

Manor Farm Medieval Fish Pond
SU62315562
65-0434
Basingstoke and Deane

Habitat Survey



View of the pond from the bridge.

Date of Survey:	7 th October 2024
Written by:	Ian Ralphs
Validated by:	Amy Robjohns
Date of validation:	18 th February 2025
Last reviewed by:	
Date of review:	

Survey Summary

Manor Farm Medieval Fish Pond 07/10/2024

Site Details

Grid Reference :	SU62315562	File Reference :	65-0434
Total Area :	0.34 ha		
Civil Parish :	Sherborne St. John		
District :	Basingstoke and Deane		
Vice-County :	12, North Hampshire		

Survey Details

Survey Type :	Phase 2
Survey Date :	07/10/2024
Survey Time on Site :	2 (hrs)
Data Owned By :	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership
Data Recorded By :	Ian Ralphs, HBIC

Site Summary

Manor Farm, Sherborne St. John is located on the immediate north side of St. Andrews Church, Sherborne St. John, with the Fish Pond dominating the western end of the garden, separating the grounds of the Manor House from the newer cemetery.

Site Designations

Designation

<none>

Site Features

<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
Features	Deadwood (fallen)
Features	Pond (shaded)
Features	Pond (unshaded)
Geology	Bedrock - Clay, Silt And Sand
Management	Grazing - Other (Ducks)
Usage	Managed For Wildlife

Priority Habitats

None recorded

Notable Species

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher	EU Birds Directive Annex 1 WACA Sch 1, Part 1
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	County Scarce
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common Darter	IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient



HBIC Survey Programme 2024:
Manor Farm, Sherborne St John
SU62595580

Scale at A4: 1:10,000

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Survey Details

General description and management.

Manor Farm, Sherborne St. John is located on the immediate north side of St. Andrew's Church, Sherborne St. John, with the Fish Pond dominating the western end of the garden, separating the grounds of the Manor House from the newer cemetery.

This is a large and well-established spring head pool, situated in the headwaters of the Wey Brook, although exactly how well established has only been recently confirmed, when the pond was identified as being medieval in origin.

The pond itself covers almost exactly a third of a hectare and is relatively shallow, with the bottom covered in a shallow layer of silt underlain by a layer of gravel. The water appeared clear, with a good out flow at the downstream end at the sluice.

The margins of the pond are mostly ornamental in character, with some fine old mature trees immediately adjacent, however there are a number of areas of well developed emergent and marginal vegetation present. The Pond has a healthy population of Common Carp, with a shoal of 20-30 seen during the visit. A Kingfisher was feeding from the bow of the dingy as I approached the site.

It is likely that the Pond has regular visits from Otters, and signs of Mink (scat on the plank over the sluice) were seen during the survey. No aquatic macrophytes (water plants) were seen during the survey, but this was a late season visit, and these may be limited, as the site is heavily used by ducks and Carp.

Given that the water quality in the pond appears to be good and there are areas of emergent vegetation present, it is considered there is a significant possibility that site retains populations of important aquatic invertebrates and small fish populations, such as the Bullhead as well as Otters.



The northern edge of the Fish Pond, including the main areas of emergent and marginal vegetation.

Communities.**(1). Pond.**

Medieval Fish Pond, clear and fairly shallow. Largely unvegetated. (IHS:- AS4Z. AO1Z.AP1Z).

(2). Plantation.

The old ornamental and landscape plantings in the edges of the pond. Moderate to locally dense cover mature trees, often overstanding the edges. (IHS:- WB3Z.WF3.WM7).

Canopy :-	Pedunculate Oak, Ash, Yew, Field Maple, Ivy, Crack Willow and Grey Willow.
*Variant 1 :-	Scattered patches of [S23]: Other water-margin vegetation. Vegetated margins even in shady locations. Typically, with locally abundant Water Mint and scattered Water Forget-me-not.



Marginal and emergent [S23] Water margin vegetation in the south-east corner by the bridge.

(3). [S6]: *Carex riparia* swamp.

The largest block of emergent and marginal vegetation surviving on site, in the open area near the north-west corner of the pond. (IHS:- EM21.SC2.GM4).

Flora :-	Greater Pond-sedge dominates, with Marsh Thistle, Greater Willowherb, Water Mint, Meadowsweet, Wild Angelica, Yellow Iris, Nettle, Reedmace, Branched Bur-reed and Hemlock Water-dropwort. Common Duckweed is present in the sheltered margins.
*Variant 1 :-	Occasional patch of Greater Pond-sedge, Yellow Iris and Branched Bur-reed elsewhere in the edges.

*Variant 2 :-	Occasional garden species, with Russian Vine, Bamboo sp and a variegated form of Reed Canary-grass all present.
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View across (3) looking back toward the Manor and the church over the Greater Pond-sedge dominated swamps.

Ian Ralphs, Field Ecologist, HBIC.



Survey Details

Manor Farm Medieval Fish Pond 07/10/2024

Habitats Recorded

National Vegetation Classifications

S6, Carex riparia swamp	10 %
S23, Other water-margin vegetation	5 %
S14, Sparganium erectum swamp	2 %

Phase 1 Habitat Classifications

G111, Standing water: eutrophic: Small ponds	80 %
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Species Recorded

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Species Status</u>
* <i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	R/O	
* <i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica	R/O	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	R	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	R	
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False-brome	R	
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	O	
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	R	
* <i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	R	
<i>Carex riparia</i>	Greater Pond-sedge	OLA	
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	R	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	R/O	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	O	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	R/O	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	R	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	O	
* <i>Festuca gigantea</i>	Giant Fescue	R	
+* <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	O	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	R/O	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	OLF	
* <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	R/O	
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris	O/F	
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	R	
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Common Duckweed	R/O	
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort	R/O	
+* <i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	OLF	
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	R/O	
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Water Forget-me-not	R/O	
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort	R/O	
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass	R/O	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	R	
* <i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field-rose	R/O	

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Species Status</u>
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock	R	
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Common Sallow	R	
<i>Salix euxina x alba</i> = <i>S. x fragilis</i>	Hybrid Crack-willow	R	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	R/O	
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Branched Bur-reed	R	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	R	
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bulrush	R	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	O	

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Species Status</u>
<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Mandarin Duck	P	
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher	P	NB
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	P	
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	P	NB
<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Common Carp	P	
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen	P	
<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Muntjac	P	
<i>Neovison vison</i>	American Mink	P	
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common Darter	P	NB

Species Summary

Total no. of species :	48
No. of woodland species :	33
* No. of AWVP indicators :	5
~ No. of CG indicators :	0
^ No. of LDAG indicators :	0
+ No. of LM indicators :	2
x No. of PMGRP indicators :	3

Notes

Habitat Classifications :

Priority: Habitats identified as the highest priority for conservation action in the UK

NVC: A system of classifying natural habitat communities according to species associations

Phase 1: A standardised system for surveying, classifying and mapping broad wildlife habitats including urban areas

Peterken: A stand type classification that describes woodlands by tree species

Indicators Species :

- * Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants (AWVP) - species most strongly associated with ancient woodland and are typical components of botanically rich ancient woodland communities
- ~ Chalk grassland (CG) indicators - species characteristic of unimproved chalk downland or have a strong affinity to calcareous soil
- ^ Lowland Dry Acid Grassland Indicators (LDAG) - species characteristic of lowland dry acid grassland.
- + Lowland Meadow Indicators (LM) - species characteristic of lowland meadows.
- x Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pastures Indicators (PMGRP) - species characteristic of Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pastures.

Species Abundance:

Frequency: D=dominant A=abundant F=frequent O=occasional R=rare L=locally

Frequencies within brackets () indicate non-native occurrences

Habitat and Species designations and statuses:

Habitat designations/categories and species legislation/statuses are correct at the time the report was generated and may not necessarily reflect those applicable either at the time of survey or later than the generated date.

Species statuses:

NB: Records of species that are legally protected or otherwise notable within Hampshire.

NW: Species that may or may not have another/a legal designation, but are of note/interest due to one or more of the following: Hampshire Responsible, Hampshire Declining or Near Threatened.