

GNS Field Meeting Nottingham Hill, 21-9-2021



The walk on Nottingham Hill took place during a period of late summer sunshine and warmth, though the wildlife was in autumnal mode, with few plants flowering and few birds in evidence. There was therefore the opportunity to look in a little more detail at some confusing species of plants and practise identification using fruits, seeds and vegetative characters.

Using the shape of partially withered seed heads, we looked at several common grasses to try to establish their unique character. We also identified some yellow Asteraceae, bindweeds and thistles to genus level. At an old wall covered with bryophytes, we looked at the remarkable rehydration abilities of Rambling Tail Moss, *Anomodon viticulosus*, and in Gotherington Wood at some epiphytic mosses and liverworts.

The walk ended at the permanent short grassland of the old quarries on Longwood Common, where we found the remains of the summer flowers of this limestone community.

The Nottingham Hill circuit, with its extensive views across the Severn Vale, makes a varied walk. There are stretches of 'high Cotswold' arable fields, two former coppice woods and some short permanent grassland overlying old quarry works.

It is hoped to use the site for a dawn chorus meeting next year.

Selective species list in the order encountered

Flowering plants	Grasses
Lords and Ladies <i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cocksfoot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Wall Lettuce <i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Tor Grass <i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>
Hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium.</i>	Timothy <i>Phleum prensis</i>
Red Campion <i>Silene dioica.</i>	Small timothy <i>Phleum bertoloni</i>
Cow Parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Hairy Brome <i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>
Wood Avens <i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood mellick <i>Melica uniflora</i>
Black Bryony <i>Tamus communis</i>	Tufted hair grass – <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Travellers Joy – Wild clematis <i>Clematis vitalba</i>	False Brome – <i>Brahypodium sylvaticum</i>
Common Knapweed <i>Centaurea nigra.</i>	Quaking Grass <i>Brizia media</i>
Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium.</i>	
Greater Knapweed <i>Centaurea scabiosa.*</i>	Birds
Creeping Thistle <i>Cirsium arvense.</i>	Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodyte</i>
Hedge Woundwort <i>Stachys sylvatica.</i>	Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>
Spear Thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Red clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
White Clover <i>Trifolium repens.</i>	Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>
Woody Nightshade <i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Red bartsia <i>Odontites vernus</i>	Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>
White Bryony <i>Bryonia dioica</i>	Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Field Scabious <i>Knautia arvensis.</i>	
Zigzag Clover <i>Trifolium medium</i>	
Field Bindweed <i>Convolvulus arvensis.</i>	
Mugwort <i>Artemisia vulgare</i>	Butterflies and Moths
Shepherds Purse <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Common Blue – male and female <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Dog's Mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis.</i>	Speckled Wood <i>Parage aegeria</i>
Nettle-leaved bellflower <i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>

Smooth Hawksbeard – <i>Crepis capillaries</i>	Nettle-tap moth– <i>Anthrophila fabriciana</i>
Teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Fungi
Common Ragwort <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Pleated Inkcap – <i>Parasola plicatilis</i>
Common dog-violet <i>Viola riviniana</i>	Petticoat Mottlegill – <i>Panaeolus papilionaceus</i>
Spurge laurel <i>Daphne laureola</i>	
Meadowsweet <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Other Insects
Wild Carrot <i>Daucus carrota ssp carrota</i>	Devil’s Coach Horse Beetle <i>Staphylinus olens</i>
Vipers Bugloss <i>Echium vulgare.</i>	Harlequin Ladybird <i>Harminia axyridis.</i>
Lady’s Bedstraw <i>Gallium verum</i>	Buff-tailed Bumblebee <i>Bombus terrestris</i>
Burnet Saxifrage <i>Pimpinella saxifrage</i>	Common Carder Bee <i>Bombus pascourum**</i>
Salad Burnet <i>Sanguisorba minor.</i>	Dor Beetle <i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>
Thyme <i>Thymus sp.</i>	
Rough hawkbit <i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	
Eyebright <i>Euphrasia sp</i>	
Common Rock-rose <i>Helanthemum nummularia.</i>	
Small Scabious <i>Scabiosa columbaria.</i>	
Yellow Rattle <i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	
Cowslip <i>Primula veris</i>	
Wild Mignonette <i>Reseda lutea</i>	
Tall Melilot <i>Melilotus altissimus</i>	
Goatsbeard <i>Tragopogon pratensis.</i>	
Meadow Crane’s-bill <i>Geranium pratensis.</i>	
Musk mallow <i>Malava moschata.</i>	
Wooly Thistle <i>Cirsium eriophorum.</i>	
White Dead-nettle <i>Lamium album.</i>	
Hedge Bindweed <i>Calystegia sepium.</i>	
Harebell <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	

