

Forum report Wild Flower Group June 23

In June the wild flower walks group ventured into Cumbria to the Smardale Gill Nature reserve. The reserve is managed by the Cumbria Wildlife Trust who consider the location to be the best place to see wild flowers in Cumbria. The site is also home to red squirrels but they are best seen at dawn and dusk and so were not seen on our afternoon walk. We did however see a Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

A small group of 8 of us spent a pleasant afternoon in the hot sun looking at the flowers. There were numerous Orchids along the side of the old railway line. We saw some flowers that the group does not normally see in Teesdale including Enchanters Nightshade and Hoary Plantain. We also saw Salad Burnett but the flowers were not open yet. We knew from a notice board at the start of the walk that we could expect to see Bloody Cranesbill, just as we had turned back to head home Jenny Selley spotted this for us. A full list of the plants seen has been sent out to the group.

In July we will be visiting Hayberries Nature Reserve near Eggleston.

Kate Keen



Bloody Cranesbill



Smardale



Smardale Girls