

# Harry's Meadow, Jacobs Well, Surrey

## Ecology Survey Report

**Principal Author:** Danial Winchester  
BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

**Address:**  
DJW Ecology  
20 The Paddocks,  
Normandy,  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU3 2HA

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**Commissioned For:**  
Worplesdon Parish Council,  
Unit 2 Saxton,  
Parklands,  
Railton Road,  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU2 9JX



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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

## Revision History

Project Name Ref (Revision number)	Date	Amendment
PROJECT NAME - (REVISION NUMBER) Harry's Meadow, Jacobs Well Ecology Survey Report Rev 00	25/09/2022	INITIAL REPORT - DRAFT

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## Introduction

### Background

DJW Ecology was commissioned by Worplesdon Parish Council on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to undertake a general ecology survey of an area of grassland in order to inform the Parish Council what flora and fauna is/has the potential to be present, and provide potential management prescriptions for enhancing the meadow for biodiversity.

The report has been prepared in accordance with guidance produced by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM 2017), with other reference source material used for follow-up species identification.

### Site Description

Harry's Meadow, Jacob's Well Road, Jacobs Well, Guildford, Surrey (hereafter referred to as 'Site') is an area of predominantly grassland with boundaries of scrub, woodland and a stream. The Site is approximately 2 acres and is owned and managed by Worplesdon Parish Council as a public open space. The Grid reference for the Site is TQ00065291.

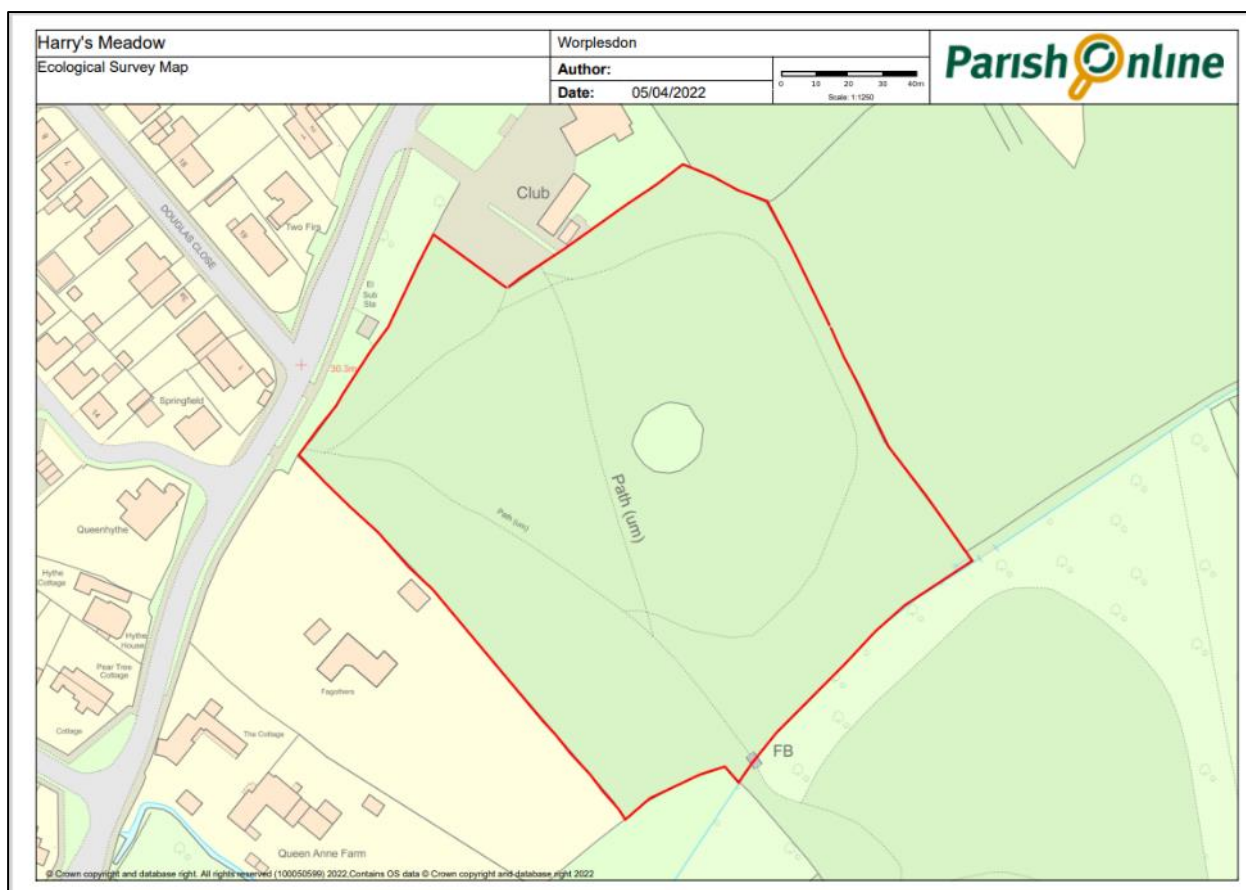
The Site is within the residential area of Jacobs Well Village. Guildford Town centre is 2.8 km to the south-west of the Site. Whitmoor and Rickford Commons Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is 0.8km to the north of the Site. This LNR is part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) and Whitmoor Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Riverside Park LNR is 0.7km south-east of the Site. The stream that runs along the southern boundary of the Site flows into the River Wey.

An aerial plan showing the site and the wider area is shown in Figure 1 and a plan showing the Site boundary and the footpaths within the site is shown in Figure 2 below. Photographs of the site can be found in Appendix 1.



**Figure 1. Site location and wider landscape (middle of site indicated by red circle)**

*Imagery taken from Google Earth. September 2022.*



**Figure 2. Site map with footpaths and boundary**

***Map supplied by Worplesdon Parish Council. April 2022.***

The following information is taken from the interpretation board at the entrance to Harry's Meadow.

‘The Harry Pickup Memorial Meadow.

“Harry's Meadow”.

Named in memory of Harry Pickup – 1932-2009.

Harry moved from Burnley, Lancashire to Jacobs Well in 1958. He was extremely community minded and served as a Worplesdon Memorial Hall Trustee for many years, was President of the Jacobs Well Residents' Association (JWRA), Chairman of the Parish Council from 1989 until 1999, a Conservative councillor for Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council, he was also a Guildford Cricket Club Official.

Harry joined Worplesdon Parish Council in May 1976 and represented Jacobs Well for 31 years retiring in August 2007. Harry was always very involved with the JWRA and was affectionately known to locals as “Mr Jacobs Well”.

A keen sportsman, Harry was very protective of the local environment. He was chief negotiator in creating the Village Hall Trust with the Charity Commission and was also the driving force behind the creation of the recreation ground and play area on overgrown common land around the northern end of White House Lane turning it into a respectable looking area.

A larger than life presenter at serious public meetings, Harry would help anyone with a problem.

Along with Larry Rose and Tom Paton, Harry also helped to secure a lease on this field so that the local residents of Jacobs Well had an outdoor space for recreational purposes. This field was purchased from the Borough Council by the Parish Council in June 2015 for the benefit of local residents in perpetuity.

Naming the field after Harry was felt by the Parish Council and the JWRA to be a fitting tribute to a much loved and well respected man, whose legacy will live on for the benefit of future generations’

## Methodology

### Desk Study

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) was used to derive information relating to Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated Sites within 2km from the site. A list of these Statutory and Non Statutory Designated Sites can be found in Table 1 in Baseline Ecological Conditions.

### Field Survey

#### Ecology Survey to identify plant and animal species (where possible)

Two ecology survey was undertaken within the Site boundary on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 by Principal Ecologist, Danial Winchester, BSc (Hons) MCIEEM in order to identify plant and animal species (where possible) present within the Site and also identify potential species which could be using the Site. The survey was not a specific National Vegetation Classification Survey (NVC) which is a specialist botanical survey undertaken over a number of visits using specific criteria in order to identify the botanical composition and classification of the Site.

A list of the species identified can be found in Table 4 within the Baseline Ecological Conditions.

### Limitations

There were no limitations to access of the Site. All site visits were undertaken at the optimal time of year. It should be noted that at the time of the July site visit the UK was experiencing drought conditions which made identifying some plant species difficult.

## Baseline Ecological Conditions

### Desk Study

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) was used to derive information relating to Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated Sites within 2km from the site. A list of these Statutory and Non Statutory Designated Sites can be found in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Records of Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated Sites within 2km of the site with closest record first.**

Site name	Designation	Reason for designation	Distance from site	Approx. location
Riverside Park	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Designated for its open water and large reedbeds. The site is managed for breeding birds, terns, sedge warbler, reed bunting, water rail, redshank, snipe and lapwing.	0.7Km South-east	TQ00865244
Rickford and Whitmoor Commons	Special Protection Area (SPA) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Rickford and Whitmoor Commons are designated for a variety of habitats but particularly	0.8km North	SU98995306

Site name	Designation	Reason for designation	Distance from site	Approx. location
	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	<p>for Lowland Heathland and its importance for breeding populations of rare and protected bird species woodlark and nightjar.</p> <p>Rickford and Whitmoor Common form part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, which consists of a group of heathlands extending from Wisley in Surrey to Tadley in Hampshire and Bracknell in Berkshire, supporting nationally important populations of a number of bird species.</p>		

## Ecology Survey

During both site visits a number of plant and animal species were recorded either in the Site or on the boundary of the site. In addition other species which have been given to the ecologist as anecdotal sightings are also listed. A list of these species can be found in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Species recorded during both site visits.**

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
<b>Animals</b>				
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Heard and seen	Amongst scrub at edge of site
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Heard	At woodland edge



Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	09/05/2022	Heard	Flying overhead by woodland edge
Ring-necked parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Heard  An Invasive Non-native Species from Asia that is well established in SE England and Greater London.	Flying over edge of site
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	09/05/2022	Heard and seen  A locally common resident, boosted by re-introductions.	Flying over meadow
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	09/05/2022	Heard and seen	Woodland and scrub edges of site
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	09/05/2022	Heard	Woodland and scrub edges of site
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	09/05/2022	Heard and seen	Woodland and scrub edges of site
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	09/05/2022	Heard and seen	Woodland and scrub edges of site
Chiff-chaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Heard	Woodland and scrub edges of site
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Heard	Woodland and scrub edges of site
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Heard  A locally common migrant summer visitor	Scrubby hedgerow on east boundary of site
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Heard and seen  A widespread species	Scrub edges of site and scrubby hedgerow on east boundary of site
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	13/07/2022	Heard  Likely to forage within the meadow on ants within anthills.	Woodland edge of site.



Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	13/07/2022	Heard	Woodland edge of site
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	09/05/2022	Seen and heard A declining bird species.	Woodland and scrub edges of site
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	09/05/2022	Seen and heard A declining bird species	Scrub edges of site and scrubby hedgerow on east boundary of site
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	13/07/2022	Heard A locally common summer migrant	Flying over site
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	09/05/2022	Heard A declining bird species	Woodland edge of site
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	09/05/2022	Seen and heard A widespread bird species	Woodland edge and scrub edges of site
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	13/07/2022	Heard	Woodland edge of site
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen and heard	Scrub edges of site and scrubby hedgerow on east boundary of site
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	13/07/2022	Seen and heard	Scrub edges of site and scrubby hedgerow on east boundary of site
Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Molehills recorded	Seen at path edges of meadow
Common frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	13/07/2022	Adult frogs seen	Drainage pipe within stream at southern boundary of site
Grass snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	Unknown	Anecdotal record The largest native British snake and totally harmless and non-venomous	Anecdotal record reported to author by Gaynor White Clerk of Worplesdon Parish Council

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
Common red soldier beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	On common hogweed flowers within the meadow
7-spot ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	On flowers within the meadow and also in the scrubby edges of the site
A crane fly	<i>Tipula</i> sp.	09/05/2022	Seen	Within tall grasses of the meadow
Buff-tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Among flowers within the meadow and at the scrubby edges of the site
Honey bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Among flowers within the meadow
Black garden ant	<i>Lasius niger</i>	13/07/2022	Seen	At mowed path edges of the meadow
Meadow grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	13/07/2022	Seen	In long grass within the meadow and along scrubby edges of the meadow
Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	13/07/2022	Seen A widespread butterfly species	Along scrubby edges of the meadow
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	09/05/2022	Seen A widespread butterfly species	Among flowers within the meadow and at the scrubby edges of the site
Marbled white	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	13/07/2022	Seen A butterfly species typically found on unimproved grassland, usually chalk or limestone grassland	In long grass within the meadow
Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	13/07/2022	Seen A widespread butterfly species	In long grass within the meadow and along scrubby edges of the meadow

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
Essex skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	13/07/2022	Seen A widespread butterfly species particularly in SE England	In long grass within the meadow
Peacock butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>	09/05/2022	Seen A widespread butterfly species	On bramble flowers at scrubby edges of meadow
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	13/07/2022	Seen A widespread butterfly species	In long grass within the meadow and along scrubby edges of the meadow
Southern hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	13/07/2022	Seen A large and widespread dragonfly species	Flying over the long grass along the scrubby edges of the meadow
Beautiful demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	09/05/2022	Seen A colourful large damselfly species with metallic sheen to the wings	On the stream edge on the southern boundary of the site
<b>Plants</b>				
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland and scrubby edges of the site.
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site.
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site.
Hybrid crack willow	<i>Salix x fragilis</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site and along stream.
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site and along stream.
Poplar sp.	<i>Populus</i> sp.	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site.
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site.

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site.
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Scrubby hedgerow on east of the site and amongst scrubby edges of the site
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Scrubby hedgerow on east of the site and amongst scrubby edges of the site
Common whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site.
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site.
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site.
English elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Scrubby hedgerow on east of the site and amongst scrubby edges of the site
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Woodland edge and scrub edges of site
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Woodland edge and scrub edges of site
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Woodland edge and scrub edges of site
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Woodland edge and scrub edges of site
Male fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst woodland edge of the site
Mistletoe	<i>Viscum album</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	On trees within woodland edge of the site
Purple toothwort	<i>Lathraea clandestina</i>	09/05/2022	Seen  An unusual Non-native Species of parasitic plant of tree	Amongst woodland edge of the site

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
			species growing on the ground at the base of trees  This species is characteristic with no leaves and is a purple colour	
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Throughout the meadow
Hedge bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	On trees and ground within woodland on edge of site
Pendulous sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen  Large exotic looking sedge	On the margins of the stream on the boundary of the site
False brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Within the woodland and on the edge of the stream on the boundary of the site
Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing within the meadow on the west boundary
Soft- brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing within the meadow along the east boundary
False Oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing within the centre of the meadow and along the north boundary
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Growing close to the memorial bench
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow
Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Along the short mown paths within the meadow and by the memorial bench

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
Smooth Meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow, particularly in areas of short grass where the mown paths are
Cocks-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow and along the boundaries next to the scrub
Wall barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Around the entrance of the meadow and close to the memorial bench
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst the longer sward on the southern area of the meadow
Tufted Hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	In a few patches within the sward of the south-east area of the meadow
Hybrid bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	09/05/2022	Seen An Invasive Non-native Species which is a garden escape	Along the west boundary
Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Amongst the trees along the woodland edge
Yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing along the edge of the stream on the boundary of the site
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing amongst the longer sward along the south and west areas of the meadow
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Growing close to the scrub and woodland edge along the

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
				boundaries of the site
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Along the stream edge of the south boundary of the site
Ground-elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Along the boundaries of the site close to the scrub and the south boundary
Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Amongst the longer sward of the meadow and along the boundaries next to scrub
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Within the bare ground of the centre of the meadow
Pale persecaria	<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Within the bare ground of the centre of the meadow
Water-pepper	<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Within the damper areas of the meadow of the south-east and south
Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow and along the boundaries next to the scrub
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Growing in a patch within the centre of the meadow
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow and along the boundaries next to the scrub
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow



Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Particularly noticeable along in the shorter sward along mown paths and along the north boundary of the site
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Growing along the north boundary of the site
Doves-foot cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Growing along the north boundary of the site
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow and along the boundaries next to the scrub
Cats-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow
Herb Bennet	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow and along the boundaries next to the scrub
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow and along the boundaries next to the scrub
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow and along the boundaries next to the scrub
Greater burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Mostly associated with longer sward close to scrub edges
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow, particularly in areas of short grass where the mown paths are
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Growing along the north boundary of the site
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Within the bare ground of the centre of the meadow
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the scrub edge of the east boundary
Spring vetch	<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	09/05/2022	Seen Localised and more often associated with coastal areas	Within the bare ground of the centre of the meadow
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	09/05/2022 and 13/07/2022	Seen	Along the scrub edge of the east boundary
Common Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Within the bare ground of the centre of the meadow
Common mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Growing along the boundaries next to the scrub

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Date Recorded	Notes	Approx. location
Red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
White Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Common field speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Growing throughout the meadow and along the boundaries next to the scrub
Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Lesser celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Along the south boundary of the site close to trees and woodland
Wood spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	09/05/2022	Seen	Close to the car park entrance on the north boundary

## Conclusions and Management Recommendations

The Site is a public open space with a number of mown paths throughout the meadow, along with a memorial bench on the north-east boundary, and a second bench on the south-west boundary. A stream runs along the south boundary beyond which is a woodland area comprising of mainly deciduous tree species. Overstood native hedgerows, mostly comprising of hawthorn, blackthorn, English elm along with occasional small deciduous trees and bramble scrub are present along the west, north and east boundaries.

A car park with a Village Hall is located to the immediate north of the site entrance, where a memorial plaque to the meadow can be found just inside the site entrance.

The author was informed that there are currently two cuts per year of the meadow, and the paths are kept mown in order to allow access for people and their dogs. It is hoped that an interpretation board can be installed in the Site in order to inform visitors of the biodiversity that can be found there. It is also hoped that the meadow/Site can be managed in order to enhance biodiversity.

The first visit to the Site on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 was during optimal conditions when a number of plant species were in flower and identifiable. A number of bird and invertebrates were also recorded during this first visit.

Unfortunately, at the time of the second visit on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 the UK, particularly SE England was experiencing high temperatures and drought conditions, meaning that a number of plant species were desiccated and were either difficult or impossible to identify.

Generally, the Site grassland has a number of species, particularly grass species which are associated with neutral grasslands. There are grass and other plant species present in areas of the Site which are indicative of nutrient enrichment such as dog faeces, particularly along the mown paths, benches and entrances. Due to the nature and usage of the Site these conditions are unlikely to change.

The areas of overstood hedgerows, along with occasional trees and bramble scrub with their longer sward grasses and plants along the north, west and east boundaries are particularly important to a variety of animal species, such as breeding and foraging birds, small mammals including hedgehogs, amphibians, reptiles and a number of invertebrates due to the varied structures contained within these habitats. It is likely that bats also use these areas for foraging. Whitethroat was recorded singing within the scrubby hedgerow along the east boundary. This warbler is a summer migrant and relies on scrub for nesting and foraging.

An unusual area of a mix of bare ground and short vegetation is present within a fenced off area in the centre of the meadow. This area has been used by Worplesdon Parish Council as a bonfire site during Guy Fawkes celebrations for Jacobs Well Village. One particular plant species that was recorded here was spring vetch which is a plant associated with coastal areas. This is very localised and was not recorded anywhere else on the Site. Tansy was also recorded in one patch close to this fenced off area, and was not recorded elsewhere in the Site.

Within the taller sward grassland on the south boundary are a number of planted sapling native deciduous trees. In the south-east corner of the Site the ground is wetter and patches of tufted hair-grass can be found. This species is indicative of wetter areas of grasslands.

One of the more unusual plant species of the Site is purple toothwort. This species is a parasitic plant that lacks chlorophyll for photosynthesis and has no leaves. It parasitizes the roots of willow, poplar and alder trees. The native range of purple toothwort is SW Europe, and it has been recorded in RHS Wisley. Within the Site it can be found close to tree roots and log piles/standing dead trees in the south-west corner and also within the woodland area to the south of the stream.

Although not seen during either site visit grass snake and orchids have been anecdotally recorded within the Site and the author was informed by Worplesdon Parish Council Clerk via email.

Invertebrates were in particular evidence during the May site visit, such as soldier beetles on common hogweed flower heads, butterflies, bumblebees, honey bees, ladybirds, ants, grasshoppers, flies and many other species. With more recording emphasis by other specialists and recording groups it is very likely that more species of plants and animals will be recorded across the Site. Common frogs were also seen within the stream.

A number of photographs of the Site were taken during both site visits and can be found in Appendix 1.

## Management Recommendations

The Site has quite a varied structure and mix of terrestrial habitats with different grassland sward heights. However, there are some management recommendations that could be undertaken in order to improve the Site for biodiversity. These are detailed below;

### **Meadow**

1. Reduce the number of undesirable species, such as ragwort, creeping thistle and broad-leaved dock in the meadow by either spot treating with an appropriate herbicide that will target those species or undertake manual pulling.
2. Remove garden escapee plants such as hybrid bluebell by hand pulling to ensure that they do not spread within the meadow.
3. Where arisings occur during the cutting of the meadow, these should be removed from the grassland as they will cause thatching and add nutrients to the soil, therefore increasing the potential for undesirable species, as detailed in 1. Instead these arisings could be used in discreet habitat piles perhaps next to an area of scrub along with any deadwood piles for use by invertebrates, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles, such as slow worms and grass snakes.
4. Retain area of bare ground and short vegetation within the fenced/bonfire area of the meadow in order to allow spring vetch to flourish and also to provide potential for bare ground invertebrates, such as mining bees and solitary wasps.
5. In order to create a more species diverse wildflower meadow and reduce coarse grasses like cocks-foot perennial rye-grass the use of local provenance native species mix can be used. Chain or rough harrow prior to adding wildflower mix. Use yellow-rattle in the mix to reduce coarse grasses. Before introducing yellow-rattle seed in late summer/early autumn, it helps to create a short sward with frequent patches of bare ground at least 10cm in diameter. The recommended sowing rate for yellow-rattle is between 0.5 – 2.5kg per ha with the target of establishing a density of between 100 to 200 yellow-rattle plants per m<sup>2</sup>.
6. Carry on maintaining the short sward mown paths within the meadow in order to provide guided access without disturbance by people and dogs of other more sensitive areas of the meadow.

### **Scrub/Hedgerows/Trees**

Sensitive management of scrub and overstood hedgerows should be undertaken to ensure that the grassland habitats are not overshadowed and taken over by scrub.

1. Aim to have a mosaic of scrub habitat along the existing boundaries. Cutting back of bramble, shrubs and trees (if necessary) within the overstood hedgerows should only be undertaken between September to February outside the bird nesting season. This is in order to reduce the likelihood of disturbance, injury and killing of any birds that may be nesting, and to ensure compliance with Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
2. If any arboricultural works have to be undertaken on any trees within the Site then these should be undertaken sensitively in respect to undertaking the work between September and February and avoiding the bird nesting season. As bats are known to roost in tree features such as cracks, splits, ivy, flaking bark, broken branches and woodpecker holes, it is recommended that any trees containing these features should remain protected. If any arboricultural works need to be undertaken on those trees, then it is recommended that further advice is sought from a qualified licensed bat ecologist in advance to any works being undertaken.
3. Any logs/brash from the results of arboricultural works should be used as habitat piles within suitable boundary areas of the Site. These can be used by invertebrates, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles, as well as fungi and mosses.

It is important that monitoring is undertaken on the Site to see what species are using the meadow and other habitats. As mentioned previously there are a number of specialist recording groups and individuals who may be willing to help with site visits to record their particular species group. Records like this will not only help Worplesdon Parish Council guide their habitat management of the Site, and provide interest to the local community, but also provide important biodiversity records to both recording groups and the Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre (SBIC).

SBIC can also help with providing a list of species recording groups and individuals who may be interested in recording at the Site. The address for SBIC is <https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/professional-services/records-centre>

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## Appendix 1: Photographs



Photograph 1: Grassland with bramble scrub and overstood hedgerow/trees on the north boundary of Harry's Meadow (Visit on 09/05/2022)



Photograph 2: Bramble scrub and overstood hedgerow on the east boundary of Harry's Meadow. Mown path shown in grassland (Visit on 09/05/2022)

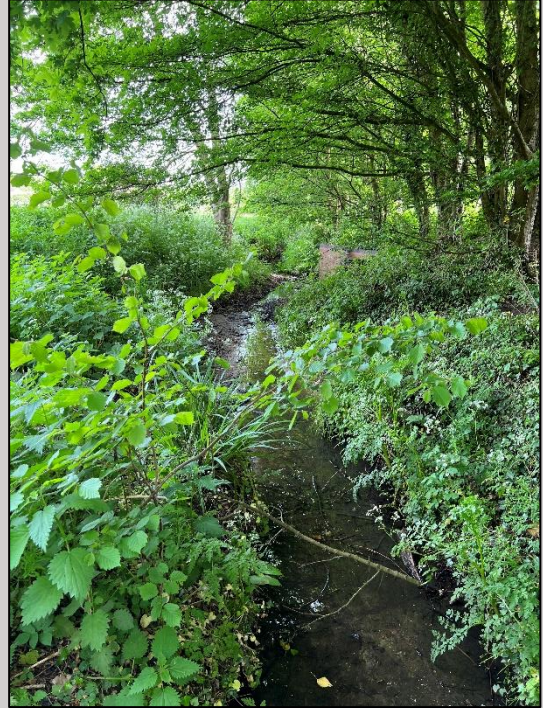




Photograph 3: Grassland with woodland edge on south boundary of Harry's Meadow (Visit on 09/05/2022)



Photograph 4: Grassland with woodland edge and south-west boundary of Harry's Meadow and posts in middle showing fenced area previously used for bonfires (Visit On 09/05/2022)



Photograph 5: Grassland with overstood hedgerow along west boundary of Harry's Meadow (Visit on 09/05/2022)



Photograph 6: Stream with woodland edge on south boundary of Harry's Meadow (Visit on 09/05/2022)



Photograph 7: Standing dead wood on south-east boundary of Harry's Meadow (Visit on 09/05/2022)

Photograph 8: Overstood hedgerow dominated by English elm on the north boundary of Harry's Meadow (Visit on 13/07/2022)





Photograph 9: Bench within the grassland at the south-east corner of Harry's Meadow (Visit on 13/07/2022)



Photograph 10: Spring vetch within the fenced area of the centre of Harry's Meadow (Visit on 09/05/2022)



Photograph 11: Flowerhead of Cat's-ear (Visit on 09/05/2022)



Photograph 12: Purple toothwort (Visit on 09/05/2022)





Photograph 13: Patch of tansy with posts of the fenced area in the centre of Harry's Meadow (Visit on 13/07/2022)



Photograph 14: Within Harry's Meadow from an insect view point (Visit on 13/07/2022)



Photograph 15: 7-spot ladybird on common hogweed flowerhead (Visit on 13/07/2022)



Photograph 16: Soldier beetle on common hogweed flowerhead (Visit on 13/07/2022)





Photograph 17: Landscape view of Harry's Meadow (east to south) noting the dryness of the grassland (Visit on 13/07/2022)



Photograph 18: Landscape view of Harry's Meadow (south to west) noting the dryness of the grassland (Visit on 13/07/2022)