

Hawkshead Churchyard Saturday 2 June 2024

I was asked to record the species growing in four different areas, each with their specific mowing regimes. One must be aware that on one day at the beginning of June not all species are visible. Early spring plants like Wood Anemone and Celandine have already disappeared and many summer and autumn flowering plants are not yet above ground. Regular visitors to the churchyard should be able to add to the lists. I did not record shrubs and trees as these are not influenced by mowing. The tick list I used is produced by Cumbria Wildlife Trust for their Hay Meadow surveys, but I needed to add some more species to this. I used the subjective DAFOR scale to estimate relative abundance. D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare.

The churchyard looks in very good order. The short grass. area A, around the church had the biggest variety of species, but the mowing means that not all of them flower regularly. The most attractive and with the most abundant flowers was D & E, the upper graveyard. Area B is very steep and obviously difficult to mow so has some coarse grass. Area C has coarse grass and is being invaded by some less desirable plants. This is also is very steep and probably needs the use of a brush cutter to take down the rank growth, as soon as the daffodils have died back. An important species that is absent from the churchyard is *Rhinanthus major*, Yellow Rattle. This is an annual that is a semi-parasite on the grasses and reduces their growth. Seed from an adjacent meadow could be introduced, then it should self-seed.

<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	Wood crane's-bill								
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	✓	R	✓	R	✓	R	✓	O
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common cat's-ear	✓	O	✓	O			✓	F
<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	Sharp-flowered rush								
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed rush								
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact rush								
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush								
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard rush								
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling					✓	R		
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn hawkbit								
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough hawkbit								
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	✓	O					✓	F
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common bird's-foot trefoil			✓	O				
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater bird's-foot trefoil	✓	O	✓	O			✓	O
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field woodrush	✓	O	✓	O			✓	O
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Heath woodrush								
<i>Lychnis flos-culculi</i>	Ragged robin								
<i>Medicago spp</i>	Medick								
<i>Montia fontana</i>	Blinks								
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field forget-me-not								
<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing forget-me-not								
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Adder's tongue								
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	✓	O	✓	O			✓	O
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	✓	O						
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil							✓	R
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal								
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken								
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	✓	F			✓	O	✓	O
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup							✓	O
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Celandine								
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	✓	F	✓		✓	F	✓	F
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle								
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	✓	F	✓				✓	F
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock								
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	✓	R			✓	O		
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Great burnet	✓	O			✓	O	✓	F
<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	Common ragwort					✓	R		
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion							✓	O
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Sow thistle								
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony								
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser stitchwort								
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater stitchwort								
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed								
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit scabious								
<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	Dandelion	✓	O	✓		✓	O	✓	O
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil								
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil							✓	R
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	✓	F	✓	O	✓	O	✓	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	✓	F	✓		✓	F	✓	F
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle			✓	R				
<i>Veronica agrestis</i>	Green field speedwell								
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall speedwell								
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander speedwell	✓	F	✓	F			✓	F
<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	Slender speedwell								
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath speedwell								
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved speedwell					✓	R		
<i>Veronica species</i>	Speedwell sp.								
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch								
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush vetch	✓	F	✓	O	✓	O	✓	F
<i>Viola sp. riviniana</i>	Violet species Dog	✓	O			✓	O		

more species →

- species which indicate a good meadow

