

Three Brooks LNR

Wildlife walk with Rupert Higgins, 2 May 2009

Corner of Savage's Wood by school fence

Lesser whitethroat (a summer visitor from Africa) – rasping song with monotonous rattle.

By the community orchard

- The nettle-leaved plant with white flowers is Jack-by-the-hedge, an edible crucifer.
- Orange tip butterfly.

Along the path between the orchard and the Lake

Dock

Burdock

Sedge

Pendulous sedge (people used to use leaves as candlewicks)

Hemlock (purple-spotted leaves)

Angelica

Artemisia (Wormwood)

Lady's smock – grows in wet places

False fox sedge

Greater reedmace

Grassland east of Webb's Wood

Most of the plants here thrive on nutrient-poor soil which discourages more competitive plants.

- Sweet vernal grass (gives hay its characteristic scent).
- Common vetch (narrow leaflets, single flowers)
- Bird's-foot trefoil
- Last year's grass vetchling (quite rare)
- Meadow vetchling – grey-green leaves with large flaps (stipules) at base of the leaves
- Tufted vetch – grey silky leaflets
- Glaucous sedge
- Silver foxtail
- Tall fescue
- Cock's foot grass
- Hard rush (indicator of boggy, compacted ground)
- Clustered rush
- Hoary ragwort – much fussier than common ragwort
- Meadow buttercup (taller than the creeping kind, with divided leaves)
- Goat willow

- Caterpillar of burnet moth. (There are 2 types. The 6-spot burnet caterpillar eats bird's-foot trefoil, the narrow-bordered-5-spot burnet caterpillar eats meadow vetchling).
- Speckled wood butterfly

Management advised:

- Continue annual scything
- Remove all smaller saplings/trees
- Disturb the ground around the goat willows

Webb's Wood

- Wood millet, a woodland grass
- Wood sedge
- Anemone
- Bluebells – doing well in the coppiced area
- Yellow archangel
- Red campion
- Herb Robert
- Common figwort
- Wood avens
- Sanicle
- Hairy St John's Wort
- Dog's mercury
- Spindle bush

On the path

- Black medick
- Soft brome

In the marsh

- Meadowsweet
- Brooklime
- Comfrey
- Creeping buttercup
- Reedmace
- Watercress
- Water mint
- Three-cornered leek, *Allium triquetrum* – an invader
- Slender ground hopper
- Fox! (enjoying a snooze in the sun before we barged in)

Management advised:

- Remove three-cornered leek
- Keep channels open
- Continue to dig more channels towards the centre

Coming out of Sherbourne's Brake

Management advised:

There is an ash plantation with only grass underfoot. Thin the ash saplings out and plant undershrubs. (Will need to provide information to nearby householders in advance).