

FRIENDS OF CITY GARDENS

NOBLE STREET PLANT SURVEY

JUNE - JULY 2014

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Acknowledgements

Friends of City Gardens would like to thank the clerk of The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers for granting access and the Hall staff for facilitating this survey - in particular, Rob Pegg, Hall Manager and Lee White, the Assistant Facilities Manager who maintains this wonder wildlife garden.

We would also like to thank the Friends of City Gardens volunteers who undertook the plant survey in May to July 2014 - Clare Bassett, Francis Pugh and Anne Naphine - and Stephen Leaman from the City of London City Gardens team who assisted in the survey.

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Purpose of survey

Noble Street is designated as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC). Approximately ten years ago it was cleared and seeded with native meadow plants. Since then there have been minimal intervention and the site has been allowed to develop as a wildflower meadow maintained by annual mowing.

Although the exact mix of plants that were originally sown is not known, Noble Street has developed a species-rich flora as other plants have colonised the site. The purpose of this survey was to record which plant species are now present. It is hoped that regular monitoring of the site in future will shed light on the natural process of plant colonisation in an urban context. This information will be a valuable for the creation and management of other meadow areas in the City of London.

The species information will be entered on the Green Space Information for Greater London (GiGL) database.

Description of Site

Grid ref: TQ322815

Total size in hectares: 0.0653

The wildflower meadow portion of the Noble Street sunken garden is approximately 40 metres by 12 metres (0.048 ha) and lies about 3 metres below the surface of Noble Street. The garden runs North/South, with old brick walls on both the west and eastern sides. Brick buttresses about one metre wide protrude two to three metres from the western wall and demarcate the garden into four sections. These were labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4 for the purposes of this study - and the plant species in each section were recorded separately.

The site is very sheltered from the wind and the temperatures on a sunny day appeared to be substantially higher than at street level - although they were not accurately recorded. The site is relatively open to the south and is in full sun for much of the afternoon in summer, although the taller western wall provides some shade.

The soil was not examined, but was observed to be thin and stony.

A narrow path is mown along the centre of the meadow but there is no access to the public and the garden is generally undisturbed. The meadow is mown once a year in late August and the arisings removed.

Methodology

Surveyors recorded plant species in each of the four sections of the garden. The survey took place over three sessions: 19 May, 12 June and 23 July. Each section was surveyed on all three sessions to aid the identification of flowering plants over a longer season.

The location of each plant species within each section was divided into ground (G), west wall (WW) and east wall (EW).

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The relative abundance of each species within each section was noted using the DAFOR scale: D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare.

Appendix 1: Data

19 May 2014

Scientific name	Common name	Section	DAFOR	Location
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	1	O	G
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad leaf willow herb	1	O	WS
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall	1	F	WS
	Fern	1	O	WS
<i>Rubus</i> agg.	Bramble	1	O	WS
	Hawkbit?	1	F	WS
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Heartsease pansy	1	R	WS
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion	1	O	G
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Harts Tongue Fern	1	R	WS
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	1	O	WW
	Buddliea	1	O	WW
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Campanula creeping little	1	F	WW
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common ragwort	1	O	WW
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Long headed poppy	1	O	WW
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Oxeye daisy	1	O	G
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St John's wort	1	O	G
<i>Galium verum</i>	Ladies bedstraw	1	O	G
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	1	O	G
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Procumbent Yellow-sorrel	1	O	G
<i>Sedum album</i>	Stone crop - white	1	O	G
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple toadflax	1	O	G
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goose grass	1	O	G
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sowthistle	1	O	G
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	1	O	G
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	1	O	G
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	1	F	WE
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Yellow toadflax	1	O	G
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad leafed dock	1	O	G
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch	1	O	G
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple toadflax	1	F	WE
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth catsear	1	O	G
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle	2	O	G
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medic	2	O	G
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	2	O	G
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard	4	O	WE
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	4	R	WE

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<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teazle	4	O	WE
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Harts Tongue Fern	4	R	WE
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Oxeye daisy	4	O	G
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common ragwort	4	O	G
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	4	O	G
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch	4	O	G
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Valerian	4	O	WE
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords and Ladies	4	O	G
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks buttercup	4	O	G
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	4	O	G
	Bracken	4	O	G
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St John's wort	4	O	G
<i>Vicia orobus</i>	Upright vetch	4	O	G
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	4	O	G
<i>Rubus agg.</i>	Bramble	4	O	G
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad leaf dock	4	O	G
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad leaf willow herb	4	O	WE
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	4	O	G
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	4	O	G
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medic	4	O	G

12 June 2014

Scientific name	Common name	Section	DAFOR	Location
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall	4	O	G
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall	4	F	WE
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall	4	F	WW
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	4	F	WE
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple toadflax	4	F	G
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	4	O	G
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple toadflax	4	F	WE
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medic	1	O	G
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self Heal	4	O	G
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	4	F	G
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	4	O	WE
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	4	O	G
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common catsear	4	O	WE
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Long headed poppy	4	O	WE
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	4	O	G
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk mallow	4	R	WE
<i>Morus nigra</i>	Black mulberry	4	R	WE
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	4	O	G
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	4	O	G
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge woundwort	4	R	G
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black horehound	4	R	G

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23 July 2014

Scientific name	Common name	Section	DAFOR	Location
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Great knapweed	4	R	WE
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	3	O	G
<i>Galium verum</i>	Ladies bedstraw	3	O	G
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	3	F	G
<i>Rubus</i> agg.	Bramble	3	O	G
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall	3	F	G
	Buddleia	3	O	WW
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	3	O	WW
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Oxeye daisy	3	O	G
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad leaf willow herb	3	O	WW
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple toadflax	3	O	G
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	3	O	G
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion	3	O	G
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Long headed poppy	3	O	G
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	3	R	G
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Canadian fleabane	3	F	G
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth sow thistle	3	F	G
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Procumbent yellow sorrel	3	O	G
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick	3	O	G
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Colombine	3	R	G
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	3	O	G
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common bird's foot trefoil	3	O	G
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	3	F	G
<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Balm	3	R	G
<i>Sedum album</i>	Stone crop - white	2	O	G
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Campanula creeping	2	O	WW
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the wall	2	F	WW
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	2	O	WW
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	2	O	WW
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Long headed poppy	2	O	WW
	Buddleia	2	O	WW
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Procumbent yellow sorrel	2	O	WW
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad leaf willow herb	2	O	WW
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	2	O	WW

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<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	2	O	WW
<i>Rubus</i> agg.	Bramble	2	O	WW
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Harts Tongue Fern	2	R	WW
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Canadian fleabane	2	F	WW
<i>Oxalis acetosella?</i>	Wood sorrel?	2	R	WW
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	2	R	G
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Oxeye daisy	2	O	G
<i>Galium verum</i>	Ladies bedstraw	2	O	G
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	2	O	G
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch	2	O	G
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	2	O	G
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	2	F	G
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	2	F	EW
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple toadflax	2	F	EW
	Buddliea	2	O	EW
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Prickly ox tongue	2	O	G
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	2	O	G
<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Balm	2	R	G
<i>Ilex</i> spp.	Holly	2	R	G
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood avens	2	R	G
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	2	O	G

Key:

G = ground

WS = wall south

WE = wall east

WW = wall west