

Worthies Conservation Volunteers

Project Site Details

Site Name: **Broadview**
Site Address: Broadview, Wesley Park, King's Worthy
OS Grid Reference: 449365E, 133457N
Land Owner: King's Worthy Parish
Work Details: Improvement and management scheme, as described in 'Broadview Improvement Scheme – November 2004'

Worthies Conservation Volunteers

Broadview Improvement Scheme – November 2004

Bruce Graham, Group Co-ordinator

Introduction

Broadview, marking the line of the old railway, is an attractive strip of undeveloped land bordered by a varied hedgerow of trees and shrubs, which provides a natural habitat for birds and wildlife. Over the years it has, however, suffered from a lack of effective management and improvement. A great deal of rubbish (mostly fly-tipping) has accumulated and the hedgerow has become overgrown and unkempt.

The aim of this proposal, by the Worthies Conservation Volunteers, is to establish a scheme of work to improve Broadview and also implement a programme of sustained management. Indeed some ad-hoc work has already been completed: last winter rubbish was cleared and some small-scale tree management was carried out; and this summer, surveys of the hedgerow and flowering plants have been completed and results catalogued.

The objective of this proposal is to gain approval of King's Worthy Parish Council as the land owners, therein enabling the planned work on Broadview to be completed.

Who are Worthies Conservation Volunteers?

A recently formed group of like-minded volunteers whose aim is to take an active interest in improving the green areas of King's Worthy and surrounding villages forming the Worthies, for the mutual benefit of all in the local community, wildlife included, thus promoting the splendour of the place in which we live.

The group meets once a month to discuss work activities and new schemes, and agree tasks for the next activity afternoon normally held every 3rd Sunday.

A Brief History of Broadview

Broadview is a strip of land that forms part of the old Mid-Hants Railway Line from Winchester to Alton (also known as the Watercress Line) opened in 1865 and dismantled by the Beeching Axe in 1964. At the site of Broadview, the railway line formed a cutting that extended under the bridge at Lovedon Lane on the eastern entrance, and becoming Kim Bishop's Walk on the western entrance. After the railway's dismantle it was subsequently in-filled (est. late 1970s) with the chalk spoils from the M3 motorway construction. A single unused telegraph post standing on Lower Broadview (see map below) is believed to be from the railway. No further evidence of the railway remains. Although further down the line along Kim Bishop's Walk towards Winchester is an old concrete hut, which was possibly used by rail workers, and there is also clear evidence here with steep embankments and a high bridge over Springvale Road.

The old railway line is a prominent and important landmark in King's Worthy. Broadview and Kim Bishop's Walk are now owned and managed by the Parish.

The Broadview Site

Broadview, designated as a Recreation Ground, is situated between Lovedon Lane (top end of Broadview), and Wesley Road near the corner of Pound Road (bottom end). Wesley Road loops back to dissect Broadview about half way along (Wesley Road meets Tovey Place at this point) providing a natural division into Upper Broadview and Lower Broadview.



Broadview, King's Worthy

The total area of Broadview is approximately 1 hectare (2.47 acres), being over 200 metres in length and 40 metres wide.

An original planting scheme of hedgerow on each side of an open area was undertaken presumably to maintain the look and feel of the railway line. It is believed Broadview was originally intact as a single strip of land and only dissected by Wesley Road in the early 1990s during the building of the Wesley Park housing development.

Upper Broadview, viewed from Wesley Road / Tovey Place

Upper Broadview was at some point planted with more ornate shrubs and roses. However this is now wildly overgrown being strangled by encroaching plants such as ivy and old man's beard. It is believed that this ornate planting scheme was undertaken by the builders of Wesley Park, Clarke Homes.

***Lower Broadview, viewed from Wesley Road / Tovey Place***

Lower Broadview is more steeply inclined and slightly shorter, but nonetheless maintains a similar character of aspect to the upper strip. A telegraph pole can be seen on the right-hand side, two-thirds the way down. The fence marking the border of Broadview and the back of the car park off Wesley Road (top end North side) is missing, probably explaining the great deal of rubble found here.



Broadview has good top soil sitting on a layer of chalk. This, and the fact that the strip is on an incline, offers good drainage. Neither does Broadview suffer particularly from drought conditions.

Views west from Upper Broadview reach to Woodhams Farm and surrounding area; an old Roman building site is in view but unfortunately unrecognisable. Views in other directions are blocked by housing and trees.

***Panoramic View from Broadview***

A mosaic marking the location of the old Roman building has recently been erected.

Neighbouring Houses

Houses border Broadview on both sides mostly being fenced by low level panels. Some compost tipping is evident.

Who Uses Broadview?

As there is a nearby playing field having a much bigger open space and better facilities, visitors to Broadview are generally few. However, the strip is used on a daily basis by different types of people.

Unfortunately, there is some litter, which provides some evidence of blatant uncaring and/or general ignorance.


The types of people that visit Broadview are:

- People who walk their dogs – used regularly several times a day, mostly on Upper Broadview offering a more closed and secure area in which dogs can be let off the lead. Dog mess is considered a minor problem (a bin is provided for disposal).
- The young – mainly during the summer months and at weekends. It is not considered that youngsters cause any nuisance. Although a sofa, general debris and remains of a bonfire at the Lovedon Lane end provide evidence that Broadview is used as a congregation point. Sport activities such as ball games have not been observed on Broadview.
- Firework gatherings – to the annoyance of the residents in the local vicinity, and without doubt a major disruption to wildlife, fireworks are extensively used during the evenings leading up to and over Guy Fawkes week. Recent laws on sale and use of fireworks may curtail this.
- Casual visitors – for pleasure, but irregular.
- Passing drivers and walkers – drivers and walkers passing along Wesley Road / Tovey Place on route to/from home. The open landscape offers a quick snapshot of the beauty of Broadview for all who care to look.

Wildlife on Broadview

Broadview provides a natural habitat for small mammals, bats, birds, butterflies, bees and other insects. Fox have been observed visiting the site. The hedgerow offers a good haven for birds, finding dense hedges ideal for nesting. Even though no formal wildlife survey has been completed, the following bird species have been observed in the area:

- ☞ Tawny Owl, Barn Owl (heard, not seen)
- ☞ Great Spotted Woodpecker
- ☞ Woodpigeon, Collared Dove
- ☞ Magpie, Jay, Crow
- ☞ Tree Pipit, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Redwing, Blackbird, Fieldfare
- ☞ Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Chaffinch
- ☞ Gold Crest
- ☞ Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Great Tit, Marsh Tit, Coal Tit
- ☞ Garden Warbler, Blackcap
- ☞ Robin, Sparrow, Dunnock, Wren, Starling
- ☞ Swift, House Martin
- ☞ Gull, Heron

 Sparrow Hawk, Kestrel, Buzzard

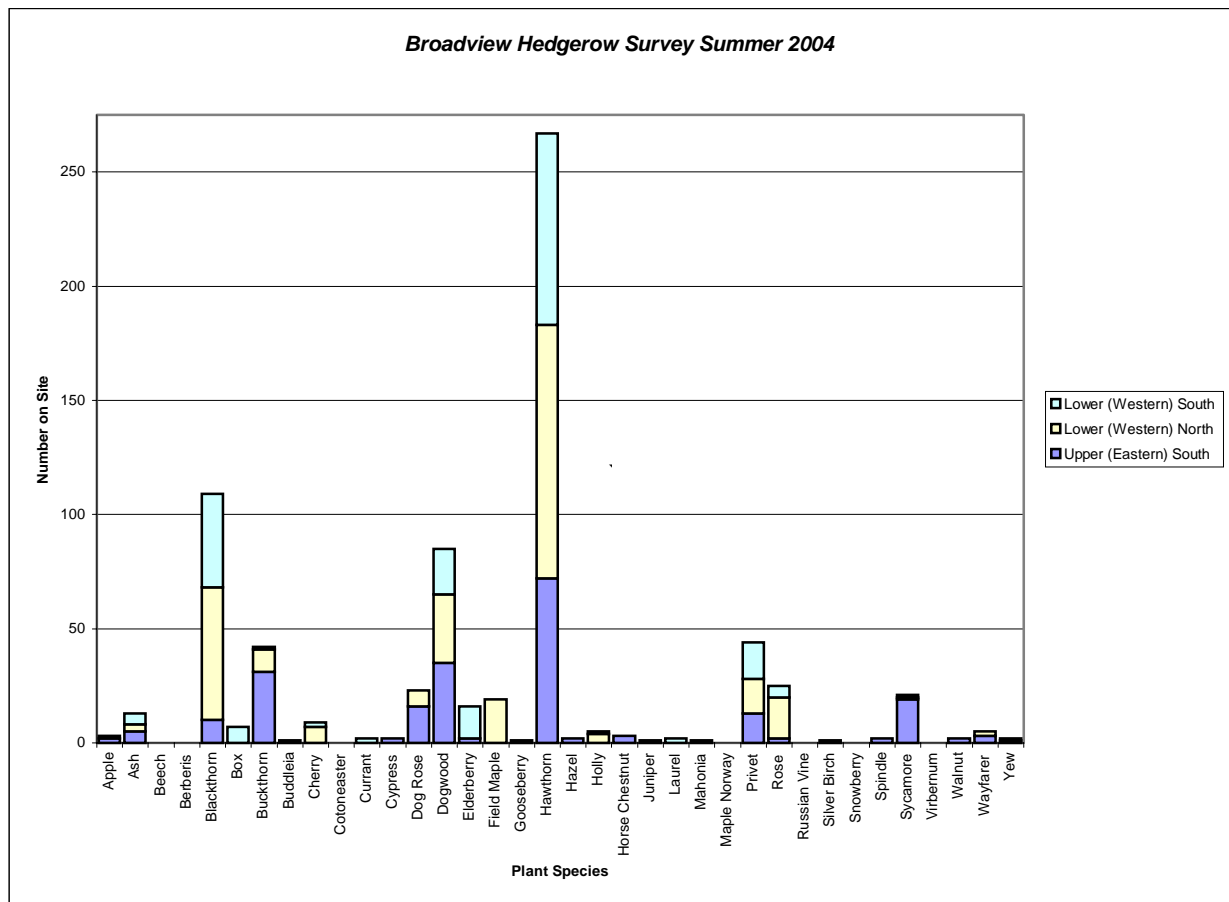
Spring sees the trees burst into live with a profusion of blossom and leaves; summer sees the flowering of shrubs, and plants on the grassland and taller species at the foot of the hedgerow avoiding the blades of the lawn mowers. All provides ample food for bees, butterflies and other nectar seeking insects.

Autumn sees the appearance of fruits and berries in the hedgerow, conspicuous varieties such as apple, hawthorn and rosehip are taken by resident birds and migrant winter visitors. Small mammals also benefit from this.

Completed Plant Surveys

1. Hedgerow Survey – May to September 2004

Surveys for the hedgerows on either side of Upper Broadview and Lower Broadview have been completed. The following chart summarises the trees and shrubs found in Upper Broadview North side and both sides of Lower Broadview, showing the number of each species in each of the hedgerow margins:

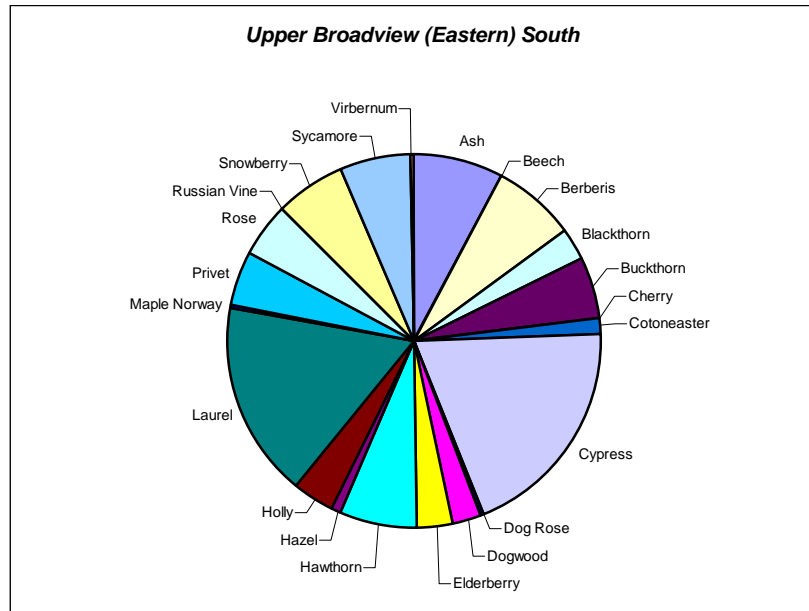


Hedgerow Survey Results

As shown, hawthorn, blackthorn and dogwood are the predominant hedgerow trees found in Broadview, and these are interlaced with species such as privet and dog rose. Other trees found are: apple, ash, buckthorn, cherry, elderberry, cherry, hazel, holly, horse chestnut,

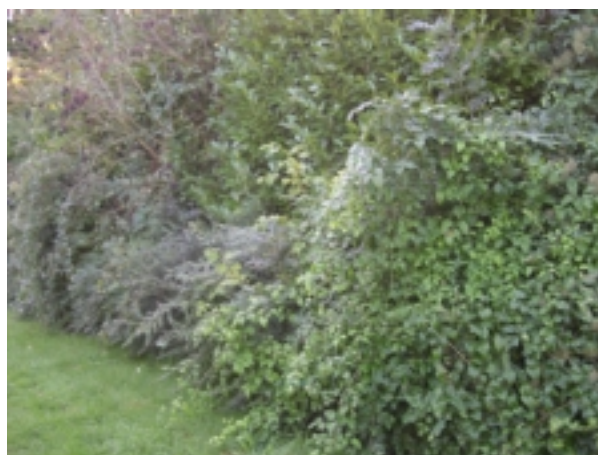
sycamore and wayfarer, and more notably individual specimens of cypress, juniper and walnut. Rambling shrubs such as bramble, clematis (old man's beard), honeysuckle and ivy (not charted above) have taken a strong hold in some areas, and clematis and honeysuckle are also found. Shrubs also comprise buddleia, mahonia, laurel and rose.

Specific interest is given to Upper Broadview South margin as it would appear this was at some point in the past planted as a more ornate shrubbery, the types and presence of shrubs illustrated in the following chart.



Shrubbery Survey Results

Plants such as berberis, holly, laurel and rose are found, framed by a backdrop of ash and cypress leylandii. Other tree species here include beech, sycamore and hawthorn. However, this is now very much a dense overgrown medley of tangled undergrowth, made worse by rampant spreading plants such as clematis (old man's beard), bramble, ivy and Russian vine (see below).



Evidence of Overgrown Shrubbery

Full hedgerow surveys are documented in Appendix A.

2. Flowering Plant Survey (not including grasses) – August 2004

Key observations are:

- Upper Broadview has 43 species evenly spread across the strip – providing a more diverse area of flowering plants than Lower Broadview.
- Lower Broadview has 32 species more sparsely spread.

Full flowering plant survey is documented in Appendix B.

Proposed Improvement Scheme

Overview

In principle the overall lay of Broadview is considered adequate requiring little change to its structure and/or planting arrangement. The strip offers a natural area that serves both users and wildlife alike and this is best maintained. The findings from the plant surveys illustrate a diversity of plant species both in the hedgerow and open ground; wildlife clearly must benefit from the shelter of the habitat and source of food. Dog owners take advantage of the closed-in section of Upper Broadview allowing dogs to exercise freely unleashed. Children also take benefit from the open space.

However, Broadview left alone is unsustainable in the long term and only through improvement and maintenance will the strip thrive to the mutual benefit of all. A number of small-scale improvements are therefore proposed. These are:

1. **Rubble Clearance** – work already completed.
2. **Telegraph Post Exposure** – clearance of shrubbery around old post already started.
3. **Wildflower Meadow Fringe** – creation of a 3-4 metre wildflower meadow fringe on three sides of Upper Broadview, following hedgerow line.
4. **Fence Repair** – repair of damaged fencing.
5. **Shrubbery Improvement** – some restoration of the lost shrubbery on Upper Broadview South side.
6. **Hedgerow Improvement** – thinning of rambling plants encroaching on other plants, creation of access pockets. Some work already started.
7. **Wildlife Nesting** – situation of bird and bat boxes and other wildlife nesting places.
8. **General Upkeep** – ongoing maintenance.

There is also interest in holding a Conservation Fare Day on Broadview probably summer time in which the public may learn about nature in the area and specifically the group's exploits, and also participate in activities, such as bird-box making. This idea is still being developed by the group and it is hoped the council will also support this endeavour.

In-order for this and other work in the Worthies to be successful, the group would seek guidance from the Parish Council on what it can and cannot do.

Objectives

The objectives of the improvement scheme for Broadview are to make it:

- more beautiful and diverse, e.g. meadow planting scheme.
- better for wildlife (mammals and insects), e.g. encourage nesting, meadow planting.
- better for the community, e.g. deter rubbish tipping, increase use, and general upkeep.

1. Rubble Clearance

Rubble most specifically on Lower Broadview North side has already been cleared. Restoration of the fence (see 4) at this point will help deter future fly tipping.

Some garden compost is also present where houses back onto Broadview. Whilst this does not in itself present any significant hazard to the natural environment – the hedgerow benefits from the organic material, and the tipping it is well hidden by the shrubbery – it is not considered suitable for a recreational facility in which children may roam. It is hoped the presence of the group and work activities will discourage further compost tipping.

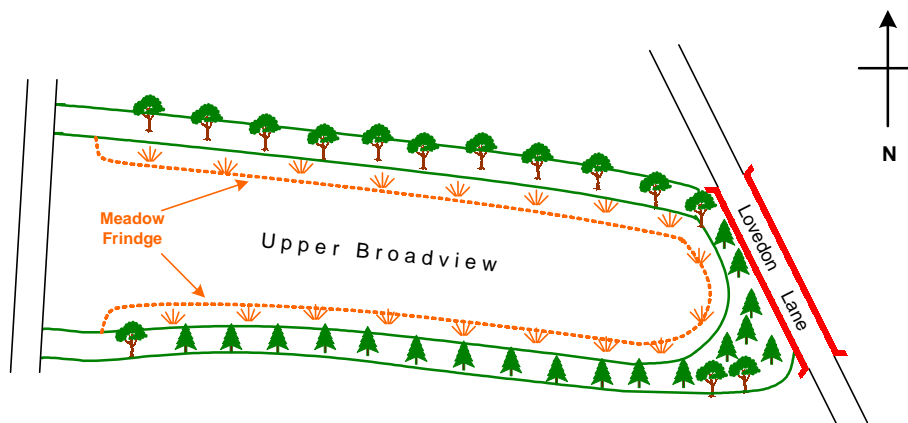
2. Telegraph Post Exposure

A small clearing round an old telegraph post, the only remaining artefact of the railway line in Broadview, situated two-thirds down Lower Broadview North side, has also started, and the post has now been made clearly visible. The group intend to complete this work, removing the remaining ivy from the top-half of the post, and ensure this small clearing be maintained on an ongoing basis.



3. Wildflower Meadow Fringe

The creation of a wildflower meadow fringe between the hedgerow and open grass area, following the contour of the strip down each side and round the top end of upper Broadview. This will provide more balance in height, increase wildflower species and generate a flowering vista in the summer, as well as establishing an unofficial mini nature reserve, whilst still maintaining the open aspect of the site.



Upper Broadview Meadow fringe

It is intended the fringe will include a wide variety of meadow flowers, such as: oxeye daisy, common knapweed, yellow rattle, red bartsia, creeping thistle, bird's-foot trefoil, red and white clovers, hogweed and meadow buttercup. Seeds will be scattered along the fringe.

Creation of a wilder meadow is not a straightforward task taking several years to establish – it should not be assumed that a piece of land left unattended will naturally create a meadow.

The area for the meadow planting will be clearly marked, e.g. using stakes; this will ensure mowing contractors know where not to cut. The ground itself will require preparation, removing grass thatch to create patches upon which seeds may successfully germinate. Only then will seed, harvested from elsewhere, be scattered, autumn being the best time as seeds need a dormant period (i.e. over winter) before they will germinate. The meadow will require a twice yearly mow, once in Spring (late March to early April) and once in autumn (late August to early September), otherwise attractive plants would soon be swamped by competition from more vigorous species, and bramble and shrubs would eventually take over. Cuttings must be removed. Finally weeds such as groundsel and chickweed, thistle and docks, must be removed on a routine basis

It is intended that the group embark on the meadow creation activity and the council are asked to ensure the contractors only mow this area once every spring and once every autumn.

4. Fence Repair

Repair wire-net fence at top end of Lower Broadview North side bordering Wesley Road car park. Hopefully, this will deter further fly tipping. The group do not have the equipment or skills to carry out this work, therefore the council are asked to complete this.



5. Shrubbery Improvement

Improvement of the lost shrubbery of Broadview (Upper Broadview South side), by:

- cutting back of laurel running length of shrubbery, but leaving cypress leylandii untouched.
- removal of self-seeded ash, elder and other species at front of border.
- removal of clematis where this encroaches on other plants.
- thinning of invasive snowberry.
- pruning of other shrubs such as rose and berberis to encourage stronger growth.
- possible placement of bench(es).

6. Hedgerow Improvement

Improvement of the hedgerow on both Upper and Lower Broadview, by:

- thinning of rambling plants, such as ivy and bramble, and dominant species, where these encroach on other plants.
- clearance of undergrowth but leaving trees untouched at various points along the hedgerow to create access pockets so that visitors may walk into the hedgerow. This will have the added benefit of generating more light into the cleared areas, thus encouraging new ground species to the site.

7. Wildlife Nesting

Placement of bird and bat nesting boxes throughout the site, thus encouraging additional increase in wildlife. Also, possible use of other nesting techniques, such as, using tennis balls for dormice, etc.

8. General Upkeep

The general upkeep of Broadview through:

- ongoing maintenance of hedgerow
- litter picking
- reviewing the condition of Broadview and deciding on new improvement tasks

Implementation of Proposed Scheme

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment for Broadview has been completed – this is maintained as a separate list.

Insurance Cover

It is understood that insurance is currently covered through the Parish Council. However, the group is currently seeking its other insurance cover.

Agenda of Work (Tasks)

To be devised on approval from the council of the outline proposal.

Tools and Safety Equipment Required

These are:

- Bow saw
- Billhook
- Secateurs
- Loppers
- Mattock
- Sledge hammer
- Grass rake
- Tall ladder
- Fold away table
- 3ft stakes x 20 for meadow boundary marking
- Hard hats
- Gloves and protective ware
- First aid kit for 10

Cost

Costs are for:

1. Provision of tools and safety equipment above
2. Hire of petrol driven garden shredder
3. Replacement fencing

Timeframe

There is no considered rush to complete this work.

How will we know we've succeeded?

The success of the scheme will in part be measured by the response from the public, e.g. messages of delight and approval, subsequent take-on of new volunteers to the group, interest from local press, etc. The other key success factor will be an increase in wildlife to Broadview, which the group will monitor.

Appendix A – Broadview Hedgerow Survey

The survey records the varieties and volumes of tree and shrub species for each strip. Surveys for each were conducted on separate occasions from May and September 2004 by members of the group.

Lower Broadview (Western Section) South Margin

Numbered columns represent 10 metre quadrants measured down-hill from Tovey Place.

Quadrant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Species														
Apple														
Ash	1	2						1			1			
Beech														
Blackthorn	1	17		7	5	2		1	5	3				
Box (garden)	1				3				3					
Bramble	2	10	10		3		6							
Buckthorn							1							
Buddleia														
Cherry			2											
Clematis									1					
Currant		1			1									
Cypress														
Dog rose														
Dogwood		1	1	6	6			1	3		2			
Elderberry			5	3		3	3							
Field maple														
Gooseberry														
Hawthorn	10	7	2	3	6	10	5	16	8	11	6			
Hazel														
Holly										1				
Honeysuckle														
Horse chestnut														
Ivy		much	some	much		much			some	much				
Juniper														
Laurel					1	1								
Mahonia							1							
Privet agg.	4	1	2				4	1	4					
Rose			2		1					1	1			
Rose (garden)														
Silver birch														
Spindle														
Sycamore											1			
Walnut														
Wayfarer														
Yew					1									

Survey date: June 2004

Lower Broadview (Western Section) North Margin

Numbered columns represent 10 metre quadrants measured down-hill from Tovey Place.

Quadrant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Apple		1												
Ash														
Beech														
Blackthorn			2		24	3	8	6	6	3	2	2	2	
Box (garden)														
Bramble														
Buckthorn			2	4				4						
Buddleia														
Cherry	3		1							3				
Clematis														
Currant														
Cypress														
Dog rose		1			4			2						
Dogwood	3				5	5				14	3			
Elderberry		1												
Field maple							1				3	7	6	2
Gooseberry														
Hawthorn	6	12	1	13	7	2	1	10	13	22	5	16		3
Hazel														
Holly											1	1	2	
Honeysuckle														
Horse chestnut														
Ivy	3			13					18					
Juniper														
Laurel														
Mahonia														
Privet agg.	2	2	3		4		1	3			1			
Rose	3					5			5	5				
Rose (garden)														
Silver birch			1											
Spindle														
Sycamore		1												
Walnut														
Wayfarer			1		1									
Yew														

Survey date: May 2004

Upper Broadview (Eastern Section) South Margin

Numbered columns represent 10 metre quadrants measured up-hill from Tovey Place.

The numbers in the chart are *not of individuals counted* but of the number of 1 metre units up the hedge which contained the listed species, as the dense hedge structure prevented accurate counting.

	Twin fence to 1.3. Back only Up to 2.3.			Line of mature Cypress variety metre at fence right up to 11.2. Line of mature Laurel species in front of Cypress right up to near 11.2. Various planted shrubs in front row.							Hedgerow curves out from here to round at end before Lovedon Lane.			
Quadrant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Ash				1	2	3	7	4	1	5	4	5	5	3
Berberis var.			1	4	2	2	6	5	2		2	2	7	3
Blackthorn	2			1	1	5		1					5	
Bramble	5	1	1	1	2	7	5	6	6		4	8	2	
Buckthorn				1		2	2	4	7	2	1		3	4
Cherry							1							
Clematis			3	2	1	8	2	7	8	5	3	9	4	2
Cotoneaster var.					1			2	1			1		1
Cypress var.			7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	less	less	less
Dog rose			1											
Dogwood	2		1	2	1	1	2					2	1	
Elderberry			1	1		3	1	2		5	2		1	
Hawthorn	2		4	7	2	2	5	2	2	1	4	3		
Hazel						1					1	1	1	
Holly var.			2	3	5		3	1	2	1				1
Ivy	10	7	1	2		3	5	3	1	6	1		5	2
Laurel var.			7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0
Maple Norway				2										
Privet agg.			3	1	4	6		3	2				1	3
Raspberry		2												
Rose var.				5	2	2	5	3			2	1	3	1
Russian vine									1					
Snowberry								6	4	3	9	6	2	
Sycamore	1		1	2	4	4	4	2	4	2	2		4	1
Viburnum Sp.						1	1							

Survey date: September 2004

The shrubbery consists of two clear rows of planted trees: near the fence at the back are cypresses (*Ilex* spp.) with a second row of laurels - both are large in habit. Next to the grass strip are planted roses, berberis, etc. Throughout the forward section fronting the grass are many wild species that have largely self-sown, many of considerable size.

Upper Broadview (Eastern Section) North Margin

Numbered columns represent 10 metre quadrants measured up-hill from Tovey Place.

Quadrant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Apple			1					1						
Ash											2		1	2
Beech														
Blackthorn					1		1	1	1		1		4	1
Box (garden)														
Bramble	3	3		3	3	2	3			5	3		2	2
Buckthorn	5	1	3	2	3	5	1	5		2		3		1
Buddleia			1											
Cherry														
Clematis											2			
Currant														
Cypress														2
Dog rose	3		1	2	1		1	2	2	1	1	1	1	
Dogwood	4	1	3		6	2	2		4	8	1	3	1	
Elderberry	2													
Field maple														
Gooseberry	1													
Hawthorn	7	5	9	2	10	7	6	5	7	6	3	5		
Hazel	2													
Holly														
Honeysuckle			some						some	some				
Horse chestnut	1	1											1	
Ivy	much	much	much	much	much	much	much	much	much	much				
Juniper		1												
Laurel														
Mahonia														
Privet agg.		2			3	2	5		1					
Rose														
Rose (garden)													1	1
Silver birch														
Spindle	1				1									
Sycamore	1	1		11	1	2	1				1			1
Walnut			1						1					
Wayfarer						1				1	1			
Yew						1								

Survey date: July 2004

Appendix B – Broadview Flowering Plant Survey

The survey records the varieties but not volumes of flowering plant species (does not include grasses) along the open area of Broadview, conducted in August 2004 by Michael Edwards.

Upper and Lower Broadview

Species	Upper Broadview (eastern section) 6 quadrants (1-6) dividing site into North (N) and South (S), and by East, Middle and West.						Lower Broadview (western section) 3 quadrants (7-9) dividing site into East, Middle and West		
	East		Middle		West		East	Middle	West
	N	S	N	S	N	S	7	8	9
	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Agrimony									
Autumn Hawkbit									
Bird's-foot Trefoil									
Bittersweet									
Black Knapweed									
Black Medick									
Bristly Ox-tongue									
Broad-leaved Dock									
Burnet Saxifrage									
Cat's-ear (Common)									
Cleavers									
Common Sorrel									
Cow Parsley									
Creeping Buttercup									
Creeping Cinquefoil									
Curled Dock									
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill									
Daisy									
Dandelion									
Fat Hen									
Field Bindweed									
Field Speedwell									
Germander Speedwell									
Ground Ivy									
Hedge Bed-straw									
Hedge Bindweed									
Hedge Woundwort									
Herb Robert									
Hogweed									
Lords-and-Ladies									
Marjoram									
Meadow Buttercup									
Mouse-ear (Common)									
Nettle (Common)									
Plantain (Greater)									
Plantain (Rib-wort)									
Ragwort (Common)									
Red Clover									
Rough Chervil									
Rough Sowthistle									
Scarlet Pimpernel									

Self-heal									
Shepherd's Purse									
Thyme-leaved Speedwell									
Toadflax									
White Champion									
White Clover									
Wood Avens									
Yarrow									

Survey date: August 2004

The survey charts 43 flowering plant species in Upper Broadview and 32 species in Lower Broadview. Survey does not include grasses.

End