

Helen Mackaness Reserve 2018

GRAHAM HILL



From left: Rosemary Hill, Steve Horton, Dave Scott, Helen Mackaness Reserve, 2 May 2018

Rosemary Winnall

The Wyre Forest Study Group was approached by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (WWT) at the beginning of 2018 to help with a species survey of their newly acquired Helen Mackaness Reserve. The reserve extends to about 1.5 hectares on the north side of the old railway line adjacent to Dry Mill Lane at SO771763. WWT was developing a management plan for the reserve, so understanding the species present was a necessary starting point, and they were particularly interested to know if Adder or Adders-tongue Fern were still present.

The survey was undertaken between 16 April and 30 June 2018, and this included visits by the group as part of its Wednesday and Saturday field meetings together with species specific surveys over longer periods of time. Species records were submitted by 20 people, and in the end we had 1082 records of 622 species, a magnificent effort by those involved. (More records have been added since the survey was completed - are they ever completed, I wonder - and the totals have risen to 1084 and 624 respectively). The completed list was compiled into an Excel spreadsheet and passed onto WWT. It is not possible to provide that list here as space does not permit, however, there were some interesting highlights that are worth mentioning.

Two species found on the reserve turned out to be new records for the UK – an Ichneumon wasp *Diphyus latebricola* was found by Oliver Wadsworth on 19th April and a biting midge *Forcipomyia tenuis* was found by Mick Blythe on 16th June. New records for Worcestershire

included seven flies *Aphanotrigonum trilineatum*, *Leptopeza flavipes*, *Paradelia intersecta*, *Paranthomyza nitida*, *Rhopalopterum anthracinum*, *Rhopalopterum fasciola*, *Telmatoscopus ambiguous* by Mick Blythe and a hoverfly *Xylota xanthocnema* by Tony Simpson. Two new records for Wyre were a fly *Symballophthalmus fuscitarsis* from Mick Blythe and a caddis fly *Trichostegia minor* from Mike Averill.

Other interesting records included Slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, Native White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene*, Grass snake *Natrix natrix*, Land Caddis *Enoicyla pusilla*, the nationally scarce fly *Mycomya pectinifera*, Woodcock, Lesser Thorn-tipped Longhorn beetle *Pogonocherus hispidus* and the River Limpet *Ancylus fluviatilis*.



Helen Mackaness Reserve, 2 May 2018

Rosemary Winnall

