

Rob Foster's elm notes on SD96 – July 2007

When I was in the Dales recently, I found I was actually staying in Swale Dale in target 10km square **SD99**. So I had the opportunity to look around - just for elms - the weather not being really good enough for there to be much prospect of seeing wlh butterflies. I also had a quick look around the km square SD9166 and tetrad for SD96 on limestone pastureland near Malham Tarn in the Yorkshire Dales and those for km square SD6640 and tetrad for SD64 on farmland and coniferous plantations on Longridge Fell near Clitheroe in Lancashire. Both of these had no elm in the km square but elm in the tetrad.

SD9166 - Target kilometre square for WLH Survey and its associated 2 km square on limestone plateau by Goredale Beck, east of Malham Tarn in the Yorkshire Dales

I conducted a search for elms on 27 7-07. The weather was overcast and windy, so **prospects of seeing wlh butterflies were low**.

The kilometre square SD9166 is sheep pasture on a limestone substrate and **is completely treeless**. None of the kilometre square falls below 350 metres and its greatest altitude is 430 metres.

The tetrad : None of the land in the 2 kilometre square falls below 350 metres and its greatest altitude is 530 metres. There are a couple of small walled "plantations" in the south corner of the tetrad. One of these, Great Close Plantation SD903 663 (350m), **contains a mature slender elm** about 40 ft high in good health and two others: one with some die-back and one dead but with shrubby sucker growth beginning at base. These were all of relatively small-leaved elm varieties.

The other walled plantation SD901 662 (350m) contained no elm, but there were 2 small/medium brown butterflies around creeping thistle in this copse. These disappointingly turned out to be Ringlet. However since **Ringlet is not marked as present for the 10km square in the Millennium Atlas**, this is still **perhaps worth reporting**.

I inspected the only other groups of trees in the tetrad around Middle House Farm SD 908 677 and along a footpath through Low Midge Hills SD 906 678; none of these contained elms. There were a number of small, small-leaved elms in the copse by Malham Tarn SD 897 665. However, although only 300 metres outside the tetrad, they are nevertheless not even included in the target 10km square.

SD96 10km square

I did not have time to investigate the rest of the 10km square. The area south of Malham in the Aire Valley seems of lowest altitude (minimum 170 m) and therefore the most promising for wlh. I noticed, in driving through, a wych elm of about 20ft by the bridge in Malham which looked just about mature enough to flower.

SD96 square can be marked as containing elms found in 2km square/ 1km searched.

I will place some of photos of the km square and tetrad and elms found on the blogsite www.whiteletter.multiply.com .

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