

Good morning Bryan,

As mentioned in my email to Nigel, when I have more time I will identify the Sciomyzidae and enter the records into an Excel spreadsheet, with grid references and any associated notes. Given Nigel's email to you, I presume that Rob and Alex are happy for me to share the records with DERC and the respective recording groups.

Hope that all well with you,

Alex

Alexander Butler
FWAG SW

From: Bryan Edwards <bryan.edwards@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 July 2025 16:06
To: nigelspring <nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk>
Cc: Alex Butler <Alex.Butler@fwagsw.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Wyke Farm Bioblast 18-20/7/2025

Many thanks for this Nigel.

It would be good to have site names and Grid Refs at some point, also some may be in Somerset?

Specodes scabricollis was recorded from Riscombe Coppice by John Hunnisett when he was undertaking surveys at Wyke farm. But there are only two other recent records from Dorset, despite its host being quite widespread.

Normad flavopicta is a good record, its host there may be *Melitta leporina* which I saw in the camp field two years ago.

Best regards,

Bryan

Bryan Edwards

Ecologist

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From: Nigel Spring <nigel.spring@yahoo.co.uk>

Sent: 30 July 2025 14:38

To: bryan edwards <b.edwards695@btinternet.com>; Bryan

Edwards <bryan.edwards@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: Fw: Wyke Farm Bioblast 18-20/7/2025

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sure the email is genuine (please see the [intranet](#) for more guidance).

Bryan, this list from Alex is the first so far for the latest Wyke Farm weekend. Would you like the records in a particular format to make life easier for you?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alex Butler <alex.butler@fwagsw.org.uk>

To: Nigel Spring <nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk>

Sent: Tuesday 29 July 2025 at 22:47:24 BST

Subject: RE: Wyke Farm Bioblast 18-20/7/2025

Good evening Nigel,

Lists of several groups of species below which I recorded at Wyke Farm on Friday, 18th July. Sorry for the long email – thought that some comment would be helpful.

Bees (Apoidea) – 15 species

- *Andrena subopaca*
- *Lasioglossum calceatum*
- *Lasioglossum pauxillum*
- *Lasioglossum zonulum*
- *Sphecodes scabricollis*
- *Megachile willughbiella*
- *Normada flavopicta*
- *Bombus hortorum*
- *Bombus lapidarius*
- *Bombus lucorum/magnus* (cannot reliably distinguish males, most likely *B. lucorum*)
- *Bombus pascuorum*
- *Bombus pratorum*
- *Bombus terrestris*
- *Bombus vestalis*

- *Apis mellifera*

Hoverflies (Syrphidae) – 23 species

- *Melanostoma mellinum*
- *Melanostoma scalare*
- *Platycheirus clypeatus*
- *Platycheirus rosarum*
- *Chrysoxum bicinctum*
- *Episyrphus balteatus*
- *Eupeodes corollae*
- *Eupeodes latifasciatus*
- *Sphaerophoria interrupta?* – I need to check against reference material
- *Sphaerophoria scripta*
- *Syrphus ribesii*
- *Syrphus vitripennis*
- *Cheilosia pagana*
- *Cheilosia soror*
- *Chrysogaster solstitialis*
- *Eristalinus sepulchralis*
- *Eristalis arbustorum*
- *Eristalis nemorum*
- *Eristalis pertinax*
- *Eristalis tenax*
- *Helophilus hybridus*
- *Helophilus pendulus*
- *Syritta pipiens*

Bee grabbers (Conopidae) – two species

- *Sicus ferrugineus*
- *Conops quadrfasciatus*

Butterflies – 11 species

- Small Skipper
- Small White
- Common Blue
- Red Admiral
- Painted Lady

- Peacock
- Silver-washed Fritillary
- Speckled Wood
- Gatekeeper
- Meadow Brown
- Ringlet

I also bought home some Sciomyzidae (snail-killing fly) specimens – several species – taken from various parts of the farm, which I have yet to look at and key out to species. I saw a couple of interesting craneflies but, given time constraints, did not even attempt to record them. Having already spent a couple of days on this, including the field work, I am slightly struggling for time. I will certainly get to the snail-killers at some point (and will prepare an Excel spreadsheet of the records, with grid references and any notes of what flower individuals were recorded on) but work and time with the children over the summer holiday more pressing at the moment.

I might state that I much enjoyed my walk around the farm on the 18th, it's a lovely patch of ground. Whilst I only touched the sides, I managed to cover a fair bit of ground from south to north and from east to west, including more agriculturally improved fields, although I tried to focus on the more species-rich areas. It was a pleasure to see all of the Saw-wort (a random favourite of mine) in Clover Ground, and it was also fun to see the Spiny Restharrow (another unjustifiable favourite) on the margins of the track on the rough triangle between Westground and Ashlands. I thought that the corner beyond Pylon Field was interesting (but worry that, if it's not grazed, the mosaic of grass and scrub might be lost?). The woodland ride (I think below Parson's Coppice) also great.

As far as the pollinators (bees and hoverflies) are concerned, other than the bumblebees, everything was pretty quiet. If approximating relative abundance of individual species by the DAFOR scale (very subjective, I appreciate), I would estimate that most species were rare – compared to the likes of the Gatekeeper, which I would have described as abundant. This written, I think I only saw one Painted Lady – and so would

have classified this as 'rare' too. Some of the bumblebees, in particular *Bombus lapidarius* (Red-tailed Bumblebee), were perhaps frequent, at least locally frequent. Quite a few bee and hoverfly species, particularly the bees, I only saw one or two individuals over about 10 hours in the field.

The *Sphexodes scabricollis* (Rough-backed Blood Bee) was probably the most exciting record, from my perspective. As you probably know, it's a cleptoparasite (a cuckoo bee), which are some of my favourite groups of bees; its host being *Lasioglossum zonulum* (Bull-headed Furrow Bee), which I also recorded on the holding. It's a relatively rare species (under-recorded?) and its mapped distribution in the more authoritative bee books does not include west Dorset – although Bryan's draft Atlas of Dorset Bees has a record in very close proximity (perhaps a Wyke Farm record?). Also fun to record *Nomada flavopicta* (Blunthorn Nomad Bee), a wasp lookalike cleptoparasite – although I missed recording its hosts at Wyke (the *Melittas*).

Trying to assess the species diversity after a single visit is probably pretty foolish. At other sites, where I've conducted three to six visits over the spring and summer period, I've recorded two to four times as many bees and hoverflies. I suspect that there's a similar amount of species at Wyke, with a bias to the hoverflies, given lie of the land and soil type. Lots of notable omissions from the above lists; common species I'd expect to find. As you appreciate, quite a few of the groups tend to be on the wing more in the spring eg the *Andrena*, and so I would simply have missed them – same with some of the woodland specialist hoverflies. This written, I expected to record more species and likely a reflection of the extended spell of hot, dry and sunny weather, with quite a few species of bee having completed their lifecycle in good time? Maybe too hot and dry for many of the hoverflies, hence fewer species seen(?) – Roger Morris and Stuart Ball have written about this.

For info, most bees and hoverflies recorded on the flowers of Marsh Thistle, Creeping Thistle, Black Knapweed, Fleabane and, around the farm pond, I think Upright Hedge-parsley.

Last thing, would Rob and Alex give consent or not to me sharing the data, once collated, with DERC and respective recording schemes eg BWARS and the Hoverfly Recording Scheme? I would be grateful if you could let me know.

I've got a few photos but mainly of habitat types and not species – do you want some of these? I presume not.

Again, I enjoyed the visit. Sorry to have missed the supper and the rest of the weekend. Hope that you had a good time. I look forward to seeing what other species were recorded over the weekend.

Best,

Alex

Alexander Butler

FWAG SW

From: Nigel Spring <nigelsspring@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: 29 July 2025 15:29
To: nigel spring <nigelsspring@yahoo.co.uk>
Subject: Wyke Farm Bioblast 18-20/7/2025

Thank you all for helping to make our surveying weekend at Wyke Farm such a success - one of the best, Rob says!