

## Holy Brook Meadows

### A short report and botanical list Botanical research by Nicola Ley and Jenny Floyd

The land consists of two semi-improved meadows with a minimal amount of interest. Perennial rye grass and smooth grass and the usual suspects: broad leaved dock, ribwort plantain, dandelion and so on.

The edges, however, are much more interesting. The hedge next to Hembury Wood and the swale have a huge range of species including many ancient woodland indicator plants. (AWIPs). When the swale was dug it was delightful how it grew an abundance of chicory suggesting it was a wartime crop. There are many more grasses here and the lovely and tiny yellow sedge. A range of plants, some with medicinal use such as betony, live in the hedge.

The stream banks and the bog area could do with some attention as they are losing biodiversity. This could just be the hot summer or possibly the influx of Alders. Sadly the sneezewort and pink purslane are no longer here. Nor the small blue damselflies. But the angelica, bird's foot trefoil, hemp agrimony and many others abound! There are several species of rush within the bog.

The woodland area in the centre is semi-natural ancient woodland and is full of beautiful spring flowers such as violet and primrose and wood sorrel. However, the rhododendron has probably arrived with the stream and should probably be restrained or removed as they change the soil. There is also some Himalayan Balsam which is being controlled.

#### Plants we found July 2018 - alphabetical Latin names

*Agrimonia eupatoria* – Agrimony  
*Anthriscus caucalis* – Bur chervil  
*Artium lappa* – Greater burdock  
*Anagallis arvensis* – Scarlet pimpernel  
*Angelica sylvestris* - Wild angelica  
*Arum maculatum* – Lords and ladies  
*Bellis perennis* - Daisy  
*Betonica officinalis* - Betony  
*Calystegia sepium* – Hedge bindweed  
*Cardamine flexuosa* - Wavy bittercress  
*Carduus crispus* – Welled thistle  
*Centaureum erythraea* - Common centaury  
*Centurea scabiosa* - Greater knapweed  
*Centurea nigra* – Common knapweed  
*Cerastium fontanum* – Common mouse-ear  
*Cerastium semidecandruim* – Little mouse-ear  
*Chamerion angustifolium* - Rosebay willowherb

*Chicorium intybus* - Chicory  
*Circara lutetiana* - Enchanter's nightshade  
*Cirsium arvense* – Creeping thistle  
*Cirsium palustre* - Marsh thistle  
*Cirsium vulgare* - Spear thistle  
*Digitalis purpurea* - Foxglove  
*Epilobium hirsutum* - Great willowherb  
*Epilobium palustre* - Marsh willowherb  
*Epilobium rosum* – Pale willowherb  
*Eupatorium cannabinum* – Hemp agrimony  
*Euphorbia amygdaloides* – Wood spurge  
*Filipendula ulmaria* - Meadowsweet  
*Galium aparine* - Cleavers  
*Gallium saxatile* - Heath bedstraw  
*Geum urbanum* - Wood avens  
*Geranium robertianum* - Herb Robert  
*Heiracium agg.* - Hawkweed  
*Heracleum sphondylium* - Hogweed  
*Hypericum androsaemum* – Tutsan  
*Hypericum montanum* - Square stemmed St John's wort  
*Impatiens glandulifera* - Himalayan balsam  
*Lamiaeum galeobdolon* – Yellow archangel  
*Lapsana communis* – Nipplewort  
*Leontodon Hispidus* – Rough hawkbit  
*Leontodon saxatilis* – Lesser hawkbit  
*Lonicera periclymenum* – Honeysuckle  
*Lotus corniculatus* - Birds foot trefoil  
*Lysimachia nemorum* - Yellow pimpernel  
*Leucantheemum vulgare* – Oxeye daisy  
*Matricaria chamomilla* - Scented mayweed  
*Mentha aquatica* - Watermint  
*Mentha arvensis* – Corn mint  
*Mercurialis perennis* – Dog's mercury  
*Mimulus x robertsii* - Hybrid monkeyflower  
*Mimulus guttatus* - Monkeyflower  
*Oenanthe crocata* - Hemlock water dropwort  
*Oxalis acetosella* – Wood sorrel  
*Persicaria hydropiper* - Water-pepper  
*Plantago lanceolata* - Ribwort plantain  
*Plantago major* - Greater plantain  
*Potentilla anserina* - Silverweed  
*Potentilla erecta* – Tormentil  
*Potentilla reptans* – Creeping cinquefoil  
*Poterium sanguisorba* – Salad burnet  
*Primula vulgaris* – Primrose  
*Prunella vulgaris* - Self heal  
*Ranunculus acris* - Meadow buttercup  
*Ranunculus flammula* - Lesser spearwort  
*Ranunculus repens* - Creeping buttercup  
*Rhinanthus minor* - Yellow rattle

*Rosa canina* – Dog rose  
*Rubus fruticosus* agg. – Bramble  
*Rumex acetosa* – Common sorrel  
*Rumex acetosaella* – Sheep sorrel  
*Rumex obtusifolius* - Broad leaf dock  
*Rumex sanguineus* - Wood dock  
*Sanicula europaea* – Sanicle  
*Scrophularia auriculata* - Water figwort  
*Senecio jacobaea* - Common ragwort  
*Silene flos-cuculi* – Ragged robin  
*Silene dioica* – red campion (and intermediate)  
*Solanum dulcamara* - Bittersweet  
*Solidago viraurea* - Goldenrod  
*Sonchus oleraceus* – Smooth sow thistle  
*Stachys arvensis* - Field woundwort  
*Stachys palustris* - Marsh woundwort  
*Stachys sylvatica* – Hedge woundwort  
*Stellaria alsine* - Lesser stitchwort  
*Stellaria media* – Common chickweed  
*Stellaria graminea* – Lesser stitchwort  
*Taraxacum agg* - Dandelion  
*Teucrium scorodoma* - Wood sage  
*Trifolium pratense* - Red clover  
*Trifolium repens* - White clover  
*Ulex europaeus* - Gorse  
*Urticaria dioica* - Stinging nettle  
*Valeriana officinalis* - Valerian  
*Veronica Montana* – Wood speedwell  
*Viola reichenbachiana* – Early dog's violet (maybe common check when flowering)

### **Rushes, Sedges and Grasses –**

(This is only just begun...)

The main sward is:

*Lolium perenne* – perennial rye grass  
*Poa pratensis* – Smooth meadow grass

There are at least 15 more grasses including:

*Phleum pratense* – Timothy grass  
*Phleum bertolonii* – Small cat's tail  
*Brachypodium sylvaticum* – Wood false brome  
*Agostis gigantea* – Common bent grass  
*Melica uniflora* – Wood melick  
*Dactylis glomerata* – Cocksfoot  
*Poa nemoralis* – Wood meadow grass  
Etc.

### **Sedges and Rushes**

*Carax pendula* – Pendulus sedge  
*Carax sylvatica* – Wood sedge  
*Carax demissa* – Common yellow sedge  
*Juncus mollis* - Soft rush  
*Juncus articulates* – Jointed rush

### **Trees and shrubs of the existing hedgerows and wood**

Alder – *Alnus glutinosa*  
Ash – *Fraxinus excelsior*  
Beech – *Fagus sylvatica*  
Birch – *Betula pendula*  
Blackthorn (Sloe) – *Prunus spinosa*  
Elder – *Sambucus nigra*  
Guelder-rose – *Viburnum opulus*  
Hawthorn – *Crataegus monogyna*  
Hazel – *Corylus avellana*  
Holly – *Ilex aquifolium*  
Ivy – *Hedera helix*  
Oaks – Pedunculate and possible Sessile  
Rhododendrum ponticum (naturalised in some areas, but invasive, so detrimental to native plants)  
Spindle- *Euonymus europaeus*  
Sycamore *Acer -pseudoplatanus*  
Willows - *Salix* species

Trees recently planted in Holy Brook Meadows:

Apples - various, Plums – various, Birches- various, Blackthorn (Sloe), Chestnut (Sweet), Crab Apple, Guelder Rose, Hawthorn, Hazel, Oak, Plum, Rowan, Spindle, Willows

Plants that were **flowering** July 2016

Wild angelica – *Angelica sylvestris*  
Red clover – *Trifolium pratense*  
White clover – *Trifolium repens*  
Dandelion – *Taraxacum agg.*  
Hogweed – *Heracleum sphondylium*  
Himalayan balsam – *Impatiens glandulifera*  
Creeping buttercup – *Ranunculus repens*  
Lesser spearwort – *Ranunculus flammula*  
Meadow buttercup – *Ranunculus acris*  
Birds foot trefoil – *Lotus corniculatus*  
Bittersweet – *Solanum dulcamara*  
Enchanter's nightshade – *Circara lutetiana*  
Wood sage – *Teucrium scorodoma*  
Gorse – *Ulex europaeus*  
Heath bedstraw – *Gallium saxatile*

Broad leaf dock – *Rumex obtusifolius*  
Wood dock – *Rumex sanguineus*  
Pink purslane – *Claytonia siberica*  
Wavy bittercress – *Cardamine flexuosa*  
Foxglove – *Digitalis purpurea*  
Lesser stitchwort – *Stellaria alsine*  
Chicory – *Chicorium intybus*  
Common ragwort – *Senecio jacobaea*  
Common centaury – *Centaureum erythraea*  
Black horehound – *Ballota nigra*  
Field woundwort – *Stachys arvensis*  
Marsh woundwort – *Stachys palustris*  
Monkeyflower – *Mimulus guttatus*  
Hybrid monkeyflower – *Mimulus x robertsii*  
Valerian – *Valeriana officinalis*  
Sneezewort – *Achillea ptarmica*  
Betony – *Betonica officinalis*  
Goldenrod – *Solidago vir aurea*  
Water figwort – *Scrophularia auriculata* (common? *S. nodosa*)  
Rosebay willowherb – *Chamerion angustifolium*  
Great willowherb – *Epilobium hirsutum*  
Marsh willowherb – *Epilobium palustre*  
Watermint – *Menthe aquatica*  
Herb Bennet (wood avens) – *Geum urbanum*  
Yellow rattle – *Rhinanthus minor*  
Hemlock water dropwort – *Oenanthe crocata*  
Soft rush – *Juncus mollis*  
Cleavers – *Galium aparine*  
Daisy – *Bellis perennis*  
Water-pepper – *Persicaria hydropiper*  
Herb Robert – *Geranium robertianum*  
Silverweed – *Potentilla anserina*  
Honeysuckle – *Lonicera periclymenum*  
Creeping Jenny – *Lysimachia nummularia* (check its not yellow pimpernel *L. nemorum*)  
Square stemmed St John's wort – *Hypericum montanum*  
Spear thistle – *Cirsium vulgare*  
Marsh thistle – *Cirsium palustre*  
Meadowsweet – *Filipendula ulmaria*  
Stinging nettle – *Urticaria dioica*  
Elderflower – *Sambucus nigra*  
Bramble - *Rubus fruticosus* agg.  
Self heal – *Prunella vulgaris*  
Knapweed – *Centurea scabiosa* or *C. nigra*  
Scented mayweed – *Matricaria chamomilla*  
Ribwort plantain – *Plantago lanceolata*  
Greater plantain – *Plantago major*

## Trees

Alder  
Elder  
Ash  
Hazel  
Holly  
(Ivy)  
Rhododendron  
Willow  
Scycamore  
Oak  
Spindle