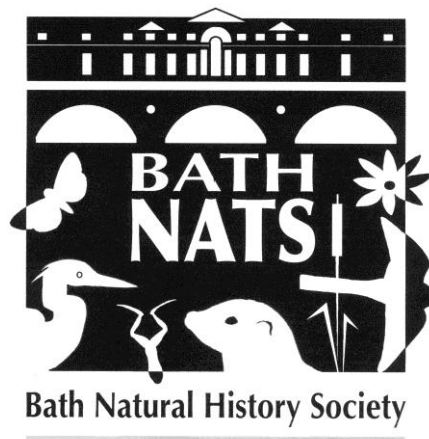


Claremont Road Allotments

Bioblitz 10 May 2025



Mike Williams, Helena Crouch and Alan Feest



Background

On 10 May 2025, members of Bath Natural History Society and allotment plot holders undertook a bioblitz at Claremont Road Allotments in Bath. This followed a preliminary visit by Mike Williams and Alvan White on 28 April 2025.

Invertebrates and birds were identified by Mike Williams, and plants were identified by Helena Crouch, both from Bath Natural History Society.

Site History

Thomas Thorpe's 'Plan of the Parish of Walcot', surveyed in 1740, shows that the present allotments occupy approximately a fifth of larger former field known as Bayley's Tynning. The Tithe Map of 1840 shows that the south-eastern fifth of the field (now called Baileys Tynning) was then houses and gardens, with the remainder of the field recorded as pasture. The boundary between the gardens and the field was roughly where the wall on the south-eastern boundary of the allotments is now, and it is therefore possible that this wall was the boundary in 1840. The 1885 25-inch Ordnance Survey map shows the north-western fifth of Bailey's Tynning was then occupied by houses and gardens to the north of Belgrave Road. It also recorded a stone within the field, in the north-east half of the present allotments. There is no indication as to the purpose of the stone. The second edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1902, shows houses and gardens to the south of Belgrave Road, forming the north-western boundary to the present allotments. The south-western half of the land now occupied by the allotments is recorded as a nursery and a fountain is marked within it, and two glasshouses are recorded in the north-eastern half.

The site was purchased by Bath City Council in 1937 as an allotment site¹, and has remained an allotment site ever since. The 1951 National Grid Ordnance Survey map does not show any glasshouses, stones or fountains. The allotment boundaries are the same as the present allotment site.

Site Description

Claremont Road allotments covers an area of approximately 0.58ha (1.44 acres), centred around OS grid reference ST758661. The site is largely composed of well-tended allotments, with areas of grassland between the plots.

Methods

The bioblitz event consisted largely of a walkover of the site, with all species being recorded by members of Bath Natural History Society, frequently stopping to show and talk about species of note to attendees. Species noted on the preliminary visit on 28 April are also included in this report. All identifications were undertaken in the field, specimens were not taken on this occasion. Plants were identified by Helena Crouch, and invertebrates and birds by Mike Williams, both from Bath Natural History Society.

¹ Hitchcock, M. (2006) Bath's Municipal Allotments. *The Survey of Bath and District*, 21: 39-44

Results

158 species of plants, invertebrates and birds were recorded over the two visits.

Plants

101 species of plant were recorded, not included crop or ornamental plants. Many species were recorded from within cultivated plots. Other areas of interest include the strip along the southern site boundary (likely to have been seeded) and the spaces between the plots.

Quite a lot of the species recorded are common garden escapes, especially in towns, e.g. Red Valerian, Greater Celandine, Garden Grape-hyacinth, Green Alkanet, Winter Heliotrope, Pink-sorrel, Procrumbent Yellow-sorrel, Mind-your-own-business and Feverfew.

The most interesting find was Henbit Dead-nettle, which is not common locally, with only two other records from the 10km grid square ST76. This species is an annual and is typically found in cultivated land such as gardens and arable farmland.

The Wild Carrot, Ox-eye Daisy, Rough Chervil, Crosswort and Teasel on the strip on the southern edge were suspected to have been sown from seed. The Comfrey may have been intentionally planted originally too. The American Winter-cress, present on several allotments at the North end near the gate, was probably originally sown as Land-cress, but had spread about enough to be worthy of note. There is only one other post-2000 record from the 10km grid square ST76.

Invertebrates

48 species were found on the allotments. The species recorded are likely to represent only a small fraction of the total number present, and a more intensive study would likely record many more species.

No rare species were found.

Cinnamon Bug was formerly considered to be a species with Local distribution, but has in recent years spread widely (possibly due to climate change) and is now a frequent sight throughout much of England and Wales. Forget-me-not Shieldbug has a Local distribution, but is easily overlooked. It is typically found on calcareous soils near the foodplants (forget-me-nots), in this case the foodplant is likely Field Forget-me-not.

Cinnabar Moth is a Locally Common species that has declined considerably in recent years, largely due to the widespread persecution of their main food plant, Common Ragwort (still considered to be a threat to livestock, despite there being very few proven cases of livestock poisoning). The plant is an important source of nectar for many invertebrate species.

The other species recorded were fairly typical of urban parks and gardens and allotment sites.

Harlequin Ladybird is an invasive species from Asia, first found in the UK in 2004 (first recorded in Bath and North-east Somerset in 2006) and is now one of the most common ladybirds in Britain. They are now so well-established that there is little point in trying to control them.

Birds

Eight species of birds were recorded, which is a reasonable number for an urban site where birds were not the main focus. No rare species were recorded. A Robin was observed carrying a caterpillar in its beak, indicating that it was nesting either on or near the allotments.

Further Study

The number of species recorded in this survey represents only a small proportion of the total species present. Many further species will be more apparent at other times of the year, and more abundant in other years.

An intensive invertebrate survey would likely produce records of several hundred additional species, however such survey work is extremely time-consuming and requires specialist knowledge. It would, however pick up any rarities present and contribute a considerable amount of data to various recording schemes and record centres.

Casual surveying by non-specialists would also increase the number of species recorded. It is recommended that a database of records is kept and maintained, with records sent to recording schemes and the local environmental records centre. Mobile phone applications with image recognition software have their uses, but also limitations. For serious recording efforts, consult the relevant standard identification work.

Suggestions for Enhancements

- Plant a range of native wildflowers in the less-interesting and uncultivated areas of the site. Some suggestions include: Wild Marjoram, Field Scabious, Wild Angelica, Kidney Vetch, Common Knapweed, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Devil's-bit Scabious, Wild Basil, Ladies Bedstraw, Harebell and Spiny Restharrow. These are all plants typical of the more interesting sites in the Bath area, and will attract a much wider range of invertebrates than are presently found on the site.
- Create a pond – even a small washing-up bowl pond would add to the on-site biodiversity. Any planting should include a selection of native species.
- Install more bird boxes in the trees
- Dead wood and vegetation piles would create habitat for a range of invertebrate species

Disclaimer

This report is intended for the use of the Bath Allotments Association for education purposes and to aid conservation efforts at the site. It is not intended to be used to inform any current or future planning application.

Species Lists: Plants

Ferns and Horsetails

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail
Total	2

Flowering Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild Onion
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> subsp. <i>arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Barbarea verna</i>	American Winter-cress
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bitter-cress
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	Rough Chervil
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Beaked Hawk's-beard
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
<i>Daucus carota</i> subsp. <i>carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	American Willowherb
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary Willowherb
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>	Square-stalked Willowherb
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	Black-bindweed
<i>Galium album</i>	Hedge Bedstraw
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy

<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	Atlantic Ivy
<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	Hybrid Bluebell (H. non-scripta x hispanica)
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Lepidium didymum</i>	Lesser Swine-cress
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury
<i>Muscari armeniacum</i>	Garden Grape-hyacinth
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Oxalis articulata</i>	Pink-sorrel
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Procumbent Yellow-sorrel
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Long-headed Poppy
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium Poppy
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet
<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Winter Heliotrope
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>	Mind-your-own-business
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>	Russian Comfrey (<i>S. asperum</i> x <i>officinale</i>)
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Feverfew
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Valerianella carinata</i>	Keeled-fruited Cornsalad
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	Slender Speedwell
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved Speedwell
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-speedwell
Total	86

Grasses and Sedges

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-Grass
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> subsp. <i>hordeaceus</i>	Common Soft-brome
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass
<i>Poa humilis</i>	Spreading Meadow-grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass
Total	13

Total Plants	101
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Species List: Invertebrates

Scientific Name	Common Name	28 April	10 May
Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies)			
<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	White-legged Damselfly		*
Orthoptera (Grasshoppers & Crickets)			
<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	Field Grasshopper		*
Hemiptera (True Bugs)			
<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	Dock Bug	*	*
<i>Corizus hyoscyami</i>	Cinnamon Bug	*	
<i>Dolycoris baccarum</i>	Hairy Shieldbug	*	*
<i>Eysarcoris venustissimus</i>	Woundwort Shieldbug		*
<i>Palomena prasina</i>	Green Shieldbug		*
<i>Sehirus luctuosus</i>	Forget-me-not Shieldbug	*	
Lepidoptera (Butterflies & Moths)			
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange-tip	*	
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue	*	*
<i>Cucullia verbasci</i>	The Mullein		*
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone	*	
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White	*	
<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White	*	
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White		*
<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>	Mint Moth		*
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	*	

<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral		*
Diptera (True Flies)			
<i>Bombylius major</i>	Dark-edged Bee-fly		*
<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	Marmalade Hoverfly		*
<i>Volucella bombylans</i>	Bumblebee Hoverfly		*
Hymenoptera (Ants, Bees, Wasps etc.)			
<i>Andrena cineraria</i>	Ashy Mining Bee	*	
<i>Anthophora plumipes</i>	Hairy-footed Flower Bee	*	*
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honey Bee	*	*
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	Tree Bumblebee		*
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Common Carder Bee		*
<i>Bombus pratorum</i>	Early Bumblebee	*	*
<i>Lasius cf. niger</i>	Black Ant		*
<i>Myrmica sp.</i>	a red ant		*
<i>Nomada sp.</i>	a nomad bee	*	
Coleoptera (Beetles)			
<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	Rose Chafer	*	
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	7-spot Ladybird		*
<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Harlequin Ladybird		*
<i>Oedemera lurida</i>	a false blister beetle		*
<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>	Thick-legged Flower Beetle		*
<i>Pterostichus madidus</i>	Black Clock Beetle	*	
<i>Propylea quatuordecimpunctata</i>	14-spot Ladybird		*
<i>Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata</i>	22-spot Ladybird		*
<i>Stenurella melanura</i>	Black-striped Longhorn Beetle		*
Isopoda (Woodlice)			
<i>Armadillidium depressum</i>	Southern Pill Woodlouse		*
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>	Common Pill Woodlouse	*	*
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	Shiny Woodlouse	*	*
<i>Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii</i>	Ant Woodlouse		*
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	Rough Woodlouse	*	*
Stylommatophora (Slugs and Snails)			
<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Garden Snail	*	*
Arachnidae: Araneae (Spiders)			
<i>Dysdera cf. crocata</i>	Woodlouse Spider	*	
<i>Pardosa sp.</i>	a wolf spider		*
<i>Salticus cf. scenicus</i>	Zebra Spider		*
Total	48		

Species List: Birds

Scientific Name	Common Name	28 April	10 May
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	*	*
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood Pigeon	*	*
<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Jackdaw	*	*
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin	*	
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin	*	*
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	*	
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie		*
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird		*
Total	9		

Photos



Photo 1: Holly Blue (Mike Williams)



Photo 2: Mint Moth (Mike Williams)



Photo 3: White-legged Damselfly (Mike Williams)



Photo 4: Mullein caterpillar (Mike Williams)



Photo 5: Green Shieldbug (Mike Williams)

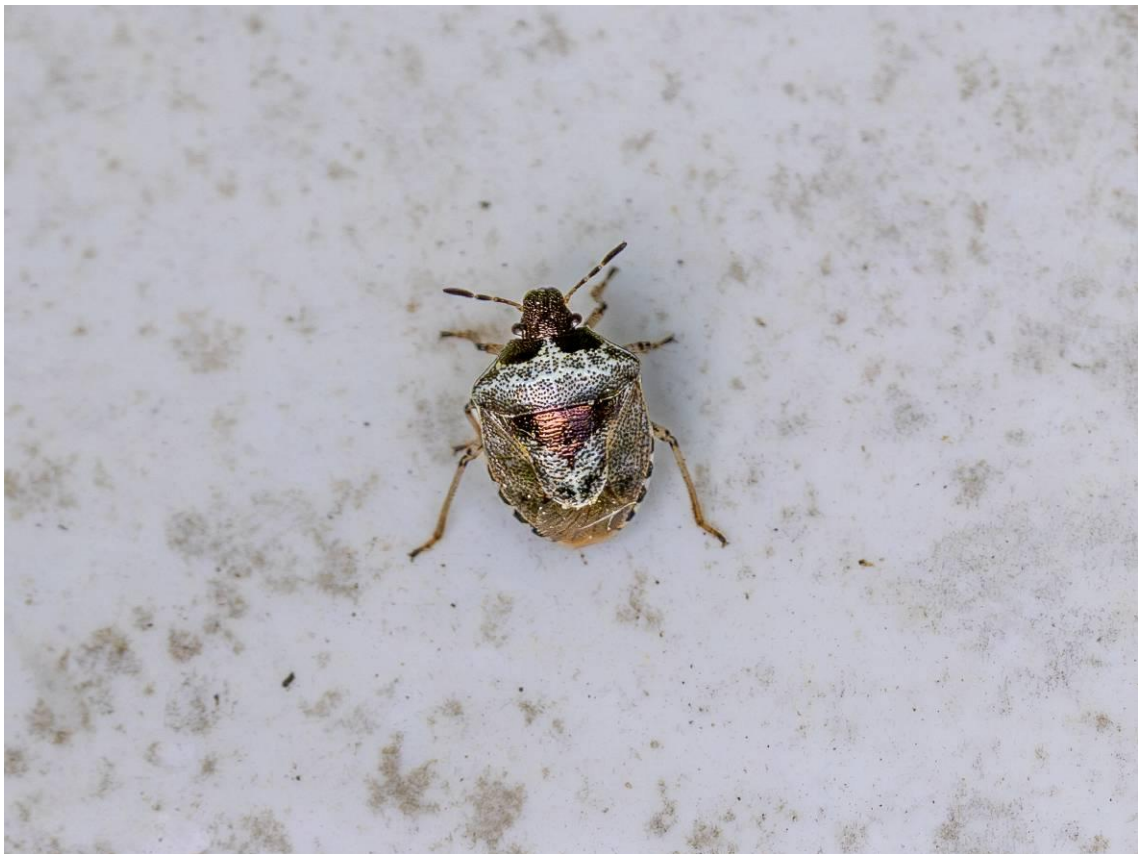


Photo 6: Woundwort Shieldbug (Mike Williams)



Photo 7: Cinnamon Bug (Mike Williams)



Photo 8: Field Grasshopper (Mike Williams)



Photo 9: Black-striped Longhorn Beetle (Mike Williams)



Photo 10: Thick-legged Flower Beetle (Mike Williams)



Photo 11: Hairy-footed Flower Bee (Mike Williams)



Photo 12: Woodlouse Spider (Mike Williams)

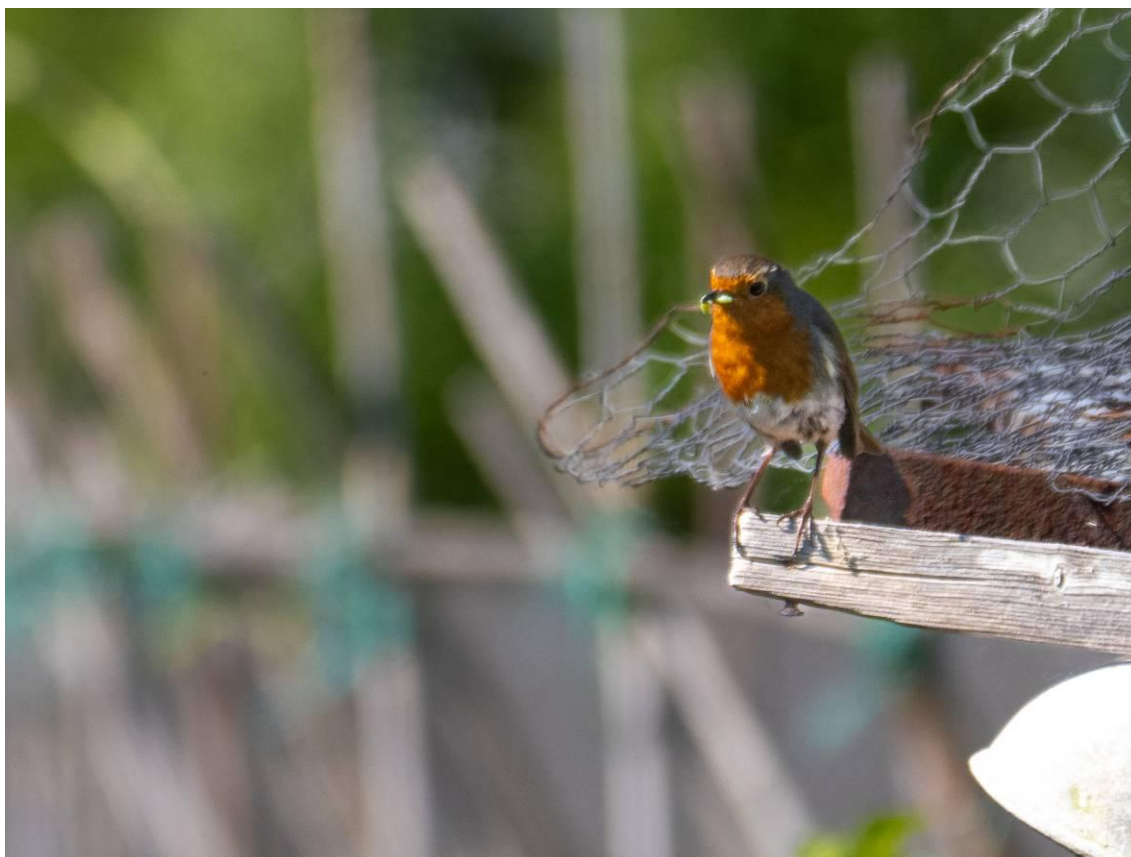


Photo 13: Robin with caterpillar (Mike Williams)



Photo 14: Jackdaw (Mike Williams)



Photo 15: Scarlet Pimpernel (Mike Williams)



Photo 16: Henbit Dead-nettle (Helena Crouch)

Figure 1: Site Boundary

