

Walking around the outskirts of Clowne & Markland Grips - 29th May 2018

7 members joined Jim Russell behind The Nags Head in Clowne for one of his local walks. Linda & Mick Fairest, Eileen & Graham Gill, Polly Kirk, Charles Seymour and Malcolm Swift.

Jim gave us some information about the old Station Office building and now defunct railway as we proceeded to walk the Clowne Linear Park branch line path along the top of Clowne Craggs towards the old Sewage Works which has now been transformed into a large residence with the intention of starting a micro brewery. Hop frames are already in place on the land behind.

We continued along the road and then took a left hand turn past Markham Farm and towards the village of Elmton. On the left we crossed into Markland Grips Nature Reserve through the wild flower meadows recording many species and also disturbing a Roe Deer which disappeared into the plantation.

We followed the stream down to the bottom area where we stopped to learn about the Viaduct which opened in 1896. Due to mining subsidence attempts were made to reinforce the structure with cross beams and later it had to be buried under "spoil" to turn it effectively into an embankment with a concrete tunnel through, enabling access. It was eventually closed on 9th January 1967 and has been left in a state of collapse, although the tunnel still stands.

Markland Grips is a SSSI managed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and is listed as Hollinhill and Markland Grips. We proceeded up to the edge of the Iron Age Fort and had our packed lunch before walking on a triangular route around the Fort. Jim pointed out the crag edges which formed 2 sides of the triangle coming to a point and giving a natural barrier against all comers. This area was covered with wild flowers and grasses. As the weather warmed up butterflies and moths were beginning to appear. We returned to the original path proceeding down past remnants of the stonework from the viaduct. We passed a pond which had been the dam for the old Flour Mill at the bottom end of the Grips. After a short walk on the road we entered Hollinhill Grips which runs alongside Sheffield Road (A616). We entered a field where Jim pointed out several samples of Fly Orchid! Eventually we took the unused single track railway line back towards Clowne and re-joined the Linear path completing an informative and enjoyable day out.

Flora 86 Birds 29 Insects 9 Mammals 2

Reporter: Linda Fairest

Flora

Adder's Tongue Fern
Bird's-foot trefoil
Black Bryony
Bladder Campion
Bluebell
Bramble
Buckthorn
Bugle
Bush Vetch
Clary sp.
Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*)
Common Gromwell
Common Ragwort
Common Sorrel
Cow Parsley
Cowslip
Crosswort
Cut-leaved Cranesbill
Daisy
Dandelion
Dog's Mercury
Dove's-foot Cranesbill
Elder Flower
Field Poppy
Field Rose
Fly Orchid
Forget-me-Not
Foxglove
Garlic Mustard
Germander Speedwell
Goosegrass
Greater Stitchwort
Green Alkanet
Ground Ivy
Guelder Rose
Hard Shield Fern
Hart's Tongue Fern
Hawthorn
Hedge Bedstraw
Herb Robert
Honeysuckle
Hop Trefoil
Kidney Vetch
Lesser Trefoil
Lilac
Male Fern
Mare's Tail
Marsh Marigold
Marsh Thistle
Meadow Buttercup

Insects

Chimney Sweeper moth
Silver Y moth
Ermine Spindle moth

Brimstone butterfly
Speckled Wood butterfly
Small White butterfly
Orange Tip butterfly
Common Blue butterfly

Buff-tailed Bumble Bee

Mammals

Roe Deer
Brown Rat (dead)

Birds

Yellowhammer
Greylag Goose(3) flew over
Mallard (2) flew over
Song Thrush
Woodpigeon
Collared Dove
House Martin
Moorhen
Blackcap
Robin
Blackbird
Wren
Willow Warbler
Bullfinch
Greenfinch
Chiff Chaff
Whitethroat
Pheasant
Carrion Crow
Skylark
Linnet
Swift
Rook
Goldfinch
Swallow
Long-tailed Tit
Common Buzzard
Mistle Thrush
Lesser Black-backed Gull (flew over)

Meadow Vetchling
Mignonette
Moonpenny
Mouse-ear Hawkweed
Orange Hawkbit (Fox & Cubs)
Pignut
Pineapple Mayweed
Ramsons
Red Campion
Red Clover
Ribwort Plantain
Rock Rose
Sainfoin
Salad Burnet
Sanicle
Scabious sp.
Selfheal
Silverweed
Sweet Woodruff
Trembling Grass
Twayblade
Viper's Bugloss
Water Crowfoot sp.
Water Mint
Weld
White Campion
White Clover
White Dead Nettle
Wild Privet
Wild Raspberry
Wintercress
Wood Avens
Wood Melick
Woundwort
Yellow Archangel
Yellow Flag Iris

KIDNEY VETCH



ORANGE HAWKBIT (FOX & CUBS)



YELLOWHAMMER





GERMANDER SPEEDWELL

COMMON BLUE



FLY ORCHID

