

Salvia pratensis (Meadow Clary)
at Langland Farm, Finstock



Survey 17 June 2025

Members of the WFG present: Brenda Betteridge, Genny Early

The field where we survey for Meadow clary is a lovely sloping calcareous meadow with fairy flax, yellow oat grass, salad burnet etc - a wide variety of grasses and forbs.

The field is grazed by sheep during winter and spring months, and then they are excluded while the Meadow Clary is growing. Deer and rabbits (and less so slugs on this site) are the biggest threats as well as over-vigorous vegetation.

This year, there are two major issues. There are a lot of rabbits, which were visible during our survey. Most of the flowering stems had been eaten by rabbits (possibly also deer). Blackthorn scrub encroaching into the top of the field has spread for a number of years, covering over some clumps and threatening the established clumps of Meadow clary.

The Meadow clary is under threat from the rabbits and encroaching scrub. There is no evidence that young plants are establishing.

Overall, the number of clumps found were similar to the previous year, with few immature plants. There are no areas of trampled or bare ground where new plants can establish, but existing plants are doing well.

GPS	No. of plants/clumps	No. of flowering stems
SP36429-16370	6 clumps	15 flowering stems 71 eaten stems (did not set seed)
SP36452-16385	10 clumps	62 flowering stems 50 eaten stems (did not set seed)
SP36461 16383	1 clump	16 eaten stems (did not set seed)
SP36457-16374 (in field)	1 clump	1 flowering stems 1 eaten stems (did not set seed)

Genny Early
for the Wychwood Flora Group

copies to:

Matt and Hannah Brown (landowners)

Neil Clennell (CEO, Wychwood Project)

Kate Prudden (BBOWT)

Andy Byfield (Plantlife's Conservation Consultant)