



Hampshire &
Isle of Wight

Flora News

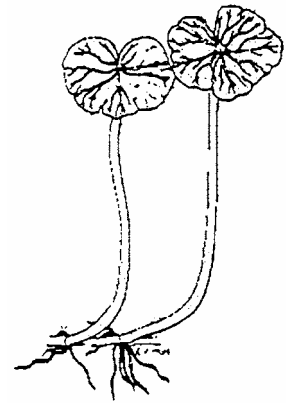
Newsletter of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group Spring 2006

Dear Flora Group Member

The Flora Group committee members hope that you had an enjoyable time botanising last year and we look forward to seeing you at some of the events in 2006.

This year our AGM will be held in East Hampshire on Saturday 6 May 2006. If you would like to join the Committee, please let Catherine Chatters know prior to the AGM. Catherine's address and telephone number are given at the end of this newsletter. As usual, we are always keen to receive your suggestions for events and activities.

The date for the course on fern biology and identification for beginners has been changed. It will now take place on Sunday 10 September 2006. See forthcoming events for more information



We are always keen for more people to provide contributions to Flora News on any relevant botanical topics so maybe you will feel inspired to put pen to paper during 2006? If you have enjoyed any of the Flora Group events and would like to write an article about it for Flora News, we would be very pleased to receive it. Please send your articles to Catherine.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 25 March 2006, 10.30 am

Rare Plant Register meeting for dwarf sedge *Carex humilis* in Martin and Rockbourne areas

Leader: Martin Rand

Meet at Martin Down car park, SU 057 191

Dwarf Sedge has a stronghold on Martin Down and adjacent downland, but seems to be faring badly in many of its outlying Hampshire sites and has been lost from some. After a visit to Martin Down NNR to familiarise people with this very early flowering sedge, we will disperse widely by car to check on several older known sites in Vice-counties 8 and 11.

Contact: Martin Rand 023 8036 0395 or via e-mail:

vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk prior to the event for further details.

In the event of bad weather on the day, please ring Martin on 07957 361015 to confirm whether it is going ahead.

Saturday 6 May 2006, 10.30 am

Flora Group AGM with visit to Shortheath Common and Binswood.

Meet in Shortheath Pond car park at SU 774 369.

Leader: Martin Rand

Relative beginners are especially welcome to this event and the intention is to provide some basic advice on recording, together with help in identifying common plants. By visiting both Shortheath Common and Binswood, we will have an opportunity to see many different plants in a variety of habitats. The main part of Shortheath Common is owned and managed by Hampshire County Council and embraces a wide range of heathland types and associated habitats including wet heath and dry heath, a mire containing Sphagnum mosses, round-leaved sundew and cranberry and the open water at Shortheath Pond. As well as being a Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Common has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive. Binswood Site of Special Scientific Interest is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. Those of you who are Woodland Trust members will find an article on Binswood in the Autumn 2005 edition of 'Broadleaf' magazine. Centuries of management as a wood pasture has resulted in a mosaic of habitats including acid grassland with scattered old oaks and beeches, areas of denser woodland and areas which were coppiced. Please bring a packed lunch. During our lunch break we will hold a brief and informal AGM.

Saturday 20 May 2006, 10.30 am
Greenham Common SSSI and Bowdown Woods
Nature Reserve

Leader: Peter Billingham / Sarah Ball

Although just over the county boundary in West Berkshire, this is a good opportunity to see something out of the ordinary. Greenham and Crookham Common, resurrected from the former US Airforce Base, is now designated as a SSSI. Bowdown Woods, including an old bomb storage depot and Baynes reserve, belongs to BBOWT.

(See detail at:

<http://www.bbowl.org.uk/pages/reserves/leaflets.htm>)

Bring a packed lunch and meet at 10.30 am at the visitor centre car park at SU 499651. This is on the road north of Greenham Common which is best accessed for most people from the roundabout on the A339 just south of Newbury. Turn east at this roundabout and the car park is about 2 miles along the road. Turn south off this road at another roundabout.

Contact Peter Billingham 01264 736359
(kealties@f2s.com) or Sarah Ball 01635 297367
(sarah.ball@virgin.net)

Sunday 11 June 2006, 10 am

Sedge identification training day in the New Forest

Leader: Martin Rand

Meet at Yewtree Bottom car park at SU 253 003

This meeting will continue from the training day in 2005 by introducing further sedges and sedge relatives of heath, acid grassland and bog. Part of the day will be spent in the mire so you will need to bring suitable clothing and footwear. Please bring a packed lunch. Numbers will be limited and **booking is essential**.

To book, please contact Martin Rand on 023 8036 0395 or via e-mail:

vc1recorder@hantsplants.org.uk

In the event of bad weather on the day, please ring Martin on 07957 361015 to confirm whether it is going ahead.

Saturday 17 June 2006, 10.30 am – 4 pm

Eelmoor Marsh SSSI

Meet in car park at Cody Gate entrance to QinetiQ, Farnborough SU 844 543

Leaders: Tony Mundell and Chris Hall

This is a rare chance to visit this superb site, normally inaccessible to the public. It has a very rich heathland and bog flora including two species of Butterwort. Numbers will be limited to 30 people and booking will be essential, first come - first served. To book, please contact Tony Mundell at least 2 weeks prior to the event ie by Saturday 3 June 2006. When booking please let Tony know your full name, whether you wish to bring a camera and the registration of the car that you arrive in. If (after booking) you find that you are unable to come to

this event, please let Tony know. Bring a packed lunch and suitable footwear.

Contact: Tony Mundell, 01252 614516

Wednesday 12 July 2006, 6.30pm

Ashlett Creek/Calshot area

Leader: Clive Chatters

Meet at 6.30pm at the New Forest District Council Car Park at SU480013, which is also the bus stop. This is an informal walk across the extraordinary 'brownfield' site of Tom Tiddlers Land round to the power station and then along the grazed foreshore to the pony grazed Ashlett Green and the Jolly Sailor Pub. You can then choose whether to wander back or enjoy the evening at the inn. The botany is excellent with elements of parched acid grasslands, vegetated shingle, saltmarsh and grazing marshes. This is a little known part of the National Park coast and well worth the long trip down the A326. Contact Clive Chatters on 01489 774422

Sunday 30 July 2006, afternoon only 2pm to 5pm

Micheldever Spoil Heaps nature reserve

Leaders: Michael Edwards and Tony Mundell

Meet in car park at the reserve entrance SU521445.

This site has large numbers of *Teucrium botrys* (Cut-leaved Germander), *Potentilla neumanniana* (Spring Cinquefoil) and *Galeopsis angustifolia* (Red Hemp-nettle) plus several other rarities. In particular, for the planned Hampshire Rare Plant Register, we must try to re-find *Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw), *Cerastium pumilum* (Dwarf Mouse-ear) and *Vulpia unilateralis* (Mat-grass Fescue). Car parking will have to be limited to 10 cars so it will be **necessary to book** (preference will be given to a car full of people!). To book please contact Tony Mundell.

Contact: Tony Mundell on 01252 614516

Sunday 6 August 2006, 10.30am to 4pm

Visit to Magdalen Hill Down

Leader: Tony Mundell

Meet at 10.30am in the car park at SU511294 on the B3404 opposite Winchester Cemetery. On the Butterfly Conservation reserve we will compare the plants on the original chalk downland part of the reserve with the extension converted from arable farmland to downland. After lunch we will look at the extensive new area, known as North Down, that was until recently under arable cultivation. This will offer a range of different habitats and associated flora that promises an interesting day out. Relative beginners to plant identification and recording are especially welcome. If you wish to stay for the afternoon, bring a packed lunch.

Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516

Sunday 10 September 2006, 10.30 am

This date has been changed from 27 August

Testwood Lakes Study Centre

Fern biology and identification for beginners

Leader: Fred Rumsey

Have you ever wanted to know more about ferns and be able to identify the species commonly encountered in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight? If so, come along to Testwood Lakes Study Centre to learn about this fascinating group of plants. Fred Rumsey of the Natural History Museum has kindly offered to lead this beginners' introduction to ferns which will involve a morning indoor session followed by some time out in the field. Please bring a packed lunch and suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. A pen and notebook will be helpful. If you have one, a hand lens might be useful. Testwood Lakes Study Centre is on the edge of Totton. At the roundabout on the Salisbury Road between Ower and Totton (A36), turn into Brunel Road. After entering Brunel Road, look for a small turning on the left after the first block of industrial units. Go on along the track, ignoring the first (public) car park, until the purpose-built Study Centre comes into view above the lake. There is plenty of parking at the Study Centre.

Saturday 30 September 2006

**Vegetative identification of plants in chalk grassland
Leader: John Poland**

Following the very successful vegetative identification training day at Roydon Woods nature reserve on 2 October 2005, John Poland has kindly offered to lead another session, this time concentrating on plants found in chalk grassland habitats. The event will be of interest to botanists of all abilities. Further details will be provided in the autumn 2006 edition of *Flora News*; in the meantime, please put this date in your diary if you are interested in attending.

News and Views

Visit to Quarley (Bradley) Down on 26 June 2005 – a report by Martin Rand

Quarley Down lies in the extreme north-western corner of vice-county 11 (S Hants), on the western continuation of the Broughton scarp as it runs into Salisbury Plain. It is made up of a north-facing scarp of downland and scrub, and an attractive steep-sided E-W bottom lying to its west, the two being separated by a spur of agriculturally improved grassland. The area is not well known to Hampshire botanists, and though the scarp is accessible by public footpath and is now open access land, the bottom has no public access. We are grateful to the owners for permission to visit, and to John Moon for making the arrangements.

We started in the bottom, which is well-managed by grazing and has a fine characteristic chalk grassland flora. Particularly notable were the quantities of the nationally scarce Bastard Toadflax (*Thesium humifusum*). Also good to see was a healthy population of Basil-thyme

(*Clinopodium acinos*), now nationally listed as Vulnerable through decline. It remains plentiful in neighbouring parts of Wiltshire but is scattered and often in small numbers in Hampshire.

Star find of the day, however, was the single bush of Juniper (*Juniperus communis*). Although only 10cm high, its stocky trunk revealed it to be of some age. Sadly, as on most Hampshire sites, there was no evidence of regeneration and we saw no other plants during the day.

There were many other downland species to admire, and those with a penchant for grasses had the opportunity to examine four characteristic Oat-grasses of this habitat (*Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Helictotrichon pratense*, *Helictotrichon pubescens* and *Trisetum flavescens*), and to compare the Small Cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*) with its more widespread relative Timothy (*Phleum pratense*). Orchids included Bee (*Ophrys apifera*) and Pyramidal (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). An interesting feature, especially of the upper margins and north-facing slopes, was the presence of species such as Devils-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), typical of calcareous grasslands of the west and north of the country.

In the afternoon we moved on to the scarp to the east, where the grassland was generally less fine but the presence of scrub made for a more diverse flora. Curiously, it was only here that we were able to find Chalk Milkwort (*Polygala calcarea*) and Felwort (*Gentianella amarella*). The scrub yielded Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*), Ploughman's Spikenard (*Inula conyzae*), and the characteristic Sweetbriar of this part of Hampshire, *Rosa micrantha*.

Altogether the meeting yielded a list of about 150 species of vascular plants, and I would like to thank those who contributed to the total.

Brambles in the New Forest - 2 July 2005 – a note by John Norton

Only a handful of the more intrepid Flora Group members attended this outing, but it was a very interesting and rewarding day out. Our thanks go to David Allen for sharing some of his immense enthusiasm and knowledge. We saw 25 species of the Hampshire *Rubus* flora, which currently stands at about 150 named species and 50 or so unnamed species - more than any other county. The convention amongst batologists (i.e. those who study brambles) is that a species should have a range of at least 50km x 50km or so before it can be named. David's recent article in *Flora News* (Spring 2005) gives a very useful introduction to brambles and an update on changes and additions since the *Flora of Hampshire* was published.

The day started with a overview of bramble morphology and ecology at Brockenhurst railway station (see photo) and we familiarised ourselves with the two commonest species *R. ulmifolius* and the 'Himalayan Giant' alien *R. armeniacus*. Both of these have white-felted undersides to the leaves. We then moved on to an area of scrubby heathland next to Setley Pond, where we also admired the patches of Heath Pearlwort in flower. In the afternoon we briefly stopped off at Ivy Wood, which was not very productive, and finished with a walk around Lodge Heath campsite. The complete species list is given in the table below, which David kindly checked and annotated. Unfortunately, the light was too poor and the note-taking too frantic to be able to get decent photographs of most species. However, Eric Clement and Mike Rowe eagerly collected specimens. My second photo shows one of the more impressive-looking species, *Rubus leightonii*, which has large pink-petalled flowers. Other highlights were *R. sprengelii*, a charismatic pink-flowered heathland species and David's own *R. hantonensis* - which is quite a distinctive low-growing woodland species with narrow, widely spaced white petals.

I should say that contrary to my formerly ignorant view, a lot of Brambles can be easily identified with a little study. It is essential to build up a reference collection of specimens. David identified most species during the day purely on 'jizz' - often by looking at the characteristics of the flowers and leaf shape. Classification into Sections and Series is done on the basis of stem armature - i.e. the presence and form of prickles, acicles, glands and hairs. Brambles of the British Isles (1988) by Edees & Newton is still available on CD from Summerfield Books, but subsequently I found it very difficult to identify anything with certainty using the keys on my own. The atlas of British and Irish Brambles by Newton & Randall (2004) is also widely available from botanical bookshops.

After the New Forest meeting, and while levels of enthusiasm were still high, Debbie Allan, Eric Clement and I invited David Allen and Barry Goater down to have a look at some brambles in Gosport and we were rewarded with a first for Hampshire: *Rubus lanaticaulis*, a western species. Time permitting we hope to do some more Bramble hunting in 2006, so if anyone is particularly keen to come along, please contact me.

(john.norton01@ntlworld.com 02392 520828)



List of Brambles recorded during New Forest Hampshire Flora Group meeting, 2 July 2005

Brockenhurst Station	
SU 3011 0201	<i>R. ulmifolius</i> (1), <i>R. armeniacus</i> (2), <i>R. tuberculatus</i> (3)
Setley Pond	
SZ 3021 9919	<i>R. nemoralis</i> (4)
SZ 3018 9920	<i>R. cissburiensis</i> (5)
SZ 3018 9917	<i>R. 'Hampshire-Surrey monensis</i> H383 (6) (Fl. Hants p.150)
SZ 3019 9915	<i>R. insectifolius</i> (7)
SZ 3018 9912	<i>R. cardiophyllus</i> (8)
SZ 3017 9909	<i>R. leightonii</i> (9)
SZ 3015 9906	<i>R. euryanthemus</i> (10)
SZ 3020 9899	<i>R. flexuosus</i> (11)
SZ 3020 9897	<i>R. 'Hordle' H742</i> (12) (Fl. Hants p.159)
SZ 3022 9891	<i>R. curvispinosus</i> (13)
SZ 3021 9890	<i>R. rubritinctus</i> (14), <i>R. mucronatiformis</i> (15)
SZ 3024 9903	<i>R. polyanthemus</i> (16)
SZ 3029 9909	<i>R. transmarinus</i> (17)
Ivy Wood	
SU 3158 0247	<i>R. longithyriger</i> (18)
SU 3157 0246	<i>R. polyanthemus</i> , <i>R. insectifolius</i>
SU 3157 0246 or near	<i>R. cardiophyllus</i>
Ladycross	
SU 3355 0267	<i>R. polyanthemus</i> , <i>R. cardiophyllus</i> , <i>R. pyramidalis</i> (19)
Lodge Heath	
SU 3354 0263	<i>R. tuberculatus</i> , <i>R. mollissimus</i> (20)
SU 3351 0260	<i>R. sprengelii</i> (21)
SU 3351 0253	<i>R. hantonensis</i> (22), <i>R. leightonii</i> , <i>R. insectifolius</i> , <i>R. nemoralis</i> , <i>R. cardiophyllus</i>
SU 3349 0243	<i>R. armipotens</i> (23)
SU 3361 0229	<i>R. murrayi</i> (24)
SU 3369 0205	<i>R. nemorosus</i> (25), <i>R. polyanthemus</i>

Total: 25 species recorded



Rubus leightonii, photo by John Norton



David Allen, photo by John Norton

Visit to Sydmonton Estate on 24 July 2005 – a report by Tony Mundell

24 July sounds like a promising date for warm weather. Wrong! Certainly the previous few days had been very hot and dry but unfortunately things were about to change. As I arrived at the meeting point near Ladle Hill the rain had already started so I was surprised to see so many cars. It soon transpired that there was a separate group (of geologists I think) meeting there at the same time. They headed towards Watership Down and our group set out towards Ladle Hill.

With the bitterly cold rain beating down on us my enthusiasm waned as I literally became soaked to the skin and felt surprisingly cold. In the poor visibility (glasses don't help much in the rain!) we did manage to find about a dozen spikes of *Orchis ustulata* (Burnt-tip Orchid) on the earthworks, but they were past their best. We also noted a few Frog Orchids and some *Tephrosieris integrifolia* (Field Fleawort) in seed before the retreat was called. We headed quickly back to the shelter of our cars, and noted that the other party had also gone home. Sadly we were not able to explore the woodland below Ladle

Hill or to visit Ridgemoor Farm in the afternoon as planned.

Roses meeting at Porton Down on 11 September 2005 – a report by Tony Mundell

Paul Stanley kindly travelled across from the Isle of Wight to lead a splendid field trip at Porton down specifically for roses. En-route I collected Bill Helyar, but as we were a bit early we stopped at Kentsboro and looked at some arable field edges. Here we were delighted to find *Galeopsis angustifolia* (Red Hemp-nettle) and *Polygonum rurivagum* (Cornfield Knotgrass) – a very good start to the day!

Roses are a rather difficult group and hybrids are frequent, further complicating identification. Expert confirmation of specimens by the BSBI Rosa Referee (Roger Maskew) is always advisable but Paul seems to have mastered them pretty well. After showing us the distinguishing characters for *Rosa micrantha* (Small-flowered Sweet-briar) Paul soon managed to re-find and confirm the nationally rare *Rosa agrestis* (Small-leaved Sweet-briar) that he had found here during our summer visit in 2004. In fact Paul found about a dozen bushes of *R. agrestis* scattered over quite an area of Isle of Wight Hill. He also showed us *R. canina* (Dog Rose) and *R. rubiginosa* (Sweet-briar). However, Paul's main hope was to find a hybrid of *R. agrestis* and here he hit the jackpot with *R. agrestis x canina*, *R. agrestis x micrantha* and *R. micrantha x agrestis*. (Note that these last two are different. In roses the female parent is given first and the direction of the cross matters as it leads to different results). Roger Maskew has duly confirmed specimens of these.

We found that the *Salvia pratensis* (Meadow Clary) has spread to an outlier colony well separated from the well-known site. After some searching we managed to find a few plants of *Galium pumilum* (Slender Bedstraw) so that John Poland could study its vegetative characters for his key. We took a different route back and came across a group of c.40 Frog Orchids. We finished a very successful day by looking at the colony of *Iberis amara* (Wild Candytuft) on the Wiltshire part of the site.

Vegetative identification training day at Roydon Woods on 2 October 2005 – a note by Phil Budd

Twenty two members of the Hampshire Flora Group and Southampton Natural History Society joined John Poland to learn about the identification of vascular flora by vegetative means. Before the meeting started, Tony Mundell brought along a selection of plants (not in flower!) grown from seed, including Spreading Bellflower *Campanula patula* and Deptford Pink *Dianthus armeria*. John explained about the distinctive vegetative characters of each. Only a small area of the 1,000 acre Roydon Woods H&IWWT reserve was covered but this included Roydon Common, an area of maximum habitat and flora diversity. Habitats covered included improved grassland around the car park, deciduous

and coniferous woodland, dry and humid heathland plus the damp and mildly alkaline grasslands of the Headon Beds in the east of the common.

This site, which has been much improved by the recent clearance of Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, was found to be particularly rich in grasses, rushes and sedges and at this time of year most of the seeds had dropped so cheating was difficult! We were able to separate *Carex remota*, *Carex panacea* and *Carex binervis* for example. The presence of the former along with Bugle *Ajuga reptans* and Primrose *Primula vulgaris* provided proof of recent woodland cover on some of the site. However also present were characteristic valley mire species such as Pale Butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica*.

We also compared the acid flora in the west of the common with that of the more basic conditions further east. At the latter such species as Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*, Bitter Vetch *Lathyrus linifolius*, Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and Saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria* were quickly found. We also looked at the trees, shrubs and climbing plants along the track entering the reserve from the west including species not generally common in the New Forest area such as Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*. Back at the car park a few plants of Wall Pennywort *Umbilicus rupestris* were found growing under a Monterey Pine *Pinus radiata*.

After the main excursion had ended a few members of the group went on to check out the Least Bur-reed *Sparganium natans* at Crockford Bridge and the Bog Hair Grass *Deschampsia setacea* at Ipley. The latter proved to be abundant with many hundreds of plants over a large area, growing alongside *Agrostis canina*.

Thanks are due to the reserve warden, Mike Boxall, for his help in arranging the visit

Waxcap Foray on 13 November 2005 – a report by Neil Sanderson

Introduction

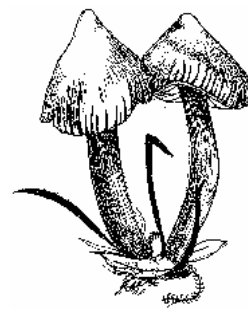
In a first for the Flora Group, John Norton and Neil Sanderson organised a foray to look for grassland fungi on 13 November. Neither of us are mycologists, and the meeting was intended to be a relaxed introduction to the pretty and attractive species such as waxcaps, earth club and fairy clubs. Rich assemblages of these species are characteristic of unimproved grasslands and interest in these species as indicators of high quality habitat has increased as good identification guides have become available. A total of 15 people turned out on a sunny day for a meeting arranged at short notice, once it was clear the waxcap season was underway. Ironically during the previous night, the first significant frost of the season had

struck, a sure signal of the end of the waxcap season. Fortunately, the fruit bodies were still identifiable, even if they were subsequently to collapse over the next few days.

Fletchwood Meadows

We first visited the Hampshire Wildlife Trust reserve at Fletchwood Meadows. This involved a 1km walk through the private woodland of Fletchwood Copse where the beautiful blue mushroom *Stropharia aeruginosa* was seen on the way in and the curious earth star *Geastrum fimbriatum* on the way out. The reserve, itself is a species rich acidic unimproved grassland created in the late 19th century by the clearance and grazing of ancient woodland. For more than a decade the Trust has winter grazed the site. This has resulted in what were once grazed down sprigs of heather, within a short *Danthonia decumbens* dominated sward, growing up to produce a patchwork of dense and tall heather with patches of species rich grassland surviving between. Rabbit grazing appears to have conserved patches of short sward grassland suitable for grassland fungi, otherwise the winter only grazing could have destroyed the grassland fungi assemblage.

Neil Sanderson had visited this site on the 5 November 2004, when it produced 10 species of waxcaps and one fairy club. The waxcaps included hundreds of fruiting bodies of the striking unimproved grassland specialist *Hygrocybe punicea* and a little of the uncommon *Hygrocybe flavipes*. In 2005 the numbers of fruiting bodies did not appear to be as numerous, but again a good number of species were recorded with 12 waxcaps and 1 fairy club, including some species not seen in 2004. There was good selection of small yellow and orange species such as *Hygrocybe chlorophana*, *H. glutinipes*, *H. insipida*, *H. laeta* and *H. reidii*. This allowed the demonstration of the characters used to distinguish waxcaps, including cap and stipe colours, the shapes of the gills, the feel of the cap surface and stipe and even smells. As well as the smaller species, *Hygrocybe punicea* had reappeared in small quantity, along with the bright red *Hygrocybe coccinea* and a few caps of the uncommon *Hygrocybe splendissima*. This is similar to *Hygrocybe punicea* but smells of honey and has a more compressed and twisted stipe. *Hygrocybe flavipes* was not refound, but a total of 15 waxcaps and 1 fairy club have now been recorded, and this reserve appears to be a significant site for grassland fungi.



Fletchwood Meadows Species List

<u>Waxcaps</u>	<u>Year</u>
<i>Hygrocybe chlorophana</i>	4 5
<i>Hygrocybe coccinea</i>	4 5
<i>Hygrocybe glutinipes glutinipes</i>	5
<i>Hygrocybe flavipes</i>	4
<i>Hygrocybe insipida</i>	5
<i>Hygrocybe irrigata</i>	4
<i>Hygrocybe laeta leata</i>	4 5
<i>Hygrocybe persistens persistens</i>	5
<i>Hygrocybe pratensis pratensis</i>	4 5
<i>Hygrocybe psittacina psittacina</i>	4 5
<i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>	4 5
<i>Hygrocybe reidii</i>	4 5
<i>Hygrocybe russocoriacea</i>	5
<i>Hygrocybe splendidissima</i>	5
<i>Hygrocybe virginea virginea</i>	4
 <u>Fairy Clubs</u>	
<i>Clavulinopsis helvola</i>	4 5

Appleslade and Digden Bottoms

In the afternoon I wanted to explore an area I had not seen before and decided to look at the area between Appleslade and Digden Bottoms (SU184 093 to SU175 089) on the open Forest, after reports of waxcaps in this area. This part of the Forest proved to have well drained sandy soils with heathy acid grasslands. Appleslade Bottom on Forestry Commission land had extensive fungi rich grassland. In Didben and Rodens Bottoms to the west, on National Trust land, the interest was more restricted to the road verges. Overall 12 waxcaps, 5 earth clubs and 5 fairy clubs were recorded, a good total for one visit. Compared to the damper Fletchwood Meadows, earth clubs and fairy clubs were frequent and diverse, something that seems typical of the more sandy sites in the New Forest.

The waxcaps included magnificent colonies of the uncommon *Hygrocybe splendidissima* at Appleslade Bottom along with a patch at Rodens Bottom to the west. *Hygrocybe splendidissima* appears to be a characteristic species of heathy grassland in the New Forest and some usually common species such as *Hygrocybe chlorophana* were, in contrast, restricted to the more nutrient enriched road verges. The diversity of earth clubs was exceptional, the highest total I have recorded in the Forest. The genus *Geoglossum*, however, does require microscopic examination to confirm identifications and the IDs were not all made in the field. In particular *Geoglossum cookeianum* can be confused with *Geoglossum umbratile* (present in the New Forest but not

seen on the foray) and *Geoglossum fallax* (can be determined in the field by the regular tufts of hair on the stem). An identification guide is available online at <http://fungus.org.uk/nwfg/irene.htm> with pictures of the microscopic features at <http://www.bioimages.org.uk/>. More readily identifiable in the field is the rare BAP species *Microglossum olivaceum*. This was found to be abundant across the grassland at Appleslade Bottom, including a patch 7m across; easily the biggest colony I have seen. The speculative visit to this area certainly paid off, as well as proving a very pleasant walk back across the heathland as the light faded.

Appleslade and Digden Bottoms Species List

Waxcaps

<i>Hygrocybe cantharellus</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Hygrocybe ceracea</i>		Digden
<i>Hygrocybe chlorophana</i>		Digden
<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Hygrocybe glutinipes glutinipes</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Hygrocybe insipida</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Hygrocybe laeta leata</i>	Appleslade	Digden
<i>Hygrocybe psittacina psittacina</i>		Digden
<i>Hygrocybe reidii</i>	Appleslade	Digden
<i>Hygrocybe russocoriacea</i>	Appleslade	Digden
<i>Hygrocybe splendidissima</i>	Appleslade	Digden
<i>Hygrocybe virginea virginea</i>	Appleslade	Digden

Earth Clubs

<i>Geoglossum cookeianum</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Geoglossum fallax</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Geoglossum glutinosum</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Microglossum olivaceum</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Trichoglossum hirsutum</i>		Digden

Fairy Clubs

<i>Clavaria argillacea</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Clavaria vermicularis</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Clavulinopsis corniculata</i>		Digden
<i>Clavulinopsis helvola</i>	Appleslade	
<i>Clavulinopsis luteo-alba</i>	Appleslade	

Important Arable Plant Areas: identifying key arable plant sites for conservation – a note by Andy Byfield

Cornfield flowers represent one of the most colourful and culturally significant elements of the British landscape yet remain the single most threatened element of our flora. Seven species are now extinct in the arable landscape,

whilst no fewer than 54 species are considered threatened at the present time. Furthermore, *The New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* (2002) indicated that 23 of the 30 fastest declining native/archaeophyte plant species in Britain are species of arable habitats. Yet in spite of being the most critically threatened group of plants in Britain today, they have received very little attention from nature conservationists over the past few decades.

For the first time, conservationists have the opportunity to influence the conservation of arable plants in a major way on the ground. Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy has witnessed a change from the previous system of multiple production subsidies, to the introduction of a single payment in 2005, supplemented by Entry Level and Higher Level agri-environment payments for stewardship of the landscape and biodiversity. Specific stewardship options target the arable environment, and will hopefully go a long way towards meeting targets for conserving species-rich arable plant communities. Thus, the two most significant targets for arable plant conservation being reviewed by Defra at the present time would be to:

- o expand the area of cultivated, unsprayed field margins (from 8,859 ha in 2005 to 16,000 ha by 2010); and
- o achieve favourable condition on an increasing proportion of the resource of cultivated, unsprayed margins, to 50% by 2010 and 75% by 2015.

As Lead Partner for 10 of the 11 priority arable plant species within the UK Government Biodiversity Action Plan, Plantlife International has coordinated action to save these species with generous funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and English Nature. Rather than develop individual conservation action plans for each of the rarest species, Plantlife, with the backing of the Arable Plants BAP Steering Group, has spearheaded a programme to identify key arable sites – Important Arable Plant Areas (IAPAs) - and target conservation action towards these sites.

A key element of this work is to survey and assess sites of particular importance for their arable plants, and to this end Plantlife has developed criteria for selecting Important Arable Plant Areas, under the expert tutelage of arable plant guru Phil Wilson. The recently published criteria allow the selection of sites based on either the existence of one or more threatened species, or on account of an exceptional assemblage. Within these two categories, sites of county, national and international importance can be identified. Thus, for the first time, we have a mechanism to assess the value of individual sites, and to compare with others in the county and beyond.

To date, a preliminary survey has identified 105 key arable plant sites of national or European importance across Britain, of which about 10 lie within Hampshire and a further two on the Isle of Wight. Key sites in Hampshire include fields near Longparish, of European importance for their exceptional flora of chalk arable; the fields near Augurs Hill Copse noteworthy for Ground Pine (*Ajuga chamaepitys*) and Cut-leaved Germander (*Teucrium botrys*); and Cridmore area on the Isle of Wight, with its displays of Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) and Lesser Quaking-grass (*Briza minor*).

In November 2005, Plantlife launched a new arable plants project, and welcomed Kate Still as its new Arable Plants Officer. In conjunction with local FWAG officers, a principle aim of the programme for the future is to secure the conservation of many of these key sites, and indeed Hampshire is one of five counties where Kate will work with FWAG and others to actively encourage farmers to enter good sites into appropriate stewardship schemes.

Whilst 105 sites have been identified to date, we are keen that botanists make a point of identifying new sites – or reassessing old sites – so that we get a better understanding of where our most important areas are for this neglected group of plants.

Important Arable Plant Areas: identifying priority sites for arable plant conservation in the United Kingdom (by Andy Byfield and Phil Wilson) is available from Plantlife International, 14 Rolleston Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 1DX. For further information about the Arable Plant Project contact Kate Still on 01722 342741 or at kate.still@plantlife.org.uk.

Potentially Important Arable Plant Areas? The Case for Long-term Wide Area Monitoring – a note by Martin Rand

Arable plants are amongst the most threatened groups of plants in Britain, and in trying to preserve populations in the wild it certainly makes sense to identify 'hot spots' that have particularly good assemblages of species. One problem with concentrating only on these hot spots is that other areas with potential may be ignored. Modern arable farming being what it is, the rarer and more interesting species often appear in very small numbers, sporadically and not in the same place each year.

And yet they do continue to appear. One lesson of the BSBI 'Local Change' recording is that even areas reviled as arable desert, such as south of Easton, continue to hold populations of plants like Venus' Looking-glass and several species of Poppy and Fumitory, albeit flowering at very low levels.

To illustrate this, I have compiled records from an area of about 20 square kilometres on the chalk to the west of Broughton, south of the A30. This takes in large parts of Broughton and Buckholt parishes, and the edges of Nether Wallop and West Tytherley. The species listed are those in Appendix II of Plantlife's 'Important Arable Plant Areas' document, omitting the lowest category of concern. 'National' and 'Local' concern reflect the scorings in that document, with nationally threatened plants shown in bold.

The points I take from this are:

- One can only assess the arable plant populations in such an area by repeated and widespread coverage. From my own knowledge of the area I don't believe that any particular farm, let alone field, would score well on anyone's method of assessment – certainly not if taken only over a few years. Admittedly most of these records come from four recorders, with Roger Veall and John Moon pre-eminent, and they will not have covered all the ground every year. Yet it is striking, in looking at the detailed record, how often the species were not recorded in the same spot in different years, even within the same 1km square. This reflects the largely opportune appearance of plants, exploiting the odd edge neglected during a single year, the occasional crop such as peas with a less draconian herbicide regime, or the laying of a pipeline or cable.
- Nevertheless, persistence pays off! – Evident from the large number of records from 1987 and 1988 when the area was being worked for the Flora of Hampshire.

And the moral is perhaps that alongside the centres of weedy excellence, each covering a few exceptional fields or farms, there is a place for an initiative to encourage patchy de-intensification over a wider area, allowing an existing seed bank to be exploited and maintained. This is recognised in Plantlife's strategy, which embraces wide areas with good potential within its Important Arable Plant Area framework. It is clearly a more difficult project to manage, but it is at least a feasible strategy under the new DEFRA grant schemes. Flora Group members could play a very useful role in recording the appearance of the key species on their 'patch'.

See page 10 for Broughton/Buckholt Arable plant records.

Sea bindweed *Calystegia soldanella* at Hurst Shingle Spit – a note by Elizabeth Young

What is the lifespan of this plant? Hurst shingle spit extends for 2 ½ km from Milford-on-Sea to Hurst Castle. Its botanical interest is dependent on the severity of major storms, when the waves explode over the top and the shingle is drawn down the steep sides: repair work aims to claw that shingle upwards and backwards to maintain the width of the top of the spit but, at the same time, plants are uprooted and/or covered with shingle.

Horned poppy *Glaucium flavum*, sea campion *Silene uniflora*, sea beet *Beta vulgaris* ssp *maritima* and other tough maritime plants come back in due course. Does sea bindweed *Calystegia soldanella* compete as well? The late Paul Bowman found a large plant in 1996 on the north-east side of the spit at c. SZ 307 900 but his notes cast doubt as to whether it would survive the forthcoming £5,000,000 reconstruction work due to start in 1997.

In September 2005 I saw a large 1x1 metre plant of *C. soldanella* sitting comfortably on a shingle ledge at SZ 3059 9023 which is remarkably close to Paul's grid reference. The nearest plants are to be seen at Hengistbury Head, Lepe and Hayling Island. Bearing in mind the indestructible nature of *C. sepium* in our gardens I see no reason why Paul's *C. soldanella* should not have persisted below the shingle and risen when conditions were favourable.

Have Flora Group members any further thoughts on this and has the plant been seen between 1996 and 2005?
Elizabeth Young

PS: 3 October 2005 : Another severe storm. More shingle flung over the *Calystegia* area and more machinery to drag it back. No plants to be seen on the sides of the spit now. Let us hope that the common plants as well as *C. soldanella* will reappear in due course.



BROUGHTON / BUCKHOLT ARABLE PLANT RECORDS

Species		Concern	1km squares	Dates
Adonis annua	Pheasant's-eye	National	SU2933	1972, 1981
			SU3033	1968
Agrostemma githago	Corncockle	National	SU33B	1931
Anthemis cotula	Stinking Chamomile	National	SU2630	1987
			SU2632	1987
			SU2634	1987, 1988, 1996
			SU2734	2004
			SU2830	1987
			SU2834	1987, 1988, 2004
			SU2934	2003
			SU3030	1997
			SU3032	1999
			SU3034	1996, 1999
			SU3131	1997, 2005
			SU3133	2004
			SU3233	1997
			SU3234	1999
Euphorbia exigua	Dwarf Spurge	National	SU2632	1987
			SU2634	1988, 2005
			SU2734	2004
			SU2830	1987
			SU2832	1988
			SU2834	1988
			SU2932	2004
			SU2934	2003
			SU3032	1999
			SU3034	1999
Fumaria densiflora	Dense Flowered Fumitory	Local	SU2630	1987
			SU2632	1987
			SU2633	1987
			SU2634	1988
			SU2732	1987
			SU2734	1987
			SU2830	1988
			SU2832	1990
			SU2834	1987, 1988
			SU2932	1987, 2000
			SU2934	1987
			SU3131	2002
Fumaria parviflora	Fine-leaved Fumitory	National	SU2632	1987
			SU2733	1987
			SU2832	1987, 2000, 2003
Fumaria vaillantii	Few-flowered Fumitory	National	SU2832	2004

Galeopsis angustifolia	Red Hemp-nettle	National	SU2632	1964
			SU2831	1987
Geranium columbinum	Long-stalked Crane's-bill	Local	SU2630	1987
			SU2632	1987
			SU2634	1987
			SU2731	1987
			SU2733	1987
			SU2834	1987
			SU2932	1985, 2004
			SU2933	2003
			SU2934	2003
			SU3131	1997
Kickxia elatine	Sharp-leaved Fluellen	Local	SU2632	1987
			SU2731	2001
			SU2733	2003
			SU2734	2004
			SU2830	1987
			SU2834	1987, 1988, 2004
			SU2934	2003
Kickxia spuria	Round-leaved Fluellen	Local	SU2632	1987
			SU2731	2002
			SU2733	1987, 2003
			SU2830	1987
			SU2834	1988
			SU2933	2003
			SU2934	1987
Legousia hybrida	Venus's-looking-glass	Local	SU2630	1987
			SU2632	1987
			SU2634	1987, 1988
			SU2733	1987
			SU2734	1987
			SU2834	1987
			SU2931	2000
			SU2932	2000, 2003, 2004
			SU3032	1997
Lithospermum arvense	Corn Gromwell	National	SU2631	1956
			SU2832	1967, 1987, 1990, 2004
			SU2834	1988
			SU2932	2004
Papaver argemone	Prickly Poppy	National	SU2634	1987, 1988
			SU2734	1987
			SU2830	1988
			SU2832	1987
			SU2931	1988
			SU2932	2004
Papaver hybridum	Rough Poppy	Local	SU2632	1987
			SU2633	1987, 2001

			SU2634	1987
			SU2734	1987, 2004
			SU2830	1988
			SU2832	1989, 2000
			SU2834	1988, 2004
			SU3132	2001
Petroselinum segetum	Corn Parsley	Local	SU2731	2000, 2002
			SU2934	2002
Polygonum rurivagum	Cornfield Knotgrass	Local	SU2632	1987
			SU2834	1988
Silene noctiflora	Night-flowering Catchfly	National	SU2734	2004
			SU2834	2004
Sinapis alba	White Mustard	Local	SU2632	1987
			SU2634	1987, 1988
			SU2734	2004
			SU2834	1988, 2004
			SU3131	2002
Stachys arvensis	Field Woundwort	National	SU2733	2003
			SU2830	1988, 2001
Valerianella dentata	Narrow-fruited Cornsalad	National	SU2731	2000
			SU2932	1987, 2004
			SU2934	1988

Small Fleabane – a note by Clive Chatters

In 1990 the fledgling flora group of the Wildlife Trust undertook a census of Small Fleabane *Pulicaria vulgaris*. The 1990 census looked at all populations in Britain of this Red Data Book wildflower of hard grazed village greens. The majority of the populations were in and around vice county South Hampshire with a single population in North Hampshire and one in Surrey.

Since 1990 we have repeated the census on a number of occasions, the most recent being the Flora Group event of 21 August 2005. We met up near the Newbridge cattle grid on the National Trust's Bramshaw Commons in the New Forest. This is a place where 20 years ago the plant could be counted in its tens of thousands. In the 1980s the Common was a short cut for a haulage firm leaving the Common abused, rutted, muddy and ideal for Small Fleabane. The plant persists here in more modest populations. From an historic peak at this site in 1985 of about 100,000 plants in 2005 Tony Mundell recorded about 1,200 plants.

The historic population explosion near Newbridge 20 years ago was not unique. Due to heavy supplementary feeding of livestock in winter on another part of the National Trust Commons in 2004-5 a Small Fleabane population estimated at half a million plants was discovered by Andy Byfield. This is probably the largest single population of the plant ever

recorded in Britain. As with the Newbridge population this seems to be the plant exploiting what is otherwise an abuse of the common and of all the other species and interests that would otherwise be found there.

The other South Hampshire populations were visited. The Brockenhurst South Wiers population has dwindled to nothing. It appears that with Commoners no longer turning out from this increasingly smart and fashionable part of the Forest, the scuffing wear and tear so liked by Small Fleabane no longer occurs. Hard grazing by ponies alone seems insufficient for the plant to thrive. Elsewhere around the Forest and the Avon Valley the plant was doing well, some populations larger, some smaller but all present. Sadly the same cannot be said of the Surrey and the North Hampshire populations. Both were absent this year, and both sites were no longer being grazed. As both are in SSSIs and both have sympathetic owners and managers the populations may be recovered. The plant is now wholly confined in Britain to Watsonian vice county South Hampshire.

For those who like numbers, the provisional estimated population of Small Fleabane in Britain in 2005 is 525238 plants of which the vast majority were within the New Forest SSSI and an outlier in the Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) SSSI. There were many interesting colonies in fields and yards outside the New Forest SSSI. This year's population may be compared to the c 28,000 plants in 1995.

The majority of the difference over the last 10 years being the single new site.

A full report of the survey and a discussion of the trends since 1990 will be written up and published.

Many thanks to everyone who enjoyed the day and special thanks to those who filled in the gaps in Surrey, north Hampshire and the Avon Valley.

LIFE 3 at Stony Moors – a note by Neil Sanderson

Stony Moors is a large calcareous spring line fen in the far south west of the New Forest (SZ21 99). It supports a short rich fen vegetation of a type more typical of upland flushes (NVC M10ai) with much *Schoenus nigricans* and one of the few lowland sites for the liverwort *Preissia quadrata*. Although on the open Forest and it has remained grazed, unlike so many other similar fens in the lowlands, its condition had still deteriorated. There have been two, potentially related problems: the drainage ditch dug to the boundary of the adjacent 1811 Holmsley Inclosure has propagated up stream carving a deep channel through the base of the mire. In addition in the north of the mire, the area most affected by the deepened channel, scrub dominated by Sallow with some Pine had spread widely across mire surface. The channel probably started deepening shortly after 1811, producing a sinuous natural channel, but the channel was dug out and deepened in the 20th century in the north section of the mire. Fortuitously the spoil bank was dumped along the base of the mire and, a result, acted as a dam conserving the mire here. In addition the head of the extending deepened channel (the nick point) was still extending up the main stream and its tributaries. As a result at several points channels were cutting directly into the last area of mire not invaded by sallow.

In the winters of 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 the Flora Group made a start on the restoration of this area by cutting a small area of Sallow. This was reported in the Flora Group Newsletter in 2000. The area cleared in the winter 1998/1999 was already well on the way to recovery. Since then our cleared area has remained clear, with pony and deer browsing killing the Sallow re-growth.

Recently Forest Enterprise took up the challenge of restoring this mire. Under the European Union-funded LIFE 3 project Forest Enterprise drew up a restoration plan and in 2004 and 2005 carried out all of the planned work. The scale of this is remarkable: clearance that would have taken the Flora Group decades, and most conservation organisations years, was carried out in one working season. All the recent scrub has been cleared, leaving extensive areas of regenerating open rich fen set with scattered dry islands supporting retained ancient woodland with old Oak and Yew trees over wild type Columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris* and Primrose *Primula vulgaris*. In addition, the over deepened channel was completely infilled at the upstream end and in the lower

section the bed was raised by installing debris dams and washing gravel down stream.

The huge area of cleared mire is, like our cleared areas in the first year, not showing much recovery yet, but the evidence from 2000 indicates that next year should be exciting. I was able, just, to relocate our cleared area and here the recovery of the mire vegetation has continued. I had already seen Marsh Arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris* appear in 2001 but the exciting additions of 2005 were the appearance of the highly sensitive fen brown mosses *Scorpidium scorpioides* and *Palustriella falcata* (was *Cratoneuron commutatum* var. *falcata*). All that remains is for *Schoenus nigricans* to expand back into the areas formerly colonised by Sallows.

This remarkable bit of restoration is a brilliant example of what can be done with resources and a will to get things done; well done Forest Enterprise. Now has any one got a few tens of thousands of pounds to restore Browndown Fen?

Tick Bites and Lyme Disease

Flora Group committee members felt it would be useful for a note to be included in this newsletter to remind people to take care if they are visiting an area which supports ticks.

What are ticks?

Ticks are small, blood-sucking mites. Normally they live on blood from wild animals such as deer but they may attach themselves to humans walking through grass, rough vegetation, bracken or heathland. When they have gorged themselves on blood for up to 4 or 5 days they drop off again. Most tick bites are harmless but Lyme disease can result if you are bitten by a tick which carries the bacterium.

What is Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is an illness caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* which lives in the guts of some ticks. These bacteria can be passed to humans if an infected tick bites them.

What are the symptoms of Lyme disease?

Symptoms normally start between a week and a month after being bitten. The first sign is often a red blotch around the site of the bite. This rash can spread to form a large circle up to 50cm across. Flu-like symptoms may occur either before the skin rash or about the same time. Headache and chills, tiredness and joint aches may last several weeks without treatment. Fever is more common in children. More serious complications sometimes develop weeks or months after the bite. The most common long-term problems can include tingling in the hands and feet and Bell's Palsy (paralysis of the facial muscles). Lyme Disease can affect the skin and it may also cause serious illness of the nervous system, joints and heart.

What can I do to help avoid being bitten by a tick?

When visiting the countryside keep your skin covered. Wear trousers not shorts or a skirt and tuck your trouser bottoms into your socks. Wear a long-sleeved shirt with the sleeves rolled down and the cuffs fastened. Tuck your shirt into your trousers. Wear shoes not open sandals. Light coloured clothes will help you spot ticks so you can brush them off.

Examine your clothing and exposed skin for ticks regularly. At the end of the day completely check your body for ticks. Ask a friend to check parts of your body that you can't see easily yourself.

What if I am bitten?

Remove the tick as soon as possible by grasping it close to the skin with a pair of tweezers. Apply gentle pressure, twist and pull upwards. Pull slowly and consistently until it lets go. Do not squeeze the body of the tick or attempt to remove the tick through burning or chemicals. A drop of methylated spirit, alcohol, TCP or nail varnish remover may encourage the tick to release its grasp. If the tick is accidentally pulled apart and the head remains in your skin, there may be a risk of infection from other microscopic organisms. This kind of infection is not related to Lyme Disease but can still be unpleasant. Consult a doctor if infection occurs. Save the tick in a sealed container in case you develop symptoms later.

Should I see my doctor?

The disease might show itself as an expanding reddish, round rash in the area of the bite. Usually this will occur within 3 to 30 days after a bite. Early symptoms may resemble flu, with swollen glands near the site, mild headaches, aching muscles and joints and tiredness. If you develop any of these symptoms and you suspect that a tick has bitten you, see your doctor straight away. Short-term symptoms of Lyme disease are treatable with antibiotics and may prevent or lessen the seriousness of any long-term complications. The earlier it is diagnosed, the better.

New and Interesting Lichens and Associated Fungi from Hampshire - December 2005 – a note by Neil Sanderson

No confirmed new species for Britain this year (but I have my fingers crossed on one specimen, see Hurstbourne Park) from Hampshire, but there was still a good haul of rare and new species for the county.

Hurstbourne Park

This year, my commercial activities as an ecological consultant, lead to an opportunity to carry out a lichen survey of Hurstbourne Park, Whitchurch (SU44 47), due to a planning application on the edge off the park (3 & 14/10/03). The park has its origins as a medieval deer park and contains many huge old Oaks. It was visited by lichenologists in the 1970s and 1980s, with Francis Rose

producing several important records. The site has been affected by air pollution in the past and lacks the large leafy species, such as *Lobaria* species that probably once occurred, but still has an exceptionally rich lichen flora. It has emerged as the richest site for rare epiphytic lichens of veteran trees in the county outside the New Forest.

Potentially the most exciting record, but not yet confirmed, is the beautiful and distinctive *Lecanora sinuosa* van Herk & Aptroot. Previously this species has only been recorded from a limited area of northern Netherlands and the adjacent area of Germany. There it occurs on well lit, mature to old Oaks in locations rich in lichen species. If confirmed as this species, it is new to Britain, and is probably a species of high nature conservation value. It was found on two old Sycamore trees. It has distinctive thick sinuous thalline margins to the fruit with the thallus consisting of raised warts similar in form to the thalline margins. It seems very likely to be this species, but final confirmation is awaited.

Beyond this species two especially exciting records were *Bacidia incompta* and *Caloplaca lucifuga*.

Bacidia incompta: (VU: NS, Priority BAP sp) was a widespread crust forming lichen on old Elms, occasionally found on other species, in wound tracks and inside hollow trees. It grew on both field and wayside trees as well as within old growth woodlands. Beyond the Isles of Scilly, where Dutch Elm disease has not arrived, it is now extinct on Elm. It has only frequently recorded on Beech and Holly within the New Forest in recent decades (with 7 new sites found in 2005 alone). The largest surviving population outside the New Forest and the Isles of Scilly is in Melbury Park, Dorset, in England. This species had been recorded in the Hurstbourne Park on Elms in 1971 but was not refound in 1985, when all the Elms had died. In a major discovery this year *Bacidia incompta* was found fertile on wound tracks on one Field Maple and one Horse Chestnut as well as inside a hollow Field Maple. In addition a sterile thallus was seen inside another hollow Maple. This appears to be the second largest known English population outside the New Forest and the Isles of Scilly.

Caloplaca lucifuga: (VU: NR) This crust forming species has its headquarters in eastern Wales with a few records from eastern Scotland a single record from Devon. In Britain it is a southern sub-oceanic species that has probably lost the original core of its distribution in eastern England due to air pollution. It is confined to mesic bark on well lit old Oaks. In 2005 it was found on a single sheltered post mature Oak in the centre east of the Hurstbourne Park. This is the first record for southern England and an important find. In the Hurstbourne Park it is part of a rich assemblage of southern sub-oceanic species including *Caloplaca herbidella* (VU: NR), *Lecanora horiza* (NT: NS) (new VC record 2005), *Lecanora quercicola* (NT: NS) and *Lecanora sublivescens* (NT: NS).

Also new to North Hampshire from Hurstbourne Park in 2005

were: *Catillaria nigroclavata* (NS) on White Poplar, *Chaenothecopsis nigra* (NS) and *Microcalicium ahlneri* (NS) on exposed lignum on ancient Oaks and *Lecidea doliiformis* (NS) on acid bark on old Oaks and a Cedar.

New Forest

Again the New Forest woods continue to produce lots of good records. The best include:

Arthonia zwackhii. (NT: NR) a welcome rediscovery of a species collected from the New Forest in the 19th C but not seen since. It was discovered on an ancient Beech Pound Hill, Mark Ash Wood (SU24-07-) by N A Sanderson, B Edwards & others 2/1/05. Here the *Arthonia* was clearly parasitic on the common *Phlyctis argena*, confirming recent observations by Sanderson & Edwards that this species starts off life as a parasitic fungi. Curious, although the host is common and widespread, *Arthonia zwackhii* is a rare species confined to veteran trees.

Bacidia circumspecta. (VU: NS) a mainly upland Elm species, now very rare, which was recorded from Beech in the 1970s in two sites in the New Forest but not seen recently. It was rediscovered by N A Sanderson & A M Cross in a rain track on old Beech at Pound Hill, Mark Ash Wood (SU24-07-), 12/3/2005.

Buellia hyperbolica. (VU: NR) a recently described species of acidic bark on veteran trees with a Mediterranean – Atlantic distribution, being recorded from mountain woods in southern Europe. It was recorded from an acidic ancient Oak in open Oak – Birch pasture woodland, Rowbarrow (SU35-04-), 13/5/2005, by N A Sanderson & A M Cross. The first record for Hampshire and the New Forest, and a very welcome one, as it had already be recorded from Windsor Forest, and we can not have Windsor having any rare lichen not found in the New Forest!

Protoparmelia oleagina. (NS) forms brown crusts on large bulks of fallen timber and old Oak rails on post and rail fencing. It has a very disjunct distribution, occurring on fallen Pine in native pinewoods in the eastern Highlands and as very scattered records in central and eastern England, mainly on rails. Although Sussex is a strong hold in southern England, it had previously not been recoded from Hampshire. On 18/12/05 I found it on the hulk of a long fallen giant veteran Oak in an unimproved grassland in the former forest lodge grounds at Whitley Ridge (SU31-03-).

Rest of Hampshire

Other records of interest include:

Polyblastia agraria. (NS) a tiny species of open habitats on damp soil, so far found in coastal and metal mine spoil heap habitats from Wales and East Anglia northwards. It was collected from mildly saline soil on a bank above saline lagoon within a grazing marsh, Verner Common, Hayling Island (SU73-01-), 25/8/2005, by N A Sanderson & A M Cross; the first record for southern England.

The partially colonised banks of a working sand pit at Frithend Quarry, Kingsley, (SU81-39-) supported the NS *Peltigera neckeri* and *Cladonia cariosa* (the first record of the norstistic acid containing form from N Hants) along with the Hampshire notable *Cladonia scrobiculata*, N A Sanderson, 7/7/05.

Finally on 24/4/04 I had a trip around the Wild Grounds (SU58-01-) with John Norton and Debbie but had not got round to writing up the data last year. This relict pasture woodland with many ancient Oaks, was visited by Francis Rose in 1988. At that time it had been badly affected by acidifying pollution and he found little of interest. Remarkably, although little of interest had survived on the damper sides of the trees, the dry sides of the old trees had managed to hang on to some rare species and with improving conditions these had recovered. Most widespread was the *Lecanactis subabietina* (IR) that had clearly spread widely in the last 15 years. Also present was *Cresponea premnea* (IR) and most significantly, the extremely southern veteran Oak specialist *Opegrapha prosodea* (NT: NS, IR) on one Oak.

VU = Vulnerable

NT = Near Threatened

NR = Nationally Rare

NS = Nationally Scarce

IR = International Responsibility species

BAP = Biodiversity Action Plan

VC 11 records compiled by Martin Rand

I have had a superabundance of records this year – keep them coming! But it means that I haven't yet got everything entered up. Although I have 'cherry picked' for especially interesting ones, there is a good chance I will have missed a few, so please be understanding if your prize record of the year didn't make it to this issue. The New Forest Study Group has done some sterling work this year on recording populations of *Gentianella campestris* (Field Gentian, for which the New Forest may now be the best lowland British site) and *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Bellflower); but computer-generated evil has prevented records making their way to me in time for this issue.

I have also had to omit some more good records from 2004 for reasons of space. When time permits, I hope to make all the most significant finds for the last couple of years available on the Hants Plants web site (<http://hantsplants.org.uk>).

The most significant finds of native and archaeophyte plants are picked out with a ☼, except where all records given are likely to prove casual or deliberate introductions.

Abbreviations: AEB = Alison Bolton, ARGM = Tony Mundell, B&JG = Barry and Jane Goater, CC = Clive Chatters, DRA = Debbie Allan, EJC = Eric Clement, FJR = Fred Rumsey, GTh = Gill Thornton, ILR = Ian Ralphs, JAN = John Norton, JCw = Jonathan Crewe, JoM = Joel Miller, JPd = John

Poland, JRWH = Ralph Hollins, MEY = Elizabeth Young; MR = Martin Rand, NAS = Neil Sanderson, PAB = Phil Budd, RMV = Roger Veall, RMW = Robin Walls.

Agrimonia procera (Fragrant Agrimony): Northney, Hayling Island, SU728039; 13 Aug 2005; D Savage & Nigel Johnson. **1st for SU70.**

Ailanthus altissima (Tree-of-heaven): Paynes Road, Shirley, Southampton, SU404127; 28 Oct 2005; PAB. 3 self-sown plants. **1st for SU41.**

☛ *Alisma lanceolatum* (Narrow-leaved Water-plantain): R Stour W of Muscliffe, SZ0995, SZ0996; 20 Aug 2005; MR, RMW, JP, B&JG; voucher Hb MR. 15 plants over c. 1km. **1st for SZ09 in VC 11 since 1970.** Small populations also recorded at Iford Bridge, SZ1393, SZ1493 by RMW, 22 Aug 2005; first on this site since 1970.

Amaranthus bouchonii (Indehiscent Amaranth): A3057, Timsbury, SU346251; 15 Oct 2005; MR. About 40 plants in road gutter and lay-by on E side of road. **1st for SU32.** Stanswood Farm, SU462009; 02 Sep 2005; B&JG conf. MR. **1st for SU40.** Well-known in East Anglia, this may now be a spreading weed in Hampshire.

☛ *Arabis hirsuta* (Hairy Rock-cress): Hen Wood, East Meon, SU664225; 10 Jul 2005; Hampshire Flora Group. 62 plants; steep east-facing bank beside track below beech trees. **New site and new tetrad record.**

Arctium lappa (Greater Burdock): Stour valley W of Muscliffe SZ0896, SZ0995; 20 Aug 2005; MR, RMW, B&JG. Fairly frequent along the valley. Surprisingly these seem to be the **1st records for SZ09 in VC11.**

Berberis verruculosa (a Barberry): Crooked Hays Copse, Marchwood, SU389101; 11 Apr 2005; PAB conf. EJC; voucher Hb EJC. One bird-sown bush on SW edge of copse. **1st Hampshire record;** may be first for mainland Britain.

Briza maxima (Greater Quaking Grass): Mumby Road, Gosport, SZ620999; 06 Jul 2005; JAN. One plant, base of wall, Minnitt Rd. Haslar RN Cemetery, SZ610986; 13 Jul 2005; JAN. 1 plant in disturbed soil. **1st for SZ69.**

Buddleja x weyeriana (B. davidii x globosa): Botany Bay, SU451109; 27 Aug 2005; PAB; voucher Hb EJC. One bush on S edge of wood (probably not planted), east of Millers Pond, Sholing. **1st for SU41**

☛ *Cakile maritima* (Sea Rocket): Redbridge Wharf Park, SU371135; 30 Apr 2005; PAB. On coastal defensive wall. **1st for SU31.**

Calendula arvensis (Field Marigold): Boscombe overcliff etc, SZ128913; 02 May 2005; RMW. Children's play area. **1st for SZ19.** Cadland, SZ466997, 10 Jun 2005; B&JG. Round edge of bonfire site and garden refuse dump, introduced to the Estate via seed from Malaga, Spain. **1st for SZ49. 1st vice-county records.**

☛ *Calystegia soldanella* (Sea Bindweed): Hurst Spit, SZ305902; 08 Oct 2005; MEY. Single patch of c. 1m x 1m at SZ30591 90238. First record at the site for 9 years.

Catapodium marinum (Sea Fern-grass): Goose Green, Lyndhurst, SU300075; 12 Jul 2005; ILR. Growing out of cracks in the kerb stones next to the priority signs on the south end of the green where the A337 enters Lyndhurst.

Centaureum pulchellum (Lesser Centaury): Hen Wood, East Meon, SU663224; 10 Jul 2005; Hampshire Flora Group. 50 plants on track side. **1st for SU62.**

☛ *Cephalanthera damasonium* (White Helleborine): Beacon Hill, Warnford, SU599226; 28 May 2005. Hants Wildlife Trust meeting conf. MR. Single plant under beeches on N side of access track. **New tetrad.**

☛ *Cirsium eriophorum* (Woolly Thistle): Bramdean, SU612280; 18 Jul 2005; JoM. 7 plants along verge of A272 (RV145). **1st for SU62.**

Claytonia sibirica (Pink Purslane): Cadland, SZ466997; 10 Jun 2005; B&JG. Round edge of bonfire site and garden refuse dump. **1st for SZ49.**

☛ *Clinopodium acinos* (Basil Thyme): Small Down, East Meon, SU673206; 10 Jul 2005. Hampshire Flora Group. 2 small patches of less than 30cm diam: one by S edge (highest part) of chalk exposure at SU67342064, 2nd to south at 67382062. **New tetrad.**

Conyza bilbaoana (Bilbao Fleabane): Moors River pastureland, Fillybrook, SZ124986; 20 Aug 2005; MR & JPd. **1st for SZ19.**

Cordylone australis (Cabbage-palm): Jellicoe Avenue / Ashburton Road, Gosport, SZ597987; 14 Aug 2005; EJC & JAN. One small plant at base of wall presumably bird sown. 'Mother' in garden on opposite side of road, c.40m away.

Cotula coronopifolia (Buttonweed): Lower Test Marshes, SU343147; 30 Aug 2005; AndrewWells. One plant between boardwalk and ditch between SU3638 1472, one plant on marsh grassland 3m N of boardwalk at SU3631 1460. **1st for SU31.**

Crocus speciosus (Bieberstein's Crocus): Nr Brockishill Road, Bartley, SU298117; 15 Oct 2005; MR. Single plant introduced with landfill used to remake bank of Forestry Commission car park. **1st vice-county record.**

Cuscuta campestris (Yellow Dodder): North Baddesley, SU385198; 30 Aug 2005; B&JG conf. MR, ARGM; voucher Hb MR. Growing on cultivated carrot, grown from seed, and spreading on to beet and turnip. **1st for SU31.**

Cynodon dactylon (Bermuda-grass): Cranbourne Road area, Gosport, SZ614994; 24 Sep 2005; JAN & DRA. In crack of kerbstones, near rear (lorry) access to Asda store. First seen by E.J. Clement. **1st for SZ69.** M3/M27, Stoneham, SU4316; 09 Sep 2005; CC. Scattered along central reservation, biggest patches 10m x 2m. **1st for SU41.**

Datura stramonium (Thorn-apple): Stokes Bay, SZ596985; 07 Aug 2005; JAN & DRA. 3 plants, demolition site, N of road. Lee-on-the-Solent, SZ566998; 17 Sep 2005; JAN & DRA. 23 plants, disturbed soil on embankment above promenade, near WCs. **1st for SZ59.**

Delosperma nubigenum (Hardy Yellow Ice-plant): Footbridge over railway line, Petersfield, SU740232; 7 Jun 2005; Dr. Christine Wain conf. ARGM, MR; documentary

photographs held by ARGM but no suitable voucher material surviving drought by 10 Jul 2005. **1st vice-county record. Possible first British record.**

Draba muralis (Wall Whitlowgrass): Hilliers Arboretum, SU380237; 03 Apr 2005; PAB. In the walls of the alpine garden east of Jermyn's House, Ampfield, apparently naturalising. **1st for SU32.**

✿ *Eleocharis acicularis* (Needle Spike-rush): Ivy Silt Pond, Blashford Lakes, SU151077; 17 Aug 2005; ILR. 'All the material is sterile and most of it is unusually long' - warrants further investigation. **New site** although known elsewhere in the Blashford Lakes complex.

✿ *Elytrigia x drucei* (*E. atherica* x *repens*): Northney Marina, SU725042; 30 Oct 2005; EJC & MR; voucher Hb MR. Spikelets retain some undehisced anthers with empty pollen grains. **1st for SU70.**

✿ *Epipactis purpurata* (Violet Helleborine): Langdown, Hythe, SU431062; 30 Aug 2005; PAB. Two plants on shady grass verge outside a garden at Hart Hill, Hythe. First found in 2004 by Mr and Mrs Rackham. **1st for SU40** and an interesting extension to its known range in the county.

✿ *Eriophorum vaginatum* (Hare's-tail Cottongrass): Upper Lazy Bushes, Bratley, SU216084; 18 May 2005; NAS. Frequent along top edge of seepage step mire in wet heath and occasionally on the top of tussocks within the mire. **1st record in tetrad since 1980.**

✿ *Eryngium maritimum* (Sea Holly): Lee-on-the-Solent W, SU558009; 10 Jun 2005; JAN & DRA. 2 plants on shingle beach, E of Daedalus slipway. **New site.**

Eryngium planum (Blue Eryngo): Warsash, SU489062; 03 Sep 2005; PAB; voucher Hb EJC. One plant half chopped by mowers on kerbside at Warsash public car park. **1st for SU40.**

Eschscholzia californica (Californian Poppy): Stokes Bay, SZ596985; 27 Aug 2005; JAN & DRA. Disturbed (demolition) site. **1st for SZ59.**

✿ *Euphorbia paralias* (Sea Spurge): Mundeford, SZ1892; Jun 2005; David Leadbetter. 20 plants. **1st for site since 1879.** Hengistbury Head, The New Dunes, SZ178904; 02 Jun 2005; AEB. **New site. 1st records for SZ19 since 1879.**

Galanthus elwesii (Greater Snowdrop): Southampton Old Cemetery, SU412135; 03 Mar 2005; PAB. Three plants in SW of Southampton Old Cemetery. **1st for SU41.**

✿ *Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw): Since announcing the "first vice-county record" in the last Flora News I have had two more reports (details to be confirmed): one for the Portsmouth area this year, and one for the lower Avon Valley recorded by Felicity Woodhead in 2003.

✿ *Glaucium flavum* (Yellow Horned Poppy): Cadland Beach, Stanswood Bay, SU471000; 20 Jun 2005; MR & BG. **1st for tetrad since 1970.**

Gnaphalium luteoalbum (Jersey Cudweed): Lower Gardens, Bournemouth, SZ088909; 23 Aug 2005; FJR. In a few places in shaded flowerbeds often with *Urtica urens* at c. SZ0880 9096. 10-15 plants in total in a stretch of 70 or so

metres. **1st for SZ09.** Another 'weedy' occurrence of this Schedule 8 species.

Hordeum distichon (Two-rowed Barley (sens. str)): Fort Rowner (HMS Sultan), Gosport, SU592010; 08 Jun 2005; DRA, EJC, JAN & MR. One seen. **1st for SU50.** Pyreford Close, Alverstoke, SZ592994; 12 Jul 2005; JAN & DRA. One plant as weed in shrubbery. **1st for SZ59.**

Hyacinthoides x massartiana (Garden Bluebell): N of Warren Court Farm, Nether Wallop, SU270345; 11 May 2005; MR. Side of track going N to Hollom Down. **1st for SU23.**

✿ *Hypochaeris glabra* (Smooth Cat's-ear): Tyrells Ford, SZ149997; 8 Jun 2005; Dr G Halliday. Lawn 70m E of Tyrells Ford Hotel between Avon and Bisterne **New site.**

✿ *Lamprothamnium papulosum* (Foxtail Stonewort): Keyhaven Lagoon, SZ316919; 2 Aug 2005; ILR. Known elsewhere on Pennington Marshes but this appears to be a **new site** for this nationally very rare Red Data Book stonewort. One of the most exciting finds of the year.

Lavandula angustifolia (Lavender): Warsash, SU489062; 03 Sep 2005; PAB. One plant on kerb-side of public car park. **1st for SU40.**

Lavatera thuringiaca (Garden Tree Mallow): Calshot Spit, SU487019; 10 Sep 2005; MR, JPD, B&JG. On made ground between road and saltmarsh. **1st for SU40.**

Lolium x boucheanum (*L. perenne* x *L. multiflorum*): Ridding Meads, Winchester, SU480286; 8 27 Jul 2005; MR, JPD. **1st for SU42.**

Ludwigia grandiflora (Uruguayan Primrose-yellow): Dell Farm, Copythorne, SU307143; 2005; Environment Agency. **1st for SU31** and a third vice-county site for this beautiful but invasive water plant.

✿ *Marrubium vulgare* (White Horehound): Abbots Well, SU177128; 16 Jul 2005; Pete Durnell. 02 Aug 2005; Neville and Mary Diserens. Adjacent to an interpretation panel on the Abbots Well car park - now removed but a post left in place. A known site of at least 45 years' standing but not recorded here for 9 years.

Matthiola incana (Hoary Stock): W of Eastoke Point, South Hayling, SZ731981; 3 Jun 2005, JRWH. Approx 21 small white-flowered plants on beach shingle with many mauve and white plants also apparently self sown along landward side of Eastoke promenade. **1st for SZ79.**

Matthiola longipetala subsp. *bicornis* (Night-scented Stock): Claylands Industrial Estate, Bishops Waltham, SU558179; 22 Sep 2005; Clare Rand det. MR. In margins of car park. **1st for SU51.**

Mellilotus indicus (Small Melilot): Dibden Bay, SU3909; 17 Jul 2005; GTh. **1st for SU30.**

✿ *Misopates orontium* (Weasel's-snout): Haslar RN Cemetery, SZ610985; 13 Jul 2005; JAN. Two plants in disturbed strips, SE part of cemetery. **1st for SZ69 since 1970.**

✿ *Myosurus minimus* (Mousetail): Berry Hill SNCI, SZ105966; 10 May 2005; RMW. 1 plant, gateway at SZ1070 9636. Last record from this site in 1983, when over 1000 plants recorded.

☛ *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid): an interesting white form was recorded at Galley Down, SU5719, this year by Nigel Johnson.

Oenothera cambrica (Small-flowered Evening Primrose): Stanswood Farm, SU463007; 02 Sep 2005; B&JG conf. MR. A few plants scattered in set-aside at edge of field of Butternut Squash. **1st for SU40.**

☛ *Orobancha hederæ* forma *monochroma* (Yellow Ivy Broomrape): Place Lane, Compton, SU469256; 03 Jun 2005; David Ball. Entrance to Place Lane, on Ivy around Hazel stools. 100 spikes, up to 150 when MR visited on 22nd October, some still coming into flower. It is the second record with *Hedera helix* subsp. *helix* as the host.

☛ *Orobancha rapum-genistæ* (Greater Broomrape): West Cliff, Hythe, SU418084; 20 May 2005; GTh. 7 spikes growing on Broom. Also at same place on 4 Jun 2000; otherwise not recorded in vicinity since 1976.

Oxalis debilis (Large Flowered Pink Sorrel): Calshot Spit, SU487018; 10 Sep 2005; MR, JPd, B&JG. Single plant on made earth bank. **1st for SU40.**

Oxalis exilis (Least Yellow Sorrel): Troublefield NR, SZ125977; 20 Aug 2005; MR, JPd, B&JG. Track to reserve alongside house garden. **1st for SZ19.**

Panicum miliaceum (Common Millet): Mill Lawn, Burley, SU226035; 7 Sep 2005; DRA, EJC, JAN & MR. Lone plant by ditch/tributary. A35 Lyndhurst, SU2908; 7 Sep 2005; DRA, EJC, JAN & MR. S side of A35, W end of junction in Lyndhurst. **1st for SU20.**

☛ *Parapholis incurva* (Curved Hard Grass): Lee-on-the-Solent W, SU558009; 10 Jun 2005; JAN & DRA. Sparsely scattered in 2.5 x 2m rect. area on shingle beach, E of Daedalus slipway. **New site and tetrad.**

Persicaria capitata (Himalayan Persicaria): South Hayling, SZ708990; 30 Oct 2005; EJC & MR. At foot of wall at S end of Staunton Avenue. No obvious source of plants from above. **1st for SZ79.**

☛ *Polygonum maritimum* (Sea Knotgrass): Hengistbury Head, SZ183915; 02 Jun 2005; AEB. 77 plants plus dozens of seedlings. Sandy Point, Hayling Island, SZ750984; 2005; various recorders. Over 300 plants.

Polygonum rurivagum (Cornfield Knotgrass / Knotgrass): Haslar Road, marina & car park area, Gosport, SZ620995; 19 Jun 2005; DRA. Small erect plants with *P. arenastrum*. **1st for SZ69.**

☛ *Polypodium cambricum* (Southern Polypody): Mark Ash Wood, SU245072; 12 Mar 2005; NAS. Epiphytic on *Acer campestre* at SU2455 0720. Checked microscopically. **New site and westward extension of range in the Forest.**

Potamogeton pectinatus (Fennel Pondweed): R Stour, Muscliffe, SZ091960; 20 Aug 2005; MR, JPd, B&JG. **1st for SZ09 in VC11.**

☛ *Potamogeton perfoliatus* (Perfoliate Pondweed): R Stour, Muscliffe, SZ091960; 20 Aug 2005; MR, JPd, B&JG. **1st for SZ09 in VC11.**

☛ *Potamogeton pusillus* (Small Pondweed): Titchfield Haven NNR, SU540031; 8 Aug 2005; DRA, JAN, EJC. Abundant in wet ditch. **New site.**

☛ *Puccinellia rupestris* (Stiff Saltmarsh-grass): Titchfield Haven HCC Reserve, (SW area), SU531023; 8 Aug 2005; DRA, JAN, EJC. 15+ plants, on shingle. **New site and tetrad.**

Ribes nigrum (Black Currant): Gilkicker, SZ604976; 28 Jul 2005; JAN. One plant in fruit, edge of clump of scrub. **1st for SZ69.**

Rosa stylosa (Short-styled Field-rose): Leaden Stour, Hurn, SZ117958; 20 Aug 2005; MR, RMW, B&JG. **1st for SZ19 since 1970.**

☛ *Rumex crispus* subsp. *littoreus* (Curly Dock, shingle subsppecies): Lee-on-the-Solent, SU560006; 17 Sep 2005; JAN & DRA. Occasional along strandline shingle beach. Achenes c.3.2mm, 3 well-developed tubercles. **1st for SU50.**

☛ *Ruppia maritima* (Beaked Tassel-weed): Stanpit Marsh, SZ166917; 16 Nov 2005; RMW. In a small pool amongst SM16 grassland. **1st for SZ19 since 1930.**

☛ *Salsola kali* subsp. *kali* (Prickly Saltwort): Steamer Point, Highcliffe, SZ1998928 to SZ200929; 23 Jun 2005; AEB. 139 plants plus numerous seedlings. A known site but impressive numbers.

☛ *Scleranthus annuus* subsp. *annuus* (Annual Knawel): Stanswood Farm, Cadland Estate, SU46420080; 10 Sep 2005; B&JG, MR. One small clump in set-aside. **New site; 1st for SU40 since 1985.**

Sedum forsterianum (Rock Stonecrop): Southampton Cenetry, SU414136; 19 Jun 2005; J Vetterlein det. PAB. Established in grassland on E side of cemetery. Bitterne Church of England, SU451129; 9 Sep 2005; PAB. St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing, SU457108; 16 Sep 2005; PAB. **1st for SU41.**

Sedum spurium (Caucasian Stonecrop): Bitterne Church of England, SU451129; 9 Sep 2005; PAB. Naturalised in grassland. **1st for SU41.**

Sedum stoloniferum (Lesser Caucasian-stonecrop): South Stoneham Church, SU440154; 1 Sep 2005; PAB; voucher Hb EJC. Abundant and established in shady grassland in churchyard. **1st for SU41.**

Sisyrinchium striatum (Pale Yellow-eyed-grass): M27, Rownhams, SU382174; 23 Jun 2005; PAB. Several plants by N side of M27 W of Rownhams service station (seen when in traffic jam). **1st for SU31.**

Solanum physalifolium (Green Nightshade): Stokes Bay, SZ596985; 27 Aug 2005; JAN & DRA. Disturbed (demolition) site. **1st for SZ59.**

Sorghum halepense (Johnson-grass): Creighton Road, Millbrook, SU388129; 13 Nov 2005; PAB. Single plant on kerb side. **1st for SU31.**

Spergularia marina (Lesser Sea-spurrey): Junction 10 M3, Bar End, SU493282; 19 Sep 2005; MR. W verge, S side of A31 roundabout for S-bound slip to M3. **1st for SU42.**

☛ *Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Lady's-tresses): Portsdown Technology Park, SU638068 and SU640068; 22 Aug 2005; MR & PTP Conservation Group. **New site.**

☛ *Spirodela polyrhiza* (Greater Duckweed): Throop Mill Weir, SZ112958; 20 Aug 2005; MR, RMW, B&JG. In cisterns beside weir, abundant. **1st record in tetrad since 1976.**

Trifolium hybridum subsp. *elegans* (Alsike Clover subspecies): Priddy's Hard recreation area, SU614012; 09 Jul 2005; JAN & DRA. Large plant, fl-head 20mm, stems solid. **1st for SU60.**

☛ *Trifolium scabrum* (Rough Clover): Alum Chine etc, SZ0790; 6 Apr 2005; RMW, JCw. **1st for SZ09 since 1930.**

Ulmus minor subsp. *sarniensis* (Jersey Elm): North Solent NNR, Cadland Estate, SU456011; 10 Sep 2005; B&JG, MR. Provisionally determined as this taxon by MR. **Possibly 1st for SU40.**

Verbena bonariensis (Argentinian Vervain): Hamble Rail Trail, SU474075; 14 Sep 2005; PAB. One plant on disused railway line E of Hamble Lane. **1st for SU40.**

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VC12 records compiled by Tony Mundell

Here is another set of my personal selections from the records received recently. As noted in previous issues, map references should be treated as approximate, and again I have omitted the 'SU' to save space. Some are on private land (and some, like Eelmoor Marsh, are inaccessible to the public) so please consult me over access permission rather than alienate landowners. Again my thanks to those who have contributed records (especially Chris Hall for so many), please keep them coming in.

First a couple of amendments to the records in the previous (Autumn 2005) issue of Flora News: After studying the specimen I have concluded that the (vegetative) *Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw) that I recorded on 8 Jun 2005 at Micheldever Spoil Heaps was an error for a depauperate *G. verum* (Lady's Bedstraw). Wall Bedstraw certainly used to be there. Hopefully someone can find the real thing for us during the HFG visit on 30 July 2006. I also erroneously reported that *Astragalus glycyphyllos* (Wild Liquorice) no longer occurred on the disused railway at Worthy Down, South Wonston, as the site was too overgrown. I had only searched around the map references of earlier records by Paul Bowman, but was delighted when Michael Edwards later told me that he had seen it a little further south on the same disused railway in 2005. Phil Budd also told me he had seen it there in 2002 and 2004.

Adiantum capillus-veneris (Maidenhair Fern) Abundant on railway bridge in Aldershot 86915055, first seen 1999, present 2005, Fred Rumsey. Also single plant on wall in

High Street, Alton c.718394 west of the museum where pavement on north side of road is raised above road, Fred Rumsey 2000.

Agrimonia procera (Fragrant Agrimony) 12 plants on Basingstoke Canal bank just east of Sprat's Hatch Bridge 765526, Chris Hall 18 Aug 2005. Locally frequent to abundant in Norris Hill area 82655360 to 83285358; one at Eelmoor 84145286 and three at Eelmoor Bridge 84315284, Chris Hall 2 Sep 2005. Increasing beside track below Brocks Hill near Tweseldown and now in two places with 70+ plants at 82705231, 60+ at 82665232, Chris Hall 1 Sep 2005.

Ajuga chamaepitys (Ground-pine) Two plants, one next to rabbit fence beside furrow on thrown-up earth, the other in unturned 6m field margin, near Freefolk Wood 50404391, Geoff Toone 2 Aug 2005.

Alisma lanceolatum (Narrow-leaved Water-plantain) Basingstoke Canal, Aldershot, one at 87155211, one at Ash Embankment 88215154, Chris Hall 12 Aug 2005. One opposite Claycart Flash 85185267, Chris Hall 1 Sep 2005.

Anacamptis pyramidalis (Pyramidal Orchid) Some impressive counts by Peter Billingham including: 1,050 at Andover, A303 – A3057 junction 365440 and 290 at Andover, Britax roundabout 345466, both 29 Jun 2005. Also 470 at Andover East A303 junction 386447 and 240 beside A343 at 365477, both 1 Jul 2005.

Anagallis minima (Chaffweed) Bramshill Common east side below power lines, 40 plants just north of pylon 76076175, eight just south of pylon 7607612, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2005.

Anthemis arvensis (Corn Chamomile) Magdalen Hill, North Down, single plants at two locations 50722935 and 50662922, Tony Mundell 16 Aug 2005.

Apium inundatum (Lesser Marshwort) At the restored Bagwell Pond, especially NW side, 75705331 along 5m and small groups at 75665326, 75705328, Chris Hall 27 Aug 2005.

Arabis glabra (Tower Mustard) Tim Wilkins & Tony Mundell counted 97 rosettes uncovered from beneath dense growth of brambles etc during scrub-bashing session at Kingsley 77873776 on 6 Nov 2005.

Atropa belladonna (Deadly Nightshade) Little Shoulder of Mutton 742267, 20+ plants in cleared area, David Ball 6 Aug 2005. Stockbridge Down 379352, flowers and unripe berries on several plants, Maisie Lawrence and Ralph Cook 12 Jul 2005.

Azolla filicaulis (Water Fern) A few fronds in canal margin east of North Warnborough, Chris Hall 13 Sep 2005.

Baldellia ranunculoides (Lesser Water-plantain) Margin of Eelmoor Flash, 17 plants but more localised this year perhaps because water level is lower 84265281, 84225275, Chris Hall 21 Jun 2005.

Butomus umbellatus (Flowering Rush) Basingstoke Canal at Ash Embankment, a clump 1m long at 88205155 and a smaller one at 88215154, Chris Hall 12 Aug 2005.

Buxus sempervirens (Box) Ashford Hanger 735259, growing near *Tilia platyphyllos*, David Ball 4 May 2004.

Cabomba caroliniana (Carolina Water-shield) Basingstoke Canal, now abundant from Colt Hill Wharf 74635170 east towards Broad Oak 75515205 and frequent east towards

Pillers Green, Chris Hall 17 Aug 2005. Now the most common submerged species in this part of the canal and apparently tolerant of boat traffic and turbidity, unlike the native species that formerly grew here. Also west of Colt Hill, abundant for about 500m 74615171 to 74065198, Chris Hall 13 Sep 2005. Several stems brought in by grapnel east of Chequers Bridge, Crookham Village 79245172, 79475160, true abundance could not be assessed due to turbidity, Chris Hall 26 Aug 2005. Well established behind Fairland Close, Fleet, plentiful for 50m 81625361 to 81585355, Chris Hall 6 Sep 2005.

Calamagrostis epigejos (Wood Small-reed) Coxmoor Wood and Swing Bridge Copse beside the canal, 78645124 to 78805135, more or less continuous, 77855151 to 77845153 for 20m, Chris Hall 23 Aug 2005.

Callitriche hamulata (Intermediate Water-starwort) Edge of shallow pond at Burnt Common 62266415 (VC22 but Administrative Hampshire) Tony Mundell & Bill Helyar 5 Jun 2005.

Carex curta (White Sedge) Still holding on at margin of bay at east end of Hawley Lake 844½577½, 12 tufts, but could become overgrown by rhododendron, Chris Hall 16 Jun 2005.

Carex hostiana (Tawny Sedge) Ancells Meadows, much increased on area where *Molinia* turf stripped several years ago, 200+ tufts 82355570 to 82385568, but not refound in former site where its survival depended on grazing, Chris Hall 10 Jun 2005.

Carex pulicaris (Flea Sedge) Hawley Common, much decreased and habitat badly overgrown, just six plants located 83765811, Chris Hall 16 Jun 2005. Pondtail Heath, seen in nine places but impossible to count meaningfully so late in summer, 826536 to 829536, Chris Hall 20 Aug 2005.

Carex vesicaria (Bladder Sedge) Foxlease Meadows, locally plentiful at the south pond 83055659, Chris Hall 21 Jul 2005.

Carex viridula ssp. *viridula* (Small-fruited Yellow-sedge) Eelmoor Flash, east margin, on water margin where inundated in winter 84265281, Chris Hall 21 Jun 2005, conf. Clive Jermy. Also reported at dried edge of Eelmoor Flash 84245280 with *Anagallis tenella*, less than 10 plants in 2004 but much increased in 2005, Fred Rumsey.

Centaurium pulchellum (Lesser Centaury) Eelmoor old fire practice site, 600 estimated in six groups, 843533½, Chris Hall 15 Jul 2005. Also on Eelmoor Marsh Track towards its west end 83805324 to 83795325 and mainly near margins for some 7m, 275 plants, also 260+ plants a few metres further west by the pond, Chris Hall 22 Jul 2005 (first reported here by Tony Mundell a few days previously).

Cephalanthera longifolia (Narrow-leaved Helleborine) Counts for various sites in Wealden Edge Hangers: Old Stoner 732258 5 plants with 5 flowering; Ashford Lodge garden 735259 25 plants with 18 flowering; Little Shoulder of Mutton 742268 241 plants with 160 flowering; Middle path 743271 10 plants with none flowering; Down Hanger 744273 4 plants with none flowering; Juniper House/Oakshott 737275 10 plants with 7 flowering; Warren track-side 730285 1 plant with none flowering; Warren off track 5 plants with 4 flowering; all David Ball 24 Apr 2005.

Cerastium diffusum (Sea Mouse-ear) On road verge just west of the new roundabout on the A327 out of Farnborough, about 50 plants in a compact group, 857½546, Chris Hall 18 Apr 2005.

Ceterach officinalis (Rustyback Fern) Mill Court, Binstead on two interior, lime mortared, brick walls of walled garden (with cultivated pears): 75834179 two plants on SW-facing wall with c.20 *Asplenium trichomanes* (Maidenhair Spleenwort) nearby; 75804179 two plants on SE-facing wall with very many Maidenhair Spleenwort plants near top of wall, both Sue Clark 9 Aug 2005. Geoff Hawkins who has been a gardener there for over 25 years says that, as far as he knows, they were not planted. The outside wall at 75804173 also has *Asplenium trichomanes*, Sue Clark 20 Jul 2005.

Chrysanthemum segetum (Corn Marigold) In flower at edge of maize field, east of old railway line to south of bridge, Burghclere 474593, Maisie Lawrence and Ralph Cook 1 Sep 2005.

Chrysosplenium alternifolium (Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage) Lutcombe Bottom 734264 only two plants, population declining, David Ball 4 May 2004.

Clinopodium acinos (Basil Thyme) One small patch at Stockbridge Down 38103465, Peter Billingham 30 Jul 2005.

Convallaria majalis (Lily of the Valley) No signs of flowering on plentiful plants at three sites checked by Maisie Lawrence and Ralph Cook: Sichester Common 621621, 11 May 2005; Upper Inhams Copse, Silchester 623617, 1 Aug 2005; Kings Hogsty Copse, Pamber Forest 615598, 5 Aug 2005.

Crassula tilleaea (Mossy Stonecrop) In sparse acid grassland at Claycart Hill, 400-500 plants extending for 4m with abundant *Aira caryophyllea*, 85255255, Chris Hall 1 Jun 2005. Also recorded in varying quantity on bare sandy ground west of Sunny Hill 84935045, 1998 to 2005, Fred Rumsey.

Cuscuta epithimum (Dodder) North Eelmoor apparently on *Lotus corniculatus* at 84575384 with no heather in immediate vicinity, young stems on 7 Jun 2005, a patch 80 x 70cm by 16 Jul 2005, Chris Hall. Aldershot Common on new growth of *Calluna* and *Ulex minor* above Long Bottom 84205003 three patches, 84215004 to 84225005 more or less continuous beside track, and 84134992 on mown *Calluna* north of Long Bottom Pond, all Chris Hall 23 Jun 2005.

Crookham Common, eight small patches on mown firebreak 82305298 to 82295297; larger patches on *Ulex minor* regrowth following a heathfire 82285296, Chris Hall 25 Jun 2005. Also 14 small patches on mown margins of track above Gelvert Bottom 82755321 to 82775324, Chris Hall 14 Jul 2005, where exceptionally it has appeared every summer since 1983. West side of Brock's Hill on young *Calluna* and *Erica* 82645239, a patch 70 x 50cm, Chris Hall 9 Sep 2005.

Dactylorhiza incarnata ssp. *pulchella* (Early Marsh Orchid) Eelmoor Marsh in four places: wet heath west of field hut, 13 spikes 83945297; wet heath north of corral, 26 spikes, 84045303; in Sphagnum in ditch to west of field station, 5 spikes, 83925304; in ditch where *Molinia* mown last winter, one spike 83915312 (=45 spikes in total, Chris Hall 2 Jun 2005, and by 8 Jun this had increased to 52. Winter mowing in combination with year-round light grazing is reviving this

population). Also recovering at Ancells Meadows following a regime of winter mowing and seasonal grazing, 18 spikes in area of 20 x 20m 82445582, Chris Hall 10 Jun 2005, the best total since 1987. Also still at Castle Bottom, 21 spikes in mire at southern end 79845944 to 79875945, Chris Hall 10 Jun 2005, and a careful search on 11 Jun 2005 by Chris Hall and Tony Mundell located 39 plants.

Digitaria ischaemum (Smooth Finger-grass) Really abundant at the Slab, Bordon, the dominant grass beside many sandy tracks 783356 etc, mostly small and non-flowering, Tony Mundell 23 Jul 2005, det. Bruno Ryves (so not extinct in Hants as suggested in the 1996 Flora).

Epipactis phyllanthes (Green-flowered Helleborine) Eelmoor Marsh, Cove Radio Station: Leyland Track site, three under bracken 83595330; Pyestock Hill site, eleven plants 83455369 to 83455365, Chris Hall 16 Jul 2005. Laffan Track verge at south edge of Eelmoor Marsh, four plants confirmed plus eight possibles that could not be confirmed due to grazing damage 83745305; also two under bracken towards Laffan Gate in the pinewood, 83655318, 83625324, all Chris Hall 18 Jul 2005. one plant in copse between road and arable field, near Freefolk Wood 50454391, Geoff Toone 2 Aug 2005.

Epipactis purpurata (Violet Helleborine) Froyle c.74144515, 5 spikes on road verge bordering Highnam Copse, all but one (now in seed) with tops cut or eaten off, former site of large clump on opposite side of road now mown, Sue Clark 28 Aug 2005. In strip between service road and A31 at Four Marks; two clumps one with 6 spikes another with 15 at 68093580 (where first reported by Gill Burnside in 2001), plus a plant with 2 spikes at 68203593, Tony Mundell 11 Aug 2005. Stony Brow, Monkwood: 1 at 68273077, 1 at 68243074, clump of 3 spikes at NE roadside 68243075, 1 at 68193071 SW of road, 1 only 7m SW of road 68183074 with 7 spikes, plant with 2 spikes SW of road 68163071, all Tony Mundell 11 Aug 2005.

Equisetum x litorale (*E. fluviatile* x *arvense*) Locally plentiful, spreading along pavement and at base of a grassy bank in Pavilion Road, Aldershot 85125037, shown to Tony Mundell by Fred Rumsey 12 Oct 2005. Basingstoke Canal, rather common at Aldershot, by far the most plentiful horsetail and no *E. fluviatile* seen, 86955210, 87105211, 87325217, 87495225, 87555227, 87615228 and at Ash Embankment 88215154, all Chris Hall 12 Aug 2005, also at Eelmoor 83695307, 83725304, 83855291, at Norris Hill 835255334, 83555329 and at Pondtail Heath 82695357, 82735355, 82765354, 83285358, all Chris Hall 2 Sep 2005, and west of Pondtail 81815370, 82025367, Chris Hall 6 Sep 2005.

Equisetum sylvaticum (Wood Horsetail) Shown to Tony Mundell by Bill Helyar on 16 Oct 2005 at: Pamber Forest, several places beside the Straight Ride including 200+ at 61346142 and another 200+ at 61366136 to 61376133; also Silchester Common 300+ along base of steep slope beside track, 62006216 to 61926226.

Euphrasia confusa Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down 245371, local in short chalk grassland turf, Martin Rand 11 Sep 2005, det. Alan Silverside.

Euphrasia micrantha x *nemorosa* Beside Commer Track, Eelmoor Marsh 84025296, Tony Mundell & Barry Phillips 14 Jul 2005, det. Alan Silverside.

Filago vulgaris (Common Cudweed) North Eelmoor, on bank beside X107 building, Cody Technology Park 84635390 to 84625392, three groups of c.30, 200 and 150 plants, Chris Hall 23 May 2005. Beside bridleway towards Blackbushe on the eastern end of Eversley Common, c.120 plants 79115943 to 79095944, Chris Hall and Tony Mundell 11 Jun 2005.

Galeopsis angustifolia (Red Hemp-nettle) One plant beside machinery access track, on arable field margin, Laverstoke 48984660, Geoff Toone 2 Aug 2005. Old Burghclere Lime Quarry 47235723, numbers down on 2004 with about 25% of enclosure 6 covered versus 90%, but some around outside of exc 6 and on scree in far SE corner of reserve due to less rabbit predation, Peter Billingham 3 Aug 2005. Four plants on arable field edge at Kentsboro 30864023, Tony Mundell & Bill Helyar 11 Sep 2005.

Genista tinctoria (Dyer's Greenweed) Foxlease Meadows, still plentiful along one field margin, at least four patches 828567 to 829567, Chris Hall 21 Jul 2005.

Gentiana pneumonanthe (Marsh Gentian) One white flowered plant amongst normal blue ones near pylon, Bartley Heath c.728535, Fred Rumsey 7 Sep 2005.

Gnaphalium sylvaticum (Heath Cudweed) Hawley Common, scattered along the margin of a track north west of Hawley Lake, c.55 plants 83335792, Chris Hall 22 Jun 2005.

Southwood Heath 83975492 90 plants; 83945492 100 plants; 83945495 300+ plants, all Chris Hall 30 Jul 2005.

Helleborus foetidus (Stinking Hellebore) Ashford Hill 736267, c.100 plants between paths; Old Stoner 733257, two plants; Ridge Hanger 727255, two plants, all David Ball 9 Mar 2005.

Helleborus viridis (Green Hellebore) Lutcombe Bottom 737264, one plant flowering next to stream, between dam and bridge, David Ball 8 Aug 2005.

Hottonia palustris (Water Violet) Claycart Flash 85185267 in dried up pool amongst enveloping mat of *Crassula helmsii*, Fred Rumsey 3 Aug 2005. Foxlease Brook, large patches in several places and very locally dominant where brook not too shaded 82695689, 82365694, 82335692, 82265687; also still plentiful on mud at the south pond in Foxlease meadows 83055659, all Chris Hall 21 Jul 2005.

Hyoscyamus niger (Henbane) 40 plants, near Freefolk Wood 50227443, showing classic habitat management by rabbits, Geoff Toone 2 Aug 2005.

Illecebrum verticillatum (Coral Necklace) On wet sandy tracks to east of Long Valley, groups of plants for some distance 84285225 to 84115217 to 84005227 to 83875246 though not continuous, certainly several hundreds but area not searched systematically, 1st Record for VC12, Chris Hall 1 Sep 2005, confirmed by Tony Mundell 2 Sep 2005 with thousands of plants scattered over more than 500m from 83855250 to 84305231. Several large patches on tracks at Longmoor adjacent to a tumulus 802299, Clive Chatters and David Rumble 29 Sep 2005, c.3,000 plants confirmed by Tony Mundell 30 Sep 2005 mainly at 80162991 to 80162991 and 80172994 to 80192992. Two additional sites

at Longmoor: c.50 strong plants in flower on bare silty sand 79242972 and c.12 immature plants not in flower on silty sand at 78532964, Peter Rollinson & June Chatfield 14 Oct 2005.

Isolepis setacea (Bristle Club-rush) Relic meadow in Royal Oak Valley, Yateley, 12 plants on ground trampled by conservation volunteers, c.821½605½, Chris Hall 10 Jun 2005.

Jasione montana (Sheep's-bit) Gally Hill Road churchyard 807½518, several in flower, Chris Hall 11 Oct 2005.

Juncus subnodulosus (Blunt-flowered Rush) Margin of Basingstoke Canal: at Puckridge, very locally abundant in patches up to 10m long 84595278, 84625279, 84815293, 84825294, 84895295, 85125273, all Chris Hall 1 Sep 2005; at Eelmoor 83905290, 83925289, 83935289, 83985288, 83995288; and at Pondtail Heath 82715356, 82745355, 82785354, 82845353, 82925353, all Chris Hall 2 Sep 2005. Also well established at the swamp west to Colt Hill to Lodge Bridge area 74555176, 74325187, 74215192, 74165194, 74155195, 74125196, 74085197, 74075197, 73715210, 73625215, 73555217, 73405213, all Chris Hall 13 Sep 2005.

Juniperus communis (Juniper) Beside A339, Woodgarston Farm 583549, no flowers yet on young self-sown plants which have slowly regenerated from the original planting in 1970s, open chalk habitat rapidly diminishing, Maisie Lawrence and Ralph Cook 20 May 2005. One at Kiblet Down, Vernham Dean 334556, Peter Billingham 27 May 2005.

Littorella uniflora (Shoreweed) Locally plentiful at several locations at (largely dried-up) Woolmer Pond; 78803192, 78873187, 78953196, Tony Mundell & Chris Hall 28 Sep 2005.

Lycopodiella inundata (Marsh Clubmoss) Hawley Common north of the lake, one patch still surviving in a small depression 83925817, 137 plants including 51 with cones forming, Chris Hall 16 Jun 2005, known here to various recorders since 1983. Also recorded as 84015809 by Fred Rumsey & Nick Stewart 2001, which may, or may not, be the same site. Hawley Common north of the lake, 5 populations: 30 on minor ride 83665805; 29 on ride at 836655805; 49 on heathland nearby 83655807; 220 at 83615806 and c.900 along 10m at 83645807 to 83635807, all Chris Hall 12 Jul 2005. Aldershot Common, Long Bottom, through c.7 x 1.5m of damp heathy ground at junction of minor paths with a track 84255001 to 84245000, 226 plants in three groups with 66 cones (where first found by Tony Mundell in 1985) and a single plant nearby 84275003, Chris Hall 23 Jun 2005. Also two in wet heath with *Rhynchospora alba* 84295003, Chris Hall 2 Aug 2005. Crookham Common site 82345317, 189 plants but becoming smothered by *Molinia*, Chris Hall 25 Jun 2005, known here since 1983 and evidently same site recorded as NNW of Foresters pub c.82365310 in rather dryish area for it, Fred Rumsey & Nick Stewart 2001. Bramshill Common 74706176, estimated 1,100 plants covering c.4.2 x 1.5m beside minor path, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2005. This site was first found by Andrew Branson in 1997 and was also recorded as: 74706175 at edge of disused ride on bare wet slope where ride turns a right angle north,

abundant over c.3 x 10m, many with cones, Fred Rumsey 31 Jul 2005. Wet heath below Brocks Hill, 69 at 82845245, Chris Hall 14 Jul 2005, occurred here 1983-88 until destroyed by army and reappeared in 2004 following heathland management, 10 recorded at same map reference by trackside, Fred Rumsey 3 Aug 2005. At Woolmer, Tony Mundell & Chris Hall 28 Sep 2005: c.150+ plants and 4 cones scattered thinly at E edge of track 79573294 to 79583296; c.700 plants with 57 cones but looking sickly and dried-up at former site at 80053330; one at 80073304 plus 6 tiny plants at 80083304 at site where thought lost during 2001 & 2003 surveys.

Lycopodium clavatum (Stag's-horn Clubmoss) No longer at Heath Warren Pond, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2005, last seen May 2003.

Moenchia erecta (Upright Chickweed) Old fire practice area at Eelmoor Marsh, 144 plants in area c.2 x 3m 84315338, Chris Hall 29 Apr 2005.

Monotropa hypopitys (Yellow Bird's-nest) The original site at Hawley Common was destroyed in 1999 by a new office development, but a new location was discovered by David & Jean Dell in Jul 2005 at 84135715, under scrub on SE side of the disused running track in two groups of 41 and 37 plants, plus a single plant c.38m away at 84165719, counted by Chris Hall 21 Jul 2005. Old Stoner 733258, two spikes; Wheatham Hill track 749270, c.14 spikes beside footpath; Warren bottom gate 734287, c.12 spikes over a small area with different plants flowering each year, all David Ball 16 Jul 2005. Small population in open beech woodland S of South Tidworth, South Tedworth CP, 236466, Kevin Walker 1997, det. from photo Sharon Pilkington 2004.

Nicandra physalodes (Apple of Peru) 4 plants on aggregate spoil heap south of Thruyton race circuit, 276449, John Moon 9 Oct 2005.

Nicotiniana x sanderae (*N. alata* x *N. forgetiana*) One plant on aggregate spoil heap south of Thruyton race circuit, 276449, John Moon 9 Oct 2005.

Ophrys apifera (Bee Orchid) Two spikes in St Marys churchyard, Kingsclere 525587, Maisie Lawrence and Ralph Cook 3 Jul 2005. In brownfield/sand-pit area near Aldershot Health Centre c.85845082, first seen here 2003 when c.100 spikes found (but whole area not searched), only 75+ in 2004, and in 2005 many rosettes in spring suffered from drought and disappeared by flowering time, but by extending search to whole area including banks of A323 found c.180, Fred Rumsey.

Ophrys insectifera (Fly Orchid) S of Bushy Hill 747262 below Juniper, 2 plant, population decreasing (14 in 1998) David Ball 8 May 2005. Wheatham Hill 743274, 14 plants with 11 flowering plus another 4 in Down Hanger woodland, David Ball 8 Aug 2005. Old Burghclere Lime Quarry 472573 and 472576, now mainly in SE corner of quarry, Maisie Lawrence and Ralph Cook 30 Apr 2005. 103 in Enclosure 3 at Old Burghclere Lime Quarry 47105723 plus several others elsewhere in reserve at 47195736, 47135724, 47225722, Peter Billingham 21 May & 8 Jun 2005.

Orchis ustulata (Burnt-tip Orchid) Ladle Hill 475568 and 481570, fewer seed heads than in previous years, Maisie Lawrence and Ralph Cook 18 Jul 2005.

Oreopteris limbosperma (Lemon-scented Fern) A few plants on bank at Claycart Flash 85185267, Fred Rumsey 3 Aug 2005. On ditchesides in damp woodland at Hawley Hard in three places, 12 ferns in total c.839579, Chris Hall 22 Jun 2005. Heath Warren Pond, along overgrown ditch c.767597½, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2005. 14 plants in damp gully beside Kiln Pond, Benyons Inclosure 62606325 (VC22 but Administrative Hampshire), Paul Sterry & Bill Helyar 4 Oct 2005.

Osmunda regalis (Royal Fern) Near Ancells Pond 82435578, now five crowns, still established after 21 years (translocated in 1984 from nearby native site that was destroyed by new housing) Chris Hall 10 Jun 2005. Hawley Common, one young fern on ditchside by track near Hawley Lake 84155805, Chris Hall 16 Jun 2005. Also still in the damp woodland at Hawley Hard, two crowns on ditchside 83895790, Chris Hall 22 Jun 2005. Heath Warren Pond, 15 along overgrown ditch c.767597½, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2005.

Parentucellia viscosa (Yellow Bartsia) In several places by tracksides at Bramshill 7461, Fred Rumsey 2001–2005.

Paris quadrifolia (Herb Paris) Abundant in Warren Combe 730284, David Ball 1 Jun 2005. Large patch on north side of combe next to Lutcombe Slip 733264, growing with *Polygonatum multiflorum*; Stoner Hill 730262, small patch on parish boundary; Shoulder of Mutton Hill 741268, c.20 beside bridle path; Ridge Hanger 730257, c.12 along parish boundary, all David Ball 14 Apr 2005.

Persicaria minor (Small Water-pepper) A curiously prostrate form with thousands of plants scattered across much of the dried-up bed of Woolmer Pond, Tony Mundell & Chris Hall 28 Sep 2005, specimen from 78573187 det. John Akeroyd.

Pilularia globulifera (Pillwort) Heath Warren 77015999, in moist ground but small, yellowed and droughted, covering c.7 x 3m, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2005. Bramshill Common, locally dominant in several places along south side of Sandpit Pond 75796193 to 75806192, 75836192, 75836190, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2005.

Platanthera chlorantha (Greater Butterfly Orchid) Windmill Hill Down, Ibthorpe, 47 at 36765331, 22 at 37155336 and 8 at 36765327, Peter Billingham 6 Jun 2005.

Polygonum rurivagum (Cornfield Knotgrass) Edge of set-aside field, S of East Woodhay 40165989, Tony Mundell & Bill Helyar 4 Aug 2005, conf. John Akeroyd. Locally plentiful in stubble of arable field, Kentsboro 314402, Tony Mundell & Bill Helyar 11 Sep 2005, conf. John Akeroyd, growing with rich arable flora (*Veronica agrestis*, *Chaenorhinum minus*, *Kickxia spuria*, *K. elatine*, *Euphorbia exigua* etc).

Potamogeton alpinus (Red Pondweed) Basingstoke Canal: Dogmersfield, a patch close to towpath bank east of Blacksmiths Bridge 77725204, Chris Hall 23 Aug 2005; one patch to east of North Warnborough 73365207, Chris Hall 13 Sep 2005. Now rarely seen in the canal. In fire service reservoir on eastern edge of Carleton's Gorse, Hook Common 72025307, Ian Ralphs 31 Aug 2004 (pressed specimen shown at HFG Exhibition Meeting 19 Nov2005).

Potentilla palustris (Marsh Cinquefoil) Decreased at Foxlease Pond though still locally abundant through 25% of the swamp 82725696, Chris Hall 21 Jul 2005.

Pyrola minor (Common Wintergreen) Old Peatmoor Heath, in pinewood beside Tyte Track; 83955370 (south side) four groups of rosettes totalling c.280; 83945371 (north side) c.90 rosettes amongst brambles, plus another 11 c.3m away, Chris Hall 28 May 2005. Hawley Common 84075804, under pines on north side of Lake, large patch covering c.15 x 3m with c.800 rosettes, Chris Hall 16 Jun 2005. Additional patches nearby at 84075802, c.300 rosettes covering c.2.5 x 2.5m and at 84065802 300+ rosettes covering 2.5 x 1m, Chris Hall 22 Jun 2005. Also in woodland on north-east side of Hawley Lake 84315780, 1,000 rosettes covering c.8 x 4m, Chris Hall 22 Jun 2005.

Radiola linioides (Allseed) Beside path at Cudbury, especially towards south end 76146068 to 76156065, c.300 plants, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2005. 30 plants just N of new gate (for grazing) at Woolmer 80063334, Tony Mundell 28 Sep 2005.

Ranunculus lingua (Greater Spearwort) School Road junction, Silchester 628624, robust flowering plants around half the pond perimeter, Maisie Lawrence and Ralph Cook 27 Jun 2005, but no presence this year around pond now dried up at Upper Wootton 582546.

Rorippa amphibia (Great Yellow-cress) Brookly outflow, Basingstoke Canal, Fleet 81025362, six plants Chris Hall, 6 Sep 2005.

Rosa agrestis (Small-leaved Sweet-briar) Several bushes found at Isle of Wight Hill during HFG meeting to Porton Down led by Paul Stanley 11 Sep 2005, e.g. 25083735 conf. Roger Maskew, 25193750 two bushes close together conf. Roger Maskew, 24943753, 24853740, in addition to confirming the nearby sites originally found by Paul on 16 May 2004.

Rosa agrestis x canina Single bush at Noar Hill beside Horseshoe Pit 74033189, shown to Tony Mundell by Phil Budd 13 Aug 2005. This same bush had been earlier recorded as *R. agrestis* by Phil Budd in 1997 but a specimen from it was determined as this hybrid by Roger Maskew in 2005, hopefully the pure species may still exist somewhere at Noar Hill. Single bush at Isle of Wight Hill during HFG meeting to Porton Down led by Paul Stanley 11 Sep 2005, 24683748, conf. Roger Maskew,

Rosa agrestis x micrantha Single bush at Isle of Wight Hill during HFG meeting to Porton Down led by Paul Stanley 11 Sep 2005, 24793749, conf. Roger Maskew, 1st Record for VC12.

Rosa arvensis x canina S entrance to Noar Hill in scrub just W of a small chalk pit by entrance gate 739320, Paul Stanley Sep 2001, det. Rev. A L Primavesi. Also at Northbrook in hedge on E side of minor road 805½448, Paul Stanley Sep 2000, det. Rev. A L Primavesi.

Rosa arvensis x stylosa Path S of Cheeks Farm 803½456, Paul Stanley Sep 2000, det. Rev. A L Primavesi.

Rosa canina x tomentosa N of Kitelands on S side of A303 502427, Paul Stanley Sep 2001, det. Rev. A L Primavesi.

Rosa canina x rubiginosa S of Freefolk Wood in shelterbelt on W side of road 505436, Paul Stanley Sep 2001, det. Rev. A L Primavesi.

Rosa micrantha x agrestis (Female parent given first so this is not the same as *R. agrestis x micrantha*) Single bush at Isle of Wight Hill during HFG meeting to Porton Down led by Paul Stanley 11 Sep 2005, 25313748, conf. Roger Maskew, 1st Record for VC12.

Rosa rubiginosa x micrantha In scrub about 30ft N of a small chalk pit at Noar Hill 740319½, Paul Stanley Sep 2001, det. Rev. A L Primavesi.

Rubus spectabilis (Salmonberry) A large stand at 87883475, along W side of A3, c.100m N of the junction with Crossways Road, in VC17 but Administrative Hampshire, various dates 2 Apr 2000 to 4 May 2005, Andrew Wells.

Sagittaria sagittifolia (Arrowhead) Basingstoke Canal, apparently completely gone from the canal from Odiham and Dogmersfield, where it was so abundant 15 years ago, Chris Hall 18 Aug 2005. A small patch close to towpath bank east of Blacksmiths Bridge 77725204, Chris Hall 23 Aug 2005. Single patch on canal near North Warnborough c.733518, Tony Mundell 14 Aug 2005.

Sanguisorba officinalis (Greater Burnet) 20 plants, not yet flowering, most within an area of c20 x 15m, Hawley Meadow 862584, Peter Scott 23 Jun 2005. Kingsclere between A339 and Stokings Road 525593, flower buds forming on plants holding on amongst tall grass, no longer grazed, Maisie Lawrence and Ralph Cook 27 May 2005.

Saxifraga granulata (Meadow Saxifrage) West Down, Chilbolton 383389, David Ball 26 Jun 2005. Unimproved meadow between Ibthorpe and Upton 369545 and at Coholt Hill, Vernham Dean 32805552, both Peter Billingham 2 May 2005. Also at Rooksbury Mill, Andover 356444, Peter Billingham 25 Jun 2005.

Senecio x albescens Has formed spontaneously on at least two occasions in a narrow strip of flowerbed/fenceline by the scout hut in Aldershot 85385044, where *S. cineraria* grew as an ornamental and *S. jacobaea* is a weed in the nearby hedge, first noticed 2000, did not persist but another in 2003, Fred Rumsey.

Silaum silaus (Pepper-saxifrage) In relic old meadow at Coxmoor 78715145, 14 plants, Chris Hall 23 Aug 2005.

Sorbus latifolia (Broad-leaved Whitebeam) One small tree in hedge close to Silchester Museum 62896239, Paul Sterry and Bill Helyar 4 Oct 2005, det. Tim Rich.

Sorbus thibetica cv. *Alan Mitchell* Single tree c.3m high planted on arable field edge in row of other alien trees at Upton Grey 69864872, remarkable for its huge circular leaves 7 inches (18cm) in diameter and (on 3 October 2005) 1 inch diameter fruits, Tony Mundell 1 Jun 2005, det. Tim Rich.

Spiranthes spiralis (Autumn Ladies-tresses) Total of 782 spikes counted at 19 sites spread widely across Noar Hill, too many to detail here but largest colonies were 280 in NE half of Bee Orchid Pit 73973192 and 104 on part of the Switchback at the junction triangle 74073191, Sue & Barry Clark, Tony Mundell, Gill Burnside, Brenda Milam & Janet Jones 28 Aug 2005.

Stellaria palustris (Marsh Stitchwort) Several patches beside the south pond in Foxlease Meadows 83055659, Chris Hall 21 Jul 2005.

Umbilicus rupestris (Navelwort) On an old brick wall, Holbrook Terrace, Pavilion Road, Aldershot 85225045, just about surviving persistent attempts to clear wall of all vegetation, first seen 1998 and just present 2005, Fred Rumsey.

Utricularia minor (Lesser Bladderwort) Eelmoor Marsh following clearance of pine scrub and creation of Dennis Pool, abundant in pool margin and adjoining ditch 83995352, Chris Hall 15 Jul 2005.

Verbascum x semialbum (*V. thapsus x V. nigrum*) One plant on east verge beside minor road from Quarley to Ampport 283431, location not far from where one found in 2001, John Moon 8 Sep 2005.

Viola lactea x riviniana Bartley Heath, edge of track just north of the pylon base 72805350, no pure *V. lactea* found, Fred Rumsey 7 Sep 2005.

Viola odorata var. *dumetorum* Field/copse edge St Mary Bourne 409509, Peter Billingham 27 Mar 2005.

Viola odorata var. *imberbis* Field/copse edge St Mary Bourne 409509, c.50m from var. *dumetorum*, also at St. Mary Bourne 414506, 412507, Peter Billingham 5 April 2005. Also at Lower Dolomans Lane, Ibthorpe 379534, 8 Apr 2005 and Horseshoe Lane, Ibthorpe 378538, 16 Apr 2005, all Peter Billingham.

Viola palustris (Marsh Violet) Shown to Tony Mundell by Bill Helyar 16 Oct 2005 in large quantity in bog at Silchester Common 61986216 to 61966220 and also 61896224.

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