

BALLARD MEADOW AND WOODLAND

ANNUAL REPORT FOR APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024

INTRODUCTION

This is The Friends of Ballard Water Meadow's (FBWM) fourth annual report. As in the past, our work on the site is directed by the Management Plan (2020-2024) where we follow the Work Programme from which our Annual Work Plan and monthly work schedules are derived. Like many plans, and our work plan is no different, most of the work has been achieved whilst some tasks, usually outside our control, remain wanting.

Sometime during the latter part of 2024, a revision of the current Management Plan is due. Like before, the new plan will run for five years (from 1st January 2025 – 31st March 2030) and will be featured in future Annual Reports however, it has been requested by New Milton Town Council (NMTC) that this draft plan will be widely circulated for comment before being adopted.

1. CONSERVATION AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

See map at APPENDIX 1 for site compartments.

1.1 Meadow

Our work started in the meadow in late May and early June when we attacked the invasive Hemlock Water-dropwort in the two compartments planned for cutting in 2023 (M6 and M8). All the cut material generated was removed to the dump site just inside the gate on Lake Grove Road.

We lost the services of our grazier, Richard Harvey and his small herd of Dexter cattle. As well as the grazing, we were also relying on him to cut the two planned sections in the meadow as he'd helped in the past. As an alternative, machinery that NMTC were going to use instead failed, so no cutting was done in 2023. We hope to get back into rhythm, come the cutting season in late July or early August in 2024 with the possibility of using fit-for-purpose, borrowed equipment.

Also, the section due to be cut in the small wildflower-rich clearing at the end of Fawn Gardens was only partly cut. It was made difficult for the equipment we have, by contractors driving large and heavy vehicles over the tall grass, just prior to planned cutting. They had taken down some ash trees in the wood and used the area to store the logs for collection.

Cattle were due to be re-introduced into the meadow in September, but fencing repairs were being carried out so it was in October that two Dexter cattle were seen in the meadow, followed by two more in November. Four animals stayed throughout the winter and well into the spring of 2024. Their late removal had an impact on the very wet ground conditions. They belong to a new grazier.

As is the case in most years, trees and large branches fall during high winds or storms. This year was no exception and large branches fell from oak trees in the wood, onto newly installed fencing along the west side of the meadow. Also, two large willows collapsed at the eastern end and fell on the new fence there. In a joint effort with NMTC, the fallen material was removed and the fences repaired.

1.2 Woodland

The permanent glades (W4 and W11) were cut and cleared in October/November, ready for a flush of wild flowers in the spring. Over time the bramble is being suppressed. Also, at this time the access area into the wood at Hazelwood Avenue was also cut and cleared of woody vegetation and brambles. The hazel saplings planted in W12 in Feb 2023 did not take so they were replaced with more healthy saplings in December and all are doing well.

However, our main focus during late autumn was the start of the coppicing in W2. The area was initially cleared of bramble beginning in October. Some of the bramble crowns were removed using our newly purchased "root-removing" tools called a Lazy Dog, which are proving very effective. Not all the bramble is removed because it does have a value for wildlife, but we try to keep it in check. Over Christmas and into the New Year, once the ground was clear, we began to cut and shrubs (hazel, hawthorn, cherry etc). These re-grow from the cut stumps (the stools). Where there are gaps of more than 2-2.5m between stools, they are filled with new hazel saplings. In February, once all the existing shrubs had been cut, the area was marked-out and around 160 new, healthy saplings were planted. We also received some free hedgerow sapling species from the Woodland Trust. These were intended to be planted in the strip of scrub between the stream and the eastern boundary fence, but with the cattle still in the meadow, they were planted alongside the barbed-wire fencing in W2, inside the wood, adjacent to the meadow. Conditions were ideal post-planting and all the newly planted trees are doing very well.

2. RECORDS (see Appendices 2-5)

Recording the wildlife present within the meadow and woodland has continued with the exception of the insect survey. Our regular entomologist, Bryan, was not well-enough to undertake the survey in 2023. However, the good news is that he has resumed his survey work starting in April 2024.

A moth trap was purchased and had been deployed on one occasion in late 2023. Results are being collated and will be available in future Annual Reports.

No stream sampling was done in the report period, but is to resume in 2024.

A significant amount of disturbance was created during the spring (April and May) of 2023 when Ballard School employed contractors to install a high deer-proof fence along the eastern boundary of the site. This involved the clearance of the majority of low scrub (breeding bird habitat) and had an impact on numbers present. The Common Bird census results are shown in APPENDIX 5. However, the good news was that a pair of Tawny Owls had taken up residence in the provided owl box in Woar Copse. They raised four chicks (owlets), alas two perished, but two survived.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE

There are checks on the infrastructure (gates, fences, bridges etc) on a regular basis. Small repairs are undertaken by FBWM, but the larger jobs require assistance and when anything fails, we inform NMTC, as landowner. Regular checks at the culvert across the stream are now in place. Any large blockages here are removed quickly.

In early autumn, before the cattle were re-introduced NMTC replaced the stockproof western boundary fencing. The southern boundary fence was left in-situ, but strengthened by the addition of new intermediate fencing stakes. A second ditch crossing, nearer the woodland was in a poor condition and not very effective, so it was decided to remove this item completely.

Using material supplied by NMTC, the FBWM undertook an extension to the gravel path (The Green Way) connecting Woar Copse to the meadow. Gravel was barrowed and laid to reduce the width of the path, which, in wet conditions had been expanding width-ways, as visitors tried to

find a drier path. This has been successful and vegetation within the bare ground adjacent to the path is recovering.

It was noted that February 2024 has been recorded as the wettest on record. The heavy rainfall was responsible for washing-out the sleeper bridge over the ditch in the meadow.

4. VOLUNTEER WORK EFFORT

During the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow volunteers, the Fernhill Friends and the school students' working parties clocked-up a total of 1,332 man-hours on the site. We continue to meet twice weekly, Friday mornings (09.30-12.30) and Sunday mornings (10.30-12.30) at our workbase on Lake Grove Road.

5. ENGAGEMENT, LIAISON AND ADMINISTRATION

The FBWM are grateful for the help and support from officers and members of NMTC and in particular, the Estates and Facilities Management Team. As part of this liaison with the Town Council, newly elected members were invited to a guided walk around the site in June. Also, throughout the year the Group has worked closely with Fernhill Friends who help with our organised events, and donate any proceeds, for which we are grateful.

In order to increase our profile, as one of a number local community groups, we held our annual event in June to celebrate National Meadows Day. We were also present at an event held at Ballard Lake to launch a new Story-Quest initiative which focused on Ballard Meadow and Woodland.

Over the winter period, January to March, Paul Brockman BEM and students from Ringwood School were present on-site one day a week. Their main focus was the coppicing of hazel alongside the stream, working from north to south.

Through our membership of Conservation Connection New Forest South, we joined-in with their celebrations at the Bee Fayre in August. Unfortunately, the weather was not in our favour and footfall on the day was minimal. Our own final fund-raising event was at the November market in New Milton. We sold Christmas crafted gifts, cards and insect "hotels". We have moved into the 21st Century and purchased, and set-up, a bank-card reading machine allowing the group to raise funds with cash or being cashless.

Our trips out during this reporting period were to Roydon Woods, Burton Common (to see and hear Nightjars), the North Milton Estate (to see Swifts nesting in the buildings), Holmsley, Lymington/Keyhaven Marshes Nature Reserve, North Solent National Nature Reserve and Blashford Lakes.

As part of our Community Involvement, the Chairman was invited to attend the Remembrance Day commemoration at the War Memorial in New Milton, but was not available, so the FBWM were represented by Nick John. The Chairman was also invited to a Christmas Carol service at St Mary Magdalene Church.

Our visitors are very keen to know more about the habitats and wildlife present on-site and the conservation work of the Group, so we have continued putting up some informative posters. Each month we publish a 'What to Look For' poster and other information at different times highlighting our conservation work or nature's spectacles, such as the Bluebells and Foxgloves.

The Committee of the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow meets regularly and before any special event. Our Annual General Meeting was held at the new Crematorium along Stem Lane in

October, at the invitation of the Crematorium staff, and our thanks go to them for supporting us on the evening. The committee was up for re-election but with some changes. Two long-standing committee members, Keith Braithwaite and Ann Gorman tendered their resignations in their respective roles.

The Committee (March 2024) comprises:

Chairman: Bob Lord
Secretary: Nick John
Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Pam Petherbridge
Town Council Representative: Steve Clarke
Website/Media/Engagement: Mandy Hayes

It was suggested by the Treasurer that for better financial accounting purposes the AGM should be held earlier in the year, soon after the end of the Financial Year. We will be holding our next AGM in May 2024, again at the Crematorium at the kind invitation of the staff there.

6. OTHER EVENTS

The FBWM had a vision to declare Ballard Meadow and Woodland (and other sites in the town) Local Nature Reserves for the good of wildlife, people and the Town. We wrote a detailed proposal, did a cost-benefit analysis (at the Town Council's request) and the Chairman gave a brief presentation at an Amenities Committee meeting in September. Unfortunately, in the Town Council's view was that we hadn't dotted all the i's and crossed all the t's, so the proposal was rejected. Later, the Town Council engaged professional ecologists and Natural England officers, to provide more detailed advice with regard to the implications of LNR declaration for the Town Council as land owner. The FBWM will, of course, engage further with the Town Council and/or others if requested to do so. We await the outcome.

Back on-site, although the fencing was sound, the four cattle managed to escape through the gateway at the eastern end of the meadow near to the Guide Hut in March. They were eventually rounded-up in Lake Grove Road and the gates padlocked until the cattle were moved off-site.

7. MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all members who have renewed their membership of the FBWM and welcome to any new members in 2023-24. In October we held a "thank you" day and invited all the membership for the celebratory event. We provided light refreshments and was well attended. We intend to repeat this in 2024 and hopefully will become an annual event.

At the end of March 2024, the membership stood at 56.

As part of the membership package, we send out a Newsletter four times a year and a new format was introduced in September. This will go out to the membership electronically in future.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As is clear from the above, the FBWM cannot operate in isolation. As a not-for-profit group, we rely heavily on membership subscriptions and donations to keep us running. We have been more fortunate this year in being able to once again, generate some income from our fund-raising events.

We have received donations from several sources as well as our members, for which many thanks and this is gratefully received. All our accounts can be obtained from the Treasurer on request.

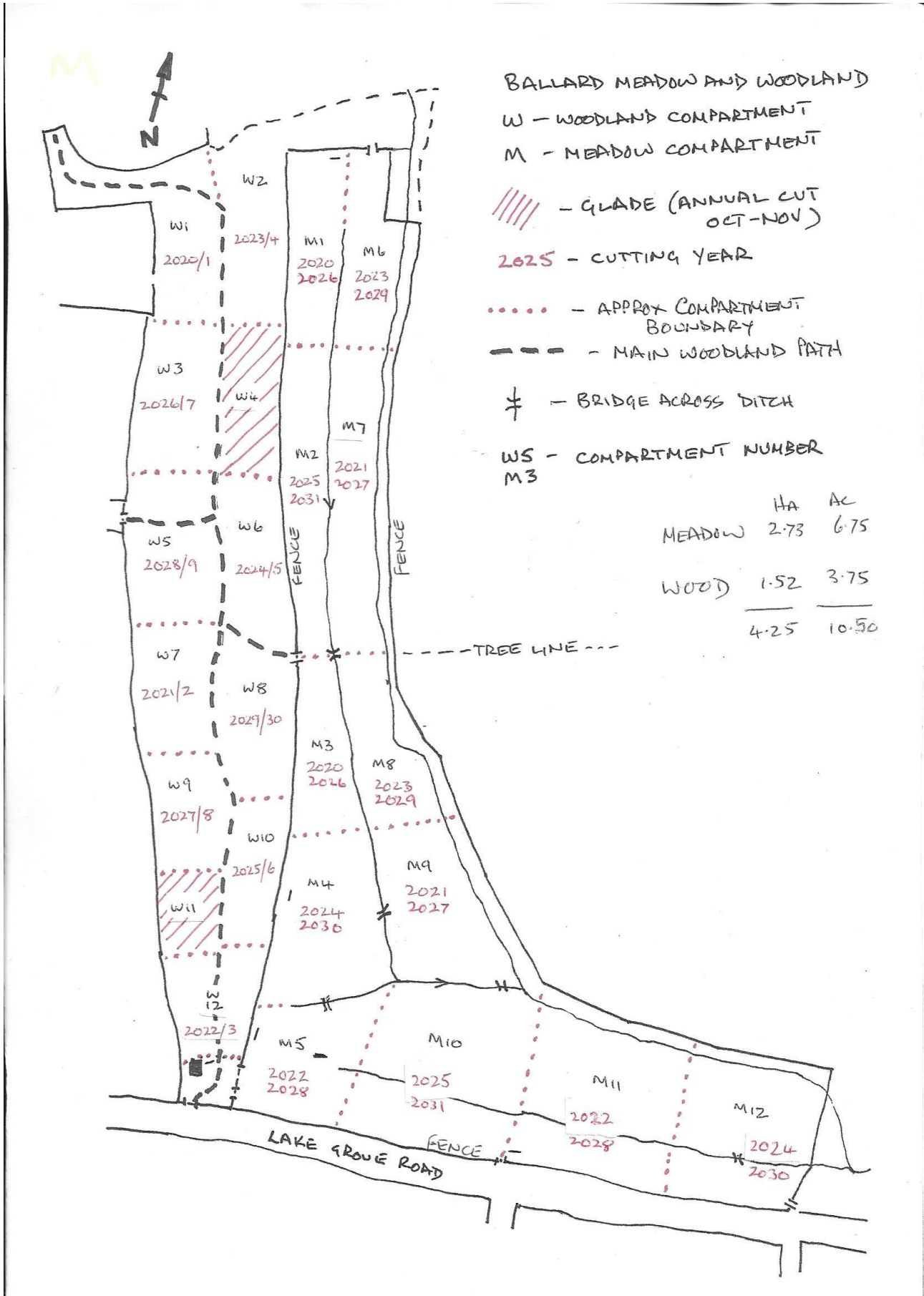
Our thanks go to Ann who has retired as Secretary (but not as committee member) and to Keith for setting-up and maintaining the website.

The Committee would like to thank: Westerleigh Group (New Forest Crematorium), Fernhill Friends, New Milton Town Council, New Milton Town Councillors Geoff Blunden and Steve Clarke, Paul Brockman BEM and students from Ringwood School and last, but not least all the willing volunteers who help, come rain or shine.

Bob Lord
Chairman

October 2024

APPENDIX 1 - SITE COMPARTMENT MAP



APPENDIX 2 – UPDATED PLANT RECORDS 1998-2023

Stat	Loc	Species	Common name	Year Recorded					
				1998-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
nn	w	<i>A. platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	X					
	w	<i>A. pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>A. ptarmica</i>	Sneezewort				X	X	X
	m	<i>Agrostic capillaris</i>	Common Bent	X	X		X	X	X
		<i>A. stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	X			X	X	X
*	cm	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle		X	X	X	X	X
		<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard			X	X		X
nn		<i>Allium triquestrum</i>	Three-cornered Leek		X	X	X		
		<i>A. vineale</i>	Crow Garlic		X	X			X
	m	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Marsh Foxtail	X		X	X	X	X
	m	<i>A. pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	X			X	X	X
		<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel		X				
**	w	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	X	X	X	X	X	X
	c	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's Water-cress	X				X	X
	mw	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	X			X	X	X
	m	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	X		X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian Lord and Ladies				X	X	X
	m	<i>A. maculatum</i>	Cuckoo Pint		X	X	X	X	X
		<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady-fern			X			X
	m	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy		X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch		X	X	X	X	X
**	w	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern						
**	w	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False-brome	X					
	m	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold		X	X	X	X	X
		<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	X		X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress				X	X	X
	m	<i>C. pratensis</i>	Cuckoo Flower		X	X	X	X	X

APPENDIX 2 – UPDATED PLANT RECORDS 1998-2023 (continued)

Stat	Loc	Species	Common name	Year Recorded					
				1998-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
*	m	<i>Carex disticha</i>	Brown Sedge	X		X		X	X
		<i>C. divulsa</i>	Grey Sedge					X	X
		<i>C. flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	X					
	m	<i>C. hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	X	X	X	X	X	X
**		<i>C. pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge		X	X	X	X	X
		<i>C. pilulifera</i>	Pill Sedge				X	X	X
**	mw	<i>C. remota</i>	Remote Sedge	X		X	X	X	X
**		<i>C. strigosa</i>	Thin-spiked Wood Sedge						
**	w	<i>C. sylvatica</i>	Wood Sedge	X		X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common Centaury		X			X	X
	m	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willow-herb				X	X	X
	w	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>C. palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	X		X	X	X	X
	m	<i>C. vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	X	X	X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Coronopus didymus</i>	Lesser Swine-cress	X		X	X	X	X
	w/m	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w/m	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>	Crested Doig's-tail				X	X	X
	w/m	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom			X	X	X	X
	w/m	<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted-orchid						X
	m	<i>D. maculata</i>	Heath Spotted-orchid		X	X	X	X	X
*	m	<i>D. praetermissa</i>	Southern Marsh-orchid	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	X					
	w/m	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w/m	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel		X		X	X	X
	w	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern	X		X		X	X
	w	<i>D. feix-mas</i>	Male-fern	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Common Spike-rush	X		X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	X				X	X

APPENDIX 2 – UPDATED PLANT RECORDS 1998-2023 (continued)

Stat	Loc	Species	Common name	Year Recorded					
				1998-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	m	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>E. montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	X	X	X			
		<i>E. parviflorum</i>	Hoary Willowherb	X	X	X			
	m	<i>E. tetragonum</i>	Square-stalked Willowherb	X	X	X			
	m	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Water Horsetail				X	X	X
	m	<i>E. palustre</i>	Marsh Horsetail	X					
**		<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge		X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	X			X	X	X
	mw	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue	X					
**		<i>F. gigantea</i>	Giant Fescue	X					
	m	<i>F. pratensis</i>	Meadow Fescue	X			X	X	X
	m	<i>F. rubra</i>	Red Fescue	X			X	X	X
	m	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet		X	X	X	X	
	mw	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Galanthus sp.</i>	Snowdrop						X
		<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common Hemp-nettle	X			X	X	X
	mw	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goosegrass/Cleavers	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>G. palustre</i>	Marsh Bedstraw	X	X	X	X	X	
	m	<i>Geraneum dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	X	X	X	X		X
	mw	<i>G. robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	X	X	X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>G. urbanum</i>	Wood Avens/Herb Bennet	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	X			X	X	X
	m	<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating Sweet-grass	X			X	X	
		<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	Marsh Cudweed	X				X	X
	mw	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>Heiraceum agg.</i>	Hawkweed		X	X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	X		X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	X	X	X	X	X	X
**	w	<i>H. mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	X					
**	w	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	X	X	X	X	X	X
*#		<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	Marsh Pennywort	X					
**		<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	X	X	X	X	X	X

APPENDIX 2 – UPDATED PLANT RECORDS 1998-2023 (continued)

Stat	Loc	Species	Common name	Year Recorded					
				1998-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
**	mw	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	X	X		X	X	X
**	w	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris			X	X	X	X
	m	<i>I. pseudacorus</i>	Yellow-flag		X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	Sharp-flowered Rush	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>J. bufonius</i>	Toad-rush		X				
	mw	<i>J. effusus</i>	Soft Rush	X		X	X	X	
**		<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel				X	X	
		<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle		X				
	mw	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort		X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling		X	X	X	X	X
*	mc	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy			X	X	X	X
		<i>Leucojum vernum</i>	Spring Snowflake						X
		<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax			X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>L. pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush			X	X	X	X
**	w	<i>L. pilosa</i>	Hairy Wood-rush			X			
*#	m	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin	X	X	X	X	X	X
**		<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel	X					
	m	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple-loostrife	X	X	X	X	X	
		<i>Malus pumilla</i>	Apple	X				X	X
**	w	<i>M. sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple	X	X	X		X	X
	m	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed		X	X	X	X	X
**#	w	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat	X					
**	w	<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	X			X	X	X
**	w	<i>Moehringia trinerva</i>	Three-nerved Sandwort	X			X	X	X
	m	<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing Forget-me-not			X	X	X	X
		<i>M. scorpiodes</i>	Water Forget-me-not	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Common Watercress			X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>O. pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited Water-dropwort		X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern		X	X	X	X	X

APPENDIX 2 – UPDATED PLANT RECORDS 1998-2023 (continued)

Stat	Loc	Species	Common name	Year Recorded					
				1998-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
**	w	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel		X	X	X	X	X
nn	w	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet		X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	Water-pepper	X	X	X		X	X
		<i>P. maculosa</i>	Redshank	X				X	X
		<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur				X	X	X
	m	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller Cat's-tail	X					
	m	<i>P. pratense</i>	Timothy	X	X	X	X	X	X
**	w	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's Tongue		X	X			X
		<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine species	X	X	X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	X	X	X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>P. major</i>	Greater plantain	X	X	X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	X	X	X	X	X	X
**	w	<i>P. nemoralis</i>	Wood Meadow-grass	X					
	m	<i>P. pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass			X	X	X	X
	m	<i>P. trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	X		X	X		X
**	w	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	X		X	X	X	X
**	w	<i>P. setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern	X					
	m	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>P. erecta</i>	Tormentil		X			X	X
		<i>P. reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	X	X	X	X	X	X
**		<i>P. sterilis</i>	Barren Strawberry					X	X
**	mw	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	X		X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	X	X	X	X	X	X
**	w	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry			X	X	X	X
	wm	<i>P. spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	X	X	X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane	X	X	X	X	X	X
**	m	<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Lungwort		X	X	X	X	X
nn	m	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Evergreen Oak	X	X	X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Q. robur</i>	English Oak	X	X	X	X	X	X

APPENDIX 2 – UPDATED PLANT RECORDS 1998-2023 (continued)

Stat	Loc	Species	Common name	Year Recorded					
				1998-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
*	m	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>R. bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup			X	X	X	X
	w	<i>R. ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine	X	X	X	X	X	X
*#	m	<i>R. flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>R. lingua</i>	Greater spearwort		X				
		<i>R. repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	X	X	X	X	X	X
**	w	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Red Currant	X				X	X
**	w	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field Rose	X				X	X
	w	<i>R. canina</i>	Dog Rose	X	X	X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>R. idaeus</i>	Raspberry		X			X	X
*	m	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>R. conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock	X					
	m	<i>R. crispus</i>	Curled Dock	X	X	X		X	X
	wm	<i>R. obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>R. sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock	X				X	X
	m	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow			X	X	X	X
	m	<i>S. cinerea</i>	Common Sallow	X					
	mw	<i>Sambucus niger</i>	Elder	X	X	X	X	X	X
**	m	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle			X	X	X	X
	wm	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort		X	X	X	X	X
	wm	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	X	X	X	X	X	X
	wm	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Groundsel		X	X	X	X	X
	wm	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	X	X	X	X	X	X
	W	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Woody Nightshade	X	X	X	X		X
	w	<i>S. nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade					X	X
**#	w	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Goldenrod	X					
		<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>S. oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle		X	X		X	X
	w	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	Bog Stitchwort	X					
	m	<i>S. graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>S. holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	X					X

APPENDIX 2 – UPDATED PLANT RECORDS 1998-2023 (continued)

Stat	Loc	Species	Common name	Year Recorded					
				1998-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
**	w	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	X					
	mw	<i>Taraxacum sp</i>	Dandelion		X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	X				X	X
	w	<i>Teucreum scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage				X	X	X
	m	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil		X	X		X	X
	m	<i>T. pratense</i>	Red Clover	X	X	X	X	X	X
	m	<i>T. repens</i>	White Clover	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed	X		X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	X	X	X	X	X	X
	w	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm	X		X	X	X	X
	mw	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>U. urens</i>	Small Nettle		X				
		<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Common Mullein			X	X	X	X
	m	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime		X	X	X	X	X
*	m	<i>V. chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	X	X	X	X	X	X
		<i>V. hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved Speedwell				X	X	X
#	w	<i>V. officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell	X					
		<i>V. persica</i>	Common Speedwell		X		X		
		<i>V. serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell		X		X	X	X
	m	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	X					
	m	<i>V. hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare				X		
	m	<i>V. sativa</i>	Common Vetch			X	X	X	X
		<i>V. tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare		X	X			X
	c	<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet				X	X	
**	mc	<i>V. reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog-violet				X		X
		<i>V. riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet		X		X		X

NOTES:

Stat (Status)

** - denotes Ancient Woodland Indicator species (South of England – from Rose, F. 2006 The Wild Flower Key)

* - denotes neutral grassland/meadow indicator species (from HBIC/HLS)

- denotes Notable species (Vulnerable/near threatened – from HBIC)

nn – non-native

Loc (Location): m – meadow w – wood c – clearing

Friends of Ballard Water Meadow (Est: 2005)

www.friendsofballardwatermeadow.co.uk

APPENDIX 3 – BUTTERFLIES (Summary)

BUTTERFLY SPECIES AND ABUNDANCE (from 2019) – All recording sections combined (excluding Pond Copse)

Species	Common Name	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper	1						
<i>T. lineola</i>	Essex Skipper			1				
<i>T. sylestris/lineola</i>	Small/Essex Skipper	4	27	34	15	38		
<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	Large Skipper			1	1	8		
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone	7	1	13	4	5		
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White	36	73	52	24	75		
<i>P. rapae</i>	Small White	55	34	82	63	51		
<i>P. napi</i>	Green-veined White	19	41	8	1	8		
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange Tip	5	2	5	9	9		
<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>	Purple Hairstreak		1					
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper	3	5	10	4	10		
<i>Aricia agestis</i>	Brown Argus	4						
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue	47	49	13	35	37		
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue	1	4		5	20		
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral	12	8	24	9	22		
<i>V. cardui</i>	Painted Lady	4	1	1	1			
<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock	4	2	1	3	3		
<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell				1			
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma		3	1	5	3		
<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood	39	29	28	31	102		
<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	Marbled White			1	3	1		
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Ringlet				1	2		
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper	89	52	68	73	140		
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown	249	215	256	154	267		
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath					3		

Data extracted from: UKBMS Ballard Water Meadows and New Forest Transect Group annual reports
Ballard Meadow and Woodland Annual Reports/Casual records from known observers

Observers: Ann Gorman, Pam Petherbridge, Rosemary Devereux-Jones, Steve Love, Rhona Copp

APPENDIX 4 – STREAM SURVEY (Summary)

An initial survey was undertaken in 2021 at monthly intervals, when there was enough water in the stream. No sampling was done in 2022 or 2023. Two samples were taken in 2024 and will feature in the next report.

Species recorded	2021
<i>Freshwater Shrimp</i>	X
<i>Olive Mayfly</i>	X
<i>Water Beetles</i>	X
<i>Aquatic Worms</i>	X
<i>Leeches</i>	X
<i>Water Hoglouse</i>	X
<i>Flatworms (Planaria sp)</i>	X
<i>Non-biting Midges</i>	
<i>Crane fly larva</i>	
<i>Stonefly</i>	
<i>Water Snail eggs</i>	
<i>Newt (eft)</i>	X
<i>Cased Caddisfly</i>	
<i>Blackfly larva</i>	

APPENDIX 5 – BREEDING BIRD TERRITORIES 2024 (Summary)

Note: The sequence and scientific names in this list follow more recently adopted and accepted convention of listing birds (British Ornithologists' Union 2021). Numbers in parentheses are maxima.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Territories 2022	Territories 2023	Territories 2024
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	5 (6)	4	4
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	18 (19)	13 (14)	13
Great Spotted Woodpecker*	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	2 (3)	3	3
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1 (2)		
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1 (2)		2
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	2 (3)	1 (2)	3
Carrion Crow*	<i>Corvus corone</i>	3	4	1 (2)
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			1
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	4 (5)	1	
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	14 (15)	13	13
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	6 (7)	11	9
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalus caudatus</i>	2	3	1 (2)
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collibita</i>	4 (5)	5	4 (5)
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	5	3	4
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	3	5	1 (2)
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	15	16	18
Nuthatch*	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	4 (5)	9 (10)	6
Treecreeper*	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			1
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2 (3)		1
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2 (3)	2	1 (2)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	15 (17)	9 (10)	13
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	15 (17)	9 (10)	13
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1	3	1
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	10	6	8
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	5 (6)	3	4 (5)
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	3		
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	4 (5)	6(7)	1 (2)

* - denotes nest (seen, bird at nest, entering nest site or young calling in nest)

NON-BREEDING BIRDS PRESENT ON ONE OR MORE OCCASIONS

Casual sightings, regarded as non-breeding on the site, are shown below.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	One pair max on 2 occasions at stream
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Feeding, but breeding off-site to the east
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Feeding, but breeding off-site to the north
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Feeding, but breeding off site