

MKNHS Plant Group

Field Visit to Howe Park Wood 23 February 2025

Consolidated List of Plants Observed

Location Grid References within these grid squares SP 829341, SP 837341, SP 829346, SP 837346

Main Habitats:

- **Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland**
- **Mixed Landscaped area of meadow, parkland mown grass, hedges, trees, and ponds surrounding the Woodland**

Weather: dry, cool, and very windy

A photo album (see Annex) shows a map of the route taken for the Event, and some of the species observed and botanical features that can be helpful in plant identification. Key features include: bud shape, scales, hairs, colour, and position on the twig; twigs themselves and their colour; bark colour and texture; other features such as dead leaves; and the overall appearance of the tree.

Plant species are named only once although many were found in both habitats in which case they are listed under Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Some winter tree identification references are given at the end of the List below.

Species 'micro' habitat: The Notes column below includes information for many species about their 'micro' habitat based mainly on our field observations. These include physical features such as ride edge, pond edge, ditch bank, hedge; and in woodland the hierarchy of the species from canopy to ground cover.

General Abbreviations

* Not in flower

Quantity Abbreviations (used in the Notes column below)

(in this habitat and location based on our observations from the Route Map in the photo album annex (adapted from Ainsty, *Flowers in the Field*)

Abundant (abt) almost bound to be found in this location

Common (cmn) likely to be found in this location

Frequent (fqt) quite likely to be found in this location

Occasional (ocl) you might need to search hard over several areas before finding it

Rare (rre) unlikely to be found unless you know exactly when and where.

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

English Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Apple, Crab*	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	ocl SP829343 understory (Photo 2)
Avens, Wood*	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	abt ride edge
Aspen*	<i>Populus tremula</i>	cmn SP829344 canopy (Photos 3 & 4)
Ash*	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	abt canopy (Photo 5)
Blackthorn*	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	abt understory
Bluebell*	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	abt groundcover
Bramble(s)*	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg	abt underscrub

Bugle*	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	cmn SP834344 ride edge
Buttercup, Creeping*	<i>Ranunculus Repens</i>	cmn ride edge
Buttercup, Goldilocks*	<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	ocl SP833343 ride edge (Photo 25)
Celandine, Lesser	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	abt shaded wet ground nr. stream west boundary of woodland
Cherry, Wild*	<i>Prunus Avium</i>	cmn (Photo 7)
Cleavers*	<i>Galium aparine</i>	abt ride edge
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	abt ride edge
Dock sp.*	<i>Rumex sp.</i>	abt ride edge
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	abt coppiced understorey male catkin and female flower (Photos 11 & 12)
Herb Robert*	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	abt ride edge
Hogweed*	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	abt ride edge, dead stem and flower head
Honeysuckle*	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	abt understorey (Photo 28)
Hornbeam*	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	abt canopy (Photos 14 & 15)
Ivy*	<i>Hedera helix</i>	abt (Photo 29)
Lords-and-Ladies*	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	abt ride edge
Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	ocl ditch edge
Maple, Field*	<i>Acer campestre</i>	cmn canopy (Photos 16 & 17)
Nettle, Common*	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	abt ride edge
Oak, Pedunculate*	<i>Quercus robur</i>	abt canopy (Photos 18 & 19)
Parsley, Cow*	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	abt ride edge dead stem and flower structure
Primrose*	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	abt ride edge also in flower outside woodland in sunny places (Photo 30)
Rose sp*	<i>Rosa sp</i>	cmn underscrub probably Dog-rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>)
Rush, Hard	<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	cmn ride edge
Sedge, Pendulous	<i>Carex pendula</i>	abt ground cover in wet places (Photo 32)
Vetch*	<i>Vicia sp</i>	abt ride edge ditch; tendrils & leaf pattern indicate Common or Bush
Violet*	<i>Viola sp.</i>	abt ride ditch bank
Willowherb, Great*	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	abt dead stem and flower structure

Mixed Landscaped Areas of meadow, mown grass, hedges, shrubs, trees, and ponds surrounding the Woodland

Apple*	<i>Malus sp</i>	ocl parkland area probably a cultivar
Alder *	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	cmn SP828343 (Photo 1)
Birch, Silver*	<i>Betula pendula</i>	cmn SP828343 (Photo 6)
Canary-grass, Reed	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	fqt damp area (Photo 26)
Cherry, Laurel*	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	cmn hedge plant

Cherry, Plum	Prunus cerasifera	cmn SP828343 (Photo 8)
Cocksfoot	Dactylis glomerata	cmn a grass
Dogwood sp.*	Cornus sp.	cmn hedge plant
Elder*	Sambucus nigra	cmn hedge plant
Elm sp.*	Ulmus sp.	ocl SP831341 probably English Elm (Ulmus procera) (Photo 9)
Gorse	Ulex europaeus	ocl grown as a thick hedge outside the café (Photo 27)
Hawthorn*	Crataegus monogyna	abt hedge plant and on rough ground (Photo 10)
Holly*	Ilex aquifolium	fqt SP 832346 (Photo 13)
Knapweed*	Centaurea sp.	cmn dead stem and seed head
Oak sp.*	Quercus sp.	rre parkland setting probably Pin Oak (palustri) non-native
Orchid Family*	Orchidaceae	ocl emerging leaves in grass area close to hedge
Pine, Scots	Pinus sylvestrus	ocl SP 832346 (Photos 20 & 21)
Plantain, Ribwort*	Plantago lanceolata	abt mainly grassy areas
Reed Mace*	Typha latifolia	fqt pond area dead stem and seed head (Photo 31)
Spindle*	Euonymus europaeus	cmn SP 830345 hedge plant
Teasel, Wild*	Dipsacus fullonum	cmn dead stem and seed head
Walnut, Common*	Juglans regia	rre SP831342 parkland setting (Photo 22)
Willow, Crack*	Salix fragilis	cmn pond edge (Photo 23)
Willow Goat	Salix caprea	cmn boggy area catkins just showing
Willow, Grey*	Salix cinerea	cmn pond edge (Photo 24)

Joe Clinch and Richard Schmidt, Co Leaders
March 2025

Species other than Vascular Plants observed during the Event

Fungi: King Alfred's Cakes (*Daldinia concentrica*); Scarlet Elf Cap (*Sarcosphyia austriaca*)

Mosses: Common Smoothcap (*Atricum undulatum*), Common Tamarisk (*Thuidium tamariscinum*)

References : Deciduous Tree Winter Identification

The Event had the benefit of an introduction to winter tree identification from Society member Alan Birkett, author of *Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Europe* (Reed New Holland Publishers 2017).

In the field we also had the benefit of other resources with thanks to The Parks Trust for the last two: Dominic Price and Leif Bersweden, *Winter Trees: A photographic guide to Common Trees and Shrubs*, Field Studies Council, 2013

Tree ID Guide, The Parks Trust, Milton Keynes A5 booklet

Winter Tree ID, The Parks Trust, Milton Keynes A4 sheet

The abbreviations used in the List are adapted from:

Faith Ainsty, *Flowers in the Field - How to find, identify and enjoy wild flowers*, Whittet Books, 2010