

Lime Kiln Way, Salisbury

Plant surveys have been carried out during 2015 as part of a Phase 1 Habitat Mapping exercise organised by South Wiltshire Biodiversity Group & involving the Salisbury & District Natural History Society (SDNHS)

Plants

The greatest plant species diversity is in the eastern part of the site alongside the Odstock Road. To the north-east, there are some remnants of older chalk grassland including a bank next to the road that includes Wild Carrot, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Small Scabious, Lady's Bedstraw, Marjoram and Ox-eye Daisy. To the south of this, a plateau area consists of chalk thought to have been dumped during development of the nearby hospital site and this has a calcareous flora with abundant Cowslip and Salad Burnet. The majority of the other grassland on the site is rather rank, with frequent patches of ruderal plants such as Rosebay Willowherb and encroaching scrub. Localised over-grazing and trampling by tethered horses leads to a preponderance of rosettes of Composites such as Cat's-ear and Rough Hawkbit, but recovering areas are developing greater diversity and support large numbers of Pyramidal Orchids and some Common Spotted Orchids together with locally abundant flowering spikes of Common Broomrape.

Management suggestions: Plant diversity will be lost to the encroachment of scrub and rank grassland without management and while some areas are currently over-grazed, some controlled grazing is desirable to maintain a mosaic of habitats. It is important to control scrub to prevent loss of open areas. There are a number of non-native shrubs such as *Pyracantha* (Firethorn), *Buddleja* and *Cotoneaster* on the site and while these can provide useful food sources for wildlife, their spread needs to be monitored and controlled.

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