

Rob Foster's elm notes on SD99 – 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 submit a report below.

SD9895 - The target kilometre square for WLH Survey and its associated 2 km square on moorland, south of Swaledale in the Yorkshire Dales.

The kilometer square and the north half of the tetrad (Whitaside Moor), as viewed from the opposite side of Swaledale and from the road which runs nearby, **is treeless**.

The southern part of the tetrad (East Bolton Moor) could not be seen but there is no reason, from inspection of the map, to think it would not similarly be treeless. None of the kilometer square falls below 470 metres and the tetrad below 440 metres.

SD99 10km square

Swale Dale runs west-east across the middle of the square. The bottom of the dale, being the **lowest altitude area of the square, runs from 240 m in the west to 200 m in the east. This altitude gives only a borderline chance of wlh**, so far north.

I conducted a **search for elms on 25 7-07**. The weather was overcast and windy, so **prospects of seeing butterflies were remote**.

Shrubby wych elms and saplings running to about 25 ft are common along the B6270 road which runs up the dale. There are for instance groups at Feltham Woody 999 985 (200m - the lowest altitude elms in the 10km square), at the west end of Rowleth wood 965 977 (225m), west of Gunnerside New Bridge (237m) and east of Muker 948 977 (241m). Most of these seem immature and unlikely to flower. Away from this road, elms are relatively uncommon.

I did notice some mature elms, however, in a brief search of the 10km square. Notably, at Muker, in the grounds of a house by the bridge SD911 978 (240m), there is a **very large wych elm at 80ft+ trunk diam. >4ft** and a smaller elm 2ft in diameter next to it. These trees must be **the best prospect for wlh in the valley**. I spoke to the lady who owns of the house; she was aware of the rarity of the elm and interested to hear about the wlh survey.

There is also a large elm 60ft >3ft diam.at SD918 978 (245m) on the south facing slopes above the river. However, this was probably in too exposed a position for wlh.

There is a **copse containing a number of mature elms** (40ft 18 inch diam.) on the slopes below the B6270 road west of Muker SD923 976 (250m). This is in a sheltered position against a bank and represents **one of the better prospects for wlh**. There are also two 30ft trees on the slopes below the road further towards Oxhop Bridge. I noticed several elms including one mature elm of about 40ft on the lane between Oxhop Bridge and Ivelet Bridge SD 934 977 (240m).

There are 3 large elms >80ft >3ft diam. along the B6270, one at Aygill NY 889.003 (320m), and two, together, a little further along the road towards Keld at NY 889.006 (330m), but these are unfortunately about 1km outside of the 10km square.

Anyway the **SD99 square can be marked as containing elms found in 10km square/ 1km-2km 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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