

## ***Gagea lutea* (Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem) survey**

**Date:** 6 April 2025

**Location:** Whitehill Wood beside River Evenlode, North Leigh parish

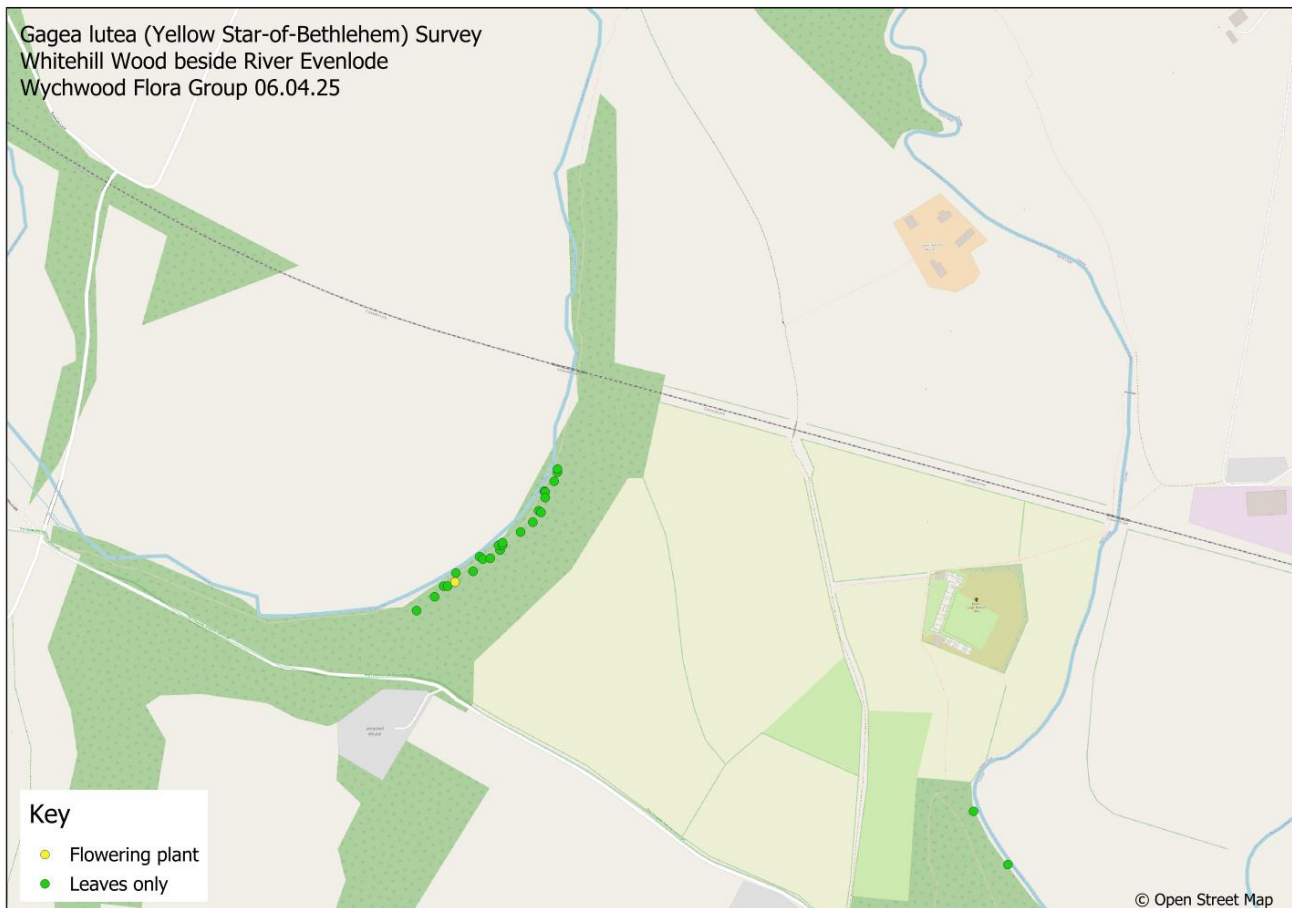
### **Surveyors:**

Sam Amy, Kieth Cohen, Jonathan Noel, Maggie Collins, Sarah Darby, Tom Fearn, Eve Morris, Stewart Leicester and David Morris.

Last year, this location was flooded during the period when this plant would flower. This year, although there is no flooding, and a much warmer start to spring, this species appears to have not recovered from the previous year. Only one Yellow Star of Bethlehem was observed in flower this year, location SP 39071 15465, although numerous non-flowering leaves were observed.

Plants started about 450m along the path from the road bridge that crosses Ashford Mill Stream and continued in fairly regular succession for 260m or so, when they dwindled off and so we stopped looking, before reaching the railway bridge.





Grid reference	No. of flowering plants (and flowers per head)	Approximate no. of non-flowering plants	Comments on site
<b>Whitehill Wood outward walk on river side of path</b>			
SP 39024 15430		8	
SP 39057 15460		16	With <i>Adoxa moschatelina</i> nearby
SP 39062 15460		7	
SP 39071 15465	1 (4 flowers on 1 head)		On edge of soil slip next to river-bank
SP 39072 15476		2	
SP 39101 15496		18	
SP 39105 15493		20	
SP 39114 15494		2	
SP 39126 15504		3	
SP 39124 15510		17	
SP 39129 15510		1	
SP 39129 15513		1	
SP 39151 15526		7	
SP 39166 15538		2	
SP 39173 15552		3	
SP 39180 15576		3	
SP 39192 15588		1	
SP 38196 15599		5	
SP 39107 15490			



Whitehill Wood return walk on wood side of path			
SP 39196 15603		4	
SP 39181 15575		2	
SP 39181 15568		2	
SP 39176 15550		1	
SP 39093 15478		9	
SP 39046 15447		>20	

From Keith Cohen:

It was good to see a flowering plant of the *Gagea*, and to spend a little time getting to know the leaf characters.

I had seen in Oxfordshire's Threatened Plants that it had also been recorded at Sturt wood so I went on and walked the river edge there.

I walked from the west edge where it meets the field, along to the east, and continued in the wood at the foot of the slope, alongside the field past the river bend.

It was much less productive, with only 3 locations where I saw leaves, and no flowers.

GRID REFERENCES WERE:

SP 39704 15185, 3 *G.lutea* leaves, with *Adoxa moschatelina*, a deeply shaded spot. (no photo)

SP 39746 15120, 9 *G.lutea* leaves, in shallow dip, c. 1-1.5m back from banktop, and close to a bankside hazel. [See photo.](#)



SP 39808 15048, 5 *G.lutea* leaves, just beside end of a log, c. 1m back from banktop. [See photo.](#)





I also took a couple of so-so [pics of the hooded leaf tip, and the \(plicate?\) ridges on the back of the leaf](#)  
low-res copies:



Wychwood Flora Group

copies to

Megan Saunders, Secretary, Swinbrook and Wilcote Estates

Ellen Lee, Biodiversity Data Services Officer, TVERC

David Morris, BSBI County Recorder for VC23.