

## **Evening Meeting of Fritillary Count Volunteers, Cricklade, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

### **Overview**

About two dozen delegates attended other than the Floodplain meadow Partnership attendees. Of these about one third contributed questions or comments. Most questions or comments were regarding fritillary ecology, mainly relating to their reproductive life cycle and factors controlling their distribution. Some questions were regarding the fritillary survey methodology which indicated that not all delegates had participated in the surveys in the past, and one delegate asked about what training was offered in relation to the fritillary surveys. Few questions or comments were made regarding the work on bees.

Whilst a minority of the delegates contributed to the meeting, those that did asked questions which suggested a significant level of knowledge and understanding regarding ecological science. Questions regarding fritillary distribution or reproduction were quite specific and therefore appeared to indicate reasonable prior knowledge. Furthermore, questions on survey methodology suggested that some delegates had past ecological survey experience.

### **Questions asked by public**

#### *Regarding fritillary ecology*

What percentage of fritillaries are white at Lugg Meadow? (from Peter Day, Kew)

Do historical factors or ecological factors best explain fritillary distribution at field/small scale?

The maps of fritillaries [at Lugg Meadow] show clustering. Were they more widely spread [in the past]? It would be nice to broaden its range.

Has there been any research on the longevity of the corms?

Has there been any work on seed viability?

How important is seeding to the viability of the fritillary population on meadows?

#### *Regarding the survey methodology*

What size quadrat do you use?

Do you count all plant species or just fritillaries?

What is the timing of the different quadrat surveys (at different sites)?

Would flowering [fritillary] plants be taller owing to the height of the flower?

Do you train volunteers to do botanical surveys as well?

*Regarding bees*

Are some [bee] nesting places in spoil banks?

**Other Comments**

It could be that other plant species then benefit from floods that knock back grasses.

You get most bees late in the year, personally I find they are queen bees.

You could use high-definition cameras to film quadrats to see what insects are visiting flowers [to follow a specific area in detail]

Delegate [from Wilts WT??] would be keen to do outreach work on bumble bees at Clattinger Farm

Emma asked if it was worth having a workshop again next years which seemed to receive a positive response.

**Requests to Partnership from public**

If you can get dates for monitoring visits, can you circulate them as soon as possible?

**Attachment**

MP3 sound file:

Cricklade Fritillary Volunteers Meeting 210113.mp3

Jim McGinlay