Salvia pratensis (Meadow Clary) at Grintley Hill

Survey on Saturday 1 June 2024

Members of the Wychwood Flora Group present:
Maggie Collins, Genny Early, Rachel Lewis, Christine Marsh, Janet Robinson-Wood, Gerry Tissier

At Grintley Hill *Salvia pratensis* grows in the meadow close to the fence which separates Network Rail property from the Blenheim Estate field.

In the meadow
As last year, the meadow has not been grazed this year, and the blackthorn and hawthorn scrub is getting taller. This is a species-rich calcareous meadow with a wide range of species, which would respond well to winter grazing pressure to improve the diversity.

Several flowering spikes were in bud, but had not yet flowered. Several spikes had also been eaten, by rabbits or probably deer.

We start our survey point at the old square post, which is marked '0' as our reference point, with a measuring tape and quadrats, we counted the total number of plants/clumps and flowering stems counted in each one. The results summarised below were entered on the plan created on a spreadsheet.

Total number of flowering stems not eaten off = 23 (109 in 2023, 16 in 2024)
Total number of clumps or plants = 202
Total number of quadrats in which plants/clumps found = 27 (34 last year)

Overall, the population of Meadow clary appears less this year, in terms of spread and number of flowering spikes.

Network Rail property
We would like to address the scrub that is threatening the Meadow Clary plants on the Network Rail side of the fence. We continue to request this from Network Rail.

Genny Early

for the Wychwood Flora Group

copies to:
Andy Byfield (Conservation Consultant)
Rachel Furness-Smith (Head of Estates, Blenheim Estate)
Dave Gasca ((Head of Natural Capital, Blenheim Estate)
Neil Clennell (Wychwood Forest Trust)
Toby Swift (Wychwood Forest Trust)
Angharad Owen (Network Rail)
David Morris (BSBI County Recorder)
Kate Prudden (BBOWT; Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project Officer)
Pim Young (BBOWT)