Dearne Valley Project Botanical Survey – Wombwell Ings

As a follow up to the initial botanical surveys carried out in 2018 and 2019 of the sites to be affected by the Dearne Valley's National Lottery Heritage Fund project "Giving Nature a Home in the Dearne", Heather Bennett carried out a further botanical surveys of Wombwell Ings ahead of the work commencing on this site in autumn/winter 2020. The survey followed the proposed line of the new inner perimeter ditch and the purpose was to ensure that no rare or notable plants would be affected by this work. All of the areas that might be affected were surveyed in June and September 2020, and abundance was scored using a DAFOR scale (Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional, Rare).

There are no UK BAP Priority species, nor any rare or notable species.

Species List: Wombwell Ings 17th June 2020

Scientific Name	Common Name	Frequency
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail	D
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass	A
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	A
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	F
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	F
Trifolium repens	White Clover	F
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	F
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass	F
Poa trivialis.	Rough Meadow-grass	F
Alopecurus geniculatus	Marsh Foxtail	F
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	F
Sanguisorba officinalis	Great Burnet	F
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	F
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	F
Centaurea nigra	Knapweed	O
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft Brome	O
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	O
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	O
Urtica dioica	Nettle	O
Taraxacum officinale agg.	Dandelion	O
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	O
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	O
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	O
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	O
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	O
Juncus inflexus	Hard Rush	O
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil	O
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	O
Luzula campestris	Field Woodrush	O
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	O
Equisetum arvense	Common Horsetail	O
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	O
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	R
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	R
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	R
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse	R
Matricaria discoidea	Pineappleweed	R
Bellis perennis	Daisy	R
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	R
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	R
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch	R
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	R

Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	R
Tanacetum vulgare	Tansy	R
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass	R
Odontites verna	Red Bartsia	R
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	R
Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stitchwort	R
Achillea ptarmica	Sneezewort	R

D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

Species List: Wombwell Ings 30th September 2020

Scientific Name	Common Name	Frequency
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass	D
Poa trivialis.	Rough Meadow-grass	D
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	A
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	A
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail	F
Odontites verna	Red Bartsia	F
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	F
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	F
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	O
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	O
Sanguisorba officinalis	Great Burnet	O
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	O
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	O
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft Brome	O
Urtica dioica	Nettle	O
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	O
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	O
Juncus inflexus	Hard Rush	O
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil	O
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	O
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	O
Luzula campestris	Field Woodrush	O
Equisetum arvense	Common Horsetail	O
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	O
Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stitchwort	O
Cardamine pratensis	Cuckooflower	O
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	O
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	R
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	R
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	R
Tanacetum vulgare	Tansy	R
Lactuca serriola	Prickly Lettuce	R
Carex vulpina	True Fox-sedge	R
Trifolium dubium	Lesser Trefoil	R
Phragmites australis	Common Reed	R
Typha latifolia	Reedmace	R
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint	R
Crassula helmsii	New Zealand Pygmyweed	R
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	R

D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare

There are two main things to note from these surveys. The first is that the September survey includes some aquatic plants such as the invasive non-native species *Crassula helmsii* as well as

reedmace and common reed. This is because the new ditch had been marked out on the ground at this point and so it was absolutely clear where the ditch would be falling, and in some cases passes by an existing ditch or wet area. Crassula has been specified as a biohazard on the construction phase plan for the contractors carrying out the project work on Wombwell Ings which includes washing all machines down in a designated area. The contractors appointed are the Environment Agency, and they are well versed in working with the presence of this species in the Dearne Valley.

The second point is that Great Burnet is a declining plant species (though not a BAP or rare species), and whilst a small proportion of the Great Burnet plants on Wombwell Ings will be affected by the works, it is very common on the site (as well as at Old Moor) as indicated by the photos below, taken on Wombwell Ings on the 17th June when carrying out the botanical survey.

Photos taken on Wombwell Ings (17/06/2020) shows that the Great Burnet plant is abundant on the reserve, most of which is excluded from the project work area.