

SGU3A Natural History Group - 8th February 2023 - ST 7128 - Bright but cold

Winter Trees in Wincanton

Eight group members met for a walk identifying trees from their winter buds. We started at Cash's Copse on the high ground in Wincanton where pieces of shelly limestone were found. Later reference to the geological map identified this as Cornbrash which lays over Forest Marble, part of the Great Oolite Series in the Upper Jurassic.

Following the parkland downhill and then along the River Cale we identified many tree species. The size and colour of the buds and their arrangement on the stem were useful indicators. Some had catkins, flower buds, old fruit and seeds as useful clues.

- Ash
- Beech
- Cherry
- Elder
- Elm
- Field Maple
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Lime
- Pine
- Plane
- Privet
- Silver Birch
- Spindle
- Sycamore
- Walnut
- Wayfaring Tree
- Yew
- Hornbeam



Following the line of old lime trees down the hill



An old plane tree by the river

At the bridge over the River Cale an interpretive board shows pictures of the river wildlife, including bullhead, chub, kingfisher, grey wagtail and otter. Also the invasive species- American crayfish and Himalayan Balsam

We heard about the local organisation aiming to improve the river

CATCH - Community Action to Transform the Cale Habitat



Water-loving Weeping Willow and Poplar by the river

Oak in the park

