

Flora of the Hampshire Downs

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 - 22 June 2008



Pyramidal Orchid



Field Cow-wheat



Marsh Helleborine



Flower Crab Spider

Report and images compiled by Jon Stokes



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Day 1

Friday 20th June

For the first night of the Naturetrek tour we gathered for dinner at our hotel in Alton. After dinner we drove a few miles north to Mapledurwell Fen where we located large quantities of marsh orchids. There were orchid ‘swarms’ of Southern Marsh, Early Marsh, Common Spotted and one or two Pugley’s Marsh Orchid. Also present were large numbers of Marsh Helleborines.

Then we drove the short distance back to the River Whitewater to look for bats. Here we detected four species of bat calling, although the group only actually saw one bat in flight! There were Long-eared Bats feeding alongside the hedge, Pipistrelles overhead and Daubenton’s Bats feeding over the river, while Natterer’s bats were feeding over our heads. All in all, it was a fantastic evening.

Day 2

Saturday 21st June

Our next stop was the top of Portsdown. From here we had a lovely view over the south coast to the New Forest and the Isle of Wight, from where we went to look at a *belgarum* form of Bee Orchid and the extremely rare Field Cow-wheat and an unusually yellow broomrape growing on ivy. From there we went on to a downland garden, where the rare white form of Pyramidal Orchid was growing, followed by a walk along the crest of Portsdown. Here we also found the more usual downland plants in profusion, including Yellow Rattle, Mignonette, Salad Burnet and Rockrose.

Lunch was in Southwick, after which we went to a woodland rich in orchids. We found large numbers of Bird’s Nest Orchids and White Helleborines growing in a spectacular beech tree ‘cathedral’.

Then we had a stop to look at a wood near East Meon where there was a good display of the rare Sword-leaved Helleborine, although they had finished flowering. We also found several Broad-leaved Helleborine, some about to flower, and a small Green-flowered Helleborine.

Our final stop of the day was to look at a wood in Hornbeam where Wild Service tree, Rowan and Whitebeam have been crossing for centuries. This has led to the creation of a new hybrid *Sorbus x vagensis*, which is a cross between Wild Service and Whitebeam, and there's the possibility of a hybrid between Wild Service and Rowan.

Then we headed back to Alton for dinner and a well-earned drink at the bar.

Day 3

Sunday 22nd June

After a reasonably early start we went to a National Nature Reserve, The Warren, where we found White Helleborines growing under the dense shade of the yews. At the car park area there was also the unexpected sighting of a Mole running across the road – a real highlight for the leader!

En route we had stopped to see two, 3000-year-old Yews. Both were magnificent trees and enjoyed by the group. Then we went on to Noar Hill in the warm morning sunshine. Noar Hill is perhaps one of the finest chalk flower assemblages in southern England and is covered in a variety of orchids. During the course of the walk we found Common Spotted, Fragrant, Musk, Frog Orchids and Common Twayblade interspersed with vetches and thymes. There was also a superb Knapweed Broomrape and a small patch of the rare vetch, Dragon's Teeth.

Lunch in Selborne was followed by our final visit of the weekend – to the army training ranges at Woolmer. This visit was in total contrast to the rest of the weekend which had all been chalk-themed, as we stopped on the dry acid heath of the ranges. Here Heather and Bell Heather were growing and a couple of Woodlarks and Dartford Warbler were calling. On the ponds Black-tailed and Keeled Skimmers whirled round, while in the pond Natterjack tadpoles were swimming around in company with the extremely rare Spangled Diving Beetle which is only found at Woolmer.

Our final sighting of the day was the beautiful Flower Crab Spider eating a very large bee.

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Plant list

Group/Species	English Name(If any)
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Common Horsetail
<i>Equisetum telmatia</i>	Great Horsetail
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
Dryopteridaceae	Buckler Fern Family
<i>Dryopteris felix-mas</i>	Male Fern
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody
Woodsiaceae (Athyriaceae)	Lady Fern Family
<i>Anthyrium felix-femina</i>	Lady Fern
PINOPSIDA (GYMNOSPERMS)	CONIFERS
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper
Pinaceae	Pine Family
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch
<i>Picea abies ssp. abies</i>	Spruce
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scot's Pine
Taxaceae	Yew Family
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew
MAGNOLIOPSIDA (ANGIOSPERMS)	FLOWERING PLANTS
	Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)
Aceraceae	Maple Family
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)	Carrot Family
<i>Aegipodium podagaria</i>	Ground Elder
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle

Group/Species	English Name(if any)
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family
<i>Ilex aquifolia</i>	Holly
Araliaceae	Ivy Family
<i>Hedera helix</i> agg	Ivy
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Daisy Family
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Knapweed
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle
<i>Inula conyzae</i>	Ploughman's Spikenard
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Leucanthimum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pinapple Weed
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall Lettuce
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-eared Hawkweed
<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort
<i>Senecio jacobae</i>	Ragwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groudsel
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sowthistle
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg	Dandelion
<i>Tragapogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard
Betulaceae (Corylaceae)	Birch Family
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Bugloss
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage Family
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Clustered Bellflower
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family
<i>A.serpyllifolia</i> ssp. <i>serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Sandwort

Group/Species	English Name(if any)
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Gerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Silene latifolia (S.alba)</i>	White Campion
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
Celastraceae	Spindle-tree Family
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle-tree
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family
<i>Helianthium nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose
Clusiaceae (Guttiferae, Hypericaceae)	St. John's-wort Family
<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>	Hairy St.John's-wort
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
Cornaceae	Dogwood Family
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
Corylaceae	Hazel Family
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious
Ericaceae	Heath family
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Bell Heather
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)	Pea Family
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild basil

Group/Species	English Name(if any)
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Yellow Vetchling
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Lotus uliginosa</i>	Large Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick
<i>Melilotus altissimus</i>	Ribbed melilot
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Restharrow
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Yellow Trefoil
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch
<i>Vicia sativa ssp. segetalis</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i>	Dragons teeth
Fagaceae	Oak & Beech Family
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Quercus robor</i>	Downy Oak
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	Long-stalked Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
Lamiaceae (Labiatae)	Dead-nettle Family
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	Basil Thyme
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild basil
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Deadnettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Deadnettle
<i>Oregano officinalis</i>	Marjoram
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Teucrium scorodonium</i>	Wood Sage
<i>Thymus polytrichis</i>	Wild Thyme
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	Basil thyme
Linaceae	Flax Family
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Purging or Fairy Flax
Oleaceae	Olive Family
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet
Onagraceae	Willowherb Family
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb

Group/Species	English Name(if any)
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Hairy Willowherb
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family
<i>Orobanche Hederae</i> var. <i>monochroma</i>	Ivy Broomrape
<i>Orobanche elatior</i>	Knapweed Broomrape
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family
<i>Papaver dubium</i> subsp. <i>dubium</i>	Long-headed Poppy
<i>Papaver rhoas</i>	Corn Poppy
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago majus</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary or Lamb's-tail Plantain
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family
<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	Heath Milkwort
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
Polygonaceae	Knotweed Family
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	French Sorrel
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Kingcups
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Old man's-beard
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	Buckthorn
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens or Herb Bennet

Group/Species	English Name(if any)
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg	Dog Rose
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg	Bramble
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> agg	Salad Burnet
<i>Sorbus aria</i> agg	Whitebeam
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowen
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Clevers
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw
<i>Galium verum</i>	Ladies bedstraw
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
<i>Digitalis lutea</i>	Small Yuelow Foxglove
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Melampyrum arvense</i>	Field Cow-wheat
<i>Odontites verna</i>	Red Bartsia
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> agg	Hay Rattle
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullien
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
Urticaceae	Nettle Family
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pelitory of the Wall
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	Marsh Valerian
Verbenaceae	Vervain Family
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain
Violaceae	Violet Family
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet
	Liliidae (Monocotyledons)

Group/Species	English Name(if any)
Araceae	Arum Family
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords and Ladies
Dioscoreaceae	Black Bryony Family
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony
Iridaceae	Iris Family
<i>Iris psuedocorus</i>	Yellow Flag
Liliaceae	Lily Family
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild Onion
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>	Southern Marsh Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza traunsteineri</i>	Narrow-leaved Marsh Orchid
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine
<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	Marsh Helleborine
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid
<i>Herminium monorchis</i>	Musk Orchid
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Twayblade
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Birdsnest Orchid
<i>Ophrys apifera</i> var. <i>apifera</i>	Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys apifera</i> var. <i>bulgarum</i>	Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys apifera</i> var. <i>trolli</i>	Wasp orchid
Poaceae (Gramineae)	Grass Family
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oar-grass
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome
<i>Bromopsis erectus</i>	Upright Brome
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue
<i>Festuca ovina</i> agg	Sheep's Fescue
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg	Red Fescue
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Crested Hair-grass
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass

Group/Species	English Name(if any)
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	Wood Meadow-grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Golden Oat
