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## Dear Flora Group member

The Flora Group committee members hope that you have enjoyed botanising this year and we hope to see you at some of the forthcoming events. Please note that booking is essential for the Flora Group events advertised in this edition of *Flora News*. Thank you.

This edition of *Flora News* provides details of events scheduled between December 2024 and August 2025. We look forward to welcoming Flora Group members to our winter get-together at Testwood Lakes Education Centre on Saturday 7 December 2024 when we will hold our brief Annual General Meeting. Details can be found on page 3.

By popular demand, Andy Cross and Martin Rand will be hosting a two-day workshop on the identification of grasses. During June, Martin will be leading a workshop aimed at beginners and near-beginners who want to develop their botanical skills with the use of a field guide. Other events that Martin will be leading include a plant hunt in December, a spring woodland visit in the Ampfield area and an opportunity for botanical recording in an under-recorded, rather remote part of the New Forest.

Tony Mundell has arranged a visit to Shortheath Common during mid-June when we'll have an opportunity to study the margins of Shortheath Pond and explore the wet heath and bog habitats.

Tristan Norton is proposing to arrange a coastal grassland field meeting on Hayling Island during early May 2025, a visit to Broadmarsh (Havant) in late June 2025 and a day on the Malshanger Estate in early July to see a range of arable species, including Large Venus's Looking-glass *Legousia speculum-veneris*. He is keen to run a couple of shorter evening visits as these proved to be popular in 2024; potential sites for evening visits in late-June to mid-July 2025 are the Barton Farm estate in Winchester (for species of disturbed ground) and Ipley for some New Forest specialities. Tristan is also contemplating a visit during August or early September to see late summer botanical treats in the Cadnam area of the New Forest. Details of these events will be published in the Spring 2025 edition of *Flora News*.

We are very grateful to the committee members who have kindly offered to arrange and lead these meetings. Help with organising and/or leading future Flora Group events would be greatly appreciated. If you are willing to help, or would like to find out about what is involved, please get in touch with any of the current Committee members: Catherine Chatters, Clive Chatters, Andy Cross, Isobel Girvan, Gareth Knass, Tony Mundell, John Norton, Tristan Norton, Martin Rand, Neil Sanderson and Cathy Wilson. We welcome your suggestions for future Flora Group activities and encourage you to raise your ideas with the committee.

Would you like to share transport to Flora Group events? Rob Still has set up a WhatsApp group so that people can contact each other and arrange lifts to Flora Group events. If you would like to participate, please send a text to Rob on 07702 737456 saying you wish to join the HFG WhatsApp group.

Sadly, we report the death of Flora Group member Mike Wildish who made a very significant contribution to botanical recording in North West Hampshire. John Moon's tribute to Mike can be found on p. 36.

In this edition of *Flora News* we are pleased to include contributions by Tony Mundell, Martin Rand, Andy Cross, Isobel Girvan, Neil Sanderson, Anna Stewart, Roger Clooney and Andrew Powling. As always, we would like to encourage more people to provide contributions on relevant botanical topics. If you have enjoyed any Flora Group event and would like to write a report, we would be very pleased to receive it. Please send your articles, notes or reports to Catherine Chatters (contact details at the end of this newsletter).

*Edited and produced by Catherine Chatters (Flora Group Secretary) and John Norton*

Cover photo: Sheep's-bit *Jasione montana* at Farnborough Cemetery by Tony Mundell (see VC12 records, p. 45).

## Forthcoming Events

The events listed here will only take place if they are compatible with relevant Government guidance and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) advice regarding COVID-19. You must register with the leader in advance and provide contact details in case of late cancellation.

Bring a packed lunch for full day events, plenty to drink and suitable footwear to all field meetings. Bring waterproofs if it is likely to be wet.

**Saturday 7 December 2024, 10.30am – 4pm**

**Flora Group/BSBI Exhibition Meeting, with Flora Group AGM: Testwood Lakes, Totton**

**Contact: Catherine Chatters**

We look forward to holding our traditional winter get-together/social event at Testwood Lakes Education Centre. Please bring along cakes or savouries for us to share, plus your specimens, photos, materials for display boards and any other botanical talking point. This is a splendid informal event for meeting others interested in Hampshire's wildflowers. We will hold our Flora Group Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 1pm.

A digital projector will be available and you are welcome to bring a few (fewer than 30) photos to show us in PowerPoint format, but only British plants and preferably species found in Hampshire. Please bring your PowerPoint presentation on a memory stick.

Meet at Testwood Lakes Education Centre, Totton (grid reference SU 3441 1558, Lat/Long 50.9387 –1.5117). The venue is reached from Brunel Road, a turning off the A36 at a roundabout between Totton and Ower. After entering Brunel Road, look for a turning on the left after a block of industrial units. Go along this track, ignoring the first (public) car park and the Sea Scouts' building on your right, until the Testwood Lakes Education Centre comes into view at the top of the hill. There is plenty of parking.

We are grateful to Tony Mundell and Martin Rand for their help in organising this event.

Main contact: Catherine Chatters. If you would like to attend, you will need to book your place with Catherine, whose contact details are on the back page of this newsletter.

**Monday 30 December 2024, 10am–1pm**

**BSBI New Year Plant Hunt: Chandler's Ford**

**Leader: Martin Rand**

This event is contingent on any restrictions and advice concerning the public health situation at the time. Advance booking is essential, with contact details in case of cancellation.

This meeting will be a walk around the suburban streets of Chandler's Ford, centred on Fryern Hill, recording all plants outside gardens in flower (see the article on page 17 about the BSBI New Year Plant Hunt tradition). Members are invited to join Martin for a walk of 2–3 hours depending on weather; if numbers are large we shall split into two groups to improve cover and avoid blocking the pavements. We could reunite and follow that by a hot drink if people want to.

Contact: Martin Rand [martin.rand@hantsplants.net](mailto:martin.rand@hantsplants.net), mobile 07531 461442

**Sunday 16 March 2025, 10am–12.30pm**

**Field trip: Tregould's Copse and Sky's Wood, Valley Park, Ampfield**

**Leader: Martin Rand**

This event is contingent on any restrictions and advice concerning the public health situation at the time. Advance booking is essential, with contact details in case of cancellation.

This trip will take in the best Wild Daffodil population in the area, and we shall also aim to record anything else seen flowering at this time.

Contact: Martin Rand [martin.rand@hantsplants.net](mailto:martin.rand@hantsplants.net), mobile 07531 461442

**Saturday 7 June 2025, 10am–4pm**

**Workshop: Getting started with a field guide, Shawford, Winchester**

**Leader: Martin Rand**

This event is contingent on any restrictions and advice concerning the public health situation at the time. Advance booking is essential, with contact details in case of cancellation.

This is an outdoor workshop (weather permitting) particularly aimed at beginners and near-beginners wanting to develop their skills in using a handbook to identify plants rigorously. We shall be using the recently published WILDGuide *British and Irish Wild Flowers and Plants: a Pocket Guide* as our ‘textbook’ and the emphasis will be on the processes (observation and careful following of a procedure) involved in getting a good determination, and on key features of plants’ anatomy. If you have acquired the book, bring your own copy; otherwise, you will be able to buy one from the leader. Numbers will be limited, and there will be a charge of £6 for the day (in addition to the cost of the book if you buy one).

We shall spend the morning on Shawford Down examining a limited selection of plants of calcareous and neutral grassland, and the afternoon by the banks of the Itchen Navigation and the adjacent water meadows doing the same for wetland plants. Between the two there will be a chance to ‘refuel’ at the excellent café at Shawford Station (light lunches, beverages, gooey cakes and pastries, delicious Italian ice cream).

Contact: Martin Rand [martin.rand@hantsplants.net](mailto:martin.rand@hantsplants.net), mobile 07531 461442

**Saturday 14 June 2025, 10am–4pm**

**Field trip: Shortheath Pond and Common**

**Leader: Tony Mundell**

This event is contingent on any restrictions and advice concerning the public health situation at the time. Advance booking is essential, with contact details in case of cancellation.

I have chosen the date to be just within the coarse fishing closed season, so the car park should not be full of fishermen. This meeting will suit beginners as well as more experienced flower hunters, and I will point out many species as we potter around the pond and the adjacent wet heathland. On the pond margin I am hoping that we are able to find Narrow-leaved Arrowhead *Sagittaria subulata*, despite what Stace (4th Edition) says about it. It has been known there since 1962 and was recorded in flower in 2022. Have a look at its remarkable British distribution using the splendid Atlas 2020 website at [plantatlas2020.org](http://plantatlas2020.org). There are very few plants as rare as this, but of course it is an alien.

Other unusual plants recorded on the pond margins include Hybrid Bulrush *Typha × glauca*, Marsh Cinquefoil *Comarum palustre* and Marsh Willowherb *Epilobium palustre*. After looking at the pond we will move on to the rest of Shortheath Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Many uncommon species have been recorded here in the past and the records need updating. There is an excellent bog that still has Cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, that was first recorded there by Gilbert White in 1778. I doubt whether the few plants of Trumpets *Sarracenia flava*, that I used to know there until 2002, still persist but it might be worth checking.

Meet in the car park at SU 7750 3690, What3Words [launch.goofy.hoofs](https://www.what3words.com/launch/goofy/hoofs), Lat/Long 51.1262 –0.8939. Bring a packed lunch, something to drink and be aware that parts of the heathland are very boggy.

Contact: Tony Mundell (contact details on back page).

**Saturday 5 July and Sunday 6 July 2025, 10am–4pm**

**Workshop: Grass Identification**

**Leaders: Andy Cross and Martin Rand**

This event is contingent on any restrictions and advice concerning the public health situation at the time. Advance booking is essential, with contact details in case of cancellation. Fuller details will be published in the Spring 2025 *Flora News*, when booking will open.

The workshop will be suitable for beginners and improvers wanting to develop their identification skills. Participants will need to commit to both days, numbers will be limited, and there will be a charge of £10 for the weekend.

The first day of the course will be spent at the Wildlife Trust's Testwood Lakes Education Centre, where there will be workshops in the morning and early afternoon looking at grass morphology and a range of grass genera at the bench, followed by a short field session directly out from the Centre. The second day will be spent in the field at a site to be decided with a good range of habitats.

Contact: Martin Rand [martin.rand@hantsplants.net](mailto:martin.rand@hantsplants.net), mobile 07531 461442

**Sunday 17 August 2025, 10am–3.30pm**  
**Recording trip: Berry Wood, New Forest**  
**Leader: Martin Rand**

This event is contingent on any restrictions and advice concerning the public health situation at the time. Advance booking is essential, with contact details in case of cancellation.

This is a trip to record a recently under-recorded monad (1km square) in a rather remote part of the Forest. There is ancient wood-pasture, forestry plantation, heathland, some small mires and woodland streams. The day entails a 1km walk-in and an equivalent walk-out, and some rough and wet going.

Contact: Martin Rand [martin.rand@hantsplants.net](mailto:martin.rand@hantsplants.net), mobile 07531 461442

## Reports of Recent Events

### South Hampshire Churchyards – Saturday 24 February 2024

#### A report by Martin Rand

**T**his early meeting was arranged to give people a chance to get to know a range of Snowdrop and Crocus species, any of which are likely to be found escaped into the wild at times. Half a dozen of us met first at Shedfield churchyard, a place with strong botanical resonance as it was the living for Frederick Townsend, the author of the *Flora of Hampshire*, which remained the most comprehensive survey of the county's plants for 120 years. Martin brought along some specimens from his garden to demonstrate key features of each genus needed for recognition. The unusual season meant that many of the naturalised plants were already past their peak flowering, but we were quickly able to examine Greater Snowdrop *Galanthus elwesii* with its broad, inrolled leaves and characteristic green patches at both top and bottom of the inner tepals, and the much commoner Snowdrop *G. nivalis*, the latter including double-flowered plants.

The show of Spring Crocus *Crocus neapolitanus* which is spectacular here was past its best, but it was still possible to find good specimens including white-flowered forms. The smaller, white-flowered White Crocus *C. vernus* eluded us, however, although it has occurred here. The very frequently naturalised Early Crocus *C. tommasinianus*, one of the commonest naturalisations, was also present along with its hybrid with *C. neapolitanus*. Behind the church we were able to find the most commonly naturalised yellow-flowered Crocus, Yellow Crocus *C. × luteus*. This is a plant that often occurs outside gardens although its parents rarely do.

From Shedfield we moved on to the parish church at Bishops Waltham, which yielded all the previously mentioned species and hybrids in not quite so advanced a state, and our first sighting of the Green-leaved Snowdrop *Galanthus woronowii*. This has broad inrolled leaves like *G. elwesii*, but they are bright green rather than glaucous and the inner tepals have a green spot only at the apex. As we left the churchyard the eagle-eyed John Poland spotted an unusual member of the Bedstraw family Rubiaceae as a pavement weed in the church path, and this turned out to be Caucasian Crosswort *Phuopsis* (or *Crucianella*) *stylosa* – a first for the vice-county.

We then agreed to extend the day's itinerary with a visit to Twyford churchyard, well-known for its spectacular snowdrop displays. On arrival we found that most of the parking space for the church was fully occupied; it turned



Left: *Galanthus elwesii* in Twyford churchyard; right: *Crocus neapolitanus* \* *tommasinianus* in Shedfield churchyard. Martin Rand

out that the church was celebrating a ‘Soup and Snowdrop’ day, and once our presence as galanthophiles had been registered, we were fervently welcomed inside to a lunch of delicious home-made soups and snowdrop-related chat.

One reason for extending the tour was the hope of seeing the Pleated Snowdrop *Galanthus plicatus* with its broad, rather stubby, distinctive folded leaves, as it had so far eluded us. Despite having been found here several times in the past, the species itself continued to elude us on this visit, but there were quantities of the hybrid *G. plicatus* × *G. nivalis*. Most of this seemed to be the very popular cultivar ‘S. Arnott’, and the parishioners confirmed that these were planted introductions; it has become something of a tradition for people to transfer surplus plants from their gardens into the churchyard, so there may be more surprises in the future given the range of species, hybrids and cultivars available on the market. We were especially tickled to see here *G. elwesii* ‘Grumpy’, where the green spots on the inner tepals look like a very doleful face. We were also able to see *G. woronowii* ‘properly’ naturalised on the banks of the green lane (Berry Lane) leading down to the Itchen from the church.

Despite the small and specialised range of plants to observe and the rather raw weather, everyone seemed to enjoy the day, appreciating the chance to look at these plants in detail from a botanical perspective and examine some books providing further information. We are also very grateful to the parishioners of Twyford for their warm welcome.

## Valley Park woodlands – Sunday 28 April 2024

### A report by Martin Rand

**T**his afternoon meeting was a gentle introduction to the woodland flora of this part of Hampshire, with botanical novices particularly welcome. We had a party of eight which included two experienced people as well as the leader; we took things at a leisurely pace: in fact, we didn’t complete the whole planned circuit, finding plenty to occupy our attention in the first stages.

The ancient woodlands in the western edge of Millers Dale, Chandler’s Ford, and the eastern part of Ampfield (now a separate civil parish called Valley Park) were retained when housing development took place during the 1980s and 1990s, unlike the areas of species-rich unimproved pasture which were less fortunate. They now form a necklace around the built-up area and are mostly in the hands of the Woodland Trust or of Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), enjoying varying degrees of appropriate management but still holding much of interest. They lie on soils overlaying clay, gravel and sand and have quite diverse vegetation ranging from relic heathland to species-rich basic clays to boggy seepages and streams.

We set out from Knightwood Leisure Centre where there is direct access into the first woodland, Zionshill Copse. This eastern section of the wood is on a slight ridge and retains a small area of heath dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris* now being colonised by Birch. Here we were able to see typical plants of the habitat including Pill Sedge *Carex pilulifera* in some quantity. Most of this eastern part of the wood is now high-canopy woodland with a limited flora, but after crossing the road that now bisects the wood we were into an area rotationally coppiced by TVBC with more open rides. Here typical woodland and wood-margin flowers such as Wood Speedwell *Veronica montana*, Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea* made their appearance. One part of the wood held a good stand of Golden-scaled Male Fern *Dryopteris affinis*, while a coppiced deer enclosure promised a spectacular display of Foxgloves *Digitalis purpurea* later in the season.



Examining the vegetation in Zionshill Copse, Valley Park. Tony Mundell

At the western end of the wood we passed into a strip that was formerly a shelterbelt, and now separates the farmland of North Baddesley from the housing estates of Valley Park. The soil here is a heavy clay partially drained by a forestry ditch, where trees such as Aspen *Populus tremula* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* join the familiar mix of Beech/Oak/Birch/Sallow. Much of the Ash has suffered ash dieback and been cleared from the site and replaced with other native trees and shrubs. In this area we saw our first Ramsons *Allium ursinum* and a variety of ferns along the ditch, including the attractive newly-flushed Soft Shield-fern *Polystichum setiferum*.

This brought us to Tregould's Copse, where the path drops into a tiny valley with marshy vegetation where Great Horsetail *Equisetum telmateia* and Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris* were prominent. On the far side we paused to pay our respects to the remains of one of the largest Wild Cherries *Prunus avium* in the area. This formerly consisted of five huge trunks resulting from coppicing in the distant past, but winter storms brought down three of them and the remaining two were considered unstable and felled. Suckering stems round about showed that this tree is not done with yet. Nearby were fruiting plants of Wild Daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, which is a feature of several of the Valley Park woods (especially Sky's Wood and adjoining meadow) and other woodland extending out to Ampfield.



Bluebells in Tregould's Copse, Valley Park. Tony Mundell

Soon after, we left the main path and dived down a shady ride to see one of the specialities of this wood, a large population of Lily-of-the-Valley *Convallaria majalis*. This was present here long before the development and is known from other ancient woodlands in an arc around northern Southampton, and I think there is good reason to consider it native. Like many wild populations, it is usually a shy flowerer here, but it was flowering well for us this year. Mixed with it was the wild Solomon's-seal *Polygonatum multiflorum*, which is so characteristic of woodland in much of the county that it ought to be a candidate for 'county plant'. This had yet to reach its flowering peak.

At the far end of this fairly dense woodland we came out into a brackeney glade where there is a spectacular display of the native Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* each year, this year being no exception. The glade

gets an annual cut late in the year and this seems to suit the Bluebells well. Recently, trees have been planted across the area which may restrict the cutting, so the vegetation may change soon.

At this point time was drawing on and the Bluebell display seemed a suitable highlight to end on, so we retraced our steps rather than completing the circuit through the next two woods; but these both have their own distinctive character and are well worth a visit at another time.

## Otterbourne Hill Reservoir – Friday 3 May 2024

### A report by Tristan Norton

Otterbourne Hill Reservoir is a favourite spot of mine for some easy and very rewarding plant hunting. Situated just off junction 12 of the M3 at the southern end of Otterbourne village, it's an unprepossessing patch of managed grassland that supports an amazing and very interesting flora.

For the first of two visits to the site, around a dozen of us met in (what seemed at the time) unseasonably cool and gloowering conditions. The site is very easy to access, and comprises some expansive flat areas of short, mown grassland with two sets of concrete steps and several grassy slopes. Whilst the site is very easy to navigate, the plants require some bending down so it was very much a hands-and-knees job at times. The vegetation here is top-notch acid grassland and contains a suite of species that may be on the micro-scale, but which certainly reward a close look.

This first trip was aimed at seeing some of the late-spring/early summer specialities and we found everything I'd hoped we would. The crest of a large bank at the southern end of the site is a great spot for Upright Chickweed *Moenchia erecta* and we found several dense patches of flowering plants here, interspersed with the beautiful Bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*.

Mooching slowly across the main flat area towards the pumphouse building, the turf is a carpet of Sheep's-sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, Subterranean Clover *Trifolium subterraneum* and Bird's-foot, with occasional Bird's-foot Clover *Trifolium ornithopodioides*. Blinks *Montia fontana* is also very common, and easily recognisable by its slightly sickly-looking appearance.

A patch of scuffed ground next to the pumphouse is a good spot for one of the rarer legumes, Slender Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus angustissimus* (more of this later), and we soon found a patch of likely-looking foliage but were too early for flowers.

The main area of interest is a series of grassy slopes towards the northern edge of the site. Here we were able to see more Upright Chickweed, plenty of Field Madder *Sherardia arvensis*, and the superbly fractal Changing Forget-me-not *Myosotis discolor*. The stars of these banks are really the clovers and trefoils. We were again a little early for the larger clovers, but we were able to see the very obvious differences between the leaflets of the abundant Knotted Clover *Trifolium striatum* and the scarcer Clustered Clover *Trifolium glomeratum*. The



Flora group members at Otterbourne Hill Reservoir, 3 May.  
John Norton



leaflets of *striatum* are very densely and softly hairy, giving a greyish appearance (and aptly conforming to its alternative common name of Soft Clover), whilst those of *glomeratum* are a brighter green with each leaflet fringed by small teeth.

A low bank at the edge of the main flat area gave us a carpet of Slender Trefoil *Trifolium micranthum*, handily interspersed with the potentially confusing Lesser Trefoil *Trifolium dubium*. To add to the small, yellow-flowered peas we also found plenty of Spotted Medick *Medicago arabica*. On the lowest of the slopes, we hunted for more *Lotus* foliage and were happy that we'd bagged both *angustissimus* and Hairy Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus subbiflorus* (again, more of this later). Unfortunately, the fine display of tall Bugloss *Anchusa arvensis* that usually grace this area had been mown. Before finishing up we investigated an area of very parched ground below the pumphouse that is normally the best spot for Bird's-foot Clover: we were not disappointed and found carpets of the stuff, including some flowering. Thanks to all attendees for making this such an enjoyable visit.

## Boscombe Cliffs, Saturday 11 May 2024

### A report by Martin Rand

**T**his meeting was a popular one, attracting over 20 participants including three vice-county recorders and one ex-recorder. It also managed to coincide with one of the sunniest and warmest days of the fickle spring. The venue was the east Bournemouth coast at Boscombe – a heavily developed area that miraculously retains some fine acid grassland communities along the cliff-tops and harbours a wide diversity of non-native 'Mediterranean' species taking advantage of the mild winter climate. The meeting was intended to help people to become familiarised with plants in both these categories (including some non-natives that are now spreading more widely in the county), and to bring records up to date for two monads. The latter aim was very successfully achieved, with 164 taxa being recorded during the day.

We started on the cliff tops east of Boscombe Pier, where much of the dry grassland is dominated by Great Brome *Anisantha diandra*, here replacing its common relative Barren Brome (*A. sterilis*). But before spending more time examining the grasslands on this stretch, we headed in the direction of Boscombe Pier. After examining the short turf for the smaller plants of acid grassland, our attention turned to the ground around municipal plantings where we were surprised to find a strong population of Little-robin *Geranium purpureum* with its distinctive yellow anthers growing like a weed in the municipal flower beds. This was a robust form very different in habit from the plants usually seen on Hampshire coastal shingle, but similar to plants also growing back from the shore at Hayling and Eastney.

Proceeding down the cliff paths towards the pier, we were able to find some of the more notable non-natives that are well established here: Small-flowered Catchfly *Silene gallica*, Greater Quaking-grass *Briza maxima* and Rough Dog's-tail *Cynosurus echinatus*. Slightly more surprising, although common enough generally in South Hampshire, was a small patch of Corky-fruited Water-dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* on a verge above the path.

More Small-flowered Catchfly was seen on the next path back up the cliff, at which point we stopped for a brief lunch in the shade. After lunch we began to look more closely at the cliff-top grassland. Eleven species of Clover were noted during the day, including Hare's-foot Clover *Trifolium arvense*, Clustered Clover *T. glomeratum*, Slender Trefoil *T. micranthum*, Bird's-foot Clover *T. ornithopodioides*, Knotted Clover *T. striatum*, Subterranean Clover *T. subterraneum* and Suffocated Clover *T. suffocatum*.



Rough Dog's-tail *Cynosurus echinatus*. Tristan Norton



Small-flowered Catchfly *Silene gallica*. Tristan Norton

Other notable species were Mossy Stonecrop *Crassula tillaea*, Bulbous Meadow-grass *Poa bulbosa* and Annual Knawel *Scleranthus annuus*. At one point there is a 'perched dune' of blown sand on the cliff-top, dominated by Marram *Ammophila arenaria* with patches of Lyme-grass *Leymus arenarius*, accompanied by Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*, Fragrant Evening-primrose *Oenothera stricta* and other sand-loving plants native and non-native. The adjacent cliff edge, now fenced because of the effects of erosion, also held many non-native species in a mosaic of scrub, rough grassland and eroded bare ground, including Shrubby Orache *Atriplex halimus*, Silver Ragwort *Jacobaea maritima* and Hare's-tail *Lagurus ovatus*.

By now most people were feeling warm and well-provided with botanical experiences for the day, and we dispersed with further stretches of these fascinating cliffs still to be explored in the future.

## Sedge family workshop – Saturday and Sunday 1–2 June 2024

### A report by Martin Rand

**T**his workshop was a slightly updated repeat of previous workshop sessions on the Sedge family Cyperaceae and followed the same format: a workshop day (at Testwood Lakes Education Centre) with presentations and bench exercises to identify material of the commoner species collected by the leader, and a day in the field examining sedges in their natural habitats. There were ten participants, and as usual attendees were organised into pairs for the bench session.

Martin started by discussing the structural differences between sedges, grasses and rushes, with specimens for people to make their own comparisons. This led on to a presentation on the morphology of sedges and how to use features for identification, and the ways in which the main genus *Carex* differed from other genera in the family.

Attendees then had the opportunity to identify members of several non-*Carex* genera including a Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum*), a Spike-rush (*Eleocharis*) and a Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus*), illustrating rather nicely why English names are not much help in correctly placing these plants! But the main part of the day was spent identifying members of *Carex* using the keys prepared by Martin, which combine dichotomous keys to place a specimen in one of 13 broad groups with similar features found in Hampshire that then lead to side-by-side comparison tables for the few (2–6) members of each group. With the available material, participants were able to ID specimens in 10 of the 13 groups and in several cases compare members of the same group.

The second day was spent in the warm sun in the area between Matley and Ashurst in the New Forest, taking in woodland and woodland edge, bracken and grass heath, dry and damp ericaceous heath, bog, streams and streamside lawns. During the day this gave us the opportunity to see many of the Sedge family genera in the field, including Cotton-grass *Eriophorum*, Club-rushes *Eleogiton* and *Isolepis*, Deergrass *Trichophorum*, Spike-rushes *Eleocharis* and Beak-sedges *Rhynchospora* – and of course Sedges *Carex*. One of the highlights of the day was the abundance and luxuriance of Brown Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora fusca*, which had an outstanding flowering year across the Forest. Swathes of apple-green leaves set against the russet-chocolatey flowers and fruits made an appealing picture. More frustrating was the search for Soft Sedge *Carex montana* in the margins of the bracken heath round Matley Wood; although it was present and detectable by its leaves and patch-forming habit, there were no fruits detectable, and the lower sheaths had not gained their characteristic wine-red colouring in this wet spring.



Brown Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora fusca*. Martin Rand

The route gave plenty of opportunities to admire other New Forest specialities besides sedges, and during the day we observed (among other things) Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera*, Marsh Clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata* growing with the Brown Beak-sedge, Hampshire Purslane *Ludwigia palustris*, luxuriant Slender Marsh-bedstraw *Galium constrictum*, Pale Butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica*, Lesser Bladderwort *Utricularia minor*, three species of Eyebright *Euphrasia* and the bog subspecies of Early Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* subsp. *pulchella*.

## Otterbourne Hill Reservoir & Hiltingbury Recreation Ground – Friday 7 June 2024

A report by Tristan Norton

Our second visit to Otterbourne Hill Reservoir was held in early June and took place in similarly coolish weather, but this time we were rewarded with all the target species in fine flower. We headed straight across to the clover banks and soon found swathes of Knotted Clover *Trifolium striatum* in flower and also plenty of flowering Clustered Clover *T. glomeratum*. The smaller species such as Slender Trefoil *T. micranthum* and Lesser Trefoil *T. dubium* were still in evidence, and the two scarce *Lotus* were also very much on show.

The spread of Slender and Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoils *Lotus angustissimus* and *L. subbiflorus* in the few years that I've been visiting this site has been very pleasing, and we found both species across a wide area, including some really quite large patches of Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil in particular. Of course, identification discussions

took place on how to separate these two similar species. In summary, without the diagnostic fruits (Slender = very long, Hairy = short) the two are readily separated by the flower colour (Hairy is deeper, golden yellow as opposed to a much paler yellow for Slender) and by the angle of the flower keel: Slender has an almost 90° angle and Hairy has a more obtuse keel. While both species are hairy, *subbiflorus* really is excessively so.

Another species that seems to be doing very well here is Wall Bedstraw *Galium parisiense*. First recorded here around a decade ago by Gareth Knass, it is now locally frequent across several areas. Interestingly, the fruits of these plants are glabrous and so are not subspecies *parisiense* but rather one of a confusingly large number of subspecies identified by Continental taxonomists.

After our fill of this site, we moved on for a quick mooch around the nearby Hiltingbury Recreation Ground and a chance to see two very interesting species. Unintentionally displacing a gaggle of 'yoofs' from our area of interest (an approaching gang of botanists must be quite intimidating) we were instantly finding tiny plants of the delightful Annual Knawel *Scleranthus annuus* and the equally attractive Suffocated Clover *Trifolium suffocatum*. The latter was only discovered at the site in 2022 and both it and the Knawel seem to be thriving.

After genuflecting to these micro-plants, we took a look at the adjacent sown 'wildflower' bed and soon found the creeping, spaghetti-like growth of Yellow Dodder *Cuscuta campestris*. This alien species has inadvertently been introduced via whatever odd seed mix the local council has used to brighten up this patch of the recreation ground.

My sincere thanks to all attendees for making this meeting so enjoyable.



Left to right: Slender and Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus angustissimus*, *L. subbiflorus*; Clustered Clover *Trifolium glomeratum*. Tristan Norton



Left: Annual Knawel *Scleranthus annuus* and Suffocated Clover *Trifolium suffocatum*; right: Yellow Dodder *Cuscuta campestris*. Tristan Norton

## Micheldever Spoil Heaps – early visit – Saturday 8 June 2024

A report by Tony Mundell

The main aim of this meeting, and a later one in early August 2024 in the same location, was to produce for the landowner a complete list of all plants seen.

For me the meeting did not start well, as a stretch of the M3 southbound was closed due to an accident. With all the slow, diverted traffic I eventually arrived over half an hour late. Luckily, in my absence Sue Bell had produced a recording card and recording was well underway by the time I got there. Micheldever Spoil Heaps Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is split in half by the main railway line. The habitat is unusual as it comprises huge heaps of bare chalk spoil. This spoil arose in the nineteenth century during construction of the railway, when deep cuttings and a tunnel were excavated in 1838–1839.

We visited the part east of the railway in the morning, separately recording the western part in the afternoon, and collected a total of 253 records. One of the special plants that is well known on the chalk spoil heaps is Spring Cinquefoil *Potentilla verna*. In fact, it is scattered abundantly wherever the barer areas of chalk persist, in both halves of the SSSI, though most flowers were over by our visit.

East of the railway where the woodland edge is encroaching onto the spoil heaps we found four scattered flower spikes of Fly Orchid *Ophrys insectifera*. Once on the bare chalk, the rate of plant recording hotted up with plants typical of the best well-grazed chalk grassland. There were patches comprising many plants of Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule* and a few plants of flowering Squinancywort *Asperula cynanchica*. One pleasant surprise was a patch of Wall Bedstraw *Galium parisiense* and, as it had finely papillose fruits, it was the variety thought to be possibly native. Apart from the Common Eyebright *Euphrasia nemorosa*, I found some flowering and fruiting plants of Confused Eyebright *Euphrasia confusa* (a relevant name but most Eyebrights are confusing if you are trying to name them!). A single plant of Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* was also found but was still in bud.

Another of the special plants known for many decades at the spoil heaps is Cut-leaved Germander *Teucrium botrys*. We saw vegetative plants of it on a very steep bare chalk slope. One reason for the extra ‘late visit’



Spring Cinquefoil *Potentilla verna*.  
Tony Mundell



Flora Group members at Micheldever Spoil Heaps. Tony Mundell

planned for 3 August 2024 is to see this and Red Hemp-nettle *Galeopsis angustifolia* in flower. Curiously, Cut-leaved Germander is specially protected in law as a Schedule 8 species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, but you will no longer find it in Red Data lists as it is now thought to be probably a neophyte (alien species).

Returning back towards our cars for lunch we found that Southern Wood-rush *Luzula forsteri* is locally frequent in one area beneath Beech trees. As its name suggests this is pretty well confined to the southern half of Britain whereas the commoner Hairy Wood-rush *L. pilosa* (that was also recorded) reaches right up to the northern tip of Scotland.

After having our lunch back in the parking area, we came across some plants of Keeled-fruited Cornsalad *Valerianella carinata* as we set off for the part of the SSSI west of the railway. En-route we noted several plants of Common Gromwell *Lithospermum officinale* with its shiny, white seeds just like little pearls. Many of the plants already seen earlier like Spring Cinquefoil, Fly Orchid, Confused Eyebright, Dropwort and Cut-leaved Germander were also recorded here, often in greater numbers as much scrub clearance has been underway to expose the bare chalk. Extra plants found included Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, just one Southern Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* and Small-flowered Sweet-briar *Rosa micrantha*. However, star of the show for me was a flowering plant of Lesser Butterfly-orchid *Platanthera bifolia* with a couple more nearby that had gone over. A single flowering plant was found here in 2023 in a slightly different spot and I am pretty sure that this is its last extant site in North Hampshire.

Pete Flood found a couple of flowering plants of Deadly Nightshade *Atropa belladonna* to show us, and nearby I pointed out ordinary Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, growing only a few metres from the chalk spoil. I had always thought that Tormentil was strictly confined to acidic soils, but I see that the splendid Atlas 2020 website at [plantatlas2020.org](http://plantatlas2020.org) says it is found on 'more or less acidic soils' but adds that 'It is also occasionally noted in calcareous grassland...'. Apart from the evident wealth of knowledge of the various contributors to the Atlas species accounts, it is great to have collated information there on other features for all British species, such as flowering times at different latitudes, conservation designations, etc.



**Deadly Nightshade *Atropa belladonna*.**  
Tony Mundell

The last relatively uncommon plant that we found was Pale Sedge *Carex pallescens*. There were several quite large clumps of it growing beside a grassy ride as we returned to the cars.



**Lesser Butterfly-orchid *Platanthera bifolia*.** Cathy Wilson

## Long Bottom and Caesar's Camp – Saturday 6 July 2024

A report by Isobel Girvan



Hampshire Flora Group and Surrey Botanical Society meeting at Long Bottom. Cathy Wilson

This was a joint meeting between the Hampshire Flora Group and the Surrey Botanical Society, with a good mix of Hampshire and Surrey people. We followed the same route that had been last visited in July 2017 by the Hampshire Flora Group. The aim was to record across around four miles of heathland, acid grassland and boggy heath to re-find botanical treats such as Dodder *Cuscuta epithymum*, Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata*, White Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, Sheep's-bit *Jasione montana*, Marsh Speedwell *Veronica scutellata*, Ivy-leaved Bellflower *Wahlenbergia hederacea* and Lesser Centaury *Centaureum pulchellum*. All but the last two of these species were re-found. In our quest to nose out these plants we were subjected to a range of weather conditions from blazing sunshine, to darkening clouds, and a few showers of rain thrown in.

On our way to the heathland, we saw a vigorous patch of Fragrant Agrimony *Agrimonia procera*, tall, mid green with slightly notched petals and it was indeed sweet smelling. Next Tony Mundell showed us the subtle differences between Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans* with 'oval' shaped leaflets and the 'angular' leaflets of Trailing Cinquefoil *Potentilla anglica* (see *Flora News* 66, Spring 2024, p. 55, for more details by Tony).

On dry acidic grassland we recorded both Common Cudweed *Filago germanica* and Small Cudweed *Logfia minima* seeing them side by side. Then two *Vulpia* species were found growing together – Rat's-tail Fescue *V. myuros* and Squirreltail Fescue *V. bromoides*. We were shown the differences in the relative length of their lower and upper glume lengths – *V. myuros* with its lower glume only one tenth to two-fifths as long as the upper glume and *V. bromoides* with its lower glume half to three-quarters as long as the upper one (see note by Bob Leaney titled 'Common problems with identification in the field – experience with the Norfolk Flora Group', *BSBI News* 114, page 8, note 9, April 2010.).

Then we found a boggy bit, although it appears that such areas are generally drying out. We re-found Round-leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* and Oblong-leaved Sundew *Drosera intermedia*, as



Oblong-leaved Sundew *Drosera intermedia*. Laura Gravestock

well as a few surviving White Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, and tried refinding Marsh Club-moss, but were unsuccessful.

In amongst the heather, we took a friendly competitive interest in being the first to see Dodder *Cuscuta epithymum* and, once we got our eyes in, found patches all over the dry heath.

We lunched in front of a waterbody locally known as Horses Swimming Pond, where the army used to train horses to swim in the late 1800s. See the website at [friendsofthealdershotmilitarymuseum.org.uk](http://friendsofthealdershotmilitarymuseum.org.uk) and search for Horses Swimming Pond for a fascinating article about this. It includes a photograph from around 1920 showing how open the heathland once was. Hardly a single tree can be seen anywhere between the pond and Caesar's Camp in the far distance.

Across the water we saw several water-lilies, including Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata*, the native White Water-lily *Nymphaea alba* and Coloured Water-lily *Nymphaea* × *marliacea*, that Stace uses to cover horticultural hybrids.

We ended up at the dizzy heights of approximately 180m a.s.l. on Caesar's Camp, where we could see the London skyline. Despite the local name, there is no evidence of Roman occupation, but the site was part of an Iron Age promontory hill fort. The approach was steep, but worth it for the plants, including a lovely patch of Sheep's-bit *Jasione montana* and several plants of Breast-toothed Hawkweed *Hieracium mammidens*, an endangered English endemic. Watch out for the next BSBI *British & Irish Botany* for an article by Tim Rich on this rare plant.

Growing beside one plant of the Hawkweed, Neil Sanderson found a patch of the rare lichen *Cladonia callosa*, which he was sure was new for VC12 (see p. 38).

On the way back from the hill we saw chalk-loving species like Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, speculating that importation of calcareous gravel had provided them with the right conditions. Then lurking on the edge of the track there was a large patch of Saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, not yet in flower. Tony Mundell found a couple of plants that he thought were the rare Breast-toothed Hawkweed in a new location and his photos were later confirmed by Tim Rich (see p. 44 for more photos). Finally, when passing some of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's grazing cattle, we noticed that they were all lying down, suggesting it was going to rain again. It did soon after we reached our cars!



**Dodder *Cuscuta epithymum*.**  
Jon Wilson



**Breast-toothed Hawkweed  
*Hieracium mammidens*.**  
Cathy Wilson



***Cladonia callosa*, new to VC12.** Laura Gravestock



## Notes and Features

### Beyond the Hampshire Flora Group: other botanical events in Hampshire

#### A note by Martin Rand

As well as the regular programme of field meetings and workshops organised by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group, there is a lot of other botanical activity taking place in the county. Those of you who consult the Calendar page on the Hants Plants website ([hantsplants.uk](http://hantsplants.uk)) will no doubt be aware of this, but for those who don't (or would like a bit more background) here are some notes.

#### BSBI New Year Plant Hunt

This is an event that is organised by local botanists all over the UK and Ireland each year, under the aegis of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) who collect all the data and collate the results. It takes place over three or four days either side of New Year's Day and entails trips of up to three hours within a limited area (usually one continuous walk) to record all the plants in flower outside gardens or formal plantings. This coming winter it will run from 29 December 2024 to 1 January 2025. There is a special app for phones and other devices that lets you record your finds 'on the hoof' or when you get home; it then sends them directly to BSBI HQ when a connection is available.

This exercise provides some interesting information on the flowering behaviour of plants in a period of climate change. The BSBI publishes a 'league table' of the most commonly found plants across the countries each year. More than fifty Hunts took place in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in 2023–2024, across all parts of the two counties. Some were publicised events; many were just individuals or a couple of friends deciding informally to do it. Some yielded long lists, some just a few, but all results are useful, and it is just as informative to hear about low tallies as high ones. It's not supposed to be a competitive sport, but a few groups do strive to get high up the league table! If you're in it for the long haul, it's more useful to re-record the same circuit year on year than to go looking for what might give the 'best' result in any given year. That said, urban and suburban areas, along with sheltered coastal areas in the south, are likely to be the most productive.

If you would like to take part in a publicised event, I will list any that I know about on the Hants Plants website. If you would like to publicise your own, please get in touch with me to arrange putting it on the calendar. The BSBI website has a dedicated page ([bsbi.org/new-year-plant-hunt](http://bsbi.org/new-year-plant-hunt)) and nearer the end of the year you will be able to find more details about the 2024–2025 Hunt. They will also publicise the ones they are told about in advance for the whole of Britain and Ireland.

#### Recorders' 'days out'

The BSBI Hampshire recorders (and ex-recorder) make many recording trips each year, and we welcome having a few people along with us to help. You come on the strict understanding that these are not arranged trips of the BSBI, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group or any other organisation, and you come entirely at your own risk as you would if you went for a walk with a friend in the country.

At present most of the trips that Tony and I publicise are for two projects: under-recorded monads (1km squares) and threatened plant recording. Much of the previous comprehensive recording for the county has been done at a tetrad (2km square) scale. During the national Atlas 2020 recording we undertook recording on a tetrad-by-tetrad basis but took all records to at least a 1km precision. Other than for rarities, we would usually record the first monad that we came across a species in the tetrad being surveyed but not in subsequent monads of the same tetrad. This means that coverage at the monad level remains quite uneven in places, and it would be nice to improve this to provide a solid foundation for future recording, publication of distribution maps and



**Bastard Balm *Melittis melissophyllum* being recorded for threatened plant monitoring at Wootton, New Forest. Martin Rand**

other published material. Recording a monad usually entails a day or part-day (depending on accessibility) on two or three visits made at different times of the year. Some are on rather uninteresting terrain (although you never know what you'll find), some such as New Forest common land can be excellent.

Threatened plant recording entails returning to a site on which a rare or red-listed species has previously been recorded and preparing a detailed survey document on population size and health, regeneration, habitat details, site condition and management, and associated species. Usually, this process requires some intensive but rewarding and not very energetic work, unless there is a long walk-in to reach the population.

To find out who is going where and when, look at the Calendar listings on the Hants Plants website. If you would like to come out on a trip, contact the listed person to make arrangements.

## Other societies

Also on the Hants Plants website I publicise meetings held by other groups which have a strong botanical element. Our parent organisation Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is one of those, and they can be particularly good if you are a beginner, or often if you want to learn something about the conservation and management of a site. Among local natural history societies, I would pick out particularly Southampton and Alton whose meetings often have a strong botanical element and are often led by very knowledgeable people. Although I try to be as comprehensive as I can and to keep details up to date, it's always advisable to check on their websites for latest details, and to check their policy on guest attendance. Links are provided from the Hants Plants Calendar.

Finally, I should mention the BSBI nationally. It organises many meetings across Britain and Ireland every year: these include field trips that range from one-day events to residential meetings of a few days or longer, residential workshops and meetings that combine talks with field trips, and online talks throughout the winter. We haven't had a national meeting in Hampshire for a few years, but in the last two years there were two meetings in Wiltshire, one (definitely for the specialists!) on Dandelion identification, and one general meeting on the superb chalk grassland of Salisbury Plain Training Area with its many rare and special plants. In 2024 there was also a two-day meeting looking at the special plants of the Isle of Wight. Elsewhere in Britain and Ireland there are many opportunities to expand your horizons at all levels of expertise.

BSBI members also get other benefits such as a glossy thrice-yearly newsletter with lots of interesting and useful content, special discounts on many botanical books including very good e-book deals on almost all BSBI handbooks and some local Floras, and access to the expert referees' panel to help with identification of specimens or photographs, so if you are at all keen on our wild plants at whatever level it's well worth considering joining. Their main website is at [bsbi.org](https://bsbi.org), where you can also find lots of useful resources made available publicly; and they have a presence on all the main social media platforms.



**Martin Rand and Nick Aston admiring Greater Red Hot-poker *Kniphofia x praecox* at Inchmery shore.**  
Dave Pearson

## The Rev. William Annesley and his list of plants near Andover

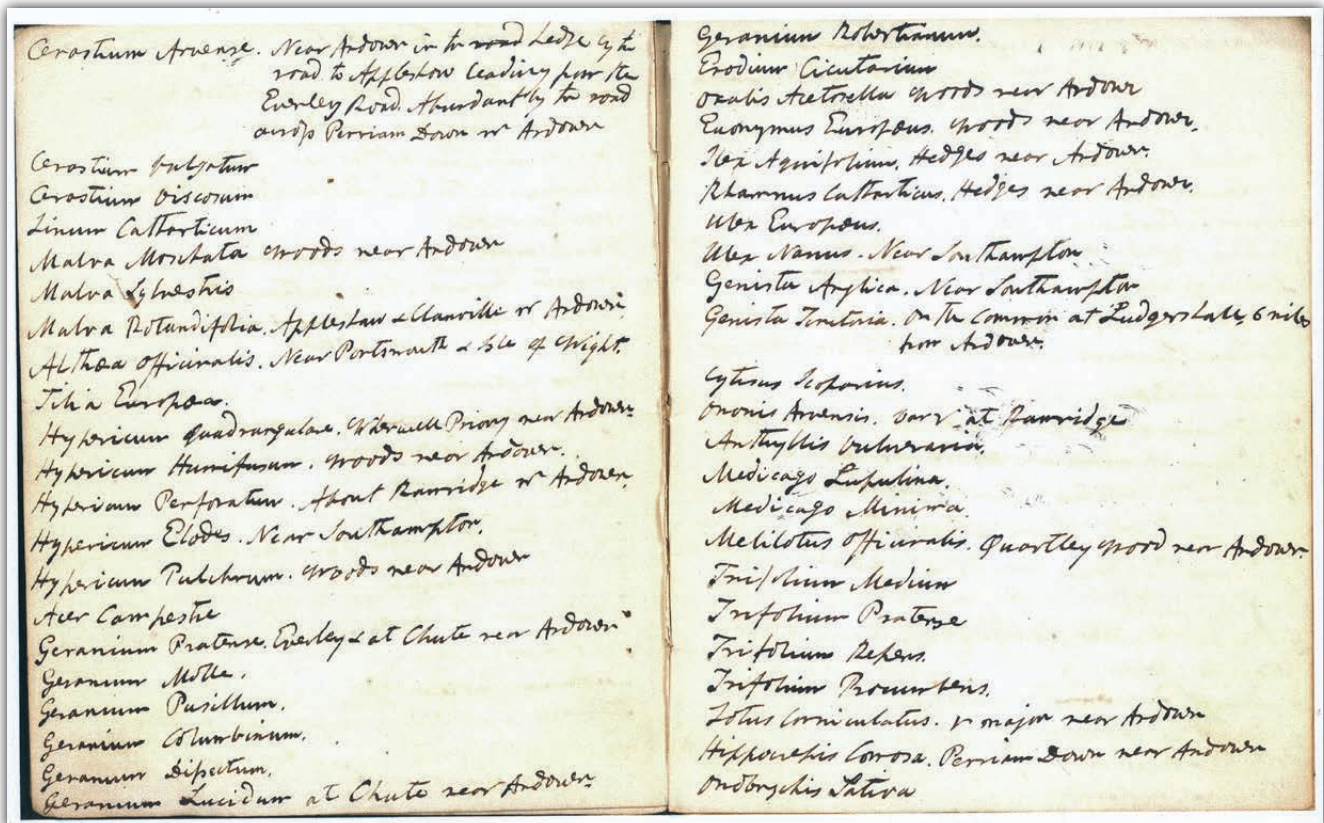
A note by Tony Mundell

In 2023 I found out that the Hartley Library at Southampton University held a document titled 'Manuscript MS 5/27: Catalogue of plants growing wild near Andover, compiled by Rev. William Annesley'. I made an appointment for 28 March 2024 to view and manually copy it, in order to collect the more interesting records for my database.

As background my wife Pat did some family history research, before I visited Southampton University, finding the following: William Annesley was born in 1795, baptised on 2 April 1796 St Luke, Chelsea, the second (but possibly illegitimate) son of George Annesley, 2nd Earl of Mounthorris, and Ann Courtenay. George and Ann were married on 6 September 1791 at Powderham, Devon. William studied at Cambridge and was Rev of North Bovey, Devon 1825–1830. Before that period, I already had some plant records of his on my database, found at Ramridge in 1817 and 1819. He died unmarried on 1 November 1830 at Ramridge Cottage, Weyhill, near Andover and was buried on 9 November 1830. Ramridge Cottage is shown on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps at SU307476 (about 500m from the much larger Ramridge House at Ramridge Park).

His will was signed on 26 June 1830 and was proved in April 1831. William's brother was George Arthur Annesley. In 1796 William's (nominal) father, George Annesley, Viscount Valentia, charged John Bellenden Gawler with adultery with his wife Ann. Ann counter-claimed that George was a promiscuous homosexual. George obtained £2,000 in damages from John, who changed his name to John Bellenden Ker. Legal separation was granted to George and Ann in 1799 but they were not granted a divorce – probably because George was suspected of collusion in his wife's adultery.

John Bellenden Ker (1764–1842) was a man of fashion, wit and a notable botanist who edited *The Botanical Register* 1815–24 and contributed descriptions of new plant species to Curtis's *Botanical Magazine*. The genus *Bellendena* commemorates him. He was the eldest son of John Gawler of Ramridge, who died on 24 December 1803, aged 77. William's mother Ann continued to live with John Bellenden Ker at Ramridge after the court case, and it seems possible that William was actually fathered by John Bellenden Ker. As a child,



A typical page from the manuscript. Courtesy of University of Southampton Hartley Library

William Annesley was brought up by Ann and John. Apparently William returned to his family home at Ramridge just prior to his premature death in 1830.

Below is my transcription of the handwritten manuscript. The library staff kindly scanned a sample page for me and have given me permission to include it in this article. I have added some OS grid references, and sometimes my personal comments, in square brackets. Most of these records, especially those that can only be located to a whole hectad, are not worth adding to my database, but several were possible to enter more precisely and this gave me at least a few excellent old records.

Occasionally I could not read the handwriting (no photography was allowed). I have indicated that with '[...]'. A few of the plant names were long-disused synonyms, so I have usually added the current scientific name in square brackets, where it was not obvious which species was being referred to. There are several websites like [worldfloraonline.org](http://worldfloraonline.org) or [powo.science.kew.org](http://powo.science.kew.org) that are invaluable for identifying old synonyms. In *Flora News* we traditionally always include both scientific and vernacular names for plants, but as the manuscript only gives scientific names I decided not to add vernacular names in my transcription. The symbol 'β' (the second letter in the Greek alphabet) was used in the manuscript to denote a variety of a particular species that appeared different from the usual form. This was common practice at the time, and pre-dated the current divisions of species into named subspecies, varieties or forms.

The first page of the manuscript states:

*'This list was drawn up by the Hon. Rev. William Annesley A.M. who resided at Ramridge near Andover where he died November 1st, 1830, aged 35. He was a good botanist and accurate observer and his habitats may be depended on. Where no particular locality is given the habitat must be considered as being near Andover [so SU34].'*

That is followed by a signature of J.P. Jones, and continues with:

*'The arrangement and nomenclature is taken from a 'Catalogue of British Plants' arranged according to the Natural System by the Rev. J.S. Henslow M.A. Professor of Botany in University of Cambridge 1829.'*

After the list the text continues as follows:

*'In Watson's New Botanist's Guide 1835 Vol. 1 p. 46, Vol. 2 p. 566 are lists of plants growing wild in Hampshire. Many of the habitats are identical with these recorded by Mr Annesley and confirm the accuracy of his observations. Mr Watson's list includes some notes from printed works ...'*

I did not bother to copy the text giving further lists of Hampshire plants, nor the final text that lists plants recorded in Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne*.

*Adonis annua* – Not uncommon in cornfields and turnip fields at Weyhill [SU3146] and about Buryhill [SU345435] near Andover.

*Ranunculus parviflorus* – In the village of Appleshaw [SU3048], and by the side of the Clanville Road [SU3148], near to old gravel pit at Ramridge [SU3047] near Andover in abundance.

*Berberis vulgaris* – Among other bushes on the wooded part of Perriam Down [Wikipedia shows that this is an old name for Perham Down, SU24U] in abundance and apparently quite wild.

*Clematis vitalba* – Hedges near Andover [SU34]

*Anemone nemorosa* – Woods near Andover [SU34]

*Ranunculus hederaceus* – Ponds near Southampton [SU41]

*Ranunculus aquatilis* – Ponds near Andover [but ID suspect as no other records anywhere near here]

*Ranunculus auricomus* – Woods near Andover [SU34]

*Ranunculus sceleratus* – Ditches near Andover [SU34]

*Ranunculus acris* – Fields near Andover [SU34]

*Ranunculus repens* – Wet meadows near Andover [SU34]

*Ranunculus bulbosus* – Meadows near Andover [SU34]

*Ranunculus arvensis* – Fields near Andover [SU34]

*Ranunculus ficaria* – Near Andover [SU34]

*Papaver hybridum* – Ramridge [SU34D] and Quarley [SU2743] but not common

*Papaver argemone* – Ramridge [SU34D]

*Papaver dubium* – Ramridge [SU34D] and Quarley [SU2743]

*Papaver rhoeas* – Fields at Ramridge [SU34D]

*Chelidonium majus*

*Fumaria officinalis*

*Nasturtium officinale*

*Barbarea vulgaris* – About Ramridge [SU34D] and other places near Andover

*Arabis hirsuta* – On Weyhill Down near Andover [SU3146]

*Arabis thaliana*

- Cardamine pratensis*  
*Cardamine hirsuta*  
*Erophila vulgaris* [*E. verna*]  
*Thlaspi arvense* – Field near old gravel pit at Ramridge [SU34D]  
*Sisymbrium officinale*  
*Alliaria officinalis* [*Alliaria petiolata*]  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris*  
*Brassica rapa*  
*Sinapis nigra* [*Brassica nigra*]  
*Sinapis arvensis*  
*Raphanus raphanistrum*  
*Helianthemum vulgare* [*H. nummularium*] – Borders of fields and woods near Andover [SU34]  
*Viola hirta* – Hedges & woods about Andover [SU34]  
*Viola odorata*  
*Viola canina* [ID suspect on chalk, probably *V. riviniana*]  
*Viola tricolor* – Fields about Andover [ID suspect, as *V. arvensis* not listed]  
*Reseda lutea*  
*Reseda luteola*  
*Drosera rotundifolia* – Shirley Ponds near Southampton [SU3914]  
*Drosera longifolia* [*D. intermedia*] – Shirley Ponds near Southampton [SU3914]  
*Polygala vulgaris* – Downs near Andover [SU34]  
*Silene inflata* [*S. vulgaris*] – About Andover & near Southampton  
*Silene dioica* – About Ramridge [SU34D]  
*Silene flos-cuculi*  
*Silene githago* [*Agrostemma githago*]  
*Sagina procumbens*  
*Spergula nodosa* [*Sagina nodosa*] – On the lawn at Ramridge Cottage [SU308475] and sometimes on the downs nr. Andover [I see that Townsend's Flora of Hampshire says 'Frequent about Andover']  
*Stellaria media*  
*Stellaria holostea*  
*Stellaria graminea*  
*Arenaria serpyllifolia*  
*Arenaria trinervis* [*Moehringia trinervia*]  
*Cerastium arvense* – Near Andover in a hedge by the road to Appleshaw leading past the E...ley [?Eversley but can't find on maps] Road. Abundant by the road across Perriam Down near Andover [Now Perham Down SU24U]  
*Cerastium vulgatum* [*C. glomeratum*]  
*Cerastium viscosum* [*C. fontanum*]  
*Linum catharticum*  
*Malva moschata* – Woods near Andover [SU34]  
*Malva sylvestris*  
*Malva rotundifolia* [*Malva pusilla*] – Appleshaw [SU3048] & Clanville nr. Andover [SU3149]  
*Althaea officinalis* – Near Portsmouth [SU60] and Isle of Wight  
*Tilia europaea*  
*Hypericum quadrangulare* [*H. tetrapterum*] – Wherwell Priory nr. Andover [SU391407]  
*Hypericum humifusum* – Woods near Andover [SU34]  
*Hypericum perforatum* – About Ramridge [SU34D]  
*Hypericum elodes* – Near Southampton [SU31]  
*Hypericum pulchrum* – Woods nr. Andover [SU34]  
*Acer campestre*  
*Geranium pratense* – Quarley [SU2743] and Chute [SU35B in Wilts]  
*Geranium molle*  
*Geranium pusillum*  
*Geranium columbinum*  
*Geranium dissectum*  
*Geranium lucidum* – At Chute [SU35B in Wilts]  
*Geranium robertianum*  
*Erodium cicutarium*  
*Oxalis acetosella* – Woods nr. Andover [SU34]  
*Euonymus europaeus* – Woods nr. Andover [SU34]  
*Ilex aquifolium* – Hedges nr. Andover [SU34]  
*Rhamnus cathartica* – Hedges nr. Andover [SU34]  
*Ulex europaeus*  
*Ulex nanus* [*Ulex minor*] – Near Southampton [SU31]  
*Genista anglica* – Near Southampton [SU31]  
*Genista tinctoria* – On the common at Ludgershall, 6 miles from Andover [SU2849]  
*Cytisus scoparius*  
*Ononis arvensis* [*O. repens*] – At Ramridge [SU34D]  
*Anthyllis vulneraria*  
*Medicago lupulina*  
*Medicago minima* [No extra detail, which does not inspire much confidence in the record] [SU34]  
*Melilotus officinalis* – Quarley Woods nr Andover [SU2742]  
*Trifolium medium*  
*Trifolium pratense*  
*Trifolium repens*  
*Trifolium procumbens* [*T. campestre*]  
*Lotus corniculatus* – Var *major* nr. Andover [*L. corniculatus* var. *major* is *Lotus pedunculatus*]  
*Hippocrepis comosa* – Perriam Down nr Andover [Now Perham Down SU24U]  
*Onobrychis sativa* [*O. viciifolia*]  
*Vicia sylvatica* – In abundance in Ramridge Wood [SU3148] and the wood belonging to Clanville Lodge [SU3149, presumably either at SU316492 or SU318486]  
*Viola cracca*  
*Viola sativa* – Var. *Beta* Ramridge Wood [SU3148]  
*Viola sepium*  
*Ervum hirsutum* [*Ervilia hirsuta*]

- Ervum tetraspermum* – Hedge on Blake’s Farm, Ramridge [SU34D]  
*Lathyrus pratensis*  
*Lathyrus sylvestris* – Ramridge Woods [SU3148]  
*Orobus tuberosus* [*Lathyrus linifolius*] – Woods nr. Andover  
*Prunus spinosa*  
*Cerasus padus* [*Prunus padus*] – Woods nr Andover [SU34]  
*Spiraea ulmaria* [*Filipendula ulmaria*]  
*Spiraea filipendula* [*Filipendula vulgaris*] – Hay Down, Ampport [SU2944]  
*Geum urbanum* – Woods nr. Andover  
*Geum rivale* – About Wherwell abundantly [SU3840]  
*Rubus fruticosus*  
*Rubus corylifolius* [?] – Woods nr Andover  
*Rubus caesius* – Near Southampton [SU31]  
*Fragaria vesca*  
*Potentilla tormentilla* [*P. erecta*] – Woods nr Andover  
*Potentilla reptans*  
*Potentilla anserina*  
*Potentilla fragaria* [*P. sterilis*]  
*Poterium sanguisorba*  
*Rosa canina*  
*Rosa arvensis*  
*Crataegus oxycantha* [*C. monogyna*]  
*Pyrus communis* – Woods nr Andover [SU34]  
*Pyrus malus* [*Malus sylvestris*] – Hedges nr Andover [SU34]  
*Bryonia dioica* – Hedges nr Andover  
*Epilobium angustifolium* [*Chamerion angustifolium*] – Bagshot Heath [in Surrey]  
*Epilobium montanum* – Woods nr Andover  
*Epilobium hirsutum*  
*Epilobium palustre*  
*Epilobium parviflorum*  
*Circaea lutetiana* – Chapel Coppice at Redenham nr Andover [SU2949]  
*Sedum telephium* – In a hedgerow, Blake Farm, Ramridge [SU34D]  
*Sedum reflexum* [*S. rupestre*] – On an old wall between Appleshaw & Biddesden [SU3049] and at Andover  
*Sempervivum tectorum* – Old walls, Andover [SU34]  
*Ribes grossularia* [*R. uva-crispa*] – Hedges at Ramridge  
*Ribes rubrum* – Under Ashdown Coppice, nr Andover  
*Saxifraga granulata* – Meadows nr Andover [SU34]  
*Saxifraga tridactylites* – Old walls near Andover [SU34]  
*Adoxa moschatellina* – Ramridge Wood [SU3148]  
*Daucus carota*  
*Torilis nodosa*  
*Torilis anthriscus* [*T. japonica*]  
*Torilis infesta* [*T. arvensis*] – Fields nr Andover [SU34]  
*Heracleum sphondylium*  
*Pastinaca sativa*  
*Bupleurum rotundifolium* – Fields near Andover [SU34]  
*Bunium flexuosum* [*Conopodium majus*] – Fields nr Andover [SU34]  
*Pimpinella saxifraga* – Meadows nr Andover [SU34]  
*Cnidium silaus* [*Silaum silaus*] – In a meadow belonging to the Rectory of Weyhill nr Andover [SU3146]  
*Chaerophyllum temulentum* [*C. temulum*]  
*Anthriscus sylvestris*  
*Scandix pecten-veneris* [SU34]  
*Conium maculatum*  
*Sanicula europaea* – Woods nr Andover  
*Hedera helix*  
*Cornus sanguineus* – Woods nr Andover  
*Sambucus nigra* – Hedges about Andover  
*Viburnum lantana* – Woods & hedges about Andover  
*Viburnum opulus* – Woods & hedges about Andover  
*Lonicera caprifolium* – Grows in a hedge about a mile down a lane leading ..... to London Road just after you come out of the town of Andover on the London side, June 1827 [SU3745]  
*Viscum album* – On wild crab trees in Ramridge Meadow nr Andover [SU3047]  
*Galium cruciatum* [*Cruciata laevipes*] – Hedges nr Andover [SU34]  
*Galium saxatile* – Downs nr Andover [SU34 a bit surprising on chalk]  
*Galium verum*  
*Galium mollugo*  
*Galium aparine*  
*Asperula odorata* [*Galium odoratum*] – Woods nr Andover  
*Asperula cynanchica*  
*Sherardia arvensis*  
*Fedia olitoria* [*Valerianella locusta*]  
*Valeriana dioica*  
*Valeriana officinalis* – Woods nr Andover [SU34]  
*Scabiosa columbaria*  
*Scabiosa succisa* [*S. pratensis*]  
*Dipsacus sylvestris* [*D. fullonum*] – Littleton Wood nr Andover [SU2848]  
*Eupatorium cannabinum*  
*Tussilago farfara*  
*Tussilago petasites* [*Petasites hybridus*]  
*Cineraria integrifolia* [*Tephroses integrifolia*] – On Ludgershall Common 6 miles from Andover, June 1827 [SU2849]  
*Senecio jacobaea* [*Jacobaea vulgaris*]  
*Senecio aquaticus* [*Jacobaea aquatica*]  
*Senecio vulgaris*  
*Erigeron acris*  
*Bellis perennis*  
*Conyza squarrosa* [*Inula conyza*] – In the hedges by the roadside between Appleshaw & Biddesden [SU3049], also about Ramridge, Aug 1829 [SU34D]

<i>Inula dysenterica</i> [ <i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i> ]	<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>
<i>Gnaphalium rectum</i> var $\beta$ – Woods nr Andover [SU34] [ <i>G. rectum</i> is a synonym for <i>Omalotheca sylvatica</i> and it does prefer woodland, but why is <i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i> missing from his list? Could that be his plant?]	<i>Lithospermum officinale</i> – Woods nr Andover
<i>Gnaphalium germanicum</i> [ <i>Filago germanica</i> ]	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>
<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> [ <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> ]	<i>Borago officinalis</i>
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> [ <i>Glebionis segetum</i> ]	<i>Myosotis palustris</i> [ <i>M. scorpioides</i> ]
<i>Pyrethrum inodorum</i> [ <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> ]	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	<i>Myosotis versicolor</i> [ <i>M. discolor</i> ]
<i>Anthemis nobilis</i> [ <i>Chamaemelum nobile</i> ] [Seems unlikely on chalk of Andover area]	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> – Wherwell nr Andover [SU3840]
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	<i>Atropa belladonna</i> – Near Southampton
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i> [suspect <i>A. vulgaris</i> intended]	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
<i>Cnicus acaulos</i> [ <i>Cirsium acaule</i> ]	<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> – Near Southampton
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	<i>Antirrhinum orontium</i> [ <i>Misopates orontium</i> ]
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	<i>Linaria cymbalaria</i> [ <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> ] – Walls at Southampton
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	<i>Linaria elatine</i> [ <i>Kickxia elatine</i> ]
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	<i>Linaria spurium</i> [ <i>Kickxia spuria</i> ]
<i>Crepis tectorum</i> [ <i>Crepis vesicaria</i> ]	<i>Linaria minor</i> [ <i>Chaenorhinum minus</i> ]
<i>Leontodon taraxacum</i> [ <i>Taraxacum</i> agg.]	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i> [ <i>Pilosella officinarum</i> ]	<i>Scrophularia aquatica</i> [ <i>S. auriculata</i> ]
<i>Hieracium sylvaticum</i> [?] – Ramridge Wood nr Andover, this appears to be the plant described in ell... Brit.	<i>Orobanche major</i> [a synonym of <i>O. caryophyllacea</i> , not <i>O. rapum-genistae</i> , but as <i>O. minor</i> is missing from the list I suspect a slip of the pen for that]
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	<i>Orobanche elatior</i>
<i>Tragopogon pratense</i>	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>
<i>Apargia hispida</i> [ <i>Leontodon hispidus</i> ]	<i>Pedicularis sylvestris</i> [not ever a name; <i>P. sylvatica</i> surely intended] – Nr Southampton
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i> – On the downs near Winchester and in abundance by the roadside between Winchester & Wherwell for 3 or 4 miles out of Winchester, 6 August 1829 [SU4534]	<i>Rhinanthus crista-gallii</i> [ <i>R. minor</i> ]
<i>Campanula hybrida</i> [ <i>Legousia hybrida</i> ]	<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	<i>Euphrasia odontites</i> [ <i>Odontites vernus</i> ]
<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i> – A large tuft of this plant was found growing in Ramridge Wood, July 1817 [SU3148]	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> – Woods nr Andover	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>
<i>Vinca minor</i> – In a hedge between Andover & Clatford [SU34Q] near the river by the road side	<i>Veronica anagallis</i> [surely <i>V. anagallis-aquatica</i> meant]
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>
<i>Gentiana acaulis</i> – Near Southampton [? Perhaps he meant <i>G. pneumonanthe</i> ?]	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
<i>Gentiana amarella</i> [ <i>Gentianella amarella</i> ]	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>
<i>Erythraea centaurium</i> [ <i>Centaurium erythraea</i> ]	<i>Veronica agrestis</i>
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> – Fields nr Andover	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>
<i>Convolvulus sepium</i> [ <i>Calystegia sepium</i> ] – Hedges nr Andover	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i> – Thruxton nr Andover [SU2443]
<i>Convolvulus soldanella</i> [ <i>Calystegia soldanella</i> ] – Shore nr Southampton	<i>Ajuga reptans</i> – Woods nr Andover
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i> – Near Southampton
	<i>Galeobdolum luteum</i> [ <i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> ] – Woods nr Andover
	<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i> – In the village of Abbots anne [sic] nr Andover, under an old brick wall near the church [now called Abbots Ann SU330435]
	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i> [SU34]
	<i>Ballota nigra</i>

- Betonica officinalis*  
*Galeopsis tetrahit*  
*Galeopsis ladanum* [? Probably *G. angustifolium*]  
*Lamium album*  
*Lamium purpureum*  
*Lamium amplexicaule*  
*Stachys arvensis*  
*Stachys sylvatica* – Woods nr Andover  
*Stachys palustris*  
*Glechoma hederacea*  
*Mentha hirsuta* [*M. aquatica*]  
*Mentha arvensis*  
*Thymus serpyllum* [*T. drucei* = *T. polytrichus* intended]  
*Thymus acinos* [*Clinopodium acinos*]  
*Clinopodium vulgare*  
*Origanum vulgare*  
*Prunella vulgaris*  
*Scutellaria gabriculata* – Near Southampton [??Not a synonym but from the sequence of species *Scutellaria galericulata* surely intended – the handwriting was sometimes hard to read!]  
*Verbena officinalis*  
*Lysimachia vulgaris* – Near Southampton  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Anagallis tenella* – Near Stockbridge [SU3535]  
*Primula veris*  
*Plantago lanceolata*  
*Plantago media*  
*Plantago major*  
*Chenopodium polyspermum*  
*Chenopodium bonus-henricus*  
*Atriplex angustifolia* [*Atriplex patula*]  
*Rumex acetosa*  
*Rumex acetosella*  
*Polygonum convolvulus* [*Fallopia convolvulus*]  
*Polygonum persicaria* [*Persicaria maculosa*]  
*Polygonum lapathifolium* [*Persicaria lapathifolia*]  
*Polygonum aviculare*  
*Daphne mezereum* – Ramridge Wood [SU3148], March 1819, but it is very rare. It is also found in Doles Wood [SU35Q] and Wherwell Woods near Andover [SU34V]  
*Daphne laureola* – Nr Southampton  
*Euphorbia helioscopia*  
*Euphorbia exigua*  
*Euphorbia peplus*  
*Euphorbia amygdaloides* – Woods nr Andover  
*Mercurialis perennis* – Woods nr Andover  
*Parietaria officinalis* [*Parietaria judaica*] – Near Southampton  
*Urtica urens*  
*Urtica dioica*  
*Humulus lupulus*  
*Ulmus campestris* [*Ulmus glabra*]  
*Fagus sylvaticus*  
*Quercus robur*  
*Corylus avellana*  
*Taxus baccata* – In a wood at Clatsford Oakcuts [sic] [Clatford Oakcuts SU3339] between Andover and Stockbridge in abundance  
*Juniperus communis* – On the Perriam Downs [now called Perham Down SU24U]. On the Juniper Hills and near Andover [SU34] and Stockbridge [SU33]  
*Alisma plantago*  
*Orchis morio*  
*Orchis mascula*  
*Orchis ustulata* [*Neotinea ustulata*] – On Perriam Down [now Perham Down SU24U] and Stockbridge Race course [the racecourse was at Houghton Down SU3335]  
*Orchis pyramidalis* [*Anacamptis pyramidalis*]  
*Orchis latifolia* [could be *Dactylorhiza incarnata* or *D. praetermissa* as much confused in 1830]  
*Orchis maculata* [could only be *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* on the chalk].  
*Orchis conopsea* [*Gymnadenia conopsea*]  
*Habenaria viridis* [*Coeloglossum viride*] – On Perriam Down near Andover 1 Aug 1829 [now Perham Down SU24U]  
*Habenaria bifolia* [*Platanthera bifolia*] – Woods near Andover [SU34]  
*Ophrys apifera* – Long Parish [SU44H] and Wherwell wood near Andover  
*Neottia spiralis* [*Spiranthes spiralis*] – Between Southampton and Portsmouth  
*Listera ovata* [*Neottia ovata*] – Woods nr Andover  
*Listera nidus-avis* [*Neottia nidus-avis*] – In Ramridge Wood near Andover [SU3148] but very sparingly  
*Epipactis latifolia* [*E. helleborine*] – In Ramridge Wood near Andover in abundance [SU3148]  
*Iris pseudacorus*  
*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* – In a meadow belonging to Mr. Clarke, Appleshaw near Andover [SU34E] in abundance  
*Galanthus nivalis* – Grows all over a small wood belonging to Mr. Lockton at Clanville [SU34J]  
*Convallaria multiflora* [*Polygonatum multiflorum*] – Woods nr Andover  
*Tamus communis*  
*Fritillaria meleagris* – Near Netley Abbey, Southampton [SU4509] 29 April 1819. It is said it grows also near Bishops Waltham [SU51N]  
*Scilla bifolia* – A few specimens have been found in Ramridge Wood [SU3148], April 1820, probably an escape from the garden  
*Scilla nutans* [*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*]  
*Ornithogalum umbellatum* – Whitchurch [SU44U] and Long Parish near Andover [SU44H]  
*Allium oleraceum* – Common at Ramridge [SU34D] & about Appleshaw nr Andover [SU34E], but rarely to be found in bloom [that makes me doubt whether his plant was *A. vineale*, which is missing from his list and far



commoner. I introduced *A. oleraceum* to my garden from collected wild seed and it always flowers well]

*Colchicum autumnale* – Common in some of the woods near Andover – Quarley Wood [SU2742], Ashdown Coppice [Ashdown Copse SU24N], Chapel Coppice at Redenham [Chapel Copse SU2949] and L... Copse between that and Appleshaw [can only be in SU3048]

*Narthecium ophipogon* [? *Narthecium ossifragum*?] – Shirley Ponds near Southampton, 1819 [SU3914]

*Arum maculatum*

*Juncus conglomeratus*

*Juncus bufonius*

*Juncus uliginosus* [*J. bulbosus*]

*Luzula pilosa* – Woods near Andover

*Luzula campestris*

*Scirpus palustris* [*Eleocharis palustris*]

*Eriophorum angustifolia*

*Carex vulpina* [Unlikely to be *C. vulpina* L. in Hants, possibly *C. otrubae*?]

*Carex sylvatica* – Woods nr Andover

*Carex flava* [unlikely in Hants, possibly *C. demissa*?] – Near Southampton

*Carex praecox* [*C. caryophyllea*]

*Carex recurva* [has been a synonym for *C. acuta*, *C. flacca* and *C. pseudocyperus*!] – Woods nr Andover

*Carex riparia*

*Carex hirta*

*Agrostis alba* var. *β stolonifera* [*A. stolonifera*]

*Agrostis vulgaris* [*A. capillaris*] – Woods nr Andover

*Milium effusum* – Woods nr Andover

*Phalaris arundinacea*

*Phleum pratense* var *β nodosum*

*Polypogon monspeliensis* – near Portsmouth? [sic, i.e. a question mark is here in the original text]

*Alopecurus pratensis*

*Alopecurus agrestis* [*A. myosuroides*]

*Anthoxanthum odoratum*

*Melica uniflora*

*Aira caespitosa* [*Deschampsia caespitosa*]

*Holcus lanatus*

*Holcus mollis*

*Arrhenatherum elatius*

*Avena pratensis* [*Helictochloa pratensis*]

*Avena pubescens* [*Avenula pubescens*]

*Avena flavescens* [*Trisetum flavescens*]

*Bromus mollis*

*Bromus erectus* [*Bromopsis erecta*] – Common in hedges by the road sides about Andover, Monxton [SU3144], near Redenham [SU2949] and in the meadows at Ramridge [SU34D]

*Bromus arvensis* [On 25 August 2023 David Pearman sent me a scan of herbarium specimen number 03604 at CGE. The sheet has specimens numbered 1 to 5, all originally labelled as *Bromus arvensis*, but none of them are dated. Specimen 1 is from 'Ramridge nr Andover' [so within SU34D], collected by W(illiam) Annesley [so before his death in 1830]. Specimens 2–4 are just labelled 'Nottinghamshire' collected by T(homas) Jowett. Specimen 5, with no location or collector does appear to be *Bromus arvensis*, but specimens 1–4 were determined by A. Melderis in 1965 as *B. patulus* (a synonym of *B. japonicus*) and confirmed as *B. japonicus* by P.J.O. Trist in Feb 1984.]

*Bromus as* [...] – Woods nr Andover [hard to read, probably *asper*. *Bromus asper* Murray was a synonym for *Bromopsis ramosa*. *Bromus asper* Pall. ex M. Bieb. was a synonym for *Bromopsis erecta* but that was listed separately (see above) and is not a woodland plant]

*Bromus sterilis* [*Anisantha sterilis*]

*Festuca ovina*

*Festuca duriuscula* [*F. rubra*]

*Festuca pratensis* [*Schedonorus pratensis*]

*Arundo phragmites* [*Phragmites australis*]

*Dactylis glomerata*

*Koeleria cristata* [*Koeleria macrantha*]

*Glyceria aquatica* [*G. maxima*]

*Glyceria rigida* [*Catapodium rigidum*]

*Poa trivialis*

*Poa pratensis*

*Poa caesia* – In a field at Ramridge near Andover, May 1829 [this is a synonym for *Poa glauca* but that is not possible in Hampshire]

*Poa annua*

*Briza media*

*Cynosurus cristatus*

*Nardus stricta* [but surely not near Andover as implied, presumably on one of his visits to Southampton area]

*Triticum caninum* [*Elymus caninus*]

*Triticum repens* (*Elymus repens*)

*Brachypodium pinnatum* – About Ramridge nr Andover, common [probably *B. rupestre*, which was unknown in 1830]

*Lolium perenne*

## The gardeners' tale: gardening at Winchester's Cathedral

A note by Anna Stewart

For many years the grounds around Winchester Cathedral were cut frequently, grass was short, very few flowers showed their heads, there was little for wildlife. If you have visited recently, you may have noticed that in some areas there has been change, grass is long and although mowing takes place, it's limited to paths, opening up vistas and significant archaeological areas. This is particularly the case for the area north of the cathedral called the Paddock.

These changes have been spearheaded by gardener Julia Vinton, assisted by gardener Wayne French and supported by Head Gardener Patrick Green with the desire to create a more biodiverse meadow.

Martin Rand and I were invited to carry out a plant survey in 2022 which revealed a dense sward of grasses in the Paddock, the east end dominated by False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and Cock's-foot, *Dactylis glomerata*, whilst the west end had more fine-leaved Fescues and Meadow-grasses. Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, Buttercups *Ranunculus* spp. and Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* provided a splash of colour. We found a few Bee Orchids *Ophrys apifera* and Pyramidal Orchids *Anacamptis pyramidalis*.

The challenge for Julia and the team was how to get plants into the sward and which plants to choose? Cowslips *Primula veris* are usually a winner and once in will freely set seed and spread. However, Jackdaws marching in a troupe upended every plant. The resident Peregrines were no deterrent to these outrageous corvids and their habits would have to be considered. The Peregrines provided some interest for our gardeners, swooping down, shrieking, falling out of the nest and tossing discarded pigeon meals below.

Winchester Cathedral contains a unique heritage of the life of the English Nation, a treasure which attracts modern pilgrims and requires constant restoration. The Cathedral, of necessity, has to be viable commercially. Filming the successful series 'The Crown' provided essential funding for conservation work and a nail-biting time for our gardeners when generators, lights, boards, plus numerous vehicles and people appeared, potentially destroying the meadow with its orchids. Fortunately, filming took place during winter with little negative effect on wildlife.

During the year a meadow grows and inevitably the meadow must be cut, hay must be made, the grass dried and stored for winter feed to be given to livestock on local reserves.

What of the wildflowers? Harebells *Campanula rotundifolia* have been found in two locations. Julia is persevering with plantings and uses cocktail sticks to deter Jackdaws.



Julia Vinton haymaking using a tedding machine. Anna Stewart



Harebells allowed to flower. Anna Stewart

Cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, Common Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris*, Meadow Crane's-bill *Geranium pratense* and Yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor* are settling in.

The stars of the show must be the orchids, with little or no help they have just appeared, spreading throughout the paddock. This year Julia mapped and counted 68 Bee Orchids, 7 Pyramidal Orchids and 2 Common Spotted-orchids *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. We would love to see the return of Autumn Lady's-tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*.

Wildlife has been given a great opportunity in the heart of Winchester – already toads have been seen, as well as hedgehogs. Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Brown Argus butterflies are present. Perhaps the Hummingbird Hawk-moth will even breed in the abundant Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*?

The Cathedral gardeners are to be commended for their practical vision for a more biodiverse meadow at Winchester Cathedral and it has been a pleasure to work with them. We look forward to future collaboration.



Pyramidal Orchid. Julia Vinton

## Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) in West Walk and Hurst Wood in the Forest of Bere

An article by Roger Clooney and Andrew Powling

The Forest of Bere has significant populations of Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*. These are concentrated in ancient purlieus. The forest was enclosed in 1810 when parts of several purlieus were claimed by the Crown and added to the Crown Demesne to form West Walk (Figure 1).

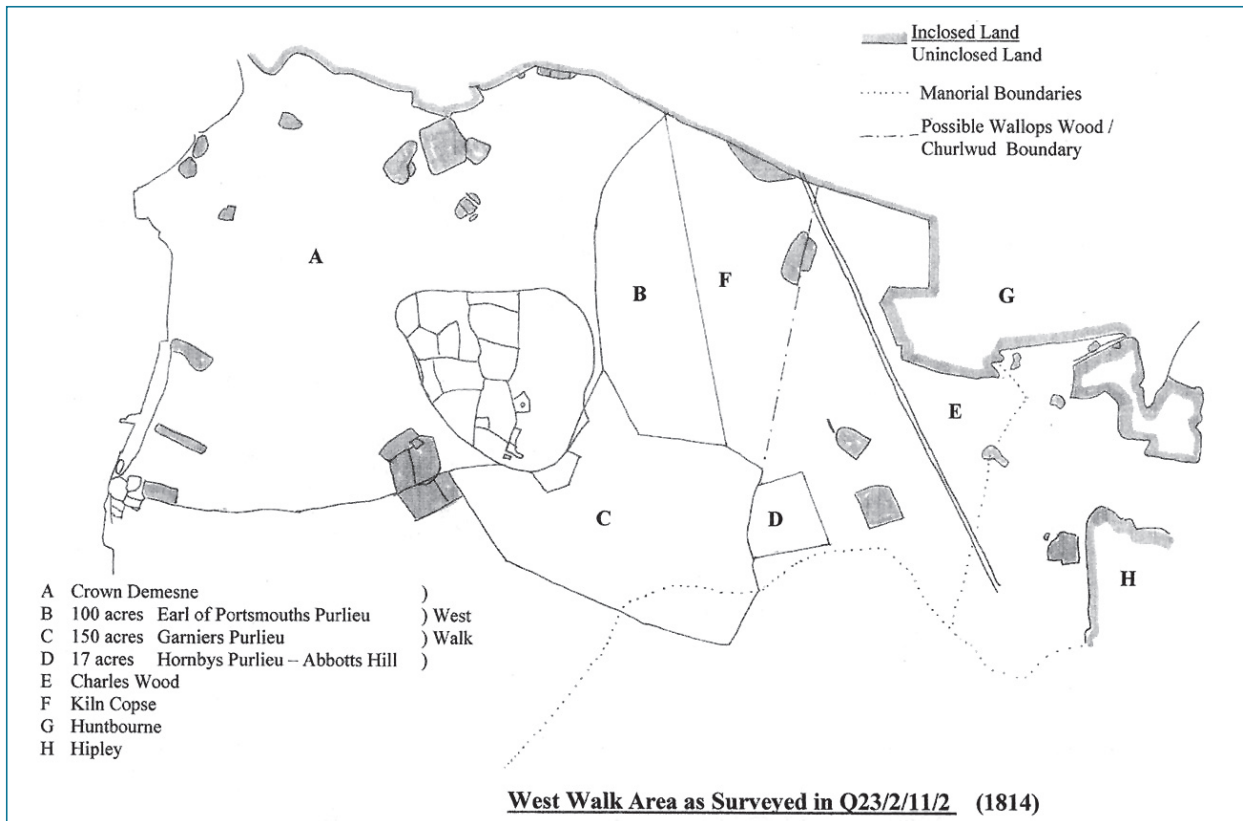


Figure 1. Map of West Walk in 1814. The straight road running from north-west to south-east goes through present-day Newtown.

The greatest population of Small-leaved Lime (hereafter called lime) in West Walk, numbering hundreds of stools, is in the former purlieu of the Earls of Portsmouth (the Wallop family). The Wallop purlieu is recorded in documents as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The Crown Demesne is recorded in 1301 as the forest of Porcestre.

Lime is found in the Crown Demesne and in the Garnier and Hornby purlieus. It also occurs at Charles Wood and Huntbourn. Charles Wood is the eastern part of Hornby's purlieu; originally the Cherlwud of Titchfield Abbey; gifted to the Abbey at its formation in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by the Bishop of Winchester. Huntbourn was owned by the alien Priory of Hamble in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, later to form the purlieu of Winchester College.

Aside from the *T. cordata*, West Walk also has a significantly high count of ancient woodland indicator plants; John Rowe recorded over 70 during his surveys.

Another important population of *T. cordata* has survived in the remnants of the Hurst Wood at Waterlooville, another ancient purlieu. The earliest record of Hurst Wood is from an Inquisition post mortem of Edward II, 1310; this records the estates of Mathew Ude, Lord of the Manor of Warblington. The Inquisition lists the details of his estates, including a wood called La Hurst in the Forest of Porcestre.

The Lords of Warblington changed over the centuries until at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Margaret Plantagenet inherited the manor as the Countess of Salisbury. Her lands were confiscated by Henry VII only to be restored by Henry VIII in 1512. By then she had married and held Warblington as Margaret Pole. After the restoration of her estates she started a major building programme at Warblington Castle. Detailed financial records survive for this project and among the pages of accounts is the record of 67 trees felled in the Hyrst. Timber trees were an important commodity in Tudor England and she evidently preserved her purlieu in the Forest. The Castle was destroyed by Cromwell and only a remnant, a gate tower, survives.

Margaret fell foul of Henry VIII's spat with Rome and she was beheaded in 1541. The Crown seemed to be in a habit of retaining woodland confiscated from the monasteries and the Hurst temporarily disappears from history. The manor of Warblington was granted to the Cotton family in 1551 but detailed surviving records make no mention of the Hurst.

The Hurst finally resurfaces in 1722 when it is held in tenancy by Andrew Smyth and Thomas Oxford. A document records the Hurst as belonging to the parish of Portsea. The 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure map for Catherington designates the Hurst on its southern boundary as part of Portsea. The early 6-inch OS map shows many detached parish areas: Widley, Wymering, etc. but does not show the Hurst as Portsea.

At the enclosure of the Forest of Bere in 1810 the Hurst was Lord Stawell's purlieu. The Hurst was retained by the Stawell family with the Duttons owning it in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The wood was heavily felled during the First World War and was purchased by Jackson of Stakeshill Lodge in 1943. There is a record of a recommendation to clear fell the remaining timber for replanting; Jackson refused.

The Hurst woods were cleared for housing from the 1950s onwards with the most loss occurring in the 1980s. Botanical surveys of the wood failed to record the large group of limes, some of which still survive. If they had been located there is a chance that the wood's destruction might have been restricted.

The surviving main group of *T. cordata* is located in a valley associated with an ancient spring and with sides too steep for houses (Figure 2). The valley now has a tarmacked footpath running its length. It is home to many large *T. cordata* coppice stools and trees. Because of the presence of the lime trees we have given the site the informal name of 'lime valley'. This tree species is generally rare in Britain but is found in ancient woods and is considered to be an indicator of this endangered and biodiverse woodland.

*Tilia cordata* is a native British species but was late in colonising Britain after the end of the last ice age. However, by 7500 BC it had arrived and was flourishing in southern, central and eastern England. It remained one of the commonest trees in these areas until about 4500 BC but declined later due to humans cutting it for timber, clearing it for fields and allowing their animals to browse its shoots and leaves. Remaining trees are now often found in clusters of ancient woods, with these clusters themselves separated by large swathes of countryside containing ancient woods but no limes. This absence of the species from many apparently suitable sites has been described as 'mysterious' by Oliver Rackham, the great historian of British woodlands.



Figure 2. 'Lime valley' in Hurst Wood; left: OS 6-inch 19<sup>th</sup> century map; right: Google Earth aerial photo, April 2022 (roughly to same scale). Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland / © Google 2024.



Figure 3. Limes in 'lime valley'; left: a large multi-stemmed Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*; right: line of the trees in the valley. Roger Clooney

The species does not easily establish from seed but once present in woodland it can survive by growing new shoots from the stump after the original trunk has rotted at the base and fallen; and by layering when branches contact the soil. This ability to produce shoots has been exploited by humans who coppice the tree and use the shoots as a valuable source of poles, timber and basten rope. The cut trunks of lime, the coppice stools, can survive many cycles of cutting and may live for thousands of years.

The 'lime valley' in the remains of Hurst Wood runs in a north-south direction, from SU694098 to SU695092. It is cut by a road into northern and southern sections. Over 20 *T. cordata* trees stand in the northern section and at least two, one very large, in the southern section. A survey of 19 limes in the northern section showed trunk sizes varied from very large to small and slender. Nine of the trees had two or more trunks (Figure 3), indicating that they had been coppiced in the past. The other ten had single trunks and included large trees which are presumably 'maidens' having never been coppiced. The presence of the lime trees and the evidence for coppicing would be expected for a wood, such as Hurst Wood, with a documented history of past exploitation

by people. In the UK relict populations of *T. cordata* predominantly survive as coppice stools with only rare seedlings, so the presence of ‘maidens’ is important for history and conservation. They show that during the last one hundred or more years trees have been able to grow from seedlings in the Hurst.

More than 20 lime specimens from West Walk and Hurst Wood were used by Dr Amanda Mylett in her PhD thesis on the genetic diversity of *T. cordata*. One *T. × europaea* specimen was found; it grew near West Lodge in West Walk and probably came from ornamental tree seed.

The rarity of the limes, the history of the woodland and, indeed, the beauty of the trees present a strong case for the conservation of lime valley and all its plants. There are several Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees in the valley, some of which are affected by ash dieback. One concern is that inexperienced contractors may damage limes during ash removal activities.

Thanks to Eric Clement for help with the survey.

## An interesting fumitory in Gosport

A note by John Norton

On 4 January 2020 the Gosport botanists (Debbie Allan, Eric Clement and myself) were taking part in the BSBI’s New Year Plant Hunt, recording plants along Mumby Road in the town centre. In a walled planter between the road and a car park we noticed some flowering White Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria capreolata* (my memory has faded but I think Eric spotted it first or may have already noticed it a few days earlier). The planter had been recently re-stocked with bedding plants, including several Californian Poppy *Eschscholzia californica*. The *Fumaria* was a pleasing new addition to our Gosport flora (which also includes Martin’s Ramping-fumitory *F. reuteri*, Tall Ramping-fumitory *F. bastardii* and Dense-flowered Fumitory *F. densiflora*). However, considering the circumstances this was clearly an accidentally introduced plant, most likely the continental subsp. *capreolata*, rather than the usual one found in Britain, subsp. *babingtonii*. The differences between the two are slight and at the time I could not confirm this, even with help from the BSBI handbook. We saw the fumitory again during the following year’s plant hunt on 1 January 2021 and a couple more times prior to 2024, but often only a single plant was present. However, in May 2024 I walked past and noticed that the fumitory was doing particularly well, as the planter had not been weeded recently; also that some of the corollas were turning a startlingly bright pink colour. I took some photographs and included them in a post on the Hampshire Flora Group Facebook page where Tristan Norton and Martin Rand both remarked that this was *f. speciosa* of the continental subspecies. Martin also noted that it was new for Hampshire. The handbook states that it is ‘a very distinctive form that is recognised by the rapidity with which the corolla turns bright crimson after fertilisation. It has been recorded from the Channel Islands and occurs sporadically around the Mediterranean’. There are several records on the BSBI’s database, for vice-counties 1, 2 (W & E Cornwall), 14 (E Sussex), 15 (W Kent), 22 (Berkshire) and 29 (Cambridgeshire).



*Fumaria capreolata* subsp. *capreolata*, f. *speciosa*, Mumby Road, Gosport, May 2024. John Norton

## Book Reviews

### BRITISH AND IRISH WILD FLOWERS AND PLANTS: A POCKET GUIDE

Rachel Hamilton, Chris Gibbon and Robert Still

Princeton WILDGuide, Princeton University Press, 2024;

pp. 320 with colour illustrations throughout; plastic flexicover.

Book: £12.99, ISBN 978-0-691-24540-9; ebook: £9.80, ISBN 978-0-691-24541-6.

#### Review by Martin Rand

**B**eginners wanting an illustrated guide to help them identify plants are usually referred to the 'big three': Rose's *Wild Flower Key*, Streeter's *Collins Wild Flower Guide* or (more rarely these days) Fitter, Fitter and Blamey's *Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland*. They are all quite comprehensive for what they cover (Rose consigns grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns to a separate book) but the beginner's difficulty does not end there. These books for the most part give basic glossaries for naming parts of plants and some brief notes on how the keys work; but they tend to assume that you are already comfortable with the actual **process** of examining a plant and simply want to get on with putting a name to it.

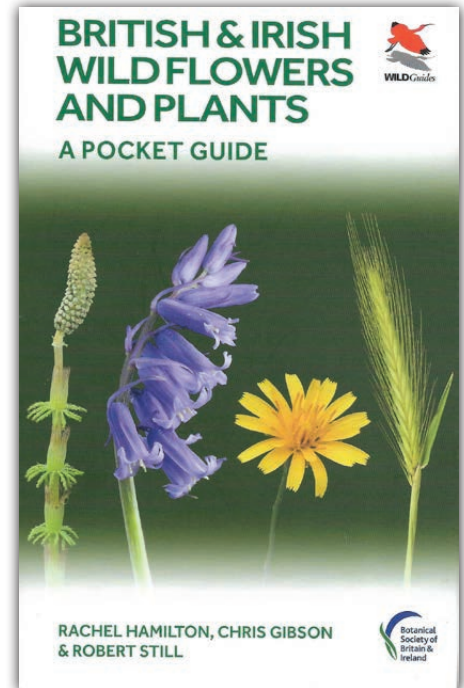
Yet beginners will often struggle with most forms of key (especially long ones); understandably find it hard to get all the relevant detail from the illustrations; and can find it tedious having to compare textual descriptions of several similar species. As a result, many people now turn to computerised identification apps to give them a name for a plant. While these have improved in recent years (notably PI@ntNet), they still carry a risk of misidentification, and they don't foster critical examination or inculcate a learning process.

Here is a book that is intended to guide you through the identification process itself as much as serving up an identification. It does not try for complete coverage of our flora but does include all widespread species and those that are frequent or conspicuous in certain regions or habitats, as well as some rarer 'confusables'. Experienced botanists will have several tools in their mental toolbox for getting to an ID, and the authors recognise this, presenting a variety of techniques and routes for arriving at an answer. These are linked, with pathways to other criteria mapped out and cross-referenced to other pages in the book. Helpful warnings and supplementary information are given on the way where there are possibilities of misinterpretation or confusion.

If you are familiar with Princeton WILDGuides, you will expect a durable handbook suitable for taking into the field, using modern design principles to differentiate content types and lavishly illustrated with colour photos. This book follows the same lines while managing to shrink its dimensions to fit most jacket or cagoule pockets. There are times when the density of the material tends to compromise the elegance of the design, and picking up on fine detail in the illustrations can sometimes be difficult; but the organisation of the material is very well thought out and deserves a description.

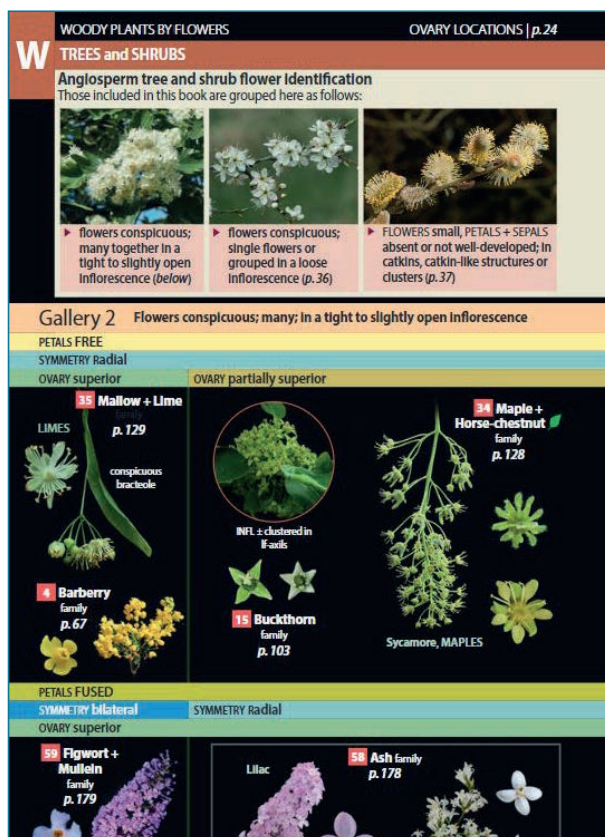
The book starts with an introduction to the divisions of the plant kingdom into non-vascular and vascular plants, the division of vascular plants into three broad groups, and the division of flowering plants into three groups reflecting evolutionary history, summarising their characteristics. Plant-like 'non-plants' (fungi, lichens and algae) are mentioned, and links within the book lead to short accounts helping to distinguish them from similar-looking plants. This is followed by a one-page discussion of the rationale for scientific names and their conventions.

A succinct diagram shows how the book is structured, and a single page describes how to navigate through the main part of the book starting from a complete unknown. A two-page spread then discusses the practicalities of looking at plants, before we are taken into the first steps of getting a plant into a 'broad group'. This simply lays out the main groups side by side and introduces three exceptional groups ('plants not green', aquatic plants and woody plants) that can short-cut a more tedious process of working down to species. I doubt that



this spread will always prove a good starting point for the determination process, but a link is provided to a later section which will.

First, however, comes a 7-page glossary which is organised by categories of terms, not dictionary order, and highly reliant on illustrations. Some are well-supported by text but in other cases (grass structure, inflorescence types) it relies on the reader staying alert to small visual differences. (This is, of course, no bad skill for a botanist.) While technical language is avoided in term descriptions as much as possible, the authors do not shrink from introducing the correct and precise technical names for features which users are bound to encounter in further reading. There are then five excellent pages on the process of working through the details of a plant systematically.



Now starts the process of running down a plant from first principles. The first page is a 'roadmap key' to the three 'special case' groups, the pteridophytes and the flowering plants (gymnosperms are at this point sensibly lumped in with 'woody plants'). The page is patterned like a flowchart, visually designed to be as clear and non-intimidating as possible. Each of these groups has a page link to the next step. The first of them ('plants not green') demonstrates the practicality of these keys as it includes, as well as parasitic plants that always lack chlorophyll, links to pages on winter twigs and to those fertile horsetail stems that show no green at certain times. The second group ('aquatic plants') introduces the first of a series of 'galleries' that rely primarily on visual matching, albeit with supporting notes. The subject of 'woody plants' is tackled with a battery of approaches, including road maps, visual comparison charts and galleries.

Some galleries are built around keys designed to give the best readability in the most economical way. Such pages expect the user to tackle features such as floral structure, while using the illustrations to bring these topics to life. Topics covered in the glossary are revisited at greater length where necessary. Plants that may have landed you in one part of the key but are dealt with in another have redirections to the right place. The main key section based around floral characters is supplemented by a series of galleries allowing determination by leaves, fruits and seeds, and winter twigs.

At the end of these processes, the user will have arrived at a page taking them to a family or genus within the species accounts. These are organised conventionally by family; there are a couple of prefatory pages the former of which details the content and explains the symbology and codes used in the accounts to keep them brief,







**12 Polygalaceae | Milkwort family** 2 spp. | 4 spp. B&I COMMON

**Form** small perennials; herbaceous, although many with a woody base.  
**Fls unique structure:** SEPALs 5, free, the inner 2 much larger and more petal-like than the outer 3; PETALS 3, fused, the lowest of which is divided into a white fringe of narrow lobes; STAMENS 8, fused into a tube attached to the petals.

**IDENTIFY BY:** ▶ lower + upper leaf arrangement ▶ sepal details

**SS** All milkworts are similar. Two rarer milkworts are distinguished from the common species shown here by their lower leaves being longer than the upper, and congested into a rosette.

In both these species LVS at the stem-base are smaller than those further up the stem; FLS typically blue, but can be purple, pink or white.

<p><b>Common Milkwort</b> <i>Polygala vulgaris</i></p>  <p>H to 30 cm. <b>Form</b> trailing to erect; base woody.  <b>Fls</b> L5–8 mm; <b>OUTER SEPALs</b> pointed at apex. <b>Infl</b> usually &gt;10 flowers on main spikes.  <b>Lvs</b> all alternate. <b>Hab</b> calcareous to acid grassland, heathland.</p> <p>typically more flowers on main spikes than Heath Milkwort</p>  <p>flowers can also be pink, purple or white</p> <p>ALL LVS alternate</p>	<p><b>Heath Milkwort</b> <i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i></p>  <p>H to 25 cm. <b>Form</b> usually trailing; base scarcely woody.  <b>Fls</b> L5–6 mm; <b>OUTER SEPALs</b> rounded at apex. <b>Infl</b> usually &lt;10 flowers on main spikes.  <b>Lvs</b> at least some lower leaves (if present) opposite. <b>Hab</b> acid and upland grassland, heathland.</p>  <p>stem-base leaves often lost; if they are absent, look at leaf scars to establish leaf arrangement</p> <p>LOWER LVS opposite</p>
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while the latter is a comparative table showing the occurrence of key floral characters in the families, providing a useful sanity check that you have arrived in the right place. Unusual useful features include a marker for likely difficulty of identification of the species, 'similar species' lists, and a phenology chart that shows expected periods of leafing and fruit as well as flower. The explanation of the sidebar by the distribution map for floral size range is misleading, referring to 'minimum' and 'maximum' dimensions when 'typical' and 'extreme' ranges of dimension are meant; but helpfully, these bars are at 1:1 scale in the printed book.

The accounts themselves continue the well thought out and visually appealing standards of the earlier part. They are arranged in one of two standardised formats, with colour coded additional hints on key identification criteria and similar species where required. The default format presents accounts one after the other, but where the user will need to make a comparison of several similar species, they will sometimes be laid out side by side for easier study. In either format, members of a family or genus may have a comparison table of features at the head and be supported by 'mini-galleries' showing, for example, fruits of several species.

I have quoted the list price for the printed book, but at the time of writing this review some suppliers were offering a substantial discount, and it is worth shopping around.

The electronic version offers the opportunity to use a tablet instead (the format isn't going to be very usable on mobile phones), and it has the advantage that the huge number of cross-references to other pages can be followed with a simple tap, although one or two of the links are missing and will require scrolling through the document. It can only be bought directly from Princeton University Press, and it has a couple of drawbacks. Despite being a PDF file, it requires Princeton's proprietary reader to open it, and this is only made available at point of sale along with the passcode required to open the file, so apparently one can't share the document on more than one device. Setting the dimension bars for floral sizes to 'real life' in the species accounts is challenging: the app only supports limited options for zooming, and it will be sheer chance if one of these works. It is possible to get there by altering the window dimensions on the screen, but this is fiddly and at this point much of the text will be nearly unreadable. Finally, unlike a proper PDF reader, the app only offers a display of one single page vertically after another; given that nearly one third of the book is designed to be read as two-page spreads, this is a severe flaw and makes some key sections unusable through lack of key text on the second page.

Overall, however, this is an excellent book for the purpose for which it was written: to get users to follow a methodical, botanically well-informed path to identifying plants with a minimum of pain. The 'busy' look to

some of its content may look daunting at first and although the photography is excellent, reproduction of small features at this scale sometimes strains the limits of the printing technology; one wonders whether it was wise completely to eschew line drawings. But once content in the first two dozen pages has been digested and the route maps for identification followed, it should become one of the best learning tools one could hope for, and a good standard text for beginner courses.

## AQUATIC PLANTS OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE INCLUDING BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Jens Christian Schou, Bjarne Moeslund, Klaus van de Weyer, Richard V. Lansdown, Gerhard Wiegleb, Peter Holm, Lars Bastrup-Spohr and Kaj Sand-Jensen

Princeton University Press, 2023; 746 pages, more than 1400 colour photographs and 358 plates in pen and ink. Book: £95, ISBN 978-0-691-25102-8; ebook: £66.50, ISBN 978-0-691-25101-1.

Review by Andy Cross and Martin Rand

*Beneath the surface of bodies of freshwater – springs, streams, rivers, ponds and lakes – there is a world of plants of great variety and beauty, a realm that is often poorly known and understood.*

These words set the scene for why this superb book on aquatic plants was written: the authors want us to understand that realm, and the way into it is through identification. Their goal is to provide a ‘... *guide book for accurate identification of all aquatic plants occurring within the area, through high quality identification keys and illustrations as well as descriptions of the species, supported by global and regional maps of species distribution.*’

The area covered by the book comprises 17 geographic regions (countries or territories) extending from Belgium to Poland, the three Baltic countries, the Nordic lands extending north to Iceland and Greenland, and Britain and Ireland. It is refreshing to see the aquatic flora of Britain set in the wider context of other northern European countries.

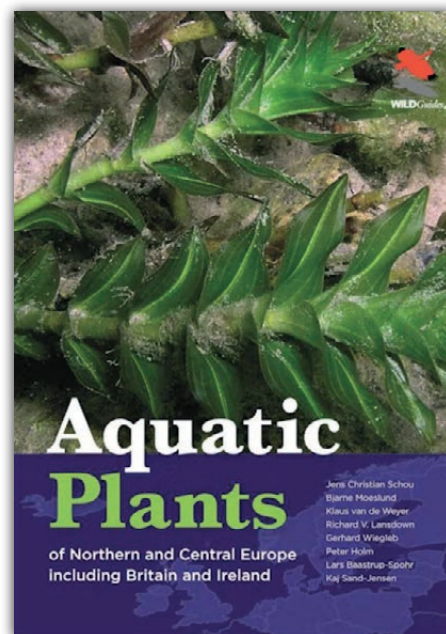
The eight collaborating authors are highly experienced field botanists all of whom are specialists in aquatic plants and who know the aquatic flora of Northern Europe very well. Alongside this skill in aquatic plants lies an extraordinary range of talents including teaching, academic research, training, the writing of floras, and so on, all drawn upon to create this book.

Its warm and approachable tone is set in the very first sentence where the authors write: ‘*We are extremely fond of aquatic plants.*’

A fascinating overview of aquatic plants takes up the first 24 pages of the book and is divided into four sections. First is an introduction, which starts like any good start, with a journey that, for a book like this, has to be one in a boat. In this case it is down the River Gudenå in Denmark and is a wonderful bringing together of modern and historical botanical endeavours. We could perhaps take an equivalent journey, and in fact one has been proposed (but not yet planned) for the Hampshire Avon. The next two sections are on species distribution and diversity in the study area – giving a chance to think about the aquatic flora of Britain in a wider geographical context – and on habitats. The latter is an excellent account covering springs, running water and still waters and draws on examples from across the study area. Finally there is a set of guidelines on sampling, identification and documentation of aquatic plants.

The greater part of the book is devoted to identification keys, species accounts and distribution maps of taxa covered, which are limited to vascular plants. A glossary, literature references and an index of scientific names follow the species descriptions.

A main identification key takes you to one of six subkeys. Good, coloured line illustrations are present in all the main and subordinate keys to depict the feature raised in each couplet of the key. The subkeys will then



take you either to an individual species or to a genus: if the latter, a key to the genus is then given before the species descriptions. Coverage in these keys or in comparison tables is detailed and includes comprehensive coverage of hybrids and non-native species. Some keys include entries for similar species that are not yet recorded in the study area and so are not given full descriptions – a useful feature to help avoid misidentifications in a rapidly changing environment!

Species descriptions are comprehensive for all taxa currently known in the area, are consistently laid out and are accompanied by excellent clear line drawings and fine colour photographs. For the most part taxonomy will bring few surprises and one or two possible natives that may well have gone under the radar up to now for lack of coverage in British literature. The discussion of Water-crowfoot (*Batrachian Ranunculus*) breeding systems, phenotypic plasticity and current taxonomy is very useful: a morphological characterisation of taxa is maintained, in preference to one based on genetic analysis which may cause some major revisions in thinking but is still a work in progress.

The glossary does a good job of saying what is necessary without over-burdening with terms or over-complicating descriptions. The bibliography is usefully broken down by topics, with separate subheadings for each family under the 'Species identification and biology' topic.

This is a book that will prove to be of great importance in identifying our aquatic flora. The aquatic world is undergoing many changes from high pollution, over abstraction, invasive species, climate change, habitat restoration and other factors. This book will help us investigate and understand what is happening. It is highly recommended as one of the essential Floras needed for identifying aquatic plants. It is also a work of beauty in its design and execution, helping to justify its bulk and relatively high price. Princeton University Press also publish the illustrated identification keys separately as an e-book (ePub or PDF), selling at the time of writing for £5.99 (ISBN: 978-0-691-25718-1).

## FRUSTRATING FLOWERS & PUZZLING PLANTS: IDENTIFYING THE DIFFICULT SPECIES OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND

John M. Warren

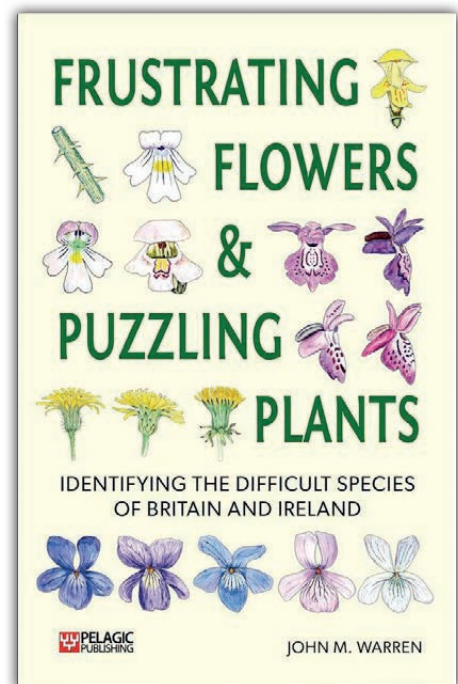
Pelagic Publishing, 2024; pp. xiii + 290; paperback. Book £35, ISBN 978-1-78427-331-6; ebook (ePub) £35, ISBN 978-1-78427-332-3; ebook (PDF) £35, ISBN 978-1-78427-333-0.

### Review by Martin Rand

**T**his book promises to solve the difficulties that most of us encounter and would like to overcome when dealing with 'difficult groups' in our wild flora, that is, the occurrence of large numbers of taxa that differ in small details or taxa that do not appear to be entirely distinct from each other and show intermediate variation between them. The presentation looks good, the comparison tables are an appealing feature, and a quick glance at the table of contents suggests that there will be a good systematic review of the reasons why these groups are difficult. There are some glowing press reviews from well-known and experienced botanists.

Once one starts to delve into the book, one wonders whether these reviewers have in fact tried to put it to practical use. I would urge anyone who is thinking of buying it to get hold of Tim Rich's review in *BSBI News* 156 (April 2024) and to read it carefully. He makes four major criticisms of the book:

- Errors and over-simplifications in the reasons why groups of plants are difficult.
- Rejecting standard botanical terminology in favour of vague and undefined descriptive language.
- Simple errors of fact.
- Inconsistencies and gaps in his recommendations for how far to split plant groups.



To these I would add:

- Inability to maintain a logical or consistent argument, or at least lay out all sides of a contested one in a coherent and usefully informative way.
- Delivering less than is promised.
- Problems with accuracy and quality of some illustrations.

I will not repeat Tim Rich's examples of the problems that he notes, but his claims that these are not rare and isolated issues can be readily demonstrated in most of the groups dealt with. For example, even as a non-expert in taxonomy and evolutionary biology I did not find it difficult to find examples of nearly all the above in the account of Eyebrights (*Euphrasia*).

In summary, I would expect this book more likely to disappoint, dismay, disorient or discourage readers who want to learn more about difficult genera and study them for themselves.

The cost of the book (in any format) is £35: had it been twice the length, had it devoted the space currently given to groups which, even if you consider them difficult, are not 'critical' and are perfectly well served by other field guides, and had it been prepared more accurately and thoughtfully, bearing in mind that its likely reader is unlikely to be an absolute beginner in field botany, then it might have been worth the price. I have an alternative suggestion for your Christmas stocking: 14 of the 23 plant groups that are referenced in this book, along with several other difficult groups that are not included, are covered by BSBI Handbooks that are now available electronically for £10 each. Only a masochist would take on several of the larger groups all at once, so choose three that have initially stirred your interest, get those, and put the other £5 towards your next spending spree. And if you want to understand something about how taxonomy is done, or the drivers of plant evolution and diversification, there are excellent books such as Stace (1991) and Briggs & Walters (2016).

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## Obituary

### Mike Wildish

#### A tribute by John Moon

It is sad to have to report the recent death of Flora Group member Mike Wildish. He was perhaps not widely known outside north-west Hampshire, as he seldom ventured to other parts of the county, but Mike made a very significant contribution to our knowledge of the flora of NW Hants and, with only limited assistance from others, made the first comprehensive plant survey of this part of the county for the 2000 Atlas by taking on nine 10km squares centred on Andover. He was well-qualified to do this as, after studying botany at Exeter, he worked on IT for the MoD (helping to set up their Salisbury Plain GIS) and he devised a comprehensive Excel-based system for recording and mapping plants within this area.

Amongst his idiosyncrasies, Mike did not drive (he also refused to have anything to do with mobile phones or the NHS) and often walked vast distances to reach tetrads he could not reach by bus; this was quite an undertaking as he aimed to visit every tetrad in this large area twice at different times of year. However, with deteriorating health and mobility, Mike only took on the one 10km square centred on Andover for the 2020 Atlas.

Mike recorded many species groups other than plants and it was always a pleasure being out with him, not only for his comprehensive knowledge of wildlife but also because of his repertoire of one-line jokes about wildlife and politics. He was a committee member of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's North West Area Group until its demise and a member of the Salisbury Plain Conservation Group and will be greatly missed by those of us who knew him well.

## Recording

### Hampshire Lichen Report 2023–24

Neil Sanderson

#### Introduction

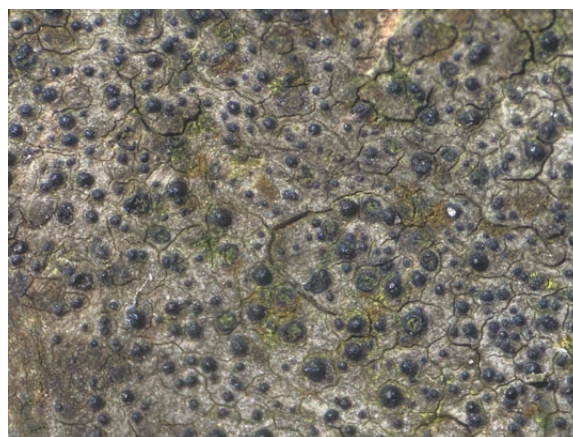
This year the New Forest has produced yet another new species to Britain, the humid Mediterranean-southern oceanic lichen *Dichoporis ziziphi* (*Strigula ziziphi*), an interesting addition to the important group of old woodland southern oceanic species with their British headquarters in the New Forest. As in last year, however, some exploration beyond the lichen paradise of the New Forest was made and has added some interesting new records. The most startling of these was the European rarity *Cladonia peziziformis* in disturbed herb-rich heath on the site of the old WWII airfield at Yateley Common. An interesting theme was finding re-colonising oceanic Hazel specialist species colonising older Hazel bushes following the historic decline in Hazel coppicing, with notable species found in two woods outside the New Forest. Some other species found are probably spreading in response to the warming climate. Finally, the common smooth bark lichen *Graphis scripta* has been split in to four new species: *Graphis betulina*, *Graphis personii*, *Graphis pulverulenta* and *Graphis scripta* s. str. and with the discovery of *G. personii* all are now known from Hampshire. Pictures and description of all these *Graphis* species can be found at [britishlichensociety.org.uk/resources/species-accounts/graphis-scripta-s-lat](http://britishlichensociety.org.uk/resources/species-accounts/graphis-scripta-s-lat).

#### New to Britain

***Dichoporis ziziphi* (*Strigula ziziphi*):** is a mainly Mediterranean epiphytic species of subhumid to humid situations, but with scattered isolated occurrences recorded as far north as Manche, Normandy. The lichen has a pale brown thallus, with both macropycnidia and smaller microconidia intermingled, and can have larger perithecia but these are absent on the Hampshire material. The lichen is similar to the widespread *Dichoporis taylorii* (*Strigula taylorii*) but that has a dark brown thallus with smaller macropycnidia and frequently has perithecia, along with microscopic differences. The species was found dominating a wound track on a veteran Beech, in a small glade in old growth Beech-Holly pasture woodland, Great Stubby Hat, New Forest, SU316092, April 2024. In addition, examining herbarium specimens, a second specimen collected earlier was found that had been misidentified as *Dichoporis phaea* (*Strigula phaea*), but actually matched *D. ziziphi*. This was collected from a rain track on an old Beech, in Beech-Holly pasture woodland, Rushpole Wood, New Forest VC11, SU316092, January 2004, Neil Sanderson. This is an interesting addition to the exceptional lichen assemblage of the New Forest old woodlands. As a humid Mediterranean old woodland species with scattered records north into warm temperate oceanic Europe, it is part of a very distinctive group of southern oceanic species with their British headquarters in the New Forest.

#### Other Species of Interest

***Arthonia graphidicola*:** a Notable oceanic fungal parasite of the common *Graphis scripta* s. lat., which previously was only known from the New Forest in Hampshire and lowland England, there mainly on Beech, but typical of old Hazel



***Dichoporis ziziphi*, showing the intermingled macropycnidia and smaller microconidia.**  
Neil Sanderson



***Arthonia graphidicola*, the dark speckles infecting a *Graphis scripta* s. str. on Hazel, Southleigh Forest.** Neil Sanderson

bushes elsewhere in western Britain. The apothecia are speckled across infected thalli. The fungus was found to be locally frequent, parasitising *Graphis scripta* s. str. on old Hazel bushes in developing Oak-Hazel pasture woodland derived from former coppice, Southleigh Forest, VC11, SU744091, SU743090 & SU743089, April 2024, Neil Sanderson. Part of a rich colonising specialist Hazel lichen assemblage found during a survey of Southleigh Forest.

***Arthonia graphidicola***: a further record of this Notable oceanic fungus was made, this time in North Hampshire, during a Hampshire Flora Group meeting. Parasitising both *Graphis pulverulenta* and *Graphis scripta* s. str., on old Hazel bushes in scrub colonising 19<sup>th</sup> century chalk dumps, Micheldever Chalkies, VC12, SU519443, August 2024, Neil Sanderson. New to North Hampshire and the second Hampshire record outside the New Forest.

***Anisomeridium viridescens***: another Notable oceanic Hazel specialist, which is a pioneer species of younger Hazel stems in undisturbed Hazel stands. This species has been noted as spreading eastwards into abandoned former coppices in lowland England and is known from several sites in South Hampshire. This record was made during a Hampshire Flora Group meeting. On old Hazel bushes in scrub colonising 19<sup>th</sup> century chalk dumps, Micheldever Chalkies, VC12, SU519442, August 2024, Neil Sanderson. New to North Hampshire.

***Cladonia callosa***: a pioneer *Cladonia* of disturbed open acid ground in oceanic heathlands. It can be very frequent in grazed and managed heaths but tends to disappear completely in ungrazed heaths. It is abundant in the New Forest but not yet known outside the New Forest area in Hampshire. This record was made during a Hampshire Flora Group meeting. Large well-developed thalli on the side of a large bold hollow way on a very steep slope with the rare Hawkweed *Hieracium mammidens* nearby, Caesar's Camp, Aldershot, SU837502, July 2024, Neil Sanderson. New to North Hampshire and the first recorded outside the New Forest area in Hampshire.



***Cladonia callosa* on the side of a hollow way at Caesar's Camp, new to North Hampshire. The tomentose squamule undersides and the thallus UV fluorescence are distinctive. Neil Sanderson**

***Cladonia peziziformis***: this small but attractive *Cladonia* is rare and declining across Europe. The finding of what appears to be the largest European population in the New Forest in 2021 was a major discovery. It grows in slightly enriched species-rich heaths. In this habitat the more productive vegetation and its small size mean it requires hard grazing, disturbance and or burning to maintain populations in the long term. It is very rare in the rest of Britain and it was a great surprise to find a population on a North Hampshire heath. On a disturbed ditch side in herb-rich 'aerodrome' heath, in four patches in three 10m grid squares, located on the edge of the former runway of the WWII Blackbush Airfield, Yateley Common, SU811593, July 2024, Neil Sanderson & Andy Cross. The ditch probably dated from the WWII airfield, as drainage for the runway, but had been opened up and disturbed by Gorse cutting the winter of 2021/22. The heath is ungrazed and the colonies are already threatened by vegetation overgrowth. This was both the first record from North Hampshire and the first record for the Thames Basin since the type specimen was collected from Hampstead Heath in 1742. The origin of the population is intriguing; an origin from long-lasting buried spores would seem the most likely explanation.

***Cladonia symphylicarpa***: this is a rare lichen of open calcicolous grassland, mainly found on limestones, with headquarters in the Mendips and the central Highlands. It has its only site in Hampshire, and on the English chalk, on the 19<sup>th</sup> century chalk dumps of the Micheldever Chalkies. The recent Hampshire Flora Group meeting was therefore a good opportunity to catch up on this species. A search of the eastern dumps was made and it was good to find a wide scatter of patches along with an area about 20m long and several metres wide with an abundance of the species. This was far more than was seen on the last visit in 2006, which is encouraging, although there were a lot of young trees on the heaps, which will need treating. Frequent on old chalk dumps, SU519443, SU519444 & SU519445, August 2024, Neil Sanderson. The western side was also looked at, where the chalk dumps had not been looked previously for lichens. These were extensive but had become badly scrubbed up, although recently opened up by bulldozing off the scrub. This was working well for the

vascular plant interest but, as yet, there was limited lichen interest on these dumps. It is to be hoped that as the vegetation settles down, the lichen diversity will increase on the western dumps.

***Enterographa elaborata***: an internationally rare southern oceanic lichen with surviving populations on Beech in the New Forest and Hornbeam in Hatch Park, Kent. A population in a new wood was found in the New Forest, which was a northwards range extension within the New Forest. Two thalli in rain track on old Beech, in Beech-Holly pasture woodland, Canterton, New Forest, VC11, SU272125, April 2024, Neil Sanderson.

***Eopyrenula avellanae***: another Notable oceanic Hazel specialist, which is spreading into abandoned coppices in lowland England. This record was new to Hampshire. On younger stems on old Hazel bushes in developing Oak-Hazel pasture woodland derived from former coppice, Southleigh Forest, VC11, SU743087, April 2024, Neil Sanderson. Part of a rich colonising specialist Hazel lichen assemblage found during a survey of Southleigh Forest.

***Graphis inustuloides***: a difficult to spot *Graphis* species, but with distinctive muriform spores when examined. A western species rare in Hampshire. On an older Holly bush in relic pasture woodland, Hollybank, Southleigh Forest, VC11, South Hampshire, SU743081, alt 40m, April 2024. Refound in the same area where this lichen was recorded by Brian Coppins and Francis Rose in 1969 in the only known Hampshire site outside the New Forest.

***Graphis persoonii***: *Graphis scripta* s. lat. has recently been split into four species, with *Graphis scripta* s. str. and *Graphis pulverulenta* widespread and common species, *Graphis betulina* a more local species and *Graphis persoonii*, which appears to be a much rarer species of old woods. The first three had been recorded from Hampshire but the latter had not until recently. It has now been found rarely on old Holly and Beech in the New Forest. First record: on old Holly, in Beech-Holly-Oak pasture woodland, Busketts Wood, New Forest, VC11, SU321110, June 2024, Neil Sanderson.



A close up of *Graphis persoonii* on an old Holly in the New Forest. The species is distinguished by the open brown disks and the rounded ends of the apothecia. Neil Sanderson

***Orcularia insperata* (*Rinodina biloculata*)**: a twig species that was a rare species found near the coast in the south west, but which has spread rapidly north eastwards since 2000, presumably in response to warmer summers. It was found new to North Hampshire during the recent Hampshire Flora Group meeting at the Micheldever Chalkies. On Sallow twig on bush colonising 19<sup>th</sup> century chalk dumps, Micheldever Chalkies, VC12, SU518449, August 2024, Neil Sanderson.

***Phaeographis lyellii***: a local south western species, typically found on smooth bark on understorey species and suppressed young trees in woodland. It has a good population in the New Forest woods but was not known outside the New Forest previously. On an older Holly bush in relic pasture woodland, Hollybank, Southleigh Forest, VC11, South Hampshire, SU743081, alt 40m, April 2024. First record east of the New Forest since 19<sup>th</sup> century Sussex records, probably spreading with the warmer climate but less rapidly than other *Phaeographis* species.

***Psoroglaena abscondita***: a very rarely recorded species of nutrient enriched bark, including old Elder bushes, but which is very difficult to find, as the tiny perithecia are very pale brown, and translucent when wet, so it is probably very overlooked. On lignum on a wound track on an ancient Beech in Beech-Holly-Oak pasture woodland, Stricknage Wood, New Forest, VC11, SU261125, May 2024, new to Hampshire.

## VC11 Records

VC11 notes and records compiled by Tristan Norton and Martin Rand will be included in the Spring 2025 edition of *Flora News*.

## VC12 Records

Compiled by Tony Mundell

**T**his report covers records for 5 November 2023 to 17 July 2024. My profuse thanks to the people who send me records, and especially to those who have records of the more interesting species that I have personally selected below. It is good to see some new recorders' names included. Please keep this up as the sets of these selected records for both VC11 and VC12 recorded in *Flora News* are an amazing resource, giving some clues about how the flora changes. Looking back over previous issues I see that I have contributed sets of VC12 records at the end of every issue for over 20 years.

I see from the records below that following attendance at Martin Rand's sedges workshop, Cathy Wilson has been chasing after many *Carex* species, so that helped me by adding several species below. Orchids are always popular and so my thanks also to Peter Vaughan for records of many orchid species. Talking of orchids, it is curious how Lesser Butterfly-orchid, *Platanthera bifolia* is teetering on the edge of local extinction in VC12 and yet Greater Butterfly-orchid *P. chlorantha* is thriving. The reason is not clear to me, but presumably relates to their habitats. In fact, Lesser Butterfly-orchid would be happy in most places where Greater Butterfly-orchid is found (typically calcareous grassy areas with a bit of shade). However, Lesser Butterfly-orchid can also grow in more acidic and moister soils, even acid bogs, that are completely unsuitable for Greater Butterfly-orchid.

In many other cases it can be pretty obvious why a species is in dire trouble. As examples, see the accounts for Ground-pine *Ajuga chamaepitys* and Marsh Stitchwort *Stellaria palustris* below. There are literally only one or two extant VC12 sites for both those species, and several other species like Lesser Butterfly-orchid, Tower Mustard *Turritis glabra* and Red-tipped Cudweed *Filago lutescens* are in the same situation but have managed to hang on for quite a few years now.



Greater Butterfly-orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, Wheatham Hill. Tony Mundell

From my Threatened Plant Project searches in the last couple of years at previously recorded sites, it has become clear that many heathland species, e.g. Petty Whin *Genista anglica*, have been locally wiped out by encroaching Gorse or Bracken. Plants that need boggy, acidic conditions like Marsh Clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata* or White Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, seem to be decreasing due to more frequent drought conditions drying the soil out. Sadly, many scarce native plants are becoming rarer whilst common plants become more dominant. Clearly it is not all bad news, and the list below shows that many uncommon species are still thriving – please help by chasing after them and recording them.

Note that inclusion of records here does not mean that the location is available to anyone, as sometimes the records were collected during surveys at the invitation of the landowner, and that is certainly the case for this batch of records.

Apart from the scarce native or archaeophyte species, as usual I have included a scattering of records of alien plants. Unlike my predecessor, Lady Anne Brewis, I have always been keen on finding alien plants. Most of them simply add extra diversity and interest to our flora and cause no problems.



***Acaena novae-zelandiae* (Pirri-pirri-bur)** E of Wooton St Lawrence SU6083 5380, in the car park area for a cemetery, just in front of a bench, Paul Sterry 15 May 2024.

***Aconitum napellus* (Monk's-hood)** Monk Sherborne SU6116 5769, still present on roadside verge, Paul Sterry 5 May 2024. Little London SU6218 5892, on road verge, clearly a garden escape, Paul Sterry 15 May 2024.

***Aegonychon purpureocaeruleum* (Purple Gromwell)** Upper Froyle SU7586 4344, Richard Angliss 10 May 2024.

***Agrimonia procera* (Fragrant Agrimony)** Aldershot SU8492 5113, on roadside verge, Tony Mundell & Isobel Girvan, 29 Jun 2024.

***Agrostis canina* (Velvet Bent)** Blackmoor SU7878 3319, in a sea of *Crassula helmsii* and SU7867 3353 in a shallow pond, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson et al 12 Jun 2024.

***Agrostis curtisii* (Bristle Bent)** Windy Gap Hill SU8411 5023, dozens of plants, Tony Mundell & HFG 6 Jul 2024.

***Ajuga chamaepitys* (Ground-pine)** S of Freefolk Wood, only one plant found on 29 May, small and weakly with no evidence of flower buds. Returned on 27 June 2024 and found just one in exactly the same spot, Sue Bell. S of Freefolk Wood SU5038 4392, three plants located, one at SU50380 43923 in the rabbit scuffed edges of the field near the fence. It had flowered but looked sterile. One a little way away at SU50386 43922 in partly open edges of False Oat-grass sward, had flowered with two ripening capsules. One robust plant at SU50386 43920, just beginning to flower, again in the edges of the ranker grassy sward. Walked south for a couple of hundred metres along the roadside break but no more found, Ian Ralphs 2 Jul 2024. S of Freefolk Wood, a total of three tiny plants found. One very tiny plant at SU50374 43927 and two tiny plants at SU50386 43934 that we marked with rings of stones. This headland is dreadfully overgrown with tall vegetation, as it has not been tilled for many years. It has been teetering on the edge of extinction

here in its last Hampshire site for many years, desperately needing ploughing or tilling of the local headland, Tony Mundell, Tristan Norton & Sue Bell 12 Jul 2024.

***Allium roseum* (Rosy Garlic)** Winnall, Firmstone Road SU4899 2966, Anna Stewart 3 Jun 2024.

***Alopecurus aequalis* (Orange Foxtail)** Hogmoor Enclosure, Bordon SU7862 3524, two flowering clumps noted, Tristan Norton 22 Jun 2024.

***Anacamptis morio* (Green-winged Orchid)** Eelmoor Marsh 13 plants at SU84069 53008, and 4 plants at SU84074 53016, but I expect they will be grazed off. Tried covering them in prickly rose branches, Tony Mundell 16 Apr 2024. Found all spikes grazed off later. Alice Holt Research Station, 25 flower spikes along 4m of the entrance road, on the south side, from SU80432 42670 to SU80428 42666, 3 flower spikes at SU80416 42671, north of the access road, and a single flower spike At SU8045 4267 in the unmown meadow south of the wooden fence along the access road, Tony Mundell 29 Apr 2024.

***Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid)** Old Down, Basingstoke SU5974 4872 & SU5951 4883, Peter Vaughan 29 May 2024. Micheldever Spoil Heaps, W of railway SU5191 4461, a few plants coming into flower, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024. Morn Hill Cemetery SU514291, 50+ flowering plants spread widely over south and east scrapes, Anna Stewart 19 Jun 2024. Magdalen Hill Cemetery, scrape SU5146 2915, 16 flowering plants, Anna Stewart 19 Jun 2024.

***Apium inundatum* (Lesser Marshwort)** Blackmoor SU7886 3316, a few plants in shallow water in a huge sea of *Crassula helmsii*. Also, scattered all around the margin of pond at SU7874 3317, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson et al 12 Jun 2024.

***Arabis hirsuta* (Hairy Rock-cress)** Noar Hill SU7390 3194, at the top edge of a pit, Paul Sterry 11 Jun 2024.



Left to right: Pirri-pirri-bur *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, east of Wooton St Lawrence; Monk's-hood *Aconitum napellus*, Monk Sherborne; Hairy Rock-cress *Arabis hirsuta* (with an Orange-tip butterfly egg), Noar Hill. Paul Sterry

***Asperula cynanchica* (Squinancywort)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, E of railway SU5196 4442, a few plants, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

***Astragalus glycyphyllos* (Wild Liquorice)** Kings Worthy Rail Path SU4798 3513, S edge of old platform. Just the single large plant where previously several. Plants previously at southern tip of old platform appear lost, Tristan Norton 2 Jul 2024.

***Atropa belladonna* (Deadly Nightshade)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, W of railway SU5187 4469, two flowering plants on the chalk slope, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

***Buglossoides arvensis* (Field Gromwell)** Leckford, Field L18, single flowering plant at SU38104 37579, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson 16 Jul 2024.

***Campanula rotundifolia* (Harebell)** Magdalen Hill Cemetery, uncut meadow/wildlife area SU513293, seen flowering previously, Anna Stewart 19 Jun 2024.



**Field Gromwell *Buglossoides arvensis*, Leckford.**  
Tony Mundell

***Cardamine quinquefolia* (Whorled Coralroot)** Winchester, St Giles Hill SU4898 2941, Anna Stewart 27 Feb 2024.

***Carex arenaria* (Sand Sedge)** Shortheath Common, many plants at and around SU7765 3694, Cathy Wilson 4 Jun 2024. Shortheath Common SU7755 3658, several plants in grassland, Cathy Wilson 16 Jun 2024.

***Carex canescens* (White Sedge)** Blackmoor SU7887 3344, several plants on the edge of the Cranmer Pond 'canal', Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson et al 12 Jun 2024. Shortheath Common SU7757 3667, several clumps growing in stream with *Carex echinata*, Cathy Wilson 16 Jun 2024.

***Carex caryophyllea* (Spring-sedge)** Alice Holt Research Centre SU8049 4271, a 2m x 2m patch, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson 29 May 2024.

***Carex disticha* (Brown Sedge)** S of Greywell SU7192 5090, Cathy Wilson 4 Jul 2024.

***Carex echinata* (Star Sedge)** Brock's Hill SU8287 5242, plentiful in a ditch, also Crookham Common in ditches at SU8279 5301 and bog at SU8283 5302, Tony Mundell & Sam Thomas 31 May 2024. Shortheath Common SU7763 3666, several tufts in bog 4 Jun 2024. Long Bottom SU8430 5003, dramatically decreased since 2017 as area is drying out. Could only find a single survivor, Tony Mundell & Isobel Girvan 29 Jun 2024.

***Carex lepidocarpa* (Long-stalked Yellow-sedge)** S of Greywell SU7192 5080, Cathy Wilson 4 Jul 2024.

***Carex muricata* subsp. *pairae* (Prickly Sedge)** Shortheath Common SU7751 3677, tuft on path by Shortheath Pond, Cathy Wilson 4 Jun 2024.

***Carex pallescens* (Pale Sedge)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, W of railway SU5190 4457, SU5190 4461 & SU5187 4460, patches beside the grassy track, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

***Carex pulicaris* (Flea Sedge)** Noar Hill SU7426 3184, at least 13 plants growing close together in short grass, Cathy Wilson 6 Jun 2024.

***Catabrosa aquatica* (Whorl-grass)** Nun's Walk SU4875 3099, in stream, flowering, Anna Stewart & Eric Janke 26 May 2024.

***Cephalanthera damasonium* (White Helleborine)** Tunworth SU675 478, Peter Vaughan 5 May 2024. Leckford, A30 reversion field margin SU396 364, Glynne Evans 9 May 2024. Kings Worthy SU4908 3267, grass verge beneath trees between Church Lane and Cornerways access drive, Bruce Graham 22 May 2024. Five Lanes End, Upton Grey, 15 at SU6959 5022, also 4 at SU6958 5019, some were going over, Peter Vaughan 31 May 2024.

***Ceratochloa carinata* (California Brome)** Winchester SU4929, in flower, New Year Plant Hunt, Anna Stewart, Phil Budd et al 30 Dec 2023. Leckford, Field O8, SU3889 3715, several plants at edge of crop, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson 16 Jul 2024.

***Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* (Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage)** Selborne SU7377 3404, flowering patch beside sunken lane, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 17 Apr 2024.

***Cicerbita macrophylla* (Common Blue-sow-thistle)** Selborne SU7380 3390, large vegetative patch beside footpath, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 17 Apr 2024.

***Cirsium dissectum* (Meadow Thistle)** Foxlease Meadows SU8303 5679, hundreds of flowering plants, Tony Mundell & Anna Stewart 21 Jun 2024.

***Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid)** Noar Hill SU7412 3204, six spikes ranging from 5cm to 16cm tall in a 2 × 1m area immediately south of path, Dave Pearson 29 Jun 2024.

***Cornus mas* (Cornelian-cherry)** Hartley Wintney SU7708 5695, a large bush beside the pond near the golf course, Tony Mundell 2 Feb 2024.

***Corydalis cava* (Hollowroot)** Medstead SU6572 3723, Peter Vaughan 23 Mar 2024.

***Crocus sieberi* (Sieber's Crocus)** Northbrook Avenue, Winchester SU4895 2927, in flower, New Year Plant Hunt, several plants on a metre-long stretch of road verge, Anna Stewart, Phil Budd et al 30 Dec 2023, photo confirmed by Tony Mundell.



**Sieber's Crocus, *Crocus sieberi*, Northbrook Avenue, Winchester. Anna Stewart**

***Cuscuta epithymum* (Dodder)** Yateley Country Park SU8361 5975, east end, to west of valley, Jean Cheadle 28 Jun 2024. Caesar's Camp SU8378 5010 & SU8376 5013, small patches on *Calluna* beside a sandy track. Also, Long Bottom SU8389 4975 & SU8390 4974, a few scattered patches on *Calluna*, but much reduced here compared to 2017, Tony Mundell & HFG 6 Jul 2024.

***Dactylorhiza incarnata* subsp. *incarnata* (Early Marsh-orchid)** Bassetts Mead, Hook SU7400 5426 & SU7395 5441, Peter Vaughan 24 May 2024. North Warnborough Greens SU7310 5201, going over, Peter Vaughan 9 Jun 2024.

***Dactylorhiza maculata* (Heath Spotted-orchid)** Foxlease Meadows, 200+ plants around SU8329 5676, Peter Vaughan 9 Jun 2024. Bartley Heath c. 500 in flower around SU7286 5344, Peter Vaughan 13 Jun 2024.

***Dactylorhiza praetermissa* (Southern Marsh-orchid)** Bassetts Mead, Hook SU7397 5429, Peter Vaughan 24

May 2024. Micheldever Spoil Heaps, W of railway SU5187 4484, one flower spike at base of the steep chalk slope, Tony Mundell & HFG. S of Greywell SU7192 5097, two spikes, Cathy Wilson 4 Jul 2024.

***Dactylorhiza × grandis* (*D. fuchsii* × *praetermissa*)** Bassetts Mead, Hook SU7397 5432, five spikes growing close together, Peter Vaughan 24 May 2024.

***Dianthus deltoides* (Maiden Pink)** Farnborough Cemetery, Victoria Road SU8660 5582, one patch with a few flowers on grave of Robert Francis Richardson, who died 6 Dec 1921. No evidence of recent planting here, Tony Mundell & Anna Stewart 17 Jul 2024.

***Drosera intermedia* (Oblong-leaved Sundew)** Kingsley Common SU7942 3813, several plants in boggy area by path, Cathy Wilson 20 May 2024. Long Bottom SU8431 5004 & SU8432 5006, dramatically decreased since 2017 as area is drying out. Could only find about ten survivors at each spot, Tony Mundell & Isobel Girvan 29 Jun 2024. Brock's Hill Heath c. 100 plants in a boggy area at SU82876 52483, that is closely grazed, with *D. rotundifolia* nearby, Tony Mundell 10 Jul 2024.

***Eriophorum vaginatum* (Hare's-tail Cottongrass)** Blackmoor, many scattered clumps at SU7862 3350, SU7868 3357, SU7862 3352 & SU7863 3353, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson et al 12 Jun 2024.

***Erodium moschatum* (Musk Stork's-bill)** Hartley Wintney, Hazeley Close SU7652 5704, plentiful on road verges in this area, Tony Mundell 12 Jan 2024. Basingstoke, Aldermaston Road SU6266 5327, about 20–25 quite robust flowering plants between the pavement and the Mercedes Benz garage parking area, along a c.20 metre stretch, Andrew Cleave 19 Mar 2024.

***Erucastrum gallicum* (Hairy Rocket)** Andover SU3345 4581, three plants on verge within business park. In flower in January, John Moon 5 Jan 2024.

***Euphorbia stricta* (Upright Spurge)** Little London SU6192 5924, appeared uninvited in a garden. Identity confirmed by John Poland, Paul Sterry 4 Jul 2024.

***Euphrasia arctica* (Arctic Eyebright)** Winnall Moors, North SU4897 3100, large white flowers, glabrous, Anna Stewart 26 May 2024.

***Euphrasia confusa* (Confused Eyebright)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, E of railway SU5197 4440, several flowering and fruiting plants, amongst many more *E. nemorosa*, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

***Euphrasia × areschougii* (*E. nemorosa* × *micrantha*)** Brock's Hill Heath SU8253 5240, specimens in Hb. ARGM. Hundreds of similar, very tall, upright, mostly unbranched, plants in a patch of well-grazed grassland with much *Centaureum erythraea*, close to a fence-line and a gate. Corollas pale purple/mauve, mean length 7.0mm. Stems dark purple, Tony Mundell 10 Jul 2024.

***Filago lutescens* (Red-tipped Cudweed)** B3013 Minley Road Verge SU812 563, just a single plant found, non-flowering. Still early, and habitat looks good following cultivation of verge, Tristan Norton 30 Jun 2024.

***Fumaria densiflora* (Dense-flowered Fumitory)** Roundwood Estate, Kitelands area SU5084 4388, in

extraordinary numbers scattered over a large area, Tony Mundell, Tristan Norton & Sue Bell 12 Jul 2024.

**Fumaria parviflora (Fine-leaved Fumitory)** Roundwood Estate, Kitelands area SU5085 4385, at least 4 scattered, flowering plants of this rare fumitory, with probably more yet to flower, Tony Mundell, Tristan Norton & Sue Bell 12 Jul 2024.



**Fine-leaved Fumitory *Fumaria parviflora*, Roundwood.**  
Tony Mundell

**Galinsoga quadriradiata (Shaggy Soldier)** Alton, centre SU7177 3920, single plant on street corner, Sarah Lewington and Alton Natural History Society 1 Jan 2024.

**Galium parisiense (Wall Bedstraw)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, E of railway SU5199 4435, a small patch, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024. Old Basing, many plants on brick wall at SU66139 52753 near Basing House, David Leadbetter 25 Jun 2024. Alice Holt Research Station, several prostrate patches on almost bare ground in SU8047 4296 and SU8048 4294 near to a planted *Eucalyptus glaucescens* and a planted *Azara microphylla*. Also, at SU8049 4298, a large 1m x 1m prostrate patch near to a planted *Populus tremula* tree, Tony Mundell 3 Jul 2024. All these records are the native form, var. *leiocarpum* with papillose fruits.



**Breast-toothed Hawkweed *Hieracium mammidens*, Ceasar's Camp.** Tony Mundell

**Galium x pomeranicum (G. verum x album)** Stockbridge Down SSSI Unit 1 SU3784 3519, one large plant just east of path noticeable by its creamy inflorescence, Dave Pearson 14 Jul 2024.

**Genista anglica (Petty Whin)** Bartley Heath (west side), Hook, two plants at SU 7283 5332, three at 7289 5335, one at 7288 5336, four at 7289 5338, seven at 7293 5346, seven at 7286 5345, one at 7286 5344, five at 7284 5344, four at 7284 5343, three at 7286 5339, three at 7285 5349, one at 7284 5353, also a large dead plant at 7282 5355 (not included in the count of 41 flowering plants), Peter Vaughan 8 May 2024. Pondtail Heath SU8296 5378, one very sickly survivor with 95% dead stems and only two 1cm long green shoots. This colony had c.50 shrubs in 1984, 7 in 1998, 5 in 2008 and only one in 2016 following the fires of 2010 and 2011, Tony Mundell & Sam Thomas 31 May 2024.

**Geranium phaeum (Dusky Crane's-bill)** Selborne SU7376 3380, garden escape beside footpath, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 17 Apr 2024.

**Gymnadenia conopsea (Chalk Fragrant-orchid)** Magdalen Hill Cemetery, scrape SU5152 2917, one flowering plant, Anna Stewart 19 Jun 2024. Magdalen Hill Down SU5095 2900, several spikes with seedpods, in former scrape, Cathy Wilson, Isobel Girvan and Alton Natural History Society 13 Jul 2024.

**Helleborus foetidus (Stinking Hellebore)** M3 northbound, Cliddesden SU6240 4923, noted on roadside grassy bank from car as driving past, Tony Mundell 15 Feb 2024.

**Heracleum mantegazzianum (Giant Hogweed)** A287, Ewshot SU81164950, single plant on south verge of road. Later I returned to photograph it but the whole roadside verge had been mown, Tony Mundell 5 Jun 2024.

**Hieracium calcaricola (Toothed Hawkweed)** Windy Gap Hill SU8401 5013, voucher specimen collected, widest leaf is 18mm wide. This species is distinguished from *H. trichocaulon* by the narrower 1–2cm leaves, the sharper leaf teeth and more numerous eglandular hairs on the peduncles, Tony Mundell & HFG 6 Jul 2024. Scanned specimen later confirmed by Tim Rich.

**Hieracium mammidens (Breast-toothed Hawkweed)** Caesar's Camp SU8375 5021, struggled down the very steep slope to the colony beneath a large Chestnut tree to take photos where it was found in this extra spot on 29 May

2024 by Tim Rich. Many plants, some still in flower, Tony Mundell 29 Jun 2024. Windy Gap Hill, a single flowering plant at SU8400 5012 near the north edge of a main sandy track, plus one more at SU84014 50139 c.5–10m north of the track, growing close to some *Hypericum pulchrum*. This is about 250m from the nearest known colony of this rare plant on the crest of Caesar's Camp, Tony Mundell & HFG 6 Jul 2024. Photos taken and identification confirmed by Tim Rich.

***Himantoglossum hircinum* (Lizard Orchid)** Selborne, The Wakes, one small rosette in mown area at SU74069 33625 amongst Cherry trees, but probably not large enough to flower in 2024, Brian Laney 10 Jan 2024.

***Hottonia palustris* (Water-violet)** Foxlease Meadows, sadly decreasing here. A patch in flower at north end of the pond at SU83057 5661, a patch in pond at SU83048 56599 and a patch on E side of pond at SU83066 56595, Tony Mundell & Anna Stewart 21 Jun 2024.

***Hypericum elodes* (Marsh St John's-wort)** Blackmoor, scattered all around the pond margin at SU7874 3317, also at SU7887 3343 in the Cranmer Pond 'canal', Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson et al 12 Jun 2024.

***Hypericum humifusum* (Trailing St John's-wort)** Long Bottom SU8392 4988, many flowering plants beside sandy track, Tony Mundell & Isobel Girvan 29 Jun 2024.

***Hypericum tetrapterum* (Square-stalked St John's-wort)** Claycart Hill SU852 524, Isobel Girvan 20 May 2024. Winnall Moors, North SU489 310, Anna Stewart 26 May 2024.

***Hypochaeris glabra* (Smooth Cat's-ear)** Blackmoor SU7873 3347, thousands of plants together with thousands of *Filago germanica* on a former bonfire site, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson et al 12 Jun 2024.

***Hypopitys monotropa* (Yellow Bird's-nest)** Old Stoner Hill, at least 10 plants at SU7326 2580 just pushing up through the ground on the top of the trackside bank, and a few plants just emerging at SU7330 2581, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 5 Jun 2024. Down Hanger SU7439 2746, a very large number of plants just emerging from the Beech leaf litter, over an area of 3m × 0.5m inside a fenced-off enclosure labelled as a 'Conservation area', Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 5 Jun 2024. Lower Oakshott SU7440 2770, very large number of emerging and flowering plants on right hand side of very steep bank, on bare exposed soil and in leaf litter. Also, a mix of emerging and flowering plants in leaf litter at SU7441 2776, left hand side of steep-sided lane, heading up lane, Nick Aston 9 Jun 2024. Wheatham Hill SU7424 2720, 12 spikes under mature beech tree, south of the path, Cathy Wilson and Alton Natural History Society 30 Jun 2024.

***Inula helenium* (Elecampane)** Chilland SU5236 3265, one plant in flower on bank outside garden of Lower Chilland Cottage, Dave Pearson 6 Nov 2023.

***Isolepis setacea* (Bristle Club-rush)** Shortheath Common SU7750 3678, small patch, Cathy Wilson 4 Jun 2024. Long Bottom SU8472 5046, beside a wet sandy track, Tony Mundell & HFG 6 Jul 2024.

***Jasione montana* (Sheep's-bit)** Caesar's Camp, a flowering patch at SU83757 50198 beside a track on the edge of a very steep slope down, Tony Mundell & Isobel Girvan 29 Jun 2024. Church Crookham churchyard, total of 20 flowering/fruited plants mostly close to a huge tree stump, 10 at SU80744

51829, 2 at SU80746 51837, 2 at SU80750 51834 and 6 at SU80747 51832. Sadly, many others had been mown off, Tony Mundell & Anna Stewart 17 Jul 2024. Farnborough Cemetery, Victoria Road, overall total of 240 flowering plants, 200 within SU865558. mostly in NW part of cemetery. 3 in SU8657 5585, 67 in SU8657 5584. 6 in SU8658 5584, 1 in SU8659 5583, 7 in SU8657 5583, 8 in SU8656 5583, 5 in SU8657 5582, 2 in SU8658 5582, 58 in SU8658 5581, 5 in SU8659 5581, 8 in SU8658 5580, and 30 in SU8657 5580. Also, 40 within SU865557. 19 in SU8657 5579, 4 in SU8658 5579, 16 in SU8657 5578, plus 1 outlier further south in SU8659 5576, Tony Mundell & Anna Stewart 17 Jul 2024.

***Lamium amplexicaule* (Henbit Dead-nettle)** Popham Court Estate SU557 438, Anna Stewart 3 Mar 2024. Roundwood Estate, Kitelands area SU5077 4400, many scattered plants, Tony Mundell, Tristan Norton & Sue Bell 12 Jul 2024.

***Lamium hybridum* (Cut-leaved Dead-nettle)** Roundwood Estate, Kitelands area SU5077 4400, several scattered plants over a large area, Tony Mundell, Tristan Norton & Sue Bell 12 Jul 2024.

***Lathraea clandestina* (Purple Toothwort)** Riverside Walk, Liss SU7790 2883, it has spread away from the river here into nearby open spaces amongst Ramsons. Also, at least 3 colonies flowering on the west side of the bridge at SU7787 2880, Bill & Chris Wain 10 Apr 2024.

***Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort)** Wick Hill Hanger SU7508 3599, 16 vigorous spikes, with probably more to come, Bill & Chris Wain 7 Apr 2024.

***Lathyrus linifolius* (Bitter-vetch)** S of Bentley Station SU7937 4292, in Bentley Station Meadow, Cathy Wilson 30 Apr 2024.

***Lepidium heterophyllum* (Smith's Pepperwort)** N of Tweseldown SU8250 5238, a single plant in fruit, Tony Mundell & Sam Thomas 31 May 2024.

***Lepidium latifolium* (Dittander)** Winnall M3/A34 roundabout SU4980 3043, verge at Spitfire Link junction, large patch of plants, flowering, Tristan Norton 2 Jul 2024.

***Logfia minima* (Small Cudweed)** Brock's Hill SU8280 5243, several plants beside track, Tony Mundell & Sam Thomas 31 May 2024. Broxhead Common SU804 374, Andrew Davidson 1 Jun 2024. Long Bottom SU8475 5022, many beside sandy track, Tony Mundell & HFG 6 Jul 2024.

***Luzula forsteri* (Southern Wood-rush)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, E of railway SU5195 4426, locally frequent beneath Beech trees, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

***Lysimachia arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel – blue form)** Leckford, Field LFV2, dozens of scattered plants with blue flowers from SU3773 3529 to SU3775 3532 in a tilled conservation strip on southern edge of the field. A petal edge confirmed as this variety using a microscope. Thousands of the usual red flowers nearby, Tony Mundell & Tristan Norton 1 Jul 2024.

***Melampyrum pratense* (Common Cow-wheat)** Pamber Forest SU6190 6172, SU6192 6164, SU6210 6174, SU6214 6179, SU6215 6177 & SU6215 6178, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 27 Apr 2024. N of Tweseldown SU8234 5243, a 1 metre patch in flower, Tony Mundell & Sam Thomas 31 May 2024.



**Scarlet Pimpernel *Lysimachia arvensis* – blue form, Leckford.** Tony Mundell

***Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bogbean)** Greywell Moors, nature reserve south of Deptford Lane SU720 509, Peter Vaughan 1 May 2024.

***Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid)** Tunworth, three plants at SU674 478, ten at SU675 478, just starting to flower, Peter Vaughan 5 May 2024. Old Stoner Hill SU7330 2581, a single flower spike, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 5 Jun 2024.

***Nymphoides peltata* (Fringed Water-lily)** Long Bottom Pond SU8423 4989, much increased since 2017, Tony Mundell & Isobel Girvan 29 Jun 2024.

***Onopordum acanthium* (Cotton Thistle)** Longparish SU4377 4516, single plant by footpath, in hedgerow bordering an arable field, Carolyn Doorbar 22 Jun 2024.

***Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's-tongue)** Selborne SU7384 3353, several plants, some already forming spore bodies, in Gilbert White's meadow, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 17 Apr 2024. Hook SU7210 5458, a group of over 50 in a sub-urban estate. New to tetrad SU75H, Peter



**Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, Hook.** Peter Vaughan

Vaughan 18 Apr 2024. Alice Holt Research Station, a dense patch of c. 70 ferns at SU80433 42670, many of them starting to fruit, confined to a 1 square metre area, plus two spikes at SU8044 4267 separate from the main colony, Tony Mundell 29 Apr 2024. Greywell Moors nature reserve, fields next to Pumping Station, 30+ plants at SU7221 5135, Peter Vaughan 30 Apr 2024. Bassetts Mead, Athoke Meadow, Hook SU738 543, 500+ plants, Peter Vaughan 2 May 2024.

***Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid)** Winchester, St Giles Hill SU4899 2927, two rosettes. Anna Stewart 20 Dec 2023. Winchester, St Giles Hill SU4898 2941, one rosette, Anna Stewart 27 Feb 2024.

***Ophrys apifera* f. *belgarum* (Bee Orchid)** Greywell Moors nature reserve, fields next to Pumping Station SU7241 5149, Peter Vaughan 30 May 2024.

***Ophrys insectifera* (Fly Orchid)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, W of railway, one flower spike at SU5190 4478, two at SU5191 4459 and one at SU5191 4461, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024. Micheldever Spoil Heaps, E of railway, single flower spikes at SU5197 4448, SU5199 4434, SU5199 4435 & SU5200 4435, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

***Orchis mascula* (Early-purple Orchid)** Great Nightingales Copse, Hook, 20+ plants at SU7225 5545, Peter Vaughan 21 Apr 2024. Bassetts Mead/Holt Copse, at and around SU7386 5429, Peter Vaughan 2 May 2024.

***Orobanche hederæ* (Ivy Broomrape)** Hook, Griffin Way South, about 300+ flower spikes from SU7283 5369 to SU7289 5369 under the roadside hedge along the pavement, Anna Shergold 15 Jun 2024.



**Cotton Thistle *Onopordon acanthinum*, Longparish.** Carolyn Doorbar

***Orobanche hederæ* f. *monochroa* (Ivy Broomrape)** Winchester City centre SU4867 2930, yellow flowers, unusual (to me). I normally see a different colour variant. Photo showing over 60 bright yellow plants within a small area, Anna Shergold 5 Jun 2024.



**Ivy Broomrape *Orobanche hederæ* f. *monochroa*, Winchester. Anna Shergold**

***Orobanche minor* (Common Broomrape)** Old Down, Basingstoke SU5945 4885, Peter Vaughan 29 May 2024. Hook Common North SU5996 4884, Peter Vaughan 29 May 2024. Five Lanes End, Upton Grey SU6957 5023, Peter Vaughan 31 May 2024.

***Pilosella aurantiaca* (Fox-and-cubs)** Windy Gap Hill, single flowering plant beside track at SU84095 50180, but at least a dozen flowering nearby at SU8411 5020, Tony Mundell 29 Jun 2024. Long Bottom SU8458 5026, beside sandy track, Tony Mundell & HFG 6 Jul 2024.

***Pinguicula vulgaris* (Common Butterwort)** Eelmoor Marsh SU5189 4465, several rosettes in a ditch where I have not seen them myself for many years, Tony Mundell 3 Jun 2024.

***Platanthera bifolia* (Lesser Butterfly-orchid)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, W of railway, one robust flower spike growing with *Potentilla verna* at SU5189 4465, plus one more 2m further north at SU5189 4466 with flowers gone over. As this species is in severe decline in North Hampshire these could be the last survivors. In contrast Greater Butterfly-orchid is still doing well at many sites, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

***Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly-orchid)** Wheatham Hill, 24 flower spikes scattered over a large area of grassland close to the Trig Point. 8 at SU7437 2723, 1 at SU7437 2722, 1 at SU7438 2725, 7 at SU7439 2725, 4 at SU7438 2725 and 3 at SU7436 2726, with many *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* spikes, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 5 Jun 2024. Selborne Common, North SU7344 3360, in a grassy field, John McConnell 10 Jun 2024.

***Poa infirma* (Early Meadow-grass)** St Giles Hill, Stratton Rd SU4911 2918, yellowish leaves, panicle expanded, not as *P annua*, anthers examined microscopically, slightly longer than wide. Many small plants, Anna Stewart 16 Mar 2024.

***Polystichum aculeatum* (Hard Shield-fern)** Selborne SU7411 3333, beside footpath, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 17 Apr 2024.

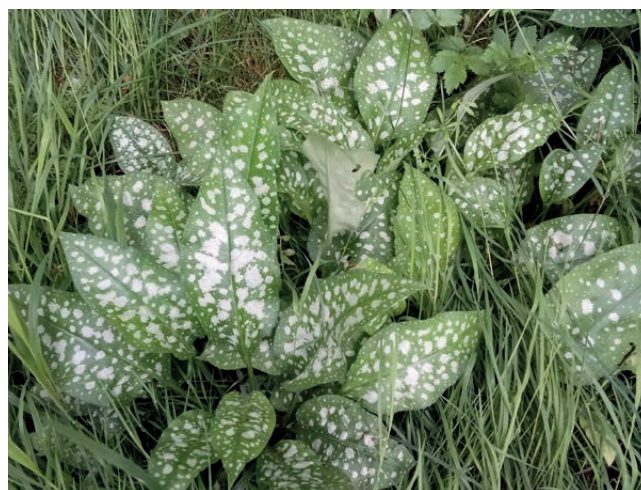
***Polystichum setiferum* (Soft Shield-fern)** Selborne SU7374 3400, many plants beside sunken lane, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 17 Apr 2024. Old Stoner Hill SU7317 2582, beside track, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 5 Jun 2024.

***Potamogeton berchtoldii* (Small Pondweed)** E of Wyck SU766 390, Plentiful in pond. Stipules checked and not fused into a tube, Cathy Wilson 7 Jul 2024.

***Potentilla anglica* (Trailing Tormentil)** Alice Holt Research Station SU8041 4267, SU8037 4266 & SU8050 4286, Tony Mundell 30 May 2024. Aldershot, Pavilion Hill SU8475 5095, beside track, Tony Mundell & Isobel Girvan 29 Jun 2024. Gelvert Stream, growing with *Wahlenbergia hederacea* at SU82958 52530 on west bank of stream, Tony Mundell 10 Jul 2024.

***Potentilla verna* (Spring Cinquefoil)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, W of railway SU519 446, and E of railway SU519 445, very many plants wherever there is bare chalk, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

***Pulmonaria saccharata* (Bethlehem-sage)** Barford Close, Pondtail, Fleet, several large plants at SU8266 5379 and SU8267 5379 along the footpath beside Barford Close. Huge basal leaves 45cm long × 12cm wide conspicuously spotted with silvery blotches. Leaves gradually tapered to form winged stems (unlike the cordate leaf bases of *P. officinalis*) Tony Mundell & Sam Thomas 31 May 2024.



**Bethlehem-sage *Pulmonaria saccharata*, Pondtail. Tony Mundell**

***Pyrola minor* (Common Wintergreen)** Crookham Common SU8274 5277, sadly decreased as habitat is getting too overgrown and deeply shaded. Only a couple of flowering plants, plus a few non-flowering rosettes, Tony Mundell & Sam Thomas 31 May 2024.

***Ranunculus auricomus* (Goldilocks Buttercup)** Selborne SU7417 3331, single plant beside footpath, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 17 Apr 2024.

***Ranunculus ompiophyllus* (Round-leaved Crowfoot)** Shortheath Common SU7757 3668, several plants in flower in stream, Cathy Wilson 16 Jun 2024.

***Ranunculus sceleratus* (Celery-leaved Buttercup)** Southwood Country Park SU854 554, old golf practice field, Steve Bailey 6 Jun 2024.

**Rhynchospora alba (White Beak-sedge)** Long Bottom, dramatically decreased since 2017 as the area is drying out. Could only find a single survivor at SU84301 50039, Tony Mundell & Isobel Girvan 29 Jun 2024.

**Roemeria argemone (Prickly Poppy)** Roundwood Estate SU5070 4437, one large plant at extreme crop edge, flowers over, with many fruiting stems, Tony Mundell, Tristan Norton & Sue Bell 12 Jul 2024.

**Rosa micrantha (Small-flowered Sweet-briar)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, W of railway SU5186 4483, one bush at the base of the steep chalk slope, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024. Bartley Heath (west side), Hook SU7276 5339, Peter Vaughan 13 Jun 2024.

**Sabulina tenuifolia (Fine-leaved Sandwort)** Old Basing SU6621 5278, a few plants on brick wall near Basing House, but mostly gone over, David Leadbetter 25 Jun 2024.

**Sasaella ramosa (Hairy Bamboo)** Crookham Common SU8271 5280, a huge patch several metres in diameter, Tony Mundell & Sam Thomas 31 May 2024.

**Saxifraga granulata (Meadow Saxifrage)** Church Crookham Churchyard, scattered flowering plants within SU8076 5183, SU8076 5184, SU8077 5184, SU8075 5183, SU8074 5184 and SU8073 5184, Tony Mundell 29 Apr 2024.

**Saxifraga tridactylites (Rue-leaved Saxifrage)** Blackbushe Airport, many plants on grass verge in Blackbushe Airport car park, between SU8098 5878 and SU8099 5878, Isobel Girvan and Cathy Wilson 6 Apr 2024.

**Scirpus sylvaticus (Wood Club-rush)** Kingsley Common, by boardwalk at SU7959 3791 and at many other places upstream, Cathy Wilson 4 Jun 2024.

**Scleranthus annuus (Annual Knawel)** B3013 Minley Road Verge SU812 563, two fruiting plants found, Tristan Norton 30 Jun 2024.

**Scutellaria minor (Lesser Skullcap)** Long Bottom SU8443 5010, a few flowering plants, Tony Mundell & HFG 6 Jul 2024.

**Serratula tinctoria (Saw-wort)** Windy Gap Hill SU8396 5010, several plants beside the main sandy track, but getting buried under Gorse, Tony Mundell & HFG 6 Jul 2024.

**Silene gallica (Small-flowered Catchfly)** Conde Way, Bordon SU7965 3470, this is not a good year for it. Only about 40 flower spikes when previously there have been hundreds, Bill & Chris Wain 10 Jun 2024.

**Silene gallica var. quinquevulnera (Small-flowered Catchfly)** Mornington Road, Bordon SU7838 3503, verge on N side of Mornington Road adjacent to park home site. Obviously thriving, with numerous large flowering plants noted on grassy verge and kerb edge, Tristan Norton 22 Jun 2024.

**Silene noctiflora (Night-flowering Catchfly)** Roundwood Estate, Kitelands area, several scattered plants over a large area including SU5077 4400 and SU5078 4400, Tony Mundell, Tristan Norton & Sue Bell 12 Jul 2024.

**Sison segetum (Corn Parsley)** Leckford, Field Aero 9S, SU3925 3821, a single tall, flowering plant in the tilled strip between Field Aero 9N and Field Aero 9S, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 11 Jul 2024.

**Spergula arvensis (Corn Spurrey)** Churt Road, Barford, in a garden at SU8452 3778 and SU8453 3778, where soil was disturbed. One large plant plus eight very small ones, Giles Groome 1 May 2024.

**Spergularia rubra (Sand Spurrey)** Foxlease Meadows SU8317 5705, several scattered flowering plants on the track, Tony Mundell & Anna Stewart 21 Jun 2024.

**Stachys arvensis (Field Woundwort)** Roundwood Estate, Kitelands area SU5088 4381, several plants just starting to flower at the extreme SE corner of the cultivated area, Tony Mundell, Tristan Norton & Sue Bell 12 Jul 2024.

**Stellaria palustris (Marsh Stitchwort)** Foxlease Meadows, sadly decreasing with a total of only 13 flowering plants found, all in very overgrown 2.0m tall rushes, close to the small pond. 1 at SU83048 56610 c. 4m NW of pond, 2 at SU83049 56613, 3 at SU83049 56613 N of pond, 2 at SU83057 56613 (where all associated species were also recorded), 1 at SU83062 56608 on NE corner of pond, 1 at SU83063 56609 on NE corner, 2 at SU83060 56610, and 1 at SU83048 56595 on W side of pond. Whole pond margin checked but no more found, Tony Mundell & Anna Stewart 21 Jun 2024.

**Symphytum grandiflorum (Creeping Comfrey)** Selborne SU7417 3331, a huge patch beside footpath, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 17 Apr 2024.

**Symphytum orientale (White Comfrey)** Dogmersfield SU7840 5275, the roadside patch here, opposite houses, has increased in size. Now in full flower, Tony Mundell 27 Apr 2024.

**Symphytum tuberosum (Tuberous Comfrey)** Alice Holt Research Station SU8048 4289, several large patches, Tony Mundell 30 May 2024.

**Tephrosia integrifolia (Field Fleawort)** Gander Down SU5600 2740, an overall total of 11 plants, but I was depressed by the state of the place, now with rank grass and invading Stinging Nettles. 7 plants from SU5600 2739 to SU5600 2740 along the low bank, mostly small and single flowered, although one plant larger with three. All those now past flowering. As in 2021, also found a single plant just north of the (now bigger) *Crataegus*. The area on the deepest furrow closest to the South Downs Way had a single plant in 2020, none in 2021, but now has 3 plants, one still in flower, Fred Rumsey 12 Jun 2024. Ladle Hill, total of 33 plants found as follows. It was too early to collect any seed for the Millenium Seed Bank but we intend to return to collect a little on 8 July. 8 plants at SU4782 5674, 1 at SU47845 56732, 9 at SU4785 5675, 3 at SU47790 56752, 5 at SU47782 56756, 6 at SU47784 56759 and 1 at SU47778 56815, Jennifer Peach 20 Jun 2024.

**Teucrium botrys (Cut-leaved Germander)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, W of railway SU5191 4468, locally abundant, with thousands of vegetative plants across SU5191 4468 and SU5192 4468, also E of railway SU5197 4448, several plants on steep bare chalk slope, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

**Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow-rue)** Bassetts Mead Water Meadow, Hook SU7385 5449, 100+ plants, Peter Vaughan 24 May 2024.

**Trachystemon orientalis (Abraham-Isaac-Jacob)** Selborne SU7417 3351, greatly increased since the car



park was constructed on its woodland, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 17 Apr 2024.

***Trifolium subterraneum* (Subterranean Clover)** Claycart Hill, at SU85297 52366, Isobel Girvan 20 May 2024.

***Turritis glabra* (Tower Mustard)** Woolmer, Linchborough, overall total of 52 flower/fruited stems, 45 in SU8139 3345 and 7 in SU8140 3345. 16 stems in green seed at SU81396 33454, the tallest measures a remarkable 1.60m, all associated species within 1m recorded here, 1 flowering plant at SU81399 33459, but its stem broken, 12 stems in green seed at SU81396 33452, 15 small stems at 81399 33458 but half of them hidden under Bracken, and 1 flowering stem in Brambles at SU81398 33452. In SU8140 3345 6 stems in green seed at SU81406 33456 and 1 in shorter vegetation at SU81403 33445. About half of the site is now invaded by Bracken which is a major threat. This may now be the last site for Tower Mustard in all Hampshire as no plants could be found at the Kingsley site, that is very overgrown, Tony Mundell 17 Jun 2024.

***Umbilicus rupestris* (Navelwort)** Lord's Wood SU61696209, many plants on a ditch side, close to the wood entrance from Impstone Road, Tony Mundell & Alton Nat. History Society 27 Apr 2024.

***Valerianella carinata* (Keeled-fruited Cornsalad)** Micheldever Spoil Heaps, E of railway SU5195 4420, Tony Mundell & HFG 8 Jun 2024.

***Valerianella dentata* (Narrow-fruited Cornsalad)** Roundwood Estate SU5070 4437, three flowering/fruited plants at extreme crop edge, Tony Mundell, Tristan Norton & Sue Bell 12 Jul 2024.



**Narrow-fruited Cornsalad *Valerianella dentata*, Roundwood.** Tony Mundell

***Veronica scutellata* var. *scutellata* (Marsh Speedwell)** Long Bottom SU8421 4999, about 30, mostly vegetative, plants hanging on, but getting too shaded and the area is drying out, Tony Mundell & Isobel Girvan 29 Jun 2024.

***Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Bellflower)** Gelvert Stream, on the east side of the stream in a well-grazed clearing in the Birch woodland, an impressive vegetative patch covering 4m x 3m at SU82961 52527. Also on the west bank, a 1m x 0.5m vegetative patch at SU82958 52530 plus another 1m x 0.5m vegetative patch at SU82959 52529, Tony Mundell 10 Jul 2024.



**Tower Mustard *Turritis glabra*, Linchborough.** Tony Mundell



**The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group aims to monitor status and promote conservation of the flora of the two counties and develop skills of those members interested in flora.**

This edition of *Flora News* was put together by Catherine Chatters and John Norton. The views expressed by contributors to *Flora News* are not necessarily those of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Many thanks to everyone who contributed. If you have any comments or would like to submit an article for inclusion in a future issue please contact:

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When submitting photographs or illustrations for articles please include a small (reduced) version of the image in the article above its caption and send larger versions (no more than 5MB) directly to John Norton ([john@jnecology.uk](mailto:john@jnecology.uk)). Please include details of each image in its filename.

The Hants Plants website provides news and resources for anyone with an interest in Hampshire botany and acts as a hub for all plant recording activities in the two Hampshire vice-counties. If you would like to send in your plant records, please see the Hants Plants website for further information, including a downloadable form for rare plants for use in the Threatened Plants Project and a link to Living Record for bulk recording, or contact your relevant BSBI Vice-county Recorder:

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If you would like to join Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and become a member of the Flora Group, please visit our website for further details: [www.hiwwt.org.uk](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk). Flora Group members are welcome to join the Hampshire Flora Group Facebook group. Search for Hampshire Flora Group and click the Join button.



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