

Kingfishers Bridge Wetland Creation Project

An Annual Synopsis of Biological Records

Number 1

1996

**A report by
Roger Beecroft - *Wildlife and Countryside Services*
Creeting St Mary
Ipswich
IP6 8QE**

Kingfishers Bridge Wetland Creation Project

An Annual Synopsis of Biological Records

Number 1

1996

Introduction

During the first full year since creation of the site, a number of monitoring programmes were instigated and attempts were made to record as many of the higher groups of fauna and flora as possible. Whilst the monitoring programmes are being written up as separate reports or papers, this report aims to act as a central point in which to bring together the species data collected during the course of the year. It is hoped that this will develop into a regular annual report in which all such observations can be published.

As this was the first full year of monitoring, there can be little discussion or comment on the findings as there is little or no previous data available for comparison. Thus, by necessity, this first report is rather short.

Flora

During 1996, the higher plants were surveyed extensively by Mike Crewe. The results of a National Vegetation Classification survey of the main areas and full details of plants are contained within a separate report (*Kingfishers Bridge Plant Monitoring Project Year 1 - 1996*), a copy of which is held by Andrew Green at Kingfishers Bridge. Details of distribution and notes on relative abundance are contained within that report; however, the report was prepared in July 1996 and so the following list supersedes that within the above report as it contains all taxa found to the end of 1996.

Common Stonewort *Chara vulgaris*

Frequent in the feeder ditch, becoming noticeable in late summer.

Field Horsetail *Equisetum vulgare*

Occurs sparingly along the western boundary area and on the river bank.

Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*

Planted in the boundary belt and a single tree on the river bank.

Austrian Pine *Pinus nigra ssp. austriaca*

Planted in the boundary belt.

Corsican Pine *Pinus nigra ssp. laricio*

Planted in the boundary belt.

Leyland Cypress *X Cupressocyparis leylandii*

Planted in the boundary belt. Both green and golden forms have been planted. Also on the river bank.

Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*

Rare. Only found in the south-east part of the boundary.

Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*

Surprisingly rare. Only noted in two places in the boundary area and at one site on the edge of the limestone grassland. Later in the year, appeared in the reed bed area.

Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*

Frequent throughout in wetter areas.

Common Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus aquatilis*

Colonies establishing in the lake and the ditch near the concrete pad. Also a single plant in the fen area.

Common Meadow-rue *Thalictrum flavum*

A single plant found in the eastern border ditch and present beside the river.

Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas*

Common. scattered throughout.

Long-headed Poppy *Papaver dubium ssp. dubium*

Rare. A single plant in the lake area.

Babington's Poppy *Papaver dubium ssp. lecoqii*

Frequent in the summer flood but not seen elsewhere. A nationally scarce plant formerly treated as a full species.

Rough Poppy *Papaver hybridum*

Rare. A single plant on the south side of the lake area.

Common Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria muralis*

Rare. Two plants in the summer flood on a dry scraped area.

Common Fumitory *Fumaria officinalis*

Frequent throughout although never common.

Fine-leaved Fumitory *Fumaria parviflora*

A good colony of this nationally rare species lies along the west side of the lake.

London Plane *Platanus x hispanica*

Several planted along the south side of the boundary area.

Huntingdon Elm *Ulmus x vegeta*

a single specimen in the very south-east corner of the site.

Small-leaved Elm *Ulmus minor ssp. minor*

A row in the boundary hedge on the east side.

Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*

Scattered throughout. Very common in boundary areas.

Small Nettle *Urtica urens*

Very common throughout.

Beech *Fagus sylvatica*

Planted in the boundary belt.

Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*

Planted in the boundary belt.

Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*

Planted in the boundary belt.

Red Oak *Quercus rubra*

Planted in the boundary belt.

Silver Birch *Betula pendula*

Planted in the boundary belt.

Jacquemont's Birch *Betula jacquemontii*

An ornamental birch most likely this species planted in the boundary belt.

Alder *Alnus glutinosa*

Planted in the boundary belt.

Grey Alder *Alnus incana*

Planted in the boundary belt and on the river bank.

Italian Alder *Alnus cordata*

Planted in the boundary belt and on the river bank.

Red Goosefoot *Chenopodium rubrum*

Very common to abundant in the summer flood, reed bed and fen but rather scarce elsewhere.

Many-seeded Goosefoot *Chenopodium polyspermum*

A single plant on the bank between the limestone grassland and fen.

Maple-leaved Goosefoot *Chenopodium hybridum*

One or two plants in the summer flood and neighbouring part of the limestone grassland.

Fig-leaved Goosefoot *Chenopodium ficifolium*

Very common throughout.

Fat Hen *Chenopodium album*

Common to abundant throughout.

Spear-leaved Orache *Atriplex prostrata*

Scattered throughout in more open areas.

Common Orache *Atriplex patula*

Scattered throughout, occasionally common.

Root Beet *Beta vulgaris ssp. vulgaris*

A handful of plants noted, primarily on the western half of the site.

Common Amaranth *Amaranthus retroflexus*

A few plants scattered amongst the colony of Green Amaranths. All plants were of the less-common form with pinkish flower spikes.

Green Amaranth *Amaranthus hybridus*

A number of plants scattered close to the colonies of *A. bouchonii*. Some plants showed intermediate characters and may have been hybrids, although some authorities do not recognise *A. hybridus* and *A. bouchonii* as separate species.

Indehiscent Amaranth *Amaranthus bouchonii*

A good number of plants scattered along the western edge of the main ditch with a few plants spreading into neighbouring parts of the limestone grassland and boundary area. By early September a substantial quantity was evident on the east side of the fen.

Thyme-leaved Sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia*

Rather scarce, only noted in the eastern part of the limestone grassland.

Common Chickweed *Stellaria media*

Common throughout.

Water Chickweed *Myosoton aquaticum*
Several plants beside the main ditch.

White Campion *Silene latifolia*
Very common throughout, particularly in the eastern half of the site.

Amphibious Bistort *Persicaria amphibia*
Scattered colonies throughout the site but only those in the wetter areas are thriving.

Redshank *Persicaria maculosa*
Abundant and often dominant in the lower-lying areas, less frequent elsewhere.

Pale Persicaria *Persicaria lapathifolia*
Occasional along the river bank.

Equal-leaved Knotgrass *Polygonum arenastrum*
Noted in late summer in the limestone grassland and lake areas but likely to have been overlooked elsewhere.

Knotgrass *Polygonum aviculare*
Common throughout.

Black Bindweed *Fallopia convolvulus*
Very common to abundant and occasionally dominant in lower-lying areas. Scarce elsewhere.

Rhubarb *Rheum x hybridum*
A single plant established between the crouch ditch and the river.

Curled Dock *Rumex crispus*
Rather scarce. Confined to drier parts of the limestone grassland, boundary areas and river bank.

Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*
Surprisingly scarce. Only noted in the lake and summer flood areas but more frequent in the boundary belt and river bank.

Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*
Planted in the boundary belt.

Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris*
Rather scarce but starting to appear on the site from established colonies in the boundary areas.

Dwarf Mallow *Malva neglecta*
A single plant found in the boundary belt near the neighbouring buildings.

Field Pansy *Viola arvensis*
Widely scattered throughout but only common in the limestone grassland and parts of the boundary belt.

Hybrid Pansy *Viola x contempta*
Many plants appearing to be this hybrid are almost certainly merely bluer forms of Field Pansy. However, one hybrid was located in the summer flood.

White Bryony *Bryonia dioica*
Rare. Only found in the boundary and winter flood.

Hybrid Poplar *Populus x canadensis*
Two cultivars are planted in the boundary belt, 'Robusta' and 'Beaupre'

Balm-of-Gilead *Populus candicans* 'Aurora'

A stand of large specimens on the river bank of the variegated form.

Bay Willow *Salix pentandra*

Planted in the boundary belt and on the river bank.

Almond Willow *Salix triandra*

Several on the river bank.

White Willow *Salix alba*

Planted in the boundary belt and common along the river bank. The palest forms appear to be the variety *Caerulea*, known as the Cricket-bat Willow.

Osier *Salix viminalis*

Planted in the boundary belt and along the river bank.

Goat Willow *Salix caprea*

A single plant in the hedge on the eastern side and at least two bushes on the river bank.

Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*

A few plants occur in the boundary belt.

Hedge Mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*

Common throughout.

Flixweed *Descurainia sophia*

Very common to abundant and often exclusively dominant throughout.

Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*

Only found along the hedge on the eastern side.

Treacle Mustard *Erysimum cheiranthoides*

Scarce with small numbers noted in the lake, winter flood and summer flood areas.

Narrow-fruited Water-cress *Rorippa microphyllum*

Scattered throughout in wetter areas. All plants mature enough to identify have been this species.

Marsh Yellow-cress *Rorippa palustris*

Two small colonies in the summer flood and a single plant beside the lake.

Wavy Bitter-cress *Cardamine flexuosa*

Small numbers in the boundary ditches and a single plant beside the southern side of the lake.

Shepherd's Purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris*

Common throughout.

Swine-cress *Coronopus squamatus*

Reasonably common throughout. Most frequent in well-trodden areas.

Charlock *Sinapis arvensis*

Scattered throughout, occasionally forming small but dense colonies.

Wild Mignonette *Reseda lutea*

Very common in the eastern half of the summer flood but not seen elsewhere.

Primrose *Primula vulgaris*

A few plants planted in the southern boundary belt

Yellow Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*
A single plant seen in the eastern boundary ditch.

Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*
Generally scarce but frequent in the limestone grassland.

Brookweed *Samolus valerandi*
Fairly common throughout the reed bed and lake areas.

Black Currant *Ribes nigrum*
A number of plants in the boundary belt to the east of the hoses.

Bramble *Rubus ulmifolius*
Restricted at present to the boundary belt, but small plants have been planted on one of the lake islands. Of the plants present, at least *Rubus ulmifolius* has been identified as occurring.

Dewberry *Rubus caesius*
Occasional in scrubby parts of the boundary.

Raspberry *Rubus idaeus*
A few plants with Black Currants in the boundary belt.

Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*
Rare. Only recorded from the eastern hedge line and a single plant in the reed bed.

Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*
Occasional in the boundary belt and frequent on the river bank.

Dog Rose *Rosa canina*
A few plants in boundary hedges.

Sweet Briar *Rosa rubiginosa*
Planted in the boundary belt.

Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*
Rare. Only noted along the eastern hedge line.

Wild Plum *Prunus domestica*
One or two bushes planted on the river bank.

Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*
Planted in the boundary belt.

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
One or two bushes planted along the river bank.

Pear *Pyrus communis*
One noted on the river bank.

Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*
Planted in the boundary belt.

Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*
Planted in the boundary belt.

Ornamental Whitebeam *Sorbus aria* 'Lutescens'
Planted on the southern edge of the limestone grassland.

Swedish Whitebeam *Sorbus intermedia*
Planted in the boundary belt.

Hollyberry Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster bullatus*
One or two planted along the river bank.

Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*
At present confined to boundary hedges and border areas.

Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*
Surprisingly rare. Only found on the eastern edge of the site.

White Clover *Trifolium repens*
Currently confined to a few places in the boundary areas and a few small plants by the big cliff.

Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*
A single plant located in the eastern part of the limestone grassland.

Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*
A few plants on the western edge of the main ditch and in the reed bed.

Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*
Frequent throughout although currently suppressed by the faster growth of other species. Well established along the western fringe.

Hoary Willowherb *Epilobium parviflorum*
Infrequent. Scattered plants in limestone grassland, summer flood and boundary areas.

Square-stalked Willowherb *Epilobium tetragonum*
Scattered plants, mainly in limestone grassland and boundary areas.

American Willowherb *Epilobium ciliatum*
Noted in lake, summer flood and limestone grassland areas.

Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*
Common in south-east part of boundary area.

Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*
Planted in boundary belt. Also found in hedge along eastern edge.

Holly *Ilex aquifolium*
Planted in boundary belt

Annual Mercury *Mercurialis annua*
Present in the winter flood area by the peat mounds.

Sun Spurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*
Frequent in lake, winter flood and reed bed areas and a few plants in boundary.

Dwarf Spurge *Euphorbia exigua*
Scarce. A few plants scattered in lake and winter flood.

Petty Spurge *Euphorbia peplus*
Occasional in lake, winter flood, limestone grassland and boundary.

Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*
Planted in boundary belt.

Field Maple *Acer campestre*
Planted in boundary belt.

Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*
Planted in boundary belt.

Cut-leaved Crane's-bill *Geranium dissectum*
Rare in limestone grassland but frequent to common in parts of boundary area towards south and east of site. Occasional along river bank.

Small-flowered Crane's-bill *Geranium pusillum*
A few plants in limestone grassland and boundary.

Dove's-foot Crane's-bill *Geranium molle*
A few plants on border of limestone grassland and boundary.

Common Ivy *Hedera helix*
Rare. Only found in hedge along east side.

Rough Chervil *Chaerophyllum temulum*
Single plants found in lake and limestone grassland areas. Scattered in boundary areas.

Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*
Rare on the developed site with a few plants encroaching around the edge. Abundant on river bank.

Bur Parsley *Anthriscus caucalis*
A single plant found in the lake area.

Lesser Water-parsnip *Berula erecta*
Frequent in the ditch along the western edge of the site.

Fool's Parsley *Aethusa cynapium*
common but rather scattered throughout the site.

Hemlock *Conium maculatum*
Common throughout but rather scattered. Likely to become much more frequent.

Celery *Apium graveolens*
A single plant in the north-east corner of the reedbed. The plant is of the cultivated form *dulce*.

Fool's Water-cress *Apium nodiflorum*
Noted in the lake area and along the river bank area.

Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*
Occasional plants scattered throughout the area. Common in boundary and river bank areas.

Carrot *Daucus carota ssp. sativus*
Very common throughout. All plants appear to be *ssp. sativus* and presumably originate as seedlings from a former crop.

Henbane *Hyoscyamus niger*
A single plant found on the edge of the big cliff area.

Black Nightshade *Solanum nigrum*
Rare. Single plants found beside the feeder ditch and in the Limestone Grassland, lake and big cliff areas.

Bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara*

Rare. Only found along the ditch on the east side and a few plants scattered along the river bank.

Potato *Solanum tuberosum*

One or two plants scattered throughout as relics of a former crop.

Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*

Frequent in boundary areas and the river bank and noted in winter flood.

Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium*

Present on western edge of lake and winter flood areas and frequent along western boundary and river bank areas.

Common Comfrey *Symphytum officinale*

Several plants along the boundary ditch in the south-west corner.

Bugloss *Anchusa arvensis*

Rare. Only noted growing at the base of the little cliff.

Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*

Scattered throughout several of the areas but only frequent in the limestone grassland.

Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*

Rare. Only noted along the east hedge.

Marsh Woundwort *Stachys palustris*

Frequent in the lake, winter flood and river bank areas and scattered in the boundary.

Black Horehound *Ballota nigra*

Rare. Only noted beside one of the ditches and in the boundary area.

White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*

Rare at present with most plants in the boundary area and along the river bank.

Cut-leaved Dead-nettle *Lamium hybridum*

Frequent with plants scattered throughout most areas.

Henbit Dead-nettle *Lamium amplexicaule*

Frequent throughout but especially in the eastern half of the site.

Large-flowered Hemp-nettle *Galeopsis speciosa*

Scarce. Several plants in winter flood and noted in lake and summer flood. Non-flowering plants very difficult to tell from Common Hemp-nettle without close scrutiny.

Common Hemp-nettle *Galeopsis tetrahit*

Very common to almost abundant in parts of the western half of the site. Frequent to occasional on the eastern half.

Ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea*

Rare at present but slowly increasing during the year with small colonies at a number of locations. Scattered in boundary areas and more frequent on the river bank.

Gypsywort *Lycopus europaeus*

Rare. Only noted in the ditch near the concrete pad.

Corn Mint *Mentha arvensis*

Frequent in the lake, reedbed and boundary areas and along the main ditches.

Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*
Rare. Only found in the lake area.

Mare's-tail *Hippuris vulgaris*
A single plant found on the edge of the otter island.

Common Water-starwort *Callitriche stagnalis*
Common in the main ditch and edges of the lake.

Various-leaved Water-starwort *Callitriche platycarpa*
Common in standing water in the ditches, lake and boundary areas.

Greater Plantain *Plantago major*
Thinly scattered throughout. More common in boundary areas.

Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*
Surprisingly rare and only found in the south east part of the boundary. Likely to become established once the vegetation settles.

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*
Planted in the boundary belt.

Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*
Several bushes planted along the river bank.

Great Mullein *Verbascum thapsus*
A single plant on the southern edge of the boundary area.

Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata*
Present in the winter flood and main ditch areas and frequent in parts of the boundary and river bank areas.

Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*
Rare. Only found in the boundary.

Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*
Rare. Only found in the boundary belt.

Pink Water-speedwell *Veronica catanata*
Common. Scattered plants throughout low-lying areas with many plants in the lake area.

Wall Speedwell *Veronica arvensis*
Found in undisturbed parts of the winter flood and limestone grassland. Rather frequent in the latter.

Green Field Speedwell *Veronica agrestis*
Rare. One or two plants found in the limestone grassland and summer flood areas.

Grey Field Speedwell *Veronica polita*
Frequent in the eastern half of the limestone grassland with a few plants beside the neighbouring ditch.

Common Field Speedwell *Veronica persica*
Common throughout.

Ivy-leaved Speedwell *Veronica hederifolia*
Rare. Only found at the foot of the little cliff.

Red Bartsia *Odontites vernus*

Rare. A small colony located in the east half of the limestone grassland.

Venus's Looking-glass *Legousia hybrida*

Common in the east half of the limestone grassland. Elsewhere only noted on the west side of the lake area.

Cleavers *Galium aparine*

Very common throughout.

Elder *Sambucus nigra*

A single plant beside the main ditch by the summer flood and a few plants scattered along border hedge lines.

Guellder-rose *Viburnum opulus*

Planted in the boundary belt.

Wilson's Honeysuckle *Lonicera nitida*

At least two bushes planted along the river bank.

Wild Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*

Rare. A few plants scattered in the boundary area and near the river bank.

Greater Burdock *Arctium lappa*

Rare. A few plants on the north side of the boundary.

Lesser Burdock *Arctium minus*

Scarce. Scattered plants in boundary areas and noted along the screened walkway and the limestone grassland.

Wetted Thistle *Carduus crispus*

Common in boundary areas and the river bank.

Musk Thistle *Carduus nutans*

Frequent on the east side of the summer flood/limestone grassland and neighbouring boundary. A single plant in the winter flood.

Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*

Very common throughout and likely to become more so. Currently mainly young seedlings present.

Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*

Scattered throughout. Likely to become far more common.

Nipplewort *Lapsana communis*

Fairly common in the limestone grassland and boundary areas. Scattered elsewhere.

Common Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*

A few plants in the limestone grassland. More frequent in the boundary.

Bristly Ox-tongue *Picris echioides*

Infrequent. Noted in the lake, winter flood, limestone grassland and boundary areas.

Perennial Sow-thistle *Sonchus arvensis*

Scattered throughout but rather uncommon.

Smooth Sow-thistle *Sonchus oleraceus*

Scarce. A few plants in the summer flood and ditches areas and along the river bank.

Prickly Sow-thistle *Sonchus asper*
Common. Scattered throughout the site.

Prickly Lettuce *Lactuca serriola*
Common throughout.

Great Lettuce *Lactuca virosa*
A single plant in the boundary near the neighbouring houses.

Dandelion *Taraxacum agg.*
At present confined to parts of the boundary and river bank.

Smooth Hawk's-beard *Crepis capillaris*
Rather scarce in general and confined to limestone grassland and boundary areas.

Beaked Hawk's-beard *Crepis vesicaria*
Rare. A single plant in the north-west corner of the boundary and one on the north end of the river bank.

Canadian Fleabane *Conyza canadensis*
Scarce. A few plants scattered in the summer flood and reedbed areas.

Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*
Very common to abundant throughout.

Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*
Rare. At present confined to the eastern part of the boundary.

Scented Mayweed *Matricaria recutita*
Thinly scattered throughout.

Pineappleweed *Matricaria discoidea*
Very common to abundant throughout.

Scentless Mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum*
Very common to abundant throughout.

Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*
Common to abundant in boundary and limestone grassland areas. Scarce elsewhere but numerous small seedlings appearing throughout.

Groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*
Frequent to common throughout.

Coltsfoot *Tussilago farfara*
Colonies noted in lake, winter flood, limestone grassland and boundary areas.

Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*
At present confined to boundary and river bank areas but likely to become more common.

Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*
A number of plants scattered beside the lake and the main ditch.

Curled Pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*
Good colonies establishing in the ditch by the concrete pad and the lake.

Horned Pondweed *Zannichellia palustris*
Present in the main ditch and the ditch by the concrete pad.

Fat Duckweed *Lemna gibba*

Only noted in the northern end of the main ditch.

Common Duckweed *Lemna minor*

Present in the northern end of the main ditch having entered from the neighbouring boundary area.

Also appeared from mid-July in the ditch by the concrete pad.

Least Duckweed *Lemna minuta*

Present in the northern end of the main ditch having entered from the neighbouring boundary area.

Toad Rush *Juncus bufonius*

Frequent in the reed bed and summer flood areas and along the main feeder ditches.

Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*

A few young plants noticed in the reed bed area and by the lake in mid-July and becoming far more noticeable by the year end.

Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus*

Becoming frequent in the reed bed and scattered along the ditches by the year end.

Hard Rush *Juncus effusus*

A few plants scattered in the reed bed.

Soft Rush *Juncus effusus*

A few young plants first noticed in the reed bed area in mid-July.

Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*

Rare. Only noted on the western boundary and the river bank.

Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*

Frequent to common in grassy parts of the winter flood.

Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*

Abundant in undisturbed areas from old set aside.

Italian Rye-grass *Lolium multiflorum*

Frequent in undisturbed areas from old set aside.

Annual Meadow-grass *Poa annua*

Common throughout.

Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*

Occasional throughout and likely to spread rapidly.

Smooth Meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*

Only noted in boundary areas.

Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*

Only noted in boundary areas and along the river bank.

Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*

Common in the crouch ditch on the western side and along the river bank.

False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*

Common in adjoining grassy areas of boundary and river bank.

Wild Oat *Avena fatua*

A few plants scattered in winter and summer flood and limestone grassland.

Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*

Scarce. At present only occurs on rank grassland on western part of boundary and neighbouring river bank.

Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*

Only found in boundary areas and neighbouring part of winter flood.

Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*

Occasional along western boundary and small colonies establishing beside lake and the ditch near the concrete pad. Also along the river bank.

Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*

Common in boundary areas.

Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*

Frequent in boundary and noted in limestone grassland.

Wood Small-reed *Calamagrostis epigejos*

A single colony in the boundary belt on the south side of the site.

Black-grass *Alopecurus myosuroides*

Common to abundant throughout. Dominant in parts of summer flood and lake.

Timothy *Phleum pratense*

Rare. Only noted in boundary area and on the river bank.

Smaller Cat's-tail *Phleum bertolonii*

Scarce. Present in boundary and southern edge of limestone grassland.

Meadow Brome *Bromus commutatus*

Rare. Single plant along northern boundary.

Barren Brome *Anisantha sterilis*

Abundant in boundary areas and the river bank and scattered throughout rest of site.

Common Couch *Elytrigia repens*

Abundant in boundary areas and river bank and encroaching into winter flood and limestone grassland.

Two-rowed Barley *Hordeum distichon*

Frequent throughout but patchy. Often absent but also some large stands from set aside.

Wall Barley *Hordeum murinum*

Rare. Only noted in winter flood by concrete pad and by the track crossing the limestone grassland.

Bread Wheat *Triticum aestivum*

Abundant to dominant in least disturbed areas throughout. Scarce to absent in low-lying areas.

Common Reed *Phragmites australis*

Patchily distributed along western boundary and a small colony in ditch near the concrete pad. Also scattered along the river bank. Becoming established artificially in reed bed area.

Bulrush *Typha latifolia*

Scattered along western boundary and river bank area. Seedlings frequent in standing water along ditches and in lake and likely to become common and occasionally dominant.

Garden Lily *Lilium x hollandicum*

At least two plants on southern edge of boundary area.

Garden Daffodil *Narcissus x pseudonarcissus* hybrid

Several clumps planted in southern part of boundary.

Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*

Scarce in boundary ditches but frequent in river bank area. Not yet on main site.

Freshwater Crustacea

This group was surveyed by Stephen Tomkins in 1996. Samples were collected in September and have been preserved for future identification. At the time of writing, the results are not available but are expected to give a good indication of the species present and their distribution across the site.

Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)

The colonisation of the site by this group will be covered by Norman Moore who visited Kingfishers Bridge on June 17th 1996. On that date, the following species were noted:

Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>

Of these, Black-tailed Skimmer and Common Blue Damselfly were noted throughout the site with the rest confined to the old ditch line running through the winter flood area towards the lake.

In addition, the following casual observations were made by Roger Beecroft and/or Mike Crewe:

Blue-tailed Damselfly	First noted on May 24th.
Common Blue Damselfly	First noted on May 24th with at least 50 present around the lake on August 27th.
Emerald Damselfly <i>Lestes sponsa</i>	One noted on August 27th.
Emperor Dragonfly <i>Anax imperator</i>	Two seen on several dates from June 25th.
Southern Hawker <i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	One on August 27th.
Migrant Hawker <i>Aeshna mixta</i>	Three present on August 27th and at least 20 on September 27th.
Black-tailed Skimmer	First noted on June 10th with an increase to at least 60 by June 25th.
Broad-bodied Chaser	A female was seen on June 25th and was egg-laying near Wicken Quayside on July 5th.
Common Darter <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	At least 300 were present around the lake on Aug. 27th and at least 200 still present on Sept. 27th.
Ruddy Darter <i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	One on August 27th.

Coleoptera

A series of pit fall traps were established on site by Dr Julian Doberski to sample the ground beetles present. This can be a difficult group and at the time of preparing this report, some species still await confirmation. However, the following provisional list has been supplied, although some species await full confirmation and any corrections will be made in the next annual report.

<i>Amara apricaria</i>	<i>Chlaenius vestitus</i>
<i>Amara aulica</i>	<i>Clivina fossor</i>
<i>Amara bifrons</i>	<i>Dyschirius thoracicus</i>
<i>Amara eurynota</i>	<i>Elaphrus riparius</i>
<i>Amara plebeja</i>	<i>Harpalus ardisiacus</i>
<i>Amara similata/ovata</i>	<i>Harpalus rufipes</i>
<i>Bembidion articulatum</i>	<i>Loricera pilicornis</i>
<i>Bembidion dentellum</i>	<i>Nebria brevicollis</i>
<i>Bembidion genei</i>	<i>Notiophilus biguttatus</i>
<i>Bembidion lampros</i>	<i>Pterostichus cupreus</i>
<i>Bradycellus verbasci</i>	<i>Pterostichus melanarius</i>
<i>Calathus fuscipes</i>	<i>Trechus micros</i>
<i>Calathus melanocephalus</i>	<i>Trechus quadristriatus</i>

It is hoped that notes on abundance and distribution can be included in future reports.

Lepidoptera

Butterflies

No full survey was carried out but casual observations by R Beecroft and M Crewe included the following species:

Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venata</i>	Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>

This proved to be an outstanding year for Painted Ladies with enormous numbers recorded throughout the country. On June 6th, a continuous passage of the species was taking place with all insects noted moving north across the site. Large numbers of larvae were later found feeding on Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, particularly in the Limestone Grassland sections of the site. A second flush of adults in August was a result of locally-bred individuals. At the end of the year, a Red Admiral was noted on the relatively late date of November 6th.

Moths

In association with the large numbers of Painted Ladies, there was a notable immigration of Silver-Y *Autographa gamma* moths. Numbers peaked in the second half of August with some 5,000 individuals on site on 27th. Two individuals of the Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* were noted amongst the large numbers of Silver-Ys on August 27th and one was present on June 20th. This is another immigrant, but it does not occur in Britain every year. However, 1996 proved to be a good year for the species. An individual of the Yellow Shell *Camptogramma bilineata* was noted on June 20th. Finally, several individuals of the tiny Diamond-back Moth *Plutella xylostella* were noted on June 25th, an immigrant that occurred in enormous numbers in parts of Britain in 1996.

Reptiles and Amphibians

No recording of this group was undertaken but Common Toad *Bufo bufo* and Grass Snake *Natrix natrix* were both noted by M Crewe, the latter on June 20th when two were together by the concrete pad.

Birds

Along with the flora, birds were given more attention than any other group. A survey of the species breeding on site was carried out quite intensively by James Cadbury and the results are included in the check list here. In addition, observations of passage and/or wintering species were recorded. Total counts of birds present were made on a casual basis by Andrew Green, Roger Beecroft and Mike Crewe, as well as notes on breeding activity and their records are also used in this check list.

In many cases it is only possible to give highest counts and numbers of breeding pairs. It is hoped that more detailed accounts of numbers can be included in future reports.

Little Grebe

One on the lake on September 11th is the only record.

Great Crested Grebe

A pair were present intermittently throughout the year.

Gannet

An immature passed south on September 9th, constituting perhaps the most bizarre record of the year (MDC)!!

Cormorant

Up to five were noted on the site with a maximum of nine in the general area during the early part of the year. Similar numbers were recorded in the second half of the year.

Little Egret

One on neighbouring washes on June 20th (ACG, MDC) was perhaps the same as one which fed around the lake on September 27th (MDC).

Grey Heron

Up to three were recorded on several dates throughout the year.

Mute Swan

Up to 17 were recorded early in the year with one pair staying to breed and raising three young. Up to seven used the site in the latter part of the year with 20 to 30 birds feeding on adjacent arable fields.

Bean Goose

One with 30 Greylag Geese on February 12th occurred during a national influx of the species. However, the bird may equally have been an escapee from a collection.

Greylag Goose

Up to 30 in the early part of the year and a similar number present from at least early August. Visits are erratic with the birds often absent.

Canada Goose

Up to 43 in the early part of the year with two pairs staying to breed. Higher numbers occurred from early August, when 124 were counted on 8th, although the birds moved freely between other sites. Maximum counts in the latter period included 154 on September 21st and 24th.

Barnacle Goose

One on June 10th is likely to have been an escapee, although a feral population is becoming established in the region.

Shelduck

Up to 12 in the early part of the year with six pairs present into the beginning of the breeding season.

Wigeon

Up to 286 in the early part of the year. Two had returned to the site by August 27th with 12 on September 27th. The maximum count in the latter part of the year was of 390 on December 16th.

Gadwall

Up to 16 in the early part of the year with up to five males present during the breeding season. Up to 15 were present in September but no more than two remained to the end of the year.

Teal

Up to 302 in the early part of the year. At least nine were on the site again by August 27th and numbers then peaked at 115 on December 11th.

Mallard

Up to 74 in the early part of the year and up to 21 males in the breeding season. Numbers in the latter part of the year peaked with 210 on December 11th.

Pintail

Up to three in the early part of the year and a female present on September 11th.

Garganey

Two were reported in the spring.

Shoveler

Up to 14 in the early part of the year with six males during the breeding season. In the latter part of the year, counts involved just three on September 20th and two on December 11th.

Red-crested Pochard

A male on the lake on the unusual date of May 11th.

Pochard

A single bird was noted during the early part of the year and seven were on the lake on December 16th.

Tufted Duck

Up to 48 in the early part of the year with up to 29 males during the breeding season.

Goldeneye

Up to three in the early part of the year and four on December 11th.

Goosander

A group of 20 was on the lake on March 10th.

Marsh Harrier

Male and female seen on June 7th and 8th with a male on September 9th.

Hen Harrier

Single female or immatures were noted on March 10th, April 8th, November 15th and December 11th and 16th.

Sparrowhawk

At least two were frequently seen hunting over the site.

Merlin

A female hunted across the site on November 15th.

Kestrel

A pair was regularly seen hunting over the site.

Hobby

One visited the site on the evening of September 11th.

Red-legged Partridge

Up to 6 in the early part of the year and up to 13 in the latter half.

Grey Partridge

Few observations, but a pair were seen with nine young in August.

Pheasant

Resident on the site with the seeds from set-aside cover providing a good food supply.

Water Rail

One on November 23rd was the only record (ACG).

Moorhen

Up to 2 in the early part of the year.

Coot

A single bird was noted on the lake in the early part of the year.

Oystercatcher

A pair regularly visited the site but failed in their breeding attempts. Three were present on June 25th.

Avocet

Three were present on a single date in April and a single visited the site on May 17th.

Little Ringed Plover

Four pairs raised three broods. Birds were present from April 25th to August 27th at least.

Ringed Plover

Two to three pairs raised young.

Golden Plover

Common on neighbouring land during the winter with occasional smaller parties visiting the lake area to bathe and feed. In the autumn, 26 were present on September 26th with at least 500 on adjacent land on 27th.

Grey Plover

One was recorded on May 13th and a juvenile was present on September 9th.

Lapwing

Up to 49 in the early part of the year. Large flocks regularly noted on adjacent land during the winter months. During the breeding season 11 pairs raised eight broods and a post-breeding flock of 45 birds was present on June 25th. At least 750 were on adjacent land on September 27th.

Sanderling

One was present on May 23rd.

Little Stint

Four were present from September 20th to 27th at least. September 1996 saw unusually large numbers of this species passing through Britain at this time.

Dunlin

Up to eight were logged during the spring migration period. And a single was noted on September 18th.

Ruff

Up to three were logged during the spring migration period and September produced maxima of six on 20th, five on 24th and four on 27th.

Common Snipe

Up to 13 were noted during the early part of the year with up to two drumming in the breeding season. Autumn counts peaked with 51 on August 27th but September's maximum was only 17.

Jack Snipe

One flushed from Dimmock's Cote on September 26th dropped down onto Kingfishers Bridge.

Black-tailed Godwit

One was on the site on April 25th, whilst up to 28 were on the adjacent washes at that time.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Three noted on May 2nd.

Whimbrel

Two visited the site on April 25th and four flew over on September 21st.

Curlew

during the spring, one was noted on April 25th whilst autumn movements produced one on September 21st and two on 26th and 27th.

Redshank

Up to 13 were logged during the early part of the year. During the breeding season, three to four pairs were located but all were thought to have failed. In the latter part of the year, three on November 15th was the only record.

Spotted Redshank

Two were present on September 20th and 21st and singles were logged on August 27th, September 13th and October 1st. It is possible that all records relate to two individuals.

Greenshank

Up to 5 were logged during the spring migration period whilst autumn produced a flock of 13 on August 27th, two on September 27th and three on October 1st.

Green Sandpiper

One was present during the spring migration period and singles were noted on several dates from June 25th to September 27th with two on August 8th and September 5th.

Common Sandpiper

One was present during the spring migration period. In the autumn, three were noted on August 27th and one on September 27th.

Black-headed Gull

Up to 241 were logged during the early part of the year and autumn counts peaked with 70 on September 27th.

Common Gull

Up to five were logged during the early part of the year and one had returned by September 27th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Up to eight were logged during the early part of the year with singles noted in August and September and three on November 15th.

Herring Gull

Up to two were logged during the early part of the year.

Great Black-backed Gull

Two were present on November 22nd.

Common Tern

One was found sitting on a nest beside the lake on June 10th but the breeding attempt was unsuccessful. On July 9th, two adults and eight juveniles were on the site. These had clearly moved in from a breeding location elsewhere and differences in the size of the young birds indicated that more than one family party was involved. Nine were on the site on August 8th.

Stock Dove

Up to 200 were logged during the early part of the year but numbers during the latter part of the year only reached 40 birds.

Wood Pigeon

Up to 400 were logged during the early part of the year. In the latter part of the year, numbers were swollen by a large influx of this species with birds feeding on the standing set-aside Wheat. Counts included 1500 on November 15th, 1330 on November 22nd and 1800 on December 11th.

Collared Dove

One or two occasionally visited the site from a small population around the farm buildings.

Turtle Dove

Few records received. The latest was noted on September 26th.

Cuckoo

Noted during the summer months with no details. One was calling on the unusually late date of July 5th.

Barn Owl

One was noted hunting over the site on a single date in the summer.

Little Owl

One was seen in the east boundary hedge on May 24th.

Short-eared Owl

One was hunting on the site on January 18th.

Swift

Three were feeding over the lake on the relatively early date of April 25th.

Kingfisher

One was recorded occasionally.

Green Woodpecker

Up to two occasionally visited the site from neighbouring scrub.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One was noted regularly around the boundary hedge lines with two seen on November 22nd.

Skylark

At least six singing males were located. Up to 16 were regularly counted on site during the autumn with a maximum of 40 on November 15th.

Sand Martin

Spring numbers peaked at 100 feeding over the lake on April 10th. The artificial nest sites were visited and preliminary breeding behaviour was noted but the species did not breed on site. In the autumn, up to 150 were feeding over the site and two were still present on September 27th.

Swallow

Up to six were logged during the early part of the year with the first being a single on April 10th. In the autumn, numbers peaked with 30 on August 27th and 80 on September 27th.

House Martin

Up to two were logged during the early part of the year and ten on August 27th increased to 150 on September 27th.

Water Pipit

Records of singles on April 7th and 10th probably relate to the same individual.

Meadow Pipit

Noted mostly as a passage migrant with a peak count of 40 on September 27th. At least three birds remained on site into the winter, although there was a count of 20 on November 15th which may have involved passage birds.

Yellow Wagtail

Up to three were logged during the early part of the year with one pair stopping to breed. A maximum count of 10 birds was present on August 27th and three were still on site on September 5th.

Grey Wagtail

One on November 3rd was the only record and a good addition to the site list.

Pied Wagtail

Up to three were logged during the early part of the year. An individual of the Continental race, colloquially known as White Wagtail was noted on May 11th. Up to three were again on the site from August onwards with a maximum later of seven on November 22nd.

Dunnock

A single bird was noted during the early part of the year.

Wren

A single bird was noted during the early part of the year.

Robin

Just one bird was present during the early part of the year.

Fieldfare

Up to 25 birds were reported flying over the site early in the year and November sightings peaked with 23 on 22nd.

Song Thrush

A single bird was noted during the early part of the year.

Redwing

Small numbers were noted on site during both winter periods with a maximum count of 30 on November 15th.

Mistle Thrush

Two on November 15th and one on 22nd are the only reports received.

Blackbird

Two were noted during the early part of the year and a small influx of Continental birds resulted in a count of six on November 22nd.

Sedge Warbler

Up to three were logged during the early part of the year and at least one pair bred in the winter flood area. The last record was on September 20th.

Reed Warbler

Up to four were logged during the early part of the year.

Lesser Whitethroat

One was seen during the spring migration period.

Whitethroat

Up to two were logged during the early part of the year.

Blackcap

One was recorded during the spring.

Chiffchaff

One was recorded during the spring.

Willow Warbler

Up to two were logged during the early part of the year.

Goldcrest

One was in the south-west corner of the site in September.

Long-tailed Tit

Occasionally ventured onto the site from neighbouring hedge lines with a maximum of 10 noted.

Willow Tit

The only record involved one in the willows on the western boundary on September 18th. A surprise addition to the list.

Great Tit

Noted in single numbers around the boundaries.

Blue Tit

Noted in single numbers around the boundaries.

Treecreeper

The only record involved one in the willows on the western boundary on September 18th.

Jay

Two birds occasionally visited the site from neighbouring scrub.

Magpie

Up to three noted around the site.

Jackdaw

Up to 68 birds were noted feeding on the site during the first winter period and about 100 were present on September 26th.

Rook

Occasionally visited the site but prefers neighbouring arable. Maximum count was 40 on November 15th.

Carrion Crow

Generally up to nine birds during the winter periods but 20 noted on December 16th.

House Sparrow

Up to 11 counted on site with the regular winter passerine flock.

Tree Sparrow

Two on November 22nd with the regular passerine flock was the only record.

Starling

Occasional visitor to the site with a peak count of 40 on November 15th.

Chaffinch

Occasional visitor to the site with a peak count of 33 on November 22nd.

Brambling

One was noted flying over during the first winter period and a single again on November 15th.

Greenfinch

Up to 40 birds were recorded during the first winter period and 62 in November.

Goldfinch

Just a single bird was noted early in the year but autumn gatherings produced a count of 75 on September 5th. Numbers had dropped to single figures by November when a maximum of seven was noted.

Siskin

Three flew over on September 26th and one was seen briefly on the site before flying off on November 15th.

Linnet

Up to five birds were recorded during the first winter period and a regular flock in the second winter period peaked at 48 on November 22nd.

Yellowhammer

Winter numbers peaked at 40 in February and increased to a maximum of 123 on April 7th, presumably involving passage birds. The second winter peak was of 63 on November 22nd.

Reed Bunting

Winter numbers peaked at 10 in February and increased to a maximum of 129 on April 7th, presumably involving passage birds. In the autumn, at least 10 were back on site by September 27th. The second winter peak was of 60 on December 16th.

Corn Bunting

Counts during the first winter period peaked with 130 on February 20th whilst a flock of 50 was still present on May 15th. Counts during the latter part of the year included 25 on November 15th and 45 on December 16th.

Mammals

No recording of this group was undertaken but the following were noted by either Roger Beecroft, Mike Crewe or Andrew Green.

Common Shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>	Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>
Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>
Short-tailed Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>

