

Lampyris noctiluca (Glow-worm)

A key species for conservation concern, both locally and nationally, and one of the Oxfordshire 100 conservation target species. It has been observed on the site for many years. Recorded by Catherine Robinson and Joyce Thomas in July 2001 and every year since then.

SCRAPTIIDAE

Anaspis frontalis

WATER BEETLES (Various COLEOPTERA families)

Recorded from the central ditch of the Trap Grounds on 6.6.1987 and 6.7.1987 by Jeremy Biggs

Agabus bipustulatus
Agabus sturmi
Anacaena globulus
Anacaena limbata
Colymbetes fuscus
Haliphus ruficollis group (females)
Helophorus brevipalpis
Hydrobius fuscipes
Hydroporus planus
Hydroporus inaequalis
Hyphydrus ovatus
Ilybius ater
Ilybius fuliginosus
Ilybius quadriguttatus
Laccobius bipunctatus

BUTTERFLIES

	Recorder	Probable Status
Small Skipper	PS, MB, AA	Resident
Large Skipper	MC, MB	Resident
Clouded Yellow	MB, CD, AA	Migrant
Brimstone	MB, CD	Resident
Large White	MB, AA	Res./Migrant
Small White	MC, MB	Res./Migrant
Green-veined White	MC, MB	Res./Migrant
Orange Tip	MC, MB, CD, AA	Resident
Brown Hairstreak	CD	Vagrant
Small Copper	MB	Resident
Common Blue	CJH, MC, MB, CD	Resident
Holly Blue	MB, AA	Resident
Red Admiral	MB, CD, AA	Res./Migrant
Painted Lady	MB, CD, AA	Res./Migrant
Small Tortoiseshell	CJH, MB, CD	Res./Migrant
Peacock	MC, MB, CD, AA	Res./Migrant
Comma	MB, CD, AA	Resident
Speckled Wood	CJH, MB, CD, AA	Resident
Wall	MB, CD	Formerly Resident
Marbled White	CD, CJH	Resident
Grayling	CD	Vagrant
Gatekeeper	MB, CD, AA	Resident
Meadow Brown	MB, CD, AA	Resident
Small Heath	MB	Resident
Ringlet	CD, AA	Resident

MACROMOTHS

	Recorder	Probable Status
Six-spot Burnet	MB, AA	Resident
Five-spot Burnet	PS, MB	Resident
Emperor Moth	MB	Resident
Drinker Moth	PS, MC, MB	Resident
Common Emerald	PS	Resident
Cream Wave	AA	Resident
Dwarf Cream Wave	PS	Resident
Riband Wave	PS	Resident
Silver-ground Carpet	MC	Resident
Red-green Carpet	MT	New record, 2000
Shaded Broad-bar	PS, AA	Resident
Yellow Shell	PS, MB	Resident
Barred Yellow	PS	Resident
Magpie	MB	Resident
Clouded Border	PS	Resident
Common White Wave	PS	Resident
Common Wave	PS, AA	Resident
Common Heath	MC	Resident
White Satin	PS	Resident
Round-winged Muslin	PS, MT (2000)	Resident
Garden Tiger	MC, MB	Resident
Scarlet Tiger	PS, MB, AA	Resident
Cinnabar	PS, MC, MB	Resident
Shuttle-shaped Dart	PS	Resident
Yellow Underwing	PS, AA	Resident
Smoky Wainscot	PS	Resident
Large Wainscot	MT	Resident
Small Dotted Buff	PS	Resident
Mottled Rustic	PS	Resident
Black-neck	PS	Resident
Silver Y	MB, AA	Migrant
Beautiful Hook-tip	PS	Resident
Snout	PS, AA	Resident
Buttoned Snout	MT	New record 2000, 2001
Green Carpet	AA	New record 2007
Treble Bar	AA	New record 2007
Blood-vein	AA	New record 2008

MB=Mike Bayliss, MC=Martin Corley, PS=Phil Sterling, MT=Martin Townsend,
AA=Alan Allport

MICROMOTHS

	Recorder	Probable Status
<i>Acrolepia autumnitella</i>	PS, MC	Resident
<i>Acleris hastiana</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Anthophila fabriciana</i>	PS, MC	Resident
<i>Aphomia sociella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Archips podana</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Batia unitella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Brachmia rufescens</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Caloptilia stigmatella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Clepsis spectrana</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Cochylis nana</i>	MC	Resident
<i>Coleophora cerasivorella</i>	MC	Resident
<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	PS, AA	Resident
<i>Cnephasia stephensiana</i>	PS, MC	Resident
<i>Crambus lathoniellus</i>	PS, MC	Resident
<i>Crambus perlella</i>	PS, AA	Resident
<i>Depressaria pastinacella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Dichrorampha petiveralla</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Dichrorampha sequana</i>	MC	Resident
<i>Dichrorampha plumbagana</i>	MC	Resident
<i>Dichrorampha plumbana</i>	MC	Resident
<i>Dioryctria Ssp</i>	AA	
<i>Elachista argentella</i>	MC	Resident
<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Epiblema cynosbatella</i>	MC	Resident
<i>Epiblema uddmanniana</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Epiblema foenella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Epiblema farfarae</i>	MC	Resident
<i>Eucosma hohenwartiana</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Eucosma cana</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Eudonia crataegella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Eurrhyncha hortulata</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Eurrhyncha turtulata</i>	AA	Resident
(Small Magpie)		
<i>Glyphipterix simplicella</i>	MC	Resident
<i>Gypsonoma aceriana</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Isophrictis striatella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Leioptilius lienigianus</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Mompha raschkiella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Mompha ochraceella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Mompha subbistrigella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Monopis ferruginella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Nemophora degeerella</i>	AA	
(DeGeer's Longhorn)		
<i>Olethreutes lacunana</i>	PS, MC	Resident
<i>Parornix anglicella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae</i>	PS	Resident

<i>Phyllocnistis viminiella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Phyllocnistis unipunctella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Platyptilia pallidactyla</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i> (Mother of Pearl)	AA	Resident
<i>Pterophorus pentadactyla</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>	MC, AA	Resident
<i>Scoparia pyralella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	PS, MC	Resident
<i>Stigmella aurella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Stigmella salicis</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Stigmella oxyacanthella</i>	PS	Resident
<i>Tinea semifulvella</i>	PS	Resident

DIPTERA (FLIES)

Recorded by Darren Mann and John Ismay, 2000; Alan Allport, 2006-8. The species listed are mostly widespread, but *Siphonella oscinina* and the Soldier Fly *Chorisops nagatomi* are rare enough to be Notable species. As with other taxa, there is a wide range to be found on the site because of the variety of microhabitats.

CALLIPHORIDAE

Lucilia Caesar AA

CHAMAEMYIIDAE

Chamaemyia polystigma

CHLOROPIDAE

Chlorops ringens

Elachiptera cornuta

Elachiptera diastema

Lasiosina herpina

Oscinella frit

Siphonella oscinina

Thaumatomyia notata

Tricimba cincta

Tricimba lineella

SARCOPHAGIDAE

Sarcophaga anaces

Sarcophaga crassimargo

SCATHOPHAGIDAE

Scathophaga stercoraria

SCIOMYZIDAE

Coremacera maginata

Pherbellia cinerella

Tetanocera elata

Trypetoptera punctulata

CULICIDAE (Mosquitoes and relatives)

Culiseta annulata

Chironomus plumosus AA

DIASTODAE

Campichoeta punctum

Diastata costata

SEPSIDAE

Sepsis fulgens

Sepsis orthocnemis

Sepsis punctum

DOLICHOPODIDAE (Long-legged Flies)

Sympycnus desoutterii

SPHAEROCERIDAE

Borborillus vitripennis

Leptocera fontinalis

DROSOPHILIDAE (Fruit Flies)

Leptocera nigra

Drosophila andalasiaca
Scaptomyza pallida

EPHYDRIDAE

Discomyza incurva
Psilopa nitidula

EMPIDIDAE

Empis tessellata AA

HYBOTIDAE

Platypalpus minutus

LAUXANIIDAE

Lyciella decipiens
Lyciella rorida
Minettia rivosa
Sapromyza quadripunctata
Tricholauxiana praeusta

LONCHOPTERIIDAE

Lonchoptera lutea

MUSCIDAE

Anthomyia pluvialis AA
Graphomyia maculata AA
Moriella aenescens
Musca autumnalis
Musca domestica

OPOMYZIDAE

Geomyza tripunctata
Opomyza florum
Opomyza germinationis

Lotophila atra
Minilimosina vitripennis
Pteremis fenestralis
Spelobia ochripes

STRATIOMYIDAE (Soldier flies)

Chorisops nagatomi

SYRPHIDAE (Hoverflies)

Episyrphus balteatus AA
Eristalis pertinax
Eristalis tenax
Helophilus pendulus
Melanostoma scalare
Merodon equestris AA
Myathropa florum AA
Rhingia campestris AA
Sphaerophoria scripta
Syritta pipiens
Syrphus ribesii AA
Syrphus vitripennis
Volucella bombylans AA
Volucella pellucens AA

TACHINIDAE

Eriothrix rufomaculata

TEPHRITIDAE

Anomoia purmunda
Paroxyna misella
Tephritis cometa
Tephritis hyoscyami

TIPULIDAE (Crane Flies)

Nephrotoma appendiculata AA
Tipula oleracea

HYMENOPTERA (Bees, Wasps, Ants)

APOIDEA (Bumblebees)

Bombus hortorum
Bombus pascuorum
Bombus pratorum

FORMICIDAE (Ants)

Lasius fuliginosus (Shining Ant, Jet Ant) Judy Webb, June 2007

ICHNEUMONIDAE

Ichneumon suspiciosus AA

SPHECIDAE (Digger Wasps)

SYMPHYTA (Sawflies)

Arge cyanocrocea AA

Athalia rosae (Turnip Sawfly) AA

SPIDERS

Recorded by Clive Hambler, 1987-1988 and/or 2004

Nesticus cellulanus is very rarely found in the region (Oxfordshire, Berkshire or Buckinghamshire). *Theridiosoma gemmosum* is Nationally Scarce (Notable b = Nb). Both are wetland specialists which also need bushes and trees in the wetland.

AMAUROBIIDAE

Amaurobius similis

Amaurobius ferox

DICTYNIDAE

Dictyna sp.

DYSDERIDAE

Harpactea hombergi

CLUBIONIDAE

Clubiona corticalis

Clubiona phragmatis

Clubiona terrestris

Clubiona lutescens

Cheiracanthium erraticum

ZORIDAE

Zora sp.

ANYPHAENIDAE

Anyphaena accentuata

THOMISIDAE

Xysticus cristatus

Oxyptilia praticola

PHILODROMIDAE

Philodromus sp

Tibellus oblongus

SALTICIDAE

Heleophanus sp.

Euophrys frontalis

LYCOSIDAE

Pardosa pullata

Pardosa prativaga

Alopsecosa pulverulenta

Pirata piraticus

PISAURIDAE

Pisaura mirabilis

AGELENIDAE

Tegenaria sp.

HAHNIIDAE

Antistea elegans

MIMETIDAE

Ero cambridgei

THERIDIIDAE

Episinus angulatus

Achaearanea sp.

Theridion impressum

Theridion tinctum

Theridion bimaculatum

Theridion pallens

Enoplognatha ovata

NESTICIDAE

Nesticus cellulanus

TETRAGNATHIDAE

Tetragnatha extensa

Tetragnatha montana

Tetragnatha nigrita

Pachygnatha clercki

METIDAE

Metellina segmentata

Metellina menzei

Metellina merianae

Zygiella x-notata

ARANEIDAE

Araneus quadratus

Larinioides cornutus

Larinioides sclopetarius

Nuctanea umbratica

Agalenata redii

THERIDIOSOMATIDAE

Theridiosoma gemmosum **Nb**

LINYPHIIDAE

Walkenaeria unicornis

Dicymbium tibiale

Entelecara erythropus

Gnathonarium dentatum

Hypomma bituberculatum

Pocadicnemis juncea

Oedothorax gibbosus

Oedothorax tuberosus

Oedothorax fuscus

Oedothorax retusus

Cnephalocotes obscurus

Monocephalus fuscipes

Lophomma punctatum

Gongylidiellum vivum

Micrargus herbigradus

Erigone dentipalpis

Erigone atra
Leptorhoptrum robustum
Porrhomma pygmaeum
(Porrhomma convexum ?)
Tallusia experta
Bathyphantes approximatus
Bathyphantes gracilis
Bathyphantes nigrinus
Kaestneria pullata
Floronia bucculenta
Labulla thoracica
Stemonyphantes lineatus
Lepthyphantes minutus
Lepthyphantes alacris
Lepthyphantes tenuis
Lepthyphantes zimmermanni
Lepthyphantes ericaeus
Lepthyphantes pallidus
Linyphia triangularis
Linyphia (Neriene) montana
Linyphia (Neriene) clathrata
Linyphia peltata
Microlinyphia impigra

The taxonomy follows Merrett, P., Locket, G. H., and Millidge, A. F. (1985), 'A Check List of British Spiders', *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society*, 6, 381-403.

CLIVE HAMBLER

MOLLUSCA (Snails)

<i>Aplexa hypnorum</i>	a moss bladder snail
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	White-lipped Snail
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	Brown-lipped Snail
<i>Helix aspersa</i>	Garden Snail
<i>Lymnaea peregra</i>	Wandering Snail

AQUATIC MACROINVERTEBRATES

Recorded from the central ditch of the Trap Grounds on 6.6.1987 and 6.7.1987 by Jeremy Biggs.

FLATWORMS (TRICLADIDA)

Dendrocoelum lacteum

SHRIMPS AND SLATERS (CRUSTACEA)

<i>Asellus aquaticus</i>	a water skater
(Abundant, and probably the numerically dominant animal)	
<i>Crangonyx pseudogracilis</i>	a freshwater shrimp

AQUATIC VERTEBRATES

The ditches also contained immature newts (species not determined) and Three-spined Sticklebacks (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*).

FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS

This report is based on visits to the whole of the Trap Grounds area by C. M. Jackson-Houlston, members of the Oxford Urban Wildlife Group and, from 1986 to 1991, David Steele. The total of 215 is a very respectable one, though many are garden escapes..

The vegetation falls into two main types: the reedbed itself, and rough grassland with large patches of scrub. There is also some relict woodland, hedge, and stream bank which add variety to the species recorded. The joining-up of the various paths to make a circular route by local volunteers led to a number of fresh and interesting records in 2000. Recent development at the south end of the site may have extirpated a few of the introduced species, but not yet, as far as is known, any of the native ones.

The **reedbed** is not of great interest floristically in terms of numbers of species. Rather, it is important for having relatively extensive stands of a few species which afford cover and support for birds and invertebrates. The three important zones consist of stands of Reed (*Phragmites communis*), Great Water Grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and Pond Sedges (*Carex riparia* and *Carex acutiformis*), though the latter three have been reduced in area by the creation of the pond. Interesting **wetland** species (some outside the reedbed—see below) include Water Plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*).

There is a fringe of mature willow (*Salix fragilis*) near the reedbed, and a more varied fringe of **hedge and trees** near the railway. There is a small colony of the green orchid, Twayblade (*Listera ovata*). Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*) – the only known foodplant for the Brimstone butterfly – has been recorded, as has the handsome woodland-edge plant Nettle-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*). Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*) adorn the hedges. The discovery of Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*) and Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*) suggests that the wooded sections carry a suite of species found in ancient woodland. Since the tree cover here is a comparatively recent development, this suggests that a woodland community is being re-constituted here. In part this is probably due to garden throw-outs (see Columbine and Roast Beef Plant below) but Spurge-laurel is even scarcer in gardens than in the wild.

The **scrubland** contains the greatest variety of species, including most of the 22 or so that one would probably classify as 'garden escapes', i.e. casual plants only established as the result of the dumping of plant material or the closeness of neighbouring gardens. Regrettably, the Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*), Stinking Hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*) and Roast Beef Plant (*Iris foetidissima*) probably come into this category, although they are genuinely native plants. So do the Goldenrod, Michaelmas Daisies, Blue Sow-thistle and Mock Orange. However, these species fulfil a useful role in providing nectar for insects and some seeds.

Other aliens certainly capable of surviving and of colonising new areas are the Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*), an excellent source of nectar for butterflies, and the sinister but spectacular Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), perhaps dumped with rubbish, but well able to look after itself. Because this causes dermatitis, it is being eradicated as part of the management plan.

The **grassland** does contain a number of native species, such as the Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), four vetches, the semi-parasitic Hay-rattle, (*Rhinanthus minor*), the Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Bladder Campion (*Silene cucubalus*), and Great Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*). Some of these species suggest a somewhat alkaline soil. Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), normally a wetland plant, has recently appeared in this area. Dry ground at the southern edge of the site produced the uncommon Keeled-fruited Cornsalad (*Valerianella carinata*) in spring 2000. Other interesting plants are a couple of established aliens. One is a tall showy mullein with spikes of yellow flowers with mixed purple and white hairs on the anthers. This suggests a hybrid, but it appears to be fertile. In spite of specialist help, this plant has not yet been identified as to species. There is also a beautiful purple and white vetch of the *Vicia cracca* group, probably *Vicia tenuifolia*. Unfortunately the part of the site on which this grew has been used for a travellers' cooking fire and it has not yet reappeared,

but there is history of records of plants from this group on or near the site, so we hope it will return. It is likely to have been introduced with railway ballast. Management is necessary to keep the grassland open.

Unusual and interesting as some of these are, the Trap Grounds cannot boast any outstanding botanical rarities. Nevertheless, it does contain three orchids, two Keystone Oxfordshire BAP species (Ragged Robin and Yellow Loosestrife), and a wide variety of flowering plants and of plant habitats, especially valuable considering its closeness to central Oxford. These provide food (nectar, pollen, berries, seeds, and foodplants for insects) and shelter for a range of other organisms described elsewhere in this booklet. There is a range of umbelliferous species flowering throughout the year. These are particularly useful for insect species and are unlikely to be grown in gardens. For these reasons, it is desirable to preserve the plant communities of the whole area beyond the reedbed as well as the reedbed itself.

C. M. JACKSON-HOULSTON

PLANT LIST

<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	White Bent
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Jack-by-the-Hedge
<i>Althea</i> sp.	Hollyhock
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid
<i>Anisanthera sterilis</i>	Barren Brome
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Angelica
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine
<i>Aridopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Horse Radish
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat Grass
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Wormwood
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Aster novi-belgii</i> (agg.)	Michaelmas Daisy
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Bergenia</i> sp.	Bergenia
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Slender False-brome
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleia
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Kingcup
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Calystegia sylvatica</i>	American Bellbine
<i>Campanula persica</i>	Bellflower
<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Nettle-leaved Bellflower
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary Pepperwort
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bittercress
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Wetted Thistle

<i>Carex acutiformis</i>	Lesser Pond Sedge
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False Fox Sedge
<i>Carex riparia</i>	Great Pond Sedge
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Hardheads
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Hornwort
<i>Chaemerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen
<i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i>	Feverfew
<i>Cicerbita</i> sp.	Milk Thistle
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>	Meadow Thistle
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-Valley
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.	Cotoneaster
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawksbeard
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge-laurel
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair Grass
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel
<i>Doronicum</i> sp.	Doronicum
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male Fern
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Codlins-and-Cream
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Lesser Hairy Willowherb
<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	Marsh Horsetail
<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	Canadian Fleabane
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony
<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	Caper Spurge
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goosegrass
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Cranesbill
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Cranesbill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot Cranesbill
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Mountain Cranesbill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Cranesbill

<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennet
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Great Reed-grass
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant Hogweed
<i>Hieracium</i> sp.	Hawkweed
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. John's Wort
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>	Small Balsam
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag
<i>Juncus compressus</i>	Round-fruited Rush
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Compass Plant
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Deadnettle
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Deadnettle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Garden Everlasting Pea
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pea
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Twayblade
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Rye Grass
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Evergreen Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged-Robin
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gipsywort
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	Yellow Loosestrife
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple
<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Wild Chamomile
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Calvary Clover
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick
<i>Melilotus altissima</i>	Tall Melilot
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Common Melilot
<i>Mentha spicata</i>	Spearmint
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Common Forget-me-not
<i>Odontites verna</i>	Red Bartsia
<i>Oenothera erythrosepala</i>	Evening Primrose
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid
<i>Ornithogalum</i> sp.	Star of Bethlehem
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Field Poppy
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium Poppy
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip
<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Winter Heliotrope
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur

<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Parsley
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Grass
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	Mock Orange
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Phragmites communis</i>	Common Reed
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow Grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow Grass
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	Amphibious Bistort
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Redshank
<i>Populus x canescens</i>	Grey Poplar
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i>	Lungwort
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	Buckthorn
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle
<i>Ribes sylvestre</i>	Red Currant
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (agg.)	Blackberry
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Sagina apetala</i>	Annual Pearlwort
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Common Sallow
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clarey (July 2008)
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Scrophularia aquatica</i>	Water Figwort
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Wall Pepper
<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	Marsh Ragwort
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Oxford Ragwort
<i>Senecio viscosus</i>	Stinking Groundsel
<i>Silene coeli-rosa</i>	Rose Campion
<i>Silene cucubalus</i>	Bladder Campion
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Woody Nightshade
<i>Solidago canadensis</i> (agg.)	Goldenrod
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Field Sowthistle
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Rough Sowthistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sowthistle
<i>Sorbus ?aria</i>	Whitebeam
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan

<i>Stachys palustris</i>	Marsh Woundwort
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed
<i>Symphoricarpos rivularis</i>	Snowberry
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Comfrey
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy
<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.	Dandelion
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Hedge Parsley
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Yellow Trefoil
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow Oat Grass
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Great Reedmace
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Valerianella carinata</i>	Keeled-fruited Cornsalad
<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Cornsalad
<i>Verbascum</i> sp.	a Mullein
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Birdseye Speedwell
<i>Veronica teucrium</i>	Large Speedwell
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia tenuifolia</i>	
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser Periwinkle
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Rat's Tail Fescue

BRYOPHYTES

Recorded on Trap Grounds VC 23 ca SP504083, 8.9.87

KEY: C=common, F=frequent, O=occasional, R=rare, cfr=with fruit

	MOSSES
<i>Amblystegium riparium</i> cfr	O edge of fen, bank of stream
<i>A. serpens</i>	F general
<i>Aulacomnium androgynum</i>	R willow
<i>Barbula convoluta</i>	C waste ground
<i>B. unguiculata</i>	F waste ground
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	C general
<i>B. velutinum</i>	O willow
<i>Bryum argenteum</i>	F waste ground
<i>B. caespiticiun</i>	O waste ground
<i>B. capillarare</i> cfr	F willows
<i>B. dunense</i>	F waste ground
<i>B. flaccidum</i>	R willows

<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>	C general (on willows, sometimes with gemmae)
<i>Dicranoweisia cirrata</i>	C willows
<i>Eurhynchium praelongum</i> v. <i>praelongum</i>	C general
<i>E. swartzii</i>	O dry open places, chiefly
<i>Funaria hygrometrica</i>	O waste ground
<i>Grimmia pulvinata</i>	R on willow (usually on concrete, mortar, etc., where it is common)
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> v. <i>cupressiforme</i>	F willows
<i>H. cupressiforme</i> v. <i>resupinatum</i>	O willows
<i>H. mammillatum</i>	R willows
(This species is probably going to be separated from <i>H. filiforme</i> and <i>H. cupressiforme</i> .)	
<i>Leptobryum pyriforme</i>	O bank of stream
<i>Mnium hornum</i>	R willow by stream
<i>Orthotrichum affine</i> cfr	F willows (one with many leaves)
<i>O. diaphanum</i> cfr	F willows
<i>Phascum cuspidatum</i> cfr	O waste ground
<i>Rhynchostegium confertum</i> cfr	O willows
<i>Tortula muralis</i>	O concrete, waste ground
<i>Tortula ruralis</i>	R waste ground
<i>Ulota crispa</i> v. <i>crispa</i>	R willows
(Identification on short upper fruiting)	

LIVERWORTS

<i>Frullania dilatata</i>	R willow
<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	R willows

NOTES

Bryum dunense: this is probably only the second Oxfordshire record. This species was first described about 10 years ago and, I believe, is under-recorded. Nobody knows just how uncommon it is, or indeed if it is really separable from *B. bicolor* because the two intergrade. In some terms it is a 'weed' but it may in fact be rare in much of Oxfordshire and indeed Britain.

Ceratodon purpureus with gemmae: (gemmae are small vegetative propagules). This is probably very uncommon. I have only ever seen it on trees.

Leptobryum pyriforme: a 'weed'; the textbooks emphasise its frequent presence in greenhouses. Actually its usual habitat is bare places on the banks of streams. It has not often been recorded in Oxfordshire.

Ulota crispa and *Frullania dilatata*: these species need relatively unpolluted air and both a moist atmosphere and light, two factors that don't often occur together in Oxfordshire, so the species are only 'occasional'.

I would like to see the old willows preserved to provide another refuge in Oxfordshire for *Ulota crispa* and *Frullania dilatata* and perhaps another place where the ubiquitous *Ceratodon purpureus* will produce gemmae.

The nomenclature used is that of M. C. F. Corley and M. O. Hill, *Distribution of Bryophytes in the British Isles*, British Bryological Society, 1981.

GEORGE BLOOM (and editor)

FUNGI AND GALLS

MACROFUNGI

Specimens found on a two-hour visit by K. Southern and C. M. Jackson-Houlston, 12.9.1988. This group of species is under-recorded; further records welcome.

Determinations: species marked with an asterisk have been identified by Dr. D. A. Reid of the Kew Herbarium. The remainder have been named by Mrs K. Southern (nee Paviour-Smith) or CJH. The paucity of specimens is due to the very dry conditions at the date of the original visit.

BASIDIOMYCOTINA

Auriculariales

Auricularia auricula-judae (Linn.) Schroet. (Jew's Ear Fungus) on a huge cut bole of willow (same log as *C. disseminatus*, *U. deusta* and *X. polymorpha* below). Very dried-up specimen.

Tremella mesenterica (Retz: Fr.)(Yellow Brain Fungus) On a twig, 27.10.01.

Agaricales

**Clitocybe phyllophila* (Fr.) Kummer: a tuft of two specimens, amidst grass, willowherb, *Artemisia*, young willow scrub.

Coprinus sp., possibly *atramentarius* (Bull. ex Fr.) Fr., but too old for certainty, associated with friable 'touchwood' on willow. Common Inkcap.

Coprinus comatus (Mull, ex Fr.) S. F. Gray: 1 specimen amidst grass and brambles.

Coprinus disseminatus (Pers. ex Fr.) S. F. Gray: Trooping Crumble Caps: a tiny troupe of 14 specimens in crevice of huge dead willow.

**Gymnopilus penetrans* (Fr. ex Fr.) Murr.: a group of 4 on buried, very rotten wood, amidst grass, bramble, black medick and Michaelmas daisies.

**Lactarius pubescens* (Fr. ex Krombh.) Fr.: at least half a dozen scattered specimens, under young birch, willowherb, willow.

Apothellophorales

Coriolus (Trametes) versicolor (L. ex Fr.) Quel: two collections, both very dead and dry, one on a still living willow, and a very beetle-riddled collection on a dead willow (see end of list for fauna).

**Meruliopsis corium* (Fr.) Ginns (= *Byssomerulius corium* (Fr.) Parm.) at 1-2 m. on dead willow.

Phellinus sp.: very small, immature specimen on small willow.

Ascomycotina

Rhytisma acerinum (Pers.) Fr. on leaves of a young Sycamore. Tarspot.

Ustulina deusta (Hoffm.) Lind: very old, dry material, on same huge old willow.

Xylaria polymorpha (Pers.) Grev.: on same willow as above.

The leaves of a sallow were covered with a black fungus (either 'a sooty mould or *Cladorsporium* sp.' according to Dr. R. Pearce) and a few leaves of the same tree also had a rust, not yet determined.

A Discomycete on *Carex* litter and fallen dead twig; to Mr. A. Warland for determination.

ASSOCIATED FAUNA

Coriolus versicolor contained:

Coleoptera

Cis boleti (Scop.) very abundant

Octotemnus glabriculus (Gyll.) very abundant

Mycetaea hirta 1 adult

Hymenoptera

Asticus arithmeticus (Foerst.)

Oribatid mites *Damaeus* sp. (probably *clavipes*)

GALLS

On Dog Rose, a bedeguar gall (Robin's Pin-cushion) caused by *Diplolpepis rosae* (L.) (Hymenoptera, Cynipidae).

On Reed, several inflorescence stalks galled by *Lipara* (probably) *lucens* (Meig.) (Diptera, Chloropidae). Determined from gall by Dr. J. Ismay, though more material collected during the winter is needed for confirmation. Galls at c. 1.6m above ground.

On Sycamore, eriophyiid mite galls on under side of leaves; to be determined.

KITTY SOUTHERN and others