

Chorlton Moss Phase 1 Habitat Survey 30 October 2016–15 November 2016

This survey covers the land between Baldwins Gate and Hill Chorlton. The area is bounded as follows:

North: settlement of Baldwins Gate
North-east: West Coast Mainline
South-east: farmland on south side of Chorlton PRow 5
South: A51 from Maerfield Gate to the Old Cheese Factory
West: Woodside and Berry Hill

We have classified some land as semi-improved acid grassland (B12) because it is not intensively farmed and does not receive applications of fertiliser or muck, but is used for grazing livestock; there is also a small amount of horse grazing. There is a significant amount of wildflower, especially buttercup. (This land has been farmed more intensively in the past.)

Note that the land becomes peaty and in places prone to flooding below the 400ft contour; it is pure peat and marshy at 375ft and below. There is a large amount of buttercup in fields east of Sandy Lane; density of coverage is greatest (carpet-like) at the lowest elevations, in B5 areas.

Chorlton Moss LWS: The southern boundary along Chorlton PRow No. 5 is fenced with sheep netting. This is a concern as it will prevent passage of certain types of wildlife, e.g. foxes, possibly also hedgehogs.

Notes

1 Base map is extract from OS 1981-1993 1:10000

2 Drains and minor watercourses marked in blue.

3 Red letters:

A Made-up land over former sand quarry used as landfill site (local authority refuse; late 1960s, early 1970s)

B Reed bed at Baldwins Gate sewage works. Water is discharged into the watercourse, which then passes in a culvert under the railway line and joins the Meece Brook. Raspberry and bramble thickets on south and east of site.

C Grassland oversown with a standard farmland wildflower mix. Marshy land and ponds on south side of parcel

D Marshy grassland advancing east to west across parcel; pond on SE side

E Alder carr – ground is very marshy

F Defunct badger sett

G Orchis mascula

H Lady's smock (remnants of plants growing in field prior to development)

J 'Nature reserve' area south of pool at Lakeside estate: ash, birch, oak, spruce, sycamore trees (c.2000 planting); undergrowth of elder, bramble, wood avens, a few plants of yellow flag (self-seeded from pool); a few poplars and leylandii trees close to the pool. Man-made island in the pool has similar vegetation. The man-made pool is used by Severn Trent as a balancing pond for surface water run-off and has two exits into watercourses. The pool is stocked with fish, carp, possibly other species too; herons come to the pool. In spring 2015 small fish were removed and transported to a fishing lake. Some very large alder trees by ditch-side at edge of the nature reserve. On the far side of the ditch is area E, alder carr – the ground is very marshy and wet, water visible between tussocks; undergrowth near the ditch includes holly ivy, ground ivy, cranesbill, bramble, thistles.

K Railway cutting – gorse, broom, bracken. Exposed rock face is netted. There is a rabbit fence all along the railway line, on both sides.

L There are springs in here from where cottagers used to fetch their water.

- 4 Red numbers denote hedges, fences, trees (some surveyed from a distance)
- 1 Cut hedge, briar, holly, ash, sycamore, hazel, plum, hawthorn, bramble, ivy, sloe, lilac, mahonia, wych elm; herbs include campion, herb Robert, stitchwort, wood avens, dog violet, purple vetch, lesser celandine, greater celandine, cow parsley, garlic mustard, nettle
 - 2 High hedge with trees, hawthorn, pussy willow, damson, hazel, sycamore, plum; bluebells
 - 3 High hedge, hawthorn, plum
 - 4 Defunct hedge with trees, alder, ash, birch rowan, sycamore, hazel
 - 5 Fence with sparse trees, oak, alder, birch
 - 6 Significant oak by sewage works fence
 - 7 Two oaks and hawthorn tree
 - 8 Two alder trees
 - 9 Birch and oak trees along railway cutting; raspberry at western end
 - 10 Two oak trees
 - 11 Tall hedge with trees, hawthorn, elder, holly, ivy, oak
 - 12 Group of hawthorn and holly trees
 - 13 High screen of field maple, sloe, hawthorn, hazel round sewage pumping station
 - 14 Tall hedge with hawthorn, holly, birch, bramble
 - 15 Alder trees along watercourse
 - 16 Larch tree
 - 17 Poplar trees inside conifer hedge
 - 18 High hedge with hazel, hawthorn, field maple, holly (c. 2000 planting)
 - 19 Fence with mature trees by ditch edge, birch, alder, elder, holly, rowan, self-sown oak, hazel, briar, brambles.
- (Note about frogs: in late March every year the frogs come out in large numbers on Chorlton PRow 1; there are ponds in the garden of Hawthorn Cottage, to the east of PRow 1 and they can be heard croaking in late March; later, during the summer, there are often little froglets on the path.)
- 20 Defunct hedge with mature trees, oak, birch, holly, elder, hawthorn, rowan, ivy, bramble; raspberry and bramble in gap; four oak trees at south end; hawthorn tree by gate
 - 21 Cut hedge, oak, hawthorn, honeysuckle, bramble, ferns, mature oak tree
 - 22 Cut hedge, hawthorn, oak, holly, alder, bramble
 - 23 Defunct hedge with trees, alder, hawthorn, oak, ivy
 - 24 Orchard
 - 25 Manicured beech hedge
 - 26 Oak and alder tree

- 27 Defunct hedge with hawthorn trees; dry ditch along part of length; trees: 2 oaks, 1 ash, 1 willow, 1 oak
- 28 Defunct hedge with trees, rowan, hawthorn, ivy, 1 oak (veteran), gean, plum, apple; 1 oak, 1 damson at south end (towards south end, gap where trees cut 15-20 years ago)
- 29 Significant oak (hollow)
- 30 Two tree clumps, 4 ash, 2 oak
- 31 Defunct hedge with hawthorn trees
- 32 Defunct hedge with hawthorn trees
- 33 Defunct hedge with trees, ash, alder, hawthorn
- 34 Cut hedge, wych elm, birch, sloe, ash, oak, hawthorn, honeysuckle, apple, rowan, sycamore, hazel, bramble
- 35 Dry ditch, cut hedge, hawthorn, wych elm, birch, hazel, bramble, oak, plum rowan, elder, holly, sycamore, alder, apple, 2 oak trees (veterans)
- 36 Cut hedge (dry ditch on western half) oak, holly, hawthorn, sycamore, alder, sloe, rowan, hazel, 3 significant oaks (1 veteran), 1 oak at western corner
- 37 Cut hedge, hawthorn, wych elm, birch, plum, bramble, briar, rowan, ash, oak, hazel, sloe, alder, honeysuckle
- 38 Cut hawthorn hedge (1968 planting after road widening); last few metres at eastern end is original hedge, hazel, holly, thorn, wych elm sloe; trees: 2 Norway maple, 2 red hawthorn, 1 malus (1974 planting)
- 39 Cut hedge, hawthorn, oak, sloe, hazel
- 40 Cut hedge, hawthorn, briar, oak, sycamore, sloe, rowan, hazel
- 41 Orchard
- 42 Cut hedge, ash, hazel, sycamore, hawthorn
- 43 Cut hedge, oak, sycamore, holly, hawthorn, sloe, bramble, alder, ash, rowan
- 44 Domestic holly hedge (incl. some yellow berried)
- 45 Cut hedge, oak, sycamore, holly, honeysuckle, willow, hazel, sloe, hawthorn
- 46 Cut hedge, hawthorn, sycamore, hazel, ivy, sloe, holly, oak, beech, bracken
- 47 Cut hedge, beech, yew, holly, hazel, sycamore, birch tree
- 48 Orchard
- 49 Lime tree
- 50 Sycamore tree
- 51 Fence/defunct hedge with trees oak, hawthorn, holly, birch, beech
- 52 Cut hedge, sloe, hawthorn, holly, and fence/defunct hedge with trees holly, hazel, hawthorn, alder, beech, oak
- 53 2 oak trees (1 veteran)
- 54 Fence/defunct hedge with trees, oak, thorn, holly
- 55 Fence/defunct hedge with trees, holly, oak, beech, birch
- 56 Fence/defunct hedge with trees, oak, beech, thorn; large gap

- 57 Fence/defunct hedge with trees, oak, beech, alder, thorn
- 58 Fence/defunct hedge with trees, hawthorn, oak, holly
- 59 Cut hedge, hawthorn, bramble, ivy, elder, hazel, lilac, holly; one wide gap in hedge
- 60 Cut hedge, hazel, bramble, briar, hawthorn, plum, wych elm
- 61 Cut hedge, hawthorn, wych elm, bramble, hazel, holly elder
- 62 Cut hedge, snowberry, hawthorn, bramble, elder, 1 larch tree
- 63 High hedge, hawthorn, holly, holly tree
- 64 Cut hedge, hawthorn, ash, elder, bramble (1968 planting after road widening); trees: 4 Norway maple, 1 oak, 2 gean (1974 planting)
- 65 Significant oak
- 66 Cut hedge, gappy at southern corner; sycamore, hawthorn, holly, apple(?) bramble, ivy, wych elm
- 67 Trees, 2 sycamore, 1 oak (veteran)
- 68 Cut hedge, hawthorn, holly, bramble, sycamore, plum tree, beech, elder, sloe, wych elm
- 69 Trees, 2 sycamore, 2 oak
- 70 Cut hedge, holly trees, hawthorn, holly, plum, sycamore, hazel
- 71 Domestic hedge, holly, hawthorn, buckthorn, yew, 2 yew trees
- 72 Trees in domestic access, 1 larch, 1 birch, 1 beech
- 73 Cut hedge with holly trees
- 74 Cut hedge, hawthorn, holly, ash, hazel, sycamore, oak, ivy
- 75 Cut hedge, holly, hazel, sycamore, hawthorn, bramble
- 76 Cut hedge, hawthorn, bracken, bramble
- 77 Beech tree
- 78 Ash tree
- 79 Oak tree
- 80 Oak tree
- 81 Fence with hawthorn trees, including 1 significant tree
- 82 Alder trees
- 83 Sycamore trees (2 overgrown hedges that are maintained as trees)
- 84 Scots pines and oak trees (continuation of the line of sycamore trees)

Berry Hill

Mixed predominantly broadleaf woodland under 10-year management programme agreed with NuLBC. High beech hedge on boundary with Woodside.

Tree species: oak, sweet chestnut, beech, maple, sycamore, birch, scots pine, larch, fir

Understorey: self-sown holly, yew, hazel and above tree species; some coppice sycamore and hazel

Undergrowth: bramble, bracken, common fern, bluebell

Western end of wood, beyond north-south track, mainly unthinned scots pine (late 1960s planting) and self-sown birch; larch on northern slope. Broadleaved species on top of ridge and on south, west and south-west facing slopes. Note: peat fire on these slopes during 1976 summer drought.

Known wildlife: badger, fox, tawny owl.