

Monken Hadley Common – Ecological Surveying Results

Botany

A botanical survey of Monken Hadley Common was undertaken, the results are listed in Table 1 below. The species are listed and their abundance explained using the DAFOR scale (Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional and Rare).

Table 1: Botanical survey results for the grasslands present on Monken Hadley Common

Heath/acid grassland area	Neutral grassland areas
Sheep's sorrel D	Yellow oat grass D
Yorkshire fog D	Lesser stitchwort F
Red fescue D	Common sorrel O
Tormentil A	Common yarrow F
Tufted hair grass A	Herb Robert R
Field wood rush O	Sedge sp R
Soft rush O	Common ragwort F
Heather O	Cocks foot A
Smooth meadow grass R	Meadow foxtail D
Heath bedstraw O	Creeping bent A
Wavy hair grass O	Perennial rye grass F
Rose bay willow herb F	Broadleaved dock O
Bramble D	Mouse ear O
Goats beard R	White clover O
Gorse O	Ribwort plantain O
Polytrichium moss sp	Creeping thistle O
	Smooth tare F
	Meadow buttercup O
	Creeping buttercup F
	Common hog weed O
	Common nettle O

Great Crested Newts

The two ponds within Monken Hadley Common were surveyed for Great Crested Newts. Pond 1, the larger pond along Hadley Common Road and Pond 2, the smaller woodland edge pond along Camlet Way were both subject to presence/absence surveys using conventional methods including 4 visits in May 2020. Once great crested newts were confirmed within the ponds, both ponds were surveyed a further two times to get a better understanding of the population of the great crested newts within the ponds.

Each survey was conducted by a pair of ecologists with at least one surveyor holding a Natural England, Great Crested Newt survey license. Three survey methods were implemented for each pond; torching, aquatic funnel trapping and egg searching.

Table 2 summarizes the results of the surveys; Pond 1 was found to contain a medium population of great crested newts. Only one great crested newt was found within Pond 2, due to the abundance of suitable ponds in the locality it is considered likely that the newt was a transient individual, emanating from the core population within Pond 1.

Table 2: Great crested newt population survey results

Date	Technique	Pond 1		Pond 2	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
06/05/2020	Torching	-	-	-	-
07/05/2020	Trapping	4	12	-	-
12/05/2020	Torching	-	-	-	-
12/05/2020	Trapping	15	39	1	-
14/05/2020	Torching	-	-	-	-
14/05/2020	Trapping	10	18	-	-
19/05/2020	Torching	1	-	-	-
19/05/2020	Trapping	24	17	-	-
21/05/2020	Torching	1	-	-	-
21/05/2020	Trapping	12	28	-	-
27/05/2020	Torching	-	-	-	-
27/05/2020	Trapping	6	11	-	-

Prior to newt fencing being erected, ecologists undertook a hand search of various areas of grassland within Monken Hadley Common. The aim of the hand search was to locate and translocate any reptiles or newts found within the grassland to ensure they were not killed during installation of the fencing.

On the 18th August 2020, during the hand search 3 female great crested newts were identified within the grassland and translocated to the woodland edge habitat on Site.

Bats – surveys ongoing

Thus far, four dusk surveys have been undertaken between, May, June, July and August 2020. Surveys will also be undertaken in September and October. The aim of surveys is to identify the assemblage and interpret the behaviour and distribution of bats within the Site (including Monken Hadley Common). The surveys commenced at sunset and continued for at least two hours after sunset.

Table 3 Dates, times and weather conditions recorded during the bat activity transect surveys.

Date	Lead surveyor	Survey times (and sunset time)	Weather Conditions
12.05.2020	Alison Hood	20.40 - 22.40 (20.43)	Cloud 1/8, Wind Bf 1-2, no rain, and temperature: at start: 14 ^o c, at end: 12 ^o c.
03.06.2020	Alison Hood	21.10 – 23.10 (21.12)	Cloud 0/8, Wind Bf 2, no rain, and temperature: at start: 18 ^o c, at end: 17 ^o c.
14.07.2020	Alison Hood	21.10 – 23.13 (21.13)	Cloud 5/8, Wind Bf 3, no rain, and temperature: at start: 18 ^o c, at end: 14 ^o c.
20.08.2020	Alison Hood	20.10 – 22.30 (20.12)	Cloud 3/8, Wind Bf 2, no rain, and temperature: at start: 19 ^o c, at end: 13 ^o c.

As the surveys are still being undertaken, full results are not yet available. However, common pipistrelles and soprano pipistrelles have been the most active and recorded species on the surveys. In addition, a few Daubentons' bats have been identified foraging over the common.

Reptiles

Surveys could not be undertaken for reptile on Monken Hadley Common due to the high public use of the Site and the absence of discrete locations for placement of artificial refugia where they would be safe from public interference which may put reptiles in danger.

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On 18th August 2020, during the hand search two female slow worms were identified within the grassland at Monken Hadley Common and moved to a suitable location on the woodland edge. This confirms that at least one species of reptile is currently present within Monken Hadley Common.