

Milford Preservation Group

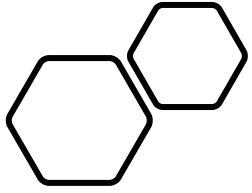


Milford Hollow

Rewilding Project

2021





Butchers Broom

- Butchers-broom: (*Ruscus aculeatus*) is an evergreen plant of dry woodland areas in southern England and is not uncommon in the woodlands of Dorset. It loves shade, is slow growing and is considered to be an indicator of ancient woodlands. What appear to be its leaves are actually flat stems, the plant has no leaves. These flattened stems are quite tough and have a very prickly end to them which gives it another name used in some parts - knee holly. This plant is, amazingly, a member of the lily family. The flowers appear in the centre of the flattened stems from January until April and are tiny. The flowers turn in to red berries, and they can be seen from October right through until the following May. Because of its tough, spiny stems it was apparently used by butchers to sweep the floors of their shops, hence the name, butcher's-broom.

Grow in railway end shaded are along with holly and Guelder Rose



Holly

Holly provides dense cover and good nesting opportunities for birds, while its deep, dry leaf litter may be used by hedgehogs and small mammals for hibernation.

The flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects. The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of the holly blue butterfly, along with those of various moths, including the yellow-barred brindle, double-striped pug and the holly tortrix. The smooth leaves found at the tops of holly trees are a winter source of food for deer.

The berries are a vital source of food for birds in winter, and small mammals, such as wood mice and dormice.



Guelder-rose

The guelder-rose is a small tree of hedgerows, woods, scrub and wetlands. It displays large, white flowers in summer and red berries in autumn, which feed all kinds of birds, including Bullfinches.



Grow in top Railway end with Butchers Broom

Red Champion (*Silene dioica*)

- Red champion is a well known and widespread wildflower, most common in light woodland and as a hedgerow plant. It does though also occur in meadows, especially around the edges and adds a welcome touch of pink in the late spring and early summer. The champions are good nectar sources for moths and therefore help to sustain out native bats. Long tongued bumblebees and the occasional butterfly will also feed from them and hoverflies can take the pollen. Several moth species including the aptly named Champion Moth lay their eggs, not on the leaves of this plant but in the flower head, and the growing caterpillars feed on the seeds.

Red champion will seed and spread gently in a meadow and is likely to occur in small discreet areas, never becoming too abundant.

- Grows well with Cow Parsley



- Common Sorrel (*Rumex Acetosa*)

- Common sorrel is a common, upright plant, often found in grasslands, and along woodland edges and roadside verges. It has slender leaves and attractive flowers that appear in May and June, peppering the green grasses of our meadows with crimson and pink. Its numerous other common names, from 'sour ducks' to 'vinegar plant', all allude to the fact that its leaves taste extremely tart and dry due to their high levels of oxalic acid.

- Common sorrel is a perennial with arrow-shaped leaves that grow from the stem at the base of the plant. Reddish flowers are carried on slender spikes.

- Prefers a sunnier spot



- Bluebell (*Scilla nutans*)

Bluebells are unmistakable bell-shaped perennial herbs. They actually spend the majority of their time underground as bulbs, emerging, often in droves, to flower from April onwards.

Leaves: are narrow, around 7mm to 25mm wide and 45cm in length. They are strap-shaped, smooth and hairless, with a pointed tip.

Flowers: usually deep violet-blue in colour, bluebells are bell-shaped with six petals and up-turned tips. These sweet-smelling flowers nod or droop to one side of the flowering stem (known as an inflorescence) and have creamy white-coloured pollen inside. Some bluebell flowers can be white or pink. Up to 20 flowers can grow on one inflorescence.

Plant around beech tree and protect with rustic fence



- **Harts Tongue Fern**

Lustrous, strap-shaped, wavy-edged, fresh green fronds, retained all year. This handsome, evergreen, hart's tongue fern is perfect for a shady woodland edge, shrub or mixed border. For the best results plant with bold swathes of shade tolerant perennials in humus-rich, well-drained, preferably alkaline soil.

Scaly Male Fern

Scaly male fern is a large fern, with older specimens developing a dense base which can measure 20–30cm in height and 30–40cm in width. It is a robust, exceptionally tough fern which forms a rosette of erect fronds up to 1.6 metres in length, with dense, golden scales on the stems.

It prefers woodland, shady hedges, stream banks and mountain ledges but tolerates full sun, dry soil and even exposed, windy positions. It also grows in heathland, moorland, in the open on hillsides and mountains and especially among rocks.

Ferns to be positioned at the side of paths



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Wild Daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus Lobularis*)

Narcissus are bulbous herbaceous perennials with linear leaves and leafless stems bearing flowers, which may be solitary or in umbels, with 6 spreading perianth segments and a cup or trumpet-shaped corona

English Primrose

The primrose, *Primula vulgaris*, is one of the most familiar signs of spring. Typically found in woodlands and beneath hedgerows, it thrives in damp shade in a variety of situations. It provides an early source of nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators, and is used as a caterpillar foodplant by several species of moth.

Grow *Primula vulgaris* in a cool, shaded spot such as a woodland border. It associates particularly well with [daffodils](#), which flower at the same time. Allow plants to self seed and naturalise around the garden.

Plant together on sloped bank



Sweet Woodruff 'Galium Odoratum'

Woodruff or *Galium odoratum* is found in woodlands and shady hedges. It is sometimes associated with *ancient woodland* and damp soils. It is a perennial that spreads and may form a 'carpet' or dense patches on the woodland floor.

Star like white flowers, show up well in woodland. Also known as Sweetscented bedstraw, wild baby's breath and master of the woods.

It is widely cultivated for its flowers and its sweet-smelling foliage. the plant is strongly scented, the sweet scent being derived from coumarin.

This scent increases on wilting and then persists on drying, and the dried plant is used in potpourri and as a moth deterrent.

Could be placed top end at edge of main path



Hellebore: *Helleborus Foetidus*

Flowers: February-May. Plant in part or full shade. HxS 60x45cm

This compact, evergreen perennial Hellebore has more finely divided, elegant foliage than most hellebores. Native to the UK. In spring the ferny clumps are joined by clusters of nodding, lime-green flowers with a purple rim, which are held on thick stems just above the tops of the foliage. The flowers last for several months. Tidy old foliage in early winter. Propagate by collecting seed or by careful division in May/June.

Plant top end near new path



Foxglove – Digitalis Purpurea

Velvet trumpets of pinky purple make this woodland native a must-have for wildlife gardens.

Their beautifully dappled blooms attract pollinating insects and are a favourite of our native bumble bees.

Quick and easy to grow, digitalis is ideal for naturalising and will attract bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects. Known commonly as foxgloves, this architectural plant will punctuate borders with spires of bloom. A hardy biennial, plants will grow a rosette of bright green, furry leaves in the first year, and produce a magnificent spike of spotted trumpets in their second year.



Enchanter's nightshade, *Circaea lutetiana*,

Enchanter's nightshade is a native plant common in woods or the borders of woodland, in shade or semi-shade. It thrives in moist, rich soils and can be a nuisance in gardens. This page looks at options for gardeners when enchanter's nightshade is becoming a problem.

Enchanter's nightshade can reach 60cm (2ft). Leaves are held opposite along the stems and basal leaves are usually heart-shaped.

Flowering occurs from June to August. Small (4-8mm) white flowers appear from pink buds on slender upright spikes.

Could be used in various places as a filler



WildGarlic

Plant either side of path

Bulbs



Wood Avens Herb Bennet Geum Urbanum

- common plant of hedgerows and woodlands, wood avens is also known as 'herb bennet'. Small, quickly drooping, yellow flowers appear on slender stems from May to August and are a good source of nectar. Wood avens is also a foodplant of the caterpillars of the grizzled skipper butterfly.

- **How to identify**

- Wood avens is a straggly, hairy plant that has downy, three-lobed leaves with toothed edge, and yellow flowers with five petals. The flowers appear in loose clusters and are replaced by spiky seed heads with red hooks that can easily get picked up by passing animals.

- 50 cm

- Source locally

- Shady Area – E bank – already there



Dog's Mercury – *Mercurialis perennis*

- perennial, dog's mercury is a medium-height woodland plant.

Leaves: large and long pointed oval-shaped leaves with toothed edges. They are bright green, hairy and crowded towards the top of the stem.

Flowers: are small and green. They flower in the spring.

Look out for: it covering the ground in ancient woodland.

It flourishes in woodland with a preference for living under oak, beech, ash and elm. Although it's mainly a plant of ancient woods, it can colonise new deciduous woodland very quickly. It favours shady areas and can also be found in hedgerows.

- Source Locally – plant in E

