

Bracknell Forest Borough's Wild Orchids 2017

Overall, 2017 has been a good year for Bracknell Forest's wild orchids. Below is a summary of sightings of which I am aware. In a change from previous years, rather than using sites as the headings, I have used the orchid species.

Common Twayblade *Neottia ovata*

1. BMW grass bank (SU 857 684), c100.

Broad-leaved Helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*

1. Swinley Road, opposite entrance to Englemere, one fine specimen.
2. Felix Farm Trout Fishery, Binfield (SU 849 744). 5 BLH.

Green-flowered Helleborine *Epipactis phyllanthes*

1. Swinley Road, from opposite entrance to Englemere, towards London Road traffic lights, c100 spikes counted.
2. Long Hill Road (SU 893 693), just north of entrance to Long Hill Meadow. 7 counted.

Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*

1. Wykery Copse (SU 851 687). The count of 81 EPO at Wykery Copse was up significantly from the 45 of 2016, reversing the trend of falling numbers over the past few years.
2. Pocketts Copse, Binfield (SU 837 698). 52 EPO counted*.
(Note. Swains Copse, Hurst (SU 835 703), nearby, is on the Wokingham side of the Bracknell/ Wokingham boundary. It has an excellent population of EPO, c200 EPO counted, including 3 white specimens).

Early Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*

1. Running Horse Roundabout (SU 883 691), EMO 22 flowering spikes. Best year ever.
2. Lily Hill Park (SU 888 693). 4 EMO (c30 hybrids CSO x EMO).

Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsia*

1. BMW grass bank (SU 857 684), c250.
2. Grass Bank behind Old Manor and Roman's (SU 873 694). 15 counted
3. Lily Hill Park (SU 888 693). c300 CSO.
4. 2 CSO near Bus Station next to Subway 19 (East side). **Mown later.**
5. 2 CSO on grassy area north of Mill Pond, Easthampstead(SU858682)
6. 1 CSO on Sainsbury roundabout SE of Subway 59
7. Crowthorne Wood (SU 854649). CSO x 2.
8. Larges Lane Cemetery (SU 876 690). 7 CSO all clustered around one gravestone.

Heath Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*

1. Broadmoor Bottom (SU 856 628). This fine mixed colony of HSO and CSO, plus hybrids, is just about hanging on, with scrub build-up a threat.

Southern Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*

- 1 Long Hill Meadow (SU892 693). SMO x 14.
- 2 Crowthorne Wood (SU 854649). SMO x 5.

Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*

1. Grass Bank behind Old Manor and Roman's (SU 873 694). 100+ PO.
2. Grass bank between Subways 10 and 11, between Old Manor and Easthampstead House (approx Grid ref: SU 873694). 10 PO.
3. Harvest Ride (SU 862 706). 7 PO along Harvest Ride, south side (clusters of 4,1,2).

Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*

1. Twin Bridges Roundabout complex (SU 863 689). BO x 2 at subway 32*. South of Subway 37, BO x 5 (1 June). **At least one, probably two BO at Subway 37 mown down on 7/8 June.**
2. Felix Farm Trout Fishery, Binfield (SU 849 744). 2 BO.

*My thanks to Karen Beaney, who drew my attention to the EPOs at Pockets Copse, and the two BO at subway 32 on the Twin Bridges Roundabout complex.

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PS. If anyone knows of other records which are not reported here, I would be pleased to be informed.



Left. Bee Orchid near Subway 37 at Twin-Bridges Roundabout complex.

Right. Early Marsh Orchids at Running Horse Roundabout.