

# OAKLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013 – 2018



Reviewed and Revised October 2016

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## OAKLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN , 2013 - 2018

No.	ACTIVITY	
1	A comprehensive ecological inspection and enhancement programme for the entire park should be adopted. Prepare Management Plan to 2021 P10 9.1	
2	The Kings Road entrance should be completely renovated in order to facilitate full access, to the whole park, for people with disabilities P10 9.2.1	
3	Replace the many concrete bridges in the park with more appropriate wooden structures. P11 9.5.1.	
4	Install additional Play Equipment Age 8+. P12 9.6.2	
5	Open up the ride down the centre path. P12 9.7.2	
6	New glades need to be created and existing ones opened up further. P14, 14 9.7.1 9.7.2	
7	Replace the bridge to the island P11 9.5.1	
8	The central path needs to be replaced. P11 9.5.3	
9	The metalled pathway around the perimeter of the formal open area needs to be extended from the children's play area through to the NE quadrant to form a continuous pathway around the perimeter of the park. P11 9.5.3	
10	The existing play equipment needs upgrading and more modern play equipment introduced p12 9.6.3	
11	Stream Banking needs substantial work. P12 9.5.2	
12	Introduce a system for organisations/groups to gain access to the pavilion key so that the existing toilet facilities are available for their use.	
13	Install woodland benches p10 9.2.2	

<b>No.</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	
14	The sports pavilion should be refurbished P12 9.6.1	

# **Oakley Park Development Plan, 2013 - 2018**

**(Reviewed and Revised October 2016)**

## **1 Introduction**

The Development Plan is a document which has been developed by Friends of Oakley Park and adopted by Fleet Town Council. It sets out the current situation and establishes the ambitions and aspirations for the future of Oakley Park, Fleet, Hampshire.

The plan looks at the vision for the future development of the Park, and proposes a programme of works to achieve this vision

## **2 Site Location**

Oakley Park, Grid Reference SU 815541, is situated close to the centre of Fleet Town off Albany Road. It is within walking distance of Fleet Pond, the Basingstoke Canal and Fleet High Street.

The park is set in an urban area, surrounded by housing. A map of the area can be found in Appendix A.

## **3 Land Ownership of Oakley Park**

The site of Oakley Park is owned by Fleet Town Council. It was formally transferred to the Town Council from Hart District Council by an Order dated 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

## **4 History of the Site**

In 1920 James Oakley, a wealthy landowner and businessman, bequeathed the open space area of the Park to the community. This was in thanksgiving for the signing of the peace treaty at the end of the 1914-1918 war. The Deed of Gift states: 'Unto and to the promise of the council in fee simple to be used for ever hereafter as a public park and recreation ground for the inhabitants of Fleet and neighbourhood thereof and the public generally under the control and management of the council...'

A copy of the Deed is presented at Appendix 2

The woodland, making up the North Eastern area of the park, was part of land owned by the Shrimpton family in the 1880's. It encompassed a tennis court and a small boating pond as well as two orchards. The Shrimpton family sold the woodland to private owners in 1947. In 1972 Fleet Urban District Council bought the woodland.

In 2010 Fleet Town Council acquired ownership of Oakley Park in its entirety.

## 5 Description of the Park

### 5.1 Overview

Oakley Park covers an area of 5 acres (2.08 hectares). Two acres comprise a formal open park area containing the football pitch, pavilion, children's play area, some planted areas and the majority of the recreation facilities. To the north east of the formal park is the woodland area of 1.25 hectares (3 acres). The woodland has various pedestrian pathways and contains a variety of mature trees and a pond. Access is gained from the formal park area, Kings Road from the North and Burnside to the West. The woodland is designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

### 5.2 Football Pitch

Currently there is one 11-a-side football pitch and one 9-a-side pitch marked within it. The 11-a-side goals are stored next to the pitch and the 9-a-side are stored on the pavilion exterior side wall. The pitch is currently home to Fleet Town Girls and Ladies Football Club and Ravens Youth FC. It is used most Saturdays and Sundays for regular league matches. In addition to this, the park is used for community football during evenings and school holidays by Aldershot Town Community Trust. The Community Trust runs a variety of different schemes in the park.

### 5.3 Pavilion

The Pavilion at Oakley Park is a small brick building that is currently used by all the football clubs and Friends of Oakley Park. Fleet Town Council endeavoured to turn this into a multi-user pavilion so that it could be used by community groups as well as the football clubs, but it proved uneconomic at the time to upgrade the building to modern Building Regulations.

### 5.4 Recreation Facilities

The current play area was installed in 2005 and serves to entertain only young children. Climbing boulders for older children were installed in 2009. In addition there is a tyre swing, basketball hoop, kick frame and an orienteering course. In the formal park area there are seven benches (six wooden and one metal) along with three wooden picnic benches.. In the children's play area there is one metal bench and one metal picnic table.

### 5.5 Woodland

The structure of the woodland varies throughout the site. In the wetter areas species such as alder and willow are the most common. Drier areas are dominated by Scots pine, silver birch, oak and holly. Other tree species present in smaller numbers include hornbeam, sycamore, beech and hazel. The area of wet woodland is a United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) priority habitat due to the decline of this type of woodland and therefore needs careful management to enhance and maintain it. The areas of wetter woodland are comparable to W6e, *Alnus glutinosus* – *Urtica dioica*

(alder – stinging nettle) woodland, *Betula pubescens* (downy birch) sub-community. A section of the woodland adjacent to the stream is closer to the W6b *Salix fragilis* (crack willow) sub-community. (Hall, 2008). The drier woodland, dominated by oak and birch, is best referred to as W10c *Quercus robur* – *Rubus fruticosus* (oak – bramble) woodland, with *Hedera helix* (ivy) sub-community.

There are certain areas within the woodland where clearance has been carried out in the past or where storm damage has cleared areas of trees. Regeneration of new trees is now taking place in these areas. Species trying to take advantage of these areas include birch, oak, pine and sycamore. This regeneration needs to be controlled if the open areas, which are important for ground flora and some fauna, are to be maintained.

Holly, although native, is dominating many areas of the site to the extent that no other ground flora is able to survive. A greater diversity in holly structure needs to be maintained if more species of shrub and vascular plants are to be encouraged in the woodland. This is also the case for bramble which, although important for many species of invertebrates and birds, needs to be controlled to stop its spread into more open areas of the woodland.

Non-native species are present in many areas, threatening the wildlife value of the woods. These will dominate areas of the site if left unmanaged. The species causing the most threat are bamboo, cherry laurel, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and rhododendron. Many of these could have been garden outcasts. Eradication rather than control would be the most effective method of managing invasive species.

Surfaced paths run around and through the woodland as well as alongside the stream. Some of these paths however are in bad condition and in need of replacing. In areas where the paths are not surfaced at all the paths become muddy in the winter months making access even more difficult. The paths should ideally be replaced and kept in good condition to improve access for people as well as bikes, pushchairs and wheelchairs.

## 5.6 Streams and Watercourses

Several streams enter the park from the formal open space park area and enter the main stream which runs through the western side of the woods to the northern tip of the site where the park meets Kings Road. After this the stream runs through residential areas until it enters Fleet Pond Local Nature Reserve where it eventually runs into Fleet Pond itself which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This makes the stream an important feature for reducing local flood risks as it takes water from surrounding roads and storm drains. The stream is also an important part of the site as it has good wildlife value (herons and kingfisher are often seen along it) and it also links the site with the neighbouring nature reserve. There are also ditches in the woodland which flow into the stream when water levels are high enough and act as important features for reducing the flood risks for the nearby properties. The ditches also have a certain importance for wildlife such as frogs using them for spawning. By far the most wildlife rich water feature on the site is the pond area.

## 5.7 Pond Area

The pond is situated in the south-west corner of the woodland and is an important feature of the site. It can easily be viewed from the main path running through the site and the formal open space area adjacent to the woodland giving it a high amenity value. The pond is shaded by vegetation on most sides. Although some works have been carried out already to clear this vegetation, regular work is needed to keep it as open as possible to allow more light to the water. The pond has also suffered from leaf litter dropping into it from the surrounding vegetation.

Regular work is also needed to dredge certain areas to maintain the depth of the water. Despite the work needed on the pond it has a high wildlife value. It can be used for pond dipping activities as part of a Countryside Service education programme. Frogs and newts spawn every year in it and heron and kingfisher are also regular visitors. Dragonflies and damselflies are also known to use to pond to breed and many other invertebrates are found during pond dipping activities. The aquatic community of the pond is comparable to A24a *Juncus bulbosus* (bulbous rush) aquatic community, *Utricularia vulgaris* (bladderwort) subcommunity. A3 *Spirodela polyrhiza* – *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (greater duckweed – Frogbit) community is artificial as it has been created by introductions. A section of the pond also includes a stand of S12a *Typha latifolia* (reedmace) swamp.

## 5.8 Usage of the Site

### 5.8.1

#### For Recreation

The site is used mainly by local people for recreational purposes, such as walking dogs, jogging, cycling, playing etc. Friends of Oakley Park organise events in the park throughout the year to engage local people and to get them involved in the care and maintenance of the site. These events include park clean-ups, Easter egg hunts, coffee mornings, and guided wildlife walks. However, a site surrounded by urban development and therefore some people do create local problems. These include litter and fly-tipping. Fly-tipping is a problem as it may contain non-native species and garden plants which can colonise and spread, shading out native woodland species. Piles of waste will also smother ground vegetation. Litter and fly-tipping also give the appearance of untidiness and neglect.. Garden encroachment has been an issue.

### 5.8.2

#### For Education

The Pond area is used for pond dipping activities due to its high wildlife value. A pond dipping platform was installed on the bank of the pond in 2003 making Oakley Park one of the main sites for educational pond dipping. Friends of Oakley Park run events using educational activities to get children and adults alike involved in learning about nature.

## 5.9 Biological Diversity of the Site

The park and especially the woodland enjoys a wide variety of flora and fauna. More detail is set out in Appendix 3

Up to date biological information has been limited. However, in April 2016, a Wildlife Survey was undertaken by Joel Miller from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre's, Strategic Environmental Group. A botanical survey was carried out in 2008 by local ecologist Chris Hall, the first detailed botanical list since the last survey in 1992. However, other groups such as fungi have not been recorded in over 15 years. An entomological assessment was carried out in 1995 as was a survey of birds in the woodland. However, aside from a few odonata records and general sightings, there are no up to date records. More work needs to be done in these areas.

## 6 Community Involvement

A well run and well supported Friends of Oakley Park Group is an important aspect of community involvement. The group, who meet on a regular basis, takes a keen interest and active role in the activities, events and horticultural work taking place in the park. The group has its own bank account and has adopted its own constitution which states:

The objectives of the Organisation shall be:

- To work towards maintaining and improving Oakley Park for the benefit of the local community in partnership with the local Council
- To promote the preservation and maintenance of Oakley Park woods and to promote their use as a public amenity and as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- In furtherance of the said objectives the Organisation may, through its Committee:
  - Collect annual subscriptions from its membership
  - Work with the local Council to:
    - Maintain and enhance the open space area
    - Control invasive non-native species of plants
    - Help maintain and enhance the structural diversity of the woodland and pond
    - Enhance the amenity and wildlife value
- To work towards promoting and developing the educational use of the site through activity sessions, signage and liaising with local schools and youth organisations
- Provide social events for members of the local community
- Raise money for improvements in the park and for providing community activity events
- Communicate with its members and the local community via newsletters, flyers, a website and the local press
- Hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions
- Make or commission surveys of the park and create maps or plans
- Develop partnerships with organisations with similar objectives to Friends of Oakley Park

Friends of Oakley Park will remain an integral part of the running of the park and also as a body that will actively seek to improve facilities, through fund raising and awareness of the needs of the community.

## **7 Current Management Practices**

Oakley Park is owned, managed and maintained by Fleet Town Council

A maintenance programme covering the whole area of the park was developed by Fleet Town Council via a new Grounds Maintenance contract awarded in 2011. The Contract Document comprising the Conditions of Contract, a Specification, a Preamble and a Bill of Quantities which can be inspected at Fleet Town Council's Offices. The Ground Maintenance Contract embraces the routine work identified in the Oakley Park Management Plan 2009 – 2014 (Appendix 4)

All staff who carry out work at Oakley Park, possess relevant horticultural qualifications, and have been trained in areas such as Health & Safety, Handling of Hazardous Substances, and use of equipment/machinery.

## **8 Vision**

The vision for the future of Oakley Park is described below:-

- 8.1 To promote the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of Oakley Park in its entirety.
- 8.2 To enhance and improve the conservation and biodiversity framework of the park and continue its status as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- 8.3 To create a multi-purpose outdoor leisure facility, accessible and open to all, that will provide an attractive, safe and welcoming environment for a broad range of people regardless of age, gender or physical mobility.

## **9 Objectives**

Objectives are specific aspirations which will need to be achieved if the overall vision is to be achieved.

### **9.1 Preservation and maintenance**

- 9.1.1 A comprehensive inspection and maintenance programme to be developed beyond 2016 to guarantee that, as a minimum, Oakley Park maintains the status quo and that the status as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) be maintained and improved.
- 9.1.2 Physical and financial resources need to be made available to prepare a new Management Plan covering the whole of the park for the period 2016 - 2021

### **9.2 Making the park more accessible**

- 9.2.1 The Kings Road entrance should be completely renovated in order to facilitate full access, to the whole park, for people with disabilities. Improved pathways through the park from Kings Road to Albany Road.

This is a main thoroughfare for many people who use the park, including commuters and school children. Currently the unsurfaced section of path primarily through the woodland area gets very muddy in the winter. Improvements in keeping with the woodland setting are required.

- 9.2.2 Improving the pathway around the pond  
This pathway becomes extremely muddy and makes it difficult for people to enjoy the amenities at the pond at many times of the year. Improvements are required in keeping with the woodland setting.
- 9.2.3 Bridges.  
See section 9.5.1
- 9.2.4 Woodland Benches  
These need careful consideration to placement and type to enhance the environment. They could be created from existing materials on site when woodland work is undertaken.
- 9.2.5 Benches in the open area.  
There are currently seven benches in the open area. The request for more benches came up in Friends of Oakley Park user survey.
- 9.2.6 Picnic Benches in the open area.  
There are currently four picnic benches in the open area. The request for more picnic benches came up in Friends of Oakley Park user survey. There is room for another pair of picnic benches to complement the existing benches.
- 9.2.7 Toilet facilities.  
There are no public toilet facilities in the park. There are however toilets in the pavilion which are only available when the Footballers use the facilities. Requests are made fairly frequently for the provision of toilets and ideally these should be provided for the general public. A system should be introduced that permits organisations/groups to gain access to the pavilion key so that the existing toilet facilities can be using during formal events.

### 9.3 Health and Safety/Well Maintained

- 9.3.1 Anti-social behaviour  
Strong links between Friends of Oakley Park, Fleet Town Council and local beat officers should be maintained and encouraged.

### 9.4 Community Involvement

- 9.4.1 Friends of Oakley Park run many activities throughout the year including the Easter Egg hunt, educational activities and working parties. Support should be given to the group in terms of small grants and free access to the pavilion.

### 9.5 Sustainability and Management

- 9.5.1 Bridges  
All of the concrete bridges in the park are an eyesore. Some will become dangerous due to erosion caused by the streams. Handrails become unstable despite repairs. Substantial refurbishment or replacement of these is needed. Access can be difficult across some of the bridges for those with impaired mobility and needs to be improved. Wooden structures would be more appropriate in this setting and any bridge replacements should be of this nature.

The bridge to the island has been removed and is in need of repair/replacement.

- 9.5.2 Stream banking

Much of the banking in the formal area of the park is unstable and likely to collapse with little provocation and some of it has become an eyesore. Repairing/improving the banking is a substantial project. The stream is becoming colonised by Signal Crayfish – an invasive, non-native species which can greatly undermine stream banks. Inspections of the banks must take place at regularly scheduled intervals.

#### 9.5.3 Paths

The metalled paths throughout the park have become uneven and are in need of immediate repair.

The central path through the formal open area is becoming eroded at the edges and needs to be replaced. The present pathway, at the Burnside entrance, is subject to localised flooding. To facilitate disability access through the park the path needs to be wider than at present.

The metalled pathway around the perimeter of the formal open area needs to be extended from the children's play area through to the NE quadrant of the formal open area to form a continuous pathway around the perimeter of the park.

#### 9.5.4 Non-native invasive plant species.

Areas of the formal open area of the park require regular inspection to identify and remove non-native plant species. The removal of all garden rubbish and fly tipping is essential to the prevention of further colonisation of invasive species.

### 9.6 Recreation and Sport.

#### 9.6.1 Change of Use of Sports Pavilion

The sports pavilion should be renovated and refurbished.

#### 9.6.2 Install Play Equipment Age 8+

Currently there is not enough equipment for older children to keep them adequately entertained and active. When park users were asked in a recent survey by Friends of Oakley Park what improvements they would like to see this was the most frequent concern. New play equipment should be installed.

#### 9.6.3 Young children's play area

Some of the play equipment is starting to become outdated. To ensure that the playground remains within modern standards and any worn out/broken equipment should be replaced with different equipment to keep interest fresh in the park.

New safety surfaces where installed should ensure that they do not cause a trip hazard.

### 9.7 Woodland General

9.7.1 Friends of Oakley Park hold working party sessions in the woodland. In recent years the focus has been on the area in and around the pond. A considerable amount of holly and Rhododendron needs to be removed.

9.7.2 More glades need to be created and a ride needs to be opened up along the path down the centre of the woodland to create structural diversity within the woodland. Woodland management should not concentrate purely on tree safety but needs to look at all aspects of woodland, including open formal areas and low level plants.



APPENDIX 1 Map of Oakley to be updated.



**APPENDIX 2 Deed of Gift**

*Typed version of Deed of Gift document, copy of which was located in the archives of Fleet and Crookham Local History Group (Yvonne Wyatt, Archivist) and received by FOP September 2012 - accuracy not guaranteed.*

25<sup>th</sup> February, 1920

James Oakley

To

The Urban District Council of Fleet

**DEED OF GIFT**

Freehold land in Albany Road Fleet, Hants  
A public park

This indenture made the twenty-fifth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty BETWEEN James Oakley of Fleet in the County of Southampton, Gentleman, hereinafter called the Donor of the one part and The Urban District Council of Fleet aforesaid (hereinafter called the Council) of the other part WITNESSETH that the Donor hereby freely and voluntarily gives and conveys unto the Council All that piece of land situate in the Parish of Fleet in the County of Southampton and having a frontage to Albany Road of three hundred and seventy feet or thereabouts and an area of Five acres or thereabouts which said piece of land is delineated in the plan drawn hereon and is thereon coloured pink and green TO HOLD Unto and to the use of the Council in fee simple to be used for ever hereafter as a Public Park and Recreation Ground for the Inhabitants of Fleet and the neighbourhood thereof and the public generally under the control and management of the Council but subject to an Indenture of Lease dated the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February One thousand Nine hundred and twenty and made between the said James Oakley of the one part and Colonel George Sloane Thomson, The Reverend Hendry Charles Robins, James Oakley, Harold Oakley, Alfred James Woodford, Percy Vass, Albert Edward May Ernest Nash and Robert Wellstead Miller of the other part whereby the land coloured Green on the said plan was demised for the term therein mentioned at the annual rent of one shilling IN WITNESS whereof the Donor shall hereto set his hand and seal and the Council hath caused its Common Seal to be hereto affixed the day and year first above written.

Signed sealed and delivered by  
The above named James Oakley in the presence

of ?Chatfield Valetta, Connaught Road, Fleet, Hants.,  
Acting Paymaster

Ernest Nash (?) Solicitor, Fleet, Hants,

The common Seal of the Council was hereto affixed  
In the present of George Elner (?)  
Chairman

W. H. Wright?  
Clerk to the Council

Enrolled on the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales under  
Section 6 (2) of the Mortmain (?) and Charitable Uses Act 1888 and Section 1 of the  
Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act Amendment Act 1892 by order of the Board dated  
the Fourth day of May 1920 (Vol. 9 to 364)

G.C. Bower  
Secretary

The following amendments also appear:

It is certified that the transaction effected by the within Deed does not form part of a  
larger transaction or of a series of transactions in respect of which the amount or  
value or the aggregate amount or value of the property conveyed or transferred  
exceeds five hundred pounds (signed James Oakley, WH Wright.

Memorandum

By a Deed of Grant dated the (4<sup>th</sup>?) 7<sup>th</sup> March 1961 made between the within named  
Urban District Council of Fleet (Council) (1) and Edward Vladimir Fraser and Sally  
Elizabeth Fraser (Grantees) (2) the Council granted to the Grantees an easement to  
lay a drain across part of the within described land together with ancillary rights of  
entry maintenance and repairs connected therewith subject to the covenants on the  
part of the Grantees to be performed and observed therein contained and the usual  
acknowledgement production and delivery.....

By a Deed of Grant dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1969 made between the within named  
Council (1) and Humphreys Homes Limited (company) (2) the Council granted to the  
Company an easement to lay construct and maintain a private foul sewer and  
surface water drain across part of the within described land together with the

ancillary rights connected therewith subject to certain covenants on the part of the company.....

## **APPENDIX 3 BIODIVERSITY**

### **A3.1 Trees and Shrubs**

Trees are the dominant feature of the woodland with wetter areas being dominated by alder and willow and the driest areas being mainly oak, Scots pine and silver birch. Species such as sweet chestnut, beech and sycamore are also present in fairly good numbers. The under storey is dominated mainly by holly. Cherry laurel, rhododendron and sycamore are also fairly dominant in some areas.

### **A3.2 Vascular plants**

In many areas the ground flora is dominated by bramble, ivy and stinging nettles. There is a greater diversity of flora in the more open areas including a good number of species such as foxgloves. In the Phase 2 survey by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), 17 ancient woodland indicator species were noted, including bluebell, wild garlic, yellow pimpernel, giant fescue, remote sedge and wood speedwell.

A detailed botanical survey by Chris Hall in 2008, commissioned by Friends of Oakley Park, identified 157 species including 37 trees and shrubs, 85 herbs and 40 wetland plants. This survey also identified 24 introduced species not naturally occurring in the British Isles. A few species of conservation interest were recorded including Frogbit, a British Red Data List species and classified as vulnerable, and Greater bladderwort which has become scarce in lowland England. Both of these species were introduced into the pond and have become well established. They still flourish today. Some uncommon sedges were also recorded including Hop sedge, Star sedge and Green-ribbed sedge.

### **A3.3 Birds**

A large number of woodland birds have been recorded on the site and this is most likely due to the diversity in the woodland structure. A bird survey was carried out by G Rowland in 1995. From 1991 – 1995 there are records from local bird watchers listing 47 species present.

### **A3.4 Mammals**

The woodland is also used by a number of mammal species. Bats make use of the woods and the areas of water and species such as common pipistrelle and daubenton's have been identified using bat detectors. Bat boxes, purchased by Friends of Oakley Park, have also been put up throughout the woodland to create further roosting places for the bats. Other mammals known to use the site include grey squirrels and foxes; however a small mammal survey has never been carried out.

### **A3.5 Amphibians and Reptiles**

Common frogs and newts breed in the pond every year. Palmate and smooth newts have both been caught during pond dipping activities.

### **A3.6 Butterflies**

Up until 2008 there are only casual observations of species such as brimstone, comma, peacock, speckled wood, green-veined whites and orange tips.

### A3.7 Odonata

There is also limited recordings for dragonflies and damselflies. However 4 counts were carried out between 1993 and 1995 by Chris Hall and 5 species were recorded. The large-red damselfly, azure damselfly and the common darter were all found often in large numbers and were therefore likely to be breeding on site. The southern hawkler and late hawkler were seen in smaller numbers. In summer 1996, 11 species were recorded on site including the beautiful demoiselle and the broad-bodied chaser.

### A3.8 Other Invertebrates

A few notable species of invertebrates were recorded by Mike Edwards in his 1995 survey. The thick headed fly *Conops vesicularis*, a nationally scarce species associated with heaths and heathy woodlands and *Parhelophilus fruteorum*, a local species of hoverfly associated with bulrushes (Edwards, 1995). However, whether these species still remain is unknown. The 16-spot and 7-spot ladybirds have been noted in the woods. Other diving beetles have been found in the pond including the great diving beetle, one of Britain's largest beetles. Other invertebrates found include water boatman, pond skaters, water louse, water fleas, freshwater shrimps, water stick insect, caddis fly larvae, plumed gnat larvae, phantom midge larvae, pond snails and freshwater limpets on stones in the stream (Chris Hall, 1997).

### A3.9 Fungi

Woodlands are always an important habitat for fungi as they contain all the right conditions such as standing deadwood and dead wood on the ground. 53 species were recorded in 1995 (Chris Hall, 1995). However, it is very likely that the wood supports hundreds of species and many species are notoriously difficult to identify in the field. At least 4 species of myxomycetes were also recorded however specialist knowledge is needed to fully study this group (Chris Hall, 1995). Myxomycetes are commonly known as true slime moulds and are fungus-like protists usually occurring in decaying plant matter.

#### *ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

*Some of the above data have been extracted from Joanna Lawrence's  
"Oakley Park Management Plan 2009-2014"*

**APPENDIX 4 Current Woodland Management Plan to be attached.**