

County Wildlife Site Survey Form  
(Ref. No. 1380)

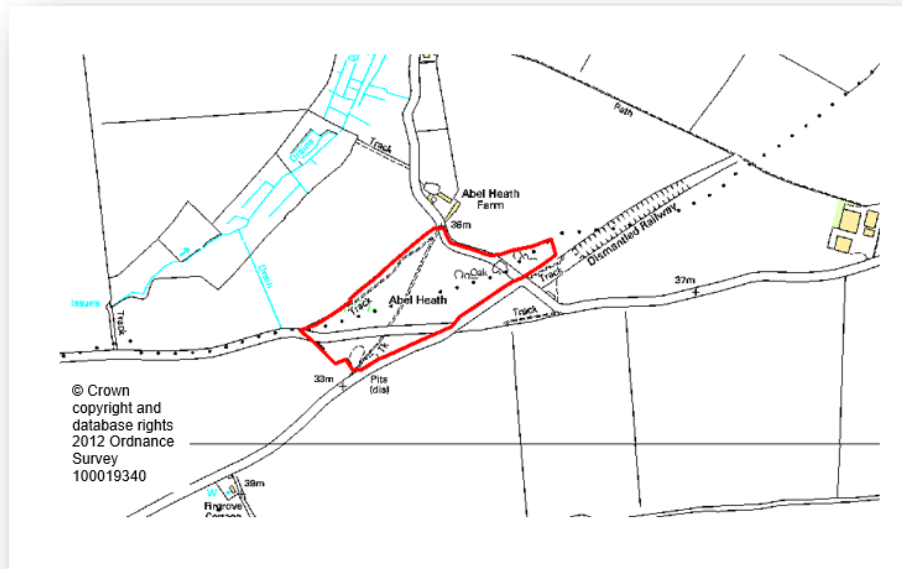


**Site Name:** Abel Heath  
**Grid reference:** TG 175 273  
**District:** Broadland

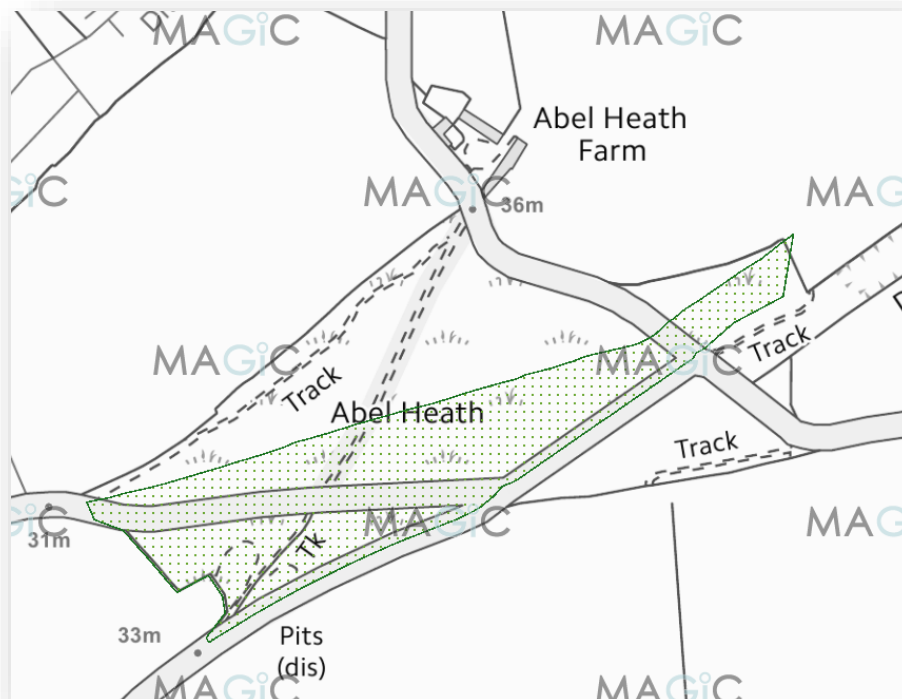
**Parish:** Blickling/Aylsham  
**Area:** 4.6ha  
**Survey date:** Monthly from April 2019 to September 2019

**Registered Common Number:** CL 103

**Map showing CWS boundary**



**Map showing registered common boundary – green dots** ([www.magic.defra.gov.uk](http://www.magic.defra.gov.uk))



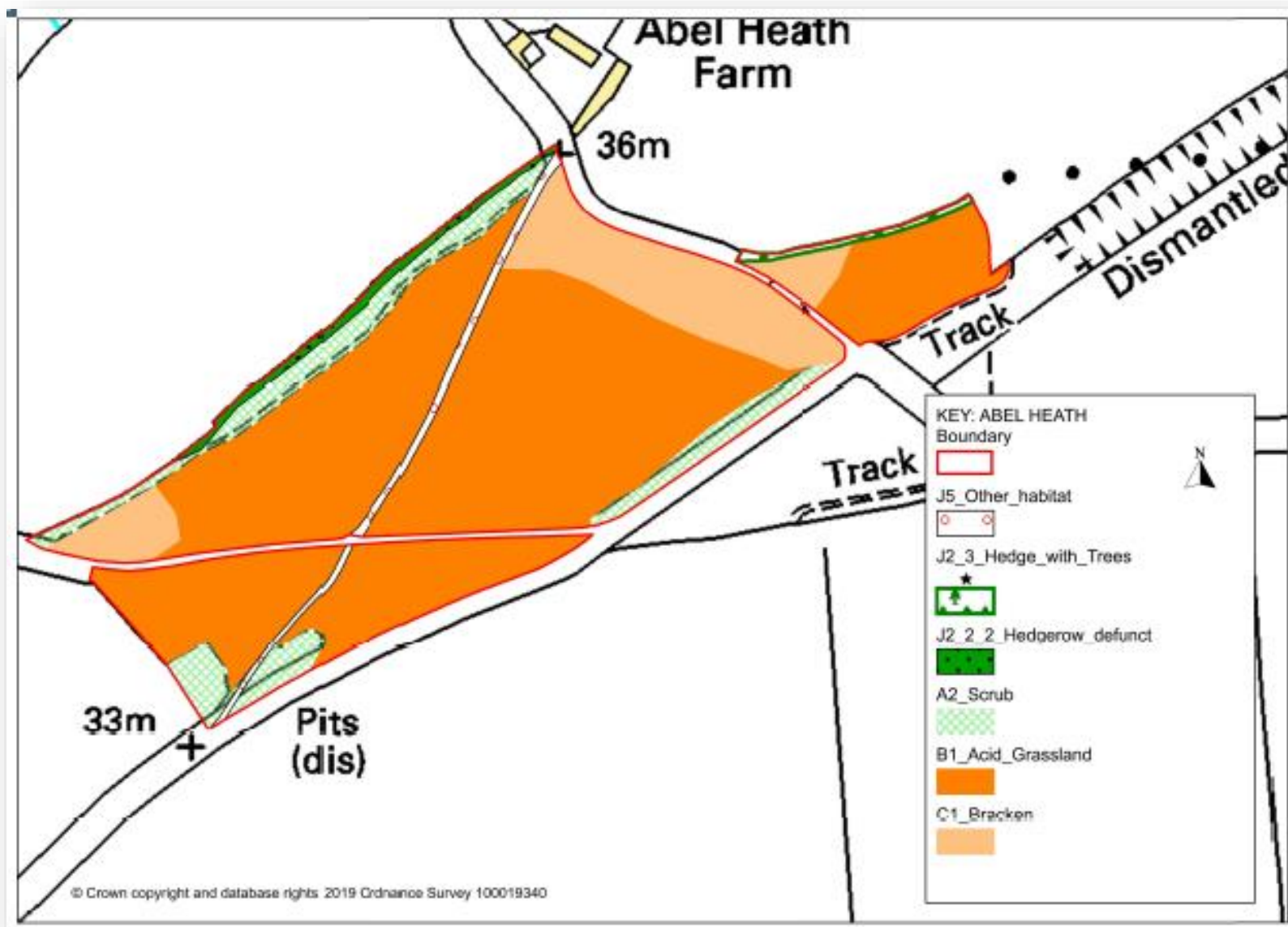


## Habitat description target notes:

Reference Letter	Target note
A	<p>The area is entered by a small gap in the hedge along the road nearest the farm. A path leads down, close to the boundary, to near the bottom corner.</p> <p>To the N, the boundary is gappy hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) scrub. The grassland has hairy tare (<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>), dovesfoot cranesbill (<i>Geranium molle</i>), common vetch (<i>Vicia sativa</i>), common catsear (<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>), germander speedwell (<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>), ribwort plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), heath bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>) and scattered gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>).</p> <p>Later in the season there is abundant bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>).</p> <p>To the SW is an area of open acid grassland with patches of heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>), sheep's sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>), occasional red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>), soft brome (<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>) and cocksfoot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>). Bracken is dominant in places.</p> <p>An old sand pit in the far SW corner has dense bracken also rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>), ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and dog rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>). The field boundary is a gappy hawthorn hedge with scattered oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) and gorse. There are mature oaks present.</p>
B	<p>Entering from about halfway along the NE boundary along the road, there is a very old oak (marked on historic maps). There is dominant bracken with scattered gorse and oaks of a similar age (c 100years). The ground is very undulating.</p> <p>There is a very small open area of acid grassland with sheep's sorrel, woodsage (<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>), lesser stitchwort (<i>Stellaria graminea</i>), catsear, mouse-ear hawkweed (<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>) sweet vernal grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>), red fescue, heath bedstraw and Yorkshire fog regenerating.</p> <p>To the S is a large area of acid grassland with cut bracken (bracken is cut regularly). There are similar species as before and also rosebay willowherb (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>).</p> <p>There is a parking space by the road and a gap into the area. In this small, bare, sandy part there are small holes in the ground which are possibly beetle or bee nests.</p> <p>The N tip between the roads nearest to the farm had frequent lesser celandine (<i>Ficaria verna</i>) and bluebells (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>) on our first visit in mid-April. Moving S from this area the ground is very undulating with gorse, bracken, woodsage and grasses. This area is used by the National Trust to deposit the cut bracken.</p>

	The roadside verge, leading down from the farm, was very attractive with apple mint ( <i>Mentha suaveolens</i> ), garlic mustard ( <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> ), red campion ( <i>Silene dioica</i> ), greater stitchwort ( <i>Stellaria holostea</i> ) and green alkanet ( <i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i> ).
C  Outside CWS Boundary	<p>This area is not part of the CWS or Common but completes the area of Abel Heath.</p> <p>The SW corner has coarse grasses with knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), dock (<i>Rumex sp.</i>), green alkanet, cut-leaved cranesbill (<i>Geranium dissectum</i>) and low bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>).</p> <p>The central part has nettle, creeping thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), cow parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>), false oat grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), meadow foxtail (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>) and bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>).</p> <p>The N part is more managed with a lower sward, with common vetch, bindweed, horseradish (<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>), meadow grass sp (<i>Poa sp.</i>), couch grass (<i>Elymus repens</i>) and lesser stitchwort.</p> <p>The boundaries have hawthorn and oak, gorse is rare. There is hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>) on the road boundary.</p>
D	The area slopes down to the SW. It is an area of oak over dense bracken with bramble and some blackthorn on the N road boundary. To the S is an old sand pit with bracken and bramble. Heather is rare to the N of the pit, there is also a pollarded oak.
E	The SW of the area is lower ground (or old pit) with dense bracken and blackthorn. There is scattered oak and gorse. There are small open areas of acid grassland with species as before. Broom ( <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> ) is rare, there is a small patch of hawthorn and there is honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> ).
F	<p>On entry there is a walked grass path, knapweed, red fescue, hairy tare, white clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), goatsbeard (<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>) and poppy (<i>Papaver somniferum</i>) are occasional alongside the path. There were 2 bee orchids (<i>Ophrys apifera</i>) spikes on the left by the path not far in from the entry point.</p> <p>There is dense bracken with a small stand of hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>) over a sloped area to the NE. There is bramble and nettle in the SE area of a shallow depression. Coarse species dominate. Boundaries are of birch, elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>), hawthorn, oak and bramble.</p>

# Habitat Map





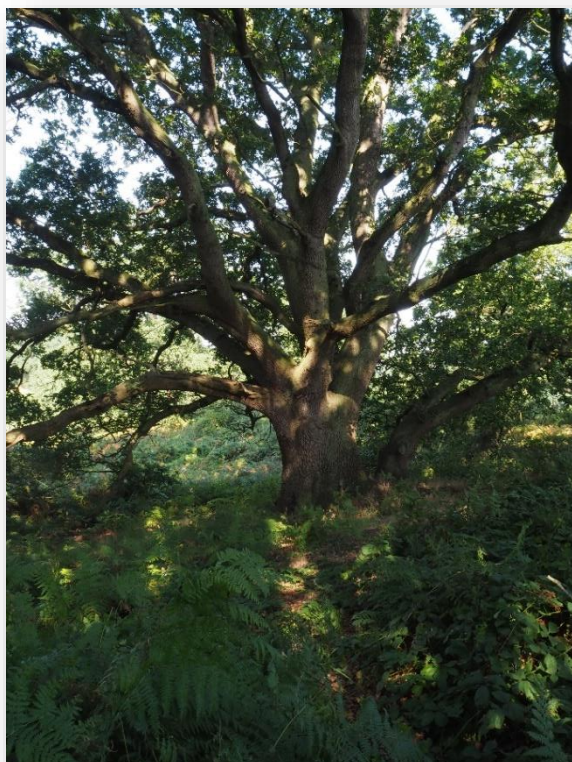
**Images by Teresa Rogers**



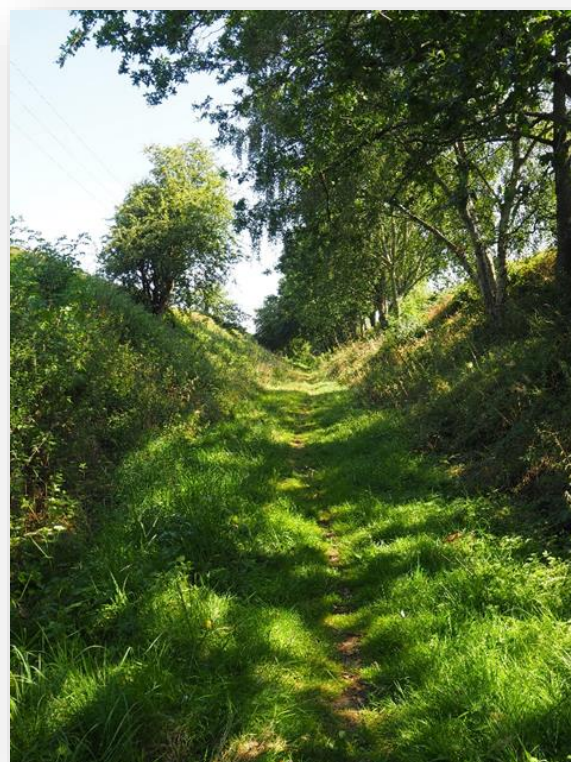
Ling and bracken on the heath today. Pollarded oaks on the far boundary



Sheep's sorrel on Abel Heath



An old oak pollard at the south-west boundary of the heath



The railway cutting leading onto Abel Heath

**Other notable species:**

22/06/2019

Start time 21:30; End time 22:45 Sunset 21:24

Start temp 14°C; End temp 12°C 20% cloud cover, dry, 1BF

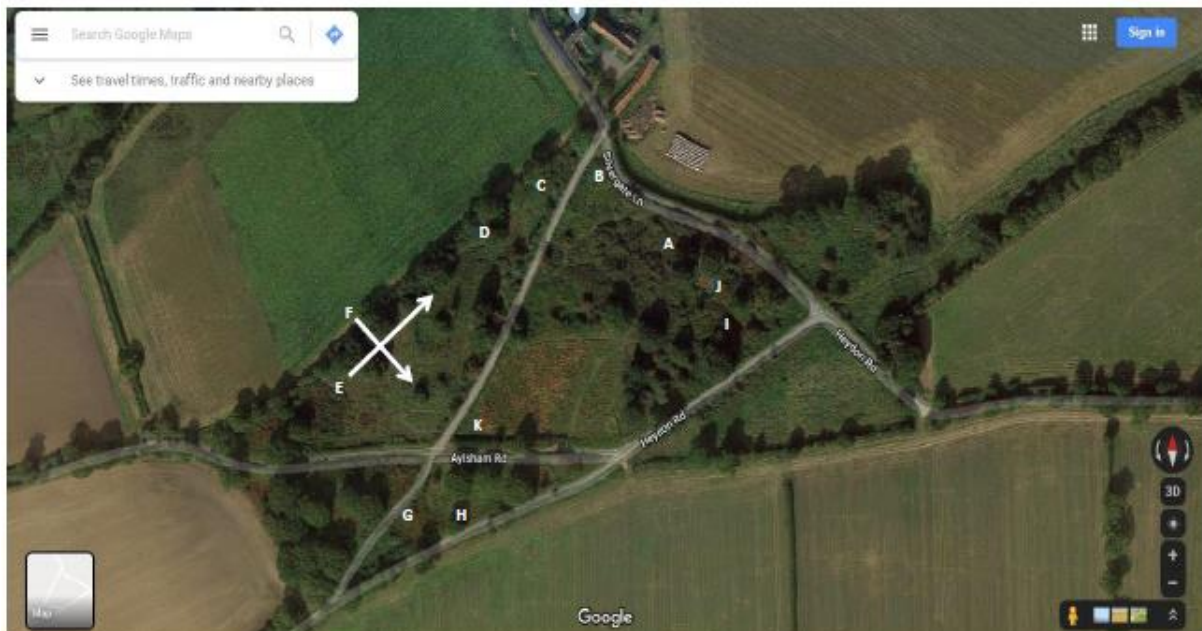
Survey by Paula Richings

Time	Map reference	Species	Notes
21:59	A	C Pip	Over bracken by tree
22:04	B	Pip	HNS
22:07	C	Pip & Myotis	X2 bats feeding
22:09	D	Myotis	Feeding around canopy of tree
22:13	E	S Pip	Flying North east
22:14	F	C Pip	Flying south
22:18	G	C Pip	HNS feeding
22:18	H	C Pip & S Pip	Bats feeding between trees
22:31	I	S Pip	Feeding around tree under canopy
22:36	J	Pip	HNS
22:49	K	C Pip	HNS

C Pip – common pipistrelle

S Pip – soprano pipistrelle

HNS – Heard not seen

**Map showing reference letters**

For list to fauna found please see the end of this document.

**Adjacent habitats/potential buffer zones & linkage to other sites:** Abel Heath is part of the Blickling Estate, and lies between the parishes of Blickling and Aylsham. The site is surrounded by arable land.  
Cawston and Marsham SSSI Heaths are c.3km to the south.

**Is the site in positive conservation management  
(Please give details if necessary).**

The site is owned and managed by the National Trust, with the open area of bracken being cut by forage harvester to encourage acid grassland species  
Some areas have been deliberately managed through non-intervention due to past issues with unwanted public access.

**Has a site condition assessment form been completed for this site?** Yes

*To be filled in by Conservation Officer*

Final assessment of site:		Date:	
Habitat	Criteria passed on	Criteria failed on	Comments

**Recommendations:**

- ☐ Site remains CWS (boundary unchanged)
- ☐ Site deleted
- ☐ Boundary altered (specify)  
.....
- ☐ Notify site as CWS



**Plant Species List**

<b>Name of site:</b>	Abel Heath
<b>Date of surveys:</b>	12/4, 10/5, 21/5, 7/6, 29/6, 24/8 2019
<b>Surveyors:</b>	Teresa Rogers, Barbara Crook

**Plant List**

<b>Species Name</b> <i>Only include one row per species</i>		<b>Zones</b>					
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>f</b>
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	X	X	X		X	X
Alexanders	<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>						X
Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	X					
Apple Mint	<i>Mentha x villosa</i>		X				
Apple sp.	<i>Malus sp.</i>	X	X				X
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	X	X				
Barren Brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	X					
Barren Strawberry	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	X					
Bee orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>						X
Bell Heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	X					
Bird Cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	X					
Black Horehound	<i>Ballota nigra</i>	X	X				X
Black Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>			X	X	X	X
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>						X

# WILDLIFE IN COMMON SURVEY

Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	X	X		X	X	
Bluebell hybrids	<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	X	X				X
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	X	X	X		X	
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>					X	
Bugloss	<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	X	X				
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Climbing Corydalis	<i>Ceratocarpus claviculata</i>	X					
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	X		X		X	
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>		X				
Common Catsear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	X	X		X	X	
Common Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	X	X				
Common Couch	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>			X			
Common Cudweed	<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	X					
Common Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>		X				
Common Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	X	X				
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>						X
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>						X
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	X	X		X	X	X
Common Storksbill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	X					
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>			X	X	X	
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	X		X		X	
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	X	X	X			X
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	X				X	
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>						X
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>			X			X

# WILDLIFE IN COMMON SURVEY

Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	X		X	X		X
Cut-leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>		X	X			X
Daffodil sp.	<i>Narcissus sp.</i>	X					
Dame's Violet	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>					X	
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	X	X	X	X		X
Dark Mullein	<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>		X				
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	X	X	X			
Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>		X				
Dovesfoot Cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	X		X			
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	X	X				X
False Brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	X					
False Oatgrass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>		X	X		X	X
Feverfew	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>					X	
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>			X			X
Field Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>		X				
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	X		X	X		X
Field Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>						X
Field Woodrush	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	X	X				
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	X	X		X	X	
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	X	X				
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	X	X	X	X		X
Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>			X			X
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>		X				
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
Grey Sedge	<i>Carex divulsa</i> agg.	X			X		
Greater Celendine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>				X	X	
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>		X	X		X	X

# WILDLIFE IN COMMON SURVEY

Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	X			X	X	
Green Alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	X	X	X			X
Ground Elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	X	X				
Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	X	X			X	X
Hairy Bittercress	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	X					
Hairy Tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	X		X			X
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>		X				
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	X		X			
Heath Bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>	X	X		X		
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	X	X		X		
Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>			X			
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>		X				
Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>		X				
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>		X			X	
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>			X			X
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>				X		
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	X	X				
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	X	X		X	X	
Hops	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	X	X	X			
Horseradish	<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>			X			
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	X		X			X
Ivy-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	X	X				
Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	X	X				
Lesser Celendine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	X	X				
Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	X	X	X	X	X	



**WILDLIFE IN COMMON SURVEY**

Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	X					
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>		X				
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	X		X			
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>		X				
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	X	X		X		X
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>		X	X	X		
Oxalis sp.	<i>Oxalis articulata</i>	X					
Parsley Piert	<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	X					
Pearlwort sp.	<i>Sagina sp.</i>	X					
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>		X			X	
Perforate St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	X					
Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>		X				
Pill Sedge	<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	X					
Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	X					
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	X					
Purple Toadflax	<i>Linaria purpurea</i>					X	
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>		X				
Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites vernus</i>						X
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	X	X	X		X	X
Red Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	X					
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	X	X		X		X
Redshank	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>		X				
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	X	X	X		X	X
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	X	X	X		X	
Rough Chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	X	X		X	X	
Rough Meadow Grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>					X	

# WILDLIFE IN COMMON SURVEY

Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	X					
Sand Spurrey	<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	X	X				
Sheeps Fescue	<i>Festuca ovina</i>	X	X				
Sheeps Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	X	X		X	X	
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	X					X
Smooth Meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	X		X			
Smooth Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	X	X			X	
Soft Brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	X	X				
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>				X		
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	X					
Star of Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum angustifolium</i>		X				
Sticky Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	X					
Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	X	X			X	
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		X	X			X
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>		X	X			X
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	X	X				
Wall Speedwell	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	X					
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>		X	X			X
White Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	X	X	X	X		X
White Bryony	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	X	X		X	X	X
Wild Arum	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	X					
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>						X
Wild Pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>	X					
Wood Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>					X	
Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	X	X		X	X	
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	X	X	X			X

# WILDLIFE IN COMMON SURVEY

Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	X	X			X	X
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## Fauna Species List

**Surveyors:** Teresa Rogers, Paula Richings, Barbara Crook

Date Seen	Common name	Scientific name	Zones						Comments
			a	b	c	d	e	f	
29/06/2019	Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>							
	Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>							Mole hills
	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>							Burrows, droppings
22/06/2019	Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	X	X			X		
22/06/2019	Myotis sp.	<i>Myotis sp</i>	X						
01/05/19, 11/05/19, 19/05/19, 27/05/19, 09/06/19, 7/6/19, 24/8/19	Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	X	X	X				Low population size found
24/08/2019	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	X						
	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>							Singing
07/06/2019	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>							
24/08/2019	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	X						
24/08/2019	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	X						
10/05/2019	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>							Singing
	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>							Singing
27/05/2019	Willow Warbler	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		X					
27/05/2019	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			X				
24/08/2019	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>							Singing

# WILDLIFE IN COMMON SURVEY

22/06/2019	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		X					
19/05/2019	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	X						
19/05/2019	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>			X				
19/05/2019	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	X						
27/05/2019, 29/06/2019	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>						X	
24/08/2019	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>							
01/05/2019 27/05/2019	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	X					X	
21/05/2019	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>							
29/06/2019	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>							
29/06/2019	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>							
	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>							
	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>							
	Early Bumblebee	<i>Bombus pratorum</i>							
	Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>							
	Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>							
	White/Buf-tailed Bumblebee		X						
	Digger wasp/mining bee sp.		X						Burrows
21/05/2019	Red Mask Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>		X					





