

Charlcombe Meadows

Bioblitz 15 June 2025



**Bath Natural History Society &
Friends of Charlcombe Meadows**

Report by Mike Williams, Helena Crouch and Alan Feest

Background

On 15 June 2025, members of Bath Natural History Society, Friends of Charlcombe Meadows and members of the public undertook a bioblitz at Charlcombe Meadows, as part of the Festival of Nature programme.

Plants were recorded by Helena Crouch, and invertebrates and birds were recorded by Mike Williams.

This follows on from a similar event that took place in August 2024.¹

The site consists of two fields, Great Park and Mudcombe (see Figure 1). A full description and history of the site is given in the report for 2024.

Methods

The bioblitz event consisted largely of two walkovers of the site, with all species being recorded by members of Bath Natural History Society, frequently stopping to show and talk about species of note to attendees. All identifications were undertaken in the field, specimens were not taken on this occasion.

Results

Plants

Great Park had 76 species and Mudcombe had 72 species of plants. These totals are higher than in 2024, although this probably due to the level of expertise, the time of year and time spent recording, rather than an influx of new species over the past year.

118 species in total were found on the site, which is a relatively typical number of species found in this type of survey. Including the results from 2024, 124 plant species have been recorded on the site by Bath Natural History Society to date.

No rare plant species were noted.

Invertebrates

33 species were found in Great Park, and 6 species in Mudcombe (37 species in total in 2025). 62 species have been recorded on the site by Bath Natural History Society in 2024 and 2025. Significantly less time was spent looking in Mudcombe, which is reflecting in the species totals.

Two species recorded in 2025 are noteworthy:

Downland Bee-fly (*Villa cingulata*) was thought to be extinct in Great Britain until 2001, when colonies were discovered on the outskirts of Bath and in the Cotswolds. In recent years it has become fairly common, and is very common in the Bath area, typically found on species-rich grasslands.

¹ Williams, M., Feest, A. & White, A. (2024) Charlcombe Meadows Bioblitz 18 August 2024. Bath Natural History Society & Friends of Charlcombe Meadows. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/383490880_Charlcombe_Meadows_Bioblitz

Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) – This once-common species has recently undergone a significant decline. The reasons are unclear, but man-made climate change has been suggested. It is still clinging on at Charlcombe Meadows for the present.

The invertebrate assemblage found is typical of the habitats present at this time of year.

Birds

Although not a focus of the study, birds seen or heard during the survey were noted. Only 4 species were recorded, all of which are relatively common in the Bath area.

Amphibians

A Common Toad was found in Great Park. The area is noted for its amphibian populations and the site provides suitable terrestrial habitat for the local amphibians.

Disclaimer

This report is intended for the use of the Friends of Charlcombe Meadows group to aid their ongoing conservation efforts at the site. It is not intended to be used to inform any current or future planning application.

Species List: Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	2024		2025	
		Great Park	Mudcombe	Great Park	Mudcombe
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple		x		x
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>				x	
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	x	x	x	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	a bent-grass	x	x	x	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard				x
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons				x
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail			x	
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica	x	x	x	x
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass			x	x
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley			x	x
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock			x	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	x	x	x	x
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies				x
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue		x		x
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern		x		x
<i>Avenula pubescens</i>	Downy Oat-grass			x	
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome		x		x
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold				x
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed			x	x
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed			x	
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge		x	x	
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood Sedge				x
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed				x
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear			x	x
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's Nightshade		x		x
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	x	x	x	x
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle			x	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy		x		x
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut				x
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	x	x	x	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood		x		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	x	x	x	x
<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	Himalayan Cotoneaster				x
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	x	x	x	x
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard			x	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	x	x	x	
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Scaly Male Fern		x		
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler Fern		x		x
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male Fern	x	x	x	x
<i>Elymus repens</i>	Common Couch			x	
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	American Willowherb			x	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb			x	x
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	Short-fruited Willowherb				x
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary Willowherb			x	

<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Great Horsetail		x		x
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony	x	x		
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech				x
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue			x	
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet		x		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	x	x	x	x
<i>Galium album</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	x	x	x	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers			x	x
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw		x		x
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill			x	x
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert		x	x	x
<i>Geum urbanum</i>					x
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>				x	
<i>Helosciadium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's Watercress		x		x
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	x	x	x	x
<i>Holcus lanata</i>	Yorkshire Fog			x	x
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan		x		x
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly		x		x
<i>Jacobaea erucifolia</i>	Hoary Ragwort			x	
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common Ragwort			x	
<i>Lactuca virosa</i>	Great Lettuce			x	
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>montanum</i>	Yellow Archangel				x
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch	x	x		
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	x	x	x	
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit			x	
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet				x
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	x	x	x	
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Wilson's Honeysuckle				x
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle				x
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>				x	
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil		x		x
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed	x	x	x	
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint		x		x
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury		x	x	x
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red Bartsia	x	x	x	x
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water- dropwort				x
<i>Paeonia ludlowii</i>	Tree Peony				x
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Small Timothy				x
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	x	x	x	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	x	x	x	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	x	x	x	x
<i>Poa annua</i>				x	
<i>Poa pratensis</i>				x	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>				x	x
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	x	x	x	
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield Fern		x		x
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Plum				x
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	x	x	x	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	x	x	x	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup			x	x

<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Redcurrant		x		
<i>Rosa stylosa</i>	Short-styled Field-rose			x	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	x	x	x	x
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	x	x	x	x
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock			x	
<i>Rumex sanguineous</i>	Wood Dock	x	x	x	x
<i>Salix x fragilis</i>	Crack Willow		x		x
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	x	x	x	
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle				x
<i>Schedonorus arundinacea</i>				x	
<i>Schedonorus pratensis</i>				x	
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort		x		x
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion		x	x	x
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet			x	
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sowthistle			x	
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort		x	x	x
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony				x
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	x	x	x	
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard			x	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	x	x	x	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	x	x	x	
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>				x	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	x	x	x	x
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime		x		x
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell			x	
<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell				x
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>segetalis</i>	Common Vetch			x	x
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch			x	x
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet				x
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog Violet				x
TOTAL		33	60	76	72
TOTAL for both fields		60		118	
TOTAL for both fields 2024/2025		124			

Species List: Invertebrates

Scientific Name	Common Name	2024		2025	
		Great Park	Mudcombe	Great Park	Mudcombe
Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)					
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Southern Hawker			x	
<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	Azure Damselfly			x	
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common Darter	x			
Orthoptera (Grasshoppers & Crickets)					
<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	Field Grasshopper	x			

<i>Pseudochorthippus parallelus</i>	Meadow Grasshopper	x	x	x	
<i>Roeseliana roeselii</i>	Roesel's Bush-cricket	x	x	x	
Hemiptera (True Bugs)					
<i>Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale</i>	Hawthorn Shieldbug	x			
<i>Eysarcoris venustissimus</i>	Woundwort Shieldbug		x		x
<i>Gonocerus acuteangulatus</i>	Box Bug	x			
<i>Himacerus apterus</i>	Tree Damsel Bug	x			
Lepidoptera (Butterflies & Moths)					
<i>Aglais io</i>	Peacock			x	x
<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell			x	
<i>Anania hortulata</i>	Small Magpie			x	
<i>Anthophila fabriciana</i>	Nettle-tap				x
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Ringlet			x	
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown	x	x	x	
<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	Marbled White			x	
<i>Myelois circumvoluta</i>	Thistle Ermine			x	
<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	Large Skipper			x	
<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood	x			
<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	Buff-tip		x		
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma			x	
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper		x		
<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	Straw Dot	x	x		
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper			x	
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral			x	
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady			x	
<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	Six-spot Burnet			x	
<i>Zygaena lonicerae/trifolii</i>	5-spot or Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet				x
Diptera (True Flies)					
<i>Cheilosia illustrata</i>	Bumblebee Blacklet			x	
<i>Chrysotoxum bicinctum</i>	Two-banded Spearhorn	x		x	
<i>Chrysotoxum cautum</i>	Large Spearhorn			x	
<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	Marmalade Hoverfly	x		x	
<i>Eristalis arbustorum</i>	Plain-faced Dronefly	x	x		
<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>	Tapered Drone Fly	x	x		
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	Drone Fly	x			
<i>Myathropa florea</i>	Batman Hoverfly			x	
<i>Syrirta pipiens</i>	Thick-legged Hoverfly	x			
<i>Tabanus bromius</i>	a horsefly			x	
<i>Urophora cardui</i>	Thistle Gall Fly	x			
<i>Villa cingulata</i>	Downland Bee-fly			x	

<i>Volucella zonaria</i>	Hornet Hoverfly		x		
Hymenoptera (Ants, Bees, Wasps etc.)					
<i>Andricus kollari</i>	Oak Marble Gall Wasp		x		
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honeybee	x	x		
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	Tree Bumblebee		x		
<i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg.	White-tailed Bumblebee	x			
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Common Carder Bee	x	x		
<i>Lasius flavus</i>	Yellow Meadow Ant			x	
<i>Neuroterus quercusbaccarum</i>	Common Spangle Gall Wasp		x		
<i>Tenthredo scrophulariae</i>	Figwort Sawfly		x		
Coleoptera (Beetles)					
<i>Calvia quatuordecimguttata</i>	Cream-spot Ladybird	x			
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	7-spot Ladybird	x		x	
<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Harlequin Ladybird	x			
<i>Malachius bipustulatus</i>	Malachite Beetle				x
<i>Oedemera lurida</i>				x	
<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>	Thick-legged Flower Beetle			x	x
<i>Propylea quatuordecimpunctata</i>	14-spot Ladybird	x			
<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i>	Red-headed Cardinal			x	
<i>Rutpela maculata</i>	Black-and-Yellow Longhorn			x	
<i>Subcoccinella vigintiquatuorpunctata</i>	24-spot Ladybird			x	
Arachnida: Araneae (Spiders)					
<i>Araneus quadratus</i>	Four-spot Orb-weaver	x			
<i>Misumena vatia</i>				x	
<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i>	Nursery-web Spider			x	
TOTAL		25	16	33	6
TOTAL for both fields		33		37	
TOTAL for both fields 2024/2025		63			

Species List: Birds

Scientific Name	Common Name	2024		2025	
		Great Park	Mudcombe	Great Park	Mudcombe
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buzzard	x		x	
<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Jackdaw	x			
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Raven	x			
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great-spotted Woodpecker	x		x	
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin	x	x		
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Jay			x	
<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green Woodpecker	x		x	
TOTAL		6	1	4	0
TOTAL for both fields		6		4	
TOTAL for both fields 2024/2025		7			

Species List: Amphibians

Scientific Name	Common Name	2024		2025	
		Great Park	Mudcombe	Great Park	Mudcombe
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad			x	
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog	x			

Photos



Photo 1: Black & Yellow Longhorn Beetle (*Rutpela maculata*). M. Williams



Photo 2: Downland Bee-fly (*Villa cingulata*). M. Williams



Photo 3: Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*). M. Williams



Photo 4: Bumblebee Hoverfly (*Volucella bombylans* var. *bombylans*). M. Williams



Photo 5: Peacock (*Aglais io*) larvae on Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*). M. Williams



Photo 6: Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*). M. Williams



Photo 7: Thistle Ermine moth (*Myelois circumvoluta*). M. Williams



Photo 8: Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*). M. Williams



Photo 9: Great Park, 15 June 2025. M. Williams



Photo 10: Mudcombe 15 June 2025. M. Williams

Figure 1: Site Boundary

