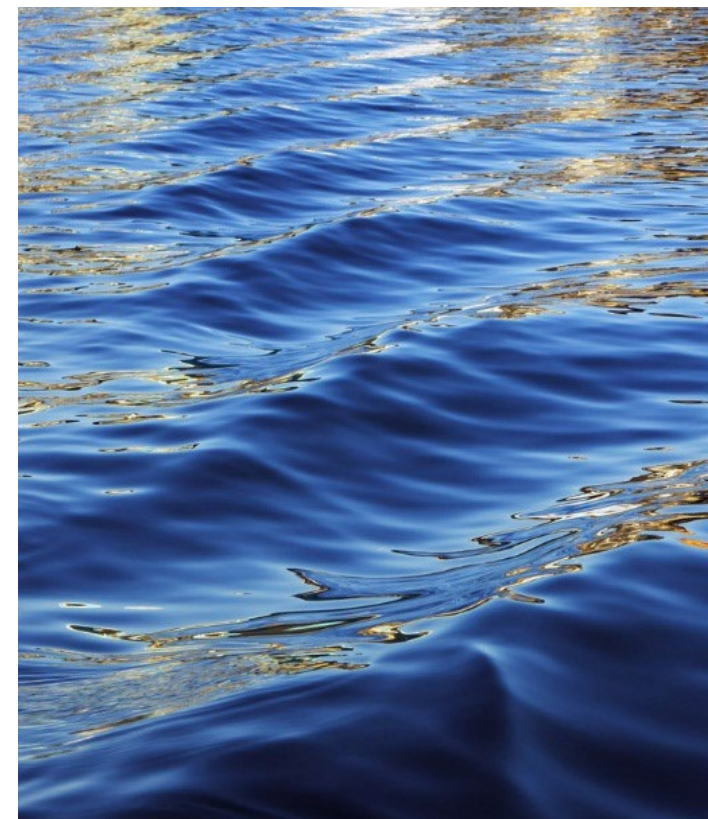




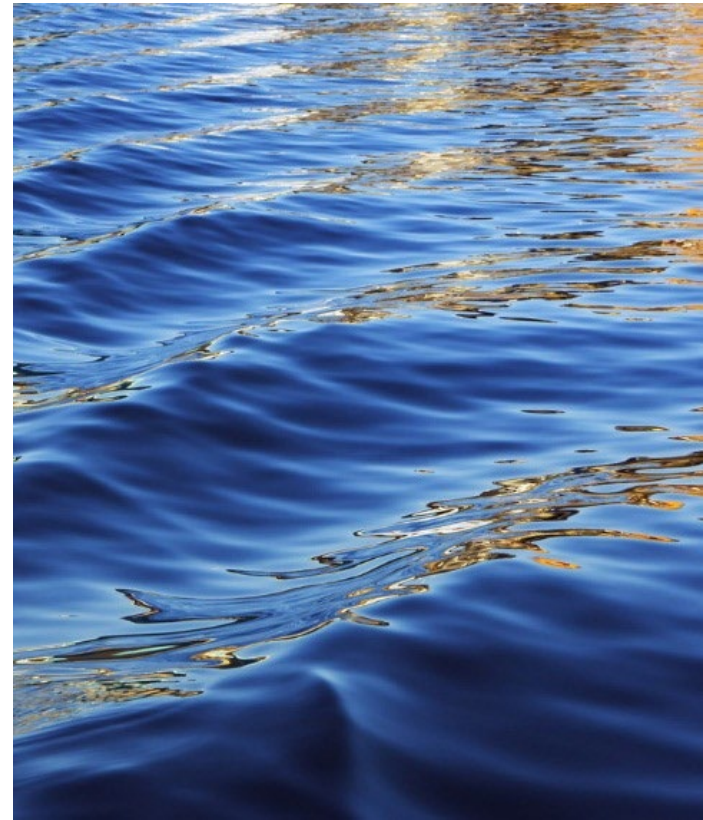
WELCOME TO
'Being greener'





Local Conservation and Biodiversity

Sarah Grinsted



Presentation

1. Local sites of conservation interest
2. Steeple Langford All Saints Churchyard
3. Himalayan Balsam in Grovely Wood

Local Sites of Conservation Interest

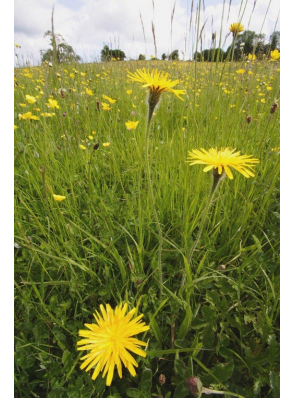
Steeple Langford All Saints Churchyard



In 2021, a botanical survey and map of the churchyard was completed which identified 63 different species, 17 of them characteristic of unimproved grassland.

Chalk grassland plants present included:

- Dwarf thistle
- Salad burnet
- Bird's foot trefoil
- Rough hawkbit



Also present were some grasses of note:

- Downy oat grass
- Meadow oat grass
- Small cat's tail
- Field woodrush



It is unlikely that artificial fertiliser has ever been used in the churchyard and this has kept fertility low, encouraging the growth of chalkland flowers which would be overwhelmed by vigorous coarse grass species under more fertile conditions.

With the support of Revd. Jonathan Plows and the grass mowing team, a new mowing regime has been established on an experimental basis, to encourage the growth and seeding of a variety of wildflower species.



This project supports the Eco Church work of All Saints.

Himalayan Balsam in Grovelly Wood

Himalayan Balsam is an invasive species that competes with native plants for space, light and nutrients and can lead to a loss of biodiversity.

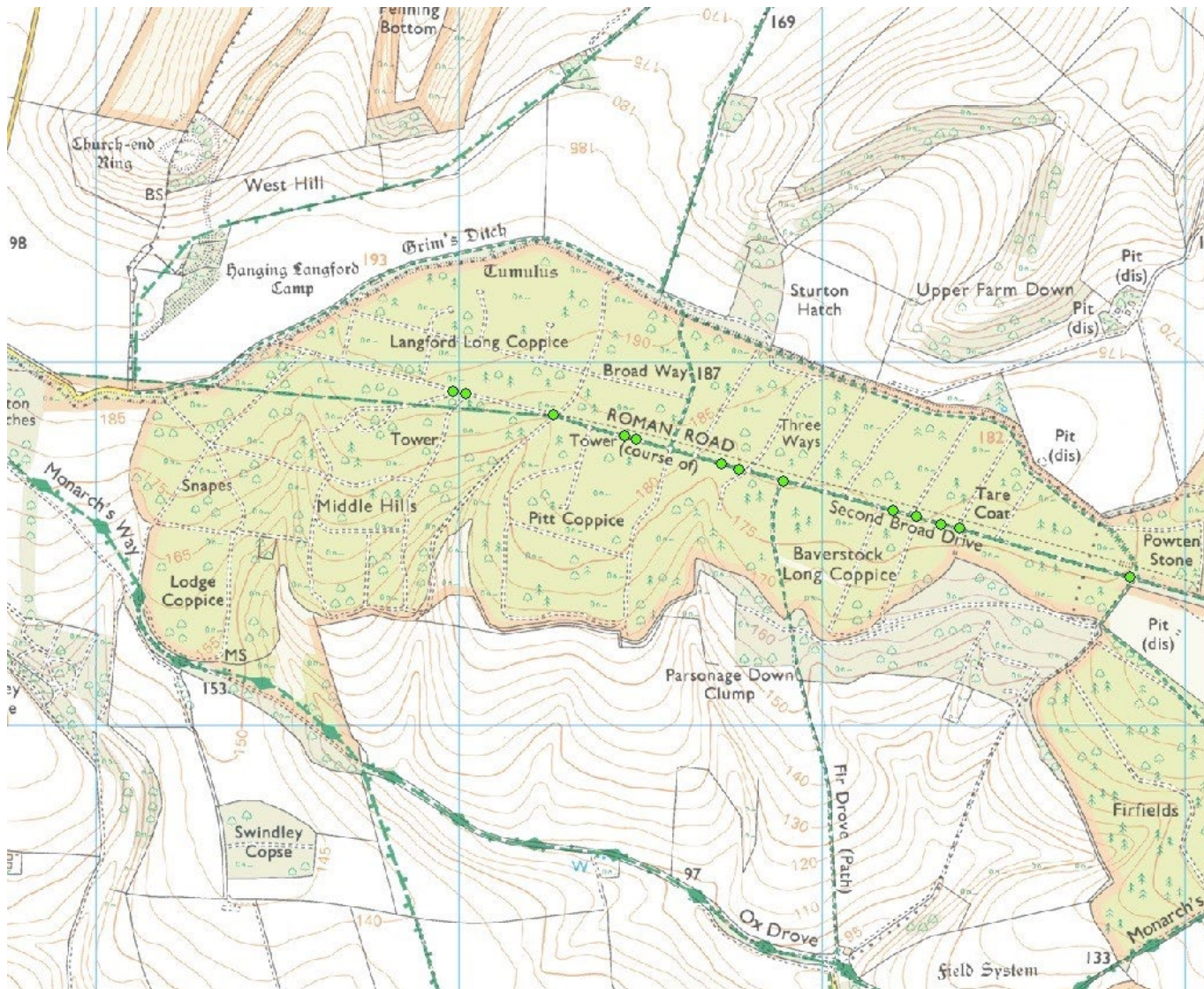


Himalayan Balsam was introduced to the UK in 1839 and spread rapidly. It is typically found alongside rivers and ditches, rather than in woodland.

The plant flowers from June onwards and produces seed pods between July and October. The seeds are released from the pods 'explosively' and can survive in the soil for up to three years.



It is illegal to plant Himalayan balsam in the wild.



Himalayan balsam is present in Grovely Wood.

A morning was spent in 2021 pulling up Himalayan Balsam from the central ride of the woods, but a systematic effort will be needed to have a significant impact.

The occurrences of the plant have been mapped using GPS in readiness for further action in 2022.

Himalayan Balsam is removed by hand pulling and leaving it to decompose in an open area.



The Forestry Commission have undertaken mowing and clearance of undergrowth to make the Himalayan Balsam in Grovely more accessible, and 3 or 4 work parties are planned for 2022 – volunteers are welcome!

Provisional dates in 2022 are:

- Saturday 11th June
- Saturday 23rd July
- Saturday 27th August
- Saturday 24th September

Contact: Sarah Grinsted

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JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

The screenshot displays a Facebook group page for "LEAF - Local Environment Action Friends". The browser's address bar shows the URL "facebook.com/groups/leafinthewyllyealley". The group's cover photo features the LEAF logo and the text "LOCAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION FRIENDS ...in the Wyllye Valley". The group is described as a "Private group · 79 members".

The main content area shows a post by Julie Strawson, an Admin and Group expert, dated 17 March at 13:15. The post is titled "What's on your mind, Julie?" and includes a link to "Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Langford Lakes" for an "Open Day & Plant Sale" on April 9th. The post text mentions a look at an electric car and making candy floss using car power.

Below the post is a green banner for the "Being greener" plant sale, scheduled for Saturday 9th April from 10am to 4pm. The banner also mentions "FREE ADMISSION", "FREE TRANSPORT - BOOK FAST!", and "In partnership with... Arts in the Langfords".

On the right side, there is a "Get started as a group expert" section with a progress bar showing "2 of 4 steps completed". The steps listed are:

- Add expertise to your group profile
- Share what you know in a Q&A
- Start to answer member questions (checked)
- Invite friends with expertise (checked)

The "About" section describes LEAF as a politics-free group formed in 2021 in response to Wiltshire Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency. It also indicates the group is "Private" and "Visible".

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including a presentation titled "Being Greener sli....pptx" and a document titled "LEAF Reduce Car....docx". The system clock shows 16:52 on 07/04/2022, with a weather forecast of "Rain coming".



LOCAL ENVIRONMENT ACTION FRIENDS
...in the Wyllye Valley