

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF DORNEY PARISH

**A record of the flora and fauna occurring in the Parish
together with comment
on the challenges facing the environment**

March 2000

Acknowledgement

This record of the flora and fauna occurring in Dorney was produced as one of the Parish initiatives to celebrate the Millennium. Data has been drawn from a range of sources. These include surveys and studies commissioned for other purposes by Department of Environment, The Department of Transport and Eton College. Records of local naturalists and residents of the Parish form the bulk of the observations. Much information has been published over the years in the Dorney Parish News under the pseudonyms of Wayfarer and Brock and, latterly, by Lois Parker. Particular thanks to Frank Bond, Simon Hill and Colin Humphrey. The support of all contributors is gratefully acknowledged. The photographs were taken by Jean Tyler.

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Peter Tyler,
Dormouse, 1 Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0DW

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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF DORNEY PARISH

Preface

The start of the twenty-first Century provides an opportunity to take stock of the flora and fauna of Dorney¹, a small parish that is situated at the southern tip of Buckinghamshire in the Thames Valley. Past records of the occurrence of the various plants and animals that share the area with the human inhabitants have been assembled to provide an insight and a reference to what lives where. The richness of the range of species is gratifying and serves to highlight the importance of the Parish environment.

Indeed, it is timely to reflect upon the Parish's environmental attributes and to be concerned about the manner in which they are being modified, whether we value them sufficiently and whether we are protecting them and investing in their future? It is inevitable that the pressure for change will have to be accommodated – should it arise in the form of additional infrastructure, new development, altered land use, or management of water resources. Even gradual change may have a profound long-term influence on the parish. The climate, tranquility and air quality may be affected, also the panoramic views. The composition, size and colour of vegetation, which has immediate visual impact, will, more importantly, have a direct bearing on the richness and diversity of, for example, the bird, animal and insect life. Hopefully, in the twenty-first century a harmonious blend of the natural and materialistic will be achieved and sustained for posterity.

The natural history of the past

By the end of the last Ice Age, some 10 000BC, the direction of the flow of the River Thames was established. Then the river was a series of channels covering the whole of the valley floodplain. Over the next 5 000 years as the climate became warmer, the floodplain became drier and a permanent course for the river more defined. The original vegetation, predominantly of alder and hazel, was supplemented by oak, ash and beech trees. By the late Neolithic period (3 000-2 200BC) the first settlers were in Dorney, probably starting to cultivate wheat and barley and gathering hazelnuts. In the middle Saxon period (650-850AD) the influence of the earlier Roman invasion was apparent with the adoption of improved cereal crops, peas and beans and fruits such as plum, cherry and sloe. In those early days the area was wet and marshy, the river meandered and it flooded most if not all the parish annually. Thus earlier generations were forced to move their animals from the flood plain in winter to higher land in the nearby foothills of the Chilterns, at Dorneywood and Boveneywood.

It is recorded that in 1512 the great oak that grew on Dorney Common was felled by the then Lord of the Manor, Richard Hyll in a fit of temper 'because the local peasantry had been wont to disport themselves' there. A few trees that were some

¹ The name Dorney is derived literally from the Saxon "Island of the bees". Hive bees foraging the wild flowers and blossom are quite productive and the excellent honey produced has gained a high reputation. Unfortunately disease of bee colonies by a predatory mite, Varroa, has decimated local apiaries. It is hoped that this is a temporary setback.

hundred years old then are still with us today. There are a couple of mature oaks near Climo's corner that would have been growing at this time, as they are now 5-600 years old.

The year 1665 is memorable for Dorney, as this is the date when it is said that Rose, gardener to Sir Richard Palmer, grew the first pineapple to be raised in England. By the 17th Century the 'Manor of Dorney with Boveney' consisted of nearly 1600 acres of which the major parts were the commons and the common fields. The field boundaries, where they existed, were hedges on the top of banks with a ditch on one side. The remains of these survive today in places around Dorney Common.

Within the living memory of some residents there were otters to be seen catching eels in the Cress Brook pool behind the Church. Plovers were a common sight on Dorney Common until 1980. Magnificent elm trees were a predominant feature of the skyline and roadside until 1977 when Dutch Elm Disease struck. Extensive orchards growing fruits such as apple and cherry were a feature of the Parish in the first half of the 20th Century but these declined rapidly after the 1950's. Continual developments and changes are made in the pattern of intensive horticulture and stocking of animals. Gone are herds of milking cows. A herd of goats was kept in the village until some 35 years ago.

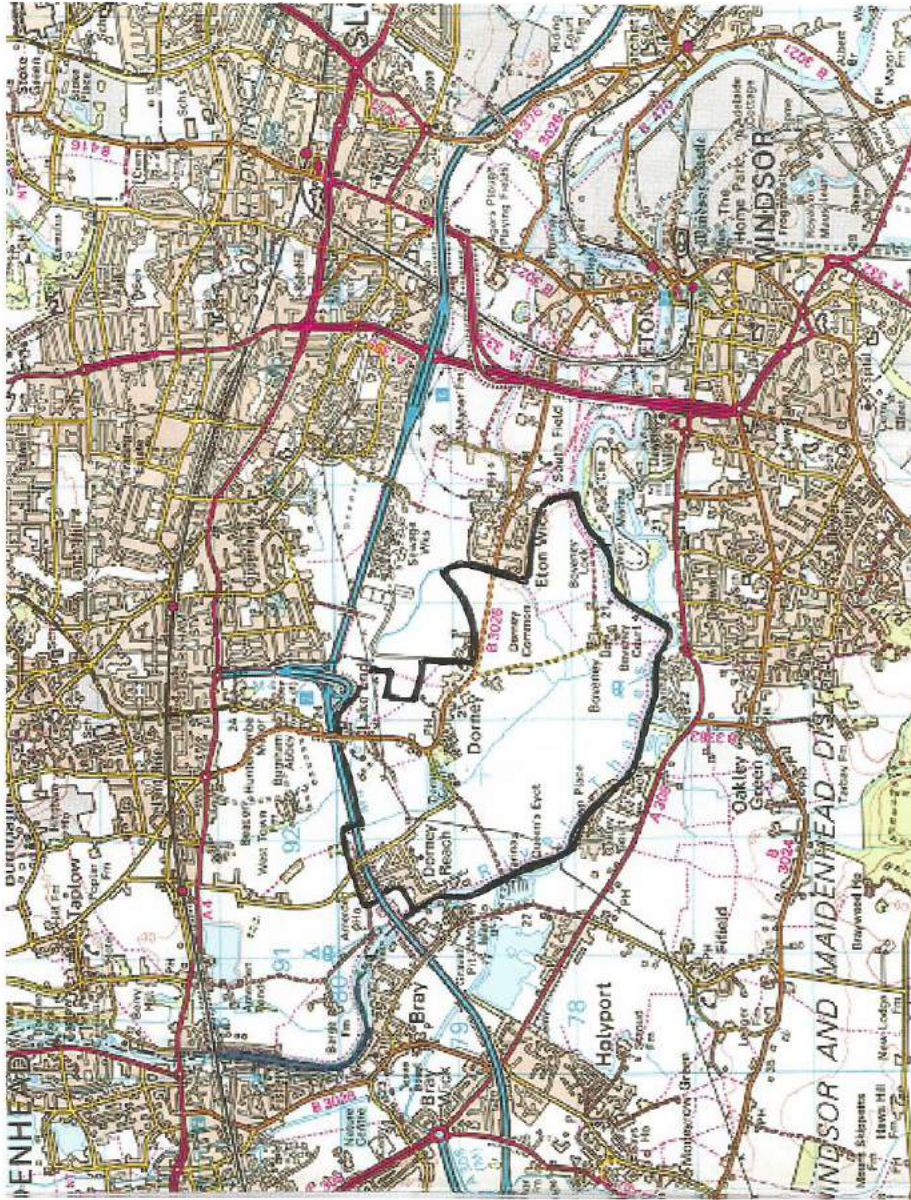
In recent decades many and varied changes have occurred in, for example, the pattern of agriculture, the use and management of the River Thames, the development of infrastructure and housing, and the establishment of gardens. Recent tree plantings, which include ornamental species, have also altered the appearance of the Parish. All these features have an impact on the natural flora and fauna.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARISH

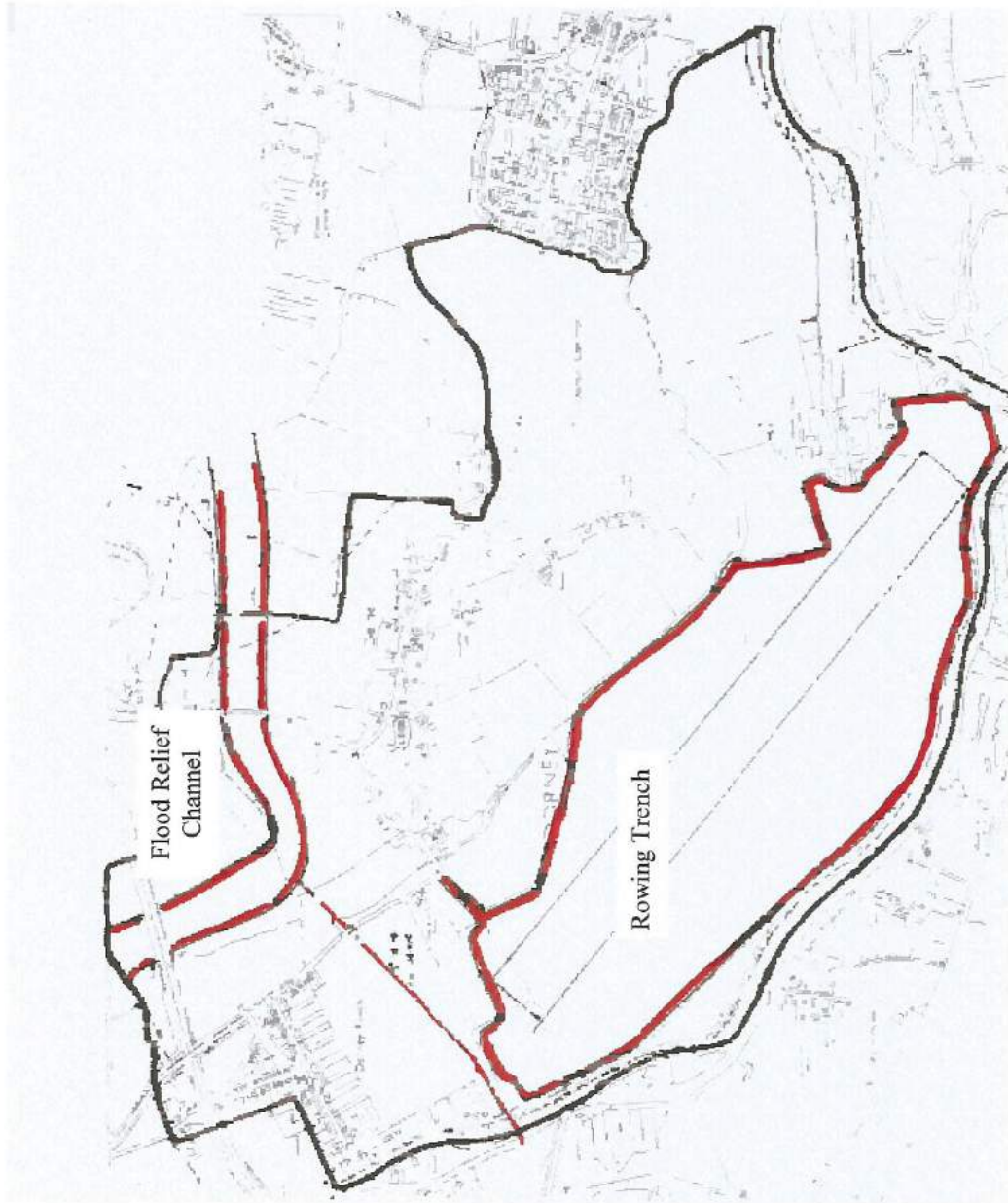
Dorney lies within the flood plain of the River Thames in the shadow of the urban sprawl of the towns of Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead. It adjoins the parishes of Taplow in the north and Eton Wick to the east. The unrelenting bustle of the M4 motorway clips the northern boundary. The course of the river Thames forms the natural boundary to the west and the south. The location map shows the strategic importance of the Parish as a wildlife corridor whereby birds and animals may pass between adjacent built-up areas. Specifically Dorney provides a bridge between Burnham Beeches and the Chilterns to the north and Windsor park land to the south.

Entry by road into the Parish from the east is across Dorney Common, which is a striking feature comprising some seventy hectares of unfenced grass meadow punctuated by marshy hollows and two streams. Cattle roam there freely between March and October. Willow and other trees border the margins. The small hamlet of Boveney with Chapel and Court lies on the river to the south amongst a variety of mature trees. The houses of Dorney Village cluster along Village Road that leads to another small community at Lake End and second, smaller Lake End Common.

Court Lane, a fork from Village Road is bordered by a row of established chestnut trees. It passes, on the left, an important long-established copse of woodland, The Grove, in the grounds of the manor estate Dorney Court which the largest and most



Location of Dorney Parish and surrounding urban areas



Areas of the Parish affected by the Flood Relief and Rowing Trench Operations (March 2000)

significant property in the Parish. The church of St James the Less with its two small graveyards adjoins the Court. The surrounding fields are used for intensive horticulture under irrigation or to provide pasture for sheep and paddocks for horses. Selected parts of Dorney and Boveney have been designated Conservation areas within South Bucks Area.

Dorney Reach comprises a further group of houses extending from Marsh Lane to the Thames opposite Monkey Island. Many properties have large gardens. The Dorney towpath is pleasantly undeveloped apart from riverside houses at Dorney Reach and a boathouse and Chapel at Boveney. In contrast, development along the opposite Berkshire riverbank comprises three marinas, two large hotels, water treatment works, a racecourse and a caravan site in addition to private houses.

The Parish is flat with little natural variation in elevation, a characteristic feature being the open views across the Thames valley and, most strikingly, of Windsor Castle some three miles to the east. The soils are light over a gravel subsoil with patches of more clayey material. An important feature of the Dorney hydrogeology is the depth of gravel (up to 15m) and the fact that beneath it lies a tilted bed of chalk. This slopes in a South-easterly direction and dips deeper nearer the river. An overlay of clay of variable thickness between the porous chalk and gravel above serves to force the water upwards in times of heavy rain. The water table in the gravel is on average two-three metres below the surface but, after heavy rainfall, water is forced upwards and wet areas and springs appear, fed from the underground sources. Lott's Hole is the best example.

In addition to the major watercourse, the River Thames, the streams, Cress Brook and the Roundmoor Ditch merge to form Boveney Ditch and are, respectively, within and form a boundary of the Parish. There are ponds of permanent standing water at Boveney, in the Grove at Dent's corner and behind the church of St James the Less. In winter, underground water emerges and areas of shallow water appear on the commons. There are a few small areas of established woodland and some lengths of mature hedgerow.

Areas allocated to various uses (approximate %)

<i>Agriculture/Horticulture</i>	33
<i>Rowing Trench construction site</i>	25
<i>Residential and roads</i>	16
<i>Common land</i>	14
<i>Flood Relief Scheme site</i>	7
<i>River and streams</i>	5

Total area of the Parish 544.5 hectares

Part of the acreage of open land is cultivated intensively for horticultural crops, particularly leeks, lettuce and brassicas. Within the grounds of Dorney Court there are fields of soft fruit and asparagus. A garden centre now occupies the old, walled garden of the Court. There is also a horticultural enterprise using plastic tunnels.

Annual crops include wheat and barley with rape and maize crops for forage. Many fields are improved grasses used to graze sheep and horses. There is one small piggery.

The Parish environment bears a heavy burden of infrastructure and is under continual pressure from development. It is bounded to the north by the M4 motorway and borders on Slough Water Pollution Control Works. Both a flight path to Heathrow Airport and a local air corridor cross the Parish. A major gas supply runs beneath. Thames Water extracts from both the river and the gravel via a series of shallow boreholes. At night-time there is a significant level of illumination in the Parish. This comprises reflected light from the neighbouring urban areas and motorway lamps as well as numerous individual house lights.

The Parish is well served with footpaths and bridle paths although some have restricted access and are being re-routed. The three miles of riverside towpath on the north bank provides a scenic route linking Maidenhead and Eton.

Currently there are two major civil engineering perturbations in the Parish. They involve the extraction of underlying gravels together with associated workings to provide a Flood Alleviation Channel for Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton and the construction of a Rowing Course for Eton College. The resulting earthworks are temporarily scarring the landscape and impeding the open views across the Parish. Environmental landscaping is associated with both projects and we already see the establishment of new plantations of shrubs and modification of the previous flora. It is predicted that the creation of new areas of permanent water will attract many more birds. This expected benefit will have to be balanced by the counter-effect of increased human activity in the area.

Thus it is appropriate at this time to collate the records of the major species of trees, plants, animals, birds, reptiles, insects and fungi that are to be found and were previously noted within the Parish boundary. It is hoped that this record will form a baseline against which future assessments may be compared. The list, which is by no means complete, is not without some surprises but most significant is the richness and diversity of "wildlife"² that shares the Parish with 600 hundred parishioners.

There are two lists; the first comprises a selection of interesting species together with anecdotal information. The second, comprehensive list, includes both common and scientific names and, where possible, indicates a locality and the contributor.

A list of the sites within the Parish that have been identified as of conservation interest is included.

² The term 'Wildlife' is taken to include the flora and fauna excluding cultivated and domesticated species.

SOME OF THE NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The species listed below are a selection of those that are of interest and/or are a feature in the Parish. Most are common but others, less common, are included because their presence is noteworthy. They are listed below by common name and also included in the more comprehensive list that follows.

Animals

Badger

There are several setts in slightly raised ground and embankments where they will be free from the risk of flooding. Adults are seen occasionally on the Common and crossing roads after dark. One young badger killed on the motorway in 1999.

Bat

Commonly seen flying at dusk in the summer, following a familiar route to catch insects. As there are few suitable natural roosting sites in hollow trees, they tend to live behind hanging tiles and in lofts of houses. Local species appear to be small bats such as the Pipistrelle and possibly the Whiskered.

Fox

Quite commonly seen at night crossing roads and even occasionally in the daytime in gardens. There are several earths within the Parish.

Rabbit

On the increase, also seen during the day along certain hedgerows particularly around the Common and at Boveney where there is cover. Warrens are established in banks under dense patches of bramble.

Weasel

In the vicinity of the Churchyard and elsewhere. To be seen scurrying across the road between hedgerows.

Mole

Very prolific in established grassland, verges and lawns, an upsurge in activity over the winter of 2000, probably due to moist conditions encouraging a surfeit of earthworms.

Water Vole

"Ratty" of Wind in the Willows fame occurs along backwaters and streams and where the river bank is suitable for it to excavate holes at water level. Total numbers are very low and the water vole is at risk of extinction in the area because so few suitable localities remain.

Muntjac Deer

This species which was first noted in the Parish in 1988 and is now possibly established in wooded areas. Certainly from the frequent sightings and evidence of damage to plants in gardens Muntjacs readily move into and around the Parish. One female killed by a vehicle on the Marsh Lane motorway bridge in January 2000.

Birds

About 130 species have been recorded in the Parish. In keeping with national trends, there has been a marked decline in species associated with agricultural land. However the recently opened stretches of water are attracting more aquatic birds.

Owl

The Little Owl is resident in the Parish and has raised young most years and there are occasional records of other species including Tawny, Short Eared and Barn Owls.

Ring-necked Parakeet

This bird is native of sub-tropical Africa and Asia but escaped pets are proving themselves well able to become established in the wild. A colony estimated to comprise in excess of fifty of these bright green coloured birds lives in and around trees of riverside properties in Dorney Reach. They entered the Parish in about 1990 at Boveney and are gradually extending their range. Parakeets have a long life-span, twenty years is readily attainable, and appear to have little difficulty surviving mild winters.

Heron

May be seen standing immobile at the edge of the river, well camouflaged under overhanging trees. Raids garden ponds in search of fish.

Cormorant

Once unusual, now regularly seen in winter months in the vicinity of Boveney Lock where it perches on the 'danger' sign midstream whilst it characteristically opens its wings to dry.

Swan

Swans nest on the mid-stream islands in the river and are early visitors to the open water appearing after gravel extraction. Swans on the river are the subject of the annual 'Swan Upping' exercise during the third week of each July, whereby birds are marked and recorded on behalf of the Monarch according to a 500year old tradition by members of the Vintners Company and the Dyers Company.

The actual 'Upping' of the swans is fascinating to watch and is skillfully done. When a family of swans is seen, the rowing boats are manoeuvred so that the swans are trapped against the riverbank. The swans and cygnets are then carefully lifted out of the water and restrained by having their feet tied together behind their back. They are then counted, recorded and where appropriate, given a marking to show ownership. Cygnets will have the same owner as the Pen (female) parent. After a check on the bird's health they are returned to the river and the procession of boats continues up-river in the search for more swans.

Amphibia

Grass Snake

Occasional sightings on the river bank and seen swimming in the river.

Slow worm

Seen occasionally in gardens; found placing batches of eggs within the safety and warmth of compost heaps.

Frog

There are few, if any, remaining natural areas of water that provide suitable breeding sites, thus this amphibian is now dependent upon garden ponds for breeding and survival. This is also true for toads and newts.

Fishes

The river supports a range of coarse fish species and their productivity is greatly influenced by suitable habitat. Predatory fish, such as Pike, Perch and Eels, dominate the main channel. The margins of the river are frequented by Chub, Dace and Barbel. Bream occur in shoals in the main channel and the various pools. Roach are throughout the main river and especially in backwaters with submerged vegetation. Carp are present in localised areas. The Dorney stretch of river between Boveney and Bray locks is notable for its Eel population.

The river quality is assessed to be good to fair and suitable for coarse fish species (graded RE2).

Salmon

The Thames Salmon Trust is working to encourage Salmon to return to the upper reaches of the Thames and the Kennet for spawning. Fish passes have been constructed at a string of locks, including Boveney. Annually, for the past ten years, a small number of Salmon have been radio-tagged and released above Teddington Lock. A few have succeeded in working their way upstream and have been recorded by the automatic radio listening station at Boveney Lock. Three fish were recorded in 1997.

Insects

Giant Stag Beetle

A National Stag Beetle Survey was conducted in 1998 because of concern that it was becoming an endangered species. Between May and August a total of 30 beetles were sighted and were reported by residents. This confirms that the species is quite common here. Since the demise of the large elms which provided a favourite breeding site, the Stag beetle appears to have successfully adapted to breeding in the re-growth of elm saplings after they too succumb to disease.

Wasp

A recent arrival in the Parish is a species referred to as the Euro wasp. This is two or three times larger than the Common wasp and is more aggressive. It makes its football-shaped papery nests in sheltered spots in trees and bushes. A large nest was constructed in a thick hawthorn hedge in Ashford Lane in 1997.

Butterflies

There are 59 recorded established species in the UK and of these 45 are known to occur in Bucks. Of the 45, twenty-one have been recorded in the Parish and some four more could be expected to be present and remain to be sighted. These include Large Skipper, Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper, and Clouded Yellow.

Dragonflies

Many striking species commonly occur throughout the Parish although the immature stages are aquatic. They are frequent visitors to gardens in the summer months.

Fungi

Field mushroom

The fruiting bodies occur in good numbers in some years on permanent grassland where there have been horses and on the commons between late August and November. Identifiable through its pinkish gills that darken to brown with age and the short ring, which surrounds the stem from which the cap is joined before it breaks open. The excellent flavour makes them well worth collecting.

Giant Puffball

Fruiting bodies are occasionally abundant in autumn in established grass paddocks and pastures. Resembling a football left in the grass, this large spherical fungus 10 to 25cm across that is white and smooth initially, grows straight from the ground, with little or no stalk.

Lichens and Bryophytes (Mosses and Liverworts)

These organisms grow on tree trunks, fences and stonework and paths where many are responsible for the green appearance. They do not survive in heavily polluted atmosphere so their presence is an indicator of reasonable air quality.

Vascular Plants

Over 400 species of tree, shrub and flower have been recorded in the Parish.

Trees

Elm

The Dutch Elm disease decimated many established trees which were a feature of the landscape in the 1970's. Re-growth occurs but young trees still succumb to the disease when about 5-10m high.

Horse Chestnut

Probably the most significant tree in the Parish. Large Horse Chestnuts line Court Lane and Lock Path leading to Boveney Lock that, appropriately is known as 'Conker Alley'. There are several other fine specimens in the Parish.

Hedges

There are few lengths of mature, thick hedge containing a variety of species, with the notable exception of stretches along the river towpath. The margins of the motorway and the bridges support good developing hedge and shrub cover, now almost 40 years old. A detailed evaluation of the hedges in the Parish was made in 1975 by David Shott. His findings are included as Annex.

Plants

Orchid

Three species colonise an area of unimproved riverside meadow (part of Trumpers Field) which is a recognised conservation site. A total of at least six species have been recorded in the Parish, but all do not appear to flower every year.

Brown Galingale

This inconspicuous sedge is a rarity only found in few localities in the County. It occurs in a few wet hollows on Dorney Common where, miraculously, it survives treading by the feet of cattle and flooding. In some years (e.g., 1998) no plants were seen; one was recorded in 1999. A related species was one of the favourite spices in the medieval kitchen.

The Brown Galingale is recognised by English nature as a Globally Threatened/Declining Species and has full protection under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Sites of Conservation Importance in the Dorney Area

Several sites within the parish have been recognised as of importance for wildlife because of the habitat and the species occurring there. These recognitions have been made by the Bucks County but unfortunately South Bucks District Council have not pursued any recent re-survey of the sites.

This list was provided by the Environment Agency who is not able to guarantee that the records are current. It is supplemented by data provided by Bucks County Museum for three locations originally identified as Biological Notification Sites (BNS).

Sites may be identified on the accompanying map by reference number.

Abbreviations:

ALERT - a planning designation

BBONT - Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

BCC - Buckinghamshire County Council. County Museum Records

SNCI - Site of Nature Conservation Importance, a non-statutory designation.

1. Dorney Common ALERT/SNCI

Semi-improved grassland grazed by cattle and depressions subject to inundation. Species of interest include very rare Brown Galingale and Tubular Dropwort (uncommon in Bucks); Fat Duckweed, Marsh Foxtail and Common Marsh Bedstraw are also present. Source: BCC.

2. Dorney Common Road Fork

Species of interest include the Brown Galingale (Red Data Book species, listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981); and Tubular Dropwort (uncommon in Bucks); Marsh Foxtail and Common Marsh Bedstraw are also present.

3. Dorney Corner (West side of Cress Brook) SNCI

Tall herb and fern. Species of interest include Common reed and Yellow Loosetrife; Yellow Iris, Meadowsweet and Reed Canary-grass are also present. Source: BBONT.

4. Cress Brook (on Dorney Common) ALERT

Running water. Species that are rare or uncommon include Shining Pondweed, Whorl-grass (uncommon); Broad-leaved Pondweed, Nodding Bur-marigold, Pond Water-crowfoot and Lesser Water Parsnip are also present. Source: BCC.

5. Lake End Common SNCI

Improved grassland, semi-improved grassland, marginal and inundation communities, running and standing water. Species of interest include water vole (nationally important biodiversity species); Yellow Iris and Bullrush are also present. Source: BBONT and Corridor Survey Report.

6. Riverbank opposite Water Oakley SNCI

Chalk grassland, running water. Species of interest include Lodden Pondweed (nationally near threatened); Agrimony, Rest Harrow, Field Scabious, Dodder, Lesser Broomrape, Burnet Saxifrage and Wild Parsnip are also present. Source: BBONT

7. Field East of tip of Monkey Island (Riverbank by water pumping station) SNCI

Calcareous grassland. Species of interest include Wild Carrot, Lesser Broomrape and Burnet Saxifrage. Source: BBONT.

8. Dorney Meadow south of motorway (Trumpers Field) SNCI

Included but not officially within the parish boundary. Calcareous grassland. Species of interest include Carline Thistle and Lesser Broomrape; Wild Carrot and Field Scabious are also present. Source: BBONT.

9. St James Churchyard

Contains unimproved grassland and supports a number of County Rare or Uncommon species (based on surveys 1965-85. Species include Spotted Meddick, Stinking Iris, Pellitory-of-the-wall and Maidenhair Fern. A Non-statutory site. Source: BCC.

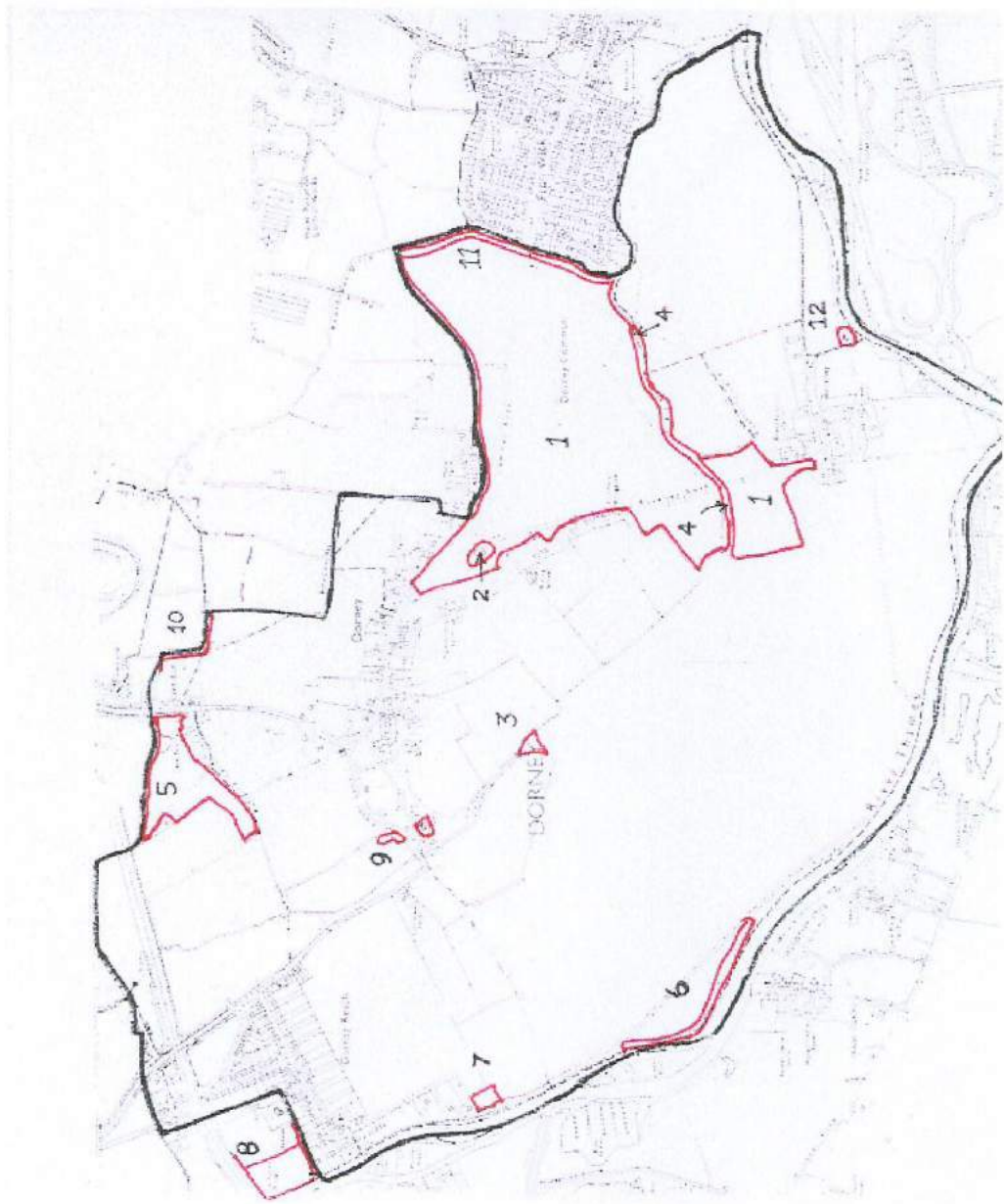
Other sites that have been noted and have species included

10. Wooded strip and margins of stream, East of Lake End

11. Roundmoor Ditch (subject of an NRA River Corridor Survey)

12. Chapel of St Mary Boveney. The surroundings support unimproved natural grassland.

Both the **Flood Relief Channel** and the **Eton Rowing Trench** will create additional new conservation areas. Full reappraisal of the Parish's important wildlife habitats will then be appropriate.



Sites of recognised conservation importance and interest in the Parish

Measures to encourage the local flora and fauna

There are many ways to assist with the enrichment of the Parish by wildlife; ranging from avoiding damage and abuse, to being a little more thoughtful in the garden, through to taking positive steps to provide food and shelter. Most individual measures cost little in terms of effort and money but the benefit, especially when adopted by several householders, would be considerable.

Bird and animal feeding

The regular provision of an appropriate range of food will attract and retain larger and more varied populations as well as encourage casual visitors over the year. For birds, according to the preference of the species, a supply of seeds (wild birdseed mix and especially sunflower), nuts, fruit, bread, fat, and a fresh coconut are all acceptable. A birdbath or vessel containing water will be used regularly for both drinking and essential bathing. The animal that will appreciate some food as a supplement to its diet of slugs and snails is the hedgehog. Place a spoonful of dog food near the house and the hedgehog and young will become regular and quite tame visitors.

Bird and bat boxes

Provision of bird and bat boxes will assist these creatures greatly because shortage of suitable nesting places can be a constraint to breeding. Wooden boxes made to a fixed size and shape will attract particular species. For example, a small entrance hole the size of a 10pence piece is appropriate for Blue-tits. Bat boxes have a slotted entrance. Boxes must be affixed securely preferably close to tree cover. A house wall is suitable provided there is some seclusion and shade from hot summer sun. Other creatures that will respond to the offer of a suitable box for a hibernation or hiding place are frogs and toads and small rodents.

Garden pond

A pond of even small dimensions will attract many creatures. Birds will drink and bath, insects will fly over and readily colonise, and frogs will rest partially submerged and perhaps breed. A larger pond planted with a variety of flowers will be a delight in itself and if it is stocked with fish, may encourage the (unwelcome) attention of fish-eating birds such as the heron.

Garden wild area

A pristine, formal garden with lawns trimmed neatly and no untidy corners will provide little sanctuary for wildlife. These days it is quite acceptable (and perhaps less effort) to leave a corner of the garden completely uncultivated. If brambles and nettles become established, then many additional insect species will be encouraged. On balance the beneficial species will outnumber the noxious ones and, as a bonus, the number of butterflies seen will increase.

Old log pile

Somewhere in a corner find room to stack a pile of old logs and timber. If left undisturbed this will be a haven for insects, including the beetles that bore into rotting wood. In turn this will attract small mammals and perhaps nesting birds. It is much preferable to a bonfire.

Insect-attractive flowers

Within the shrubbery and flower borders, some species bear flowers that are rich in pollen and nectar and are therefore greatly liked by bees, butterflies and moths. With careful selection to ensure of flowering at different times, a succession of attractive flowers can be sustained from early spring to late autumn. Species to plant include Buddlia, Ice plant, Golden Rod and Michaelmas Daisy. Leaving plants to seed instead of cutting them down after flowering (e.g., sunflowers) provides a useful source of food for birds.

Berry and fruit-bearing shrubs

In addition to the attraction of flowers and their seeds, the fruits of many species provide a valuable source of natural food to wildlife. Cultivated soft fruits of the blackberry family, are much sought after by birds and animals, as are hazel nuts and berries of Mountain Ash and Cotoneaster.

Limiting use of pesticides

Overuse of pesticide, even in the small garden, has an adverse effect on beneficial insects. In the absence of spraying, the natural insect predators will usually control the pest species before damage is excessive. Consider planting insect-repellent species alongside susceptible plants (e.g., sow a few spring onion seeds within a row of carrot or lettuce and include *Tagetes* or marigolds in herbaceous borders.

Compost heap

The compost heap is more than a dump for unwanted garden and kitchen residues; it provides a very rich environment that supports a huge number of organisms, which, in turn, provide food for others.

Additional wild plantings

Currently there are several areas within the Parish where various Authorities have made new plantings of bulbs, shrubs and trees and doubtless there are more to come. This enrichment is welcome, provided it is in keeping with the existing flora and is not dominated by exotic or inappropriate species. Indeed it is questionable as to which species comprise the natural flora of Dorney. Given the current mix of species, those who wish to enrich the flora by themselves planting seeds of meadow and hedgerow flowers, or raise trees from seed should receive every encouragement. It is, of course, only courteous to tell the landowner before undertaking such activity.

Avoiding disturbance of wildlife

Mention has to be made of the need to respect the wildlife and to leave plants, birds and animals undisturbed. When an animal habitat is inadvertently uncovered it should be replaced, as found, as quickly as possible. Regrettably there have been instances of damage to badger sets and fox earths in the area.

Not picking or transplanting wild plants

There are very few plants that are so prolific in the Parish that they can be picked or dug up. Visitors, especially walkers along the river towpath, should be dissuaded from this habit and encouraged to show respect. Observation and photography of plants (and birds) are to be encouraged.

DORNEY WILDLIFE

A grant of funding from the Help-the-Aged Millennium Awards Scheme in 1999 has enabled some initiatives in support of the Dorney environment. A group of enthusiasts has, to date, planted over 500 shrubs to create a new length of hedgerow, provided hedging and shrubs in the Church Graveyard and constructed and set up over 40 bird nest boxes.

Prospects for the future

Dorney is a rural Parish under threat. Being strategically situated in the densely populated Thames corridor, where materialistic and economic considerations prevail, the pressure to alter the rural nature of the Parish to accommodate developmental needs is proving impossible to resist. However there is an undeniable case that because of these surrounding pressures, Dorney should be respected and valued as a haven for wildlife and as a strategic corridor between the nearby conurbations. Whilst the parish cannot resist developments, it should be able to defend the important natural features and ensure that they are safeguarded. Furthermore, the impact of proposed changes must be considered sympathetically so that the long-term interests of the whole parish are taken into consideration. (Planning inquiries for the Rowing Trench and Flood Alleviation Scheme were totally independent of each other.)

More specifically, it is not possible to predict what will be the long-term effect of these two major schemes. Will the creation of significant areas of permanent water reverse the apparent trend towards the Parish land drying out (which may be consequence of intensive water extraction)? Will we be ~~then~~ become more liable to flooding and have to accept a greater propensity to mist and fog?

Can the Parish cope with the likely influx of leisure seekers without them despoiling the improved environment that has been created for both them and the Parishioners to enjoy? Indeed can disturbance be so contained that the rarer birds and animals will be attracted and encouraged to take up residence? How will these sites and the rest of the Parish be managed and developed to optimise conditions for wildlife? Furthermore, how will the projected influx of water birds be reconciled with the use of bird scaring devices to protect horticultural crops being grown close by.

Similar issues arise with the river and its use for leisure where the interests of pleasure boats conflict with the wildlife's need for calm water and tranquillity. Likewise, abuse of speed on roads through the Parish has an all too obvious lethal effect on wildlife.

A topical issue, presently under serious debate, concerns the introduction of genetically modified crops. Although not yet introduced into the Parish, the planting of crops possessing genetic components that are alien to those occurring naturally, or developed through normal plant breeding programmes, could have environmental consequences. Leaving the commercial benefits aside, the potential does exist for out-breeding to occur between genetically modified and wild plants. Also pesticide and herbicide regimes can be intensified on genetically modified crops that display enhanced tolerance to chemicals. The long-term effects of such strategies cannot be anticipated but we are entitled to full assurance that food safety and environmental

implications are being rigorously investigated and will be monitored in the future.

The various environmental and conservation challenges affecting the Parish are listed in the following table.

It is to be hoped that in the twenty-first century the Parish will maintain an attractive and rich natural environment for all to share and enjoy. For this to happen certain responsibilities have to be assumed. These are:

- a basic understanding of the environment and its features
- a respect for the local environment and active prevention of abuse and destruction of habitat (especially the identified sites of conservation interest)
- defence of Parish self-interest when it is under threat from destructive or unwelcome change
- positive encouragement for adoption of an environmental plan that adds to the quality of all life in the parish.

It is to be hoped that the Parish Council will rise to the challenge and assume the role of guardian, coordinator and implementor of environmental policy for the Parish. The reward for all is the opportunity for greater personal enjoyment on the doorstep.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION CHALLENGES IN THE PARISH

Location/type of threat	Consequences	Remedial actions
River Thames		
canalisation of river bank	loss of wildlife habitat at margins	moderate the policy
increased river traffic	disturbance of habitat and fauna (affects fish breeding)	raise charges/limit size and number of vessels
constancy of flow	removes variation, destroys biodiversity	reinstate inundation of selected habitats
Streams and wet areas		
excessive extraction of water	lowering of water table	replacement of lost habitat
lack of maintenance	drying out of streams	maintain levels and flow by sluices
Commons		
degradation of pasture by weeds	loss of characteristic habitat	find incentives to maintain status
application of herbicides	..	..
uneconomic for stock raising	..	..
increased public access	abuse and degradation	enforce bylaws
Woodland (existing)		
loss of vigour	decline in amenity/habitat	replanting and management
newly introduced timber pests	unknown at present	vigilance
Hedgerows		
inadequate maintenance	degradation, replacement with wire fences	re-establish effective hedges
mechanical pruning	loss of young trees	(provide protection of hedges with wire fences)
erection of wire fences	loss of shelter for stock	..
stock damage to trees and hedges	ringbarked trees die	..
hedges grubbed up	loss of habitat	..
Agriculture/horticulture		
maximised yield	intensive use of chemicals	address flaws in agricultural policy/subsidies
field margins not respected	loss of wildlife habitat	consider 'green/organic' strategy
introduction of GM crops	unknown effect on wildlife	resist until research is complete
Thames towpath		
promotion leading to over-use by visitors	degradation of habitat	regulate visitors
over-development of amenities	loss of habitat	restrict development
damage and theft	despoiled environment	regulate visitors
excessive and obtrusive signboards	..	reduce to essentials
Rowing Trench and Flood Alleviation Channel margins		
creation of artificial environment	manicured landscape	create and maintain a more natural refuge
regimented planting	..	..
over-management	..	..
Motorway and bridge embankments		
noisy road surface	increase in motorway noise	improve fence and tree barriers
misplaced site barrier	..	..
polluted air	increased risk to health	monitor regularly
Whole Parish		
imposition of rapid changes	long-term implications	Parish plan required for remedial actions
strategic role of wildlife corridor is threatened	loss of biological diversity	safeguard and improve strategically important corridor
	habitat loss/environmental degradation	secure funding to provide remedial and management costs



Ring-necked Parakeets, established newcomers to the Parish



**The Stag Beetle, an endangered British species,
which is seen commonly during July and August**



Dorney Common with Windsor Castle on the skyline



Temporary pond on Dorney Common



Garden Border, intended to encourage wildlife



Fruiting Toadstools in autumn



Autumn fruits, Thames towpath



Horse Chestnut trees at 'Conker Alley' Boveney



Spring blossom in hedgerows, Dorney Reach



Carpet of snowdrops in the Copse at Dent's Corner



The Brown Galingale (centre), a very rare sedge, Dorney Common



Lake End Common, winter inundation



Pond in Cress Brook, once the home of otters



Ancient hedgerow with elms at Barge Path, now lost



Replacement new planting at the entrance to Eton Rowing Trench Site



The provision of bird nest boxes is a local initiative to enhance wildlife



**Volunteers planting a new length of hedge in the graveyard
(Support for both initiatives was provided through a grant from the
Millennium Awards Scheme)**

Detailed lists of the species recorded

In the tables that follow, the species are listed under the correct Scientific name and Common name wherever possible.

They have been recorded and verified by knowledgeable amateurs or extracted from the various professional surveys undertaken in the Parish. The contributions are accredited below with dates where known. The individual contributors are identified in the tables by two initial letters.

Up to twenty localities have been selected to represent the various habitats. These are abbreviated along the top of the tables by three initial letters. It was not practicable to include all the source material, which contains additional information. It is retained carefully for future reference. Precise location of the rare and vulnerable species has been withheld for obvious reasons.

It is unwise to attempt to draw too many conclusions from the records. This is because they reflect the enthusiasm of recorders and the selected localities searched more than the actual presence of flora and fauna. Indeed, because the Parish record is less than complete, it is hoped that further contributions will follow.

Contributors

Each is identified by two initial capital letters.

- AW** Audrey Wooller, local amateur naturalist
BR Buckinghamshire Environmental Records Centre
(prior to 1990)
CH Colin Humphrey, local Ornithologist
EA Environment Agency Report on the Lower Thames 1997
EC Eton College-commissioned survey of the Thames field
and surrounding area
FB Frank Bond, River Bank Warden (1998)
LP Lois Parker, local amateur naturalist
DT Department of Transport-commissioned survey for
proposed widening of M4 motorway (Acer
Consulting Ltd and Nicholas Pearson Associates Ltd)
RL Ralph Liney, local Agriculturalist
RM Roy Maycock, botanist, County Recorder
PT Peter Tyler, local Biologist
SH Simon Hill, local Mycologist (1999)
WP William Parker, local amateur lepidopterist

Habitats/localities

Each of twenty localities is identified by three initial letters,
unless described more fully.

- CAB** Conker Alley, Boveney
CBK Cress Brook
CDC Copse at Dent's Corner
DCM Dorney Common
FPM Footpath margins
FFB Fallow field, Boveney
GDN Gardens/buildings
GPL Grassy pasture land
HDG Hedgelines
LEC Lake End Common/Roundmoor Ditch
MCF Margins of cultivated fields
MTW Motorway embankments
PND Ponds, Boveney and Dorney
RTB River Thames Bank, plus 20m margin
RVC Riverside copse
STJ St James Churchyard
STM St Mary Magdalene chapel environs
TPF Trumper's field (permanent meadow) Dorney Reach
UNS Unspecified within the Parish
WET Wetland

Animals

CAB CBK CDC DCM FFB FPM GDN GPL HDG LEC MCF MTW PND RTB RVC STJ STM TPF UNS WET

Scientific Name	Common Name	CAB	CBK	CDC	DCM	FFB	FPM	GDN	GPL	HDG	LEC	MCF	MTW	PND	RTB	RVC	STJ	STM	TPF	UNS	WET		
<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	Wood Mouse								LP PT													LP	
<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Water Vole																						LP
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Roe Deer								LP														
<i>Dama dama</i>	Fallow Deer								LP														
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Hedgehog								PT														RL
<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Bank Vole								LP														
<i>Meles meles</i>	Badger																						RL
<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Field Vole																						LP
<i>Microtus arvalis</i>	Pygmy Shrew								LP														RL
<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Muntjac																						LP
<i>Mus musculus</i>	House Mouse								PT														
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Weasel									PT													
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Rabbit																						
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle								LP PT														
<i>Rattus Norvegicus</i>	Brown Rat								PT														
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Grey Squirrel								PT														RL
<i>Sorex araneus</i>	Common Shrew																						
<i>Sorex minutus</i>	Hare								LP														
<i>Talpa europaea</i>	Mole								PT														
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Fox																						RL

Birds

Scientific Name	Common Name	Thames Field	River Thames	Gardens	Unspecified
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk	EC		PT	CH
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Sedge Warbler				AW
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Reed Warbler	EC			
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper		DT		CH
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long Tailed Tit				AW CH
<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Mandarin Duck		FB		CH
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	EC		RL	CH
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher		FB		CH
<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Red Legged Partridge				CH
<i>Alopochen aegypticus</i>	Egyptian Goose				CH
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Shoveler				CH
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Teal				CH
<i>Anas penelope</i>	Wigeon				CH
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall				CH
<i>Anser indicus</i>	Bar Headed Goose				CH
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard		AW		CH RL
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	White Fronted Goose				CH
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greyleg Goose				CH
<i>Anser fabilis</i>	Bean Goose				CH
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit				CH
<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Water Pipit				CH
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	EC		RL	AW
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	EC		PT	CH RL
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short Eared Owl		PT		CH
<i>Athene noctua</i>	Little Owl	EC			CH
<i>Aythya marila</i>	Scaup				CH
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Pochard				CH
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck				CH
<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Waxwing				AW CH
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose				CH
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Golden-eye		FB		
<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Curlew		AW		CH

Birds 2

Scientific name	Common Name	Thames Field	River Thames	Gardens	Unspecified
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buzzard				CH
<i>Caduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet				AW CH
<i>Caduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch	EC		PT	AW CH
<i>Caduelis flavirostris</i>	Twite				CH
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin				CH
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Greenfinch			PT RL	CH
<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Siskin				CH
<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Tree Creeper				AW CH
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover				CH
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Ringed Plover				CH
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove	EC		PT	CH
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood Pigeon	EC		RL	CH
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion Crow	EC		RL	CH
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Rook	EC		PT	CH
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Jackdaw	EC		RL	CH
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Quail	EC			CH
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo			RL	AW CH
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan				CH
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan		DT		CH
<i>Delichon urbica</i>	House Martin	EC		RL	AW CH
<i>Dendrocopus major</i>	Gr. Spotted Woodpecker	EC		RL	AW CH
<i>Dendrocopus minor</i>	Lsr Spotted Woodpecker			PT	CH
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellow Hammer				AW CH
<i>Emberiza schoeniculus</i>	Reed Bunting	EC			AW CH
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin	EC		PT RL	CH
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin				CH
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine				CH
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Hobby				CH
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	EC			AW CH
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	EC		PT RL	CH
<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Brambling				AW CH
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Coot		FB DT		CH RL
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Snipe				CH
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen		AW		CH

Birds 3

Scientific name	Common Name	Thames Field	River Thames	Gardens	Unspecified
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Jay			RL	CH
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Oystercatcher				CH
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow	EC			AW CH
<i>Larus canus</i>	Common Gull				CH
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black Backed Gull				CH
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Herring Gull	EC			CH
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	EC			CH
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Jack Snipe				CH
<i>Mergus albellus</i>	Smew				CH
<i>Militaria caandra</i>	Corn Bunting	EC			
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Pied Wagtail			PT RL	AW CH
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail				AW CH
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail				AW CH
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher			PT	AW CH
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Wheatear				AW CH
<i>Parus ater</i>	Coal Tit				AW CH
<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit	EC		PT RL	CH
<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit	EC		PT RL	CH
<i>Parus palustris</i>	Marsh Tit				CH
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	EC		PT RL	AW CH
<i>Passer montanus</i>	Tree Sparrow	EC			AW CH
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey partridge				AW CH
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Cormorant		FB PT		CH
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Pheasant	EC		RL	AW CH
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff				CH
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Redstart				CH
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Chiff Chaff			RL	AW CH
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	EC			CH
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	EC		PT RL	CH
<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green Woodpecker			PT	AW CH
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Golden Plover				CH
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe		DT FB		CH
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	EC		PT	CH
<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Ring-necked Parakeet			RL PT	AW CH

Birds 4

Scientific name	Common Name	Thames Field	River Thames	Gardens	Unspecified
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	EC		PT	CH
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Gold Crest			PT	AW CH
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Sand Martin				AW CH
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat				CH
<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Stonechat				AW CH
<i>Sitta eropaea</i>	Nuthatch				CH
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern				CH
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle Dove				CH
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Collared Dove	EC		PT RL	CH
<i>Strix aluco</i>	Tawny Owl				AW CH
<i>Sturnis vulgaris</i>	Starling	EC		PT RL	AW CH
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap	EC		PT	CH
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden Warbler				CH
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Whitethroat	EC			CH
<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat				CH
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe				CH
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Shelduck				CH
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper				CH
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Greenshank				CH
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper				CH
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Redshank				CH
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	EC		PT RL	CH
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing				AW CH
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird	EC		PT RL	AW CH
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	EC		RL	AW CH
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare			PT	AW CH
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	EC			CH
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl				AW CH
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	EC			AW CH

Butterflies

Scientific Name	Common Name	CAB	CBK	CDC	DCM	FFB	FPM	GDN	GPL	HDG	LEC	MCF	MTW	PND	RTB	RVC	STJ	STM	TPF	UNS	WET	
<i>Anglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell																					
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange Tip							PT														AW
<i>Aricia agestis</i>	Brown Argus							PT														AW
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue							PT														AW
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath																					AW
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Yellow Brimstone							PT														AW
<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock																					AW
<i>Ladoga camilla</i>	White admiral																					AW
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall																					AW
<i>Lycaena plaeus</i>	Meadow Brown							PT														AW
<i>Lycaena quecus</i>	Small Copper																					AW
<i>Parage aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood																					AW
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White							PT														AW
<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White																					AW
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White																					AW
<i>Polommatus learus</i>	Common Blue																					AW
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma																					AW
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper																					AW
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper																					AW
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral																					AW
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady							PT														AW

Moths

Scientific Name	Common Name	Records of Bill Parker, mostly taken at light, Dorney Reach garden
<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	Magpie	
<i>Acrtia caja</i>	Garden Tiger	
<i>Agrochola circellaris</i>	Brick	
<i>Agrochola lota</i>	Red Line Quaker	
<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Dark Sword Grass	
<i>Amphipyra tragopinis</i>	Mouse	
<i>Apatele alni</i>	Alder	
<i>Apocheima hispidaria</i>	Small Brindled Beauty	
<i>Athemia xerampelina</i>	Centre Barred Sallow	
<i>Biston strataria</i>	Oak Beauty	
<i>Caadrina clavipalpis</i>	Pale Mottled Yellow	
<i>Calocalpe cervinalis</i>	Scarce Tiger	
<i>Calothyssanis amata</i>	Blood Vein	
<i>Catocala nupta</i>	Large Red Underwing	
<i>Catocala promissa</i>	Crimson Underwing	
<i>Cerura furcula</i>	Sallow Kitten	
<i>Cleora cinctaria</i>	Ringed Carpet	
<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet	
<i>Colotois pennaria</i>	Feathered Thorn	
<i>Cosymbia punctaria</i>	Maidens Blush	
<i>Craniophora ligustri</i>	Coronet	
<i>Cucullia umbratica</i>	Shark	
<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Elephant Hawk	
<i>Deuteronomous alniaria</i>	Canary Shouldered Thorn	
<i>Diarsia dahlia</i>	Barred Red	
<i>Drepana falcataria</i>	Pebble Hook Tip	
<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>	Engrailed	
<i>Ectypa glyphica</i>	Burnt Comparison	
<i>Erannis aurantiaria</i>	Scarce Umber	
<i>Erannis leucophaearia</i>	Spring Usher	
<i>Erannis marginaria</i>	Dotted Border	
<i>Eumichtis protea</i>	Brindled Cream	
<i>Euplexia luciparia</i>	Angle Shades	

Moths (2)

Records of Bill parker, mostly taken at night, Dorney Reach garden

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Eupsilia transversa</i>	Satellite
<i>Graptolitha ornitopus</i>	Grey Shoulder Knot
<i>Hemistola chrysoprasria</i>	Small Emerald
<i>Hydrillula palustris</i>	Marsh
<i>Laethoe populi</i>	Poplar Hawk
<i>Larentia clavaria</i>	Mallow
<i>Lophopteryx capucina</i>	Coxcomb Prominent
<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	Brindled Beauty
<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Humming Bird Hawk
<i>Mormo maura</i>	Old Lady
<i>Opisthograptis lueolata</i>	Brimstone
<i>Oporinia dilutata</i>	November
<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	Hebrew Character
<i>Orthosia munda</i>	Twin Spot Quaker
<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i>	Swallow Tail
<i>Panemeria tenebrata</i>	Small Yellow Underwing
<i>Phalaena typica</i>	Gothic
<i>Phigalia pederia</i>	Pale Brindled Beauty
<i>Philerene transversata</i>	Dark Umber
<i>Plemyria bicolorata</i>	Blue Bordered Carpet
<i>Plusia chrystitia</i>	Burnished brass
<i>Plusia gamma</i>	Silver Y
<i>Rivula sercealis</i>	Straw Dot
<i>Selenia biunaria</i>	Early Thorn
<i>Smerinthus ocellata</i>	Eyed Hawk
<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine
<i>Stauropus fagi</i>	Lobster
<i>Tiliacea aurago</i>	Barred Sallow
<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet

Fungi

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Contributor & date
<i>Agaricus campestris</i>	Field Mushrooms	Dorney Common	LP 92
<i>Agaricus sivestris</i>	Wood Mushroom		LP 86
<i>Agrocybe cylindracea</i>		Dead Elm stump, Boveney, (rare)	SH 98
<i>Auricularia auricula</i>	Jew's Ear	Ashford Lane, dead branches of Elm and Elder	
<i>Auricularia mesenterica</i>	Tripe Fungus	Ashford Lane, on dead Elm	SH 98
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>		Cress Brook, on Willow stump	SH 98
<i>Boletus subtomentosus</i>	Yellow Crack Boletus		LP 88
<i>Clitocybe flaccida</i>	Tawny Funnel Cap	By M4 footpath	LP 97
<i>Clitocybe flaccida</i>	Tawny Funnel Cap	Ashford Lane, on ground under dead Elm	SH 98
<i>Clitopilus prunulus</i>	Miller		
<i>Coirfolus sp.</i>	Violet Trametes	On logs	LP 89
<i>Coprinus comanus</i>	Shaggy Incap or Lawyers Wig	By M4 footpath	LP 86
<i>Coprius</i>	Common Inkcap	Vicarage Lawn	LP 90
<i>Dacromyces stillatus</i>		Dorney Common, on timber of stile	SH 98
<i>Exidia thuretiana</i>		Ashford Lane, dead branch of Elm, (uncommon)	SH 98
<i>Fistulina hepatica</i>	Beef-steak		LP 89
<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>	Velvet Shank		LP 89
<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>	Velvet Shank		SH 98
<i>Grifola gigantea</i>		Hedgerows	LP 87
<i>Hymenochaete rubiginosa</i>		Ashford Lane, on standing dead Elm	SH 98
<i>Hypoholoma fasciculare</i>		Tree stump	LP 86
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	Sulphur Tuft Toadstool	Dorney Common, Oak log	LP 85
<i>Laetiporus sulphurus</i>	Amethyst Deceiver	Garden compost heap	LP 93
<i>Lepiota acutesquamosa</i>	Yellow Sulphur Polypore	On old elm stump	LP 86
<i>Lepiota rhacodes</i>	Parasol mushroom	Rubbish heap	LP 87
<i>Lepista sp.</i>	Shaggy Parasol	Tree stump	LP 88
<i>Lycoperdon giganteum</i>	Wood Blewits		PT
<i>Lyophyllum decastes</i>	Giant Puffball	Meadow opposite the Pineapple	LP 86
<i>Peziza catinus</i>		By M4 footpath	LP 97
<i>Peziza repanda</i>	Fawn cap Fungus	Sawdust	LP 93
<i>Phanaerochaete velutina</i>		Ashford Lane, on dead Elm branch (rare)	SH 98
<i>Phlebia merismoides</i>		Dorney Common, Oak log	SH 98

Fungi (2)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Contributor & date
Polyporus squamosa		Tree in Harcourt Road	LP 86
Pseudotremetes gibbosa	Many-zoned Fungus	Tree base in Harcourt Road	LP 91
Russula pellica			LP 98
Sterum gausapatum		Dorney Common, Oak log	SH 98
Trametes gibbosa		Tree stumps	LP 88
Tremella mesenterica	Brain Fungus	Tree stump	LP 88
Tricholoma nudum	Wood Blewits		LP 88
Xylaria hypoxylon	Stag's Horn	Tree stumps	LP 90
	Stag's Horn	Copse at Dent's Corner, on Horse Chestnut	SH 98
	Dryads Saddle	Sycamore tree in Harcourt Road	LP 90

Mosses and Liverworts

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location	Recorder
Brachythecium rutabulum	Moss	St James Churchyard	Bucks County Churchyard Survey (RM)
Eurhynchium praelongum	Moss		
Hypnum cupressiforme	Moss		
Isotrierygium elegans	Moss		
Plagiomnium undulatum	Moss		
Rhytidiadelphus squarros	Moss		
Lophocolea bidentata	Liverwort		
Lunularia cruciata	Liverwort		

Vascular Plants 1

Scientific name	Common name	Location	CAB	CBK	CDC	DCM	FFB	FPM	GDN	GPL	HDG	LEC	MCF	MTW	PND	RTB	RVC	STJ	STM	TPF	UNS	WET	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple							BR															
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore								EC														
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	BR							BR														LP
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	Yarrow																						AW
<i>Actium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock																						LP
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder																						LP
<i>Aesculus hippocastaneum</i>	Horse Chestnut																						LP
<i>Agostis stonifera</i>	Creeping Bent							EC															LP
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Common Agrimony																						LP
<i>Agropyron repens</i>	Couch Grass								FB														AW
<i>Agrostis canina</i>	Velvet Bent																						EC
<i>Agrostis stonifera</i>	Creeping Bent							BR															BR
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain																						LP
<i>Allaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	FB																					LP
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons																						LP
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Cow Garlic																						AW
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder																						LP
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Black Grass																						LP
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Meadow Foxtail																						LP
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Pyramid Orchid																						LP
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel																						LP
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel																						LP
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	Wild Angelica																						AW
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica																						AW
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome																						LP
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile																						LP
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Chamomile																						LP
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley																						LP
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	Parsley Piert																						LP
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Foot's Watercress	BRFB																					LP
<i>Arabisopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress	FB																					LP

Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location	Recorder
<i>Esox lucus</i>	Pike	River Thames	DT EA
<i>Gobio gobio</i>	Gudgeon	Cress Brook	BR
<i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>	Dace	Cress Brook	BR
<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>		Cress Brook	BR
Common Carp	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	River Thames	EA
Eel	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	River Thames	EA
	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	River Thames	EA
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Frog	Cress Brook: Common in garden ponds	BR PT
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	Common in garden ponds	PT
<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>	Crested Newt	Occasionally seen in garden ponds	PT
<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow Worm	Occasionally seen in gardens	PT
<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Grass Snake	Occasionally seen in gardens	LP
<i>Bufo calamita</i>	Natterjack Toad	Garden, escaped from captivity?(Sept 91)	LP

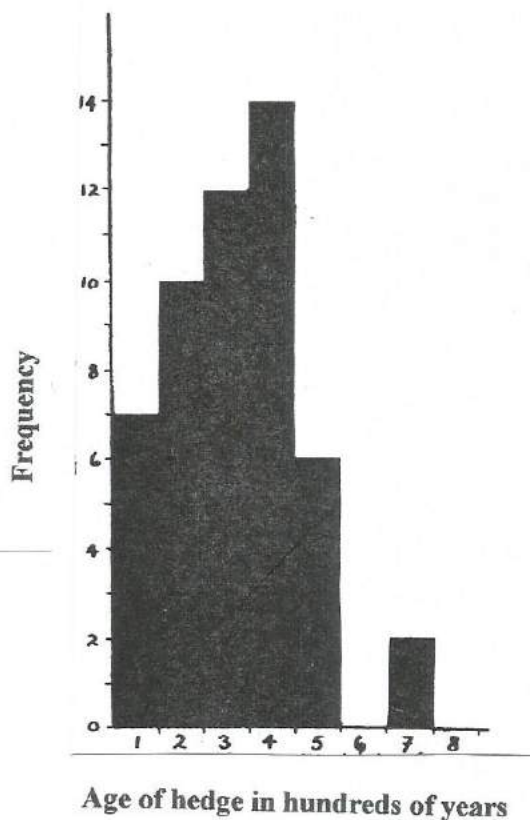
ANNEX

HEDGEROW STUDY

In 1975, David Shott published in Dorney parish News, the results of his survey of the hedgerows in the parish. He sampled 52 lengths of hedgerow three or four times, identifying the woody species present. The composition of the sample was used to determine the approximate age of the hedgerow (the more species present the older the hedgerow).

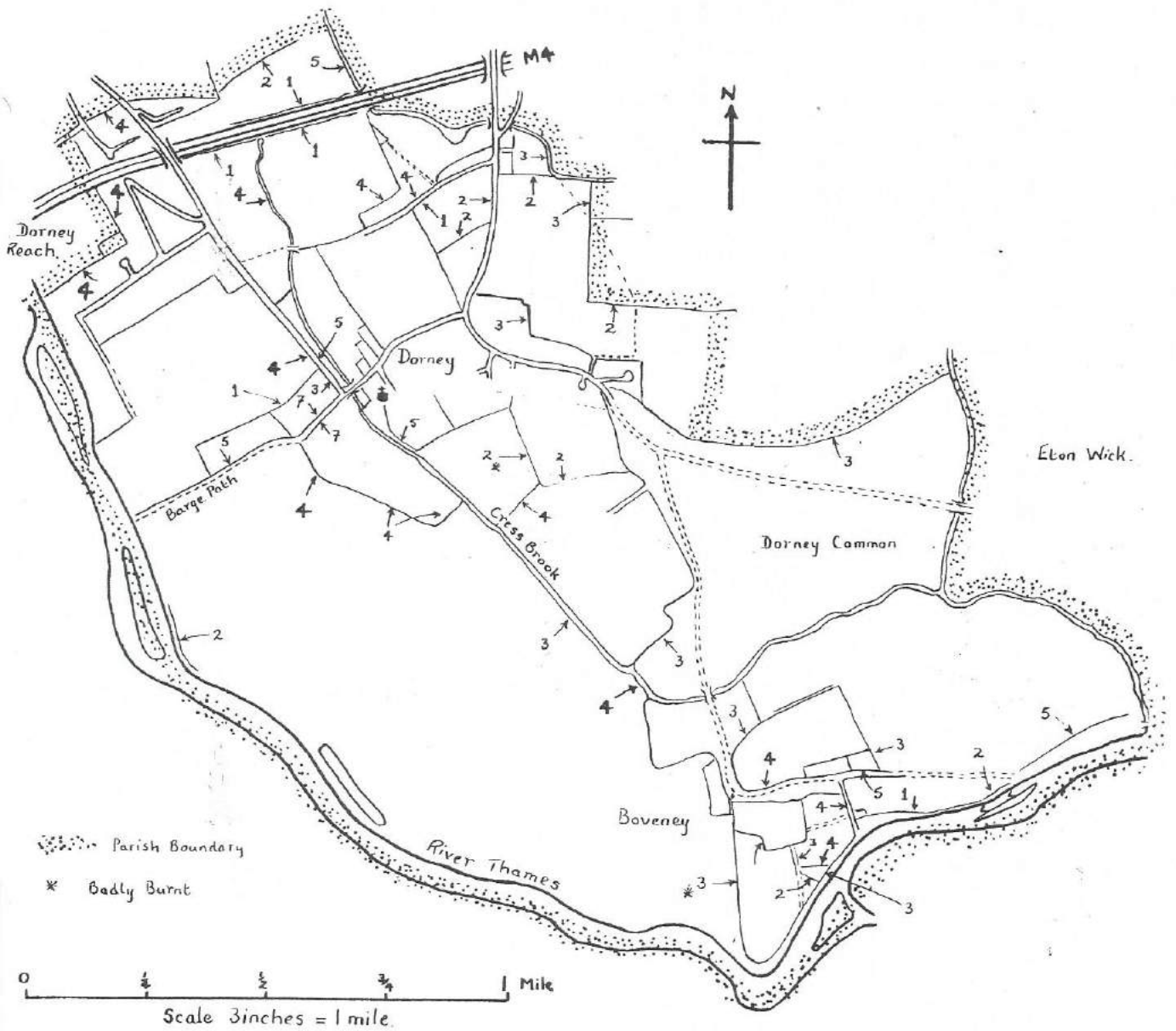
The first histogram provides an idea how frequently hedges of various ages in the Parish. The oldest is aged up to 700 years and most of our hedges date back 2-400 years.

**Frequency of estimated ages of hedges
in Dorney Parish Dec. 1975**



The Parish map indicates the location of hedges within the Parish. They are numbered by age (1 = up to 100 years, and so on).

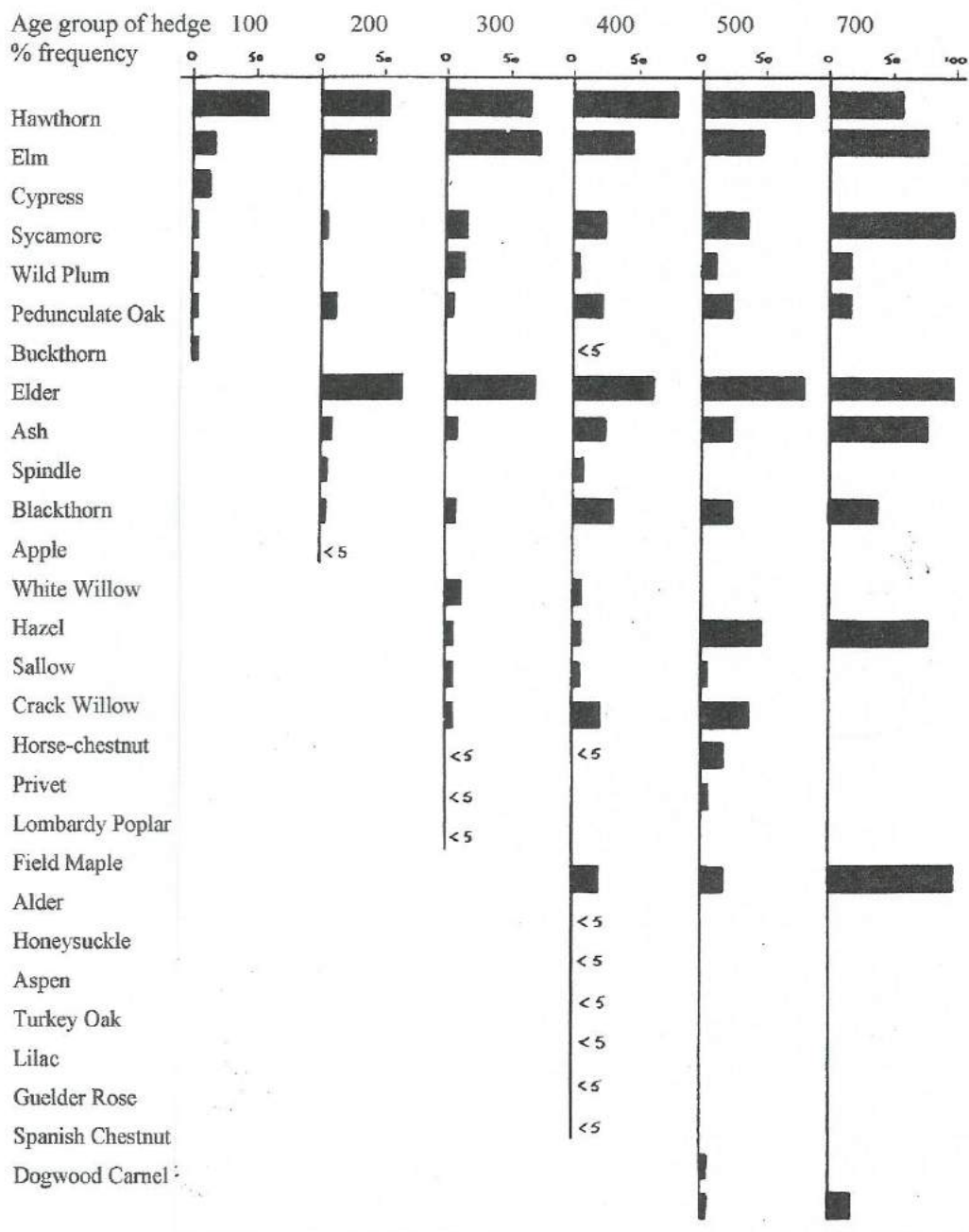
The average number of species of woody plants present in 30yards of hedgerow



The third table/graph shows the composition of the hedges by woody species present; the size of the block representing the frequency that the species occurred. From this can be deduced:

- the species planted when the hedges were created,
- how long it takes for new plants to arrive,
- how they are distributed in age groupings.

Percentage frequency of woody species present in samples of Dorney hedgerow



It is interesting to see the build-up of Ash and non-native Sycamore over the years. Regrettably much of the oldest hedge, which dated back to Tudor and Stuart times, has become lost or seriously degraded since the study some twenty-five years ago.

Notes.

The investigation method used was developed by Dr Maxwell Hooper. He studied Sussex hedgerows and determined that in a thirty-yard stretch of hedgerow there will be one shrubby species for every 100 years that the hedge has been in existence. Measurements remain unconverted from the original Imperial units

In the Dorney study hedges planted around gardens were not considered as they tended to be unrepresentative. Ivy and Dog-rose were not included.

True interpretation of the results will be influenced by fire damage that was observed on many field hedges.

Finally, Elm trees were still a major feature in 1975. The study just pre-dated the disastrous effects of Dutch Elm Disease.

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