

17 November 2013

Giant Hogweed.



We walked the west bank of the River Skerne between the entrance to the Rockwell Nature reserve near the mainline railway bridge down to the £5 railway bridge last Sunday morning 17 November. We were looking for evidence of Giant Hogweed. We did find some large Hogweed leaves but they were Common Hogweed as the flower heads were small.

Part of the area is down a steep slope and has not been mown. The brambles and other tall plants that grow on waste areas such as Rosebay Willowherb and Hemp Agrimony have grown up. Some branches of willow trees have fallen down. At these sites we could not reach the riverbank and cannot be certain that there is no Giant Hogweed.

Bee Cause

You may already be aware that Friends of the Earth nationally are concerned about the falling bee population and the effect this has on pollination of plants including food crops.

In Darlington the group hopes to plant wild flower meadows with bee friendly plants and are looking for sites. The public parks are possibilities and I have suggested that the banks of the Skerne might also be planted. The group would wish to involve the local communities . We already have Friends of much of the area involved and it would be one way of welding the Friends of the River Skerne together.

EE, CS