



Figure 3b.
Existing vegetation on and immediately around the Roman villa

Formal tree planting around the villa site has tended to be quite limited. As described in the notes for Figure 1c, four specimen trees had been planted in a loosely symmetrical arrangement around the hunting lodge by 1900. Two were Weeping Ash and two were Sweet Buckeye. Of these, the Sweet Buckeye and one of the original Weeping Ash survive. The other Weeping Ash, to the immediate south of the house, appears to have been replaced in the mid-20th century. These trees probably merit conservation on grounds of their age and association with the earlier years of the hunting lodge.

A younger specimen of another unusual chestnut, Red Buckeye, it also planted on the lawn to the south-east of the main house. Two English walnuts grow on the site, one immediately to the north of the reception building (planted before 1962) and one to the north-east of the hunting lodge. Although all are pleasant trees, they probably do not merit special protection. Other trees growing around the site include apples (particularly in the lower garden below the hunting lodge), hawthorns and ash. The last are probably self-seeded.

The Roman ruins have developed a flora reminiscent of limestone pavements. Deep soil-filled crevices support a variety of plants including abundant ivy-leaved toadflax and yellow corydalis, and occasional herb robert, procumbent pearlwort, musk mallow, marjoram, wild thyme, common figwort, foxglove, doves-foot crane's-bill and mouse-ear hawkweed. The walls are particularly rich in ferns, bryophytes and lichens. This vegetation should be conserved unless causing damage to the ruins.

Patches of herb-rich grassland exist within the areas enclosed by the Roman walls. Red fescue is the most abundant grass, with patches of glaucous sedge and a range of herbs characteristic of unimproved grassland. These include bird's-foot trefoil, ladies' bedstraw, red clover, ribwort plantain, germander speedwell, ox-eye daisy, selfheal and black knapweed.