

Plant Survey 2021

The weather this year has again been very mixed. It started very cold, with some snow in January – and then very wet: Newstead Meadow flooded. More snow and sub-zero temperatures arrived mid-February (c/o the Beast from the East and Storm Darcy) but then turned very warm (10–15 deg) by the end of the month so that pollen was drifting from hazel catkins, birds were nesting (and I found a lost frog on my garden path). March was similar: very cold wet and windy to start but rising to 29 deg by month end – and then turning cold and dry again early April. There was no proper rain until 3rd May. March winds arrived in May along with much rain. It finally warmed up in June.

The result of this very changeable weather was seen in the woods with more up-rooted +/- loose-rooted trees, while in the meadows, grasses seemed to have grown better than flowering plants. Orchids especially were shorter and smaller and so more hidden in the taller grass.

More general observations:

- American Willowherb – none at all seen this year.
- Bugle – seems to be steadily decreasing.
- Cowslips – also decreasing.
- Greek dock – increasing and spreading. A dense stand at the end of Broadwater Gardens.

Using the same Area plan as last year, there are 14 “Areas” in DNW, grouped broadly into Meadows (4), Wet Areas (3) and Woods (7). Please see attached map. Inevitably of course, the meadows have woods or shaws on the boundaries and the woods have wet areas or open glades/ woodland edges etc. but the areas are fairly well defined geographically.

There are six new species identified this year:

130 Fat-hen	428 Common Cornsalad
216 Common Whitlowgrass	538 Fragrant-orchid
298 Spear-leaved Willowherb	R46 Hard Rush

Page references are to: The Wild Flower Key ----- by Francis Rose

or: Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns ----- also by Francis Rose