

Abdon District Community Wildlife Group

Annual Report 2024



We look for, observe, record and enjoy wildlife

Introduction

We have had a busy year with several events. Unfortunately, a number of events had to be cancelled due to the weather. The weather seems to have dominated the year. Butterfly Conservation declared a Butterfly Emergency after the results of the Big Butterfly Count – 50% fewer butterflies spotted per count than in 2023, 81% of species showed declines. 9000 15 minute counts saw no butterflies at all. This was the first year that I have repeatedly gone to our Buddleias to see butterflies and not found any! The Butterfly Transect, BeeWalk and moth records show a similar picture. Habitat destruction and climate breakdown are being sited as major factors in these declines.

On a happier note, the Dormouse project has shown positive results and Trish Shotton has shown us how successful a trail camera can be in recording Dormice.

We now have 106 member's emails on our circulation list. It would be a shock if everyone on the list turned up at one of our events! But it would be good to see some of you who have not made it to an event yet. If there are any other activities you would like the group to cover please let me know.

Birds – Miles Leach

At the end of 2023 Frank Bury, owner of the Millichope Estate, asked whether any of our birding members would be interested in monitoring Millichope Park for Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. They are a scarce and declining species. The Birds of Shropshire 2019 estimated the county population as 30-60 pairs. They breed in several habitats including deciduous woodland, parkland and orchards. They are difficult to see as they spend most of their time high up in trees in dense foliage. However, their distinctive drumming and calls in spring can identify their presence. 5 of us carried out a number of site visits during February and March when they are most likely to be heard. Unfortunately we didn't identify any on site.

We didn't do very well with our bird walks this year. Both the Dawn Chorus Walk programmed for May 4th and the Autumn Bird Walk programmed for 23rd November were both cancelled due to the weather. Storm Bert put paid to the Autumn Walk with exceptionally wet and windy weather.

Leo Smith also had to cancel his visit to us to report on the Curlew Survey results for 2023 in February due to a broken wrist. Leo is booked to report on the results of the 2023 and 2024 surveys on 19 February 2025.

The survey was carried out for the 7th year by 17 members – thanks to them for the time and effort they put in. 2 nests were found and protected by electric fences. 1 on the Millichope Estate by Oakley Wheeler, the local gamekeeper. 4 eggs were laid, all hatched, and 3 chicks were ringed. The other nest was fenced by the landowner and member of the group Lionel Lewis. 4 eggs were laid 2 hatched both chicks died. Unfortunately, the chicks hatched when it was very cold and wet. Thanks to Oakley and Lionel for their efforts to protect the nests.

Insects

Clee Liberty Butterfly Transect 2023 - Cliff Kimber

This has been a difficult year for butterflies but also for insects in general. The wet Spring and Summer have seen a significant fall in the number of species recorded from surveys throughout the country.

Six volunteers from ADCWG carried out surveys weekly between April and September; a total of 15 species were recorded. This compares with 16 last year but with a few changes. No Purple Hairstreak, Comma, Holly Blue or Common Blue seen this year but Clouded Yellow, Orange Tip and Brimstone were new sightings.

Top 6 sightings in order were: 1. Large White 2. Small White 3. Meadow Brown 4. Green-veined White 5. Red Admiral 6. Speckled Wood. White butterfly numbers have increased compared with 2023 but Small Heath, Speckled Wood and Red Admiral numbers are significantly reduced. The total number of butterflies recorded was 181, the majority seen in July/August. This compares with 221 sightings in 2023, a 20% decrease. Full results in Appendix 2.

Another noticeable change this year has been the Clee Liberty landscape itself. There has been an increase in bracken and bramble growth in places despite some large scale bracken clearance elsewhere. It will be interesting to see if there is any significant shift in butterfly sightings over the coming years now that the grazing arrangements have changed.

If you would like to be part of the 2025 transect, email Cliff Kimber (drckimber@yahoo.co.uk). You don't need to be an expert and a shadow walk can be arranged.

Moth Mornings – Miles Leach



Unfortunately, primarily due to the weather, we only held one Moth Morning this year. Kate and Andy kindly hosted it at their property at Powkesmore on 2nd of June.

7 of us took part. 68 moths were recorded in total, 24 species of macro moths and 2 micro species. See full list at Appendix 3. There may not have been as many moths as we had hoped for, but the selection of fabulous cakes made up for it!

Those of us who moth trap regularly throughout the year have noted that the number of moths recorded this year are significantly down on previous years.



Above – Scalloped Hazel and Peppered Moth – Miles Leach

Dragonflies – Miles Leach

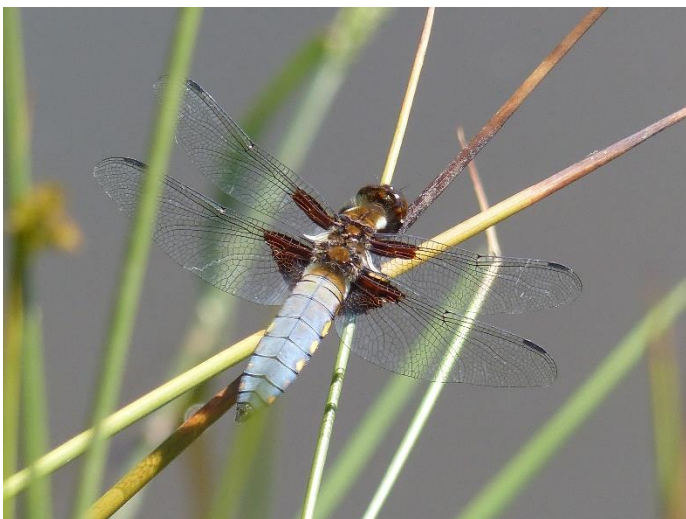
We had two Dragonfly walks this year. The first was on the 19th May near Stoke St Milborough where 7 of us investigated 3 local pools. We saw several Large Red and Azure Damselflies and some had a brief view of a male Beautiful Demoiselle. We only recorded a couple of Broad-bodied Chaser dragonflies. Bearing in mind it was quite late in May we were surprised at how few individuals we saw.

Our second outing was on the 28th of July when 5 of us walked up the Brown Clee from the picnic area parking to Boyne Water stopping off at Brancepeth pool on the way. The weather was good, but we were again disappointed by how few dragonflies we saw. Black Darter dragonflies are a local speciality of acid pools, and we normally see good numbers particularly at Boyne Water but we only found one immature female. The overall number of individuals of all species seen was very low compared to previous years.

5 species of damselflies and 4 species of dragonflies were recorded. See Appendix 4



Immature Black Darter Female & male Emperor by Paul Thomas.



Broad -bodied Chaser male by Miles Leach.

Bumble Bee Surveys – BeeWalk 2024 – Cathy Beardes



In 2024 we decided to launch a bumblebee survey using the BeeWalk tool provided by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. We set up a transect (BeeWalk) from Abdon village hall up the hill to the top road and then in a loop back down. This route took in meadow, a small copse of old trees, the new tree plantation and some roadside verge. It is in an area where Bilberry Bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*) had previously been seen, so we were optimistic. The transect should be walked at least once a month from March to October and we did our best to manage this but unfortunately missed September and October. Those who attended enjoyed the camaraderie and learning to catch (sometimes!) and identify bees together.

April BeeWalkers – Photo thanks to Martin Steer

The results were very varied and not necessarily related to when the weather was good. Overall we made 37 identifications of 12 different bee species (see Appendix 5 for details). Unfortunately we did not pick the best year to start to look for bumblebees as numbers were reportedly down nationwide this year, this comes from Bumblebee Conservation Trust:

Science Manager, Dr Richard Comont, gives us an insight into why we've been seeing less bumblebees this year.

As the years roll by, there tends to be one thing that happened during the year that attaches itself as a label. 2020 was the year of Covid, 2022 was the 40°C heatwave. For a lot of people, 2024 was The Year of No Bees.

It all started off so well. Back in early March the skies were blue and queen bumblebees were emerging from their winter dormancy in high numbers – in fact, several species reached record numbers in March or April. But then the wheels came off. In June, volunteers across our BeeWalk network were recording around 11 bumblebees for every kilometre they walked. In a 'normal' year, they would be recording 21, almost twice as many. 2024 stood out as the worst June count on record.

Some species were faring even worse. The Red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*) is a widespread and common species, understatedly beautiful with a jet-black body and bright red tail. The flight season started well, with around a third more sightings of overwintered queens than usual. In a normal year, those queens would find themselves a nest site and start producing workers in May, with numbers ramping up in June and staying high through July and August, workers gradually give way to males and new queens. During 2024 they just never managed to get going. In June, sightings were 83% down. Instead of seeing a Red-tail every 250-300 metres, BeeWalkers were only seeing one individual every two kilometres.

The immediate cause seems to have been the weather. After that burst of early-spring sunshine, the spring and early summer settled down into a pattern of dull, gloomy, damp days interspersed with heavy rain. This makes life incredibly difficult for bumblebees, especially in the early stages of nesting where the queen has to balance finding a nest site, foraging for herself, foraging for her developing offspring, and incubating her brood. Cool, damp weather means the queens spend more energy keeping themselves and their brood warm, which increases the need for foraging but decreases the time available for it.

To make things even more difficult, that foraging would have become more difficult in the poor weather. Food from flowers is less accessible on cold, damp days, especially as flowers close up or get damaged in heavy rain.

Unfortunately, the BeeWalk numbers show that many queens didn't manage to walk this tightrope and nest successfully.

I think many of us have observed similar lower numbers of other insects during 2024, we hope they bounce back in 2025.

Huge thanks to Mariel for providing wonderful tea-breaks during our walks. We hope to continue this BeeWalk in 2025, please let Cathy Beardes know if you would like to join us.

Mammals

Abdon District Dormouse Project – Lucy Grove

2024 marked the projects first nest box checks and first live dormice in the hand!

Several natural nests and nibbled nuts were found, new locations being identified as being inhabited by dormice and some great trail camera footage and footprint data in Ditton Priors. See below for further details.



Nest box checks:

We hosted a field visit for the Shropshire Hills Summer Forum in June. For the visit we visited Karl's wood, and the first nest box we checked had two very sleepy dormice inside! Across the survey season we found a total of 7 dormice and 1 nest (with no dormice in current habitation).



Alongside members of the group we took out several members of staff from Shropshire Wildlife Trust, who were very interested in the project and delighted at getting to see a dormice first hand.

Natural nests:



Late autumn and winter are the best times to find natural dormouse nests, as the vegetation dies back to reveal that which is hidden in summer.

Karl Leibscher, Miles Leach, Martin Steer and myself found natural nests whilst working in the woods or walking. Mile's record will be a new location record for dormice, just great.

Trail cameras and Footprint Tunnels:

The groups dormice trail camera and bait station was deployed in two new locations this year. Of great success was Trish Shotton's efforts in Ditton Priors. Trish has contributed a massive effort to deploying the trail camera and footprint tunnels around her garden and has collected some absolutely wonderful photos of dormice (and other small mammals), contributing to our knowledge of dormouse behaviour and habitat preferences.

Nibbled nuts:

In September we found a nibbled nut at a new location in our area, in Mark and Yvone Hardman's little patch of woodland on Leath Bank, providing evidence that dormice are more than likely crossing the Stanton Long to Ditton road at Leath Bank – just great news.



Karl's wood – coppice management

2025:

In 2025 we will continue to check the dormouse nest boxes that are located around the project area. We have the kit available if anyone from the group would like to deploy the trail camera or any footprint tunnels across the wider Abdon District area. If so, please get in touch with Lucy Grove.

Bats – Miles Leach

We have had a “group” bat detector for some time which is available for members to use. We have also held some group bat detecting evenings in the past. This year on the 13th March at Clee St Margaret village hall we had a very interesting and informative talk on bats from Mike Worsfield the Chairman of the Shropshire Bat Group which 16 members attended.

This was followed up by a Bat Walk at Millichope Park on the 24th April led by Mike and John Morgan another very knowledgeable and helpful member of the Shropshire Bat Group. Although it was quite a cold evening 18 of us went out with our bat detector and others provided by Mike and John. We identified Common and Soprano Pipistrelles and Noctule bats. The highlight of the evening was picking up several Daubenton's bats flying low over one of the large ponds in the park. Martin Steer had brought along a thermal imaging device that allowed us to see the Daubenton's bats hunting over the water which was a bonus.

Thanks to Frank Bury for letting us carry out the walk in Millichope Park.

Fungi – Miles Leach

6 of us went on the Fungi Walk on the 26 October on the Brown Clee from the picnic area parking.

Last year in the same area we recorded 21 species. This year we struggled to find only 9 species. I don't think I have seen as many fungi as last year when out walking. It has been suggested that it may be due to the weather, but people have told me that they found good numbers of fungi on Clee Liberty Common this year.

See Appendix 6 for the list of species recorded.



Plant Life

Churchyard Plant Surveys

For a third successive year we made two visits to each of two churchyards. 2024 found us surveying the churchyards of St Peter & St Paul at Cleobury North, and Holy Trinity at Wheathill. Ten Group members did the survey work, and the results were collated by Karl Liebscher.

Prior to our visits, a search of the Shropshire Botanical Society database revealed that both had been surveyed by a Mr J.A.Thompson, Cleobury in 1997, and Wheathill a year later.



Botanists at work in Cleobury North Churchyard – Sue Crichton

Cleobury North proved particularly interesting. The number of species recorded by each survey was similar (90 in 1997, and 106 in 2024), but only 61 of those were found on both occasions. We did not find 29 species recorded by Mr Thompson, but we did find an incredible 46 “new” species. This will be partly explained by the fact that we made two visits (8th May, 27th July), and the 1997 survey was all done on the 4th July, thus missing some Spring-time species such as Lesser Celandine and Bluebell. Another factor is that maybe over the past 27 years the management of the churchyard has changed.

The 1997 and 2024 surveys at Cleobury North together recorded a total of 134 species, a very impressive total. This might be explained by the fact that within the churchyard four different habitats can be recognized:

1. Woodland to the south of the site creates woodland conditions in one area suitable for species such as Wood Anemone, Dog’s Mercury, Wood Forget-me-not, and Wood Sedge.

2. There is a good sized area of damp ground providing conditions for species such as Meadowsweet, Marsh Bedstraw and Water Avens.

3. There are better drained areas of turf which provide a home for species such as Devil’s-bit Scabious, Ox-eye Daisy and Mouse-ear-hawkweed.

4. The walls of the church itself are home to the fern, Wall-rue, and the boundary stone wall provides a home to both Maidenhair Spleenwort and Black Spleenwort.

At **Wheathill** 82 species were recorded over the two visits. A similar number, 77 were recorded in 1998, but of those, 17 were not found in 2024. Three of those (Thale Cress, Hairy Bitter-cress and Annual Meadow Grass) are annuals which prefer a rather open, even disturbed, habitat, rather than a dense sward. This might reflect a change in management, with paths becoming overgrown. We were delighted to find Goldilocks Buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus*, an axiophyte, (also found in 1998) growing under a mature oak, reflecting its preference for a woodland environment (We also found *R.auricomus* in



Wheathill Churchyard – Sue Crichton

Abdon churchyard in 2016). The fern Maidenhair Spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* was found in both 1998 and 2024, growing on a short section of stone wall made with the original lime mortar (and we then found the same species at Cleobury North). Surprisingly, Wheathill is the first churchyard in which we have recorded Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*. It was pleasing also to find an abundance of Crosswort *Cruciata laevipes*, recorded in only one other churchyard, Abdon.

We have now surveyed **seven churchyards** : Abdon in 2016, Stoke St. Milborough and Holdgate in 2022, Ditton Priors and Tugford a year later, and Cleobury North and Wheathill in 2024. The results are summarised in a spreadsheet in Appendix 7. We have found over 230 species, of which about 20 have been found at every site. The data we now have provides an opportunity for some interesting analysis, but this might best wait until we have visited the final two churchyards in “our patch” in 2025, Loughton and Clee St. Margaret.

Meanwhile, all our records are submitted to iRecord, and so contribute to both county and national databases. Each church has been sent a full report, which also highlighted which species are of special value to pollinators and to butterfly larvae.

Clee Liberty Common – Mountain Pansies, bracken cutting and new management.

Early in June three members walked to the top of Clee Liberty looking for Mountain Pansies *Viola lutea*. We had found 25 plants in 2021; a new location for Shropshire. However in 2024 we found none. This doesn't necessarily mean they've gone. It might be that the season was different and we missed the flowering time (they are exceedingly difficult to find if there are none of the bright yellow flowers). We look forward to looking again in 2025, when a new regime begins for the Common (see below), which should benefit the pansies.

On this occasion we also took a close look at parts of the Common where some mechanical bracken cutting had been carried out. These were areas where the bracken had become so dense, that virtually no other plant life featured. Following the bracken cutting, there were plenty of bare patches of soil, and much-weakened bracken regrowth. We searched for colonising species, and recorded : Early Hair-grass, *Aira praecox*; Foxgloves, lots of Sheep's Sorrel, *Rumex acetosella*; Common Bent, *Agrostis capillaris*; Sweet Vernal Grass, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*; Sheep's Fescue, *Festuca ovina*, and a gorse seedling! This is all good news, as these are precisely the species it is hoped will return.

Commencing this year, Clee Liberty Common is in a Countryside Stewardship Scheme which will mean no sheep on the Common from November to March, and a lower stocking density during the rest of the year. It is hoped that this will enable the flora to put on stronger growth each season. The Stewardship Scheme will also enable further bracken control, and measures to slow the water coming off the Common.

Woodland Bryophytes

Six of us went creeping around Ashfield Coppice in October looking for mosses and liverworts. We didn't have to do much walking as this was one of those field meetings where within a few square metres we would find sufficient to keep us busy for an hour.

When seeking small organisms (whether bryophytes or say, insects) you soon appreciate the importance of microhabitats within a major habitat (in this case woodland). We found the liverwort *Frullania dilatata* (Dilated Scalewort) growing high on the trunks of ash trees, a home where moisture is very limited. In contrast, we also found *Lophocolea bidentata* (Bifid Crestwort). This liverwort doesn't like to dry out, and consequently is often found on the woodland floor, growing within larger mosses.

Wind-blown trees provide a variety of micro habitats. The root plate can be two metres high, and conditions range from very dry on the top, to very damp, or even under water at the base. Mosses are one of the first to colonise a new root plate, and we found several: Catherine's Moss *Atrichum undulatum*, Lesser Pocket-moss *Fissidens bryoides*, Bank Haircap *Polytrichum formosum*, and Common Pocket-moss *Fissidens taxifolius*.

A little bonus was finding some fern prothalli. These are the “seedlings” which grow from the spore of a fern, and in time give rise to a new fern plant. Their flat and bright green appearance is not unlike a liverwort, which is how they caught our eye. Then one spots a “leaf” which tells you this is not a bryophyte.

The day provided an insight into a group of plants so often overlooked, and both the novices and the more experienced among us gained something from the visit.

Other Events

Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Shropshire, LNRS – Miles Leach.

On the 26th of November Alan Reid, Forestry Commission Nature Recovery Advisor very kindly gave us a talk explaining what an LNRS is and how it is being developed for Shropshire. This became a joint event for us and the local CPRE group as they were also trying to arrange a speaker on this subject. Thanks to some good advertising around 40 people attended the meeting at Ditton Priors village hall. Up to this point very little public information appeared to be available about the LNRS.

Soon after our meeting I was notified of three workshops being run by Shropshire Council in January “...to help make sure that the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy reflects local priorities and benefits from local knowledge...” which I circulated to members encouraging them to attend.

I will notify members of any significant developments regarding the LNRS.

Events attended – Miles Leach.

We were asked to take part at the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, formerly AONB, Summer Forum on 13 June at Clee Hill Village Hall. We were happy to support this event as the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, have been very supportive of the group and our projects. This ran from 10am - 3pm with contributors having stalls that visitors could visit. Cathy Beardes and I put together some A4 sheets covering our activities – Curlew Survey, Plants, Dormice, Bumble Bee and Butterfly Transects, Moth Mornings, Dragonflies etc. I attended the stall for the day. There was quite a lot of interest shown in the things that we are doing. As part of this event a field trip was organised to learn about our Dormouse project – see Lucy’s Dormouse report.

Abdon District

Programme 2024

Community Wildlife Group



We look for, observe, record, and enjoy wildlife

Main Programme These are mainly outdoor field meetings, usually a walk, each of which will have a main aim, but also an opportunity to simply “see what we find”. Full details will come to you by email shortly before each event. Weather sometimes causes late change, and dates for some events will be announced nearer the time.

FEBRUARY	Wednesday 21 st	Report on the Curlew Survey by Leo Smith
MARCH	Saturdays 9 th and 16 th	Dormouse Project – Hedge & coppice management
	Wednesday 13 th	Shropshire Bat Group – indoor talk
March to July		Curlew, Lapwing & Other Birds Survey
March to October		Beewalk (monthly visits)
APRIL	Date TBA	Churchyard surveys
	Wednesday 24 th	Bat walk
April to September		Clee Liberty Butterfly Transect (weekly visits)
MAY	Saturday 4 th	Dawn Chorus Walk – Ditton area
	Date TBA	Dormouse Project – start of surveying (fortnightly visits)
	Saturday 18 th	Dragonfly Day – Cold Weston
JUNE	Date TBA	Churchyard surveys
	Date TBA	Dragonfly Day – Brown Clee
AUGUST	Thursday 1 st	Burwarton Show. Help needed on our stand.
OCTOBER	Saturday 19 th	Fungi Walk
Autumn	Date TBA	Dormouse Project – Nibbled Nut Hunts
NOVEMBER	Saturday 23 rd	Autumn Bird Walk
	Date TBA	Indoor Bryophyte Meeting
	Date TBA	Bryophyte Field Meeting

“Pop-up Events For us to go looking for certain wildlife, or for us to venture “up the hill”, the weather conditions have to be right. In these cases, rather than fix dates in advance, you will receive an email giving details at short notice. Look out for emails relating to dragonflies, bilberry bumblebees, bats, moths, and upland plants (e.g. Bog Asphodel and Mountain Pansies).

Moth Mornings Miles would like to set up a moth trap at different locations, and at different seasons. Can you offer a venue? Must have an electricity supply. Fix a date with Miles, milesleach712@gmail.com which will be circulated to all members, who can arrive early morning to view and identify trap contents, and drink coffee!

Our Group owns a **Bat Detector**. If you would like to make use of it, contact Miles, milesleach712@gmail.com

Natural Networks Around Brown Clee We intend to hold a few more visits to members’ properties to view examples of wildlife-friendly management. Look out for emails with the “NNABC” label.

Ongoing Recording News is always welcome of interesting wildlife observations. Please note **date, species, number, location (with 6 or 10-fig map reference)** and **any comment**. Send this to the appropriate person, who will enter it in Group records, and forward to the County Recorder where of interest.

Birds, Moths & Dragonflies: Miles, milesleach712@gmail.com

Mammals: Pam, gambolsthorn@hotmail.com

Plants: Karl, karl94694@gmail.com

Fungi: Mariel, dmdelubman@hotmail.co.uk

Butterflies: Dee, 66deesnape@gmail.com

Appendix 2 : Butterflies Recorded on Clee Liberty Transect

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	Total	cf Total	
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	23/09/2024	2023		
Large Skipper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Clouded Yellow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Brimstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Large White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	18	14	5	2	3	1	3	6	2	67	51	
Small White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	11	10	3	0	7	10	2	0	49	32	
Green-veined White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	17	6	
Orange Tip	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	
Red Admiral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	9	24	
Small Tortoiseshell	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	15
Peacock	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Speckled Wood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	17	
Wall Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Gatekeeper / Hedge Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	
Meadow Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	4	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	17	39	
Small Heath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	17	
Total (Summary)	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	2	17	10	34	32	20	6	8	10	17	11	2	181	221	

Appendix 3 : Moths Recorded at Powkesmore Moth Morning 02/02/2024

Macro Moths

Brimstone Moth	6
Buff Ermine	6
Scorched Wing	1
Brown Silver-line	1
Scalloped Hazel	3
Poplar Hawk-moth	4
Peppered Moth	1
Marbled Minor	1
Ingrailed Clay	15
Silver-ground Carpet	1
Clouded Border	7
Pale Tussock	2
Pale Prominent	1
White Ermine	2
Pale-shouldered Brocade	1
Green Silver-lines	1
Clouded-bordered Brindle	2
Common Swift	2
Flame Shoulder	1
Small Phoenix	1
Common Marbled Carpet	1
Common Wave	1
Middled-barred Minor	2
White-pinion Spotted	2

Total 65

Micro Moths

Notocelia cynosbatella	2
Blastobasis lacticolella	1

Total 3

Appendix 4: Dragonflies & Damselflies

Stoke St Milborough pools walk:

Beautiful Demoiselle Broad-bodied Chaser

Large Red Damselfly

Azure Damselfly

Brancepeth & Boyne Water walk:

Large Red Damselfly

Azure Damselfly

Common Blue Damselfly

Emerald Damselfly

White-legged Damselfly

Brown Hawker Dragonfly

Emperor Dragonfly

Four-spotted Chaser Dragonfly

Ruddy Darter Dragonfly

Appendix 5 – Bumblebees recorded on Beewalks (March – August)

Bumblebee species

Common Carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*)

Red-tailed Bumblebee (*B. lapidaries*)

Early Bumblebee (*B. pratorum*)

White-tailed Bumblebee (*B. lucorum*)

Buff-tailed Bumblebee (*B. terrestris*)

Tree Bumblebee (*B. hypnorum*)

Garden Bumblebee (*B. hortorum*)

Heath Bumblebee (*B. jonellus*)

Bilberry Bumblebee (*B. monticola*)

Field Cuckoo Bumblebee (*B. campestris*)

Forest Cuckoo Bumblebee (*B. sylvestris*)

Unidentified bumblebees

Other Bees seen:

Grey-patched mining bee (*Andrena nitida*)

Hairyfooted Flower Bee (*Anthophora plumipes*)

Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*)

Castes seen

worker, male

Queen, worker, male

Queen, worker

Queen, worker, male

Queen, worker, male

worker

worker

none recorded

nothing definite

female

female

several unidentified

female

female

worker

Appendix 6 – Fungi recorded – 26/10/24

Stereum hirsutum	Hairy Curtain Crust
Hyphodontia sambuci	Elder Whitewash
?	Bracket at base of an Oak
Collybia butyracea	Butter Cap
Panaeolus fimicola?	A Mottlegill, Turf Mottlegill?
Laetiporus sulphureus	Chicken of the woods
Mycena cinerella?	A Bonnet, Mealy Bonnet?
Scleroderma citrinum	Common Earthball

Appendix 7 Plant Species recorded at churchyards

A=Abdon (2016) C=Cleobury North (2024) D=Ditton Priors (2023) H=Holdgate (2022)
S= Stoke St. Mil borough (2022)T=Tugford (2023) W=Wheatthill (2024)

Plants in red are axiophytes

High-lighted background shows species found at all 7 sites

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	ACH
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	ACHS
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	ACDHSTW
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	CDS
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	T
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	AHSW
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	W
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	ACDS
<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i> agg.	Lady's-mantle	ACSW
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	ACDHSW
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered garlic	D
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Wild garlic	S
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	ACDHSTW
<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Alkanet	S
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	ACS
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	ACDHSTW
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	ACHSTW
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	AD
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress	T
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	S
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat Grass	CHSTW
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo Pint	ACDHSTW
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	CS
<i>Asplenium officinarum</i>	Rusty-back Fern	S
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall Rue	CS
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's Tongue Fern	SW
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	CW
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	ACDHSTW
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Wood False-Brome	HS
<i>Bromus mollis</i>	Soft Brome	H
<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	Barren Brome	HSW
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush (on stone wall)	S
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	HW
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	S
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bitter-cress	CS
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower	CHSW
<i>Cardamine sp.</i>	Bittercress	H

<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	CDH
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood Sedge	C
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	C
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	AHSTW
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	S
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear	HSTW
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear	D
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson's Cypress	AD
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	CDS
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	CT
<i>Chrysopenium oppositifolium</i>	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage	CS
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	CHAT
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	CHS
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	ADHST
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	AHSW
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	A
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	ACDHSW
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Wall Cotoneaster	H
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	Cotoneaster	D
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	ACHSTW
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	AW
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	ATS
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	ATW
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Orchid, Common-spotted	ST
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	ADS
<i>Dioscorea communis</i>	Black Bryony	A
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel	S
<i>Dryopteris felix-mas</i>	Male Fern	ACDHS
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Couch Grass	H
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	C
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	CHSW
<i>Epilobium sp.</i>	Willow-herb	D
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	C
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	T
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	ACS
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> "Heterophylla"	Cut-leaved Beech	H
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	ACHSW
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	ACSW
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	ACS
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	ACHSTW
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop	DS
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	ACDHSTW
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff	A
<i>Galium aplustre</i>	Marsh Bedstraw	C
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	HA
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	ACDHSTW
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens	C
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	ACDHSTW
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Groun-ivy	ACDHSW
<i>Hairy Bitter-cress</i>	Cardamine hirsuta	T
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	ACDHSTW
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	ACDHSTW
<i>Holchus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	ACHSTW
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	CHA
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan	C

<i>Hypericum hircinum</i>	Stinking Tutsan	D
<i>Hypericum maculatum</i>	Imperforate St. John's-wort	S
<i>Hypericum sp.</i>	(shrub on grave)	S
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	CHST
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	ACDHSTW
<i>Iris sp.</i>	Iris	H
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	C
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	A
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	C
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle	DH
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	ACHSTW
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch	A
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter-vetch	S
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	HSTW
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn (or "Smooth") Hawkbit	D
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit	HSTW
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	ACDSTW
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax	CS
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Rye Grass	HST
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	ACTS
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	W
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty	AC
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field wood-rush	ACDHSTW
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel	C
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping-Jenny	ACDS
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Mahonia	CDHW
<i>Malus sp.</i>	Crabapple	DH
<i>Malva sp.</i>	Mallow	H
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	T
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed	H
<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	Welsh Poppy	W
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	ACTSW
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall Lettuce	CS
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Forget-me-not, Field	HSTW
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Forget-me-not, Wood	CDTW
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	"T"
<i>Origanum sp.</i>	Oregano	D
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	AC
<i>P. domestica subsp. Institia</i>	Bullace	S
<i>Papaver cambrica</i>	Welsh Poppy	D
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet	S
<i>Persicaria bistorta</i>	Common Bistort	AC
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur	C
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	ACS
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	A
<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	Fox-and-cubs	SW
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed	CS
<i>Pinus spp.</i>	Other Pines	D
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	ACD
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	ACDHSTW
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	HATW
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	AD
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	W
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	W
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow Grass	CT
<i>Polygonatum x hybridum</i>	Garden Solomon's seal	H

<i>Polypodium interjectum</i>	Intermediate Polypody	C
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	S
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	CDHSW
<i>Potentilla sp.</i>		D
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren Strawberry	ACDHSTW
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	ACHSTW
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	ACDHST
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	ADHSTW
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	A
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Wild Plum	S
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	H
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Cherry tree	D
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Laurel Cherry or Portugese?	D
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	HST
<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i>	Lungwort	AD
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	AW
<i>Quercus sp.</i>	Oak seedling	S
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Field Buttercup	ACDHSTW
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks Buttercup	AW
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	H
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine	ADHSTW
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	ACDSTW
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	ST
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron	C
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Flowering Currant	D
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry	HA
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	CHA
<i>Rosa sp.</i>	Rose	W
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	ACHSTW
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	CS
<i>Rubus ulmifolius Schott</i>		H
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	ACHSTW
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	HS
<i>Rumex actosa/acetosella?</i>	Sorrel	D
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	CH
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	CHTW
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock	AS
<i>Rumex sp.</i>	Dock	D
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	CHS
<i>Salix sp.</i>	Willow	DT
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	ACDHSTW
<i>Scabiosa/Knautia/Succisa?</i>	Scabious	T
<i>Schedonorus gigantea</i>	Giant Fescue	H
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	ACHSW
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Grousel	CDTW
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	Giant Redwood	D
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	ACS
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	S
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Sow-thistle, Perennial	T
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	HSW
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Mountain Ash	HAW
<i>Spruce</i>	Picea sp.	D
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony	A
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	CHSW
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	ACHSW
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	CH

<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	AC
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	S
<i>Symphytum sp.</i>	Comfrey	D
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Feverfew	D
<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	Dandelion	ACDHSTW
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	ACDHSTW
<i>Taxus baccata fastigiata</i>	Yew Irish	D
<i>Thuja sp.</i>	Thuja	D
<i>Tilia sp,</i>	Lime	A
<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Common Lime	T
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard	"T"
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	STW
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	ATSW
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	CHSW
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	H
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	ACDHSTW
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein	H
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	ACHSTW
<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	Slender Speedwell	D
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	DHT
<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell	W
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field Speedwell	DT
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	D
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	W
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	C
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	T
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	ACHSW
<i>Vicia sp.</i>	Vetch	D
<i>Vinca sp.</i>	Periwinkle	D
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	STW
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	ACDHSTW

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this Annual Report.