

Long Meadow Trees and Shrubs Report



Veteran ash



Veteran oak

There are over 30 species of trees and shrubs growing within the meadow. Most common are oak and ash particularly in the strip of woodland growing next to the high road. Other large trees include lime, horse chestnut and hybrid poplar. The soil is clay which is wet in the winter and hard and dry in the summer so the trees and shrubs present are the ones that can best cope with these conditions. Most of the trees and shrubs are native but some which are not were introduced when the meadow was part of a large private estate.

The spring blossom of blackthorn, cherry and hawthorn adds splashes of brightness to be followed by fruits in summer and autumn for the birds.

Along the river alder and crack willow grow as they like their roots in wet soil. Crack willows break when the branches become top heavy and have needed pollarding to stabilise them.

The elms are suffering from dutch elm disease and never grow much before dying. However, some disease resistant trees have been planted to try to establish a healthy population.

Other species of note adding variety and nectar and fruit for insects and birds include elder, dog rose, bramble, raspberry and holly.

There are several veteran oak and ash trees within the meadow that are registered with the Woodland Trust due to their importance as landscape features and value as wildlife habitats.



Cherry flowers



Blackthorn fruits (sloes)

Appendix: Species List

Pine	<i>Pinus</i> sp
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>
Crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
Goat willow (sallow)	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Poplar (hybrid ?)	<i>Populus</i> sp
Lombardy poplar	<i>Populus</i> var <i>italica</i>
Balsam poplar	<i>Populus gileadensis</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Sweet chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster frigidus</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Lime	<i>Tilia vulgaris</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Raspberry	<i>Rubus ideaus</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Midland hawthorn	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>

Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Bird cherry (cultivar?)	<i>Prunus padus</i>
Alder buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>