

Christchurch Churchyard Conservation Area in 2020

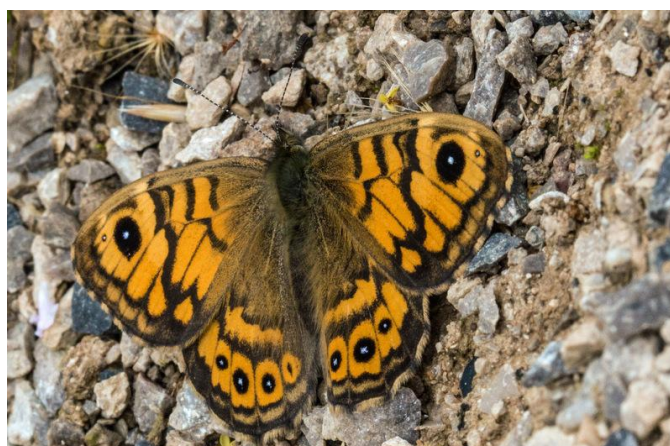
The area is managed to encourage wild flowers. Fifty flowering species were identified in 2019. This year two more have colonised the area.

Musk Mallow, a pretty but fairly uncommon species, turned up near the right hand hedge.

Tutsan (*Hypericum*), a native woodland plant belonging to St John's Wort family, appeared under the lime trees. Probably spread there by a berry-eating bird.



In August a third new exciting species was observed - the **Wall Brown butterfly**. The *Wall Brown* is an iconic butterfly of Derbyshire. It disappeared from Southern England in the last 20 years and is now a butterfly mainly restricted to the Peak District. The female Wall lays eggs on grasses at rocky outcrops or walls around the 300m contour. Gravestones and long grasses at 233m obviously attracted it! The last year or so has seen it trying to re-colonise former areas in Lowland Derbyshire and this sighting on the fringe of the Peak District is evidence for that.



The area was left to manage itself during lockdown! I hope to have it cut and raked by the end of August.

Penny Northall 26.8.2020