

Report for the visit to FAUNA nature reserve by NLWG 31 July 2019

Weather pleasant though threat of rain.

Started at 10am instead of 10.30 as the weather forecast expected thunderstorms around mid day. They didn't arrive!

Conditions were warm about 23°C and humid, overcast for most of the time but the insects seemed to like it

Plan to look at the floristically enhanced margins of Flora field, the beetle banks there and the Flora ponds with extension visits to the wetter pool area of Upper Sowerholme.

10 of us arrived with 4 visitors from the Fairfield Association.

The group split into a pond dipping section lead by Linda and the entomology section following various experts.

Once in the Flora field the Knapweed was in full bloom as well as members of the daisy family, umbellifers and yarrow. The buzzing of the bumble bees was immediately noticeable with Red tailed bumble and carder bees being most common. Belinda explained that the black patch on the dorsal thoracic surface was due to shedding of the normally brown hairs of the common carder bee and not a rare species normally found only in SE England. This is apparently a thermoregulatory technique if the weather has been unseasonably hot which is true for a couple of weeks ago. Belinda also located a carder bee nest with frequent activity for the bees departing as they flew round to get their bearings on leaving the nest.

Also of note was the proliferation of the painted lady butterflies. As an example 26 were counted within an area of about 2 square metres. Many other species of butterfly were seen during the 2.5hours of the survey. These included: speckled wood, meadow brown, gatekeeper, small heath, small tortoiseshell, peacock, comma, small copper, small white, small skipper

The hoverflies were also in abundance with the marmalade fly being found in every sweep net sample taken.

Linda reported that the health of Alder pond was much better after the recent rain. Flora ponds provided an adult female smooth newt and one very young, still with the external gills. Along with the common frog seen these provided evidence of a thriving population of small vertebrates in the ponds of the nature reserve.

A good time collecting was had by all; we dispersed by 13.00h

Species list

Flora field natural England sowing margin (adjacent to Lower Sowerholme) unless otherwise stated

Common Name	Genus	Species	Comments
Vertebrates			
Common frog	<i>Rana</i>	<i>temporaria</i>	Flora ponds
Smooth newt	<i>Triturus</i>	<i>vulgaris</i>	Flora ponds
Orthoptera			
Hemiptera			
Common green capsid	<i>Lygocoris</i>	<i>pabulinus</i>	Beetle bank
Common froghopper	<i>Philaneus</i>	<i>spumaris</i>	Brown
Shieldbug			Nymph - Beetle bank
Beetles			
Great diving beetle	<i>Dytiscus</i>	<i>marginalis</i>	Alder pond
Common red Soldier beetle	<i>Rhagonycha</i>	<i>fulva</i>	
Harlequin ladybird	<i>Harmonia</i>	<i>axyridis</i>	
7-spot ladybird	<i>Coccinella</i>	<i>7-punctata</i>	
22-spot ladybird	<i>Psyllobora</i>	<i>22-punctata</i>	Beetle bank
6 spot ladybird???			
Butterflies & Moths			
Small skipper	<i>Thymelicus</i>	<i>sylvestris</i>	
Small white	<i>Pieris</i>	<i>rapae</i>	
Painted lady	<i>Vanessa</i>	<i>cardui</i>	Very common
Peacock	<i>Aglais</i>	<i>io</i>	
Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais</i>	<i>urticae</i>	
Comma	<i>Polygonia</i>	<i>c-album</i>	
Speckled wood	<i>Parage</i>	<i>aegeria</i>	
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia</i>	<i>tithonus</i>	
Meadow brown	<i>Maniola</i>	<i>jurtina</i>	
Small heath	<i>Coenonympha</i>	<i>pamphilus</i>	
Small copper	<i>Lycaena</i>	<i>phlaeas</i>	
Orange underwing moth	<i>Boudinotiana</i>	<i>notha</i>	Flora ponds
Silver Y	<i>Syngrapha</i>	<i>interrogationis</i>	
Hoverflies			
Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus</i>	<i>balteatus</i>	
Common hoverfly	<i>Helophilus</i>	<i>pendulus</i>	

Common Name	Genus	Species	Comments
Hymenoptera			
Red tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus</i>	<i>lapidarius</i>	
White tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus</i>	<i>lucorum</i>	
Common carder bee	<i>Bombus</i>	<i>pascuorum</i>	
Buff tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus</i>	<i>terrestris</i>	
Arachnida			
Orbweb weaver	<i>Lariniodes</i>	<i>cornutus</i>	
Wolf spider	<i>Pardosa</i>	<i>spp</i>	Juvenile
Harvestman	<i>Opilio</i>	<i>saxsatis</i>	Beetlebank