

CORNISH OBSERVATIONS BY ROB FOSTER – JUNE 2007

SX1062 - I found **elm in the tetrad**, but I found **none in the target km square** although I searched most of it reasonably thoroughly. I identified **no WLH caterpillars pupae or butterflies**.(7-6-07)

SW7634 - I found **elm in the target km square**. I identified **no WLH caterpillars pupae or butterflies** (9-6-07).

Note 1: Many of the elms found were **Cornish Elms** which are very small-leaved (leaf body often only about 1 inch long) and, since the mature leaves are often smooth, easily mistaken for poplars at first glance. Most occurred in small clumps suggesting they may have come up as suckers from a tree which has been lost - generally they were 20ft -35 ft, but of trunk diameter no greater than 6 or 7 inches, suggesting they were not that mature. I saw **no seed clusters** on any of these trees, nor on the slightly larger (3-4 inch) leaved trees (on Carsew farm which are presumably Cornish elm hybrids even though one of these was over 40 ft tall and had a trunk over a foot in diameter. **I saw only one tree with seed clusters** (and these quite sparse). This was by the footpath by the river at SX100 634. It was an elm with large soft leaves with scarcely any surface hairs and was clearly of a type totally unrelated to the Cornish elm.

Note 2: I watched promising trees for about 15 minutes in hot sunny conditions. I saw no butterflies. It was, admittedly, a bit early to see them at the beginning of June, even though, in Cornwall, it might be reasonable for the flight period to be earlier than in the rest of the country. I did however scare-up several medium/small brown butterflies from sunny glades whilst In wandering about km square SW7634. These invariably flew into the canopy and I did not get a good look at them. They were probably Speckled Wood, but seemed a bit smaller. In both areas, oak is a predominant tree, so confusion with Purple Hairstreak is also a possibility.

More detailed Accounts

SW7634

The km Square

General Description

The kilometer square incorporates the T junction of the A394 with the A39. The traffic island junction is on the northern edge of the square and a further quieter road from this leads south into the village of Mabe Burnthouse about half of which lies within the square. A road running E-W from a crossroads in the middle of the village falls just within the southern edge of the square. A quarry (which is larger now than shown on the map) occupies some land on the western edge of the square. Access to this is restricted and in some cases bridle paths which used to cross this land have been diverted. The north east corner of the kilometer square is occupied by the Campus of Tremough College so access here is also restricted (though less rigorously). Never the less, there are a system of bridle-paths and footpaths which give access to a surprisingly well preserved wooded areas within the square. There are for instance footpaths through woods bordering the south side of the A394 and from the quarry lorry entrance on the A394 south to Carnsew Farm which occupies the centre of the square.

Access Issues

At the entrance to the drive to Carnsew Farm is a sign saying beware Alsatian Dog. So initially I avoided the farm. However, when I approached a local cabinet maker regarding information on local trees, he told me that the owner was the man most likely to know. He said that the dog was not likely to be aggressive especially if addressed by his name which was Alto. Nevertheless, I approached the farm by car. The owner came out with his dog who indeed seemed quite friendly. He showed me the elms in his farm of which he seemed quite proud and said I could come back and look at them any time I wanted.

Areas searched and routes walked

I walked most of the footpaths bridle-paths and roadsides within the kilometer square. I also inspected trees in the fields north of the A394 and surrounding the car parking area of Trenough College in the north-east corner of the square.

Elms found and WLH seen

SW7634

SW762 343 : Carnsew Farm. There were three slender elms of about 20ft, 25ft and 35 ft in the hedgerow at the edge of the yard alongside the barn and a more substantial elm about 45ft with a trunk diameter of about 1ft. Leaves on these trees were intermediate in size between those of Cornish elms and regular elms (leaf-body about 3 or 4 inches). I could see no seed capsules on any of these although it was not easy to see the canopy of the largest tree. There were also two Cornish Elms (25 ft and 35ft) with smaller leaves at the end of a grassed lane about 100 metres below the Barn. These also had no seed clusters. In addition there was an area of elm saplings nearby where Paul had planted out suckers of the Cornish Elms. *Lower branches of all these trees were inspected for caterpillars and pupae none found. Canopies watched in sunny conditions for about 15 minutes. No butterflies seen.*

SW768 347 : Lane leading off A39 signed "No access to Trenough College". In hedgerow field edge on the right after it turns to the right towards farm and cottages. Several slender elms about 20-30 ft. Medium size leaves. No seed capsules. *Lower branches of all these trees were inspected for caterpillars and pupae none found. Canopies watched in sunny conditions for about 15 minutes. No butterflies seen.*

Extended search of the Tetrad and 10 km Square

This was not attempted