

EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH - Hoverflies recorded since 2000

By Stuart Paston

Last updated 18th May 2023.

Species	Comments
<i>Baccha elongata</i>	This distinctive slender species is found hovering low usually close to shrubs or beneath trees in shaded places but is easy to overlook.
<i>Brachyopa insensilis</i>	Recorded May 2009, TG211089 and in May 2020 (Will Nash) on sap runs on Horse Chestnut. At least four (of which two were definitely males) at a sap run on Beech on 16 th May 2023 (Vanna Bartlett).
<i>Cheilosia bergenstammi</i>	A male of this widespread species was found on ragwort flowers TG211090 on 22 July 2014. The larvae mine the stems and roots of ragwort which was particularly in evidence during 2014.
<i>Cheilosia illustrata</i>	Frequent/common. Associated with hogweed. Seemingly absent in 2021 and 2022.
<i>Cheilosia impressa</i>	Female found feeding on Creeping Buttercup by James Emerson on our monthly walk 10 th June 2018. Presumably a wanderer from nearby wet habitat.
<i>Cheilosia pagana</i>	Common and widespread in the Cemetery both in wooded and more open areas where it visits a variety of flowers.
<i>Cheilosia proxima</i>	Female on embankment near Dereham Road gate TG212091 in May 2002. On 8 September 2021 : males hovering over grassland beneath trees at two locations - TG211090, not far from the main Bowthorpe Road gate and TG213089, where there is a windy path flanked by Spindle, Hawthorn and Grey Poplar.
<i>Cheilosia ranunculi</i>	A male, grassland TG213089, May 2002. Male on flower head of bulbous buttercup TG214089 May 2013. A male on nettle leaf in south eastern corner of Cemetery TG214087 on 16 May 2016, both bulbous and meadow buttercup, probable foodplants, present in vicinity.
<i>Cheilosia variabilis</i>	Males present near Dereham Road gate TG212091 June 2002.
<i>Cheilosia vernalis</i>	Few records over the years but likely to be an established resident. Recorded visiting creeping cinquefoil TG211086, August 2009 and a male present in open woodland area Section 17, TG214089 in May 2013.
<i>Chrysotoxum bicinctum</i>	Infrequent, always as singletons found in sheltered grassy areas usually close to trees or shrubs. Recorded ovipositing on war graves lawn TG214090.
<i>Chrysotoxum festivum</i>	Common in open areas including war graves lawn. Males hover over turf along pathways. Associated with ant nests.
<i>Chrysotoxum verralli</i>	One recorded on Euonymus flowers TG211086 August 2009.
<i>Criorhina berberina</i>	One (var. oxyacanthae) recorded on Euonymus flowers TG211086 August 2009.
<i>Criorhina ranunculi</i>	Male of red-tailed form recorded at rotten base of horse chestnut TG211089 April 2009. As with other species

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	dependent on rotten wood, breeding sites are limited in the Cemetery.
<i>Dasysyrphus albostratus</i>	Frequent. Can be numerous about tree foliage and flowers of <i>Euonymus japonicus</i> . A parasitic wasp <i>Syrphoctonus tricolor</i> was reared from a larva found on a fallen grey poplar leaf on 9 Nov 2003. Determination by Graham Rotheray.
<i>Dasysyrphus tricinctus</i>	Rather infrequent but probably overlooked. Recorded on field maple flowers TG212088.
<i>Dasysyrphus venustus</i> SL	Found basking on the foliage of the outer perimeter hedge of the Jewish Cemetery (TG209089) on 10 th April 2020. Unable to secure it to look at in more detail, so there remains the possibility that it was <i>D. neovenustus</i> , a recently separated species. Neither <i>Dasysyrphus venustus</i> or <i>D. neovenustus</i> has previously been recorded in Earlham Cemetery. <i>Dasysyrphus venustus</i> is widespread in spring in suitable wooded areas in Norfolk but seldom found in numbers. <i>D. neovenustus</i> is associated with Scots Pine in its known localities to date. Flight periods of both species overlap.
<i>Didea fasciata</i>	A woodland species mainly recorded from the north eastern part of the Cemetery. First recorded in Sept 2003, male basking on beech foliage TG213089. Subsequently found (both sexes) about ivy TG212090 in Sept and Oct 2003. In 2004 found visiting whitebeam flowers TG212090 in May, <i>Euonymus japonicus</i> flowers TG213090 in August and at ivy blossom TG212087 in autumn. Last recorded in early Nov 2005 at the initial site but following a long period with no sightings, a female was seen on Yew foliage TG213091 on 21 June 2022 by Stuart Paston and a male observed on Sycamore foliage TG213090 on the next day. Proof of its occurrence more widely in the Cemetery came with sightings much further to the west in autumn of the same year by Vanna Bartlett including one at Ivy blossom.
<i>Epistrophe diaphana</i>	A female was found at hogweed flowers in grassland TG213089 on 30 June 2016 – the first record for the site. This species has been extending its range northwards in the UK in recent years with the first Norfolk record in 2007 although it remains infrequently recorded in the County. It's similarity to common species of <i>Syrphus</i> and some <i>Epistrophe</i> whose woodland habitat it shares means that close scrutiny of suspected individuals is required and it is likely to be regularly present; a further confirmed female was found in a grassy wooded clearing TG214089 on 20 June 2022.
<i>Epistrophe eligans</i>	Common spring species found visiting flowers of shrubs such as box, cherry laurel and hawthorn.
<i>Epistrophe nitidicollis</i>	Recorded near Dereham Road gate: a male around beech tree TG213091 in May 2002. Overlooked subsequently but confirmed in the same area in May 2013 when a male was found on beech foliage. Observed

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	at 4 locations in 2020 including woodland east of South Lodge for the first time. Present in north eastern section in 2022 when seen visiting hawthorn.
<i>Epistrophe grossulariae</i>	Frequent, usually in small numbers, but at least 20 on hogweed flowers in sheltered wooded clearing TG210088 in late July 2008. Sightings very irregular thereafter but one recorded on Sycamore foliage TG213090 in July 2022.
<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	The Marmalade Hoverfly - very common, usually abundant in summer when boosted by immigration. Some adults overwinter and are active on mild days when they visit Mahonia.
<i>Eristalinus sepulchralis</i>	A wanderer from wetland areas twice recorded as singletons at flowers, the last record July 2007.
<i>Eristalis arbustorum</i>	Visits a range of flowers in open areas. Sighting have been infrequent in recent years.
<i>Eristalis horticola</i>	Usually occurs near shrubs but no sightings made in recent years for a species that is scarce in Norfolk.
<i>Eristalis intricaria</i>	A furry bee mimic that exhibits very variable colour patterns. Males are frequently observed in the Cemetery as they hover above grassland often near stands of hogweed or about flowering hawthorn.
<i>Eristalis nemorum</i>	Not easy to separate from <i>arbustorum</i> in the field. Visits flowers such as hogweed in wooded parts of Cemetery but few observations in recent years
<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>	Common. One of the more numerous flies on hogweed at times but visits a wide range of flowers.
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	The Dronefly. Very common. Uses a wide variety of flowers, numerous on ivy blossom in autumn.
<i>Eumerus strigatus</i>	Larvae develop in bulbs including garden daffodil. Infrequently observed but easily overlooked.
<i>Eupeodes corollae</i>	Migratory species that can occur in large numbers some years but scarce/absent in others.
<i>Eupeodes luniger</i>	Very common widespread species of open habitat. Numbers boosted by migration.
<i>Ferdinandea cuprea</i>	A woodland species whose larvae develop in sap runs. An adult was observed on a horse chestnut trunk TG211089 in May 2011. Also seen on 27 th July 2017 by Vanna Bartlett on a Dandelion flower at TG213088 and on 21 st August 2017 by James Emerson, on a yellow composite flower. Observations made on shrub foliage TG213089 in 2022 (Stuart Paston).
<i>Helophilus hybridus</i>	A male was seen and photographed by Vanna Bartlett on 8 April 2017 on <i>Muscari</i> at grid ref TG210087. It had probably wandered across from either the Yare or Wensum Valley wetland. Vanna and Jeremy Bartlett saw and photographed another male on 11 April 2017 on Green Alkanet flowers just west of St. Thomas' Road TG213087.
<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	Common species. Frequent about bramble. Congregates about pond edge in Memorial Garden in summer.

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<i>Leucozona laternaria</i>	A female of this species was recorded visiting hogweed and investigating the foliage for aphids on plants beside a grass path TG213089 on 30 June 2013. Present on hogweed TG213091 in 2014 and in July 2015 TG210089. Last recorded in June 2017, an individual at path side Hogweed near the war graves lawn close to Dereham Road. (SP).
<i>Leucozona lucorum</i>	Regularly occurred on the embankment near Bowthorpe Road close to Dereham Road entrance until 2004 following which no sightings were made in the Cemetery until 4 June 2015 when a male was found about cow parsley in the same area as before TG213091. It had never been recorded elsewhere in the Cemetery. In May 2016 a female was found at cow parsley in the woodland area east of South Lodge TG213087 followed by further sightings of males in early June east of the Dereham Road entrance and in the wooded area close to the Jewish Cemetery. There seems to be a tendency to disappear from previously known locations and reappear elsewhere and it has as a consequence escaped observation in some years. Found at Hawthorn blossom TG213089 in 2022.
<i>Mallota cimbiciformis</i>	A nationally scarce species whose larvae develop in water-filled rot holes in trees. A male was seen at a rot hole on 26 June 2022 (Vanna Bartlett) and again on 27 June 2022 (Vanna & Jeremy Bartlett). This appears to be only the second record of this species from Norfolk; the first was at Felbrigg.
<i>Melangyna cincta</i>	A woodland species, the larvae mainly developing on aphids on beech. Recorded at whitebeam flowers in north eastern part of Cemetery TG213090 in late May 2004. Subsequently overlooked until May 2013 when males present about flowers of box TG213090 and on beech foliage in the same area. In 2020 it was found in significant numbers at sites where Grey Poplar was present in the north eastern section with male aggregations beneath trees overhanging paths. (SP). One male seen a Beech leaf, 16 th May 2023 (VB).
<i>Melangyna labiatarum</i>	Hoverflies determined as this species have been recorded in the north eastern part of the Cemetery on occasions including June 2002 when males were hovering over embankment beneath lime tree TG212091. Flowers visited include hogweed and <i>Euonymus japonicus</i> .
<i>Melangyna umbellatarum</i>	A female of this scarce species was found at flowers of spindle TG213089 on 4 June 2016. This was a new record for the Cemetery. It can be distinguished from <i>labiatarum</i> by its white abdominal markings and shiny thoracic dorsum.
<i>Melanostoma mellinum</i>	Common. Similar in appearance to <i>scalare</i> (females) but invariably confined to open areas of long grassland where it is often numerous.

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Melanostoma scalare	Very common species. Often to be found hovering beneath trees in shady spots and visits a variety of low growing flowers. One of the earlier species to emerge.
Meliscaeva auricollis	Common. Some adults clearly overwinter as they are seen on mild days in the winter months. A species found about shrubs and the lower parts of trees. Very scarce/absent some years.
Meliscaeva cinctella	One observed on hogweed in sheltered wooded clearing adjoining Memorial Garden TG210088 in late July 2008 and another observed at water mint beside Memorial Garden pond early Sept 2009. Also recorded at water mint at same location on several dates in Sept 2013 – always females. Female at privet blossom late June 2014. SP has recorded the species regularly since 2020 in the north eastern section.
Merodon equestris	Large Bulb Fly. The larvae develop in bulbs of bluebell and daffodil and the species is widespread in the Cemetery.
Myathropa florea	Very common. Occurs about the lower foliage of trees and is numerous on a variety of flowers notably hogweed, blossom of many trees, Euonymus japonicus and ivy. Small sized specimens occur in the summer population.
Parasyrphus punctulatus	Early spring species recorded about fir (Abies) TG213089 in April 2002 and occurring elsewhere in the north eastern part of the Cemetery. Present at Buxus flowers TG213090 in April 2013.
Pipiza noctiluca	A woodland edge/hedgerow species that is likely to be established in the Cemetery despite infrequent observations. Usually found on foliage but has been recorded visiting Aucuba (Spotted Laurel) flowers TG211086.
Pipizella viduata	This and the next species are very similar small dark hoverflies. P.viduata is a common species recorded quite frequently in the north eastern part of the Cemetery. Also recorded in grassland TG211088 north of Memorial Garden in June 2013.
Pipizella virens	A male recorded in grassland near Dereham Road gate TG213091 in 2002.
Platycheirus albimanus	A very common species to be found visiting low growing flowers.
Platycheirus rosarum	A wetland species that was a surprising temporary resident in 2002, occurring in the north eastern part of the Cemetery close to the Dereham Road gate where on one occasion females were seen apparently ovipositing on decaying vegetation on lushly grassed pathways. Sightings were made between 6 May and 22 August but it has not been recorded subsequently.
Platycheirus scutatus	Likely to be widespread but easily overlooked among similarly sized species. A male was recorded at water mint flowers beside the Memorial Garden pond in Sept

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	2013. A male was present at ivy blossom TG209089 in late September 2014.
<i>Rhingia campestris</i>	A male of this distinctive species was observed visiting primrose in the area near the Dereham Road entrance TG213091 on 24 April 2015. A short while before, the author had recorded a male visiting bluebell in nearby Sycamore Crescent Wood. Given the previous absence of sightings it is likely to be an erratic visitor to the Cemetery drawn in some years to the abundance of flowers in spring. Vanna Bartlett photographed a female of this species on Green Alkanet flowers in the Cemetery just west of St. Thomas' Road TG213087 on 11 April 2017 and a male was photographed in the same spot on 15 th April 2017.
<i>Scaeva pyrastris</i>	A migrant species scarce or absent in some years but numerous in others.
<i>Scaeva selenitica</i>	Nationally this is a scarce but well scattered species with a known association with pine and spruce, both occurring in the Cemetery. The first record was of a male observed on a cow parsley umbel TG212090 in May 2002, with further sightings in June in the same area. On 27 December 2003 one was briefly observed on ivy foliage not far from the Burial Chapel. The following year one was seen on flowers of <i>Euonymus japonicus</i> TG213090 in early August. The most recent record involved another doubtless overwintering individual, one being present on <i>Aucuba</i> foliage in the Memorial Garden on 16 Dec 2012.
<i>Sericomyia silentis</i>	An occasional wanderer from wetland habitat. Recorded in July, August and September 2002, visiting ivy blossom in autumn. Singleton males recorded at ivy blossom TG213089, TG212087 in late Sept /early Oct 2013 and has been recorded in some subsequent years at this floral source by SP and VB.
<i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i>	A very common species of flower rich grassland.
<i>Syritta pipiens</i>	A common species often found about bramble thickets and a visitor to ivy blossom in the autumn.
<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	Common species found visiting a range of flowers and generally numerous about woodland canopy.
<i>Syrphus torvus</i>	A woodland species. Requires close scrutiny to separate from <i>ribesii</i> and <i>vitripennis</i> but annually present.
<i>Syrphus vitripennis</i>	Often abundant species although in common with other <i>Syrphus</i> species it had a poor year in 2012. Numbers are boosted by migration.
<i>Volucella bombylans</i>	Frequent in wooded areas near shrubs and thickets. Visits bramble and lime blossom.
<i>Volucella inanis</i>	Frequently observed in the Cemetery since becoming established in west Norwich at the turn of the century. Often found on hogweed and other flowers visited by <i>V.zonaria</i> .
<i>Volucella inflata</i>	On 23 July 2015 James Emerson found and photographed a male of this species on buddleia beside

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	the main roadway from Earlham Road. This species has increased markedly in Norfolk since 2012 prior to which it was rare. This is the first record from Norwich known to the author.
<i>Volucella pellucens</i>	Common. Males are conspicuous as they hover in shafts of sunlight in wooded areas, invariably numerous near the Dereham Road gate. Visits bramble blossom.
<i>Volucella zonaria</i>	Striking hornet mimic frequently observed in the Cemetery since becoming established in west Norwich in 2007. Among flowers visited are bramble, <i>Euonymus japonicus</i> , <i>Tetradium</i> and ivy. Six were seen basking on sycamore TG213090 early morning 15 July 2012.
<i>Xanthandrus comtus</i>	A female of this infrequently recorded migrant was found visiting hogweed beside the south perimeter of the war graves lawn TG213090 on 26 June 2014.
<i>Xanthogramma pedissequum</i>	Frequent in grassy areas especially where turf is short and some bare ground exists. Regularly seen hovering in such places as lawns and regularly maintained grass paths. Associated with ant nests.
<i>Xylota segnis</i>	Frequent in wooded areas of the Cemetery where individuals can be observed running over foliage. No records of visiting flowers.
<i>Xylota sylvarum</i>	Infrequent recorded. Observations include a male around the rotten base of a holm oak TG212087 in August 2010 and a later male around an oak stump. Larvae develop in rotten wood. A male was seen on Sycamore foliage TG213090 in July 2022.

