

RESULTS

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

CHAPTER 1. SURREY.

Summary.

Only one site was found in Surrey, formerly Middlesex. This site was at Shortwood Common, Staines where *Potamogeton acutifolius* was once thought to be found in the pond on the common (Preston. C., pers comm., 2003). All the grid references, however, were, either for the 1km square or the other records were for the 10km square. The records gave no indication where the species was found other than on the common. Thus both the pond was searched and other likely habitats found on the common, such as the canal and several almost dry ditches. At none of these sites was *Potamogeton acutifolius* found. The present day habitats found on the common seem unsuitable for the survival of this species, suggesting that it had not been over-looked in the present survey.

SHORTWOOD COMMON, STAINES.

Site 1.

TQ 04731 71928. This grid reference is for the lake on Shortwood Common
1km Square: One 1976 BSBI record for the square TQ 04- 71-.
10km Square: Three 1975 and One 1981 BSBI record for the square TQ 0- -
7- - .

Status of *Potamogeton acutifolius*: ABSENT

Ditch width: Various sites, one lake and several ditches most of which were dry.

Ditch depth: Variable **Water depth:** Variable

Freeboard: Variable **Sediment Depth:** ?

Sediment type: ?

pH 7.9 (at Lake). **Conductivity:** 700 microsiemens

Open water: Variable. **Water Clarity.** 2 to 3 (Scale 1-5).

Flora of Pond.



Site 1. Shortwood Common at TQ 04731 71928.

The only aquatic flora found in the lake was *Nymphaea alba*, otherwise the water was entirely "sterile". However the lake was drawn down by approximately 1 metre due to the dry summer and would have contained abundant growths of *Crassula helmsii* (the yellow-green colour in the foreground of the photograph). The lake also contained reeded islands and edges of *Phragmites australis* and *Typha latifolia*. The inflow to the lake contained no aquatic plants and was dominated by overgrowths of *Phragmites australis* and *Typha latifolia* (Site 2). The outflow to the lake was similar. It contained no aquatic plants and was again dominated by *Phragmites australis* and *Typha latifolia* (Site 2). *Potamogeton acutifolius* could not be found at any of these sites.



Site 2. Shortwood Common. The Inflow to the Lake.

Shortwood Common was in two separate blocks of common land. The first contained the lake, the inflow and outflow ditches and no other ditches. The other block lay across a railway line and was bounded to the north by a canal and a semi-circular ditch, which ran southwards and then eastwards back towards the railway line. The canal was devoid of any plant life and the ditch for the most part was dry. At the start of the ditch by the canal it was dry and overgrown with thistles and shaded by *Crataegus monogyna*. Further down there was an obvious pond but it was totally overgrown and "filled in" by *Carex riparia*. At TQ 04933 71217 the ditch bordered houses and was totally shaded by trees. The local residents had cleared the ditch here, the water was approximately 40 cms deep but the shade precluded any plant growth. Some 20 metres further on the ditch was no longer shaded by trees but it was totally overgrown and consequently shaded by *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Impatiens capensis*, *Rumex conglomeratus*, thistles and grasses.

Potamogeton acutifolius could not be found.

Reason(s) for absence. Marginal water quality, lack of management and the Common had too low a water table.