

Foxley Wood 2024

Higher Drive Recreation Ground: trees and woodland plants along the western (Higher Drive) edge and the southern (Foxley Road) edge

Jane, Anthony, Bill and Andrea on a sunny, windy afternoon, 07 April 2024.

Western (Higher Drive) edge.

This is a shaw rather than a hedge - maybe 8 - 10m wide (we should measure this).

It looks like a piece of original woodland, not like a hedge which has grown out into the field, as it is full of woodland plants, with especially good patches of Wood Anemone.

Ancient Woodland Indicator Species are noted with a *.

Trees are regenerating and those with seedlings are noted with a +.

There are several very large trees, especially a notable oak pollard, measured by Anthony and Bill.

Midland Hawthorn is a new record, an AWIS which we haven't recorded from Foxley Wood before.

There are 8 AWIS so far, 28 in total for Foxley Wood including the newly-found Midland Hawthorn.

We may find some more AWIS at a later visit as they are not all up yet.

There is an active badger sett with at least three entrances.

We should return in June/July to record more grasses and later-growing plants.

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	*
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	+
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	+
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Crow Garlic	+ *
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	*
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-Joy	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Midland Hawthorn	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	+
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	+
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	+
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	*
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	+ *
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	*
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	*
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	+ *
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry Plum	+
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	+
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak	

<i>Rosa sp</i>	Rose (leaves only)	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	+
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	
<i>Viola sp</i>	Violet (leaves only)	

Southern (Foxley Road) edge.

This is a much narrower row of a good variety of trees and shrubs, with a path-edge flora, not a woodland flora. Some of the large trees have the appearance of having been laid as a hedge in the distant past, especially a large multi-stemmed sycamore, a common tree but not often seen in such an interesting form.

This row of trees looks like an old hedgerow which has grown up, a piece of history related to former land use. (Look at old OS maps).

Himalayan Giant Bramble: a garden escape, recognised from its huge size and white underneath the leaves. See British Wildlife 34/1, October 2022 for an account of it on Mitcham Common.

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-Joy
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry Plum
<i>Prunus institia</i>	Bullace/Plum
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Armenian Bramble/ Himalayan Giant
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion