

MKNHS Plant Group Shenley Wood 12th October 2025

Draft Consolidated Species List

Main Habitat: Semi Natural Ancient Woodland (see *Footnote 1*)

Designation: Local Wildlife Site (LWS) owned and managed by The Parks Trust

Grid reference: Within OS grid squares: SP8235 and SP8236

Abbreviations: **R** seen at Recce only; **tbc** to be confirmed

Herbaceous Plants

Species	Comments/queries
Avens Wood (<i>Geum urbanum</i>)	Leaves only
Bindweed Hedge <i>Calystegia sepium</i>	S Entrance area
Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>) R	Dead flowers only
Bramble sp. (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. – type unknown)	
Bryony Black (<i>Tamus communis</i>)	Red berries and arrowhead-shaped leaves Photo1
Burdock sp. (<i>Arctium</i> sp.)	
Buttercup Creeping (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>)	Leaves only
Cinquefoil Creeping (<i>Potentilla reptans</i>)	Leaves only
Clover Red (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>)	In flower - car park area
Columbine sp. (<i>Aquilegia</i> sp.)	Either <i>vulgaris</i> or possible escapee cultivar Photo 2
Creeping Jenny (<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>) R	Leaves only
Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>)	In flower, car park area
Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.) R	
Dewberry (<i>Rubus caesius</i>)	Fruits blue-black, paler than blackberries, with larger segments Photo 3
Dock sp. (<i>Rumex</i> sp.) possibly Dock Wood (<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>) or Dock Broad-leaved (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>)	Leaves only
Figwort Water (<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>) (or was it Figwort Common (<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>)?)	An uncommon species in this location probably Water Figwort (see <i>Footnote 2</i> below) tbc Photos 4, 5, 6
Fleabane Canadian (<i>Conyza canadensis</i>)	by S entrance area Photo 7
Forget-me-not Sp. (<i>Myosotis</i> sp.)	
Ground-ivy (<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>)	Leaves only
Groundsel Common (<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>)	In flower, car park area
Hogweed (<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>)	Dead stems/flowerheads
Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymeum</i>)	Leaves only
Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	
Knapweed Common (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>)	car park area
Marjoram Wild (<i>Origanum vulgare</i>) R	Could this have been a garden escapee?
Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>)	Plentiful Photo 8
Mercury Dog's (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>)	Young emergent shoots seen
Nettle Stinging (<i>Urtica dioica</i>)	
Nightshade Enchanter's (<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>) R	

Species	Comments/queries
Ox-tongue Bristly (<i>Helminotheca echoiodes</i>)	In flower Photo 9
Parsley Cow (<i>Anthriscus sylvestis</i>)	Young emergent shoots
Plantain Ribwort (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>) R	Edge of wood
Ragwort Common (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>)	
Rose sp. (<i>Rosa sp</i>)	Red hips
Silverweed (<i>Potentilla anserina</i>)	
Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>)	Photo 10
St. John's wort, Hairy (<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>)	Photo 11
St. John's-wort Perforate (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	Inside Wood S. entrance. Leaf perforation test undertaken
Tare Smooth (<i>Vicia (or Ervum) tetrasperma</i>)	In flower car park area Photo 12
Thistle Marsh (<i>Cirsium palustre</i>) R	
Thistle Spear (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>)	
Trefoil Greater Birdsfoot (<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>)	In flower car park area Photos 13-14
Vetch Bush (<i>Vicia sepium</i>)	In flower. Bristle tipped leaf and short stalked seed head. See Footnote 3 below. Photos 15-16
Water-pepper (<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>)	In flower wood edge in picnic area. Photo 17
Willowherb Broad-leaved (<i>Epilobium montanum</i>) R	Small flowers in bud; initially mistaken for Enchanter's Nightshade
Willowherb Greater (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>)	Dead leaves and flower
Woundwort Hedge (<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>)	S entrance area Photo 18

Trees and Shrubs

Species	Comments/queries
Alder sp. (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)	Car park area
Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	
Aspen (<i>Populus tremula</i>)-	based on trunk and leaf
Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	In 'triangle' clearing; uncommon on clay soils Photo 19
Birch Silver (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	Near the wood' triangle'
Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)	Photo 20
Cherry Wild (<i>Prunus avium</i>)	
Dogwood (<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>)	S entrance area Photo 21
Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)	S entrance area
Elm sp (<i>Ulmus sp.</i>)	Young root suckers from mature dead mature tree wood edge picnic area
Maple Field (<i>Acer Campestre</i>)	Photo 22
Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>)	In flower S entrance area Photo 23
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	Photo 24
Hawthorn Midland (<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>)	Distinguished by 3 lobed leaf, + berries have 2 seeds, though some confusion with adjacent c. monogyna Photo 25
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	
Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>)	Specimen tree picnic area Photo 26

Species	Comments/queries
Oak Pedunculate (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	
Oak Northern Red (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	Non-native specimen trees in picnic area tbc Photos 27 (a) and (b)
Oak Pin (<i>Quercus palustris</i>)	Non-native specimen tree picnic area tbc Photos 28-29
Poplar sp. (<i>Populus sp.</i>)	Probably White (alba) or Grey (canescens)
Privet Wild (<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>)	Car park area black berries Photo 30
Rose Guelder (<i>Viburnum opulus</i>) (	S entrance area, and within wood Photo 31
Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	S entrance area and car park area
Willow Goat (<i>Salix caprea</i>)	Wood edges Photo 32

Grasses, Sedges and Ferns

Species	Comments/queries
Brome, Hairy (<i>Bromus ramosa</i>) R	
Cocksfoot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>)	
Sedge Pendulous (<i>Carex Pendula</i>)	
Sedge Wood (<i>Carex sylvatica</i>) R	Base leaves only
Tussock-grass (Tufted hair-grass) (<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>)	
Male-fern (<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>)	Common species here preferring damper habitats Photos 33, 34, 35, 36
Reed Wood Small (<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>)	Near wood 'triangle' Photo 37
Rush Hard (<i>Juncus inflexus</i>)	In car park area ditch
Rush Soft (<i>Juncus effusus</i>)	In car park area ditch

Footnote 1. The species listed are all within woodland unless otherwise stated. Within the woodland there are two main habitats:

- woodland itself with canopy trees, an under-storey, and ground cover
- clearings, rides and paths where there is more sunlight

Footnote 2. See **Photos 4-6** of the Figwort species. The main non-floral identification features that differentiate Common and Water Figwort are: leaf shape and characteristics; and square stem with or without corner wings. Leaf features are slightly different but Water Figwort often has two small leaflets at the base of the leaf stem. The photos show these. Additionally, the Water Figwort has wings at each corner of the main stem. The species observed had a narrow wing (less than 1mm). These two features indicate that it was probably Water Figwort. A follow up visit during the flowering period would be needed to confirm the identification.

Footnote 3. The Group spent some time trying to decide if there was a Vetch species other than Bush but was unable to reach a conclusion based on leaves and plant structure alone

Carla Boswell and Joe Clinch

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With thanks to Janice Robertson (herbaceous plant field listing and photographs), Richard Schmidt (trees and shrubs field listing), Charles Kessler (for introducing us to fern identification and adding to our knowledge of grasses and sedges), Bob Phillips (photographs) and Martin Ferns (field listing coordination and web editor)