

Wild Flowers by Fownhope's Footpaths

June - July

The greatest variety and number of wild plants in Fownhope grow in the woodland and grassland on the Silurian limestone ridges. Many wild plants also grow along the river bank, roadside verges, hedgerows and in old orchards.



Figwort – along ditches, streams and damp places in woodland. This tall handsome plant has clusters of small flowers at the top of square stems. Each flower is a 'capsule' with mauve-red petals and yellow stamens.



Blackberry or Bramble – woodland, hedgerows and uncultivated places. Often forming 'clouds' or 'banks' of delicately white to pink rose-like flowers. There are hundreds of micro-species. Of great value for insects and also provides dense cover for wonderfully concealed nesting sites. The berries forming from the flowers at the tip of stems ripen first into the largest and sweetest fruits of all.



Yellow Rattle – unfertilised grassland and verges. The yellow two-lipped flowers often have two purple ‘teeth’. They develop brown papery ‘purses’ inside which the seeds rattle when they are ripe. Abundant in the limestone grassland on Common Hill.



Eyebright – grassland. This short stemmed remarkably delicate plant has small, violet-white flowers often with purple veins and a yellow spot. Abundant in uncut, unfertilised early summer meadows.



Woundwort – verges, gardens and disturbed ground. Quite roughly hairy with a distinctive smell. The almost orchid-like flowers are a dark purple beetroot colour with white blotches in whorls at the top of the square stems.