

Saltmarshe Hall May 2025 Wild Things visit

A last-minute change of programme, due to Beverley Races putting parking at Burton Bushes at risk, took us to Saltmarshe Hall Open Gardens. This was a more-than-usually civilised outing for us, a stately home with a walled garden, plus toilets and a café, sheer luxury.

The gardens were lovely, with plenty of pollinator-friendly planting, but for many of us the best moment was when we walked through a row of trees to see the whole languorous expanse of the River Ouse gliding past us, all big skies and the distant Lincolnshire Wolds. It took a while for us to orientate ourselves, as the tide was coming one way while the river flowed another towards the sea.

Saltmarsh Hall itself is early 18th century but the Saltmarshe family have owned the land around here from 1313 to 1974. Now it's an isolated location along endless narrow country roads but the Trans Pennine Trail passes it, and a few of us wanted to come back and walk this remote part of it.



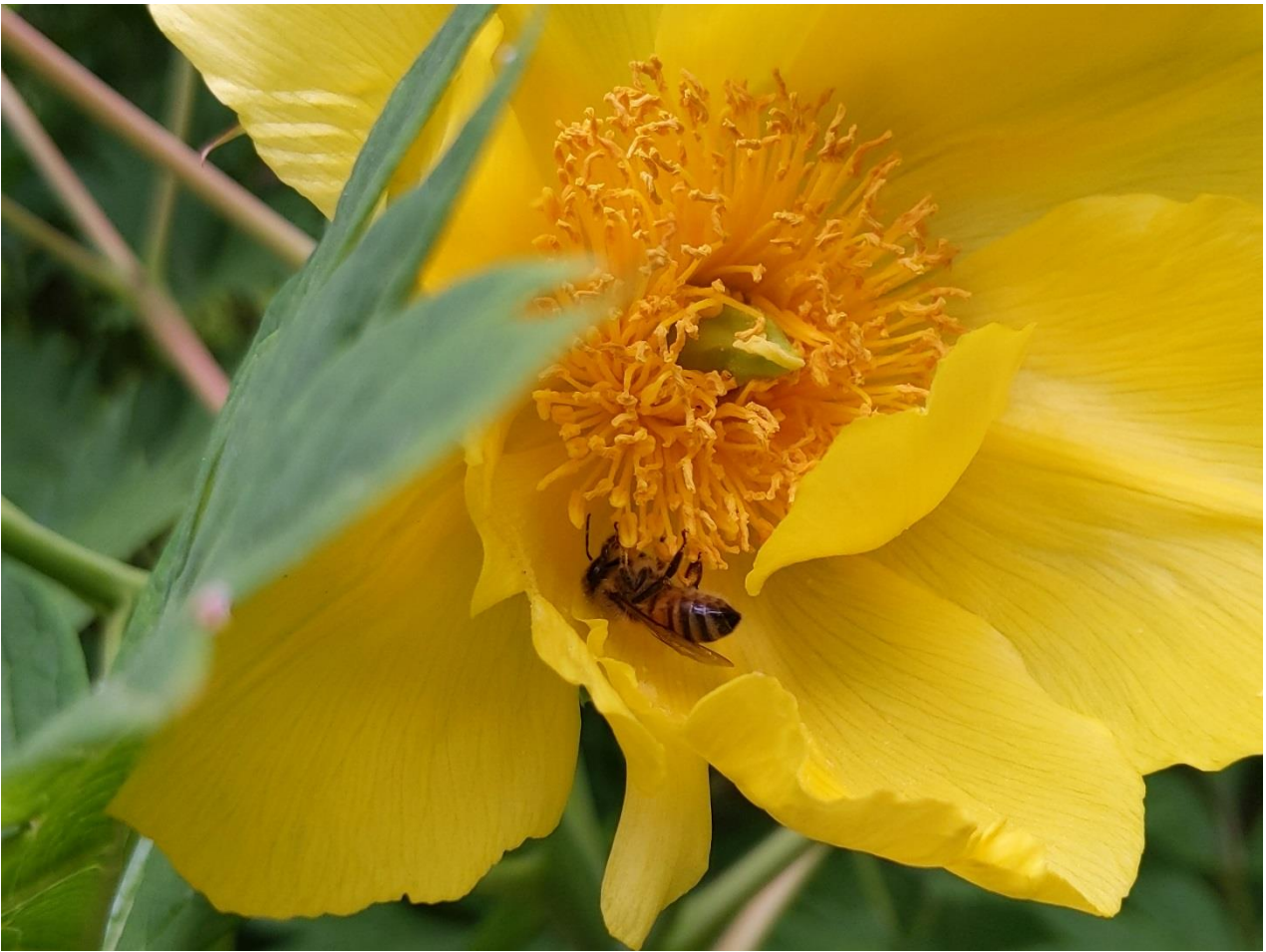
Above: the group by the pond

The weather wasn't brilliant for wildlife, but I did manage a few insect photos, as the dull weather kept them sluggishly lurking among the vegetation.

It was useful to see which flora in the walled garden were most attractive to pollinators: Choisya, Centaurea, and surprisingly the Tree Peony were very popular.

The Lily Sawflies infesting the lilies around the pond would not have been popular with the gardeners. The pond was alive with midges too, fortunately the non-biting variety.

Page 2: Honeybees on Tree Peony and Choisya. Page 3: Spider on Tree Peony and Common Carder Bee on Centaurea.







Above: mating Dock Beetles crawl over a snail.

Right: a Running Crab Spider waits for prey. Stationary until an insect arrives, they can move very fast. This is probably a male as it has swollen palps. Very effective ambush predators, they don't need webs to catch prey.

Page 5: by the Ouse, p.6 Lily Sawfly and a Euphorbia.

HK May 2025





