

# Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan

## Initial Survey of Biodiversity in WHE15 and WHE 17 (July 2019)

### Introduction

The land surveyed lies between London Road and the end of Roman Road, at the eastern end of Wheatley. The soil is mainly of a sandy loam.

The land was previously a quality agricultural field, lying in the green belt. It was put to set-aside many years ago, but was never returned to agricultural use after that. Consequently, it gradually has reverted to natural grassland and scrub, containing many young trees. By assessing tree rings and stem diameters, the tree ages range from a few years to over 20 years.

### 1. Wildlife in the northern section (London Road end) of WHE15

#### Scrub and trees

Ash – various ages

Sycamore – mainly young

Field Maple

Hawthorn

Crab Apple

Privet

Bramble

Ivy

#### Herbs and Grasses

Red Clover

White Clover

Marjoram

Fumitory

Horsetail

Pea

Ragwort

Hardhead

Hawksbeard

Lesser Bindweed

Purple vetch

Fleabane

Meadow Cranesbill

Groundsel

Wild Mignonette

Wild Carrot

Acrid Lettace

Agrimony

Ribwort Plantain

Orchids

Tor Grass

Cocksfoot

Rye Grass

Animals

Spiders

Brown ants – several nests

Beetles

Grasshoppers

## 2. Wildlife in southern section of WHE15

This had most of the species in the northern area, but the biodiversity was richer, with the following additional species to those already listed:

Herbs and Grasses

Hogweed

Cleavers

Bindweed

Ox Eye Daisy

Speedwell

Hoary Plantain

Sow thistle

Creeping Bent

Meadow Fescue

Meadow Grass

Animals

Meadow Brown Butterfly

Speckled Wood Butterfly

Small Skipper Butterfly

Small White Butterfly

Evidence of tracks of Mammals

## 3. Wildlife in WHE17 (southeast of WHE 15)

This area of land, with overhead pylons, was a mix of grassland and scrub, very similar in nature to the other two areas. It too had been left to biological succession.

Comment

This was an initial survey of the biodiversity. I am certain that a more thorough analysis will reveal much more.

Total number of plant species was 41.

David Mancey (WNP Committee).