



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 late-year events, including our 'exhibition meeting' on 8th December and advance notice of two interesting field survey meetings next year. Our usual roundup of past meeting reports follows. We also have some lavishly illustrated articles on a noteworthy orchid at Romsey, an interesting lawn at the HIWWT offices and more plant discoveries in Gosport. Neil Sanderson brings us up to date with his extraordinary *Cladonia* discoveries in the New Forest heathlands over the past year. Martin Rand has held back VC11 records for this issue, but instead has provided two articles updating progress on the BSBI Atlas 2020 and Threatened Plants projects.

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 (Flora Group Secretary) 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

In This Issue

| | |
|---|----|
| Forthcoming Events. | 2 |
| Reports of Recent Events | 3 |
| News and Views | |
| Tale of a Green-winged Orchid. Elizabeth Pratt | 8 |
| Beechcroft Lawn – Some Botanical Surprises Clive Chatters. | 9 |
| Gosport Flora – Progress Report and Recent Discoveries. John Norton | 10 |
| Heathland Lichens in the New Forest. Neil Sanderson. | 13 |
| Recording | |
| The BSBI 'Atlas 2020' Project: an update. Martin Rand | 15 |
| The BSBI Threatened Plants Monitoring Programme Martin Rand | 18 |
| VC11 Records (a brief note). Martin Rand | 20 |
| VC12 Records Tony Mundell | 20 |
| Membership and Recording Information | 26 |

Forthcoming Events

There is normally no need to book a place on Hampshire Flora Group events beforehand, unless the text specifically requests it. A contact telephone number is given only 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)! Contact details for Martin Rand and Tony Mundell are given in full on the last page of this newsletter.

Sunday 23 September 2012, 10am–4pm **Keyhaven and Pennington** **Leader: Martin Rand**

Yes, it's a return trip to the site where we fell in love with the Goosefoot family in 2010. This year it's with the very specific aim of monitoring the lagoons where Pete Durnell has found a novel and effective way of controlling New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii* – by flooding it with saline water. We shall look at the plants that regenerate on these areas once the *Crassula* has been cut down to size.

Meet at Keyhaven car park, SZ 306 914. For early birds, there are a few free parking spaces in the lane across the back of the harbour behind the car park. Otherwise, there is a fairly stiff parking charge in the car park.

Contact: Martin Rand (07531 461442).

Saturday 1 December 2012, 10.30am **Heathland Lichen Training Day in the New Forest** **Leader: Neil Sanderson**

A day looking at and recording heathland lichens in a rich area in the north of the New Forest with lichen expert Neil Sanderson. Beginners welcome but bring a hand lens if at all possible. Meet in the car park at Canada Common at SU 2874 1773 at 10.30. The meeting will include recording 1km squares for the New Forest Heathland lichen survey.

Contact: Neil Sanderson neilsand@dircon.co.uk (07765 648149).

Saturday 8 December 2012, 11am–4pm **Flora Group / BSBI Exhibition Meeting** **Testwood Lakes Centre, Brunel Road, Totton**

We will continue this traditional winter get-together and social event, so please bring along cakes, biscuits or 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!). Please 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.

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, until the Centre comes into view above the lake. There is plenty of parking there. Grid reference: SU 345 155.

Contact: Tony Mundell (01252 614516).

Sunday 30 June 2013, 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 SU 7223 5130. Try to share cars as parking is limited, and bring lunch if you wish to continue in the afternoon.

Contact: Tony Mundell (01252 614516).

Sunday 18 August 2013: Advance Warning **Highclere Park** **Leader: Peter Billingham**

The Highclere Estate has kindly agreed that the Flora Group can visit on Sunday 18 August. The park is noted in particular as the only site in North Hampshire for the rare Field Gentian *Gentianella campestris*. This was last fully surveyed there in 2004, though it was recorded in 2011. We will use the opportunity to survey this interesting and rarely visited site. This will be a full day visit and more details will be published in the Spring 2013 edition of *Flora News*.



Field Gentian *Gentianella campestris* – Tony Mundell

Reports of Recent Events

Conifers Workshop and Field Meeting, weekend of 25 and 26 February 2012

A report by Sarah Ball

On what were arguably two of the most beautiful sunny days in 2012, Martin Rand ran his excellent conifer workshop for a dozen cheerful souls and a good time was had by all. Conifers are an ancient group of plants that are valuable features of the landscape in their native habitats. There are important conservation reasons for enabling more people to identify conifers – not only because they are under-recorded in this country but also because, in some places, there are re-generations of some forestry species that need to be identified and removed before they become too extensive.

The Saturday morning workshop was held in the education centre at Hillier's Arboretum. Martin produced very useful notes and keys to cover all the key genera in the UK and details of the most likely species to be found in the countryside (these will be on the HantsPlants website in due course). An interesting variety of conifer specimens were on hand to put the keys to the test, not forgetting that conifer chemicals and resins add an extra, olfactory dimension to the ID process.

In the afternoon the group walked round the arboretum. It served to help us understand the (overwhelming) range of variation that can be found in formal garden settings but it was also valuable to start spotting the conifer genera from a distance. Fir (*Abies*) cones point upwards, spruce (*Picea*) cones hang downwards; hemlocks (*Tsuga* species) have different length leaves, some sticking out at odd angles; Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) has attractive orange-coloured bark, especially towards the top; larches (*Larix*) are sorted by the cone scales (if and how much they turn outwards); cedars (*Cedrus*) by the direction of their branches (as a general rule of thumb – Atlas ascending, Lebanon level, Deodar drooping). The photographers also benefitted from the deep blue February sky framing the trees to perfection.

Sunday was equally bright. Most of the participants joined Martin for a morning walk round the conifer plantations at Farley Mount near Winchester. This had a good representative selection of the much more limited range of conifers likely to be seen in the countryside. We viewed trees from afar and then hunted on the ground for cones, needles, etc. to confirm the identifications. Amongst these we learned the difference between Scots and Corsican pines, what regenerating Western Red-cedar (*Thuja plicata*) looks like, ditto Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*). We even saw a Japanese Red-cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) which had conveniently shed a branch onto the ground from on high and noted the pointy, shiny reddish buds. Also memorable were the cones of the Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with their 'mouse going into the house' forked tongues of bracts between the cone-scales.

Martin's workshop/field meetings are always worth attending and we are very grateful to him yet again for improving our collective knowledge and confidence in this branch of field botany.

Bisterne Warren on Sunday 29 April 2012

A report by Clive Chatters

Despite appalling weather, the group mustered at the village hall to take the opportunity to visit the private Bisterne Manor Estate. Bisterne Warren is one of a series of remarkable grasslands in the lower Avon Valley south of Ringwood, typified by the presence of Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria* – a species more commonly associated with coastal sand dunes or the East Anglian Brecklands.

We started our visit by searching where the ground was disturbed by vehicles or rabbits as this is where the smaller specialist plants grow. The spring was late in coming and we had difficulty identifying the many species of clover. We found an abundance of the diminutive succulent, Mossy Stonecrop *Crassula tillaea*. The open ground also provided suitable condition for lichens such as *Cladonia furcata* and clump forming mosses such as *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

The seasonally damper sandy grasslands were dominated by short swards of Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and Heath Grass *Danthonia decumbens* with leaves of Heath Spotted-orchids *Dactylorhiza maculata* and the Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

Wet heath was found in the low lying hollow in the south of the Warren. The consistent grazing pressure has prevented the dominance of robust species such as the heathers and Purple Moor-grass. Here we found an abundance of Hare's-tail Cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*, usually regarded as a northern species and here in its greatest abundance in Hampshire. The moss community is very rich, with mat-forming species such as the bog mosses *Sphagnum* spp. The consistent grazing on the seasonally drier peats together with the lack of heathland fires supports a rich lichen community with various 'Reindeer moss' *Cladonia* species including *Cladonia arbuscula*, a species now of very restricted distribution. On the edge of the wet heath we found two large and very flowery plants of Petty Whin *Genista anglica* previously unknown from this part of the Avon Valley.

The persistence of our botanising in the face of worsening weather was well regarded by the gamekeeper. The estate has invited us back to look at a different site next summer. The details of this visit will be published in the Spring 2013 edition of *Flora News*.

Longdown Estate on Sunday 13 May 2012

A report by Clive Chatters

Our annual general meeting followed our traditional pattern being a lunch stop on a botanical ramble. This year we were the guests of Amanda Barker-Mill in the Langley Manor Woods of the Longdown Estate.

Our walk took us through the southern part of the estate around Staplewood Hill. The history of the wood is still being explored but it appears to be a series of historic coppices divided up by drove roads that lead out of the commons of the New Forest to the commons of Southampton Water's shore.



Flora Group members under a veteran Beech at Longdown Estate, 13 May 2012 – Tony Mundell

This is a large block of ancient woodland which has been managed in a variety of ways over the years. There are some areas of plantation but most is semi-natural ancient woodland. There are areas of coppice within rather continental looking shelterwood systems as well as groves of ancient trees. Where recent cropping has let the light in the flora is characteristic of the large ancient woods of the Hampshire Basin with both heathy element and broad swathes of Bluebell, Pignut and Wood Anemone. A striking element was the numerous ancient yews. These were present both as typically 'domed' trees but also towering single stems reaching high into the woodland canopy.

We were expecting to see some Wild Service-trees *Sorbus torminalis* and these proved to be locally abundant. An area of richer flora also yielded a clump of the Thin-spiked Wood-sedge *Carex strigosa*, the first record for this species in this part of the New Forest. Equally interesting was the scarcity of some commoner Hampshire species such as Butcher's Broom.

Porton Down, Saturday 26 May 2012

A report by Tony Mundell

Porton Down is a huge expanse of chalk grassland with some woodland. It is partly in Wiltshire and partly in Hampshire. We enjoyed splendid weather during our visit, unlike the Wiltshire Botanical Society meeting to the same site on 7 May which suffered from pouring rain. The Porton Down Conservation Officer, Stuart Corbett, gave us a brief talk about the Range then we headed out for the Hampshire part of the Range. One of my aims was to record every plant we could, including all the common species, and with all the help available we achieved this. In addition I had input a set of grid references into my GPS for former records of a selection of 'special' plants and with the aid of the GPS 'GoTo' facility we trekked around these.

Much of the chalk grassland is heavily grazed by rabbits or deer and we saw some amusing 'topiary' of small Yew bushes nibbled into curious shapes.



Rabbit topiary, Porton Down – Tony Mundell

Of course the high point for most people was the Lady Orchids. Two plants were in flower, though the original plant first discovered in 2003 was not flowering this year. The real surprise is the growing number of seedlings with just a single broad leaf. In all we estimated 15 plants, but confined to a small area only about 5m across. We marked them with bamboo canes to avoid them being trampled but there are probably more seedlings that we did not see. The Porton Conservation Group needs to consider whether the area should be fenced in some way. The photographers had a field day here while others got on with their lunch. Very close to the Lady Orchids there is



**Lady Orchid *Orchis purpurea*, Porton Down, 26 May 2012
– Debbie Allan**



Lady Orchid log-lunch, 26 May 2012 – Tony Mundell

a Common Spotted-orchid growing 2m above ground as an epiphyte in the fork of a Beech tree. It flowered there last year and had formed buds this year too.

We eventually trekked on, stopping for Bird's-nest Orchids and other plants. I was delighted when we managed to re-find a group of Mat-grass Fescue *Vulpia unilateralis* – a very rare grass. I positively confirmed the small piece I brought home.

Unfortunately due to lack of time we had to omit a detour for Burnt Orchid *Neotinea ustulata*, but I heard later that no flowers had appeared there this year. We visited the well-known Meadow Clary site where a few were in flower, and we also saw a patch of the rare Slender Bedstraw



**Mat-grass Fescue *Vulpia unilateralis*, Porton Down,
26 May 2012 – Debbie Allan**

Galium pumilum. Some plants of the Cypress Spurge *Euphorbia cyparissias*, looked different with wider leaves and taller strictly upright stems. Eric Clement suggested this was because they were infected with a rust fungus that galls the plant, and it seems likely that this is a very rare *Uromyces* species. Specimens of this yellow rust have since been sent off for identification.

As we drove back in convoy I noticed that a pair of Peregrine falcons was nesting on the same tower that they had used the previous year, so I stopped my car and pointed at them. Hopefully at least some of the following cars got the message.

Gravelly Marsh, Beaulieu, Saturday 9 June 2012

A report by Clive Chatters

At the invitation of Mary Montagu a small group of members visited the private foreshore of the Beaulieu Estate. Following a briefing on the location of the ground nesting birds we searched Park Shore and Gravelly Marsh in the National Nature Reserve.

This shoreline comprises a series of sandy and shingly beaches grading into coastal grazing marshes. Park Shore is distinctly different from Gravelly Marsh, being grazed to a shorter sward and much of it having been formed by an historic sea bank. In contrast Gravelly Marsh is less heavily grazed with a range of shingle ridges of varied history but great antiquity. The most striking impression of these beaches is how well vegetated they are with plants growing right down to the high water mark. The bare shingle we are so familiar with on popular recreation beaches was not a feature here.

The shorter swards of Park Shore yielded to forensic examination an abundance of Rough Clover *Trifolium scabrum* together with some Spring Vetch *Vicia lathyroides*. The Park Shore shingle Beach was home to Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum* and Sea Bindweed *Calystegia soldanella*. The back of the sea-bank grades into grazing marsh with great swathes of Divided Sedge *Carex divisa*. Gravelly Marsh was equally rich with Curved Hard-grass *Parapholis incurva*, Dyer's Greenweed *Genista tinctoria*

together with an abundance of Sea Kale *Crambe maritima* and miniature drifts of Burnet Roses *Rosa spinosissima*. The grazing management and scrub control support an extensive area of short heath, mostly *Erica cinerea* with the older ridges supporting well developed lichen communities. Neil Sanderson recorded 18 species of *Cladonia* and closely-related species, including the exacting *Cladonia arbuscula* ssp. *squarrosa* and a new species for Hampshire, *Amandinea lecideina* described by Neil as a smudge on a flint.

It is only by seeing such excellence of habitat that one realises how much we have lost from busy beaches elsewhere around the Solent. The undisturbed vegetated shingle banks of Beaulieu are recognised as being of international importance for nature conservation; long may they remain so.



Burnet Rose *Rosa spinosissima*, Beaulieu, 9 June 2012 – Clive Chatters

Milkham, New Forest on Sunday 10 June 2012

A report by Martin Rand

Eighteen BSBI and Flora Group members came together with the leader for this meeting in a little-worked corner of the New Forest, with the aim of improving the poor tally of computerised records and introducing the non-locals to the delights of the New Forest flora.

The weather was unpromising, with lowering clouds, the occasional drift of rain, and a cold breeze blowing; but the

party set out enthusiastically, and it soon became difficult to goad them into the target tetrad, as one of the trackways in the now removed conifer plantation was scrutinised at close quarters. Here the re-establishing wet heathland/grassland vegetation included several characteristic sedges and sedge relatives, among them Bristle Club-rush *Isolepis setacea* and Many-stalked Spike-rush *Eleocharis multicaulis*. The stream below was also recovering from its former bondage as a wood drain and a good, if limited, emergent community and mire flora was in evidence.

Eventually we made our way over to Milkham Bottom, the first relatively undisturbed valley-head mire of the day. Approaching up the stream we saw dense mats of Floating Club-rush *Eleogiton fluitans*. The greatest surprise for those not accustomed to the Forest was the composition of the damp grassy sward encircled by heathland, with abundant Quaking-grass *Briza media*, Purging Flax *Linum catharticum* and even the true Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, a species replaced on most New Forest heaths by *Festuca filiformis*. The meadow species here included Meadow Thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, Sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, Pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and Saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, getting protection from the grazing animals by growing up through the Heather bushes. Flea Sedge *Carex pulicaris* in the richer areas was succeeded by Tawny Sedge *C. hostiana* a little higher up the slopes. On the drier ground we were able to find our first Soft-leaved Sedge *Carex montana* of the day.

The upper parts of the valley were more acid and provided typical bog species such as the Sundews *Drosera rotundifolia* and *D. intermedia*, Marsh Willowherb *Epilobium palustre*, Bog Asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, Star Sedge *Carex echinata* and Common Cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium*. On the seepage line along the slope above was a notably large population of flowering Pale Butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica*.

We headed to the shelter of a couple of Scots Pine trees to eat a rather damp chilly lunch before making for the spur of hillside known as King's Garden. Local commoners Richard Collingridge and Rue Ekins were able to give us a history of areas of the Forest such as this which had been subject to ploughing, liming and improvement during the Second World War and in some cases into the 1960s. They are now reverting to the wild and often carry an exceptionally interesting vegetation. Here among the mosaic of species-grassland and heath we saw large numbers of the Eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis* subsp. *anglica* and a number of clovers including *Trifolium scabrum* and *T. striatum*.

Our next destination was Buckherd Bottom, the next valley-head mire to the south. On the way an area of scrub with some old concrete footings gave us the Small-flowered Sweet-briar *Rosa micrantha* (widespread on the Forest). We had limited time to explore the mire, but more *Carex montana* was in evidence on the valley sides, and one of the 'out of town' botanists made what was perhaps the most exciting find of the day, a small population of Narrow-leaved Lungwort *Pulmonaria longifolia* scattered amongst damp Blackthorn scrub. This is a new site, in a part of the Forest where it is quite rare.

We returned through the remnants of Roe and Milkham Inclosures, where we were able to add several new native and exotic species including the prettily flowering Climbing Corydalis *Ceratocarpus claviculata*, and there was a chance to demonstrate the differences between the Scaly Male-ferns *Dryopteris affinis* and *D. borrieri*.

At the end of the day some of the party reconvened at the nearby Ocknell Pond for a promised visit to one of the Forest sites for the Small Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum azoricum*. By now the weather was rapidly worsening, and the party hunkered down with their noses in the sodden turf to admire the mixed stands of this species with *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. We were lucky to find quite a good number of convincing specimens of the rarer species – better than the leader has seen for several years – but we had no luck in coming across the tiny population of Moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* in the (normally) drier ground nearby. Ocknell Pond itself was very full, so most of the area usually colonised by Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera* was inaccessible, but a fair amount was visible in the shallow margins in company with *Crassula helmsii*.

We made 147 records for the target tetrad, and several more for areas outside; a very respectable total considering that large parts of the tetrad were unvisited that day, and bringing the total recorded here to 223.

Himalayan Balsam-pulling on Tuesday 12 June and Wednesday 20 June 2012

A report by Catherine Chatters, New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer

Flora Group members were invited to join the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project to help eradicate Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* from the Lymington River on 12 and 20 June 2012. On 12 June we had intended to pull balsam at Brockenhurst on a section of river bank owned by a member of the Flora Group. However the summer of 2012 has been characterised by unseasonably high rainfall and the high water levels in early June meant that the Lymington River was inaccessible that day, with large areas of the farm under water. In the circumstances I took the volunteers to pull balsam on higher, drier ground along the Passford Water which is a tributary of the Lymington River.

Fortunately water levels in the Lymington River had dropped sufficiently by 20 June to enable Ashley Basil to lead a balsam pull along the Lymington River on land owned by another Flora Group member and on other land in the vicinity of Boldre Bridge. Flora Group members have helped to pull balsam here for the past couple of years and it is very obvious that their hard work is having a positive effect. The amount of balsam has significantly declined. However, it is important to note that the success experienced on the Lymington River has been due to a) a strategic, catchment-scale approach, b) thorough work to ensure all balsam plants are pulled up, c) regular 'patrolling' of the river following volunteer work parties to pull up any remaining balsam plants.

Thanks are due to Flora Group members and all the other volunteers who have helped this summer, to Ashley Basil for enthusiastically leading balsam pulls on the Lymington River and to the landowners and graziers for their co-operation with the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project.

The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project has commissioned Neil Sanderson to study a range of sites where Himalayan balsam has invaded riparian habitats in the New Forest area. The results of Neil's work are anticipated this winter.

Evening visit to St Cross, Wednesday 27 June 2012

A report by Clive Chatters

The Hospital of St Cross is a remarkable institution founded in the early twelfth century and still serving its original purpose as an almshouse. The Wildlife Trust rents the farm that provides the setting to the Church and Hospital. Here we graze British White Cattle and are working with the Hospital to restore the river banks and historic meadows of this stretch of the Itchen Valley.

Whilst overcast, the weather for our evening walk was dry but there was plenty of water on the meadows and the river was flowing at full strength. The grasslands around the Hospital have a chequered agricultural history, they are certainly not pristine but we found a lot to enjoy.

This was very much an evening for grasses, and Martin Rand patiently tutored us in their identification. Highlights were the abundance of the natural hybrids x *Festulolium* between Rye grasses and Fescues together with a strong population of Whorl Grass *Catabrosa aquatica*. Members of the *Apiaceae*, the carrot family, also attracted interest with a population of the western European endemic River water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis* in the river and both Fool's-water-cress *Apium nodiflorum* and Water Parsnip *Berula erecta* in the side ditches. The grasslands were less 'sedgey' than we had hoped for but we were treated to the hairless Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, sometimes called var. *sublaevis*, characteristic of water meadows.

We botanised 'til dusk, the stragglers being rewarded by views of a Water Vole and a swarm of bees.



**Cattle-grazing by St Cross Church, 27 June 2012
– Clive Chatters**

Tale of a Green-winged Orchid

Elizabeth Pratt

In early May of 2004, I was walking down Winchester Road past Romsey hospital, when I noticed an attractive pink flower on the grassy bank. I had a closer look, and realised that it was a Green-winged Orchid. I contacted the County Botanical Recorder who told me that it was the first he had heard of in the Romsey area for some years, although one has apparently been seen at Abbotswood. Over the following four years it flowered annually. It was a shame that there was only one, but we hoped that if it could manage to set seed, eventually more would appear. In the summer of 2008 I joined the Romsey & District Society's Natural Environment Committee and shared the news of the orchid with them.

In the spring of 2009 I was delighted to find that a flower bud again appeared on the orchid plant. However, the following day I found that the verge where the plant was growing had been mown. Closer inspection proved that the flower bud was still there, though somewhat squashed. To my horror, the following week the verge had been mown again, more closely. There was not a trace remaining of the plant.

At this stage, nothing could be done to save the flower for the current year, but we were determined to protect it in the future. I found out that the verges in Romsey are cut by Test Valley Borough Council. Robert Page, our committee chairman, contacted TVBC early the following spring. The person responsible assured him that from now on the orchid would not be mown, and Robert gave him details of the exact location of the site. Early in May, I walked down Winchester Road and noticed that the verge had been freshly mown from the boundary of Romsey Town downwards. I approached the orchid site with a mixture of hope and anxiety, but unfortunately the latter was the more appropriate as it had been mown yet again. There were virtually no grass cuttings lying about, but all that was left of the orchid was a rosette of leaves and a few remnants of diced petals. At least that showed that it had flowered, albeit extremely briefly!

Over the next few weeks, Robert again contacted the council, and at the same time I tracked down the hospital estates department who were responsible for their grounds maintenance. Once again the verge was cut and there appeared to be some sort of breakdown in communication between those in charge and those with the mowers. In the meantime, I met by chance a young man who was strimming the grass around the hospital staff car park; he assured me that the bank is mowed by the council and not by him. I then met the hospital staff on site to discuss possible ways of protecting the area. They were very helpful, but confirmed that the bank is Highways land and therefore not theirs to either mow or protect. At this point we decided to concentrate our attention on reminding TVBC to stop mowing at the appropriate time.



The young orchid leaves protected from engineering works, March 2012 – Elizabeth Pratt



Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio*, Romsey, May 2012 – Elizabeth Pratt

In March 2011, Robert again e-mailed his council contact, who replied that he had shown the 'lad' who cuts the grass where it was on a map, and it should be OK this year. A week later, by chance I met the council mower, and spoke to him. He knew all about it, but I confirmed for him the exact location. The grass remained uncut until two weeks later, when I found that the area outside the hospital had been strimmed. There was no sign whatsoever of the orchid. A couple of days later I visited the hospital, and met the caretaker and the new hospital manager. They were both sufficiently interested to go and see the site for themselves, but didn't think their groundsmen had cut it.

Beechcroft Lawn – Some Botanical Surprises

Clive Chatters

Three weeks later I saw someone else cutting the grass, so I followed him and his mower into the hospital grounds. He was a new contractor who worked for the hospital and wasn't aware that he wasn't supposed to cut the bank; he had thought it looked untidy because the council hadn't cut it. I spoke to both him and the caretaker again, and they were both keen to ensure that it will live to flower next year. We will make sure that we contact both the council and the hospital next March to give the plant the chance to flower again.

The Green-winged Orchid is typically a plant of old meadows, where it can grow in hundreds, and is classified as Near Threatened in Britain, and a County Notable plant in Hampshire. It is unusual in that it forms its rosette of leaves in September or October which then lasts through the winter; thus it is probably less damaged by summer mowing than many other plants. Its name derives from the green veins in its raised sepals; hence it is also called the green-veined orchid. It usually flowers in early May. If you do see it, please leave it for others to enjoy too.

2012 Update

After talking to the 'powers that mow' earlier this year, I was fully hopeful that the Green-winged Orchid would at last be able to flower in peace. However, just as I thought that all would be well, the gas-men arrived to lay a new pipe along Winchester Road. I spoke to their foreman, who assured me that the excavation would not include the bank by the hospital but would cross the road at that point. I continued to watch the progress of the plant, noting with pleasure that a new flower bud seemed to be developing.

Suddenly one morning I found two men and a digger on the bank. Realising that the orchid was completely invisible beneath the digger, I feared the worst. I stopped to speak to the men and explained the problem. They were friendly and very helpful. When I returned a few minutes later they had moved the digger to the other side of the trench and carefully marked the orchid plant with a stick. The digger tracks were clearly visible on either side of the orchid, which was undamaged in between them.

From then on, the two men were ardent defenders of the orchid, telling their colleagues to avoid damaging it and moving equipment that was left too close to it. When I marked it with a group of canes they looked after those too and replaced them when they had been knocked over. In fact I was quite sorry when they eventually left. In the meantime no mowing or strimming took place, and finally over the early May bank holiday weekend the flower opened. I rushed to take photographs in case it didn't survive, but in fact the flower lasted for some time and I was delighted to meet some people admiring it.

I circulated copies of the photographs of the flower to all those who had been involved in its protection and received rapturous responses from all who saw it. Now let's hope that we will be able to enjoy this flower for many years to come, and even better, to see it set seed and produce more of these lovely orchids.

In 1856 the Manor of Bishops Waltham was awarded the right to enclose a 300 acre common that stretched eastwards from Botley Railway Station for over 2km towards Bishops Waltham. Much of the modern village of Curdrige is built on this former common. One of the finest buildings in this new settlement was the Vicarage, faced in flakes of flint and dressed sandstone. Over a century later this building is home to the Wildlife Trust's offices.

The short walk from the car park to the front door crosses a lawn of fine grasses which is worth close inspection. In spring the lawn is a sheet of Good Friday Grass (Field Wood-rush) *Luzula campestris* suitably fitting for the history of the property. In early summer the lawn is covered in a white haze of Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile* flowers and Birds-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus* pops up in the broken edges. Closer inspection reveals many tufts of sedge, which when un-mown reveal themselves as Pill Sedge *Carex pilulifera*. A few shady and close-mown areas dominated by *Rhytidiadelphus* and *Polytrichum* mosses can be unpicked to find tufts of Heather *Calluna vulgaris* growing up from ancient woody stems.



Heather in Beechcroft Lawn – Clive Chatters

Most intriguing of all are a handful of plants of Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* growing on the parched slope near the front door. This is the single-flowered form, not the double flowers found commonly in cultivation. The botanical year is rounded off with waxy caps and earth tongue fungi yet to be identified to species.

This small area of lawn is almost certainly a relic of the former common. There are other patches of ground supporting heathland species around the village, notably in the burial ground of the Victorian church. Visiting naturalists are welcome to add to our species list.

Gosport Flora – Progress Report and Recent Discoveries

John Norton

I was hoping to have published a Flora of Gosport by spring 2012, but my free time over the preceding winter was spent getting more seriously into bryophytes and lichens, so things were put on hold for at least another year, despite Debbie Allan finishing draft accounts for all the 1,170 or so vascular plant taxa. However, I now have considerably more data to include on these 'lower plant' groups, including several interesting discoveries (see below). We still hope to publish the flora sometime in 2013, so please contact me with your name and e-mail (or postal) address if you wish to be put on the list to receive notification when it comes out.

Since my last article in Spring 2011 *Flora News* on new plants in Gosport in 2010, Debbie, Eric Clement and I have made quite a few more surprising and significant discoveries in the Borough over the last two years – and what better excuse to show off a few photographs!

Highlights have been:

Fumaria reuteri (Martin's Ramping-fumitory) – this was discovered in October 2010 shortly after hearing via Martin

Rand that Gareth Knass had discovered this species new to VC11 at an allotment at Titchfield. This caused me to have a second glance at some fumitory growing out of an allotment fence only 300m from my house. Sure enough - it was *F. reuteri* - easily identified by the shallowly toothed sepals and the long gap between the base of the sepal and the curved end of the corolla tube. A partial check of other allotments in Gosport the following May did not turn up any more, but we did find a few plants of *Fumaria bastardii* (Tall Ramping Fumitory) along the edge of allotments at Little Anglesey Road.

Calystegia x howittiorum – this is the hybrid between *C. pulchra* and *C. silvatica* (Hairy and Greater Bindweeds) which has pink-striped flowers and is probably much more common than true *C. pulchra*. We have now seen it in at least five widely distributed localities in the Borough. It is superficially similar to *C. sepium* subsp. *roseata*, recorded from Browdown Fen in 1961. It has just a few scattered hairs on the petioles and stems.

Juncus x kern-reichtgeltii (*J. conglomeratus x effusus*, Compact/Soft Rush hybrid) – a few plants under older birch woodland at southern end of Browdown Common, 7 June 2011.

Parthenocissus inserta (False Virginia-creeper) – an established patch in the upper River Alver woodland, by Rowner Road, 30 June 2011.

Phytolacca acinosa (Indian Pokeweed) and *Guizotia abyssynica* (Niger) – flowering plants near to bird feeder at new Felicia Farm housing estate, 21 October 2011 (along with various other bird-seed aliens!). Some of the *Guizotia* plants were more than a metre tall.

Caltha palustris (Marsh-marigold) – in channel of River Alver, Brune Lane, 14 August 2011. First non-introduced record apart from a slightly dubious record from north Browdown in 1999. Also plentiful in a small area near Peel Common roundabout, within Fareham Borough.

Clematis cirrhosa (Early Virgin's-bower) – a clump almost finished flowering (and living up to its name) on 15 February 2012, behind Stokes Bay Road, climbing over a gorse bush. A bird-sown? garden escape, though we could not see any cultivated nearby.

Crassula tillaea (Mossy Stonecrop) – well established in cracks of brick paving at St Vincent Road, 6 April 2012. This colony lies on the side of a road which Debbie and I regularly walk along to reach the local park – but we usually walk past on the opposite side. It is amazing how relatively obvious plants such as this can be easily missed. However, the plants were completely brown and dried up by early June.

Filago vulgaris (Common Cudweed) – small plants growing on brick paving with the *Crassula tillaea* in April 2012 and on the corner of an adjacent grass verge. These eventually flowered in July. Only the second Gosport record; previously only seen by Debbie and Eric on HMS Sultan sports field (2 June 1998), though we had seen a *Filago* species, probably this, in about 2010 at nearby Priddy's Hard, growing on a verge and driveway in the new housing estate.



Martin's Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria reuteri*, October 2010
– Debbie Allan (not all flowers turn this shade of pink)



GOSPORT ALIENS: Indian Pokeweed *Phytolacca acinosa*, Felicia Farm 21 October 2011 – *Debbie Allan* (top two); Niger *Guizotia abyssynica*, Felicia Farm 13 October 2011 – *Debbie Allan*; Early Virgin's-bower *Clematis cirrhosa*, Stokes Bay 15 February 2012 – *John Norton*

Mossy Stonecrop *Crassula tillaea*, St Vincent 6 April 2012 – *Debbie Allan*; Dense-flowered Fumitory *Fumaria densiflora* and Chinese Mustard *Brassica juncea*, both at Stokes Bay, 23 May 2012 – *John Norton*

Luzula forsteri (Southern Woodrush) – a nice ancient woodland species found on an old boundary bank of Rowner Copse, by Rowner Lane on 8 April 2012 and inside the copse shortly afterwards; also discovered a week later in a woodland belt flanking a coastal inlet at Fleetlands.

Fumaria densiflora (Dense-flowered Fumitory) – found in two places within a couple of days towards the end of May 2012. The first on a disturbed earth bank off Stokes Bay Road, near the tennis courts and the second in landscaped soil by the bus stop at the new rapid link bus terminal in Bridgemary. Both probably introduced with imported soil. At the Stokes Bay site, when we returned to take photographs Eric Clement also spotted *Brassica juncea* (Chinese Mustard) – though the ID foxed us for a while. These plants may have originated from a form of mustard widely grown as ‘green manure’.

Lotus angustissimus (Slender Bird’s-foot-trefoil), Cherque Way. Discovered at the end of May 2012 by Eric and a visiting friend on a patch of sparsely vegetated gravel disturbed a year or so ago by the construction of a new roundabout at the junction of the new Cherque Way with Privett Road, next to the entrance to Browndown Common. Debbie and I counted 50 or more plants here in early June, then found hundreds more nearby a couple of weeks later (just to the north at the edge of the restored gravel workings next to the southern end of Cherque Way).

We visited the site again on 13 August, and it is still flowering profusely. This rare native species had been previously recorded west of Anglesey, Gosport in 1847 by Miss Jarrett, but declared extinct at that site in 1913 by Snape. We also visited Titchfield Haven gravel pit on 8 April, where I had originally found the species in September 1986, and were delighted to find that it was still hanging on there, thanks to some recent scrub clearance.

Salvia verbenaca (Wild Clary) – found by Debbie in early June in mown grassland at Trinity Close, just west of the Walpole Park car park. In fact, the normally short-mown grass here had been left for a couple of weeks due to a period of daily near-continuous rain, allowing the plants to put up decent-sized leaves and flowers. We had walked past this spot several times before in the past but not noticed them.



**Wild Clary *Salvia verbenaca*, Gosport, 9 June 2012
– John Norton**

In the middle of writing this article, Debbie and I made a visit to check on the *Lotus angustissimus* and also walked along the southern track on Browndown Common, where we spotted another surprising new for Gosport: *Juncus tenuis*. Surprising, because this has long since reached most other corners of Hampshire wherever there is damp gravel. This is an area we look at regularly, so it must have arrived only in the last year or so. There were about 50 small plants around a winter-wet hollow on the track, and one large, heavily fruiting plant in the grassland at the edge.

Gosport has proved to be very interesting for bryophytes and lichens, but I will hold over a more detailed article and more photos for a future *Flora News*. Noteworthy bryophytes include ephemeral species of dry sandy or gravelly soils, such as *Acaulon muticum* (at Priddy’s Hard and Gilkicker), *Tortula protobryoides* (Browndown Ranges), *Weissia brachycarpa* (Browndown Camp verge) and *Riccia sorocarpa* (Priddy’s Hard and Lee-on-Solent). Other local species include *Brachythecium mildeanum* (various sites) and *Oxyrrhynchium schleicheri* (Ann’s Hill Cemetery).

Exciting lichen discoveries during 2011-2012 have included several *Usnea* species at Browndown Fen, including the 9th or so British record and first Hampshire record for *Usnea flavocardia* (March 2011), also more recently found at Carter’s Copse; and about the fourth Hants record for *U. esperantiana*, a species probably increasing in the county. Other confirmed or potential firsts for the county include *Caloplaca cerinella* (a widespread overlooked species – now found in about 10 locations in Gosport on Elder, White Poplar and Aspen twigs); *Catillaria atomarioides* and



**Slender Bird’s-foot-trefoil *Lotus angustissimus*,
Browndown, 2 June 2012 – John Norton**

Amandinea lecideina, both locally common on pebbles along Browndown beach, and *Caloplaca rudorum* on timber revetment, by the scout hut, Stoke Lake. Some of these identifications still require confirmation. The *Amandinea lecideina* was first collected in 2011, pre-dating Neil's claim to this on p. 6!).

For more photographs of species mentioned, see Debbie's web site: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/debbie.allan1/>.

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Heathland Lichens in The New Forest

A note by Neil Sanderson

The last year has been quite a year for lichen finds in the New Forest. For years I have concentrated on the exceptionally lichen rich woodlands, but a job recording lichens in randomly chosen plots on the heathlands for the Natural History Museum (NHM) concentrated my attention on to the heaths. I had last looked at these seriously with Francis Rose in the 1990s. The result has been a cascade of exciting finds. The new *Cladonia* species are:

***Cladonia azorica*:** a western Nationally Scarce species similar to the common *Cladonia portentosa*, but with branching more in twos and threes and with different spot tests, showing a Pd+ red reaction as well as the UV+ white fluorescence from the lower cortex (outer skin) as seen in *C. portentosa*. At first over recorded, with slight UV reflectance in *Cladonia ciliata* misinterpreted as the much brighter fluorescence of *C. azorica*, but a couple of good collections were made from two 1km squares in the upper Avon Water area. First lowland records.

***Cladonia callosa*:** one of the more remarkable finds, a Nationally Scarce species endemic to western Europe, with scattered records from upland Britain and internationally important populations in the Netherlands heaths (www.verspreidingsatlas.nl/korstmossen). This species has been found to be widespread in the Forest, mainly in damp hollow ways and path ruts and has now been recorded from 23 1km grid squares. First lowland records; not found beyond Hampshire yet in the lowlands.

***Cladonia coccifera*:** the *Cladonia coccifera* group has been divided into two taxa; the common *Cladonia divisa* with *Cladonia coccifera sensu stricto* a rare upland species. There is considerable doubt how far these two taxa really are distinct; the current accepted treatment in the Netherlands is not to separate them. However, there do seem to be two forms distinguishable in the Forest, with a widespread form matching *Cladonia divisa* with a scruffy sorediate podetia (the upright stem of a *Cladonia*) and a neater form with a more intact podetia cortex. At first it was thought the latter might be *Cladonia borealis* but chemical analysis (thin layer chromatography) by the NHM disproved this. The Spanish *Cladonia* Flora (Burgaz & Ahti 2009), however, describes *Cladonia coccifera s.s.* as similar to *C. borealis*, except for differences in chemistry. It also shows it as having a similar distribution to *Cladonia divisa* in Spain. It seems that if *Cladonia divisa* and *Cladonia coccifera s.s.*

are really separate, then both occur on the New Forest, with the latter recorded from 18 1km grid squares.

***Cladonia cornuta*:** a north eastern species with few records from the lowlands. Found to be occasional in good quality heathland throughout the New Forest and recorded from 18 1km grid squares. New to Hampshire.

***Cladonia cryptochlorophaea*:** a member of the *Cladonia chlorophaea* group generally only separated by chemical analysis. *Cladonia chlorophaea sensu stricto*, is probably the common species as an epiphyte, but has proved rare on the heathlands and confined to deep humus. Members of the chemically diverse *Cladonia greyi* aggregate dominate the heathland and as a group can be distinguished by the much greater exposure of medulla around the cup than seen in *Cladonia chlorophaea s.s.* *Cladonia cryptochlorophaea*, is the more uncommon of the two *Cladonia greyi* segregates found to date in the New Forest, but the commonest in Britain. New to Hampshire.

***Cladonia firma*:** a western mainly coastal Nationally Scarce species, which was a most unexpected find. Recorded from a single site on strongly base rich soil on disturbed ground. The record requires confirmation by chemical analysis, but looks very good, with large squamules with a bright white undersides grading to soft grey brown at the base. Second lowland record.

***Cladonia greyi*:** the second member of the *Cladonia greyi* aggregate found on the heaths. Genetic analysis suggests that it not closely related to *Cladonia chlorophaea sensu stricto*. This small distinctive brown species has proved to be widespread, recorded from 45 1km grid squares. Rarely recorded from Britain previously and may be a lowland heathland specialist. First confirmed lowland records.

***Cladonia hammeri*:** one particularly odd *Cladonia* has been recorded several times in disturbed dry grassland in heathland brown field sites. It had large green squamules with upturned tips and an intact cortex on the bases of the podetia, like *Cladonia humilis*, but with the wrong spot test reactions and with the upper cortex on the podetia breaking into large granules with a cortex. The effect is like *Cladonia pocillum* podetia on *C. humilis* thalli. Studying other floras (Burgaz & Ahti 2009, Nash *et al.* 2002), the taxa matches perfectly to *Cladonia hammeri*, but confirmation by chemical analysis, is awaited. New to Britain.

***Cladonia mediterranea*:** a Vulnerable Red Data Book species and Biodiversity Action Plan species. A Mediterranean/southern Atlantic species, previously only recorded in the Lizard and possibly Pembrokeshire. This is very similar to the common *Cladonia portentosa* but is less densely branched and has a thicker cortex. In a very exciting discovery, material matching the Lizard form of this species was found in very species rich short grazed heath in the west of the Forest near Ogdens. A possible second site has since been found nearby.

***Cladonia phyllophora*:** another major range extension; this a Near Threatened and Nationally Scarce lichen which had mainly been recorded from the uplands, with a few lowland records, most of them unverified. It had been thought to be extinct in the Netherlands, but has recently



***Cladonia mediterranea*, New Forest – Neil Sanderson**

been discovered to be surviving as a rare species in cover sand heaths there. It has been found to be occasional in the New Forest, mainly occurring in hollow ways, and has been recorded in 15 1km grid squares. New to Hampshire and since also found in the Hampshire Wealden heaths and Norfolk.

***Cladonia rei*:** a Near Threatened and Nationally Rare (possibly under recorded) lichen similar to the common *Cladonia subulata*, but with the medulla (inside of the thallus) showing white-blue UV fluorescence. Chemical analysis confirms the presence of the critical UV fluorescing lichen acid but the associated lichen acid in the New Forest material has not been recorded from this species before. Thinly scattered in hollow ways and on tussocks in wet heath and recorded from 9 1km grid squares. New to Hampshire.

***Cladonia subcervicornis*:** a mainly upland species rare in the lowlands and extinct in the Netherlands. It is a species with a curious recoding history in the New Forest. The presence of this upland lichen was mentioned as a feature of interest in the New Forest in an assessment of the lichen interest of British lowland heaths by Fletcher *et al.* (1984), but there were no official records of the species on the British Lichen Society database. The recent survey has confirmed the presence of this lichen and found it to be widespread in high quality open damp humid heaths and on damp banks in the New Forest and recorded it in 17 1km grid squares.

***Cladonia sulphurina*:** yet another totally unexpected record of a mainly boreal lichen with a few records from the eastern lowlands. The most recent sites in Sussex and Norfolk have been lost and the species appeared extinct in the south. A single plant was found on a bank thrown up in WWII at Ogdens. New to Hampshire.

***Cladonia zopfii*:** this is a mainly northern Nationally Scarce lichen, similar to *Cladonia uncialis*. The only previous lowland English record was from a collection (as *Cladonia*

uncialis) by H M Livens in 1910 from near Bramshaw Wood, with all recent records from Scotland. This was a species that Brian Coppins, who re-determined the Livens collection, asked me to look out for, so it was very gratifying to re-find this species, again at Ogdens. It has since proved to be scattered across the Forest, with records from eight 1km grid squares. Found in either hollow ways or short grazed heath at the junction between wet and humid heath.

Comments

A further seven species in other genera have been recorded as new from the New Forest heaths in the last year. This remarkable haul confirms the 1984 assessment of the New Forest as international importance for their lichens (Fletcher *et al.* 1984). The distribution of interest is not even; a complex balance between grazing, burning and disturbance appears to be at play. All lichen rich patches need to be well lit, and experience periods of habitat stability. This mainly occurs through grazing, either lengthening the time that heather canopies take to close over, or grazing the heather short continuously. Rich sites tend to on low productivity heaths close to richer grasslands, where the grazing on the heaths is quite heavy. There are also fire-sensitive species that are confined to continuously short grazed heath; typically taller species such as *Cladonia mediterranea* and *Cladonia zopfii*. In contrast, many shorter species, such as *Cladonia callosa* and *Cladonia subcervicornis*, are favoured by occasional cool fires that clear away the loose litter leaving hard compact humus. Fire also opens up swards to let in the light and combined with grazing produces temporary flushes of lichen diversity as the heaths mature. Soil disturbance is also important, with past path erosion producing hollow ways, along with gravel pits and WWII military disturbance producing rich habitats for lichens. Areas with broken concrete in the soils also provide habitat for different lichens, including uncommon and rare species.

The survey of the heaths in the New Forest is ongoing, so more interesting discoveries are likely. Also most of the new species certainly once occurred on heathlands outside the Forest. On most lowland heaths outside the Forest conditions do not now seem as favourable for lichens as those within the Forest but some are likely to survive and should be looked for.

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The BSBI 'Atlas 2020' Project: an update

Martin Rand, BSBI Recorder, VC11

This is the third round in the BSBI's project to map the British distribution of plants; the first two led to the *Atlas of the British Flora* (followed by its *Critical Supplement*) in 1962, and the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* in 2002. The latest (*Even Newer Atlas of the British Flora?*) is planned to be published in the mid-2020s, with fieldwork taking place from now until 2019. So the time interval has shortened dramatically, and the intention is to gather records to tetrad (2km x 2km) precision for the whole of the British Isles.

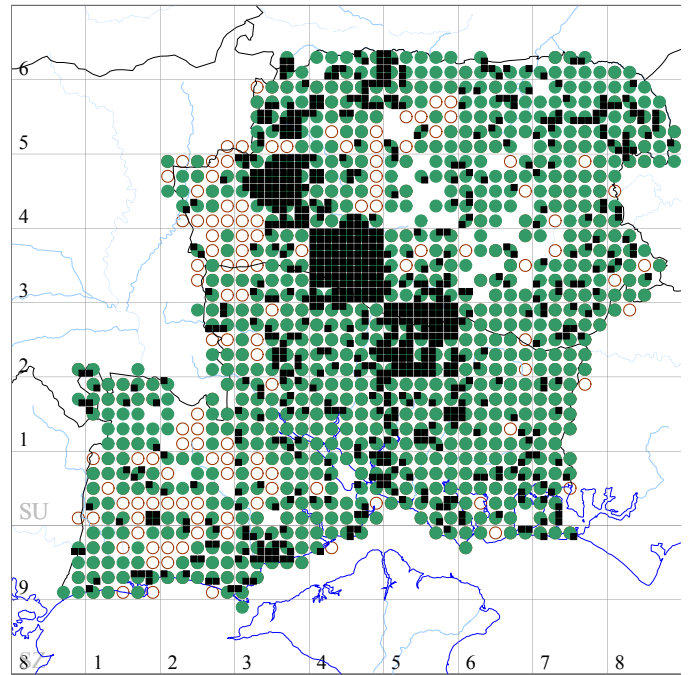
Hampshire is in the fortunate position that records for the *New Atlas* were already gathered on a tetrad basis; although coverage was somewhat uneven for the county and not all tetrad records were computerised. Since the county recorders like to set their colleagues a challenge, we decided that this time we would collect all records, even of common species, to at least a 1km square (monad) precision. This doesn't mean that we all have to visit and diligently record every monad separately; but when we meet any common species for the first time while recording in a tetrad, we will give it a 1km location reference. Rare and notable plants (including most invasive or spreading non-natives) will be given 100-metre or 10-metre locations.

Some stalwart recorders have actually set themselves the task of recording all hundred 1km squares in their allotted hectads (10km x 10km square) separately. This is a huge undertaking that we can't hope to emulate across the whole county; but it does act as a yardstick to show us how good our coverage is in other parts. For instance, here is a map (opposite) for Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) where one hectad has been completely surveyed, and two more have had heavy coverage already. Black dots show 1km records since 2010; green dots all tetrad records since 2000; open circles are earlier or undated records.

Progress so far this year

Tony Mundell and I already have a lot of good post-2000 coverage for the county, but it tends to be patchy with some large neglected areas in the middle of the county. The size of the task means we can't hope to achieve utterly comprehensive coverage in an 8-year period, so we have come up with a prioritisation scheme. This prioritises tetrads that have few records of any period on the database; those that have a small proportion re-recorded since 1999; and, to a lesser degree, those that are especially species-rich and so will contribute most to the national picture at the hectad level.

This has been tuned to give us about 10% of the full tetrads in the county designated 'Top priority', and it is on these that organised recording effort is being focused for the year. (Of course, records are welcome from any tetrad, so if you want to contribute from your immediate neighbourhood, that's useful too.)



Urtica dioica coverage

The Hants Plants web site <http://hantsplants.org.uk> has had some major enhancements to support the Atlas work. Under the *Atlas 2020 in Hampshire* heading, *Priority Tetrad Recording* topic, you will find a modified version of the map below (p.16), showing the top and high priority tetrads. Alongside the map you will see a list of imminent planned recording visits to tetrads.

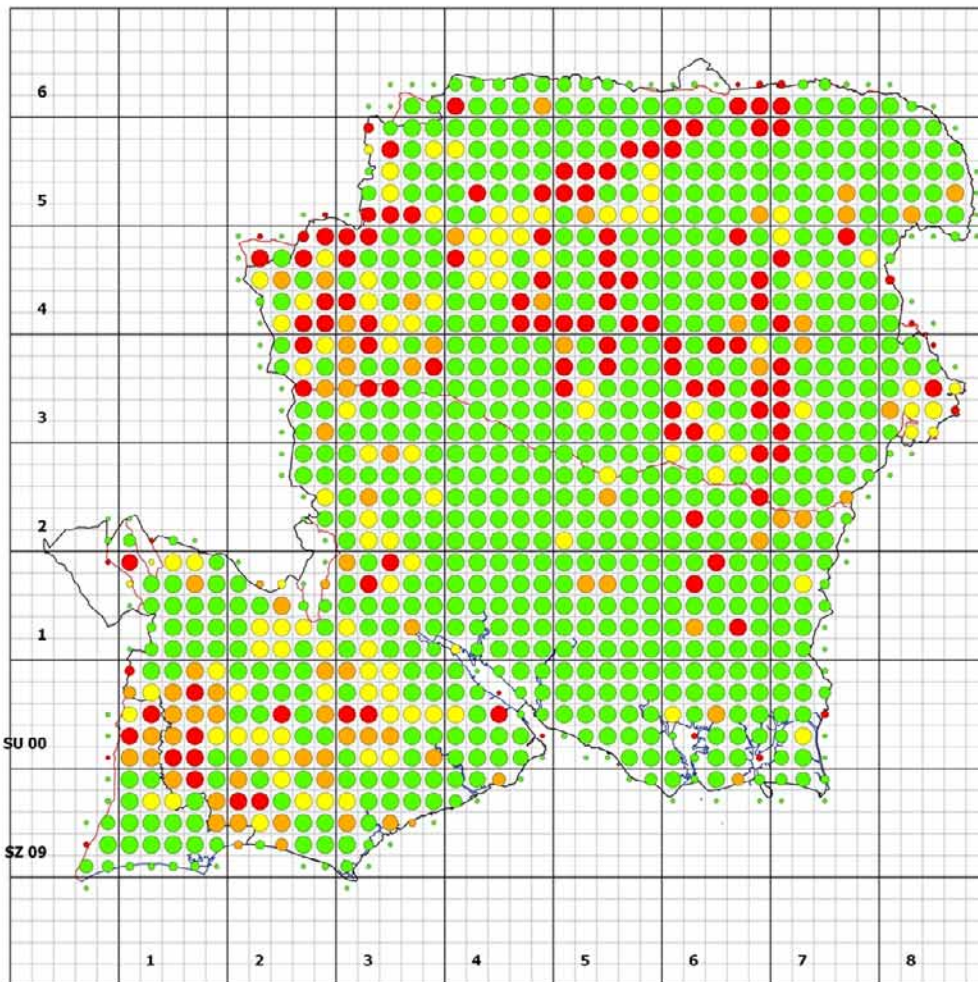
Click on any of the hectads on the map and you will see more details, including the person who is acting as the 'Hectad Guardian', coordinating effort and doing at least some of the recording in that square. Most of the hectads in the county now have a guardian, but if you have a desire to join the elite, hurry now while stocks last! The hectads not yet allocated are:

- SU12 Whitsbury Down
- SU20 Burley
- SU41 Southampton
- SU54 Overton & North Waltham
- SU62 Meons
- SU71 Rowlands Castle & Chalton
- SU73 Alton S & Selborne
- SU74 Alton N & Bentley
- SU75 Hook & Hartley Wintney.

Any volunteers for one of these? You will also see the state of play with any of the recording visits planned or already undertaken.

Finally, and most importantly, you can download species checklists for a tetrad in several layouts. These are designed for taking into the field, and provide an efficient way to record common species in the appropriate 1km square in the tetrad. Each sheet is an amalgam of species previously recorded in the tetrad (with the last date seen), and common species in that part of the county that have not yet been recorded.

Once you have gathered some plant records (typically by completing one of the customised tetrad recording sheets



Tetrad priorities

Top priority



High priority



Medium priority



Low priority



Dot size shows proportion of tetrad's land area in VC11 / VC12

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Home |
| BSBI |
| Atlas 2020 in Hampshire |
| Hampshire Rare Plant Register |
| Hampshire Axiophytes |
| News |
| Diary |
| Send your records! |
| Flora Group Newsletters |
| Articles and Papers |
| Items for sale (and free) |
| Links and References |

Hectad SU62

Guardians: -- (If you would like to take on this hectad, contact Martin or Tony.)

[Top](#)
[Top / High](#)
[Back To Map](#)

Priority tetrads and visits logged

SU62G Priority: Top Species richness: Medium Need to re-record: Top

| Date | Organiser | Status | Notes |
|------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Wed, 25 Apr 2012 | Martin Rand | Entered up | 163 taxa recorded so far in 2012 |
| Tue, 14 Aug 2012 | Martin Rand | Proposed | Companions welcome |

SU62X Priority: Top Species richness: Low Need to re-record: Top

| Date | Organiser | Status | Notes |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| Wed, 13 Jun 2012 | Martin Rand | Cancelled | First visit will now take place 15th Aug |
| Wed, 15 Aug 2012 | Martin Rand | Proposed | Companions welcome |

SU62Z Priority: Top Species richness: Low Need to re-record: Top

| Date | Organiser | Status | Notes |
|------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Wed, 02 May 2012 | Martin Rand | Entered up | 141 taxa recorded so far in 2012 |
| Wed, 15 Aug 2012 | Martin Rand | Proposed | Companions welcome |

| Common Species List | Checklist Format |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> New Forest list | <input type="radio"/> Short scientific names |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> South Hants (other) list | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Scientific names |
| <input type="radio"/> North Hants Heaths list | <input type="radio"/> English names |
| <input type="radio"/> North Hants (other) list | <input type="checkbox"/> Old records / unrecorded common species only |
| Printable recording form - select required tetrad / options above | |

mentioned above, but that is up to you), you need to communicate the results to us. The other major addition to the web site is a means of doing this; an online recording facility called Living Record, provided by Adrian Bicker. This is based on Google Maps and satellite imagery but provides full Ordnance Survey grid referencing, making it easy to pinpoint locations. We have introduced some Hampshire customisations that make it simpler and faster to use for recording, including predefined sites for all the 1km squares in top priority tetrads and checklists based on our Common Species Lists, so that the common species can just be 'ticked off' and added in bulk.

If you are sending us records electronically and are not already a MapMate user, we would strongly recommend you to sign up to Living Record through the Hants Plants site (this is completely free for you) and invest a little time in learning to use it. Not only does it simplify the vice-county recorders' task in taking on board your data, it will give you some feedback and gratification in seeing your own records build up, and seeing (at 1km scale) what other Living Record users are recording in the county. If you have an interest in several species groups, you can use it for the others, too. See the next section on plans for further help in using it over the next year.

Early in the year we ran several introductory sessions on the Atlas recording strategy, the Web recording facilities and Living Record, followed by some (usually wet!) field training days. Response has been very good, and at the time of writing (early July) we have already amassed over 20,000 new records for the year on database. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Getting records computerised as we go along, rather than at the end of the season, has a big advantage for this scheme. Every few weeks we post back the data for the tetrad lists to the Web site, automatically updating the customised recording sheets so that a subsequent visit in the same year can benefit from the latest information.

What happens next?

We shall continue to gather in records for 2012, republishing the tetrad data to the Web from time to time. At the end of the season we shall review progress with the top priority tetrads, by which time we hope that all will have had at least one visit, and the majority two. We shall then adjust the priority thresholds, bringing up a new list of priorities for 2013. We shall aim for a similar top priority sample size of about 10% of the total.

Diary

Send your records!

Flora Group Newsletters

Articles and Papers

Items for sale (and free)

Links and References

Powered by **LivingRecord.net**: Environmental Recording for England, Scotland and Wales © mc² Data Innovation Limited 2010-12

User: Martin Rand **Hants Plants** Close Map

Vascular plants: All species | All Recorders | 1 Jan 2000 to 31 Dec 2012 | 1km Squares South Hampshire

Diversity target = 100

| Grid Reference: SU3305 | Records | Total* | Max in square per day per user* | First Date | Last Date |
|--|---------|--------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 Jan 2000 to 31 Dec 2012 | 125 | | | | |
| 125 Species | | | | | |
| Agrostis curtisii (Bristle Bent) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Ajuga reptans (Bugle) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Alnus glutinosa (Alder) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Alopecurus pratensis (Meadow Foxtail) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Anemone nemorosa (Wood Anemone) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Anthoxanthum odoratum (Sweet Vernal-grass) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Aphanes australis (Slender Parsley-piert) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Arum maculatum (Lords-and-Ladies) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Athyrium filix-femina (Lady-fern) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Bellis perennis (Daisy) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Betula pendula (Silver Birch) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |
| Blechnum spicant (Hard-fern) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 04/06/2012 | |

Living Record in use for Hampshire recording

During the winter we plan to hold a meeting with the vice-county recorders of all our neighbouring counties. This will be to divide up the recording effort for the areas that fall across our boundaries. We shall also organise more introductory sessions for anyone wanting to join the recording effort and use the tools available. It is hoped that a tutorial video will be made available on the web site.

The next major enhancement for the Hants Plants web site will be online distribution maps down to tetrad level. At present the data available for a given species is limited to a checklist of 'missing hectads' for common species, and is updated only rarely. The new maps will be generated from the regularly uploaded data used to produce the tetrad species lists, and so will give a much more up to date picture of recording and of gaps in coverage. This will help particularly in the later stages of the project.

Looking farther ahead

In 2013 and following years, there will be more workshop sessions run through the Flora Group to help people with identification of some of the trickier groups. The Sedge workshop will re-run in the north of the county and the Grass workshop is being considered for another run. Mini-workshops on Willowherbs, Water-starworts and Mints are being considered.

As the Atlas project goes on, we expect the emphasis in the later years to move from 'blitzing' grid squares to looking for the gaps in potentially under-recorded species, and critically assessing some of the more difficult groups. However there will still be a role for square-bashing, as coverage will never be utterly complete.

Get involved...

You may be thinking that this is only a job for experts, but in fact you can contribute at any level – even records of common and easily recognised species contribute to the bigger picture. We (and other recorders) welcome people joining pre-arranged trips; they are a great way to see a bit of the county you (and we) may never have visited, and they may help you to meet plants you're not familiar with. If the trip is in your neighbourhood, you might provide local knowledge that will help to make the visit more productive. You just need to call or e-mail at least a day or two in advance to sort out arrangements. See the back of this newsletter for contact details.

The BSBI Threatened Plants Monitoring Programme – the final year of survey

A report by Martin Rand

For the last five years the BSBI has run a nationwide project to record populations of our most threatened plants in detail. These are not always the rarest species, but all have a restricted distribution or ecology, are known to be in decline, or are threatened by habitat loss or damage – sometimes a combination of all three factors. Each year a shortlist of species has been selected for study, and a number of sites that are reasonably well localised are

chosen for observation in each county where they are known to occur have occurred recently.

Over 550 species and subspecies are listed on the BSBI's Threatened Plants Database (approaching a quarter of the entire native British flora!). Of these, just over 100 are known to have been recorded in Hampshire as natives or *archaeophytes* (plants which we can be reasonably certain arrived here before 1500). The 37 Hampshire plants that have been listed for study are:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Anacamptis morio</i> | Green-veined Orchid |
| <i>Astragalus danicus</i> | Purple Milk-vetch |
| <i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i> | Lesser Water-plantain |
| <i>Blysmus compressus</i> | Flat-sedge |
| <i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i> | Slender Hare's-ear |
| <i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i> | Narrow-leaved Helleborine |
| <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> | Corn Marigold |
| <i>Cicendia filiformis</i> | Yellow Centaury |
| <i>Coeloglossum viride</i> | Frog Orchid |
| <i>Cuscuta epithymum</i> | Dodder |
| <i>Dianthus deltoides</i> | Maiden Pink |
| <i>Fallopia dumetorum</i> | Copse Bindweed |
| <i>Fumaria parviflora</i> | Fine-leaved Fumitory |
| <i>Galium pumilum</i> | Slender Bedstraw |
| <i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i> | Heath Cudweed |
| <i>Gentianella campestris</i> | Field Gentian |
| <i>Groenlandia densa</i> | Opposite-leaved Pondweed |
| <i>Herminium monorchis</i> | Musk Orchid |
| <i>Hordeum marinum</i> | Sea Barley |
| <i>Hypochaeris glabra</i> | Smooth Cat's-ear |
| <i>Hypopitys monotropa</i> | Yellow Bird's-nest |
| <i>Juncus compressus</i> | Round-fruited Rush |
| <i>Juniperus communis</i> | Juniper |
| <i>Melittis melissophyllum</i> | Bastard Balm |
| <i>Neotinea ustulata</i> | Burnt Orchid |
| <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i> | Tubular Water-dropwort |
| <i>Ophrys insectifera</i> | Fly Orchid |
| <i>Orchis anthropophora</i> | Man Orchid |
| <i>Persicaria minor</i> | Small Water-pepper |
| <i>Ranunculus arvensis</i> | Corn Buttercup |
| <i>Scleranthus annuus</i> | Annual Knawel |
| <i>Stellaria palustris</i> | Marsh Stitchwort |
| <i>Tephrosia integrifolia</i> | Field Fleawort |
| <i>Torilis arvensis</i> | Spreading Hedge-parsley |
| <i>Vicia orobus</i> | Wood Bitter-vetch |
| <i>Viola lactea</i> | Pale Dog-violet |

There are a couple of mavericks in this list. Maiden Pink, though a native elsewhere in Britain, is known to be a deliberate introduction here; and it seems to have disappeared from its introduction sites. Wood Bitter-vetch is one of the most intriguing and tantalising records in the county. Mostly a species of western Britain (particularly Wales), it was recorded once in the nineteenth century here, with a very vague location given between Ashurst and Brockenhurst. It has never been refound.

The recording of these species entails much more than just noting their general location. In larger populations every 100m x 100m square is noted; for smaller and more restricted populations, every 10m x 10m square. Populations are either counted or estimated, with notes

on density and clumping and the actual extent of patches. The geology and plant communities are noted, along with details of the management of the site, its conservation status and past history. It is important to record 'no-shows' as well as refound populations, and if there are threats to an existing population, or obvious factors that have caused it to disappear, these are listed. Finally, lists of closely associated species from between one and three spot locations within the population are prepared.

Recorders visit a more or less random selection of sites prepared for them which is slanted towards those where there are reasonably precise site details and a recent record history. If the site is destroyed or now inaccessible, a substitute site is chosen where possible. Most recorders also choose to record additional sites where these exist in their county. The information is then returned to BSBI HQ and used to build a better national picture of the true conservation status of these species. This is work in progress, but it will lead to a series of papers. For news of the project, visit the web site <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/tpp.html>.

While a full analysis depends on a national picture, it's possible to make some generalisations on these plants in Hampshire. Although some have fared better here than in many lowland counties, we can see some notable and extreme declines.

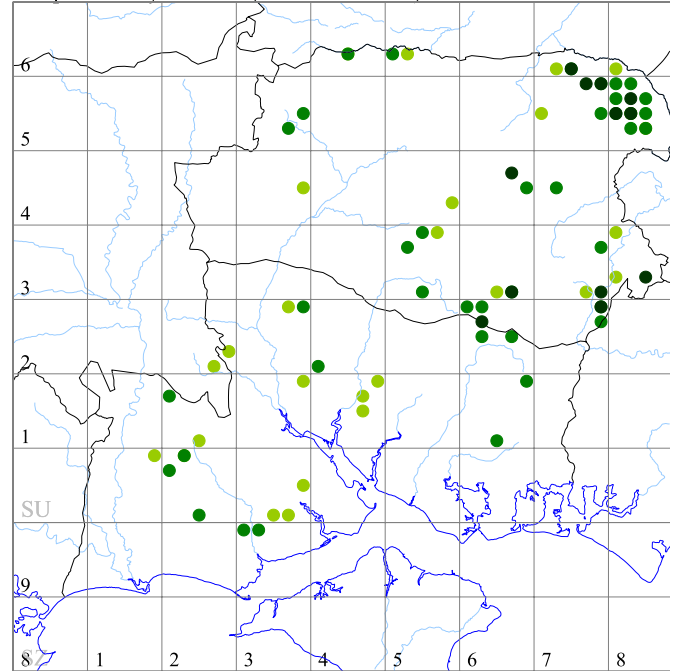
Although Heath Cudweed is holding up in North Hants, it seems to be vanishing completely from the south, with just a single site in the last 12 years (and that is right on the border). It is hard to find a reason for this; it is not a plant with very delicate habitat requirements, often thriving alongside forestry tracks and other areas of disturbed ground. I have seen a large and thriving population recently by a well-trampled National Trust car park in the Midlands.

It is also becoming increasingly difficult to find Opposite-leaved Pondweed *Groenlandia densa*. It is easier at least to put forward some reasons why it is disappearing from our chalk streams, where even the remaining populations are often tiny. Eutrophication is often cited as the cause for decline, but I suspect that turbidity may be at least as important. Certainly it manages to survive in quite eutrophic but well-lit situations in parts of lowland France.

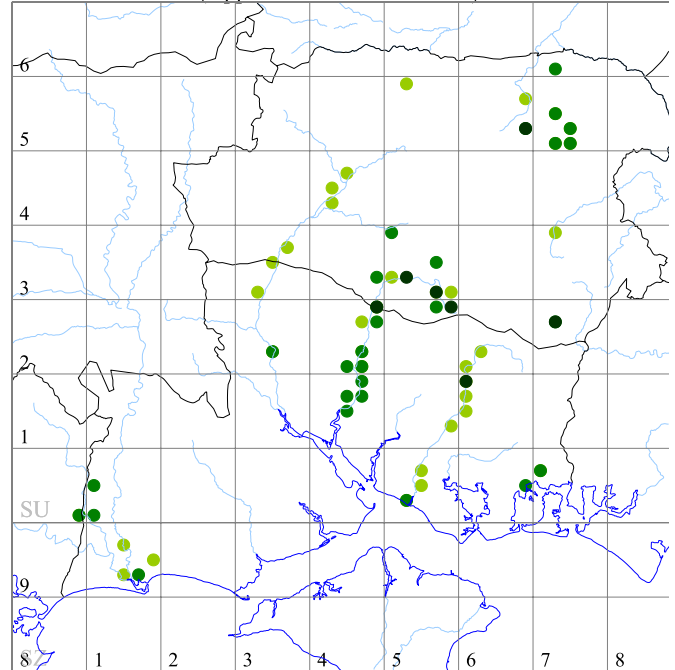
One plant was always rare and is probably now extinct. That is the Purple Milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*; it grew right on the Wiltshire border and is still fairly abundant around Salisbury Plain. It would be interesting to know why it is limited in this way; it may prefer more Continental winters than it finds in Hampshire.

Some plants are undoubtedly declining in the county, but because they are starting from a strong position, their plight is not as dire as in other parts of Britain. Among these can be counted Green-veined Orchid *Anacamptis morio* and Juniper *Juniperus communis*. The former risks site destruction and inappropriate management, and notable large populations have disappeared where intensive paddocking of horses has replaced more traditional pastoral management. Also, in areas where it is widespread and the habitat reasonably well protected, such as the New Forest, individual populations are often minute. While there are still impressive stands of Juniper, many bushes are looking

Gnaphalium sylvaticum (Heath Cudweed)



Groenlandia densa (Opposite-leaved Pondweed)



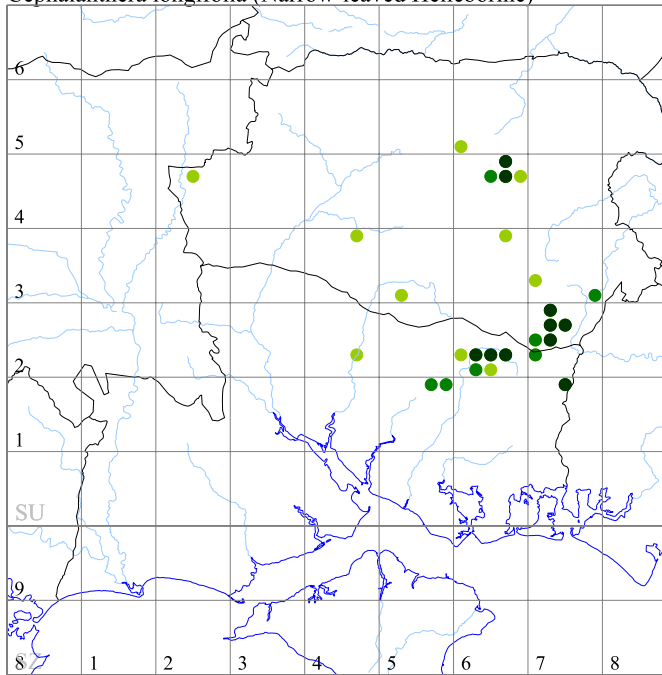
Key to maps:

- Records from 2000
- Records 1970–1999
- Records to 1969

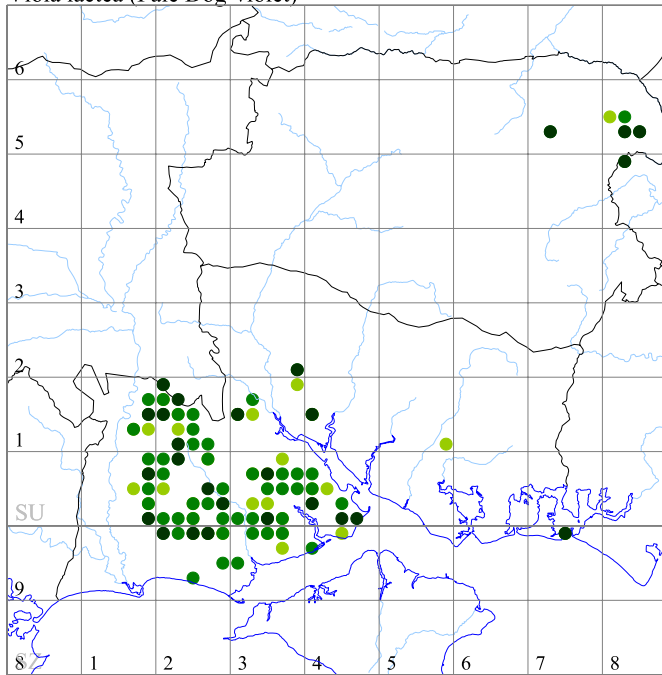
increasingly moribund and problems of regeneration are acute. There are only a couple of sites in the county where it is taking place, and ironically these are both highly artificial sites rather than the traditional downland.

Some species have had mixed fortunes. Narrow-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia* has some outstanding populations in the county, largely through the dedication and skill of Wildlife Trust workers and volunteers, but lack of management and outright mismanagement of sites has led to its range in the county being nibbled away at the edges; and many remaining populations are not in a good state.

Cephalanthera longifolia (Narrow-leaved Helleborine)



Viola lactea (Pale Dog-violet)



Before we become utterly depressed by the plight of our flora, let's celebrate a few species that may be considered threatened nationally but are doing well here. Many of these, of course, depend on the New Forest. They include such plants as Yellow Centaury *Cicendia filiformis* and Pale Dog-violet *Viola lactea*. The former is found nowhere in the county outside the Forest, and the latter has just a handful of sites away from it. In all sites it has become very clear that disturbance is an important factor in perpetuating populations; spectacularly so on Hayling Island following scrub clearance in the last few years, and on Copythorne Common where Gorse has been cut back. On the Forest, where it often grows close to *Viola riviniana*, it is noticeable that hybrids between the two tend to predominate in sites where the vegetation cover is closing, but that *V. lactea* reasserts itself after breaking of the ground cover.

Dodder *Cuscuta epithymum* also has impressively large Forest populations, but there are good sites elsewhere, some on chalk downland where its taste in host plants is pretty catholic. An interesting case is Field Gentian *Gentianella campestris*. The New Forest is probably now the prime place in lowland England to see this attractive plant; but many of its best sites are in grassland which underwent heavy modification between the 1940s and 1970s. Most of these are now reverting to heath. Maybe its ascendancy here, at least in such numbers, will prove temporary – unless specific measures are taken to interfere with the habitat again.

Although the project is formally being brought to a close this year, I think there is a lot of value in continuing this type of monitoring on a semi-permanent basis. The detailed information should be a great aid to conservation, especially if it is continued over time and sites are revisited. To this end I hope to start making the archive of existing record sheets, along with Biodiversity Action Plan sheets from earlier years, available on the Hants Plants web site this winter. I'd like to encourage you again to join in next year, and if there's sufficient interest I will run field days then to demonstrate how to carry out the surveys. It's one of the most enjoyable forms of "serious" recording, because it often entails going to an especially nice place, looking at it in detail in a fairly leisurely way and thinking hard about it. It's sometimes dispiriting because it drives home the losses we are experiencing, but there are pleasant surprises too.

VC11 Records

A note by Martin Rand

Once again time constraints mean that I have had to hold over the records for the earlier part of the year until the Spring issue. I hope that retirement, having now changed from fervent hope and expectation into reality, makes this unnecessary ever again!

VC12 Records

Compiled by Tony Mundell

Yet again here is a set of my personal selections from the records received recently. 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.

I always welcome updates to records so I would like to encourage you to look through past copies of *Flora News*, preferably from many years ago, and then try to re-find some of the plants listed if they are easily accessible.

In the previous *Flora News* I commented on the upsurge of records in 2011 as effort starts to crank up for the new national Atlas 2020. In spite of the persistently awful weather for much of the 2012 recording season I have been delighted how many records have been added. At the time of writing on 17 July 2012 my whole database (which includes records outside Hampshire, some as a result of my assistance in Berkshire with the 2003 Local Change Project) stands at 929,3218 records, with 893,632 of them

in Hampshire, so many thanks to the hectad guardians who have added so many records this year. Should we have a party when we reach 1,000,000 records in Hampshire?

Nick Montegriffo found a remarkable form of Southern Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* this year at The Hatch Reserve. It had exceptional richly-coloured flowers as shown in my photo included here. The coloration is reminiscent of a variety of Common Spotted Orchid known as *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* var. *rhodochila*. For comparison I have also included a photo of that variety taken at Beacon Hill in 1981, but Martin Rand told me it was present there this year. It seems likely that the dramatic colour of Nick's plant is due to an analogous mutation that leads to flowers coloured heavily with anthocyanin pigment.

Several additional roadside sites for Violet Helleborine at Four Marks have been reported this year. Even before receiving these it was clear that Four Marks was a hot-spot for this orchid. Diana Tennyson has been doing splendid work trying to get these verges protected and with suitable management.

HFG = Hants Flora Group

Aconitum napellus* subsp. *napellus (Monk's-hood) Two plants on stream bank, the landowner says not planted, The Forge, Union Lane, Headley 5361, Simon Melville 2 Apr 2012.



Dactylorhiza fuchsii* var. *rhodochila (Common Spotted-orchid), Beacon Hill 1981 – Tony Mundell



Dactylorhiza praetermissa (Southern Marsh-orchid), The Hatch 2012 – Tony Mundell

Acorus calamus (Sweet Flag) In several places on east margin of Ewhurst Pond, W of Ramsdell at 579571 and 580572, Tony Mundell and Sarah Ball 30 May 2012.

Anacamptis morio (Green-winged Orchid) One fine flowering plant, Eelmoor, Victor Meadow, 84545 53805, Tony Mundell 1 May 2012. Three very small grazed plants in a tight cluster beside Commer Track, Eelmoor Marsh 84067 53004, Tony Mundell 1 May 2012, Total of 14 plants on SE verge of approach road to Alice Holt Forestry Buildings 8043 4267, in a section carefully left unmown, Tony Mundell 26 Apr 2012, where noted earlier by Matt Parratt on 16 April 2012. On 18 May 2012 Matt Parratt noted a single outlier in the adjacent sheep-grazed meadow at Alice Holt c.8046 4268. Total of 241 spikes at Headley Gravel Pits, 208 in 100m square 511626 and 33 in 511627, Tony Mundell 24 Apr 2012.

Anacamptis pyramidalis (Pyramidal Orchid) Beggarwood Meadow, Basingstoke, two spikes at 5994 4841 and clump of five spikes at 6010 4830. Also 10 spikes at Old Down, Basingstoke 5969 4884. All Tony Mundell & Paul Beevers 28 Jun 2012 (not recorded in whole 10km square 54 previously).

Anisantha diandra (Great Brome) Dozens of plants on arable field edge NW of Ashe Warren Farm, near Overton, 5248 5234, Tony Mundell & Sarah Ball 13 Jul 2012.

Anisantha madritensis (Compact Brome) Introduced with construction of new business park and spreading at Andover 333457 & 338458 & 328456, all Mike Wildish 31 May 2012. Also alongside new cycle path on disturbed soil at Andover, Picket Twenty 383451, Mike Wildish 19 Jun 2012.

Apera spica-venti (Loose Silky-bent) Locally abundant along cornfield edge at 6044 5933 beside footpath, Tony Mundell 6 Jul 2012.

Arabis glabra (Tower Mustard) A good year for the colony at Longmoor 8139 3345, with 20 plants in the area east of the path and 5 west of the path at 8138 3345, Bill & Chris Wain 1 Jul 2012, following soil disturbance (last winter?) by the army to encourage it. Conversely a poor year at the Kingsley site at 7788 3775 which is once more scrubbed over, with only 4 plants found, Bill & Chris Wain 30 Jun 2012.

Arum italicum subsp. italicum (Italian Lords-and-Ladies) Several plants established on road verge at Hartley Wespall 6949 5825, Tony Mundell 2 May 2012. To west of road at Andover, Picket Twenty 384455, Mike Wildish 18 May 2012.

Aubrieta deltoidea (Aubretia) In pavement cracks at Hook 7245 5401, David Broughton 15 May 2012.

Azolla filiculoides (Water Fern) Quite plentiful in River Test near Leckford where there are pools of slack water, e.g. 3620 3650 and 3696 3740, Glynne Evans 28 Feb 2012.

Bromus racemosus (Smooth Broome) Sevington Farm, Tichborne 564292, Barry Goater 17 Jun 2012, specimen confirmed Martin Rand.

Carex pallescens (Pale Sedge) 18 tufts on west side of Brocks Hill 8256 5244, Chris Hall 9 Jun 2012.

Catabrosa aquatica (Whorl Grass) Remarkably plentiful in River Loddon, N of Sherfield on Loddon 683583, Tony Mundell 2 May 2012. At Greywell Fen 7211 5114 in area of fen cleared of trees/scrub last winter, Tony Mundell 28 Jun 2012.

Centaureum pulchellum (Lesser Centaury) Groups of 82 + 33 in flower, plus others immature, former firing range below Caesar's Camp 8397 5044, Chris Hall 7 Jul 2012.

Cephalanthera damasonium (White Helleborine) Winnall, approximately 434 flower spikes along the line of the low fence of Tesco car park, e.g. 4957 3031, Geoffrey Meacock 30 May 2012. Locally abundant in woodland strip beside A303 Micheldever slip road 5179 4370, Ralph Cook & Maisie Lawrence 3 June 2012. Under trees on embankment between A303 and slip road, Andover, Cowdown 384448, Mike Wildish 11 May 2012. Single impressively large plant in scruffy grounds of 'to let' plot on Andover East Portway industrial estate to west of East Portway Road 343459, Mike Wildish 31 May 2012.

Cerastium arvense (Field Mouse-ear) Stockbridge Down, several plants at 3802 3518, three at 3830 3492 and one at 3832 3490, Peter Marston 15 Apr 2012.

Cerastium pumilum (Dwarf Mouse-ear) In middle of chalky/gravel track at Porton Down 2470 3757. No eglandular hairs projecting beyond sepal apex (as for *C. glomeratum*), bracts with scarious margin but for less than a quarter of bract length, petals about as long as sepals, some leaves reddish, Tony Mundell 7 May 2012. (Frazzled up and indeterminate by the HFG meeting on 26 May 2012).

Ceterach officinarum (Rustyback) 35 plants on old flint wall at Longstock Church 359370 and 7 more on wall in Church Road, Peter Marston 2 May 2012. On garden wall, Enham, Little London 379488, Mike Wildish 21 Jan 2012.

Chrysanthemum segetum (Corn Marigold) At least 50 plants on cornfield edge at 6044 5933, Tony Mundell 6 Jul 2012.

Chrysosplenium alternifolium (Alternate leaved Golden Saxifrage) On the MOD side of the Holly Water at 81738 33311 in a slightly different place to that seen in 2005, Bill & Chris Wain 11 Apr 2012.

Claytonia sibirica (Pink Purslane) Dominant in a 30m x 20m patch in a wood north of Overton at 5192 5331, Tony Mundell & Sarah Ball 11 Jul 2012.

Convallaria majalis (Lily of the Valley) Huge flowering patch 7 or 8 metres across, Porton Down 2474 3716, Tony Mundell & HFG 26 May 2012.



White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*, Tesco's car park, Winnall – Geoffrey Meacock

Crassula tillaea (Mossy Stonecrop) A huge number of plants turning the ground red just outside the Range Danger Area at Woolmer Forest 7889 3323, plus a small amount within the Range Danger Area to the south of Woolmer Pond, John Buckley 30 Apr 2012. In grassy clearing SW of A325 at Longmoor 7849 3126, 7846 3123, 7841 3123 and 7848 3130, Tony Mundell 22 Apr 2012. On SW verge of A325 at Woolmer Road 7898 3131 to 7894 3133, a few also on NW side at 7896 3134, Tony Mundell 22 Apr 2012.

Crataegus laevigata (Midland Hawthorn) Danebury Hill car park 3292 3776, Peter Billingham 10 Mar 2012. Vernham Dean 3469 5638, N side of playing field, bright red flowers, possibly the cultivar 'Paul's New Double Scarlet', Peter Billingham 31 May 2012.

Crataegus persimilis (Broad-leaved Cockspur) Bishop's Sutton 615318, several trees planted beside B3047, Tony Mundell 6 May 2012.

Crataegus x media (*C. monogyna* x *laevigata*) Steventon 5493 4727, one planted bush in hedgerow, Tony Mundell et al 5 May 2012. Ibthorpe 379539, several in hedgerow planted about 1990, Peter Billingham 29 May 2012.

Dactylorhiza praetermissa (Southern Marsh Orchid) A remarkable site for this orchid at Bramshill Common, Sandpit Pond was shown to Tony Mundell by Ken Crick on 17 May 2012 while they were still in leaf. Tony Mundell returned on 6 June and counted/estimated 808 spikes scattered all around the edges of the pond. Within 100m square 758619 there were 340 on the pond margin 7580 6193 to 7589 6190, plus an amazing concentration of 280 on three tiny islands at 7587 6190, 7588 6190 and 7588 6191, also one outlier beside the main path at 7579 6195 and 4 outliers in grassland at 7585 6195. Within 100m grid square 758618 there were 170 on the pond margin from 7585 6186 to 7589 6188. Within 100m square 75619 there were 7 on the

pond margin at 7590 6190, plus 5 outliers in grassland at 7592 6191 and 1 at 7593 6192. Another splendid colony of 100 spikes from 3912 4019 to 3920 4021 in meadow beside a footpath just outside Chilbolton Common, shown to Tony Mundell & Susan Simmonds 5 Jul 2012 by Chris Appleby who lives nearby. A remarkable colour form was found at The Hatch 6777 5224 on 26 Jun 2012 – see account in my preamble above.

Dipsacus pilosus (Small Teasel) Stratfield Saye, plentiful beside public footpath adjacent to river 6902 6009, 6906 6021, 6909 6027, 6915 6061, and 6916 6080, Tony Mundell 16 May 2012. Silchester c.5m outside Roman Wall c.636621, Andrew Powling 19 Nov 2011.

Dittrichia graveolens (Stinking Fleabane) M3/A34 interchange, Winnall 496305, well established around NW margin of island, Barry & Jane Goater 18 Nov 2011.

Epipactis purpurata (Violet Helleborine) An extra site in Blackberry Lane, Four Marks in the open space behind the road sign for Fairlawn Green at 6749 3541, Victoria Dykes 8 Jun 2012, confirmed from photograph sent to ARGM by Diana Tennyson on 8 Jun 2012. Several plants now appearing on the verge of 'Linnom', 1 Fairfield Green, Four Marks at 6750 3541, Diana Tennyson 11 Jun 2012. Additional plants were found in The Shrave, Four Marks at 6794 3564 and 6795 3566 by Annie Wilson in July, and Diana Tennyson found further plants on 15 Jul 2012 in The Shrave at 6798 3569, 6801 3573, 6805 3577, 6809 3581 and 6812 3583.

Eranthis hyemalis (Winter Aconite) Large patch (c.15x15m) in semi open at Vernham Dean 3525 5670, Peter Billingham 14 Feb 2012. Probably planted, beside gateway to hotel grounds, Upper Bullington 469410, Simon Melville 16 May 2012. Small clump with 16 flower buds on west side of South Downs Way near Keepers Cottage, north of Cheesefoot Head at 5366 2885, Peter Marston 29 Jan 2012.

Erodium moschatum (Musk Stork's-bill) At Bishop's Sutton 6129 3191 on grassy area near bungalows. Tony Mundell 6 May 2012.

Erophila glabrescens (Glabrous Whitlowgrass) A few plants in very sandy soil on NE verge of A325 (Woolmer Road) at 7898 3133 and 7892 3136, voucher specimens kept. Also on road crossing island in middle of A325 at 7837 3162 and on adjacent road verge to north-east at 7838 3164. Also a few plants with *Crassula tillaea* on edge of grassy clearing SW of A325 at Longmoor 7848 3130. All Tony Mundell 22 April 2012. However most plants here are *Erophila verna* and the distinction between them is only a matter of the degree of hairiness, so it seems a rather dubious taxon to me. (Dr Tim Rich now advises that the amount the petals are cleft is not a good distinguishing character). Numerous plants (that all seem the same) in car park for Alice Holt Adventure Activities, e.g. at 8113 4154 and 8109 4151, Tony Mundell 28 Mar 2012, specimens retained.

Erucastrum gallicum (Hairy Rocket) Scattered plants on disturbed soil following Andover Business Park construction, Red Post Lane 326455, Mike Wildish 27 Jun 2012.

Ficus carica (Fig) A large tree at Chineham Sewage Works 6760 5526, presumably via seed in sewage and not deliberately planted, David Broughton 3 Apr 2012.

Fritillaria meleagris (Fritillary) 17 flowering plants at Ron Ward's Meadow 6017 6066 and 20 more at 6015 6065, presumably planted, Tony Mundell 20 Apr 2012. 25 flowering plants at Alice Holt 8046 4272 and another 5 at 8047 4273, in an area of damp unmown grassland within the grounds of the Forestry Commission buildings, Tony Mundell 26 Apr 2012, I am told that this 'Conservation Area' was sown with wild flower seed about 10 years ago,

Fumaria densiflora (Dense-flowered Fumitory) On arable field edge at Vernham Dean 35395658, Peter Billingham 31 May

2012. Dozens of plants mixed in amongst *Fumaria officinalis* at 2654 3962 plus several more at 2670 3964 on a field edge W of Over Wallop, Tony Mundell and Susan Simmonds 9 Jul 2012.

Galium pumilum (Slender Bedstraw) Close to site noted on 6 Aug 2011 but in a new spot on an ant-hill at Porton Down 24581 37118. Not yet flowering. I took two small stems home and definitely confirmed them. Very narrow apiculate tipped leaves with some rearward-facing spines. Same plant seen, beginning to flower, on HFG meeting on 26 May 2012.

Genista anglica (Petty Whin) Probably seven shrubs along several metres of bank at Pondtail 8278 5409 / 8279 5410, but mainly senescent with long sprawling stems which took something of a battering from last winter's grazing, Chris Hall 21 May 2012. Two small shrubs 3m apart at Ancell's Meadow 8252 5576 clearly from seed on a turf scrape, where the first one was noted recently by Elliott Fairs, Chris Hall 21 May 2012, who added "This is the first confirmed example I know of this species appearing on a turf scrape and maturing". Two shrubs near one of the new turf scrapes at 8409 5063 at Steep Bottom near Cheese Hill, Chris Hall 7 Jul 2012.

Geranium columbinum (Long-stalked Crane's-bill) Near Willesley Warren Farm, scattered along field edge all the way from 5077 5281 to 5109 5287 and again at 5111 5289, Tony Mundell & Sarah Ball 11 Jul 2012.

Geranium rotundifolium (Round-leaved Crane's-bill) Three large plants beside walls either side of path at New Alresford 5875 3297, Peter Marston 16 May 2012.

Helleborus viridis (Green Hellebore) c.16 plants at Empshott Green 7404 3094, only 1 in flower. Also c.87 plants - 1 flowering in c.25x25metre area between wood edge and ride in wood at Hale Copse 7318 3200, and scattered in undergrowth at 7319 3200. All Simon Melville 21 Mar 2012.

Jasione montana (Sheepsbit) On the unstable steep slope of Caesar's Camp 8377 5021, impossible to count due to the steep and slippery conditions, but surely 300 plants, Chris Hall 7 Jul 2012.

Juncus foliosus (Leafy Rush) c.40 plants in wet mud by obsolete drain on north side of Caesars Camp 8374 5033, also c.50 plants on east side at 8382 5020, Chris Hall 27 Jun 2012.

Juniperus communis (Juniper) On north side of A272, west of Cheesefoot Head 5230 2858, Barry Goater 2 Jul 2012.

Lactuca virosa (Great Lettuce) One beside Church Lane, Heckfield 7238 6073 and another at Heckfield Heath 7180 6148, a few metres from A33 roadside, both Tony Mundell 26 Jun 2012. Four plants opposite Serenity Centre, Ramsdell 581580, Tony Mundell and Sarah Ball 30 May 2012.

Lathraea squamaria (Toothwort) Groups of 10 and 6 spikes on the same tree, Ackender Wood, Alton 7017 3968 by north side of footpath along northern edge of wood, approx 10m east of mound, Steve Mansfield 19 Apr 2012. Scattered plants beside public footpath in Boats Copse, Vernham Dean, mostly under Hazel, some hidden under Ramsons, e.g. 3335 5602, 3355 5612, 3353 5611, 3368 5619, S3364 5617, 3362 5615 and 3360 5615, Tony Mundell 12 May 2012.

Lathyrus nissolia (Grass Vetchling) Locally abundant at Beggarwood Meadow 6001 4826 to 6003 4827, Tony Mundell & Paul Beavers 28 Jun 2012.

Legousia hybrida (Venus's Looking-glass) About 20 plants S of Kingsclere at 5354 5780 on arable field edge, Sarah Ball, 15 Jun 2012. 70+ plants in a field corner north of Overton at 5108 5287, Tony Mundell & Sarah Ball 11 Jul 2012.

Lepidium campestre (Field Pepperwort) Several plants alongside recently constructed cycle path at Picket Twenty, Andover 382451, Mike Wildish 18 May 2012.



**Toothwort *Lathraea squamaria*, Boats Copse 12 May 2012
– Tony Mundell**

Lepidium ruderale (Narrow-leaved Pepperwort) Scattered along north margin of A3093 as a halophyte at 369464 and 373464, Mike Wildish 30 Jun 2012.

Myosurus minimus (Mousetail) About 30 plants along field edge at Hartley Wintney c.7678 5592 running north from stile at north corner of churchyard, Jonty Denton 30 Apr 2012. The colony by the drinking trough at Plastow Green 5300 6174 is doing well with between 300 and 400 plants, Nick Montegriffo 12 Apr 2012.



Mousetail *Myosurus minimus* – Tony Mundell

Oenothera stricta (Fragrant Evening Primrose) On area of waste land at Rotherwick 7086 5651 between arable fields, Tony Mundell 8 Jul 2012.

Onopordum acanthium (Cotton Thistle) 12 flowering plants and 50-100 seedlings at edge of field on S side of road at Hunton 482413, Simon Melville 14 Jun 2012.

Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adder's-tongue) Five plants at 8043 4267, one with a fertile frond beginning to emerge, in part of grass verge left unmown on SE side of approach road to Alice Holt buildings, Matt Parratt 16 Apr 2012.

Ophrys apifera (Bee Orchid) Four flower spikes beside track W of Long Valley at 8316 5214 plus two at 8316 5213, the latter with flowers eaten off, shown to ARGM by Wilma Edwards 21 Jun 2012.

Ophrys apifera* var. *belgarum (Bee Orchid variety) Four plants E of Winchester at 5203 2933 and another two at 5204 2934, Fred Rumsey 12 Jun 2012. Two plants just starting to flower at 7241 5151 in meadow north of Greywell Pumping Station, Fred Rumsey 15 Jun 2012, where first found by ARGM last July.

Orchis purpurea (Lady Orchid) There are now 15 separate plants, mostly young seedlings with a single broad leaf, all within about a 3m patch at Porton Down 2514 3733. Two plants are in full flower but the plant originally found is not flowering this year. It is amazing how successfully they have spread from seed but surprising that they are confined to such a small area, Tony Mundell with HFG 26 May 2012.

Orobanche hederæ* forma *monochroma (Ivy Broomrape) Locally abundant on north side of path from pedestrian railway bridge over old cutting, St Giles Hill, Winchester 487291, growing under Sycamore on Ivy, Anna Stewart 1 Dec 2011, confirmed as the yellow form Anna Stewart 7 Jul 2012.

Orobanche minor (Common Broomrape) In quite extraordinary numbers at Beggarwood Meadow, Basingstoke, certainly over 500 spikes, with concentrations of 50+ at 5994 4840, 100+ at 6011 4830, 60+ at 6021 4823, 100+ at 6064 4823 and 70+ at 6011 4845. Also scattered plentifully nearby at Old Down, Basingstoke, e.g. 70+ at 5984 4863. All Tony Mundell & Paul Beever 28 Jun 2012.



**Ivy Broomrape *Orobanche hederæ* forma *monochroma* –
Tony Mundell**

Osmunda regalis (Royal Fern) Five moderate-sized crowns in a semi-overgrown ditch at Hawley Common 8373 5805, close to a track but quite well concealed by gorse, Chris Hall 25 Jan 2012.

Papaver hybridum (Rough Poppy) Alongside new cycle path on disturbed soil, Andover, Picket Twenty 383451, Mike Wildish 19 Jun 2012. Single plant in field corner, Ashe Warren Farm, near Overton 5360 5202, Tony Mundell & Sarah Ball 13 Jul 2012.

Paris quadrifolia (Herb Paris) Groups of 35 and 3 plants at 6969 3828 on embankment by footpath in Dark Wick's Wood (Ackender Wood), Alton, Steve Mansfield 19 Apr 2012.

Petroselinum segetum (Corn Parsley) Four plants at 2670 3964 on a field edge W of Over Wallop, Tony Mundell and Susan Simmonds 9 Jul 2012.

Platanthera chlorantha (Greater Butterfly Orchid) Counted at least 200 flower spikes all across the hillside centred on Porton Down 242383, Ailsa McKee 4 Jun 2012. Two robust spikes in bud at Kingsclere Churchyard 525586, Ralph Cook & Maisie Lawrence 3 Jun 2012.

Primula denticulata (Drumstick Primrose) A few plants in flower beside a small pond adjacent to footpath at Monk Sherborne 6018 5753, Tony Mundell, Renée Grayer et al 11 Apr 2012.

Quercus x rosacea (Q. petraea x robur) Single tree in hedge beside Meadham Lane, W of Hannington 5207 5542, Tony Mundell & Sarah Ball 4 July 2012, voucher specimen collected.

Ranunculus auricomus (Goldilocks Buttercup) Adjacent to footpath in woods south of Greenmount Farm, Alton 7085 4023, Steve Mansfield 3 Jun 2012. Beside footpath at Vernham Dean 3381 5618 and 3363 5587 in Thornycombe Wood, Tony Mundell 12 May 2012. Scattered along road verge at Steventon, 2 plants at 5485 4671, 12 at 5486 4670, 1 at 5487 4670, 1 at 5495 4666, Tony Mundell et al 5 May 2012. On S lane verge Basing Dean 688278, Martin Rand & Ginnie Copsey 2 May 2012.

Ranunculus parviflorus (Small-flowered Buttercup) Several small plants between paving slabs and in grass at Leckford 3743 3765, Peter Marston 29 May 2012.

Ranunculus sceleratus (Celery-leaved Buttercup) At Greywell Fen 7205 5110 in area of fen cleared of trees/scrub last winter, Tony Mundell 28 Jun 2012.

Rubus cockburnianus (White-stemmed Bramble) Patch at Andover 3529 4672 beside public footpath, Tony Mundell 24 Mar 2012.

Ruscus aculeatus (Butcher's Broom) Single plant noted at Hartley Wespall 6932 5823 in wood named Hartley Wood Common, Tony Mundell 2 May 2012. Possibly planted, in hedge on N verge at Upper Bullington 467411, Simon Melville 10 May 2012.

Saxifraga granulata (Meadow Saxifrage) Abundant across most of Cliddesden Churchyard in 632490 and 633490, shown to Tony Mundell by Paul Beevers 11 May 2012. Four groups with approximately 75 flowering stems plus two groups with approximately 40 flowering stems in churchyard of St. Mary the Virgin, Old Alresford 587336 & 588336, Peter Marston 16 May 2012. On large bank in middle of pasture at Vernham Dean 3527 5630, Peter Billingham 31 May 2012. Several patches at 3361 5544 on verge of Conholt Lane, SW of Vernham Dean, Tony Mundell 12 May 2012. On large bank in middle of pasture at Vernham Dean 3527 5630, Peter Billingham 31 May 2012.

Sisyrinchium montanum (American Blue-eyed-grass) Nine plants in flower at Brock's Hill, Church Crookham 8276 5254, on grassy disused track north of Brocks Hill, Chris Hall 25 May 2012, who added "It shows remarkably longevity as it was noted here in 1958 by my cousin John Hall". Six plants in flower at Norris Hill West 8343 5303 in grass near the road, spread through about nine metres, Chris Hall 1 Jun 2012, surviving where first noted by ARGM in 1980's.

Smyrniolum olusatrum (Alexanders) On A33 verge, Popley 650543, David Broughton 19 Apr 2012.

Solidago virgaurea (Goldenrod) On roadside verge, Newton Common 476631, Simon Melville 16 Mar 2012.

Sorbus torminalis (Wild Service Tree) Two trees and several seedlings in Lloyds Copse, Ramsdell 5839 5756, Tony Mundell and Sarah Ball 30 May 2012.

Spergularia marina (Lesser Sea Spurrey) Numerous plants on north side of A3093, Andover 373464 and 369464 as a roadside halophyte, Mike Wildish 30 Jun 2012. Also numerous on A303 roadside at Andover 367442, Mike Wildish 1 Jul 2012.

Stellaria pallida (Lesser Chickweed) On sandy soil at 7851 3196 in car park for Woolmer Pond, Tony Mundell 22 Apr 2012.

Tellima grandiflora (Fringecups) Single flowering plant on east side of Micheldever Road, Andover 377451, in recently disturbed soil, Mike Wildish 11 May 2012.

Tephrosia integrifolia (Field Fleabane) Whole earthwork at Ladle Hill carefully checked and total of 22 flowering plants found, all on the steep sides of the ancient earthwork. 8 at 4779 5677 on NE facing side, 6 at 4779 5676 on SW facing side, 1 at 4778 5677 on SW facing side, 3 at 4781 5674 on SW facing side, 3 at 4781 5675 on NE facing side, 1 at 4782 5675 on NE facing side, Tony Mundell 2 Jun 2012. [It was NOT re-found at former sites at Juniper Bank, Leckford Golf Course or Old Burghclere Lime Quarry or two widely separated grid refs at West Down, Chilbolton, all searched by Tony Mundell on 2 June 2012. Neither was it found at former sites at Danebury Hill or Stockbridge Down (several widely spaced grid refs – all searched) by Tony Mundell on 23 Jun 2012.] It was not re-found either at Cheesefoot Head though the HBIC record there in 2000 clearly suffers from a 'centroid' grid reference so it could occur some distance from their grid ref on inaccessible private land. The good news is that it was found at Gander Down on the banks of hollow ways at 559274, 560273 and 560274 by Martin Rand & Ginnie Copsey on 6 June 2012. This is close to, but not the same spot as recorded by Paul Bowman in 1969 (which now has totally unsuitable coarse vegetation). Tony Mundell visited the new site on 23 Jun 2012 and noted 16 plants in seed on the banks of one hollow at 5600 2742 to 5601 2739. Single plant at Reservoir Field, Cholderton Estate 2450 4372, John Moon 22 Jun 2012.

Thymus pulegioides (Large Thyme) Single plant on a grave at Woolton Hill Churchyard 4295 6165, Tony Mundell 24 Apr 2012.

Torilis nodosa (Knotted Hedge Parsley) Certainly over 20 plants at Aldershot 8653 5052 in the lawns of the new flats by Aldershot Station crossroads, Fred Rumsey 18 Jun 2012.

Vulpia unilateralis (Mat-grass Fescue) Several plants re-found at Porton Down 2557 3709 on bare chalk patches in the downland between two mature beeches, Tony Mundell with HFG 26 May 2012, specimen confirmed - it has three exerted anthers from each flower.

Zannichellia palustris (Horned Pondweed) Several patches along pond edge W of Ramsdell at 579571 and 580572, Tony Mundell and Sarah Ball 30 May 2012.

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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 for inclusion in a future edition of Flora News please contact:

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Flora Group members at St Cross meadows, June 2012
(see p.7) – Tony Mundell

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