

Maidenhead's Nature Matters

A biodiversity review by Wild Maidenhead

25 October 2016



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to thank Simon Miles at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for assistance with mapping.



Cover photo: Great crested grebe mother and chick

## **Suggested citation**

Hewer FE, Smith TJ, Woolner M, Clews B, Cook R, Craggs H, Evans G, Hemmings M, Padmore A, Stannard J, Barnes, C *Maidenhead's Nature Matters*. A biodiversity review by Wild Maidenhead, October 2016

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report by Wild Maidenhead about the state of nature in the Maidenhead area is unique and unprecedented in the area's history.

It has been written by the local community, including many local experts with lifelong knowledge of the locality, for the benefit of wild habitats and wildlife, from insects to mammals, most of which have declined profoundly in recent decades.

It is a preliminary study, the starting point for a 2018 Action Plan for biodiversity which Wild Maidenhead will produce with the help of all nine local stakeholders groups.

The following highlights the major findings and points in this document:

- In our area, **many species have been lost and some remain in severe decline** including seven species of birds now extinct locally, and 12 species of birds with much reduced numbers
- **Water voles are now potentially extinct** in the area due to mink activity. As 'Ratty' in the locally written '*Wind in the Willows*', they are Maidenhead's most iconic species
- One reintroduced native species, **Red Kites**, have shown an increase in numbers
- **Invertebrates, particularly insects, are being lost at a rapid rate**, and positive action is needed to provide invertebrate habitats as they are the start of the food chain for birds, reptiles and mammals
- The Wild Maidenhead team have identified over **100 priority species** which are, or are potentially, present in the area
- We present our **preliminary findings on priority species** in the Wild Maidenhead area for flora, fungi, moths and butterflies, birds, reptiles, mammals, invertebrates, amphibians and freshwater fish. Further work is needed to add molluscs and mosses/liverworts
- **Too few wildlife sites are being managed** to protect habitats or species
- There are **16 different categories of sites** currently or potentially suitable for wildlife habitats; about 200 are wildlife-focused sites, public open spaces, orchards and ponds; there are many more in gardens, schools, religious buildings, hedgerows, roadsides and the built environment
- A key habitat is **domestic gardens**, which we have found make up 10% of the Wild Maidenhead area
- More **habitat surveys and research** are needed
- Improved biodiversity depends upon **connected, improved habitats and corridors** to avoid habitat fragmentation and potential extinction
- Land management for biodiversity can also help **reduce flood risk**
- There is **no RBWM Biodiversity Action Plan** in place; Wild Maidenhead's 2018 plan could form the basis of such a document

Wild Maidenhead's three initial projects are:

- Help with the creation of new habitats on the new land at **Ockwell's Park Nature Reserve**
- Campaign for **10% wilder parks and gardens**
- Support **Deerswood Meadow Wildlife Area** and its regionally significant colony of over 1,500 Common Toads

	<b>Number of priority species in Maidenhead</b>	<b>Example</b>
<b>Amphibians</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Common Toad</b>
<b>Birds (appendix 4 )</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Sky Lark</b>
<b>Butterflies (appendix 5)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Small Blue</b>
<b>Flora (appendix 2)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Wild Candytuft</b>
<b>Freshwater fish</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>European Eel</b>
<b>Fungi</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Velvet Tooth</b>
<b>Invertebrates</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Stag Beetle</b>
<b>Mammals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Water Vole</b>
<b>Moths (appendix 3)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>Cinnabar</b>
<b>Reptiles</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Slow Worm</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>	

## A FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR OF WILD MAIDENHEAD



This is just the beginning.

This report brings together, for the first time, a review of the biodiversity - the variety of all life including animals and plants - within Maidenhead and its surrounding villages and rural areas.

We have been able to list around 200 wildlife sites in the Wild Maidenhead area, which spans Knowl Hill in the west, Cookham in the north, Maidenhead town in the east and Fifield in the south. This doesn't take into account gardens, which can support a great deal of wildlife and which, to our surprise, make up some 10 per cent of the area.

This is a preliminary study, based on easily accessible authoritative data, and expert local opinion. Our findings show how much we have to cherish, but also how much we have lost, and how much we don't even know about. If you or your organisation can tell us more about the wildlife sites and species in this report, please let us know.

There is much more review and assessment work to be done, but this report is a vital first step as a starting point for creating an Action Plan that will protect and enhance biodiversity. By October 2018, Wild Maidenhead aims to deliver, with the help the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), residents, wildlife groups, developers, landowners, faith groups, schools, Parish Councils, farmers, other relevant non-wildlife groups and businesses, an Action Plan to fundamentally change the way we think about and protect species. This review also highlights how few wildlife sites are being managed to protect the habitat or particular species for which they were created. We want to protect more of the species we currently have, to reverse the decline of falling wildlife populations and bring back species we have lost. There is a lot to do.

Wild Maidenhead expects that RBWM, and other decision-makers, will engage with us in the development of the Action Plan for the enhancement of biodiversity and Maidenhead, so that by October 2018 we have a shared understanding of what residents and local business want and how to achieve it.

We look forward to working with you to make Maidenhead a place where wildlife is loved, respected and thriving.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Hewer'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

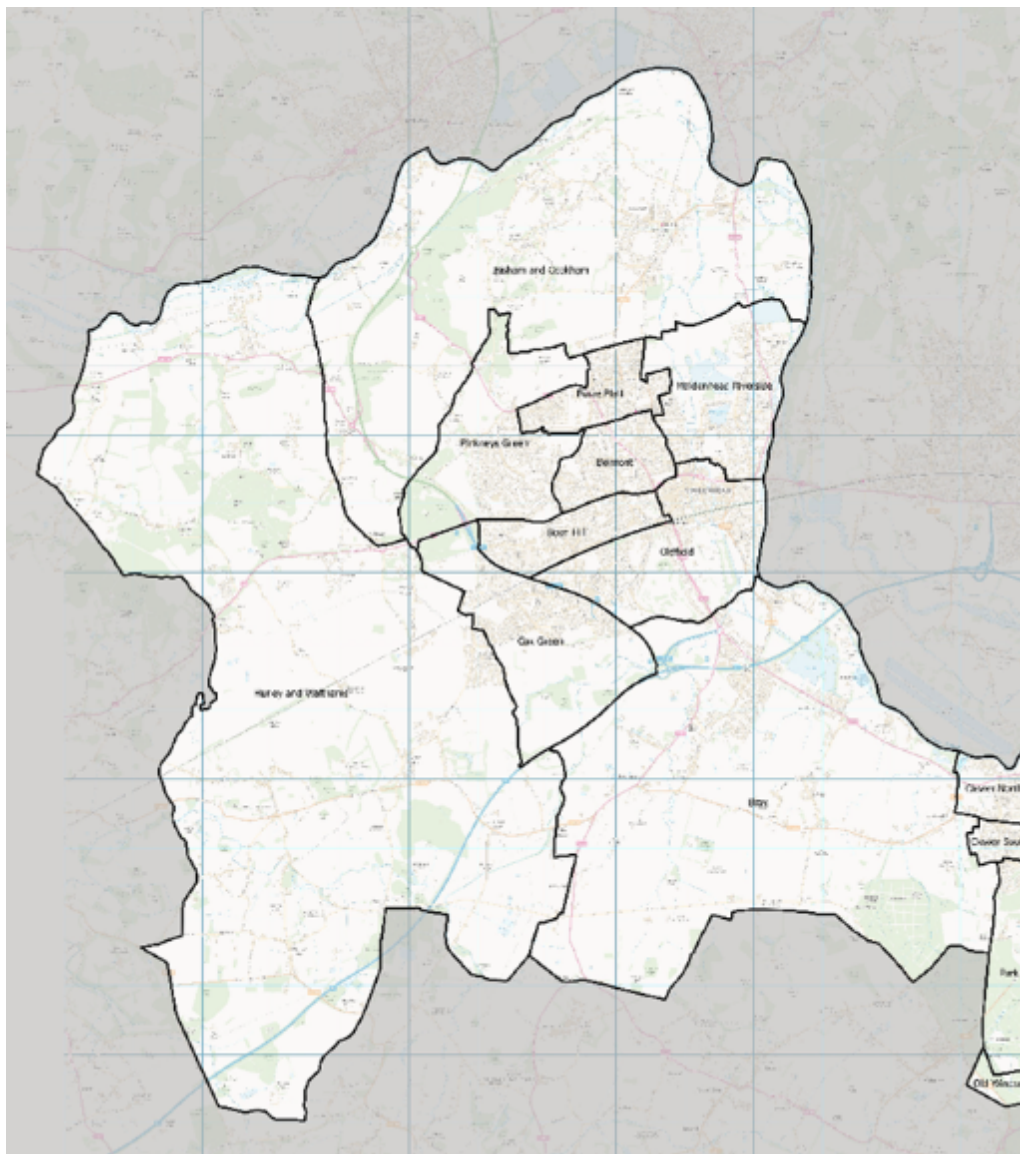
Fiona Hewer  
wildmaidenhead@gmail.com



## THE WILD MAIDENHEAD AREA

The Wild Maidenhead area (see map below) consists of Maidenhead and its surrounding villages and countryside, from Knowl Hill in the west, to Cookham in the north, Maidenhead town in the east and Fifield in the south.

Its boundary is defined by the ten Maidenhead wards of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead: Belmont, Bisham and Cookham, Boyn Hill, Bray, Cox Green, Furze Platt, Hurley and the Walthams, Maidenhead Riverside, Oldfield and Pinkneys Green.



*Contains OS data © Crown copyright (2016)*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Wild Maidenhead has been set up in 2016 by a group of people who live or work in Maidenhead, to help protect the wild things and wild places in our area. We want to discover, celebrate, support and safeguard our biodiversity, whether in the area's 1,200 hectares (3,000 acres) of domestic gardens, or in parks, wildlife areas, nature reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

We are interested in much loved, familiar species found in the area as well as rare, protected or threatened species. Hedgehogs, Stag Beetles, farmland birds, Water Voles, bees, owls, butterflies, House Sparrows, Swifts, Dragonflies, Slow Worms, bats, House Martins, frogs and toads, and Swallows are examples of local species that were once commonplace. In all cases, action can be taken to make a positive difference to the future for these and other species.

The group brings together residents and those who work in the area who have an interest in nature and wildlife. It and acts as a hub, in a support role, for a wide range of local organisations with specific local or species interests, for exchanging information, gathering data and sharing knowledge and experience.

The group will run events and projects to educate, inform, enthuse and engage. It will seek ways to ensure that biodiversity is taken account of in local decisions.

Maidenhead and its surrounding areas are a wonderful place to live. Part of its appeal is the magnificent River Thames and some beautiful countryside featuring grasslands, woodlands and wetlands. But wherever we are in this area, even in urbanised town and village centres, its biodiversity - the variety of all life including animals and plants - enriches our lives. From Red Kites soaring overhead, to the creepy crawlies and small plants that underpin the ecological network, biodiversity is part of our everyday lives. Gardens form a significant proportion, 10 per cent, of our area (see figure on p5). But wildlife is not only a joyful sight, it plays a more fundamental role: the plants produce the oxygen that we breath, the flood meadows hold back flood waters from our homes, and green spaces help us to be active and keep physically and mentally healthy. Therefore, if we can help biodiversity to thrive, from pocket parks and bat boxes to nature reserves, we help ourselves too.



## Maidenhead Land Use

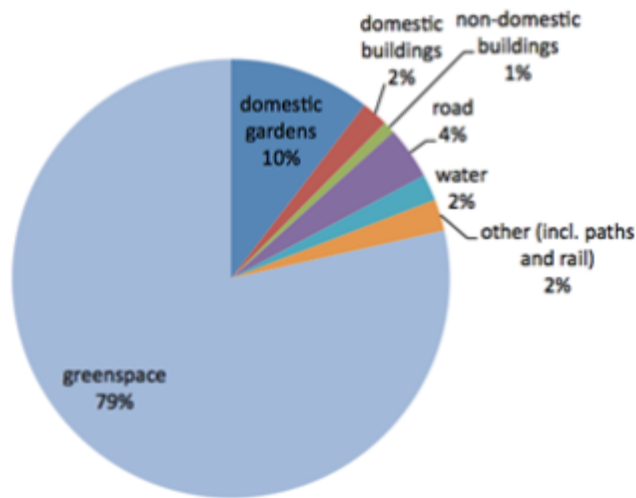


Figure: Data from the Generalised Land Use Database (2005). Total land area 12,000 hectares (29,600 acres). 1,250 hectares (3,088 acres) is domestic gardens.

Sadly our biodiversity is under threat from many sources such as habitat loss, habitat deterioration, pollution and non-native species. We know that across England there have been rapid losses of more than 50 per cent in the last 25 years of once common species such as Hedgehogs, House Sparrows and Common Toads<sup>1</sup>.

The climate of the UK is warming, and this brings some benefits to biodiversity. Across England we are seeing an increase in some continental migrant species such as the Little Egret and species of bee and spider<sup>1</sup>. Overall however, climate change is having a predominantly negative effect on biodiversity, which cannot adapt quickly enough to new weather regimes, and suffers losses in extreme weather events. The risk of flooding is increasing in many parts of England<sup>2</sup>, and for the River Thames, the Environment Agency typically assumes that peak river flows in floods will increase by 20 per cent by 2050s<sup>3</sup>. Our meadows and wetlands will be increasingly important to keep flood waters at bay.

Unlike neighbouring local authorities, RBWM does not currently have a Biodiversity Action Plan and we would like to encourage the Council to consider preparing one. To help in this regard, Wild Maidenhead aims to produce a biodiversity assessment by October 2018, based on data sourced from group members and local residents, local experts, natural history groups, existing partner organisations and national organisations. Wild Maidenhead

<sup>1</sup> Lawton et al, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Environment Agency 2016, Adapting to Climate Change: Advice for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities

<sup>3</sup> RBWM: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2014



is apolitical and seeks positive and constructive dialogue with all those interested in, and with experience in, this topic.

In this report, we draw on existing authoritative work on what is known about biodiversity in Maidenhead and the surrounding villages within RBWM, to set out the scale of opportunities and challenges for enhancing biodiversity in our area.

## 2. THE BENEFITS OF PLANNING FOR AND SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY

Why do we believe that planning for biodiversity is worth our attention and effort? Aside from a sense of connectedness with, and affection for, the animals, trees and wild plants here, there is now compelling evidence<sup>4 5</sup> that people's well-being is significantly affected by access to nature. All those who live and work in Maidenhead should be able to access wild spaces.

Most people are aware of the generally negative impact of human activity on the natural world and many local people are troubled by the realisation that once-commonplace species have declined or disappeared, such as butterflies, bees, amphibians, Hedgehogs and certain species of birds. We know from the latest State of Nature report<sup>6</sup> that nature is in serious trouble generally in the UK, and without proactive help, species loss will continue. Green spaces are not enough to ensure biodiversity: *just because a park or a field is green does not mean it is biodiverse*. This applies to much green belt, for example. Support for wildlife requires specific habitats, and improving biodiversity will require more suitable habitats, such as wildflower areas, wild grasslands and woods, to be created and managed long term, and facilities such as bird and bat boxes to be more systematically provided.

Each of the stakeholder groups identified by Wild Maidenhead can gain specific benefits from becoming proactively involved in protecting and enhancing local biodiversity.

### **Residents**

People value living somewhere where they can experience a connection with nature. There is often a strong emotional connection with wildlife and wild places, and a sense of having a good quality of life is linked in part to being outdoors and away from concrete, traffic and noise. Many of those coming into the area see themselves as 'moving to the country'. Everyone who lives in Maidenhead has a personal story of a wildlife experience; many care deeply about nature; and some are aware more generally of local species and habitats.

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<sup>4</sup> The Impact of Children's Connection to Nature, A Report for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), November 2015

<sup>5</sup> Feel Better Outside, Feel Better Inside, Mind, 2013

<sup>6</sup> Lawton et al, 2016

The benefit of an Action Plan for the enhancement of biodiversity in Maidenhead will be to conserve the habitats and species that current residents value and enjoy, and that future residents will expect. A greater awareness of nature through the development of, and activities around, the Action Plan will increase engagement with flora and fauna. Maidenhead will be perceived as a place with a positive approach to biodiversity which will enhance its reputation and the pride that residents have in living here.

### ***Businesses and local workers***

Companies in Maidenhead will benefit in two key ways from a local Action Plan for the enhancement of biodiversity. To attract and retain employees, it will help if Maidenhead develops a reputation as a place where there is support for biodiversity both within and outside the town. Companies will also be able to fulfil some of their corporate social responsibilities by involving staff in activities taking place as part of the Action Plan. Companies would benefit from the positive reputational impact such involvement would bring. There are also potential sponsorship opportunities within the Action Plan for local firms.

### ***Schools***

Schools are natural beneficiaries of the outcomes of an Action Plan for the enhancement of biodiversity in Maidenhead, with younger children in particular having a keen interest in wildlife. Many parents and teacher are enthusiastic about introducing children to the natural world. The preservation and enhancements of habitats resulting from the Action Plan and projects such as the Ockwells Nature Reserve and Deerswood Meadow Wildlife Area will provide more local places for schools to use to engage their pupils and for participation in school projects inside and outside the classroom.

### ***RBWM***

We suggest that there is potentially a significant strategic benefit to RBWM in being seen over coming years to be a Council which values biodiversity and sees how important nature is to human life. Active support for wild things and wild places can offer a new and valuable strategy for RBWM going forward as the major town centre regeneration and Crossrail infrastructure projects come to fruition. Such a strategy would position Maidenhead in a positive, richer and more whole-hearted way. Current and future residents and businesses would perceive RBWM as a forward-thinking, caring Council which understands the contribution that nature makes to our lives.

### ***Developers***

Enlightened developers often take wildlife into account when planning and designing new buildings. This enhances their corporate reputations. We encourage our major local and national development companies to follow suit.

### ***Parish Councils***

Parish Councils will be able to prioritise and target expenditure and activity by having an Action Plan for biodiversity.

### ***Farmers and large landowners***

Many farmers and large landowners are conscious of the positive role that they can play in supporting biodiversity while continuing to operate commercially successful businesses. Like biodiversity, agriculture benefits from healthy soils, fresh water and natural predators.

### ***Faith groups***

Faith groups are generally caring about the environment, not just because this is a good thing to do, but because it is a natural expression of their faith. Involvement in biodiversity action aligns with this.

### ***Other relevant non-wildlife groups***

Many non-wildlife groups are interested in wildlife. The Maidenhead Waterways Group, for example, have said to members of Wild Maidenhead that they care about wildlife. The WI are a group with an interest in nature. Involvement in biodiversity brings a richness to the lives of their members.



### 3. THE ISSUE OF FLOODING

Our land, in the form of countryside, parks and gardens, serves many purposes from agriculture and recreation to industry and housing, and of course habitats for biodiversity. The land also stores flood water, and slows it down, helping to protect property and infrastructure from flooding.

Maidenhead has experienced flooding 11 times since 2000<sup>7</sup>. Often this is from the River Thames, but can also be from the small watercourses around it including Strande Water, Lulle Brook, The White Brook, The Cut, and The Bourne, and also surface water and ground water flooding.

Most recently on 16th September 2016, overnight thunderstorms closed central Maidenhead: pavements and roads were damaged, cellars in Maidenhead town centre were flooded.

The most recent flooding of the Thames was in early 2014 when Cookham was cut off by road for a total of 14 days. Non-residential areas in the north of Maidenhead were flooded. Flood water infiltrated sewers in some areas, so residents couldn't flush toilets, and rail infrastructure for services into Paddington was damaged.



*Flooding of the River Thames at Widbrook Common, 9 February 2014*



*Flooding of the River Thames in north Maidenhead, 9 February 2014*

The good news is that land management for biodiversity can also help reduce flood risk. As the Pitt Review<sup>8</sup> noted, using natural processes such as farmland to hold water and creating washlands and wetlands as flood defence measures, has proved increasingly successful. Wetland biodiversity in Maidenhead is also at risk from low flows and high water temperatures. For example, in July 2014 hundreds of dying and distressed fish were found

<sup>7</sup> Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, RBWM 2014

<sup>8</sup> The Pitt Review, Learning lessons from the 2007 floods, June 2008

in York Stream. A rescue operation was mounted by the Environment Agency. Management plans need to include ways to keep the water flowing in hot, dry weather. Prevention of low flows is also sought by the Maidenhead Waterways Project to keep the ring of water around the town centre flowing.

The risk of flooding is growing in many parts of England due to climate change, and for the River Thames in particular, the Environment Agency typically assumes that peak river flows in floods will increase by 20 per cent by the 2050s<sup>9</sup>. Our meadows and wetlands will be increasingly important to keep flood waters at bay and to slow high flows.

Groundwater flooding in the Thames catchment is less well understood than river flooding, and is only now starting to be addressed<sup>10</sup>.

#### **4. HABITAT CONNECTIVITY**

There has been a shift in biodiversity management, from focusing on species to then realising that species cannot thrive unless their habitats are maintained and supported. More recently research has shown that the joining up of habitats with habitat corridors helps to preserve wildlife in the midst of human society and that this is as equally important as maintaining habitats.

Habitat loss and fragmentation was identified by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment as one of the five direct drivers of biodiversity loss. The impacts of habitat loss are recognised within the Convention on Biological Diversity and the European Union Habitats Directive.

Corridors help to mitigate the effects of habitat fragmentation caused by human development. Habitat fragmentation leads to an overall reduction in species population and potentially local extinction of a plant or animal. Species affected by habitat fragmentation become increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters and predation and are also more susceptible to inbreeding, increasing the prevalence of genetic defects.

Therefore, habitat corridors provide numerous benefits for plants and animals and can play a critical role in reversing species decline. Habitat corridors allow movement between isolated populations, promoting increased genetic diversity. They provide food and shelter and help with juvenile dispersal.

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<sup>9</sup> Environment Agency 2016, Adapting to Climate Change: Advice for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities

<sup>10</sup> Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Flood risk management and environmental benefits in the Thames River Basin, 2015 to 2021



Take the example of Hedgehogs where the connectivity of gardens is critical. Hedgehogs roam over an average of 1-2 square miles per night just looking for food, and they will travel further than this during the mating season to find a mate. Providing connectivity through gardens can give them the feeding grounds that they need without the need to cross roads, which is where many fatalities happen. This is why the Hedgehog Street campaign has been so successful and has seen an increase in population size<sup>11</sup> in those areas where connectivity is highest.



Habitat corridors can take many forms including a series of patches referred to as ‘stepping stone corridors’<sup>12</sup> and they can also have access benefits for people.

Many of the habitats in the UK are already highly fragmented. This can be compounded by changes in land use between patches of habitat. The importance of these changes depends on which habitats are next to each other, called edge effects, and the ease with which species can move through the intervening landscape, called permeability. This will be a critical assessment for the Maidenhead area, including mapping core areas and identifying potential connectivity corridors. This must take priority to reverse the decline and boost species for generations to come – for the sake of both human generations and plants and animal generations.

One significant existing corridor is The Green Way which forms a waterside corridor from Cookham, through the centre of Maidenhead, to Bray. The diverse landscapes along the Green Way contribute to a wealth of local wildlife. Hedgerows, scrub, woodland, farmland, meadows, gravel lakes, ponds and streams are all present along the route, each capable of

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<sup>11</sup> PTES

<sup>12</sup> Making Space for Nature, Lawton et al. 2010

supporting a variety of plants and animals. Among the many species present are Swans, Mallards, Moorhens, Coots and Herons. Kingfishers are often seen along the York Stream in Maidenhead town centre, as well as Grey Wagtails under bridges. Water Rail have been regular visitors in winter behind the library and along the Cookham stretches. It may be possible to spot Snipe then too. In summer Willow Warblers visit briefly, as they do not breed along the Green Way. Reed Warblers, Reed Buntings and Whitethroats are all known to breed along the waterway. Sedge Warblers, Chiffchaff and Blackcap visit. At one time there was a colony of water voles along the stream bank in Cookham. Dragonflies and Damselflies present include Southern and Brown Hawkers, the spectacular Emperor Dragonfly and the Banded Demoiselle. Most of the common butterflies can be seen and in summer sunny patches of nettles can be turned 'black' by hundreds of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars. Aquatic vegetation is at its best in high summer. White and yellow Waterlilies grow in the deep waters of the Strand. Spiked arrow-head leaves, delicate pink Water Plantain flowerheads, strong stems of Bur-Reeds and small patches of the beautiful Flowering Rush emerge from shallower water. Above the water Purple Loosestrife, Marsh Woundwort, Hemp Agrimony and Comfrey can be present.

Wild Maidenhead is aware of proposals for significant work on the water channel around the Green Way between Maidenhead and Cookham which would profoundly affect valuable wildlife habitats. The project's stated aims are 'to enlarge the channel from the Thames in the north, involving cutting back or removing the overgrown trees and bushes that obstruct the waterway, selective widening of the narrower sections of the channel and dredging/lowering the bed to increase water depths'. We are pleased to hear that the project has been engaging with an environmental specialist and is working with a landowner on chemical free clearance. We will be closely monitoring this proposed development over the coming years so that we can ensure that the impact on biodiversity is factored into any decisions.

## **5. SITES OF KNOWN OR POTENTIAL BIODIVERSITY VALUE**

A substantial part of the work undertaken to prepare this report has involved identifying, collating and establishing, where possible, the status of sites of potential or known biodiversity value in the area covered by Wild Maidenhead. There are 16 categories of such sites:

### ***Wildlife-focused sites***

- 5.1 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas;
- 5.2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- 5.3 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)
- 5.4 Local Nature Reserves

***Sites where wildlife is either a partial focus, an incidental feature or has potential to be present as a component***

- 5.5 Parks and open spaces
- 5.6 Parish Council land
- 5.7 Allotment sites
- 5.8 Local orchards
- 5.9 Domestic gardens
- 5.10 School sites
- 5.11 Church grounds, cemeteries and similar
- 5.12 Hedgerows
- 5.13 Aquatic sites
- 5.14 Gravel Pits
- 5.15 Roadside verges, vegetated islands and roundabouts
- 5.16 The built environment

**5.1 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)**

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) are those areas within a district where conservation action is likely to have the greatest benefit for biodiversity. Such action includes wildlife habitat creation, habitat restoration and habitat expansion.

In addition, such areas were chosen because they provided opportunities to link existing biodiversity-rich areas to create wildlife 'corridors'.

There are **four BOAs** in the Wild Maidenhead catchment area (see Map 1).

Chilterns Escarpment

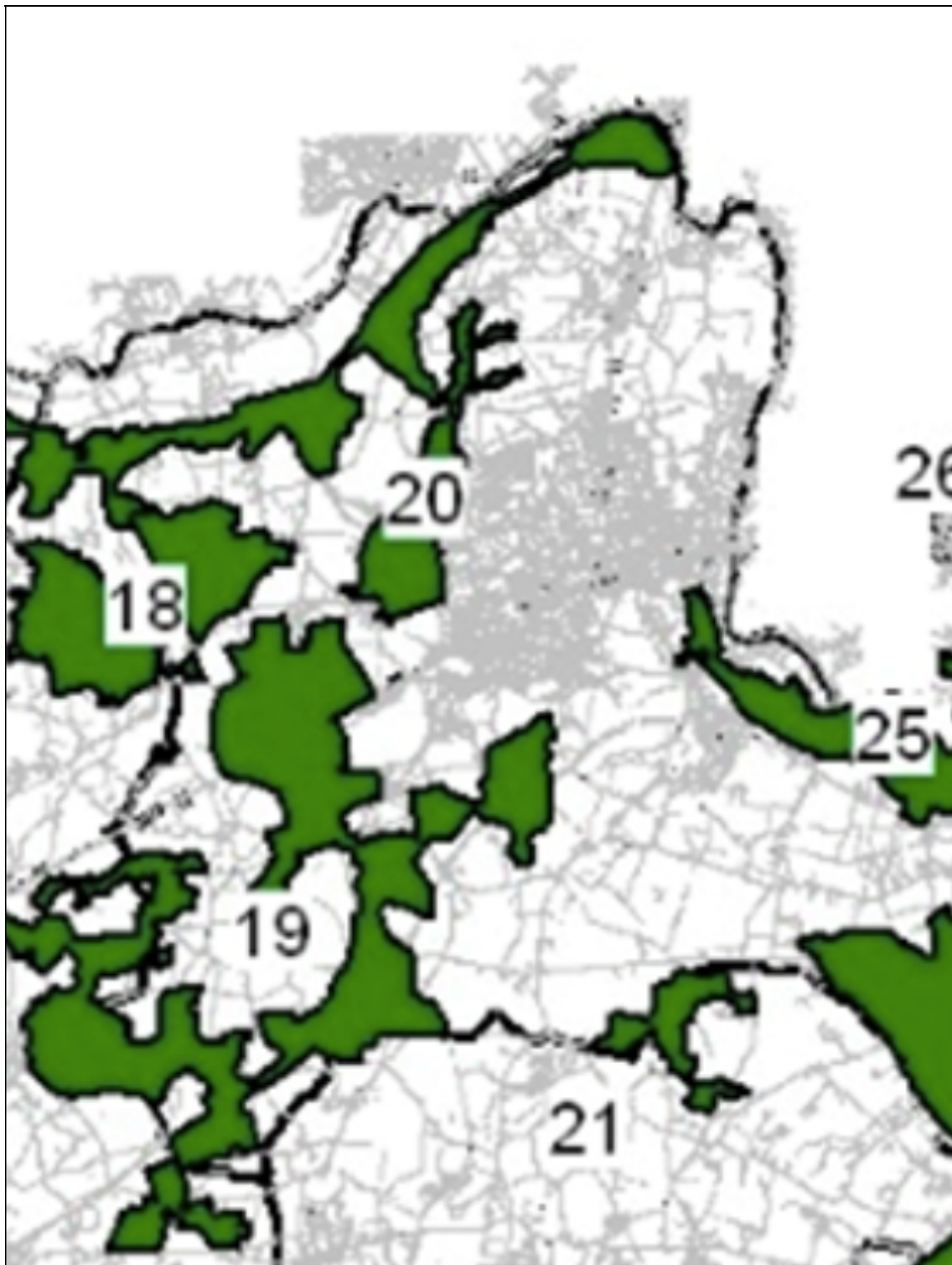
Maidenhead Thicket and Commons

Waltham Woodlands and Parklands

Bray and Eton Pits and Meadows



**MAP 1: BIODIVERSITY OPPORTUNITY AREAS (BOAs)**



*Chilterns Escarpment (no.17)*

*Waltham Woodlands and Parklands (no. 19)*

*Maidenhead Thicket and Commons (no. 20)*

*Bray and Eton Pits and Meadows (no. 25)*

In more detail:

### Chilterns Escarpment

<i>Total area</i>	1,160ha (2,866 acres)
<i>SSSI Area</i>	105ha (250 acres)
<i>Local Wildlife Area</i>	376ha (929 acres)
<i>Chalk grassland</i>	Cock Marsh SSSI (owned by the National Trust), parts of Temple Hill Golf Course, Hurley Chalkpit (managed by BBOWT), and (only recently) a small part of the Bisham Woods complex
<i>Woodland</i>	Bisham Woods SSSIs (Woodland Trust owned and managed), Ashley and Bowsey Hill (in parts owned by the National Trust)
<i>Fen and marshland</i>	Parts of Cock Marsh

### Waltham Woods and Parklands

<i>Total area</i>	To be established
<i>SSSI area</i>	To be established
<i>Ancient woodland</i>	Great Thrift Wood SSSI
<i>Park woodland (fragment)</i>	Shottesbrooke Park
<i>Notable site</i>	The area south of Littlewick Green was reported to support the last known population of corn bunting in East Berkshire

### Maidenhead Thicket and Commons

<i>Total Area</i>	To be established
<i>SSSI Area</i>	None
<i>Large areas of scrub with scattered old trees</i>	Now well managed for biodiversity by the National Trust
<i>Ancient woodland (two areas)</i>	Next to Cookham Dean
<i>Remnant parkland</i>	Pinkneys Green



## Bray to Eton Pits and Meadows

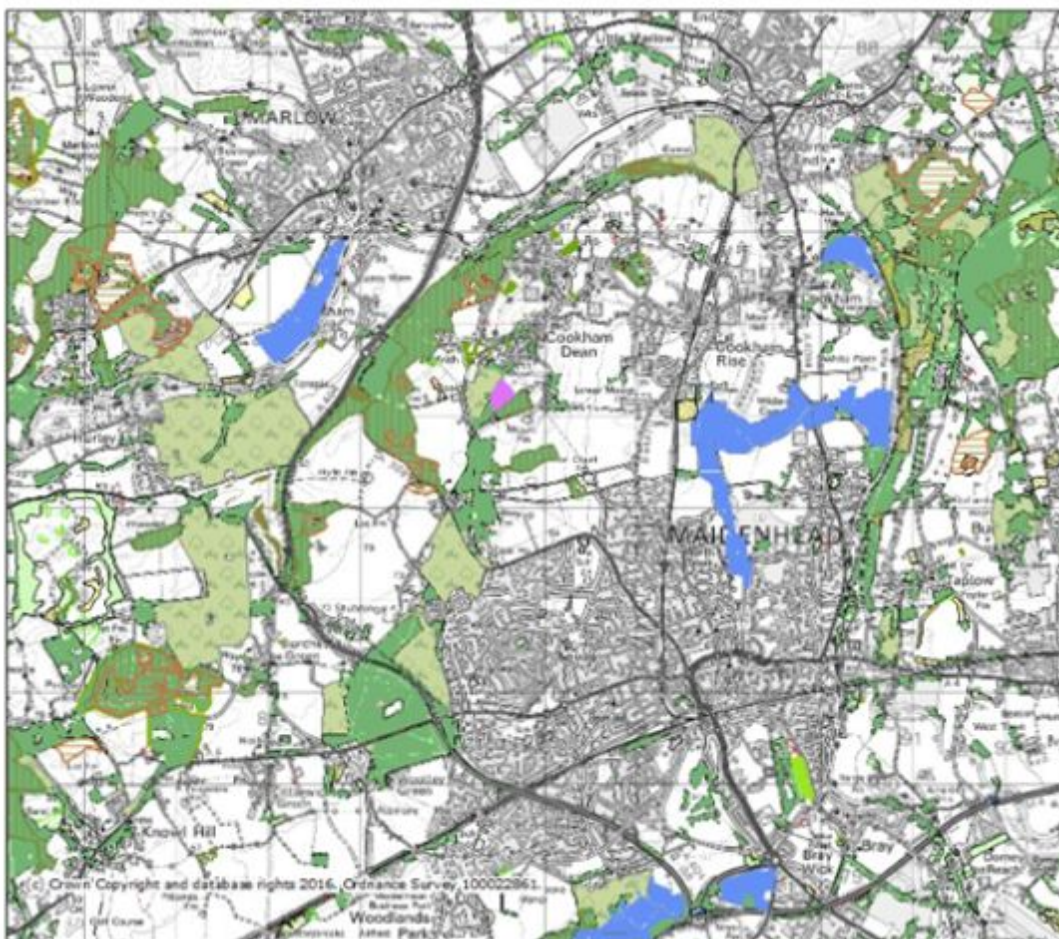
<i>Total Area</i>	760ha (1,878 acres)
<i>SSSI Area</i>	10ha (25 acres)
<i>Local Wildlife Area</i>	25ha (62 acres)
<i>Lowland meadow</i>	Bray Meadows SSSI, Bray Pennyroyal Field, Sutherland Grange, Braywick Park and the now very significant new opportunities offered by the Jubilee River (this latter managed by the Environment Agency)
<i>Wildlife gravel pits</i>	Bray Pit (not now managed by BBOWT) and the Eton-Dorney Rowing Lake (owned and managed by Eton College)
<i>Fen</i>	Adjacent to Eton College boathouse; we are checking its status.

**Windsor Great Park Woodlands** and **Chawridge Valley** are adjacent but not included in this report as they are outside the Wild Maidenhead area.

For each of the four BOAs, the comprehensive details of the habitat type, its biological status, whether an area receives any Stewardship Agreements for conservation and similar are available via gateway sites within DEFRA website. An example for our local area is given below in Map 2.



## MAP 2



*In this BOA map of our area, different green colours show different types of woodland of local, regional and national importance; blue is floodplain, grazing grassland, marsh and similar.*

### 5.2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

These are areas designated by Natural England (mostly in the period 1970 – 1990) as the very best wildlife and/or geological sites in Britain.

Seven SSSIs fall into or near the Wild Maidenhead area:

Name	Area ha (acres)	Date of designation	Notes
Bisham Woods (part)	86 (212)	1970	RBWM owned, but given over to the Woodland Trust. Also Local Nature Reserve and Special Area of Conservation

Bray Meadows	8 (20)	1998	
Bray Pennyroyal Field	3.5 (9)	1991	
Cannon Court Farm Pit	0.3 (0.74)	1987	Geological Conservation Review site
Chawridge Bourne	9.3 (23)	1984	BBOWT
Cockmarsh	45.3 (112)	1983	Owned by National Trust
Great Thrift Wood	11.2 (28)	1984	Now adjacent to RBWM wood in new Ockwells extension

Details of these sites including the reasons why they deserve this status are available at [datasearch@tverc.org](mailto:datasearch@tverc.org) and via Wikipedia - List of SSSIs in Berkshire.

### 5.3 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

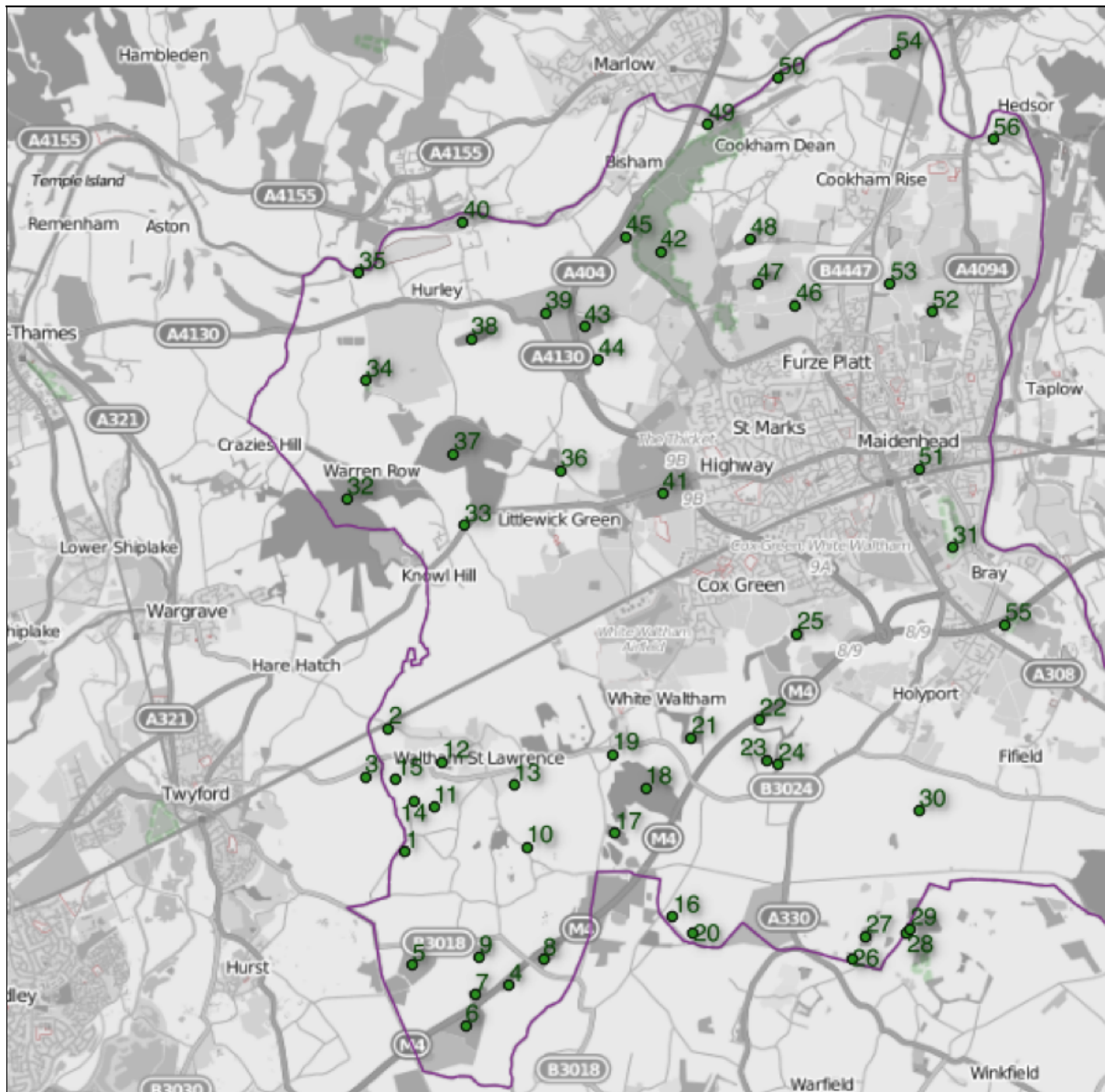
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) were formerly known as County Wildlife Sites. They are places that support wildlife-rich habitats or particularly important species which are not legally protected nationally. Most are in private ownership. LWS do get some protection from development in the Planning System but often, according to the Wildlife Trusts, “their value is poorly recognised and understood”. Because of their ownership, they can be inappropriately managed, and they are not protected from this, unlike nationally protected sites. Their long-term survival and biodiversity status depends on the interest and goodwill of land managers and owners.

There are 61 LWS in the Wild Maidenhead area, shown on Map 3 and listed in Appendix 1.

Maintaining contact with this number of sites, and remaining aware of their ongoing value to wildlife, is likely to be beyond Wild Maidenhead’s resources. Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) survey LWS for RBWM each year (on average between four and six per year) and produce a report for RBWM detailing their conservation status and whether the sites need further management to improve their status. They will then maintain the status; defer for five years in order for management to be changed; or denotify if the LWS no longer meets the criteria. They can also survey new sites should RBWM highlight areas which have the potential to become LWS. We understand that many have not been surveyed for years. We would like to work with RBWM on how best to contact the landowners and join with the TVERC if they conduct any surveys.



Map 3




TVERC can supply details of each including history, area, designation, date of the last survey, a description, and any notable species or habitats.


#### 5.4 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

There are **four** in the Wild Maidenhead area with a further five in adjoining areas. They are managed by RBWM or a partner organisation. They are among the most studied and long-term managed areas for wildlife in the area and need continued attention by interested parties.


## Braywick Local Nature Reserve

<i>Total area</i>	40ha (98 acres)
<i>Wildlife reserve area</i>	15ha (37 acres)
<i>Details</i> 	<p>The largest LNR close to the centre of Maidenhead. Parts are rich in diversity of habitat and wildlife including a purpose-built pond used for pond dipping by schools. One border is the Cut, a flood relief ditch which provides a variety of wetland habitats. Wild Maidenhead uses the community centre as a nominal base. There is a swift tower on the edge the reserve installed in 2016.</p>

## The Gullet

<i>Total area</i>	Not specified in RBWM documentation - small
<i>Details</i> 	<p>Designated an LNR in 1999. The site is located 5 minutes walk from Maidenhead Railway Station, off Ludlow Road. The Gullet is a small (about 600m long) but valuable piece of woodland next to the main railway line in Maidenhead. It is a small strip of woodland along the railway containing a mixture of trees including oaks, beech and conifers on a chalky soil, along with flowering plants, scrub and rough grassland. The path edging the reserve is well used by commuters and school children, it is an important refuge for wildlife in the urban environment of Maidenhead. It was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 1999.</p>

## Ockwells Park and Nature Reserve

<i>Total area</i>	53ha (131 acres)
<i>Local Nature Reserve area</i>	unknown
<i>Details</i> 	<p>A large multi-purpose area including the farmland and woodland recently acquired by RBWM from the Thriftwood Farm site. A large area of the original 18 ha (44 acre) Ockwells Park is taken up by sports pitches but the rest is managed to encourage wildlife and has been designated a Local Nature Reserve. The park has a variety of habitats including woodland, open meadow, damp areas and a stream. A car park, cafe (including children's soft play) and toilets are at the entrance to the park. A nature trail, accessible to wheelchair users, has been set</p>



	out in the park. The land adjacent land acquired from Thriftwood Farm in summer 2016 includes agricultural land, and a variety of other habitats including ancient trees and some ancient woodland, Little Thrift Wood.
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### Bisham Woods

<i>Total area</i>	86 ha (212 acres)
<i>Local Nature Reserve area</i>	86ha (212 acres)
<i>Details</i>	Parts of this large woodland have SSSI status.

*Wild Maidenhead Project*

**New space for nature at Ockwell's Park**

The new land acquired by RBWM in summer 2016 (35 hectare, 86 acre) sits alongside its existing Ockwells Park (18 ha, 44 acres). The new land includes agricultural land, and a variety of other habitats including ancient trees and some ancient woodland, Little Thrift Wood. Wild Maidenhead is working with RBWM to realise its high biodiversity potential. . We support the call, first made by Councillor Simon Werner, that the new land be protected by covenant.

### 5.5 Parks and open spaces

There are 31 parks and open spaces in the Wild Maidenhead area. Many of the spaces are small and used mainly for recreational purposes, such as children's play areas. Some, however, are large enough to have opportunities for wildlife components to be introduced.

Alfred Major recreation park	Recreation ground. Margins which could be more sympathetically managed for wildlife
Boyne Grove (formerly known as Punt Hill)	2.8ha Play area, picnic spot, small car park. Some margins have wildflowers planted

Braywick Park	40ha including 15ha as a Local Nature Reserve. Largest public open space in Maidenhead. Has a Management Plan 2008-2018
Bridge Gardens	0.5ha. Recreational
Brill Green	Small. Recreational
Cherwell Close	0.6ha. Recreational
Deerswood Meadow Wildlife Area	0.8ha. Newly designated wildlife area, home to regionally important common toad population and slow worm population
Desborough Park	5ha. Users group. Management plan 2008-2018
Dorchester Close	Small. Recreational
Greenfields	Small. Recreational
Grenfell Park	2.6ha Has a Management Plan 2010-2018 The park has a number of unusual trees
Kidwell's Park	3.0ha. Management plan 2007-2017. Site of the Maidenhead Carnival. User group. Has potential for wildflower areas and wildlife pond
Guard's Club Park and Island	1.1ha. Includes a conservation area
Heynes Green	0.6ha. Recreational
Kings Quarter	Small. Recreational
Knowl Hill Common	Managed by Knowl Hill Village association?
Laggan Field	1.0ha. Recreational
Maidenhead Thicket and Cookham Commons	6.1ha Jointly managed by RBWM and the National Trust. Contains impressive display of wild flowers in spring. Pond system and calcareous marsh exceptionally rich, supporting long list of rare and local plants including Greater Bladderwort, Flowering Rush, Water Violet, Needle-Spike Rush and two very rare Water Peppers. Impressive aquatic invertebrate fauna including scarce dragonflies such as the Variable Damselfly and numerous specialist flies such as Soldier Flies. All three species of newt occur along with an

	assortment of wetland birds. The Thicket itself is of merit and represents a locally rare habitat - namely a thicket with all the ecology that that implies. Its unusual character was recognised as early as 1938 by Arthur Tansley when he wrote his pioneer book "The Vegetation of the British Isles"
Maidenhead Town Moor	6.2ha. Meadow grassland and 150 trees planted in 2009. "The site is a haven for wildlife and part of the Council's aim to preserve biodiversity in the Borough" (RBWM website)
Moffey Hill	Small. Recreational
North Town Moor	4.2ha. Conservation-oriented 'Friends of' group. Community orchard just south of the moor on National Trust land
Oaken Grove	8ha. Management Plan 2008-2018. Has wildflower areas and avenues of mature trees. Wild Maidenhead founder member Rachel Cook has introduced four new wild flowerbeds, long grass field margins and a new hedge with signs
Ockwell's Park	18.1ha. Includes an LNR. Includes Jubilee Wood - the Woodland Trust donated 1,000 trees including aspen, crab apple, dog roses, field maples, hawthorn, hornbeam, lime and oaks. Also includes community orchard of 70 trees planted 2009/10 needing management
Ray Mill Island	1.6ha. Recreational, very much visited but with opportunities for small-scale wildlife management
Reitlinger Open Space	0.1ha
Riverside gardens	1.7ha
Ross Road	0,3ha
Shifford Crescent	Small. Recreational
Switchback Road	0.2ha
Treemill Open Space	0.8ha
Thirlby Way	0.3ha

## 5.6 Parish Council land

Parish Councils, like all local authorities including RBWM, have a duty set out in law to have regard to the protection of biodiversity in carrying out their functions. There are eight Parish Councils in Maidenhead: Bisham, Bray, Cookham, Cox Green, Hurley, Waltham St Lawrence, White Waltham and a less formal group at the Shottesbrooke meeting. They have the option to include biodiversity, for example identifying green corridors, in their Neighbourhood Plans, Parish Plans or other strategy documents, but none on the Maidenhead side of the Borough is thought to have published biodiversity actions in such a report. Cookham conducted a Phase 1 Habitat survey in 2007.

Parish Councils own and manage several sites that can be important for nature such as local nature reserves, playing fields and cemeteries. As a preliminary estimate of numbers, we might expect there to be three sites in each parish. A few examples are give here:

- Long Lane Cemetery, Cookham
- Bisham orchard
- Hurley playing fields

Parish Councils are responsible for maintaining some public footpaths. Parish Councils also manage allotments, and in unparished areas, such as Maidenhead town, they are managed by the Borough Council.

## 5.7 Allotment sites

Although the prime aim of allotments is to provide food and/or flowers, often their margins and hinterlands have wildlife potential which ought to be recognised and managed. Allotments visited by Wild Maidenhead have, for example, old fruit trees, often neglected or not harvested. These provide a valuable food source for many non-humans – nectar and pollen for nationally threatened bees and other insects, fruit for birds and small mammals. There may also be opportunities for wildlife components such as bee/insect hotels.

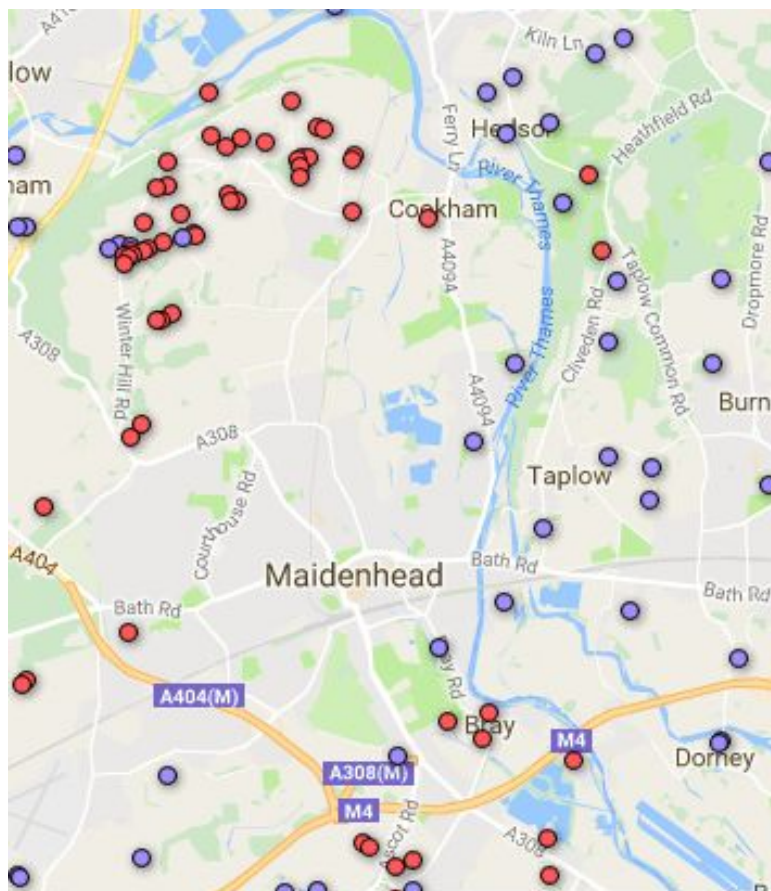
<i>Owned by RBWM:</i> Blackamoor Lane Breadcroft Lane Brownfield Garden Cookham Road Courthouse Road Green Lane St Mark's Crescent The Croft Ray Mill Road West	<i>Owned by Cookham Parish:</i> Sutton Road Alfred Major Recreation Ground Alleyn's Lane  <i>Owned by Bray Parish:</i> Bray Village Cray's Lane Field
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## 5.8 Local orchards

Old fruit orchards became part of Natural England’s Habitat Action Directive in the early 2000s. As part of the national campaign to identify traditional orchards with a view to persuading owners to recognise their habitat value, the People’s Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) asked for volunteers to look locally for potential sites. One of the Wild Maidenhead founders was one of the local surveyors. Only a few local sites met the strict criteria which the Trust applied. Map 4 shows orchards of interest in our area. Those with red dots have been surveyed for wildlife value, those with blue dots still require checking to see if they meet PTES criteria.

There is also a community orchard located south of North Town Moor, on National Trust land. This has not been surveyed for wildlife as far as Wild Maidenhead is aware.

**MAP 4**

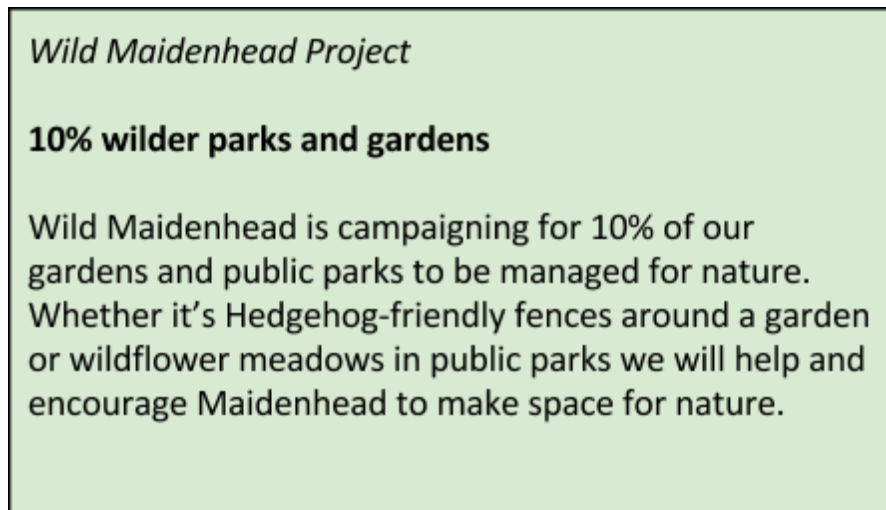


*Old fruit orchards*



## 5.9 Domestic gardens

It is recognised that appropriately managed gardens can support a significant amount of wildlife. They can also help create the stepping stone corridors and buffer zones needed to connect core habitat areas<sup>13</sup>. We have obtained data which shows that domestic gardens in the Wild Maidenhead area comprises 1,250 hectares (3,088 acres), nearly ten times the size of Kew Gardens.



## 5.10 School sites

Past involvement in local wildlife conservation by one of the Wild Maidenhead founders has meant some excellent initiatives in a few schools in our area. These were not just classroom based 'Environmental Clubs' but also dedication of parts of the school grounds as wildlife areas. We do not currently know how many of these still exist and thrive. We believe this is worth examination. In addition, some of the basic infrastructure of school sites (especially long-established sites) may contain components of wildlife value without these actually being recognised as such.

## 5.11 Church grounds, cemeteries and similar

We believe that, about a decade ago, the local Wildlife Trust, BBOWT, surveyed churchyards and cemeteries in the Wild Maidenhead area with a view to influencing their management for the benefit of wildlife. We are still trying to obtain the results of this work, but it would be of great interest as such sites can have high potential as oases for wildlife. A very effective initiative was recently done in a Wokingham churchyard by interested members of the local community. Recently, Wild Maidenhead surveyed Parish churchlands in Cookham, primarily to look at trees, but also it provided an opportunity to assess their wider wildlife

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<sup>13</sup> Lawton et al, 2010, p17

value. Although it is generally agreed that such places should have a degree of tidiness, there is often room for wildlife habitat creation or better management than current 'mow all' practice which some adopt. Encouraging faith groups with outdoor spaces to consider wildlife will be one aim of Wild Maidenhead's communications work.

### **5.12 Hedgerows**

In researching the Biodiversity Action Plans of nearby local authorities, we notice that they include attention to hedgerows as a habitat for much wildlife. These plans also recognise the importance attached to their function as 'corridors', allowing better connectivity of other habitats.

The Tree Council has published guidance in hedgerow survey methods and how to create and maintain good wildlife hedgerows. Currently there is little detailed knowledge of the significance of this habitat in our area and we would propose that this be addressed.

### **5.13 Aquatic sites**

We have studied the DEFRA survey of such habitats and it pays attention to large-scale aquatic environments, with little reference smaller aquatic components in our area. We cannot yet trace any wildlife evaluation of the smaller rivers in our area; perhaps the Borough Ecologist can help with this.

Over 20 years ago, a Wild Maidenhead founder routinely visited all ponds in the general Maidenhead region which appeared on early editions of Ordnance Survey Maps. At the time of the survey, over half of ponds had disappeared, and the existence of many others was uncertain.

Wild Maidenhead would like to survey the current state of good, wildlife-supporting ponds in the area, including village ponds, ponds in farmland, and even the best garden ponds, to gather data on their locations and, where possible, their wildlife status. The presence of Great-Crested Newts can now be tested using eDNA kits provided by Thames Water, for example.

### **5.14 Gravel pits**

These are notable features locally. Many are no longer sites of mineral extraction, now often being multi-function. The wildlife component of their current management is often overwhelmed by other objectives. One concern is the use of dyes in the water to prevent weed growth (in the interest of easier watersports use, including free swimming). The cost to wildlife of this practice is considerable, including amphibians and waterfowl. Wild

Maidenhead would like to gather more information about the wildlife status of gravel pits and the use of dyes. The Ray Mill Road East/Deerswood Meadow Common Toad colony breeds in a former gravel pit.

### **5.15 Roadside verges, vegetated islands and roundabouts**

Roadside verges and vegetated islands and roundabouts can be small-scale havens for wildlife, which often isn't widely appreciated. Wildflowers are important as just one species can support a whole ecosystem from fungi and invertebrates, through insect-eating birds and small mammals, to birds of prey. They are key habitats for pollinators such as bees and butterflies, whose numbers have seen huge declines in recent years. A huge number of species use these plants. The common Birds-Foot trefoil, for example, supports more than 160 different types of invertebrates. Britain has lost 97% of its wildflower meadows since the 1930s as land has been turned over to grow food crops and roadside verges and small, family-owned farms remain the only places left for species such as the Crested Cow-Wheat, Spiked Rampion and Man Orchid to thrive. These roadside verges represent the last stronghold of British wildflowers.

Although there is an important safety aspect - verges must be managed to give motorists a good line of sight and allow pedestrians to walk safely alongside busy roads – biodiversity is not helped when verges are mown as a result of pressure from local communities to maintain a certain aesthetic appearance.

If the first cutting is delayed until late July, it enables seeds to set. RBWM is one council which is leading the way on verges and wildflowers: the Council is one of only nine named by the wildflower charity councils as leading the way in better managing their road verges for wildlife.

In an adjacent local authority (Bracknell Forest), some such sites get specific conservation plans in order to maintain populations of otherwise rare plants. Often this requires careful timing and placement of mowing and for this to be successful good communication between the conservators and the (often outsourced) contractors is vital. Wild Maidenhead is also aware that some verges and islands have previously had management plans.

Wild Maidenhead would like to gather more information about the care and further enhancement of these potential biodiversity havens.

### **5.16 The built environment**

With Maidenhead's requirement to build thousands of houses in the coming years, and with the continuing regeneration involving new office and shop premises, there is a major

opportunity here to support biodiversity by making new as well as existing structures wildlife-friendly.

Leading house builders and developers now often have biodiversity-friendly approaches to incorporating wildlife into building development. Birds, bats and insects are given space in office buildings and bird nesting spaces can be built into new housing. Even the deliberate inclusion of cavities can help overwintering insects.

Maidenhead has made considerable strides to support swifts in this way, as an example. The new Premier Inn has 20 Swift boxes built into the fabric of the hotel, and the new Swift House on the A308 has 28 Swift boxes being incorporated, along with Starling and bat boxes. Two churches, St Luke's and the Methodist Church in Cookham, have put Swift boxes into their towers. Residents in the Wild Maidenhead area have put nearly nesting places for nearly 150 Swift pairs on their houses. The development of The Landing and other smaller regeneration projects offer significant opportunities to support better local biodiversity. Wild Maidenhead can provide expert advice and guidance from amongst its founders and contacts.



*Swift box on a gable end*

## **SITES - DISCUSSION**

In this section of the report, we have listed current and potential wildlife habitats and their locations in the Wild Maidenhead area. Listing has some value, but much of the source information lacks detail related to the quality of each site and whether active management continues to maintain or enhance its biodiversity.

We have noticed that even if a site has a status attached to it such as SSSI, LNR or similar, this is often based on sometimes quite historical records of target species or types of vegetation. Nationally it is well known that many such sites have deteriorated due to lack of appropriate management and we know there are examples of this in the Wild Maidenhead

area. We need action on this. For example, Bray Meadows may not have been surveyed for years, and may need to be looked at to see if the grassland is being currently managed appropriately for conserving its grass and flora. Also we do not know the current status of the SSSI at Bray Pennyroyal Field.

Many of the wildlife sites referred to above are managed either by RBWM or by Parishes. In theory, these should be the most easily available for any improved management for wildlife, as such sites have a recognised community value. Some sites have current Management Plans and this has been noted. Wild Maidenhead suggests that these plans are examined to see what wildlife components are included and what practical objectives are being met, and by who. Those few Parish Plans which we have been able to access include 'Environment Sectors' but the particular attention to wildlife conservation differs greatly from Parish to Parish. Also, we are aware that wildlife objectives can be at odds with human objectives such as building.

One challenge for the consistent 'on the ground' management of RBWM and Parish Council -owned habitats for the benefit of wildlife is the use of contractors. We are aware, as we have come across them operating, of several cases of bad practice. We would like to work with RBWM, Parish Councils and their contractors to find a way of safeguarding habitat from inadvertent mismanagement.

The acquisition by RBWM of land adjacent to Ockwells Park, which was formerly part of Thrift Wood Farm, is of major interest to Wild Maidenhead. Though much of the land was in poor condition for agriculture, it contains a variety of habitats including ancient trees and some ancient woodland, Little Thrift Wood, and Wild Maidenhead, having visited the site, sees it as a large area of high biodiversity potential. As well as RBWM wishing to provide more open space for the local community, there is a willingness by RBWM to develop part of the land for wildlife and Wild Maidenhead hopes to work closely with the Council on this project. Part of the land is subject to flash flooding. There is a possibility that this area, in the southern section, would be more suited to wildlife habitat development.

## **SITES - CONCLUSIONS**

Our review of habitats and sites suggests that Wild Maidenhead is best placed at this stage to focus on areas which are the most understood and which have received the most practical attention in the last 20 or so years. Most of these are Borough or Parish sites for which, sadly, direct funding and staffing has been severely reduced in recent years. Local concerned communities can recognise and take up these public responsibilities. This is a notable feature of the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan where many local interested bodies, clubs, community groups are ascribed specific actions to support wildlife. Wild Maidenhead sees a role in facilitating such support amongst the local community.



More difficult to achieve are the wildlife conservation needs on big sites owned by, say, the National Trust, the Woodland Trust or BBOWT, because of the scale of work needed. However, there are already very good initiatives at some sites by these organisations, such as the Management Plan at Maidenhead Thicket by the National Trust; the Conservation Plan at Woolley Firs by BBOWT.

There is a possibility that without an overarching approach, and with many different responsible or voluntary organisations focused on specific areas, there may be more to be done to join up habitats and create wildlife corridors, regardless of the owners. We would like to have a list of all sites, including those privately owned, if feasible.

For understandable reasons, the most challenging objectives for Wild Maidenhead's work will be those habitats in private ownership, including farmland, corporate sites and the individual householder. The owners' investment interests in their resources may directly, or perceive to, run counter to the interests of wildlife. However, we are optimistic that often it is a case of better exploration or understanding of what is possible, even with those investment interests in mind. Most people are willing to consider some action, even if limited.

The next areas of research should be to identify the specific threats to important sites/habitats in the Wild Maidenhead area and actions needed in response to these. One of these is the land at the current Maidenhead Golf Club, which includes Rushington Copse. This is a valuable central area of biodiversity including mature lowland mixed deciduous woodland in copses with some tree protection orders in place and containing some protected species. Another is the proposal to move the Magnet Leisure Centre to Braywick and whether this has any implications for any areas of the Braywick Nature Reserve.

## **6. PRIORITY SPECIES IN THE WILD MAIDENHEAD AREA**

Over the last 50 years in our locality, many species have been lost completely and some remain in severe decline mirroring the situation across the rest of the country. Twelve per cent of British wildlife is threatened with extinction<sup>14</sup>. In particular, the loss of bird species is often an 'indicator' that invertebrate species (of which there are many thousands) are also being lost at a rapid rate.

Positive action is needed to redress this issue and in particular to preserve what habitat we have left for the benefit of future human generations to enjoy. It is likely that habitat destruction/human interference has fuelled the loss of these species and climate change could accelerate decline.

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<sup>14</sup> State of Nature England 2016 (IUCN Red List criteria analysis of over 6,000 English species)

The collation of information about 'priority species' has been a challenging aspect of this report. These are species identified as most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK government's Biodiversity Action Plan.

The following information sets out Wild Maidenhead's best estimate of priority species likely to occur locally within the Wild Maidenhead area. We have created a draft list of species showing presence, or absence (or thought extinct), with reference to the *Berkshire Conservation Strategy 2014 - 2020 Priority Species for Berkshire*.

The Berkshire strategy document provides a list of some 200 priority species found across the county. However, it is not specific in indicating precise geographic locations. Other detail may be described in data collected on all the Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and other designated sites and held by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and by TVERC.

In the nine sub-sections below we present our preliminary findings on priority species in the Wild Maidenhead area for flora, fungi, moths and butterflies, birds, reptiles, mammals, invertebrates, amphibians and freshwater fish. Further work is needed to add molluscs and mosses/liverworts.

## **6.1 Flora**

The following assessment for flora is evidence based, with the summary put together after comparison against the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Rare Plant Register in an attempt to establish which of the priority species are present in East Berkshire

Research into the BSBN Rare Plant Register, Berkshire and South Oxfordshire V.C. 22. M.J.Crawley, updated April 2005, indicates the species spread across East and West Berkshire by 10km squares. The target area for our exercise was to restrict data to the immediate Maidenhead area which represents only parts of the 10km hectads of SU88, SU87 and SU97. Isolating plants more locally to within the Borough boundary required working through descriptions on a tetrad by tetrad basis (4 x 1km squares). Not every record was supported by tetrad definition, so therefore it must be noted that there is the possibility that some species listed just by 10km squares may fall outside the Maidenhead Borough boundary.

As far as abundance, the register cites that it appears difficult to establish any trend, particularly of plant species in Berkshire, based on historical sources due to individual variability and inconsistencies in the assessments made by individuals collecting the data. Fluctuations over a long period may indicate the increase in some and the loss of others but

vigilance and further continued monitoring suggests that species that have previously been suggested as extinct could yet still be revealed.

On a broader scale, the trend in Action Planning toward biodiversity has moved towards being more habitat focused on a landscape scale and to utilise species most representative within those habitats. Species useful to create awareness and help promote project work to further biodiversity within habitat Action Plans may be best selected by the nature of their familiarity or ease of recognition rather than their uniqueness. Any species with no current records in 10km squares may not be suitable candidates for consideration within the a local biodiversity action planning context.

The list in Appendix 2 has been extracted from the BSBI Rare Plant Register for each of the priority species identified in the *Berkshire Conservation Strategy 2014 – 2020*, showing the presence in SU 87, SU88 and SU97 for Atlas 2000 and with two additional records shown from TVERC.

## 6.2 Fungi

A vast number of plants including our native trees and many shrubs depend on unseen mycorrhizal fungi that allow the exchange of nutrients through their roots via a mutual symbiosis. While a fruiting body seen on a tree may be emotive, not all species necessarily justify a reason for immediate felling and removal. A trunk hollowed by fungi may stand for many years with much strength but reduced weight.

Oak Polypore	<i>Piptoporus quercinus</i>	Probably restricted to Windsor Great Park
Velvet Tooth	<i>Hydnellum spongiosipes</i>	Maidenhead Thicket, Bisham Woods or Windsor Great Park ?

For species of fauna listed as priority species within the *Berkshire Conservation Strategy 2014 – 2020*, a similar dilemma arises when attempting to assess their presence within the area of interest without clearer indications towards the geographic origins of the data.

## 6.3 Moths and butterflies

To create a more accurate list of locally recorded moths and drawn from the extensive list of priority species, the guidance was sought from members of the Moth Recording Group who

have annotated which species have most recent sightings locally over the last few years. The list is in Appendix 3. Butterflies are listed in appendix 5.

### 6.4 Birds

One of Wild Maidenhead’s founder members, Brian Clews, is one of Berkshire’s pre-eminent bird experts. The County-wide priority list of birds has been edited by Brian Clews to indicate which species have been recorded in the immediate local area, in Appendix 4.



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In the following sections, where there are blanks in the third column, we need further confirmation of their presence within the Maidenhead area. An [x] means are known *not* to be present, so any reports of sightings would be significant but unlikely.

### 6.5 Reptiles

The following reptiles are on the priority list for Berkshire and need further confirmation of their presence within the Maidenhead area.

Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>		anecdotal Mdhd 2016
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>		local
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>		
Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>		local

## 6.6 Mammals

The following are on the priority list for Berkshire.

Bechstein's Bat	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	x	
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>		anecdotal still present
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>		local
European Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>		
European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>		used to be local
Greater Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	x	
Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>		
Hazel Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>		
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	x	
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>		local
Polecat <i>Mustela putorius</i>	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>		
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>		Local in Maidenhead
West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>		Local but uncommon
Western Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	x	



Water vole



## 6.7 Invertebrates

These are other Berkshire priority invertebrates that we are not clear which, if any, are present in Maidenhead.

Brown-banded Carder-bee	<i>Bombus (Thoracobombus) humilis</i>		
Hornet Robberfly	<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>		
Meadow Ant	<i>Formica pratensis</i>		
Mottled Bee-fly	<i>Thyridanthrax fenestratus</i>		
Oak Click Beetle	<i>Lacon querceus</i>		
Red-horned Cardinal Click Beetle	<i>Ampedus rufipennis</i>		
Red-shanked Carder-bee	<i>Bombus (Thoracobombus) ruderarius</i>		
Royal Splinter Cranefly	<i>Gnophomyia elsneri</i>		
Southern Iron Blue	<i>Baetis niger</i>		
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>		local
Variable Chafer	<i>Gnorimus variabilis</i>		
Violet Click Beetle	<i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>	x	Possibly Windsor Great Park only

## 6.8 Amphibians

These are Berkshire priority species:

Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>		local
Great-Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>		Confirmed local populations, more research needed in Spring using the new diagnostic technology



## 6.9 Freshwater fish

There are 14 priority species of freshwater fish in England of which 3 are known in Berkshire and therefore thought likely to be found in the River Thames or our local gravel pit lakes.

Anguilla anguilla	European eel		
Salmo salar	Atlantic salmon		
Salmo trutta	Brown/Sea trout		

## SPECIES - CONCLUSIONS

In summary, out of all the priority species listed for the whole of Berkshire it is notable that relatively few vascular plants<sup>15</sup> occur within the Maidenhead area together with declining numbers of others species. Although not an exhaustive list, information from discussions between knowledgeable local recorders and enthusiasts has produced the following summary across some species of flora and fauna.

### *Wild Maidenhead Project*

#### **Deerswood Meadow Wildlife Area**

The colony of over 1,500 Common Toads in and around Deerswood Meadow is one of the largest in the south of England. We will work with RBWM and others to protect the colony while house building is taking place at Deerswood and help enhance the two acres of land which the Borough has given over as a permanent wildlife area. Activities will include annual toad patrols to help breeding adults and toadlets across the road, the installation of amphibian ladders in road drains and a nature reserve on the site.

## 7. SPECIES LOST AND SPECIES REGAINED

This section sets information about species known to have been lost or much reduced over the last 50 years, and those with improving or significant numbers. This is not a definitive list.

### 7.1 Species lost locally

#### ***Breeding birds***

Corn Bunting, Yellow Wagtail, Red Backed Shrike, Wryneck, Nightingale, Willow Tit, Turtle Dove.

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<sup>15</sup> The largest group in the plant kingdom, Any plant that has a specialised conducting system to transport food and water, like trees, shrubs, grasses and most wildflowers

### ***Moths***

Gold Juniper Argent.

## **7.2 Species thought to be much reduced**

### ***Birds***

Marsh Tit, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Warbler, Little Ringed Plover, Common Tern, House Sparrow, Lapwing, Grey Partridge, House Martin, Swift, Swallow, Skylark.

## **7.3 Some less common species present that may be significant locally include**

### ***Birds***

Cettis Warbler – (Bray Gravel Pit)

Barn Owl – (regular sightings near Bray, White Place Farm and Cookham Dean)

### ***Vascular plants***

Brown Galingale

Loddon Lily

Greater Dodder

Bee Orchid

Pyramidal Orchid

Common Spotted Orchid

Green-Winged Orchid

Adders Tongue

Sneezewort

Greater Spearwort

Flowering Rush

Bog Bean

Wild Service Tree

Black Poplar



*Bee Orchid*

### ***Invertebrates***

Hornet Moth (occurs on Black Poplar, many of which have been chopped down locally)

Orange Underwing (occurs on Mature Birch such as in Maidenhead Thicket)

Mocha (Nationally Scarce Nb<sup>16</sup>) on Field Maple (our area is stronghold for the species in the county) (Beeching-grove Wood)

Striped Lychnis (Nationally Scarce Na<sup>17</sup>) (occurs on Dark Mullein; found at Strand Water and Widbrook)

Toadflax Brocade (RDB3<sup>18</sup>) on toadflaxes, especially in gravel pits

Buttoned Snout (Nationally Scarce Nb) on Wild Hop, especially along the course of the river

Forester Moth (Nationally Scarce Nb) Knowl Hill Common only local breeding area.

Stag Beetle (frequent anecdotal reports from owners of gardens in Maidenhead and possibly Cookham.

Glow Worm (known population in Cookham and possibly in Maidenhead Thicket; no information yet on other populations elsewhere)

Ivy Bee (confirmed in central Maidenhead)

### ***Reptiles and Amphibians***

Common Toad	Ray Mill Road East/Summerlease area home to colony of 1,500 adults, was once around 9,000 adults. 250 toads (60 adults and 190 juveniles) were recovered as building land was systematically cleared at Deerswood Meadow and transferred to the new wildlife area alongside
Grass Snake	One snake died during clearance at Deerswood Meadow some years ago; Wild Maidenhead has no other data on their prevalence
Slow Worm	80 (male 17, female 44, juvenile 19) individuals recovered from land sold for house building, translocated to the new Deerswood Meadow Wildlife Area

<sup>16</sup> A rarity status: uncommon and estimated to occur in the range of 31 to 100 10km squares

<sup>17</sup> A rarity status: occurs in range of 16 to 30 10km squares

<sup>18</sup> A rarity status: Red data book. Rare, very restricted by area or habitat or thinly scattered populations.

Great-Crested Newt	Further information needed on locations, possibly in the pond(s) in the NT Brick and Tile Works
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### ***Mammals***

Water Vole	BBOWT believe extinct in our area, though one possible recent report. See comment on p33
Hedgehog	Anecdotal reports of marked decline; frequent patients at local vets
Brown Hare	Only one known stronghold in the area, location not publicised

### **7.3 Species regained**

Red Kites - This once common species, referred to by Shakespeare, became extinct in England in the 20th century due mainly to poisoning and persecution. In 1989 a well-researched and intensive reintroduction programme began in several areas including the Chilterns. The populations are now spreading and joining up, so that this magnificent bird is once again a frequent sight.





## 8. RBWM AND BIODIVERSITY

Although, as mentioned above, RBWM does not have a Biodiversity Action Plan, currently a few individual Borough Council projects for biodiversity are underway. We are pleased that personal commitment to the issue is being shown by Councillor Samantha Rayner and Councillor Simon Werner who have become involved in wildlife and habitat-related matters.

Some evidence for Borough Council action includes the appointment of a Borough ecologist, Rebecca Anderson; giving an RBWM officer, Steve Anderson, specific responsibility for wildflower areas; creating a new wildlife area at Deerswood Meadow; changing the way in which areas are mown to support wildlife and plants, managed by Jason Mills; appointing ecologists to properly manage the preparation of the housing development area at Deerswood Meadow; supporting the regionally significant common toad population at Ray Mill Road East with signage and amphibian ladders; continuing to invest in officers, consultants and ecologists to support wild habitats; and, recently, acquiring farmland which will become a key new wildlife habitat in the Borough.

We believe that such actions are positive steps by RBWM but significantly more needs to be done to meet the duty incumbent upon all local authorities to have regard for the protection of biodiversity in carrying out their functions as required by law.

This assessment report shows, wildlife habitats and species in the area continue to decline. The threats to wild habitats and species are significant and if anything, are likely to intensify as necessary local development continues, particularly housing. Maidenhead's population (in the ten wards covered by Wild Maidenhead) has increased from 44,000 in 2004 to 80,000 in 2016. What happens locally represents, on a small-scale, what is known to be happening to nature nationally.

**It is clear that support for biodiversity in our area is not adequate.** Many habitats are not being monitored, surveyed or managed for wildlife to the extent they could be. There needs to be significant action to protect what we have and to encourage biodiversity improvement.

**We believe a strategic approach by RBWM is needed, on behalf of all those of us who live and work in the area.**

Concern amongst residents is evident in the existence of, or involvement in, 26 wildlife or wildlife-related groups (see Appendix 6). **The formation of Wild Maidenhead can be seen as a response to the policy and action gaps.**

Wild Maidenhead hopes it can work in partnership with RBWM from now onwards, so that the valuable assessment, strategic analysis, reporting and support activities we undertake can be fed into the Borough's own planning and action for biodiversity.

In particular, we hope that RBWM will act upon the findings and recommendations of our 2018 report and our ultimate goal is to succeed in persuading the Council to develop an **RBWM Biodiversity Action Plan**.

## **9. DELIVERING CHANGE**

In the previous three sections we have shown that Maidenhead and its surrounding villages and countryside have a large number of habitat areas, and that many species in decline are dependent on these habitats. We have also described aspects of the key role that RBWM has to play.

Here we present some ideas for how Wild Maidenhead could help to deliver a reversal in species decline and enhancement of habitats, as a basis for discussion with the many groups already taking actions (see Appendix 6). It is our belief that, in the medium term, activities must be structured and prioritised in an Action Plan in order to succeed. In the short term, work on the three 'no brainer' projects highlighted in coloured boxes, activities to gather information for the Action Plan and membership development can begin.

Mapping and recording species and habitat change will be needed to help us monitor progress and adapt plans to ensure we are being effective. Wild Maidenhead is delighted to have had initial discussions with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, and looks forward to further meetings.

Changes to a habitat can have profound impacts. For example, in Maidenhead Thicket, the National Trust have made a decision to undertake clearance of undergrowth and trees in winter to encourage wildlife, especially wild flowers. This in turn encourages more nectaring insects. This is, in effect, bringing back the ancient art of coppicing. On the other hand overgrown areas, untouched, have enlarged the White Admiral population. A balance is therefore helpful to support a range of species. There are positive changes to policies by organisations, especially the National Trust, as mentioned, 'not to cut' policy (or very minimal) and wait until autumn. It is also the case that strimming grass verges inhabited by Glow Worms in prevents them breeding because they depend on tall grass stems to find mates.

Shooting helps to preserve woodland for game birds, a habitat which benefits all wildlife. If shooting became unprofitable or banned, existing woodland could instead be made over to sterile commercial crop areas.

Hands-on approaches are an important way to inspire interest in biodiversity, whether in presentations with good images and information to back it up, or specialist walks, inviting experts in their fields.

Initial ideas for inspiring action and delivering change from the Wild Maidenhead team include:

- Making people aware of what is around them and how they can help change in small ways ie. less concrete/tarmac in gardens and more gravel, wildlife gardens etc
- Ensuring habitats are preserved, green spaces utilized and maintained to attract specific species/insect friendly plants, trees and shrubs
- Butterflies/moths/bees preservation
- Creating a wildlife-friendly RBWM contractor and other supplier/organisations list
- Certified Wildlife Habitat scheme - show that your garden or other green space is benefiting wildlife.
- Educating people on species diversity right in the centre of the borough
- Making space for nature in the margins: roundabouts, central reservations, railside, sewage works, churchyards, roofs, old walls, school grounds, sports grounds and golf courses, St Marks, large business premises, cemeteries, allotments
- Recording and photographing habitat change – presenting to RBWM and other landowners
- Detailed reports (if possible) of sensitive areas-made throughout the year-depending
- on timescale, feasibility and availability of members
- Online information - website, facebook
- Strong graphics, images/short sharp copy statements
- Presentation boards/integrated folding display system(depending on cost?)
- Presentations from Wild Maidenhead to local group and organisations
- Showing simply how diverse species are on everyone’s doorstep
- The “Wow!” factor of local species that live amongst us but many adults and children have never seen before eg moths, fungi.
- To build up a bank of good quality images to be shown
- Communicate, repeatedly, that diversity of habitat is critical; that it must be well
- managed/maintained; and how much this relates to diversity of species.

## 10. THE FUTURE

Using this report as a starting point, Wild Maidenhead will write an Action Plan for biodiversity by October 2018.

The approach will be:

- Collaborative
  - actively seeking to work with and support existing local groups
  - act as a hub for information
- Democratic

- membership of Wild Maidenhead is open to anyone who lives or works in Maidenhead, for a modest annual fee
- public consultation on its Action Plan
- Evidence-based
  - gathering and using records of species
  - prioritised

The plan will address the priorities for action for the 200 or so wildlife sites identified in this report. It will also consider habitats provided by gardens, schools, the grounds of religious buildings, hedgerows, roadsides and the built environment. It will set objectives to protect the area's 100 or more species recognised nationally as priorities for conservation. Species that were locally extinct in the past, such as the red kite, have been successfully reintroduced as part of an intensive programme. We will assess what intensive programmes may be feasible for species in decline such as hedgehogs and house sparrows. We will look at whether there is any likelihood of successfully reintroducing breeding populations of locally 'breeding extinct' species such as nightingales and corn bunting.

Our Action Plan will have to address several key questions including:

1. Where are the gaps in our knowledge?
2. What do we want from our wildlife sites and how can we make sure it is achieved?
3. What are the obstacles for us, RBWM and partner organisations to taking action to enhance habitats and protect species in Maidenhead?
4. What should the priorities be?
5. How can we support local groups to take actions?

We will not wait for the Action Plan to be complete in October 2018 to start taking some 'no-brainer' actions. Therefore we will begin immediately with three projects:

- Deerswood Meadow Wildlife Area
- New Space for Nature at Ockwells Park
- 10 per cent wilder parks and gardens

We will also run a programme of events for our members, and for the public, to educate, inform, enthuse and engage, and gather the information and ideas we need to develop the Action Plan for biodiversity.

## **11. KEY REFERENCES**

Berkshire Local Nature Partnership: The Natural Environment in Berkshire. Biodiversity Strategy 2014-2020. Available to download from the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership website at [berkshirlnp.org](http://berkshirlnp.org)

Bracknell Forest Council Biodiversity Action Plan

Aquatic and riparian plant management (Summary, field guide, technical guide and spreadsheet tool)

Area Action Plan

Berkshire Bird Atlas

Biodiversity Planning Toolkit

Cookham Phase 1 habitat survey

Environment Agency 2016, Adapting to Climate Change: Advice for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities

Feel Better Outside, Feel Better Inside, Mind, 2013

Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network. Report to defra, Lawton, J.H., Brotherton, P.N.M., Brown, V.K., Elphick, C., Fitter, A.H., Forshaw, J., Haddow, R.W., Hilborne, S., Leafe, R.N., Mace, G.M., Southgate, M.P., Sutherland, W.J., Tew, T.E., Varley, J., and Wynne, G.R. 2010

National Planning Policy Framework

RBWM Open Spaces Audit

RBWM Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2014

Rights of Way Management Improvement Plan

State of Nature Report 2016

Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Flood risk management and environmental benefits in the Thames River Basin, 2015 to 2021

The Impact of Children's Connection to Nature, A Report for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), November 2015

The Pitt Review, Learning lessons from the 2007 floods, June 2008

TVERC Local Wildlife Sites in Windsor and Maidenhead (map and list)

Waterways Framework SPD






BBOWT

Thames Water for wildlife

BSBI Rare Plant Register



## 12. FOUNDING MEMBERS

	<p>Fiona Hewer is a climate change scientist and Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. She is a Parish Councillor in Cookham. She started Wild Maidenhead.</p>
<p>Martin Woolner has dedicated his life to wildlife and conservation - particularly practical activity such as surveys, habitat management and communication with the public.</p>	
	<p>Trevor J Smith has a passion and curiosity about plants and insects. His career began in Forest Research followed by many years spent educating and inspiring others about the natural world around them. He is now studying bees.</p>
<p>Brian Clews has been a local naturalist for forty years and is involved in writing identification guides for British flora and fauna.</p>	
	<p>Cindy Barnes has always been in love with the natural world and is passionate about engaging people with nature. She founded Cookham Wildlife Supporters, runs a business consultancy and is a counsellor with a specialism in ecopsychology and ecotherapy.</p>

Simon Bond is a voluntary worker for a variety of charities and community groups. He is interested in new economic ideas that reconcile our material needs, human wellbeing and environmental constraints, including loss of biodiversity.



Rachel Cook is enthusiastic and active in all things wildlife related. In 2013 she was runner up in RBWM's 'bright ideas' competition to get people involved in planting wild flowers. She runs the Facebook group 'eco@oaken' focusing on the wildlife in Oaken Grove Park and every year she helps with local 'toad patrol'.

Helen Craggs is a researcher in geology and past climate. She is interested in the protection of endangered environments and in the effects of climate change on habitats for flora and fauna.



Gill Evans has been a very active member of Windsor and Maidenhead Conservation Volunteers for over 20 years, and more recently for Burnham Beeches in various wildlife and historical projects.

Mark Hemmings has had a lifelong interest in wildlife and keeps taking more small patches of his garden for wildlife: pond, spring flower meadow, and nettles for butterflies. He is a member of several local nature groups and does a BTO spring bird counter.





Andrew Padmore was brought up from an early age in an urban countryside environment where he had the freedom to roam and observe nature in the raw. Everything around him in the wildlife world has formed his interests and passions through his life, particularly butterflies, birds, moths and fungi.

Jan Stannard is passionate about wildlife and is well known for her work in conserving swifts. She helped achieve a national record for Maidenhead in 2015/16 for the most new swift nesting places established in the UK in under one year. The area now has the potential to become a key site for swifts in the future.



Simon Werner has 25 years experience as a councillor, including leading the council on sustainability and recycling for four years. Simon has a huge amount of experience with making things happen at the council. He is committed to putting this knowledge to work for biodiversity and was instrumental in making sure Wild Maidenhead is involved in the Ockwells/Thrift Wood Project.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: List of Local Wildlife Sites in the Wild Maidenhead area

<b>Id</b>	<b>Site Code</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Parish</b>
1	SU87C08	Grassland Opposite Blackthorn Farm	Ruscombe
2	SU87D02	Milley Wood	Waltham St. Lawrence
3	SU87D05	Windsor Ait	Waltham St Lawrence, Ruscombe
4	SU87G01	Kiln Copse	Waltham St. Lawrence
5	SU87G02	Surrell's Wood	Waltham St. Lawrence
6	SU87G04	Warren Copse	Waltham St. Lawrence
7	SU87G06	Bushy Lees	Waltham St. Lawrence
8	SU87G07	Hammonds Wood	Waltham St. Lawrence
9	SU87H01	The Gravel Pits/Old Gravel Pits	Waltham St. Lawrence
10	SU87H04	Crockford's Copse	Waltham St. Lawrence
11	SU87I01	Bear's Copse	Waltham St. Lawrence
12	SU87I02	Gunsbrook/Near Gunsbrook	Waltham St. Lawrence
13	SU87I03	Wet Meadow	Waltham St. Lawrence
14	SU87I06	Mire Ditches (Mire Lane Arm)	Waltham St. Lawrence
15	SU87I08	Downgrove Lower Ditches (east)	Waltham St. Lawrence

16	SU87M01	Buck Farm Copse	White Waltham
17	SU87M09	Pond Wood	Shottesbrooke
18	SU87N01	Great Wood	Shottesbrooke
19	SU87N05	Marsh Wood	Shottesbrooke
20	SU87S01	Stratton's Copse	White Waltham
21	SU87T01	Woods by Waltham Place	White Waltham
22	SU87T02	Paddock Wood	White Waltham
23	SU87T03	Triangular Wood, Paley Street	White Waltham
24	SU87T04	Woodland Along The Cut	White Waltham
25	SU87U01	Ockwells Manor Wood	Cox Green
26	SU87W01	Lordlands Wood	Bray
27	SU87X01	Fernygrove Copse	Bray
28	SU87X03	Woodland Adjacent to Hogoak Lane	Bray
29	SU87X06	Hogoak Lane	Bray
30	SU87X08	Mount Skippett Copse	Bray
31	SU87Z02	Braywick Park LWS	Maidenhead urban area
32	SU88A02	Cayton Park Woods	Hurley
33	SU88A03	Common South-East of Warren Row	Hurley



34	SU88B02	Hurley Chalk Pit Reserve	Hurley
35	SU88B08	Frogmill Farm and Islands	Hurley
36	SU88F01	Pinnock's Wood	Hurley
37	SU88F02	Ashley Hill Forest and Dellars Copse	Hurley
38	SU88G01	High Wood, Hurley	Hurley
39	SU88G02	Temple Golf Course	Bisham
40	SU88H03	Hurley Lock and Islands	Hurley
41	SU88K01	Maidenhead Thicket	Non civil parish
42	SU88L01	Park Woods, Gouldings Wood	Bisham
43	SU88L03	Carpenters Wood, Dungrove Hill	Bisham
44	SU88L03	Carpenters Wood - Other Areas	Bisham
45	SU88L04	Bradnam Wood	Bisham
46	SU88R01	Cannon Court Wood	Cookham
47	SU88R05	Beeching-grove Wood	Cookham
48	SU88S02	Pigeonhouse Wood	Cookham
49	SU88S09	Longridge	Bisham
50	SU88T04	The Islands, Cookham Dean	Cookham
51	SU88V02	York Stream	Non civil parish

52	SU88W01	Summerleaze Gravel Pit	Non civil parish
53	SU88X06	Greenway Corridor	Bray and Cookham
54	SU88Y01	Cockmarsh	Cookham
55	SU97E01	Bray Pit Reserve	Bray
56	SU98C02	Saches Island Meadow	Cookham
57	SU88G03	Bank near Hurley	Hurley
58	SU87H04	Crockfords Copse Proposed Extension (north)	Waltham St. Lawrence
59	SU87H04	Crockfords Copse Proposed Extension (south)	Waltham St. Lawrence
60	SU88K01	Maidenhead Thicket proposed extension	Bisham
61	SU88K01	Maidenhead Thicket proposed extension	Pinkneys Green South

## Appendix 2: List of flora from rare plant register

Flora listed in BSBI Rare Plant Register for each priority species from Berkshire Conservation Strategy 2014-2020 as shown in tetrads SU 87, 88 and 97. The number in the third column in brackets refers to the tetrad number(s) that species is or has been recorded in.

	Basil Thyme	<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	[88]
	Brown Galingale	<i>Cyperus fuscus</i>	[88]
	Corn Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	[87R] ( tetrad on boundary unclear if present RBWM or Bracknell BC) [87Z] Record from TVERC

	Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Atlas 2000: all squares.
	Deptford Pink	<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	[88]
	Greater Water-parsnip	<i>Sium latifolium</i>	[88]
	Pennyroyal	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	[97]
	Spreading Hedge-parsley	<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	[88]
	Tubular Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	[87] [88]
	White Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	[88]
	Wild Candytuft	<i>Iberis amara</i>	[88]
	Yellow Bird's-nest	<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>	[88]
	Red Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	[88H] Record from TVERC not BSBI

### Appendix 3: Moths

August Thorn	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	2016
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	2015
Blood-Vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	2016
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	2016
Brown-spot Pinion	<i>Agrochola litura</i>	2015
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	2016
Centre-barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia centrago</i>	2015
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	2016

Crescent	<i>Celaena leucostigma</i>	2008
Dark Spinach	<i>Pelurga comitata</i>	2012
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	1989
Deep-brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>	2015
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	2015
Double Dart	<i>Graphiphora augur</i>	1980
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	2015
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	2016
Dusky-lemon Sallow	<i>Xanthia gilvago</i>	2013
Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	2015
Figure of Eight	<i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>	2015
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>	2014
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	2014
Green-brindled Crescent	<i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	2015
Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	2013
Heath Rustic	<i>Xestia agathina</i>	2013
Knot Grass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	2015
Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	2015
Large Nutmeg	<i>Apamea anceps</i>	2015
Large Wainscot	<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>	2015
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	1994
Minor Shoulder-knot	<i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	2011
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	2015
Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	2016
Mullein Wave	<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	2013

Oak Hook-tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	2016
Oak Lutestring	<i>Cymatophorima diluta</i>	2014
Pale Eggar	<i>Trichiura crataegi</i>	2015
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	2016
Pretty Chalk Carpet	<i>Melanthia procellata</i>	2014
Rosy Minor	<i>Mesoligia literosa</i>	2015
Rosy Rustic	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	2015
Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	2015
Sallow	<i>Xanthia icteritia</i>	2015
September Thorn	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	2015
Shaded Broad-bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	2015
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Mythimna comma</i>	2015
Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	2016
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	2015
Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	2015
Spinach	<i>Eulithis mellinatai</i>	2010
Sprawler	<i>Asteroscopus sphinx</i>	2014
Streak	<i>Chesias legatella</i>	2006
Striped Lychnis	<i>Shargacucullia lychnitis</i>	2014
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	2016

#### Appendix 4: List of locally rare species

Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	still breeds
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	scarce - may breed Bray GP SU97E
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	widespread
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	a handful around Cox Green SU88P

Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		nests around Furze Platt at least (SU88R)
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		In serious decline
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>		probably winter only
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		occasional sightings
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		still breeds
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		most recent Warren Row
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		attempts to breed
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		still breeds
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>		occasional passage
Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		still breeds
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		only 1 site known SU88L
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava subsp. flavissima</i>		passage only, esp at SU88Y and SU88R
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		still breeds

#### Appendix 5: Butterflies - priority list for Berkshire

Brown Hairstreak	<i>Thecla betulae</i>		
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>		
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>		
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>		Reported in SU88M 2015
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>		
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		Knowl Hill Common SU88J
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		



White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>		The Thicket
White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>		
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		

## Appendix 6: Wildlife groups in Maidenhead

Wild Maidenhead seeks to be a hub for effective decision-making for wildlife in Maidenhead in partnership with other groups. We are at the beginning of building relationships with them, and include here our first thoughts on who they are, and their principal areas of concern for habitats and species in Maidenhead.

Many of these groups contribute substantial hours of volunteering in Maidenhead, such as the toad patrols.

Organisation	Habitat type	Species type
Bat group (Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Bat Group)	All	Bats
BBOWT	Grassland, Woodland, Wetland, Heathland	All
Berkshire Local Nature Partnership	All	All
Berkshire Mammal Group	All	Mammals
Berkshire Moth Group	All	Moths
Bisham Barn Owl Group (BBOG), Bisham Barn Owl Nest Box Project (BBONB)	Grassland, Woodland, Farmland	Owls, kestrels, songbirds, swifts
Bisham Parish Council	Grassland, Woodland, Farmland	All
BOC (Berkshire Ornithological Club)	All	Birds
BRAG (Berkshire Reptile and Amphibian Group)	Grassland, Wetland, Heathland	Reptiles and amphibians
British Dragonfly Society (Berkshire Recorder)	Wetland	Dragonflies

Cookham Parish Council	Grassland, Farmland, Urban	All
Cookham Wildlife Supporters	Grassland, Urban	All
Cox Green Parish Council	Grassland, Woodland, Farmland	All
CPRE – Cookham & Bisham	All	All
East Berks RSPB	All	Birds and all others
Eco@Oaken	Grassland, Urban	All
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) South East	Farmland	All
Friends of Bray Pit (to be formed soon)	Grassland, Wetland	All
Friends of Deerswood	Grassland, Woodland	Amphibians
Friends of Oaken Grove Park	Grassland	Wild Flowers, Birds
Friends of Woolley Firs	Grassland, Woodland	All
Maidenhead and Cookham Commons (National Trust)	Grassland, Woodland, Wetland	All
Maidenhead and District Friends of the Earth	All	All
Maidenhead BTO Recorders	All	Birds
RBWM	All	All
Rural Forum (RBWM Committee)	All	All
Save Poundfield	Grasslands	All
Maidenhead, Marlow and Cookham Swift group	Urban	Swifts
The Conservation Volunteers - Berkshire (TVC)	All	All
Toad Patrol	Grassland, Wetland	Toads

TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre)	All	All
Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council	Grassland, Farmland	All
Windsor and Maidenhead Conservation Volunteers	Grassland, Woodland, Wetland, Heathland	All