

Christ Church Sowerby Bridge – Graveyard Botanical survey 2019

Wild flowers and trees

Some are not native but introduced many centuries ago and are now widespread

Flowers

Bramble

Cleavers

Coltsfoot

Creeping Buttercup

Creeping Thistle

Common Dandelion

Feverfew

Native to the Balkans but grown throughout the world as a traditional medicine for headache /migraine

Field (Common) Poppy

Forget me not

Greater Plantain

Herb Bennet

Herb Robert (Robert's geranium) is a common species of Cranesbill

Native to Europe N. America, N Africa & parts of Asia

Ivy

Ivy- leaved toadflax (purple)

Ladies Mantle

Orange Hawkweed (Fox & Cubs) Spreads rapidly as a "weed"

Originally from Alpine, central & southern Europe

Ragwort

Rosebay Willowherb

Scarlet Pimpernel

Self Heal

Smooth Sow Thistle

Yellow Corydalis

Originally from the foothills of the alps in S. Europe

Trees

Copper Beech

Silver Birch

Willow



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Garden /Ornamental plants, shrubs

These were introduced from other parts of the world often by the Victorians as they collected interesting specimens and brought them home to their gardens.

Acer Palmatum or Japanese maple	(Japan, China, Korea, Russia)
Buddleia	(Asia, Africa & America)
Daffodils	(Mediterranean, China introduced by the Romans in 300BC)
Flowering Cherry	(Most decorative from Japan but much of Northern Hemisphere)
Hydrangea	(Asia, & N & S America)
Laburnum	(Mountains of S Europe) All parts of this plant are highly poisonous
Magnolia	(N, S & parts of Central America, South-east Asia, West Indies)
Pieris	(Mountain regions of Japan, Eastern & Southern Asia)
Rhododendron	(Asia, including Himalaya, Nepal but also China & America)

These can also become invasive. Look across towards Norland to see how they have spread from people's gardens to cover the hillside.

Spanish Bluebells

This is an invasive species

- It is not an offence to have Spanish bluebells or the hybrids on your land and you do not need to notify anyone of its presence. Listed as a Schedule 9 species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to plant or allow it to spread into the wild.

What's the problem?

- Spanish bluebell is a non-native species with widespread distribution over much of the UK and is thought to have been accidentally introduced to the wild from gardens.
- The plant spreads readily by seed and by underground runners which produce new bulbs. This species can also hybridise with our native bluebell changing native population genetics.



The centre of Sowerby Bridge is well away from a population of native English bluebells so we can enjoy these flowers without worrying that it would damage our native wildflowers.

Both types of bluebells are actually from the Hyacinthoides family as are hyacinth bulbs grown in the winter. The Spanish bluebell looks much more like a hyacinth flower. It stands stiffer and its leaves are thicker.



Compare this with an English Bluebell.

These are found in woodland, or what once was woodland. The flowers all hang from one side of the stalk, giving it a curved effect. It is strongly perfumed, its leaves are much narrower, and the plants are not "clumped". The UK is home to almost half of the world's population of bluebells.