

Estate Management

Vision and Principles

The planning application for redevelopment of Mucknell Farm as Mucknell Abbey included a conservation and wildlife survey, which described the land as an 'agricultural desert'.

The Land Use Strategy for Mucknell lays out the principles, the infrastructure we have and need, and the plans for development of the various features of the site. Our vision is to bring life to the desert, and restore the balance of the natural landscape as a place of reconciliation and healing. These are long term goals which involve working with the natural cycles of growth and development.

Our principles:

- To develop a practice of sustainable stewardship of the Mucknell estate which will demonstrate our care for creation, respecting and encouraging biodiversity
- To work towards producing most of our food using organic methods, contributing to income generation by selling produce.
- To provide an inviting network of paths and secluded seating places to enable the community, guests and visitors to experience solitude and take delight in observing the complexities of our place in nature.

The Site

The geology of the site is Westbury or Blue Anchor formation overlain with weak limestone and silty clay. The drainage is very poor.

The site is elevated and therefore exposed and windy. However, it seems to be in the rain-shadow of the Malvern Hills. No weather observations have yet been taken, but temperatures and rainfall are likely to be lower than at [Pershore](#), and wind speeds higher.

The northern boundary of the site is a small stream, a tributary of the Bow Brook. There are a number of mature hedgerows and trees, but most of the site was 'improved grassland', synonymous with 'agricultural desert'. There is area of ridge and furrow on the northern side, running down towards the mature oak and stream.



About Mucknell

Mucknell Abbey is a contemplative monastic community of nuns and monks living under the [Rule of St Benedict](#) and part of the [Church of England](#).

More information on [sustainability at Mucknell](#), and further factsheets on the renewable technologies and grounds are available at www.mucknellabbey.org.uk.



Tree Planting

In 2010 while the monastery was being built, 5,485 trees were planted on the north side - a 'Forest of Feckenham mix', including oak, ash, birch and alder - for which we received funding from the English Woodland Grant Scheme. In 2011, a further 3,410 trees were planted, primarily coppice hazel, sweet chestnut, oak and ash. We are also continuing the hedgerows around the edges of the estate, and sowing the grassland with a wild flower mix. The overall aims are provision of woodfuel and timber, carbon sequestration, habitat creation, and a life-enhancing space.

Woodland/Coppice		2010	2011
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple		100
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	375	250
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Birch	1,000	150
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet chestnut		900
<i>Cornus alba</i>	Dogwood	155	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	175	1,000
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	150	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	175	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	1,125	450
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab apple	150	60
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak	1,675	450
<i>Salix alba</i>	Willow	200	
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	130	15
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder rose	175	35
TOTAL		5,485	3,410

Hedgerow		2011
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	525
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	590
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab apple	170
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	730
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field rose	350
<i>Rosa fruticosa</i>	Rose	335
TOTAL		2,700

Specimen Standards		2011
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	2
<i>Alnus cordata</i>	Italian alder	2
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Birch	3
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry	2
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak	16

Ornamentals		2011
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	Hawthorn	3
<i>Malus 'Robinson'</i>	Crab apple	3
<i>Pyrus nivalis</i>	Snow pear	3
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	3

Biodiversity

In our first year we are observing carefully 'to see what comes up'. Apart from having been a building site since 2007, extra topsoil had to be brought in from an unidentified local source to complete the land works, which had already involved significant moving around of sub- and topsoil already on site. After a long dry period in early 2011, rain has given rise to a rapid spread of annuals associated with disturbed ground. Also the earth moving has distributed a lot of dock and creeping thistle. We are still working on the best strategy for remediating the grassland which is a major part of the estate. Meanwhile we are beginning detailed recording of species.

Insect Records to June 2011

<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Banded Demoiselle
<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	Beautiful Demoiselle
<i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i>	Northern Damselfly
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Southern Hawker
<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Broad-bodied Chaser
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common Darter
<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange Tip
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone

<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue
<i>Parage aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood
<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	Marbled White
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Ringlet
<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral
<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock
<i>Ochlodes venata</i>	Large Skipper
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper

Other Animal Records to June 2011

<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	Field Vole
<i>Talpa europaea</i>	Mole
<i>Neomys fodiens</i>	Water Shrew
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Rabbit
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Hare
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Grey Squirrel
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Roe Deer
<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Muntjac
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle
<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>	Common Newt
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad
<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Grass snake
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog



Bird Records to June 2011

<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey heron
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute swan
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada goose
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wood duck
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Athya filigula</i>	Tufted duck
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Hobby
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin
<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Red-legged Partridge
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Common Pheasant
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	European Golden Plover
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern lapwing
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common Wood Pigeon
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common Cuckoo
<i>Strix aluco</i>	Tawny Owl
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl
<i>Apus apus</i>	Common Swift
<i>Picus viridis</i>	European Green Woodpecker
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Common Skylark
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
<i>Delichon urbica</i>	House Martin
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Pied Wagtail

<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern Wheatear
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap
<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Whitethroat
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Sedge Warbler
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Chiff Chaff
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest
<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit
<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed Tit
<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Eurasian Treecreeper
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie
<i>Garulus glandarius</i>	Jay
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Jackdaw
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Rook
<i>Corvus corone corone</i>	Carrion Crow
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Raven
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch
<i>Emberiza schoeniculus</i>	Reed Bunting
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer

Plant Records to June 2011

<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Redshank
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Good King Henry
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen
<i>Atriplex hastata</i>	Spear-leaved orache
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
<i>Silene alba</i>	White Campion
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corn Cockle
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love in a mist
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Meadow buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup
<i>Ranunculus scleratus</i>	Celery-leaved crowfoot
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common fumitory
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy
<i>Papver dubium</i>	Long-headed poppy
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium poppy
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine
<i>Sysymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge mustard
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckoo flower
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Water cress
<i>Amoracia rusticana</i>	Horse radish
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick

<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved cranesbill
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow cranesbill
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild pansy
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common dog violet
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White bryony
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great willowherb
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary willowherb
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel
<i>Calystagia sepium</i>	Hedge bindweed
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Common cleavers
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field forgetmenot
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy
<i>Lamium album</i>	White dead-nettle
<i>Lamium purpurium</i>	Re dead-nettle
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge woundwort
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water mint
<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Cornmint
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great mullein
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common field speedwell
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain

<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious
<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>	Teasel
<i>Tripleuro spermuminodorum</i>	Scentless mayweed
<i>Matricaria matricariodes</i>	Pineapple mayweed
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Moon Daisy
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel

<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creping thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater burdock
<i>Tragopoon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth sow-thistle
<i>Taraxcum vulgaria</i>	Dandelion
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Crow garlic
<i>Endymion non-scriptus</i>	Bluebell
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo pint

