



Flora News

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

Dear Flora Group member

In this issue we have details of our 'exhibition meeting' which will be held on Saturday 7 December 2013 and advance notice of some interesting field meetings next year and a conference focusing on the important role of volunteers in the control of invasive non-native plants. Elizabeth Pratt updates us on the green-winged orchid which she wrote about in an earlier edition of *Flora News* and Catherine Pascoe provides a fascinating article on her research relating to factors affecting the distribution of Autumn Lady's-Tresses and Field Gentian in the New Forest. Once again, Tony provides his regular list of noteworthy botanical records from VC12 (and we look forward to reading Martin's list for VC11 in the Spring 2014 edition of *Flora News*).

We are always keen for more people to provide contributions to *Flora News* on any relevant botanical topics. If you have enjoyed any of the Flora Group events and would like to write a report, we would be very pleased to receive it. Please send your articles, notes or reports to Catherine Chatters at CatherineC@hwt.org.uk or to her home address which is given at the end of this newsletter.

Catherine Chatters
Flora Group Secretary

John Norton
Editor

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Forthcoming Events

There is normally no need to book a place on Hants Flora Group events beforehand, unless the text specifically requests it. A contact 'phone number is only given in case you wish to know more about the event. The leader can be expected to turn up whatever the weather (although it may then be mutually agreed to cancel the event)!

Saturday 7 December 2013, 11am–4pm Flora Group / BSBI Exhibition Meeting Testwood Lakes Centre, Brunel Road, Totton, grid reference SU 345 155

We will continue this traditional winter get-together / social event, so please bring along cakes and other goodies to eat, or sandwiches for us to share, plus your specimens, photos, material for display boards and any other botanical talking point. This is a splendid informal event for meeting others interested in Hampshire's wildflowers. A digital projector will be available, so please can you bring a few digital photos to show us (but only British plants and preferably species found in Hampshire!). **Note that we will start showing the plant photos at 1pm.**

If you don't wish to talk about your photos then please at least bring a few prints of photos (or pressed specimens) that you can put on the display tables – ideally annotated with where the photo was taken. Failing that, bring a few biscuits etc and help us munch them!

Testwood Lakes Centre is reached from Brunel Road, a turning off the A36 at a roundabout between Totton and Ower. After entering Brunel Road, look for a small turning on the left after the block of industrial units. Go along this track, ignoring the first (public) car park and the large black (Sea Scouts) building on your right, until the Centre comes into view above the lake. There is plenty of parking there.

Contact: Tony Mundell, tel. 01252 614516.

Wednesday 19 March 2014 Conference focusing on volunteer involvement in the control of invasive non-native plants Brockenhurst Village Hall

This one-day conference, hosted by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project, aims to highlight the important role played by volunteers to stop the spread of invasive non-native plants in our countryside.

Speakers will focus on the vital roles performed by volunteers in recording the location of invasive non-native plants and in undertaking practical work to stop their spread. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival and a buffet lunch will be provided. There is no charge to attend the conference, although donations to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust would be appreciated. Places are limited so early booking is recommended. For further details, or to secure your place, please contact Catherine Chatters, New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer, preferably via e-mail at CatherineC@hwt.org.uk or on 023 8042 4205 or 07770 923315.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Full details of the following meetings will be published in the next *Flora News* (Spring 2014).

Sunday 11 May 2014, 10.30am–4pm Flora Group Annual General Meeting and visit to College Copse near Hook

College Copse Farm near Rotherwick has recently been acquired by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The Trust will continue to manage the farm much as it has been managed by the previous owners. It will provide the Trust with the flexibility to build up a herd of cattle that can then be used to graze other areas under the Trust's management. Apart from the permanent pasture, the farm includes 15.4ha of woodland with a lake, hard standing and barns. We will compile a full list of the flora. The brief Flora Group AGM will be held during the lunch break. Please bring a packed lunch and suitable footwear for rough, wet ground. No need to book a place.

Full details, including grid reference of where to park and meet, will be provided in the Spring 2014 edition of *Flora News*.

Contact: Tony Mundell tel. 01252 614516.

Sunday 13 July 2014, 10.30am–4pm Visit to Greywell Fen & Pumping Station meadows Leader: Tony Mundell

Large areas of Greywell Fen have recently been cleared of trees and scrub. As well as tracking down old favourites like the rare Lesser Tussock Sedge, *Carex diandra*, we will see what new plants have cropped up in the cleared areas. We will also visit the meadows by the Pumping Station which are well-known for Marsh Fragrant Orchid, *Gymnadenia densiflora*, and the rare white form of Marsh Helleborine, *Epipactis palustris* var. *ochroleuca*. Wellington boots are absolutely essential. Tread very carefully or you may sink deep in the mud!

Meet at 10.30am at Greywell Pumping Station SU7223 5130. Try to share cars as parking is limited, and bring lunch if you wish to continue in the afternoon. No need to book a place.

Contact: Tony Mundell tel. 01252 614516.

Also being planned for the early part of 2014 are a joint indoor meeting with Southampton Natural History Society on Britain's carnivorous plants and their place in the world-wide picture, and a trip to Forestry Commission sites in South Hampshire that contain notable remnants of ancient woodland. See the Spring 2014 edition of *Flora News* for more details.

Reports of Recent Events

Visit to Natural History Museum Herbarium on Saturday 9 February 2013

A report by Martin Rand

Just half a dozen people signed up for this London trip, so we all had the benefit of close personal attention for our tour of the botanical side of the National History Museum. Fred Rumsey met us and quickly whisked us through the milling crowds. We were first taken into the reception area of the Darwin Centre where inquiries and specimens from the public are dealt with by a team of enthusiastic specialists. Here Fred had laid out a display of modern herbarium sheets of interesting and challenging Hampshire plants for us to enjoy or puzzle over.

From here we set out into the recesses of the museum on a tour of some of the older parts, where we began to get an appreciation of the huge resource, backed by centuries of work that largely goes unseen by the general public. We also came to understand the challenges of maintaining an archive of world importance in a building that was not designed for easy maintenance! Sadness at seeing magnificent old hardwood storage cabinets being pensioned off was tempered by the knowledge that their former contents were now going into a controlled environment where the roof doesn't leak, and temperatures don't go sub-zero in winter and Saudi in summer.

Fred included a quick tour through the separate section of the museum currently dedicated to lower plants. This, with its own specimens and library, is currently quite remote from the vascular plants, making life difficult for those wishing to study the complete flora of a specific region; but this is likely to be resolved at some stage in the plans to regroup the collections. From here we went to one of the older galleries that will be familiar to many older BSBI members as the venue for exhibition meetings in decades gone by. Here is a mouth-watering collection of floras and monographs, particularly for European regions.

Finally we returned to the Darwin Centre, where within the Cocoon we were able to examine some of the spectacular plant collections dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries, and also to put in audience requests for sheets which Fred then retrieved from the galleries of controlled-environment cabinets stretching out behind us. Fred stressed that the museum welcomed visits from all naturalists, to make use of its huge resources and thereby prove the value of its existence in *all* aspects of its work to the world at large. Arranging a visit involves no more trouble than a phone call or email. Fred and other members of the Museum staff deserve our warm thanks for devoting their time to us in such an informative and enthusiastic way.

Field Trip to Barton-on-Sea on Sunday 7 April 2013

A report by Martin Rand

We were at least given dry weather for this trip, but the fierce grip of winter hadn't really abated, and a strong and bitter wind swept along the Channel to test the large party of cabin-fevered botanists grateful for any field trip in this late season. Of course things were not as far on as one might have hoped, but there was still plenty to interest us.

Following time-hallowed tradition the botanising started in the car park, where Early Meadow-grass *Poa infirma* was soon detected and its anthers scrupulously measured. As the cliff paths westwards had been closed following the winter's cliff-falls, our route was determined for us. All this stretch of the coast from Milford to Bournemouth is a menagerie of garden escapes and other non-native plants, and we had soon recorded Bear's-breech *Acanthus mollis*, Three-cornered Garlic *Allium triquetrum*, Shasta Daisy *Leucanthemum x superbum*, Tree Lupin *Lupinus arboreus*, Tree-mallow *Malva arborea*, Spanish Dagger *Yucca gloriosa*, New Zealand Flax *Phormium tenax* and many others. There was some debate about whether the Hoary Stock *Matthiola incana*, already in flower, had fallen off the top of the cliff or jumped across from the Isle of Wight. Particularly impressive on the shingly slopes of the stabilised cliffs were the hummocks of Seaside Daisy *Erigeron glaucus* making their own distinctive landscape and decidedly non-NVC community. In the same area, and less exotic, were fine patches of Rock Samphire *Crithmum maritimum* sheltering flowering Danish Scurvy-grass *Cochlearia danica* from the chilly blasts.



Hoary Stock *Matthiola incana* providing a splash of colour on a cold spring day (John Norton)

A huge tract of a semi-evergreen rose excited attention, and there was speculation whether the leaves had been retained because of the mild coastal climate (!) or whether this was an exotic species such as *Rosa sempervirens*. The jury remains out on this for the moment, pending a return visit by Eric Clement and the author.

However this coastal stretch has its share of notable natives too, the only problem being the small number that had put up leaves, let alone flowers, in this season.

Seepage zones at the foot of the cliffs yielded very dead fronds of Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis*, and a curious narrow band of vegetation along the bottom of the sheer upper cliff turned out to be Greater Sea-spurrey *Spergularia media* in a surprising habitat. Star of the day, however, was surely the large population of Sea Stork's-bill *Erodium maritimum* flowering and fruiting in open grassland on a sheltered stretch of undercliff talus. Barring one old (plausible) location on Hayling where it has never been re-recorded, all previous records of this species have been in heavily man-modified sites which suggested that it was not native in the county. This find makes a strong case that it is.



A 3m tall New Zealand Flax *Phormium tenax* (John Norton)

Visit to Manor Farm Woodlands and River Hamble on Wednesday 17 April 2013

A report by John Norton

This meeting was originally planned for the third week of April 2012 but was postponed and then cancelled due to the continuous heavy rain which fell in that month. We timetabled it a little earlier this year, taking into account the warm March and (despite the rain) the early spring of 2012. Unfortunately we didn't bargain for one of the longest, coldest winters of recent years in the south of England in 2012-13! Nevertheless, quite a few vernal woodland species were in flower and the outcome was a very rewarding day out, with a total of 140 species recorded, including 42 ancient woodland indicators. It was a good turn-out, with nine Flora Group members attending.

Highlights included one patch of flowering Moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina* and a single plant of Goldilocks Buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus* (almost in flower). There

was also plentiful Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa* and other typical woodland flowers, and a good range of grasses and ferns, along with locally frequent Hairy and Southern wood-rushes *Luzula pilosa* and *L. forsteri*.

Surprisingly, only a single Dog-violet was seen in flower, and caused some debate – being somewhat intermediate between Early *V. reichenbachiana* and Common *V. riviniana*. Eventually, most people were happy to plump for the former, particularly in view of the early date and rather dark, purplish spur.

The meeting had been arranged partly to give some feedback to the site woodland manager, Duncan Gilmartin, who kindly co-led the walk and took us to see a noteworthy stand of native Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata* in Sandpit Copse. Duncan was seeking advice on how to regenerate the enormous coppice stools (see photo, back page), but with global warming maybe this warmth-loving species might start spreading again of its own accord?

Our return route took us along Hoe Moor Creek and the west bank of the River Hamble where a number of typical saltmarsh plants were recorded, including a large colony of Marsh-mallow *Althaea officinalis*, the dead stems of which were pointed out by Geoffrey Field. The sandy bank of the river within the woodland here supports almost continuous colonies of Common Polypody *Polypodium vulgare*, probably growing more abundantly and luxuriantly than I have seen elsewhere in Hampshire. Thanks are due to Tony Mundell for confirming this microscopically after I misidentified it as *P. interjectum*! One of the last things to be admired was a patch of suckering Wild Service-tree *Sorbus torminalis*, a characteristic species of the Manor Farm woodlands.

Visit to Alice Holt Forest on Sunday 12 May 2013

A report by Tony Mundell

This meeting was co-led by Jay Doyle, the Forestry Commission Ecologist for the South England Forest District. Due to the late arrival of spring in 2013 we had to identify most plants vegetatively but we managed to collect records of 116 species in SU8042, 108 in SU7942 and an extra 41 in the Butterfly Conservation Reserve at Bentley Station Meadow within SU7943 (though by that time I was only bothering to record the more interesting plants as it was threatening to rain). As so often happens on our meetings we found plenty to interest us within a few yards of the car park. Here we saw 15 flower spikes of Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio* growing with several Adder's-tongue Ferns *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and an alien grass, Hard Fescue *Festuca brevipila* which is increasingly found where grass seed has been sown. Even closer to our cars we noticed lots of Blinks *Montia fontana* and examination of the beautifully sculptured tiny seeds showed it to be subspecies *chondrosperma*.

In Alice Holt Forest there were quite a few unusual trees evidently planted by the Forestry Commission. These included Rum Cherry *Prunus serotina* and Japanese Cherry *Prunus serrulata*, as well as a Katsura Tree *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, which was initially mistaken for

a Judas Tree. Our traditionally short AGM was held once we had finished munching through our packed lunches. Jay showed us regenerating areas and a newly created pond where the conifers had been removed. Nearby in the adjacent ancient woodland, as well as in the BC Reserve, we found several colonies of Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* and more Adder's-tongue Fern.

Field Trip to Pheasant Pen Rough on Wednesday 15 May 2013

A report by Martin Rand

This evening trip was by way of an appendix to last year's visit to the Bisterne Manor estate, when we endured some of the very worst of a bad lot of 2012 weather. Fate was much kinder to us this time, and mellow sunshine warmed our rumps as we got our noses into the short sward either side of the track across the Rough. We were soon rewarded with many of the tiny sand-loving plants characteristic of the area, including Little Mouse-ear *Cerastium semidecandrum*, Mossy Stonecrop *Crassula tillaea*, Upright Chickweed *Moenchia erecta*, Changing and Early Forget-me-nots *Myosotis discolor* and *M. ramosissima*, Bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*, Bird's-foot Clover and Subterranean Clover *Trifolium ornithopodioides* and *T. subterraneum*. Particularly gratifying was the discovery of the rarer Suffocated Clover *Trifolium suffocatum*, not previously logged here.

Less rich in notable species but of great interest vegetationally was the adjoining field, which had patches of heathland over a fixed inland sand-dune with a great deal of Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*. Ditches bounding this field also had a rich aquatic and marginal flora.

With an hour or so of light left, and with the willing collaboration of the farm manager and his wife, we next took off into the valley-floor grazing towards the River Avon at Wattons Ford. Flooding made a direct approach impossible but this simply meant that we were able to enjoy a more roundabout walk past some very fine ditches and ponds. Although it was rather early in the year for recording this habitat, we were able to add quite a few species, most notably several fine vegetative patches of the Whorl-grass *Catabrosa aquatica*. Our return through the enfolding dusk made a romantic ending to a rewarding visit.

The Group is much indebted to Hallam Mills, the landowner, and his estate staff, for the warm and enthusiastic welcome that they gave us and their participation in the evening's events.

Features

Elms

A note by Tony Mundell

Elms are somewhat difficult as until you get really familiar with them they all appear very similar and one is dependent on rather subjective characters like how rough or smooth the leaves feel. I must confess that I am no expert when

it comes to Elms. I can recognise a few but I am often puzzled by others!



European White Elm *Ulmus laevis*, Over Wallop, 13 May
2013 (Tony Mundell)

In Hampshire by far the commonest are Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra* and English Elm *Ulmus procera*. There are other species and hybrids but they tend to be under-recorded partly because samples really need to be collected and sent off for identification by the BSBI *Ulmus* Referee, Dr Coleman. He requests mature side shoots (avoiding suckers) collected after June and ideally also fruits, if available, collected in April or May.

Dutch Elm Disease has removed many fine trees from the countryside but the beetle that spreads the deadly fungus prefers tall growth in full sun so smaller trees, or those in deep shade, can survive at least until they grow too tall. English Elm readily suckers at the base after the disease strikes so it can persist in hedgerows but it very rarely produces any seed. In contrast Wych Elm very rarely suckers but does reproduce by seed.

Wych Elm has a larger leaf than English Elm with a characteristic shape having a long tapering point at the tip that is lacking on English Elm. Most Elms have an asymmetric leaf base with one side of leaf extending further than the other. In Wych Elm the longer side of the leaf base usually extends enough to cover all of the petiole. The older twigs and branches of English Elm can develop regular raised 'knobby wings' of bark. I have never seen these 'wings' on Wych Elm.



Two elms found at Over Wallop on 13 May 2013 (Tony Mundell). Top: Plot's Elm *Ulmus plotii*; below: Small-leaved Elm *U. minor* subsp *minor*. Note the difference in leaf size.

Early this year, perhaps in response to the weather conditions over the previous year, most of the Wych Elms produced a remarkable abundance of fruit. So much so that in spring I even saw saplings bent over by the weight of the masses of green fruit discs. As already noted, English Elm very rarely fruits but this year when out with Susan Simmons at Over Wallop I saw my first ever example of English Elm fruits. In Wych Elm the seed is placed centrally in the fruit's disc whereas in English Elm the seed is displaced somewhat towards the tip of the fruit.

As noted in the plant records I came across a huge tree of European White Elm *Ulmus laevis* in the hedgerow strip between two arable fields at Over Wallop. This was new to me and the first record for Hampshire but not difficult to identify as it was fruiting, showing its distinctive exceptionally long pedicels (see photo on previous page). Nearby there were much smaller examples of what I think are Small-leaved Elm *Ulmus minor* subsp. *minor* and Plot's Elm *Ulmus plotii* (opposite), but these two really need expert confirmation. In fact, in spite of their vernacular names, Plot's Elm has smaller leaves than Small-leaved Elm.

This year Steve Povey has also sent me close-up photos of probable *U. minor* and *U. plotii* so I expect they are more widespread than the records suggest.

As a postscript, Martin Rand and I helped this year with Atlas 2020 recording in North Wales. En-route home we called in at Marford Quarry, Denbigh VC50 which has the only British record for an American Elm called *Ulmus thomasi*. It was last recorded in 1985 so an updated record was long overdue. After much searching we had just about given up, suspecting that it had been lost to Dutch Elm Disease (it is susceptible), when we came across a group of about two dozen small trees that we suspect are this species at SJ 3584 5585 on the sloping quarry side. Like *U. procera* it has 'knobby wings' on the older branches.

Factors Affecting the Distribution of Autumn Lady's-Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* and Field Gentian *Gentianella campestris* on Wilverley Plain in the New Forest

An article by Catherine Pascoe

Introduction

After my talk at the Exhibition Meeting at Testwood in December 2012, many of the Flora Group members are aware that I have been looking at what influences the distribution of Autumn Lady's-Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* and Field Gentian *Gentianella campestris* on Wilverley Plain (Figure 1). Both *S. spiralis* and *G. campestris* are declining across their geographic ranges, largely due to habitat loss caused by human activities such as agriculture and urban development. *S. spiralis* is now classed as near threatened in the Red Data List for Great Britain, while *G. campestris* is considered an endangered species in several European countries and is classed as vulnerable in the Red Data List for Great Britain. Both plants are grassland species with populations on the re-seeded grasslands of the New Forest, including Wilverley Plain. I particularly wanted



Figure 1. Left: Autumn Lady's-tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* (taken at Gilkicker Point, Gosport); right: Field Gentian *Gentianella campestris* on Wilverley Plain (John Norton)

to look at the effect of human trampling and livestock grazing as Wilverley Plain is a very popular site for visitors and there is also a high livestock presence.

Trampling by humans is recognised as having significant impact on vegetation, affecting plant species composition in a number of habitats and resulting in the loss of species that are less tolerant of the impact. Grazing animals also influence the species composition and diversity of plant communities and different stocking rates create further varied impacts on species richness. I also looked at soil characteristics and soil moisture in case these influenced patterns of distribution.

Methodology

I carried out the survey work in August and September 2012. I did full botanical surveys every 100m on a grid across Wilverley Plain and I recorded the presence and abundance of *S. spiralis* and *G. campestris* as well as dominant vegetation height every 50m on the same grid. I mapped visitors' walking routes and picnic spots and the livestock positions using GPS and used the data to calculate densities to find out where the most heavily used areas were. I took soil samples from the same quadrats as the botanical surveys and measured the pH, soil moisture, organic matter content, nitrate and ammonium and also measured soil compaction.

Results

S. spiralis was found mainly where vegetation height was 5 to 7 cm and *G. campestris* was found mainly where

vegetation height was 6 to 8 cm (**Figure 2**). Both *S. spiralis* and *G. campestris* were more abundant where livestock density was highest (**Figures 3 & 4**). Both species were more abundant in areas of lower human trampling pressure than in areas where trampling pressure was highest, with *G. campestris* appearing to be significantly impacted by trampling (**Figures 5 & 6**). There were no statistically significant correlations between the distribution of these species and soil characteristics or plant communities.

Discussion and Conclusion

Grazing appears to be an important factor in the distribution of *S. spiralis* and *G. campestris* on Wilverley Plain. Further research could look at grazing intensity in more detail to find an ideal stocking rate that allows the continued survival and spread of these species. I didn't consider rabbit grazing during the research and it would be interesting to find out the proportion of influence rabbits have on areas with populations of *S. spiralis* and *G. campestris*.

It seems likely that neither species may currently be under threat on the grasslands of the New Forest as long as the human trampling impact does not extend further into previously lightly or un-trampled areas. However, there is likely to be conflict between increasing recreational use in the New Forest and the survival of declining plant species in areas that are popular with visitors.

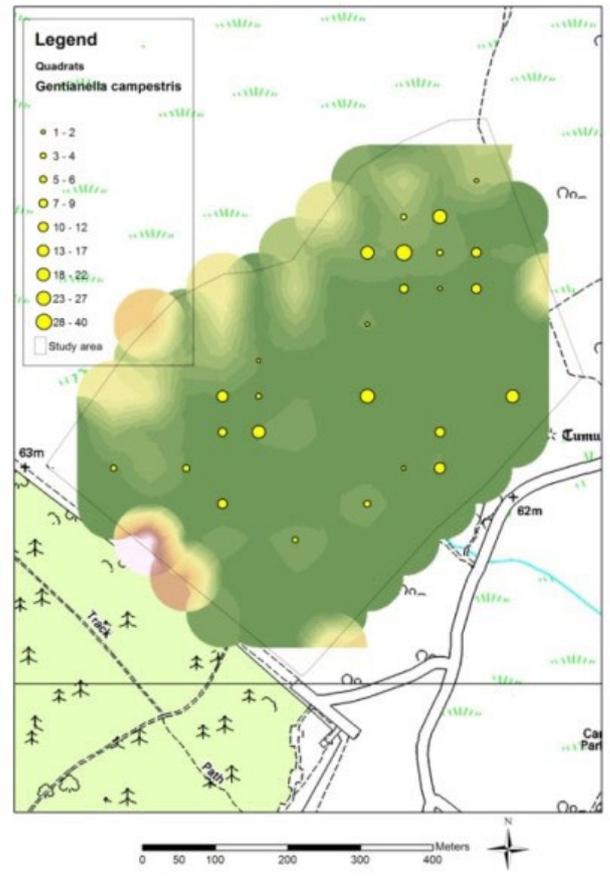
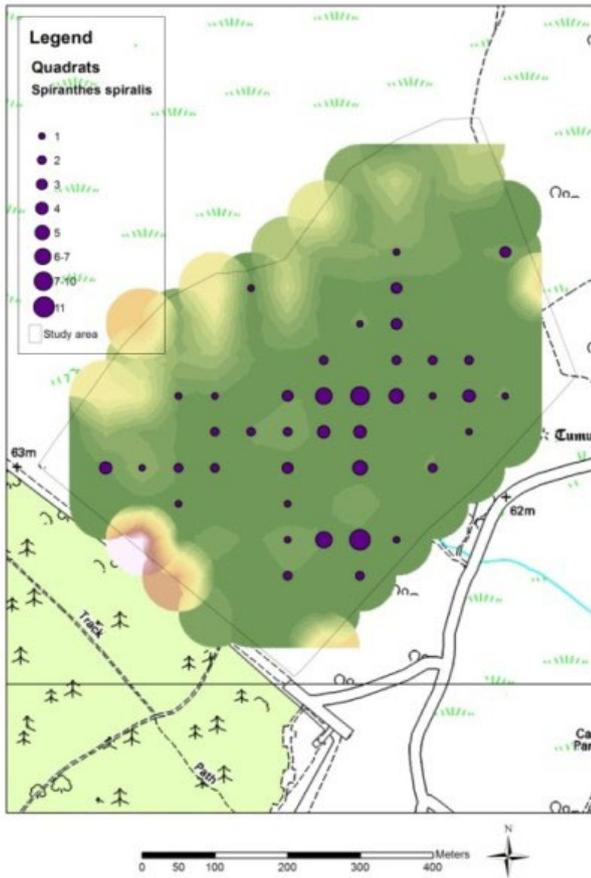


Figure 2. Distribution and abundance of *S. spiralis* (left, purple circles) and *G. campestris* (right, yellow circles) with vegetation height shown graded from low (1 cm) to high (200 cm). Dark green indicates low vegetation height, with height increasing through pale green, yellow, pink, purple and white, with white being the tallest vegetation. Abundance is indicated at each quadrat by the relative size of the circle, as shown in the legend.

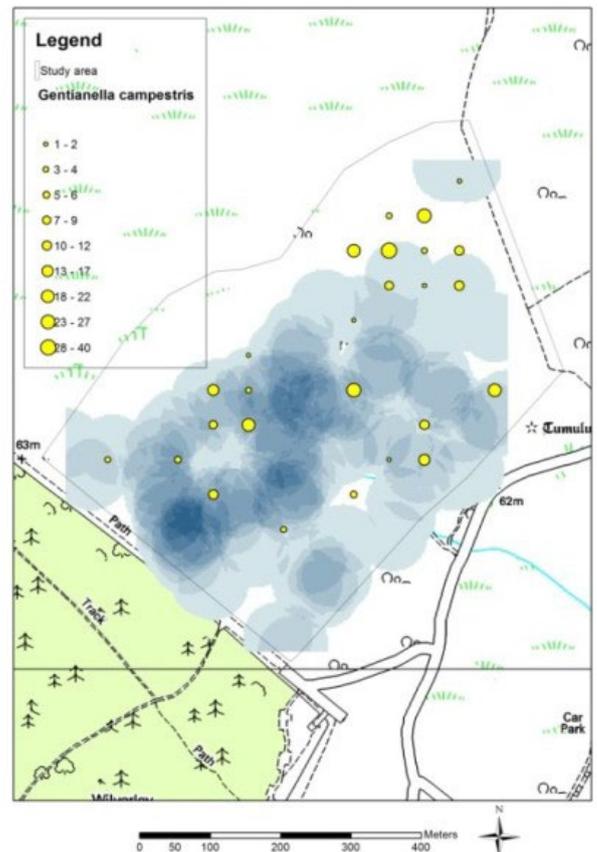
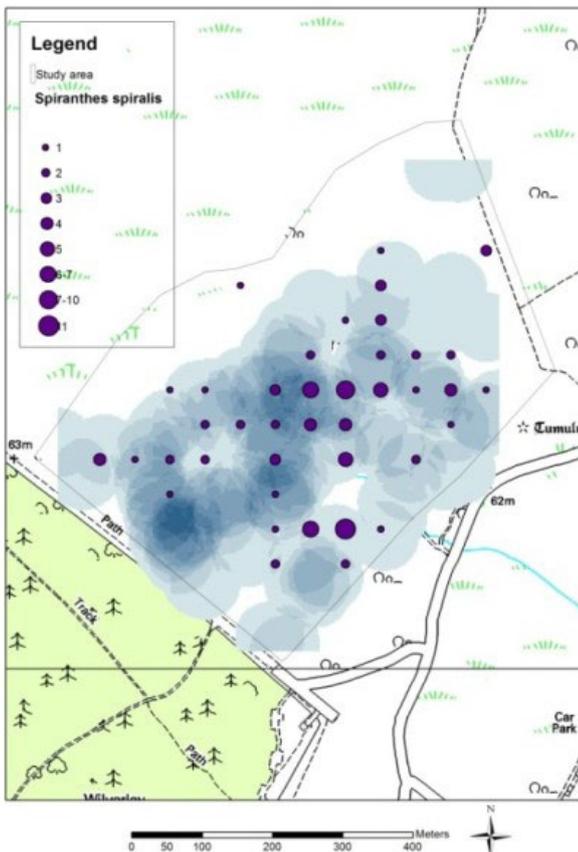


Figure 3. Density of livestock at a range of 50m (darker shades indicate higher densities), with the distribution and abundance of *S. spiralis* (left) and *G. campestris* (right) superimposed.

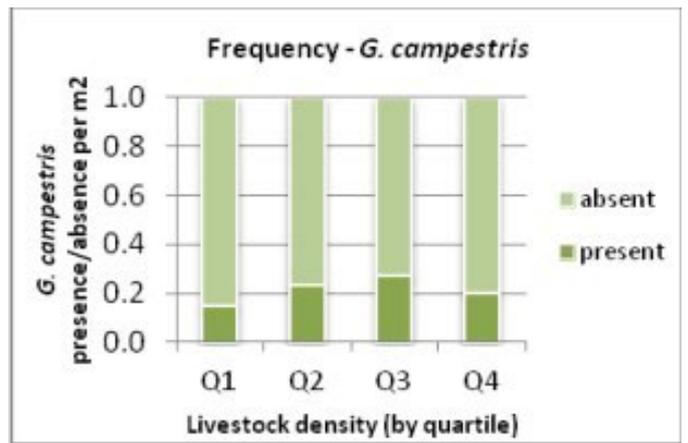
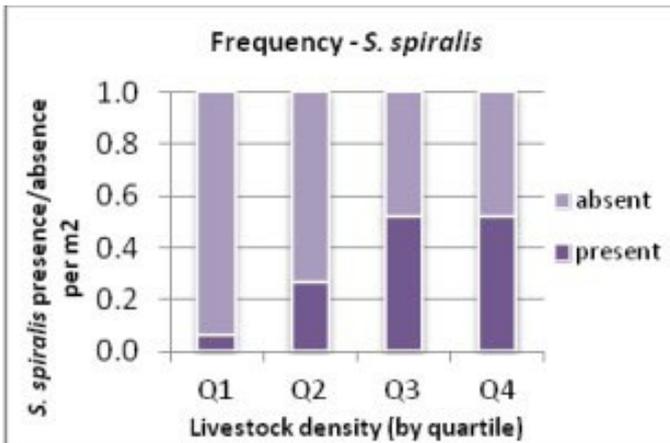
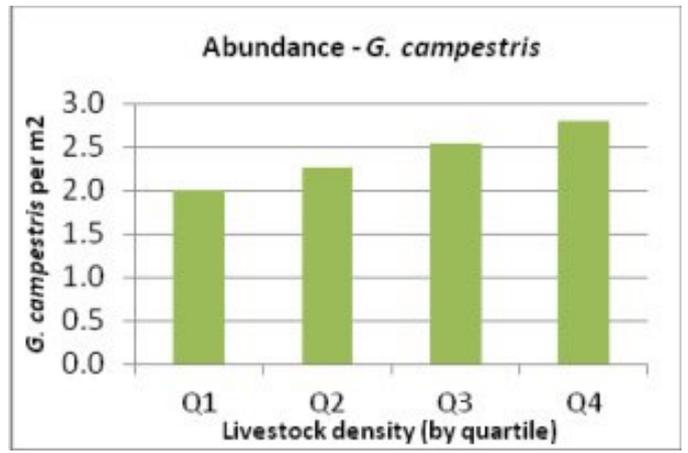
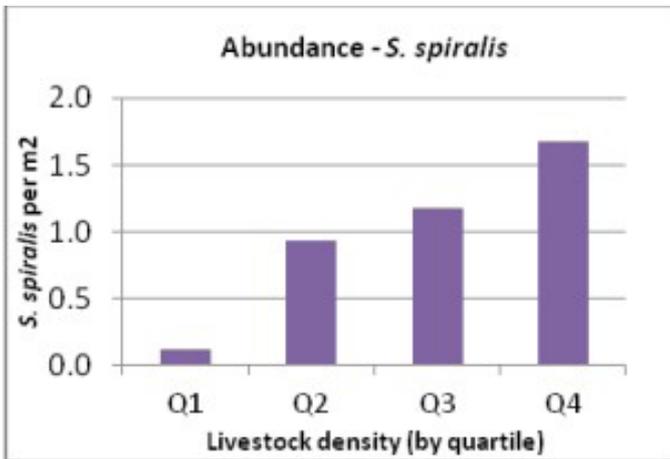


Figure 4. Graphs showing the quartiles of livestock density from Q1 (low popularity) to Q4 (high popularity). Above: mean number of *S. spiralis* and *G. campestris* plants per m² by quartile. Below: presence and absence per m² by quartile.

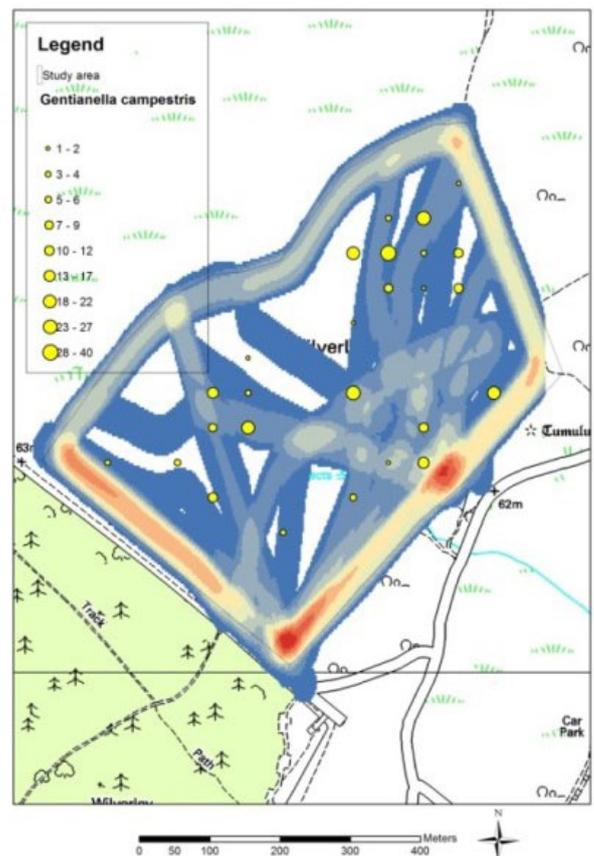
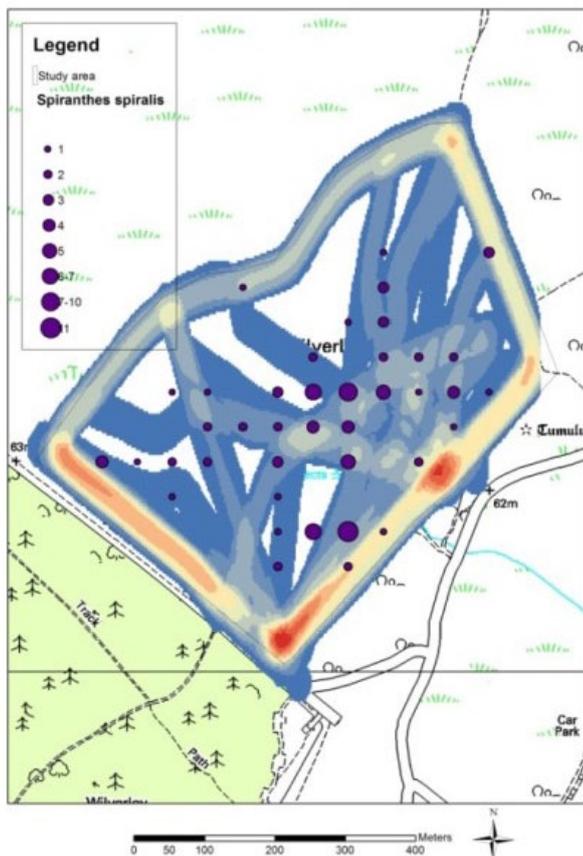


Figure 5. Maps showing the popularity of walking routes across Wilverley Plain. The dark blue shows light use, and the colour grades to pale blue, pale yellow and to red to show increasing popularity. The most well used areas are seen in red.

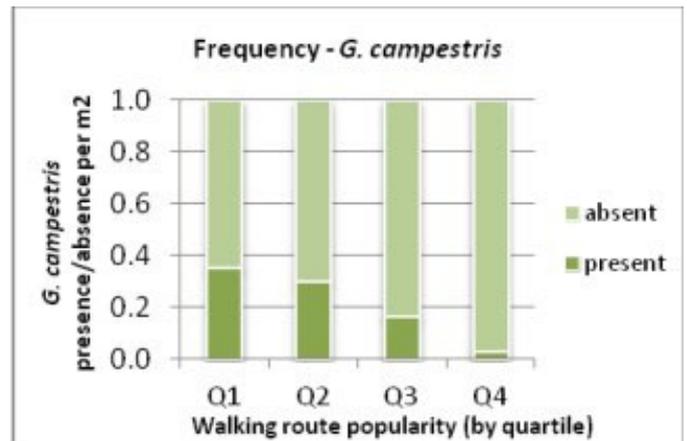
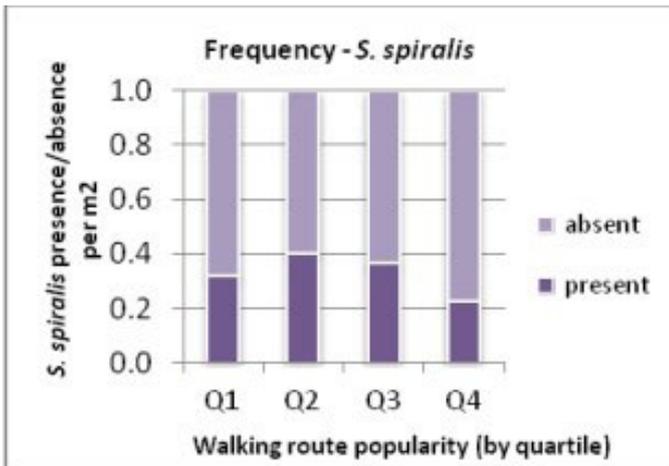
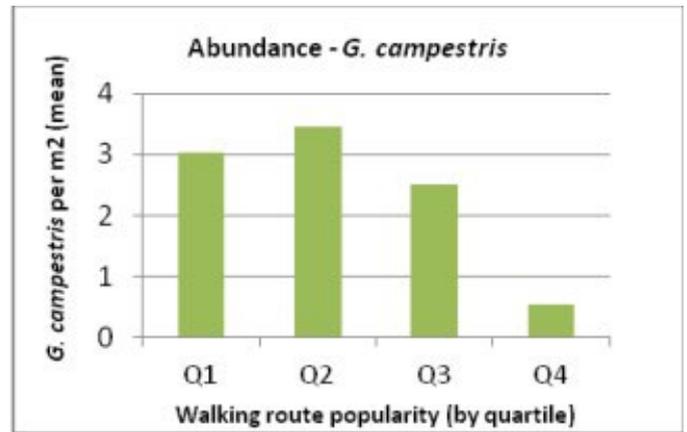
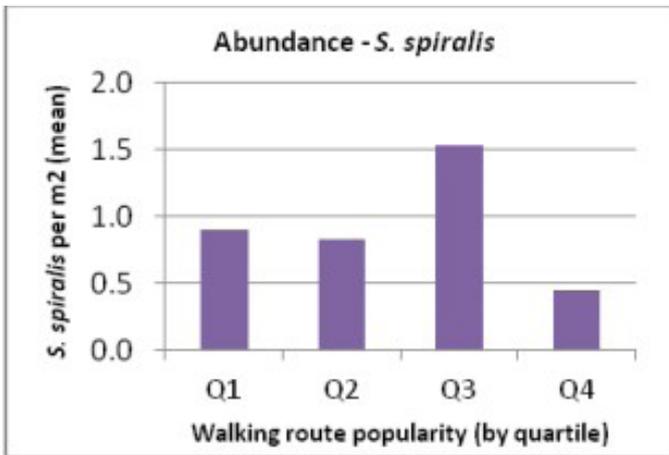


Figure 6. Graphs showing the quartiles of walking route popularity from Q1 (low popularity) to Q4 (high popularity). Above: mean number of *S. spiralis* and *G. campestris* plants per m² by quartile. Below: presence and absence per m² by quartile.

News and Views

A Fresh Perspective

A note by Clive Chatters

In early June 2013 I had the pleasure of spending the afternoon walking across the New Forest with a group of Bavarian ecologists. It is fascinating to see a familiar world through the eyes of visitors. Species which are unremarkable to us, such as pignut are revered rarities. Our climate is so much warmer and wetter than theirs and the growing seasons much longer. The grazed lowland woodland and heathland matrix was entirely unknown to our visitors. They were thrilled to see the matrix of trees and glades and the natural meandering of the river with natural dams of deadwood.

A highlight of the walk was pausing by the river at Fletcher's Thorns. The shallow waters and muddy margins produced a mass of rarities, many unknown in Bavaria, including stands of Hampshire Purslane *Ludwigia palustris* and many species and hybrids of Water Crowfoot. We stopped here



Bavarian ecologists by the river at Fletcher's Thorns during their visit to the New Forest in June 2013

as this stretch of river has recently been re-engineered to restore it to its former channels. Formal condition assessments of habitats are rather uninspiring. On being introduced to swathes of Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera* from the refreshed riverbank one of the party squeaked with excitement. This emission of joy celebrated the restoration of the river as a great success.

It's That Orchid Again!

A note by Elizabeth Pratt

Editor's Note: Elizabeth provides us with an update on the Green-winged orchid near Romsey Hospital, first mentioned in Autumn 2012 Flora News.

Just when I thought the green-winged orchid outside Romsey Hospital was going to be left in peace, the signs went up about the roadworks at the junction of Winchester Hill and Cupernham Lane. After a long search through the planning documents I eventually found the plans for the traffic signal works; it all looked reasonable enough, but I thought I should just make sure...

An on-line message to the Highways Department at Hampshire County Council was quickly followed by a phone call from a highways engineer, who wanted to know exactly where the orchid was. He wasn't at all sure whether it would be safe. A call from one of the ecologists followed; would I go out and mark the orchid so that they could come and inspect it on site? A couple of weeks passed over Christmas, and time was running out, so I sent another e-mail, which elicited a response two days later from Adam Eggesfield. He assured me that the engineer was very confident that the works would avoid the orchid altogether, but that high visibility tape or barriers would be erected if necessary to ensure the contractors would know where it was. The contractors' name of Hope and Clay was rapidly turning in our minds to Hope and Pray... In the meantime, Adam had also said that if it became absolutely necessary the orchid could be moved to another suitable place by excavating a turf of 1 metre square by 30 cm deep with the orchid in the centre. Quite an undertaking, but not one that I would be happy to see happen, as orchids are very sensitive to disturbance.

A few days later came another e-mail from the engineer; they had decided to relocate the orchid as it would be safer. I sent an urgent plea to Adam. The same day a plastic protective fence went up around the orchid, just before the workmen started on the bank. The orchid was unmoved.

I will soon be getting myself a reputation as I was soon down there chatting to the workmen, who started to greet me as 'the orchid lady'. They were very interested and



Green-winged orchid survives (just!) (Elizabeth Pratt)

allowed me access to check on the plant's progress. A couple of weeks later and it had gained a new fence, this time made of scaffolding poles. 'We thought it would protect it better from the machines' they said. I was also told that the hospital caretaker had been out there keeping an eye on it too.

Over the next few weeks and months, the works went on and access got more and more difficult. The protective fenced area also got smaller. By mid-May I was cut off from the orchid by a new wall being built and a large trench with pipes and cable in it. I was able to photograph the orchid's progress, but only with plenty of zoom on the camera. Finally and belatedly on May 20th the flower appeared (see photo - arrowed). The workmen were most interested and helped me to find a way to scramble along beside the edge of the wall behind the trench to get a closer view.

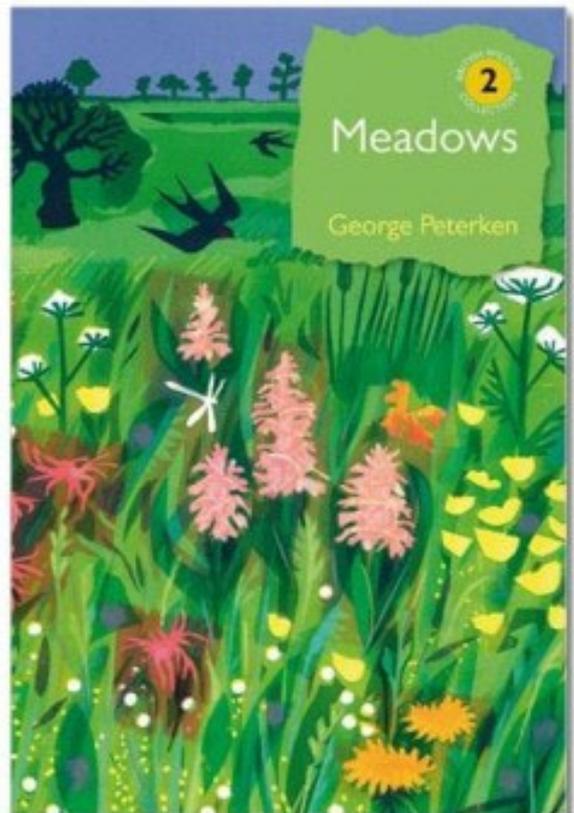
It is not yet safe. There is to be infilling behind the wall with gravel and topsoil. However, I hope this will not affect the orchid as it will be below it on the slope. At least this year there has been no chance of it getting mowed. And for next year, who knows...?

Newly Published: 'Meadows'

A note by Clive Chatters

British Wildlife Publishing has recently produced a detailed account of meadows by renowned ecologist George Peterken. George grew up near Ringwood and is best known for his work as a woodland ecologist. We hope to bring you a review of 'Meadows' in a future newsletter.

The book can be ordered from <http://www.britishwildlife.com/bwpbooksview.asp>.

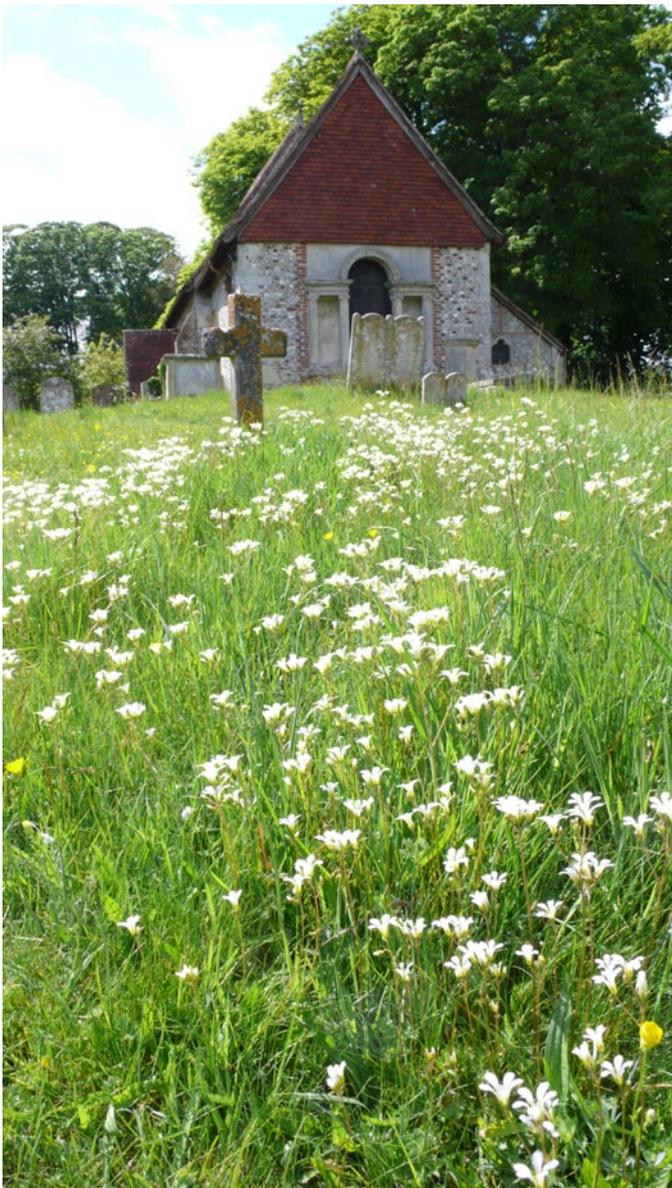


Quarley Churchyard

A note by Ian Ralphs

Several years ago Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust asked me to go out to look at Quarley Churchyard as they were asking advice on management. When I got there, I discovered, to my horror, that the whole site had been mown flat (absolutely bowling green flat) as the church was having its then annual 'flower festival'! I felt so disappointed, particularly as the Churchyard was a known site for Meadow Saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*.

However I visited the site on 23 May 2013 and I am pleased to be able to report that occasionally things do change for the better, as can be seen from the photo I took that day.



A flower festival to be proud of; Quarley Churchyard in May 2013 (Ian Ralphs)

Recording

Q-bank Invasive Plants Database

A note by Catherine Chatters

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is a partner in the European Interreg-funded 'RINSE' (Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe) project which brings together partners in the UK, Northern France, Flanders and The Netherlands to share best practice and adopt strategic approaches to tackle the threats posed by invasive non-native species. For further information about RINSE please see the website www.rinse-europe.eu.

Through discussion with the RINSE project partners from The Netherlands, the Wildlife Trust has become aware of the very useful Q-bank Invasive Plants Database which can be found at www.q-bank.eu.

This invasive plants database focuses on vascular plants and gives particular attention to aquatic (non-marine) plants which pose a (potential) threat in Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, North West France and South East England. The Q-bank database also includes those plants which are regulated by other countries and which are likely to be present as contaminants in commercial exports originating from The Netherlands.

Q-bank is a very useful tool to help with the identification of invasive non-native plants. It also provides helpful advice relating to the control of four of the most troublesome aquatic plants in North West Europe, namely *Cabomba caroliniana*, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, *Myriophyllum aquaticum* and *Ludwigia grandiflora*.

The Heathland Surveillance Network

A note by Tony Mundell

I was sent a leaflet about this new scheme by Jay Doyle but the more I looked into it the more confusing I found it. According to the leaflet the HSN is a volunteer survey network that collects information about representative species on lowland heathlands. It is a new initiative by the Biological Records Centre and Footprint Ecology and is supported by Natural England, BSBI, Plantlife and a host of other conservation organisations. The basic idea is that volunteers collect data on heathland sites and enter them through the iRecord website. In 2013 a pilot project is taking place in three test regions (Dorset, Surrey/Hampshire and Staffordshire). The leaflet talks about the monitoring of a range of species groups with a focus on invertebrates, fungi and lichens in particular, with training events held in the three test regions in June 2013.

To participate you need to register and you are allocated one particular 1km square in your home area. Surveys are then made of 'plots' of 100 square metres selected to represent different habitats within the 1km square.

The leaflet says further information is available at www.brc.ac.uk/hsn but when I tried to find out more on the groups of taxa to be recorded and the methods to be used, the

only detailed information is found under 'Resources' where it talks about promoting existing schemes like the Plant Surveillance Scheme and the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. I think the former of these must be a proposed BSBI/Plantlife recording scheme designed as a follow-on to the previous Local Change Project, but that will cover a wide range of quality habitats, not just heathland.

Clicking within 'Resources' on the Pant Surveillance Scheme does give plenty of detail. It explains that three different levels of survey can be used depending on botanical ability. The idea is to identify plants within selected 'plots' of 100 square metres (which agrees with the Heathland Surveillance Network leaflet). These should default to 10m x 10m squares for most habitats, though for more linear features like arable field edges a 'plot' should be 100m x 1m instead.

At present the HSN is very much a pilot project so it remains to be seen whether it takes off. It is unsurprising that the Biological Records Centre is proposing that records are submitted using iRecord (because they helped with its development) but in my very personal view it is nothing like as good as Living Record.

Bryophyte Recording in Hampshire

A note by John Norton

I have taken over from Rod Stern (who has been in poor health recently) as the British Bryological Society's regional bryophyte recorder for VC11. Fred Rumsey (f.rumsey@nhm.ac.uk) remains the recorder for VC12. I would be interested to hear from anyone who records bryophytes in south Hants, or wants to, or has some records to send in. Please contact me for a record entry spreadsheet. I may be able to help with identifying the odd specimen but please let me know first if you want to send something.

The BBS has recently embarked on the preparation of a new national atlas (the last was published in 1992), so unfortunately any records submitted from now on will not be reflected in this. Nevertheless, any new records will be extremely valuable. Rod's excellent VC atlas (published in 2010) highlighted the fact that even much of the New Forest is poorly recorded: many older records of rarities have not been recently confirmed and many common species do not have specific localities recorded.

June Chatfield is currently the co-ordinator of the BBS Southern Group, which covers Hampshire, Berkshire and parts of Sussex, Surrey and South London, though in recent years most outings have been in Hampshire. June's contact details are on the BBS web site (see below), but because she is not easily contactable by e-mail I suggest anyone interesting in going on a trip this coming winter contacts me first. At the time of writing, no winter 2013-14 programme has been arranged.

Of significant news this year was the discovery by Phil Budd (accompanied by Eric Clement and myself) of a small liverwort *Cephaloziella baumgartneri*, on the wall of Netley Abbey. This was new to Hampshire and fills a gap in the distribution of this nationally rare species, which occurs in the limestone quarries of Portland, Dorset, on the Isle

of Wight and in Kent and formerly in Sussex. It is the only *Cephaloziella* species that grows on calcareous substrates.

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BBS web site: <http://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/>

VC11 Records

Compiled by Martin Rand

Martin Rand's list of noteworthy botanical records from South Hampshire (VC11) will appear in the Spring 2014 edition of *Flora News*.

VC12 Records

Compiled by Tony Mundell

Here is a set of my personal selections from the records received recently. My choices for inclusion here are based mainly on scarcity in VC12 but other people's records always receive priority over my own. As I do such an enormous amount of 'square-bashing' myself I tend to find many scarce plants, but I would rather include records from others, so please keep exciting records coming in.

As usual I have omitted the 'SU' to save space, and I remind you that inclusion of a record does not imply that there is public access, as some of these records were obtained during surveys at the owner's invitation.

Amongst the more exciting finds listed here is Ian Ralphs' discovery of *Colchicum autumnale* (Meadow Safron) at Quarley Wood. This is in an area now being actively coppiced and like all the other native sites it is not very far from the Wiltshire border. It was not recorded here in the previous three surveys by HCC and HWT in 1979, 1986 and 1992 while the site was a derelict coppice. Coppice management was reinstated shortly after the 1992 survey. What is really interesting is that it was recorded in Townsend's 'Flora of Hampshire' at 'Quarley and Ashton Copse' by H. Reeks in c.1870. So this seems to be an example of how plants can respond to positive management like coppicing. Many of our woodlands are far too dark and shady for a rich ground flora. There is certainly a great need for more coppicing or woodland thinning.

Another example of plants responding to favourable management is provided by Chris Hall's recent record of over 500 stems of *Equisetum sylvaticum* (Wood Horsetail) in the MOD Training area at Beacon Hill, Ewshot. Due to increasing shading from a *Tsuga* plantation the colony there had declined down to only 18 weak stems by 2008. It was right on the verge of local extinction when MOD was persuaded to act to let some light in, and they felled a few trees there in Feb 2011.

I was delighted when Steve Povey was already out and about botanising just before Christmas and found that *Groenlandia densa* (Opposite-leaved Pondweed) is still at Lutcombe Pond, where I have had a few records since 1988. Later on near there in April he refound *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* (Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage) in the Lutcombe Bottom Stream where it had been feared lost.

Steve has recently been taking an interest in Arums and I have included his convincing photo of the hybrid *Arum italicum x maculatum* (Hybrid Lords-and-Ladies) showing the black leaf spots inherited from *A. maculatum* and the yellowish leaf veins from *A. italicum*. Thanks to Steve for providing photographs of these and other plants for this edition of *Flora News*.

Whilst I was out 'square-bashing' with Mary Parker we went to see a really gigantic tree of *Populus nigra subsp. betulifolia* (Black Poplar) near Greywell Mill, which had first been recorded by Andrew Branson in 1986. Black Poplars all belong to a limited number of clones and in 2010/11 Dr Ken Adams surveyed most of the trees in Hampshire (as he had previously done in many other counties) using DNA testing to determine their clones. He was impressed by this particular tree saying that it is possibly the largest Black Poplar in the UK. His DNA tests showed that many of the North Hampshire trees belong to a previously unknown clone, now named Clone 55, which is apparently confined to Hampshire. The massive c.200 year old tree at Greywell may be the source of cuttings for other examples of Clone 55 in VC12 DNA-tested in 2010. I heard from HBIC that the Environment Agency is considering planting cuttings of Black Poplar along the Hampshire Avon catchment.

Aconitum napellus subsp. napellus (Monk's-hood) About 12 stems, but no flowers, in a ditch by lane-side at Vinney Copse 735455 growing with a few daffodil leaves so evidently from a garden despite the remote location. Chris Hall 8 May 2013, specimen det. ARGM.

Ambrosia artemisiifolia (Ragweed) Still alive at Four Marks 6727 3516 beside footpath close to Badger Close. It was flowering 16 Sep 2012, was cut off in October, but is still green, Jonty Denton 16 Jan 2013.

Anacamptis morio (Green-winged Orchid) 15 spikes at Alice Holt 8043 4267, HFG meeting 12 May 2013. A few spikes in lawns of two gardens in Telegraph Lane, Four Marks 6807 3467 and 6806 3467, photo taken by Diana Tennyson, emailed to Tony Mundell on 6 Jun 2013 and confirmed.



Hybrid Lords-and-Ladies, *Arum italicum x maculatum*,
Selborne (Steve Povey)

Arum italicum subsp. italicum (Italian Lords-and-Ladies) Extensive patch at gated vehicle entrance to Rooksbury Mill, Andover 357443, Graeme Davis 10 Mar 2013, photo determined by Mike Wildish. Several plants in hedgerow alongside path, Selborne 740332, Steve Povey 22 Apr 2013.

Arum italicum subsp. neglectum (Italian Lords-and-Ladies) Steve Povey contributed 13 records from the Hangers area starting on 1 January N of Steep at 737264 then 8 January at 736264 etc.

Arum italicum x maculatum (Hybrid Lords-and-Ladies) Several plants beside woodland path at Selborne Common 7311 3363, Steve Povey 14 Apr 2013, photos (see below) and specimen taken. Another further along the path to the bottom of the Zig-Zag at Selborne 74146 33385, Steve Povey 25 May 2013.

Azolla filiculoides (Water Fern) Several small ponds and streams covered in this small aquatic fern in Radford Park, Liphook e.g. at 844 319, Steve Povey, Emily Iles & Tony Mundell 5 May 2013. In the river at Greywell 717508, Mary Parker & Tony Mundell 717508, 22 May 2013.

Berberis vulgaris (Barberry) In hedge beside footpath at Itchen Wood 5361 3575, a huge spreading bush with a massive main trunk, almost a tree, now in bud, Loraine Martin, Andrea Bassett & Tony Mundell 23 May 2013 (where first reported by Peter Marston in 2011).

Botrychium lunaria (Moonwort) Blackbushe Airfield, four plants in a tight group at 80352 59700 plus three nearby at 80354 59707, groups of three and four 1.5m apart at 80599 59365, and two at 80611 59172, most fruiting and confined to the shortest vegetation with abundant *Pilosella officinarum*, Tony Mundell 4 Jun 2013, no doubt there are more, but dramatically declined since a count of 1,700 on 19 May 1989 by Chris Hall. On 7 Jun 2013 Jonty Denton added three at 80591 59368 plus eight within a small area at 80590 59339 and three at 80505 59316. Also six together and two nearby at 80605 59288 near a stand of Broom and five at 80603 59283 near a lone Broom bush.

Cardamine amara (Large Bitter-cress) Many well established colonies beside streams and in waterlogged places in Radford Park, Liphook at 844 319 / 846 318 / 847 318 and other places nearby, Steve Povey, Emily Isles & Tony Mundell 5 May 2013.

Carex laevigata (Smooth stalked Sedge) Locally plentiful in a ditch at Bramshott Court, Conford 8257 3368, Steve Povey & Tony Mundell 16 Jun 2013.

Centaurea montana (Perennial Cornflower) Established patch on village green by river, Ampport 304443, Mike Wildish 31 May 2013.

Cephalanthera damasonium (White Helleborine) Leckford Estate, 13 spikes along footpath between 39740 37988 and 39727 37999, Glynne Evans 27 May 2013. 50+ plants beneath single beech tree in the Wakes Park, Selborne, Steve Povey 25 May 2013. Ashford, East, a number of plants in woodland and more open areas from 741269 to 740268 and other areas, Steve Povey 27 May 2013. Many plants in woodland and shady places in and around Wheatham 741273, Steve Povey 30 May 2013. Three plants, one robust and in bud on roundabout in Palm Hall Close, Winchester 4900 2937, Anna Stewart & Tony Mundell 2 Jun 2013. Single plant in bud, by plantation fence, N of Nether Wallop 3070 3708, Martin Rand & HFG group 21 May 2013. N of Abbots Ann, clump with three flowering spikes under trees to north of lane 335446, Mike Wildish 8 Jun 2013. S of Anna Valley, single plant under Beech on Bury Hill ring 344436, Mike Wildish 6 Jun 2013. c.30 spikes of newly emergent leaves at Whitchurch, Caesar's Belt 4841 5375, Peter Billingham 19 May 2013. North of Micheldever Station 517437, Sarah Warriss-Simmons 15 May 2013. About 10 spikes on a grassy bank by a footpath subway at Basingstoke 6148 5026, Mike Hackston 14 Jun 2013.

Cephalanthera longifolia (Narrow-leaved Helleborine) About 12 non-flowering plants in shady woodland at Ashford East 740269, and around 150+ flowering plants in clearing at 7406 2681, Steve Povey 27 May 2013.

Claytonia sibirica (Pink Purslane) A number of plants in hedgerows and beside paths around the Harrow Inn, Steep 751251, Steve Povey 4 May 2013.

Cerastium arvense (Field Mouse-ear) On ant-hill at Porton Down 2475 3676 and on two ant-hills at 2469 3645, Anne Appleyard, Pat Woodruffe, Ailsa McKee & Tony Mundell 26 May 2013.

Chrysosplenium alternifolium (Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage) Many plants beneath Alder south of Stodham Copse at 769260, Steve Povey 16 Mar 2013 (see photo). Around a dozen plus plants on small islands in the stream at Lutcombe Bottom, north of Steep at 734264, not seen for several years at this site, Steve Povey 15 Apr 2013.



Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, Stodham (Steve Povey)

Colchicum autumnale (Meadow Saffron) 20-30 plants at Quarley Wood 2720 4287 in small ride and ride side in active Hazel coppice with standards Ian Ralphs 23 May 2013

Crassula tillaea (Mossy Stonecrop) Track junction SW of Jubilee Hill at 8356 5100, along 20m and locally numerous, Chris Hall 10 Jun 2013.

Daphne mezereum (Mezereon) 14 plants present as 8 weak but established plants, plus two small groups at Greywell Moors 7191 5095, Kevin Fackrell 10 Apr 2013.

Eleocharis quinqueflora (Few-flowered Spike-rush) Very locally abundant at Hazeley Lea 7471 5967 in remaining area of short, open mire, Chris Hall 16 May 2013.

Equisetum sylvaticum (Wood Horsetail) Much increased at Beacon Hill, Ewshot, since a clearing was made for it in the Tsuga plantation at roughly 8242 5043 (GPS plus or minus 40m). Two dense groups 1.5m and 2.5m long in drainage channel, must be 500+ stems, also outliers of c.50, 11 and 12 stems, Chris Hall 10 Jun 2013.

Erophila glabrescens (Glabrous Whitlowgrass) Locally plentiful in mown grass strip at Bentley 7859 4410 beside footpath through housing estate, Steve Povey & Tony Mundell 20 Apr 2013. Voucher specimens scanned and for deposit in Hb.ARGM at HCMS. A few *Erophila verna* growing nearby on pavement verge.

Fallopia sachalinensis (Giant Knotweed) At Sutton Scotney 4652 3995, north of roundabout, Sarah Warriss-Simmons 16 May 2013.

Fritillaria meleagris (Fritillary) About 100+ plants in small meadow between old railway and river, West Liss 778288, Steve Povey 19 Apr 2013.

Geranium macrorrhizum (Rock Crane's-bill) West of Bowers Grove Wood at 631328, Peter Marston 2 Jun 2013.

Groenlandia densa (Opposite-leaved Pondweed) In Lutcombe Pond 7356 2641 (see photo), plants at outfall end of pond covering an area of c.5 square metres, close-up voucher photo sent to ARGM, Steve Povey 21 Dec 2012.



Opposite-leaved Pondweed *Groenlandia densa*, Lutcombe Pond (Steve Povey)

Helleborus viridis (Green Hellebore) One plant beside path north of Steep at 735264, Steve Povey 8 Jan 2012. Around 15 fine plants on steep roadside bank, Bradshott 762321, Steve Povey 19 Apr 2013.

Hottonia palustris (Water-violet) Following on from birch woodland clearance 15 months ago, one of the newly exposed ditches at Foxlease 8252 5695 now has a huge population, Elliott Fairs 3 Jun 2013. Hopefully with the stream edge grazing this will persist for longer than normal. Non-flowering plants in Coldstream Ditch, Fleet Pond in the new overflow system about 50m upstream from where the ditch crosses under the footpath [So at roughly 825½549] Dave Goddard 23 May 2013.

Lathraea clandestina (Purple Toothwort) Small colony on *Salix* sp. beside river at West Liss 778288, Steve Povey 19 Apr 2013. Several well-established plants along river-bank west of Greatham at 766303, Steve Povey 24 Apr 2013.

Lathraea squamaria (Toothwort) Two colonies parasitizing Wild Cherry at Bradley Wood 6432 4143 with no Hazel nearby - an unusual host plant, shown to Tony Mundell by Nick Hughes 4 May 2013. South-east of Newton Valence, 100 plus plants both on and above roadside bank at 722327, including around a dozen albino plants which displayed a rich yellowy-cream colour (see photo). Growing on both *Tilia* sp. and *Prunus laurocerasus*, Steve Povey 1 May 2013. Worting Wood 6007 5285, Mike Hackston 22 Apr 2013. Vernham Dean on Hazel, 5 spikes at 3374 5602, 16 at 33715602, 12 at 3374 5603, 14 at 3331 5601, 15 at 3338 5602, 14 at 3367 5620, 3 at 3341 5605, 1 at 3341 5605, Peter Billinghamurst 2 Apr 2013.



Albino form of Toothwort *Lathraea squamaria*, Newton Valence (Steve Povey)

Lycopodiella inundata (Marsh Clubmoss) A cluster of 11 plants east of Brock's Heath at 8306 5262 plus seven others scattered within two metres and also three about five metres to west, Chris Hall 15 Jun 2013. This new site of very small, young plants was first found by Elliott Fairs in April 2013 and is east of the known populations. There are also groups of five and three young plants at 8304 5250 and nine at 8305 5255, Chris Hall 15 Jun 2013. In 2001 this area was cleared of secondary woodland for aircraft landing at Farnborough Airfield.

Meconopsis cambrica (Welsh Poppy) Several plants alongside Cattle Lane near Abbots Law 338440, Mike Wildish 6 Jun 2013. Presumably a garden escape in rough strip of wood backing houses at Hurstbourne Tarrant 385532, Peter Billinghamurst 22 May 2013.

Medicago polymorpha (Toothed Medick) Several vegetative plants at Basingstoke 6229 5206 beside cycle path, voucher specimen collected that keys clearly to this, Tony Mundell 1 May 2013.

Minuartia hybrida (Fine-leaved Sandwort) A very detailed survey by Sue Clark & Tony Mundell on 23 Apr 2013 of the colony on the ancient wall at Upper Froyle c.754428 gave a total of 2,763 plants.

Narcissus pseudonarcissus (Wild Daffodil) Foxlease, 400+ flower heads but also 100+ non-flowering plants, Kevin Fackrell 17 Apr 2013, identity confirmed in-situ by Tony Mundell 27 Apr 2013, main colony scattered across a 15m patch at 8264 5696 with small outlier patches at 8263 5698, 8267 5697 and 8271 5699. The Chase, scattered around 445627 and 443626, Peter Billinghamurst 26 Apr 2013. Plentiful in copse at Pale Lane, Elvetham 7868 5517, visible from adjacent road, Tony Mundell 7 Apr 2013. Little Wood Copse 737367 a large population of many tens of thousands of plants with approximately 3,000 in flower in scattered but sizeable populations through the copse, however *Narcissus* cultivars grow in nearby gardens and some seem to have hybridized within the copse, Derrick Donnison-Morgan 16 Apr 2013. A population of about 1,000 plants in a copse by the footpath at Longparish 4290 4549, and an extensive population in private woodland to east of footpath at Longparish 434450, with many tens of thousands mixed with *Narcissus* cultivars, spilling out onto footpath with a few outliers to west of footpath, Derrick Donnison-Morgan 15 Apr 2013.

Neottia nidus-avis (Bird's-nest Orchid) Several plants along shady woodland paths around Ashford 7404 2696, Steve Povey 27 May 2013. 206 spikes counted in the 300m length beside the track at Porton Down from 2447 3719 to 2474 3722, Glynne Evans 8 Jun 2013. Many plants in dark woodland at Selborne Common 734336 and 739332, Steve Povey 16 Jun 2013. Micheldever Spoil Heaps, North at 520449, Sarah Bignell 12 Jun 2013.

Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adder's-tongue Fern) Many just appearing at Bentley Station Meadow 7939 4308, HFG meeting 12 May 2013. Lots of plants, some fruiting, Itchen Abbas 546326, Elizabeth Pratt 25 May 2013.

Orchis purpurea (Lady Orchid) At Porton Down 2514 3733 there are now 21 plants in the colony. Four are in flower and 17 are vegetative, the latter mostly with just a single leaf, Anne Appleyard, Pat Woodruffe, Ailsa McKee & Tony Mundell 26 May 2013.

Pachysandra terminalis (Carpet Box) Patch at Edenbrook Country Park, Fleet 7921 5426 next to River Hart, close to new housing estate under construction but on opposite side of river, Tony Mundell 3 May 2013.

Paris quadrifolia (Herb Paris) Bentley Station Meadow, three patches at 7936 4295, 10 stems at 7938 4306 a few metres from stream, 17 at 7941 4302, 19 at 7942 4304 and 3 at 7941 4306, all HFG meeting 12 May 2013. Selborne Common 731333, about a dozen colonies comprising several thousand plants, carpeting beechwood floor, Steve Povey 1 May 2013 (see photo). Plentiful in woodland in and around Steep 750259, and many plants at

Steep Marsh 753260 and other places nearby, both Steve Povey 7 May 2013.



Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*, Selborne Hill (Steve Povey)

Platanthera bifolia (Lesser Butterfly Orchid) Four plants in clearing among light Bracken at Selborne Common 7367 3298. Steve Povey 16 Jun 2013. [Formerly in 17 1km squares in VC12, it has declined drastically and this appears to be the only site left - Tony]

Platanthera chlorantha (Greater Butterfly Orchid) At least five, in bud, seen from the footpath west of the ruined Curzon Street Farm, Faccombe 396580, on the steep grassy slope before reaching the woodland, there may well be more off the footpath, Elizabeth Pratt 25 May 2013. Several plants in clearing, The Warren 729283, Steve Povey 25 May 2013. Many plants scattered in woodland and open fields at and around Wheatham 741 273, Steve Povey 30 May 2013. About 15 plants in small area of grassland at Selborne Common 734335, Steve Povey 16 Jun 2013.

Poa chaixii (Broad-leaved Meadow Grass) Scattered plants in grassy strip beside arable field east of Litchfield 480535, Peter Billinghamurst & Tony Mundell 17 Jun 2013, voucher specimen retained. This strip was evidently sown as it contains much *Schedonorus pratensis* and *Cynosurus cristatus* that look out of place on an arable field edge.

Polystichum aculeatum (Hard Shield-fern) East Woodhay 405616 by footpath, Peter Billinghamurst 25 May 2013, determination confirmed by M. Rand from dried specimen.

Populus nigra subsp. betulifolia (Black Poplar) An amazing really huge tree at 7159 5085, beside footpath north of Greywell Mill, Mary Parker & Tony Mundell 22 May 2013. [Later measured with a circumference of 255 inches at 5ft up, so trunk diameter 6ft 9 inches].

Prunus serotina (Rum Cherry) At least two young saplings in sunken lane at Liphook 8446 3062, Steve Povey, Emily Iles & Tony Mundell 5 May 2013. One tree at Alice Holt 8006 4277 beside footpath at woodland edge, evidently planted by Forestry Commission, HFG meeting 12 May 2013.

Ruscus hypoglossum (Spineless Butcher's-broom) Small vegetative plant by side of footpath going NE from churchyard, Nether Wallop 3047 3039, Martin Rand & HFG group 21 May 2013.

Saxifraga cymbalaria (Celandine Saxifrage) Shown to ANHS meeting by June Chatfield apparently growing as a weed plentifully in garden of Bell's Cottage, Selborne 7399 3371, but it has not escaped over the wall yet, 13 Apr 2013.

Saxifraga granulata (Meadow Saxifrage) Faccombe, Nethererton Hanging Copse, on western road verge at 385557 and on eastern road verge at 387555 just south of junction with lane to Faccombe,



Wild Service Tree *Sorbus torminalis* refound by Steve Povey north-east of Bentley (Tony Mundell)

also on road verge at Linkenholt, Cleve Hill Down 367583, all Mary Parker 2 Jun 2013. About 200 plants at Quarley Churchyard 2730 4399 in uncut central part of the churchyard, where it appears that the mowing regime is now tailored specifically to protect the Saxifrage, Ian Ralphs 23 May 2013.

Saxifraga tridactylites (Rue-leaved Saxifrage) On top of Roman wall of Calleva Atrebatum, Silchester 639620, Wolfgang Ritter 29 Mar 2013. A very detailed survey by Sue Clark & Tony Mundell on 23 Apr 2013 of the colony on the ancient wall at Upper Froyle c.754428 gave a total of 1,052 plants.

Smyrniolum olusatrum (Alexanders) Nine plants at St Gile's Hill, Winchester 4892 2925, shown to Tony Mundell by Anna Stewart 2 Jun 2013. A common coastal species but very rare in VC12.

Sorbus torminalis (Wild Service Tree) One large tree east of Butlers Lands 6768 6255 with several seedlings or suckers nearby, Jan Hasler & Tony Mundell 21 May 2013 (see photo).

Stellaria pallida (Lesser Chickweed) Foxlease Meadows, many plants on sandy soil scattered beside grassy footpath from 8326 5702 to 8329 5702, more scattered plants at 8337 5703, and some in short turf by gate at 8337 5703, all Tony Mundell 27 Apr 2013.

Tristagma uniflorum (Spring Starflower) On margin of cycle path adjacent to Elles Road, Farnborough, a patch c.15cm x 15cm at 8556 5467, known flowering and surviving here for about ten years, Chris Hall 24 Apr 2013. A flowering patch at Whitchurch Churchyard 4596 4774, under Yew tree close to road, Tony Mundell 7 May 2013.

Ulmus laevis (European White-elm) A huge wide-spreading tree fruiting profusely at Over Wallop 2926 3855 on field boundary near to footpath, Tony Mundell 13 May 2013. Soft furry foliage and very distinctive fruits on long thin pedicels, some pedicels 25mm long, so far longer than the 10mm fruits. Presumably originally planted as *Ulmus minor subsp. minor* and *Ulmus plotii*

as well as *Tilia platyphyllos subsp. cordifolia* all also found within 100 metres.

Umbilicus rupestris (Navelwort) Liss 781279, along the whole length, c.6m, of a dry-stone front garden wall with at least 50+ plants, Steve Povey & Bill Lowe 1 Jan 2013 (known here to Bill Lowe since 2008). Also on a shady roadside soil bank at Sheet from 7577 2473 to 7587 2471 with at least 100 to 200 plants plus many seedlings, Steve Povey & Bill Lowe 1 Jan 2013.

Veronica peregrina (American Speedwell) A flower-bed weed amongst planted Rhododendron cultivars beside bridleway at Bramshott Court, Conford 8276 3375, Steve Povey & Tony Mundell 16 Jun 2013.

Viola canina (Heath Dog-violet) Porton Down, hundreds of plants spread over an area from 2435 3660 to 2438 3663 and 2435 3668, also just a few at 2450 3653, Anne Appleyard, Pat Woodruffe, Ailsa McKee & Tony Mundell 26 May 2013.

Viola x scabra (*V. hirta* x *V. odorata*) Large patch at Basingstoke 6308 5092 in narrow woodland strip bordering Kingsmill Road Open Space park and adjacent to A30 Ringway South, Tony Mundell 1 May 2013. Dense hairs on petioles measure 0.3 to 1.0mm, patent to partly deflexed. Stolons present and plant is patch-forming. Leaves the more pointed shape of *V. hirta*. Very few, and unusually small, purple flowers.

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This edition of Flora News was put together by Catherine Chatters and John Norton. Many thanks to everyone who contributed. If you have any comments or would like to submit articles or photographs for inclusion in a future edition of Flora News please contact:

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When submitting digital photographs, please reduce the size of each image to no larger than 2MB and please include your own name in the filename, along with description of subject and date taken, for inclusion in the caption. Please include English and scientific names of any plants, if known.

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Flora Group members admiring an ancient Small-leaved Lime at Manor Farm Country Park, April 2013 [see p.4] (Tony Mundell)

If you would like to join the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and become a member of the Flora Group, please contact our Membership Team on 01489 774400 or visit our website for further details: www.hwt.org.uk