

Manor Vale Study 2015

Species lists below

During 2015 Manor Vale was the subject of a study by Ryenats. Two visits, in May and July, were made by members in order to gain a more comprehensive knowledge of flora and fauna within the area. The last time Ryenats came here was seven years earlier for a dawn chorus on 10 May 2008. Eleven members met on a dry and relatively warm afternoon on 10 May 2015 and eight members attended on a glorious summer's day on 4 July 2015 with temperatures in the low twenties. Independent reports are also available for each visit.



Common dog violet (left)

**Primrose, cowslip and the hybrid between them
– False oxlip (right)**



Manor Vale is owned by Kirkbymoorside Town Council having been purchased in 1993 and a Management Committee was formed to look after the wood, which includes members of Ryenats. Manor Vale is an ancient woodland having been part of a medieval deer park. It is situated at the northern edge of Kirkbymoorside, SE692873 and forms a Y shape valley. There is a private road running north through the valley bottom to the Golf Club. There is full public access to the wood and a bridleway runs along the eastern edge along the top of the slope and a footpath runs E-W back towards the road.



Toothwort (parasitic on hazel roots)



Early purple orchid growing in woodland

The slopes of the wood are predominantly limestone with smaller pockets of more acidic ground. Manor Vale is a wood at its best in spring and this was evident during the first visit with spring flora in full flow. Dog's mercury was a dominant species along with goldilocks, wood anemone, bluebells and primroses to name the more common ones. We were very pleased to see toothwort still on show with a particularly large spread in one area. We were unable to locate the two other less common species; green hellebore and lily of the valley but it is recorded here historically. We did locate two areas of early purple orchid, the only orchid recorded for this site. The Management Committee have 176 species recorded at Manor Vale from the 1990s and our total for both visits was 148 and is detailed below. Only five butterflies were seen on the early visit but conditions were not in their favour: orange tip, green-veined white, small white, peacock and speckled wood.

As the season progresses the wood becomes dense with vigorous growth as we found on our second visit in July. Foliage of dog's mercury, ransoms and cow parsley dominate unfortunately. Field rose and dog rose in flower were

welcome additions along the eastern side. There were plenty of speckled wood butterflies in the sunny glades along this route.



**Hoverfly *Volucella pellucens*, Fly *Chloromyia formosa*,
Ringlet butterflies and Meadow cranesbill**

At the north eastern edge the small area of grassland revealed small pockets of salad burnet in flower and lady's bedstraw just coming into flower. It was disappointing not to find other limestone-loving plants or common spotted orchids. It is understood that volunteers have started to work on this area and have already conducted one cut and clear at the end of last year's season. This may prove fruitful in encouraging other flora. This area did harbour numerous ringlet butterflies as well as chimney sweeper moths. The only other butterflies were a comma and two red admirals.



Birds were singing well during our spring visit but we did not record a large number. Although redstart is recorded here historically it has not been seen in recent years. The bird boxes are monitored by a Ryenats member and were occupied. Bird numbers were slightly up during our July visit with 23 species recorded. A nuthatch in the ancient ash was a treat

During the May visit we did find one spread of St George's mushroom on the northern slope which was quite extensive. Other fungi noted were birch bracket, King Alfred's Cakes (growing on the ancient ash) and a large bracket growing on dead timber.

Ash is one of the most common trees here at Manor Vale and we did visit the ancient ash at the northeast boundary. We measured the girth at 5.4m (17'8") (in the traditional way, using a piece of string).



Measuring the girth of the ancient Manor Ash



The Manor Ash

We also visited the young ash planted in memory of the late Ryenats member, Don Smith, whose contribution to recording at Manor Vale is very much appreciated by the Management Committee.



Species lists

Plants

Latin name	English name
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Maple, field
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground elder
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Chestnut, horse
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Alchemilla</i> sp.	Lady's mantle
<i>Alchemilla xanthochlora</i>	Lady's mantle
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Hedge Garlic or Jack by the Hedge
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood anemone
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	Parsley piert
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Burdock

<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False oat
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo pint or Lords and Ladies
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Slender False Brome
<i>Bromus ramosus</i> (<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>)	Brome, Hairy
<i>Calystegia sylvatica</i> ?	Bindweed, large
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Bittercress, wavy
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Bittercress, hairy
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood sedge
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Knapweed, common
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Willowherb, rosebay or Fireweed
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's nightshade
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth hawksbeard
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dogstail
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tufted hair grass
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Golden Scale Fern
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male Fern
<i>Elymus repens</i> (<i>Elytrigia</i>)	Couch
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	American willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved willowherb
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i> ?	Short-fruited willowherb?
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Festuca gigantea</i> = <i>Schedonorus giganteus</i>	Giant fescue
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Cranesbill, meadow
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb robert

<i>Geum rivale</i>	Avens, water
<i>Geum</i> sp. (<i>G. × intermedium</i>)	Avens, hybrid
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Avens, wood
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Lamium album</i>	White dead nettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead nettle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Toothwort
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough hawkbit
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye grass
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common birdsfoot trefoil
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Woodrush, field
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab apple
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple weed
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood melick
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's mercury
<i>Moehringia trinerva</i>	Three nerved sandwort
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Forgetmenot, field
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Forgetmenot, wood
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Orchid, early purple
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood sorrel
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Field poppy
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i> = <i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hartstongue
<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	Fox and cubs
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Plantain, ribwort
<i>Plantago major</i>	Plantain, greater
<i>Poa nemorosa</i> ?	Wood meadow grass?
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough meadow grass
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> agg	Knotgrass

<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	Hard Shield Fern
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Strawberry, barren
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose, common
<i>Primula</i> × <i>polyantha</i>	False oxlip
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self heal
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Wild plum
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Oak
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Buttercup, goldilocks
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Celandine, lesser
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Buttercup, creeping
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Currant, red
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Rose, field
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Rose, dog
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel, common
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Dock, broad leaved
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Dock, wood
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Mossy or procumbent pearlwort
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> = <i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	Salad burnet
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common figwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common groundsel
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Campion, red
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Corn sowthistle
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Woundwort, hedge
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Stitchwort, greater
<i>Symphytum</i> sp.	Comfrey
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony
<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.	Dandelion
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Clover, red

Trifolium repens	Clover, white
Trisetum flavescens	Yellow oat
Ulmus glabra	Elm, wych
Urtica dioica	Nettle, common
Veronica arvensis	Speedwell, wall
Veronica chamaedrys	Speedwell, germander
Veronica montana	Speedwell, wood
Vicia sativa	Common vetch
Vicia sepium	Vetch, bush
Viola arvensis	Field pansy
Viola odorata	Violet, sweet
Viola reichenbachiana	Violet, early dog or Wood dog
Viola riviniana	Violet, common dog
Viola × bavarica	Violet, hybrid common x wood

Birds

Blackbird, Buzzard, Collared dove, Crow, Stock dove, Dunnock, Jay, Song Thrush, Robin, Chaffinch, Wren, Wood pigeon, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Magpie, Marsh tit, Nuthatch, Jackdaw, Cuckoo, Goldfinch, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Starling, Swift, Swallow, Sparrowhawk, Goldcrest, Garden warbler, and Yellow Wagtail (seen by Keith).

Thanks to Jim for this list.

Insects

Orange tip, Comma, Green-veined White, Small White, Peacock, Red admiral, Ringlet and Speckled Wood butterflies, Chimney sweeper moth, Buff-tailed and White-tailed bumblebees, Hoverflies (*Eristalis sp.* and *Volucella pellucens*). *Chloromyia formosa* Fly – thanks to Stuart Dunlop for these IDs.

Sawfly (*Tenthredopsis litterata*) and a Scorpion fly (*Panorpa sp.*) – see below.



Fungi

King Alfred's cakes, St. George's mushroom, birch bracket, ?*Ganoderma* sp, (bracket fungus)



St. George's Mushroom (part of a large fairy ring)



Bracket fungus on dead wood, possibly a Ganoderma species



Speckled wood butterfly



Comma butterfly



Detail of Enchanter's nightshade flower