

Salvia pratensis survey at Wigwell Nature Reserve, Charlbury, 13 June 2024

Attendees: Rue Swabey, Genny Early, Bob Douglas, Peter Kenrick, Elaine

Apologies: Louise Spicer

This year started off cold and wet, and stayed that way! This was excellent news for the slugs at Wigwell. Despite the heroic efforts of Bob Douglas in strimming around the Meadow clary, and carefully removing the arisings, the slugs were present in their thousands, and had eaten back the Meadow clary, leaving only lacy leaves, and battered rosettes. There were no signs of any flowering spikes at all. This is in contrast to previous years, see below for images from 2022, with lots of flowering spikes (256 in total in 2022). This has been a terrible year for the Meadow clary at Wigwell, but the good news is that the plants can survive a year of not flowering, and if the conditions are better next year, they may bounce back even stronger in 2025. Thank you for all the friends of Wigwell, and especially Bob for all the work to maintain the Meadow clary habitat.

- Enclosure 1: 7 clumps, 5 small plants
- Bottom enclosure 2: 5 clumps, 2 enormous clumps
- Top enclosure: 2 big clumps, 5 smaller clumps
- The 3 clumps on the edge of the field are surviving but not flowering (Rue Swabey).



Images from 2022



Report and photos by Genny Early, Wychwood Flora Group