

To: John Fullbrook
Subject: Briefing Note - Update from Roger Brown re Abbey Rd Conservation Volunteers
Attachments: Abbey Road Botany Surveys 2022.xlsx

Briefing Note 6.1 - Update from Roger Brown re Abbey Rd Conservation Volunteers

Hello everyone,

It has been a while since I updated you on progress at Abbey Rd, so I hope you find this useful and interesting.

1. Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust. Tanyard Stream survey.

The OART surveyed the stream with some of their volunteers in early June, joined by Richard from our group (he's the one in the water in the pic!).

Results showed a *BMWP score of 79. Last year it was 85. A score of 71-100 is rated as Good. (* The **biological monitoring working party (BMWP)** is a procedure for measuring water quality using families of macroinvertebrates as biological indicators.)

Further surveys will show if this actually a small decline in quality, or just a seasonal variation.

OART are happy that the hazel deflectors installed in the stream are doing their job:-

"Very pleased to see the deflectors are working to trap sediment and create some more varied flow in the channel."

2. Botany survey

Fran Wedderburn, Bob Platt and myself carried out a botany survey in late June. We have now found 110 plant species here. For comparison, the Steyning Downland Scheme has recorded 143 species across 165 acres since 2014. This is just our 2nd year of surveying the 3 acres that comprise the Abbey Road north site. So to have already recorded 110 species shows just how varied and rich this area is. (see attached Excel report)

We have been trying for 2 years to introduce *Yellow Rattle to the meadow area, without success. But we finally have about 12 plants in flower and about to set seed. So hopefully this will establish and begin to spread. We will also add some more seed in the areas where it is growing, to help things along.

(*Yellow Rattle is semi-parasitic on grass roots, reducing the grass's vigour and allowing other wildflowers to establish. Its nickname is 'the meadow maker')

3. Working Parties

We have held 5 working parties so far this year, totalling over 70 hours of volunteer working.

We have planted 11 new trees, watered them and kept them clear of weeds, planted more snowdrops, cleared paths, cut regrowing Willow, and started to clear encroaching nettles/brambles near the new Orchard.

Special mention for Simon A, Simon and Vanessa, Brendan, Gerard and Sheila who are our regulars, with 5 or 6 others helping when they can. We have just recruited 2 more local helpers, so hope to see them soon.

Our next Working Party will be on 16th July@10am. We won't meet in August.

4. Bird surveys

Colin Holter is our bird recorder and will report later in the year.

5. Other recent wildlife 'spots'.

3 species of Dragonfly have been seen along the stream.

11 species of Butterfly, including large numbers of Small Tortoiseshell around the nettles at the top end of the pond. This once common butterfly has had a worrying decline in recent years, so it's good to see lots here.

We have also seen a Slow worm, Frog and Toad during our work parties. Buzzards, Red Kite and the group of 'Steypning Swifts' have been seen regularly over the site.

6. Pond update

Once again we had a long dry spell in Spring, and the pond had dried up completely by 23rd April. Last year it had gone by 9th April. So the work done in the pond last Autumn has made some difference, but not enough to keep water for long enough for amphibians, such as frogs, to complete their life cycle. I'm hoping that we can do some more work this Autumn to extend the water holding capacity a little longer. As last year, I collected frogspawn that was in the pond, and have been releasing little froglets back into the long grass around the pond.

7. Walk on the Wild Side

'Visit Steypning's' Walking Festival includes this one being led by myself, includes a walk around Abbey Rd.

Tues 5 July: Take a Walk on the Wild Side

A gentle guided walk exploring one of Steypning's attractive 'Wildlife Corridors'. Takes in St Andrew's Churchyard, Abbey Road Village Green, the new Community Orchard and the Abbey Road Conservation Area being managed on behalf of the Parish Council by local volunteers. Timing: 3.00pm – 4.30pm. Tickets cost £4.

<https://visitsteypning.co.uk/listing/a-walk-on-the-wild-side/>



Tanyard Stream surveying.



Meadowsweet flowering in the meadow.



Yellow Rattle finally flowering in the meadow

Botany survey results.

Regards,
Roger.

Botany Survey Recording Sheet

Location: Abbey Road Village Green. Steyning West Sussex		Grid Ref: TQ 180116
Surveyors:	Roger Brown, Fran Wedderburn, Bob Platt	
Cumulative list 2021-2022	110 spp plants/trees	Recorded 24th June 2022
Species	Common Name	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil	
<i>Persicaria bistorta</i>	Bistort (Common)	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's foot	
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Couch Grass (Common)	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Cut-leaved Bellflower	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Daffodil (Wild)	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	
<i>Taraxacum</i> spp.	Dandelion	
<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>	Deergrass	
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False Fox sedge	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat Grass	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Field Buttercup	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	Giant Fescue	
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willow Herb	
<i>Carex riparia</i>	Greater Pond-sedge	
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	
<i>Parapholis strigosa</i>	Hard-grass	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Paul's Scarlet	Hawthorn Paul's Scarlet	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony	
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary Willowherb	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Alnus cordata</i>	Italian Alder	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
<i>Cardamine amara</i>	Large Bitter-cress	
<i>Ficaria verna (Ranunculus ficaria)</i>	Lesser Celandine	
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	
<i>Berula erecta</i>	Lesser Water-parsnip	
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Mallow (Common)	
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Marsh Foxtail	

<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	Marsh Horsetail	
<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	Marsh Ragwort	
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	
<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Meadow Barley	
<i>Bromus comutatus</i>	Meadow Brome	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	
<i>Filipendula ulmara</i>	Meadowsweet	
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Orache (Common)	
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye Grass	
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow Thistle	
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife	
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Pussy Willow	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin	
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redshank	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Reed (Common)	
<i>Phalaris arundinaceae</i>	Reed Canary-grass	
<i>Oenanthe fluviatilis</i>	River Water-dropwort	
<i>Rosa</i> spp	Rose	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	
<i>Fallopia aubertii</i>	Russian Vine	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Secale cereale</i>	Rye grass	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Sessile Oak (syn English Oak)	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop	
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	
<i>Sonchus</i> spp,	Sow Thistle	
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	
<i>Veronica</i>	Speedwell	
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Spike-rush (Common)	
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>	Square-stalked Willowherb	
<i>Hypericum</i> spp	St John's-wort	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	
<i>Glyceria</i> spp.	Sweet grass	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore (seedling)	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Dipascus fullonum</i>	Teasel (Wild)	
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	
<i>Brachypodium rupestre</i>	Tor Grass	
<i>Bromopsis erecta</i>	Upright Brome	
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Vetch (Common)	
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort	
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow	Perennial tree/shrub
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Deadnettle	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens (Herb Bennet)	
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock	
<i>Iris pseudoacorus</i>	Yellow Flag Iris	
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	