

FLORA News

HAMPSHIRE
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Newsletter of Hampshire Wildlife Trust's Flora Group

Spring 1998

Dear Flora Group Member

The Flora Group Committee hope that you enjoyed the events held last year and we hope to see you at some of the events planned for Spring/Summer 1998. If you have any ideas for future events including training sessions, please let Catherine Chatters (Flora Group Secretary) know. Catherine's address and telephone number are given at the end of this newsletter.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 29 March 1998 10.30am Kew Millennium Seed Bank Appeal : Seed Collection Training

As most Group members will know, the Royal Botanic Gardens is undertaking a massive project for the Millennium. The Seed Bank Project is collecting a significant proportion of the world flora to be stored as seed in a specially built facility at Wakehurst Place. Amongst its collections there will be the British Flora. The Royal Botanic Gardens has asked for our help in gathering seeds. The Trust believes its nature reserves, and certain other places, may contain useful populations of plants which may be cropped without damage. To learn more about this project and to find out how you can help by becoming a collector, Michael Way of Wakehurst Place, will run a training day at Swanwick Study Centre on the morning of 29 March. The Swanwick Centre is in the grounds of the new air traffic control building on the Hamble river at grid reference SU 505 098. There is easy access from junctions 8 and 9 of the M27. If you are arriving by train the nearest station is Swanwick. Please do give us a phone call at the Trust offices so we can arrange a station pick-up if necessary.

Saturday 16 May 1998 11am Flora Group AGM at Pamber Forest Local Nature Reserve

This year's Flora Group AGM will be held at Pamber Forest LNR, an extensive ancient oakwood, managed partly as coppice-with-standards. Recently grazing has been re-introduced to restore traditional wood pasture management. Meet at 11am near the sewage works at grid reference SU 621 610. We will spend the morning exploring the woodland, particularly the areas where grazing has been re-established. After a picnic lunch (bring sandwiches) a short AGM will be held and then there will be an opportunity for people to continue exploring Pamber Forest or to look at the adjacent heathland habitats at Silchester Common, where grazing has also recently been re-introduced. If anybody would like to join the Flora Group Committee, please send nominations to Catherine Chatters, to arrive by Friday 15 May 1998. If you would like to help arrange Flora Group events without actually becoming a Committee member, all offers of help would be appreciated.

Saturday 6 June 1998, 11am New Forest - Flood plain woodland/ fen/mire habitats Leader: Neil Sanderson

Flora Group members have undertaken management work in the New Forest with the aim of benefitting a number of restricted species such as bog sedge *Carex limosa* and slender cotton grass *Eriophorum gracile*. The work has involved clearing scrub from base-rich patches in the valley mires. This work, led by Neil Sanderson, has been undertaken in the winter so now is your

chance to return to these areas on a summer day to see whether we can re-find these important species. Meet at 11am at Wootton Bridge Car Park (grid reference SZ 251 997).

Friday 26 - Sunday 28 June 1998 BSBI trip to Isle of Wight

The BSBI are organising an Atlas 2000 recording trip to the Island. The trip will concentrate on the chalk downs and cliffs of the West Wight. Accommodation is being arranged in Newport. Please book places with Trevor Dines at Rhyd y Fwch, Bethel, Nr Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 3PS.

Sunday 5 July 1998, 10.30am Grasses, Sedges and Rushes Identification Training Day - Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve Leader: Mike Wildish

Mike Wildish, the Atlas 2000 Co-ordinator for North Hampshire, has kindly agreed to lead a day helping us to identify grasses, sedges and rushes in the field. Whether you are a complete beginner with these plants, or whether you just want to refresh your existing knowledge, come along to Anton Lakes LNR in Andover where there is a good range of habitats which will guarantee we will find a number of different species to study. Meet at 10.30am at the entrance to Anton Lakes (grid reference SU 356 467) off the roundabout between Goch Way and Artists Way. Bring a hand lens if you have one.



Sunday 12 July 1998, 11am

Bransbury Common

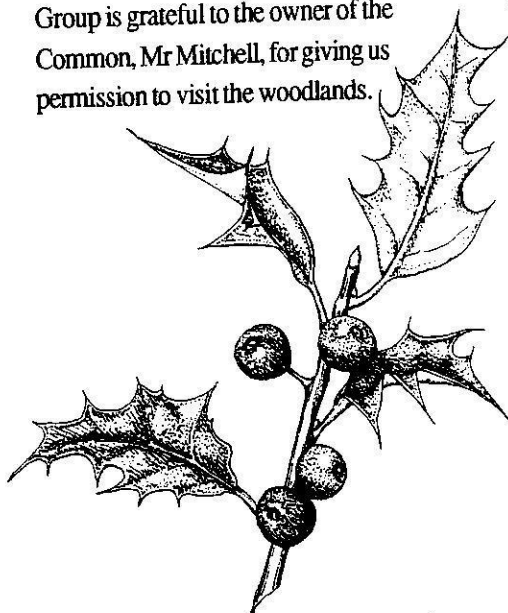
Leader: Dr John Moon

John Moon has kindly arranged this rare opportunity to visit Bransbury Common in the Test Valley. This fascinating site contains a wealth of different habitat types, including dry herb-rich grasslands, chalk grassland, parched acid grassland, fen meadows, tall fen and swamp. The Common has been notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and has been described as "easily the most complex and richest example of a chalk valley alluvial fen meadow and fen complex in England. The quality of the peatland vegetation is complemented by the variety of the associated pasture on the dry ridges and mounds producing an unusual juxtaposition of vegetation types rarely seen elsewhere". This visit will provide a chance to explore the Common and look for a wide range of interesting plant species. Meet at 11am at the start of the track which leaves the minor road at Newton Stacey (grid reference SU 416 407). There is limited parking space so please share cars with friends if possible; park on the right hand side of the track. Please note that John requests that no dogs are brought on to the Common due to the presence of cattle. Bring sandwiches with you as we will be making this an all day event for those people who would like to stay on in the afternoon.

Saturday 17 October 1998, 10.30am
Whiteparish Common - Joint event
with Wiltshire Botanical Society
Leader: Neil Sanderson

Enjoy an autumn day on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border exploring the woodland at Whiteparish Common. Until the 1950s much of the Common was managed as wood-pasture and grazed by cattle. Whiteparish Common is of particular interest for its stands of small-leaved lime. We will spend the morning with Neil Sanderson who has offered to lead a session looking at the small-leaved lime trees in this

wood-pasture context. Lunch can be taken in one of the pubs in the nearby village of Whiteparish or you can bring sandwiches if you wish. Meet at 10.30am near the junction of the minor roads (grid reference SU 250 220). As Whiteparish Common is close to the Wiltshire/Hampshire border we look forward to joining up with members of the Wiltshire Botanical Society. The Flora Group is grateful to the owner of the Common, Mr Mitchell, for giving us permission to visit the woodlands.



NEWS AND VIEWS

Effects of the Flora Group's Holly Cutting

Introduction

For several years the Flora Group has been coppicing and pollarding holly in the Busketts Wood area. This work has the aim of increasing light levels on the lower trunks to encourage the internationally important epiphytic lichen flora of this wood, which is one of the richest in the New Forest. The amount of holly has been increasing in the Forest's woods since the 1850s when the number of deer were drastically reduced and with this the keepers' duty to feed the deer by, among other methods, cutting holly browse. The increasing shade is a serious threat to the biodiversity of the New Forest. This management also has benefits to the commoners' stock by providing winter browse and in the long term increasing the amount of grazing within the woods.

Monitoring

A question that has to be asked with all novel types of conservation work is: has all this work we have done actually had an effect? In the case of one area where we have cut holly this question can be tested, as in 1993 the main British colony of the strictly protected (Schedule 8) lichen *Parmelia minarum* population was monitored during February 1997 during a Wildlife Trust-funded assessment of holly management

Results of Monitoring of Holly Cutting on *Parmelia minarum*

The individual patches of *Parmelia minarum* proved to be quite dynamic with much change apparent. The types of changes are defined below:

Peeling: where the whole or a part of the colony has clearly fallen off leaving bare bark. This appears to be the result of the weight of mature lichen growing on moss mats physically peeling off the bark.

Regression: where the thalli have died back leaving a black crust of rhizines (a root-like structure attaching the lichen to the bark) on the undersides of the lichen. This is probably caused by slug grazing exceeding the growth rate. This appears to occur most in dry hot summers; slugs can still be active at night but lichens achieve little growth.

Regrowth: occurs on areas of regression when conditions improve where it is marked by new lobes growing from the regressed remains or from surviving patches which have peeled.

Colonisation: this is difficult to define; the young stages of the very common *Parmelia revoluta* and the rare *P. minarum* are indistinguishable, so new patches noted in 1997 could be due to the maturing of tiny patches of thalli which existed in 1993 but were not identifiable.

The colony included both beech trees shaded by holly which were opened up by holly cutting and reasonably well lit trees free of

holly but at least partly shaded by the presence of the tree canopy. The behaviour of the lichen colony is summarised below (Table 1).

Busketts Wood area known has increased since 1994 from 16 to 20. The total known population in the New Forest was 54 in 1993 and has risen to 60 in 1997 (one

TABLE 1
Conditions of *Parmelia minarum* colonies between 1993 and 1997

Trees unaffected by holly in 1993

1993	1997	No of Trees
Healthy	Past peeling followed by regrowth	1
Healthy	Past regression followed by regrowth & on 2 trees, colonisation of new thalli	4
Healthy	Healthy	1
Regressed	Further regression (on marginal habitat)	1

Trees affected by holly in 1993 and holly cleared 1995-1996

1993	1997	No of Trees
Regressed	Regrowth	3
Healthy	Further colonisation of new thalli	2
Not found (but probably present)	Found, in poor condition and had been threatened by holly	2
Not found (absent or unidentifiable)	Colonisation of new trees	2

On the unshaded trees, in common with other species such as tree lungworts *Lobaria* species in the New Forest, the warm summers of recent years have caused a fair amount of regression in the *Parmelia* but this has been followed by much recent regrowth. The colonies which had been shaded by holly were mostly in poor condition in 1993 but all had improved with regrowth and colonisation having occurred. Four new colonies were found, all had been threatened by the holly, with two consisting of small colonies which are unlikely to have been identifiable in 1993 while the two others were suppressed colonies which were overlooked because they were hidden by the holly.

The holly cutting had been very successful here; the population of trees in the

overlooked tree was noted in Hinchlea Wood and one elsewhere in Busketts in 1997).

Conclusion

It is good to be able to notch up a conservation success by using a recently revived traditional management treatment. Forest Enterprise is now carrying out more extensive holly cutting using LIFE funds to diversify the structure of many of the more shaded ancient New Forest pasture woodlands. This management is also welcomed by the commoners and is very much an example of the different Forest interests working together. The research work on *Parmelia minarum* and holly cutting has been supported by the Trust and English Nature's Recovery Programme.

Neil A Sanderson

Lichens on CD

Any Flora Group members with interest in learning to identify lichens and a computer with access to the inter-net plus a CD drive may be interested in purchasing a new CD produced by the British Lichen Society. This labour of love contains 117 close up photographs of all the 47 British species of *Parmelia*, along with keys, 10km distribution maps and descriptions of the habitat of each species. This CD is written in HTML so can be read by any type of computer with a web browser and has tested satisfactorily on IBM compatible, Apple Mac and Acorn platforms. Due to costs it will never be sold as a hard copy.

The BLS web site <<http://www.argonet.co.uk/users/jmgray>> has a sample version of the version of the *Parmelia* CD. If you are interested then a copy can be obtained from Mr J M Gray, Penmore, Perranuthnoe, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 9NF at a cost of £12.00 including post and packaging.

Neil A Sanderson

Atlas2000 Progress Report, South Hants

The project is progressing well and is well ahead of its targets in VC11. To date 12 10km squares have been submitted for the project and several more will be submitted soon. Many of the squares are over 600 species and several over 800 species. There are however still small areas with no records at all and also areas where there is still much to find. The Flora of Hants has proved invaluable in locating the areas requiring further searches.

Many of the records are now being made at 1km square level and a significant number of records have six-figure grid refs. This can be tedious for recorders but does make things re-findable, especially for those who will take part in the 2025 Atlas Project! However the Atlas 2000 project still has two more years of recording, and I still want all the records I can get in this time, both

records on the Atlas cards and records as single species notes. I have some forms to aid this which I will post to anyone who gets in touch. I would particularly welcome records from some of the Orchid hunters or from anyone who looks at plants from all over the area, but who doesn't want to commit themselves to a particular area.

I would like to thank all those who have so enthusiastically submitted cards, those who have travelled out of their way to record all over the county and those who have transcribed records from notebook to recording cards so that older records are included. I look forward to receiving records of yet more exiting finds next year.

Atlas 2000 Field Meetings in S Hants - Two meetings were held to fill in some areas of S Hants. The first was at Owselbury, a little early in the year, but still many finds were made. About 15 people, experienced and not so experienced came along and many early plants were found. The next meeting at Fordingbridge was memorable because of the great difference in habitats explored and especially for the cups of tea at John Ounsted's cottage. Thank you John. Many

people also came along to the BSBI Meeting centred on Stockbridge, which attracted recorders from all over the country and was led by Trevor Dines, the Atlas2000 co-ordinator and great enthusiast. This meeting recorded some 500 species in the two days, with enjoyable de-briefing sessions at the Mayfly pub on the River Test.

Atlas 2000 Exhibition Meeting - An Exhibition Meeting was held at Bishopstoke in November. A dozen or so people came along and although there were not too many exhibits, there was a great deal of chat. The computer database being used for recording was available and many people examined the distributions of species so far recorded. Some of the species reports prepared by the Trust were on loan for people to examine, including the Small Fleabane report.

Tea and cakes were consumed, while the talk continued. I think it might prove to be a useful event to repeat next year and hopefully more people will prepare some small exhibits when they have a seasons notice of the event. Small collections of critical species would be most useful - grasses and sedges in particular.

Field Meetings 1998 - There are still gaps to fill for Atlas 2000 and so, following the great support from people last year, I have this year arranged five field meetings for the BSBI. Flora Group members are all welcome. They are tending to be at the edge of the vice county, the centre being quite well covered, so they may involve some of you in rather long distant travelling. I can try and arrange a lift if you have problems getting to any of these venues.

Meeting to cover the some of the West of the New Forest in SU21 and SU20. Saturday 2nd May, starting at 9.30 a.m. at SU255113, car park by Model Boat pond on Stoney Cross Plain, off the A31(T).

Meeting to cover SU72, and into the adjoining squares near Petersfield. Saturday 23rd May. We will be recording both VC11 and VC12 parts of the square. Meet at Heath Pond Car Park, SU754226 at 10 a.m.

North of Christchurch, SZ19. Sunday 14th June. Meet 10 a.m. at SZ131972, Ramsdown car park which also serves as car park for Sopley Common NR.

Progress Report on Atlas 2000 in North Hampshire

The accompanying chart shows the estimated state of completion of the fieldwork in North Hampshire. As can be seen, 8 squares are probably 90% or more completed and master cards have been submitted to BSBI for these. Supplementary lists can be sent as additional data come to hand. It seems likely that most of the other squares will be up to this level by the end of the 1998 season.

I would like to thank the volunteers whose work in this field will ensure that North Hampshire is well represented in the Atlas when it is published.

Mike Wildish - Atlas 2000 Co-ordinator for North Hampshire

ATLAS 2000 10km SQUARES - NORTH HAMPSHIRE

	SU35 97%	SU45 97%	SU55 81%	SU65 71%	SU75 72%	SU85 92%
SU24 99%	SU34 98%	SU44 96%	SU54 72%	SU64 68%	SU74 90%	
		SU43 75%	SU53 90%	SU63 60%	SU73 62%	SU83 48%
					SU72 51%	

SZ49, Lepe and Beaulieu. Saturday 25th July starting at 10 a.m. meeting at SZ452986, the Western car park at Lepe.

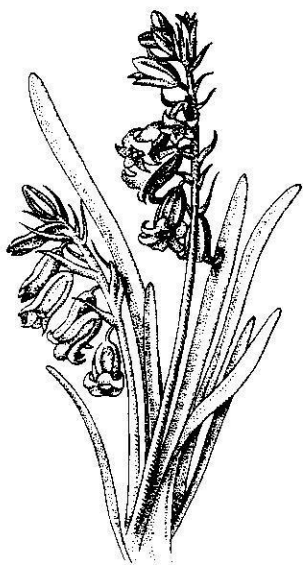
SU33, Stockbridge. Sunday 2nd August meeting in Stockbridge High Street, outside the large Public House, North Side of A272 at 10 a.m., SU353340. Again recording in both VC11 and VC12.

No need to book ahead, just turn up on the day, armed with a pen. I will have prepared lists of what might be found in several under-recorded tetrads in each area.

Pete Selby, Atlas 2000 Co-ordinator, South Hampshire

Snowdrops offered for sale

Sarah Ball has asked us to look out for snowdrops and other bulbs potentially collected from the wild. At the moment there are moves afoot to bring the digging of bluebells for sale into the law and so try to protect our bluebell woods. If you are aware of any circumstances where snowdrops, bluebells or any other wild plants are apparently being dug from the wild for commercial sale please drop us a letter at the Trust office.



Interesting finds in gardens

Mary Flatt is still interested in receiving records of interesting plants in gardens. Please continue to send them to her at Chalk Cottage, Soames Lane, Ropley, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0ER. The following records have been received recently.

Green bristle-grass *Setaria viridis*

Common in bird-seed, but rarely established in this country. Discovered in 1963 by Lady Anne Brewis in a cottage garden in Blackmoor, where there had once been an aviary.

In 1997 a single plant appeared in Lady Anne's garden nearby, no doubt bird-sown. A Wild Flower Society party visited the original site in 1990 but this resulted in the occupants being 'so teased by their neighbours that they put up a high fence to prevent botanists looking in'.

Pink-headed knotweed *Persicaria capitata*

Two straggling plants at foot of front garden wall at edge of pavement in Maybush, Southampton (SU 388 154) recorded by Paul Bowman. Second VC record. It is a native of Pakistan, Himalayas and China and in Britain is grown as a pot-herb for its foliage.

Its means of arrival is mysterious. It is said not to over-winter out-of-doors in Britain so Paul took cuttings in September and potted them on in a cold frame. They were in full flower in October and still had fresh flowers in December.

Correction - please note that the *Verbascum thapsus* mentioned in the Autumn 1997 Flora News is *V. densiflorum*. This is an alien and is a new record for VC 12, North Hampshire.

Mary Flatt

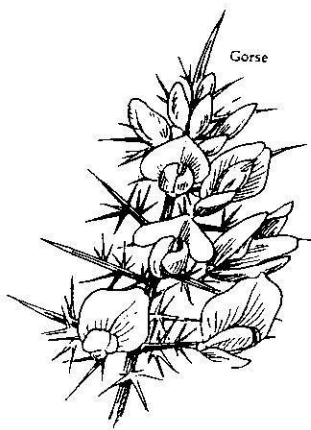
Are Garden Weeds Under-Recorded ?

Dr Roger Veall has sent in this interesting account of garden weeds discovered in his garden at East Wellow :

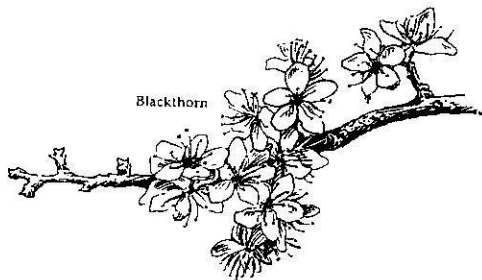
'We moved to our present house when it was built in 1979. There was a bramble in a fence. It seemed to have good fruit. I trained new canes along the fence and cut out old canes. I now train it on a neighbour's Leyland cypress hedge which has reached about 8 ft. In return, I trim the face on our side. The bramble is vigorous with rather vicious thorns, but gives a good crop of blackberries. David Allen has confirmed it is *Rubus cardiophyllus*. He says he has never before seen it cultivated for fruit. In another fence we have *Rubus surreyanus* and *R. norvicensis* which are common around here. I would get rid of them if I could.

Almost as soon as we had flower-beds *Veronica polita* (Grey Field-speedwell) and *Veronica agrestis* (Green Field-speedwell) appeared in abundance. I have noticed that the latter often flowers in winter. When commencing recording for Atlas 2000 in SU32 I found it in a verge outside a Romsey garden on 28 December 1996, the first record for that hectad. On 29 December 1997 I found it in a verge outside a West Wellow garden. This is only about a mile as the crow flies from our garden but in a different hectad, SU21, and in a different v.c., 8, S.Wilts, though now in Hampshire. The Flora of Wiltshire gives it in only one tetrad in V.C.8, near the northern border. Is this apparent rarity due to under-recording? It may be coincidence that I have found it in mid-winter on two occasions, but it may be worth keeping one's eye open when wandering round one's village, or visiting friends' gardens, in winter. These two speedwells have become troublesome weeds.

Another weed which soon appeared and became troublesome was *Valerianella carinata* (Keeled-fruited Cornsalad). After a few years *Echinochloa crus-galli* (Cockspur)



attained a height of over 2 ft by hiding between two rows of runner beans. The same year *Dactylis sanguinalis* (Hairy Finger-grass) appeared. We have not had these lately but have had other bird-seed casuals: *Synapis alba* (White Mustard), *Thlaspi arvense* (Field Penny-cress), *Lepidium ruderales* (Narrow-leaved Pepperwort), *Triticum aestivum* (Bread Wheat) and *Linum usitatissimum* (Flax). I delay mowing a few of the last-named in the lawn until after flowering because we like the colour.

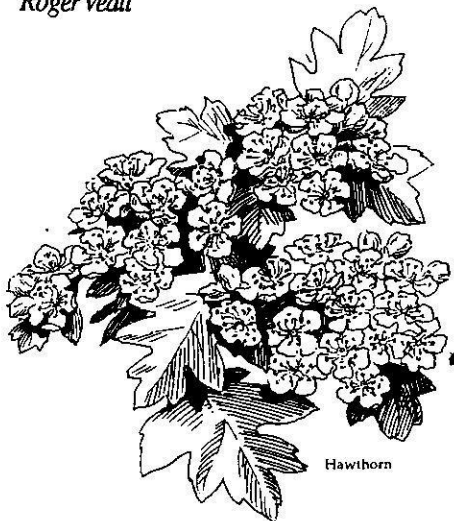


Helianthus sp. (Sunflower) and *Arachis hypogea* (Ground-nut) produce seedlings but do not usually attain sufficient size to need weeding. This last year *Setaria pumila* (Yellow Bristle-grass) has produced many plants which did need weeding. At the same time we had many seedlings appear in the lawn of *Daucus carota* (Carrot). The tap-roots of even very young plants had become swollen and they seemed to be ssp *sativus*. Our next-door neighbour had a similar invasion. I do not think this occurs in bird food and the origin is uncertain. Neither of us grows carrots.

We have had other colonisers, not from bird-seed. For a few years we had *Vicia lathyroides* (Spring Vetch) in the lawn. I have not seen it lately. Several years ago *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* (Marsh Pennywort) appeared in the lawn and has become established over several sq metres. About 1995 I noticed *Montia fontana* ssp *chondrosperma* (Blinks) and it seems to be increasing. In one flower-bed *Hypericum androsaemum* (Tutsan) seems to be establishing itself. In another a fine *Carex sylvatica* (Wood-sedge) has appeared. It will be necessary to weed out numerous seedlings to keep it in check. In the front lawn we now have *Hypericum humifusum* (Trailing St John's-wort) which gives an attractive patch of yellow flowers in the summer. Less welcome is a sprawling patch of *Stellaria graminea* (Lesser Stitchwort).

Before attending the BSBI Recorders' Meeting in September I saw there was going to be a session on *Epilobium* (Willowherb) hybrids. I normally consign willowherbs to the compost heap without further thought, but I found one which looked like a hybrid and took it to Lancaster. It was confirmed as *Epilobium montanum* x *E. ciliatum* I must confess to lacking any enthusiasm for common willowherbs and will probably consign other hybrids to compost without careful examination. The least said the better about even less desirable weeds.'

Roger Veall



Interesting Finds in South Hampshire

Paul Bowman, BSBI recorder for South Hampshire, has compiled a list of important recent plant records for South Hampshire and the following highlights have been extracted for inclusion in Flora News:

Pteris multifida - well shaft within Milburys PH, Beauworth 5624, P D Standley and L Sillence, 1995. First VC record.

Oreopteris limbosperma - Bishopstoke 4619, P J Selby 1997; Upper Barn Copse 4820 P J Selby 1996.

Polystichum x bicknellii - Sims Wood 4104, R P Bowman and Hampshire Flora Group 1996; West Wellow (VC 8) 3020 R M Veall 1997.

Dryopteris affinis ssp. *cambrensis* - Crowdhill Copse, Fair Oak 4819, P J Selby 1995. First VC record.

Asarum europaeum - Langstone Harbour c.6804, G Farwell 1990. First VC record.

Anemone ranunculoides - Chappetts Copse 6523, C R F Hedley 1997.

Clematis flammula - Southsea Castle 6498, E A Pratt 1997.

Ranunculus aquatilis - Bere Farm, Boarhunt 5909, M J Southam 1997.

Berberis darwinii - in heath scrub, East Boldre 3699, Mrs A E Bolton 1997. First VC record.

Minuartia hybrida - Tithe Barn, St Leonards 4098, Mrs E R Brooks 1997.

Illecebrum verticillatum - West of A337 Setley Plain 3000, R P Bowman 1997.

Persicaria bistorta - Old meadow, Fritham 2313, G H Thorne and Mrs C M Thorne 1997. The only New Forest site known.

Polygonum maritimum - one plant, Steamer Point, Highcliffe 1992, E J Clement and P D Stanley 1997. The fourth site for VC11.

- Limonium humile* - Gunwharf, Portsmouth 6399, E A Pratt 1997.
- Viola lactea* - Baddesley Common 3821, R P Bowman 1997. Confirms 18th century record.
- Rorippa austriaca* - North Poulner 1606, G D Field 1997.
- Monotropa hypopitys* - Crab Wood 4329, Miss A M Bassett and Miss L M E Martin 1997.
- Crassula tillaea* - Stony Moors 2199, Mrs V Scott 1997; West of Whitefield Farm, Langley 4400, R P Bowman 1997.
- Rubus cockburnianus* - One bush, A35 Mallard Wood 3109, R P Bowman 1997.
- Potentilla argentea* - Fort Cumberland 6899, D E Green and E A Pratt 1994.
- Acaena novae-zelandiae* - Spinnaker Sailing Club Blashford Lake 1507, large dense mat on North shore, Miss M E Young. Second VC Record.
- Rosa x belnenis* - one bush, B3078 Godshill Ridge 1815, P D Stanley 1997.
- Rosa tormentosa* - Stephen's Castle Down 5620, P D Stanley and Miss A M Bassett 1997.
- Rosa agrestis* - South roadside West of Marlpit Oak, P D Stanley 1996; B 3078 Godshill Ridge 1815 and B 3055 South of Hawkhill Inclosure 3401, P D Stanley 1997.
- Rosa agrestis* x *R. stylosa* - B3078 Godshill Ridge 1815, P D Stanley. First VC Record and second British record.
- Photinia davidiana* - large bush on edge of wood, Fields Heath, Fawley 4502, R P Bowman 1988 (but not determined until 1997); one bush among pines in Norley Inclosure 3598, Miss M E Young and Mrs A E Bolton 1997. First and second VC records.
- Cotoneaster lacteus* - Ports Creek, Hilsea 6605, R P Bowman 1994. First VC record.
- Lathyrus hirsutus* - Meon Hill, Stockbridge 3435, R M Walls and Hampshire Flora Group 1997.
- Lathyrus aphaca* - Milton, Portsmouth 6700, I R Thirlwell 1997.
- Trifolium suffocatum* - Meon Shore 5202, J A Norton 1996; Southsea Beach 6798, E A Pratt 1997.
- Trifolium aureum* - SE of Lane End 5625, M J Southam 1997.
- Trifolium incarnatum* ssp. *incarnatum* - turnip field, Portmore 3397, Miss M E Young 1997.
- Myriophyllum alterniflorum* - Beckford east 6310, A H Powling 1997.
- Ludwigia palustris* - wet meadow, Lymington River North of Boldre Bridge 3198, R P Bowman 1997.
- Geranium rotundifolium* - New Street, Lymington 3295, Mrs V Scott 1997.
- Erodium moschatum* - Hinton 2194, Mrs V Scott 1997; East of Browndown, Gosport 5899, Fareham Road, Gosport 5902 and Ferry Gardens, Gosport 6299, M J Southam 1997.
- Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* - Stream through Southampton University, Highfield 4215, Miss C M Cockerill 1996-7; Browndown, Gosport 5899, M J Southam 1997. First and second VC records. An invasive aquatic native of North America which is likely to spread as an escape or throw-out from water gardens.
- Petroselinum segetum* - Hurst Castle 3189, G D Field and Hampshire Flora Group 1997.
- Gentianella campestris* - Long Slade Bottom 2600, 35 plants R P Bowman 1997; east of Dur Hill Inclosure 1901, two small colonies, R P Bowman and G D Field 1997.
- Lycium chinense* - Alver Creek, Gosport 6198, M J Southam and E J Clement 1997.
- Solanum sarachoides* - NE of Fareham 5906, M J Southam and E J Clement 1997. First VC record.
- Calystegiax howittiorum* - A 3057 Lower Brook 3327, R P Bowman 1997. First VC record.
- Pulmonaria longifolia* - Appleslade 1808, G D Field, 1997.
- Trachystemon orientalis* - common lane, Titchfield 5305, R F Goodchild 1997. First VC record.
- Nepeta cataria* - one plant in roadside ditch over gas pipeline, Stoney Cross 2511, R P Bowman 1997.
- Mentha pulegium* - roadside ditch, Holmsley old airfield 2199, and near A337 Setley Plain 3000, R P Bowman 1997.
- Orobanche rapum-genistae* - roadside, Otterwood Farm 4102, N M Rumens 1997.
- Phyteuma orbiculare* - Hyden Hill area 6919, A H Powling 1997.
- Lactuca virosa* - West of HMS Collingwood, Fareham 5604, M J Southam and E J Clement 1997.
- Cicerbita macrophylla* - Broughton 3032, Miss M E Young and Hampshire Flora Group 1997.
- Gnaphalium sylvaticum* - Brockwood Copse 6225, P A Budd 1997.
- Cotula coronopifolia* - Hermitage Stream, Bedhampton Mill 7006, large patches on sandy margin near upper tidal limit, J R W Hollins 1997. Second VC record and only extant site.
- Potamogeton lucens* - stream flowing from Sowley Pond 3796, Miss M E Young 1997. Confirms an old record.
- Dracunculus vulgaris* - Swan Centre car

park, Eastleigh 4518, two plants, P J Selby 1996. First VC record.

Luzula x borrieri - Mottisfont 3128, R M Veall 1997.

Eriophorum latifolium - Akercome Bottom 1907, G D Field 1997.

Carex punctata - Browndown South 5799, MJ Southam 1997.

Festuca arundinacea x Lolium multiflorum - Bishop's Palace, Bishop's Waltham 5517, P D Stanley and C A Stanley 1997. First VC record.

Poa bulbosa - Hurst Castle 3189, R M Walls and Hampshire Flora Group 1997.

Parapholis incurva - Thorns Beach 3896, Miss M E Young; Hacketts Marsh, Bursledon 4808, Francis Rose 1996.

Bromus secalinus - edge of bean field South of Twyford 4823, P J Selby. First VC record since 1939.

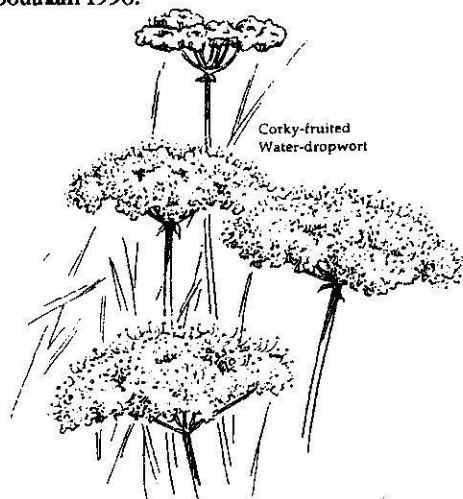
Hordeum marinum - Browndown South 5799 and Haslar Marina 6199, MJ Southam 1997.

Epipactis phyllanthus - Itchen Navigation, Bishopstoke 4618, P J Selby 1997.

Neottia nidus-avis - Marlborough Deep 2298, Mrs V Scott 1997.

Hammarbya paludosa - Race Plain, Setley 3099, Miss M E Young 1997.

Ophrys apifera - Lower Itchen 4617, P J Selby 1997; RNAD Frater 5902, MJ Southam 1990.



THE FLORA GROUP

The level of activity of the group and its members seems to be at an all time high.

The voluntary effort in site recording and conservation work is making real progress in finding new places of interest and increasing populations of rare species. With well directed effort, things actually seem to be getting better.

In organising the work of the group, and in building up relations with other groups, we are supported by all sorts of people.

Particular thanks are currently due to WWF (UK) who are giving financial support to the Trust's species and habitats conservation work.



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Catherine Chatters
Flora Group Secretary
Ivy Cottage
Ashurst Bridge Road
Totton
Southampton SO40 7EA
Telephone: 01703 863920

HAMPSHIRE
Wildlife
TRUST



Hampshire Wildlife Trust
8 Romsey Road
Eastleigh SO50 9AL
Tel 01703 613636/613737

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Ltd.
Regd Charity No 201081