

## Sunday 15th July Malvern Group visit to Newport Wetlands Nature Reserve, Newport NP18 2BZ, Gwent

The leader was Cherry Greenway. Eighteen people attended. The focus was on flora. The weather was dry, cloudy but bright with a breeze, temperature around 17°C. The terrain was flat and the paths were firm. The morning walk started at the car park at the West Nash road entrance and continued along part of the Orchid and the Wetlands Experience trails, then across via a footpath to the Sculpture trail and back to the Visitor Centre area for lunch. The afternoon walk covered the Woodland and Estuary trail, including the coastal strip with reedbeds and scrapes on one side and saltmarsh giving way to mudflats running to the sea on the other side, then through woodland and a higher area edged by low-lying grazing land back to the Visitor Centre.

### Species list: morning walk

**Flowers/plants:** Bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*); Birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*); Hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*); Black medick (*Medicago lupulina*); Bristly oxtongue (*Picris echioides*); Brookweed (*Samolus valerandi*); Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*); Common cleavers (*Galium aparine*); Common (?) ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*); Common reedmace (*Typha latifolia*); Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*); Dropwort (*Filipendula vulgaris*); Fleabane (*Pulicaria*); Greater birds foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*); Great willow herb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) (Codlins and cream); Hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*); Herb Bennett (*Geum urbanum*); Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*); Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*); Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*); Knapweed (*Centaurea*); Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*); Melilot (*Melilotus*); Narrow-leaved birds foot trefoil (*Lotus tenuis*); Perforate St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*); Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*); Southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*); Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*); Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*); Tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*); Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*); Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*); Yellow bird's-nest (*Monotropa hypopitys*).

**Trees/shrubs:** Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*); Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*); Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*); Scot's pine (*Pinus sylvestris*); White poplar (*Populus alba*).

**Butterflies:** Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*); Dark green fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*); Large skipper (*Ochlodes venatus*); Marbled white (*Melanargia galathea*); Meadow

brown (*Maniola jurtina*); Ringleet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*); Small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*).

**Moths:** Burnet moth (*Zygaena*) chrysalis and caterpillar; Cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*) caterpillars; Elephant hawk moth (*Deilephila elpenor*); Lesser elephant hawk moth (*Deilephila porcellus*); Plume moth; Wood tiger moth (*Parasemia plantaginis*).

**Beetles:** Bloody nose beetle (*Timarcha tenebricosa*); Longhorn beetle; Soldier beetle.

**Plant galls:** Gall on Bird's foot trefoil; Gall on Bramble (*Diastrophus rubi*); Gall on Germander speedwell; Pincushion gall on rose (*Diplolepis rosae*); Smooth peagall on Dog rose (*Diplolepis*).

**Other invertebrates:** Grasshoppers; Harlequin ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*); Nursery web spider (*Pisaura mirabilis*); Seven spot ladybird (*Coccinella 7-punctata*).

**Birds:** Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*); Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*); Magpie (*Pica pica*); Redshank (*Tadorna tadorna*); Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*); Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) (calling)?

## Afternoon walk

**Flowers/plants:** Biting stonecrop (*Sedum acre*); Common reedmace (*Typha latifolia*); Common water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*); Hairy tare (*Vicia virsuta*); Hoary ragwort (*Senecio erucifolius*); Mare's tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*); Sea radish (*Raphanus maritimus*); Upright hedge parsley (*Torilis japonica*).

**Trees/shrubs:** Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*); Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*); Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*); Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*); Scot's pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).

**Butterflies:** Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*); Dark green fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*); Large skipper (*Ochlodes venatus*); Marbled white (*Melanargia galathea*); Meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*); Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*); Small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*).

**Moths:** Burnet moth (*Zygaena*) chrysalis and caterpillar; Cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*) caterpillars; Elephant hawk moth (*Deilephila elpenor*); Lesser elephant hawk moth (*Deilephila porcellus*); Plume moth; Puss moth caterpillar; Wood tiger moth (*Parasemia plantaginis*).

**Beetles:** Bloody nose beetle (*Timarcha tenebricosa*); Longhorn beetle; Soldier beetle.

**Other invertebrates:** Grasshoppers; Harlequin ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*); Nursery web spider (*Pisaura mirabilis*); Seven spot ladybird (*Coccinella 7-punctata*); Yellow meadow ant (*Lasius flavus*) (anthill).

**Birds:** Curlew (*Numenius arquata*); Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*).