

BRENT ISLAND FIVE-YEAR PLANT SURVEY 2015

Additional survey on 27 July 2015

The main 2015 survey took place on 3 June, at about the same time of year as previous surveys. As part of the recommendation for a more frequent monitoring regime, it was suggested that an additional survey in late July should be carried out, in order to see if any later flowering species had been missed on the earlier survey.

Accordingly, a survey of the three areas of the meadow was carried out on 27 July using the same methodology. The results are shown in Table 1 below, which compares the June and July occurrence of species using the DOMIN scale of abundance. The main changes from the June results are:

- **Species identification.** The only change is that the Bird's-foot-trefoil, originally identified as Common Birds'-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, is in fact Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*.
- **Missing species.** Pignut, Hemlock Water-dropwort, Annual & Rough Meadow-grasses and Field Wood-rush.
- **New species.** Three grasses: Creeping Bent, Creeping Soft-grass and Timothy.
- **Reduced abundance.** Lesser Stitchwort.
- **Increased abundance.** Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil and Ribwort Plantain.
- **Overall number of species.** 32 in June and 28 in July, **and 35 overall for the meadow in 2014.**

These changes do not represent real additions and losses, but reflect the extent to which different species grow, come into flower and go to seed at different times, which in turn reflects how conspicuous and easily identifiable they are.

Although slightly fewer species were identified in July, the list included three additional late-flowering grass species which were not apparent in the earlier 2015 survey, **or in most previous surveys (though Timothy was recorded as rare in 2009)**. Now it is known that they are present on site, it is likely that their early stages could be recognised in future May surveys.

The results from this late season survey provide justification for the main survey continuing to take place in May. However, a July or August follow-up will still be of value for checking for additional species, and it is a time when the meadow is at its most colourful. Perhaps photos should be taken at this time, as well as in May.

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Table 1. Brent Island Survey 2015. The abundance of flowering plants ('wild flowers' or forbs) and grasses in Areas 1, 2 and 3 of the meadow in the 3 June and 27 July surveys.

Species	Common name	AREA 1		AREA 2		AREA 3	
		June	July	June	July	June	July
Forbs							
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow			O	O	O	O
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	R	R				
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	R	R	LF	F	O	O
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear			O		O	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle					O	O
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	O		LF		F	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	F	A	O	F	F	F
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear		O	F	F	O	O
<i>Lotus pediculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil			O	F		O
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort	R				R	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F	F	O	LA	F	A
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	O	O	LF	LF	LA	LA
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	F	F	F	F	F	F
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	F	F	F	F	F	F
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O		O	R		
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort	O	O	O		O	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover			O	O	O	F
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover			LA	A	LA	A
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	O				O	O
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	O	O	F	F	F	F
Grasses							
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	A	A	A	A	A	A
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent		F		F		F
<i>Alopecurus pratense</i>	Meadow Foxtail	R					
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	A	A	A	A	A	A
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	O	O				
<i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	O	O	O	O	F	F
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	F	F	O	F	O	F
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	A	A	A	A	A	A
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass		O		F		A
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ry-grass	O	LF	LF	LF	LA	LA
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy		F		F		F
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	F		LF		LF	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	F		O		LF	
Other relevant species							
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush			LF			
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	O	LF	R	O		
TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES		24	21	26	23	25	23