

## Berkshire Local Wildlife Site Citation

### SILWOOD PARK (INCLUDING CASCADE BRIDGE)

Site Code: SU96P01

Grid Reference: SU944689

Area (ha): 34.86

Local Authority: Windsor and Maidenhead

Last Survey Date(s): 02/08/2004

Date Selected or Reconfirmed: 2015

### Site Description

Silwood Park consists of a former parkland with a mosaic of habitats including acidic grassland with trees, bracken dominated areas, secondary woodland, landscaped gardens, a lake and wet woodland. The site now includes extensive areas of woodland that were previously notified separately as Cascade Bridge.

The majority of the grassland appears acidic and semi-improved with Yorkshire fog, common bent, creeping soft-grass and areas of red fescue, sweet vernal grass and hairy sedge. Few forbs are present and include bulbous buttercup, yarrow, ribwort plantain, common sorrel, clover and lesser stitchwort. However in patches the sward is more diverse with sheep's sorrel, common bird's-foot-trefoil, heath bedstraw, autumn hawkbit, sheep's fescue and silver hair-grass. Sections of the grassland have been split up into plots for scientific research and others are dominated by false oat-grass.

The woodland areas are predominately secondary with oak, birch and rowan. The field layer is relatively species poor with creeping soft-grass, bramble, bracken with a couple of areas with wood sorrel, heath bedstraw and sheep's sorrel. The most diverse section of the site is the wet woodland with ferruginous swamp. The predominant canopy species is alder and the field varies from stands of wood club-rush, to remote sedge with marsh bedstraw and broad buckler-fern, to open mud with patches of lesser spearwort, creeping buttercup, marsh bedstraw and water forget-me-not. The adjacent land use consists of broad-leaved woodland, wet woodland, semi-improved grassland and University buildings. Two other woodland Local Wildlife Sites and the Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI lie within 500 metres of the site.

Much recording has been carried out by the University and further, in-depth information can be found in the Flora of Berkshire. Species recorded include betony, heath spotted orchid, loose silky-bent and white sedge.

SECTION 41 HABITAT(S) OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: wet woodland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland

SECTION 41 SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: linnet (1972), reed bunting (1972), bullfinch (1972), song thrush (1972), *Dicycla oo* (1999)

PROTECTED SPECIES: bluebell (2004), kingfisher (2004), red kite (2004), brambling (1972), redwing (1972)

RED DATA BOOK SPECIES RECORDED: corn spurrey (1972) VU, *Dioryctria abietella* (1999) Vulnerable, veilwort (1996) Vulnerable

NATIONALLY SCARCE SPECIES RECORDED: *Criomorphus williamsi* (1999), *Ribautodelphax angulosus* (1999), *Xanthodelphax flaveolus* (1999), *Struebingianella dalei* (1999), *Apoda limacodes* (1999), *Calamotropha paludella* (1999), *Agriphila latistria* (1999), *Evergestis pallidata* (1999), *Synaphe punctalis* (1999), *Drepana cultraria* (1999), *Eupithecia indigata* (1999), *Idaea vulpinaria atrosignaria* (1999), *Eupithecia dodoneata* (1999), *Hypomecis roboraria* (1999), *Paradarisa consonaria* (1999), *Paradarisa extersaria* (1999), *Lithophane hepatica* (1999), *Enargia paleacea* (1999), *Dicycla oo* (1999) and *Parascotia fuliginaria* (1999) are notable invertebrates.

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN RECORDED:

**Red List Species:** linnet (1972), yellowhammer (1972), lesser spotted woodpecker (1972), reed bunting (1972), house sparrow (1972), bullfinch (1972), song thrush (1972)

**Amber List Species:** green woodpecker (2004), kingfisher (2004), red kite (2004), teal (1972), meadow pipit (1972), tree pipit (1972), stock dove (1972), cuckoo (1972), house martin (1972), kestrel (1972), swallow (1972), lesser black-backed gull (1972), grey wagtail (1972), cormorant (1972), willow warbler (1972), dunnock (1972), water rail (1972), goldcrest (1972), sand martin (1972), woodcock (1972), redwing (1972), mistle thrush (1972)

TYPICAL SPECIES OF THE HABITAT TYPE(S)

Bugle, wild angelica, yellow loosestrife, water mint, yellow iris, soft rush, white water-lily, branched bur-reed, bulrush, marsh marigold, cuckooflower, marsh horsetail, marsh bedstraw, floating sweet-grass, marsh pennywort, square-stalked St. John's-wort, gipsywort, hemlock water-dropwort, wood club-rush, ragged robin (1972) and bog stitchwort are species typical of wetland habitats.

Creeping soft-grass, sheep's sorrel, common bent, silver hair-grass, foxglove, tormentil, harebell, betony, heath bedstraw, lady's bedstraw (1972), early hair-grass (1972), parsley piert (1972), heather (1972), bell heather (1972), heath spotted-orchid (1972), heath-grass (1972), bird's-foot (1972) and heath speedwell (1972) are species typical of acidic grasslands.