

Flora News



Hampshire &
Isle of Wight

Newsletter of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group Spring 2004



Dear Flora Group Member

The Flora Group Committee members hope you had a happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you at some of the forthcoming events in 2004. This year our AGM will be held on Sunday 16 May at Porton Down (see main text for details). The AGM is a good opportunity to air your thoughts about Flora Group and to suggest ideas for future events. Alternatively, we are always pleased to receive your suggestions at any time of the year - please send them to Catherine Chatters (Flora Group Secretary) whose address and telephone number are given at the end of this newsletter.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 18 April 2004, 10.30 am

Briddlesford Estate woodlands on the Isle of Wight

Leader: Jonathan Cox

Join us on the first Flora Group event of the year to enjoy the springtime spectacle of flowers in the woodlands on the Briddlesford Estate and to explore a very wide range of riverine estuary and woodland plant communities. These woodlands, which are owned by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), form a complex of habitats at the top end of Wootton Creek. The spectacularly rich plant communities in the field layer are particularly well developed in the absence of grazing by feral deer. Highlights include the narrow leaved lungwort *Pulmonaria longifolia*, green hellebore *Helleborus viridis* and riverine wych elm *Ulmus glabra* woodland. The site is also rich in lichens including *Lobaria pulmonaria* whilst the mosses include *Dicranum majus* and *Fissidens celticus*. Jonathan Cox manages the woodlands at Briddlesford on behalf of PTES and we are grateful to him for agreeing to share with us his extensive knowledge of ecology and his enthusiasm for these woodlands.

Meet at 10.30 am at Sandpit Copse (approximately SZ 543 902). There is limited parking space so if you are intending to travel from the mainland please let Catherine Chatters know by 15 March 2004. We can then arrange for you to be collected from the ferry terminal on the Isle of Wight. (Briddlesford is close to the Fishbourne ferry terminal for ferries from Portsmouth; Briddlesford is about half an hour from Yarmouth for ferries from Lymington). We may ask you to make a small donation towards the cost of transport from the ferry terminal if necessary. To book ferry tickets (and receive details of discounts and special offers) contact Wightlink on www.wightlink.co.uk

Sunday 16 May 2004, 10.30 am

Porton Down and AGM

Leader: Tony Mundell

Visit to DSTL (Defence Science and Technology Laboratories) Porton Down to see the Lady Orchid *Orchis purpurea* first found here in 2003 and to search the adjacent woodland to see if any more Lady Orchids can be found. Note that numbers are limited to 30 people and Tony has nearly hit that limit from bookings following the previous

Flora News. Listed below are those people who have already booked. If you would like to attend this event, Tony can put you on a 'reserves' list. If you are already on the list and cannot attend please let Tony know as soon as possible so someone else can take your place. Tony can be contacted at 38 Conifer Close, Church Crookham, Fleet, GU52 6LS or via e-mail at tonymundell@ukonline.co.uk

The timing may be a little early for peak flowering but it was the only date available for us to visit this special site. Turn off the A30 at SU 230 347 and take the entrance road to DSTL that goes north from SU 205 361. Meet at 10.30 in the car park on the left a few yards before the security gate. Bring a picnic lunch. During the lunch break we will hold a brief and informal AGM. Tony hopes there will also be time to explore some of the pristine expanses of chalk grassland to be found here.

Already booked: Francis Rose, Nigel & Gwynne Johnson, Sarah Priest, Bill Helyar, Brian Laney, Eric Clement, Paul Stanley, Tony Mundell, Sarah Ball, Mady Fairweather (but DSTL so doesn't count!), Catherine & Clive Chatters, Andy Byfield, John Norton, Debbie Allan, Peter Billingham, Ron Allen, Gillian Thornton, Margaret Burnhill, Amanda Miller, Trevor Pitman, Peter Brough, Martin Rand, Vera Scott, Alan & Audrey Hold, Lorraine Martin, Andy Cross, Gareth Knass (29 people so far).

Saturday 26 June 2003, 10 am

Stonewort (charophyte) study day in the New Forest

Leader: Nick Stewart

To coincide with the recent publication of 'The Important Stonewort Areas of the United Kingdom' by Nick Stewart (see article in News and Views), Nick the national expert on stoneworts, has kindly agreed to lead a day in the New Forest to help us study and identify this often neglected group of plants.

Meet at 10 am at the car park near Crockford Bridge (SZ 988 349). We will spend about an hour and a half in this stonewort-rich area and will then divide into groups to search for stoneworts in other parts of the New Forest. During the afternoon we will meet up at an indoor venue to review our finds; we aim to have microscopes available. The event is likely to finish at 6pm. You are welcome to only come for the morning session. However if you would like to stay for the entire day, please bring a packed lunch or, alternatively, lunch can be taken in a local pub.

TRIBUTE TO PETER JOHN SELBY (1946 - 2003)

Pete Selby was born on 1 August 1946. His parents were shop owners in Wickham Square near Fareham. He attended Portsmouth Grammar School until 1963, when he joined the army in the Royal Signals, initially attending the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate.

His family always had an interest in natural history, and Pete developed his angling skills on the Thames in Oxfordshire while stationed there in the army. Waiting quietly for a fish to bite led first to an interest in ornithology and then to plants because, as he put it, "the birds kept flying away and the plants didn't". He married Janet (Jan) in 1968 and they had a daughter Sara in 1972.

Whilst in the army Pete took the opportunity to seek out plants whilst also serving in Yorkshire, Liege (Belgium), Dorset, Herford (W. Germany) and Shropshire, before leaving in 1980 with the rank of Staff Sergeant (Foreman of Signals). He then became a computer engineer and taught himself computer programming, initially using BASIC. He rapidly developed IT skills and learnt to love computers – perhaps somewhat unusually for a botanist of his generation. In conjunction with the technical director of Permabond he wrote a computer program to select the optimum adhesive for a wide range of situations. Pete's natural ability as an organiser and this early experience with database methods was later to prove useful background for his contribution to BSBI.

In 1984 he became a Technical Author, writing instruction manuals for all sorts of things from parts of army tanks to railroad signalling systems for the USA. I remember how one day, as we chatted in a pub, he pointed to a microwave oven and said he had written the instruction book for it. I asked him to tell me more and found that he had even written an instruction manual for a light aircraft.

The story then switches to 2 October 1996 when a meeting was held in Winchester to discuss arrangements for recording the plants of Hampshire for the planned Atlas 2000. Trevor Dines and Catherine Chatters had called the meeting. It had the blessing of the then BSBI Recorders for Hampshire – Paul Bowman and Lady Anne Brewis – neither of whom felt able to take on the responsibility for the checking and computerisation of thousands of plant records, let alone organising the survey teams.

Mike Wildish had agreed to take on v.c. 12 (North Hampshire) but who could, or would, consider the task for v.c. 11 (South Hampshire)? There was an embarrassing silence – many that were there remember it well. Then suddenly in the dimly-lit steeply-tiered auditorium a voice from high up at the back said, "I would be prepared to try if the v.c. 11 people are ready to help". Everyone clapped spontaneously even though most did not know him. So it was that Pete Selby introduced himself. It transpired that he had been a BSBI member since 1987 and his IT and organisational skills made him ideal for the task.

Pete lost no time in arranging training/recording meetings: he came to them all and encouraged the old-hands to team up with, and help, the less experienced botanists. If the weather was clement these meetings might end in a pub garden. Pint in hand, plant identification became less

daunting for the diffident. The team got to know Pete better and many new friendships were made.

In the summer of 1999 when Paul Bowman died, Hampshire was left with no Recorder for v.c. 11 – who could ever replace Paul? Who would have the time? Fortune smiled on us: Pete had coped with the Atlas for three years and had got into the habit of supplying his helpers with computer printouts of the plants found in their allotted hectads together with helpful hints on plants to search for. He accepted the BSBI's invitation to become Recorder for v.c. 11.

Pete wrote his own database program and set about transferring Paul Bowman's vast set of paper records into electronic form. Subsequently he found out about another database program called Mapmate, which at the time was primarily for recording moths. Pete could see that the huge advantage of Mapmate was its ability to pool data by 'synchronisation'. He had been developing such a system for his own database program (and had already tested exchanging data on zip-drive discs). However, Pete saw the potential of Mapmate and joined forces with its developers to help add the full list of plant species and other features desired by botanists.

In 2002 Pete also became the BSBI Volunteers Officer, with many extra responsibilities, including the organisation of the national Local Change survey. By this time Pete had built up an army of volunteers to help with plant recording in v.c. 11. As many are of the fairer sex, Pete's wife, Jan, would often jovially refer to them as his harem.

Pete always enjoyed and appreciated the value of the annual BSBI Exhibition Meetings. He was thus prompted to arrange his own exhibition meetings in Bishopstoke Community Centre, where interesting specimens were brought and examined, and identification problems solved. Pete brought the Hampshire records on his lap-top for all to use, which proved highly popular. Jan provided tea and cakes and conversation flowed.

Pete died at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital on 10 September 2003, after collapsing at the Natural History Museum on 3 September. In spite of his military background he was very much a quiet, gentle person, with a passion for plants and great love for his family. Sadly he was just beginning to enjoy the pleasures of being a grandfather as his grand-daughter, Laura, was born to his daughter Sara in 2002.

Jan made a brave decision and asked the Hampshire Flora Group members back to Bishopstoke again on 15 November. She brought books from Pete's library and invited those present to choose one or two volumes as gifts in his memory. Sara and enchanting 20 month old Laura joined the group for those final poignant moments. It is to be hoped that Laura will, one day, learn of the esteem in which Pete was held.

Our thanks to Jan Selby for providing much of the material in this account.

Tony Mundell and Elizabeth Young

NEWS AND VIEWS

Sword-leaved helleborine at Coulters Dean

Dianne Mitchell is a fairly new member of the Flora Group and is the voluntary Reserves Manager at Coulters Dean. Dianne says "since the Coulters Dean sword-leaved helleborine was mentioned in the last newsletter I thought you might like an up-date on how they are doing. The records so far are:-

May 1994	1 flowering
May 1999	1 flowering
May 2000	2 non-flowering
May 2001	2 flowering, 2 non-flowering
May 2002	4 flowering, 5+ non-flowering
May 2003	3 flowering, 2+ non-flowering

We've been raking the area in which they are found free of leaves in the autumn and this does seem to be helping".

New publication - The Important Stonewort Areas of the United Kingdom

Plantlife International has just published an inventory of key stonewort sites across the UK, researched and written by leading stonewort expert Nick Stewart. The publication is titled 'The Important Stonewort Areas of the United Kingdom - A provisional assessment of the best sites for stoneworts in the United Kingdom in 2003'.

Stoneworts, or charophytes as they are sometimes known, are a group of complex and advanced algae that grow underwater in fresh and brackish water. They are an important component of the underwater vegetation of some lakes, particularly in strongly alkaline "marl" lakes where they frequently are the dominant aquatic plants. They are vulnerable to nutrient enrichment which is affecting many of our lakes and pools in the lowlands and are therefore good indicators of water quality. However, many species may have suffered serious declines and 17 out of the 30 British species are regarded as nationally rare or extinct. A review of the threat status of UK red list stoneworts is reproduced here.

Our understanding of the distribution and ecology of stoneworts is much more comprehensive than that for any other group of algae. Nevertheless, to date no effort has been made to draw together a comprehensive listing of key stonewort sites, and to prioritise stonewort conservation *in-situ*. The Important Plant Areas (IPA) concept provides a methodology for assessing the nature conservation importance of key lower and higher plant sites. A programme is underway across Europe to identify IPAs at the country level, under the aegis of the Planta Europa network. The standardised criteria permit the selection of sites based on the presence of individual threatened species, outstanding assemblages of species, and/or threatened habitats of importance to plant conservation. The criteria have here been adapted specifically to permit the selection of Important Stonewort Areas of national and European importance.

Sites have been identified based on the data held by the author, comprising field, literature and herbarium records. It has not proved possible for the author to visit all the sites listed here, and so in some cases records of up to 20 years old have been utilised, where it is thought that there is a good likelihood that the species still persists.

This inventory identifies a total of 118 key sites or site complexes of exceptional importance to the conservation of this threatened group of plants across Britain: of these, 37 are considered of European (i.e. international) importance. In addition, a further 171 sites of local importance are additionally documented here: these include sites that have been poorly studied, and which might be of national or greater importance following additional survey work.

A total of 81% of the sites identified as nationally or internationally important have at least partial protection as Sites or Areas of Special Scientific Interest. However, of the sites notified in England, Scotland and Wales, the citations of only 11 mention stoneworts as a special feature of interest, just 12% of the total. Of the 37 ISAs identified as being of international importance, 30 (81%) have been designated as (candidate) Special Areas of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive, whilst only 21 (57%) have been designated in part or whole as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The report also highlights some 15 different threats to the stonewort interests of the 118 key sites, in spite of the formal protection afforded over four in every five important stonewort areas through designation as SSSIs or other formal status. The single most important issue is nutrient enrichment (eutrophication) caused by nitrates and phosphates entering the water system from agricultural runoff, sewage effluent and fish farms: no fewer than 90 sites (76 %) affected are threatened in this way, many to a high level. Water management (drainage, dredging etc) poses the second greatest threat, whilst successional changes resulting from lack of or insufficient management poses a third, significant threat, particularly to small water bodies such as pools and ditches. Additional significant threats arise from the effects of climate change (particularly on coastal sites), and continued agricultural expansion.

For more information, contact either Andy Byfield (andy.byfield@plantlife.org.uk) or Amanda Miller (amanda.miller@plantlife.org.uk) - or ring 01722 342730.

Report of marsh clubmoss event at Woolmer Forest on 21 September 2003

Following the Flora Group event held on 21 September 2003, our leader Neil Sanderson has prepared a report of the day's findings. Here is the main text of Neil's report; if you would like a copy of the full report including maps, please send a stamped addressed A4 envelope (marked Woolmer) to Catherine Chatters.

Introduction

Marsh Clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata* is a highly threatened declining species included in the Biodiversity Action Plan as a Priority Species. Plantlife is coordinating a national survey of this species. This species has declined

catastrophically beyond the New Forest, where it still thrives but populations still survive in Hampshire beyond the New Forest. There are still colonies on the north eastern and Wealden heaths. In the 1980s the latter included one of the largest known populations in Britain within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Woolmer Ranges along with some subsidiary populations. Recent observations by Neil Sanderson during vegetation mapping for the MOD in 2001, however, suggested that there may have been a serious decline in these populations in recent years.

There was a need to survey the Woolmer sites, both to contribute to the national survey and to investigate the worrying impression that there had been a serious decline here since the early 1990s. Accordingly Hampshire Flora Group carried out a survey of the known and possible sites of this species on the ranges on 21 September 2003, with a small expedition to Old Thorns Golf Course in the afternoon. As well as permission to enter, the MOD kindly provided vehicle access to the perimeter road, speeding up access to this large site, which is only accessible when the ranges are closed. The golf course provided a small golf buggy to the afternoon party, providing an unusually leisurely method of botanising.

Methods

The known and potential sites in the area were ascertained by discussions with Francis Rose and from Neil Sanderson's experience during the 2001 Vegetation survey. The Flora Group was divided into 4 parties in the morning who were instructed to search areas indicated on a map and, if the Clubmoss was found, record the location by GPS, sketch map the colony, record the habitat and associated species and count and measure the population. The latter was to be by area covered and numbers of cones.

Results

Site 1 Below Fern Hill

History

This site is described by Francis Rose in the Hampshire Flora, where he gives a count of c.5000 cones during 1998 – 92; at the time one of the largest population UK. The main population was found between two banks. The southern bank was the northern edge of Brimstone Inclosure, an abandoned 19th century forestry enclosure. The area between the banks appears to have been bared at some time in the past and has gradually recolonised since. A smaller sub population occurred along the track to the north. During the 2001 vegetation survey, however, although the area between the banks was found to still support a large area Open Wet Heath (National Vegetation Survey community Erica tetralix – Sphagnum compactum Wet Heath, Rhynchospora alba – Drosera intermedia sub-community, M16c), no Marsh Clubmoss was found at all during a brief survey. Even if a small population was overlooked, there had clearly been a serious population crash. The community was very wet due to high ground water levels after the heavy rains of the previous winter and *Sphagnum* cover was very high. The spread of *Sphagnum*, potentially exacerbated by high ground water levels recently looked to be the likely causes of this loss.

2003

The 2003 survey confirmed that the original main site to the south (GPS SU8009 3305) now lacked any Marsh Clubmoss, and the site is now even more overgrown, with much tall Heather. There was some recent disturbance nearby, possible carried out for conservation reasons, which may produce suitable habitat in the future. Other small patches of unoccupied suitable habitat were found in a search to the north.

The trackside subpopulation to the north, however still existed. Here on the wide mown track 88 cones were counted about GPS SU8006 3331, with one patch about 1m² but most patches only covered a few cm², within an area 15 x 5m. The vegetation is *Molinia* dominated with some *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Calluna*, *Erica tetralix* and rare *Pedicularis sylvatica*. There is about 20% bare ground.

Conservation

The main site could probably be restored by careful removal of the colonising *Sphagnum* and Heather. The surviving northern colony is now the largest surviving population in Woolmer Forest. The mowing of the track is probably very important in preventing the overgrowth by coarse vegetation (*Molinia* and *Calluna*)

Site 2 South of Horsebush Hill

History

A well known site described by Francis Rose in the Hampshire Flora, where *Lycopodiella* is described as 'not quite so abundant' as at Site 1. The site is between two double banks marking the eastern edge of Brimstone Inclosure, an abandoned 19th century forestry enclosure. The banks have disrupted the original drainage system and resulted in flooding between the banks.

2003

Three colonies were found close to each other in M16c type wet heath with a tussock structure with bare ground between. There had been a fire recently. At SU8058 3218 50 non coning shoots were found, at SU8058 3247 it was abundant over 3 x 3m with 8 cones and at SU8057 3248 24 non coning shoots were recorded. The vegetation was dominated by tussocky *Erica tetralix* and *Molinia* with *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Calluna* with more open ground between with the *Lycopodiella* along with *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Narthecium*, *Carex panicea*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Sphagnum compactum*, *S. tenellum* and *S. denticulatum*.

Conservation

This area looked a bit over grown in 2001 and careful disturbance, or even better, restoring grazing should improve conditions here of the Clubmoss.

Site 3a East of Horsebush Hill

History

Francis indicated that a small population was known by him roughly to the NE of Site 2. The only possible wet heath site found during the 2001 vegetation survey close to where he indicated was checked.

2003

A relic over grown wet heath (NVC M16a) was found by an abandoned track just west of the ditch marking the boundary of Linchborough Park at GPS SU80527 32880. This had tall *Calluna* and a dense mat of *Sphagnum compactum* growing across the former track. It is in a small heathy glade in dense pole stage Pine regeneration. This is almost certainly the overgrown remains of Francis's site. It is now far to overgrown for the Clubmoss, and none was found.

Conservation

Mechanical disturbance of this site would be relative straight forward but this would be best associated with large scale tree clearance to restore a more sustainable area of open heath.

Site 3b Hollow Way on Long Down

History

This promising habitat was spotted during the 2001 vegetation survey. It is possibly Francis's Site 3 but this seems unlikely.

2003

The site consisted of a deep wet hollow way with a *Sphagnum* dominated base, this had recently disturbed and rutted by vehicle use (MOD training?). There was also an area of open wet heath below of the former ancient track. The latter area had not been disturbed recently. The base of the hollow way was too recently disturbed to be a good habitat, but may well become one if not used again. The area of open wet heath below, however, supported a small population of Marsh Clubmoss. Over an area of 4 x 0.5m there was one patch of 20 x 10cm with abundant Marsh Clubmoss shoots along with 4 small individual plants beyond. There were no cones. All plants grow on a slight ridge formed along a long unused track. The ground was 90% bare with abundant *Carex panicea*, *Erica tetralix*, and *Molinia*, frequent *Narthecium* and occasional *Drosera intermedia* and *Trichophorum*. There were no *Sphagnum* spp in close association.

Conservation

This is possibly a new site. The recent reuse of the hollow way should have provided much more potential habitat, but only if not used again for many years.

Site 4 Cranmer Bottom

History

A small population was seen in this area in 2001 by Neil Sanderson by the track cross roads at about SU7952 3281 and on a track side at about SU795 326. By spring 2002 the latter had been destroyed by vehicle use (timber extraction lorries?) of the track.

2003

One patch about 30 x 20cm with 2 cones was found at GPSSU79523 32831 to the south west of the cross roads. An atypical habitat on the edge of a wood stack, with about 20% bare ground *Calluna* A, with some *Molinia*, *Agrostis*, *Erica tetralix* and *Betula* seedlings. The southern population was not refound.

Conservation

Rather ironically threatened by timber extraction and handling being carried out to restore heath elsewhere. The disturbance may be positive if it is only temporary.

Site 5 Cranmer Bottom West

A small but well developed stand of open wet heath (M16c) was spotted during the 2001 vegetation survey at GPS SU79284 033180. This was checked carefully in 2003 but no Marsh Clubmoss was found.

Site 6 Old Thorns Golf Course

History

A small area of wet heath within Old Thorns Golf Course was recorded as having a sizable population of Marsh Clubmoss prior to the construction of the golf course, which survived between the fairways as a rough. It had not been looked at for some years.

2003

The wet heath was located at GPS SU80527 32880. The heath was dominated by Species Rich Wet Heath (*Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum* Wet Heath, *Succisa* – *Carex panicea* sub-community, M16b), a rare habitat in the Weald but not a suitable one for Marsh Clubmoss. The Nationally Scarce ephemeral liverwort *Fossombronina foveolata* was found, however. The edge did have more suitable acidic Wet Heath with a small areas of bare ground with *Drosera rotundifolia*. This was certainly the Clubmoss site but none was found. There had been some drainage carried out through the wet heath to dry out the adjacent fairways. The colony was probably lost to vegetation succession, which may have been exacerbated by drainage.

Discussion

Marsh Clubmoss is in decline in Woolmer Forest and may die out if current trends continue. Vegetation succession is the primary cause of site loss with lack of suitable newly formed bare ground, meaning there are not enough potential sites for colonisation by new colonies. This is in comparison with the lack of decline in the New Forest and a major factor is clearly the lack of extensive grazing. The grazing slows down colonisation of open wet ground, allowing a much longer life to each colony, as well as providing suitable low level disturbance from animal poaching. It is very significant that the healthiest colony is on a mown ride. Use patterns also may not be proving the right sort periodic disturbance. Land is either continuously disturbed or not disturbed at all. Direct conservation should stop this species dying out but ultimately the restoration of sustainable heathland management involving extensive grazing is required.

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre: Recorders' Advisory Group

The HBIC Recorders' Advisory Group exists to help HBIC liaise with voluntary recorders in the county, and to enable voluntary recorders to have a say in HBIC plans. The first meeting of the Recorders' Advisory Group was held on 6 December 2003, and was well-attended with representatives of most of the species recording groups active in Hampshire. The Flora Group and BSBI were represented by Tony Mundell, Martin Rand also represented BSBI and Neil Sanderson was also present, wearing his British Lichen Society hat.

A summary of the agenda points follows. If you would like more information on any of these please contact Martin Harvey at the Wildlife Trust (MartinH@hwt.org.uk, 023 8068 8920), Nicky Court at HBIC, or of course Tony Mundell or Martin Rand.

- Data Exchange Agreements –HBIC's plans for data exchange were seen by the recording groups as well thought out.
- Heritage Lottery Fund bid – the HBIC Partnership is applying to HLF for funding to develop the Centre's work with volunteers.
- Defining notable species in Hampshire – a lively discussion on how best to use species data to identify Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. A list of plants will build on work already done by Neil Sanderson.
- Feedback to recorders – HBIC and HWT websites, HBIC newsletter, and a Recorders' Forum meeting open to all recorders, planned for March 2004.

Thanks to Chris Palmer at the county museum for hosting the meeting and guiding us round the museum collections afterwards.

*Martin Harvey, Biodiversity Data Manager,
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust*

HAMPSHIRE BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION CENTRE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter keeps you up-to-date with HBIC and recording in Hampshire.

If you would like to be added to the (free) mailing list please contact HBIC –

Tel: 01962 846741

Fax: 01962 846776

Email: enquiries.hbic@hants.gov.uk

Future event on identification of Polypody ferns in the New Forest

Following a suggestion made by Flora Group member Alison Bolton, Andy Byfield is currently making arrangements for an event to be held during February 2005 to study Polypodium species and hybrids. Martin Rickard, a nationally acknowledged expert on ferns, has kindly agreed to lead a field day which we hope can be held jointly with the British Pteridological. Full details will be given in the Autumn 2004 edition of Flora News.

Other ideas for future events

To coincide with the national juniper survey which will be launched by Plantlife in September 2004, the Flora Group Committee are considering holding a juniper-related event during the winter of 2004/5. Further details will be included in the Autumn 2004 Flora News.

Introduction to Martin Rand

First, a little bit of background for those who don't know me: I first became seriously addicted to plants in the mid 1960s, joined the BSBI in 1974, and moved to Hampshire from south Essex ("Home of the Hairy Vetchling and Last Outpost of the Least Lettuce") in 1975. I was a reasonably active amateur then, and contributed quite a few records to the Flora of Hampshire up until about 1980, when business interests took over an overwhelming chunk of my life. Only in the last 3 to 4 years have I been getting back into the swing of things, so I'm still becoming acquainted with a lot of new faces and places – a pleasure in itself. I'm a shallow generalist really, but have always had a soft spot for Carex and ferns.

Housekeeping

My contact details are:

Address: Martin Rand, 21 Pine Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants SO53 1LH

Email: martin.rand@ntlworld.com

Mapmate users sending in their vice-county 11 records should now sync with '2nq'. Please don't use '1hb'. I've taken over the management of records entered by Pete Selby, so if you have any changes or additions in those to notify, I shall be able to deal with them. Of course, records in any other form remain as welcome as ever. Any botanical records you send to the Wildlife Trust (other than confidential ones) will also find their way to me in due course, so you don't need to duplicate your efforts.

'Local Change'

The BSBI's 'Local Change' monitoring programme for selected little square bits of the nation continues its current round this coming year. Both parts of Hampshire got off to a flying start in the first year, which means that much of the second year's work will be something of a tidying-up exercise. I hope to report more fully on progress in the next Newsletter. Tony and I will be reviewing what remains to be done early in 2004, and I shall publicize any formal gatherings that pre-date the next Newsletter in the Hampshire Local Change e-group (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LC_Hants/). If you would rather be notified by more traditional means, drop me a line or e-mail me.

One of the objectives of 'Local Change' was to give less experienced people some training and exposure to identification and recording procedures, and I hope that with a less frenetic pace of recording this year we can do a bit more in this respect. If you consider yourself in the 'less experienced' category and want to come out on visits, contact me and I will try to put you in touch with recorders.

County Rare Plant Registers

The BSBI is strongly encouraging its recorders to set up County Rare Plant Registers (CRPRs), which have been described as "Red Data Books for individual counties". A few have already been published (Sussex for example), and some have been given Web sites (like Warwickshire: www.btinternet.com/~copson/WRPR_data_1.htm). Hampshire has a good foundation for getting its own off the ground, in that a list of botanical 'notable species' was drawn up a few years ago by Neil Sanderson and is in use as an indicator list for sites of interest by the Wildlife Trust and Hampshire County Council.

We also have (largely thanks to Pete Selby) a growing base of computer records (approaching half a million) that are already shared between the BSBI and the Wildlife Trust, and should soon be shared with The County Council's Biodiversity Information Centre. Behind this is a wealth of detailed archive material on paper, which is the legacy of all who worked on the Hampshire Flora and on Atlas 2000. Amongst them Paul Bowman must of course be singled out for his Herculean efforts and meticulous organisation.

Over the coming year I want to help push some of this information in the direction of a document of value to conservationists in Hampshire; one that can develop over time rather than just serve as a snapshot of a single big recording episode. Among the steps I envisage are:

- Building tools into Mapmate that simplify extraction of information for a CRPR. This is something that Pete started, which I'm now contributing to at a national level for the BSBI.
- Reviewing the Hampshire 'notables list' with those who have an interest in the data. At present Charophytes (Stoneworts) are not covered in the BSBI's records for Hampshire (and they were not dealt with in the Flora of Hampshire). I would also like to see some vascular species that appear to be showing significant decline over recent years considered as candidates for the list.
- Pulling together the recent historical record for Hampshire rare and scarce species on computer. At present this is somewhat incomplete for vice-county 11, and more so for vice-county 12. Tackling the archive for the species of likely key conservation importance is a bit less daunting than computerizing everything we currently have on paper. If we think about, say, overhauling the register on a 10-year cycle once it is established, we really need to go back to 1985 to enable comparisons over 10-year periods to be made at an early stage.

- Identifying possible gaps in recent recording and doing fieldwork to maintain a continuity of records over time.
- Producing narrative material that enhances general understanding of the status and requirements of rare and scarce plant species in Hampshire, building on what is in the Flora and bringing together material from scattered sources.

This is obviously a long-term project and one with no termination date, if it works successfully. Like other BSBI projects, it will also call for the skills and resources of many people. At present I've just begun to formulate my own thoughts, let alone discuss them with all the other interested parties; but if you would like to be involved in any aspect (from keyboard-thumping to bog-trotting) in due course, please let me know.

VC11 Records compiled by Martin Rand

An enormous crop this year, which I have had to edit rather drastically (omitting many of the adventive records in particular) in order not to take over the Newsletter entirely. If you would like a full list of notable records for the year, please write to me (at the address given elsewhere in this Newsletter) *enclosing a self-addressed envelope with 34p (second-class) stamp*, or email me saying whether you prefer MS-Word or Adobe Acrobat format. Many thanks to all who have sent in records, which are much appreciated even if they didn't make into print here. I hope I've managed to pick up on everything sent to Pete earlier, but there is paperwork I have not yet gone through, so if you sent in something significant that isn't here, please alert me.

Abbreviations: AB = Alison Bolton, AHP = Andrew Powling, AIH = Audrey Hold, AJH = Alan Hold, ALP = Rev A L Primavesi, B&JG = Barry and Jane Goater, DJPS = Delf Smith, DRA = Debbie Allan, EJC = Eric Clement, JAN = John Norton, KP = Katherine Pinkney, MEY = Elizabeth Young, MWR = Martin Rand, NAS = Neil Sanderson, PAB = Phil Budd, PDS = Paul Stanley, PJS = Pete Selby, RH = Ralph Hollins, RMV = Roger Veall, RMW = Robin Walls, VMS = Vera Scott

Agrostis curtisii (Bristle Bent), Gosport Park, SZ612990, 25 Sep 2003, EJC DRA. **1st for SZ69**

Agrostis gigantea x stolonifera, Mercury Park, East Meon, SU676192, 26 Feb 2003, JAN, DRA det. EJC. **?1st vice-county record**

Allium neapolitanum (Neapolitan Garlic), Nore Barn Copse, Havant, SU736052, 20 May 2003, MWR, RH, herb MWR. **2nd vice-county record**. Has persisted for several years

Allium nigrum (Broad-leaved Leek): the record given previously in Flora Group News for vc12 (College Street, Winchester, B&JG) in fact belongs to vc11.

Allium oleraceum (Field Garlic), Woodcote Lane, Stubbington, SU571030, 23 Aug 2003, PAB, herb. PAB. No doubt introduced. **1st for SU50**

Allium triquetrum (Three-cornered Garlic), Queen's Inclosure, Waterlooville), SU693107, 29 May 2003, AHP. **1st for SU61**

Amsinckia micrantha (Common Fiddleneck), Broughton Down Farm, Broughton, SU292335, 19 Jul 2003, RMV. **2nd vice-county record**. This is a plant to be looked out for, as it is now a very widespread weed on lighter soils in eastern England. Former Flax fields may be a good target as it has been reported as a contaminant of Canadian seed in the past.

Anisantha diandra (Great Brome), Beachland Hayling, SZ708989, 27 May 2003, B&JG. Extensive clumps scattered on sandy ground by tracks amongst scrub. **1st for SZ79** and a further extension eastwards in the county.

Arrhenatherum elatius var. *bulbosum* ('Onion Couch'), Hill Head, SU554015, 17 Apr 2003, EJC, DRA. A third county locality for this variety.

Aster laevis (Glaucous Michaelmas-daisy), Princes St. Depot, St Mary's Southampton, SU433127, 21 Sep 2003, PAB, herb. PAB. **1st vice-county record since 1960**

Bassia scoparia (Summer-cypress), M3 Eastleigh, SU4421, 21 Aug 2003, M3 Otterbourne, SU4522, 19 Aug 2003, MWR. **1st for SU42**. M27 Fareham, SU5707, 21 Aug 2003, MWR. **1st for SU50**. A3(M) Havant, SU6906, SU6907, 21 Aug 2003, MWR. **1st for SU60**. This motorway adventive has also expanded its range in SU31 and SU41 in recent years.

Brachiaria platyphylla (Broad-leaved Signal-grass), Boscombe Chine, SZ108914, 29 Sep 2003, PAB, herb. PAB. **1st vice-county record**

Calystegia soldanella (Sea Bindweed), Elmore boatyard, SZ566998, 3 Aug 2003, JAN, DRA. On the beach, 1 patch of 100 x 100cm, 2 patches 10 x 10 cm. **1st for SZ59 since 1960**.

Ceratophyllum submersum (Soft Hornwort), Balancing pond, Bishopstoke, SU483182, 23 Aug 2003, PJS. Forming the bulk of plant material in the pond; introduced presumed planted. **2nd vice-county record**; not found native in Hants

Conyza bilbaoana, Gull Coppice area, Whiteley, SU50J, 21 Aug 2003, PJS. **1st for SU50**

Diploaxis muralis (Stinkweed), St Catherine's Hill, SU4827, April – Aug 2003, Jean Kington. Unusual away from the coast: this confirms its persistence here for at least 15 years.

Epilobium roseum (Pale Willowherb), South of Ashlett Creek, SU470031, 6 Aug 2003, PAB. **1st for SU40**. Old Turnpike, Fareham, SU578068, 19 Jun 2003, EJC, DRA. **1st for SU50 in recent times**. North of Dunsbury Hill, SU699099, 11 Aug 2003, PAB. Only 5 records in VC11 over the preceding 5 years. Is it rare and possibly declining in the vice-county, or is it merely overlooked? EJC thinks it is widespread in the Gosport area.

Erodium moschatum (Musk Storksbill), Beaulieu, SU387023, 19 Jul 2003, BSBI Field Meeting det. Colin Pope. **1st for SU30**

Erophila glabrescens (Glabrous Whitlow-grass), S of Burley, SU207015, 10 Apr 2003, B&JG conf. MWR. On old railway track. **1st for SU20**.

Euphorbia paralias (Sea Spurge), Lee-on-Solent, SZ566999, 3 Aug 03, JAN, DRA. 1 plant. **1st for SZ59**. A slight extension of one of its largest extant colonies in VC11.

Euphorbia platyphyllos (Broad-leaved Spurge), Athelstan Road Allotments, Southampton, SU443127, 29 Jun 2003, PAB.

Euphorbia serrulata (Upright Spurge), Small field by M27, Eastleigh, SU438194, 17 Aug 2003, PJS, herb. PJS. Fruiting and with young plants present. **1st vice-county record**

Galega officinalis (Goat's Rue), Brockenhurst, SU298027, 2 Apr 2003, VMS, AIH. **1st for SU20**. This species has also had a spectacular flowering along the M27 from Ower to Rownhams this year, often accompanied by *Melilotus albus*.

Gazania rigens (Treasure-flower), Honeycombe Chine, Boscombe, SZ1191, 19 Mar 2003, EJC, DRA. W end of narrow strip at bottom of path, west side of chine. **2nd vice-county record**

Gnaphalium luteoalbum (Jersey Cudweed), Whiteley, SU50J, 21 Aug 2003, PJS. **2nd vice-county record since 1886**. Adventive on development site. This species currently enjoys 'Schedule 8' protection on the basis of its single remaining possibly native British site in Norfolk. In much of its world range it is a successful weedy colonizer and is appearing increasingly in Britain as such. See EJC's forthcoming article in *BSBI News*.

Hieracium acuminatum, SE of Horseshoe Wood, Broughton, SU282332, 5 Jun 2003, RMV. **1st for SU23 in VC11**

Lactuca serriola f. *integrifolia*, Chark gravel pits, SU574006, 12 Jul 2003, EJC, DRA. **?1st vice-county record**. The status reflects lack of separate records for this form, which I believe is widespread in S Hants.

Leersia oryzoides (Cut-grass), Introduction site, SU20. NAS writes: "There is one large clump in the channel and a few stems on the bank. Last year there were no visible flowers but splitting the stem produced fertile looking seed from a cleistogamous flower, which were cast into the flood to do their stuff."

Lithospermum arvense, Ashley Down, SU399296, 8 May 2003, MWR. 15 plants in edge of Rape field. A welcome reappearance at a site for which the last record appears to be 1977. The colony at the top of the down, near Farley Monument, continues to survive in 3-figure numbers.

Lotus corniculatus var. *sativus*, Buckholt Estate, SU270317, 1 Aug 2003, B&JG. **?1st vice-county record**. This is surely under-recorded in VC11; it is a very popular planting for new road verges and sometimes appears persistent away from them.

Marrubium vulgare (White Horehound), Princes St. Depot, St Mary's, Southampton, SU433127, 24 Sep 2003, PAB. Single plant. **1st for SU41**

Medicago polymorpha (Toothed Medick), Oakley Road Allotments, SU386136, 23 Jun 2003, PAB. **1st for SU31**. Southampton Old Town Walls, SU4111, 27 Apr 2003, PAB. *Melilotus indicus* (Small Melilot), Chark gravel pits, SU574006, 12 Jul 2003, EJC, DRA. **1st for SU50**. Radcliffe Road Allotments, Southampton, SU432127, 25 Jul 2003, PAB. **1st for SU41 since 1954**.

Monotropa hypopitys ssp. *hypophegea*, SW of Broughton, SU295325, 30 Jul 2003, RMV conf. ?. 16 plants by Beech avenue near reservoir. Previously recorded at or near this site as ssp. *hypopitys*, new specimen determined as ssp. *hypophegea*.

Montia fontana ssp. *amporitana*, Bratley Wood, SU228080, 24 May 2003, Local Change recording team, conf. MWR, herb. MWR. **1st for SU20**, no doubt under-recorded.

Myosurus minimus (Mousetail), Sultan Sports Field, Gosport, SZ590998, 29 May 2003, EJC, DRA. 32 plants at S end of car park area. **1st for SZ59**. Meon Road, Titchfield,

SU530030, 9 May 2003, DRA. 5 plants by gate to cattle-grazed field.

Myriophyllum verticillatum (Whorled Water-milfoil), Fort Brockhurst, SU595020, 16 Jun 2003, JAN, DRA det. PJS. **1st for SU50, 1st vice-county record since 1975**

Ophioglossum azoricum (Small Adder's-tongue), Avon Heath Country Park, SU121012, 8 Jun 2003, NAS. Numerous plants (50+) in pan in heath/acid grassland adjacent to Country Park.

Orchis morio (Green-winged Orchid), Haslar RN Cemetery, Gosport, SZ609985, 4 May 2003, DRA. 1442 flowering spikes. A first record for this site? Records with population counts or estimates of the less frequent species are always particularly welcome.

Orobanche rapum-genistae (Greater Broomrape), Hut Wood (East), SU426185, 26 May 2003, PAB. 3 plants. **1st for SU41 since 1975**

Polygonum oxyspermum (Ray's Knotgrass), Lee-on-Solent, SU563002, 3 Aug 2003, JAN, DRA. **1st for SU50**

Polypodium cambricum (Southern Polypody), Stubbs Wood, SU3603-3703; Hollands Wood-Parkhill, SU3004-3105; Stockley, SU3402, all epiphytic on Oak, 2002-2003, AB, RMW, some det. BM(NH). There have been scattered records of this species as a New Forest epiphyte before (it mostly occurs as a calcicole on rocks and old walls). It now looks as if it may have substantial New Forest populations. I hope we can organize a more widespread survey soon, and perhaps track down its hybrid *P. x shivasiae* which as far as I can tell has never been recorded for the county.

Polypogon viridis (Water Bent), Gordon Road, Hiltlingbury, SU435224, 16 Jun 2003, B&JG. **1st for SU42**

Populus balsamifera (Eastern Balsam-Poplar), Wickham Common, SU587106, 3 Apr 2003, MWR. Suckering freely from 3 mature trees. **1st for SU51**

Potamogeton pusillus (Small Pondweed), Needs Ore, SZ419977, 4 Jul 2003, B&JG, herb. PJS. A re-recording of a known site but one of only 5 vice-county records in the last 10 years.

Prunus x fruticans, Butts Lawn, Brockenhurst, SU299028, 17 Sep 2003, VMS, AIH. **1st for SU20**. Also seen this year elsewhere in SU20 and in SU42. I suspect this hybrid of Blackthorn and various forms of Plum is much under-recorded.

Puccinellia distans (Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass), Hurst shingle bank, SZ299908, 27 Jul 2003, BSBI field meeting det. PJS. **1st for SZ29**

Ranunculus circinatus (Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot), Fort Brockhurst, SU596018, 18 Jul 2003, JAN, DRA det. PJS; SU594020, 31 Aug 2003, PJS, EJC, DAN. **1st for SU50** and a welcome sighting for this rare native (only one other post-1980 vice-county record) – assuming it is native here.

Rapistrum rugosum (Bastard Cabbage), Stanpit, W of public car park, SZ165927, 23 Oct 2003, PAB. **1st for SZ19**

Rhinanthus minor ssp. minor (Yellow Rattle), Nutley Farm, Broughton, SU299333, 27 May 2003, RMV. **1st for SU23** for either the sp. or ssp. (surprisingly)

Rosa arvensis x canina, Holmsley Tea Rooms, SU231006, 26 Aug 2003, VMS det. ALP. A35 slip road opposite tea rooms. **?2nd vice-county record**

Rosa canina group *Dumales*, nr Wootton Bridge, SZ251999, 26 Aug 2003, VMS det. ALP. W of road between Wootton Bridge and old railway track. **2nd vice-county record** for this group.

Rosa canina x tomentosa, Frater, Gosport, SU5903, 22 Jun 2003, JAN, DRA det. PDS. Rough ground near the WCs near Frater Lake inlet.

Salvia sclarea (a Clary), Felicia Park, Gosport, SU610010, 14 Jun 2003, DRA conf. EJC. **1st vice-county record since 1928**

Sasaella ramosa (Hairy Bamboo), Honeycombe Chine, Bournemouth, SZ1191, 19 Mar 2003, DRA, EJC. **1st vice-county record**.

Senecio inaequidens (Narrow-leaved Ragwort), Northam Bridge West, SU431128, 12 Sep 2003, PAB. With an increasing number of records over recent years and a first in VC12 this year, perhaps poised to become more widespread. *Seriphidium maritimum* (Sea Wormwood), Fareham Creek, SU599033, 27 Jul 2003, JAN, DRA. **1st for SU50 in recent decades**.

Spiranthes spiralis (Autumn Lady's-tresses), Haslar RN Cemetery, SZ610986, 5 Sep 2003, JAN DRA EJC. 2848 flowering stems at this spot, and a further 3099 counted in adjacent lawns 2 days later.

Torilis nodosa (Knotted Bur-parsley), B3058 Hordle Manor, SZ267926, 20 Jun 2003, MEY. **1st for SZ29 since before 1930**.

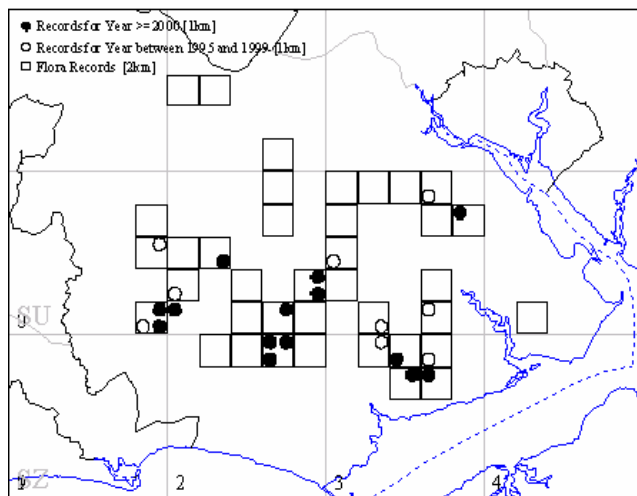
Trifolium fragiferum (Strawberry Clover), Park Road, Chandlers Ford, SU434214, 30 Jun 2003, MWR. E grass verge of road where it has persisted for at least 20 years. **1st for SU42**

Trifolium scabrum (Rough Clover), Southbourne Cliff car park, SZ147911, 1 Jun 2003, PAB. **1st for SZ19 since before 1970**

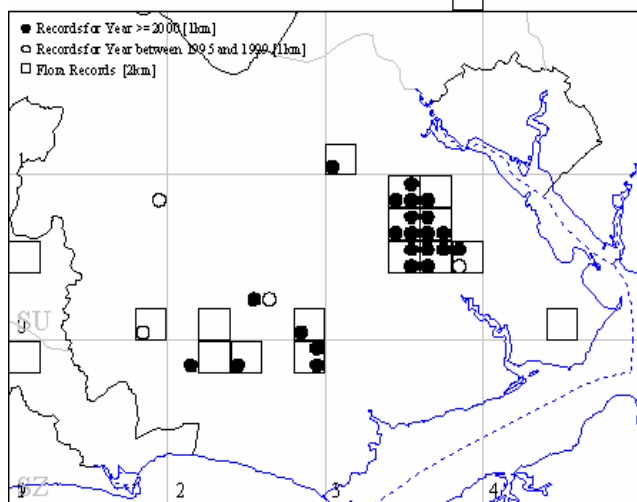
The Priddy's Hard estate at Gosport (SU613011) has yielded up a good crop of adventives and casuals to JAN, DRA, PJS and EJC this year, including *Amaranthus albus*, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, *Euphorbia characias*, *Lolium rigidum*, *Mentha pulegium*, *Nicotiana forgetiana*, *Oenothera cambrica*, *Passiflora caerulea* and *Solanum laciniatum*.

And now a couple more maps showing recent records of New Forest specialities. Thanks to the New Forest Study Group and all individuals helping to keep our knowledge of key conservation species up to date. (Compiled by Martin Rand)

Cicendia filiformis (Yellow Centaury)



Gentiana pneumonanthe (Marsh Gentian)



New VC12 records compiled by Tony Mundell

Here is a selection of records received recently. As previously this is only my personal selection from the numerous records received (and often I have fuller details in the original record). Some are as a result of recording for the BSBI Local Change scheme. This scheme will continue until the end of 2004 so if you want to join my team helping with recording, please let me know. In 2004 we will concentrate on looking for the 'lost' species.

Again my thanks to those of you who have contributed records – especially Chris Hall who sent many (some of which I have omitted due to lack of space e.g. his Hazeley Heath survey). As noted in previous issues, map references should be treated as approximate, and again I have omitted the 'SU' to save space.

Achillea ptarmica, Penton Grafton 320470, ten plants on verge on north side of Penton to Weyhill road, John Moon 3 Sep 2003.

Acorus calamus, Wishanger 83883999, single plant at margin of small pond west of Frensham Pond Hotel plus larger clump at 83864000, and clearly planted in southern edge of Frensham Pond itself at 84154002; all just in VC12, Tony Mundell & Lorraine Martin 10 Aug 2003.

Agrostis curtisii, Increasing on Crookham Common central heath 82485318, 150+ tufts, Chris Hall 30 Jun 2003.

Ajuga chamaepitys, Arable field near Freefolk Wood 504439 and 505439, only five on usual northern headland (which has not been cultivated this year) plus two 50m round corner on eastern edge, John Moon 28 Jul 2003.

Alchemilla mollis, West of Woolmer Pond 786319, Martin Rand *et al* 21 Sep 2003.

Alisma lanceolatum, Claycart Hill Flash c.854525, three plants confirmed, Chris Hall 10 Sep 2003.

Anagallis tenella, Four years ago an area near Laffan Track, Eelmoor Marsh of *Molinia/Myrica* heath severely invaded by young pines was scraped down to bare mud and left to recolonise. There are now 17 patches of *A. tenella* in locally extensive creeping mats, 82755313 to 83735314, Chris Hall 22 Aug 2003, and there were no previous records for this location. Also Cricket Hill Meadows, Yateley 82325993, a patch in flushed slope, Chris Hall 7 Aug 2003.

Apera spica-venti, Chapel Avenue, east of Micheldever 526398, patch c.1m x 2m on south side of green lane between tree belt and arable field, Martin Rand 22 Jun 2003.

Apium inundatum, Woolmer Pond 787317, Martin Rand *et al* 21 Sep 2003.

Baldellia ranunculoides, East margin of Eelmoor Flash 84255279, 22 plants, Chris Hall 21 Jun 2003.

Bidens cernua, Fleet Pond, Gelvert Marsh 82315493, 18 plants on ground trampled by conservation work last winter, Chris Hall 1 Sep 2003.

Bromus hordeaceus ssp. *longipedicellatus*, Thruxton 235433, c.100 in hayfield near Home Farm, Henry Edmunds & John Moon 30 Jun 2003, det. Laurie Spalton. Also Dockenfield, Wishanger 82623976, a few plants (with much ssp. *hordeaceus*) Tony Mundell 12 Jul 2003, conf. Laurie Spalton 7 Sep 2003.

Bromus secalinus Thruxton 235433, c.100 in hayfield near Home Farm, Henry Edmunds & John Moon 30 Jun 2003.

Calamagrostis epigejos, Ively, Farnborough 84955449, 35 panicles at scrub edge west of Liz's Lakes, Chris Hall 15 Sep 2003.

Calla palustris, MOD Longmoor 80833054, single plant in flooded sand-pit used by army vehicles, Tony Mundell 13 Sep 2003. Two more in red fruit about 11m away at 80823052, Tony Mundell 24 Sep 2003.

Campanula glomerata, Andover 343464, three very dwarf plants near centre of Sports Centre Roundabout, John Moon 8 Sep 2003. John adds: "This large roundabout is a strong contender for the most botanically interesting roundabout in Hampshire with very many downland plant species present".

Cardamine amara, Wishanger 827387, plentiful around both spring-heads in woods near Mellow Farm, Tony Mundell 6 Jul 2003.

Carex disticha, Itchen Stoke Mill 56253181 and 56433178, in private water-meadow, Tony Mundell & Barry Philips 25 Jul 2003.

Carex distans, Leyland Track, Eelmoor Marsh 84125365 / 84055359, recovering and increasing, 35 tufts, Chris Hall 13 Jun 2003.

Carex pallescens, One tuft on grassy verge beside minor road that leads to Pyestock Bramshot Gate c.834½548, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2003.

Carex pulicaris, Pondtail Heath c.827536, 20 tufts close to canal on its north side, where heath is recovering after severe churning by MOD contractors.

Carex vesicaria, Cricket Hill Meadows, Yateley 82296003, small patch in northern meadow amongst alders, Chris Hall 7 Aug 2003.

Centaurium pulchellum, Eelmoor old burning site, three concentrations of plants within the fence and another group on the verge of Commer Track, 84295336, 84315336, 84335338 to 84345340, 84355337, total estimated count 2,750 plants, Chris Hall 17 Jul 2003.

Cephalanthera damsonium, Ampert 288448, c.100 in beech woodland strip near Bush Farm, John Moon 5 Jun 2003.

Chaenorhinum minus, Thousands of plants in gravel at Pyestock Hill 83375442, 83355442, 83385444 to 83325444, 83285442, at corner of The Fairway with The Romany, and both sides of The Romany, Chris Hall 25 Jun 2003.

Chamaemelum nobile, Bartley Heath c.726525, in glade south of Greywell Lane, apparently decreased though still at east end. The site is drier now the scrub has been removed and is hard grazed by ponies, Chris Hall 21 Apr 2003. Also Pyestock Hill 83355428, 32 rosettes in mown grass near The Fairway, Chris Hall 25 Jun 2003. Also still at Aldershotc.871501½, in mown damp grass beside Manor Park duck pond, a patch 14m long on the south side; and at Aldershot 86914995, four large patches within an area of 7 x 4m in mown lawns of the public gardens close to Manor Park, both Chris Hall 14 Jul 2003.

Chrysanthemum segetum, Elvetham c.781560, hundreds in field on north side of A323, Chris Hall 9 Jun 2003.

Chrysosplenium alternifolium, Wishanger 82723877, single small patch within 10m of main spring-head in woods near Mellow Farm, *C. oppositifolium* is plentiful on the numerous streams through this wood, Tony Mundell 6 Jul 2003.

Cirsium dissectum, Eelmoor Marsh adjacent to Guy Track 844533 / 845534, over 2,500 rosettes in c.20 patches, Chris Hall 13 Jun 2003.

Cirsium eriophorum, Shipton Bellinger 21904527, large patch on an area of calcareous grassland bordering blackthorn scrub, Andy Barker 31 Aug 2003.

Conyza bilbaoana, MOD Longmoor 79293147, dozens of plants on steep mound of sandy soil beside toilet block for Firing Range No.3, Tony Mundell 24 Sep 2003.

Conyza sumatrensis, West of Woolmer Pond 786320, Martin Rand *et al* 21 Sep 2003. Also Yateley 80876195, at entrance gate to water-ski centre, Tony Mundell 2 Aug 2003.

Coriandrum sativum, Leckford Estate 39053805, four plants in arable headland strip, Alan Hold 16 Jul 2003, conf. Barry Goater 7 Aug, who found c.67 plants nearby at 38993807 in same headland strip.

Cuscuta epithymum, Crookham Common, central heath and also closer to Pondtail, locally abundant on heather burned in 2002, scattered small patches at 82295299, patchy to locally dense covering 12m x 18m, 82375338 / 82365337 / 82365337, another patch at 82325350 on *Calluna* burned in 2001; all Chris Hall 30 June 2003. Also Crookham Common, scarce on mown heather above Gelvert Bottom c.828532, Chris Hall 14 Jul 2003. Also North Eelmoor SINC 84635383 to 84645372, on mown *Calluna* heath, 26 small patches over area 12m x 10m, Chris Hall 2 Jul 2003, and very localised on grazed *Calluna* at north end of Eelmoor 84565372 to 84635373, Chris Hall 21 Jul 2003.

Cyperus longus, Ecchinswell 503605, plentiful in roadside ditch, Sarah Priest & Tony Mundell 30 Aug 2003.

Dactylorhiza incarnata ssp. *incarnata*, Itchen Stoke Mill 56293177, c.10 spikes in private water-meadow, flowers over except one with single floret to enable identification, Tony Mundell & Barry Philips 25 Jul 2003.

Dactylorhiza incarnata ssp. *pulchella*, Ten flower spikes in south heath of Eelmoor Marsh 84045303 / 84045302, where mown and raked last winter, Chris Hall 3 Jun 2003.

Dipsacus pilosus, Grateley 242409, 11 plants beside gap in woodland strip beside lane, John Moon 15 Jul 2003.

Drosera intermedia, Velmead Common 82005327, on heathy ride, 61 plants, Chris Hall 30 Jun 2003.

Eleocharis acicularis, Still at Sandy Bay, Fleet Pond, several patches Chris Hall 15 Jul 2003, but habitat destroyed by HDC dredging in late August – it may recolonise from seed.

Epipactis phyllanthes, Decreasing on verge of Laffan Track, Eelmoor Marsh 83805298 to 83755305, 16 spikes; and Laffan Meadow 84695354, five plants under pines, reappeared after canopy thinning, both Chris Hall 17 Jul 2003. Also Cove Radio Station 83435369, 12 spikes beneath pines on track verge, Chris Hall 19 Jul 2003; and lower corner of Cove Radio Station, three at 83625334 and two at 83605333, increasing now that verge is lightly grazed, Chris Hall 19 Jul 2003.

Equisetum x litorale, Canal margin at Pondtail Heath c.871535, sparse, Chris Hall 24 Sep 2003.

Equisetum sylvaticum, Beacon Hill Copse, Ewshot c.824505, very locally plentiful in one flush with over 200 plants, Chris Hall 17 Jun 2003.

Equisetum telmateia, Pyestock Hill, still plentiful beside disused cooling towers, west side 83135436 140 stems, east side 83155439 75 stems, Chris Hall 28 Jun 2003.

Euphorbia exigua, Near Sydmonton 496553, c.1,000 plants flowering in barley stubble throughout arable field 600m south east of Ashley Warren Farm, Henry Edmunds & John Moon 15 Oct 2003.

x Festulolium loliaceum, Itchen Stoke Mill 56303178 and 56433178, single plants in meadow and fen, Tony Mundell & Barry Philips 25 Jul 2003.

Fumaria officinalis ssp. *wirtgenii*, Easton 512301, on edge of wheat field west of Larkwhistle Farm, Martin Rand 17 Jun 2003.

Fumaria parviflora, Winnall Down 511300, near Long Walk on northern edge of wheat field to SE of T junction, Martin Rand 17 Jun 2003.

Genista anglica, Pyestock Heath c.828541, six shrubs on heath near Farnham Road, Chris Hall 21 May 2003.

Hieracium diaphanum, Caesar's Camp north slope 83755025, well-established beside the stony path down the steep slope, 94 plants, Chris Hall 4 Jul 2003.

Hottonia palustris, Claycart Hill Flash c.854½/545, very localised, two patches of c.100 and c.80 rosettes, Chris Hall 10 Sep 2003.

Hyoscyamus niger, Perham Ranges, South Tidworth 254468, eight plants close to peripheral road and amongst pheasant cover, John Moon 4 Sep 2003.

Hypochaeris glabra, North of Woolmer Pond Cottage 78983241, Martin Rand *et al* 21 Sep 2003.

Juncus subnodulosus, Canal margins at Pondtail Heath, main site 82715356 to 82745354, also 82845353 and 82935353, Chris Hall 24 Sep 2003.

Kickxia spuria, Eelmoor Marsh, five plants on poached ground in corner of Cove Radio Station 83955356, a most unlikely native habitat, Chris Hall 28 Jul 2003.

Lathraea squamaria, Lower Swanthorpe 77444782, 13 spikes around base of hazel and on south road bank shortly west of where footpath joins Swanthorpe Lane, Chris Hall 14 Apr 2003.

Legousia hybrida, Longstock 328382 to 332378, 500 plants in set-aside field north of Danebury Ring, John Moon 8 Jun 2003. Also Bullington 499432 to 500433, 100 plants in arable field at Upper Cranbourne Farm, John Moon 28 Jul 2003.

Linaria repens, Burghclere 47005985, 50+ plants on old railway, Peter Billingham & Ralph Cook 15 Aug 2003. Also Litchfield 46355554, c.20 plants on disused railway line, Peter Billingham & Ralph Cook 15 Aug 2003.

Lithospermum arvense, Abbots Ann 328451, three plants in field adjacent to Red Post Bridge, along northern headland, John Moon 13 Sep 2003. Also Grateley 246405, 200 plants in field between railway and Portway, John Moon 15 Jul 2003.

Lotus glaber, Carpenters Down Wood, Basing Forest in numerous places beside the main gravel tracks; plentiful at 64355543, also at 64505573, 64545572, 64435570, 64325561, 64335556, 64335553, 64345547, Tony Mundell 24 Jul 2003.

Lycopodiella inundata, Crookham Common central part 82335318, 159 plants, Chris Hall 30 Jun 2003; Aldershot Common (Long Bottom) 84255000, 26 plants at the track junction, Chris Hall 4 Jul 2003. The large former site nearby (84285002), originally discovered in 1983, had already dwindled to single figures - a heath fire had burned the area in 2003 and none were found. Also Bramshill Common 74716176, 1,000+ plants densely in humid heathland beside

a forest track, four metres long and up to a metre wide, Chris Hall 14 Jul 2003. Also Hawley Common 83655804, nine plants on track side, Liz Rowan & Ian Ralphs 18 Sep 2003. Also Longmoor 80063331, in good numbers on track, Liz Rowan 15 Sep 2003 (this and other Longmoor sites was examined on the subsequent HFG meeting on 21 Sep.).

Lycopodium clavatum, Heath Warren c.766597, only one plant still survives, just, but was found mostly buried in fallen leaves. These were cleared. Most of the plant appeared dead or dying, but one vigorous green stem was 9cm long, Chris Hall 24 May 2003.

Malus baccata? Silchester 63596284 on track leading to the Roman Wall from the car park, Bill Helyar Sep 2003. Identity not yet expertly confirmed but probably this rather than *M. hupehensis*.

Mentha pulegium, Ively, Farnborough 85045445, robust patch in grassy area at Liz's Lakes, Tony Mundell 4 Jul 2003, conf. Pete Selby 3 Aug 2003; now thought to have been introduced as an alien seed contaminant when area landscaped a few years ago (see BSBI News 72 p.46 for similar occurrences).

Menyanthes trifoliata, Itchen Stoke Mill 56253181 and 56433178, in private water-meadow, Tony Mundell & Barry Philips 25 Jul 2003.

Moenchia erecta, Eelmoor Marsh 84315338, five dried up plants in short turf of old burning site, Chris Hall 11 Jun 2003. Also Pyestock Hill, beside The Fairway 83385422, 83385425, 83405419, a few dried up plants in short mown turf, Chris Hall 25 Jun 2003; another site 83385434, had about 60 dead plants, Chris Hall 26 Jun 2003.

Narthecium ossifragum, Crookham Bog c.828526, c.600 flower spikes, Chris Hall 14 Jul 2003. Also Aldershot Common, Brown Loaf Bog c.841505, c.1,100 flower spikes, Chris Hall 14 Jul 2003. Also Eelmoor Marsh, widespread in ditches west of the field hut, c.1,400 flower spikes, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2003.

Ophioglossum vulgatum, Laffan Meadow, Eelmoor Marsh 84765352, 68 fronds; and North Eelmoor 84675367, 24 fronds, both Chris Hall 3 Jun 2003.

Ophrys apifera, Eelmoor Marsh c.845535, three spikes beside Guy Track, Chris Hall 3 June; one in heathy grassland, North Eelmoor SINC c.846538, south of Victor Way, Chris Hall 7 Jun 2003. Also one in Foden Meadow, North Eelmoor SINC 84415372; and two in Laffan Meadow, Eelmoor 84305363, both Chris Hall 13 Jun 2003.

Oenanthe fistulosa, Claycart Hill Flash c.854½/525, one small patch of 14 stems towards east side, Chris Hall 10 Sep 2003.

Papaver argemone, Overton 527470, 500 plants in arable field south of Bramdown Copse, John Moon 12 Aug 2003.

Papaver dubium, Grateley 246405, 1,000 plants in field between railway and Portway, John Moon 15 Jul 2003.

Papaver hybridum, Quarley 249422, 15 plants in corner of arable field to north of B3084 and east of track, John Moon 30 Jun 2003.

Parentucellia viscosa, Several sites at Eelmoor Marsh: Cove Radio Station 250 plants, Chris Hall 19 Jul 2003; Laffan Meadow 560 plants, Chris Hall 21 Jul 2003; Eelmoor Marsh south, 1,370 plants, Chris Hall 21 Jul 2003. Also at Ively inside QinetiQ in grassland by Liz's Lakes 85035450 / 85035447 / 85025442, estimated total c.1,550 plants, Chris Hall 1 Jul 2003.

Pinguicula vulgaris, Eelmoor Marsh south ditches, 215 rosettes in eight sites, decreasing, Chris Hall 5 August 2003.

Potentilla norvegica, Pyestock 83105442, nine plants on open, compacted ground near disused cooling tower, Chris Hall 28 Jun 2003.

Populus nigra var. *betulifolia*, Ecchinswell 512612, two mature trees near small stream SE of Hyde Farm, Sarah Priest, conf. Tony Mundell 30 Aug 2003.

Radiola linoides, By minor path adjacent to Crookham Bog 82845248, five small plants, Chris Hall 21 Jun 2003. Also 51 close by at 82845247, Chris Hall 14 Jul 2003. Also Woolmer Pond 787317, Martin Rand *et al* 21 Sep 2003.

Ranunculus hederaceus, Fleet Pond c.824550, margin of Sandy Bay, large patch on mud, Chris Hall 15 Jul 2003 (perhaps destroyed in August by HDC dredging).

Rhynchospora alba, Aldershot Common (Long Bottom) 84305004, revived somewhat after a heath fire, 100+ spikes but very localised, Chris Hall 4 Jul 2003.

Rosa multiflora, Griggs Green 81733189, a few bushes on MOD land beside slip road on to A3, Eric Clement & Tony Mundell 20 Jul 2003.

Rubus ulmifolius 'Bellidiflorus' Basingstoke 625539, huge thicket beside slip road off A340 near Basingstoke Hospital, evidently planted, with remarkably attractive and persistent, sterile double flowers, Pete Selby Aug 2003.

Sambucus ebulus, MOD Longmoor 79293147, plentiful near toilet block of Firing Range No.3, Tony Mundell 24 Sep 2003 (following information from Andy Cross).

Saponaria officinalis, Shipton Bellinger 223457, six plants beside track, amongst rough grass, John Moon 31 Aug 2003.

Senecio inaequidens, Larkwhistle Farm, Easton 51543009, one large sprawling plant and a few smaller ones within a metre, Roger Veall 19 Sep 2003.

Serratula tinctoria, Eelmoor Marsh 84645348, c.100 plants on heathland north of Whirlwind Track where gorse was mown last winter, Chris Hall 2 Jul 2003.

Setaria pumila, Wishanger 83583982, abundant in set-aside field, Tony Mundell 17 Aug 2003.

Silaum silaus, Burghclere 473569, five plants on disused railway line, Peter Billingham & Ralph Cook 15 Aug 2003.

Silene noctiflora, Abbots Ann 328451, 22 plants in field adjacent to Red Post Bridge, Red Post Lane, mostly near entrance, John Moon 13 Sep 2003.

Solanum physalifolium, Wishanger 83773999, 20+ plants along field edge on sandy soil W of Frensham Pond Hotel, Tony Mundell 2003.

Soleirolia soleirolii, Itchen Stoke Mill 56383180, on private river bank near mill wheel, Tony Mundell & Barry Philips 25 Jul 2003.

Stellaria pallida, Madeley Road and Carlton Crescent, Church Crookham c.818528 and 817528, a few plants on grass verges, Chris Hall 6 Apr 2003.

Teesdalia nudicaulis, Gally Hill Road churchyard, Church Crookham c.808518, much decreased due to a change of management, sward now taller and mostly closed, only 17 small plants, Chris Hall 16 May 2003.

Thlaspi arvense, Near Litchfield 480535, 24 plants along eastern edge of field lying west of minor road, John Moon 15 Oct 2003.

Trifolium ornithopodioides, Eelmoor Marsh 84315338, 68 plants in short turf of old burning site, Chris Hall 11 Jun 2003.

Trichophorum cespitosum, Velmead Common 82005327, c.400 tufts on heathy ride, Chris Hall 30 Jun 2003. Also c.625 plants at Eelmoor Marsh c.841533 etc, on the central heaths adjacent to Albion Track, Chris Hall 15 May 2003.

Triglochin palustris, Itchen Stoke Mill 56293179, locally abundant in private water-meadow, Tony Mundell & Barry Philips 25 Jul 2003.

Urtica urens, Abbots Ann 329451, four plants in field adjacent to Red Post Bridge, in north east corner, John Moon 13 Sep 2003.

Utricularia minor, Eelmoor Marsh in ditch beside Dennis Track - unusually low water levels revealed plants spread along 23m of the ditch 84025351 to 84045350, Chris Hall 5 Aug 2003.

Vaccinium oxycoccus, Woolmer 79333320, surprisingly still in flower, Tony Mundell 21 Sep 2003.

Valerianella dentata, SE of Overton 53294787, c.200 plants with *Papaver hybridum* and *P. argemone*, in southern headland strip close to minor cross roads, John Moon 13 Aug 2003.

Veronica scutellata, Long Bottom Pond 84174983, very locally abundant in marsh at west, Chris Hall 4 Jul 2003. Also var. *villosa* at Cricket Hill Meadows, Yateley 82275996, along 4m of seasonal runnel, Chris Hall 7 Aug 2003.

Viola lactea, Several sites at Eelmoor Marsh: Laffan Meadow 84645355, 238 plants in a shallow depression 6m across, Chris Hall 13 Jun 2003; north side of Whirlwind Track 84545349 – 84605348 – 84655348, 555 plants in seven distinct groups where gorse mown last winter, Chris Hall 2 Jul 2003; west of Guy Track 84505347, c.700 plants, becoming more overgrown following prolonged winter inundation, Chris Hall 2 Jul 2003. Also Pondtail Heath c.828535, five in flower where heath has been disturbed and is now grazed, but no sign of it at the former site on ride across Pyestock Common, Chris Hall 21 May 2003.

Viola tricolor x arvensis, Longstock 329381, c.200 plants within 20m x 20m patch in set-aside field north of Danebury Ring, John Moon 8 Jun 2003. John comments "petals longer than sepals, upper petals yellow, large violet patch on lower petal, very small spur, stipules with large apical lobe but not as big as *V. arvensis* usually has. Many thousands of regular yellow *V. arvensis* elsewhere in same field with smaller petals less than sepals, and paler green foliage".

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WILDLIFE TRUST DISTRICT GROUPS

The District Groups of the Wildlife Trust are run by volunteers, who organise conservation-related walks, talks and events throughout the year. New members are always welcome, find out more by contacting the local group in your area.

- **Alresford** – Rene Hudman – 01962732756
- **Basingstoke** – Audrey Moss-Bradnam - 01256780074
- **Bishops Waltham** – Phil Jeffs – 01489896280
- **Eastleigh and Chandlers ford** – Barbara Hillier – 02380266786
- **Fareham** – Geoff Moss – 01489663078
- **Gosport** – Richard Headly – 02392552869
- **Hart and Rushmore** – John Ayres – 01252617351
- **Havant, Hayling & Emsworth** – John Goodspeed – 02392221361
- **New Forest South** – Steve Lankester – 01590 682421
- **New Forest West** – Paul Toynton – 01725578510
- **North West** – Peter Billingham – 01264736359
- **Portsmouth** – Alan Thurbon – 02392325570
- **Romsey** – Theo Jarman – 01794514825
- **Southdown** – Stephen Harwood - 02392592317
- **Winchester** – Anne Ardill - 01962881312

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