Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Flora News

Newsletter of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group

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In This Issue

Dear Flora Group member: an editorial note from Martin Rand

The Flora Group committee members hope to see you at some of the events scheduled over the winter and early spring of 2025–26, details of which are included in this edition of *Flora News*. Please note that booking is essential for these Flora Group events.

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: Nick Aston, Andy Cross, Isobel Girvan, Gareth Knass, Tony Mundell, John Norton, Tristan Norton, Martin Rand and Neil Sanderson. With the imminent departure of Catherine and Clive Chatters for Suffolk and Cathy Wilson's resignation to concentrate on support for the burgeoning Alton Natural History Society, we are now running rather light on the committee, especially as several members have professional careers that limit their leisure time or take them out of the county for long periods. We need a new Chairman and a new Secretary; neither of these jobs is very onerous but we rely on someone to be available at the right time. Please see my note on page 17 for more details. Catherine also edited this newsletter for many years and saw it though its twice-yearly birth pangs. Tristan Norton, Tony Mundell and I are currently taking on some of the work needed for these roles, but for my own part I cannot guarantee to continue this when deadlines are involved.

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Catherine and Clive, who have served the Flora Group over so many years and undertaken so much voluntarily to support its activities. Cathy was a more recent arrival on the committee but her quiet, thoughtful contributions to committee meetings and her activities in the field have been of great value. Fortunately, she won't be disappearing from the Hampshire scene, and I am sure she will still be involved in Flora Group activities.

We welcome your suggestions for future Flora Group events 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.

We are pleased to include notes, articles and reports by Gareth Knass, Tony Mundell, John Norton, Tristan Norton, Martin Rand, Neil Sanderson and Margaret Wonham in this edition of *Flora News*. As always, we would like to encourage more people to provide contributions to *Flora News* 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 the dedicated email address provided at the end of this newsletter.

Flora News is edited and produced by Martin Rand, Tristan Norton and John Norton

Reading the digital version of *Flora News*

Since most Flora Group members receive the digital version of *Flora News* it may worth mentioning that there are various features which can help with navigation when viewing the PDF in your web browser or PDF reader. If you want to go to a particular section or article it is possible to click on the page number in the Contents list on page 1, but another way is to use the links which are listed in the bookmarks panel. For this issue of *Flora News* bookmarks have been included for each of the meetings reports, which are not shown in the Contents. In Google Chrome click on 'document outline' on the panel on the left of the window. In Microsoft Edge a similar panel can be opened out by clicking on the 'Contents' icon at the left end of the lower toolbar. This retracts again once a bookmark is selected (both browsers also have links to the page thumbnails in these panels). In Adobe Acrobat the bookmarks panel is opened by clicking an icon in the vertical toolbar on the right of the window. In the *Flora News* PDF hyperlinks to websites and email addresses are also navigable, as are page numbers that cross reference other articles. Clicking on an email address will open up your email client, though usually this process needs to be set up in Windows or the web browser first.

John Norton

Cover photo: **Wild daffodils *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* and emerging Pignut *Conopodium majus* in Sky's Meadow, Ampfield (see meeting report, p. 5).**

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 cancellation.

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

Saturday 6 December 2025, 10.30am–3.30pm
Flora Group/BSBI Exhibition Meeting, with Flora Group AGM
Testwood Lakes Education Centre, Totton
Contact: Martin Rand (*martin.rand@hantsplants.net*)

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 a rise. There is plenty of parking.

Friday 2 January 2026, 11am–2pm
BSBI New Year Plant Hunt, Chandler's Ford
Leaders: Martin Rand and Tristan Norton

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. Members are invited to join Martin and Tristan 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.

Note that advance booking is required, with contact details in case of cancellation. Joining instructions will be sent a week or so before the event.

Contact: Martin Rand martin.rand@hantsplants.net

Saturday 14 February 2026, 1pm–3pm
Field trip: Old Milton Cemetery (west of Lymington): ID of Crocuses and Snowdrops
Leader: Martin Rand

The meeting will include a brief introduction to recognition features in each of the genera *Crocus* and *Galanthus*, followed by a search of the cemetery and churchyard grounds where we hope to find several species and hybrids of each.

Note that advance booking is required, with contact details in case of cancellation. Joining instructions will be sent a week or so before the event.

Contact: Martin Rand martin.rand@hantsplants.net

Saturday 21 February 2026, 10.30am–1pm
Field trip: Fleet Cemetery
Leader: Tony Mundell

This half day meeting is mainly to see what different species or hybrids of Snowdrops *Galanthus* we can find. In the past I have recorded several taxa there, including Green Snowdrop *G. woronowii,* Pleated Snowdrop *G. plicatus* and Greater Snowdrop *G. elwesii*. Early Crocus *Crocus tommasinianus* should also be in flower. We will be too early for the Heath Dog-violet *Viola canina* that has also been recorded, but that does indicate that there is some good quality acid grassland habitat around the gravestones.

Note that advance booking is required, with contact details in case of cancellation. Joining instructions will be sent a week or so before the event.

Contact: Tony Mundell VC12recorder@hantsplants.net

Saturday 20 June 2026, 10am–3pm (advance notice)
Field trip: Foley Manor Estate, Liphook
Leader: Tony Mundell

This is a large estate covering hundreds of acres that include parts of VC12 North Hampshire and VC13 West Sussex. I have recently been making species lists of the plants present for the new owner, who is keen to re-wild some parts of it. Botanically the richest areas are marshy fields, and we will certainly see large numbers of Southern Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*. There are also a few Heath Spotted Orchids *D. maculata* and hopefully even the hybrid between them. Be prepared for some very wet ground – I will certainly wear my wellington boots.

Other interesting plants include Marsh Willowherb *Epilobium palustre*, Ragged-Robin *Silene flos-cuculi*, and a few plants of Bog Pimpernel *Lysimachia tenella*. There are areas of former heathland now becoming overgrown with secondary woodland. I am hoping that we can get close enough to glimpse Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* in its only remaining VC12 site, though it was probably originally planted. Its last native VC12 site was at Greywell Fen but was lost decades ago. We may also be able to see an abundance of the highly invasive Lizard's Tail *Saururus cernuus*, though it will not be in flower that early. For information about this plant see *BSBI News* 83, January 2000, page 40–41, accessible online via the *BSBI News* archive: *bsbi.org/publications/archive/bsbi-news-archive*.

Note that advance booking is required, with contact details in case of cancellation. Joining instructions will be sent a week or so before the event.

Contact: Tony Mundell VC12recorder@hantsplants.net

Reports of Recent Events

Valley Park Woodlands, Ampfield – Sunday 16 March 2025

A report by Martin Rand

This early season visit, the second in the last two years to these woods, was to enjoy the Wild Daffodil populations at their best and observe any other plant life making itself obvious. Twelve people signed on for the walk; they included Lou Lawrence, who leads the conservation work in the woods on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council and was able to keep us informed about the tasks which go on here despite severe constraints on resources.

These ancient semi-natural woodlands, along with others extending into Chandler's Ford, were retained when Valley Park was developed for housing, and still retain much of their interest and a degree of continuity through wooded green corridors linking several of the woods. Where there is space for deer to be excluded with fencing, coppicing has been carried out in small coupes and a few small areas of ancient meadow, heather heath and bracken heath persist.

We started by passing through the eastern part of Zionshill Copse where a heathery glade survives, but the heather is now very leggy and at risk of being totally overshaded. Lou hopes to introduce management in this area. There was little to show here this early in the year, but it was possible to see the first new shoots on Pill Sedge *Carex pilulifera* and the remains of last year's Slender St John's-wort *Hypericum pulchrum*. Crossing the road into the western part of the Copse, we were hopeful of seeing more woodland plant life emerging, as the woodland flora is richer here. But the season was not auspicious, and little had emerged.

At the far end of Zionshill Copse we passed into the green corridor with fringing ancient woodland that links it to Tregould's Copse. Here, on damper and heavier soils, we were able to see first signs of Ramsons *Allium ursinum* and the emergence of catkins on Aspen *Populus tremula*. Ferns still showing green fronds from the previous year included Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, Scaly Male-ferns *D. affinis* and *D. borreri*, and Soft Shield-fern *Polystichum setiferum*.

The small boggy stream at the southern entrance to Tregould's Copse had plenty of the buff-brown fertile spikes of Great Horsetail *Equisetum telmateia* and a few flowers on Marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, and a little farther up we were able to see our first rather skimpy patches of Wild Daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. But the main Daffodil display came in Sky's Meadow and the adjacent parts of Sky's Wood (see photographs below and on page 1 of this issue). Several participants remarked that they had never seen Wild Daffodils

Flora Group members enjoying Wild Daffodils *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. *Martin Rand*

in such abundance; they were certainly looking very good, although there are in fact even more spectacular populations in some other parts of the county. Sky's Meadow was once a wonderful parcel of grazed semi-natural grassland which has suffered partly from cessation of grazing and partly from conversion to a play area, but we are fortunate that the Daffodils have been retained, along with other woodland and glade plants under a favourable mowing regime.

Having made it this far at a stately pace, we opted to retrace our steps with a couple of minor diversions rather than continue through Sky's Wood. One of these took us through the site of a large wild population of Lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis*, but nothing was showing above ground yet. Despite the reticence of many spring flowers, I believe that people found it an interesting trip and a chance to enjoy some spring sunshine. Thanks go to Lou for her information on conservation work and management issues in these woods.

Mottisfont Estate for Woodrushes – Sunday 27 April 2025

A report by Martin Rand

This meeting was to look at Woodrushes (*Luzula* species) in the Mottisfont estate around Spearywell Woods. Seven people participated and we set off into woodland from the National Trust car park in Keepers Lane where we were able to see Southern Woodrush *Luzula forsteri* within a few minutes' walk, close to Thin-spiked Wood-sedge *Carex strigosa* which is a feature of these damp clay woodlands. The previous week's reconnoitre had not yielded the full expected range of Woodrushes, so the leader had brought along bagged specimens to examine while sitting in a dry warm spot on the edge of the woods with views of the surrounding countryside. After this familiarisation session, we pursued a winding course by woodland paths finding more *Luzula forsteri,* Hairy Woodrush *L. pilosa* and their largely sterile hybrid *L.* × *borreri* – in one spot, all growing together – and eventually, on the higher and drier ground, Field Woodrush *L. campestris*. However, we drew a blank on Great

Hairy Woodrush *Luzula pilosa* (left), Southern Woodrush *L. forsteri* (right) and their hybrid *L.* × *borreri* (centre). *Martin Rand*

Woodrush *L. sylvatica* and Heath Woodrush *Luzula multiflora*, both of which have been recorded in recent years, so the 'mini-workshop' held earlier in the day proved its worth.

We found plenty of other botanical interest to fill in the gaps between Woodrushes, and in the woodland there were ferns, grasses in flower including Wood Millet *Milium effusum* and Wood Melick *Melica uniflora* and, in a bracken area recently cleared of conifers, a good stand of wild Lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis* (a known site). There was one particularly fine mature specimen of *Betula* × *aurata* (the hybrid between Silver Birch and Downy Birch), which was new to some of the participants. Some time was spent examining the distinctions between Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and Fragrant Agrimony *A. procera* at an early stage of development in the year.

Much attention went to the series of fields adjoining the woodlands which had been sown with a mix of clovers and other species and left fallow over the winter. The London Clay soil had baked to a surface resembling cracked concrete, from which emerged a colourful display of assorted sowings and 'weeds'. Particularly abundant was Crimson Clover *Trifolium incarnatum* subsp. *incarnatum,* but amongst the more familiar Clovers there was one which from a distance looked like Alsike Clover *Trifolium hybridum*. On close approach it was obvious from the leaves that it was not this, but it took some delving after the meeting to run it down as 'Balansa Clover' *T. michelianum* subsp. *balansae* which is apparently sold as an exceptionally good nitrogen fixer. It differs from the type subspecies in having short flowering stalks, and so it doesn't acquire the characteristic 'mop-head' look as the flowers mature. It somewhat resembles some forms of White Clover *T. repens* but the long awl-like teeth on the calyx distinguish it. This is a first record for Hampshire but should be looked out for.

Balansa Clover *Trifolium michelianum* subsp. *balansae* plants and close-up of calyx. *Martin Rand*

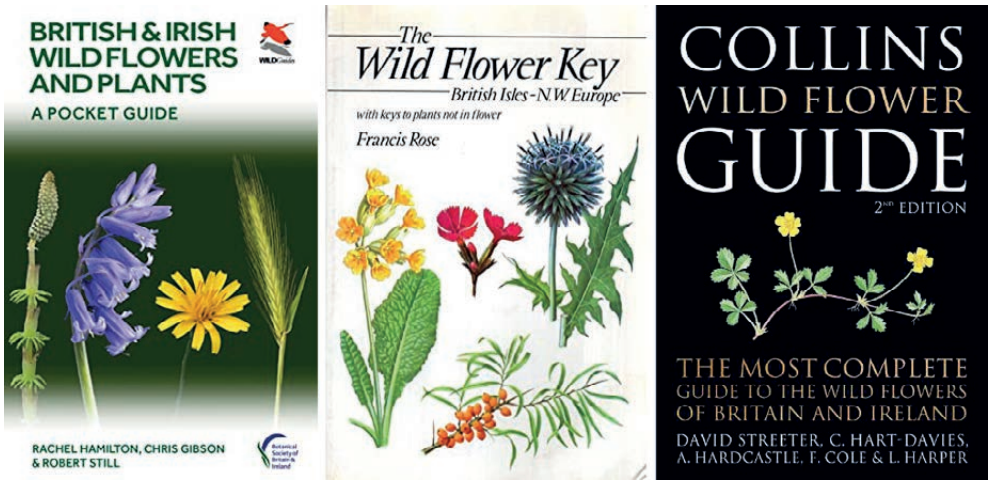
Amongst the obvious sown plants, which also included Fodder Vetch *Vicia sativa* subsp. *sativa* and in the grass strips that bordered the fallow sowings Zigzag Clover *T. medium*, there were a few good arable archaeophytes, Corn Spurrey *Spergula arvensis* and Field Woundwort *Stachys arvensis* among them. Most gratifying, though, was the large population of Broad-leaved Spurge *Euphorbia platyphyllos*, still at an early stage of development. It has been known in one of these fields for a couple of decades but is likely to pre-date that, as it is known in other sites within a few miles. Finally, some relative newcomers in the mix included Medium-flowered Winter-cress *Barbarea intermedia* and Gold-of-pleasure *Camelina sativa*.

So, rather than just a Woodrush workshop, it proved to be a very varied day in fine weather and pleasant surroundings and seemed to be enjoyed by all, whatever their skill level.

Workshop: getting started with a field guide – Saturday 11 May 2025

A report by Martin Rand

This outdoor workshop meeting was aimed at people who currently own a pictorial field guide and use it largely by thumbing through illustrations but would like to develop their skills in using keys, reading descriptions critically, recognising key families and generally raising their game in taking on more detailed and technical ID guides and floras. The 'textbook' for the meeting was the recently published Princeton WILDGuide *British and Irish Wild Flowers and Plants* by Rachel Hamilton, Chris Gibson and Rob Still. This is not a complete Flora for Britain, and it suffers in comparison with some other field guides in various ways, but it does introduce several different approaches to getting to the right group of plants, has some good design features (small, crowded layout not being one of them!) and a wealth of thumbnail photos to show diagnostic features. Its coverage includes all species likely to be met with commonly either across Britain or within some more restricted regions. Participants were also encouraged to bring along whatever books they currently use.



Some current popular field guides

Eight people signed up for the day and we met at the top of Shawford Down under the threat of appalling weather later. We spent some time towards the top of the down discussing plant parts and recognition features using the good range of common species immediately to hand, and we talked about strengths and pitfalls involved in using the main ID guides, as well as online tools for automated recognition. But by the time we were ready to explore the rest of the downland and the water-meadows beyond, the bad weather was rolling in and it was time to implement 'plan B' rather than amass a collection of soggy books. Most of the participants then reassembled at Martin's house to enjoy their picnic lunches in the dry and to continue the session with material he had gathered beforehand for such an eventuality. As well as further discussion on features, family recognition and techniques, this gave an opportunity to examine and talk about some of the useful books and courses for the next stage of a botanical adventure.

Hayling Island Seafront – Sunday 11 May 2025

A report by Tristan Norton

There are always mild anxieties when organising a field meeting. What will the weather do? Will the plants be showing? Will anyone turn up? In this case I had two preoccupying worries – the drought conditions in the preceding weeks, and the possibility that parking would be an issue. Luckily, for the latter, I needn't have worried, and we managed to find ample space in what is the only free car park on the whole Hayling seafront. The prolonged fine weather throughout much of March and April was definitely an issue and meant that the hoped-for 'winter' annuals (especially clovers) had been more or less fried to a crisp. I also managed to leave my camera at home (it's basically an extra limb for me, and I feel bereft without it).

After issuing 'strict' instructions that we weren't to spend an hour botanising in the car park (although we did find plenty of Musk Stork's-bill *Erodium moschatum*), we set off for the short walk south to the shingle. The southern coast of Hayling Island really is a treasure, and despite intense recreational pressure, is probably the most intact area of vegetated shingle left in the county. Walking westwards parallel with the Hayling Golf Course fence line, we soon found a superb display of Sea Kale *Crambe maritima* (probably the most noticeable plant in early summer) with plenty of Sea Radish *Raphanus raphanistrum* subsp. *maritimus*.

We soon found one of the main targets for the day, Little-Robin *Geranium purpureum*. The Hayling coast is well-known for this diminutive plant, and it seems like 2025 has been a great year for it. We found that looking beneath sprawling Bramble patches was a good bet, and recorded a number of locations as we strolled along the back end of the shingle ridges close to the fence.

Little-Robin *Geranium purpureum*. *Tristan Norton*

Heading further west towards Sinah Common and Gunner Point (where a section of the beach is fenced off – and botanist-proof – to protect nesting Ringed Plovers) we investigated the vegetated dunes. It wasn't looking hopeful due to the drought, but we did thankfully manage to find flowering Nottingham Catchfly *Silene nutans* and abundant Sea Bindweed *Calystegia soldanella*, and over lunch we examined specimens of Soft Brome *Bromus hordeaceus* for the dune subspecies *thominei*. Soft Brome is abundant across the beach, with many very small examples that may or may not be *thominei* (the differences seem minor, and *hordeaceus* is a highly variable species). The hoped-for display of Green-winged Orchids *Anacamptis morio* (which number in the low thousands usually and look amazing in May) was well over but we did locate the odd plant that looked fresh.

Sand Cat's-tail *Phleum arenarium*. *Tristan Norton*

Another two dune grasses that we wanted to see were found. Dune Fescue *Vulpia fasciculata* is quite common, but Sand Cat's-tail *Phleum arenarium* took a fair bit of searching until we found a few flowering examples, just a couple of centimetres tall. Just nearby were two annual legumes that thankfully weren't crispy: Suffocated Clover *Trifolium suffocatum* and Rough Clover *T. scabrum*.

As the afternoon wore on the heat and humidity increased and the beach was proving very popular with day trippers. We decided to head back eastwards and find an ice-cream. On the way we stopped to look at some interesting habitat where a former car park has been gradually inundated by winter sea water flooding. This is now developing into an area of salt tolerant vegetation where both Sea Pearlwort *Sagina maritima* and Stiff Saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia rupestris* thrive. Just behind the beach here is a small colony of Shepherd's-cress *Teesdalia nudicaulis* that we saw in fruit, alongside flowering Smith's Pepperwort *Lepidium heterophyllum*. Parts of the scrubby grassland behind the beach are covered with a very tall *Bromus* species, a sample of which keyed out to Ripgut Brome *Anisantha rigida*. Ice-creams were had by all and this rounded the day off very well. My sincere thanks to all attendees for making the visit so enjoyable.

Ipley and Applemore – Friday 13 June 2025

A report by Tristan Norton

This was a very enjoyable evening meeting filled with wonderful New Forest speciality plants and some lovely habitats. From the car park at Marchwood Inclosure we made our way north-westwards to an area of wet and dry heath by Ipley Manor, noting a number of Silver-studded Blue butterflies *Plebejus argus* on the way. Walking parallel to the road we were soon encountering classic New Forest poached hollows which were home to some of our target species.

These hollows – which seem particularly productive in this general area – gave us our first Yellow Centaury *Cicendia filiformis*, our most diminutive member of the gentian family and very often not more than an inch tall. These plants really only open in full sunshine so we had to be satisfied with closed flowers, like little droplets of custard. It was clear that there was a very healthy display this year and we found many patches with very good numbers. When not flowering this can be very tricky to spot, but luckily you can always look out for the more noticeable Allseed *Linum radiola* which is a regular associate and indicates good hunting grounds. A third associate species, perhaps even less obvious than the *Cicendia*, is Chaffweed *Lysimachia minima*, often cited as the UK's smallest flowering plant. After some very close inspection we soon found many plants of it, some flowering and some with ripening fruit. With a close look it's actually very distinctive with obvious dark edges to the leaves, as if the margins have been dipped in ink.

The largest poached hollow, situated adjacent to the road, had Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera* (with very obvious sporocarps), Lesser Water-plantain *Baldellia ranunculoides*, and Marsh Speedwell *Veronica scutellata*.

We then found a suspiciously round depression which certainly made me think of a bomb crater – the nearby crossroads and surrounding heath was apparently used as an obvious target practice area by British World War II warplanes, and there is still a high likelihood of unexploded munitions being encountered. Whatever its origin, this small depression held a dense population of Slender Marsh-bedstraw *Galium constrictum*. This is often thought of as a New Forest speciality, but it has apparently been turning up elsewhere in the UK. It is indeed slender, although care is needed to differentiate it from small examples of Common Marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*. I always think it looks, and feels, like Wall Bedstraw *Galium parisiense*.

Wandering back southwards, across an area dotted with Heath Spotted Orchids *Dactylorhiza maculata*, Chamomile *Chamaemelum nobile*, Common Yellow-sedge *Carex demissa*, Carnation Sedge *Carex panicea*, Meadow

Top to bottom: Yellow Centaury *Cicendia filiformis*, Chaffweed *Lysimachia minima*, Slender Marsh-bedstraw *Galium constrictum*. *Tristan Norton*

Thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, Bog Pimpernel *Lysimachia tenella,* and Petty Whin *Genista anglica*, we stopped at the Ipley crossroads where one arm of the junction had been reconfigured a few years ago. Heathland turves were translocated from the old road to the new section and appear to have taken the move extremely well: there is essentially no noticeable difference in the vegetation between the 'new' heathland and the surrounding area.

Crossing over the road to the east we soon encountered a very wet flush with Pale Butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica* and, soon after, a little runnel by the roadside which had a few flowering plants of Brookweed *Samolus valerandi*, the first local record for this species for many decades. Another good find on the road edge was Rough Clover *Trifolium scabrum*.

Before ending the meeting, we drove a little further east towards Applemore and investigated a lovely area of wet heath beneath some pylons. Species found here were both White Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba* and the much rarer Brown Beak-sedge *R. fusca* in profusion. We couldn't find the white form of Early Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* var. *pulchella* – it seems these had been munched by livestock. We did find leaves of Strawberry Clover *Trifolium fragiferum*.

Overall, this was a very pleasant evening wander around a very interesting part of the Forest.

Brown Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora fusca*. *Tristan Norton*

Shortheath Pond & Common – Saturday 14 June 2025

A note by Tony Mundell

Seven people joined me for a mainly botanical walk, but we often diverted into looking at insects or other interesting critters. Our first port of call was close to the car park where, on the previous week, I had beaten a new trail in to access the pond edge, to find some previously recorded plants. One of these was Dwarf Arrowhead *Sagittaria subulata* in its only known site for England (the BSBI DDb also gives one 1971 record in Scotland and a pre-1969 record for Ireland). Although very rare, it is a neophyte, so it gets no protection. At Shortheath Pond it was first recorded in 1962, and by 30 years later it had spread across most of the pond. At that time in the early 1990s, the pond water was still clear and full of various submerged plant species. I have photos showing the healthy pond then (see Plate 10 on p. 36 of the 1996 *Flora of Hampshire*). After 2000 the pond water turned opaque, leading to the decline of submerged species, but plants with floating leaves or emergent plants were not so badly affected.

I do not know what caused the change in water quality, but the same thing has happened wherever fishermen are plentiful, e.g. Kingsley Pond and Lodge Pond. Perhaps they chuck bait in that rots, or perhaps they introduce bottom-feeding fish that stir up the mud. The opaque water led to the decline of Dwarf Arrowhead plus the local extinction of Frogbit *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* and Bladderwort *Utricularia australis*. The Dwarf Arrowhead persisted until 2008 but then could not be re-found for the ten following years. That is why Clive Stace shows in his 4th edition of *The Flora of the British Isles* that it had become lost in England. However, Fred Rumsey managed to re-find a tiny patch in 2019, and it is still hanging on.

In the same spot we saw flowering plants of Marsh Cinquefoil *Comarum palustre* and Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata*, but I was disappointed that there was no sign of either Lesser Bulrush *Typha angustifolia* or its hybrid *T.* × *glauca* with Bulrush *T. latifolia*. The hybrid was first recorded here in 1985 and was still there as recently as 2022.

Hampshire Flora Group at Shortheath Pond. ***Helen Boyce***

We pottered slowly along the pond edge noting a few flowering plants of Skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata,* a patch of Common Sedge *Carex nigra* and a few stems of Marsh Pennywort *Hydrocharis vulgaris* with its characteristic peltate leaves. Nearby we saw clumps of Fine-leaved Sheep's-fescue *Festuca filiformis* that I am sure is very under-recorded, and the attractive Wavy Hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*. At the water's edge we saw much Water Horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* with its very hollow 'squashy' stems, and some Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*. I pointed out the branching stem, and the way that the inflorescence included several male heads on the branch tips, distinguishing it from Unbranched Bur-reed *S. emersum*. The English names help here.

Close by we came to a nest of the Southern Wood Ant *Formica rufa*, and I spoke of the Scarce 7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella magnifica* that is able to resist attack by the ants and feed on aphids farmed by the ants close to the nest. Straight away someone found a ladybird and I caught it in a plastic pot. Luckily, we had Helen Boyce with us who got me to tip the ladybird on its back to check for the white marks on its legs while it struggled. As only the middle pair of legs had white spots Helen pointed out that it was the much commoner 7-spot ladybird *C. septempunctata*, so it was released away from the ant nest. Later, other insects attracted our attention. I was surprised by the large number of Downy Emerald dragonflies *Cordulia aenea*. I was even able to photograph a settled mating pair together with a separate male just inches away.

Hampshire County Council who manage the site had opened up an area beside the pond so that part of the adjacent Sphagnum bog with much Common Cotton Grass *Eriophorum angustifolium* is now clearly visible. Here I showed a few of the more intrepid people examples of the leaves of Cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, with the promise of its flowers and fruits to be seen later.

We compared the leaves of Hedge Bedstraw *Galium album* and Common Marsh-bedstraw *G. palustre* and puzzled over an orchid that I eventually decided was

Cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus* in fruit. ***Tony Mundell***

Heath Spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*. Whist doing this we frightened a Grass Snake into the water and watched it swim away from us a large distance via the water lilies to another part of the pond edge.

We then left the pond edge, crossing the dry heath to reach the edge of the Sphagnum bog where lots of Cranberry was seen in flower and fruit. A few Round-leaved Sundew plants *Drosera rotundifolia* were also present.

As we paused for lunch back at the car park, Helen showed us a couple of larvae of 24-spot ladybirds *Subcoccinella vigintiquattuorpunctata* that make characteristic feeding marks on False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. These tiny monsters are covered in spines, looking like miniature hedgehogs.

We then continued around the pond in the opposite direction seeing patches of Marsh St John's-wort *Hypericum elodes* in several places and numerous clumps of Narrow Buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* that is very plentiful locally. At a newly constructed footbridge where an outlet stream from the pond used to turn the footpath into a quagmire, I was pleased that the Round-leaved Crowfoot *Ranunculus omiophyllus* was still present and flowering well. Here we also saw White Sedge *Carex canescens*, Star Sedge *Carex echinata* and Small Sweet-grass *Glyceria declinata*.

On a dry, sandy heathland path we managed to find just a few plants of Mossy Stonecrop *Crassula tillaea*, but sadly it is much decreased at Shortheath Common compared to former years. However, patches of Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*, Pill Sedge *Carex pilulifera* and Bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus* were still present.

Our last botanical stop was the splendid view of the huge expanse of the main Sphagnum bog that Hampshire County Council have managed to keep open and clear of invading scrub. Although too dangerous to risk walking on, from the edge we could see that it supports vast quantities of Cranberry, Round-leaved Sundew and White Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*.

Finally, we visited a site where Field Crickets *Gryllus campestris* have been introduced by Mike Edwards. Mike had originally agreed to show them to us (a licence to handle them is required) but later his son chose 14 June to get married, so Mike had much higher priorities. On my check-out of the route the previous week I was delighted to hear their booming calls, in spite of my dreadful hearing. However, each time I approached nearer the call stopped. On 14 June we heard nothing though the holes in the short grassland that they excavate were easy to see. At least I was able to show the group photos of the Field Crickets that I had taken at Shortheath Common on 2 June 2006 though in a different introduced spot.

It was a great day where everyone participated fully by asking questions or contributing their own tricks or mnemonics for identifying plants. I did manage to find specimens of both Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense* and Marsh Horsetail *E. palustre* in order to show how to separate them using ALPS (I'm sure most of the people there already knew what I was going to do, as you may, but it was fun to demonstrate). Several people sent me emails afterwards saying how much they had enjoyed the day.

Malshanger Estate – Monday 16 June 2025

A report by Tristan Norton

For those with an interest in arable plants, the area between Basingstoke and Winchester is hallowed ground. The vast expanse of cultivated, chalky land is one of the richest parts of the UK for arable rarities and so it was with a sense of anticipation that a dozen of us met on a sultry Monday morning to have a mooch around the Malshanger Estate.

I had been in touch with the Estate's owners for the last two years but unfortunately a 2024 visit didn't come off. The owners were very keen for us to visit and could not have been more accommodating in helping to arrange this year's visit. The whole estate had been subject to an arable plant survey by Plantlife in 2013 and found to be of national significance for its arable plant assemblage. This Hampshire Flora Group visit was an attempt to revisit some of the best areas from 2013 and provide the estate with information to assist in their overall management. The estate is almost entirely arable, containing a mix of cereals alongside less conventional crops such as mint, lavender and even rosemary. A special variety of mint – Black Mitcham – is grown and distilled

on site and used to make tea, chocolates and various other minty products.

The day started with a short walk to one particular field – Beestings – part of which is managed exclusively for arable plants. The undoubted star here is the UK's only population of Large Venus's-looking-glass *Legousia speculum-veneris*, and we were soon finding some wonderful examples of this beautiful plant. The supporting cast was a who's who of classic chalk arable species including Common Fumitory *Fumaria officinalis*, Small Toadflax *Chaenorhinum minus*, Round-leaved Fluellen *Kickxia spuria*, Narrow-fruited Cornsalad *Valerianella dentata*, and Dwarf Spurge *Euphorbia exigua*. We then tried to relocate a population of Henbane *Hyoscyamus niger* in an adjacent field, but the site was too overgrown.

In mounting heat and humidity, we moved on northwards to another field that had scored highly in 2013. Unfortunately, the vagaries of farm cropping means that the botanical richness of fields can change drastically, and we found this field to be relatively poor, although both Round-leaved and Sharp-leaved Fluellen *Kickxia elatine* and Dwarf Spurge were frequent. Although we weren't focusing on non-arable species (I tried to be strict about only recording the margins), some grassy margins here held a few spikes of the stately Knapweed Broomrape *Orobanche elatior* alongside its host Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*.

Heading back towards the main farm buildings we came across a particularly rich section of margin in another field and soon found a sizeable spread of Stinking Chamomile *Anthemis cotula*. This plant has a very distinctive smell – some find it highly unpleasant, but I have to say that it doesn't affect me that way. A key identification feature is the presence of thin, pointed scales at the base of each floret and easily seen with a hand lens when a flowerhead is broken apart. A nice surprise in this field was a good population of perhaps hundreds of Corn Parsley *Sison segetum*, not previously recorded here and a great species to find anywhere.

It was now lunchtime and, rather than the usual sit down on the ground, we had use of a well-provisioned and thankfully cool kitchen/breakfast room courtesy of the estate. We sat down at a large oak table and were able to help ourselves to hot drinks, including the famous Black Mitcham tea which was very refreshing. We also availed ourselves of some delicious minty chocolates.

Top to bottom: Large Venus's-looking-glass *Legousia speculum-veneris*, Stinking Chamomile *Anthemis cotula*, Corn Parsley *Sison segetum*. *Tristan Norton*

After lunch we retraced our steps a little and spent time exploring rows of lavender. The spaces between the rows were very productive with stony, chalky soils reminiscent of vineyards. Plants here included abundant Common and Dense-flowered Fumitory *Fumaria densiflora*, Small Nettle *Urtica urens*, and Henbit Dead-nettle *Lamium amplexicaule*. Many of the lavender plants were interspersed with a very large and distinctive sedge, growing in large clumps up to one metre across. We couldn't make up our minds about the identification, but they

were clearly in the *spicata* group. John Poland suggested they might be the North American Fox Sedge *Carex vulpinoidea*. Subsequent investigations and research, including by the BSBI *Carex* referee, have concluded that these were just very large examples of Spiked Sedge *Carex spicata*.

By this time, it was getting extremely warm and so we decided to call it a day a little early and retire to the kitchen for more refreshing mint tea. If we'd had time, we were going to explore fields further to the south where Annual Knawel *Scleranthus annuus*, Field Woundwort *Stachys arvensis*, and Henbane had been seen. I was able to return to the site a week or so later and managed to find the Knawel and Henbane. This bodes well for further HFG visits to this fantastic site. I am very grateful to the Malshanger Estate for their kindness and generosity in helping to facilitate our visit.

Grasses workshop – Saturday and Sunday 5–6 July 2025

A report by Martin Rand

This weekend workshop was an updated version of one run in previous years for the Flora Group, most recently by Andy Cross and Martin in 2019. The session relied heavily on the BSBI Handbook 13, *Grasses of the British Isles* by Tom Cope and Alan Gray, with one aim being to demystify its very hierarchical taxonomy-based approach to keying out species. The updated workshop notes are available on the Hants Plants website: *hantsplants.uk/workshopnotes.php*. Eleven participants attended.

Saturday was spent at the Testwood Lakes Education Centre where attendees had access to benches, lenses, dissecting equipment and measuring tools. A range of books was also available for consultation and browsing, and a 7x–45× dissecting microscope fitted with a digital camera and projector allowed the two presenters to show fine details of plants. The first part of the morning was spent on grass morphology: Martin dealt with the vegetative features and distinctions between the Grass family and other similar monocot families (particularly Sedges), while Andy covered inflorescences and flowering parts.

The rest of the day entailed examining specimens collected by the leaders, working through broad groupings of species based around the Tribes which feature large in the Handbook keys while adding other similar plants into the groups. We omitted rarities and most non-natives, concentrating instead on the more widespread species and especially the features that often presented ID challenges. The dry weather had made it hard to get a good range of representative species from all major tribes, and we concentrated on Oat-grasses (tribe Aveneae subtribe Aveninae); Fescues and Rye-grasses (part of tribe Poeae); Bents and other species of tribe Aveneae subtribe Alopecurinae, along with *Deschampsia* from subtribe Aveninae; and Bromes (tribes Bromeae and Brachypodieae). In fact, we need not have worried about a limited range of plants, as at the end of the day there were still some unexamined species waiting in their bags.

A widespread non-native grass that stayed in its bag: Cockspur *Echinochloa crus-galli*. *Martin Rand*

Sunday was spent in the field, starting at Shawford Down south of Winchester. Here there was a good range of grasses of neutral and calcareous grassland, albeit some of them rather dried up. We were able to examine several Oat-grass species and compare them with the Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta* that is an important constituent of the chalk downland, while Fescues *Festuca* demonstrated that one sometimes needs to be very attentive when separating Red Fescue *F. rubra* from Sheep's Fescue *F. ovina*. Smaller Cat's-tail *Phleum bertolonii*, found here in quantity but with some awkward intermediates, allowed comparison with Timothy *P. pratense* on the water-meadows later.

A brief picnic lunch stop was interrupted by a short but violent shower, from which we retreated to the café at Shawford station for consolatory drinks or ice-creams. This took us well on our way to Berry Meadows at Twyford, lying on the mostly damp ground between the River Itchen and the Itchen Navigation. Here we were

able to 'compare and contrast' the two very common Bents Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and Common Bent *A. capillaris*. Two of the large Fescue species were here: Giant Fescue *Schedonorus giganteus* and Tall Fescue *S. arundinacea*. The advanced state of the latter demonstrated that one should not rely on the hairiness of the auricles as the only means of distinguishing it from Meadow Fescue *S. pratensis*. The ditches and streams yielded up Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* and two Sweet-grasses, Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* and Floating Sweet-grass *G. fluitans*. By this time, we still faced the trudge back to the top of Shawford Down and retraced our steps, arriving quite punctually at the published end time (possibly a first for Martin!).

Grasses workshop participants on Shawford Down (lfeft) and Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* at Berry Meadows, Twyford (right). *Martin Rand*

Notes and Features

Officers for the Hampshire Flora Group – an urgent plea

A note by Martin Rand

With the departure of Clive and Catherine Chatters and Cathy Wilson, the Flora Group finds itself with vacancies for four key roles (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and *Flora News* Receiving Editor) and three committee members. (Catherine has covered the Secretary and Editor roles, Clive has covered the Treasurer role, and recently Clive and Cathy have covered the Chairman duties.) The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer would need to be members of the committee; the Editor would not have to be, but it would make sense for them to attend committee meetings. Committee meetings are held twice a year, usually in May and October, and participants attend remotely via Google Meet. The Flora Group AGM takes place at the annual Exhibition Meeting, usually in December, and is a brief face-to-face session.

Currently Tristan and I are covering the editing and collating of *Flora News*, Tristan is covering some aspects of the Chairman's role between committee meetings, and I am doing the same for the Secretary role between meetings. But we shall not be able to sustain this beyond the next committee meeting, which will take place shortly after you receive this. **We urgently need people to fill these roles and the Treasurer role; unless we are successful, the Flora Group cannot operate in its present form or anything like it. Without people in place by January, this will be the last issue of *Flora News* that you read, and the last programme of formal meetings. The situation will be reviewed for members at the AGM on Saturday 6 December.**

So, if you have the time and the skills to take on any role, please give it serious consideration. With help from Clive, I have laid out the role descriptions below. I or any of the other committee members will be pleased to provide further information.

Chair:

- To liaise with officers of the Wildlife Trust over matters of policy, governance and regulation.
- To liaise with officers of the Wildlife Trust over shared interests, shared resources and Group publicity.
- To liaise with the Secretary to produce agendas for committee meetings.
- To chair Group committee meetings and the AGM.

Secretary:

- To liaise with the Chair to produce agendas for committee meetings.
- To circulate committee meeting agendas to committee members.
- To record and circulate minutes of committee meetings, with an emphasis on action points and their assignment.
- To oversee the holding of committee meetings, including the organisation of remote online meetings.
- To keep a record of trained first-aiders and the dates for renewal of training.
- To assist in clarifying details of Group events for publication in *Flora News* in support of the Editor.
- To liaise with officers of the Wildlife Trust over maintenance of the membership list, including members' preferences for printed or electronic copies.
- To liaise with the Editor over publication of *Flora News.*
- To maintain a record, liaise with the Chair and oversee any other administrative matters which may arise.

Treasurer:

- To maintain simple accounts of money incoming and outgoing.
- To present a statement of accounts at the Flora Group AGM.
- To share the statement of accounts with officers of the Wildlife Trust and liaise with them over financial matters.

This is a lightweight role, especially for anyone who has previously dealt with club accounts, and could be combined with one of the other roles as it has been up to now.

***Flora News* Receiving Editor:**

- To liaise with the Secretary over arrangements for publication of *Flora News*, calls for articles and notices of forthcoming events and the format in which they should be provided by contributors.
- To liaise with the administrator of the Hants Plants website (currently Martin Rand) and the controllers of the Hampshire Flora Group Facebook page (currently Nick Montegriffo – administrator, John Norton and Martin Rand – moderators) over calls for articles and proposed meetings.
- To collate material into a common simple format as a Word document and discuss any issues of content or presentation with contributors.
- To liaise with the Publishing Editor (currently John Norton) on illustrations and any other special insertions to be included.
- To send the compiled Word document to the Publishing Editor, who will edit and format it to comply with *Flora News* style and produce the first draft 'for publication' document as a PDF.
- To receive the draft 'for publication' document from the Publishing Editor, review it, pass it to committee reviewers and contributors, collate review comments and return them to the Publishing Editor.
- To receive and review the final draft 'for publication' document for implementation of changes.
- To liaise with officers of the Wildlife Trust for distribution of electronic and printed copies of the approved final document to Flora Group members.
- To pass the approved final document in electronic form to the administrator of the Hants Plants website for publication on the site, and liaise with the controllers of the Hampshire Flora Group Facebook page over announcing the publication of the issue.

Flora News is published twice a year, normally in mid-October and early February. The Receiving Editor's work spans the periods from mid-August to early October and from late November to the end of January, with most of the workload towards the beginning of these periods.

In a *fankle** with Fumitories? Fear not

An article by Tristan Norton

**Fankle.* Scots English: a tangle; confusion.

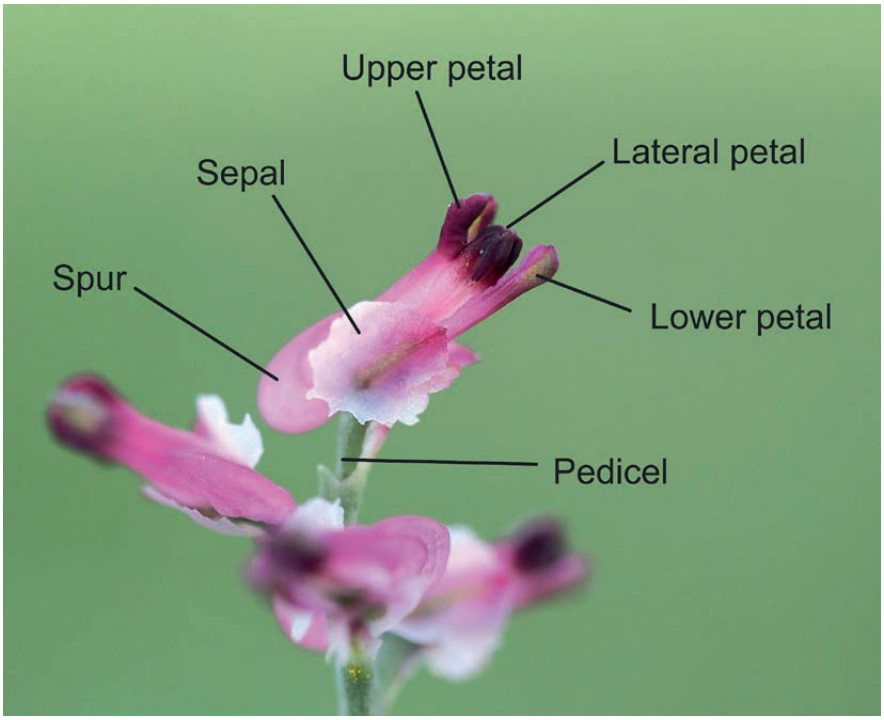
Fumitories have what I consider to be an unfair reputation for being a very difficult group. In this article we'll take a look at the ten native *Fumaria* species and their identification using a few simple floral characters that can help you identify most examples quite easily. This article is not a substitute for a proper key, but hopefully by the end we'll have demystified their trickiness a bit and show that they are certainly not impossible to identify. I do not cover the various described subspecies or forms – that really is for the dedicated/obsessive (and may not even be a wholly valid or even worthwhile pursuit in my opinion!). For fully detailed analysis of fumitories I can heartily recommend the excellent, and very beautiful, *Fumitories of Britain and Ireland* by Rose Murphy (BSBI Handbook No.12). Superb illustrations of *Fumaria* flowers by Mark Gurney are included at the end of this article and are accompanied by some very helpful information on identifying each species.

The fumitories can be broken down into two manageable groupings: the Ramping-fumitories (these are within section *Capreolatae*) and the smaller fumitories (section *Fumaria*). We can think of these as the 'big-flowered' group containing six species, and the 'small-flowered' group containing four.

Fumitory anatomy

The flowers of fumitories are a tube-like corolla comprising one upper and one lower petal plus two lateral petals. The upper petal has an inflated, rounded base, referred to as the spur, and an often-frilly, usually dark, tip with a central ridge known as the keel. The flowers are held in a raceme of many individual flowers. Each flower

is attached to the raceme stem by a short pedicel, at the base of which is a small bract. On either side of the flower, attached to the end of the pedicel where the fruit develops, is a sepal. The size and shape of the sepals is a key factor in identifying species. The sepals are usually whitish and can have a green or pink lateral stripe.



Dense-flowered Fumitory *Fumaria densiflora*, showing key floral features. *Photgraphs by the author*

A note of caution

As with all plants, location (degree of shade, for example), climatic conditions (drought), and time of year can affect growth, and you may encounter plants that may be tricky to identify. These environmental factors can result in atypical plants with abnormally coloured and shaped flowers, strange foliage and odd growth habits. Whilst fumitories can flower in every month of the year, the optimum time to be sure of flowers in good, typical condition is between April and late summer/early autumn. I don't wish to make too much of this, however, as I have found perfectly fine and readily identifiable examples of many species in the winter months and early spring. Indeed, some species don't really get going until late in the year and can look at their best in September and October. The takeaway point here is just to be aware that there is variation and to proceed with caution.

The Ramping-fumitories – section *Capreolatae*

Containing six native species, this is the larger of the two groupings – both in terms of plant size and the number of species. Only four of these have so far been recorded in Hampshire: one more is certainly feasible, the other highly unlikely. The Ramping-fumitories are the largest Fumarias, generally having a corolla length greater than 9 mm (often much greater at c.12 mm), with the smaller species measuring below 9 mm. In the field, in my experience, it is nearly always obvious that you have a Ramping-fumitory: they are large, scrambling, floriferous plants with numerous, obviously large, flowers.

By far the commonest Ramping-fumitory is, unsurprisingly, **Common Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria muralis***. This is usually a large, robust plant with numerous flowering racemes and can be found in a variety of habitats including arable field margins and urban areas. It is rather a colourful plant, with numerous bright pink flowers each with a dark tip to the petals. The sepals are large, usually rather round, and with obvious jagged margins.

White Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria capreolata* is another large and robust species. In its usual form the ivory-white flowers with blackish tips, bunched tightly on the raceme and usually downturned, are distinctive. It is most likely to be found in urban environments, as a pavement 'weed' or on areas of disturbed soils. There is

Common Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria muralis* is the commonest large fumitory. It has dark-tipped, pinkish corollas with large, circular, toothed sepals.

White Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria capreolata* has a densely-packed, recurved raceme. The flowers are whitish with large, oblong and well-toothed sepals.

some indication that it is increasing, driven by accidental introductions from the horticultural trade. The sepals are very large, oblong and toothed. If you find a white fumitory in an urban setting it will almost certainly be this species.

Tall Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria bastardii* is a scarce plant, recorded at very few locations in Hampshire. The nominate form *bastardii* is rather distinctive as it has a concolorous upper petal – no other large-flowered species has this. The flower colour is an almost bubble gum pink, giving the individual flowers a prawn-like appearance. Beware the form *hibernica* though, as this has dark, almost black tips to the entire corolla. This form has been recorded in Hampshire (in Gosport) and is often the commonest form in south-western England.

Tall Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria bastardii*. The nominate form *bastardii* (left) lacks a dark tip to the upper petal (and looks like a prawn!). The form *hibernica* has a very obvious beetroot-red tip to the upper petal. Both forms occur in Hampshire.

Martin's Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria reuteri* is a very rare species, once confined to just one or two sites nationally but now found at a few more (including at least two Hampshire allotment sites, in Fareham and Winchester). It is an elegant plant with a distinctive appearance. The corolla is very often very long and slim-looking, with a very noticeable elegant spur that extends well beyond the sepal and looks like the grip of a flintlock pistol. The sepals are a very neat, smooth-edged teardrop shape and rather small.

Martin's Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria reuteri*. An elegant species with small, teardrop-shaped sepals with smooth edges. This example is from Fareham in late autumn.

Purple Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria purpurea* has not been recorded in Hampshire yet. It resembles *F. capreolata* (this is a very white example) but the sepals are large and almost rectangular. This example is from Aberdeenshire in August.

Of the two species unrecorded in Hampshire, **Purple Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria purpurea*** is perhaps the one that might be found. It is an endemic plant of northern and western Britain and Ireland and is turning up in new locations. It can resemble White Ramping-fumitory in having whitish flowers on densely-packed, recurved racemes but is often a vibrant purplish-pink colour. The key feature is the size and shape of the sepals: *purpurea* sepals are long and with parallel sides, almost rectangular, and resembling a shield.

Western Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria occidentalis* (shown on next page) is a British endemic restricted to western Cornwall and therefore most unlikely to occur in Hampshire. It is the largest flowered of all Fumarias and is quite unmistakable. The corolla tips are rather open, looking to my eye rather like a spanner in side view. The tips of the upper petal have a broad, white margin which turns a deep crimson. The sepals are small compared to the corolla, and with slightly toothed margins.

The smaller Fumitories

This group consists of four species: one ubiquitous, one relatively common, and the other two very rare. The flowers are almost always small, less that 9mm in length, and all species have a spoon-shaped lower petal (rotate a single flower and you will see this very clearly). The Ramping-fumitories do not have spoon-shaped lower petals.

Common Fumitory *Fumaria officinalis* is found the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland and is by far and away the species you are most likely to encounter, almost anywhere where suitable habitat occurs. If you find a rich seam of mixed fumitories on arable land in Hampshire, I'd bet that more than 99% of the plants will be this species. If you find a small, pinkish fumitory on a pavement or on waste ground in an urban area, it will almost certainly be this species. The flowers are usually a light pink to deep crimson and the sepals are small and obviously toothed.

Western Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria occidentalis* is only found in westernmost Cornwall. It is our largest-flowered species and has a distinctively enlarged, whitish tip to the upper petal (left) which gradually turns deep crimson (right). The sepals are relatively small and toothed, usually with a crimson stripe.

Dense-flowered Fumitory *Fumaria densiflora* is probably the easiest to identify correctly: it looks like no other due to its very obvious, oversized, whitish sepals that give the whole inflorescence a very densely-packed appearance. It is a plant of arable farmland, often growing alongside *officinalis*, but is never as abundant.

Common Fumitory *Fumaria officinalis* is the most widespread fumitory. In this example the spoon-shaped lower petals are obvious (a character shared with the other smaller species). The flowers are usually a rich pink, with small, toothed sepals.

Dense-flowered Fumitory *Fumaria densiflora* is the easiest fumitory to identify. The over-large, whitish sepals are diagnostic and, as the common name suggests, the flowers are often very densely-packed on the raceme.

Fine-leaved Fumitory *Fumaria parviflora* is not especially fine leaved, and this is not a helpful moniker. The key characteristic is that its flowers are ivory-white with very dark red, almost black, tips. It does very rarely appear pink, but so rarely as to be almost impossibly unlikely. If you have a small-flowered fumitory with white/ivory flowers it is almost certainly this species, and you can give yourself a pat on the back. The foliage is usually greyish-green, and the fruits have an obvious 'keel' and are taller than wide.

Few-flowered Fumitory *Fumaria vaillantii* is by far the scarcest of the smaller species, and finding it is a real event. The common name isn't especially helpful – I don't think the number of flowers is a useful character for discriminating fumitories due to their variability. It resembles *officinalis* in having pinkish flowers, but it is generally a very pale, washed-out pink and the upper petal usually lacks a dark tip (in this sense, resembling a mini *bastardii*). The clinching features are the absolutely minute sepals (at c.0.5 mm these are almost invisible to the naked eye) and the fruits being taller than wide (perhaps a safer ID feature).

There is a form of *Fumaria officinalis* known as subspecies *wirtgenii* that has very small sepals and could be confused with *vaillantii*. I have found such variation in flower and sepal size in *officinalis* that I am not at all confident that I could claim *wirtgenii*. Tim Rich has said to me that he's doubtful that *wirtgenii* is even a valid taxon.

Fine-leaved Fumitory *Fumaria parviflora* is the only white-flowered small fumitory. This example from near Winchester shows the grey-green foliage and the fruit keel.

Few-flowered Fumitory *Fumaria vaillantii* is our rarest fumitory and found only on chalky arable land. It can be very similar to *F. officinalis* but the combination of tiny sepals (always <1 mm; in this case c.0.7 mm), light pink corollas, and fruits taller than wide is key. The foliage is usually grey-green. This plant was found near Broughton.

Hunting for Fumitories

One of the best things about Fumitories is that you can find them in many different places and at almost all times of the year. As opportunistic annual species, they are most often found in periodically disturbed habitats such as arable field margins, or recently dug soils on verges, or even on pavements. I have seen them on the streets of London, in urban planters and potato fields in northern Scotland, on beaches, in car parks, and atop Cornish walls.

The manageable number of species means that it's not an overwhelming group to try and tackle and they present enough of an ID challenge to keep you on your toes and always learning. The fact that several species are extremely rare or range-restricted adds a touch of excitement too.

Key characters to look for

As with many aspects of botany it can be very tempting to think that you need to dive into very detailed measurements and microscopic investigation. This is really not needed with fumitories unless you think you

have Few-flowered *Fumaria vaillantii*, where sepal length is important. Don't forget to take a step back and absorb the plant's general appearance or jizz: this can really help.

Sepals

With practice, the size and shape of the sepals is probably the easiest floral character to discriminate between the various species. The following tables summarise the key characters in terms of flower colour and sepal appearance. Foliage colour is included for the smaller species, as this can be a help. Please note that the sepal size is in relation to the flower, i.e. large/small relative to the corolla, irrespective of how long the individual flower may be.

Species	Flower colour	Sepals
F. muralis	Pale to deep pink	Large, oval/circular, toothed
F. capreolata	White	Very large, oval, toothed
F. reuteri	White to mid-pink	Small, neat teardrop, usually untoothed
F. bastardii	Prawn pink, upper petal without dark tip	Small, circular, toothed
F. purpurea	White to deep pink	Very large, almost oblong, toothed
F. occidentalis	White to deep pink	Small, narrow, toothed

Species	Flower colour	Sepals	Foliage
F. officinalis	Pink – light to dark	Small	Mid-green
F. densiflora	Pink – usually dark	Very large	Mid-green
F. parviflora	White – ivory (very rarely pale pink)	Very small	Often greyish
F. vaillantii	Pink – very pale, upper petal usually pale	Minute	Often greyish

Foliage

I do not find examination of the foliage of Fumitories particularly helpful as it is too variable. The only exception to this is for the two rare arable species – *parviflora* and *vaillantii* – which in the relatively few times I get to see them, I have found tend to have a noticeably greyish-green tinge to the leaves and stems. This is worth remembering when looking in arable habitats and can help to target likely candidates for closer inspection.

You may see reference to the relative length of the flowering raceme compared to the peduncle (the stem of the raceme) as being a critical feature for identification. I have to say that in this I agree with Rose Murphy: the variation between individual plants is often so great that this is really not a reliable enough feature upon which to base identification.

Fruit

Although this article has focused on a few key features of the flowers, in some instances the fruits can be a helpful aid to identification. This is particularly helpful for the two rarer small-flowered species, *parviflora* and *vaillantii*. Both these species have fruits that are taller than wide, as opposed to wider than tall in *officinalis*. The fruits are usually obviously keeled, with a seam running along both sides.

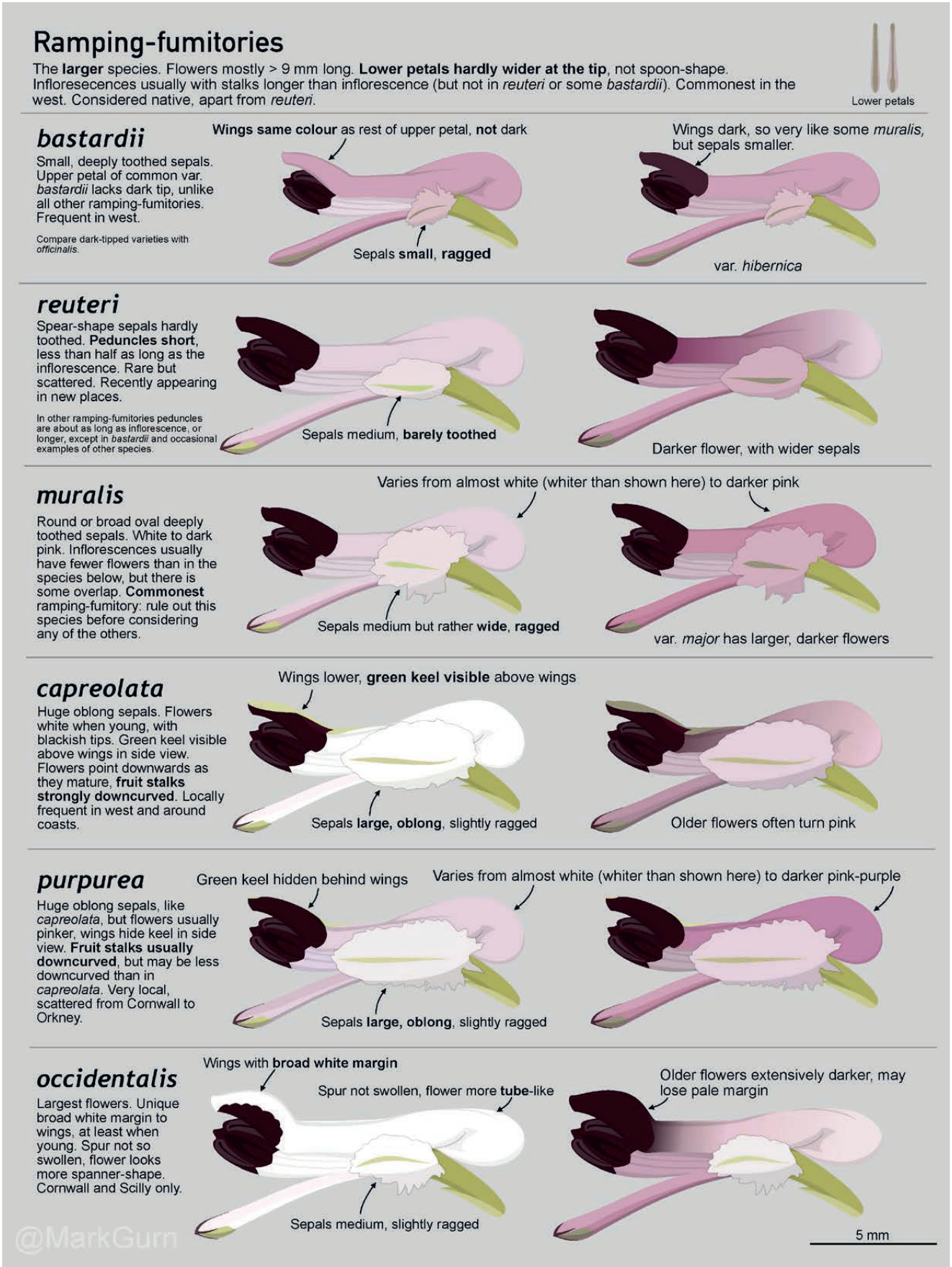
Reference

R.J. Murphy 2009. *Fumitories of Britain and Ireland*. BSBI Handbook No. 12. Botanical Society of the British Isles, London.

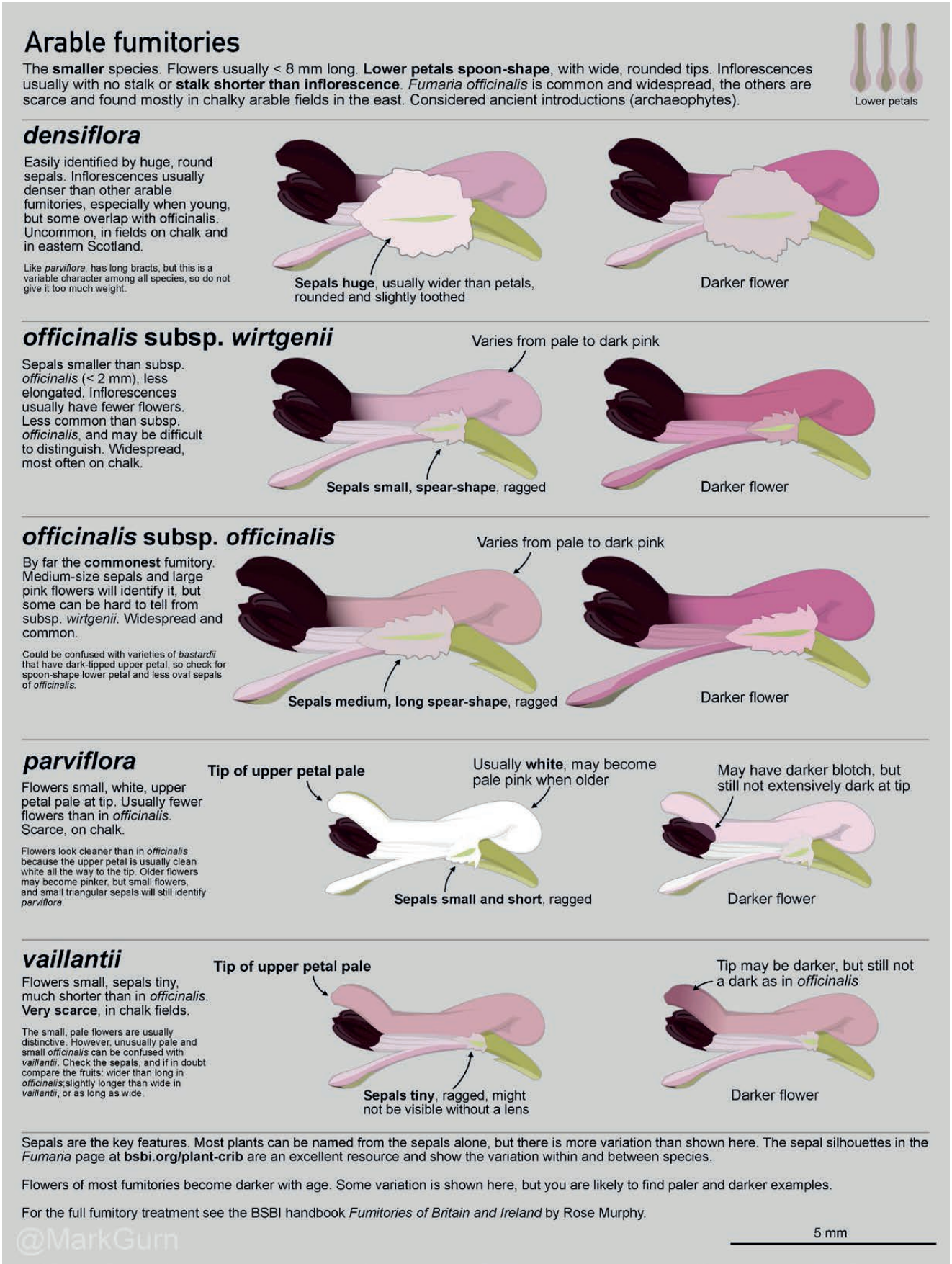
Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Mark Gurney for permission to use his excellent fumitory illustrations (see next pages).

Diagrams of the flowers of the Ramping-fumitories. Kindly supplied by Mark Gurney. © *Mark Gurney (2025)*



Diagrams of the flowers of the smaller fumitories. Kindly supplied by Mark Gurney. © *Mark Gurney (2025)*



Orchid paintings by Walter Pearce

A note by Tony Mundell

In February 2025 I was fortunate to see the orchid paintings by Walter Pearce in the collection of Haslemere Educational Museum. This was prior to a selection of the paintings being put on public display at the museum during 11 March to 3 May 2025, as advertised during that period on our website at **hantsplants.uk**.

No biographical details on Walter Pearce are retained directly with the paintings but, after careful research, the Museum considers that the person most likely responsible for these fine works is a Walter Seward Pearce (1862–1941), born in Southampton and a life-long resident of Hampshire, later living in Romsey, then Twyford. A separate unsigned and undated hand-written document at the museum does state: '*These drawings of British Orchids were done by Mr Walter Pearce. Many of the specimens were found in the Isle of Wight where he went every summer. The others were sent to him by friends or by members of County Natural History Societies. The drawings were all done between the years 1933 and 1939. Mr Pearce studied art under Ruskin at Oxford.*' Wikipedia says that what is now the Ruskin School of Art grew out of the Oxford School of Art which was founded in 1865 and later became part of Oxford Brookes University.

My wife Pat has compiled some family history information about Walter's family. Remarkably, the records show that Walter was deaf and dumb from birth, just like two of his three siblings, Richard Aslatt (1855–1928) and Frances (1864–1908). Walter's father Richard Seward Pearce (1820–1893) was a successful solicitor, as was his second son Arthur William (1858–1928) who was not deaf and dumb like his three siblings. Presumably, this may have contributed some financial security for Walter. Walter's brother Richard Aslatt Pearce was the first deaf person to be ordained as an Anglican clergyman, and he fulfilled his duties successfully for the rest of his life.

Most of Walter's paintings are annotated with Latin names, sometimes also including locations, often just a county or country. The collection is remarkable in the number of different species, unusual varieties and even suggested hybrids that he painted. A few such as Ghost Orchids *Epipogium aphyllum*, were from Switzerland and Germany, whereas Military Orchids *Orchis militaris*, were from Switzerland and France. The paintings include a Lady's-slipper *Cypripedium calceolus* labelled Yorkshire; a Lady Orchid *Orchis purpurea* from Kent;

Helleborine painting. ***Reproduced courtesy of Haslemere Educational Museum***

Summer Lady's-tresses *Spiranthes aestivalis* from the New Forest; both Small-white Orchid *Pseudorchis alba* and Dense-flowered Orchid *Neotinea maculata* from Ireland. The Bog Orchid *Hammarbya paludosa* and Musk Orchid *Herminium monorchis* are rather frustratingly just labelled as 'found at Petersfield'. A Lizard Orchid *Himantoglossum hircinum* is labelled 'Near Ryde, Isle of Wight'.

A painting of Red Helleborine *Cephalanthera rubra*, together with White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium* and Narrow-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia* is especially interesting as it is labelled 'Petersfield'. Possibly this was from the well-known former site of Red Helleborine near Hawkley discovered in 1986, but pre-dating it by about 50 years. The above scan of this particular painting has kindly been provided to me by the museum free of charge for this article. The high quality of his paintings is evident.

All the commoner orchid species are well represented, as are many varieties, e.g. many forms of Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*. The nomenclature of the Marsh Orchids was not fully settled during Walter's time, so it really needs an orchid expert to try to name those paintings as well as the unusual forms and hybrids (such as Loose-flowered Orchid × Green-winged Orchid) that he claims.

Walter Seward Pearce married Mary Sinclair in 1893 at Romsey. They had no children, and he died on 3 September 1941 at Twyford. His will shows that he left £9,518 16s to his nephew Walter Kennedy Pearce (1893–1960) who, like his father Arthur William, also became a solicitor.

Making a plant list – a personal view

A note by Margaret Wonham

Having a list of plants which you might see in an area is very handy, especially if you are visiting and new to the area. Because of family and work commitments, most of my botany has been done while on holiday abroad and I'm used to emailing nature reserves to ask for a list. It's usual to receive a list very quickly and, because scientific names are used, it doesn't matter whether I can speak the language there or not. This even works in places like North Macedonia where they usually use a Cyrillic script. So, when I made a request to my local nature reserve, I was surprised that it wasn't readily available. I set about researching lists that had been made and, with a group of volunteers from the reserve, checking which ones we could find.

There were decisions to be made and challenges to be met and this is the account of the journey.

Decisions

- The exact area to be covered
- How the list would be verified and validated
- How it would be shared with other interested people

Challenges

- Finding existing reliable lists of plants
- Reconciling records based on Ordnance Survey monads [such as 'SU 53 02'] with an area which has a boundary not based on monads.
- Collating lists of historic and recent records
- Doing the fieldwork
- Getting access to the site
- Finding a network of people to support our efforts
- Choosing readily available software to record the list
- Finding ways to share the list with users

If the area you've chosen is not on publicly accessible land, it is essential to get the support of the landowner. Fortunately, Dr Sue Dent, then director of the nature reserve, Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve, was totally supportive and helpful and the volunteers I found to make our team were also volunteers on the nature

reserve. The team developed into the Meon Plant Group which continues to conduct regular plant surveys in the area.

This project would not have been possible without the help and support of Martin Rand, then BSBI Vice-County Recorder, and John Norton, member of the Flora Group, professional botanist and ecologist, who has surveyed the reserve on two occasions and extensively recorded in this area. Many other Flora Group members have also recorded here over the years. When the plant list is complete, it will be the small legacy of many local Flora Group botanists, the HIWWT and be based on records begun in the 1920s.

If you are interested in doing a project like this yourself, further details of my work are available – contact me on **mwonham7@gmail.com**.

Martin Rand adds: if anyone is interested in starting a site list and would like a list of species already recorded and accepted onto the BSBI database, please email me (**martin.rand@hantsplants.net**) as well as Margaret as I can probably help. The site should be reasonably small, i.e. not more than two or three square kilometres in area and not extending over more than two or three kilometres. I will need a boundary definition; if it is a small SSSI, SSSI compartment, National Nature Reserve or Local Nature Reserve then you just need to provide the name, plus compartment number if relevant. For anything else, which sadly includes county-defined SINCs (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation), you will need to provide me with an outline of the area drawn on a map or satellite image.

You will get a list of plants with scientific and vernacular names and first and last dates of records. The list will be split into two: records at 1 km resolution, which will generally have a lower probability of being inside the site if the 1 km square lies across the site boundary; and records at 100 m resolution or better, which will usually have a higher probability.

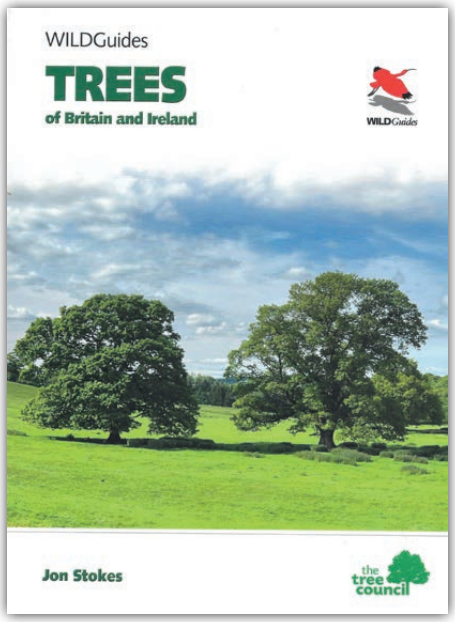
If anyone wants to work on a Parish Flora, I can do the same for civil parishes and town wards.

Book Announcements and Reviews

TREES OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND

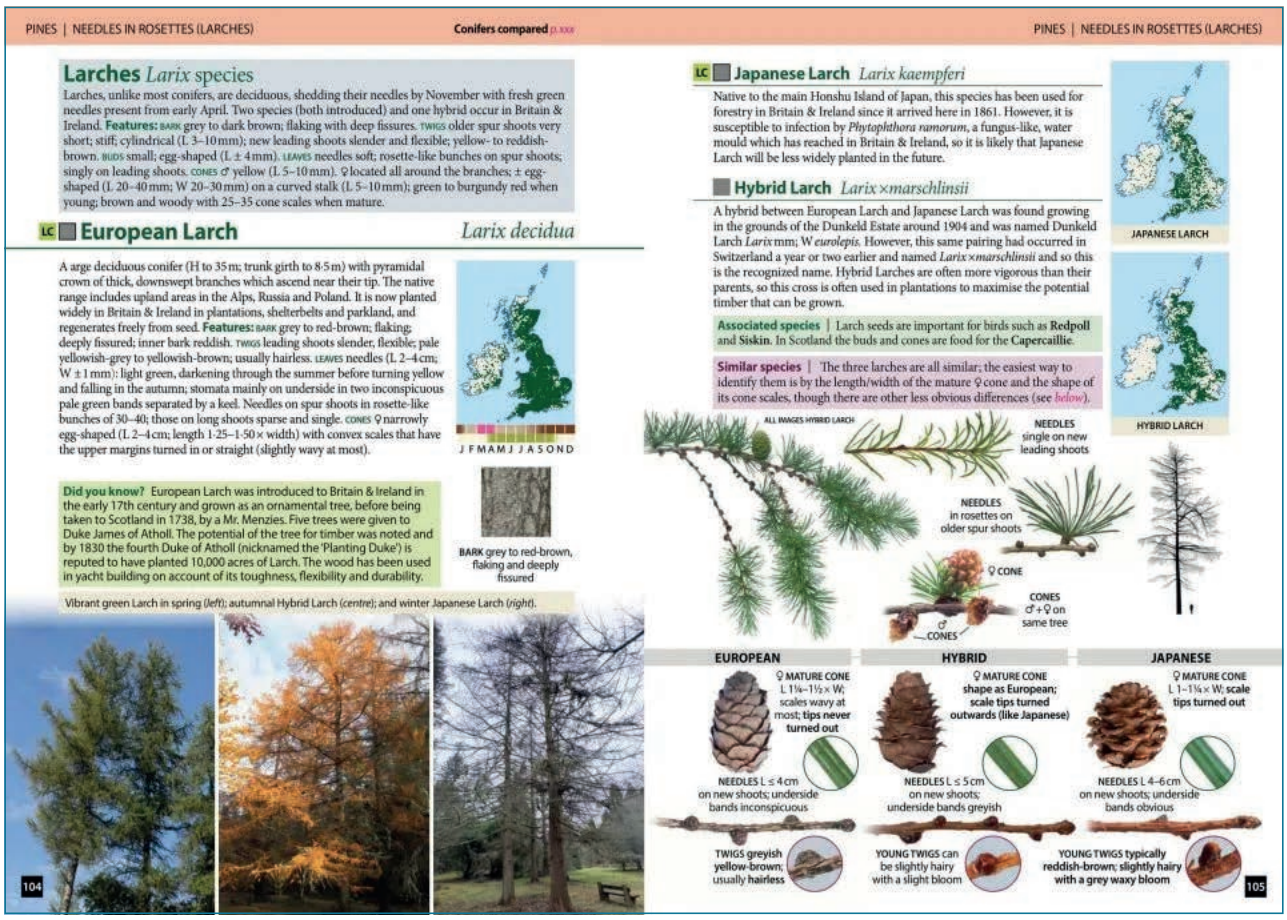
Jon Stokes, Princeton WILDGuide, Princeton University Press, 2025. 360 pages with colour illustrations throughout; plastic flexicover / ebook. Book: £20. ISBN 9780691224169. Ebook: £14. ISBN 9780691224176

A review by Martin Rand



Continuing the recent surge of Princeton WILDGuides on botanical subjects (ferns and orchids in 2020, aquatic plants in 2023, common wildflowers in 2024) comes a new book on trees by an author who will be familiar to some of you, as he is Hampshire-based and has given frequent talks on trees around the county. This is a topic on which we have been quite well served over the years, notably with Alan Mitchell's *Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe* in 1974 and Johnson and More's *Collins Tree Guide* in 2004. So, is there a place for a new book?

This book certainly takes a different approach to its predecessors. Mitchell's book is more of a 'Flora' for trees, with extensive dichotomous keys, very full and consistently laid out species descriptions, accounts of natural varieties and cultivars, and many line drawings of details supplementing the fine colour plates. For me it remains an indispensable guide and reference. Johnson and More take a less formal approach, and while their coverage of species and cultivars is sometimes more extensive I find its layout


PINES | NEEDLES IN ROSETTES (LARCHES) Conifers compared p. xxx

Larches *Larix* species

Larches, unlike most conifers, are deciduous, shedding their needles by November with fresh green needles present from early April. Two species (both introduced) and one hybrid occur in Britain & Ireland. **Features:** BARK grey to dark brown; flaking with deep fissures. TWIGS older spur shoots very short; stiff; cylindrical (L 3–10 mm); new leading shoots slender and flexible; yellow- to reddish-brown. BUDS small; egg-shaped (L ± 4 mm). LEAVES needles soft; rosette-like bunches on spur shoots; singly on leading shoots. CONES ♂ yellow (L 5–10 mm). ♀ located all around the branches; ± egg-shaped (L 20–40 mm; W 20–30 mm) on a curved stalk (L 5–10 mm); green to burgundy red when young; brown and woody with 25–35 cone scales when mature.

LC **European Larch** *Larix decidua*

A large deciduous conifer (H to 35 m; trunk girth to 8·5 m) with pyramidal crown of thick, downswept branches which ascend near their tip. The native range includes upland areas in the Alps, Russia and Poland. It is now planted widely in Britain & Ireland in plantations, shelterbelts and parkland, and regenerates freely from seed. **Features:** BARK grey to red-brown; flaking; deeply fissured; inner bark reddish. TWIGS leading shoots slender, flexible; pale yellowish-grey to yellowish-brown; usually hairless. LEAVES needles (L 2–4 cm; W ± 1 mm): light green, darkening through the summer before turning yellow and falling in the autumn; stomata mainly on underside in two inconspicuous pale green bands separated by a keel. Needles on spur shoots in rosette-like bunches of 30–40; those on long shoots sparse and single. CONES ♀ narrowly egg-shaped (L 2–4 cm; length 1·25–1·50 × width) with convex scales that have the upper margins turned in or straight (slightly wavy at most).

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Did you know? European Larch was introduced to Britain & Ireland in the early 17th century and grown as an ornamental tree, before being taken to Scotland in 1738, by a Mr. Menzies. Five trees were given to Duke James of Atholl. The potential of the tree for timber was noted and by 1830 the fourth Duke of Atholl (nicknamed the 'Planting Duke') is reputed to have planted 10,000 acres of Larch. The wood has been used in yacht building on account of its toughness, flexibility and durability.

BARK grey to red-brown, flaking and deeply fissured

Vibrant green Larch in spring (*left*); autumnal Hybrid Larch (*centre*); and winter Japanese Larch (*right*).

104

PINES | NEEDLES IN ROSETTES (LARCHES)

LC **Japanese Larch** *Larix kaempferi*

Native to the main Honshu Island of Japan, this species has been used for forestry in Britain & Ireland since it arrived here in 1861. However, it is susceptible to infection by *Phytophthora ramorum*, a fungus-like, water mould which has reached in Britain & Ireland, so it is likely that Japanese Larch will be less widely planted in the future.

JAPANESE LARCH

Hybrid Larch *Larix ×marschlinsii*

A hybrid between European Larch and Japanese Larch was found growing in the grounds of the Dunkeld Estate around 1904 and was named Dunkeld Larch *Larix* mm; W *eurolepis*. However, this same pairing had occurred in Switzerland a year or two earlier and named *Larix ×marschlinsii* and so this is the recognized name. Hybrid Larches are often more vigorous than their parents, so this cross is often used in plantations to maximise the potential timber that can be grown.

HYBRID LARCH

Associated species | Larch seeds are important for birds such as **Redpoll** and **Siskin**. In Scotland the buds and cones are food for the **Capercaillie**.

Similar species | The three larches are all similar; the easiest way to identify them is by the length/width of the mature ♀ cone and the shape of its cone scales, though there are other less obvious differences (see *below*).

ALL IMAGES HYBRID LARCH

NEEDLES single on new leading shoots

NEEDLES in rosettes on older spur shoots

♀ CONE

CONES ♂+♀ on same tree

♂ CONES

EUROPEAN	HYBRID	JAPANESE
♀ MATURE CONE L 1¼–1½ × W; scales wavy at most; **tips never turned out**	♀ MATURE CONE **shape as European; scale tips turned outwards (like Japanese)**	♀ MATURE CONE L 1–1¼ × W; **scale tips turned out**
NEEDLES L ≤ 4 cm on new shoots; underside bands inconspicuous	NEEDLES L ≤ 5 cm on new shoots; underside bands greyish	NEEDLES L 4–6 cm on new shoots; underside bands obvious
TWIGS greyish yellow-brown; usually hairless	YOUNG TWIGS can be slightly hairy with a slight bloom	YOUNG TWIGS typically reddish-brown; slightly hairy with a grey waxy bloom

105

and its descriptions of related species (often only by brief descriptions of differences) less workable, especially in the field. However, it is useful to have the colour illustrations in line with the descriptive text.

The scope of this new book includes both trees and shrubs; but to keep to reasonable size limits, some arbitrary boundaries have been drawn. All the ericaceous (Heather family) dwarf shrubs are omitted, while dwarf montane willows are included; there is only a very small selection of *Cotoneaster* species, but they include some very low-growing and mat-forming species while, for instance, omitting the widespread *Cotoneaster salicifolius / frigidus / × watereri* complex which can grow to small tree size. In general, the coverage of species is more restricted than the other two guides, with a concentration on the more widespread species and omitting many exotic 'specimen tree' plantings; but there are a couple of spectacular exceptions which we will come to later.

If you have seen other recent WILDGuides on botanical subjects then you will not be surprised by the way in which the book is organised. After some introductory sections including brief but useful sections on tree biology, morphology, habitats, communities and history, the user is faced with a battery of different approaches to getting an identification, relying heavily on visual clues and 'pattern matching' with a wealth of small illustrations rather than conventional keys. This begins with a 'one-step' key to a selection of widespread species easily identifiable at various stages or times of the year, followed by more comprehensive keys to leaves, flowers, fruit and winter twigs. Every key item is presented as a caption to an appropriate photograph. Where the key leads to a genus or family rather than an individual species, you are forewarned of the feature you will have to check next and referred on to the page where it is covered. I think this method is attractive to beginners and generally helpful where it is well done, and aside from the occasional over-generalisation in the text it **is** done very well here and works better than for the recent WILDGuide *British and Irish Wild Flowers and Plants*, where the scope is larger and the book format considerably smaller, leading to a cramped layout that can be hard to read and follow through.

All the most important native and introduced species, many of the rarer natives and some of the more recondite introductions are given at least a full page of well-illustrated account that includes a full description, a distribution map, a phenology chart and some associated wildlife species. These are often accompanied by notes covering

cautions on identification, similar species not given full coverage, biological detail and cultural history. Where there is a group of very similar related species the identification features including their illustrations are laid out for easy comparison. Used as intended, I think this book is an excellent induction for beginners in following a systematic approach to puzzling out the identity of a plant. One can raise cavils on some points: for instance, the leaf illustrations for Eared Sallow *Salix aurita* show only one extreme in the range of variation in length/breadth ratio and could lead to puzzlement at one end of the spectrum and misidentification of *Salix* × *multinervis* at the other; and sometimes it would be nice either to know that illustrations for similar species are to the same scale or else to have scale bars. But these should not be sufficient to put off either beginners or more experienced potential users.

Given that this is not a fully comprehensive account of all trees likely to be found in the countryside, its most startling feature is its comprehensive coverage of two critical genera: Whitebeams *Sorbus* and Elms *Ulmus*. Not being an expert in either genus, I am not well placed to judge whether the accounts do the genera justice; I imagine that most people taking a serious interest in Whitebeams will own and refer to the excellent BSBI *Handbook 14: Whitebeams, Rowans and Service Trees of Britain and Ireland*. Whether this WILDGuide provides an adequate resource for use in the field I am not sure, but I found it surprising that none of the authors of the BSBI *Handbook* were acknowledged in the introduction. This is not the case for Elms, where three workers in the field are mentioned, pre-eminent among them Brian Everard. The taxonomy of Elms is a hotly debated subject and opinions range from three native species to more than sixty. Anyway, the book provides pathways to both ends of the spectrum of opinion and stations in between. My one criticism is the exclusive use of English names in the accounts for the microspecies: surely anyone interested in this group will be using Brian Everard's account, or volume 1 of Sell and Murrell's *Flora of Great Britain and Ireland* that essentially encapsulates this, and English names simply make cross-referencing more difficult. In fact, even within the scope of the current book, although scientific names for Elms are indexed to page number it is impossible to correlate them with the right taxon, since most pages include brief accounts for several species referenced only by English name.

I do not want to end on a negative note because I don't think that the inclusion of these two genera has put constraints on the content of the rest of the book, which is well worth space in anyone's collection. I believe that beginners and learners will find it an effective and attractive way into tree identification and plant ID in general, and more experienced botanists will get pleasure and learn something new from reading it.

ANNOUNCEMENT: WILD ROSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Roger Maskew and Gareth Knass, BSBI Handbook 26

Scheduled for publication in autumn 2025

Contributed by Gareth Knass

This new Handbook is the most comprehensive account of the wild roses of Great Britain and Ireland ever published. It is the result of over thirty years' field recording, as well as extensive literature and herbarium research, which has uncovered much previously unpublished historical information.

The Handbook is published in B5 format and covers 285 pages, of which over 200 are devoted to the species accounts that include descriptions and over 250 photographic illustrations of the 15 native species, over 20 aliens, and the majority of the 82 hybrids that have been recorded in the British Isles, many described and illustrated for the first time. Details of habitat, frequency and distribution, local variation, temporal changes and history are given for the majority of the species and more common hybrids.

A dichotomous key includes native species, the more frequent aliens, and three common and widespread hybrids. The detailed attention given to the descriptions and illustrations of the difficult and critical species and hybrids is a major feature of the species accounts.

Contents

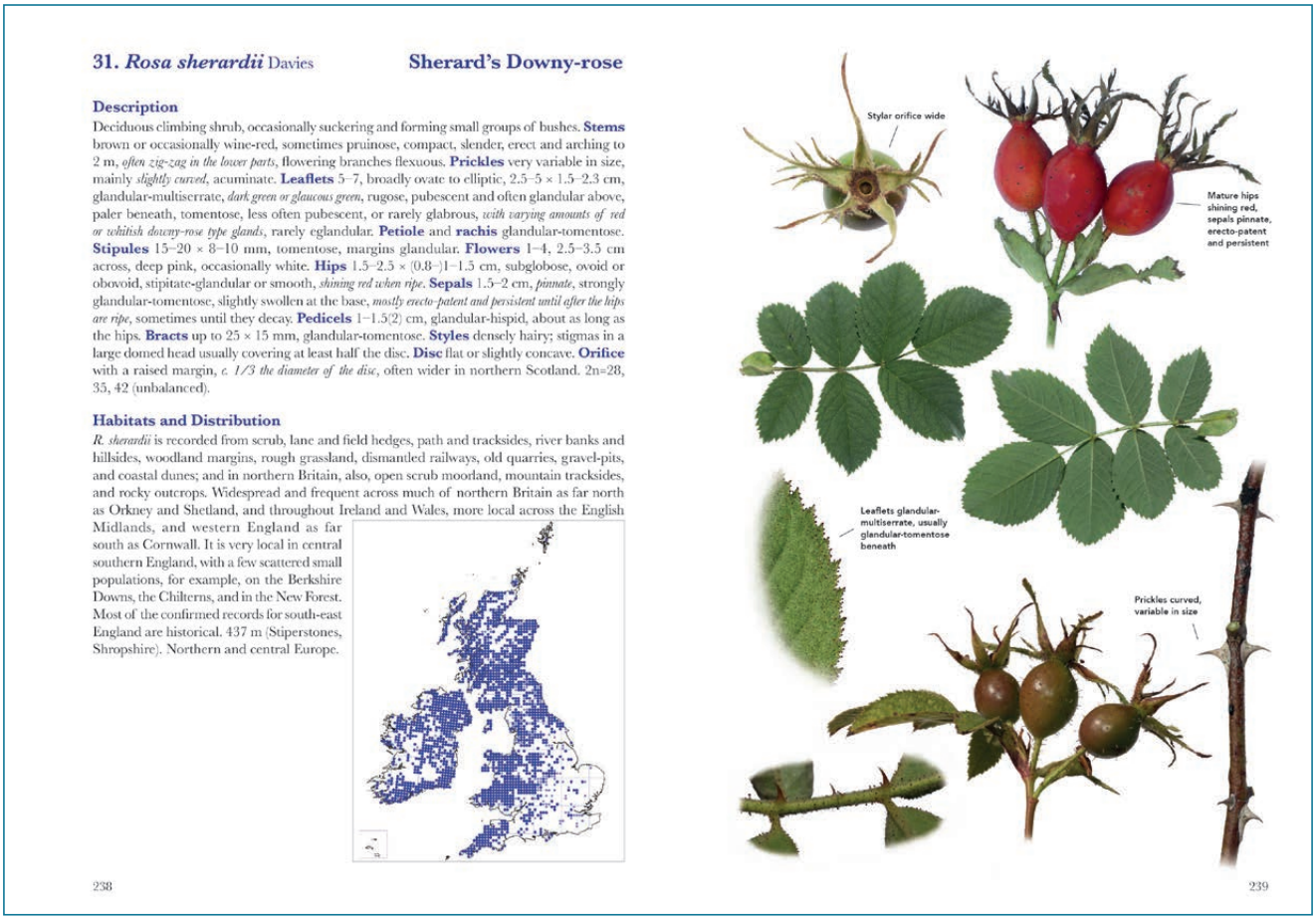
Introductory chapters include:

- Ecology, habitats and distribution
- Relationships between roses and other taxonomic groups
- Morphology and characters
- Recognition and recording species and hybrids
- Rosa taxonomy and evolution

Species accounts include:

- Detailed descriptions
- Photographic illustrations of important characters and plants in typical habitats
- Variation, similar species and hybrids
- Habitats
- Distribution and frequency
- Distribution maps

The book will be available from the **Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland** (**bsbi.org/handbooks**), with a pre-publication offer for members.



31. *Rosa sherardii* Davies **Sherard's Downy-rose**

Description

Deciduous climbing shrub, occasionally suckering and forming small groups of bushes. **Stems** brown or occasionally wine-red, sometimes pruinose, compact, slender, erect and arching to 2 m, *often zig-zag in the lower parts*, flowering branches flexuous. **Prickles** very variable in size, mainly *slightly curved*, acuminate. **Leaflets** 5–7, broadly ovate to elliptic, 2.5–5 × 1.5–2.3 cm, glandular-multiserrate, *dark green or glaucous green*, rugose, pubescent and often glandular above, paler beneath, tomentose, less often pubescent, or rarely glabrous, *with varying amounts of red or whitish downy-rose type glands*, rarely eglandular. **Petiole** and **rachis** glandular-tomentose. **Stipules** 15–20 × 8–10 mm, tomentose, margins glandular. **Flowers** 1–4, 2.5–3.5 cm across, deep pink, occasionally white. **Hips** 1.5–2.5 × (0.8–)1–1.5 cm, subglobose, ovoid or obovoid, stipitate-glandular or smooth, *shining red when ripe*. **Sepals** 1.5–2 cm, *pinnate*, strongly glandular-tomentose, slightly swollen at the base, *mostly erecto-patent and persistent until after the hips are ripe*, sometimes until they decay. **Pedicels** 1–1.5(2) cm, glandular-hispid, about as long as the hips. **Bracts** up to 25 × 15 mm, glandular-tomentose. **Styles** densely hairy; stigmas in a large domed head usually covering at least half the disc. **Disc** flat or slightly concave. **Orifice** with a raised margin, *c. 1/3 the diameter of the disc*, often wider in northern Scotland. 2n=28, 35, 42 (unbalanced).

Habitats and Distribution

R. sherardii is recorded from scrub, lane and field hedges, path and tracksides, river banks and hillsides, woodland margins, rough grassland, dismantled railways, old quarries, gravel-pits, and coastal dunes; and in northern Britain, also, open scrub moorland, mountain tracksides, and rocky outcrops. Widespread and frequent across much of northern Britain as far north as Orkney and Shetland, and throughout Ireland and Wales, more local across the English Midlands, and western England as far south as Cornwall. It is very local in central southern England, with a few scattered small populations, for example, on the Berkshire Downs, the Chilterns, and in the New Forest. Most of the confirmed records for south-east England are historical. 437 m (Stiperstones, Shropshire). Northern and central Europe.

238 239

Recording

Under-recorded monads (1 km grid squares)

A note by Tony Mundell & Martin Rand

Tony writes:

Many members of the Hampshire Flora Group, indeed botanists everywhere, are now appreciating the mass of information about our flora that can be accessed at **plantatlas2020.org**. By simply typing in a Latin or English name of a plant species this gives an excellent summary about the plant, including its preferred habitats, as well as a zoomable national distribution map. For each species there is also information on conservation status, trends of increase or decrease, flowering times, altitude ranges and a gallery of photos.

The distribution information there resulted from the BSBI project called Atlas 2020, that involved an enormous amount of survey work by many botanists locally in Hampshire, and others across all of Britain and Ireland. Locally, our efforts progressively ramped up during the decade prior to the end of recording for the project in December 2019.

For Atlas 2020 Martin and Tony concentrated on directing survey work that would bring the level of recording across Hampshire up to a similar standard for all tetrads (blocks of four 1 km squares). This was done by concentrating recording on the most poorly recorded tetrads. In practice a typical survey would record every plant seen within the first 1 km square of a tetrad that was visited, but only species not already noted were then recorded in the adjacent 1 km squares within the tetrad. As a result, some monads are still poorly recorded.

There is now a push to aim for more even recording coverage across Hampshire down at monad level. From the start of 2025 information about this current project has been displayed on our website at **hantsplants.uk/underrecorded_monads.php**. Lists of priority monads to survey are given there for each of the vice-counties, South Hampshire (VC11) and North Hampshire (VC12). There is also a map showing where the priority monads are, and people have been encouraged to either take on surveying particular monads themselves, or to join Martin or Tony on their outings that are advertised in the website calendar.

We must thank the following who have signed up individually or in teams to grab at least one monad to survey: Claire Andrews, Eric Clement, Helen Dignum, Carolyn Doorbar, Jonathan Dye, Laura Gravestock, Sarah Lewington, Adam Lucas, John Moon, Dave Pearson, Andrew Powling, Mike Rowe, Anna Stewart, Mike Wall and Cathy Wilson.

Helpers going out with Martin or Tony have included: Claire Andrews, Sue Bell, Eric Clement, Alex Foy, Isobel Girvan, Adam Lucas, Mike Marshall, Mary Parker, Dave Pearson, John Poland, Andrew Powling, Clare Rand, Peter Vaughan, Jonathan Wells and Cathy Wilson.

It will take several years to even up survey coverage across Hampshire at the monad scale, but much progress has been made during 2025. The criteria for selecting the monads to search differed between VC11 and VC12 to reflect the differing levels of former recording. The aim was to select roughly 100 of the poorest-recorded monads in each half of the county. At the start of 2025 the South Hampshire priority monads chosen had fewer than 30 taxa found since 2000 whilst the chosen North Hampshire monads had fewer than 10 taxa found in that period.

Some monads bisected by county borders only include small areas within the targeted VC, so were ignored. The website gives some guidance on access and habitat types for each monad. Inevitably, some monads are in species-poor habitats but anywhere can sometimes come up with exciting surprises. If you are recording for this project, please give a 6 or 8-figure grid reference for anything that you think is a bit unusual.

At the time of writing (28 July 2025) 73 of the 104 VC12 monads listed have already been surveyed once this year and visits are planned to most of the remainder. In VC12 the original intention was to make second visits to some of the monads that were surveyed earliest in the year, but Tony doubts if there will be time for that and prefers to concentrate on getting as many monads surveyed as possible as the number of very poorly recorded tetrads is significantly greater than for VC11.

Martin adds:

In VC11 at the time of writing (mid-August 2025), 39 monads had received visits, of which 12 had been visited more than once. Apart from a couple of monads with very limited access, all now have 70 or more species recorded, with the majority between 100 and 200; 25 of those are now considered to have had sufficient attention, although extra records are always welcome. Top of the list for species (233) is a monad at Godshill that straddles the western edge of the open New Forest and includes wood pasture, dry heathland, acid grassland and bracken heath, humid heath, a step mire, a stream, enclosed ancient woodland and pasture and some 'subrural' development with its attendant garden escapes.

Despite the unpromising look of some of the monads on paper, most have yielded pleasures of one kind or another, not all of them botanical. Surprises included an area north of Lockerley which is entirely woodland and pasture with no arable at all, quiet views all round, and one huge flowery woodland ride-side which was swarming with butterflies this year. South of Bishop's Waltham the headwaters of the River Hamble turned out to be a delightful bit of meandering stream fringed with nicely cattle-grazed damp pasture and harbouring a bumper crop of superb blackberries: close by within the square, we discovered a Hampshire cider maker, only accessible to his clients by a footpath walk of at least half a mile, turning out a range of traditional ciders (not to mention some delicious olive oil produced from his finca in Spain).

And finally:

Next year the search will be widened to monads that are not quite so badly recorded. Martin has already updated the list of candidates in South Hampshire by including squares with fewer than 40 post-2000 species recorded. Please consider taking on a monad yourself or signing up to join Martin or Tony.

Bryophyte Report for Hampshire & Isle of Wight

John Norton

Progress on data entry and mapping

This report covers the period December 2024 to July 2025. Between December and May I spent a lot of time entering a backlog of my own records, mainly for the two counties from 2021 to 2024, and also compiled other records sent to me. The 2021 records and some from earlier dates have been submitted to BRC (Biological Records Centre) who administer the British Bryological Society's (BBS) database, but I have held on to the others as the BRC are in the process of transferring the database to iRecord. When this process is completed I should be able to import the rest myself.

With these records fully up to date I was able to redo the distribution maps on my website (**hantswightbryology.net**). For both counties there are now indexed pages of maps at 5 km square (quadrant) scale, plus a set of hectad maps for Hampshire. Jonathan Sleath wrote an account of bryophytes in North Hampshire (VC12) and this has also been added to the website (but the VC11 account now needs updating). The Hampshire bryophyte records have been sent to Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre for use by them in servicing data requests and biodiversity planning. I also provided comments on bryophytes for their work on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire, a draft of which was published in May 2025: *hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/nature-recovery-hampshire/draft-strategy*. I have started reviewing the Hampshire data for an update to my Hampshire Rare and Notable Bryophytes Register, the last version of which was issued in January 2022. This should be completed by next spring if I have time to do it over the winter.

Taking into account some recent taxonomic revisions and discoveries of new species in Hampshire and Isle of Wight the current total taxa recorded are: VC10 – 387, VC 11 – 484 and VC12 – 433. In Hampshire as a whole there are 513 taxa, corresponding to 501 full species (some species have two or more distinct subspecies or varieties which are normally recorded as such).

Meetings reports

A summary is given below of all the meetings during the period, with comments on some of the more interesting records. Fuller reports of some of these are available on the BBS website (**britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk**) (click on *Events*, *Local*, *Southern Group*). Details of future meetings are usually shown on my own website

(**hantswightbryology.net**) but if you want to be notified of meetings (which are often arranged at short notice) please contact me to be added to the Southern Group email list (**john@hantswightbryology.net).** The first meeting of the 2025/26 winter season will as usual be held jointly with the Wessex Bryology Group, and this year we plan to visit Marlborough Deeps in the New Forest on Sunday 26 October.

Pig Bush and Rowbarrow, New Forest (SU3604), 1 February 2025

Hypnum imponens*, Rowbarrow, New Forest, 1 February 2025. *John Norton

Six people attended this meeting, the location of which was billed as Frame Wood, the idea being to walk there from the Pig Bush car park, but the bryology proved interesting enough to slow us down considerably, so we only managed to record the woodland at Pig Bush itself and Rowbarrow to the south, returning via some wet heath at Halfpenny Green. At Pig Bush car park there was some *Lophocolea semiteres* on a grassy edge. Visits to the New Forest over the past few years have confirmed that this non-native liverwort is now quite widespread here, though still under-recorded. In Pig Bush a small depression produced *Fissidens exilis* on a lump of clay and *Cephalozia lunulifolia* on a rotting log. Here and also at Rowbarrow we found the New Forest old tree trunk specialists *Frullania fragilifolia* and *Zygodon rupestris*. In wet heath south of Pig Bush a nice find was *Odontoschisma francisci* on the bank of a rutted track and a single small patch of *Hypnum imponens* on another track. At Rowbarrow we added most of the expected woodland floor species and some epiphytes, including *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, *Neckera complanata*, *Dicranum montanum* and the unexpected *Fissidens incurvus* on a stream bank. Checking old logs eventually resulted in a small patch of *Cephalozia curvifolia* (previously *Nowellia curvifolia*) which is now recorded in six 5 km squares in the New Forest, but still apparently quite scarce in the county. We had hoped to find *Scapania gracilis* which Francis Rose had recorded in Frame Wood in 1974 but were unsuccessful. At Halfpenny Green some large patches of *Scapania undulata* were recorded by a small watercourse.

In all we recorded a good total of 87 taxa, comprising 25 liverworts and 62 mosses. *Lophocolea semiteres* and *Fissidens incurvus* were new to SU30 and with microscope checks we confirmed the presence of both *Leucobryum glaucum* and *L. albidum*.

South-east Gosport (SZ69), 9 March 2025

I organised this meeting to demonstrate some of the rarer and more interesting coastal bryophytes that I have discovered in my home town over the past ten years or so. Around ten people attended, and the weather was pleasant with some sunshine. We started at Gilkicker Point (SZ607977) where we looked at some presumed *Fissidens crispus* on the bank of the larger of the two SSSI lagoons under a *Quercus ilex* tree. *Tortula pallida* was also spotted here at the water's edge and *Rhynchostegium megapolitanum* was seen nearby on the grassy bank of the lagoon. On the north-west side of the fort we looked at some patches of *Tortella flavovirens* by a saltmarsh depression and the group admired some tiny fruiting patches of *Didymodon tophaceus* subsp. *sicculus* on the bank at the edge of the main area of saltmarsh, also growing under *Quercus ilex* (see last issue of *Flora News*). On a sunny bank here there were some small patches of *Scleropodium touretii*. After lunch we walked back to the other side of the fort to look for *Tortula acaulon* var. *papillosa* on a recently constructed shingle embankment, without success, but found some small colonies of *Entosthodon fascicularis*. I then showed the party a better patch of fruiting *Tortula pallida* on the seaward end of the main lagoon (the photo shown opposite was taken a few weeks later).

Tortula pallida*, Gilkicker Lagoons SSSI, Gosport, 2 April 2025. *John Norton

We moved on to Fort Road car park (SZ613981) to see *Bryum algovicum*, but the only likely plants of this were not fruiting. Rue-leaved Saxifrage *Saxifraga tridactylites* was just coming into flower here. We then moved on to Anglesey Lagoon (SZ605987) to see a fine colony of *Tortula wilsonii* and visited a small bund of acid soil by the road at Ewer Common (SZ608988) where we saw *Sphaerocarpos europaeus*, *Pleuridium acuminatum* and *Riccia glauca*. Finally, we stopped at Workhouse Lake (SZ609993) to see *Grimmia laevigata* on the concrete bridge, along with *G. orbicularis* and *G. pulvinata*. Unfortunately, we had spent too long at Gilkicker, so there was no time to visit Haslar Cemetery to look at a colony of *Bryum donianum*.

Danebury Hill near Stockbridge (SU3237), 5 April 2025

This meeting was kindly organised by Jonathan Sleath. Unfortunately the visit took place after a prolonged period of sunny and dry weather (which continued for another month), which made the bryology difficult; however, the total list of 53 taxa was quite respectable. Part of the reason for planning the visit here was to look for *Campylophyllopsis calcarea* on the mound of the hill fort where we knew there were plentiful Beech trees. During the trip to Shipton Bellinger in 2024 we had realised that a favoured habitat of this uncommon species was the exposed roots of mature Beech trees in chalky habitats. Walking around the hill fort mound we started inspecting the beeches and found some nice epiphytes on the lower trunks, including *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Anomodon viticulosus* and *Porella platyphylla*, but after an early lunch some small fruiting patches of *Campylophyllopsis calcarea* were soon discovered and admired on the eastern end of the hill fort. This is the first record for SU33. Other highlights were *Oxyrrhynchium schleicheri* which Jonathan spotted behind the toilet block in the car park at the start of the meeting, a tiny patch of *Weissia brachycarpa* var. *obliqua* with some *W. angustifolia* on a chalky bank and some rather sickly and dried up *Brachythecium glareosum* in an area of trampled grassland.

Jonathan Sleath photographing *Campylophyllopsis calcarea* on Beech roots, Danebury Hill, 5 April 2025. *John Norton*

Isle of Wight visit

I made a trip to the Isle of Wight during 18–22 March 2025, visiting various sites in the east of the Island, joined by George Greiff on 20th and 21st. Most of the recording was uneventful, but on 20th George and I started at St Catherine's Point (SZ4975), where George showed me a large patch of *Didymodon acutus*, which he had found on a previous visit. Another smaller colony was found nearby. We explored the woodland and scrub at Rocken End without seeing too much of interest but did notice that *Aloina aloides* had colonised large patches of bare mud from a recent slippage, but *A. ambigua*, for which a fruiting voucher is still needed for the Isle of Wight, could not be found.

On 21 March we visited Shanklin cliffs (SZ5881 & 5882) to have a look at the only British colony of *Philonotis marchica*, which since our previous two visits in 2019 seemed to have declined, possibly because of a reduction in active seepages with dripping water due to the preceding very dry winter. The dryness had also reduced the amount of hornworts and liverworts (such as *Blasia pusilla*) on the lower cliffs, which usually grow here in

abundance. However, at the start of the esplanade here, by the car park, a low section of cliff with a good seepage is more easily accessible and looking here first George passed me a specimen of something with long, fine leaves which looked like *Campylopus pyriformis*. I nearly threw the specimen away but when I later looked at it under the microscope I realised there was something odd about it and after going through various possibilities I eventually identified it as *Dicranella subulata*. This is only the second record for the Isle of Wight since a Newport record by Rev H.M. Livens in 1906. I also examined a *Bryum* collected from a mound of wet sandy soil at the base of the cliff and was surprised to discover this was easily identifiable due to the presence of clusters of tiny tubers characteristic of *B. sauteri* – and surprisingly completely new for the Isle of Wight (though quite a scarce species and not one I'd seen before).

Dicranella subulata* specimen from Shanklin cliffs, collected 21 March 2025. *John Norton

The distinctive tiny tubers of *Bryum sauteri*, Shanklin cliffs 21 March 2025. *John Norton*

Later that afternoon I had a look around Ventnor Botanic Garden in the hope of re-finding the non-native *Leptotheca gaudichaudii*, which is well known as an occasional stowaway on tree-ferns imported from Australasia. George had seen this here in 2021, but I had overlooked the record and not included it in these reports until now. Details are given below.

I was back on the Island during the BSBI *Taraxacum* field meeting which was held between 25 and 28 April. During the trip I heard that bryophyte hunter extraordinaire Jamie Warren had been on the Island and had re-found *Cephaloziella turneri* (a nationally Near Threatened and declining tiny liverwort) along the stream in the north of Parkhurst Forest. This was recorded here between 1908 and 1926 and then again at the BBS meeting of 1964, but not since so was an excellent re-find. I had a brief look for it after the *Taraxacum* meeting had finished but armed only with a 6-figure grid reference it was not surprising that I was unsuccessful (I think Jamie has spent several hours looking for it!).

New vice-county records

Details of new records and debracketers for the period January to July 2025 are given below (includes records not published in previous *Flora News* reports). These are records for which vouchers have been or will be submitted to the national BBS herbarium in Cardiff, and which are listed in annual reports in *Field Bryology*, the BBS magazine. Debracketers are species which have been seen for the first time since 1970 (by convention species which were last recorded prior to this date are listed in the bryophyte vice-county census catalogues in parentheses).

Liverworts

***Cephaloziella turneri*, VC10.** Parkhurst Forest, SZ476917, 25 April 2025. Stream side. J. Warren, conf. N. Hodgetts. Debracketer (only known VC10 site, previously recorded 1908–1926 and during BBS meeting of 1964).

Mosses

***Bryum sauteri*, VC10.** Shanklin cliffs, SZ58828218, 21 March 2025. On slumped sandy substrate at foot of cliff. With abundant small pyriform tubers. J. Norton & G. Greiff, conf. S. Pilkington. New to VC10.

***Dicranella subulata*, VC10.** Shanklin cliffs, SZ58778192, 21 March 2025. On seepage between wooden revetment at start of roadway. G. Greiff & J. Norton, conf. S. Pilkington. Debracketer for VC10 (2nd record; first in 1906).

***Dicranella varia*, VC12.** Near Caesar's Camp, SU83965041. S. Pilkington, J. Sleath & J. Norton, conf. S. Pilkington. On damp disused track. (Voucher was required for VC12 since recent taxonomic revision of *D. varia* subspecies.)

***Leptotheca gaudichaudii*, VC10.** Ventnor Botanic Garden, SZ548769, 26 June 2021. G. Greiff & C. Pope, conf. S. Pilkington. On Tree-fern (*Dicksonia*); only a single fern colonised; moss in relatively poor condition with much chlorosis. New to VC10.

Hampshire Lichen Report 2024–2025

Neil Sanderson

Introduction

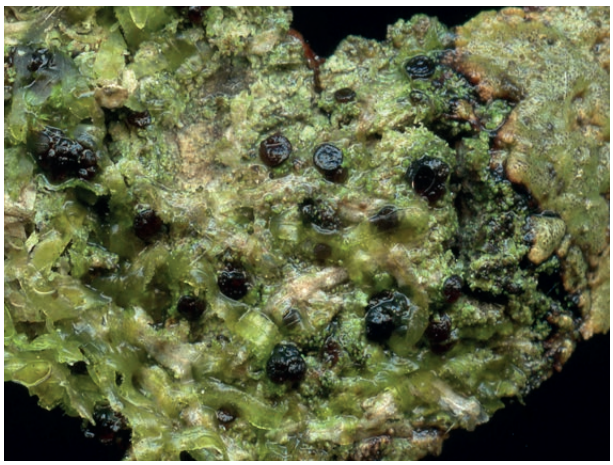
The best find of this year was refinding the mysterious *Chaenothecopsis caespitosa*, an apparently rare endemic fungus found on wound exudates on damaged Yew trees. It has one old record from Hampshire, from a Yew stump in the New Forest in 1991 at Ferny Knap. It had since eluded search for decades but has finally been refound at two locations in 2025, after photographs became available giving a better search image, three years ago. One very gratifying event was not a new find, however, but finally getting a distinct *Catinaria* species, first found in 2017 in the New Forest described as a new species as *Catinaria isidioides* as part of the new lichen flora *Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland* (Cannon et al., 2024). This species appears to be a rare species and a New Forest specialist, but has recently been found in Boconnoc Park in Cornwall, a site which is an outpost for several New Forest specialist species.

Other records of interest include a mixture for yet more good New Forest finds and some new records from North Hampshire, which received some overdue attention in 2024.

One significant event in 2025 was that the Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland project has finally published all known genera in 59 volumes, with only the genera keys to be done. Paul Cannon's tireless efforts as lead editor is to be praised for achieving this. All these volumes can be downloaded for free from **britishlichensociety.org.uk/identification/lgbi3**.

New to science

Catinaria isidioides Sanderson, P.F. Cannon & Aptroot (2024): this taxon has been known from the New Forest since 2017, when a lichen strongly resembling *Bacidia biatorina*, with black disks with black margins, along with well developed green isidia was collected as it looked a bit odd. The lichen was wet and the isidia looked swollen and greener than expected for *Bacidia biatorina*. Back home and dry the specimen looked much more like *Bacidia biatorina* but once the apothecia were sectioned it was clear it certainly was not, the epithecium, exciple and upper hymenium were brown, the paraphyses barely swollen at tip and without a pigmented hood, the asci had a K/I + solid blue apical dome (*Catillaria*-type) and the spores were 1-septate, thick walled and 16–20 × 6–7 um. The spores suggested either *Megalaria* or *Catinaria*. *Megalaria* did have some isidiate species described from the tropics but invariably these had much more colourful apothecia pigments. *Catinaria* was a better match, but no isidiate species had been described. It also differed from the widespread *Catinaria atropurpurea* in the strongly isidiate thallus, larger spores and, as Paul Cannon pointed out, the lack of dark apical hoods. As no match in described species could be found, it was described and named as a new species in Cannon et al. (2024). First collection: on base-rich bark on an ancient Beech, in Beech-Holly Pasture Woodland, Rushpole Wood, Fair Cross, SU30500956, January 2017, N.A. Sanderson & A.M. Cross.



Catinaria isidioides*: the type specimen, dry (left) and wet (right), old Beech, Great Wood, Black Bush. *Photographs by the author

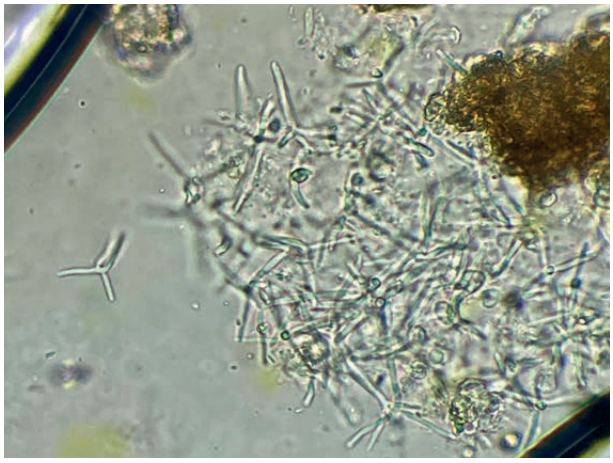
Type specimen: base-rich bark of old Beech, in Beech-Holly-Oak Pasture Woodland, Great Wood, Black Bush, SU25301596, April 2017, N.A. Sanderson.

Catinaria isidioides has to date been found scattered across the old pasture woodlands of Forest (The A & O woodlands) in 10 monads and on 13 trees on Beech and Oak along with a single record from Roydon Woods on Ash. It is very easy to overlook when sterile and easily passed over as the frequent *Bacidia biatorina* when fertile, so is likely to occur in other part of the Forest and Britain. The latter had eluded detection until July 2025, however, when Dave Lamacraft and April Windle, found it in the superb Boconnoc Park in Cornwall. So far this suggest that this is a rare species, Boconnoc being an outstanding southern oceanic epiphytic lichen site, similar to the New Forest in its lichen assemblage.

New to Hampshire

Catillaria fungoides: a recently described species of nutrient enriched bark, probably spreading with increased ammonia pollution. On a *Crataegus* twig in a green lane between arable fields, Newtown Stacey, North Hampshire, SU415 406, August 2024, N.A. Sanderson & A.M. Cross. New to Hampshire (an earlier BLS database record from south Hampshire was a transcription error).

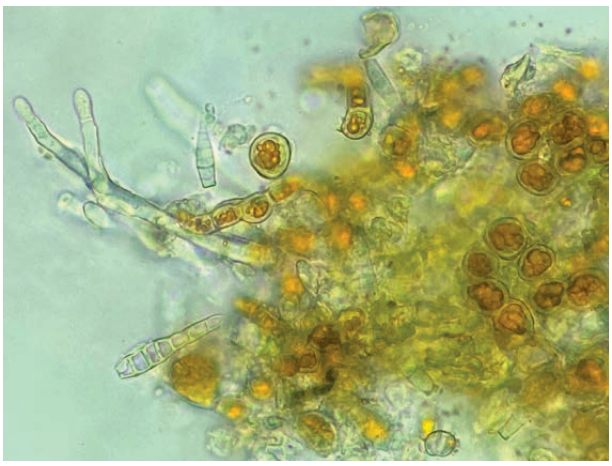
Cladoniicola staurospora: an obligate parasite of *Cladonia* species, with remarkable bent 'H'-shaped conidia. Only described in 2001, and as yet with few British records. Found on *Cladonia callosa*, on the side of a rabbit burrow in acid grassland, White Moor, Lyndhurst, New Forest, South Hampshire, SU3117 0830, December 2024, N.A. Sanderson, new to Hampshire and the region.



Cladoniicola staurospora: **pycnidia (left) infecting the tips of *Cladonia callosa* squamules and the curious bent 'H'-shaped conidia, White Moor (right).**

Gyalectiphila pluriseptata (*Refractohilum pluriseptatum*): a tiny obligate fungal parasite of *Pachyphiale* species, which are all old woodland species. Previously this had only with two old records from the Scottish Highlands (1987 & 1996). When reading up on this fungus for the new Red List assessment, I thought this really ought to be in the New Forest. Soon after a dog walk I noticed *Pachyphiale carneola* thalli that were orange coloured rather than the usual white. Examining the thallus showed it to be covered in tiny transparent conidiophores shedding multiseptate conidia, which are very distinctive, narrowing abruptly towards the tip, and are over 20 µm long. The orange colour is caused by loose *Trentepohlia* algae on the surface where the cortex has been damaged by the fungal infection. First found on *P. carneola* thalli on Beech in old growth Beech-Holly pasture woodland, The Ridge, Busketts Wood, New Forest, VC11, South Hampshire, SU3155 1111, September 2024, N.A. Sanderson. Since this find was made, *G. pluriseptata* has proved to be widespread in the older New Forest woodlands wherever there are large populations of *Pachyphiale carneola* but appears to be absent from the 19th century Inclosures, where *P. carneola* has colonised but is not so frequent. *Photographs on next page*.

Taeniolella pertusariicola: I had long been aware of a distinct hyphomycetes fungus occasionally infecting the nationally rare *Lepra pulvinata* (but not any other *Lepra* species) in the New Forest where the host is widespread and frequent. I was only able to name it recently, when new identification resources became available. Collection identified: on *Lepra pulvinata*, on old Oak by river in pasture woodland, Mallard Wood,



Gyalectiphila pluriseptata: **transparent conidiophores shedding multiseptate conidia, Busketts Wood (left) and a thallus of *Pachyphiale carneola* on an old Beech, Matley Wood, discoloured orange by *G. pluriseptata* infection (right).**

New Forest, South Hampshire, SU3133 0882, October 2024, N.A. Sanderson. The local host, *Lepra pulvinata*, is confined to the old growth pasture woodlands and is found in 112 monads, with *Taeniolella pertusariicola* recorded in 21 monads. Elsewhere recorded from Europe on *Lecanora rupicola*, *Lepra* sp., *Ophioparma* sp., *Pertusaria* sp. and *Varicellaria* sp. In Britian previously recorded on the upland *Ophioparma ventosa*.

Tremella phaeographidis: Vince Giavarini has been doing a very intensive study of the lichenicolous fungi of the New Forest in the last few years and finding lots of new species to Hampshire and has several probably new species to science to describe or which have just been described. These will all be in Vince's final report, but this was a significant recent find. *Tremella phaeographidis* is an obligate basidiomycota parasitic gall of *Phaeographis* species, mainly *Phaeographis smithii* but also *Phaeographis dendritica*, found on twigs widely in Devon and East Cornwall with a recent outlying record from East Gloucestershire. Probably a quite mobile parasite. Found on an Oak twig on *Phaeographis smithii* in the developing pasture woodland in the marl pits at Marlborough Deep, New Forest, SZ225 985, June 2025, V. Giavarini. A considerable range extension from Devon; possibly the parasite is tracking the recent expansion of *Phaeographis smithii* following the national decline in sulphur dioxide pollution.

Other species of interest

Chaenothecopsis caespitosa: a rarely recorded fungus in a taxonomically distinct group of *Chaenothecopsis* pinhead fungi species typically found on resins and plant exudates. This species is only known from damaged Yew trees and is endemic to England. It has one old record from Hampshire, from a Yew stump in the New

***Chaenothecopsis caespitosa*: an apparently rare endemic pinhead fungus growing on exudates from wounds on Yew trees. A clump of stalked apothecia on a wound below a cut branch, Marlborough Deep (left) and a closer view of a dense crust from a crevice in a cut branch, Lodge Heath (right).**

Forest in 1991 at Ferny Knap. It had since eluded search for decades but has finally been refound at two locations, after photographs became available giving a better search image. First found in a crevice on a badly cut branch where it formed a crust over old exudate, old Yew trees on woodland/heathland edge, Lodge Heath, New Forest, SU3299 0182, June 2025, Neil A Sanderson. Also in a wound track below cut branch stubs on a young Yew tree in scrub in marl pits, where scrub control had occurred previously, Marlborough Deep, New Forest, SZ2236 9855, Neil A Sanderson & Vince Giavarini. Curiously not yet refound on naturally damaged Yew trees here. This is quite a large and obvious fungus once learned and should be looked for on Yew trees elsewhere.

Biatora britannica: a widespread oceanic species of old woods in humid locations, including abandoned coppices. Frequent in the New Forest but not recorded previously outside of the Forest in Hampshire. On Hazel in open swampy pasture woodland in a floodplain common, Bransbury Common SSSI, Barton Stacey, North Hampshire, SU417 419, August 2024, N.A. Sanderson & A.M. Cross. New to North Hampshire.

Calicium hyperelloides: a very widespread tropical species, but a very rare southern oceanic species in Europe. In Britain only known from a few veteran trees in Cornwall and the New Forest. On acid bark on a well-lit veteran Oak in a glade in pasture woodland, French's Bushes, by Brockishill Car Park, New Forest, South, SU2993 1176, November 2024. The fourth New Forest record for a rare southern oceanic species and the third extant tree.

Chaenothecopsis savonica: a rather rare pinhead fungus of lignum on veteran trees and standing dead wood. On bark and lignum on an ancient Yew in a churchyard, All Saints' Church, Steep, Petersfield, North Hampshire, SU7458 2528, December 2024, N.A. Sanderson, D. Wright & K. Sandell. New to North Hampshire and the first Hampshire record outside of the New Forest.

Cladonia brevis: the small internationally rare *Cladonia* of very open habitats found new to England on a track on Fritham Plain in 2023, but subsequently disappeared after a wet winter. A new dispersed and much larger colony has now been found in the New Forest by Boltons Bench. A large colony in open short grazed heath (NVC: H2c) developed in the apparent borrow pit of a medieval/early modern pillow mound, along with two outlying colonies on path and path rut edges in *Agrostis curtisii* heath (NVC: H3c), The Ridge, Boltons Bench, Lyndhurst, New Forest, South Hampshire, SU312 082, SU312 081 & SU314 077, November & December 2024, N.A. Sanderson.

Micarea isidioprasina: a recently described isidiate member of the *Micarea prasina* s. lat., mainly found on dead wood in old woods. Fertile on lignum on a fallen Oak in a patch of pasture woodland in a floodplain common, Bransbury Common SSSI, Barton Stacey, North Hampshire, SU4180 4193, August 2024, N.A. Sanderson & A.M. Cross. New to North Hampshire.

***Cladonia brevis*: the distinctive rounded squamules with smooth undersides and larger black spherical conidia, Boltons Bench.**

Reference

Cannon, P., Coppins, B., Aptroot, A., Fryday, A., Sanderson, N., Simkin, J. & Yahr, R. 2024. Miscellaneous Lecanorales including *Biatorella* (Biatorellaceae), *Carbonicola* (Carbonicolaceae), *Haematomma* (Haematommataceae), *Psilolechia* (Psilolechiaceae), *Ramboldia* (Ramboldiaceae), *Scoliciosporum* (Scoliciosporaceae), and *Adelolecia*, *Catinaria*, *Frutidella*, *Herteliana*, *Lithocalla*, *Myochroidea*, *Puttea* and *Schadonia* (of uncertain position). *Revisions of British and Irish Lichens* 42: 1–23.

VC11 notes and records summary

Compiled by Tristan Norton

Records

A full account of recording activity for 2025 will be presented in the next issue of *Flora News*. I apologise for this as I know that many, like me, very much enjoy reading about the many and varied discoveries made by our intrepid recorders. The year has been a busy one, and Martin and I have not been able to find the time needed to go through the data.

In place of a full account, there is a small number of records that I feel are deserving of mention by way of a 'highlights to date' list.

***Eryngium campestre* (Field Eryngo)**: M3 slip road, Winchester South Park & Ride, SU 47274 26370; 22 July 2025; Gavin Maclean. 1st for SU42. Spotted by Gavin whilst driving by, this is an exciting find even if likely to be the result of accidental transportation by vehicle from the near continent. Two plants are present; a large flowering example and a non-flowering rosette.

***Salvinia minima?* (Floating Fern/Water Spangles):** Fort Brockhurst, Gosport, SU 5918 0106; 12 July 2025; John Norton & Debbie Allan. A small water fern in the same family as *Azolla* (Salviniaceae). Among *Lemna* at edge of flooded moat. ?1st for UK. There is some uncertainty as to whether this is *S. minima*, a tropical American species which is widely grown by aquarists or *S. natans*, which is native over most of Europe eastwards to China. However, it is presumed to be an introduction here and like many other non-native aquatic plants, potentially problematic when in wild situations.

***Taraxacum exsertum* (Pale-green Dandelion)**: Branksome Chine Gardens, SZ 0614 8999; 12 July 2025; David Leadbetter, conf. A.J. Richards. First for VC11. A rather scarce adventive Dandelion.

***Trifolium michelianum* subsp. *balansae* (Balansa Clover)**: Mottisfont estate, SU 311 268; Martin Rand. 1st for Hampshire. Martin recounts the discovery of this plant in his write-up of the field meeting to the Mottisfont Estate on page 6.

Field Eryngo *Eryngium campestre*, Winchester. *Tristan Norton*

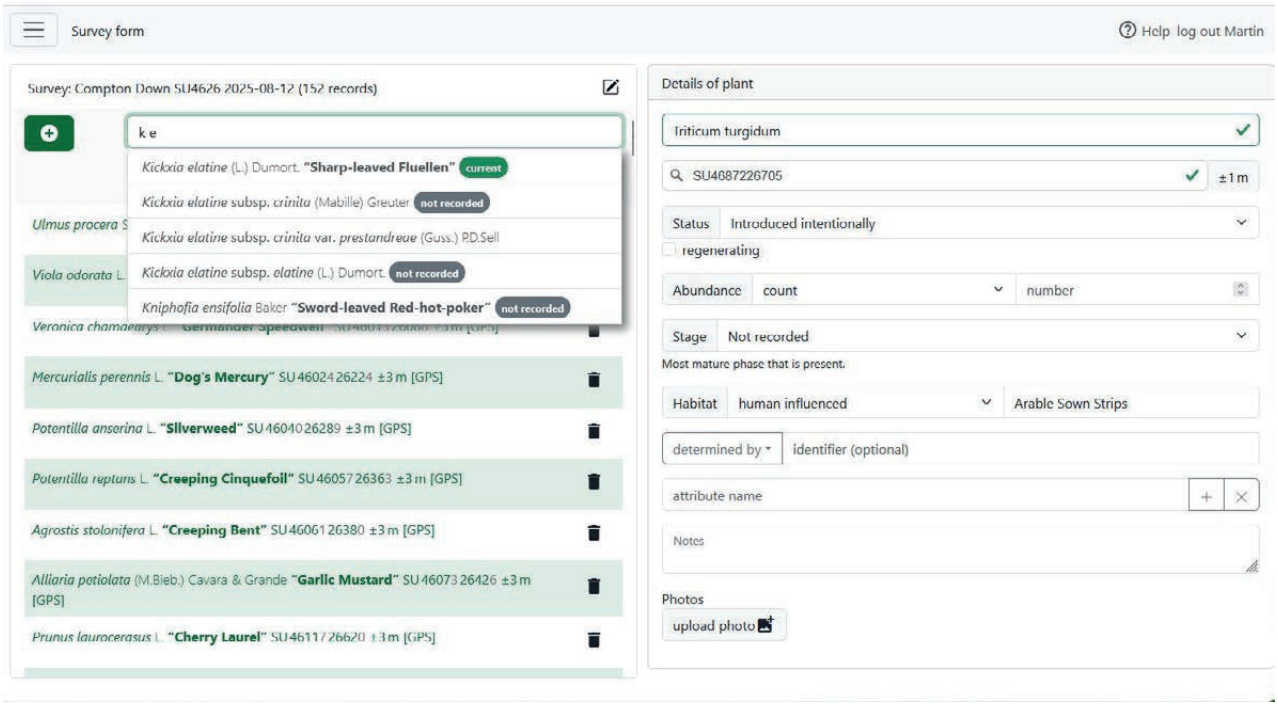
Floating Fern *Salvinia minima?*, Fort Brockhurst, Gosport. *John Norton*

The BSBI Recording App

We would again like to draw attention to the recently launched BSBI Recording App – see **docs.bsbi.org/recording-app**. This is available free for use by all, and can be installed on a smartphone or tablet to use in the field or at home on your tablet, laptop or home PC. We would very much encourage all botanists to download and use it. You can install it on multiple devices, and your data will stay in sync on all of them as long as they connect at some point to the internet. If you are nervous about moving onto new technology, Martin will be very happy to give an introductory session at his home or at some site (preferably with a good coffee shop nearby) for individuals or small groups. It doesn't have to be anywhere botanically exciting, and time of the year doesn't matter.

Among the major benefits for you if recording in the field is that the App can use your device's GPS to record every sighting's location for you (with an estimate of precision) automatically as you enter it. You can do 'casual recording', where you just record the occasional interesting sighting, or use a range of ways to make a survey or checklist for which you enter all the common information for the records once. Surveys of limited areas have an added benefit that the App can warn you when you leave the area and automatically create a new survey for you for the new area. If you then cross between your survey areas it will let you know and switch back to the re-entered one.

Whether in the field or at home, data entry of species can be very speedy: the App offers a 'match list' when you start typing either scientific or English names. If you type the first letter of a genus name, a space, and the first few letters of the species or subspecies name (often only one or two), you will quickly get to a very short shortlist, often with the name you want at the top as default. If you use a name which is a synonym of the currently used scientific name, it will indicate this to you and the current name will be displayed from then on, but the App remembers how you entered it as well.



Data entry on the BSBI app

You can edit your records and any survey details at any time after initial entry: for instance, you may choose to enter the bare details in the field and add other information later at home; or you can delete unwanted records such as duplicates or mis-IDs. At no time do you have to take any action to transfer new or edited records to the BSBI; this happens automatically and silently when an internet connection is available.

One of the major benefits for us as BSBI recorders and verifiers is that all records are placed into an easily accessible space on the BSBI database and once checked and verified, appear almost instantly on the database. If you take photos of anything unusual or a plant you are uncertain about, they will be available to the verifiers – you just need to make sure that relevant ID features are shown and in focus!

If you don't like recording into an app, another BSBI development is the provision of a spreadsheet for batch upload of data straight to the BSBI database. The advantage of this spreadsheet over previous offerings is that it does a lot of the validation work as you enter data. Martin has made this spreadsheet available on the Hants Plants website under the **Recording** menu. It is currently the preferred option for VC11, but it can be used for VC12 as well. BSBI would prefer to deal with larger datasets by this route rather than receive lots of small files, so if you use the form please send it to either of us so that we can batch contributions up for submission.

VC 12 records

Compiled by Tony Mundell

This report covers records for 11 October 2024 to 15 July 2025, and here is my personal selection of the more interesting records during that period. I must thank the people who continue to send me records. Hopefully, some of you will find a few of your own records listed here. The number of contributors has dropped off very significantly compared to the heady days of the last few years of recording for Atlas 2020, so I am forced to include many of my own records, though often when out botanising with others.

I am pleased how some plants that are teetering on the edge of local extinction in North Hampshire manage to hang on. Examples listed below include Common Lady's-mantle *Alchemilla filicaulis* subsp. *vestita* (probably in its last surviving VC12 site); Slender Bedstraw *Galium pumilum* (again probably its last VC12 site); and Tower Mustard *Turritis glabra* (with only two surviving VC12 sites).

New sites have been found for some scarce plants, including Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum capillus-veneris*; Four-leaved Allseed *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*; Pale Flax *Linum bienne*; Spreading Hedge-parsley *Torilis arvensis*; Field Gromwell *Buglossoides arvensis*; Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio* and a Hybrid Wood-rush *Luzula* × *borreri* (*L. forsteri* × *pilosa*). The last of those had not been found in VC12 since 1970, but following soon after a brief workshop on *Luzula* given by Martin Rand, I was much more aware of what features to look for when, with Mary Parker, we came across colonies of both Southern Wood-rush *L. forsteri* and Hairy Wood-rush *L. pilosa* growing together.

Some people have a special interest in orchids and record little else. This issue is particularly rich in orchid records, including a remarkable number of *Dactylorhiza* hybrids, namely *D.* × *carnea* (*D. maculata* × *incarnata*); *D.* × *grandis* (*D. fuchsii* × *praetermissa*); *D.* × *hallii* (*D. maculata* × *praetermissa*); and *D.* × *wintoni* (*D. incarnata* × *praetermissa*). However, some of these are on private land, so if you want to visit please ask me for further details.

There is a story behind the record below for Dutch Elm *Ulmus* × *hollandica* (*U. glabra* × *minor* × *plotii*). For many years Andrew Brookes has been organizing the import from Europe or America of foreign cultivars, or species, of Elms that have found to be resistant to Dutch Elm Disease (DED). In order to conserve the White-letter Hairstreak butterfly, these have been planted in many places including within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Andrew had heard of a site in VC12 that apparently had a few mature trees of Dutch Elm that had not been affected by DED, and he asked me if I knew of these trees. Andrew visited the site and was excited to find a native Elm that was apparently DED-resistant. He collected branchlets from two trees, including the largest, and sent them to Invitro Microplants, Aboyne, Scotland, for meristem extraction and cultivation, requesting the propagation of 100 plugs. A month later when on a monad survey, I came across a huge 18 m tall, healthy tree of English Elm *U. procera* at Crondall. I showed that to Andrew, who passed the information on to an Elm expert at the Alice Holt Forest Research Station.

Apart from the native plants listed below, I have included a selection of records of alien plants. I am pleased that the Narrow-leaved Arrowhead *Sagittaria subulata* is still hanging on at its only English site and also pleased that someone has noticed and updated my previous records for the Rough Dog's-tail *Cynosurus echinatus* at the M3 Fleet Services. The only other VC12 site that I have for that grass was at Steep in 1925.

Of course, many neophytes are rapidly increasing, like the Annual Beard-grass *Polypogon monspeliensis* and Narrow-leaved Ragwort *Senecio inaequidens* listed below. Forked Catchfly *Silene dichotoma* bucks that trend, and Atlas 2020 says it is 'now rarely encountered'. A remarkable colony of Creeping Bellflower *Campanula rapunculoides* was found in a new site, extending for at least 350 m on both sides of a minor road. This is a classic garden chuck-out plant that gets thrown out because it spreads so vigorously via rhizomes. Pennyroyal *Mentha pulegium* was also found this year in a new site south of Yateley Common, but due to its tall stature I am pretty sure it is the American alien form that is now often turning up, especially where grass seed has been sown. Indeed, the site was beside a track bordering army barracks with mown lawns.

***Abies alba* (European Silver-fir)** Tylney Park, Rotherwick SU706550, Mike Wall 24 Jan 2025.

***Acanthus spinosus* (Spiny Bear's-breech)** Lasham SU6556 4388, Sarah Lewington 20 May 2025.

***Adiantum capillus-veneris* (Maidenhair Fern)** Winchester train station SU477299, couple of plants on exterior gutter end wall, Tristan Norton 23 Nov 2024.

***Agrostis curtisii* (Bristle Bent)** S of Yateley Common, many plants scattered in numerous spots within this 1km grid square, e.g. SU8274 5897, SU8245 5888, SU821589 and SU829589, Tony Mundell & Mike Marshall 4 Jun 2025.

***Agrostis vinealis* (Brown Bent)** S of Yateley Common SU8281 5893, several patches of plants beside a track, Tony Mundell & Mike Marshall 4 Jun 2025.

***Ailanthus altissima* (Tree-of-heaven)** Middle Wallop SU2837, suckering onto road verge, John Moon 4 Jun 2025.

***Alchemilla filicaulis* subsp. *vestita* (Common Lady's mantle)** Cow Down Copse, East Oakley SU5835 5099, four plants in the middle of a grassy ride, Clare Lloyd Williams 12 May 2025, photos confirmed by Tony Mundell.

***Allium nigrum* (Broad-leaved Leek)** Hurstbourne Priors SU4383 4667, in two groups, each of about a dozen flower spikes, along the grassy lane approach to St Mary's Church, no doubt originally planted but well established as last recorded in 2017, Tony Mundell & Claire Andrews 30 Jun 2025.

***Allium roseum* (Rosy Garlic)** St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025.

***Allium siculum* (Honey Garlic)** E of Bramdean SU6409 2754, patch of flower spikes in bud on roadside verge, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 2 May 2025. Brick Kiln Lane, West Tisted SU672295, road verge among *Rubus* plants, Nick Aston 20 May 2025.

***Allium schoenoprasum* (Chives)** Lovedon Fields SU495329, Bruce Graham 4 May 2025, photo of a single plant determined by Tony Mundell.

***Alnus cordata* (Italian Alder)** Alton SU7276 4054, two very large trees planted long ago on the perimeter of Anstey Park, plus another at SU7263 4062, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson 23 Apr 2025. Hattingley, planted row along field edge and footpath running south from SU6452 3724, Cathy Wilson 30 Apr 2025.

***Alnus incana* (Grey Alder)** Alton SU7263 4070, a dense thicket of stems and trunks within a 3m × 2m patch beside the footpath, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson 23 Apr 2025.

***Anacamptis morio* (Green-winged Orchid)** Tidgrove Warren Farm SU5252 5425, a single flowering plant. This is new to the whole of 10km square SU55, Phil Simpson 26 Apr 2025. Headley Gravel Pit SU511626, seemingly fewer plants than in previous years, Simon Melville12 May 2025.

***Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid)** Hook, four plants at SU7212 5455 & two at SU7213 5453, on a road verge in Middle Mead (suburban housing estate), and two at SU7202 5443, on a road verge in Garden Close (within the same estate). All were photographed, Peter Vaughan 8 Jun 2025. Yateley Country Park SU8169 5895, Jean Cheadle 18 Jun 2025. Matterley Estate, SU5267 2828, SU5267 2812 and SU5265 2811, Anna Stewart & Dave Stewart 22 Jun 2025. Alton, Pertuis Avenue, S verge, 7 plants, west of Ackender Wood entrance at SU705388 and 3 plants, east of Ackender Wood entrance at SU706388, Sarah Quick 28 Jun 2025.

Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio*, Tidgrove. *Phil Simpson*

***Anemanthele lessoniana* (New Zealand Wind-grass)** St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025.

***Anemone apennina* (Blue Anemone)** Littleton cemetery SU4534 3295, many flowering plants amongst the graves. Confirmed with scattered hairs on underside of basal leaves and the few plants already in fruit have upright stems (so not *A. blanda*). There are a few white flowered plants amongst the mainly dark blue ones, Tony Mundell 22 Feb 2025.

***Anisantha diandra* (Great Brome)** Matterley Estate SU5330 2812 and SU5325 2811, Anna Stewart 25 May 2025. Matterley Estate SU5496 2984 and SU5531 2981, Anna & Dave Stewart 22 Jun 2025.

***Anisantha madritensis* (Compact Brome)** M3 slip road, Hook SU724529, beside north-bound slip road off the M3, Paul Stanley 12 May 2025.

***Anthriscus caucalis* (Bur Chervil)** A34, N of Bullington Cross SU464434, in the central reservation, Paul Stanley 12 May 2025.

***Asplenium ceterach* (Rustyback)** Blackmoor House SU7800 3282, Anna Stewart 13 Apr 2025.

***Astrantia major* (Astrantia)** Noar Hill SU742318, on scrubby bank, Nick Aston 20 May 2025.

***Barbarea intermedia* (Medium-flowered Winter-cress)** NE of Monkwood SU6831, Cathy Wilson 10 Apr 2025. N of Ropley SU6432, Cathy Wilson 22 Apr 2025.

***Barbarea verna* (American Winter-cress)** St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025.

***Bistorta officinalis* (Common Bistort)** Wyck SU7576 3959, approx. two dozen plants in a line along a damp depression in a grass field. Not been seen before in 35 years of living within 100m. Probably spread from neighbouring garden where it is known to grow, Cathy Wilson 12 May 2025.

***Bromus secalinus* (Rye Brome)** East Tisted SU7131, Dave Pearson 6 Jun 2025.

***Buglossoides arvensis* (Field Gromwell)** Church Crookham SU8126 5191, seven flowering/fruiting plants on the pavement at the base of a garden wall at the junction of The Verne and Aldershot Road. *Geranium rotundifolium* used to grow along here but was eradicated when a new fence was installed recently. I am puzzled how seed of Field Gromwell got here, Tony Mundell 2 Jun 2025..

***Campanula glomerata* (Clustered Bellflower)** SW of Micheldever SU5063 3830, steep bank of chalk grassland close to a house, Tony Mundell & Sue Bell 18 Apr 2025.

***Campanula rapunculoides* (Creeping Bellflower)** N of Abbotstone Down, in extraordinary abundance, but not flowering yet, scattered along both sides of Wayfarer's Walk for at least 350m from SU5830 3720 to SU5825 3754, Tony Mundell, Mike Marshall & Claire Andrews 14 Apr 2025.

***Campanula rotundifolia* (Harebell)** Magdalen Hill Down SU5032 2930, one flowering plant, Anna Stewart 18 May 2025.

***Capsella rubella* (Pink Shepherd's-purse)** Matterley Estate SU529282, a few flowering plants, Anna & Dave Stewart 4 May 2025.

***Cardamine amara* (Large Bitter-cress)** E of Turgis Green SU7112 5968, flowering plants abundant in a large boggy area near the public footpath, Tony Mundell & Sue Bell 28 Apr 2025. Deadwater Valley, two colonies survive along this stream. One has 13 plants at c. SU8062 3508, the other has 7 plants at c. SU8061 3510, Bill Wain 1 May 2025.

Large Bitter-cress *Cardamine amara*, Deadwater Valley. *Bill Wain*

***Cardamine bulbifera* f. *ptarmicifolia* (Coralroot)** Riverside walk, Liss SU779285, flowering very well this year, Nick Aston 19 Apr 2025.

***Carex arenaria* (Sand Sedge)** Shortheath Common SU7756 3660, beside the sandy path, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

***Carex canescens* (White Sedge)** Shortheath Common SU7757 3667, a few plants near the new footbridge, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

***Carex caryophyllea* (Spring-sedge)** Winchester Science centre SU5171 2916, Kat Newbert 8 May 2025.

***Carex echinata* (Star Sedge)** Shortheath Common SU7757 3667, many plants near the new footbridge, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

***Carex muricata* (Prickly Sedge)** E of Micheldever Wood SU5435, Laura Gravestock 19 May 2025.

***Carex muricata* subsp. *pairae* (Prickly Sedge)** Headley SU8113 3774, beside footpath on sandy bank, also at SU8126 3775 with many clumps scattered over a meadow on dry sandy soil, Tony Mundell & Jon Wells 8 May 2025.

***Carex otrubae* (False Fox-sedge)** N of Ropley SU6432, Cathy Wilson 22 Apr 2025. Alice Holt, Straits Inclosure SU8008 4022, a single clump growing with much *Carex strigosa* and *C. sylvatica.* E of Wyck SU7639, Cathy Wilson 17 Jun 2025.

***Carex pilulifera* (Pill Sedge)** S of Yateley Common SU8258, Tony Mundell & Mike Marshall 4 Jun 2025. Shortheath Common SU7756 3661, beside the sandy path, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

***Carex rostrata* (Bottle Sedge)** Shortheath Pond SU7753 3692, many plants along the pond edge, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

***Carex strigosa* (Thin-spiked Wood-sedge)** Alice Holt, Straits Inclosure, hundreds of scattered plants continue for 290 metres along the damper parts of the footpath from SU8024 4030 to SU8000 4017, mixed with *Carex sylvatica*. Also, scattered plants for 90 metres along the muddy footpath between SU7997 4016 and SU7982 4008, so along 380 metres in two adjacent 1km squares, Tony Mundell 5 May 2025.

***Cephalanthera damasonium* (White Helleborine)** Tunworth SU679 474, photographed, Peter Vaughan 5 May 2025. Basingstoke SU6214 5312, under two or three trees in a grassed area in Houndsmill industrial estate, Tony Hill 6 May 2025. Home Farm, Burkham SU6598 4168,

White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*, Home Farm, Burkham. *Andrew Bolton*

two flowering plants, Andrew Bolton 9 May 2025. Ashbeds Copse SU4843 5002, on top of roadside bank beneath Beech trees, Simon Melville 11 May 2025. Shalden SU6981 4160, several flowering plants, Sarah Lewington 14 May 2025. Magdalen Hill Down SU5009 2940, four flowering plants in woodland, Anna Stewart 18 May 2025. Black Dam slip-road SU6555 5146, single flowering plant on verge, Simon Melville 20 May 2025. Down Farm Lane, Winchester SU4630 3358, a patch of at least 12 plants under a hedge bordering an arable field, Dave Pearson 10 Jun 2025.

Cephalanthera longifolia **(Narrow-leaved Helleborine)** Tunworth, one at SU671477, one at SU 675478, both photographed, Peter Vaughan 5 May 2025.

Cerastium arvense **(Field Mouse-ear**) Stockbridge Down SSSI Unit 1 SU3804 3517, one plant on eastern side of downs close to where some were found in previous years, Dave Pearson 29 May 2025.

Ceratocapnos claviculata **(Climbing Corydalis)** Headley SU8118 3786, a few flowering plants beside a minor footpath, Tony Mundell & Jon Wells 8 May 2025.

Ceratochloa carinata **(California Brome)** St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025.

Cochlearia danica **(Danish Scurvygrass)** E of Itchen Abbas SU5433, Laura Gravestock 7 Apr 2025.

Comarum palustre **(Marsh Cinquefoil)** Shortheath Pond, several plants at the water's edge at SU7753 3692, SU77503679 and at other places, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

Corylus avellana **×** ***maxima*** **(Kentish Cobs)** Hartley Wintney SU7699 5729, a couple of rows of planted cultivars of Hazel a few years old, at the entrance to the public orchard / picnic area. Most still have their original labels which include Kentish Cob, Hall's Giant, Cosford Cob and Gunlesbert, Tony Mundell 21 Mar 2025.

Crassula tillaea **(Mossy Stonecrop)** Shortheath Common SU7755 3660, only a few tiny surviving plants beside the sandy track. The former large colony further SW has disappeared, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

Crocus tommasinianus **(Early Crocus)** Littleton cemetery SU4534 3295, many flowering plants amongst the graves, Tony Mundell 22 Feb 2025. St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025.

Crocus vernus **(Spring Crocus)** St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025.

Cynosurus echinatus **(Rough Dog's-tail)** Fleet Services M3 SU7955, David Steere 11 Jun 2025.

Cyperus eragrostis **(Pale Galingale)** Kingsley to South Hay SU7861 3910, in a ditch, fruiting, no obvious source of introduction nearby, Nick Aston 5 Jul 2025.

Dactylorhiza incarnata **subsp.** ***incarnata*** **(Early Marsh-orchid)** Whitchurch Meadows SU4613 4715, scattered over much of this meadow, Simon Melville 20 May 2025. Bassetts Mead Water Meadow, Hook SU7395 5441 and Bassetts Mead Otter's Acre, Hook SU7401 5427, both photographed, Peter Vaughan 8 Jun 2025. Laverstoke SU4905 4857, quite a few plants in a part of the Black Arrows Archery field that has been left unmown. This field is close to a meander of the River Test. Photos taken by a friend of Jonathan Forsyth who sent them to Tony Mundell for identification, Julian Compton 8 Jun 2025.

Rough Dog's-tail *Cynosurus echinatus*, Fleet Services. *David Steere*

Early Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* subsp. *incarnata*, Laverstoke. *Julian Compton*

Dactylorhiza maculata **subsp.** ***ericetorum*** **(Heath Spotted-orchid)** Foley Manor SU8261 3108, 13 flower spikes, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson 9 Jul 2025.

Dactylorhiza praetermissa **(Southern Marsh-orchid)** Whitchurch Meadows SU4613 4715, scattered over much of this meadow, Simon Melville 20 May 2025. Laverstoke SU4905 4857, quite a few plants in a part of the Black Arrows Archery field that has been left unmown. This field is close to a meander of the River Test. Photos taken by a friend of Jonathan Forsyth who sent them to Tony Mundell for identification, Julian Compton 8 Jun 2025. Southwood Country Park SU853554, 88 plants, a bit more spread out than last year, Steve Bailey 11 Jun 2025. Foley Manor SU8229 3056, a sample area of 878 flower spikes was counted here recently by the landowner. Today we estimate that there are at least 2,000 flower spikes of *D. praetermissa*

in this whole meadow, with at least half a dozen of the hybrid *D.* × *hallii* at this grid reference, Tony Mundell, Cathy Wilson, Isobel Girvan et al., 30 Jun 2025.

***Dactylorhiza* × *carnea* (*D. maculata* × *incarnata*)** Eelmoor Marsh SU8404 5300, in a confusing colony of variable plants of *Dactylorhiza maculata*, with *D. incarnata pulchella* growing nearby, Giles Groom noted what he thought might be *D.* × *carnea*. A few days later Tony Mundell took photos of several possible candidates for the hybrid and sent them to Ian Denholm. Ian replied that two plants did seem to be *D.* × *carnea* due to the quite upright, keeled and hooded leaves, only one bracteoidal leaf, a robust spur, and a well-lobed labellum with loop markings and some reflection, Tony Mundell 18 Jun 2025.

Dactylorhiza* × *carnea* (*Dactylorhiza maculata* × *D. incarnata*), Eelmoor. *Tony Mundell

***Dactylorhiza* × *grandis* (*D. fuchsii* × *praetermissa*)** Bassetts Mead Otter's Acre, Hook SU7398 5433 a large plant showing hybrid vigour, with eight flower spikes, photographed, Peter Vaughan 8 Jun 2025.

***Dactylorhiza* × *hallii* (*D. maculata* × *praetermissa*)** Foley Manor SU8229 3056, at least half a dozen hybrids in an enormous number of spikes of *D. praetermissa*, Tony Mundell, Cathy Wilson & Isobel Girvan et al., 30 Jun 2025.

***Dactylorhiza* × *wintoni* (*D. incarnata* × *praetermissa*)** Whitchurch Meadows SU4613 4715, several plants seen, Simon Melville 20 May 2025.

***Datura stramonium* (Thorn-apple)** Upton Grey SU6874 4947, three plants in corner of field, Mike Marshall 11 Jul 2025.

***Doronicum pardalianches* (Leopard's-bane)** Privett SU6734 2765, several flowering plants in road verge opposite to a house, though none visible in the garden, also at SU6744 2771 scattered flowering plants along 4m of roadside hedgerow about 120m from nearest house, Tony Mundell 12 May 2025.

***Drosera intermedia* (Oblong-leaved Sundew)** Warren Heath, hundreds of plants at SU7818 5884 and at least 200 plants at SU7727 5925 in an open boggy area about 30m in diameter where there had been a former scrape, Tony Mundell & Holly Stanworth 21 May 2025.

***Drosera rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew)** Warren Heath, hundreds of plants at SU7727 5922 and many more at SU7727 5925, Tony Mundell & Holly Stanworth 21 May 2025. Shortheath Common, only a few plants amongst the Cranberry at SU7741 3678, many more in the extensive bog at SU7748 3657, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

***Elymus caninus* (Bearded Couch)** St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025. East Tisted SU7131, Dave Pearson 6 Jun 2025. Hampage Farm woods SU5428 3066, Anna & Dave Stewart 15 Jun 2025.

***Epilobium palustre* (Marsh Willowherb)** Foley Manor, dozens of flowering plants at SU8266 3124 and many more at SU8266 3127, Tony Mundell, Cathy Wilson & Isobel Girvan et al., 9 Jul 2025.

***Epipactis purpurata* (Violet Helleborine)** Four Marks, Brislands Lane SU6639 3419, on the verge adjacent to the cemetery between the entrance and exit, beneath a mature Oak tree. Photo from Diana Tennyson, showing a plant with 4 spikes in bud, confirmed by Tony Mundell.

***Eranthis hyemalis* (Winter Aconite)** Blackwood Forest, SW SU5342, several plants naturalised on road verge from nearby garden along Larkwhistle Farm Road, Laura Gravestock 19 Mar 2025.

***Erysimum cheiranthoides* (Treacle Mustard)** Winchester City Football Club SU4847 3046, single flowering plant in area of disturbed soils, Tristan Norton 17 Nov 2024.

***Euphorbia amygdaloides* subsp. *robbiae* (Turkish Wood Spurge)** Newnham SU7016 5352, many plants on road verge of Crown Lane near a house and near the railway line, Tony Mundell, Isobel Girvan & Peter Vaughan 14 Jul 2025.

***Euphorbia exigua* (Dwarf Spurge)** Mapledurwell SU6885 5048, arable field near Garys Farm, Mike Marshall 26 Jun 2025.

***Euphorbia lathyris* (Caper Spurge)** Totford SU5737, Dave Pearson 21 Apr 2025. Littleton SU4545 3203, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025. S of Deane SU548496, trackside near Cheesedown Farm, Claire Andrews 4 May 2025.

***Euphorbia oblongata* (Balkan Spurge)** Andover SU3345, on SE corner of 100-Acre roundabout complex, John Moon 14 May 2025. Hampage Farm woods SU5433 3065, Anna & Dave Stewart 25 Jun 2025.

***Filipendula vulgaris* (Dropwort)** E of Itchen Abbas, SU5423 3319, road side bank, north side of Baring Close, patch of plants c.0.4m × 0.4m, Laura Gravestock 7 Apr 2025. Magdalen Hill Down SU5028 2931, Anna Stewart 18 May 2025.

***Fraxinus ornus* (Manna Ash)** St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025.

***Fumaria densiflora* (Dense-flowered Fumitory)** Garden Piece Field SU5657 5336, Tristan Norton 16 Jun 2025. Matterley Estate SU5531 2981 and SU5503 2988, a few

plants, characteristic large sepals, Anna & Dave Stewart 22 Jun 2025. Horseshoe Meadow Farm SU2514 4294, a few flowering plants in patch of bare chalk on field edge, Tony Mundell & John Moon 5 Jul 2025.

***Galanthus elwesii* (Greater Snowdrop)** Greywell SU7041 5045, beside footpath. Single clump of a G. elwesii form amongst various hybrid Snowdrops, including hybrids of *G. plicatus*, but no pure *G. nivalis* amongst them. Also some garden *Narcissus* and a *Hyacinthoides* × *massartiana* in spite of being about 1km from the nearest house, Tony Mundell 20 Mar 2025. St Giles Hill graveyard SU490294, Anna Stewart & Nicki Elks 21 May 2025.

***Galanthus nivalis* × *elwesii* (A Hybrid Snowdrop)** Littleton SU4533 3292, two or three flowering plants of this hybrid or amongst hundreds of *G. nivalis* on a grassy roadside verge, Tony Mundell 22 Feb 2025. St Giles Hill graveyard SU490294, Anna Stewart & Nicki Elks 21 May 2025.

***Galanthus nivalis* × *plicatus* (A Hybrid Snowdrop)** Greywell SU7041 5045, beside footpath. various hybrid *G. nivalis* × *plicatus* snowdrops, plus a single clump of *G. elwesii*, but no pure *G. nivalis* amongst them. Clearly originally planted in spite of the remote location, Tony Mundell 20 Mar 2025.

***Galanthus woronowii* (Green Snowdrop)** St Giles Hill graveyard SU490294, Anna Stewart & Nicki Elks 21 May 2025.

***Galega officinalis* (Goat's-rue)** Andover Business Park (West) SU3245, several plants beside tarmac footpath, John Moon 2 Apr 2025. Little London SU3851, Frenches Farm farmyard, John Moon 4 May 2025.

***Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw)** M3 Winchester Services, southbound SU522353, by the petrol station, Paul Stanley 12 May 2025.

***Galium pumilum* (Slender Bedstraw)** Ladle Hill SU4767 5673, refound 5 flowering stems plus several stems not yet flowering occupying only 30 × 20cm, centred 70cm below a minor animal track, Tony Mundell 12 Jun 2025.

Slender Bedstraw *Galium pumilum*, Ladle Hill. *Tony Mundell*

***Galium* × *pomeranicum* (*G. verum* × *album*)** Matterley Estate SU5267 2828, abundant *Galium verum* and *G. album* present, several hybrids in the area, Anna & Dave Stewart 22 Jun 2025.

***Genista anglica* (Petty Whin)** Bartley Heath (west side), 2 at SU7283 5332, 9 at SU7284 5343, 3 at SU7285 5349, 1 at SU7285 5354, 8 at SU7286 5346, 7 at SU7294 5346. Of these 30 plants, 18 were in flower some of which were already going over and had well-developed seed pods. Also, Bartley Heath (east side) at SU7312 5336, all Peter Vaughan 9 May 2025.

***Geranium columbinum* (Long-stalked Crane's-bill)** Northbrook, dozens of flowering plants scattered along at least 96m of a permissive footpath from SU5076 4218 to SU5067 4185, Tony Mundell 10 May 2025. S of Freefolk Wood, Cranborne SU504439, Mike Hackston 6 Jul 2025.

***Geranium phaeum* (Dusky Crane's-bill)** Damp woodland, by footpath to Liss Riverside walk SU780288, Nick Aston 19 Apr 2025.

***Geranium pratense* (Meadow Crane's-bill)** Chilbolton SU3939, Dave Pearson 25 Apr 2025. Mapledurwell SU6906 5033, in grassland, Mike Marshall 26 Jun 2025. East Woodhay SU3961, Carolyn Doorbar 9 Jul 2025.

***Geranium rotundifolium* (Round-leaved Crane's-bill)** Micheldever Station SU517428, platform and surrounds, Anna Stewart & Sue Bell 25 Nov 2024. E of Itchen Abbas SU6433, Laura Gravestock 7 Apr 2025. E of Micheldever Wood SU5435, Laura Gravestock 10 May 2025.

***Helleborus orientalis* (Lenten-rose)** Andover Business Park (West) SU3245, single plant on top of bank beside Sir John Clarke Drive, John Moon 2 Apr 2025.

***Helleborus viridis* (Green Hellebore)** Squiresfield Hanger near Bradshott Hall SU7613 3219, 31 plants in flower on the roadside bank, Bill & Chris Wain 19 Feb 2025. Empshott Green, at SU74048 30956 7 stems. At SU74052 30962 2 plants, one with 3 stems, the other with 7 stems. At SU74050 30961 one plant with 7 stems and two flowers, another plant with 7 stems and one plant with 4 stems, Catherine Chatters 6 Apr 2025.

Green Hellebore *Helleborus viridis*, near Empshott Green. *Catherine Chatters*

***Herminium monorchis* (Musk Orchid)** Noar Hill Nature Reserve SU7412 6319, 22 flowering plants within about 2 square metres, Michael Usher 21 Jun 2025.

***Hieracium scotostictum* (Dappled Hawkweed)** E of Itchen Abbas SU5429 3317, on grassy road verge at eastern end of Baring Close. Dark spotted leaves and only 0 or 1 stem leaves, so *H. scotostictum* not *H. spilophaeum*, Laura Gravestock 7 Apr 2025. Totford SU5737, Dave Pearson 21 Apr 2025.

***Hordeum secalinum* (Meadow Barley)** E of Wyck SU763393, in many patches throughout meadow, Cathy Wilson 17 Jun 2025.

***Hyoscyamus niger* (Henbane)** E of Itchen Abbas SU5402 3345, several spikes with fruit and seed of last year's plants, Laura Gravestock 7 Apr 2025. Colliers Close Field, Malshanger Estate SU5558 5169, single flowering plant in large cultivated margin at SE corner, Tristan Norton 29 Jun 2025.

***Iris germanica* (Bearded Iris)** SE of Hurstbourne Priors SU4493 4560, a non-flowering patch of very broad leaves, clearly a garden Bearded Iris on the grassy road verge, 300m from the nearest house, Tony Mundell & Claire Andrews 30 May 2025.

***Jasminum beesianum* (Red Jasmine)** Middle Wallop west SU289376, spreading on road bank outside Fifehead Manor, John Moon 4 Jun 2025.

***Kickxia spuria* (Round-leaved Fluellen)** Mapledurwell SU6848 5029, Mike Marshall 27 June 2025. NE of Preston Candover SU6163 4237, 3 sickly plants in arable margin, with at least a dozen *Kickxia elatine*, Cathy Wilson 14 Jul 2025.

***Laphangium luteoalbum* (Jersey Cudweed)** Littleton SU4542 3207, three plants, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025.

***Lathraea clandestina* (Purple Toothwort)** Riverside walk, Liss, under willows near to Shepherds Bridge SU7728, and a very small clump on steep stream bank SU7796 2818, Nick Aston 19 Apr 2025.

***Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort)** Hartley Mauditt SU7512 3598, 27 flower spikes, Bill & Chris Wain 20 Apr 2025. Hartley Park SU7518 3603, a dozen or so spikes at base of Hazel, most gone over, Tristan Norton 26 Apr 2025. Park Hanger SU7495 3653, 4 flower spikes near Hazel roots beside a wooden step up the steep hanger footpath, and SU7511 3598, at least 300 flower spikes amongst Ivy, under Hazel, on the south side bank of the narrow road between Hartley Mauditt Church and Candovers, also at least 50 flower spikes near Hazel and Field Maple on the south side of this narrow road, Catherine Chatters 5 May 2025. High Wood Hanger SU7472 3227, patch of c. 55 flower spikes in middle of the sunken footpath, Tony Mundell 6 May 2025, where first found a few days ago by Mary Grove.

***Linum bienne* (Pale Flax)** High speed test track, Aldershot SU8368 5153, at least 30 flowering plants spread along c.20m on the north side of the track, Tony Mundell 8 Jun 2025.

***Lithospermum officinale* (Common Gromwell)** Bugmore Hill, dozens of plants scattered along both verges of the road from SU5919 3714 to at least SU5930 3731, extending for over 200m, Tony Mundell, Mike Marshall & Claire Andrews 14 Apr 2025. St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025. S of Bramdean

Purple Toothwort *Lathraea clandestina*, Liss. *Nick Aston*

Toothwort Lathraea squamaria, Park Hanger, *Catherine Chatters*

Common SU6337 2898, a couple of plants on wide grassy road verge, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 2 May 2025. Mapledurwell, Down Lane SU6886 5119, in hedgerow, Mike Marshall 26 Jun 2025.

***Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle)** E of Turgis Green SU7105 5915, an escaped plant on the road verge, a few metres from the nearest garden, Tony Mundell & Sue Bell 28 Apr 2025. Middle Wallop west SU2837, John Moon 4 Jun 2025.

***Luzula forsteri* (Southern Wood-rush)** Bramdean Common SU6320 2913, at least two dozen clumps of *L. forsteri* on the roadside bank, amongst many more plants of *L. pilosa*, and 4 clumps of their hybrid. Also more *L. forsteri* amongst many *L. pilosa* at SU6318 2914 and SU6318 2915, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 2 May 2025.

***Luzula* × *borreri* (*L. forsteri* × *pilosa*)** SU6320 2913, 4 clumps of the hybrid amongst both parents and 2 clumps at SU6318 2914, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 2 May 2025.

***Lysichiton americanus* (American Skunk-cabbage)** St Mary's Church, Eversley SU7781 6092, 4 plants, Gareth Knass 21 Apr 2025.

***Malva neglecta* (Dwarf Mallow)** Stockbridge central SU3521 4352, about 10 plants, one in flower, on verge of Longstock Road, just north of junction with High Street, John Moon 16 Oct 2024. Frenches Farm farmyard SU3851, John Moon 4 May 2025.

***Medicago arabica* (Spotted Medick)** E of Itchen Abbas, SU5433, Laura Gravestock 7 Apr 2025. N of Ropley, SU6432, Cathy Wilson 22 Apr 2025. S of Deane SU541498, by gates to Ashe Park, Claire Andrews 4 May 22025.

***Mentha pulegium* (Pennyroyal)** S of Yateley Common SU8265 5867, a patch of flower spikes in bud occupying c.50cm × 30cm, partly hidden under Gorse, beside the track along the fence line of the Army barracks which locally have extensive mown lawns. The spikes are tall and robust, so I suspect that this is the alien form that is found as a seed contaminant of grass seed. There is another patch of plants of it nearby in a dried-up puddle on the track at SU8268 5867 but much trampled there, Tony Mundell & Mike Marshall 4 Jun 2025.

***Myosotis discolor* (Changing Forget-me-not)** Andover Business Park (West) SU3245, John Moon 2 Apr 2025. Headley SU8137, Tony Mundell & Jon Wells 8 May 2025.

***Myosotis ramosissima* (Early Forget-me-not)** Basingstoke Crematorium, many flowering plants in the car parking places, e.g. SU5589 4510, SU5586 4509 etc. Tony Mundell & Sue Bell 31 Mar 2025. Middle Wallop west SU2837, John Moon 4 Jun 2025.

***Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid)** Tunworth, three at SU675478, two at SU673480, also photographed at SU673481, Peter Vaughan 5 May 2025. Ashbeds Copse SU4843 5002, on top of roadside bank beneath Beech trees, Simon Melville 11 May 2025. Crawley SU423354, single flowering plant beneath Beech, and Crawley SU422361, two flowering beneath Beech and Yew, also Crawley SU425361, 4 plants, Tristan Norton 17 May 2025.

***Onoclea sensibilis* (Sensitive Fern)** Liss River walk SU7828, large colony in marsh, Nick Aston 19 Apr 2025.

***Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's-tongue)** Greywell Moors nature reserve, fields next to Pumping Station SU7221 5134, photographed, Peter Vaughan 3 May 2025. Bassetts Mead Athoke Meadow, Hook, 500+ at and around SU7387 5436, Peter Vaughan 8 May 2025.

***Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid)** Hook, first record for the SU75H tetrad, two plants at SU7212 5456, on a small area of grass in suburban housing estate, Peter Vaughan 30 May 2025. Lovedon Meadow 1 SU495328, Bruce Graham 3 Jun 2025.

***Ophrys insectifera* (Fly Orchid)** Ashmansworth SU398571, most plants on South verge, 2 on North verge, Simon Melville 11 May 2025.

***Orchis mascula* (Early-purple Orchid)** Misholt Copse, about 20 leaf rosettes around the base of a coppiced Sweet Chestnut at SU5464 4513, with 2 more at SU5464 4514 under another Sweet Chestnut, plus a few scattered rosettes nearby under Hazels, Tony Mundell & Sue Bell 31 Mar 2025. Little Nightingales Copse SU7243 5553 and SU7234 5551, Peter Vaughan 14 Apr 2025. S of Bramdean Common SU6336 2899, a single flowering plant on roadside verge, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 2 May 2025. Bassetts Mead - Holt Copse, 56 plants at and around SU7386 5429, Peter Vaughan 8 May 2025. Chineham SU6566 5535, only 1 plant seen 2025 - many more present in 2023, Simon Melville 11 May 2025.

***Orobanche elatior* (Knapweed Broomrape)** Mapledurwell, Down Lane SU6905 5103, single plant in hedgerow, Mike Marshall 26 Jun 2025. East Woodhay SU3961, Carolyn Doorbar 9 Jul 2025. Malshanger Estate SU567542 and Deane Field SU5668 5423, Tristan Norton 16 Jun 2025. Magdalen Hill, Winchester SU5062 2920, flowering, 9 spikes, Nick Aston 27 Jun 2025.

***Orobanche minor* (Common Broomrape)** Middle Wallop west SU2837, several plants on bank amongst mixed herbs, John Moon 4 Jun 2025. Mapledurwell SU6954 5032, grassy field beside Downs Lane, Mike Marshall 27 Jun 2025.

***Paeonia lutea* (Yellow Tree-peony)** Shady, wooded road verge, near Hammer Bottom SU8700 3308, Nick Aston 3 May 2025.

Yellow Tree-peony *Paeonia lutea*, near Hammer Bottom. *Nick Aston*

***Papaver atlanticum* (Atlas Poppy)** Andover SU3491 4542, several plants at foot of wall around Crossfit Gym, John Moon 14 May 2025. Middle Wallop west SU2837, in New Road, John Moon4 Jun 2025.

***Paris quadrifolia* (Herb-Paris)** Selborne hangers SU730334, vast patch under Beech, must be 100s of plants, Nick Aston 13 Apr 2025. Hartley Park SU751360, approx. 100 flowering plants beneath Hazel c. 5m from footpath, Tristan Norton 26 Apr 2025.

***Persicaria capitata* (Pink-headed Persicaria)** Martyr Worthy churchyard, base of church SU515327, Nick Aston 23 Mar 2025.

***Phygelius capensis* (Cape Figwort)** St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, self-seeded, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025.

***Pinguicula lusitanica* (Pale Butterwort)** Eelmoor Marsh, Leyland Track SU8379 5341 and SU8374 5337, hundreds of tiny plants in a ditch section that was cleared last November, Tony Mundell 24 Oct 2025.

***Poa nemoralis* (Wood Meadow-grass)** St Giles Hill Graveyard SU490293, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025. Frenches Farm, Little London SU3851, John Moon 4 May 2025. Headley SU8202 3722 and SU8227 3729, on shady road verge. Many features confirmed under microscope, so not *Agrostis capillaris* (keeled lemmas, spikelet c. 3 mm, leaves not ribbed above etc.) Tony Mundell & Jon Wells 8 May 2025.

***Polycarpon tetraphyllum* (Four-leaved Allseed)** Walworth Enterprise Centre SU379463, Tristan Norton 18 Jun 2025.

***Polypogon monspeliensis* (Annual Beard-grass)** Warren Heath SU7814 5885, about 30 plants beside a track, Tony Mundell & Holly Stanworth 21 May 2025. Matterley Estate SU5383 2850, Anna Stewart 25 May 2025. Church Crookham SU8234 5241, locally abundant where the electricity company have excavated for new underground ducts near Aldershot Road, David Dimmock 15 Jun 2025.

***Prunus domestica* subsp. *insititia* (Damson / Bullace)** SW of Micheldever, a large number of trees in a woodland strip extending 350m from SU5063 3821 to SU5064 3786. From their size they must have been planted many years ago, Tony Mundell & Sue Bell 18 Apr 2025.

***Quercus suber* (Cork Oak)** Alton SU7239 4041, a single tree, with a corky trunk about 4 inches in diameter, previously planted like many other tree species around the perimeter of Anstey Park, Tony Mundell & Cathy Wilson 23 Apr 2025.

***Ranunculus auricomus* (Goldilocks Buttercup)** Charlwood SU6731, Cathy Wilson 18 Apr 2025. E of Bramdean, flowering plants extending for 45m of roadside verge from SU6299 2726 to SU6297 2725, Tony Mundell & Mary Parker 2 May 2025. Privett SU6710 2733, a small patch on roadside verge, but getting very overgrown with coarse plants, Tony Mundell 12 May 2025.

***Ranunculus omiophyllus* (Round-leaved Crowfoot)** Shortheath Common) SU7757 3667, on both sides of the new bridge, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

***Ranunculus parviflorus* (Small-flowered Buttercup)** Matterley Estate SU529282, SU5311 2827, SU5272 2938, SU536289 and SU5352 2854, large number of flowering plants following the pattern of tents & tracks present at Boomtown. Area not resown with *Lolium perenne* this year, Anna Stewart 4 May 2025.

***Rhynchospora alba* (White Beak-sedge)** Shortheath Common SU7748 3657, many plants just starting to flower here at the bog edge, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

***Ruscus aculeatus* (Butcher's-broom)** Blackmoor House SU7807 3286, Anna Stewart 13 Apr 2025. Barton Stacey SU4357 4075, a large fruiting plant beside a public footpath, Tony Mundell & Dave Pearson 19 May 2025.

***Sagittaria subulata* (Narrow-leaved Arrowhead)** Shortheath Pond SU7753 3692, still present and flowering in a small area of about 10 x10m near the pond edge, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

Small-flowered Buttercup *Ranunculus parviflorus*, Matterley Estate. *Anna Stewart*

***Sambucus ebulus* (Dwarf Elder)** Hurstbourne Priors SU4384 4640, a roadside patch extending for c. 25m, Tony Mundell & Claire Andrews 30 Jun 2025.

***Sasa palmata* (Broad-leaved Bamboo)** Footpath to Liss riverside walk, extensive colonies SU780288, Nick Aston 19 Apr 2025.

***Sasaella ramosa* (Hairy Bamboo)** Footpath to Liss Riverside walk, extensive population SU780288, Nick Aston 19 Apr 2025.

***Scleranthus annuus* (Annual Knawel)** Stoney Deane, Malshanger Estate, one flowering plant at SU5563 5206, two at SU5553 5201 and ten in ruts at SU5552 5200, Tristan Norton 28 Jun 2025.

***Sedum hispanicum* (Spanish Stonecrop)** Aldershot SU860509, road gutters and grassland around car parks by the Police Station and Prices Hall Theatre, frequent and regenerating, Nick Aston 9 Jul 2025.

***Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort)** Woolmer Forest SU7957 3207, a single flowering plant, growing under pines at the edge of a pine forest, Mike Lawn 11 Oct 2025. Basingstoke SU6503 5280, a flowering plant near a public footpath, Andrew Cleave & Paul Sterry 27 Jun 2025.

***Senecio sylvaticus* (Heath Groundsel)** Warren Heath SU7814 5885, about 100 plants beside a track, Tony Mundell & Holly Stanworth 21 May 2025.

***Senecio viscosus* (Sticky Groundsel)** NW of Abbotstone SU5535, Laura Gravestock 10 May 2025.

***Silene dichotoma* (Forked Catchfly)** Crawley SU432384, one large, flowering plant adjacent to bare field margin, Tristan Norton 15 Jun 2025.

***Silene* × *hampeana* (Pink Campion (*S. dioica* × *latifolia*))** Barton Farm, Winchester SU475315, a single plant along southern edge of path through new housing estate, Dave Pearson 5 Jun 2025.

***Sisymbrium orientale* (Eastern Rocket)** Basingstoke SU6400 5241, in the gutters of the northern side of an underpass at Alencon Link, south of the railway station, Paul Sterry 11 May 2025.

***Sorbus intermedia* (Swedish Whitebeam)** Barton Stacey SU4329 4092, a large flowering tree, close to a permissive path, presumably originally planted. Voucher specimen retained, Tony Mundell & Dave Pearson 19 May 2025.

***Sorbus torminalis* (Wild Service-tree)** Blackmoor House SU7785 3278, planted, Anna Stewart 13 Apr 2025. Privett SU6698 2748, a mature tree, surely originally planted, on edge of car park for a nursery school, but with several suckers or seedlings nearby in hedgerow beside the cross roads, Tony Mundell 12 May 2025,

***Sorbus* × *thuringiaca* (*S. aria* × *aucuparia*)** Barton Stacey SU4335 4092, a single small tree, close to a permissive path across a grassy field, clearly originally planted. Voucher specimen retained, Tony Mundell & Dave Pearson 19 May 2025.

***Symphytum orientale* (White Comfrey)** Highclere, Hollington SU420605, on road verge opposite a house, Tony Mundell 7 Apr 2025. N of Ropley SU6432, Cathy Wilson 25 Apr 2025.

Taraxacum glauciniforme (Many-toothed Dandelion) Sutton Scotney SU4595 3991, southbound services, Tim Rich 7 Apr 2025.

***Tellima grandiflora* (Fringecups)** NW of Upper Wield, on bank at SU6272 3905 and west along both sides of Preston Candover Road from junction with footpath at SU6272 3900, Cathy Wilson 22 May 2025.

Teucrium botrys (Cut-leaved Germander) Micheldever station platform SU5179 4292, one plant, Anna Stewart & Sue Bell 25 Nov 2024.

Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow-rue) Stockbridge Down SSSI Unit 1 SU3866 3450, at least a dozen plants beside the southern track leading to the lower car park, Dave Pearson 8 Jun 2025.

Thesium humifusum (Bastard-toadflax) Winchester Science centre SU5173 2916, Kat Newbert 8 May 2025.

Torilis arvensis (Spreading Hedge-parsley) Mapledurwell SU6848 5029, at least seven plants, Mike Marshall 27 Jun 2025, photo confirmed.

Trachystemon orientalis (Abraham-Isaac-Jacob) Selborne SU7415 3349, hedgebanks of car park, Nick Aston 13 Apr 2025.

Turritis glabra (Tower Mustard) Baker's Corner, Kingsley SU7787 3776, 11 plants near the base of the western end of the south-facing slope, Joel Miller 1 May 2025. Baker's Corner, Kingsley, the site is now looking much better than last year, as clearly Hampshire County Council cleared much of the scrub last autumn/winter. A total of 12 flower spikes found, all in green seed with a few flowers remaining. 11 of them at SU7787 3777 on the steep sandy slope closest to the road, plus one at SU7787 3776 on the level ground at the base of the slope, Tony Mundell 10 Jun 2025. Protected road bank, Kingsley SU7787 3776, one plant at bottom of bank outside wire fence and SU7786 3776 four fruiting plants on middle to top section of road bank, Nick Aston 9 Jul 2025.

Spreading Hedge-parsley *Torilis arvensis*, Mapledurwell. *Mike Marshall*

Ulmus* × *hollandica (Dutch Elm (***U. glabra* × *minor* × *plotii***)) Swallick Farm SU644478, 6 old trees c.3–4m girth, 20m plus tall, 4 standing, two prostrate, all alive around an isolated dell, Andrew Brookes 30 May 2025.

Urtica urens (Small Nettle) Chilbolton SU3939, Dave Pearson 25 Apr 2025. Littleton SU4539 3202, one large plant, Anna Stewart & Dave Pearson 1 May 2025. Matterley Estate SU5503 2988, many plants along field margin, Anna & Dave Stewart 22 Jun 2025.

Vaccinium oxycoccos (Cranberry) Shortheath Common, many plants west of the main pond, some with flowers and young berries at SU7745 3683, SU7741 3678, SU7741 3675 and SU7739 3672. A huge number of plants extend across the splendid open bog from SU7748 3657, Tony Mundell 6 Jun 2025.

Verbascum blattaria (Moth Mullein) Winton Close, Winchester SU4769 3074, several plants on kerb edge on N side of Winton Close, Tristan Norton 23 May 2025.

Vinca major var. ***oxyloba*** (Greater Periwinkle) Itchen Abbas SU531329, disused railway, by Itchen Abbas old station SU531329, Nick Aston 23 Mar 2025. Oakley, Pardown SU5687 4903, a large flowering patch in Bull's Bushes Copse close to the road, Tony Mundell & Mike Marshall 11 Apr 2025. Hattingley SU6432 3723, on roadside verge, escaped from garden, Cathy Wilson 30 Apr 2025.

Viola lactea (Pale Dog-violet) Bartley Heath (west side), Hook, 23 at SU7288 5348, 1 at SU7297 5346, Peter Vaughan 9 May 2025.

X *Schedolium loliaceum* (*Schedonorus pratensis* × *Lolium perenne*) Matterley Estate SU5261 2839 and SU5263 2820, Anna & Dave Stewart 22 Jun 2025.

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.

Flora News is the bi-annual newsletter of the **Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group**, a special interest wildlife group covering vascular plants, charophytes, bryophytes and lichens of the two counties (see below for further details). This edition of *Flora News* was edited and produced by Martin Rand, Tristan Norton and John Norton. The views expressed by the editors and contributors to *Flora News* are not necessarily those of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. 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 5 MB) directly to John Norton (*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, they will be welcome electronically via the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Recording App, iRecord or iNaturalist; you don't need to do anything further in that case to get them to the BSBI recorders. Please see the Hants Plants website for further information and links concerning electronic submissions. Alternatively, for small numbers of records you can write letters, email or text files or use the purpose-designed spreadsheets and Word documents on the website and send them to the relevant Vice-county Recorder:

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For further details of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group and how to join and attend meetings please visit: *hiwwt.org.uk/hampshire-flora-group*. Flora Group members are welcome to join the Hampshire Flora Group Facebook group. Search for Hampshire Flora Group and click the Join button. The group is moderated, and you may have to wait a day or two to be joined up. Please read and follow the notes on what we require as joining information.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

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