

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS'

FIELD CLUB



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Volume 9 Part 2

Spring 2008

THE OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2006-2007

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

Ian Lawrence, Maurice Hallam, Mary Ward, Kath Houghton

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)
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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 as set out in this leaflet. During the winter months there is a series of monthly meetings held in the Hydroponicum Lecture Hall at Natures World, Ladgate Lane, Acklam, Middlesbrough. We have been at this venue for three winter sessions now and it has proved to be an ideal meeting place which satisfies all our needs. 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

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

The Ramblers' Association.

The Club is affiliated to these organisations.

President's Address: 2008.

I am very pleased to be able to present this report on another very interesting year in the life of the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club as it continues to explore the natural history of Cleveland and the surrounding countryside. A programme of twenty-nine field trips in 2007 provided a wide variety of records and experiences and the highlights are described in more detail in the Annual Record of Proceedings.

Members enjoyed four evening walks featuring Upleatham, Kirklevington, Maze Park and Brewsdale and there was also an afternoon walk in Newton Woods. Local venues for full day visits included Loftus Wood, the Woodland Trust site at Moorsholm, Roseberry Topping and the area around Moorsholm which featured in the Hedgerow Survey. Travelling north we visited Whitburn on Tyneside and Upper Teesdale, the Low Barns Nature Reserve and three sites near Malton in County Durham. Our only visit to the Yorkshire Dales was to Muker in Swaledale. There was much to appreciate during visits to Hovingham, Strensall Common and the Fox Covert Reserve at Cambrai Barracks. The North York Moors again featured strongly with visits to Cropton, Hawaby, Rosedale, Scalby, Wass, Saltersgate, Cawthorne, Mulgrave Woods and Kepwick. Our joint meeting with the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union was again organised by John Blackburn and this year was held at Glaisdale. Tom Kirby led another successful fungus foray at Hasty Bank.

The indoor programme of ten meetings was well supported throughout the winter. Gordon Simpson and Brian Walker gave two contrasting and wide-ranging talks on the natural history of our local forests drawing on their vast experience of the history, ecology and archaeology of these changing habitats. Using excellent photographs of New Zealand Birds Brian Hague gave us a welcome glimpse of the southern hemisphere. The quiz prepared by Joan Bradbury assisted by Norma Pagdin provided the puzzling centrepiece to the Christmas social evening. As usual Club members contributed strongly to the lecture programme. Flowers of Britain's Coast by Vincent Jones took us on a floral escalator from low water to the cliff tops; Malcolm Birtle revealed the secrets, memories and delights of his Naturalists' Notebook and Zermatt Saga by Vic. Fairbrother portrayed some of the beauty of survival at altitude in the Swiss Alps. On Members Night Vincent Jones gave a review of the survey work carried out in VC 62 for the Botanical Society of the British Isles. Andrew Ferguson presented video highlights of visits to the south coast and the Isle of Wight and Eric Gendle illustrated the wonderful range of orchids seen on a number of European visits. The AGM is to be followed by a talk by Norma Pagdin on a visit to Fair Isle and the Shetland Isles and the indoor programme at Natures World will conclude with a talk by Peter Waterton on Jewels of the North York Moors.

A workshop on Butterflies, led by Peter Waterton was the second in a series of additional meetings intended to enable members to study and enjoy the extensive natural history collections held by the Dorman Museum. In view of the success of this event it is hoped to arrange further workshops in cooperation with the Curator.

The Wildflower Ark published "Wildflower Walks in the Lower Tees Valley" a collection of 10 easy walks introducing local wildflowers. Many of these walks were researched and written by club members. The booklet is selling well, is providing some useful publicity for the club and at the same time generating a small income.

In another promotional event despite rather inclement weather Eric Gendle and Peter Waterton provided a photographic display and club publicity material at the Linthorpe Cemetery Nature Reserve Open Day.

Many people have contributed to the success of the club in the last year including those members who have planned and led field trips and those who have given talks at indoor meetings. The smooth running of the club is ensured by the commitment and enthusiasm of the small team of volunteers who give their time to make all the necessary arrangements.

These are Eric Gendle, Secretary who also makes available and operates the projector; Colin Chatto, Treasurer who also organises and prepares the meeting room; Vincent Jones & Neil Baker, Programme Secretaries; Jean McLean, Membership Secretary; David Barlow, Website Manager; Malcolm Birtle, Editor of Record of Proceedings; and committee members Maurice Hallam, Alick Hunter, and Ian Lawrence. Our Past President, Dorothy Thompson, has continued to host our committee meetings in her own inimitable style. I would like to thank them all for their support during the past year, my role as President has been so much easier because of their quiet unassuming efficiency and I would ask you to show your appreciation of all their efforts on our behalf.

Vic. Fairbrother.

Highlights of 2007 Field Meetings

Saturday, 24th March, 10:30 am, Mulgrave Woods, leader Neil Baker

Fourteen members met on a dull March day for the first walk of the summer 2007 programme. There was a brisk and very fresh sea breeze blowing in from the North Sea, with the meeting place particularly exposed. The shelter provided as we walked into Mulgrave Woods was very welcome.

There were many fine specimens of *Smyrnium olusatrum* (Alexanders) in the vicinity of the car park at the start of the walk.

Both *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* (Alternate Leaved Golden Saxifrage) and *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* (Opposite Leaved Golden Saxifrage) were found within a short distance.

There were numerous sightings of typical woodland plants throughout the walk, including *Viola odorata* (White Sweet Violets), *Viola reichenbachiana* (Early Dog Violet), *Lamium purpureum* (Red Dead Nettle), *Mercurialis perennis* (Dogs Mercury), *Glechoma hederacea* (Ground Ivy) and *Petasites vulgaris* (Butterbur).

Some lovely primroses provided brilliant splashes of early spring colour to brighten up the woodland carpet.

A fine stand of silver birches with white peeling bark was passed as we ventured deeper into the woods. We also saw some other good specimen trees including: Lawson's Cypress, Wellingtonia and Cherry Laurel.

We found Heath Groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*) on some recently cleared slopes and evidence of *Trichia hispida* (Hairy Snail) hairy snails in the same vicinity.

At the furthest point of our walk, near the site of the original motte and bailey castle, we found an excellent small site of *Sarcoscypha coccinea* (Scarlet Elf Cup).

On our way back to the starting point of our walk, via parkland and woods to the north of Sandsend Rigg, we also came across well preserved *Daldinia concentrica* (King Alfred's cakes) and *Auricularia auricula-judae* (Jew's ear fungus), probably left over from the previous autumn and still clearly identifiable as a result of the excellent shelter provided by the woods.

Grey wagtail, chiff chaff, nuthatch, tree creeper, long tailed tits and coal tits were all observed during the course of our walk.

Brachypodium sylvaticum (False Brome) was noticeable along the tracks. *Viola riviana x reichbeckiana* (Hybrid Dog Violets) were examined in the woods. *Luzula sylvatica* (Great Wood-rush) was also noticeable.

Monday 26th March Dorman Museum Natural History Workshop.

Peter Waterton led a workshop on Butterflies and Moths at the Dorman Museum on 26th March at the invitation of the Curator Ken Sedman. This was the second in a series of additional meetings intended to enable members to study the extensive natural history collections held by the Museum.

After examining a selection of exhibits illustrating the extent of the *Lepidoptera* collection members were given a brief guide to the finer points of identifying the members of the five main families of Butterflies that occur regularly in Britain. Peter concluded the workshop with some exquisite close up photographs that he had prepared in order to show the microscopic scales on the wings of butterflies that reflect or refract light in order to display the wonderful range of colours and iridescence that we all admire so much.

The meeting was very well attended and it was agreed to liaise with the Curator in identifying appropriate topics for further workshops.

Saturday, 31st March, 10:30 am, Kepwick, leader Colin Chatto

Saturday, 21st April, 10.00am Moorsholm, leaders Helen and Jessica Herring

The hedgerows east of Moorsholm in Cow Close lane were closely examined and their origins and characteristics explained by Helen and Jessica. *Ajuga reptans* (Bugle), *Cruciata laevipes* (Crosswort), *Mercurialis perennis* (Dogs Mercury), *Caltha palustris* (Kingcups), *Epipactis helleborine* (Broad Leaved Helleborine), and *Galium odoratum* (Woodruff) were found on the hedgrows margins. *Inachis io* (Peacock) were on the wing. *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort) and *Carex sylvatica* (Wood Sedge) were noted in Hagg Wood. *Polystichum aculeatum* (Hard Shield Fern), *Polystichum setiferum* (Soft Shield Fern), *Dryopteris dilatata* (Broad Buckler Fern) and *Dryopteris affinis* (Scaley Male Fern) were also seen near Hagg Beck. An unusual Geranium was found growing on a garden step in Moorsholm village. This turned out to be *Geranium sessiliflorum 'nigriceps'*. A brief discussion with the garden owner revealed that the plant was not actively cultivated.

Wednesday, 2nd May, 10:30 am, Low Barns, leader Anne Pritchard

A group of 10 gathered at the Low Barns Nature Reserve beside the river Wear. As well as the fast flowing river the reserve has a variety of habitats including pools, mixed woodland, and grassland. A mixture of Spring and early Summer flowers were found. Notable were two Comfrees- *Symphytum officinale* and the smaller hybrid Hidcote Blue, *Mecanopsis cambrica* (Welsh Poppy), *Laganosiphon major* (Curly Waterweed), *Carex vesicaria* (Bladder Sedge), *Ligusticum scoticum* (Lovage), and *Crataegus x macrocarpa* (Hybrid Hawthorn). However, the most noteworthy plant of the day was shown to us by one of the volunteer wardens. After ploughing through woodland undergrowth for 100yds we saw *Lysichiton americanus* (Skunk Cabbage), a large perennial plant with an evil smell, naturalised well off the beaten track.

Lunch was taken by the river where we saw the Common Sandpiper, Mallard and Grey Wagtail. All around us the early summer migrants were in full song – Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Chiff-chaff and Garden Warbler. We also heard Curlew but the late summer arrivals such as Redstart and Wood Warbler were not in evidence. In all over 40 birds were identified. A damselfly, *Pieris napi* (Green Veined White), *Inachis io* (Peacock), and *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip) completed our sightings.

Wednesday, 9th May, 6:30 pm, Upleatham, leader Ian Lawrence

Cardamine amara (Large flowered Bittercress), *Polystichum aculeatum* (Hard Shield Fern), and white *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebells) were noted in Tocketts Wood. Two Roe deer were spotted running down a field.

Sunday, 13th May, 10:30 am, Helmsley, leader Norman Thompson

There were 18 people on the walk. It was a sunny start but gradually clouded over.

We looked at some very old poplars near the start but it was decided that they were *x canadensis* not the Black Poplar. Near there, a fatigiate *Ranunculus bulbosus* (Bulbous Buttercup) was found. Later on large patches of *Saxifrage granulata* (Meadow saxifrage) were in flower.

It was intended to sit and have lunch looking at the Sand Martins going in and out of their nests, but it rained, so shelter was taken under trees. The rain soon stopped and the sun came out.

Some interesting plants were discovered at the ponds.

Ranunculus fluitans (River Water Crowfoot)

Ranunculus trichophyllus (Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot)

Ranunculus peltatus (Pond Water-crowfoot)

Polygonum amphibium (Amphibious Bistort)

Equisetum fluviatile (Water Horsetail)

Potamogeton natans (Broad-leaved Pondweed)

Potamogeton berchtoldii (Small Pondweed.)

Rorippa palustris (Marsh Yellow-cress)

A fatigiate dandelion was found near there.

Towards the end of the walk, an area of set-aside was examined and many Willow Herbs were found. Vincent wanted to examine the area later on when they were in flower. *Epilobium obscurum* (Short-fruited Willowherb), *Epilobium parviflorum* (Hoary Willowherb) and *Epilobium ciliatum* (American

Willowherb) were determined from the leaves. *Lactuca virosa* (Great Lettuce) was also found.

Aglais urticae (Small Tortoiseshell) and *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip) were the only butterflies noted.

Wednesday, 16th May, 10:30 am, Kisdon, leaders Joan Bradbury and Norma Pagdin

In spite of a horrendous weather forecast eleven brave souls met at Muker in Swaledale. We set off climbing up the track that leads to the path along the shoulder of Kisdon. Almost immediately some members spotted *Saxifraga tridactylites* (Rue Leaved Saxifrage). A pink Lousewort was seen in the higher meadows. Amongst the rocks by the path dots of various shades of pink could be seen. One larger patch proved to be a mixture of *Geranium robertianum* (Herb Robert), *Geranium molle* (Dovesfoot Cranesbill), and *Geranium lucidum* (Shining Cranesbill). We could hear a Green Woodpecker laughing at us across the valley, while a Ring Ousel chattered from the rocks above us. Looking down we could see a sea of blue-not the sun shining on the river (the sky remained grey all day)-but drifts of Bluebells on the lower slopes in the valley below.

The find of St George's mushrooms delighted some members of the party and a few were carefully carried home for tea! Further long, the hillsides turned lemon with clumps of *Primula vulgaris* (Primrose), and we also saw *Saxifraga hypnoides* (Mossy Saxifrage). There were bird cherry trees covered in their white flowers and in the woods we spotted *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort) and *Ranunculus auricomus* (Goldilocks).

We dropped down to the river and from the bridge we were delighted to see a Great Spotted Woodpecker. As we walked back along the track by the river we saw Sandpiper and Grey Wagtail, *Lysimachia nemorum* (Yellow Pimpernel) and a group of yellow pansies.

Sunday, 20th May, 10:30 am, Scalby, leader Vic Fairbrother

Starting from the church of St. Laurence the walk led along the south bank of Cayley's Cut, which was designed by Sir George Cayley in 1800 to take floodwater from the River Derwent to the sea at Scalby Ness. After two miles we crossed the Cut at Mowthorpe Farm to return to Scalby via Holly Wood, Keld Runnels Road and Hay Lane.

The churchyard provided an excellent start to the day with some fine specimens of *Cardamine bulbifera* (Coralroot). Water and wetland plants featured prominently in the day and included *Scirpus sylvaticus* (Wood Clubrush), *Sparganium erectum* (Branched Bur-reed), *Carex riparia* (Greater Pond Sedge), *Myosotis scorpioides* (Water Forgetmenot), *Elodea canadensis* (Canadian Waterweed), *Apium nodiflorum* (Fools Watercress) and *Senecio aquaticus* (Marsh Ragwort).

Away from the water we noted *Fumaria capreolata* (White Ramping Fumitory), *Fumaria muralis* (Common Ramping Fumitory), and the garden escapes *Tellima grandiflora* (Fringe Cups), *Symphytum tuberosum* (Tuberous Comfrey) and *Cardamine raphanifolia* (Greater Cuckooflower).

We enjoyed a good variety of butterflies including *Gonepteryx rhamni* (Brimstone), *Pieris rapae* (Small White), *Pieris napi* (Green-veined White), *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip), *Celastrina argiolus* (Holly Blue),

Vanessa atalanta (Red Admiral), *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell), *Inachis io* (Peacock) and *Lassiommatia megera* (Wall).

One of the best finds of the day was *Calopteryx virgo* (Beautiful Demoiselle) a large damselfly that is rare in the east but has an isolated population on the North York Moors.

Wednesday, 30th May, 6:30 pm, Kirklevington, leader Linda Peace

Sunday, 3rd June, 11.00am, Souter, leader Malcolm Birtle

Cormorants, Kittiwakes, Razorbills and Guillemots were using the cliffs and stacks at Marsden. *Armeria maritima* (Thrift), *Plantago maritima* (Sea Plantain), *Blackstonia perfoliata* (Yellowwort), *Briza media* (Quaking Grass), *Cochlearia officinalis* (Scurvy Grass), *Centaurea scabiosa* (Greater Knapweed), *Primula veris* (Cowslips), *Dactylorhiza purpurella* (Northern Marsh Orchid), Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), *Brachypodium pinnatum* (Tor Grass), *Filipendula vulgaris* (Dropwort), *Thymus vulgaris* (Thyme), *Serratula tinctoria* (Sawort), and *Plantago media* (Hoary Plantain) were growing on the clifftops.

Gannets were seen offshore and Rock Pipits on the foreshore. *Asplenium marinum* (Sea Spleenwort) tufts were found in some numbers on the cliffs.

At Whitburn *Carex arenaria* (Sand Sedge) and *Trifolium hybridum* (Alsike Clover) were found. Eider were seen offshore. *Pupilla muscorum* (Moss Chrysalis Snail), *Vallonia excentrica* (Eccentric Grass Snail) and *Cernuella virgata* (Striped Snail) were found in the sand dune remnants.

Wednesday, 6th June, 1.30pm, Newton Wood, leader Alan Bunn

A small group of 6 enjoyed a walk through Newton Wood to Gribdale, then a walk along the moor edge following the Cleveland Way to Little Roseberry and back to the car park via the lower slopes of Roseberry Topping.

Early woodland flowers were enjoyed in Newton Wood and the leader illustrated the features which showed how the two ends of Newton Wood were of differing ages. Additionally, during the course of the walk he showed features such as ancient burial sites, local mining activities, including Cockshaw Hill site which sequentially had four mining activities (sandstone, alum, iron ore and jet) and a likely site for the cottage of James Cook's family when his father worked at Aireyholme Farm. Many of the sites described had been researched as part of the Great Ayton Community Archaeology Project's production of the Roseberry Topping book published in late 2006.

Wednesday, 13th June, 10:30 am, Fox Covert, leader Judy Dinwiddie

[From the editor-Many apologies to Judy for losing her contribution to this field report. This is the first time this has happened in sixteen years and I hope the last.]

Sunday, 17th June, 10:30 am, Bowlees, leader Neil Baker

Ten members met in Bowlees car park for a walk in the rewarding Upper Teesdale area.

The day was mostly fine but cloudy, with some occasional short periods of light drizzle.

We started off by exploring the old quarry at Bowlees, where we found: *Listera ovata* (Twayblade), *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Spotted Orchids), *Dactylorhiza purpurella* (Northern Marsh Orchids) and *Pinguicula vulgaris* (Butterwort), together with *Athyrium filix-femina* (Lady Fern).

Also seen in the quarry were a family of wrens with recently fledged young.

On our way to Gibson's cave, we saw plenty of *Prunella vulgaris* (Self Heal) and *Ajuga reptans* (Bugle), together with what looked like it would soon be a good display of *Platanthera* sp. (Butterfly Orchids), but unfortunately were not yet out in flower.

On our way back through the main car park, we saw a Dipper by the footbridge over the beck.

We observed the fine display of *Chenopodium bonus-henricus* (Good King Henry) which appears every year on the roadside close to Bowlees cottages.

As we crossed over Wynch Bridge and began our walk along the side of the river Tees, we saw many fine specimens of plants typical of the area, including: *Centaurea scabiosa* (Greater Knapweed), *Cirsium heterophyllum* (Melancholy Thistles), *Lychnis flos-cuculi* (Ragged Robin), *Polygala vulgaris* (Milkwort), *Helianthemum nummularium* (Rock Rose), *Dactylorhiza maculata* (Heath Spotted Orchids) and *Polygonum viviparum* (Alpine Bistort).

The birders also spotted Sandpipers and Grey Wagtails. We also saw *Pieris napi* (Green Veined Whites) and *Polyommatus icarus* (Common Blue) butterflies.

Shortly after our lunch stop, we came across what was either a very fat or a very pregnant Common Lizard, basking in what little sun there was. Whether she was still waiting to warm up or not, she was certainly very helpful to those of us with cameras and patiently posed without protest or any sign of fear for many photographs.

Also in the same vicinity we were lucky enough to come across a single specimen of a *Platanthera* sp. (Butterfly Orchid) in full flower. Once again, this was a very rewarding subject for our photographers.

In the fields by the side of the path, we observed a mother lapwing closing monitoring the actions of her single chick that was scuttling backwards and forwards like a small very fast overwound clockwork toy. This was a pleasing sight to just stand and watch for a few moments in this quiet and beautiful countryside. A wonderful tonic for all the stresses of modern life.

When we reached High Force we found *Pedicularis sylvatica* (Lousewort), *Pinguicula vulgaris* (Butterwort) and more *Polygala vulgaris* (Milkwort), all in the same general area.

After a short time at High Force, we retraced our steps to Wynch Bridge and carried on to cross the river by the next footbridge just a short way down stream before returning to our starting point.

Wednesday, 27th June, 10:30 am, Malton Co Durham, leader Eric Gendle

Three separate Nature reserves managed by Durham Wildlife Trust were visited.

Malton was on the site of an old colliery and offered a mix of woodland, ponds and open grassland.

Rosa rugosa (Japanese Rose), *Campanula persicifolia* (Peach leaved Bellflower?), *Doronicum pardalianches* (Leopards Bane), *Galium mollugo* (Hedge Bedstraw), *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* (Yellow Archangel), *Hypericum perforatum* (Perforate St Johnswort), *Dactylorhiza purpurella* (Northern Marsh Orchid), *Ranunculus lingua*, (Greater Spearwort), *Ranunculus flammula* (Lesser Spearwort), *Potentilla palustris* (Marsh Cinquefoil), *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bog Bean), *Iris pseudacorus* (Yellow Flag Iris), *Sparganium erectum* (Branched Burreed), *Senecio aquaticus* (Marsh Ragwort), *Lychnis flos-cuculi* (Ragged Robin), *Mentha aquatica* (Water Mint), *Carex paniculata* (Greater Tussock Sedge), *Scutellaria galericulata* (Skullcap), *Medicago lupulina* (Black Medick), *Trifolium campestre* (Hop Trefoil), *Genista tinctoria* (Dyers Greenweed), *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid), *Pilosella officinarum* (Mouse Ear Hawkweed), *Polemonium caerulea* (Jacobs Ladder) (both blue and White forms) were amongst the flowers noted.

Coenagrion puella (Azure Damselfly), *Scotopteryx chenopodiata* (Shaded Broad Bar), *Noctua pronuba* (Large Yellow Underwing), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), and *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlet) were also spotted.

Burnhope Pond was a large pond with other marshy areas formed because of mining subsidence. A smaller selection of flora and fauna was present including

Myosotis laxa (Tufted Forget me not), *Hippuris vulgaris* (Mares Tail), *Epilobium palustre* (Marsh Willowherb), *Carex rostrata* (Bottle Sedge), *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid), *Veronica scutellata* (Marsh Speedwell), *Lonicera periclymenum* (Honeysuckle), *Coenagrion puella* (Azure Damselfly), *Campogramma bilineata* (Yellow Shell), *Odezia atrata* (Chimney Sweep) moths and *Ochlodes venata* (Large Skipper).

The vast numbers of small toadlets was the highlight.

Edmondsley wood was rather disappointing, the canopy had developed so that little of interest was seen. A spring visit might be better.

Wednesday, 4th July, 10:30 am, Cawthorne Camp to Beadale Valley, leaders Peter and Ruth Waterton

Eight members met at Cawthorne Camp car park on a day when mixed weather was forecast. The first finding, in the car park, was *Rubus tricolour*, (Chinese bramble.). The group then headed towards the Cropton road, the verges heavy with foliage due to the recent rains. We then headed towards the Beadale Valley alongside cultivated fields and shrubland eventually reaching a disused limestone quarry, sadly much eroded due to motorcycle activity. The quarry was rich in limestone flora including *Arenaria serphyllifolia* ssp. *serphyllifolia* (Thyme-leaved Sandwort), *Thymus polytrichus* (Wild Thyme.), *Pimpinella saxifrage* (Burnet Saxifrage.), *Picris hieracioides* (Hawkweed Oxtongue), *Leontodon hispidus* (Rough Hawkbit), *Cirsium*

eriphorum (Woolly Thistle.), and *Carlina vulgaris* (Carline Thistle). Grasses here included *Koeleria macrantha* (Crested Hair Grass.) and *Helictotrichon pratense* (Meadow Oat-grass.).

Following along field edges from the quarry we found *Anthemis arvensis* (Corn Chamomile), *Clinopodium vulgare* (Wild Basil), and *Rhinanthus minus* ssp. *Stenophyllis* (Yellow Rattle) in good quantities. *Avena fatua* (Wild Oat), and *Bromus secalinus* (Rye Brome) were noticeable in arable fields. A rare plant in the N.E., the tiny *Euphorbia exigua* (Dwarf Spurge), last seen here in 2000 by R.M.W, was found again at lunch break by Vince Jones who nearly sat on it by accident. It was duly photographed and left to seed.

Two good colonies of *Valerianella dentata* (Narrow-fruited Corn Salad) was the next find alongside arable fields. Orchids found on the walk included *Listera ovata* (Common Twayblade), *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid), *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid) and seed-heads of *Orchis mascula* (Early Purple Orchid). A small colony of *Silene noctiflora* (Night-flowering Catchfly) was another pleasing find.

Lepidoptera found on the walk included *Parage aegeria* (Speckled Wood), *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skipper), *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlet), and *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown). The tortricoid "micro" moth *Cydia aurana* was among the smaller day-flying moths found.

Of the birds, several *Sylvia communis* (Common Whitethroats) were singing along the hedgerows and other common warblers such as *Sylvia atricapilla* (Blackcap.), *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Willow Warbler), and *Phylloscopus collybita* (Chiff-chaff) were heard. *Dendrocopos major* (Great Spotted Woodpecker), *Emberiza citronella* (Yellow Hammer), and *Pyrhula pyrrhula* (Bullfinch) also noted. All in all a good day, especially as the worst of the rain came towards the end of the meeting.

Friday 13th July, 10:30 am, Strensall, leader Vincent Jones

Sagina apetala ssp. *apetala* (Annual Pearlwort) and *Arenaria serpyllifolia* ssp. *leptocladus* (Thyme-leaved Sandwort) were found on base areas by the railway track; the former subspecies is a rare plant in the county. *Equisetum x litorale* (a hybrid horsetail) was growing in and by ditches in two places near the firing range. *Lemna minuta* (Least Duckweed) was abundant in a drain, growing for comparison with *L. minor* (Common Duckweed). It was a new vice-county record and has been subsequently found in several other places, suggesting it has been overlooked. A broad, very wet track yielded *Lythrum portula* (Water Purslane), *Veronica scutellata* (Marsh Speedwell), *Eleocharis multicaulis* (Many-stalked Spike-rush), *Eleogiton fluitans* (Floating Club-rush) and a very rare plant in the county, *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain). The edges of Kidney Pond were florally rich. *Stellaria palustris* (Marsh Stitchwort) was locally common and in good flower. *Carex lasiocarpa* (Slender Sedge), though past its best, was located in its only site in the vice-county.

A subsequent visit a month later was rewarding. *Gentiana pneumonanthe* (Marsh Gentian) was found in two places in wet heath. A pond in an old bomb crater was covered in flowering *Utricularia vulgaris* (Greater Bladderwort). A large patch of *Scutellaria minor* (Lesser Skullcap) was located

north of Kidney Pond. The latter three plants are known nowhere else in the vice-county.

Wednesday, 18th July, 6:30 pm, Maze Park, leader Ian Lawrence

Saturday, 21st July, 10:30 am, Glaisdale leader John Blackburn

A report will appear in YNU publications in due course.

Wednesday, 25th July, 6:30pm, Brewsdale, leader Andrew Ferguson

Nine members enjoyed a pleasant evening walk. There was a lot of cloud with a few sunny intervals and a fair breeze was always evident.

Changes in Hilton village since our last trip to the Brewsdale area had made parking more difficult so an alternative meeting place may need to be found for future visits.

In our descent into the Brewsdale valley we found: *Geranium dissectum* (Cut Leaved Cranesbill), *Origanum majorana* (Marjoram), *Medicago lupulina* (Black Medick), *Geranium robertianum* (Herb Robert), *Hypericum hirsutum* (Hairy St. John's Wort), *Torilis japonica* (Hedge Parsley), *Scrophularia nodosa* (Common Figwort), *Angelica sylvestris* (Wild Angelica) and *Stachys officinalis* (Betony).

We also found both *Bromopsis ramosus* (Wood Brome) and *Brachypodium sylvaticum* (Wood False Brome) grasses and studied the differences between the two.

Disappointingly, there were not many butterflies about, but we did spot several *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlets), *Pleuroptya ruralis* (Mother-of-Pearl), *Xanthorhoe montanata* (Silver Ground Carpet), and *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skipper). We also found *Trichia striolata* (Strawberry Snail), *Monacha cantiana* (Kentish snail), *Helix aspersa* (Garden Snail), and *Arianta arbustorum* (Copse Snail).

As we walked through the woods to the Hilton flyover, we found: *Myosotis arvensis* (Field Forget Me Not), *Rumex sanguineus* (Wood Dock), *Geum urbanum* (Wood Avens), *Lapsana communis* (Nipplewort) and *Arum maculatum* (Lords and Ladies).

Coming out of the woods to the farmland area, we found: *Agrostis stolonifera* (Creeping Bent Grass), *Viola arvensis* (Field Pansy), *Raphanus raphanistrum* (Wild Radish), *Chamomilla recutita* (Scented Mayweed), *Epilobium ciliatum* (American Willowherb), *Reseda luteola* (Weld) and *Agrimonia eupatoria* (Agrimony).

We also saw several *Calopteryx splendens* (Banded Demoiselles) in the area of the fields and *Subcoccinella 24-punctata* (24 Spot Ladybird).

Walking back to Hilton along the side of the very busy and noisy A19 road, we found: *Chaerophyllum temulum* (Rough Chervil), *Centaureum erythraea* (Common Centaury), *Crepis capillaris* (Smooth Hawksbeard), *Malus domestica* (Domestic Apple) and *Vicia tetrasperma* (Smooth Tare).

Sunday, 5th August, 11.00am, Saltersgate (Co. Durham) leader Malcolm Birtle

The party walked north west along the old railway and encountered *Argynnis aglaja* (Dark Green Fritillary), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), and *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell), *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skipper),

Polyommatus icarus (Common Blue), *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Small Heath), *Cerapteryx graminis* (Antler), *Sympetrum striolatum* (Common Darter) were seen by the group. *Ranunculus flammula* (Lesser Spearwort) dotted wet patches and gutters adjacent to the railway.

Along a footpath next to a woodland *Carex ovalis* (Oval Sedge) was found and *Aeshna juncea* (Common Hawker) was actively hunting the woodland edge.

The party crossed moorland to Waskerley and on to Smiddyshaw reservoir which was disappointingly barren of interest. *Sagina nodosa* (Knotted Pearlwort) was noted on tracksides.

Sunday, 12th August, 10:30 am, Hovingham leader Alick Hunter

A small group of members left the village by the Ebor Way and soon the walk was almost aborted by a spectacular thunderstorm which was slow to move on. Flowers noted were *Prunella vulgaris* (Selfheal), , both purple and white varieties, *Hypericum humifusum* (Trailing St John's Wort), and *Centaureum erythraea* (Common Centaury).

Sunday 19th August, 10.30 a.m. Vic.Fairbrother. Loftus.

On a very wet day members explored Loftus Wood before the unrelenting rain curtailed the walk preventing the planned return along Loy Lane.

The first part of the walk provided the opportunity to see a variety of ferns including *Phyllitis scolopendrium* (Hartstongue Fern), *Athyrium filix-femina* (Lady Fern), *Dryopteris filix-mas* (Male Fern), *Dryopteris dilatata* (Broad Buckler Fern), *Polystichum setiferum* (Soft Shield Fern), *Blechnum spicant* (Hard Fern) and *Dryopteris affinis* (Scaly Male Fern).

The recent heavy rain had made the path difficult in places and one enforced diversion from the path led to the fortunate discovery of *Epipactis helleborine* (Broad-leaved Helleborine). Fine specimens of *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar) and *Abies grandis* (Grand Fir) were admired.

The mycologists noted *Marasmius rotula* (Collared Parachute), *Mutinus caninus* (Dog Stinkhorn eggs), *Pleurotus cornucopine* (Branching Oyster), *Lactarius subdulcis* (Mild Milkcap), *Heterobasidion annosum* (Root Rot) and *Polyporus leptoccephalis* (Blackfoot Polypore).

Sadly this was not the day for Butterflies but we did have the opportunity to study a cold and damp *Abraxus sylvata* (Clouded Magpie Moth).

Wednesday, 29th August, 10:30 am, Thorodale, leader Eric Gendle

This was a repeat of last years walk, abandoned because of the rain. The party walked from Hawnby Church to Arden Hall, noting the damage caused by the floods. They followed the footpath through the Hall grounds, spotting *Epilobium roseum* (Pale Willowherb), then stopping for a hunt for St Helen's Well, before continuing through the woodland and out into the hidden valley of Thorodale with its limestone flushes. Eyebrights were noted *E scottica*, *nemorosa* and *confusa*. Two hybrids, *nemorosa x confusa* and possibly *scottica x nemorosa* were seen. *Selaginella selaginoides* (Lesser Clubmoss), *Parnassia palustris* (Grass of Parnassus) and *Andromeda polifolia* (Bog Rosemary) were noted in the calcareous flushes. The party then continued out of the valley, a steep climb onto Hambleton Street, the Drove

Road, and were pleased to find many plants of *Gentianella amarella* (Autumn Gentian), before returning down the rough track to Arden Hall and to their cars via a footpath round Castle Hill.

Wednesday, 12th September, 10:30 am, Cropton, leader Colin Chatto

Saturday, 22nd September, 10:30 am, Great Ayton, leader Andy Astbury

Walking from the Green towards the railway and Aireyholme we saw *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral) feeding on Elder berries, and *Pararge aegeria* (Speckled Wood).

Walking onto the moor behind Roseberry Topping we discovered a *Opisthograptis luteolata* (Brimstone moth) resting in a conifer. *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell) and *Cicindela campestris* (Green Tiger Beetle) were flying about. A small wet area close to the edge of Guisborough Forest was examined and revealed *Juncus bufonius* (Toad Rush), and *Juncus bulbosus* (Bulbous Rush). *Juncus articulatus* (Jointed Rush) and *Polygala serpyllifolia* (Heath Milkwort) were growing on the trackside.

Saturday, 6th October, 10:30 am, Hasty Bank leader Tom Kirby

The following fungi were found in the woods west of the Stokesley to Helmsley road-

<i>Neobulgaria pura</i>	Beech Jelly Disc
<i>Ascocoryne sarcoides</i>	Purple Jellydisc
<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn
<i>Mycena galopus</i>	Milking Bonnet
<i>Pholiota flammans</i>	Flaming Scalycap
<i>Hypholoma sublateritium</i> -	Brick Caps
<i>Stereum sanguinolentum</i>	Bleeding Conifer Crust
<i>Phallus impudicus</i>	Stinkhorn

Moving up slope to the woodland edge-

<i>Hypoxyton fragiforme</i>	Beech Woodward
<i>Diatrype disciformis</i>	Beech Barkspot
<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	Witch's Butter
<i>Calocera viscosa</i>	Yellow Stagshorn
<i>Laccaria laccata</i> -	Deceiver

Incidentally, the following snails were encountered- *Oxychilus alliarius* (Garlic Snail), *Trichia striolata* (Strawberry Snail), *Discus rotundatus* (Rounded Snail),

Wednesday, 17th October, 10:30 am, Moorsholm, leaders Aubrey and Edith Colling

There was a good turnout, fifteen in all, in fine weather for the walk at Moorsholm. This short walk took us down Cow Close Lane, then through Moorsholm Woodland Trust reserve, finally returning over grassland to Moorsholm village. Dry conditions had resulted in their being poor growth of fungi noted on previous outings, so we were pleasantly surprised to find quite a large number and variety of specimens. Forty two different fungi were

identified, and another eight found which we were unable to name. *Clitocybe nebularis* was notable for its appearance in large numbers and *Leucopaxillus giganteus* for its astonishing size. At the other end of the scale were; the tiny, orange headed *Mycena acicula*, delicate groups of *Marasmiellus ramealis* and vivid turquoise *Chlorociboria aeruginascens*. So much time was spent collecting that only half of the planned distance was covered. Several specimens of *Epipactis helleborine* were observed at the bottom of Cow Close Lane, and Vince Jones found *Hirschfeldia incana* in Moorsholm village.

Saturday, 20th October, 10:30 am, Blakey Ridge area leaders Alan Bunn and Vincent Jones

This meeting was well attended with around members in attendance and they were rewarded with a good range of moorland and grassland fungi species. As is not unusual on forays of this type it was not possible to identify in the field all the species found, however, subsequent spore characteristics enabled some of these mystery species to be identified with some more certainty. Although we did not find any rarities we were rewarded with seven *Hygrocybe* (Waxcap) species, two *Clavulinopsis* (*corniculata* and *helvola*), two *Stropharia* (*semiglobata* and *aeruginosa*), and what in the field seemed like two apparently different Earth-tongues where shown by spore characteristics to both be *Geoglossum cookeanum*. Many photographs were taken of fungi found with the attractive *Cystoderma aminanthinum* (Earthy Powdercap) most popular.

In addition to the fungi Vince showed members the salt-loving vascular plants, halophytes, growing along the roadside south of the Lion Public house. These plants *Juncus ambiguous*, *Sagina maritime* (Sea pearlwort) and *Plantago coronopus* (Buckshorn plantain) are common around the Tees estuary but are considerably rarer in moorland sites; it is likely these plants have been transported by car/lorry wheels and have benefited from salt spread during icy and snowy periods.

Saturday, 3rd November, 10:30 am, Byland Abbey, leader Andy Astbury

Botanical Recording in Vice-county 62 in 2007

Vincent Jones

This report lists the main areas of survey work in 2007, indicating the most interesting finds.

The Teesside Industrial Belt and the South Gare

Industrial Teesside lies almost entirely in the hectad NZ52. This hectad has been thoroughly recorded in 2007 from the Riverside Stadium in the west, through South Bank, Grangetown, Teesport, Wilton Works and Corus to the South Gare and Coatham Marsh in the east. Some areas, however, do need revisiting, especially Teesport and parts of the South Gare in June. VJ, in company with Geoff Barber of INCA who kindly arranged the visits, has surveyed industrial wasteland inside the private land of Teesport, Wilton Works and Corus. However, the Black Path, a public right of way, runs through this industrial belt and from it many of the special plants of the area can be seen.

The wet summer of 2007 created a botanical luxuriance and a riot of colour exhibited especially in the wasteland in the Riverside Stadium, South Bank and Grangetown tetrads (NZ 52 A, F and K respectively). W.A. Thompson and VJ recorded these tetrads together. Yellow was the dominant colour, displayed by *Diplotaxis tenuifolia* (Perennial Wall-Rocket), *Blackstonia perfoliata* (Yellow-wort), *Pastinaca sativa* (Wild Parsnip), *Hirschfeldia incana* (Hoary Mustard), *Inula conyzae* (Ploughman's Spikenard), *Sisymbrium orientale* (Eastern Rocket), *Sisymbrium altissimum* (Tall Rocket), *Picris hieracioides* (Hawkweed Ox-tongue), two lettuces *Lactuca serriola* and *L. virosa* and two melilots *Melilotus altissimus* and *M. officinalis*. It was easy to pick out at a distance the yellow and lemon colour respectively of the latter two plants. Two particular special yellow-flowered plants were a few *Verbascum phlomoides* (Orange Mullein) and the occasional patch of *Clematis tangutica* (Orange-peel Clematis). Orange Mullein was a new Vice-county record. Abundant hawkweeds enhanced the yellow picture. *Hieracium vulgatum* was widespread, manifest in 4 forms:- the common *f. vulgatum* and the much rarer *f. subfasciculare*, *f. sejunctum* and *f. pseudosubbramosum*. The latter form favours calcareous soils and was locally frequent. Other members of section *Vulgata* were rarely *H. anglorum* and more commonly its nationally rarer ally *H. daedalolepioides*, as well as *H. argillaceum* and its very rare ally *H. aviicola* (one plant only found). *H. eboracense* was occasional and an undescribed close relative in section *Tridendata* was abundant in wide areas of the South Gare. The latter differs from *H. eboracense* in its brighter green shiny leaves, yellow styles and an absence of fimbriate-dentate margins of the receptacle pits. *H. grandidens*, in section *Hieracium*, was surprisingly rare, but was locally common in Wilton Works and there was a good patch by the Fleet in Corus land at Redcar Works. There were several members of the late-flowering section *Sabauda*:- *H. sabaudum*, in both forms *f. sabandum* and *f. bladonii*, and *H. vagum* were locally frequent. *H. salticola* was locally abundant and its close ally *H. prominentidens* was very occasionally found growing with it. Particularly pleasing was to find several plants of *H. umbellatum* ssp. *umbellatum* var. *umbellatum* by the side of the river Tees

east of the Riverside Stadium. Other colours were given by *Medicago sativa* ssp. *sativa* (Lucerne), which was locally common ranging from white through different shades of blue to deep purple. *Melilotus albus* (White Melilot), *Cichorium intybus* (Chicory) and *Erigeron acer* (Blue Fleabane) added similar shades. The delicate pink *Vicia tetrasperma* (Smooth Tare) was found several times in grassy places, *Onobrychis viciifolia* (Sainfoin) was occasional and *Securigera varia* (Crown Vetch) was a wonderful sight for over 200 m. at the edge of the Black Path just east of South Bank Station. Indeed wasteland near the station was particularly rich in botanical diversity and colour. A particularly important discovery was made by I.C. Lawrence, – a plant of *Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort), a new V.-c. record, by the Black path west of where it joins the Trunk Road near Redcar. This is a plant that is on its march northwards. VJ had previously seen it no further north than Norfolk but it has recently been reported at Aberdeen. Coincidentally WAT and VJ found another single plant on a road verge at Alne a few days later.

Rare grasses featured well generally in 2007 recording. *Puccinellia rupestris* (Stiff Saltmarsh-grass) was located in several places by road verges in Wilton Works and by Dabholme Gut. At two sites it was locally abundant. This was particularly pleasing as the grass has not been seen for many years at its only previously known locality at Coatham Marsh. It was also pleasing to find several plants of *Bromus hordeaceus* ssp. *thominei* (Soft Brome) in one small area of wasteland in the Corus Works at Redcar, as well as *Poa angustifolia* (Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass) on a waste heap in the bus park at the Riverside Stadium and more abundantly in wasteland just south of the railway near by. Neither of these two grasses was new to the vice county but both had previously been recorded dubiously. *Poa compressa* (Flattened Meadow-grass), always in its more unusual form with a stiff inflorescence, was discovered in several places on railway ash near South Bank, on the Tees embankment and Middlesbrough Dock and in industrial wasteland at the Grangetown Corus site. I am grateful to A. Copping for confirmation of the identification of the above grasses.

The South Gare is well known to local botanists. Five clumps of *Seriphidium maritimum* (Sea Wormwood) were located on the western sea wall of the breakwater near the lighthouse and *Sagina maritima* (Sea Pearlwort) was locally common in cracks in the eastern sea wall. This is probably the most northerly plant in the V.-c. It was pleasing to find two small saltmarshes where Glasswort is still surviving. *Salicornia ramosissima* (Purple Glasswort) was found in two places in Corus land, by the Bran Sands Lagoon and in an inlet in the Tees at Tod Point. *Salicornia fragilis* (Yellow Glasswort) and *S. europaea* (Common Glasswort), confirmed by J.K. Ferguson, were also growing amongst *S. ramosissima* in the upper saltmarsh at the latter site. *Salicornia fragilis* is a new V.-c. record. *Astrogalus danicus* (Purple Milk-vetch) was located in very small quantity in four places. *Eryngium maritimum* (Sea Holly) was thriving in the edge of the sand dunes. There were two large plants and many seedlings, but in a confined area. The wet summer had helped with the germination and survival of *Petrorhagia prolifera* (Proliferous Pink). The colony was extending and thriving well. The small marsh between the breakwater road and the golf course had abundant *Oenanthe lachenalii* (Parsley Water-dropwort) surviving well in its only known site. *Parapholis strigosa* (Sea Hard-grass) was abundant in the damp sandy area east of the

old lagoon and *Puccinellia maritima* (Common Saltmarsh-grass) was in small quantity at the two Glasswort sites detailed above. Both these grasses are now very rare in the V.-c. *Elytrigia juncea* (Sand Couch) is locally abundant at the South Gare but *Elytrigia atherica* (Sea Couch) was not relocated. However, the hybrid between Sand Couch and Common Couch, *E. x laxa* (confirmed A. Copping), is abundant immediately on the seaward side of the fisherman's huts and by Majuba Road.

Farmland

The area north of Cleveland and west of the North York Moors is intensively farmed and consequently poor botanically. However, there have been some interesting finds. *Hottonia palustris* (Water Violet), a very rare plant in the V.-c., was covering a large annulus in a dew pond at Deighton. Over 50 plants of *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* (Southern Marsh-orchid) were found by P. & R. Waterton in rough grassland by the River Leven, south of Little Ayton. This may well be the last surviving site for this orchid in the V.-c. A few plants of *Bromus racemosus* (Smooth Brome) were by a small pond south of East Rounton. This grass was also discovered in some abundance in a meadow south of Thornton-le-dale. These are the only known sites in the V.-c. *Anthemis cotula* (Stinking Chamomile), an uncommon plant in our area, was growing at the edge of an arable field near East Harlsey.

The farmland in the south-west of the V.-c. is different in nature from that in the north-west. The soils are sandy, as part of the flood plain of the major rivers – the Swale, Ure and Ouse – and consequently, at least intermittently, have a much richer arable flora. *Geranium pusillum* (Small-flowered Crane's-bill), *Spergula arvensis* (Corn Spurrey) and *Matricaria recutita* (Scented Mayweed) are all common. *Euphorbia exigua* (Least Spurge), *Silene noctiflora* (Night-flowering Catchfly) and *Nicandra physalodes* (Apple-of-Peru) have been found occasionally. *Scandix pecten-veneris* (Shepherd's Needle) was found by N. Sykes and C. Wilson in arable near Appleton-le-moor. VJ was particularly pleased to re-find *Lamium confertum* (Northern Dead-nettle) at its site near Ingleby Greenhow. It has put in erratic appearances since discovered in 1984, but hasn't been seen for a number of years. The nationally scarce grass, *Bromus secalinus* (Rye Brome) is turning out to be surprisingly common. It has been found in several tetrads, reaching as far north as the old Cleveland area. Another arable grass proving commoner than expected is *Anisantha diandra* (Great Brome). *Alopecurus myosuroides* (Black Twitch), previously rare in the north of England is now, in some places, becoming an arable pest. Three species of Canary-grass (not new to the V.-c., but each had only one previous hectad record) have been discovered. *Phalaris aquatica* (Bulbous Canary-grass) in abundance near Alne, growing in set-aside grass at the edge of arable, *Phalaris paradoxa* (Awned Canary-grass) in quantity in set-aside grass near Tollerton and one plant of *Phalaris minor* (Lesser Canary-grass) in arable near Slingsby.

Polypogon monspeliensis (Annual Beard-grass) was also in arable at Tollerton and *Bromus inermis* (Hungarian Brome) on a road verge near Alne. We are grateful to A. Copping for confirmation of the identification of the *Phalaris* and *Polypogon*.

Strensall Common

Please see the report of the CNFC outing elsewhere in these Proceedings.

Halophytes along road verges

Cochlearia danica (Danish Scurvygrass), *Spergularia marina* (Lesser Sea-spurrey) and *Puccinellia distans* (Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass) are all abundant, the latter two especially also appearing on rural roads. *Atriplex littoralis* (Grass-leaved Orache) is common and *Plantago coronopus* (Buck's-horn Plantain) and *Catapodium marinum* (Sea Fern-grass) are occasional. *Sagina maritima* (Sea Pearlwort) has been found on two roads.

Other interesting finds.

Cuscuta epithymum (Common Dodder) was found growing in abundance on a steep limestone slope on the east side of Gundale and in a small quarry above this slope were several plants of *Clinopodium acinos* (Basil Thyme). Also here were a few plants of the hawkweed *H. nemophilum*. None of these plants are known elsewhere in the Vice-county. *Allium oleraceum* (Field Garlic) occurred by a lane side near Slingsby and in Chafer Wood, north of Ebberston. *Anthriscus caucalis* (Bur Chervil) was discovered in short grassland on a low limestone ridge south of Slingsby. *Carex acuta* (Slender Tufted-sedge) was located in a few sites by, and near, the River Derwent. A single plant of *Arctium lappa* (Greater Burdock) was by the road verge between Alne and Tollerton.

Aliens

VJ and WAT especially have recorded aliens (self-sown or bird-sown casuals, established garden escapes and introduced plants naturally regenerating) from urban situations. We have visited Northallerton, Thirsk, Easingwold, Malton, Scarborough and York. The former four have been thoroughly covered, but there is much work to do in the latter two. Villages too are often a rich source of aliens. A wealth of aliens has been found, many new Vice-county records, but I have decided not to include details of these plants in this article. Almost all botanists reading this article probably adopt the purist's approach and consider anything originating from a garden is to be ignored. May I make a plea for the pleasures of urban botany. In recent years the BSBI has tried to encourage botanists to record alien plants. They are on the increase and form part of the rich tapestry of botany!

We should like to thank all those people who submitted botanical records in 2007. Your help and often your company are much appreciated. Good hunting in 2008.

A Comparison of Dune and Quarry Habitats of *Helicella itala* (Heath Snail) in County Durham

Malcolm Birtle

Helicella itala is a terrestrial snail that was once common in Durham and Northumberland but is now confined to a small number of discrete sites in Durham and may be extinct in Northumberland. No recent records have been made, or found, from Northumberland.

Sites in Durham fall into two types

1. Disused magnesian limestone quarries
2. Sand Dunes

This brief study examined a colony in each habitat type. The intention was to discover any similarities and differences in habitat preference that might point to reasons why this snail is in decline in north-east England.

The sites examined were Bishop Middleham Quarry and North Gare Dunes.

Bishop Middleham Quarry Nature Reserve

The colony here is relatively large in comparison to the total area of the reserve. The snail can be found along the northern rim of the quarry and virtually the whole quarry floor that is not covered in trees or scrub. There seems to be a concentration of numbers in the north east corner of the quarry.

The snail is unfailing in its preference for the shortest, thinnest vegetation adjacent to areas of bare rock. The map of the colony mirrors the distribution of that micro-habitat. It seems to be completely intolerant of any coarser



sward or thick moss. It is also completely absent from any areas with scrub or trees. The quarry has provided a refuge for this micro-habitat which has been eliminated from the wider landscape by agricultural intensification and other developments.

Distribution of *H. itala* in Bishop Middleham Quarry Nature Reserve

North Gare

The intention of this study was to compare two colonies of roughly the same size in two different habitats. As at Bishop Middleham the colony at North Gare occupies a micro-habitat consisting of the shortest, thinnest vegetation which is found between the golf course and the sand dunes themselves. The snail does not seem to tolerate any scrub cover or raw sand at this site. Unfortunately, the colony at North Gare has been nearly wiped out. When the site was previously examined in 2000 It was described as follows-

“.....H. itala is abundant here north of the Gare, but in a restricted zone between the Golf Course and the sand dunes proper. The zone roughly follows the line of old tank traps towards Seaton Carew.....”

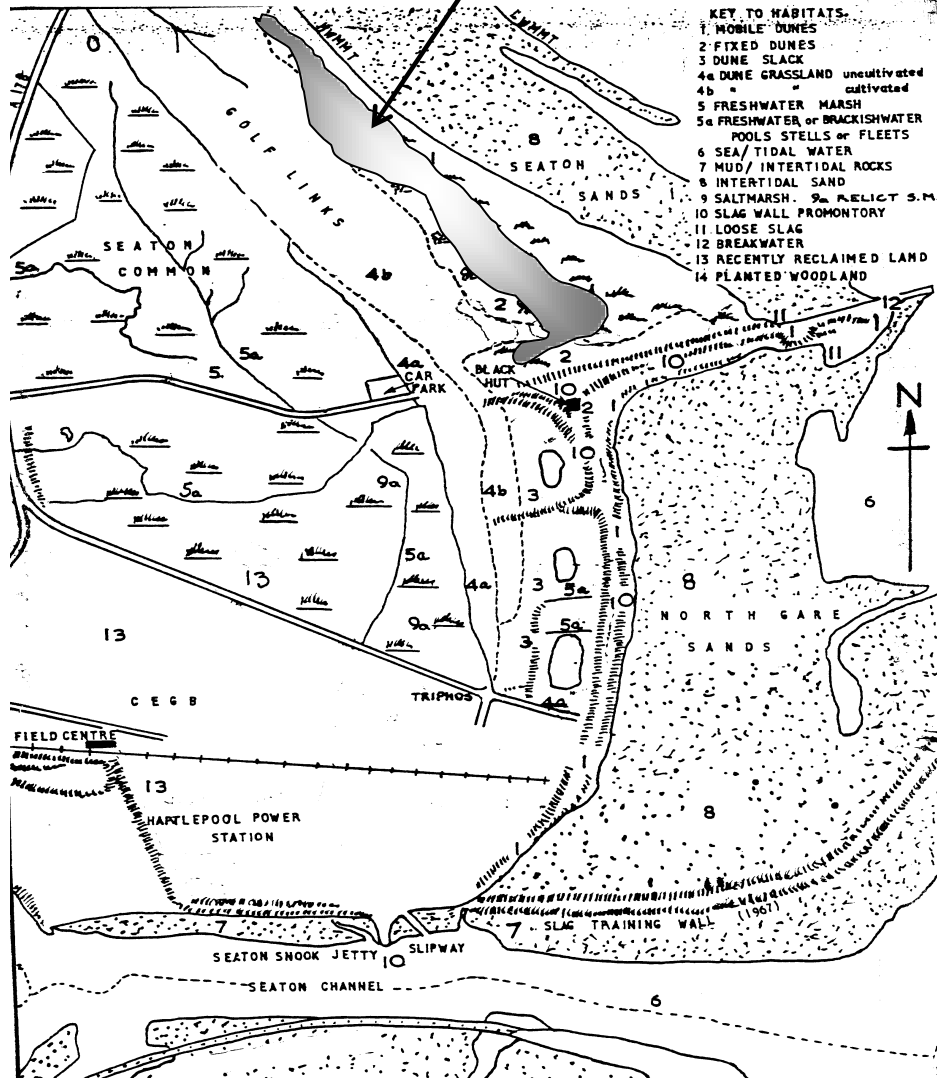
[Record of Proceedings 2000, Vol. 7 Part 2]]

Since then the golf course has expanded destroying parts of the dune system containing the colony and the coverage of Sea Buckthorn has increased. The colony is now a very small fraction of what it was. The micro-habitat it seems to require is being squeezed out between the golf course, Buckthorn and the dunes. The process of extinction is being played out at North Gare.

(The Northumbrian dune systems also have extensive golf course developments. Perhaps that is why the snail cannot be found in that area?)

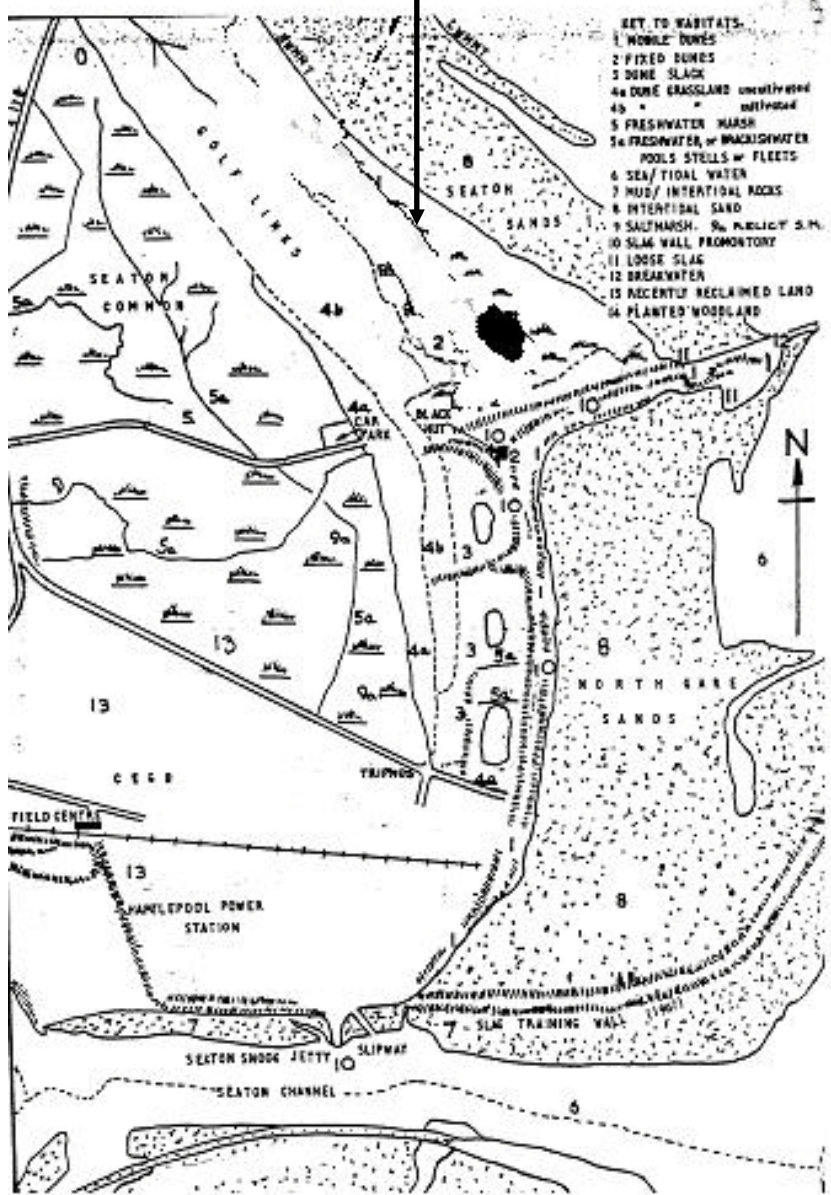
There seems to be little doubt about why this snail has declined and continues to decline in north-east England. It requires a microhabitat that is becoming impossible to find due to agricultural intensification, land reclamation, invasive and successional vegetation, and leisure developments.

Distribution of *H. itala* at North Gare 2000



Distribution of *H. itala* at North Gare in 2000

Distribution of *H. itala* at North Gare



Distribution of *H. itala* at North Gare in 2007

A Rough Guide to Female and Queen Social Wasps

Malcolm Birtle

The following is a rough field guide to female and queen social wasps. Some species are recent arrivals in the British Isles and seem to be spreading. National distribution maps can be found at the National Biodiversity Network website at <http://www.searchnbn.net/>. These maps indicate that it is possible that any of the species described here could turn up in our patch.

Queen social wasps hibernate alone over winter and appear in late winter or early spring depending on the weather to form colonies.

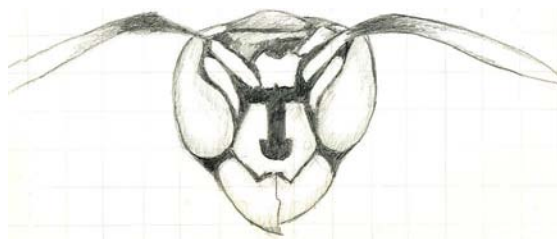
Later in the spring the female workers appear to forage for food for the new generation of wasps and the queen. This food generally consists of other insects

In the late summer the males appear. Males and females can be recognised by the number of segments forming the antenna (13 in males, 12 in females). Male social wasps cannot be identified on easily viewed field characteristics.

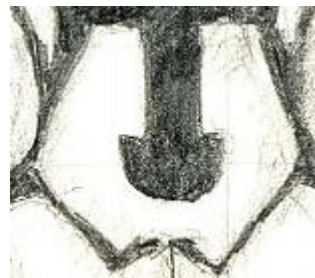
Adult social wasps feed on nectar and any other sweet materials e.g. jam, cider, fruit, beer. They become a nuisance later in the year as sources of sugar and nectar start to disappear and workers and males begin to starve. At this point they can become very aggressive when seeking a food source.

Social wasps should not be handled due to the risk of allergic reaction if stung. People die every year as a result of encounters with these insects. The field characteristics can be examined from a safe distance when the insects are on flower heads.

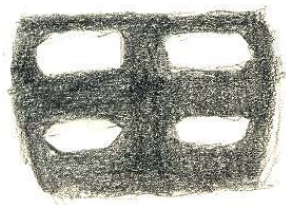
Common Wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*)



Anchor on face.

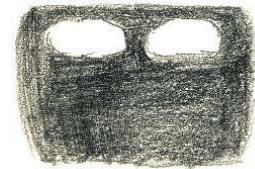
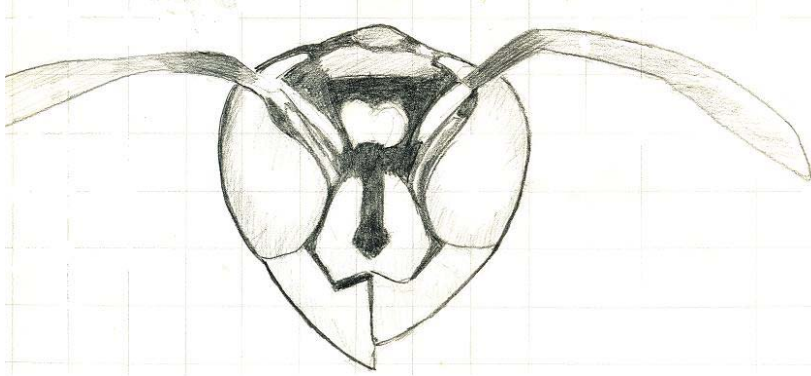


Number of yellow spots on thorax distinguishes Common (*vulgaris*)-4 spots- from Red (*rufa*) -2 spots.



Very common. The most likely social wasp to be encountered. Nests are subterranean, in trees and shrubs, birds nests, and also in buildings.

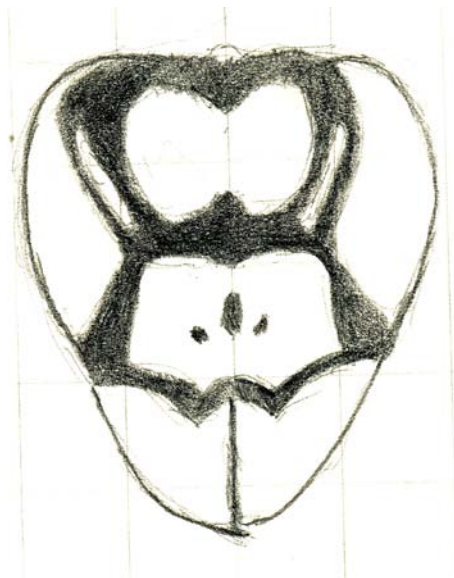
Red Wasp (*Vespula rufa*)



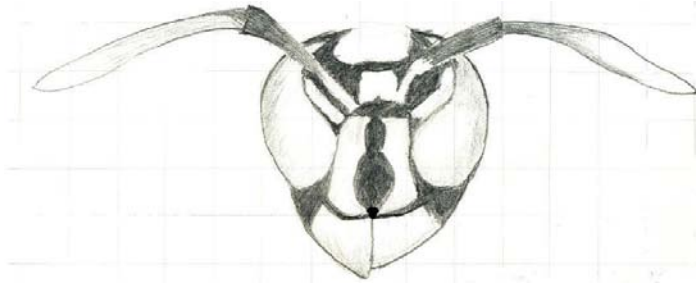
2 yellow spots on thorax

A less aggressive rural species which is rarely a nuisance and consequently infrequently noticed. Reddish around black bands on the abdomen. Nests are subterranean, under moss on dry banks, in cup-shaped hollows in the ground suspended from grass roots.. This species is host to the Cuckoo Wasp (*Vespula austriaca*) which resembles *rufa* but lacks the reddish colouration and has three small spots on the face instead of an 'anchor'. The Cuckoo kills the *rufa* queen and takes over the nest. The *rufa* workers then feed the Cuckoo offspring.

Cuckoo Wasp (*Vespula austriaca*)

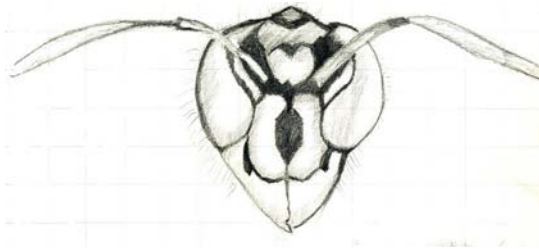


Norwegian Wasp (*Dolichovespula norvegica*)



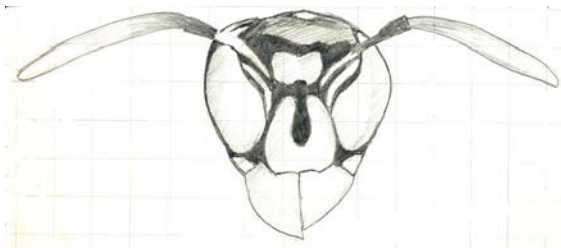
Face split by black bar. Thorax with 2 yellow spots at rear. Nests are built hanging from branches of trees and shrubs.

Saxon Wasp (*Dolichovespula saxonica*)



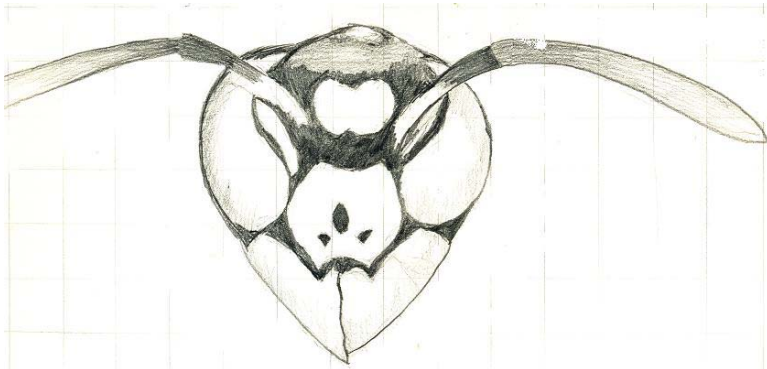
A recent immigrant from the continent, which has spread to northern England. Nests are built hanging from branches of trees and shrubs.

French Wasp (*Dolichovespula media*)



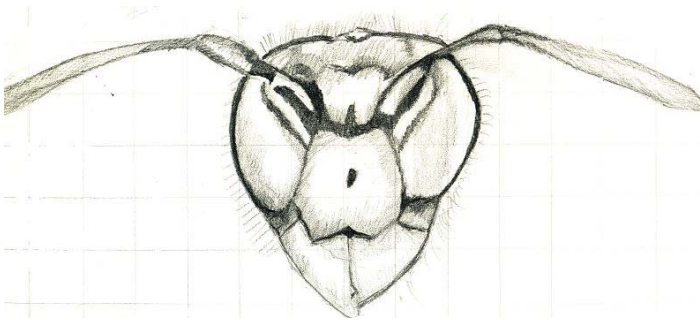
Thorax with 4 yellow spots at rear. A recent immigrant from the continent, which has spread to northern England. Nests are built hanging from branches of trees and shrubs.

German Wasp (*Vespula germanica*)



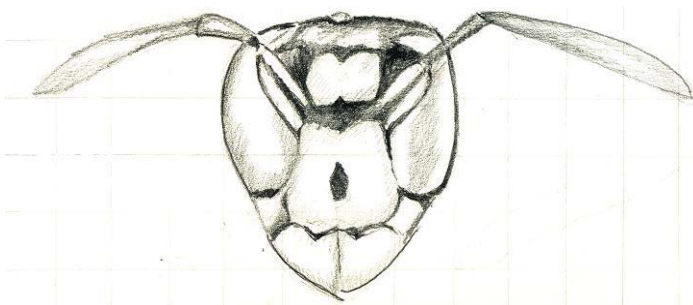
Nests are subterranean, in trees and shrubs but also in buildings.

Tree Wasp (*Dolichovespula sylvestris*)



Nests are subterranean or in trees.

(*Dolichovespula adulterina*)



A cuckoo wasp exploiting the Saxon Wasp (*Dolichovespula saxonica*).

A Rough Field Key

Very large with yellow head-Hornet

1	Face with one or more spots or no mark	2
	Face without spot. With anchor or black bar	3
2	Face with 3 spots	6
	Face with 1 spot or no mark	no mark -Tree Wasp 1 spot -Tree Wasp or very small possibility of <i>adulterina</i>
3	Two spots on thorax	5
	Four spots on thorax	4
4	Face with black anchor shape, antenna black at base.	Common (<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>)
	Face with slim black bar shape, antenna yellow at base.	French Wasp (<i>Dolichovespula media</i>)
5	Very small gap between eye and mandible (jaws). Antenna yellow at base.	Norwegian (<i>Dolichovespula norvegica</i>), Saxon (<i>Dolichovespula saxonica</i>). Very difficult to distinguish.
	Significant gap between eye and mandible (jaws). Antenna black at base.	Red (<i>Vespula rufa</i>)
6	Black hairs on abdominal segment adjacent to thorax	Cuckoo Wasp (<i>Vespula austriaca</i>)
	White or pale golden hairs on abdominal segment adjacent to thorax	German Wasp (<i>Vespula germanica</i>)

Field Meetings 2008

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 areas we visit.

by the President

Saturday, 15th March, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616
GR NZ781185. **Roxby Woods.** Meet in the car park at Staithes. A walk of about 6 miles with some climbing.

Saturday, 5th April, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235
GR SE224806. **Masham.** Meet in the market place. An easy walk of about 5 miles. Bring binoculars if possible. We may visit Nosterfield Nature Reserve if time permits.

Saturday, 19th April, 10:30 am, leader Vincent Jones ☎ 01642 722814
GR NZ784055. **East Arnecliff Wood.** Meet under the railway arch in Glaisdale. A walk of about 5 miles, with shorter options. Some climbing involved.

Wednesday, 7th May, 6:30 pm, leader Alan Bunn ☎ 01287 633404
GR NZ584153. **Pinchinthorpe.** Meet in the Information Centre car park. An easy walk along the old railway and in Guisborough Woods.

Sunday, 11th May, 10:30 am, leaders Joan Bradbury and Norma Pagdin ☎ 01429 268416
GR NY856406. **Weardale.** From A689 in Cowshill village, turn right just before the bridge (and before Cowshill Hotel) up a minor road to a wide gravel parking area. A walk of about 6½ miles with a gentle climb.

Sunday, 18th May, 10:30 am, leader Vic Fairbrother ☎ 01287 633744
GR SD926783. **Hubberholme.** Meet near the church in the village. A fairly easy walk of about 5 miles.

Wednesday, 21st May, 6:30 pm, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380
GR NZ778188. **Cowbar and Dalehouses.** Meet in the car park near the cliff top just off Cowbar Lane. An easy walk.

Wednesday, 28th May, 10:30 am, leader Brian Walker
☎ 01642 722814 (Vincent Jones)
GR SE587797. **Pry Rigg.** Meet by the gate on the road between Ampleforth and Tom Smith's Cross. We shall then travel in convoy. We shall visit sites not accessible to the public.

Wednesday, 4th June, 10:30 am, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547
GR SD900627. **Malhamdale.** Meet in Malham village. A spectacular walk of about 8 miles with some climbing, which will be taken steadily. We will visit Janet's Foss, Gordale Scar, Malham Tarn and Tarn Moss, and Malham Cove.

Sunday, 8th June, 11:00 am, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 649938
GR NZ437479. **Blast Beach and Hawthorn Hive.** Meet at Blast Beach car park, Seaham (Noses Point). A walk of about 5 miles, with an optional steep climb in and out of Hive, otherwise an easy walk.

Wednesday, 11th June, 1:30 pm, leaders Jo Scott and Linda Peace ☎ 01642 785413
GR NZ332337. **Bishop Middleham Quarry.** Meet on the minor road verge opposite the reserve entrance. There is room for a few cars here. Otherwise, park in the village and walk to the meeting place.

Wednesday, 18th June, 10:30 am, leader Anne Pritchard ☎ 01287 632981
GR NZ888036. **Littlebeck.** Meet at Falling Foss car park. A walk of about 4 miles with some climbing.

Sunday, 29th June, 10:30 am, leader Steve Farish ☎ 01287 650948
GR NZ802162. **Runswick Bay.** Meet in the car park opposite the Runswick Bay Hotel. A walk of about 4 miles with one steep climb from the beach to the cliff top.

Wednesday, 2nd July, 10:30 am, leaders Peter and Ruth Waterton ☎ 01642 724270
GR SE609903. **Bransdale.** Meet just north of Cowhouse Bank Farm at the ford and footbridge indicated on the map. A walk of about 6½ miles with no steep ascents, which can be shortened if desired.

Sunday, 13th July, 10:30 am, leader Norman Thompson ☎ 01642 316204
GR SE536882. **Caydale Mill.** Meet at Murton Grange. A walk of about 5 miles, mostly on cart tracks.

Wednesday, 16th July, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235
GR SE964944. **Whisperdale.** Meet at Reasty Hill Top car park. A walk of about 6 miles with some gentle climbs.

Wednesday, 23rd July, 6:30 pm, leader Alan Bunn ☎ 01287 633404
GR NZ552168. **Flatts Lane.** Meet in the outer car park of Flatts Lane Country Park. An easy walk.

Sunday, 27th July, 10:30 am, leader Vic Fairbrother ☎ 01287 633744
GR SE047813. **Coverdale.** Meet near the Thwaite Arms in Horsehouse. A moorside and riverside walk of about 6½ miles.

Wednesday, 30th July, 6:30 pm, leader Andrew Ferguson ☎ 01642 311831
GR NZ666217. **Hazel Grove, Saltburn.** Meet outside Saltburn Pier. An easy walk with a little climbing.

Wednesday, 6th August, 10:30 am, leader Martin Allen ☎ 01642 576295
GR NZ712159. **Liverton.** Meet at the road junction in the village. An easy walk.

Saturday, 9th August, 10:30 am, leader John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815
GR SE543894. **Hawnby Estate.** This is the YNU VC 62 meeting. Meet in the car park behind the village hall in the lower part of Hawnby (on the left past the post office).

Sunday, 17th August, 11:00 am, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 649938
GR NZ115243. **Cockfield and Evenwood.** Meet in Hollymoor car park. An easy walk of about 5 miles on field paths, a lane and old railway.

Sunday, 31st August, 10:30 am, leader Alick Hunter ☎ 01751 477708
GR SE635857. **Riccal Dale.** Meet near Low Farm, Pockley. A walk of about 5 miles with some climbing.

Wednesday, 10th September, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616
GR NZ688081. **Castleton and Comondale.** Meet in Castleton near the road junction. A fairly easy walk of about 5 miles.

Saturday, 20th September, 10:30 am, leader Judy Dinwiddie ☎ 01845 537340
GR SE583752. **Yearsley Moor.** Meet on a 'ride' just north of the junction from Newborough Priory towards Ampleforth. A gentle walk with a fungi focus.

Sunday, 5th October, 10:30 am, leader Tom Kirby ☎ 01642 722814 (Vincent Jones)
GR NZ572195. **Lazenby Bank.** Meet in the car park on the south side of the A174. This is a fungus foray. Any climbing will be done very slowly.

Saturday, 18th October, 10:30 am, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547
GR NZ828053. **Grosmont to Goathland Rail Trail.** Meet in the viewing area by Grosmont level crossing. A return walk of about 8 miles, mostly along the easy rail trail from Grosmont to Goathland, but with a few diversions on the way for added interest.

Saturday, 1st November, 10:30 am, leader Andy Astbury ☎ 01642 823114
GR SE614836. **Helmsley to Harome and Sproxton.** Meet by the stone bridge over the river Rye at the south end of Helmsley. A walk of about 10 miles on mostly level terrain.

Meetings Of The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union
Details are available from John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815.

Websites

Members with access to the world wide web will find the following sites of interest. These sites contain excellent links to many other sites with a natural history theme.

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

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

<http://www.the-vasculum.com>. <http://www.communicate.co.uk/ne/dtnfc>

<http://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk/>

<http://www.botanicalkeys.co.uk/northumbria/index.asp>

<http://www.durhamwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

<http://www.nwt.org.uk/>

<http://www.teemouthbc.com/>

<http://www.durhambirdclub.org/>

<http://www.vc66.co.uk/mothweb/main.htm>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/northeastmoths>

<http://www.northumberland-national-park.org.uk/VisitorGuide/default.htm>

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/durhamcc/usp.nsf/pws/Ncs+->

[+Nature+Conservation+Sites](#)

<http://www.northpennines.org.uk/index.cfm>

<http://www.aviabird.net/birding/index.htm>

<http://www.ynu.org.uk>

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/>

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

<http://www.durhambiodiversity.org.uk/index.html>

