Duchess Park



Bee Orchid on Duchess Park

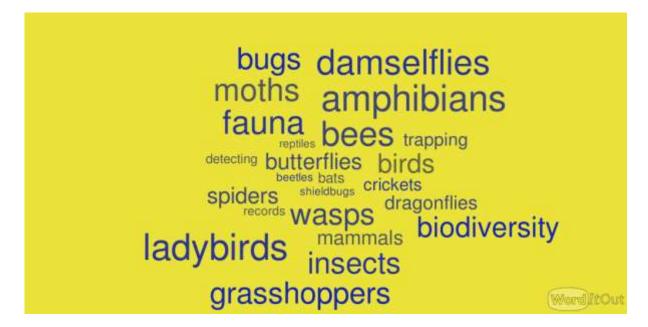
History and Natural History Volume 3 – Natural History Records (Fauna)

(A work in progress at June 2017)



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Note: These records have been compiled opportunistically. When I or someone else has made an observation and that species is not already in the book, it may be verified and added.

Clearly there are in reality many hundreds or thousands of species likely to be present at Duchess Park but not recorded here. So this book is truly a work in progress.

There are many classes of insects and invertebrates not included. The intention is that effort and time will hopefully lead to more.

For example, no attempt has yet been made to include worms, slugs, snails or spiders. These are all important food sources for birds, reptiles and amphibians. From an ecological perspective much remains to be done to give the book more scientific rigour.

Chapter Four - Birds

A slender young Blackbird built in a thorn-tree, A spruce little fellow as ever could be, His bill was so yellow, his feathers so black, So long was his tail, and so glossy his back, That good Mrs. B., who sat hatching her eggs, And only just left them to stretch her poor legs, And pick for a minute the worm she preferred, Thought there never was seen such a beautiful bird.

- Dinah Maria Mulock (used pseudonym Mrs. Craik) The Blackbird and the Rooks

To date the birds seen on or above the site including in residents' gardens are listed in Table 1. Some residents actively feed the wild birds and this no doubt adds to the frequency of observation and to some extent the variety of birds recorded.

The bird life is also influenced by the adjacent woodland. There has been a very limited attempt to place nest boxes on a few locations around Duchess Park. More use of nest boxes could be a feature of the long term maintenance and improvement of the site. This would help to increase diversity and numbers giving greater interest and resilience to the site's ecology.

Table 1 - Birds

Blackbird Turdus merula



Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula



Carrion Crow Corvus corone



Blue Tit Cyanistes caeruleus



Brambling Fringilla montifringilla



Buzzard Buteo buteo



Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs





Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita 14/04/14, 566090, 262187



Coal Tit Periparus ater



Feral Pigeon Columba livia



Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis



Great-spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos major 14/06/12 and 15/06/15, 566090, 262187



Hawfinch Coccothraustes coccothraustes



Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto



Fieldfare Turdus pilaris



Geese (?)

Geese have been seen flying over the site on a number of occasions but species not identified, probably migratory.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridus* 06/04/14, 566090, 262187



Hedge Sparrow (Dunnock) Prunella modularis



Common Gull Larus canus



Goldcrest Regulus regulus 16/4/13, 566033, 262234



Great Tit Parus major



Greenfinch Carduelis chloris



House Martin Delichon urbicum



Table 1 - Birds

House Sparrow Passer domesticus 14/02/15 565961, 262363 6/11/16 566090, 262187



Jackdaw Corvus monedula



Linnet Acanthis cannabina 25/2/13, 566127, 262330



Magpie Pica pica



Nuthatch Sitta europaea 25/7/13, 566033, 262234



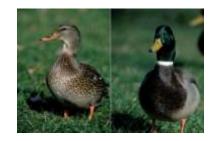
Jay Garrulus glandarius



Little Owl Athene noctua



Mallard Anas platyrhynchos



Red-legged Partridge Alectoris Rufa 5/3/17 565838, 262510



Kestrel Falco tinnunculus



Long-tailed Tit Aegithalos caudatus



Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* 7/5/13, 566112, 262198



Pheasant Phasianus colchicus



Pied Wagtail Motacilla alba



Red Kite Milvus milvus



Robin Erithacus rubecula



Skylark Alauda arvensis



Starling Sturnus vulgaris



Redpoll Carduelis flammea



Two Red Kites were observed circling over Duchess Park on 10/4/15

Rook Corvus frugilegus





Siskin *Carduelis spinus* 25/2/13, 566127, 262330



Song Thrush Turdus philomelos



Swallow Hirundo rustica





Sparrow Hawk Accipiter nisus



Swift Apus apus



Table 1 - Birds

Tawny Owl Strix aluco 2/6/12 565887,262166



Woodpigeon¹ Columba palumbus





Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur

Wren Troglodytes troglodytes

Y

Whitethroat Sylvia communis



¹ Woodpigeons are proving to be a pest for many residents. The birds foul patios and garden furniture as well as damaging trees and crops.

Chapter Five – Mammals

Table 2 is a record of mammal species observed. Bats were recorded as flying around the site at the time of a predevelopment survey and have been observed since. The full range of bat species has yet to be expertly confirmed. A couple of bat boxes are present in Area E2 but to date there is no evidence that they have been used for roosting.

Table 2 - Mammals

Long Tailed Field Mouse / Wood Mouse Apodemus Sylvaticus



Field Vole Microtus agrestis

Pygmy Shrew Sorex minutus



House Mouse Mus musculus domesticus



Wood Mouse Apodemus sylvaticus (Long tailed field mouse)



Bank Vole Clethrionomys glareolus



20/10/14

Mole Talpa europaea





Grey Squirrel Sciurus carolinensis



Reeve's Muntjac Deer Muntiacus reevesi



Rabbit Oryctolagus cuniculus



Roe Deer Capreolus capreolus



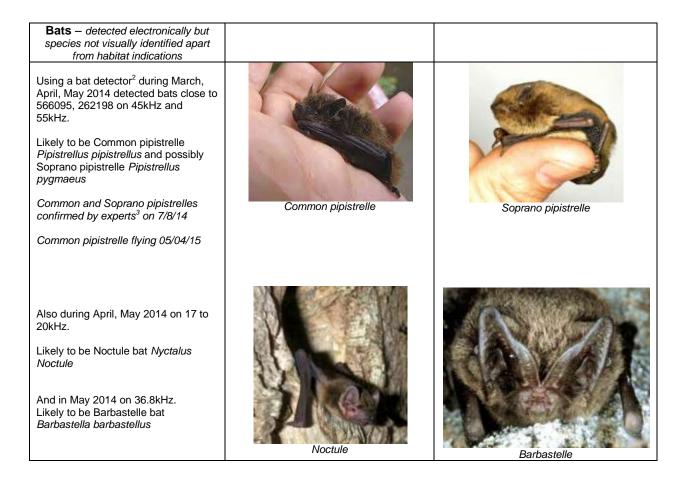
Fox Vulpes vulpes



Hedgehog Erinaceus europaeus



Table 2 - Mammals



In August 2014 volunteers from the local Wildlife Trust came to site with detection equipment and spent some hours walking around the site recording the presence of flying bats. Common Pipistrelles were recorded in Areas D2 and E2. Soprano Pipistrelles were recorded in Areas C2 and E2.



Magenta Bat5 Bat detector

² Magenta Bat5 Heterodyne Bat Detector

 $^{^{\}rm 3}$ Terry and Helen Moore, Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust Volunteers

Badgers – dead badgers have been seen nearby on Duchess Drive (27/2/15) and Ashley Road but I have not sighted live badgers or badger setts in the vicinity of Duchess Park.

It has been reported that a new badger sett may be being dug near the boundary of The Jarman Centre and Cheveley Park. This can now be confirmed. A movement detecting camera has been placed on The Jarman Centre and the video recording revealed the nightly activity of at least one Badger.

Chapter Six – Reptiles and amphibians

The site consists mostly of dry grassland and scrub. These are promising habitats for the British reptiles but perhaps there are insufficient south facing sunny areas with short vegetation where the reptiles may bask. It would also probably improve the habitat for the reptiles if some of the grass mowings were formed in to discrete heaps at selected points around the site to provide opportunities for egg laying and incubation. The site is currently not very attractive for amphibians. In due course perhaps there may be construction of garden ponds to improve things.

Table 3 - Reptiles and amphibians

Reptiles

Grass Snake Natrix natrix



Common Lizard Zootoca vivipara



Amphibians

Common Frog Rana temporaria





Common Toad Bufo bufo

Common Newt Lissotriton vulgaris



Three seen in garden pond 22/04/17

Chapter Seven – Insects and spiders

The range and number of British insect and spider species is enormous. Identification requires knowledge and skill so it is likely that our records will focus on larger, common species. The most available and easily used identification guides are probably those for bees, butterflies and moths, larger beetles, dragonflies and damselflies. Table 4 represents the broad picture to date. A more systematic approach to recording moths and butterflies could inform and shape the site maintenance plan to enhance the habitats for invertebrates.

Table 4 - Insects and Spiders

Dragonflies and damselflies:

Large red damselfly Pyrrhosoma nymphula



27/05/12 and 09/08/12 and 18/03/14 566090, 262196

Broad-bodied chaser (male) Libellula depressa



@DP 19/06/12 & 21/05/14 566090, 262196

Broad-bodied chaser (female) Libellula depressa



25/06/12 566090, 262196

Broad-bodied chaser (female) Libellula depressa This group of pictures were taken on Duchess Park 16/05/14



Common darter Sympetrum striolatum



3/9/12, 17/9/13 and 27/7/14 566090, 262196

Grasshoppers and crickets:

Speckled bush-cricket Leptophyes punctatissima





@DP 15/11/13 566090, 262196

Shieldbugs:

Green shieldbug Palomena prasina



2011 and 1/6/12 566090, 262196

A small blue damselfly, species not yet identified

Various dates 566090, 262196

Roesel's Bush Cricket Metrioptera roeselii



Ruddy darter Sympetrum sanguineum



24/8/14 566090, 262196

Green shieldbug (young) Palomena prasina



Hawthorn shieldbug (nymph) Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale



7/8/14 566090, 262196 And an adult 2/6/17

Rosemary beetle

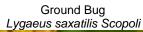
Chrysolina americana

Table 4 - Insects and Spiders

Beetles:

Cockchaffer or May Bug Melolontha melolontha







14/8/15 566090, 262196

Hover flies:

Common hoverfly (Marmalade Hoverfly) *Episyrphus balteatus*



Bees and wasps:

Common Carder Bee Bombus pascuorum



10/08/12, 12/10/13 566090, 262196



28/06/12 565833, 262480

Violet Ground Beetle Carabus violaceus



14/5/14 566090, 262196

Vollucella pellucens (Parasite of the common wasp)



20/07/14 566090, 262196

Buff-tailed bumblebee Bombus terrestris



09/08/12 566090, 262196



Nest found 22/7/13 in a Duchess Park Garden

Early bumblebee Bombus pratorum



05/06/12 566090, 262196 09/08/12 566090, 262196

Garden Bumblebee Bombus hortorum



Honey bee Apis melifera



Tree bumblebee Bombus hypnorum



27/3/14 566090, 262196

Ladybirds:

Harlequin (there are many variants) Harmonia axyridis



Red-tailed Bumblebee Bombus lapidarius



09/08/12 566090, 262196 male and worker seen

Red mason bee Osmia Rufa



Common Wasp Vespula vulgaris

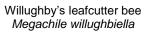


7 spot Coccinella 7-punctata





Hibernating @DP Winter 2011/12 566090, 262196





Forest cuckoo bumblebee Bombus sylvestris



00,00,12 000000,202,00

Hornet Vespa crabro



27/5/12 566090, 262196

24 spot Subcoccinella 24punctata



Butterflies:

Common Blue Polyommatus icarus



Large Skipper Ochlodes faunus



Brimstone Gonepteryx rhamni



05/07/13, 566049, 262275 09/03/14, 15/3/17 566095, 262198

Painted Lady Vanessa cardui



Large White Pieris brassicae



Peacock Inachis io



Speckled Wood Pararge aegeria



Meadow Brown Maniola jurtina



22/07/12 566068, 262281

Small White Pieris rapae



Orange Tip Anthocaris cardamines



4/6/12 566090, 262196

Small Skipper Thymelicus sylvestris



17/07/12 566095, 262198

Small Tortoiseshell Aglais urticae 13/3/17 566095, 262198



Comma Polygonia c-album



24/03/12, 3/10/14, 4/8/15, 21/06/17 566095, 262198

Ringlet Aphantopus hyperantus



17/07/12 & 13/07/13 566095, 262198 05/07/13 566049, 262275 27/06/14 566089, 262483

Gatekeeper Pyronia tithonus



28/07/13 566061, 262285

Small Heath Coenonympha pamphilus



10/7/15, 4/8/15 566095, 262198

Brown argus Aricia agestis



12/8/16

Hummingbird Hawk Moth

Macroglossum stellatarum

Moths:

Cinnabar Moth Tyria jacobaeae



Muslin Moth caterpillar Diaphora mendica



Muslin Moth Diaphora mendica



Female and male

Epirrita (species unknown)



Lime Hawkmoth Mimas tilae



@DP 29/5/13 566095, 262198



@DP 5/9/12 566095, 262198

Six spot Burnet Zygaena filipendulae



18/7/13 566056, 262344 04/07/14 566019, 262490

Greater Wax Moth Galleria mellonella



18/8/14 566095, 262198

Large Emerald Moth Geometra papilionaria





08/15 565846, 262520

Millipedes and centipedes:

Black millipede Tachypodoiulus niger



⁴ Linda Beaton-Brown

Flies:

Bee-fly Bombylius minor





Cluster fly Pollenia rudis

Syrphid fly (species unknown)



@DP 21/9/12 566095, 262198



Night Flying moths (etc):

In August 2014 moth traps were set up in the gardens of Nos 5 and 14 and on Area E2. The species found are listed here:

Some species have their "Bradley and Fletcher numbers", or Log Book numbers from "A Recorder's Log Book or Label List of British Butterflies and Moths" by J.D. Bradley and D.S. Fletcher.

http://ukmoths.org.uk/systematic.php

Macro moths Shuttle shaped dart male and female Clay Brimstone Large yellow underwing male and female Broad bordered yellow underwing Lesser broad bordered yellow underwing Straw underwing Common rustic Setaceus hebrew character Orange swift male Willow beauty Straw dot 2474 One of the footman but poor photo Spectacle

Micro moths

Adelidae species 140-153? Bee moth 1428 Mother of pearl Trachycera advenella 1439 Barred fruit tree 970 Carcina quercana 658 *Chrysoteuchia culmella 1293* Light brown apple moth 998

Other

Honey bees Dor beetle Soldier beetle Birch shieldbug?? Water boatman

Woman's health scare after false widow bite

BY ALLISON MAYES dison-hayeopiktlopublishing.co.uk gAlisonHayeoNJ

A Newmarket woman has warned of the dangers of false widow spiders after she was left struggling to walk or talk after being bitten by one.

Fifty-two-year-old Michelle Marriott, who lives in Duchess Park, said she was bitten twice on the back of her head about a month ago as she was in her garden taking down a hanging basket.

"Iknew nothing of the bites until the next morning when I woke with a three inch round swelling on the back of my head which was like a sponge," said Michelle.

"An ambulance arrived and thought that I must have either had a stroke or blacked out and hit my head. The hit on the head was soon ruled out and after initial tests for a stroke, this was also ruled out by the hospital.



A false widow spider and, right, the wound left by the spider's bite

"I had difficulty walking, understanding speech and speaking myself. It was an incredibly scary time."

Blood tests revealed Michelle's white blood cell count was high as it was trying to fight something.

"It was the venom," she said. "It was around this time that the two bites were discovered. A 10-day course of antibiotics ensued together with strong painkillers to deal with the headaches and swelling. I have been left with hard swelling on the back of my head." Michelle said it seemed the spider has spun its web from her garage's eaves to the hanging basket and had dropped on her as she moved it.

"I love gardening and was only cutting back my hanging baskets when it had obviously come off the foliage on to the back of my head and bitten me twice. I am now terrified of getting in my garden to do some work but intend to do what I can to eradicate the cobwebs where they appear, under the eaves on our garage," she said. "We did, see a false widow spider on our garage some 18 months ago and checked on the internet to identify it so we were aware they were around but certainly not in my wildest dreams did I think I would be bitten.

"The funny thing is that I am an Australian who has lived in this country for 30 years; we have some of the most dangerous piders in the world and I have never experienced anything like this in my country but, instead, get bitten in my back garden in Newmarket."

Appendix 1

Improving Duchess Park Biodiversity

Biodiversity in an area occurs at a number of levels.

- 1. Variety/number of different habitats present
- 2. Variety of species present in each of those habitats
- 3. Genetic variation within a species (not always visible but includes variations not arising because of the environment (e.g. size of the individual due to availability of food) or accident/random events (e.g. a lost limb due to attack by another animal)

Aspects of biodiversity that are most easily influenced by us are conserving or expanding existing habitats and creating new habitats, also actions that support existing species or encourage greater numbers of those particular species.

Initiatives that are capable of assisting the fauna directly and therefore the number of species and individual members of a particular species include the following:

• Putting up bird boxes and feeders

This is something that individuals may choose to do in their own gardens. Many styles of bird box are available from many sources. They are also easy to make with basic carpentry skills. As a community initiative, boxes of various kinds including the more specialist boxes for owls could be placed on trees, particularly in Areas A, C, E and G.

So far as feeding is concerned we do know that wood pigeons, encouraged in part by 'spillage' from garden bird feeders, have become a significant nuisance particularly in spring and summer when their fouling and damage to plants and crops is very troublesome. Care needs to be taken over what to feed, what kind of feeders are used. Confining wild bird feeding to the winter months would probably avoid encouraging the wood pigeons and the associated nuisance.

• Putting up insect boxes

Again this is something that individuals may choose to do in their own gardens. These boxes or more freestyle structures are often referred to as insect hotels and they encourage nesting and hibernating insects such as solitary bees, butterflies, ladybirds and lacewings. Many types are commercially available and they are also easy to make with basic carpentry skills. As a community initiative, boxes of various kinds could be placed on trees or fences, particularly in Areas A, B, C, E and G.

• Putting up bat boxes

We know that bats visit the site to feed but to date we have no evidence of them roosting or breeding at Duchess Park. There are currently two bat boxes on trees in Area E2, It would be possible to put up more around the site for example in Areas C, E and G.

Creating log piles

Log piles created from material that has resulted from normal tree maintenance or from decaying boughs can provide valuable habitats for invertebrates and for amphibians and reptiles. There are some informal piles of wood already on Areas A, C, E and G left by the developers or created by the site maintenance contractors more recently. These could be added to in size or number without causing any visual or access nuisance.

• Creating ponds

This really is an opportunity in the hands of house owners in their own gardens. The attractiveness of water to wildlife cannot be overstated. Within days of creating even a very modest pond, water-boatmen, dragonflies and damselflies will be there. Larger beetles soon follow. Frogs and toads may be encouraged. Bees will seek it out to gain a drink.

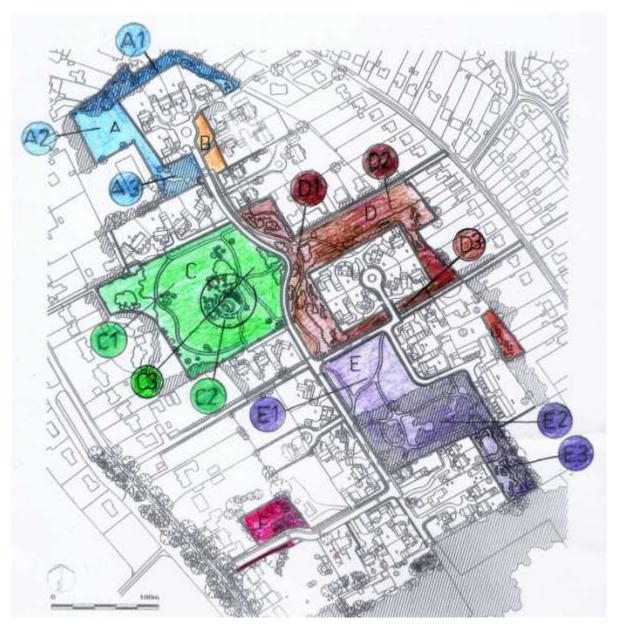
Compost heaps

These are a great way to recycle material, improve your soil and in the process provide a habitat for a variety of creatures.

Enhancements to Duchess Park which could increase the number of habitats available to the fauna and which involve management of the flora, will be discussed in Volume 4.

Appendix 2

Annotated plan of the site (schematic, pathways only indicative)



Generic map r	eferences for use with early records:		
A1	565879, 262629	Crescent Boundary	
A2	565849, 262630	Courtside	
A3	565850, 262567	Foragers' Gap	
В	565904, 262578	The Lawns	
C1	565834, 262437	Warren Hill View	
C2	565876, 262429	Kid's Space	
C3	565936, 262457	Broad Sweep	
D1	565976, 262418	Long Sweep	
D2	566054, 262508	Narrow Stroll	
D3	566077, 262417	Hedgerow	
E1	566029, 262349	The Meadow	
E2	566077, 262303	The Copse	
E3	566148, 262269	Quiet Corner	
F	565937, 262205	The Old Orchard	
G	566151, 262387	Gated Patch	

Appendix 3

Duchess Park Site Maintenance Approach

The plan below shows the proposed cutting frequencies.



In addition to the cutting schedule above, the maintenance contractor is expected to maintain hedges, planted areas and tress in the public open spaces. It is hoped that this maintenance regime will provide a good balance between aesthetic and wildlife considerations as well as being affordable for the property owners upon whom the costs will eventually fall.

The proposed maintenance will give a mixture of habitats to encourage a diversity of flora and fauna:

- short grass (access paths and visual transition areas)
- longer grass (meadow grass)
- existing scrub and newly planted shrubby areas
- existing trees and new tree planting
- play area

Some limited experimental native wildflower seeding has been carried out on areas E1 and E3.

Acknowledgements

- 1. Unless otherwise stated, pictures have been taken from free internet sites
- 2. @DP signifies photograph taken at Duchess Park
- 3. David Barden for his plant survey results in 2009
- 4. David and Sue Cogger for their valuable contribution to the bird list
- 5. Sinnika Wood for her valuable observations of bees, butterflies and birds
- 6. Google Earth for aerial views
- 7. Ann and Ron Fort, Howard Jones and Greg Axtell for photographs of the area prior to development of Duchess Park
- 8. Cheveley Parish Council for its financial support for the Jubilee Planting Scheme
- 9. Darley Stud and David Wilson Homes for their support for the Jubilee Planting Scheme
- 10. Duchess Park Residents for their help with installing the Jubilee Seating and Planting
- 11. Henry and Ollie Wisbey for help with the wildflower seed planting
- 12. John Pearman for sharing his photograph of siskins on a feeder
- 13. East of England Apples & Orchards Project for identifying apple trees on The Old Orchard
- 14. Michael Symons and Cheveley.net for historic pictures of Cheveley Park
- 15. Bill Mansfield for moth trapping at Duchess Park
- 16. Terry and Helen Moore for bat identification at Duchess Park
- 17. Phil Woodward (and Son) for photos including House Sparrow
- 18. Linda Beaton-Brown for photograph of Large Emerald Moth

Reference material

- 1. Guide to bees of Britain. Field Studies Council. ISBN 978 1 85153 230 8
- 2. Guide to shieldbugs of the British Isles. Field Studies Council. ISBN 978 1 85153 898 0
- 3. Guide to butterflies of Britain. Filed Studies Council. ISBN 978 1 85153 848 5
- 4. Guide to British grasshoppers and allied insects. Field Studies Council. ISBN 978 1 85153 864 5
- 5. Guide to the 'top 50' garden birds. Field Studies Council.
- 6. Key to British land mammals. Field Studies Council. ISBN 1 85153 849 6
- 7. Guide to common urban lichens (on trees and wood). Field Studies Council. ISBN 978 1 85153 294 0
- 8. Key to lichens on twigs. Field Studies Council. ISBN 978 1 85153 884 3
- 9. A guide to British bats. Field Studies Council. ISBN 978 1 85153 875 1
- 10. Guide to dragonflies and damselflies of Britain. Field Studies Council. ISBN 978 1 85153 863 8
- 11. Guide to day-flying moths of Britain. Field Studies Council. ISBN 978 1 85153 215 5
- 12. Guide to the hawkmoths of the British Isles. Field Studies Council ISBN 978 1 85153 224 7
- 13. Guide to ladybirds of the British Isles. Field Studies Council ISBN 978 1 85153 297 1
- 14. Complete British Wild Flowers, Paul Sterry. Collins, ISBN 978 0 00 781484 8
- 15. Readers Digest Wild Britain Wild Flowers. ISBN 978 0 276 44213 1
- 16. Garden Birdwatch (RSPB), Mark Ward, ISBN 978 1 4053 4088 5
- 17. The complete Garden Bird Book, Mark Golley & Stephen Moss. ISBN 978-1-84773-980-3
- 18. Collins complete British trees, Paul Sterry, ISBN 978 0 00 781480 0
- 19. Collins Nature Guides, trees of Britain and Europe, G Aas & A Riedmiller, ISBN 978-0-26-167401-1
- 20. The Pocket Guide to Butterflies, Paul Whalley & Richard Lewington, ISBN 978-0-7537-1836-0
- 21. The Wild Flower Key, Francis Rose (Revised and updated by Clare O'Reilly), ISBN 978-0-7232-5175-0
- 22. Insects of Britain and Northern Europe, Michael Chinery, ISBN 978-0-00-219918-6
- 23. Plants for Bees, WDJ Kirk & FN Howes, ISBN 978-0-86098 271-5
- 24. Guide to common grasses, Field Studies Council ISBN 978-1-85153-248-3
- 25. A Sting in the Tale, Dave Goulson, ISBN 978-0-22409-689-8
- 26. A World without Bees, Alison Benjamin and Brian McCallum, ISBN 978-0-85265-131-5
- 27. More than Honey a film by Markus Imhoff
- 28. Wild Flowers of Britain and Europe, David Sutton, ISBN 1-84330-506-2

Useful websites

- 1. Birds <u>www.rspb.org.uk</u>
- 2. Bats <u>www.bats.org.uk</u>
- 3. Wild plants www.bsbi.org.uk
- 4. Entomology <u>www.royensoc.co.uk</u>
- 5. Trees http://www.british-trees.com
- 6. Fungi http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/
- 7. Lichens <u>http://www.britishlichens.co.uk/index.html</u>
- 8. Reptiles and Amphibians <u>http://www.herpconstrust.org.uk/</u>
- 9. British mammals <u>www.mammal.org.uk</u>
- 10. Bees <u>http://www.buzzaboutbees.net/index.html</u>
- 11. Bees, wasps and ants recording society www.bwars.com
- 12. Bumblebee Conservation Trust www.bumblebeeconservation.org.uk
- 13. Butterflies <u>www.butterfly-conservation.org</u>
- 14. Butterflies <u>www.ukbutterflies.co.uk</u>
- 15. Wildlife recording www.naturescalendar.org.uk
- 16. Newmarket Local History Society http://www.newmarketlhs.org.uk
- 17. Cheveley Park Stud <u>http://www.cheveleypark.co.uk/</u>

- 18. Cheveley Parish Council http://www.cheveley.org.uk/
- 19. Photographs of Cheveley Village and Cheveley Park <u>www.cheveley.net/</u>
- 20. Plantlife http://www.plantlife.org.uk/
- 21. Dragonflies and Damselflies http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/home