

Salvia pratensis (Meadow Clary) at Holly Court Bank

Survey on 27 June 2024

Members of Wychwood Flora Group present:

Genny Early, Tony Davis



Holly Court Bank is the site of the largest population of Meadow clary plants in the UK, on a bank that is home to a high diversity of other calcareous meadow specialist plants.

A muntjac deer was on the scene as we arrived. Around 99% of spikes had been eaten. There were only a small handful of flowers. The Meadow clary plants are still extremely numerous, in places very thickly covering the ground. The population seems to be holding its own despite not flowering and setting seed successfully for several years now (since 2021), due to the pressure from grazing deer. However, if the site could somehow be protected from deer during the flowering season, May to August, this would allow seed to set, and new seedlings to establish.

Genny Early
for the Wychwood Flora Group

copies to:

Megan Saunders, Estate Secretary

Andy Byfield (Plantlife's Conservation Adviser)

Nick Mottram (Environmental Strategy Officer, OCC)

Ellen Lee (TVERC)