

Bracknell Forest Borough's Wild Orchids 2018

Overall, 2018 has been a mixed year for Bracknell Forest's wild orchids, with numbers mostly down. Fewer sites were visited this year. Early-flowering species, such as the Early Purple Orchid, benefitted from the wet spring. The later flowering species, particularly the Helleborines, found the long hot and dry spell through June and July not to their liking. Below is a summary of sightings of which I am aware.

Common Twayblade *Neottia ovata*

1. BMW grass bank (SU 857 684), c200. (15 June 2018)

Broad-leaved Helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*

1. Englemere and Swinley Road, 10 specimens, which were quickly over. (7 July 2018)

Green-flowered Helleborine *Epipactis phyllanthes*

1. Swinley Road, from opposite entrance to Englemere, towards London Road traffic lights, 27 spikes counted. Within Englemere, 1 further spike was found. (7 July 2018)
2. Long Hill Road (SU 893 693), just north of entrance to Long Hill Meadow. 4 counted. (16 July 2018)

Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*

1. Wykery Copse (SU 851 687). The count of 75 EPO at Wykery Copse was slightly down on the 81 of 2017. (29 April 2018)

Early Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*

1. Running Horse Roundabout (SU 883 691), EMO 16 mature flowering spikes; at least 3 others were strimmed before maturity. (30 May 2018)
2. Lily Hill Park (SU 888 693). 0 EMO (0 hybrids CSO x EMO). First zero count since 2004. (15 June 2018)

Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsia*

1. BMW grass bank (SU 857 684), c250. (15 June 2018)
2. Grass Bank behind Old Manor and Roman's (SU 873 694). 18 counted, numbers here gradually rising. (20 June 2018)
3. Lily Hill Park (SU 888 693). C75 CSO. A low count, the site is not well managed at present. (15 June 2018)
4. Crowthorne Wood (SU 854649). CSO x 2. (9 June 2018)

Heath Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*

1. Owlsmoor Bog, Wildmoor Heath Nature Reserve (SU 847 628). This fine, long-established, colony of HSO is in good order, with c 100 flowering spikes. (18 June 2018)

Southern Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*

- 1 Long Hill Meadow (SU892 693). SMO x 2. (9 June 2018)
- 2 Crowthorne Wood (SU 854649). SMO x 2. (9 June 2018)

Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*

1. Grass Bank behind Old Manor and Roman's (SU 873 694). C50 PO. (9 July 2018)
2. Grass bank between Subways 10 and 11, between Old Manor and Easthampstead House (approx Grid ref: SU 873694). 3 PO. (9 July 2018)
3. Harvest Ride (SU 862 706). Not surveyed

Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*

1. Twin Bridges Roundabout complex (SU 863 689). South of Subway 37, BO x 7 (6 June). Zero BO at subway 32*. Grass was aggressively mown on both patches, so some Bee Orchids were almost certainly cut down. (6 June 2018)
2. Grass Bank behind Old Manor and Roman's (SU 873 694). BO x 1. (22 June 2018)
3. Felix Farm Trout Fishery, Binfield (SU 849 744). Not surveyed

John Ward-Smith email: teamws2@btinternet.com. 27 July 2018 and 2 April 2019

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



Right. Bee Orchid on Old Manor Bank.
Left. Heath-spotted Orchid at Owlsmoor.