

The Wildlife and Community Value of Abbeyfields, Histon, Cambridgeshire

May 2021



Long Meadow

David Chandler

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Foreword

Picture yourself listening to the gentle purring of a Turtle Dove and the fluid descending notes of a Willow Warbler. It conjures images of quiet English countryside with mixed farmland and woodland, but sadly, perhaps a few years ago. Why? Because both these species are in rapid decline.

Turtle Dove shows the steepest decline of any breeding bird in England, a staggering crash in numbers of 96% in the last 24 years while Willow Warblers have shown a decline of 45%. This alone makes a site that supports both these birds special. The fact that Abbeyfields is on the urban fringe of Cambridge, just 5.5km from the centre of the dreaming spires, makes it even more remarkable.

What was once an arable landscape has been left alone for nature to quietly claim it back from years of planting and harvesting. It has become a haven for birds, mammals, plants and insects, and, importantly, a haven that is accessible and with care, can be improved by sympathetic management. Where once we worked the land against nature to meet our need for food there is now a chance to work with it to help our physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Living through a year of restrictions under a global pandemic has awakened us to the intrinsic beauty and value of wildlife and the benefits of access to, and connection with, the wildlife on our doorstep. Conserving Abbeyfields would be a superb example of a perfect response to this awakening.



Professor Juliet A Vickery
CEO, British Trust for Ornithology
May 2021

Introduction

Abbeyfields comprises two separate pieces of land – Croft Close Set-aside (see below) and Long Meadow (see cover). The two areas are close to each other but not contiguous, and came on to the market in 2019 as part of the sale of Abbey Farm. ‘Abbey Fields Future’ was established by the Parish Council as a ‘Task and Finish Group’ to ‘facilitate an appropriate community response to the imminent sale of Abbey Farm’.

The Group aimed to secure land for the community, and balance biodiversity conservation with tangible benefits for local people. The project aims to provide wild green spaces where the community can discover and enjoy the natural world, secure a number of permanent rights of way to facilitate access, enhance local biodiversity (including a number of threatened species) and maintain heritage landscape.

Two local business people provided a temporary loan to purchase Croft Close Set-aside and Long Meadow. Ultimately, fundraising initiatives and community generosity will enable the loan to be repaid. The land will then be owned by the village. At the time of writing, the sale is nearing completion.

This report focusses on the biodiversity value of the sites and the community benefits they could deliver. It also outlines some development work that would be prudent or could be considered to enhance the biodiversity and community value of the land.

The report draws on information published in abbeyfields.online, information prepared for the Neighbourhood Plan, natural history records and other input provided by local people and the author’s personal experience of the sites. Other sources are listed in appendix 1.



Croft Close Set-aside

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Thank you all.

The Wildlife and Community Value of Abbeyfields

Site description

This section provides a brief description of the two areas of land that make up Abbeyfields. It describes their location and extent and gives a high-level overview of their habitats.

Location, extent and designations

Croft Close Set-aside and Long Meadow are both located on the north-western edge of Histon and Impington in Cambridgeshire (in TL4363 and TL4364). Histon is approximately 5.5km (3.4 miles) north of the centre of Cambridge.

Both sites are located within land designated as Green Belt and both are identified as Important Natural Habitats in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan also recognises Long Meadow as a Local Green Space.

Croft Close Set-aside covers approximately 4.5ha (11.1 acres). Long Meadow covers approximately 2.0ha (4.9 acres).

Habitats

Croft Close Set-aside was once arable farmland. It was ploughed in the 1990s and was then set-aside. It is now a mix of scrub, young woodland (predominantly Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Field Maple *Acer campestre*), grassland and two ponds. Its boundaries include hedgerows and mature trees. One particularly notable tree is a veteran Pedunculate Oak ('The Histon Oak') in the southern boundary. This tree is thought to be at least 500 years old. Other species include Elm *Ulmus sp.*, Evergreen Oak *Q. ilex*, Walnut *Juglans regia*, Goat Willow *Salix caprea* and Grey Willow *S. cinerea*.

Long Meadow is an area of grassland with a number of mature and imposing trees (Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* and Lime *Tilia sp.*). It is bounded to the north by a brook and to the south by a tall predominantly Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna* and a single *C. laevigata*) hedge with Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Pedunculate Oak, Elm and Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*. Part of this boundary is designated as Important Countryside Frontage in the Local Plan. Long Meadow acts as a buffer between the village and extensive arable farmland.

Biodiversity

This section highlights the species/habitat on the sites that should be seen as conservation priorities. It focusses on vertebrates first (birds, then mammals, then reptiles and amphibians), then invertebrates, then flora, and finally 'connectivity'.

A list of recorded fauna is included as appendix 2, and recorded flora as appendix 3.

Birds

During 2020 and 2021 53 bird species were recorded on or over the two sites. The UK's bird species are categorised as red, amber, or green-listed – with red-listed species being those of highest conservation concern, and amber 'the next most critical group'. Of the sites' 53 species, 12 were red-listed and 9 were amber-listed. Ten red-listed species were recorded at each of the two sites, eight amber-listed at Croft Close Set-aside and seven amber-listed at Long Meadow. The red-listed species include birds that were once much commoner – Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*, Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*, Linnet *Linaria cannabina* and Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. The red-listed Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* has been recorded at both sites as a passage migrant (a bird stopping-off on its way to its breeding area) and is known to have bred close to Long Meadow (which it is likely to have used as feeding habitat) in 2019. This species has 'declined rapidly and consistently since the 1960s' with UK numbers falling by 90% between 1967 and 2018. There are also 'historic' and contemporary records of the red-listed Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* at Croft Close Set-aside. This bird is classified as 'vulnerable' on IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species – it is threatened with worldwide extinction. The UK population is estimated at 3600 territories. Two pairs bred at Croft Close Set-aside in 2019, and one pair in 2020.

These sites could contribute to the survival of Turtle Dove and Spotted Flycatcher as breeding species in the UK while also benefitting a number of other red and amber-listed species.

Mammals

Collectively, nine mammal species were recorded at the two sites during 2020 and 2021. These include Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*, Reeves' Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi*, Fox *Vulpes vulpes*, Badger *Meles meles* and Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius*. Badger and Water Vole are legally protected.

Water Voles have been seen repeatedly along the brook that bounds Long Meadow. This is a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and one that is 'vulnerable to extinction in the UK'. This endangered species has been lost from 94% of the sites that it once

occupied. Appropriate management of the Long Meadow brook could contribute to the survival of this species in the UK.

Very little data is available on the bats that make use of the two sites. Further work on this group is recommended.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Smooth Newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*, Common Frog *Rana temporaria* and Grass Snake *Natrix Helvetica* have been recorded at Croft Close Set-aside. Grass Snake is a UK and Cambridge and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. Appropriate management of these sites could benefit this species.

Invertebrates

Invertebrate data for the two sites is very limited – more work is needed to better understand the value of the sites for invertebrates. It would be good to establish monitoring programmes for butterflies, moths and dragonflies and damselflies and, ideally, to gather baseline data at least on other less-studied invertebrate groups by involving professional ecologists and/or academics with relevant expertise. There may well be invertebrate species on one or both of the sites that are conservation priorities – see ‘Flora’ below for White-spotted Pinion *Cosmia diffinis*.

Flora

Croft Close set-aside is one of only three known locations in Cambridgeshire for Changing Forget-me-not *Myosotis discolor*. Over the last 70 years this annual herb has suffered widespread decline in the east of England.

This site also includes a large area of developing scrub and an ancient boundary – this is of significant value. Any Elm scrub on the site could provide habitat for White-spotted Pinion, a moth whose numbers plummeted because of Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s. It is a Red Data Book species – known from no more than 15 10km squares most of which are in eastern England.

Butcher’s-broom *Ruscus aculeatus* is present in Croft Close Set-aside’s northern boundary. This is often seen as an indicator of ancient woodland and is in the shade of a very old Field Maple. The southern boundary includes an impressive, hollow Pedunculate Oak, the ‘Histon Oak’, which is thought to be over 500 years old. This is a Veteran Tree listed on the Woodland Trust’s Ancient Tree Inventory and has a girth of 6.3m. It has a Tree Protection Order as do two groups of trees in the south-west corner.

Semi-mature Elm trees are present on both sites which is unusual. These have been provisionally identified as English Elm *Ulmus procera*. Elm taxonomy is complex – more work is required to confirm the specific identity of these trees.

The brook bordering Long Meadow is a great asset. Water quality is good and it supports a variety of aquatic plants. It also provides Water Vole habitat – see Mammals above. Cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis* and Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* grow in the meadow – these are iconic meadow plants. Midland Hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata* occurs in the hedges. This is unusual and probably indicates an ancient origin.

Connectivity

These sites should not be viewed solely in isolation from the surrounding landscape. Habitat fragmentation is a significant threat to biodiversity. Landscape connectivity facilitates the movement of species between sites and habitats. Maintaining and enhancing landscape connections is an important conservation action. These sites are connected to each other by Abbey Farm which abuts Histon Manor. Gun's lane runs alongside Croft Close Set-aside. This ancient trackway has valuable hedgerows that connect Histon to the Westwick area and then Rampton. It runs alongside Cottenham Road Farm, which flows into Buxhall Farm and Mill Lane Farm, and then Manor Farm.

Public benefits

Connecting with nature

In May 2021 the Mental Health Foundation's website stated that 'Nature is so central to our psychological and emotional health, that it's almost impossible to realise good mental health for all without a greater connection to the natural world'.

Croft Close Set-aside and Long Meadow are likely to be making a real difference to the mental well-being of local people already and have the potential to have even greater impact in the future.

Education

Both sites could be a resource for formal and informal education. A variety of curriculum areas could be studied on site, from Early Years to Key Stage 4 and beyond. Local children's and youth groups could make use of the sites, including uniformed youth groups and faith-based groups. Adult education opportunities include art, photography, natural history, creative writing and local history.

Walking, running and more

Currently both sites are used by dog walkers. Long Meadow is also used heavily by runners and walkers. A bridleway runs alongside the northern edge of Croft Close Set-aside and this is used by horse-riders. All of this can continue though it may need some gentle management to maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of the sites.

Because of their proximity to the sites residents of west Histon are the major users, though the sites are visited by many people from other parts of Histon and Impington, especially dog walkers.

Roughly a third of Histon and Impington homes are within 500 metres of Long Meadow. This is private land, but has been used by the public for decades and in the days of the village feast parade was the gathering area for the feast procession. It is a much loved local space.

Managing the sites and possible developments

Providing safe and appropriate access and improving infrastructure

The project's aims include securing permanent rights of way. Access should be managed to balance community benefit with biodiversity conservation. Local people (and others) should be able to enjoy these sites without causing any significant negative impact on their biodiversity. Consideration will need to be given to the appropriate routing of paths and the positioning of benches, picnic areas and any other infrastructure that is installed.

New paths may need to be created and all paths will need ongoing maintenance to ensure that they are safe for visitors. This could include tree surgery if trees present a potential hazard to visitors.

Signage and interpretation should be considered. The former to reassure visitors that they are on the right track/in the right place, the latter to provide relevant information in a style appropriate for the target audience. The use of QR codes or other technology could enable audio tours, with, for example, recordings of bird song to show visitors what to listen for.

Enhancing biodiversity

Ongoing monitoring of the sites' flora and fauna is recommended, as well as growing the knowledge-base by specialist surveys of less well-known plant and animal groups. Knowing what is there is key to sound management. Identifying priority species should lead to specific management actions to benefit those species.

More general management prescriptions might include:

- A suitable mowing regime to enhance grassland areas.
- Supplementary planting to enhance/diversify the sites.
- Scrub control to stop it becoming too dominant.
- Hedgerow maintenance.
- Selective thinning of wooded areas.
- Pond management – to allow more light in and to manage vegetation. Without management the pond will disappear.

- Creating additional ponds to further enhance the wildlife value of the site.
- Adding bird and bat boxes.
- Adding one or more appropriately located bird-feeding stations – this could add much to the visitor experience.

Engagement activities

See also Public benefits above. Possibilities include:

- Guided walks, including self-guided walks with appropriate interpretive material.
- Work parties – to engage local people in the management of the sites.
- Bird ringing (as a Constant Effort Site perhaps) will not only reveal information about the birds that use the sites but as a demonstration activity can be a very effective way of engaging the public.
- Nest cameras could engage a remote audience by live streaming to the website. Photos or videos captured by one or more trail cameras could be used in a similar way – and would reveal information about some of the sites' more secretive animals.
- Bioblitzes could be a good way to find out more about the species present and a good way to engage with the public.
- Pond-dipping is ever-popular and not just with children. Installing one or more pond-dipping platforms may be required for this to be done safely.

Summary

Wise management of the two sites that comprise Abbeyfields will enable the community of Histon and Impington to maintain and enhance the sites' biodiversity and improve their value as a resource that benefits local people.

Turtle Dove, Spotted Flycatcher and Water Vole are particular conservation priorities. Their presence is something the village should be proud of. The relatively large area of scrub, semi-mature Elms, ancient boundary, veteran Oak (The Histon Oak), Changing Forget-me-not and the possible presence of White-spotted Pinion should also be seen as conservation priorities in the future management of the sites.

The sites can be even more of an asset for local people than they already are – providing opportunities for informal and formal education, for connecting with nature, and for recreation. Involving local people in the ongoing management of the sites is highly recommended.

Appendix 1: selected other sources

- The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust: arc-trust.org
- The Biological Records Centre: brc.ac.uk
- The British Trust for Ornithology: bto.org
- The Mammal Society: mammal.org.uk

Appendix 2: list of recorded fauna

Category	Species	Conservation status	Long Meadow	Croft Close set-aside
Birds	Little Egret	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Grey Heron	GREEN	X	
Birds	Greylag Goose	AMBER		
Birds	Red Kite	GREEN		
Birds	Sparrowhawk	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Buzzard	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Kestrel	AMBER	X	X
Birds	Hobby	GREEN		
Birds	Grey Partridge	RED		
Birds	Pheasant	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Lapwing	RED		
Birds	Woodcock	RED	X	
Birds	Black-headed Gull	AMBER		
Birds	Common Gull	AMBER		
Birds	Lesser Black-backed Gull	AMBER		
Birds	Herring Gull	RED		
Birds	Great Black-backed Gull	AMBER		
Birds	Stock Dove	AMBER	X	X
Birds	Woodpigeon	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Collared Dove	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Turtle Dove	RED		X
Birds	Tawny Owl	AMBER	X	X
Birds	Little Owl	GREEN	X	
Birds	Swift	AMBER		
Birds	Green Woodpecker	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Great Spotted Woodpecker	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Skylark	RED		
Birds	Swallow	GREEN	X	X
Birds	House Martin	AMBER		
Birds	Meadow Pipit	AMBER	X	
Birds	Wren	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Duncock	AMBER	X	X
Birds	Robin	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Wheatear	GREEN		
Birds	Blackbird	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Fieldfare	RED	X	X
Birds	Song Thrush	RED	X	X
Birds	Redwing	RED	X	X
Birds	Mistle Thrush	RED	X	
Birds	Lesser Whitethroat	GREEN		X
Birds	Whitethroat	GREEN	X	X

Birds	Blackcap	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Chiffchaff	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Willow Warbler	AMBER	X	X
Birds	Goldcrest	GREEN		X
Birds	Spotted Flycatcher	RED	X	X
Birds	Long-tailed Tit	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Blue Tit	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Great Tit	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Treecreeper	AMBER		X
Birds	Jay	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Magpie	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Jackdaw	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Rook	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Carrion Crow	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Starling	RED	X	X
Birds	House Sparrow	RED	X	X
Birds	Chaffinch	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Greenfinch	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Goldfinch	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Linnet	RED	X	X
Birds	Bullfinch	AMBER	X	X
Birds	Reed Bunting	AMBER		X
Birds	Yellowhammer	RED	X	X
Birds	Feral Pigeon	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Pied Wagtail (yarrellii)	GREEN	X	X
Birds	Lesser Redpoll	RED		X
Mammals	Rabbit			X
Mammals	Grey Squirrel		X	X
Mammals	Roe Deer		X	
Mammals	Reeves's Muntjac		X	X
Mammals	Common Shrew		X	
Mammals	Badger			X
Mammals	Fox			X
Mammals	Water Vole		X	
Odonata	Brown Hawker			X
Odonata	Migrant Hawker		X	
Odonata	Emperor Dragonfly		X	
Odonata	Common Pipistrelle		X	
Amphibians	Smooth Newt			X
Amphibians	Frog			X
Reptiles	Grass Snake			X

Appendix 3: list of recorded flora

Croft Close Set-Aside, Histon

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-Grass
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False-brome
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge
<i>Centaurea nigra var. nemoralis</i>	Chalk knapweed
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Cornus sanguinea subsp. australis</i>	Dogwood
<i>Cornus sanguinea subsp. sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	Short-fruited Willowherb
<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	Caper Spurge
<i>Ficaria verna subsp. verna</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Ficaria verna subsp. verna</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium x oxonianum</i>	Druce's Crane's-bill
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	Marsh Cudweed
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common Ivy
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue

<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	Rose-of-Sharon
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lemna minuta</i>	Least Duckweed
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Lesser Hawkbit
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Lysimachia punctata</i>	Dotted Loosestrife
<i>Malus pumila</i>	Apple
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing Forget-me-not
<i>Odontites vernus subsp. serotinus</i>	Red Bartsia
<i>Picris hieracioides</i>	Hawkweed Oxtongue
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry Plum
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Evergreen Oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Red Currant
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog-rose
<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent Pearlwort
<i>Salix caprea subsp. caprea</i>	Goat Willow
<i>Salix cinerea subsp. cinerea</i>	Grey Willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Scorzonerooides autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion
<i>Sison amomum</i>	Stone Parsley

<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	Early Goldenrod
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright Hedge-parsley
<i>Tragopogon pratensis subsp. minor</i>	Goat's-beard
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia sativa subsp. segetalis</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog-violet

Long Meadow, Histon

<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's-water-cress
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-Grass
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False-brome
<i>Brassica napus</i>	Rape
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft-brome
<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	Hairy-brome
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	Common Water-starwort
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Midland Hawthorn
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Ficaria verna subsp. verna</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Ficaria verna subsp. fertilis</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet

<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Lapsana communis subsp. communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling
<i>Lemna minuta</i>	Least Duckweed
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Water Forget-me-not
<i>Narcissus agg.</i>	Cultivated Daffodil
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	Elm-leaved Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort
<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Tragopogon pratensis subsp. minor</i>	Goat's-beard
<i>Trifolium pratense var. pratense</i>	Red clover
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime

Veronica chamaedrys

Germander Speedwell

Veronica hederifolia subsp. *hederifolia*

Ivy-leaved Speedwell

Viscum album

Mistletoe

Appendix 4: about the author

David Chandler is a freelance writer and wildlife guide. His books include *Barn Owl*, *Kingfishers*, *Dragonfly* and *A Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies & Damselflies of Britain & Ireland*.

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