

was left lying. These ivy- and moss-covered stumps and logs add a valuable niche for invertebrates within the wood. The elm is now suckering profusely to form, together with sapling sycamores, a dense understorey in places. Holly forms a thick, sometimes impenetrable, evergreen shrub layer, with smaller amounts of elder and yew. Ivy carpets the ground, except on the steep slope where the soil is exposed. Amongst the ivy grows an assortment of woodland plants, including ramsons, Lords-and-Ladies, dog's mercury, wood avens, pignut, male fern, wood-sorrel, bluebell and foxglove. As with the adjoining park, some of these flowers may have been introduced.

The public part of the park is owned and managed by the Borough, but the reserve has been managed by the London Wildlife Trust under licence since 1987. Entrance to the public part can be gained during daylight hours by a gate at the south-west corner. Occasional open days are held by the London Wildlife Trust for people to gain access to the sanctuary, to see some of its wildlife. Otherwise the sanctuary remains closed to the public, although access may be permitted on application to the Trust. An enclosed footpath passes immediately to the north of the bird sanctuary and gives a good idea of the tranquil nature of the site, all the more remarkable when a walk of only 100 metres takes one to the busy Surbiton station and shopping area.

KL.BII 3 Rushett Common

Grid ref	TQ 168 605
Area	5.4 ha

When one is travelling south along Leatherhead Road, this site gives the impression of passing through forest rather than through the agricultural landscape which actually surrounds it. The common extends for about a kilometre, fringing both sides of the road on a gentle north-facing slope of London Clay. This valuable wildlife area has existed much in its present shape since at least the beginning of the nineteenth century, except that it stretched further north than at present, towards Hook. The common is now mostly covered by woodland which is dominated by scattered mature oaks. The area to the west of the road also contains patches of scrub and grassland, as does the north end of the eastern strip, at the entrance to the village of Malden Rushett.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1866 (25 inches to the mile) shows Rushett Common with the same boundaries as it possesses today, and indicates that it consisted almost entirely of rough pasture. In contrast with the present day, the area was open, with only a few deciduous trees present at the margins. The traditional common land status of Rushett Common was formalised at the time of the enclosures. There

was a network of tracks running south from Kingston in the direction of Leatherhead and the Mickleham Gap in the North Downs, busy with traffic to and from Kingston and its market. The main route lay along the line of the present-day Leatherhead Road, and sheep and cattle would have been driven along it to market, stopping on the way to graze on the pasture of Rushett Common beside the trackway.

On closer inspection the woodland is found to consist of both sessile and pedunculate oaks, with occasional field maple, ash, gean, pine and crack willow. Beneath the canopy sprawls a dense, prickly undergrowth of hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, elder and bramble. The woodland floor is covered by plants such as broad buckler-fern, male fern, bugle, bittersweet, ivy, tall brome, yellow archangel, red campion and sweet woodruff. The last is a particularly surprising find as it is more usually associated with old woodlands on calcareous soils. In contrast, its relative heath bedstraw also grows here: this species is confined to acid soils. Scrub to the west of the road consists of goat willow, gorse, birch and bracken, and a range of understorey species similar to that in the wood.

The most abundant grass in the open areas is tufted hair-grass. This tall, graceful plant forms large tussocks, while its long flower stalks arch outwards and move with the slightest breeze. This grass is joined here by several other plants typical of damp clay soils, including fleabane, marsh thistle, water mint, large birdsfoot-trefoil, creeping cinquefoil, devil's-bit scabious and hard rush. In front of the houses at the northern end of the common lie two patches of rarely-mown grassland. These are also dominated by tufted hair-grass, here interspersed with cock's-foot and florin.

In summer these grasslands form a colourful sight with an abundance of common wild flowers. Creeping thistle and hardheads produce banks of purple blooms in late summer – a rich source of nectar for the many butterflies to be found here. Yarrow, cow parsley, creeping cinquefoil and bramble occur in patches, whilst in wetter areas and along shallow ditches grow water mint, hard rush and the tall and vigorous great hairy willow-herb. In places, oak scrub is encroaching, confirming that the grassland is not being mown regularly. To prevent the gradual loss of this grassland but still retain its diversity, the half nearest the road could be cut once a year in early September, and the remaining half cut once every two to three years, ensuring that all cuttings are removed.

The common has a diverse butterfly fauna, including the gatekeeper, and is undoubtedly of value to birds throughout the year.

Rushett Common lies entirely within the Green Belt. There is unlimited access to this site in theory, if not in practice, owing to the danger of walking along the pavementless and very busy main road and the impenetrability of much of the undergrowth alongside. Although this site contains a good



LEU / Ian Yarham
 A battered pine tree
 on the exposed top
 of Winey Hill,
 looking east



Early autumn
 view along an
 old hedgeline
 towards the
 apocalyptically
 named
 World's End
 LEU / Ian Yarham

A variety
 of different
 grasses add
 interest to
 a walk round
 Coombe Wood
 Golf Course
 LEU / Sue
 Swales

Buttercups
 provide a
 colourful
 display in the
 hay meadow
 at Fishponds,
 Surbiton
 John Hodge



diversity of grassland and woodland species, including several London rarities and ancient woodland indicators, unfortunately it is not really available for people to enjoy. For this reason and because of the presence of larger and more secluded areas of common land just over the border in Surrey, Rushett Common is not much used for recreation. Indeed the sight of large lorries thundering past suggests that it should not be recommended as suitable for visits by children for environmental education purposes! However, the common does provide a fine traditional scene for those entering the Borough from the south.

KI.BII 4 Riverhill House

Grid ref TQ 207 656
Area 6.2 ha (6.0 ha in Kingston)

This is a complex site, consisting of many different habitat types, including woodland, pasture, stream and unmanaged grassland. The whole of this site (together with a sports ground, cricket pitch and area of mostly mobile homes, all of which have been excluded) once formed the estate of a large country house. It is now owned by the Council and leased to the Riverhill Estate, who look after the whole area.

The main area of woodland occupies the northern portion of the site and the majority was probably planted in the heyday of Riverhill House, when it was known as Totworth Hall (Bacon's map of 1904 labels the house by this name). Some of the trees, however, are undoubtedly older and may be relicts of the ancient woodland that once covered the area. The woodland is very mixed. Oaks dominate, and there are some fine old specimens along the northern boundary. Amongst the oaks, species such as ash, beech, lime and birch have found a place for themselves in the canopy. Some of the specimens include Lombardy poplar, horse chestnut and various non-native conifers, including giant redwoods and, just outside the northern boundary, a swamp cypress. The dense understorey is composed of hazel, young sycamore, elder, privet, holly and yew with a matted growth of bramble between. Where light and the shrubs permit, goldilocks, dog's mercury, hedge woundwort, wood avens and ground ivy bloom on the woodland floor, together with patches of the grass slender false-brome and the occasional male fern. Goldilocks is particularly noteworthy here as it is uncommon in London and is usually an indicator of ancient woodland. In one or two places the ground is damp and here both soft and hard rushes, with their long spike-like leaves, can be found.

The central part of the estate, near the old house, is now occupied by a caravan park but a further fragment of

woodland lies to the west of the house. This tongue of woodland is attached to the main block, both to the north and south of the house, by rows of mature oaks. The woods of the estate are alive with birds; species present include great spotted woodpeckers, treecreepers, chiffchaffs and stock doves.

Just north of the Hogsmill River is a sunken arena, now used for showjumping. The surrounding banks provide a colourful display of wild flowers. Typical flowers of disturbed grassland present include goat's rue, meadow, teasel and wild mignonette, which grow amongst the coarse grasses and brambles.

Along both banks of the river, in the south of the site, is a strip of woodland, mainly composed of sycamore, but also containing crack willow, and with a ground flora of ivy, slender false-brome, wood avens and ground ivy. The river itself is too shaded to support any aquatic vegetation, but sticklebacks skim over the mud and pebbles like flickering shadows. The site extends to the busy Worcester Park Road, marginally beyond the Borough boundary which here follows the centre of the Hogsmill River.

A riverside walk exists along the southern side of the Hogsmill (in the District of Epsom and Ewell) but this is rather spoilt in places by the dumping of garden refuse and its proximity to the road. The walk links up to the west with the footpath through Tolworth Court Farm and Bonesgate Open Space to Castle Hill. To the east the walk ends at the access road to Riverhill House which here crosses the Hogsmill on a bridge. To continue eastwards one has to walk along the very busy and pavementless Old Malden Lane. The bridge over the Hogsmill also marks the boundary between this site and the site we call Hogsmill Valley.

Apart from the riverside walk, all parts of the Riverhill site are out of bounds to the public.

KI.BII 5 Old Malden Common

Grid ref TQ 212 660
Area 1.2 ha

This small strip of land occupies a steep slope above a bend in the Hogsmill River. To the north, across Church Road, lie the remnants of the old village of Malden in the form of the mostly seventeenth century St John's Church, the Manor House and Manor Farm. This corner still has a pleasantly rural feel to it. Until this century, Old Malden Common extended across a considerably larger area to the east but most of this is now built over. Recent housing adjoins the site immediately to the east, and to the west is Church Road, beyond which further open land slopes down to the river. The vegetation is a pleasing mixture of woodland, scrub and tall grassland.

A good range of grassland wild flowers is scattered throughout the many clearings on the common, forming a delightful spectacle for passers-by and attracting many butterflies such as peacock, comma and speckled wood. The flowers include agrimony, meadow-sweet and fleabane. Oat grass is the main component of the grassland but a scattering of other grasses can be seen within the sward. Hawthorn and brambles are rapidly encroaching on to the clearings, which will be lost in a matter of a few years if a suitable mowing regime is not instituted. Such a regime could be one cut per year in late August, removing the clippings. The most species-rich areas of grassland could be expanded by cutting back some of the invading scrub.

The scrub consists mainly of hawthorn bushes, growing in prickly, impenetrable thickets. In late spring, the May blossom spreads a creamy-white haze over the bushes. Beneath the deep shade cast by the hawthorns, ivy covers the soil, while, towards the edges, cow parsley and bramble struggle against the low light levels. At the north end of the site are a few oak trees and a small thicket of regenerating elm, though none of the former is very old. One or two Scots pines stand out towards the centre of the common.

The land is owned by the Council and there is no restriction on access. A footpath following the crest of the site, parallel to the eastern boundary, offers some rural views over the upper part of the valley. It then passes Old Malden Church before descending to the Hogsmill River and linking up with the Hogsmill Valley Walk to the north. Management will clearly be necessary in the near future to prevent the clearings and paths from becoming completely overgrown, a state which would hinder public access and enjoyment of the site.

KI.BII 6 Esher By-Pass Cutting

Grid ref TQ 168 633
Area 6.5 ha

The A3 trunk road, as it curves briefly into and out of the western side of Kingston, between Chessington and Claygate, passes through a wide roadside cutting on which woodland, scrub and grassland have recently been established. Since there is a general lack of woodland within the Borough, the cutting with its young woodland is of particular local value to wildlife, a value which will increase as the trees mature.

A good view of the cutting is provided by the bridlepath bridge near the southern end of the site. Much of it has been densely planted with birch, ash and alder, but there are still areas of flower-rich grassland and scrub left within and adjacent to the plantations. Gaps in the afforestation are being colonised by sapling oaks and goat willows. Through much of the year, extensive gorse patches produce sheets of brilliant yellow flowers. Here and there sycamores have self-seeded and one or two pines have been planted along the top of the embankment.

Coarse grassland is to be found in places on the eastern side of the cutting, and on both sides to the south of the bridge. Oat grass, cock's-foot, couch grass and tufted hair-grass are its main constituents, but thistles, melilot, clovers, birdsfoot-trefoil, common vetch and hardheads are also abundant, forming an attractive display for the passers-by on the busy road below. One small patch of more acidic grassland is chiefly composed of red fescue and cat's ear, with the scattered, starry yellow flowers of common St John's wort. Conglomerate and hard rush are abundant and indicative of the acid and moist conditions found associated with the Claygate Gravels.

A narrow embankment on the north-east part of the site supports a good range of flowering plants and grasses including stone parsley, gorse, common St John's wort and ragwort. A ditch at its base provides damp conditions for reedmace and tufted hair-grass. At the north-western end of the cutting, tree planting has extended up beside The Grapsome, presumably partly to compensate for the loss of ancient woodland at the time of road construction. It will be interesting to see, in the following decades, if species typical of older woods, such as wood millet and bluebells, manage to spread into this neighbouring plantation and, if so, how long it takes.

When visited on a sunny day in early summer, these grasslands are alive with butterflies such as skippers, common blues, meadow browns and gatekeepers, plus an abundance of five-spot burnets, a day-flying moth with iridescent, greenish-black wings with red spots. Birds making use of the slopes include goldfinches and kestrels. The latter can often be seen hovering unperturbed above the carriageways, searching with their piercingly sharp eyesight for prey in the grassy verges.

The woodland on the cutting will mature in time and, with self-thinning, an understorey should develop. However, the grassland will gradually change to woodland if it is left unmanaged, and the diversity of the site will suffer. There is no public access, but the cutting provides a pleasant aspect for passing traffic.

KI.BII.7 Hopping Wood and Coombe Wood

Grid ref TQ 218 704
Area 8.3 ha

This wooded area is split in two by the Kingston By-pass, which runs north-south, close to the Beverley Brook just south of where it enters Wimbledon Common. Most of the woodland is composed of native broad-leaved trees, the western half being longer established than the eastern. A public footpath running along the north end of the two woods links them by way of a footbridge over the by-pass.

The woodland on the west side of the by-pass is little disturbed by people. It is now fenced off and managed as a nature reserve (officially called Coombe Hill Wood) by the London Wildlife Trust, under agreement with the Borough who own the site. In the early 1960s, about two-thirds of this section of wood was lost to housing, with the building of the Henley Drive development. All that remains is a thin strip, no wider than 70 metres.

This nature reserve, known locally as Hopping Wood, lies at the south-eastern extremity of the formerly much more extensive Coombe Wood, which is depicted on Milne's Land Use Map of London (published in 1800). As described under the next site (Malden Golf Course) the name *Hoppinge* is very old and can in fact be found in a charter of 967. Oak trees in this section are evenly spaced and have been dated from tree rings to about 1850, suggesting that a period of planting or renewal of standards in a coppice management system occurred at this time. Less abundant species in the canopy include silver birch and ash. Beneath the oaks' spreading branches thrives a dense understorey of coppiced hazel, bramble, dog rose, hawthorn and elder. Ivy and sweet-scented honeysuckle are draped over shrubs and tree trunks, the ivy spreading out in thick mats across the woodland floor. Lords-and-Ladies, enchanter's nightshade, hairy brome and male fern are characteristic plants here, whilst bracken forms localised patches.

Some exotic shrubs, such as rhododendron, snowberry and cotoneaster, now fused into a living wall by the interwoven stems of hop and honeysuckle, have been planted along the boundary, where the wood abuts onto housing. The rhododendrons are invading the interior of the wood and need to be controlled. Similar invaders here are the saplings of sycamores, which spring up from the vast numbers of winged seeds produced each year by nearby adult trees. A hedge along the eastern boundary includes spindle, with its striking pink fruit filled with brilliant orange seeds, and wayfaring tree, two rather uncommon shrubs. They are both more usually found on the chalk, especially wayfaring tree, which was therefore probably planted here. Two small ponds in this part of the wood are being cleared to promote the

growth of aquatic plants, and an open grassy area to the south of the site is being managed as a hay meadow.

The roar of traffic on the by-pass shatters the peaceful woodland atmosphere, but despite this a range of woodland birds can be seen here. The noisy twittering of long-tailed tits can often be heard as these delicate little birds with their long black tails flit from branch to branch searching for insects and spiders. Another striking bird found here is the great spotted woodpecker.

As one crosses the by-pass towards the east from the nature reserve, the footbridge provides a good view of both woodlands. The path beyond passes between a shady hedgerow and the northern boundary of Coombe Wood (the local name for the eastern section). Separating the path from the wood is a deep ditch and bank, the sides of which are covered in a rich mixture of woodland, hedgerow and wasteland flowers, including the attractive but prickly walled thistle.

Most of the woodland to the east of the by-pass, sandwiched between the road and the Beverley Brook, occupies former pastures, and so is of more recent origin. However, along the edge of the by-pass, a few standard oaks and mature hazel coppice suggest a greater antiquity. Towards the south of the wood is found a wider variety of species which includes gear, hornbeam, whitebeam, pear, sweet chestnut and lime.

Throughout the eastern portion of the wood, oak, silver birch and ash again figure largely in the canopy, but these tend to be much younger specimens than in the nature reserve and the shrub layer is less diverse. In many places the understorey is dominated by elder and nettles – perhaps indicating the nitrogen-enriched soils of the former pastures. In the smaller areas where hazel is a major component of the woodland there tends to be a greater diversity of species. In spring, bluebell, hedge garlic and wood anemone add colour to the woodland floor before the canopy has fully expanded. The last named, in particular, is strongly indicative of ancient woodland. Later, red-veined dock, hedge woundwort, wood avens, herb Robert and enchanter's nightshade make an appearance, together with the grasses hairy brome and slender false-brome.

At the very south of Coombe Wood, beyond a footbridge over the Beverley Brook, the wood narrows to a thin strip of rank grassland with hawthorn, crack willow and lime trees. The brook is heavily shaded, appears somewhat polluted and has wooden revetment for much of its length. Nuttal's pondweed is the only aquatic plant recorded. The eastern bank of the brook is fringed by a dense thicket of blackthorn.

Both woods are scheduled as Metropolitan Open Land. Information regarding access to Hopping Wood can be obtained from the London Wildlife Trust. Coombe Wood is owned by the London Borough of Merton.

KI,BII 8 Malden Golf Course and Thames Water Pipe Track

Grid ref TQ 217 693
Area 50 ha
(46 ha in Kingston)

Unlike Coombe Hill Golf Course, which lies on acid sands and gravels, most of this course contains richer soils derived from alluvium and London Clay, although small sections do lie on gravelly River Terrace. As a result the vegetation is more commonplace and consists largely of well-tended neutral grassland with woodland and rows of trees. The site also contains two streams and a green lane which runs beyond the south end of the golf course, between it and the Raynes Park to New Malden railway line.

The golf course is situated on what was once Norbiton Common, and later became part of Hoppingwood Farm. The name *Hopping* is very old and may be the ancient name for flat land either side of a river (in this case Beverley Brook), perhaps referring to land where hops grew wild. The farm disappeared from the maps after 1911.

The present golf course is roughly dumb-bell-shaped and its long axis stretches north-west to south-east. Its narrow central band is crossed by a public footpath leading on from the end of Cambridge Avenue. Coombe Brook also crosses a little further north, parallel with the footpath, whilst the Beverley Brook curls in an elongated S-shape through the course's south-eastern corner. A small pond in the centre of the golf course, south of Coombe Brook, drains into the brook. The pond is heavily shaded by trees. Although the fairways are quite tightly packed, there is still room for small patches of woodland and grassy strips. Clumps of exotic trees have been planted strategically in the more open parts of the course.

The grassland of the golf course is mainly composed of short-mown rye-grass, Yorkshire fog and common bent-grass, but some patches of rough contain plants more characteristic of slightly acid soils. These include small areas of early hair-grass, which forms dense lawns and dies off in early summer to leave bare patches, especially in trampled areas. Red fescue and purple-moor grass are also present, inter-mixed with hawkweed, mouse-ear hawkweed, sheep's sorrel and the odd gorse bush. Neutral grassland is more normal in the roughs, often dominated by oat grass and peppered with wild flowers such as ox-eye daisy, creeping cinquefoil, yarrow, hardheads and agrimony.

The wooded areas contain oak, willows, field maple, ash, lime and horse chestnut, with much hawthorn, blackthorn and elder below, but little ground flora, except brambles, ivy and a few bluebells. Hawthorn forms quite extensive dense scrub. Coal tits are present here, and blackcaps in summer. Speckled wood butterflies can also be seen.

The larger of the two streams, the Beverley Brook, forms the boundary with the London Borough of Merton. It has been canalised and contains little vegetation except some water cress, marsh foxtail and persicaria. Its smaller tributary, the Coombe Brook, is rather shaded, and scarcely more than a ditch, with some Nuttall's pondweed and star-wort.

The Thames Water Pipe Track runs north of, and beside, the railway line. It has every appearance of a green lane, but in fact carries five large-diameter water pipes, which lie just below the surface of the ground along its length. The pipes run from the water works in the Seething Wells area to south London and their route, immediately to the north of the main line between Berrylands and Wimbledon, can be observed from the train. Only the pipe track between New Malden station and the Kingston By-pass has been included within this site. (For further information on the history and purpose of the water pipes, see the Seething Wells Reservoirs site description.) Also included in the site is the habitat beside the rail lines themselves, which run through a well-vegetated cutting just east of New Malden station, and further on towards Raynes Park, at the closest part to the golf course, on an embankment. The best part of the lineside is the cutting.

Lush neutral grassland on the spine of the pipe track is dominated by cock's-foot, common bent-grass, meadow foxtail and Yorkshire fog, enlivened with colourful flowers in the spring and summer: lady's smock, ox-eye daisy, meadow vetchling, common violet, common vetch, yarrow and birdsfoot-trefoil. Half way along the length of the track is a temporary pond containing yellow flag, soft and hard rushes and reed-mace. This part of the site has suffered from extensive repair work to the underlying pipes in recent years.

The banks on either side of the track resemble the hedgerows of a green lane, with shrubs and woodland of hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, ash and oak.

To the east of the Beverley Brook the pipe track continues into the London Borough of Merton up to and beyond the Kingston By-pass, although the boundary of the site is taken to be the by-pass. In the Merton part there is much scrub of suckering elm. At the other end, by New Malden station there is an avenue of sycamores demarcating a small area of abandoned allotments. The railway cutting is clothed in similar scrub and woodland with the addition of reed and gorse, the yellow flowers of which enliven many a commuter rail journey.

This site is in a part of the Borough with few public open spaces other than playing fields. Although most of the site is private, it can be viewed from the public footpath leading from Cambridge Avenue and from the busy rail line. The footpath crosses a well-wooded part of the course. The whole of the golf course, but not the pipe track, is zoned as Metropolitan Open Land; one small part of the course lies just across the Borough boundary in Merton, as does part of the pipe track.

Ki.BII 9 Winey Hill

Grid ref TQ 170 628
Area 10 ha

Winey Hill is a domed mound lying to the west of Chessington World of Adventures, and may derive its name from the *whin* or gorse which still adorns its slopes. The site comprises horse pasture, scrub, belts of both native and non-native trees and a seasonal, not very salubrious, pond.

The summit, lying at 75 metres above sea-level, offers impressive views in all directions. To the north-east, in the far distance, the tall buildings of central London peer through the blue-grey haze of the day's accumulated car fumes. As a marked contrast to this, the hill's south-western aspect through the trees provides glimpses of the scenic Barwell Estate Lake, with the dark green canopy of Sixty Acre Wood stretching away beyond, and a largely tree-covered horizon to the south and west.

Winey Hill consists of London Clay, capped by the sands and gravels of the Claygate Beds and High Level Terraces. The latter deposits once covered a vast region, including the land later to become the Royal Borough of Kingston, but over millennia erosion has almost completely worn them away, exposing the older London Clay once more in all areas but the hilltops.

Aerial photographs indicate that at least parts of the hill, including the summit, have been ploughed, and that this ploughing pre-dates the pond that now lies on top. The eastern slopes are owned by Chessington World of Adventures but, although fenced off from the main part of the hill, are undeveloped and support common wild flowers and some planted trees. The remaining land is now grazed by horses. The latter can be persistent in hunting for food in your pockets, and should not be fed.

Apart from the odd cedar and pine, battered into strange shapes because of their exposed position, and a few trees planted since 1981, the hilltop is covered by close-cropped grassland. Fescues and bent-grass compose the sward, with a scattered wild flower complement of cat's ear, hawkweed, sheep's sorrel, clover, yarrow and birdsfoot-trefoil, all stunted by heavy grazing. Other species have doubtless been missed during survey because of such grazing.

The bare sandy margins of the shallow pond are badly eroded by the horses, and bear only a few tufts of toad rush. This is not a pretty sight as the water is turbid with a low water line and very little aquatic life: in times of drought it dries up completely. In order to improve this habitat, one half could be fenced off from the horses, to allow vegetation to establish.

A notable species here, although no doubt planted, is butcher's broom which occurs in a dry ditch at the southern margin of the site, where it is protected from grazing. Wild

flowers become more frequent away from the trees, but are again mostly common species such as hardheads, ribwort, creeping buttercup and common hemp-nettle.

Half way down the hillside, young scrub begins, consisting of hawthorn, gorse and young sycamores; patches of bracken form a russet-coloured fringe in places in autumn. Below this scrub grows woodland, mainly of sycamore with some oak, ash, field maple, crab apple and beech. On the northern side of the hill are also some cedars, pines and two very big large-leaved limes, an uncommon native tree, but here certainly planted. These woods are the haunt of woodland and woodland edge birds including bullfinches, long-tailed tits, willow warblers and all three British woodpeckers, the green, great spotted and lesser spotted woodpeckers.

The lower slopes of the hill bear the most diverse areas of grassland, in shadier places and amongst the trees. Fiorin, rye-grass, tall brome and meadow-grasses compose the majority of the sward, together with woodland plants such as wood avens, bugle, enchanter's nightshade and common violet. The shrubs scattered on these lower slopes include elder, hawthorn and bramble. Bramble (or blackberry) flowers are particularly attractive to gatekeeper butterflies, identified by their orange-coloured wings with chocolate brown veins and four black eye-spots, each containing two white dots. This species shuns urban areas and is absent from much of London, including the northern half of the Borough, but can be seen in some numbers on Winey Hill.

Winey Hill, which is owned by the Borough, is Public Open Space and forms part of the Green Belt. It can be reached from Leatherhead Road, by public footpaths to the north or south of the World of Adventures, or from Claygate to the west across the Esher By-pass. The grazing is leased.

Ki.BII 10 Fishponds

Grid ref TQ 188 668
Area 3.8 ha

Fishponds is a small municipal park which contains three ponds, a stream and an area of grassland now managed as a hay meadow, as well as more formal grounds.

On Rocque's map of 1762, this site is shown as a brick kiln and was part of Kingston Common, which stretched between Hook, Totworth and Surbiton. By 1839 most of the land had been taken over as allotments, although a brickworks is still shown on the 1867 Ordnance Survey Map. Fishponds itself is a plain Georgian house built in 1742. The First Edition of the Ordnance Survey Map shows the present hay meadow as a field with the same boundaries as now. Bacon's map of 1904 shows the field as before, but the present ponds have also appeared.

The largest pond, at the lower southern end of the park, lies in a depression and is naturally fed by groundwater and run-off from the surrounding land. The two smaller ponds on the higher land to the north-west of the park are fed from a culvert at the north end. This water supply is augmented by pumping from the lower pond at times in order to maintain their level. This results in considerable water level fluctuations in the larger pond. The overflow from the upper ponds cascades into a small stream to rejoin the lower one.

All three ponds were dredged in 1990 to remove accumulated rubbish and leaf litter. Much of the aquatic vegetation was lost in the process but many species have already returned.

The eastern boundary of the larger pond is marked by a steep bank, which forms the original limit of the brickwork excavations. This bank also extends around the northern part of the park. A belt of hawthorn, sycamore, oak, horse chestnut, laburnum and young elms surrounds the pond. Before dredging operations, the northern two-thirds of the water were occupied by a small reedbed, a scarce habitat in the London area. Reeds are now only present in small clumps around the pond margins, but will no doubt spread further in future. Bittersweet, with its trailing stems of purple flowers and later scarlet berries, a common associate of reed, is present, but other aquatic vegetation is limited to a few clumps of yellow flag and some duckweed. Submerged vegetation is apparently absent, despite the clarity of the water. Three-spined sticklebacks are present, and in 1984, before these ponds were dredged, they were recorded as having three species of amphibian and these are likely to still be present as well. On summer days, various damselflies and dragonflies can be seen patrolling the water. Waterfowl are surprisingly scarce, only moorhens and mallards being recorded.

The upper ponds are more artificial, having been lined with plastic sheeting to retain water. That nearest the inflow is long and narrow with natural-looking earth banks. It overflows via a short stream to a more-or-less circular one with a small island, and with concrete around almost half the perimeter. Both ponds hold some submerged vegetation, consisting of Nuttal's pondweed, horned pondweed and floating great duckweed. Brooklime and water cress occur around the margins of the long pond and in the stream between, and there are a few plants of marsh woundwort, panicked and pendulous sedges, hard rush and great reed-mace. Curled pondweed, hornwort and meadow-sweet also occurred before the dredging and may yet return. A long swathe of bur-reed grows in the long pond. Both waterbodies also contain three-spined sticklebacks.

To the east of the park lies the hay meadow, which slopes gently down to the south. Except along a network of paths where it is kept short, the grass is allowed to grow long until late summer when it is cut and the clippings removed. Yorkshire fog and cock's-foot are most abundant, but

interspersed are bent-grasses, crested dog's-tail, meadow foxtail, rye-grass and fescues. Among these grow a range of meadow flowers including meadow buttercup, red clover, sheep's sorrel, ox-eye daisy, cow parsley, mouse-ear chickweed, lady's smock, birdsfoot-trefoil, tufted vetch, hardheads, hairy tare and spear thistle, which attract butterflies such as the common blue, meadow brown and comma. The Council is to be congratulated on maintaining this pleasant feature in a built-up area.

The park is owned by the Borough's Directorate of Housing and Leisure Services and is open from 7.30 am until dusk.

KI.BII 11 Coombe Wood Golf Course

Grid ref	TQ 202 705
Area	28 ha

Acidic grassland is the main habitat of wildlife value to be found on this rather formal golf course, although scrub, woodland and neutral grassland are also present. The golf course lies on gravels and sands which produce the acidic soil; it is divided into two roughly triangular sections, north and south, joined in the middle at George Road.

Several springs arise on Coombe Hill, in the vicinity of Coombe Wood Golf Course, and these formed Cardinal Wolsey's original water-supply for Hampton Court Palace. A more detailed history is included in Chapter 2, *The history behind the landscape*, under the heading *Water for Hampton Court*.

A large section of the northern part of the golf course was set out on heathland previously known as Coombe Warren. The southern half lies on a former part of Coombe Farm which consisted of both arable fields and meadow. In the late nineteenth century John Galsworthy described the area of George and Warren Roads, which now includes the golf course, in his *The Man of Property*, the first volume of *The Forsyte Saga*: "Tussocks of feathery grass covered the rough surface of the ground, and out of these the larks soared into a haze of sunshine. On the far horizon, over a countless succession of fields and hedges, rose a line of downs ... the warren was as lonely as a prairie, its silence only broken by the rustle of rabbits bolting to their holes and the song of the larks."

Although most of this older landscape has been lost under low-density housing, traces still persist on the golf course. Small patches of broom and gorse, bright with golden yellow flowers in spring, grade into dry acid grassland composed of fescues and bent-grasses. In summer and autumn these areas stand out from the emerald-green fairways because of their reddish-brown tinge. During the flowering season these grassy areas are dotted with colour, forming an attractive sight.

Inspection on hands and knees reveals mosses and grey-green lichen cups amongst the fine-leaved grasses. Scattered liberally throughout are rosettes of the furry, lobed leaves of cat's ear, with its flowers like miniature dandelions. Also abundant here, and indicative of acid soils, are the tiny arrow-shaped leaves of sheep's sorrel.

Neutral grassland is also common on the golf course, and supports a wider range of common grasses, together with wild flowers such as yarrow, lady's bedstraw, common St John's wort and birdsfoot-trefoil. Hummocks amongst the grasses reveal the presence of colonies of yellow meadow ants, whilst on hot summer days the baking grassland reverberates with the rasping calls of grasshoppers.

The northern section of the golf course contains several patches of trees, one of which surrounds a shallow quarry with steep sides, hidden in places beneath dense scrub: a nasty surprise for the unwary golfer in search of a lost ball. The trees in the roughs are a mixture of native and non-native species; sycamore is the most common and others include sweet chestnut, Scots pine, pedunculate oak, silver birch, false acacia, willows and elm. Rhododendron mixes with holly and elder in the understorey. The ground flora is not particularly rich, being composed of brambles and other common plants of secondary woodland.

The southern triangle of the golf course contains fewer roughs and has a higher proportion of exotic species of trees. However, a similar range of habitat types is present, although neutral rather than acidic grassland predominates. Recently, some areas have been sown with a wildflower seed mix to improve species diversity.

Access to the site is restricted to Coombe Wood Golf Club members although there are limited views from George Road.

Ki.BII 12 World's End

Grid ref TQ 164 60f
Area 0.9 ha

Despite its apocalyptic name, this is a pleasant pocket of broad-leaved woodland. Lying at the extreme south-western end of the Borough, to the west of the Leatherhead Road (A243), it nestles beside the Borough boundary and merges to the west with the extensive woods of Prince's Coverts. A patch of neutral grassland and tipped material on the northern side of the wood is used for clay pigeon shooting, and grassland and scrub grow along a strip which has been cleared to accommodate a pylon.

In the eighteenth century this woodland appears to have been part of Stoke Common, together with Prince's Coverts and Stoke Wood across the modern Surrey boundary. However, in 1825 the present woodland area and the adjacent land towards Telegraph Hill were described as an arable field called *World's End*. Fourteen years later the Chessington Tithe Map of 1839 labels the site "plantation" and it appears to have remained as deciduous woodland to the present day.

Within the wood the high canopy is composed of oak and ash standards with old coppiced hazel stools beneath. Variety is provided by the odd aspen, dogwood, birch, field maple, beech and hawthorn. The damp, clayey woodland floor slopes gently down from Telegraph Hill in the north and supports a diverse ground flora. Decaying tree stumps and fallen wood, as well as the sodden leaf mould, are colonised by lush green cushions of woodland mosses. Some stumps bear growths of grey-green, golf tee-shaped lichens, whilst others sport bunches of toadstools and stacks of bracket fungi. Yellow archangel and bluebell provide a splash of brightness amongst the male and lady ferns, slender false-brome and mosses on the woodland floor in spring and early summer. Butcher's broom, otherwise known as knee holly because of its height and dark spiky leaves, is fairly common here. Both this species and yellow archangel are plants associated with ancient woodland. They may have spread from the adjacent Prince's Coverts, or perhaps they survived the apparently brief period in the nineteenth century when the area seems to have been cultivated as an arable field, before being replanted with trees.

The neutral grassland, used for clay pigeon shooting, is regularly mown and is relatively poor in species. However, where the pylon and wires pass through the woodland, the opening up of the canopy, plus a small amount of disturbance, has allowed the growth of many wild flowers, including such notable species as centaury, marsh thistle, stone parsley and wood sedge.

The wood belongs to the Crown Estate Commissioners and is out of bounds to the public. It is to be hoped that the activities of the clay pigeon shooters do not impinge on the woodland too much, especially in the form of disturbance of the bird life. Management appears to be minimal and World's End seems to be largely left to its own devices. It forms a useful extension to Prince's Coverts in Surrey.

KI.B11 13 Green Lane

Grid ref TQ 180 628
Area 3.6 ha

A relic of old rural Kingston can be seen here, consisting of an ancient drove road or trackway bounded on either side by overgrown hedgerows with fine specimens of mature hedgerow trees. This aptly-named feature of considerable historic interest can be traced from Chalky Lane to Garrison Lane in Chessington, heading north-east past playing fields and a golf course, until it becomes Church Lane beside St Mary's Church. A field to the west and adjacent to Green Lane has also been included in the site. This field, sandwiched between playing fields to the south and the golf course to the north, has been abandoned to nature for some time, producing a patchwork of hawthorn scrub and neutral grassland.

In *Nature Near London* Richard Jefferies (1848-1887, see page 62), a well-known naturalist, graphically describes the *green lanes* or drove roads of the area, together with their wildlife. Hedged either side, the lanes were used by horse-drawn wagons and carriages which in wet weather made vast ruts, sinking axle-deep into the soft clay. "These then filled with water, and on the water duck-weed grew, and aquatic grasses at the sides. Summer heats have evaporated the water leaving the weeds and grasses prone upon the still moist earth. Rushes have sprung up and mark the line of the ruts."

Four-wheeled vehicles can no longer travel up the lane, which has become a quiet and shady footpath, at least in its southern part until the first houses are reached some 500 metres from Chalky Lane. However, the above description from over a century ago is still relevant today and in places the compacted clay down the centre of the lane still sprouts tussocks of hard rush.

At the Chalky Lane entrance the track is bounded either side by hedges, dominated on the western side by tall elm suckers, and by hawthorn and elm to the east. Below the eastern hedge is an overgrown ditch sporting common wetland species such as reedmace, soft rush, great hairy willow-herb and bittersweet. Other damp patches along the route support brooklime, fool's watercress, sweet-grass and the tall, extremely prickly teasel. In summer, dragonflies swoop past, carrying out low-level manoeuvres, skimming over the grass stalks in their hunt for unsuspecting insect prey.

A small, muddy path wends its way up the centre of the lane, past rotting elm stumps covered in oyster fungus, tall, arching stems of hairy brome and spiky clumps of hard rush. The vegetation either side of the path is a rich mixture of wasteland, hedgerow and woodland floor wild flowers and grasses. The bright yellow, daisy-like flowers of fleabane form conspicuous clumps at the southern end of the lane. In the

past this was a much-used herb as its smoke, when the plant is burnt, drives away fleas and other insects. Its Latin name, *Pulicaria*, comes from the Latin word *pulex*, meaning a flea. Spikes of red bartsia and the flat-topped flower heads of yarrow join a host of other species, such as red clover, coltsfoot, mugwort, florin, thistle and great hairy willow-herb, crowding up to the path. In shadier parts, hogweed, ivy, red-veined dock, hedge woundwort and cleavers are more frequent.

Just beyond the eastern hedge and across a narrow field, a belt of trees running parallel to Green Lane can be seen. This marks the course of the Bonesgate Stream which here wends its way northwards towards Castle Hill, adding interest to the pleasant countryside scene. The stream has also been included in this handbook as site KI.B11 14.

As one moves down the lane towards Chessington, the hedges become taller and thicker and mature hedgerow trees are now present, mostly oak. The hedgerows become more diverse from here on, with holly, hawthorn and hazel holding their own against the ubiquitous elm suckers. The shadier conditions lead to hedge bottom and woodland plants gaining the upper hand. Black bryony, with its untidy strings of red, orange and green berries, is draped here over the brambles and nettles. Red-veined dock is abundant, together with ground elder, cow parsley, ground ivy and the starry-flowered greater stitchwort.

About halfway along the lane, heading north, large coppice stools of hazel take over the western hedgerow, indicating that the hedges are of some antiquity. A ditch and bank can be seen beneath, the bank covered by a luxuriant growth of the black-twigged blackthorn, above which young oaks increase the already dense shade. Further on, the gap between the hedges widens, a dense prickly scrub of dog rose, bramble, blackthorn and thistles forcing the walker to stick to the path. Beyond this, the path soon meets tarmac and the lane merges into a modern road. Houses take up the eastern side but the hedgerow continues on the west, screening the golf course. Once again a good mixture of hedge species is present, including elm, field maple, oak, hawthorn and elder.

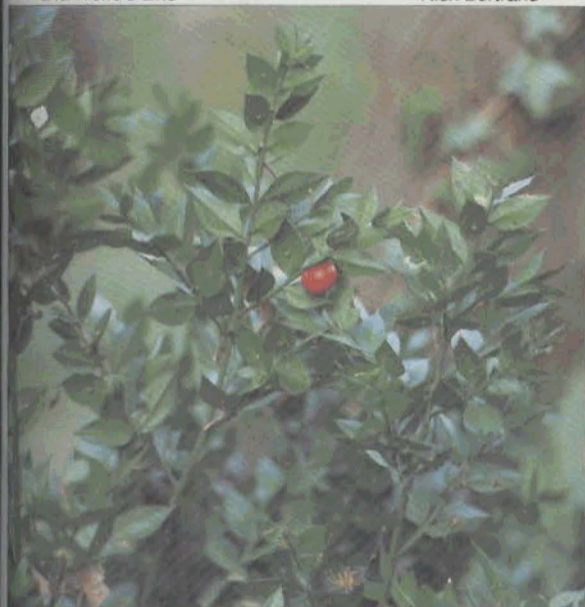
Just before the widening of the hedges, a path leads off west into a small field between the sports ground and the golf course. This field is a classic example of what happens when management such as grazing or hay cutting ceases in an "unimproved" or "semi-improved" field. Hawthorn bushes of varying ages and banks of blackthorn have taken over much of the grassland, which remains as a mosaic of patches between the scrub. The masses of berries in autumn and the prickly cover provided by the scrub are excellent for birds and other animals. The grassland is composed of a mixture of coarse and fine species, including cock's-foot, rye-grass, oat grass, florin, Timothy and Yorkshire fog. Amongst the many species of wild flowers growing here are hardheads, red bartsia,



John Archer A large red damselfly photographed in Sixty Acre Wood

Butcher's broom, also known as knee holly, is normally only found in ancient woodland. The places it is found in Kingston include Sixty Acre Wood, Chessington Wood and World's End

Nick Bertrand



Gatekeeper butterflies shun urban areas but can be seen in some numbers on Winey Hill

John Archer



Some of the animals and plants to be found in Kingston



Red bartsia photographed in the horse pasture at the southern end of Tolworth Court Farm

LEU / Meg Game

A coot makes its nest of rubbish on an old tyre in the River Thames alongside the bank in central Kingston

LEU / Sue Swales



fleabane, hairy tare, agrimony (smelling somewhat like apricots), birdsfoot-trefoil and wild carrot. The wild carrot can frequently be distinguished from other members of the same family by a single red or deep purple flower at the centre of its otherwise white flower-head. The hedgerows around the field consist of mature hawthorn, very dense blackthorn, oak, field maple, elm and elder.

To the west of the metalled part of Green Lane, a footpath leaves to cross the northern edge of the golf course along the top of a raised bank, from which excellent views can be seen of the fields, woods and hedges of the Green Belt, a patchwork of green and gold.

Green Lane is open at all times to the public.

Ki.BII 14 Bonesgate Stream

Grid ref TQ 180 626
Length of site 2.4 kilometres

In the early years of this century, the Bonesgate Stream was known as "The Rythe", a name which today is attached to a totally different stream to the west of the Borough. In fact Bacon's map of 1904 shows both streams with this name! The origin of the name "Bonesgate" stems from the Old English *Bone* or *Bonne*, which would have been a proper name, and *gate* meaning "a gap in a wall", hence "a gap in the wall belonging to Bonne". Despite popular local mythology the name has nothing to do with plague pits.

The Bonesgate Stream has already been encountered as part of three other sites (Chessington Wood, Castle Hill and Bonesgate Open Space, and Tolworth Court Farm) and has

been observed as a pleasant landscape feature close to a fourth (Green Lane). The stream between Chessington Wood and Castle Hill forms the basis of this site.

Here it meanders through a gently undulating countryside of fields and woods. The southern half, particularly, feels incredibly remote for somewhere so near to the built-up area while the northern half, although it comes closer to houses, could hardly be described as urbanised.

The stream itself flows through a narrow strip of woodland, surrounded by farmland. At the southern end the woodland is dominated by hawthorn, with increasing quantities of ash, oak and field maple as one travels north towards Castle Hill. Crack willow and regenerating elm are also present. The rather sparse ground flora includes male fern, bittersweet, water figwort, reed-grass, nettle and liverworts. As the stream nears Castle Hill, a greater diversity of woodland plants occurs, including wood melick, bluebell, slender false-brome and wood poa.

Due to the heavy shading of the trees, the stream itself supports little vegetation, although liverworts cover its steep clay banks in places.

A tiny patch of damp grassland on the western side of the stream is dominated by Yorkshire fog, with great hairy willow-herb and meadow-sweet forming a fragrant and colourful display in summer.

Although there is no official path alongside this stretch of the Bonesgate Stream, it is crossed by several public footpaths which enable its pastoral setting to be appreciated. Also it flows parallel to and very close to the southern part of Green Lane and a walk along the latter is enhanced by the tree-covered Bonesgate Stream, just to the east across a narrow field.

11 Sites of Local Importance

Ki.L 1 Manor Park

Grid ref TQ 222 667
Area 8.7 ha (7.2 ha in Kingston)

This park is located at the eastern edge of the Borough, just to the north of the railway line between Motspur Park and Malden Manor.

Most of this park consists of playing fields, which, though of little wildlife interest in themselves, are surrounded by the remains of old hedgerows, indicating their past agricultural use; the 1839 tithe map labels the site as arable fields. An area of less intensively-managed grassland and a copse are the main attractions here.

On passing through the gates from Malden Road, an area of long grass and wild flowers can be seen. This westernmost corner of the park has recently been allowed to grow long and is cut once in late summer with the clippings removed. A varied range of grasses flower in summer, interspersed with many common wild flowers.

Looking eastwards, beyond this flowery meadow, the closely-mown playing fields stretch out green and flat before you. In winter, gulls paddle on the muddy football pitches. The south-easternmost field reflects its former land use more strongly, as it is bounded by hedgerows, composed largely of elm scrub. The stumps of what must have been impressive elm trees can be found mouldering beneath the scrub, reminding us of the terrible toll Dutch elm disease has exacted in the recent past.

Between the southern edge of this last field and the railway line lies a strip of woodland which continues on, past houses, as the line curves northwards to Motspur Park station. The woodland again contains much elm scrub but it is joined here by oak, ash, birch, elder, hawthorn and blackthorn. Brambles and ivy sprawl over the woodland floor which is dotted with lesser celandine, herb Robert, cow parsley and Lords-and-Ladies. The latter forms patches of dark-green, arrow-shaped leaves, which appear claw-like as they first push their way through the leaf mould. Several large tree trunks have fallen in the wood and have been left to decay naturally. These provide a home for myriads of insects and fungi.

Part of the copse, beside the railway line, is fenced off from the public but there is free access to the rest of Manor Park during normal hours. These parts of the site are all owned by the Borough.

Across the rail lines to the north-east lies a second copse, south of some gasometers, and this is contiguous with a site

across the Beverley Brook in the London Borough of Merton – the Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Wood. The two copses and this wood constitute the largest woodland area for a distance of over a kilometre in any direction. The wood is predominantly oak and has a sparse ground cover. It is well complemented by the copse south of the gasometers, where the trees are predominantly crack willow, ash and sallow, with considerable quantities of hawthorn scrub. The area and diversity provided by these three small patches of woodland allow bird species such as chiffchaffs and bullfinches to survive here. There is public access to the Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Wood but not to the gasometer copse.

Immediately to the south of the gasometer copse is an area of allotments known as Kingshill Avenue Allotments. Use of many of the allotments ceased from the mid 1980s onwards and now only the central part adjacent to the southern boundary is in use. The remainder has been fenced off by the Council and given the name "Kingshill Nature Conservation Area". The adjacent woodland is being allowed to spread into the disused allotments which at present consist of mainly oak seedlings with hawthorn and bramble. Kingshill Nature Conservation Area is owned by the Council but there is currently no public access.

Ki.L 2 Causeway Copse

Grid ref TQ 185 645
Area 0.5 ha

This tiny nugget of green consists of a partially wooded hillside, circular in shape but with an angular extension towards the west. It is surrounded by houses and makes quite an impressive sight on the skyline when viewed from Chessington North station. On the 1838 enclosure map this area is marked as "Gooseberry Hill" and it once lay on the southern edge of Surbiton Common.

A narrow path (which can be muddy in winter) leads between the houses from The Causeway into the park. On three sides a belt of woodland, largely composed of oaks which, though mature, are not of great age, partially hides the surrounding urban development from view. Other species to be found here include lime, false acacia, sycamore and birch. Shrubs such as hawthorn, hazel and dogwood are also present but the woodland understorey is not well-developed, due probably to heavy use by local people. However, common

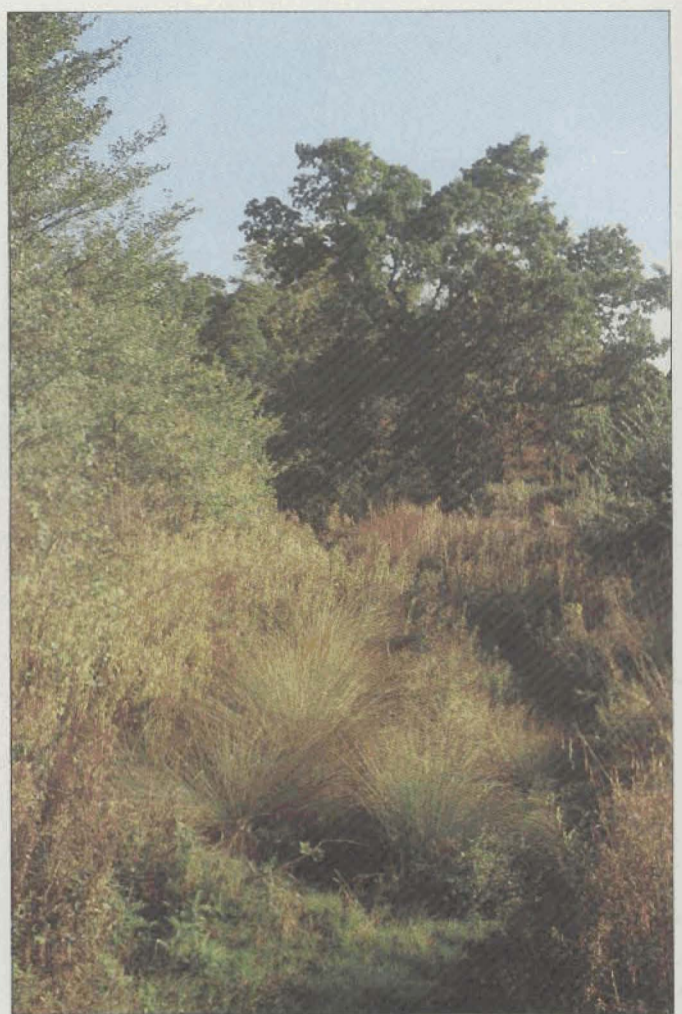


Sunlight catches a spider's web
at Green Lane

LEU / Sue Swales

LEU / Ian Yarham

A woodland walk
alongside the railway at Manor Park

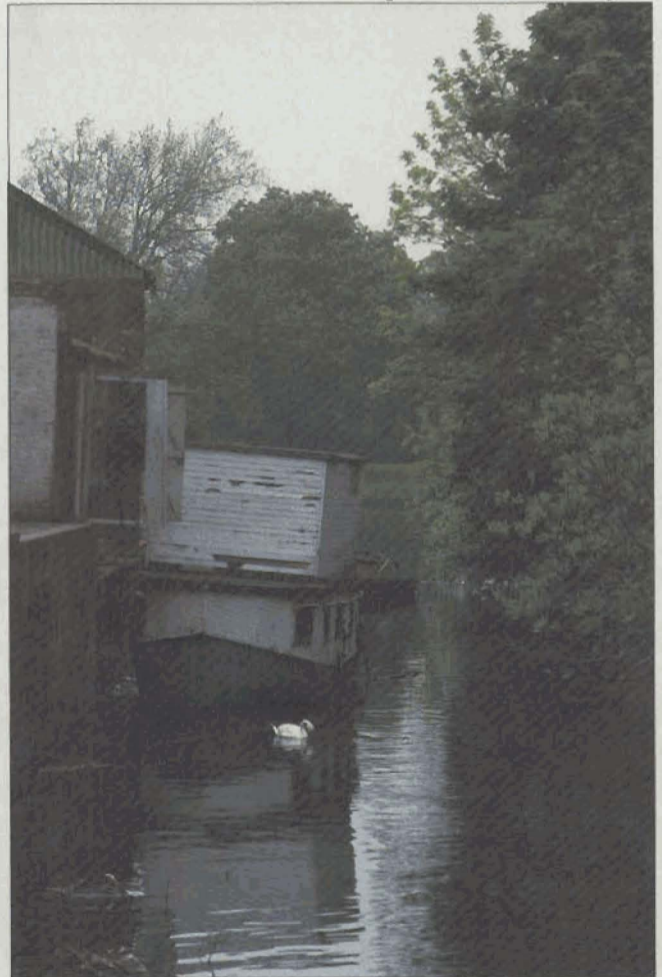


Tussocks of hard rush sprout from the
centre of the historic Green Lane

LEU / Sue Swales

LEU / Dave Dawson

A mute swan swims near the mouth of the
Hogsmill River in central Kingston



woodland floor plants can be found, such as cow parsley, hogweed and Lords-and-Ladies. Plants associated with disturbed soils have gained a foothold beneath the trees; red dead-nettle, chickweed, dandelion, dove's-foot cranesbill, creeping cinquefoil, white clover and germander speedwell, though common flowers, add a welcome highlight throughout the year. Beneath the trees, grasses such as Yorkshire fog can be found, a beautiful grass with pale, silvery leaf-bases, etched with parallel, purple stripes, grading into long, velvety, grey-green leaves. The copse is visited by a wide range of common birds such as blue tits, crows and starlings.

The central, grassy area of the site consists largely of closely-mown rye-grass and undulates over the lumpy hillside, down to the east. Here swings, slides and a climbing frame make this a lively focal point for local children in summer.

A richer woodland flora could be re-established in small patches at the periphery of the site by using temporary fencing or judicious planting of prickly bushes, such as hawthorn or blackthorn, to restrict access and hence trampling. This would provide more cover for wildlife and a better resource for local teachers. Further improvements for wildlife could be made by mowing the less-used edges only once a year and removing the clippings. This would allow long grass and wild flowers to grow. The site is owned by the Council and is open during daylight hours.

Ki.L 3 Old Malden Pond

Grid ref	TQ 217 685
Area	0.1 ha

This pond is one of the surviving vestiges of the old village of Malden, now submerged in the suburban sprawl. It contains some interesting aquatic vegetation and is of potential educational use. Nearby is The Plough Inn, thought to date back to the fifteenth century. Dick Turpin is supposed to have hidden at the inn before his desperate ride to York.

The pond is the last survivor of three which once spread along what is now Church Road. The tithe map of 1839 shows Malden Pond, together with the easternmost of the three, lying within the garden and orchard of the inn. The third pond was just to the west of where the library is now. Today, Malden Pond lies immediately beside Church Road and is fenced-off by a railing along the top of a concrete wall, forming part of the pond's shoreline. The rest of the banks and shoreline are more natural. Behind the pond, trees and bushes, including hawthorn, willow and elm scrub, clothe the sloping banks to the water. Mosses have capitalised on the moister areas, while cow parsley and the occasional bluebell can be found under the trees.

To either side of the pond are quite extensive marshy areas. Reed sweet-grass is the dominant reedswamp plant, and yellow flag, greater spearwort, fool's water-cress, gipsy-wort, figwort and great hairy willow-herb are also present. Water flows into the pond over an artificial waterfall at one end. Around clumps of white water-lily drift duckweed and water fern; if the quantities of these multiply, as they are likely to do, they may shade out the submerged vegetation and so lead to the pond's stagnation. Both should be reduced by skimming them off the water's surface with a boom or rake at regular intervals throughout the summer months. The submerged vegetation consists largely of hornwort, Nuttal's pondweed and strands of algae. The pond harbours two species of amphibian. The amount of plant life in the pond and its lack of smell suggests that the pond is reasonably healthy at present.

The pond is owned and managed by the Council and, with a little modification, could be used for fieldwork by children from the Borough's schools.

Ki.L 4 Kingston Cemetery

Grid ref	TQ 191 687
Area	13 ha

This large cemetery lies between Kingston town centre and Norbiton, in an area of high density housing. The Hogsmill River runs along its southern side, where there is a narrow strip of woodland. The remainder of the site consists largely of well-tended graves and occasional trees. Over the river, to the south and east, lies the Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works.

Kingston Cemetery was opened in 1855 on what were previously the fields of Bonner Hill. Prior to this, all burials had taken place in Kingston Churchyard and the "overflow" site in Union Street. The latter has now become the Memorial Gardens. Maps from early this century show the Hogsmill River following its old course, meandering to the north of its present one, and the south-eastern boundary of the cemetery is still defined by this old course. A later extension nearer Kingston town centre stretched south to the new straight river bank. This extension took within the boundaries what is now the main area of wildlife interest.

The woodland is composed of multi-stemmed sycamores, crack willow, wych elm, hawthorn, lime and elder. On the woodland floor, nettles, cow parsley and brambles form the bulk of the vegetation but hogweed, cleavers, ivy, ground ivy and even a few bluebells can be found.

Unfortunately, the woodland has a very neglected feel to it, with litter and rubbish lying around, in contrast with the highly manicured appearance of the rest of the cemetery. The

Hogsmill River can be reached through the western edge of the woodland and could be quite a pleasant spot with some minor improvements, especially as the opposite bank is also undeveloped. The river here has been included as part of the Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works (see site Ki.B1 1). In several places within the woodland, pits have been excavated and are now half obscured by brambles, forming traps for the unwary walker. Similarly, a range of items has been dumped here and there over the years, making progress through the woodland an obstacle course. If the pits were filled in and the rubbish removed, this area of the cemetery in particular would form an easily accessible local site for schools to use for environmental education.

To the west of the wooded area is an ugly, squat warehouse, which comes right up to the cemetery boundary. Trees could be planted to help screen this building. To the east, between the woodland and the crematorium, is a large area dumped with old wreaths and flowers. If this were tidied up it would provide another approach to the river and would be a pleasant, naturally vegetated contrast to the nearby formal gardens of the crematorium.

The remainder of the cemetery consists of both exotic and native tree species scattered amidst mown grass and serried ranks of gravestones. Some of the native trees may pre-date the cemetery, and others are evidently self-established since. Trees native to Britain here include oak, birch, ash, holly, hawthorn and yew. Where the grass is allowed to grow, there is quite a range of associated flowers characteristic of somewhat acid soils. The grass is dominated by oat grass, Yorkshire fog, cock's-foot, Timothy and red fescue, among which grow clovers, birdsfoot-trefoil, field woodrush, cat's ear, sheep's sorrel, sorrel, lesser stitchwort, ground ivy and ox-eye daisy. Even amongst the mown grass, a few moments on hands and knees will reveal the arrow-shaped leaves of sheep's sorrel and rosettes of cat's ear, together with several other wild flowers and the feathery strands of mosses. Even the small gravel paths are touched with green by carpet-forming mosses and, scattered between, pale, coin-sized, grey patches of lichen. The gravestones provide a similar habitat for these organisms, while the green or white chippings on the graves themselves are often colonised by wall-pepper and reflexed stonecrop, great favourites of bees in summer.

There is an assortment of common breeding birds here including goldfinches, greenfinches and great tits, while swallows and martins can be watched as they flit along the river, chasing insects.

The cemetery and associated crematorium grounds are owned by the Council and are freely accessible during normal hours.

KI.L 5 Edith Gardens Allotments

Grid ref TQ 195 669
Area 0.5 ha

These abandoned allotments lie between back gardens and the Tolworth Brook, just upstream of Raeburn Open Space. Tall grass communities, with a belt of trees along the stream bank, can be found here.

The stream is of low wildlife value at present, since it is enclosed in a box-section culvert with no aquatic vegetation. The potential is, however, illustrated by the section just upstream, adjacent to a croquet club, where one bank and the bed of the stream are natural. Aquatic plants found here include water figwort, fool's watercress, soft rush and a sedge. If the stream could be re-channeled through a more natural course in the former allotment site, the aquatic wildlife value could be greatly enhanced.

The woodland strip, which is about two to four metres wide, consists almost entirely of a dense thicket of regenerating elms, about ten to fifteen years old, with scattered elders, hawthorns and cherry trees. At the south-western end, the site narrows to a thin strip beside the brook and here grow a number of large mature trees, including ash, oak and sycamore. Beneath the trees is a ground flora of brambles, ivy and cow parsley, with a few bluebells and Lords-and-Ladies.

The major part of the site is a typical low diversity, nutrient-rich grassland, dominated by oat grass and cock's-foot, with a variety of common associated wild flowers, especially thistles, as well as a few invading shrubs such as brambles and red currants.

Local residents have recorded an impressive list of butterflies and birds on the site, including late summer flocks of goldfinches which come to feed on the thistle seeds.

A management plan has recently been approved by the Council and the first phase of the work has been carried out using young people from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. This includes planting hedgerows, stripping topsoil, constructing a circular pathway, planting a mix of native shrubs on the mound formed by the stripped topsoil at the western end, thinning some of the dead or dying elm scrub, erection of a signboard and nestbox, and construction of wood and rock piles for invertebrates. Continuing maintenance, where practicable, is being carried out by Duke of Edinburgh volunteers.

There is currently no official public access to the site, which is owned by the Council. However, groups including schoolchildren will be admitted to Edith Gardens Allotments on application to the Leisure Services Department (telephone 081 547 5506).

Ki.L 6 Back Green

Grid ref TQ 223 663
Area 0.6 ha (0.3 ha in Kingston)

This small park has considerable historic interest as it is a surviving remnant of common, with its boundaries unchanged for at least 150 years. On the tithe map of 1839 it was shown as "Back Green" and consisted of rough pasture with some deciduous trees along the edges. Its name arose because it was linked, via a narrow neck of pasture, to the main "Lower Green", the latter being situated along what is today the main road through Worcester Park. The link was broken by the railway line which was opened in 1859. "Upper Green" was further north near the junction of Malden Road and Church Road. By 1968 the area to the south of Back Green had been converted to a sports ground and the fields to the north had disappeared under housing.

The central area of the park consists of closely mown, species-poor neutral grassland, but its edges have a wilder appearance. Ditches run either side, heavily shaded by scrub consisting largely of elm suckers and brambles. Beneath the scrub, cleavers, nettles and ivy tend to dominate but there is still room for clumps of Lords-and-Ladies, wood avens and ground ivy. A pond existed along the northern edge of the green well into this century, but has now gone. The stumps of the original elm trees, which were presumably overtaken by Dutch elm disease, can be found amongst the bushes, often covered with fungi and mosses.

The boundary between the Boroughs of Kingston and Sutton runs north-south across Back Green. Although the western half of the site lies in Kingston, the whole is managed by Sutton, and it is in fact accessible only from Sutton, via a bridge over the Beverley Brook from Green Lane.

The wildlife value of the site could be improved by allowing the grass to grow in a strip around the wooded edges, perhaps cutting it only once a year in autumn. The scrub could be cut back from the ditch in one or two places allowing enough light for wetland plants to establish.

The park is open to the public during daylight hours.

Ki.L7 The Cassel Hospital

Grid ref TQ 177 717
Area 3 ha (0.7 ha in Kingston)

Lying at the western end of Ham Common, the smart facade of the Cassel Hospital conceals pleasant and secluded grounds at its rear, containing lawns of acid grassland, a fringe of woodland and an old walled garden. The boundary with Richmond upon Thames passes through the hospital grounds so that only the south-western part of this site is within Kingston.

The hospital building dates from the early nineteenth century, when it was called Cassel House, and the large size of the ornamental trees adorning the lawn suggests that these were also planted at that time.

The lawns consist almost entirely of acid grassland and, although regularly mown, the compact, springy turf is quite deep in places. Among the red fescue and common bent-grass, which dominate the sward, are good quantities of the more typical acid grassland flowers, sheep's sorrel and mouse-ear hawkweed, as well as two less common species. Sand-spurrey and birdsfoot are both rare in London as a whole but quite widespread on the thin, sandy soils of this part of London. Although a somewhat diminutive and inconspicuous plant, birdsfoot is very distinctive when seen close up because its cluster of jointed seed pods look very much like the foot of a bird. It is not to be confused with the far more common birdsfoot-trefoil which is named for the same reason. In the patches of slightly longer grass, great hedge bedstraw is frequent; while not particularly rare in London, it grows more typically in hedges and rough places where it scrambles across the surface of other vegetation.

Among the mature trees standing in the lawn are several oaks and sweet chestnuts and single specimens of weeping ash, Scots pine and cedar. Most of these have been planted but there is one ancient pollarded oak, with a trunk diameter of two metres, which pre-dates the hospital. There are also some recently planted trees and rhododendrons set in the lawn.

The lawn is surrounded on three sides by a fringe of woodland. On two sides this amounts to just a narrow belt of oak, sweet chestnut and holly, albeit of respectable age, with a sparse ground flora of bramble. On the north-west side the woodland is a little more substantial and has a dense growth of saplings, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation below a broken canopy consisting of oak, ash, beech and false acacia. The gaps in the canopy are probably where elms once stood before the onset of Dutch elm disease; elm suckers are now competing for the light with brambles, ash saplings, dog rose, hawthorn, elder and rhododendron. Herbaceous plants include cow parsley, herb Robert, cleavers and alkanet. At the back of the woodland, along the boundary fence, a line of large yews, planes and hollies casts a deep shade in which there is little ground flora other than a sparse covering of ivy. Despite its limited extent, the woodland is frequented by common woodland birds such as jays, long-tailed tits, coal tits and goldcrests.

The old walled garden is situated beyond the narrow belt of woodland on the south-west side of the grounds. It is no longer tended and the invading bramble supplies speckled wood butterflies with nectar and the resident blackbirds and woodpigeons with berries. There is a small apple orchard at the rear of the garden.

The site is privately owned and there is no public access.

Ki.L 8 Beverley Brook

Length in Kingston 6.4 km

The Beverley Brook rises near Nonsuch Park at Stoneleigh and forms the eastern boundary of the Royal Borough from Motspur Park through New Malden to Roehampton Vale. Between Coombe Hill Golf Course and Wimbledon Common it runs through a steep-sided valley, eventually reaching the River Thames near Putney after flowing through Richmond Park.

Along the Kingston boundary it forms part of a number of sites. These are, from south to north: Back Green (where the brook is still in the London Borough of Sutton); Manor Park; Malden Golf Course; Coombe Wood; and Wimbledon Common. The rest of its course in Kingston is described here.

Unfortunately the water quality of the brook is low, as much of its flow originates from the discharge of the Worcester Park Sewage Treatment Works, just upstream of where it first enters the Borough. This water is highly nutrient-rich and sometimes carries solid matter. The brook is also contained within vertical banks and is in some places heavily shaded; this means that it has little or no vegetation in or beside it. Its value is thus largely for the corridor of terrestrial habitats which flank it, and also as a landscape feature of considerable historical interest. The water's edge attracts grey wagtails and its flanking vegetation is habitat for garden birds.

The brook enters the Borough as it emerges from under Green Lane, Worcester Park, and flows beside a school playing field; the field is raised artificially high, leaving a narrow natural surface either side of the brook with rough grassland and a line of trees and shrubs. Then it flows between the Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Wood in Merton and the rest of the Manor Park site (Ki.L 1 above), as it begins to be the boundary between the two Boroughs. Here it is heavily shaded by the woodland oaks.

As it leaves the wood, the brook flows under the embankment of the rail line between Motspur Park and Worcester Park stations to flow beside the BBC Sports Ground, under the carriageway of Motspur Park, beside the University of London Athletic Grounds, under Blakes Lane and beside a school playing field, all in Kingston Borough. Here too it is lined with trees and shrubs.

After passing under the A3 Kingston By-pass, the next section, however, runs through an industrial area, where there is no accompanying woody vegetation. The brook flows on between the residential back gardens of Rookwood Avenue in Merton and Beverley Road in Kingston, where it is accompanied again by trees and shrubs. Where the brook flows behind the rear gardens of Onslow Road there is a narrow hedgerow of trees and shrubs between it and the remnants

of a field within another industrial area on the Merton side of the boundary. Similar narrow hedgerows accompany the brook as it passes between the Emanuel School Playing Field and the new Beverley Park Golf Range on the Merton side, and Beverley Park on the Kingston side. Between the playing field and golf range the brook is joined by its tributary Pyl Brook, which itself has two branches, rising in St Helier and Sutton respectively. This tributary also suffers from too much pollution to carry any significant aquatic vegetation, although it is lined with elm, crack willow, elder and hawthorn where it flows between the open spaces.

The augmented brook flows under the high embankment of the Raynes Park to New Malden railway and TWA pipe track to enter the Malden Golf Course (see the description of this site, Ki.BII 8 above). On leaving the course the brook passes again under the A3 to flow behind residential properties beside the busy trunk road.

The brook defers to the cloverleaf junction between the A3 and Coombe Lane before emerging again to join with Coombe Wood (see the description of Ki.BII 7 above) after which it forms the western boundary of Wimbledon Common (see site M101). It then becomes the boundary with the London Borough of Wandsworth for 500 metres before going under the A3 for a third time to finally leave Kingston and enter Richmond Park. This last stretch in Kingston flows between playing fields and is flanked on both sides with trees and shrubs.

Ki.L9 Hogsmill River in Central Kingston

Grid ref TQ 182 687
Length of site 1.25 kms

The last section of the Hogsmill River within the Borough runs through the centre of the town of Kingston upon Thames and is inextricably linked to the history of the town. Near the Guildhall the Clattern Bridge, with its three semicircular arches over the Hogsmill, dating from the late twelfth century, can still be seen.

The stretch of river which forms this site lies between Villiers Road and its confluence with the River Thames just upstream of Kingston Bridge, where the Hogsmill ends its journey which started near Ewell. Upstream of Villiers Road the Hogsmill forms part of the Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works site and there the banks of the river have a rather more natural feel to them. In central Kingston the river is constrained within vertical walls as it passes beneath various road bridges and between the buildings of the Guildhall complex on its way to the Thames.

Although the artificial nature of the banks through the town centre mostly precludes vegetation getting a foothold, there are places where gravelly margins remain and here lush growths of reed sweet-grass, policeman's helmet, fool's watercress, persicaria and docks can be found, along with occasional crack willows. Submerged vegetation is more-or-less restricted to algae.

Foam which collects around several small weirs indicates some degree of pollution, but the river still supports a healthy fish population, with local anglers reporting the presence of large numbers of dace.

Downstream of the Clatter Bridge, on the north bank of the river, a fig tree has established a precarious hold through the concrete. This is probably the same one mentioned as being

there in 1918. The seed doubtless came through the Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works, lodged when the river was in high spate and then chanced upon an unusually warm year or two to give the conditions necessary for its establishment. Such figs typify the banks of warm streams below sewage outfalls in urban Britain.

One recent summer, Kingston office workers, lunching by this stretch of the river, were delighted by a pair of great crested grebes nesting on a small island in mid-stream.

Despite being within vertical concrete walls, the river in the town centre offers some opportunities for habitat creation, possibly by provision of steps and berms within the river channel to allow for some vegetation growth whilst not impeding drainage.

11 Sites nearby in adjacent London Boroughs and in Surrey which are important to Kingston upon Thames

This is a list of sites of importance for wildlife close to, but outside, the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. It is not exhaustive.

London Borough of Merton

Wimbledon Common TQ 226 717

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Bushy Park TQ 156 697

Hampton Court Park TQ 168 682

Richmond Park including Ham Common TQ 183 717

London Borough of Sutton

Worcester Park Sewage Works TQ 232 666

Surrey

Horton Country Park TQ 193 635

Pond Wood TQ 185 622

Epsom Common TQ 185 605

Ashted Common TQ 173 597

Prince's Coverts TQ 160 610

Claygate Common TQ 160 630

References and further reading

- Archer J and Curson D** in preparation
Ecology Handbook
Nature Conservation in Richmond upon Thames
London Ecology Unit
- Bone M C** 1989
The Story of Hook in Kingston
The Parochial Church Council of St Paul, Hook
- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers**
various dates: A series of practical handbooks
on landscaping and habitat management
Titles include *Dry Stone Walling, Fencing, Footpaths,*
Hedging, Sand Dunes, Waterways and Wetlands,
Woodlands, and Trees and Aftercare
BTCV, Wallingford
- Burton R M** 1983
Flora of the London Area
London Natural History Society
- Cherry B & Pevsner N** 1983
The Buildings of London 2: South
Penguin
- Clapham A R, Tutin T G and Warburg E F** 1981
Excursion Flora of the British Isles (3rd edition)
Cambridge University Press
- Emery M** 1986
Promoting Nature in Cities and Towns:
A Practical Guide
Christopher Helm, London (Available from
the Trust for Urban Ecology, PO Box 54,
London SE16 1AS)
- Fitter R et al** 1984
Grasses, Sedges Rushes and Ferns
of Britain and Northern Europe
Collins, London
- Fitter R S R** 1945
London's Natural History
Collins, London
- Fletcher-Jones P** 1972
Richmond Park - Portrait of a Royal Playground
Phillimore
- Galsworthy John** 1906
The Man of Property, first volume of *The Forsyte Saga*
First published by Heinemann, London
- Gent L E** 1979
The Manor of Coombe or Coombe Neville
in Kingston upon Thames
Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society
- Goode D A** 1986
Wild in London
Michael Joseph, London
- Greater London Council** 1985
Ecology Handbook 3
Nature Conservation Guidelines for London
GLC
- Greater London Council** 1986
Ecology Handbook 4
A Nature Conservation Strategy for London: Woodland,
Wasteland, the Tidal Thames and two London Boroughs
GLC
- Greenwood G B** 1980
The Elmbridge Water Mills
Typescript, Surrey Record Office
- Hammond C O** 1983
The Dragonflies of Great Britain and Ireland (2nd edition)
Harley Books, Colchester
- Hillier J** 1951
Old Surrey Water Mills
- H M Inspectorate,**
Department of Education and Science 1989
Environmental Education from 5 to 16:
Curriculum Matters 13
HMSO, London
- Jackson A A** 1978
London's Local Railways
David & Charles, Newton Abbot
- Jefferies Richard** 1883
Nature Near London
Reprinted by John Clare Books, 1980

Lindus Forge J W 1959
Coombe Hill Conduit Houses and the Water Supply System of Hampton Court Palace
Surrey Archaeological Collections, Volume 56

Malcolm J 1805
Compendium of Modern Husbandry

Mitchell A 1974
A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe
Collins, London

Montier D (Editor, for
London Natural History Society) 1977
Atlas of Breeding Birds of the London Area
Batsford, London

McCormack A 1989
Kingston upon Thames Phillimore

Nairn I 1966
Nairn's London Penguin

Nature Conservancy Council 1984
Nature Conservation in Great Britain
NCC, Peterborough

Nature Conservancy Council 1987
Planning for wildlife in Metropolitan areas: Guidance for the preparation of Unitary Development Plans
NCC, Peterborough

Pape D 1989
A strategic view of nature conservation in London
Unpublished report, London Ecology Unit, London

Peterken G F 1981
Woodland Conservation and Management
Chapman & Hall, London

Plant C W 1987
The Butterflies of the London Area
London Natural History Society

Rose F 1981
The Wild Flower Key Frederick Warne, London

Ross K N 1947
A History of Malden Vizetely & Co, New Malden

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames 1988
Royal Kingston
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Sampson J 1985
All change – Kingston, Surbiton & New Malden in the Nineteenth Century
St Luke's Church, Kingston upon Thames

Smyth B 1987
City Wildspace
Hilary Shipman

Swales S (Ed) 1988
The development of environmental education in London
London Ecology Unit

Tydesley D 1986
Gaining momentum: An analysis of the role and performance of local authorities in nature conservation
Pisces Publications, Oxford

Cartographic sources

Maps marked with an asterisk may be viewed at the Surrey Record Office (see Appendix I)

Enclosure Award and Maps 1838 *

Institute of Geological Sciences
British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Drift Series,
Sheets 270 (South London) 1981
and 286 (Reigate) 1978

Kingston Tithe Apportionment and Map 1840-2 *

Milne T 1800
Land Use Map of London & Environs
Reprinted 1975-6, London Topographical Society

Ordnance Survey First Edition 1" series, 1862
Reprinted as Sheet 71 (London & Windsor)
and Sheet 79 (Dorking & Kingston)
David and Charles, 1970

Ordnance Survey 25 inches to the mile *
various editions, c 1865, 1884, 1896, 1913, 1932

Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Sheets
TQ 06/16 (Weybridge, Hampton Court and Esher) 1978
TQ 07/17 (Staines (Heathrow Airport), and Richmond) 1984
TQ 26/36 (Croydon) 1973
TQ 27/37 (Wimbledon and Dulwich) 1979

Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Second Series
Sheet 176 (West London), 1986

Rocque J Map of Surrey 1762 *

Stanford W (Ed) c 1904
Bacon's Atlas of London and Suburbs
G W Bacon & Co Ltd

Appendix 1 Addresses of some relevant organisations

Director of Education
**Royal Borough of
Kingston upon Thames**
Guildhall 2
High Street
Kingston
Surrey KT1 1EU
Phone 081-547 5283

Director of Housing
and Leisure Services
**Royal Borough of
Kingston upon Thames**
Guildhall 4
Argyll House,
23 Brook Street
Kingston
Surrey KT9 2BN
Phone 081-547 5506

Director of Development
**Royal Borough of
Kingston upon Thames**
Guildhall 2
High Street
Kingston
Surrey KT1 1EU
Phone 081-547 5337

**British Trust for
Conservation Volunteers**
80 York Way
London N1 9AG
Phone 071-278 4293

English Nature
(formerly Nature Conservancy Council)
Room 801
Chancery House
Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1SP
Phone 071-831 6922

The Environment Centre
North Kingston Centre
Richmond Road
Kingston
Surrey KT2 5PL
Phone 081-549 7065

**Kingston Adult and
Continuing Education Service**
North Kingston Centre
Richmond Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT2 5PE
Phone 081-547 6704/5

**Kingston Centre for
Environmental Awareness**
The Beacon
42a Richmond Road
Kingston
Surrey KT2 5EE
Phone 081-547 0507

Kingston Heritage Service
Local History Library
North Kingston Centre
Richmond Road
Kingston
Surrey KT2 5PL
Phone 081-547 6738

Kingston Museum
Wheatfield Way
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2PS
Phone 081-546 5386
(Temporarily closed from February
1992 for essential building works.
Phone 081-546 5386 for further details.)

**Kingston upon Thames
Archaeological Society**
14 Willow Way
Ewell Epsom
Surrey KT19 0EH

London Natural History Society
c/o Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
South Kensington
London SW7 9AG

London Wildlife Trust
80 York Way
London N1 9AG
Phone 071-278 6612

Project Officer
**Lower Mole Countryside
Management Project**
Highway House
21 Chessington Road
West Ewell
Surrey KT17 1TT
Phone 081-541 7144

**Royal Society for the
Protection of Birds**
The Lodge Sandy
Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

The Snuff Mill Environmental Centre
Morden Hall Park
Morden Hall Road
Morden Surrey
Phone 081-542 4232

Hon Secretary
**Surbiton and District
Bird Watching Society**
53 Cromford Way
New Malden
Surrey KT3 3BB
Phone 081 942 5874

Surrey Record Office
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2DN
Phone 081-541 9065

The Secretary
**Surrey Wildlife Trust
Kingston Group**
53 Marlborough Gardens
Lovelace Road Surbiton
Surrey KT6 6NG
Phone 081-399 4298

Surrey Wildlife Trust
Nower Wood Educational
Nature Reserve
c/o Dove Cottage
Slough Lane
Headley Epsom
Surrey KT18 6PF
Phone 0372 379509

Appendix 2a Plant names used in the text

English names are given with their Latin equivalents.

A

Adder's tongue
Agrimony
Alder
Alder buckthorn
Alkanet
Amphibious bistort
Ash
Aspen
Autumnal hawkbit

Ophioglossum vulgatum
Agrimonia eupatoria
Alnus glutinosa
Frangula alnus
Pentaglottis sempervirens
Polygonum amphibium
Fraxinus excelsior
Populus tremula
Leontodon autumnalis

B

Barren brome
Barren fescue
Barren strawberry
Beech
Bell heather
Bent-grass
Betony
Bindweed
Birch
Birdsfoot
Birdsfoot-trefoil (common)
Bistort
Bitter vetch
Bittersweet
Black bryony
Black currant
Black horehound
Black medick
Blackthorn
Bluebell
Bracken
Bramble
Bristly ox-tongue
Broad buckler-fern
Broad-leaved dock
Broad-leaved helleborine
Broad-leaved pondweed
Brooklime
Broom
Buddleia
Bugle
Bulbous buttercup
Bur-reed
Burdock
Burnet saxifrage
Bush vetch
Butcher's broom
Buttercup

Bromus sterilis
Vulpia bromoides
Potentilla sterilis
Fagus sylvatica
Erica cinerea
Agrostis sp.
Stachys officinalis
Convolvulus arvensis
Betula sp.
Ornithopus perpusillus
Lotus corniculatus
Polygonum bistorta
Lathyrus montanus
Solanum dulcamara
Tamus communis
Ribes nigrum
Ballota nigra
Medicago lupulina
Prunus spinosa
Hyacinthoides non-scripta
Pteridium aquilinum
Rubus fruticosus
Picris echioides
Dryopteris dilatata
Rumex obtusifolius
Epipactis helleborine
Potamogeton natans
Veronica beccabunga
Cytisus scoparius
Buddleja davidii
Ajuga reptans
Ranunculus bulbosus
Sparganium erectum
Arctium sp.
Pimpinella saxifraga
Vicia sepium
Ruscus aculeatus
Ranunculus sp.

C

Canadian pondweeds
Cat's ear
Cedar
Celery-leaved crowfoot
Centauray
Cherry
Chickweed
Cleavers
Clover
Cock's-foot
Coltsfoot
Comfrey
Common St. John's wort
Common bent-grass
Common figwort
Common hemp-nettle
Common mallow
Common osier
Common sallow
Common skull-cap
Common speedwell
Common spotted orchid
Common storksbill
Common tormentil
Common vetch
Common violet
Conglomerate rush
Copper beech
Corn marigold
Corn salad
Cornflower
Cotoneasters
Couch grass
Cow parsley
Cowslip
Crab apple
Crack willow
Creeping buttercup
Creeping cinquefoil
Creeping soft-grass
Creeping thistle
Creeping willow
Crested dog's-tail
Crow garlic
Curled pondweed
Cut-leaved cranesbill

Elodea sp.
Hypochaeris radicata
Cedrus sp.
Ranunculus sceleratus
Centaureum erythraea
Prunus sp.
Stellaria media
Galium aparine
Trifolium sp.
Dactylis glomerata
Tussilago farfara
Symphytum officinale
Hypericum perforatum
Agrostis capillaris
Scrophularia nodosa
Galeopsis tetrahit
Malva sylvestris
Salix viminalis
Salix cinerea
Scutellaria galericulata
Veronica officinalis
Dactylorhiza fuchsii
Erodium cicutarium
Potentilla erecta
Vicia sativa
Viola riviniana
Juncus conglomeratus
Fagus sylvatica var. *purpurea*
Chrysanthemum segetum
Valerianella locusta
Centaurea cyanus
Cotoneaster spp.
Elymus repens
Anthriscus sylvestris
Primula veris
Malus sylvestris
Salix fragilis
Ranunculus repens
Potentilla reptans
Holcus mollis
Cirsium arvense
Salix repens
Cynosurus cristatus
Allium vineale
Potamogeton crispus
Geranium dissectum

D

Dandelion
Devil's-bit scabious
Dock
Dog rose
Dog's mercury
Dogwood
Dove's-foot cranesbill
Dropwort
Duckweed

Taraxacum sp.
Succisa pratensis
Rumex sp.
Rosa canina
Mercurialis perennis
Cornus sanguinea
Geranium molle
Filipendula vulgaris
Lemna minor

E

Early hair-grass
Early purple orchid
Elder
Eim
Enchanter's nightshade
English elm

Aira praecox
Orchis mascula
Sambucus nigra
Ulmus sp.
Circaea lutetiana
Ulmus minor

F

False acacia
False fox-sedge
Fescues
Field maple
Field rose
Field scabious
Field woodrush
Fig
Florin
Fleabane
Flote-grass
Fool's watercress
Forget-me-not
Forster's woodrush
Foxglove

Robinia pseudoacacia
Carex otrubae
Festuca spp.
Acer campestre
Rosa arvensis
Knautia arvensis
Luzula campestris
Ficus sp.
Agrostis stolonifera
Pulicaria dysenterica
Glyceria fluitans
Apium nodiflorum
Myosotis sp.
Luzula forsteri
Digitalis purpurea

G

Galingale
Gean
Germander speedwell
Giant redwood
Gipsy-wort
Goat willow
Goat's rue
Goat's-beard
Goldilocks
Gooseberry
Gorse
Grass vetchling
Great duckweed
Great hairy willow-herb
Great hedge bedstraw
Great pond-sedge
Great reedmace
Great spearwort
Great water dock
Greater stitchwort

Cyperus longus
Prunus avium
Veronica chamaedrys
Sequoiadendron giganteum
Lycopus europaeus
Salix caprea
Galega officinalis
Tragopogon pratensis
Ranunculus auricomus
Ribes uva-crispa
Ulex europaeus
Lathyrus nissolia
Lemna polyrhiza
Eplobium hirsutum
Galium mollugo
Carex riparia
Typha latifolia
Ranunculus lingua
Rumex hydrolapathum
Stellaria holostea

Ground elder
Ground ivy
Guelder rose
Gum tree

Glechoma hederacea
Viburnum opulus
Eucalyptus sp

H

Hairy St John's wort
Hairy brome
Hairy tare
Hairy woodrush
Hammer sedge
Hard rush
Hard shield-fern
Hardheads
Hawkweeds
Hawthorn
Hazel
Heath bedstraw
Heath rush
Heather
Hedge garlic
Hedge woundwort
Hemlock
Hemlock water dropwort
Hemp agrimony
Herb Robert
Hoary pepperwort
Hoary plantain
Hogweed
Holly
Hollyhock
Honeysuckle
Hop
Hop trefoil
Hornbeam
Horned pondweed
Hornwort
Horse chestnut
Horse-radish
Horsetail

Hypericum hirsutum
Bromus ramosus
Vicia hirsuta
Luzula pilosa
Carex hirta
Juncus inflexus
Polystichum aculeatum
Centaurea nigra
Hieracium spp.
Crataegus monogyna
Corylus avellana
Galium saxatile
Juncus squarrosus
Calluna vulgaris
Alliaria petiolata
Stachys sylvatica
Conium maculatum
Oenanthe crocata
Eupatorium cannabinum
Geranium robertianum
Cardaria draba
Plantago media
Heracleum sphondylium
Ilex aquifolium
Althaea rosea
Lonicera periclymenum
Humulus lupulus
Trifolium campestre
Carpinus betulus
Zannichellia palustris
Ceratophyllum demersum
Aesculus hippocastanum
Armoracia rusticana
Equisetum sp.

I

Ivy
Ivy-leaved speedwell
Ivy-leaved toadflax
Ivy-leaved water-crowfoot

Hedera helix
Veronica hederifolia
Cymbalaria muralis
Ranunculus hederaceus

J

Japanese knotweed
Japanese larch
Jointed rush

Reynoutria japonica
Larix kaempferi
Juncus articulatus

K

Knapweed

Centaurea sp.

L

Laburnum
Lady's bedstraw
Lady's smock
Lady-fern
Larch
Large birdsfoot-trefoil
Large bitter-cress
Large-leaved lime
Lemon balm
Lesser celandine
Lesser pond-sedge
Lesser skull-cap
Lesser spearwort
Lesser stitchwort
Lime
Lombardy poplar
Lop-grass
Lords-and-Ladies
Lucerne

M

Male fern
Mallow
Many-headed woodrush
Many-zoned polypore
Maple
Marsh bedstraw
Marsh foxtail
Marsh thistle
Marsh woundwort
Marsh yellow-cress
Mat-grass
Meadow barley
Meadow buttercup
Meadow foxtail
Meadow vetchling
Meadow-grasses
Meadow-sweet
Mellilot
Michaelmas daisy
Midland hawthorn
Monkey flower
Mouse-ear chickweeds
Mouse-ear hawkweed
Mugwort
Mullein

N

Narrow buckler-fern
Nettle
Nipplewort
Norway maple
Nuttal's pondweed

Laburnum anagyroides
Galium verum
Cardamine pratensis
Athyrium filix-femina
Larix decidua
Lotus uliginosus
Cardamine amara
Tilia platyphyllos
Melissa officinalis
Ranunculus ficaria
Carex acutiformis
Scutellaria minor
Ranunculus flammula
Stellaria graminea
Tilia sp.
Populus nigra italica
Bromus hordeaceus
Arum maculatum
Medicago sativa

Dryopteris filix-mas
Malva sp.
Luzula multiflora
Trametes versicolor
Acer sp.
Galium palustre agg.
Alopecurus geniculatus
Cirsium palustre
Stachys palustris
Rorippa palustris
Nardus stricta
Hordeum secalinum
Ranunculus acris
Alopecurus pratensis
Lathyrus pratensis
Poa spp.
Filipendula ulmaria
Melilotus sp.
Aster spp.
Crataegus laevigata
Mimulus guttatus
Cerastium sp.
Hieracium pilosella
Artemisia vulgaris
Verbascum sp.

Dryopteris carthusiana
Urtica sp.
Lapsana communis
Acer platanoides
Elodea nuttallii

O

Oak
Oat grass
Oraches
Orange balsam
Oriental poppy
Oval sedge
Ox-eye daisy
Oyster fungus

Quercus sp.
Arrhenatherum elatius
Atriplex sp.
Impatiens capensis
Papaver somniferum
Carex ovalis
Leucanthemum vulgare
Pleurotus ostreatus

P

Panicled sedge
Parsley-piert
Pear
Peartwort
Pedunculate oak
Pendulous sedge
Pepper saxifrage

Carex paniculata
Aphanes arvensis

Perennial rye-grass
Persicaria
Pignut
Pine
Plane
Plantain
Policeman's helmet
Primrose
Privet
Purple loosestrife
Purple moor-grass
Purple osier
Pyracantha

Sagina sp.
Quercus robur
Carex pendula
Silaum silaus
Lepidium campestre
Lolium perenne
Polygonum persicaria
Conopodium majus
Pinus sp.
Platanus sp.
Plantago sp.
Impatiens glandulifera
Primula vulgaris
Ligustrum sp.
Lythrum salicaria
Molinia caerulea
Salix purpurea
Pyracantha sp.

R

Ragged robin
Ragwort
Ramsons
Red bartsia
Red campion
Red clover
Red currant
Red dead-nettle
Red fescue
Red-veined dock
Reed
Reed sweet-grass
Reed-grass
Reedmace
Reflexed stonecrop
Remote sedge
Restharrow
Rhododendron
Ribwort
Rose
Rose-bay willow-herb
Rough hawkbit
Rough-stalked meadow-grass
Rowan
Rushes
Rye-grass

Lychnis flos-cuculi
Senecio jacobaea
Allium ursinum
Odontites verna
Silene dioica
Trifolium pratense
Ribes rubrum
Lamium purpureum
Festuca rubra
Rumex sanguineus
Phragmites australis
Glyceria maxima
Phalaris arundinacea
Typha sp.
Sedum reflexum
Carex remota
Ononis repens
Rhododendron ponticum
Plantago lanceolata
Rosa sp.
Chamaenerion angustifolium
Leontodon hispidus
Poa trivialis
Sorbus aucuparia
Juncus sp.
Lolium sp.

S

Sainfoin	<i>Onobrychis vicifolia</i>
Salad burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor ssp. minor</i>
Salsify	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>
Sand-spurrey	<i>Spergularia rubra</i>
Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>
Scaly male fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>
Scarlet pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Sedges	<i>Carex</i> spp.
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Sessile oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Sheep's sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
Slender false-brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
Small scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>
Small-leaved lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
Smooth-stalked meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Soft shield-fern	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>
Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Spiked water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Square-stemmed St John's wort	<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>
Star-wort	<i>Callitriche</i> sp.
Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Stone parsley	<i>Sison amomum</i>
Stonecrop	<i>Sedum</i> sp.
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria</i> sp.
Swamp cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Sweet brier	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>
Sweet chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>
Sweet flag	<i>Acorus calamus</i>
Sweet vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Sweet woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>
Sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria</i> sp.
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>

T

Tall brome	<i>Festuca gigantea</i>
Tall fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Thistle	<i>Cirsium</i> sp.
Three-nerved sandwort	<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Toad rush	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>
Trailing St John's wort	<i>Hypericum humifusum</i>
Trifid bur-marigold	<i>Bidens tripartita</i>
Tufted forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis laxa</i>
Tufted hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Turkey oak	<i>Quercus cerris</i>
Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>
Twayblade	<i>Listera ovata</i>

U

Upright brome	<i>Bromus erectus</i>
Upright hedge-parsley	<i>Torilis japonica</i>

V

Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>
Violet helleborine	<i>Epipactis purpurata</i>

W

Wall barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>
Wall speedwell	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>
Wall-pepper	<i>Sedum acre</i>
Wall-rue	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>
Water cress	<i>Nasturtium</i> sp.
Water fern	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>
Water figwort	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>
Water mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
Water plantain	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>
Waterlily	<i>Nymphaea</i> sp.
Wavy hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>
Welsh poppy	<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>
Wetted thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>
White bryony	<i>Bryonia cretica</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
White deadnettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
White water-lily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>
White willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>
Wild angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Wild clary	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>
Wild mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>
Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
Willow	<i>Salix</i> sp.
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Wood groundsel	<i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>
Wood melick	<i>Melica uniflora</i>
Wood millet	<i>Milium effusum</i>
Wood poa	<i>Poa nemoralis</i>
Wood sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>
Wood sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>
Wood speedwell	<i>Veronica montana</i>
Wood spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>
Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
Wych elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>

Y

Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Yellow archangel	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>
Yellow flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Yellow melilot	<i>Melilotus altissima</i>
Yellow oat grass	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>
Yellow pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>
Yellow rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>
Yellow water-lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Hoicus lanatus</i>

Appendix 2b Alternative English names for plants

Many plants are known by a variety of different English names in different books. Those used in this handbook largely follow Clapham, Tutin & Warburg's (1981) *Excursion Flora*

of the British Isles. For readers familiar with other texts, some of the commoner alternative names are given below.

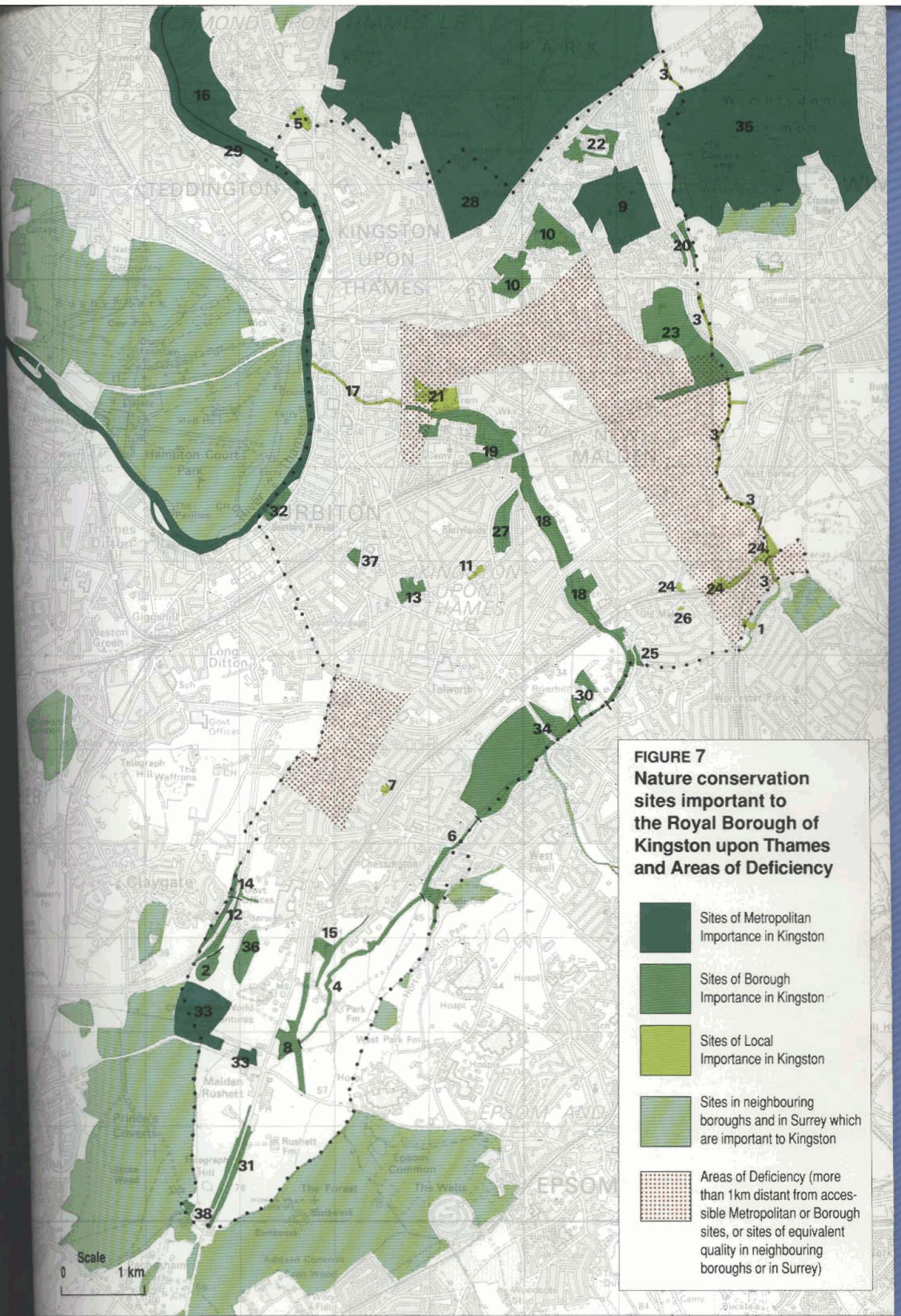
Alkanet	Green alkanet	Lady's smock	Cuckoo flower
		Lords-and-Ladies	Cuckoo pint
Bindweed	Field bindweed		
Bittersweet	Woody nightshade	Oat grass	False oat-grass, tall oat-grass
Blackthorn	Sloe	Oriental poppy	Opium poppy
Bur-reed	Branched bur-reed		
		Pedunculate oak	English oak
Celery-leaved crowfoot	Celery-leaved buttercup	Policeman's helmet	Himalayan balsam
Cleavers	Goosegrass	Pyracantha	Firethorn
Common St John's wort	Perforate St John's wort		
Common sallow	Grey willow, grey sallow	Ramsons	Wild garlic
Common speedwell	Heath speedwell	Red-veined dock	Wood dock
Common violet	Dog violet, common dog-violet	Reed-grass	Reed canary-grass
Corn salad	Lamb's lettuce	Ribwort	Ribwort plantain
		Rowan	Mountain ash
Fiorin	Creeping bent-grass		
		Timothy	Cat's tail
Goat willow	Pussy willow, great sallow		
Great hedge bedstraw	Hedge bedstraw	Wall-pepper	Biting stonecrop
		Wood avens	Herb Bennett
Hammer sedge	Hairy sedge	Wood groundsel	Heath groundsel
Hardheads	Black knapweed		
Heather	Ling		
Hedge garlic	Garlic mustard, Jack-by-the-hedge		
Hoary pepperwort	Hoary cress		
Hornwort	Rigid hornwort		

Index to sites and key to figure 7

site number shown in figure 7	site description on page	site number shown in figure 7	site description on page
1	Back Green	L6	79
2	Barwell Estate Lake	BI 4	46
3	Beverley Brook	L8	80
see 6	Bonesgate Open Space	BI 5	47
4	Bonesgate Stream	BII 14	74
5	The Cassel Hospital	L7	79
6	Castle Hill and Bonesgate Open Space	BI 5	47
7	Causeway Copse	L2	75
8	Chessington Wood	BI 3	45
9	Coombe Hill Golf Course	M100	33
see 20	Coombe Wood	BII 7	67
10	Coombe Wood Golf Course	BII 11	70
11	Edith Gardens Allotments	L5	78
12	Esher By-pass Cutting	BII 6	66
13	Fishponds	BII 10	69
14	The Grapsome	BI 6	50
15	Green Lane	BII 13	72
16	Ham Lands	M83	31
17	Hogsmill River in central Kingston	L9	80
18	Hogsmill Valley	BI 2	42
19	Hogsmill Valley Sewage Works and Hogsmill River	BI 1	40
20	Hopping Wood and Coombe Wood	BII 7	67
see 33	Jubilee Wood	M113	36
21	Kingston Cemetery	L4	77
22	Kingston Polytechnic, Kingston Hill	BI 9	58
23	Malden Golf Course and Thames Water Pipe Track	BII 8	68
24	Manor Park	L1	75
25	Old Malden Common	BII 5	65
26	Old Malden Pond	L3	77
27	Raeburn Open Space	BII 1	60
see 37	Richard Jefferies Bird Sanctuary	BII 2	62
28	Richmond Park	M82	30
29	The River Thames and Islands	M31	27
30	Riverhill House	BII 4	65
31	Rushett Common	BII 3	63
32	Seething Wells Reservoirs (Surbiton Water Works)	BI 8	57
33	Sixty Acre Wood and Jubilee Wood	M113	36
see 29	Thames (River) and Islands	M31	27
see 23	Thames Water Pipe Track	BII 8	68
34	Totworth Court Farm and Medieval Moated Manor	BI 7	51
35	Wimbledon Common	M101	35
36	Winey Hill	BII 9	69
37	"The Woods" and Richard Jefferies Bird Sanctuary	BII 2	62
38	World's End	BII 12	71

- M Sites of Metropolitan Importance
- BI Sites of Borough Importance, Grade I
- BII Sites of Borough Importance, Grade II
- L Sites of Local Importance

To provide a London-wide reference, Borough and Local site numbers are given the prefix *Ki.* for Kingston.



Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 with the permission of the Ordnance Survey. © Crown copyright

