

WILD FLOWERS

Included here are many of the naturally-occurring plants that flowered on the farm between March and June; however, this covers probably less than half of the farm's total wild flowers!

Speedwells:

Three species of Speedwell were found during this survey; previously also Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*) has been found, growing in the pond.

COMMON FIELD-SPEEDWELL

Veronica persica

Common throughout the farm, especially in plant beds; seen flowering throughout survey period - March to June.



IVY-LEAVED SPEEDWELL

Veronica hederifolia

Growing in all plant beds and seen flowering in March, April and May. Despite being so prolific it is barely noticed, as it is very insignificant in appearance with tiny flowers. It is often found growing together with Chickweed and is similarly spreading in habit.



THYME-LEAVED SPEEDWELL

Veronica serpyllifolia

One patch of plants found in riverside plant bed by the Tree Echiums; seen flowering in late April, May and June.

Like the Ivy-leaved Speedwell above, it is a tiny, easily-overlooked plant, but has a more elegant and upright growing manner and appearance, with glossy rather than hairy leaves.



Dead-nettle family:

RED DEAD-NETTLE

Lamium purpureum

Common in plant beds, farm edges etc; seen flowering throughout survey period - March to June.



WHITE DEAD-NETTLE

Lamium album

Growing widely around the site, especially on farm edges around the paddocks; seen flowering throughout the survey period - March to June.



HENBIT DEAD-NETTLE

Lamium amplexicaule

2-3 plants found in riverside veg beds in early May. The large photo is of a young newly-flowering plant; that below is of a more mature plant.



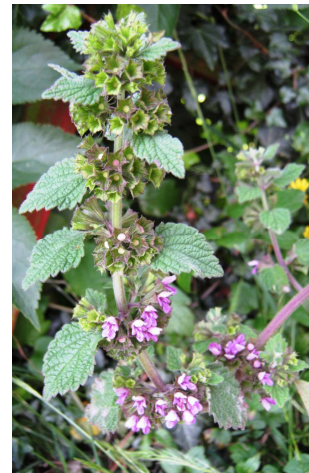
Also in the **Dead-nettle** family:

BLACK HOREHOUND

Ballota nigra

Growing widely around farm;
seen flowering in June.

Grows in tall spikes, and the leaves
have a strong smell when rubbed.



Teasel family:

WILD TEASEL

Dipsacus fullonum

A few plants on the grassy bank
alongside the paddocks;
starting to flower late June.

The leaf bases circle the stem to
create a cup shape where rainwater
collects – this may be to thwart sap-
sucking insects from climbing the
stem, or it's possible that insects
who drown in this are absorbed/
used nutritionally by the plant.



In its first year a teasel plant appears as a basal rosette of leaves, and then in its second year it produces a tall flowering stem. The teasel head used for fulling (carding wool) is from a cultivated form of this species - *Dipsacus sativus*. Teasel seedheads are particularly popular with finches.

Nettle family:

COMMON NETTLE

Urtica dioica

Found all around the farm;
seen flowering in May and June.



SMALL NETTLE

Urtica urens

Seen especially in orchard and in
vegetable beds near front gate; seen
flowering in late April though to May
and June.



PELLITORY-OF-THE-WALL

Parietaria judaica

In edges of plant beds, on river wall
and amongst bronze animals; seen
flowering late May and June.

Is actually a member of the nettle
family, which isn't obvious until
you see the tiny flowers which are
very similar in size and form to those
of nettles.



Photographed here growing around
the bronze cat's tail...



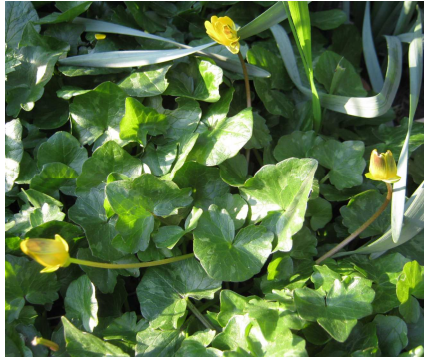
Buttercup family:

LESSER CELANDINE

Ranunculus ficaria

1-2 plants growing behind café;
seen flowering in March.

This is one of the first flowers to
emerge in early spring.



MEADOW BUTTERCUP

Ranunculus acris

Seen especially in
Wildlife Garden
under birdfeeders;
found flowering late
May and June, and
fruiting in June.



Has deeply divided leaves and grows quite tall and upright.

CREeping BUTTERCUP

Ranunculus repens

Growing in grassy edges around
paddocks; flowering late May and
June.



MARSH MARIGOLD

Caltha palustris

In wildlife pond, flowering early
May.



Primrose family:

PRIMROSE

Primula vulgaris subspecies

Approx 5 plants in the Wildlife Garden, flowering March to May – mostly white, but one pink-flowered plant also seen. (The native wild primrose is light yellow, but variations and hybrids occur, as well as introduced species. The pink one may be *Primula vulgaris sibthorpii*, from the Balkans).

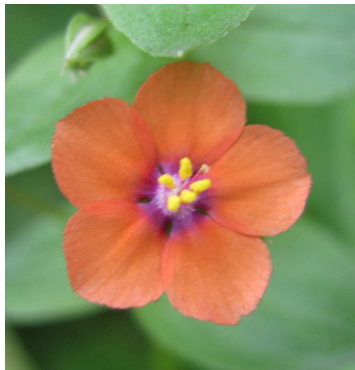


SCARLET PIMPERNEL

Anagallis arvensis

Growing in Herb Garden and in plant beds, especially in herb pots; seen flowering in June.

The flowers usually only open in bright sunshine!



Borage family:

GREEN ALKANET

Pentaglottis sempervirens

A few plants alongside the pond dipping platform by the wildlife pond; seen flowering in late April, May and June.

(In these photos the buds and half-open flowers are shown, but the flowers usually open more widely).



Carrot family (umbellifers):

ALEXANDERS

Smyrnium olusatrum

Growing in 'outdoor classroom' and outside forge; seen flowering in March and April.

Is mostly known as a coastal plant.

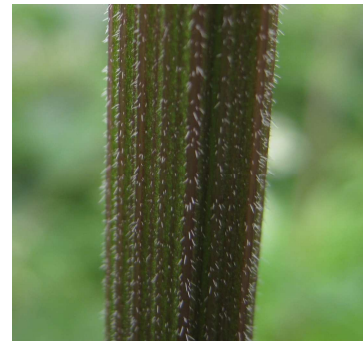


COW PARSLEY

Anthriscus sylvestris

A group of plants at the end of the butterfly border; seen flowering in April and May.

Is perhaps the most common umbellifer, and one of the earliest to flower in spring.

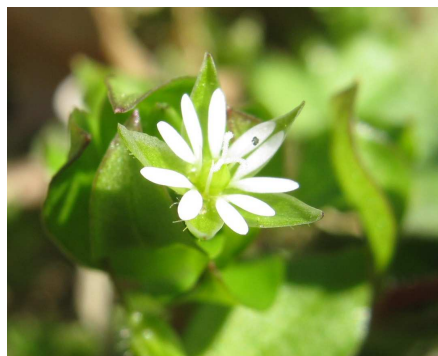


Campion family:

COMMON CHICKWEED

Stellaria media

Widely spreading in all plant beds; seen flowering constantly throughout survey period - March to June.



Cabbage family:

HAIRY BITTERCRESS

Cardamine hirsuta

Seen flowering in Wildlife Garden and elsewhere in April and May.

Its common name is a bit misleading; its main distinguishing characteristics are the basal rosette of leaves and the developing pods which overtop the flowers.

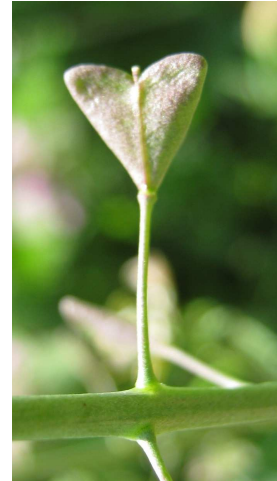


SHEPHERD'S PURSE

Capsella bursa-pastoris

Growing widely around the farm, especially grassy edges around paddocks; seen flowering throughout survey period - March to June.

Has distinctive heart-shaped seed capsules, which in their apparent resemblance to purses, have inspired both its common name and scientific name, as above!



LESSER SWINE-CRESS

Coronopus didymus

Found alongside goose pond and in riverside plant bed by Herb Garden; flowering in June.

The flowers are tiny and white, as in the first photo, and the fruits rounded as in the second photo.



Cabbage family contd:

HEDGE MUSTARD

Sisymbrium officinale

Flowering in June all around the farm – especially on edges and verges.



GARLIC MUSTARD

Alliaria petiolata

Seen flowering in Wildlife Garden and extensively in plant beds and edges in late April, May and June.



Bedstraw family:

GOOSEGRASS / CLEAVERS

Galium aparine

Found all round farm, seen flowering late May and June.

The flowers are tiny and barely noticeable, but this is the plant that makes itself known by sticking to any passing creature.



Pea Family:

RED CLOVER

Trifolium pratense

Seen by grape vines and elsewhere;
flowering late May and June.

The leaves are distinguishable
by a crescent-shaped mark, and are
more oval than round.



WHITE CLOVER

Trifolium repens

Growing widely around farm,
including the Wildlife Garden;
seen flowering in June.
It usually has crescent-shaped
marks on its leaflets like the Red
Clover, however its leaflets are
rounder in shape.

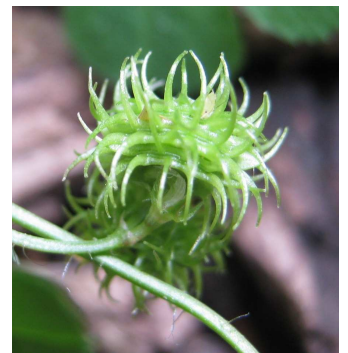


SPOTTED MEDICK

Medicago arabica

Found in Wildlife Garden,
Seen flowering late May.

The flowers are very small and each
leaflet has a dark spot in its centre.
The second photo shows its spirally-
coiled spiny fruit.

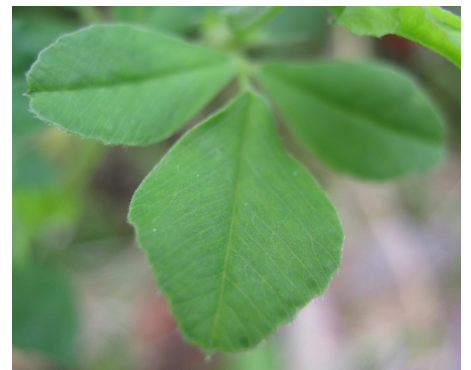


BLACK MEDICK

Medicago lupulina

On edges around orchard and front
of farm; flowering in June.

Is easily confused with Lesser
Trefoil & Hop Trefoil, but the Black
Medick has a tiny point at the end of
each leaflet, and its fruits are
distinctive black clusters of seeds
when ripe.



Pea Family contd:

COMMON VETCH

Vicia sativa

Seen flowering in Wildlife Garden and wild verges behind café and alongside paddocks in late April, May and June.

Distinguishable from other vetches by its 3-8 pairs of narrow, evenly-shaped leaflets and the flowers which appear singly or in pairs.

Common Vetch has several subspecies, and the specimen in the pictures directly opposite is almost certainly one of these – *Vicia sativa* ssp. *segetalis*. It has much rounder broader leaflets, but is otherwise much the same.



SMOOTH TARE

Vicia tetrasperma

A few plants growing alongside the outdoor classroom; flowering in June.

A small, very easily overlooked plant, but with wonderfully delicate tiny flowers, growing singly or in pairs, each only a few millimeters long.

The flowers will develop into small pea-type pods.



Crane's-bill (*Geranium*) family:

These are a few of the many, often very similar, species of Crane's-bills seen around the farm:

HEDGEROW CRANE'S-BILL

Geranium pyrenaicum

Flowering early May and June in uncultivated grassy edges around paddock.

Flowers purplish and petals deeply notched.



ROUND-LEAVED CRANE'S-BILL

Geranium rotundifolium

Found on edges of orchard; flowering late May and June.

Flowers small and barely-notched.



CUT-LEAVED CRANE'S-BILL

Geranium dissectum

Found in overgrown verges alongside paddocks; flowering in June.

Leaves distinctively divided and petals notched.



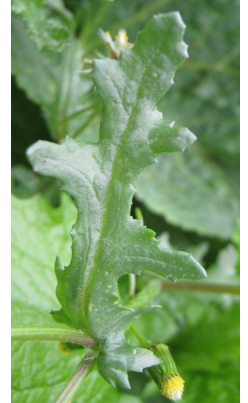
Daisy family:

GROUNDSEL

Senecio vulgaris

Fairly common in plant beds;
seen flowering throughout survey
period - March to June.

Has no ray florets (what we
commonly call petals); only disc
florets.



NIPPLEWORT

Lapsana communis

Growing extensively around farm;
seen flowering late April, May and
June.



COMMON DANDELION

Taraxacum officinale

In plant beds, edges etc; seen
flowering throughout survey
period - March to June.

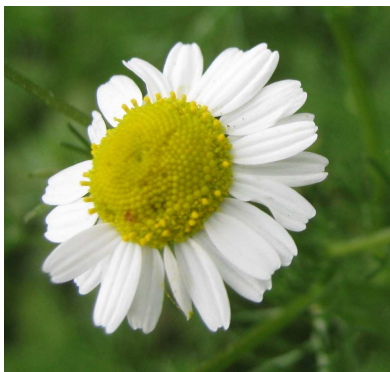


SCENTLESS MAYWEED

Tripleurospermum inodorum

Thriving around orchard goose
pond, and elsewhere; flowering
late May and June.

As stated in its name, it has no
smell, but has distinctive feathery
divided leaves.



Daisy family contd:

FEVERFEW

Tanacetum parthenium

Growing alongside turkey enclosure, under birdfeeders and elsewhere; seen flowering in June – curiously there were plants with single layers of ray florets and plants with double layers, growing side by side.



YARROW / MILFOIL

Achillea millefolium

Seen flowering in June along verges etc.

Flowers grow in clusters like an umbellifer, and the leaves are very narrow and divided.



Rose family:

BRAMBLE / BLACKBERRY

Rubus fruticosus agg.

Especially thriving in Wildlife Garden; flowering late May and June.

There are hundreds of microspecies of bramble, which is why there is such variation in the size, form and taste of blackberries from different plants.



Lily family:

SPANISH BLUEBELL

Hyacinthoides hispanica

Flowering in Wildlife Garden in mid-May.

This is not the native bluebell - the native species has flower spikes drooping at the end with flowers hanging from one side of the stem only, and its petals curve back at their ends.



HYBRID BLUEBELL

Hyacinthoides x massartiana

Found flowering late May in Wildlife Garden.

This is the hybrid garden bluebell, a cross between the native bluebell and the Spanish Bluebell, and has characteristics of both - the flowers hang off all sides of the stem, and the petals curl back at their ends.



THREE-CORNERED GARLIC

Allium triquetrum

Seen flowering near pond in Wildlife Garden, in late April to May.

Smells strongly of garlic when crushed. It is called three-cornered because the flower stems are three-sided.



Mallow family:

COMMON MALLOW

Malva sylvestris

Flowering in farm edges in June.



Gourd family:

WHITE BRYONY

Bryonia dioica

Growing over fences by riverside vegetable gardens; flowering late May and June.



Plantain family:

RIBWORT PLANTAIN

Plantago lanceolata

Seen in Wildlife Garden under birdfeeders, flowering late May and June.

Despite appearances, plantains aren't classified as grasses, but come under flowering plants, like wild flowers.



Nightshade family:

BITTERSWEET / WOODY NIGHTSHADE *Solanum dulcamara*

Seen flowering at entrance to
Wildlife Garden in June.

The flowers will develop into red
berries later.



Iris family:

YELLOW IRIS *Iris pseudacorus*

Seen flowering in June, growing in
middle of Wildlife Pond (and
hence difficult to photograph!)



Knotweed family:

REDSHANK *Persicaria maculosa*

Growing in plant bed behind
plant room; flowering in June.

Its leaves often have a dark
mark in the centre, and its stems
are reddish.



Spurge family:

CAPER SPURGE

Euphorbia lathyris

A few plants on verge alongside paddock and behind café; seen flowering and fruiting in June.

Its fruits resemble a caper in shape, hence its name; you can see the 'caper' developing inside the flower in the lower photos.



ANNUAL MERCURY

Mercurialis annua

Found flowering throughout farm in plant beds, in March, April, and May.

According to some sources, is poisonous to livestock!

