

Wildlife Surveys

The aim is to manage the habitats in harmony with recreation and visitor management. A wide range of plants, birds, insects and animals associated with these habitats are known to exist in the Country Park. A number of independent species surveys have been carried out on the site, especially during the development of the site into a Country Park. The surveys carried out on the site since 1999 include:

- Water Vole Survey (2006) (Author – Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP))
- Small Mammal Survey (2005) (TMBC in liaison with Kent Mammal Group)
- Botanical Monitoring (2004) (Author – Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT))
- Bird Monitoring (2003) (Author – Kent Ornithology Society (KOS))
- Water Vole Survey (2003) (Author – MVCP)
- Botanical Monitoring (2003) (Author – KWT)
- Bird Monitoring (2002) (Author – KOS)
- Water Vole Survey (2002) (Author – MVCP)
- Wintering Bird Surveys (1999) (Author – Bioscan Environmental Consultancy)
- Ecological Baseline Report (1999) (Author – Bioscan Environmental Consultancy)

The key species listed below have been identified as having particular importance within the Country Park. These species have been included as most have been frequently identified within the Country Park (recorded in the surveys set out above) and many are good indicators of high quality habitats. Some of the birds listed are noted within the Kent Biodiversity Action Plan.

Country Park Key Species

Birds

Group and name	Latin Name	Habitat
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia Cetti</i>	Dense Scrub
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Open water Rivers and Streams
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Woodland (coppice) and scrub
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Wetlands
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Dense Scrub
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya Fuligula</i>	Wetlands
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps Cristatus</i>	Wetlands
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Reed Beds
Gadwall	<i>Anas Strepera</i>	Lakes
Skylark	<i>Alauda Arvensis</i>	Grasslands
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Scrub
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Scrub
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Woods & hedgerows
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Shallow wetlands

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Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Wetlands
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Wetlands
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Wetlands

Mammals

Group and name	Latin Name	Habitat
Water Voles	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Rivers, streams and open water

Plants

Group and name	Latin Name	Habitat
Southern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Wet grassland
Man Orchid	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Grassland
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Grassland
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Grassland
Slender Trefoil	<i>Trifolium micranthum</i>	Grassland
Fringed Water Lily	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Wetland
Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Wetland
Water Violet	<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	Wetland
Grass Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	Grassland

Invertebrates

Group and name	Latin Name	Habitat
Black-tailed Skimmer Dragonfly	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Open Water and bare ground
Common Darter Dragonfly	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Rivers and streams
Migrant Hawker Dragonfly	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	Standing water
Ruddy Darter Dragonfly	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	Rivers and streams
Hairy Dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	Rivers and streams
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	Rivers and streams
Banded Damoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Rivers and streams

The protection and enhancement of the key habitats and the species associated with these habitats have been incorporated within the Management Objectives.