

# Abdon District Community Wildlife Group

## Annual Report 2025



**We look for, observe, record and enjoy wildlife**

### **Introduction**

We have had a change of personnel. Cathy Beardes who has been our secretary for the last 2 years has resigned. She also very kindly recruited her replacement Tamsin AOsler. Thank you, Cathy, for all that you have done over the last 2 years particularly when we were getting things together when a more formal organisational structure became necessary and for putting the Annual Report together for the last 2 years. Thank you, Tamsin, for taking on the role it is appreciated.

The Met office recently announced that 2025 was the warmest year on record for the UK in a series dating back to 1884. I came back from our summer holidays in France in mid-July to find our normally green garden brown! Local farmers were worried about having enough grass for silage and poor yields with harvest just about to start. With the ground being so dry they didn't know when they would be able to sow their new crops. Within a few weeks it started raining and hasn't seemed to stop since.

There have been winners and losers due to the hot dry weather. Butterflies have had a much better year this year than last when Butterfly Conservation declared a Butterfly Emergency. This has been reflected in the results of our Butterfly Transect on Clee Liberty. However, Butterfly Conservation have highlighted that although a better year than last it has only been an average year for butterflies.

Our Curlew Survey results for the 2025 breeding season have been added to those from the other Community Wildlife Groups in the county. These are currently being analysed by Leo Smith who co-ordinates the survey. Initial results indicate that Curlews have had a bad year due to the grass not growing long enough for them to nest.

This year we tried something a little different holding a "BioBlitz" at Oak Farm in Ditton Priors. This involved groups of members surveying for different things at the same time. Some recording moths, some plants, others birds, butterflies, dragonflies etc. This was a success both in getting a baseline of the wildlife on the site and those taking part enjoying the day – particularly the pond dipping!

Thanks to all who attended an event or took part in a survey. Participating not only contributes valuable records to wildlife databases, it also offers opportunities to learn new things and enjoy time outdoors with others who share your interest. If you haven't tried it already why not give it a go in 2026.

ML

## **Birds – Miles Leach**

### **Report on the Curlew Survey results for 2024**

Leo Smith came to Clee St Margaret village hall on the 19th February to give us an update on the results of the 2024 Curlew and other birds survey. Curlews are continuing to struggle with no evidence of any fledged young surviving in our area. The survey will be carried out again this year. We need more surveyors to monitor our local Curlew population. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

### **Dawn Chorus Walk Oak Farm Ditton Priors 17 May**

Seventeen members got up early for our dawn chorus walk. This year it took place at Oak Farm as part of our efforts to start recording the wildlife on site. We have been used to having bright and sunny mornings for this event over the last few years but, not this year, it was overcast and cold! Overall, we had a good selection of birds with 35 species recorded; see list at Appendix 1.

The highlight of the morning though was the breakfast at the Willows Café afterwards which most of us took advantage of.



See also the bird list recorded at the Oak Farm BioBlitz.

## **Insects**

### **Butterflies**

In April Mike Williams of the West Midlands Branch of Butterfly Conservation very kindly came to Ditton Priors village hall and gave us a very interesting talk. Titled "Winners & Losers" Mike highlighted how our local West Midlands butterflies fared in the very bad year for butterflies in 2024. As the title suggests, some species did better than others; for example, Small Tortoiseshell had a very bad year whereas Small Copper did better. Mike highlighted that we can all help butterflies by providing as rich a habitat in our gardens for butterflies as possible.

## Clee Liberty Butterfly Transect 2025 - Cliff Kimber

Not surprisingly 2025 was a bumper year for butterflies and insects in general. The record temperatures and sunshine are in stark contrast to recent cool wet summers. The 1.5 mile transect route was walked once a week by volunteers for six months. Thirteen species were recorded and a total of 644 butterflies. This compares with 15/181 in 2024, and 16/221 in 2023. A new recording this year was the Ringlet. Sightings in previous years of large skipper, brimstone, clouded yellow, purple hairstreak, holly blue were not repeated this year.

The white butterflies have been clear winners, but small tortoiseshell, comma, speckled wood, gatekeeper, meadow brown, ringlet and small heath have all seen significant increases.

The total number of butterflies seen is a 367% increase on last year. This will be hard to top in 2026 but there are reasons to be optimistic given the ongoing changes in land management of the Clee. This has been the first full year of reduced sheep grazing and alongside bracken management, tree planting and attempts to improve the wetland areas, there is every chance of increased biodiversity over coming years. Ongoing surveys such as this play an important part in providing data both locally and nationally to help monitor ecological trends.

Many thanks for the time and effort to all who took part in the transect survey in 2025. As always new volunteers, who have the time and are confident in identifying the key local species, are welcome to join us in 2026. Please contact me at [drckimber@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:drckimber@yahoo.co.uk) for more information

Twenty-four of the 26 weekly walks were conducted. The table of results below has been adjusted to provide estimates of butterflies likely to have been seen in the two missing weeks.

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Est Total	2024	2023
Date	01/04	08/04	15/04	22/04	29/04	06/05	13/05	20/05	27/05	03/06	10/06	17/06	24/06	01/07	08/07	15/07	22/07	29/07	05/08	12/08	19/08	26/08	02/09	09/09	16/09	23/09	2025	2024	2023
Large White	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	32	64	24	3	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	143	67	51
Small White	0	4	9	5	0	3	2	0	0	0	3	15	6	46	85	24	6	10	22	3	1	7	4	1	0	256	49	32	
Green-veined White	0	0	0	0	7	0	6	5	0	0	0	0	24	11	6	0	25	1	7	5	1	5	6	4	2	0	115	17	6
Orange Tip	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0
Red Admiral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	9	9	24
Small Tortoiseshell	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	15
Peacock	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2	4
Comma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Speckled Wood	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	5	4	19	3	17
Gatekeeper / Hedge Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	5	4
Meadow Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	11	6	6	5	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	41	17	39
Ringlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Small Heath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	4	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	1	17
<b>Total</b>	0	6	13	6	10	6	11	8	0	0	2	12	54	26	100	168	94	20	19	30	7	9	20	15	8	0	644	181	221

Thirteen species were recorded and a total of 644 butterflies. This compares with 15/181 in 2024, and 16/221 in 2023. A new recording this year was the Ringlet. Sightings in previous years of large skipper, brimstone, clouded yellow, purple hairstreak, holly blue were not repeated this year.

## Moth Mornings – Miles Leach

Three moth mornings were held this year. Jane Gillies held one at her house in Stoke St Milborough on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, where three of us attended. On the 17<sup>th</sup> August, we revisited Martin and Sue Steer’s at Heath where 9 people attended. On the 24<sup>th</sup> August Jenny Collingridge, whose garden backs onto Oak Farm, held a moth morning as part of the Oak Farm BioBlitz day. Thank you to Jane, Martin and Sue and Jenny.

See Appendix 2 for lists of the moths recorded.

## Bumblebee Surveys – Bee Walk 2025 – Cathy Beardes

This year we continued to do our Bee Walk on the same transect as last year for the months of April, May and June. Due to personal circumstances, I was unable to lead the group beyond that period. We definitely saw more bees than during the same period last year; hopefully the improvements continued through the summer, though bumblebees can find the excessive heat challenging. We did not find the elusive Bilberry Bumblebee *Bombus monticola*. The bees we identified are shown in Appendix 3.



Garden bumblebee  
*Bombus hortorum*  
(left)  
and  
Red-tailed  
bumblebee  
*Bombus lapidaries*  
hard at work  
(right).

## Mammals

### Abdon District Dormouse Project Update – Lucy Grove

We had a couple of highlights from surveying our dormouse nest boxes this year and local efforts to learn more about the location and behaviour of dormice using modified trail cameras, footprint tunnels and searching for natural nests.



We found three dormice in torpor (a short-term survival strategy where the dormice temporarily reduce their metabolic rate, heart rate, and body temperature to conserve energy) in May on Leath Bank. We think it was likely mum and two of last year's young.



Trish Shotton took the lead on deploying and monitoring both footprint tracking tunnels and the modified trail cameras on her ground at Ditton. She captured some more wonderful footage and is building up a database of knowledge about dormouse activity patterns across different habitats. In September, Karl Leibscher found a natural nest in an oak sapling, surrounded by bramble (such an important food and movement resource for dormice!) in his woodland.

Of great excitement was our ability to lend surveying kit outside the original project area, and Mariel Lubman very quickly picked up dormice using her hedgerows near Abdon.

If you would like to borrow the group's trail camera or footprint tunnels to search for dormice on your land (or local land you can get permission on), then please contact Lucy Grove: [lucy.grove@outlook.com](mailto:lucy.grove@outlook.com)

## Plant Life – Karl Liebscher

### Churchyard Surveys

This was the concluding year for churchyard surveys, with visits to Loughton and Clee St. Margaret (see reports below). We have visited nine churchyards, found 243 different plant species, and submitted 723 records to iRecord. On average we found 80 species at each site. This is a typical number for a “meadow”.

Of course we cannot assume we found everything! It is probable that grasses were under-recorded, as our ID skills in that area could still be better.

Just 12 species were found in all nine churchyards:

Plant species found in all nine churchyards				
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo Pint		<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy		<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers		<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert		<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	Dandelion
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens		<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy		<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle

Eleven axiophytes (plants indicative of good habitat) were found:

Axiophytes found in churchyards						
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff	Abdon		<i>Alchemilla vulgaris agg.</i>	Lady's-mantle	Abdon Cleobury N. Stoke St M. Wheathill
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	Abdon		<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks Buttercup	Abdon Wheathill
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	Abdon Cleobury N.		<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens	Cleobury N.
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	Abdon Cleobury N.		<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Wild garlic	Stoke St M.
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	Abdon Cleobury N. Holdgate Loughton		<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	Stoke St M. Tugford
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	Abdon Cleobury N. Stoke St M.				

Karl has all the records on spreadsheets. If you would like to be sent the results from just one or two churchyards, or from all nine, contact him on [karl194694@gmail.com](mailto:karl194694@gmail.com).

### **Loughton Churchyard - 5<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> July**

This site is home to one of the oldest living trees in Shropshire, the Loughton Yew, which was the first tree in the country to be carbon-dated. We are pleased to report it's still there, along with 45 other species. We also found Laburnum *anagyroides* and Tansy *Tanacetum vulgare*, neither of which had we seen in the other eight churchyards surveyed. There were six common species which we had recorded in every other churchyard, but we could not find at Loughton: Yarrow, Meadow Foxtail, Sweet Vernal-grass, Field Woodrush, Ribwort Plantain and Barren Strawberry. Somehow Loughton was different.

The second visit, in July, was during one of the heatwaves, and the entire site had just been mown. We were able to add only four species to our list on this occasion!

### **Clee St Margaret Churchyard - 12<sup>th</sup> April**

We began our visit lying on the short turf near the gateway! It took us over half an hour to record the plants we found. This was partly a reflection of our not-so-rapid ID skills, but also the fact that mown turf can still host all sorts.

We found Knotted Cranesbill *Geranium nodosum*, known at only a couple of sites in Shropshire. It was under the boundary hedge, no doubt an escapee from the adjacent garden. We also found Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, surprisingly the only occasion when we have recorded this species in visits to nine churchyards.

In all, 58 species were recorded. Unfortunately, circumstances meant that a mid-summer visit did not happen. Hopefully we'll put that right in 2026.

### **Monad SO6183 Walk - 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Since 2000 there has been a shift in botanical recording towards using the 1km square, or "monad". Collating the records from these squares and putting them on a map, shows the distribution of each species. By repeating the process every ten years, we can see how plant populations are changing. In Shropshire there are 3,740 1km squares. Despite the best efforts of botanists, about 450 monads in Shropshire have next to no records. These have been nicknamed "Shanklins", after Dr Jon Shanklin of Cambridge, who has started a drive to have these squares surveyed. There are a few Shanklins in "our patch", and the aim of this walk was to give monad SO6183 some records to be proud of!

Five of us started from Loughton Chapel (which actually stands in the adjacent monad SO6182), followed the lane to the crossroads, turned right, followed that lane, and then walked a short distance along a public footpath. We recorded 57 species (see Appendix 4), and these records have all now been submitted through iRecord.

### **Ashfield Coppice - 17<sup>th</sup> May**

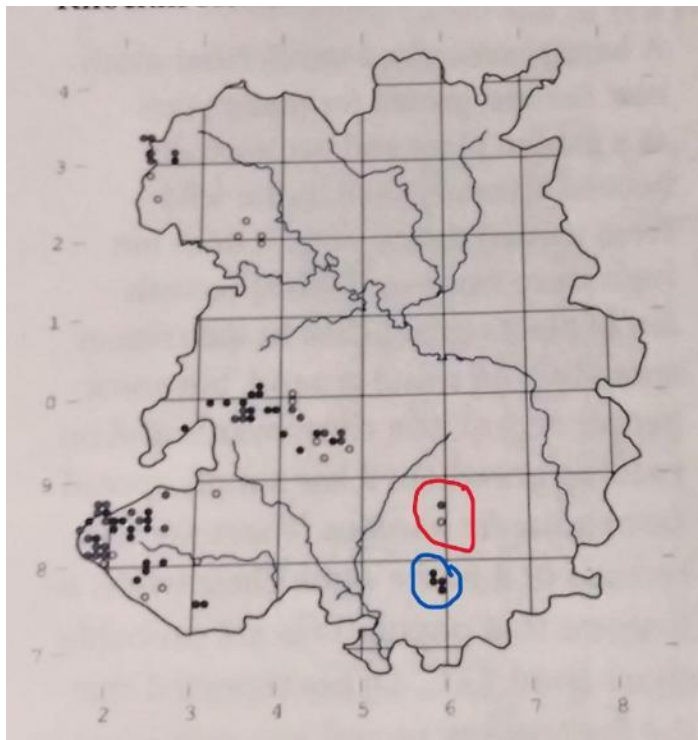
Spring is the time to see woodland plant life, and on this occasion, we were fortunate to have the company of professional botanist, John Handley. Over the years, Karl had recorded about 150 plant species on this 5-acre site. Could we possibly find more? The first new record was right by the gate – Scaly Male Fern *Dryopteris affinis*. Another wonderful new find was Sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, an ancient woodland indicator. John's professional eye easily spotted some new grass species - seven in all! - including Wood

Melick *Melica uniflora*, an ancient woodland indicator and Spreading Meadow-grass *Poa humilis*. The total number of grass species recorded in this “woodland” is now 24! A most curious find was Great Forget-me-not *Brunnera macrophylla*. This is a garden escape, an alien species, found at only eight sites in Shropshire, mainly in Shrewsbury. We found it under the roadside hedge by a passing place. It’s known that garden fly-tipping has happened here, and that suggests how this oddity arrived.

### Mountain Pansy Walk – 1<sup>st</sup> June

On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021 we found 25 Mountain Pansy *Viola lutea* plants at the top of Clee Liberty. This was quite special, as this species had not previously been recorded at this site. We returned on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and could find none. On June 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, a good number of us set out from Heatham Gate with high hopes.

The Mountain Pansy distribution map is taken from the *Shropshire Flora*. From this, you can see how significant our little colony might be. The last record on Abdon Burf was 1983.



Brown Clee circled in red,  
Titterstone Clee in blue.

From *The Flora & Vegetation of Shropshire*  
Lockton & Whild, 2015

On the walk up we found an earthstar, *Geastrum fimbriatum*. It typically grows in rich humus under deciduous trees. Presumably the wind had carried it from its origin. It is not common.

Shortly before the top, our attention was drawn to a moss-like plant which had numerous orange-hairy globes atop long, thin stems. We were able to carefully remove the orange-hairy part, revealing a fruiting capsule, the shape of which told us that we were looking at Common Haircap *Polytrichum commune*. (*Polytrichum* translates as “many hairs”)



The haircap removed from the fruit capsule of *Polytrichum commune*.

Photo by Karl Liebscher

As we approached the summit, the cloud came down and the rain began just as we started looking for Mountain Pansies. Alas, we found none. Were we simply too late? Had the prolonged warm and sunny weather meant that they had flowered early? They are tolerant of heavy grazing, so we don't think we can blame the sheep.

We ate our lunch in the shelter of the beech trees, and then braved the weather for a rapid descent.

### **Oak Farm, Ditton Priors – 24<sup>th</sup> August**

Our wild plant survey focused on four habitats: grassland, woodland, hedgerow and pond. We recorded a total of 76 species, which is not very impressive. Factors which probably caused this were:

- It was late in the season. A visit in May/June would probably find more
- The drought conditions had probably led to some species “packing up shop” early.
- The wood is basically an oak plantation on former improved grassland, and has yet to develop a rich woodland flora.
- We gave little attention to the main parts of the field. Not only were they recently mown “improved grassland”, but the drought conditions also made identification difficult.
- The stream might well have had additional species, but we were only able to access it at a few points.

However, we were delighted to make two special finds:

In the woodland, we found several plants of Sanicle *Sanicula europaea* in a cluster. Sanicle is an Ancient Woodland Indicator, although we knew we were not in such a wood. The seeds are covered in tiny hooked bristles, to enable dispersion by furry animals. This find is probably the result of seed being brought in by a mammal. An early coloniser of the young woodland!

Near the pond, Mariel found several spikes of Broad-leaved Helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*. This species is decreasing in Shropshire, so it is good to know this site is now in the hands of a conservation-minded body.

We can look forward to further visits to Oak farm and building on that species list.

## Oak Farm Bryophytes and Lichens – 26<sup>th</sup> October

The arrival of rain in the Autumn was well-timed for this visit, bringing desiccated bryophytes back to life. On this three-hour visit, we focused on the wood and the stream. Jane had recently embraced the world of lichens, which enabled us to start looking at a new group. We recorded two dozen species, not a lot, but identifying these two groups is a little more challenging. There are, no doubt, many more species on the site and we look forward to adding to our list in the future.

### Two Special Finds



Dwarf Elder

Cycling along the lane from Bouldon to Peaton in June, Karl spotted some large, unusual plants growing in the verge. Close inspection revealed it as Dwarf Elder *Sambucus ebulus*. This verge at Peaton is one of just six sites in Shropshire where it is to be found. It is a perennial that comes up each year, and some stems at Peaton were almost six feet high. I returned the next day to take photographs, only to discover the verge had been mown, and only remnants remained!

Photograph by Karl Liebscher



Tall Marsh Orchid

On a visit to a local traditional hay meadow, we were shown some exceptionally large orchids. Following close examination and further research, it was concluded they were Tall Marsh Orchids *Dactylorhiza x grandis* (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii x praetermissa*). These have been recorded at only a handful of locations in Shropshire. The County Recorder has labelled this record as “sensitive”, and so the site is not named here!

## New Year Plant Hunt – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Since 2012 intrepid botanists across Britain have gone in search of flowers in bloom at New Year, a citizen science survey involving several thousand volunteers, coordinated by the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI). The data collected is helping botanists understand the effects of global warming on flowering periods, and the implications for pollinators for example.

This year Abdon joined the hunt! January 4<sup>th</sup> brought proper winter conditions with a feel-like temperature of -5°, and a covering of snow. Five of us managed to get to Clee St Margaret and spend three hours looking for flowers. After just 10 minutes in the Village Hall grounds, we found several daisies in bloom. Little did we know, that after two hours we would be up to just two species. The second species, Greater Periwinkle, caused a debate, as much of the plant was in a garden. But some had jumped the boundary into the hedge-bank, and could be considered “naturalised”. It went onto our list! Walking across a sunny corner of Clee Liberty yielded nothing, but as we came into the village, a solitary Lesser Celandine was spotted on a ditch side. Further along the same ditch, Primrose and Stinking Hellebore were found in flower. Things were looking up. Approaching the churchyard, we found Green Hellebore, and then snowdrops in the graveyard. Walking back up the lane, a few flowering spikes of Dogs Mercury were spotted.

We had found eight species in flower in three hours of hunting!

Submitting our records that evening, both species of *Helleborus* triggered a red-lettered response. *H. viridis* isn't usually recorded in flower as part of the plant hunt and *H. foetidus* only rarely recorded. Were we about to be shown two red cards? That would make our total less than the average per hunt in Scotland! Well, if we will go looking for flowers at over 200m on a freezing, snowy day, what can we expect? Anyhow, it was great fun, and we will be back next year.

New Year Plant Hunters at Heatham Gate



Photo by Carol Wood

*Footnote:* The “New Year Plant Hunt” took place over four days. Almost 2000 walks were organised right across the British Isles. On average each recorded about 13 plants in bloom. Across the country a total of 658 species were found in bloom. Walks near the south coast recorded 70 to 100 species in flower. Daisy, our first record, was found in flower on over 60% of the walks.

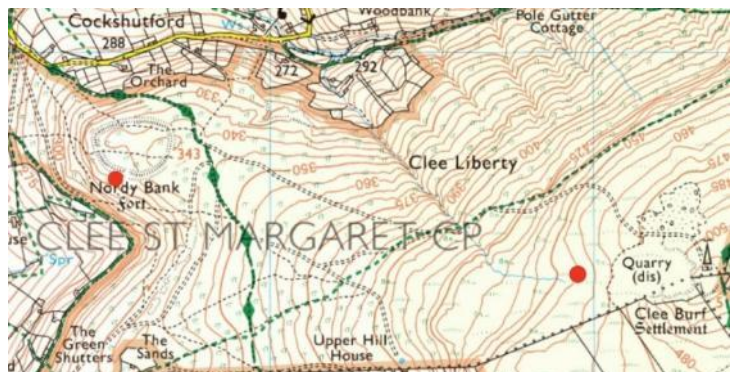
## Clee Liberty Common

### **Butterfly and Bird Survey – Cliff Kimber**

On the twentieth of June, Chris Moore and I surveyed parts of Clee Liberty looking particularly for Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary (SPBF) butterflies and Marsh Violets which the caterpillars feed on. There were sightings on the Clee several years ago but within the last year, also on the Burwarton Estate and near Cockshutford. The SPBF has suffered a steady decline in numbers since the 1970s and is now on the Red List as a high priority conservation species. Part of its decline is related to the reduction of damp grassland/moorland habitats, something the Clee St Margaret Parish Council and Clee Liberty Commoners' Association has been trying to improve over the past couple of years.

Over a five-hour period we focussed our attention around Nordy Bank, then continued up to the wetland area just below the quarry. In total there were three separate SPBF sightings: one on Nordy Bank and two below the quarry. We found no evidence of Marsh violets.

Obviously, this is a limited survey due to number of surveyors and the large area involved but the sightings are encouraging.



Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary



Photos by Iain Leach

We also recorded all other butterfly sightings on the day; Small Tortoiseshell, Small Heath (3), Green-veined White, Meadow Brown and Small White (4).

In addition, we carried out a general bird survey with the following results: Swallow (3), Kite, Raven, Stonechat, Yellowhammer, Linnets (3), Skylark (2), Meadow Pipit (2), Sparrowhawk, Carrion Crow (2). We particularly looked for Wheatears but with no success. They have been seen intermittently on Clee Liberty over the past few years but a more extensive survey by ADCWG three years ago found no evidence of nesting birds. Any sightings are likely to be of birds on their migratory routes but we live in hope.

Both of the above surveys are a limited snapshot of the species inhabiting Clee Liberty. There will be more on different days and times of the year, and with more volunteers. With active habitat management schemes underway on the common, we are considering a more extensive program of surveys to monitor their impact over the coming years. Watch this space.

## Other Events

### **BioBlitz at Oak Farm Ditton Priors**

Oak Farm is managed by the Ditton Priors Land Trust. David Munn, a member of the management committee, is keen to improve the biodiversity of the site and to make it more accessible to the local community. He is setting up a “community environmental centre” in one of the buildings behind the Willows Café. At the 2024 AGM it was suggested that we could carry out a BioBlitz at some point. I thought that this was the opportunity to do so to identify a baseline of the wildlife on the site.

We held this event on Sunday 24 August. We were lucky with the weather it being a lovely sunny day. We had at least 20 members in different groups carrying out various surveys recording moths from 2 traps set up the previous evening, plants, bees, birds, butterflies, dragonflies and other insects etc.



A highlight of the day was a pond dipping session supervised by Lucy Groves with Lucy and Chris Moore doing a great job identifying the findings. Special mention must go to Dave Munn for him wading into the pool to pond dip, for his bravery, his netting skills and the entertainment value!



Dragonfly Larva



Young Newt



Female Brown Hawker ovipositing



Male Common Darter

A confused female Southern Hawker ovipositing on a rucksack. It had landed on a number of us in its search for places to deposit eggs.



A Small Copper Form *caeruleopunctata* showing additional blue markings on the hindwing. In Small Copper aberrations are often found in the autumn generation after a hot summer. (ref *Butterflies of the West Midlands*).

Thank you to all those who took part in a very interesting and enjoyable day and to those who dropped in to add their support. Special thanks to Sarah Munn for supplying tea, coffee and an amazing selection of cakes to keep us going through the day! Thanks to Karl, Cathy, Cliff for the species lists.

See Appendix 5 for lists of what we recorded.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Dawn Chorus Bird List Oak Farm 17 May 2025

House Sparrow	Starling
Blackbird	Garden Warbler
Woodpigeon	Coal tit
Jackdaw	Swifts (over industrial Estate)
Chiffchaff	Linnet
Carion Crow	Mistle Thrush
Blackcap	Meadow Pipit
Blue Tit	
Greenfinch	
Wren	
Robin	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	
Stock Dove	
Chaffinch	
Song Thrush	
Goldcrest	
Great Tit	
Willow Warbler	
Jay	
Magpie	
Marsh Tit	
Redstart	
Treecreeper	
Goldfinch	
Dunnock	
Pheasant	
Pied Wagtail	

## Appendix 2: Moths Recorded

### Stoke St Milborough

#### Macro moths

Brimstone Moth	4	<i>Common</i>		
Pale Tussock	11	<i>Common</i>		
Scorched Wing	3	<i>Local</i>	<b>Number of species</b>	32
Common Marbled Carpet	7	<i>Common</i>		
White Ermine	5	<i>Common</i>	<b>Number of individuals</b>	108
Clouded Silver	3	<i>Common</i>		
Flame Shoulder	12	<i>Common</i>		
Barred Umber	1	<i>Local</i>		
Spectacle	3	<i>Common</i>		
Dingy Footman	2	<i>Common</i>		
Lobster Moth	1	<i>Common</i>		
Buff Ermine	12	<i>Common</i>		
Scalloped Hazel	6	<i>Common</i>		
Buff-Tip	2	<i>Common</i>		
Green Carpet	2	<i>Common</i>		
Beautiful Golden Y	1	<i>Common</i>		
Poplar Hawk-moth	2	<i>Common</i>		
Clouded-bordered Brindle	2	<i>Common</i>		
Flame	1	<i>Common</i>		
Silver-ground Carpet	6	<i>Common</i>		
Pebble Hook-tip	1	<i>Common</i>		
Straw Dot	2	<i>Common</i>		
Small Square-spot	4	<i>Common</i>		
Ingrailed Clay	2	<i>Common</i>		
Heart & Dart	1	<i>Common</i>		
Shoulder Stripe	1	<i>Common</i>		
Marbled Minor	2	<i>Common</i>		
Broken-barred Carpet	1	<i>Common</i>		
Mottled Pug	2	<i>Common</i>		
May Highflyer	3	<i>Common</i>		
Dwarf Pug	1	<i>Common</i>		
Setaceous Hebrew Character	1	<i>Common</i>		
Common Pug	1	<i>Common</i>		

#### Micro moths

Small Magpie	1	<i>Common</i>		
Tinea trinitella	1	<i>Common</i>	<b>Number of species</b>	4
Celypha lacunana	1	<i>Common</i>		
Epinotia immundana	1	<i>Common</i>	<b>Number of individuals</b>	4

### Heath

#### Macro moths

Brimstone Moth	1	<i>Common</i>		
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	3	<i>Common</i>		
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow			<b>Number of species</b>	22
Underwing	8	<i>Common</i>		
Common Wainscot	5	<i>Common</i>		
Poplar Hawk-moth	2	<i>Common</i>	<b>Number of individuals</b>	115

Setaceous Hebrew Character	42	<i>Common</i>
Flame Shoulder	12	<i>Common</i>
Rosy Rustic	1	<i>Common</i>
Shuttle-shaped Dart	2	<i>Common</i>
Centre-barred Sallow	4	<i>Common</i>
Large Yellow Underwing	10	<i>Common</i>
Flame Carpet	1	<i>Common</i>
Square-spot Rustic	8	<i>Common</i>
Straw Dot	2	<i>Common</i>
Copper Underwing	3	<i>Common</i>
Canary-shouldered Thorn	2	<i>Common</i>
Flounced Rustic	1	<i>Common</i>
Common Marbled Carpet	2	<i>Common</i>
Blood-vein	2	<i>Common</i>
Dark Arches	1	<i>Common</i>
Pebble Prominent	1	<i>Common</i>
Yellow Shell	1	<i>Common</i>
Small Square-spot	1	<i>Common</i>

## Oak Farm

### Macro moths

Brimstone Moth	15	<i>Common</i>
Chinese Character	2	<i>Common</i>
Lesser Swallow Prominent	2	<i>Common</i>
Brindled Green	4	<i>Common</i>
Dusky Thorn	4	<i>Common</i>
Canary-shouldered Thorn	2	<i>Common</i>
September Thorn	1	<i>Common</i>
Common Marbled Carpet	2	<i>Common</i>
Centre-barred Sallow	15	<i>Common</i>
Snout	1	<i>Common</i>
Setaceous Hebrew Character	54	<i>Common</i>
Common Wainscot	51	<i>Common</i>
Double-striped Pug	2	<i>Common</i>
Light Emerald	2	<i>Common</i>
Square-spot Rustic	34	<i>Common</i>
Flame Shoulder	13	<i>Common</i>
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	4	<i>Common</i>
Coronet	1	<i>Local</i>
Copper Underwing	2	<i>Common</i>
Flame	1	<i>Common</i>
Flounced Rustic	2	<i>Common</i>
Feathered Gothic	1	<i>Common</i>
Large Yellow Underwing	10	<i>Common</i>
Six-striped Rustic	4	<i>Common</i>
Common Rustic	2	<i>Common</i>
Small Square-spot	2	<i>Common</i>
Dark Arches	1	<i>Common</i>
Orange Swift	1	<i>Common</i>
Heart & Dart	2	<i>Common</i>
Spectacle	1	<i>Common</i>
Pale Mottled Willow	1	<i>M/C</i>

**Number of species** 52

**Number of individuals** 352

NB two moth traps used.

Lesser Yellow Underwing	1	<i>Common</i>
Rosy Rustic	1	<i>Common</i>
Chinese Character	5	<i>Common</i>
Brimstone Moth	2	<i>Common</i>
Dusky Thorn	2	<i>Common</i>
Setaceous Hebrew Character	42	<i>Common</i>
Square-spot Rustic	11	<i>Common</i>
Common Marbled Carpet	4	<i>Common</i>
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	4	<i>Common</i>
Flounced Rustic	2	<i>Common</i>
Snout	1	<i>Common</i>
Flame Shoulder	5	<i>Common</i>
Ruby Tiger	1	<i>Common</i>
Large Yellow Underwing	7	<i>Common</i>
Maple Pug	1	<i>Local</i>
Common Wainscot	13	<i>Common</i>
Copper Underwing	1	<i>Common</i>
Brindled Green	1	<i>Common</i>
Centre-barred Sallow	6	<i>Common</i>
Light Emerald	1	<i>Common</i>
Green Carpet	1	<i>Common</i>
Magpie	1	<i>Common</i>

**Micro moths**

Epiphyas postvittana	3	<i>Common</i>
Pandemis corylana	2	<i>Common</i>
Celypha lacunana	2	<i>Common</i>
Anania coronata	1	<i>Common</i>
Argyresthia goedartella	2	<i>Common</i>
Cataclysta lemnata	2	<i>Common</i>
Celypha striana	1	<i>Common</i>

**Number of species** 7

**Number of individuals** 13

### Appendix 3 – Bumblebees recorded on Bee Walks

<b>Bumblebee species</b>	<b>Castes and numbers seen</b>
Common Carder bee ( <i>Bombus pascuorum</i> )	Queen -3, worker-21
Red-tailed Bumblebee ( <i>B. lapidaries</i> )	Queen -4, worker-50, male-1
Early Bumblebee ( <i>B. pratorum</i> )	Worker -2
White-tailed Bumblebee ( <i>B. lucorum</i> )	Queen -1
Buff-tailed Bumblebee ( <i>B. terrestris</i> )	Queen -1 White/Buff-tail workers - 36
Tree Bumblebee ( <i>B. hypnorum</i> )	Queen -1, worker-1
Garden Bumblebee ( <i>B. hortorum</i> )	Queen -1, worker-31
Heath Bumblebee ( <i>B. jonellus</i> )	none recorded
Bilberry Bumblebee ( <i>B. monticola</i> )	none recorded
Field Cuckoo Bumblebee ( <i>B. campestris</i> )	Female -1
Unidentified bumblebees	8 (flew by)

## Appendix 4 – Plants recorded

<b>Monad SO6183 5th April 2025 (Karl, Dee, Sue C., Carol, Trish)</b>			
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Aedopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dogs Mercury
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Hedge Garlic	<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Polypody
<i>Anthriscus sylvaticus</i>	Cow Parsley	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Cinquefoil
<i>Arctium sp.</i>	Burdock	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Wild Arum	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter Cress	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Chrysplenium oppositifolium</i>	Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field Rose
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg</i>	Bramble
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Gallium aparine</i>	Cleavers	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	<i>Symphytum sp.</i>	Comfrey
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	<i>Taraxacum agg</i>	Dandelion
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Lamiasstrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	<i>Ulmus sp.</i>	Elm
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead Nettle	<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose
		<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Vetch

## Survey of Bryophytes & Lichens at Oak Farm 26.10.2025 by Abdon Wildlife Group

(Mariel, Jane, Deborah, Mark, Cathy and Karl)

Wood	Stream bank
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<b>Liverworts</b>	<i>Radula complanata</i>	Even Scalewort		
	<i>Pellia endiviifolia</i>	Endive Pellia		
<b>Mosses</b>	<i>Atriums undulatum.</i>	Common Smoothcap		
	<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	Rough-stalked Feather-moss		
	<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>	Common Pocket-moss		
	<i>Hypnum andoi</i>	Mammilate Plait-moss		
	<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	Common Feather-moss		
	<i>Mnium stellare</i>	Starry Thyme-moss		
	<i>Orthotrichum affine</i>	Wood Bristle-moss		
	<i>Rhynchostegium confertum</i>	Clustered Feather-moss		
	<i>Ulota crispa/bruchii</i>	Crisped/Bruch's Pincushion		
	<b>Lichens</b>	<i>Candelariella sp.</i>	Egg Yolk Lichens	
<i>Cladonia sp.</i>				
<i>Evernia</i>		Oak 'Moss' Lichen		
<i>Hypotrachyna revoluta/afrorevoluta</i>				
<i>Lecanora chlarotera</i>				
<i>Lecanora sp.</i>		Rim lichens		
<i>Parmelia sulcata</i>		Hammered/Cracked Lichen Shield Lichen		
<i>Parmotrema perlatum</i>		Powered Ruffle Lichen		
Possibly <i>Flavoparmelia sp.</i>				
<i>Ramalina farinacea</i>				
<i>Xanthoria calcicola</i>				
<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>				
<i>Xanthoria polycarpa</i>				

### Comment

We spent three hours on site, and surveyed just a small part of the wood, and a short stretch of the stream.

There are, no doubt, many more species present.

## Appendix 5 - Species seen at the Oak Farm BioBlitz – 24/08/2025

### **Bees**

Buff tail bumblebee  
Common Carder bee  
Red-tailed bumblebee  
Southern cuckoo bee

### **Butterflies**

Large White  
Small White  
Green-veined White  
Holly Blue  
Red Admiral  
Comma  
Small tortoiseshell

### **Dragonflies**

Common Darter  
Brown Hawker (f)  
Southern Hawker (f)

### **Other Insects & Spiders**

Seven-spot ladybird  
Garden spider  
Seven-spot ladybird  
Harvestman spider  
Grasshopper  
Bluebottle  
Grass veneer  
Spotted Orb Web spider  
Crane Flies

### **Pond dipping species identified**

Greater water boatman  
Dragonfly larva  
Mayfly larva  
Damselfly larva  
Ramshorn snail  
Freshwater shrimps  
Midge Larva  
Daphnia  
Pond snail  
Baby newt  
Lesser water boatman  
Water louse  
Great diving beetle  
Ceratopogonids  
Froglet  
Toadlet  
Dytiscid beetle  
Phantom Midge

### **Mammals**

Vole

### **Birds**

Woodpigeon                      Robin  
Red Kite                              Goldfinch  
Buzzard  
Magpie  
Blue Tit  
House Martin  
Treetreeper

## **Final Word**

Another busy year for the group. A particular highlight for me was the Bioblitz that we held at Oak Farm in Ditton Priors. It brought together a good number of our members, we recorded a lot and it was a great social occasion in fine weather. We will be visiting the site again in 2026 to do some more surveys. We will have to try to get some more pond dipping in to the programme!

We only cancelled two events this year, both due to bad weather, the Dragonfly Walk and the Fungi Walk. We did however have some dragonfly action at Oak Farm during the Bioblitz. Dave Munn braved the weather and turned up for the Fungi Walk at Oak Farm and photographed a number of fungi.

Thank you to all who organised and led events and to those who attended them. I look forward to seeing you at an event in 2026.