

The Vascular Plants of Monkwood Green by Dr Christopher J Betts PhD FBNA MRSB MEnvSc

April 2026

This is a list of vascular plants recorded at Monkwood Green based on the original survey by John Day in the 1970/90s. The list has been updated at various times since then by myself and others but a full re-survey would be required for a comprehensive update. Nonetheless, bearing in mind that some of the frequency classes may have changed, it is considered that the list is a reliable record of the flora. Do please let me know at christopherbetts@bettsecology.com if anyone has records to add or knows of any species that may have disappeared.

Taxonomic changes are frequent in these days of advances in genetic analysis. I have updated the nomenclature to some extent but please be aware that there may be other name changes to be applied in this list.

Scientific Name	Vernacular name	Frequency (see key below)	Notes
<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple	R (x)	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore	R (x)	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow	F	
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	sneezewort	F	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	ground elder	R	
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	horse chestnut	(R)	One planted
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	common agrimony	O	
<i>Agrostis canina</i>	velvet bent	LF	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	common bent	F	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	creeping bent	F	
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	bugle	O/R	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	garlic mustard	O/F (x)	
<i>Allium vineale</i>	wild garlic	R	
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	black-grass	R	
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	meadow foxtail	F	
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	green-winged orchid	A	Great increase since 1990s
<i>Anemone nemoralis</i>	wood anemone	LF (x)	
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	wild angelic	R/VLF	
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	barren brome	R	
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal grass	A	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	cow parsley	O	
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	parsley-piert	O	
<i>Arctium s.l.</i>	burdock	R	Tricky to identify to species
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat-grass	LF/LA	
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	mugwort	R	
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	lords-and-ladies	R (and x)	
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	wintercress	O	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy	LF	

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Scientific Name	Vernacular name	Frequency (see key below)	Notes
<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	betony	O/LF	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	silver birch	R	
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	false-brome	R	
<i>Briza media</i>	quaking grass	O	
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	soft-brome	F	Used to be <i>B. mollis</i>
<i>Bromus ramosus</i>	hairy brome	R	
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	field gromwell	R	An uncommon species found by K McGee 8 April 2023 SO 79805 60318 – two plants – checked by CJB)
<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>	wood small-reed	R	Abundant in Monkwood.
<i>Callitriche s.l.</i>	water starwort	R	
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	heather	R/VLF	Acidophile on anthills
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	shepherd's purse	R	Increasing?
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	wavy bittercress	R	
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	cuckooflower	F	
<i>Carduus crispus</i> ssp. <i>multiflorus</i>	welted thistle	R	Third party record
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	musk thistle	R	Third party record
<i>Carex caryophyllea</i>	Spring-sedge	LF	
<i>Carex flacca</i>	glaucous sedge	F	
<i>Carex hirta</i>	hairy sedge	F	
<i>Carex nigra</i>	common sedge	F	
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	false fox-sedge	O	
<i>Carex panicea</i>	carnation sedge	F	
<i>Carex remota</i>	remote sedge	R/O	
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	wood-sedge	R (x)	
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	common knapweed	O/F	
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	sticky mouse-ear	O/R	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	common mouse-ear	F	
<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	rough temulum	R	
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	rosebay willowherb	O/LF	Spreading
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle	LF	
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	marsh thistle	F	
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle	O	
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	pignut	R	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel	R (x)	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> F	hawthorn	F (x)	
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Midland hawthorn	R (x)	Recorded by CJB 1986

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<i>Crepis vesicaria</i> ssp. <i>taraxacifolia</i>)	beaked hawk's-beard	R	
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	crested dog's-tail	F	
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	common spotted-orchid	O	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cock's-foot	F	
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	heath grass	R/O	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	O	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	tufted hair-grass	A	Spreading (undesirable)
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove	R (and x)	
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	male fern	R	
<i>Dryopteris. carthusiana</i>	narrow buckler-fern	R	
<i>Elymus repens</i>	common couch	LF	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	bluebell	R (and x)	
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	American willowherb	O	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	great willowherb	LF	
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	broad-leaved willowherb	LF	
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	hoary willowherb	R	
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i>	winter aconite	R	Escape, first recorded by CJB 1990.
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	common stork's-bill	O	Third party record.
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	wood spurge	O (x)	
<i>Euphrasia s.l.</i>	eyebrights	O	Distribution uncertain.
<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	giant fescue	O (x)	
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	sheep's fescue	LF	
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	meadow fescue	F	
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	red fescue	F	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash	O	
<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	snake's head fritillary	O	Recorded by CJB 2013 – escape
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	common fumitory	R	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers	O	
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	heath bedstraw	R	third party record
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	hedge bedstraw	O/R	
<i>Galium palustre</i>	marsh bedstraw	LF	
<i>Galium verum</i>	lady's bedstraw	F	
<i>Genista anglica</i>	petty whin	O/VLF	Challenging to keep the population healthy without grazing.
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	dyer's greenweed	LF	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	cut-leaved crane's-bill	O	
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	ground ivy	O/R	Invasive
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	floating sweet-grass	LF	Ditches and ponds

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<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	marsh cudweed	R	At large western pool confirmed by CJB & F Beamish 12/09/2022)
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy	LF on trees and x	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	hogweed	R	
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	mouse-ear hawkweed	LF	On anthills.
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	LF	
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	creeping soft-grass	LF	
<i>Hypericum humifusum</i>	trailing St John's-wort	R	
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	slender St John's-wort	R	Third party record.
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly	O (x)	
<i>Jacobaea aquatica</i>	marsh ragwort	R	Third party record.
<i>Jacobaea erucifolius</i>	hoary ragwort	O	
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	ragwort	O	
<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	sharp-flowered rush	F	
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	jointed rush	F	
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	toad rush	O	
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	compact rush	F	
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	soft rush	F	
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	hard rush	F	
<i>Lamium album</i>	white dead-nettle	O	
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	red dead-nettle	R	
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	common nipplewort	O	
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	grass vetchling	O/R	
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	meadow vetchling	F	
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	ox-eye daisy	O	
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn hawkbit	O	
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	rough hawkbit	R/LF	
<i>Lepidium coronopus</i>	swine cress	O/F	
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	fairy flax	O	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial rye-grass	LF	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	honeysuckle	O (and x)	
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	common	F	
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	greater bird's-foot-trefoil	O/LF	
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	field wood-rush	F	
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	common woodrush	LF	
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	creeping jenny	R	
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	purple-loosestrife	R	Added by CJB 15 July 2023

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<i>Malus domestica</i>	apple	R	Added by CJB 2023 following trees survey.
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>)	crab apple	R (x)	
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	common mallow	R	
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	chamomile	R	
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	pineappleweed	O	
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black medick	O	
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	common cow-wheat	R	Third party record.
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	field forget-me-not	R	
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	water forget-me-not	O	
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	matgrass	F	
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	red bartsia	O/F	
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	adder's tongue fern	R	Unsure if still present – requires search
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	common spotted-orchid	O/LF	Increasing.
<i>Oxybasis rubra</i>	red goosefoot	LF	In large western pool (confirmed by Cesca Beamish 12/09/2022)
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	common lousewort	F	
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	green alkanet	O	recent colonist (2025 spreading)
<i>Lythrum portula</i> LF	water purslane	LF	
<i>Persicaria</i> sp. (<i>lapathifolia</i> or <i>hydropiper</i>)	knotweed	R	
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	timothy	F	
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	burnet saxifrage	R	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> F	ribwort plantain	F	
<i>Plantago major</i>	broad-leaved plantain	F	
<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow-grass	F	
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	wood meadow-grass	R	
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	common meadow-grass	F	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow-grass	LF	
<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	heath milkwort	O/R	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	knotgrass	LF	
<i>Populus nigra</i>	black poplar	R	The single female tree is notable (others on the Green are male).
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	silverweed	LF	
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	tormentil	LF	
<i>Potentilla anglica</i>	trailing tormentil	O	Recorded by K McGee, CJB and E Breakwell 28 Sept. 2017
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	creeping cinquefoil	F	

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<i>Primula veris</i>	cowslip	F	
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	primrose	R	
<i>Primula x polyantha</i>	polyanthus primrose	R	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	self-heal	F	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	wild cherry	R	Added by CJB 2023 following trees survey.
<i>Prunus domestica</i> ssp. <i>insititia</i>	damson	O (x)	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	blackthorn	LF (and x)	
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	common pear	R	Added by CJB 2023 following trees survey.
<i>Quercus robur</i>	pedunculate oak	O/F	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	meadow buttercup	F	
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	common water-crowfoot	R	
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	bulbous buttercup	F	
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	lesser celandine	O/F	
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	lesser spearwort	F	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup	O/LF	
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	gooseberry	R (x)	
<i>Rorippa palustris</i>	marsh yellow-cress	LF	Western large pool mud confirmed by Cesca Beamish 12/09/2022.
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	field rose	O (and x)	
<i>Rosa canina</i> s.l.	dog rose	R/O	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> s.l.	bramble	LF (and x)	
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	common sorrel	F	
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	clustered dock	LF	
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	curled dock	R	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock	O	
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	wood dock	LF	
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	procumbent pearlwort	R	
<i>Salix alba</i> s.l.	white willow	O	Added by CJB 2023 following trees survey.
<i>Salix caprea</i>	goat willow	R	
<i>Salix cinerea</i> s.l.		R	Added by CJB 2023 following trees survey.
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	crack willow	R	
<i>Salix x sepulcralis</i>	weeping willow	R	Added by CJB 2023 following trees survey.
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder	R	

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<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	annual knawel	R	A red-listed species found by Cesca Beamish 13.04.2023 SO 79805 60318 near the <i>Buglossoides arvensis</i> above – at least two plants – checked by CJB).
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	groundsel	O	
<i>Silaum silaus</i>	pepper-saxifrage	O/F	
<i>Sison amomum</i>	stone parsley	LF	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	bittersweet	O	
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	prickly sow-thistle	LF	
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	smooth sow-thistle	LF	
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	hedge woundwort	R	
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	lesser stitchwort	O	
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	greater stitchwort	R	
<i>Stellaria media</i>	chickweed	R	
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	devil's-bit scabious	O/R	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion	O/F	
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	wood sage	R	
<i>Thymus drucei</i>	wild thyme	F	
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	small-leaved lime	R	Added by CJB 2023 following trees survey.
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	upright hedge-parsley	R	
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	lesser trefoil	F	
<i>Trifolium medium</i>	zig-zag clover	R	
<i>Trifolium micranthum</i>	slender trefoil	R	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover	F	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover	O/LF	
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse	LF/LA	
<i>Ulex gallii</i>	western gorse	R	
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English elm	R (x)	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	common nettle	O	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	germander speedwell	O	
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	heath speedwell	LF	
<i>Veronica polita</i>	grey field-speedwell	O	
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	thyme-leaved speedwell	F	
<i>Veronica scutellata</i>	marsh speedwell	LF	Western large pond in mud CJB 12/09/2022

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<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	guelder rose	R	Added by CJB 2023 following trees survey.
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	tufted vetch	R	
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	common vetch	O/LF	
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	bush vetch	O/LF	
<i>Vinca major</i>	greater periwinkle	VLF	Recorded by CJB 2015
<i>Viola odorata</i>	sweet violet	R/O	
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	common dog-violet	O/LF	

Key:

x = hedgerow species

A = abundant

F = frequent/common

O = occasional

R = rarely occurring

L = locally

V = very

s.l. = *sensu lato*

sp. = species

ssp. = subspecies

CJB = Dr Christopher Betts

A note about management of grassland areas.

Appropriate grassland management of the Green is essential for the continuation of botanical richness and biodiversity. It has proved impossible to find anyone who can provide grazing animals, which would be the ideal solution, so we have designed a mowing regime to promote the ecologically high value grassland community by tractor mowing and, for the anthill area, pedestrian strimming. Although costly, this is working well as witnessed by the plethora of wild orchids and a continued exceptional floral richness generally. One operation that needs to be changed, though, is the verge mowing. Verges must be cut for traffic safety reasons to preserve visibility BUT THE CUTTINGS MUST NOT BE LEFT TO LIE AND MUST BE COLLECTED. Please will the Council ensure that they use a mower that collects the cuttings. Leaving them smothers the forbs and promotes a species-poor community dominated by false oat-grass and other invasive plants at the expense of the native neutral grassland desired.

A few photos. Please note these are at different scales. Photos © Dr Christopher Betts



Green-winged orchids. There are now many hundreds of these on the Green.



field gromwell



petty whin



lousewort



dyer's greenweed



sneezewort



annual knawel



common spotted-orchid



marsh thistle



common dog-violet



red dead-nettle

cowslip

gorse

honeysuckle



polyanthus primrose

lesser celandine

timothy grass

female black poplar catkins