

AVIFAUNA OF LEICESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The previous school site

The previous city-centre site around Peacock Lane, Leicester, which was occupied until summer 2008, had a very limited avifauna typical of impoverished urban environments. Nonetheless, a small number of unusual non-breeding species were recorded there:

Peregrine
Woodcock
Black Redstart
Waxwing

Description of the new site (and see New Site Plan)



View of site from the north-east

The site occupies 75 acres set in agricultural land close to the village of Great Glen. It includes mature hedgerows (which in one case is close to a small area of woodland) and is surrounded by farmland.

Distinctive features of the school site include two artificial ponds, a marshy area, playing fields, a field left unimproved until 20**, some old barns (which have been preserved), and a variety of artificial and natural trees and shrubs listed in the New Site Plan:

Bulbs: *Allium giganteum*, *Fritillaria meleagris*, *Galanthus nivalis*, *Narcissus* 'King Alfred'

Aquatic and marginal plants: *Carex acutiformis*, *Iris pseudocorus*, *Phragmites australis*, *Butomus umbellatus*

Transplant shrubs: *Crataegus monogyna*, *Corylus avellana*, *Cornus sanguinea*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Rosa canina*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Salix cinerea*, *Viburnum opulus*

Transplant trees: *Betula pendula*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Salix fragilis*, *Salix caprea*

Native woodland: *Acer campestre*, *Alnus glutinosa*

Native hedge: Acer campestre; Corylus avellana, Crataegus monogyna; Cornus sanguineum, Ilex aquifolium, Malus sylvestris, Prunus spinosa, Viburnum opulus

Ornamental trees: Acer platanoides, Fraxinus 'Westhoffs Glory', Juniperus communis, Pinus sylvestris, Quercus robur 'fastigiata', Sorbus aria 'majestica', Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'

Ornamental shrubs and ground covers: Cornus alba 'sibirica', Cotoneaster microphyllus, Hebe rakaiensis, Hebe albertiana 'Red Edge', Hedera helix 'hibernica', Lavandula angustifolia, Ligustrum vulgare, Lonicera pileata, Philadelphus virginialis, Prunus laurocerasus 'Otto Luyken', Rosmarinus officinalis, Rubus 'Betty Ashburner', Skimmia japonica, Spiraea bumalda, Spiraea nipponica



View of site from the south

Management Plan

The following species mentioned in the management plan were not recorded subsequently in 2008:

- Grey Partridge
- Barn Owl
- Spotted Flycatcher

Chaffinch		7								
Greenfinch		2								
Goldfinch		1								
Linnet		1								
Bullfinch		1								
Yellowhammer										

Rare species

Red Kite: 16/3/09

Peregrine: 29/3/09