

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS'

FIELD CLUB



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Volume 8 Part 3

Spring 2005

The Officers & Committee 2005-2006

President. Vic Fairbrother, 8 Whitby Avenue, Guisborough.
Secretary. Eric Gendle, 13 Mayfield Road, Nunthorpe.
Treasurer. Colin Chatto, 32 Blue Bell Grove, Acklam.
Membership Secretary. Jean McLean, 28 Pendle Crescent, Billingham.
Programme Secretaries. Vincent Jones, 'Hillways', Ingleby Greenhow, Neil Baker, 10 Smithfield Road, Darlington.
The immediate past president. Dorothy Thompson.
Ordinary members. Ian Lawrence, Alick Hunter, Maurice Hallam, David Barlow.

Honorary Members

Mrs Jessie Graham, Mrs Joan Williams, Mr Ian Lawrence, Mr Maurice Hallam

Consultant Members

The following members will be pleased to assist in the identification of specimens.

Flowering Plants	Bryophytes	Birds	Lepidoptera
Ian Lawrence	John Blackburn	Maurice Hallam	Malcolm Birtle (and Geology), Eric Gendle

Representatives

I. C. Lawrence (TVWT)	J. Blackburn (YNU)	M. Birtle (NNU)
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Membership Details

The Club seeks to promote an interest in all branches of Natural History and to assist members in finding out about the living things that they see in the countryside around them. The present membership includes those who have particular interests in birds, insects, slugs and snails, lichens, fungi, flowering plants and mosses and liverworts. Members with interests in other fields would be very welcome.

In spring and summer there are evening, half-day and whole-day visits to investigate the natural history of a particular area. During the winter months there is a series of monthly meetings that are held at the Botanic Centre, Acklam. A meeting usually takes the form of a lecture given by a club member or visiting speaker. The annual subscription is £5.

Any person interested in joining the Cleveland Naturalists Field Club should send their subscription to the Membership Secretary. Potential members are welcome to our field meetings listed at the back of this issue.

Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st January each year.

(Adult £5. 00. Students under 18 yrs. £1. 00)

Members are entitled to attend meetings of:

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

Northern Naturalists' Union

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

The Ramblers' Association.

The Club is affiliated to these organisations.

President's Address.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to report on another very interesting and rewarding year for the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club as it continues to explore the natural history of habitats near and far. The highlights from twenty-two field trips in 2004 can be found in this issue of the Record of Proceedings and these are an excellent reminder of some rich and varied experiences. The Cleveland Hills, the Hambleton Hills, the Moors, Dales and Coastline of Yorkshire as well as trips into Cumbria and Durham all featured in our programme.

Once again we also joined with the Yorkshire Naturalists Union for their VC 62 meeting, which was organised by one of our members, John Blackburn and this provided an opportunity to visit the otherwise private Thimbleby Park Estate.

In an interesting new venture Club members have begun survey work at the new RSPB Saltholme Reserve, which is being developed in Cleveland. Initial Lepidoptera and Botanical records have been submitted to Kevin Bayes, the project manager and there is considerable scope for additional surveys in coming seasons.

The Hydroponicum at Natures World is proving to be a very good venue for our winter indoor programme. Lecture topics have ranged from Greece, through Central Asia to New Zealand and from Crete to the Gargano, with Bulgaria to complete our world tour. Lectures with a different emphasis focussed on spring bulbs and the rarely seen world beneath the North Sea.

It was also our turn this year to organise the annual Elgee Memorial Lecture and Jack Youdale was invited to speak on the subject of The Universe Around Us. This proved to be an inspired choice, and over seventy people enjoyed a thrilling presentation at the Dorman Memorial Museum.

The club website continues to develop and now in addition to details of club programmes has items on butterflies, birds, moths of Teesside, an update of the Cleveland Flora 1995-2002, and the Flora of our Coastline.

Our club would not exist without the commitment and enthusiasm of the team of volunteers who undertake all the work involved in the smooth running of the club.

Grateful thanks are due to Eric Gendle, Secretary; Colin Chatto, Treasurer; Vincent Jones, Programme Secretary; Neil Baker, Assistant Programme Secretary; Jean Mclean Membership Secretary; David Barlow, Website Manager; Malcolm Birtle, Record of Proceedings Editor; Maurice Hallam, Alick Hunter and Ian Lawrence, committee members; and Past President Dorothy Thompson. The efforts of all those who contributed to the indoor meetings or who led the field trips are also much appreciated.

The good companionship and the friendly, supportive climate within the club has been much in evidence this year and as we approach the conclusion of another successful series of indoor meetings we can look forward with considerable anticipation to a new season in the countryside, enjoying and recording the natural history of our region.

Highlights of 2004 Field Meetings

Saturday, 3rd April, 10:30 am, Sinnington area, leader Vincent Jones.

The preceding days had been rather wet so we expected a rather muddy day as we gathered on Sinnington Green. The weather threatened and delivered rain on and off throughout this cool, breezy day. The party walked upstream through Springbank Wood, and Cropton Banks Wood, crossed the river to Appleton through Howlgate Head Wood, to return downhill to Sinnington through Bishop Hagg Wood. The common snails *Discus rotundatus* (Rounded Snail), *Trichia striolata* (Strawberry Snail), *Cepaea hortensis* (White Lipped Banded Snail) and *Helix aspersa* (Garden Snail) put in an appearance on the edge of Sinnington. Birds were now active including Grey Wagtail, Long Tailed Tit, Goldcrests, Greater Spotted Woodpecker and Nuthatch. A *Calvia 14-guttata* (Cream Spot Ladybird) was found amongst moss growing on a tree. Cladonias, one of which was *Cladonia fimbriata*, covered an old stump.

Voilets were studied. In woodland areas were *Viola reichenbachiana* (Early Dog-violet) and *V.odorata* (Sweet Violet) - exhibiting two colour forms, violet (var. *odoratum*) and white (var. *dumetorum*). Fine patches of *V.hirta* (Hairy Violet) were admired in rough calcareous grassland. Several good clumps of *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort), *Luzula pilosa* (Hairy Wood-rush) and *Adoxa moschatellina* (Moschatel) were found. *Muscari armeniacum* (Garden Grape-hyacinth) and *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* ssp. *argentatum* (the garden form of Yellow Archangel) were well naturalised near Sinnington village. Particularly pleasing in woodland were the sheets of the native daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* ssp. *pseudonarcissus*, in excellent flower.

Daldinia concentrica (King Alfreds Cakes) were cooling on some old wood. Olefactory inspection of grapefruit smelling *Abies grandis* (Grand Fir) detained us for a short time in Howlgate Wood. *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir) was also noted. Our return to Appleton led us past a small patch of False Oxlips next to a track across open fields.

Saturday, 17th April, 10:30 am, Arkengathdale, leader Colin Chatto

Eriophorum vaginatum (Hare's-tail Cottongrass) was flowering well in marshy ground on Fremington Edge. *Saxifraga tridactylites* (Rue-leaved Saxifrage) was on a wall in Reeth, *Rorippa sylvestris* (Creeping Yellow-cress) on river shingle and *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* (Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage) in neighbouring wet ground. Spoil heaps yielded *Thlaspi caerulescens* (Alpine Penny-cress), *Minuartia verna* (Spring Sandwort) and *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) with fresh fronds of *Cystopteris fragilis* (Brittle Bladder-fern) on an old wall near by.

Sunday, 2nd May, 10:30 am, Hovingham area, leader Eric Gendle .

The walk took us through several different habitats, so a varied flora was seen. In arable fields were *Lamium hybridum* (Cut-leaved Dead-nettle), *Urtica urens* (Small Nettle) and *Thlaspi arvense* (Field Penny-cress). Hedgerows and banksides yielded *Geranium pusillum* (Small-flowered Crane's-bill), *Primula vulgaris* (Primrose), *P.veris* (Cowslip) and their naturally occurring hybrid *P.x polyantha*-some plants apparently showing introgression, well naturalised *Narcissus poeticus* ssp *poeticus* (Pheasant's-eye Daffodil) and *Hyacinthoides x variabilis* (hybrid Bluebell). In woodland areas *Stellaria neglecta* (Greater Chickweed), *Moehringia trinerva* (Three-veined Sandwort) and *Convallaria majalis* (Lily-of-the-valley) were spotted. The sheets of *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebell) in Fryton East Wood were delightful. Several dandelions were identified, these included *Taraxacum atactum*, *T.inapinatum*, *T.duplidentifrons* and *T.lacistophyllum*.

Wednesday, 12th May, 10:30 am, Aysgarth area, leaders Norma Pagdin and Joan Bradbury .

Prunus padus (Bird Cherry) and *Geranium lucidum* (Shining Crane's-bill) were in good flower. *Scrophularia vernalis* (Yellow Figwort) was naturalised on a bankside near Bolton Castle. *Paris quadrifolia* (Herb Paris) and *Rubus saxatilis* (Stone Bramble) were found in Freeholder Wood with *Carex flacca* (Glaucous Sedge) and *Sesleria caerulea* (Blue Moor-grass) on adjacent riverside rocks.

Wednesday, 19th May, 7:00 pm, Wilton, leader Andrew Ferguson

A small party walked from the village to the woods in an easterly direction, and then up the hill to the woodland edge before returning to the village. Plants noted were *Carex pendula* (Pendulous Sedge), *Melica uniflora* (Wood Melick), *Galium odorata* (Woodruff), *Lysimachia nummularia* (Creeping Jenny), *Veronica serpyllifolia* (Thyme Leaved Speedwell) , *Veronica montana* (Wood Speedwell) and on the wood edge towards Yearby, *Campanula latifolia* (Giant Lettuce). Little was on the wing, but *Hedya pruinana* (Lesser Cloaked Marble), and *Xanthorhoe montanata* (Silver Ground Carpet) were observed.

Saturday, 22nd May, 10:30 am, Thimbleby Park Estate, leader John Blackburn.

A detailed report will appear in YNU publications in due course.

Wednesday, 2nd June, 2:00 pm, Newton Wood, leader David Barlow

Sunday, 6th June, 10:30 am, Ousegill Bridge, leader Peter Waterton

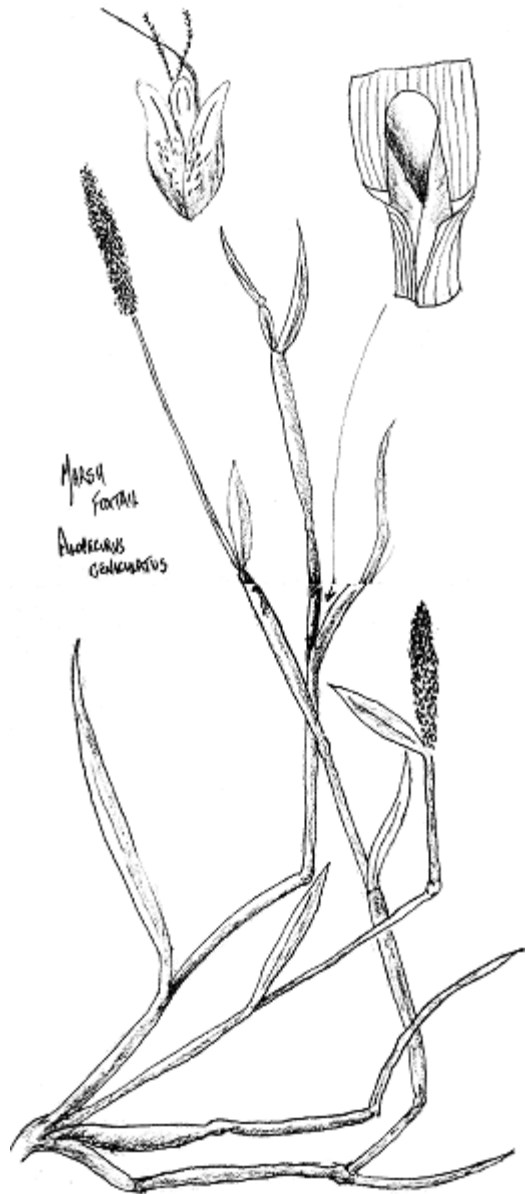
A hot clear day for this excursion from Ousegill Bridge, down to the valley base, upstream for about a mile, then back to the east side of valley through Lidmoor Farms to return to the bridge. *Trifolium micranthum* (Slender Trefoil) was found by the roadside at the top of the hill on the north side of the bridge. *Carabus nitens* (Great Tiger Beetles) were buzzing around in the sunshine, and scuttling across the path. It was good to see Ring Ousel, a classic moorland bird. The roadside proved to be quite interesting with Peacock, and Small Copper on the wing, above a nice collection of plants- *Trifolium dubium* (Lesser Trefoil), *Polygala serpyllifolia* (Heath Milkwort), *Blechnum spicant* (Hard Fern), *Fragaria vesca* (Wild Strawberry), *Carex flacca* (Glaucous Sedge), *Plantago coronopus* (Stags Horn Plantain), and *Veronica officinalis* (Heath Speedwell).

From the roadside we walked west along a farm track before descending through oak woodland to the beck at the bottom of the dale. Members were very grateful for help with some harder plant identifications which covered *Nardus stricta* (Matt Grass), *Anthoxanthum odoratum* (Sweet Vernal Grass), *Cynosurus cristatus* (Crested Dogs Tail), *Carex pilulifera* (Pill Sedge), *Festuca ovina* (Sheeps Fescue), *Eriophorum vaginatum* and *Eriophorum angustifolium* (Cotton Grasses), *Trichophorum cespitosum* (Deer Grass), *Poa pratensis subcaerulea* (Spreading Meadow Grass), and *Alopecurus geniculatus* (Marsh Foxtail). The surrounding fields were full of the sounds of Curlew, and Peewit.

As we walked into the woods the party noticed many moths flitting amongst the bracken. These turned out to be the *Petrophora chlorosata* (Brown Silver Lines), a specialist feeder on Bracken.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the day was the Slowworm found in the wood, which was very cooperative for the photographers with us.

At the bridge across Hodge beck *Polypodium vulgare* (Common Polypody), *Stellaria nemorum* (Wood Stitchwort), *Ceratocarpus claviculata*



(Climbing Corydalis), *Claytonia sibirica* (Pink Purslane) and *Luzula pilosa* (Hairy Woodrush) were noted. *Epirrhoe alternata* (Common Carpet), *Xanthorhoe montanata* (Silver Ground Carpet), and *Opisthograptis luteolata* (Brimstone) were briefly in the net. A distant Cuckoo called as we strolled in the increasing heat of the day, up to the ruins of Stork House. From here, we could view the gentle slopes of the upper dale towards Cockayne, roofed by cotton wool clouds.

Another highlight was then encountered as we spent some time watching Pied Flycatcher in the oak canopy. Treecreeper was also seen exploring the rough bark. As we recrossed the beck Brown Trout sped about in the dappled water. The party then experienced a short period of healthy aerobics as we climbed out of the Dale back to Ousgill Bridge.



Heath Grass
Danthonia decumbens



Sweet Vernal Grass
Anthoxanum odoratum

Saturday, 12th June, 2.00 pm, Tollesby, leader Ian Lawrence

Wednesday, 16th June, 7:00 pm, Saltburn, leader Jack Marshall

In excellent evening weather a group of 13 did an easy stroll along the stream-side path except where steps have been recently built to bypass stream erosion. Many of the more common flowers were seen. Less common flowers seen were *Genista tinctoria* (Dyer's Greenweed), *Vicia sylvatica* (Wood Vetch), *Scrophularia auriculata* (Water Figwort), *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* (Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage), and *Rumex crispus* (Curled Dock).

Good specimens of *Carduus tenuiflorus* (Slender Thistle) and *Lycium barbarum* (Duke of Argyll's Tea Tree). Several of the more common ferns were also seen.

Near the end of the walk a pair of Long Tailed Tits were seen.

Sunday, 20th June, 10:30 am, Leyburn area, leader Neil Baker

The party wandered from the market place in Leyburn onto the Shawl. *Polyporus squamosus* (Dryads Saddle) was decorating some of the trees. *Chenopodium bonus-henricus* (Good King Henry), *Malva moschata* (Musk Mallow) and *Carduus nutans* (Musk Thistle) were spotted on Leyburn Shawl. Neighbouring wasteland in Moor Quarry sported *Filago vulgaris* (Common Cudweed) and three superb plants of the rare *Hyoscyamus niger* (Henbane). Sand Martins chased insects above some small ponds. Dead specimens of *Helicella itala* (Heath Snail) were found amongst detritus on the crag edges. A good number of *Odezia atrata* (Chimney Sweeper) littered the grass in places, occasionally joined by (*Polyommatus icarus*) Common Blue. *Minuartia verna* (Spring Sandwort) was observed on spoil heaps in Gillfield Wood.

We walked from Preston-under-Scar, across the railway to Haremire House. As storm clouds gathered, and silence began to descend, a Buzzard soared in the distance.

*Darkening clouds in anvil form,
Silent birds.....thunderstorm.*

It rained. Heavily. Persistently. All the way back to Leyburn.

Sunday, 27th June, 10:30am, Smardale and Waitby Greenrigs, leader Eric Gendle

Plants growing in the wooded area and on the embankments by the old railway at Smardale included *Pyrola minor* (Common Wintergreen), *Geum x intermedium* (hybrid Aven), *Cirsium heterophyllum* (Melancholy Thistle), *Hippocrepis comosa* (Horseshoe Vetch) showing its distinctive fruits, *Scabiosa columbaria* (Small Scabious) and *Serratula tinctoria* (Saw-wort). *Juncus tenuis* (Slender Rush) was spotted on the railway track itself. Waitby is particularly renowned for its fine orchid displays. *Ophrys insectifera* (Fly Orchid) was still flowering, one spike having eleven flowers. *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted-orchid), *D. purpurella* (Northern Marsh-orchid) and their hybrid *D. x venusta* were in good flower.

Spikes of *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) and *Platanthera bifolia* (Lesser Butterfly-orchid) were spotted. Pride of place, however, went to the magnificent displays of *Gymnadenia conopsea* (Fragrant Orchid)-manifest in its three different subspecies (*conopsea*, *densiflora* and *borealis*) and to *Epipactis palustris* (Marsh Helleborine). A hybrid willow *Salix x ehrhartiana*=*S.pentandra* x *S.alba* was collected, the identification of which was subsequently confirmed by R.D. Meikle. These sites are rich in hawkweeds and several microspecies were seen during the day, including *Hieracium flocculosum*, *H.ampliatum* in two forms, *H.subcrassum*, *H.cravoniense*, *H.vulgatum* and *H.acuminatum*, each of the latter two in two forms.

Sunday, 11 July, 10.30 am, Scaling Dam, leader Alan Bunn

Wednesday, 21st July, 10:30 am, Low Moor Camp leader Peter Waterton

Nine members met on a mild July day at Low Moor bridge. A mixture of sun and cloud was the order of the day.

An initial visit to the meadow sections to look for *Melanargia galathea* (Marbled Whites) was successful, 19 in number. Good quantities of nectar plants, *Centaurea nigra* (Knapweed), *Angelica sylvestris* (Angelica), *Torilis japonica* (Upright Hedge Parsley), provided food for; *Ochlodes faunus* (Large Skipper), *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skipper), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Small Heath), *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlet), *Polygonia c-album* (Comma), *Polommatus icarus* (Common Blue), *Pieris brassicae* (Large White), *Pieris rapae*, (Small White) and *Pieris napae* (Green-veined White).

Vince was pleased to find a *Potentilla sub. erecta* i.e. (Tormentil), a hybrid between Tormentil and Trailing Tormentil. Common grassland plants included *Potentilla reptans* (Creeping Cinquefoil), *Lotus corniculata* (Birds-foot Trefoil), and *Leontodon saxatilis* (Lesser Hawkbit).

Moths found included, *Chiasmia clathrata* (Latticed Heath), *Odezia atrata* (Chimney Sweeper), *Lomaspilis marginata* (Clouded Border), *Cabera pusaria* (Common White Wave), and the *Stenptilia pterodactyla* (Plume Moth).

Leaving the meadow section alongside the track *Ranunculus flammula* (Lesser Spearwort) and *Stachys officinalis* (Betony) were seen. Also three *Hypericums*, *H. tetraperum*, *H. perforatum* and *H. pulcrum* (St. John's Wort).

Rosa dumalis, a hybrid of *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose) and *Rosa caesia* (Northern Dog Rose) was present in the hedgerow.

Passing through Oak woodland we looked unsuccessfully for *Neozephyrus quercus* (Purple Hairstreak) butterfly.

Lunchtime found us relaxing near the river as we made our way to Barley Carr, Upper Derwent valley. Sitting by the river we enjoyed the scent of *Myrica gale* (Bog Myrtle) as we watched several *Cordulegaster boltonii* (Gold-ringed Dragonflies), darting to and fro among large clumps of *Narthecium ossifragum* (Bog Asphodel). Some members were lucky enough to see actual egg laying by a Gold-ringed dragonfly which seemed unperturbed by its audience about 2 feet away taking photographs. Two *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* (Large Red damselfly) were also seen in a small pond.

A brief look at marshland to the East of Barley Carr dyke for the *Coenonympha tullia* (Large Heath) was not successful.

On our return via the river Vince pointed out *Agrostis virealis* (Brown Bent grass) in the acidic marshy areas, *Carex vesicaria* (Bladder Sedge) in the damp meadows alongside *Achillea ptarmica* (Sneezewort) and a single plant of *Scutellaria galericulata* (Skullcap).

Further along in the wooded sections we found *Scirpus sylvaticus* (Wood Club rush) and good amounts of *Melampyrum pratensis* (Common Cow-wheat). Several hybrid Willows were found by Vince.

Salix cinerea ssp. *oleifolia* (Grey Willow) and *S. caprea* (Goat Willow) were both common, the former particularly so. *S. x reichardtii* = *S. caprea* x *S. cinerea* was present. This is a common hybrid which forms a complete range of intermediates between the parents. A more detailed survey would probably show that the hybrid was more prolific than the *S. caprea* parents. In moorland areas *S. aurita* (Eared Willow) was in some abundance, exhibiting several different forms, occasionally associated with *S. repens* (Creeping Willow). In woodland edges by the moor were several bushes of the hybrid *S. x multinervis* = *S. cinerea* x *S. aurita*, some showing evidence of introgression with *S. aurita*. (The determinations of the hybrids were confirmed by R.D. Meikle).

On route Peter caught an unwary *Cordulegaster boltonii* (Gold-ringed Dragonfly) in his net. He was duly photographed (full face) by admiring onlookers!

Few birds of interest were seen apart from a *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (Redstart).

Near Low Moor bridge on exit a Monkshood was found in flower. Further research is needed to confirm the correct exact species. All in all an enjoyable and informative Field Trip.

Wednesday, 28th July, 2:00 pm, Gainford, leaders E.Gendle and V.Jones

By the river there were fine stands of *Lysimachia vulgaris* (Yellow Loosestrife) and the naturalised *Solidago gigantea* (Early Goldenrod). Willows on the river bank included *Salix phylicifolia* (Tea-leaved Willow) and *S. purpurea* (Purple Willow). Garden escapes had self-seeded and were flowering in pavement cracks and old walls in the village. These included *Nicotiana x sanderae* (a hybrid Tobacco), *Rudbeckia laciniata* (Coneflower) and *Cosmos bipinnatus* (Mexican Aster).

Sunday 1st August, 10:30 am, Lythe, leader Vic Fairbrother

The walk from Lythe to Goldsborough and Kettleness provided some varied habitats including field paths, woodland, disused railway track and coastal path. *Cornus sanguinea* (Dogwood) soon caught our attention and in the first farm gateway *Coronopus squamatus* (Swinecress) was in typical habitat. Field edges then revealed *Eupatorium cannabinum* (Hemp Agrimony), *Sherardia arvensis* (Field Madder), *Anthemis cotula* (Stinking Camomile), *Trifolium hybridum* (Alsike clover), and *Spergula arvensis* (Corn Spurrey). Along the railway track a hybrid Cinquefoil, *Potentilla x mixta* = *p. anglica* x *p. reptans* was examined with interest. Near to Kettleness, we were able to enjoy *Artemisia absinthium* (Wormwood) and *Rosa ferruginea* (Red-leaved

Rose), whilst further along the coastal path *Senecio sylvaticus* (Heath Groundsel) and *Tanacetum vulgare* (Tansy) were observed. Back on to field paths, *Fumaria muralis*, ssp. *boraei* (Few-flowered fumitory) and *Raphanus raphanistrum* (Wild Radish) were seen. Five species of butterfly were noted: *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown) 35; *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell) 26; *Pieris brassicae* (Large White) 3; *Pieris rapae* (Small White) 3; and *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skipper) 2. Two Hares showed a fast turn of speed and there was fresh evidence of Badgers at work. (During a route planning visit a Stoat was watched dragging a dead Rabbit from the footpath and a Peregrine Falcon was observed at a Feral Pigeon kill). Of the farmland birds it was especially pleasing to see Grey Partridges and it was also encouraging to see Goldfinches, Linnets and Greenfinches finding plenty of seeds to eat.



Wed, 11th August, 10:30 am, Bishop Auckland, leader Malcolm Birtle

Members met at the southern end of Newton Cap Viaduct on a nice hot day. The group then walked across the viaduct to follow the old railway that traverses the recovering mined and quarried country that lines the banks above the Wear between Bishop Auckland, Crook, and Willington. It is becoming hard to imagine how heavily industrialised this country once was. The hillside opposite where Newfield mine once stood is now completely green again. Pools of water dotted some fields reminding us of the heavy rain that was so monotonously regular this summer. However, today the sun shone and we were accompanied on our walk by *Lycaena phlaeas* (Small Copper), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), *Lasiommata megera* (Wall), *Pieris brassicae* (Large White), *Pieris napi* (Green Veined White), *Plemyria rubiginata* (Blue Bordered Carpet), *Eulithis prunata* (Phoenix), *Autographa gamma* (Silver Y), (*Aglais urticae*) Small Tortoiseshell, *Polygonia c-album* (Comma), *Ochlodes venata/Thymelicus sylvestris* Large/Small Skipper, and *Inachis io* (Peacock). A loaded *Malus domestica* (Apple Tree) provided some 'elevenses'. Several garden escapes appeared to be long-established by the sides of the old railway. *Fallopia baldschuanica* (Russian-vine), *Buddleja davidii* (Butterfly-bush), *Cicerbita macrophylla* (Common Blue-sow-thistle) and the uncommon *Calystegia pulchra* (Hairy Bindweed) were all in good flower. Other plants noted were *Sanguisorba officinalis* (Greater Burnet), *Verbascum thapsus* (Great Mullein) and, on railway ash, *Aira caryophyllea* (Silver Hair-grass).



Wed, 18th August, Cod Beck reservoir area (change of venue), leader Judy Dinwiddie

Forestry work in Silton Wood made a change of venue necessary. The group therefore met at Cod Beck Reservoir near Osmotherley. *Hypericum elodes* (Marsh St John's-wort), in excellent flower, was abundant over about 30m in a flush by the roadside. Here also were *Dryopteris carthusiana* (Narrow Buckler-fern) and *Veronica scutellata* (Marsh Speedwell). Other flushes yielded *Viola palustris* (Marsh Violet), *Triglochin palustre* (Marsh Arrowgrass), *Drosera rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew) and *Menyanthes perfoliata* (Bogbean). By the reservoir *Ranunculus aquatilis* (Common Water-crowfoot), *Isolepis setacea* (Bristle Club-rush) and *Hypericum humifusum* (Trailing St John's-wort) were spotted.

Saturday, 4th September, 10:30 am, Runswick Bay, leader Colin Chatto

Another very hot day saw us at Runswick Bay with the intention of walking the foreshore to Sandsend. Amongst the slumped cliffs were good specimens of *Vicia sylvatica* (Wood Vetch). Surprisingly few birds were noted. Oystercatcher and Curlew put in an expected appearance, but little else. However, two birds produced a ripple of interest-Gannet and Whimbrel. Geology took primary place the rest of the day and the fine coastal sections held plenty of interest. The rock pools were also in excellent condition with crystal clear water. The acrobatics required to negotiate the fallen boulders allied to the tropical heat persuaded some members to exploit the bus service back from Sandsend. However, a few intrepid souls braved the heat to return on foot along the cliff top paths.

Saturday, 25th September, 2:00 pm, Stewart Park, leader Ian Lawrence

Sat, 2nd October, Kildale area, leader Andy Astbury

In Little Kildale Wood the characters of *Dryopteris filix-mas* (Male-fern) and *Dryopteris affinis* (Scaly Male-fern), both subspecies *affinis* and *borreri*, were studied. On moorland *Erica cinerea* (Bell Heather) and *E. tetralix* (Cross-leaved Heath) were still in good flower, there was even the occasional flower on *Calluna vulgaris* (Ling). *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* (Cowberry) was also flowering well.

Saturday, 23rd October, 10:30 am, Staithes, leader Alf Rout

New Local SSSI

In February 2004 Briarcroft Pasture in Stockton-on-Tees was notified as an SSSI by English Nature as species-rich unimproved neutral grassland. This is one of only two sites in the area, the other being Whitton Bridge Pasture. The site is classed as NVC MG5 *Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra* community represented by the *Danthonia decumbens* sub-community. There seems to be no public access to the site.

New BSBI Recorder for Durham

From October 2004, I have been appointed as the BSBI's Vice-County Recorder for County Durham (VC66) in succession to Gordon Graham and Alec Coles.

Dr F.G. Hardy,
8, Soulby Court,
Kingston Park,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2TQ.

Tel: 0191 271 3271.

e-mail: seaweedgav@yahoo.co.uk or f.g.hardy@ncl.ac.uk

Cinnabar in Billingham

On Tuesday 8th June 2004 a Cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*) was seen in flight on the Cowpen Lane Industrial Estate Billingham. This moth has recently expanded into new sites in County Durham and I believe this adds to those new sites.

Bee Orchids at Billingham Beck

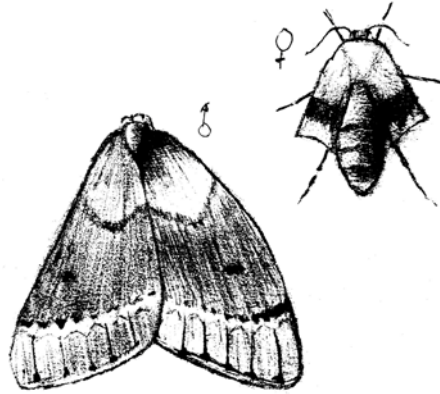
In recent years many Bee Orchids (*Ophrys apifera*) have appeared adjacent to the A19 through Billingham Beck Valley, on ground that was heavily disturbed during construction of the road. On Thursday 10th June 2004, while seeking Dingy Skippers, which turn up regularly in the same place, only a disappointing single spike was found. However, two spikes were found on the Ecology Park.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

This Act is enacted in May 2005 in North-east England. It provides for improved access to specific areas in the countryside. Details can found at http://cms.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/places_to_go/open_access/

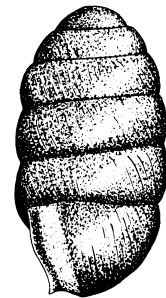
Drive-by Mothing!

On the 20th January 2004 whilst returning from a Darlington Naturalists' meeting I noticed many hundreds of moths in the car headlights, between Aycliffe and Bishopton. I stopped the car and examined a couple of specimens. They turned out to be *Theria primaria* (Early Moth). This is a moth of the hedgerows feeding on hawthorn and similar. The female is flightless.



Spion Kop

Spion Kop cemetery on Hartlepool Headland has been declared a local nature reserve recently. The cemetery was established on sand dunes and ballast hills in 1855 and has retained a typical but interesting dune flora. It is also a significant site for birds and Lepidoptera as it is in a prime location for attracting immigrant species. Hartlepool Naturalists' Field Club visited the site on Sunday 18th July 2004 and it was noted that the site also has snails typical of dune habitat namely-



Pupilla muscorum

Cernuella virgata (Striped Snail)
Candidula intersecta (Wrinkled Snail)
Helix aspersa (Garden Snail)
Vallonia excentrica (Eccentric Grass Snail)
Pupilla muscorum (Moss Chrysalis Snail)



Candidula intersecta

Sadly, no specimens of *Helicella itala* (Heath Snail) were found despite much searching.

If visiting the site it is worth noting that the Jewish cemetery adjacent is still used and should be treated with due respect.

[Spion Kop is a hill in South Africa on which a battle took place on January 24th 1900 during the second South African War, as part of the effort to relieve Ladysmith from Boer siege. Many British soldiers mainly from Royal Lancaster and the Lancashire Fusiliers and Middlesex regiments were killed and the battle lost. However, Ladysmith was relieved, after a number of other battles, on January 28th 1900. It is the origin of the football stadium 'Kops']

Malcolm Birtle

A Short Butterfly Story

On a warm sunny July day I was leading a walking club group along a forest track in Staindale in Dalby Forest.

We came to an area dominated by Greater Knapweed flowering profusely. It was obviously popular with Peacock butterflies flitting over the area in large numbers feeding on the Knapweed. Some were within arms length at the side of the track but seemed to be indifferent to our presence.

I became curious and stopped opposite one Peacock, which was engrossed in feeding on a flower. Curiosity increasing, I slowly moved my hand towards the butterfly which still did not move away as I expected. I continued moving my hand closer very slowly until I was finally able to touch it and stroke its wing! It seemed to be oblivious to what was happening to it.

After several seconds, which seemed an age to me, I reluctantly moved on being under pressure from my fellow walkers. Moving on a few yards, this feast of Knapweed and Peacocks was too much to resist and I achieved a repeat performance with a different butterfly indicating the previous experience was not a one-off, perhaps resulting from the butterfly being in indifferent health.

By then my fellow walkers, not being committed naturalists, were restless and I had to give the signal to walk on. Has anyone else stroked a butterfly in the wild?

Jack Marshall

Ancient Hedgerows of Stockton.

The Wildflower Ark, based at Nature's World in Acklam, has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out a project to locate and survey ancient hedgerows in the borough of Stockton-on-Tees throughout the coming year.

To help with the survey we are looking for people who are interested in being part of a community team to survey the hedgerows in Stockton borough. We are currently looking at historical records to identify potential ancient hedgerows for surveying.

We will be holding a meeting at 7pm on Tuesday April 5th at Nature's World to discuss the project generally and the results so far, to which all are welcome. Training on hedgerow surveying and hedgerow plant ID will be at the end of April and May respectively.

The information gathered will help us to locate ancient and species rich hedgerows and act for their future management and conservation.

If you would like to be involved in this project or if you have any information which may be of interest to us please contact Martin Allen or Jessica Herring at the Wildflower Ark at Nature's world. Tel. 01642 576611 or e-mail wildflowerark@hotmail.com

Moths In A Nunthorpe Garden

Eric Gendle

After many years of using a small low voltage UV fluorescent light in my moth trap, I decided last year to upgrade to a mains light at a total cost of about £40, (a small cost for the amount of pleasure moth trapping gives). The result has been the finding of many new species in the trap. Amongst these new species are the following.

Jun 1st a *Lomographa temerata* (Clouded Silver) appeared, a difficult moth to identify (for the first time).

Jun 15th produced a *Plagodis dolbraria* (Scorched Wing), this one was easy to identify.

The next night gave me two new species. A beautiful *Mimas tiliae* (Lime Hawk Moth), and a *Hylaea fasciaria* (Barred Red), again easy to identify.

Jun 29th produced an attractive *Colostygia pectinataria* (Green Carpet), still in its green colours. This moth loses its green pigmentation in a short period of time.

Into July, and a, *Cabera exanthemata* (Common Wave) appeared, with a, *Diloba caeruleocephala* (Figure of Eighty) on Jul 14th.

A *Bupalus piniara* (Bordered White), with its striking underwing white stripe was caught on the following night.

On the 19th, a *Polychrisia moneta* (Golden Plusia) appeared, together with the first of several Mother of Pearl to be caught on later nights.

The last night in July gave a moth, *Laothoe populi* (Poplar Hawk), not a first, but always a pleasure to see.

The night of 3rd of August gave a, *Drepana falcataria falcataria* (Pebble Hook Tip), and a, *Phragmatobia fuliginosa fuliginosa* (Ruby Tiger).

No more "Firsts" appeared, but previously uncommon moths such as *Eugnorisma glareosa* (Autumnal Rustic) appeared in larger numbers.

, *Autographa jota* (Plain Golden Y) moths were also caught. The new Field Guide to Moths by Waring and Lewington has shown me that I have previously caught many *A. jota* moths but never the *Autographa pulchrina* (Beautiful Golden Y).

I hope this short note will encourage more of our members to try moth trapping, a source of great pleasure. I and other trappers will be willing to offer advice and guidance to beginners.

***Petrorhagia prolifera* (Proliferous Pink) at the South Gare**

Vincent Jones

In June 2000 Chris Pogson, a visiting botanist from Kent, found a colony of a pink at the South Gare Breakwater of the River Tees in Vc 62. The site is situated in a gentle hollow of the waste industrial slag at the north western end of the lagoon area, GR NZ 55762720. Chris tentatively identified the pink as *Petrorhagia nanteuilli* (Childing Pink). *Petrorhagia* is a critical genus requiring mature seeds for identification. I visited the site later in 2000, when mature seeds were available. These appeared to confirm Chris' identification. However, consultation with Ian Lawrence and further correspondence with Chris alerted me to the possibility of an error, as there is confusion in the genus, particularly concerning the architecture of the seeds as described by different authors. Accordingly, I revisited the site on 29/6/04 and collected a complete specimen, including mature seeds and separately-pressed petals, which I sent to the alien plant expert, Eric Clement. Eric determined the pink as *Petrorhagia prolifera*. He felt that the description of the seeds, in a Californian flora, as 'sculpture worm-like' seemed the most apt. It was particularly pleasing on my visit in 2004 to observe that the colony had considerably increased. There were hundreds of plants but confined to a few square metres. This is a very rare plant in the British Isles, with only two post 1970 dots in the Atlas 2000.

A new fern, *Blechnum spicant* 'Cristatum' (Hard Fern), in North Yorkshire

Vincent Jones

On 2/2/05 I was shown, by Ken Trewren, a cristate form of *Blechnum spicant*, growing on a narrow ledge of a sandstone scar near Glaisdale, Vc 62. This fern is thought to be new to science, as such a cristate form of Hard Fern has neither been recorded anywhere in the world, nor is it known in cultivation. Even in the middle of winter it was a beautiful plant. Cristate forms of ferns have the tip of the frond repeatedly branched to form a fan and are occasionally found in the wild. Because of their beauty they are not infrequent in cultivation. Other ferns which exhibit cristate forms include *Phyllitis scolopendrium* (Hart's-tongue), *Athyrium filix-femina* (Lady Fern), *Dryopteris filix-mas* (Male Fern) and *Polystichum setiferum* (Soft Shield-fern).

Butterflies Of Cleveland And The Surrounding Areas

Eric Gendle

The area in and around Cleveland has a comparatively rich butterfly population and the warmer summers seem to be encouraging the northward migration of some species. The following notes will cover the more interesting species, ignoring the Large and Small Whites, the Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell and the Meadow Brown.

There are three Skippers in the area. *Ochlodes veneta* (Large Skipper) and the *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skipper) are both relatively common throughout the area in grassland. They can be separated by the smooth uniform colour of the Small Skipper compared with the yellow/orange chequered pattern on the Large Skipper.

Errynis tages (Dingy Skipper) is only present in the south of the North York Moors in the Corallian limestone areas, but is also present in the Magnesian limestone grasslands in Durham.

Colias croceus (Clouded Yellow) is an occasional migrant usually seen in the south of the area.

Gonepteryx rhamni (Brimstone) is again a butterfly of the south of the moors and the coast south of Whitby. The distribution is limited by its food plants Purging and Alder Buckthorn.

Pieris napi (Green Veined White) is common throughout the area and can be seen in most habitats, and with two generations a year is present from April to September.

The beautiful *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip) is a spring butterfly found along hedgerows and damp places where the food plants of the caterpillars, crucifers such as Lady's Smock and Garlic Mustard grow.

Callophrys rubi (Green Hairstreak) is found on our heather moorlands in spring amongst the bilberry plants. An eye-catching butterfly in flight but when settled with open wings, showing the dull brown upper surfaces, they can be difficult to spot.

Cleveland has isolated small colonies of *Quercusia quercus* (Purple Hairstreak). Living as they do, around the tops of oak trees, they are difficult to spot from the ground without binoculars. Even then they appear as small fluttering insects visible only for a few seconds as they move from leaf to leaf.

Strymonidia w-album (White-Letter Hairstreak) is in a similar situation. Dutch elm disease has caused the loss of many colonies of the butterfly but some have survived. They are equally difficult to see.

Lycaena phlaeas (Small Copper) is common throughout most of the British Isles except for the high mountain regions and is common throughout our area.

The situation with regard to, *Aricia agestis* and *A. artaxerxes* (Brown Arguses) is still a little confused. The Brown Argus (*A. agestis*) is present in the limestone of the southern moors, whilst north of the Tees *A. artaxerxes* (Northern Brown Argus) flies over the Magnesian Limestone grasslands.

Polyommatus icarus (Common Blue), is present throughout the British Isles from May to October and common in grassland habitats.

The *Celastrina argiolus* (Holly Blue), population shows wide fluctuations from year to year. Here we are on its northern limits. Two generations mean it may be found between April and September on a good year on holly and ivy and other shrubs.

Hamearis lucina (Duke of Burgundy) just survives in a few isolated sites in the south of the moors. It is primarily an inhabitant of areas south of a line from the Thames to the Severn.

Polygonia c-album (Comma) is now relatively common throughout the area. Some twenty years ago it would only be found in the Wolds and the farthest southern slopes of the moors. Its northward advance has been dramatic.

Boloria selene (Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary) is found only in some isolated colonies in the southern moors, though it inhabits most of Scotland and Wales. An inhabitant of coppiced woodland and feeding on violet species, loss of habitat is causing its decline.

Boloria euphrosyne (Pearl Bordered Fritillary) is in an even more precarious situation, surviving in only one or two isolated colonies in the south. It also requires coppiced woodland and violets for survival.

Argynnis aglaja (Dark Green Fritillary) colonies are more common in the area. They are scattered mainly in the south of the moors, and along the coast, even north of Whitby, but isolated individuals are spotted in other areas. Again feeding on violets, and common in Scotland and S.W. England and Wales.

Lassiomata megara (Wall Brown) can be found throughout the region and well into Durham and Northumberland, though no further north at present. Often found basking on walls and footpaths or in coastal dunes on warm sunny days.

Melanargia galathea (Marbled White) is a species of the south of England mainly south of the Wash. It has been in the Yorkshire Wolds for many years but can now be found in the south of the moors at such places as Ellerburn Banks.

Hipparchia semele (Grayling) is a coastal species being found all round the coast of Britain, but with a strange gap between the Wash and the Scottish Border. It has now established itself on waste ground on the banks of the Tees, and has room for expansion both north and south.

Another butterfly expanding its territory and moving north is the *Pyronia tithonus* (Gatekeeper). It can now be found on the southern slopes of the moors near or on hedgerows, and occasional records in Co. Durham.

Aphantopus hyperantus (Ringlet) is a common butterfly of grassy lanes and meadows in the region.

Coenonympha pamphilus (Small Heath) can be found throughout the region on short well-grazed turf.

Coenonympha tullia (Large Heath) has a specialised habitat of wet boggy areas. In our area its main site is in Fen Bog with its abundance of cotton grass.

Pararge aegeria (Speckled Wood) has turned up on a number of woodland sites in Co. Durham in 2004.

Field Meetings 2005

Full details of the walks and their starting-points are given below. If you require further details about a walk or in the event of inclement weather and possible cancellation please contact the leader of the walk. Please carry suitable refreshment with you! This will be necessary for the walks that start on a morning and it may well be appropriate to take tea on an afternoon walk.

Presidents message to members and potential members

I hope that you will find outings to your taste from this varied programme. Any suggestions for future outings are always welcomed by the committee. It is hoped that members will share transport, where possible, to ease any parking-problems and be prepared to offer lifts to members without cars.

I should like to welcome any prospective members to join some of the outings. I am sure that you will find our members friendly and helpful. I have found the field-trips a splendid way of learning more about the natural history of the area.

by the President

Saturday, April 2nd, 10.30am, Fountains Abbey, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616

GR SE278691. Meet in the car park near the lake at the north east end of the abbey grounds. There will be an easy walk around the abbey and the surrounding area. For those members who are not members of the National Trust or English Heritage the club will refund the entrance fee.

Wednesday, May 2nd, 10.30am, Ashberry Farm, leaders Maurice Hallam and Vincent Jones ☎ 01642 722814

GR SE571844. Meet at Ashberry Farm. Walter Fenwick, the owner, has kindly given us permission to park there. The main focus of the meeting is to listen to birdsong with Maurice's expert guidance. There will be a sustained walk, taken at a slow pace, but there will be some short climbs.

Sunday, May 8th, 10.30am, Wensleydale, leaders Joan Bradbury and Norma Pagdin ☎ 01429 268416

GR SD988898. Meet at the small nature reserve on the minor road connecting Redmire to Carperby to Askrigg. The reserve is 1.5 miles west of Carperby. After a brief look round we shall go on to Hardraw for a walk of about 5 miles, which involves some short but steep climbing. The GR for Hardraw is SD867913.

Wednesday, 11th May, 6:30 pm, Kildale, leader Alan Bunn ☎ 01287 633404

GR NZ604099. Meet on the corner at the entrance to Mill Bank Wood, near Kildale. There is a sharp incline half way, but members who wish may return, at this point, to the cars by the original route.

Sunday, 22nd May, 10:30 am, Fadmoor, leader Vic Fairbrother ☎ 01287 633744

GR SE669885. Park on the road verge at the west end of Green Lane near Fadmoor. The walk will be easy, about 6 miles in length, and will include some gentle climbing. There will be options for a shorter walk. Car parking for the shorter options will be arranged at the start of the walk, depending upon requirements.

Wednesday, 25th May, 10:30 am, Wheldrake Ings, leader Peter Waterton ☎ 01642 724270

GR SE692434. Meet in the car park, just south east of Wheldrake on Thorganby Road, about 1 mile north of Thorganby. The walk will be easy, on flat ground.

Wednesday, 1st June, 6:30 pm, Flatts Lane, leader Jack Marshall ☎ 01642 315365

GR NZ552168. Meet in the Country Park car park (off Flatts Lane, Normanby). There will be a ramble round the park, with some gentle climbs.

Saturday, 11th June, 10:30 am, Baldersdale, leader Anne Pritchard ☎ 01287 632981

GR NY967193. Park at the south east end of Hury Reservoir in Baldersdale. We shall walk to Hannah's meadow (a Durham Wild Life Trust reserve) along the north shore and return on the south side of the reservoir. The walk will be about 6 miles, but there will be opportunities for a longer walk.

Wednesday, 15th June, 6:30 pm, Scaling Dam, leader David Barlow ☎ 01287 634679

GR NZ740126. Meet in the car park at the western end of Scaling Dam. It may be useful to bring binoculars and wellingtons.

Saturday, 18th June, 10:30 am, Sandsend, leader John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815

GR NZ861129. This is the YNU VC 62 meeting. Meet in the car park at the northern end of Sandsend village.

Sunday, 26th June, 10:30 am, Muker, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547

GR SD911978. Meet in Muker village car park. We will take a circular walk to Keld, which will involve some climbing. Individual low level options are available.

Sunday, 3rd July, 10:30 am, Levisham, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235

GR SE833905. Park in Levisham village street. A circular walk of about 7 miles, which will involve some gentle climbing. There will be some shorter options available. Car parking for the shorter options will be arranged at the start of the walk, depending upon requirements.

Wednesday, 6th July, 6:30 pm, Eggescliffe, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380

GR NZ423132. Meet by the village green at Eggescliffe. There should be ample parking nearby. An easy evening walk.

Sunday, 10th July, 10:30 am, Ripon, leader Judy Dinwiddie ☎ 01845 537340

GR SE301750. Meet in the anglers' car park at Middle Park Farm. Turn off the A1608 at Ripon Golf Club. A tarmac lane leads to the car park. We have been given permission to visit the MOD Training Area. The ground is mainly boggy, so wellingtons may be advisable. Nearby is the area recently acquired by YWT where there is a large stand of *Orobanche reticulata* (Thistle Broomrape). It is hoped to visit this site.

Wednesday, 13th July, 10:30 am, Hutton-le-Hole, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616

GR SE705901. Meet in the car park at Hutton-le-Hole at the north end of the village. The walk will be about 7 miles and will involve some climbing.

Wednesday, 20th July, 6:30 pm, Coatham Marsh, leader Andrew Ferguson ☎ 01642 311831

GR NZ586250. Meet in the Coatham Marsh car park just off Tod Point Road, Warrenby. We will gently stroll around one of the premier reserves of the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

Sunday, 31st July, 10:30 am, Hart, leader Vincent Jones ☎ 01642 722814

GR NZ470351. Meet in the car park in Hart village. The car park is between the primary school and the old Saxon church, and can be approached via Butts Lane, which runs north from the main street near the post office. The easy walk will include the old Hart-Haswell railway, a little woodland and field footpaths. It will be about 6 miles, but we can walk as far north along the old railway as members wish.

Wednesday, 3rd August, 2:00 pm, Acklam, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380

Meet in the car park at Natures World for a walk round the grounds.

Wednesday, 10th August, 10:30 am, Gilling East, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235

GR SE615768. Park in the village street at Gilling East, which is 5 miles south of Helmsley. A circular walk of about 6 miles, with a little gentle climbing. This repeats a walk previously done by the CNFC in the spring of 2000.

Sunday, 21st August, 10:30 am, Ellerburn Bank, leader Alick Hunter ☎ 01751 477708

GR SE847853. Take the road to Dalby Forest Park from Thornton-le-Dale and park near Pexton Moor Farm. We will visit the Ellerburn Bank Nature Reserve and then walk along Thornton Dale. A circular walk of not more than 5 miles.

Wednesday, 7th September, 1:00 pm, Lion Inn, Blakey Ridge, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616

GR SE679997. Meet in the car park of the Lion Inn, Blakey Ridge. The walk is about 5 miles and will involve some climbing. It may be advisable to bring a drink and a snack.

Saturday, 24th September, 10:30 am, Battersby, leader Tom Kirby, ☎ 01642 722814 (Vincent Jones)

GR NZ598077. Meet at the sharp bend at the eastern end of Battersby (popularly known as Old Battersby). Parking is limited by the road verge here, but it is possible to park on the grass on the other side of the stream. Vincent will be on hand to assist with any parking problems. This is a fungus foray, led by an expert. It will be a slow walk, but it is likely there will be some climbing.

Saturday, 1st October, 10:30 am, Black Brow, leader Alf Rout ☎ 01642 818045

GR NZ855042. From its junction with the A171 Whitby moor road, turn right onto the A169 (Whitby-Pickering road). Drive through Sleights and to the summit of Blue Bank. About 1.5 miles beyond the summit car park turn right

into a minor road to Grosmont, reaching the car park after about 500 metres. The walk will be about 7 miles, with approximately 800 feet of climbing.

**Saturday, 22nd October, 10:30 am, Sutton Bank, leader Andy Astbury ☎
01642 823114**

GR SE516830. Meet in the Sutton Bank car park. We will walk via Gormire Lake to Boltby and return by a circular route. The 7.5 miles walk will be moderately difficult with some climbing.

Meetings Of The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

Details are available from John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815.

Meetings Of The Northern Naturalists' Union

Details are available from www.thevasculum.com

The Officers & Committee 2005-2006

President. Vic Fairbrother, 8 Whitby Avenue, Guisborough.
Secretary. Eric Gendle, 13 Mayfield Road, Nunthorpe.
Treasurer. Colin Chatto, 32 Blue Bell Grove, Acklam.
Membership Secretary. Jean McLean, 28 Pendle Crescent, Billingham.
Programme Secretaries. Vincent Jones, 'Hillways', Ingleby Greenhow.
Neil Baker, 10 Smithfield Road, Darlington.

The immediate past president. Dorothy Thompson.
Ordinary members. Ian Lawrence, Alick Hunter, Maurice Hallam, David Barlow.

Dates For Winter Meetings 2005-2006

Oct 3, 17. Nov 7, 21. Dec 19. Jan 16. Feb 6, 20. Mar 6, 20.

Websites

Members with access to the world wide web will find the following sites of interest.

<http://www.clevelandnats.org.uk>,

<http://www.davebarlow.co.uk>

and <http://www.thevasculum.com>.

These sites contain excellent links to many other sites with a natural history theme.