

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS'

FIELD CLUB



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Volume 11 Part 4

Spring 2018

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THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2017-2018

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Web Master	Paul Forster, Mark Stokeld

The immediate past president. Vic Fairbrother.

Ordinary members. Paul Forster, Tony Wardhaugh.

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 are a series of meetings held in the Nunthorpe Institute, The Avenue, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough. If you have any difficulty getting to this venue, please speak to any committee member and we will see if we can arrange a lift for you. A meeting usually takes the form of a lecture given by a club member or visiting speaker. The annual subscription is £8.

Members are entitled to attend meetings of two affiliated organisations:

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

Details are available from Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235, and our web site <http://clevelandnats.org.uk/>

Presidents Address

Many thanks to all the officers of the Club and all members that have contributed to activities and publications throughout the year.

We have had a complete and very interesting series of indoor meetings in the Winter of 2017-18. The 2017 Summer programme was as extensive as we have come to expect. We discovered a number of interesting species, explored new places and enjoyed good weather for the most part. The club submitted nearly a thousand biological records to the appropriate record centres as a result of our field studies.

Joint meetings with other groups and societies were again a notable feature of our programme and I believe the Club benefits greatly through meeting people active in different areas and with specialist knowledge. We anticipate further joint meetings in 2018.

The Club and individual members have contributed to conservation projects including Capturing the Coast organised by a collaboration of academic and conservation bodies, The Green Spaces Project organised by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, various projects organised by the RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology and the Cold Blooded and Spineless Project (North Pennines AONB). The Club also had an exhibition at the North east Recorders Conference at Preston Park.

An issue of the Proceedings has been produced for 2017 and will appear on the web site in due course. Many thanks to all contributors and I would encourage members to contribute to the Proceedings and web site as they are now the primary public face of the Club. The Club regularly receives feedback and enquiries regarding the content of the Proceedings and web site.

The Club records the sad loss of four members this year. Jean Collier, David Smith, Vivian Blundell and Jack Marshall were all valued members of the Club.

It is very important to realise that the Club is the members, and all the achievements of the Club are achievements of all the members. We can congratulate ourselves on another successful year and let us look forward to a stimulating and active 2018.

Acknowledgements to Contributors

So many people contribute in various ways to the 'Proceedings' it seems a little unfair to pick people out- so, many thanks to all contributors. Please remember Malcolm Birtle (m_birtle@hotmail.com) will accept any contributions that can include scientific articles, records, historical or biographical articles, poems, artwork, in fact anything which documents or celebrates natural history in Cleveland. Contributions can be hand-written, typed or received electronically at any time of the year. The deadline for contributions in any year is the same date as the General Meeting.

Highlights of 2017 Field Meetings

Saturday, 22nd April, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto GR SE111905. Leyburn Shawl.

Seven members walked along the Shawl to Gillfield Wood and back to Leyburn. At Moor Quarry we looked for signs of *Hyoscyamus niger* (Henbane), (seen on a previous walk on 20th June 2004), but none could be found. Possibly because it was too early in the year! One member found a dead plant with a spiked seed capsule which was thought to be *Datura stramonium* (Thorn Apple). She took it home to grow the seeds and confirmed it was Thorn Apple.

There were a few butterflies about - *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip), *Parage aegeria* (Speckled Wood), *Inachis io* (Peacock).

Datura stramonium (Thornapple)



Sunday, 23rd April, 12.00pm, leader Darlington Nats (Neil Baker) GR NZ049162. Barnard Castle to Egglestone Abbey circular.

This was a joint meeting between Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club, Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club and a local botanical group. Walking downstream on the Yorkshire bank from Thorngate Bridge numerous Solitary Bees were foraging accompanied by *Nomada flava* (Cuckoo Bee). Active mines of *Halictus rubicundus*, *Andrena chrysoceles* and *Andrena haemorrhoa* were found on the riverbanks, caravan site and Demesne field. A Fever Fly was encountered at Eggleston Abbey which was *Dilophilus febrilis* or *D. humeralis*. The party then returned to cars.

Andrena chrysoceles Male



Wednesday, 3rd May, 1.30pm, leader Ian Lawrence GR NZ613249. Redcar Stray.

The afternoon was sunny and clear but with a cold wind off the sea. Consequently, there was not much activity so the interest was limited to botanical studies. However, the excursion

included a short visit to the Lily Park. Here, there was some insect activity in the shelter from the wind-particularly on *Coenanthus* blossom.

Wednesday, 10th May, 10:30 am, leaders Mark and Hazel Stokeld GR TA198739.

Bempton Cliffs.

The party walked to the cliffs and back on a fine day. Substantial time was spent watching the sea birds which were a mix of the expected species. The amount of flowering *Silene dioica* (Red Campion) was remarkable becoming almost a monoculture in places.

Perizoma alchemillata (Small Rivulet)



Saturday, 20th May, 10:30 am, leader Andy Astbury GR SE670796. Stonegrave and Caulkleys Bank.

Wednesday, 24th May, 6:30 pm, leader Malcolm Birtle GR NZ489316. Summerhill Country Park, Hartlepool.

On a warm, clear, breezy evening we met in the car park of the country park. We were joined by Russel McAndrew of Hartlepool Naturalists' Field Club. We then proceeded to walk the perimeter of the park. There was a variety of interesting flora and quite a few Red Admirals flying about. An *Agapanthia villosoviridescens* (Golden-bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle) was found. The Club has now found this recently arrived beetle in many places. It has clearly spread rapidly. The bug *Speudotettix subfuscus* was also noted.

Sunday, 28th May, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto GR SE117482. Ilkley.

Seven members and a guest walked from Ilkley Rugby Club into Middleton Woods, then east along the South side of the River Wharfe to Denton Bridge. We then walked up to Hangingstone Road and along to Cow & Calf Rocks. From there we returned to Ilkley via The Tarn.

In Middleton Woods we saw a number of *Sinodendron cylindricum* (Rhinoceros Beetle), Other insects seen on the walk included the butterflies - *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral), *Pieris napi* (Green-veined White), *P. rapae*



(Small White) and *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip), also, *Bombus hypnorum* (Tree Bumblebee) (with a nest in a tree), various Mining Bees, Mayflies, *Enallagma cyathigerum* (Common Blue Damselfly), *Rhogogaster viridis* (Sawfly) and *Propylea 14-punctata* (14 Spot Ladybird). A nymph of *Harpocera thoracica* was also found.

Birds seen included *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Willow Warbler), *Dendrocopus major* (Great Spotted Woodpecker), *Turdus viscivorus* (Mistle Thrush), *Garrulus glandarius* (Jay) and *Cinclus cinclus* (Dipper).

Plants included *Populus tremula* (Aspen), *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid) and lots of *Hesperis matronalis* (Dame's Violet) and *Caltha palustris* (Marsh Marigold).

Tadpoles were seen in The Tarn.

Sinodendron cylindricum (Rhinoceros Beetle)



Wednesday, 31st May, 6:30 pm, leader Neil Baker GR NZ463189. Tees Barrage to Newport Bridge circular.

On arrival we found a single *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid) in flower on the grass verge by Maze Lane (NZ4635.1895). Birds heard or seen during the evening included Willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*), Blackcap (*Silvia atricapilla*), Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Two Common Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) were swimming in the Tees just below the barrage. Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) and Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) were noted. On the south side of the Tees, the ground beetle *Leistus spinibarbis* and the longhorn *Agapanthia villosoviridescens* were seen (NZ4619). The ground was very dry and few molluscs were encountered: *Cornu aspersum* (Common Snail) on both sides of the Tees; *Trochulus striolatus* (Strawberry Snail), *Cepaea nemoralis* (Brown-lipped Snail) and *Cepaea hortensis* (White-lipped Snail) on the north side. Interestingly the latter two were present on the river bank in close proximity. *Ommatoiulus sabulosus* (Striped Millipede) was found on the south side of the river, and the widespread and common centipede *Lithobius forficatus* on the north side.

At a water treatment structure on the north bank was a plant thought to be *Euonymus europaea* (Spindle) or *Cornus sanguinea* (Dogwood) which seemed to have been extensively galled to the extent of making it unrecognisable. Unfortunately, the plant was behind security structures so could not be closely examined. The gall or deformity may be an example of Phyllody, which is abnormal development of floral parts into leafy structures.



Wednesday, 7th June, 6:30 pm, leader Eric Gendle GR SE569920. Birch Wood, Bilsdale.

A small party enjoyed a pleasant evening walk exploring a small part of this extensive semi natural woodland. The range of species was surprising and it was felt that at least one full day walk in 2018 should be arranged

PLANTS *Corylus avellana* (Hazel), *Geranium robertianum* (Herb-Robert), *Mercurialis perennis* (Dogs Mercury), *Cruciata laevipes* (Crosswort / Maywort), *Ajuga reptans* (Bugle), *Elytrigia juncea* (Sand Couch), *Urtica dioica* (Common Nettle / Stinging Nettle), *Conopodium majus* (Pignut), *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebell / Wild Hyacinth), *Oxalis acetosella* (Wood-sorrel), *Lonicera periclymenum* (Honeysuckle), *Melampyrum pratense* (Common Cow-wheat), *Potentilla erecta* (Tormentil), *Digitalis purpurea* (Foxglove), *Lysimachia nemorum* (Yellow Pimpernel), *Silene dioica* (Red Champion), *Vicia sativa subsp. sativa* (Common Vetch), *Cerastium claviculata* (Climbing Corydalis), *Stellaria holostea* (Greater Stitchwort), *Stachys sylvatica* (Hedge Woundwort), *Cirsium palustre* (Marsh Thistle), *Cirsium arvense* (Creeping Thistle), *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (Bramble / Blackberry), *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted-orchid), *Galium aparine* (Cleavers / Goosegrass),



Geum urbanum (Herb Bennet / Wood Avens), *Rumex obtusifolius* (Broad-leaved Dock), *Rubus idaeus* (Raspberry), *Heracleum sphondylium* (Hogweed / Cow Parsnip / Keck)

FERNS *Dryopteris filix-mas* (Male Fern), *Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken / Brake), *Dryopteris dilatata* (Broad Buckler-fern / Common Buckler-fern), *Blechnum spicant* (Hard Fern)

TREES *Sambucus nigra* (Elder), *Ilex aquifolium* (Holly), *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore), *Salix caprea* (Goat Willow / Pussy Willow), *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder), *Prunus padus* (Bird Cherry), *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak / Common Oak), *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash), *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch), *Prunus padus* (Bird Cherry), *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak / Common Oak)

FUNGI *Pleurotus ostreatus* (Oyster Mushroom), *Piptoporus betulinus* (Birch Polypore / Razorstrop Fungus), *Hypholoma fasciculare* (Sulphur Tuft), *Auricularia auricula-judae* (Jelly Ear), *Phallus impudicus* (Stinkhorn), *Trametes versicolor* (Turkeytail), *Fomes fomentarius* (Hoof Fungus / Tinder Bracket)

INSECTS *Phytomyza ilicis* (Holly Leaf Miner), *Pentatoma rufipes* (Red-legged Shieldbug), *Pyrochroa coccinea* (Cardinal Beetle), *Cercopis vulnerata* (Froghopper), *Hepialus hecta* (Gold Swift), *Melanippe montanata* (Silver Ground Carpet), *Jodis lactearia* (Little Emerald),

BIRDS *Dendrocopos major* (Great Spotted Woodpecker), *Troglodytes troglodytes* (Wren), *Scolopax rusticola* (Woodcock), *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Willow Warbler), *Phylloscopus collybita* (Chiffchaff), *Numenius arquata* (Curlew), *Aegithalos caudatus* (Long tailed Tit), *Corvus monedula* (Jackdaw)

LICHENS *Arthonia radiata*, *Cladonia polydactyla*, *Evernia prunastri*, *Fucidea lightfootii*, *Hypogymnia physodes*, *Lecanactis abientina*, *Lecanora chlarotera*, *Melanelixia subaurifera*, *parmelia saxatilis*, *Parmelia sulcate*, *Physcia adscendens*, *Physcia tenella*, *Xanthoria parientina*

MOSESSES *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichastrum formosum*, *Artrichum undulatum*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Plagiothecium undulatum*

GALLS *Phytoptus avellanae*

MAMMALS *Mus musculus* (House mouse), *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (Rabbit)

Campaea margaritaria (Light Emerald)



Saturday, 10th June, 10:30 am, leader Daphne Aplin GR NZ454228. Billingham Beck Valley Country Park.

A wet morning started with finding the maggot-like larvum of a Hoverfly (which doesn't have a head or any legs) moving "leech like" in search of aphids in the vegetation of the car park. Five intrepid souls set out to explore the Beck Valley. David Laing gave us a splendid description of how the landscape had been altered by the making of the Park. Since the weather was so poor we decided to explore an area that David calls "Coal Yards" and "Flecks Acre" that used to be I.C.I. land but, in the event, we only had time for one part of it. (Hopefully the rest for another day). Fortunately the rain eased and the route took in a grazed area to the north of Fleet Ponds where there was a good collection of orchids alongside the access path to the footbridge to "The Ranklers". *Reseda lutea* (Mignonette), *Reseda luteola* (Weld) and a St. John's-wort were also in the calcicole mix. Neil drew our attention to the mechanical "reel" of a *Locustella naevia* (Grasshopper Warbler). We stopped for lunch by Billingham Mill channel and turned back after viewing a relict piece of Saltmarsh where it was very evident that the horses enjoyed browsing on the Saltmarsh grass. We saw *Beta vulgaris* (Sea Beet) and Samphire. It would be worth a return visit later in the year to see *Aster tripolium* (Sea Aster) and *Triglochin maritima* (Arrowgrass). Jo heard an *Alauda arvensis* (Skylark) singing over Scott's tip. We were also treated to the sight of about 20 *Delichon urbica* (House Martins) and a *Hirundo rustica* (Swallow) hawking probably for aphids blown from *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore) near Rankler's footbridge. To save returning via the busy A19 slip road we cut across the field to Imperial Road and walked back to the car park.

David's list of birds heard/seen

Ardea cinerea (Grey Heron), *Sylvia communis* (Whitethroat), *Sylvia atricapilla* (Blackcap), *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Willow Warbler), *Apus apus* (Swift), *Sturnus vulgaris* (Starling), *Corvus monedula* (Jackdaw), *Phylloscopus collybita* (Chiffchaff), *Locustella naevia* (Grasshopper Warbler), *Delichon urbica* (House Martin), a single *Hirundo rustica* (Swallow), *Alauda arvensis* (Skylark) and *Accipiter nisus* (Sparrowhawk).

Wednesday, 14th June, 10:30 am, leaders Peter and Ruth Waterton GR SE427974. Ellerbeck area.

A small party of 6 members enjoyed an interesting walk around the Ellerbeck area taking in a variety of habitats and the former sites of two medieval castles. This walk had been proposed by Peter and Ruth Waterton, but they were unable to lead it due to a foot injury to Ruth. The walk, which followed Ruth's guide notes, involved a mixture of minor roadside edges, farm tracks, some woodland and woodland edge paths, and some overgrown streamside edges. Butterflies seen included *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlet), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip), *Pararge aegeria* (Speckled Wood), *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral). Moths include several *Melanippe montanata* (Silver Ground Carpets), many *Odezia atrata* (Chimney Sweepers) and a *Eurrhynx hortulata* (Small Magpie). A *Calopteryx splendens* (Banded Demoiselle) was one of the highlights of the day. Several *Alauda arvensis* (Skylarks) sang high above us whilst *Buteo buteo* (Buzzards) flew overhead and others called in the woodland. Two *Ardea cinerea* (Herons) flew off from the stream followed by several *Anas platyrhynchos* (Mallards). A well-marked *Emberiza citrinella* (Yellowhammer) perched on a hedge provided opportunities for those with a powerful telephoto lens. A range of trees were recorded including *Carpinus betulus* (Hornbeam) and a specimen of *Tilia platyphyllos* (Large Leaved Lime). A Maple with unusual rather pointed and leathery leaves could not be identified

Wednesday, 21st June, 6:30 pm, leader Vic Fairbrother GR NZ593253. Coatham Dunes.

Thirteen members met in the Majuba Road car park at the west end of Redcar and were pleased to find that the forecast thunderstorms had passed us by.

This two mile walk was part of our Club contribution to *Wildflower Walks in the Lower Tees Valley* published by the Wildflower Ark in 2007. To members the ten years seemed to have flown by but a decade in the life of the dunes is on a rather different timescale. We were interested to see what changes may have taken place.

The route was largely the same apart from an initial slight change for members' access to the Golf Club. The selection of plants described and illustrated in the guided walk were still present.

Malva sylvestris (Common Mallow), *Reseda luteola* (Weld) and *Reseda lutea* (Wild Mignonette) were again amongst the first plants noted, followed by *Galium verum* (Lady's Bedstraw). *Ononis repens* (Common Restharrow) was prominent all along the route. *Achillea millefolium* (Yarrow), *Lotus corniculatus* (Common Birdsfoot Trefoil), *Rhinanthus minor* (Yellow Rattle), *Silene latifolia* (White Campion), *Sedum acre* (Biting Stonecrop) were soon added to the list. *Ranunculus flammula* (Lesser Spearwort) was on display in the pond area. *Dactylorhiza purpurella* (Northern Marsh Orchid) was in flower at several locations and in one large hollow over 100 specimens could be seen including one or two *Gymnadenia conopsea* (Fragrant Orchid). A single *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid) was spotted by Andrew Ferguson.

The furthest point of our evening walk provided the glorious sight of dozens of *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid) scattered in the grass close to the path.

Only a small selection of flowers was included in the booklet and there were many other plants for us to enjoy in this most interesting habitat:

Potentilla reptans (Creeping Cinquefoil), *Sisymbrium officinale* (Hedge Mustard), *Artemisia vulgaris* (Common Mugwort), *Potentilla anserina* (Silverweed), *Beta vulgaris ssp maritima* (Sea Beet), *Rosa rugosa* (Japanese Rose), *Melilotus albus* (White Melilot), *Stachys sylvatica* (Hedge Woundwort), *Tragopogon pratensis* (Goatsbeard), *Geranium molle* (Dovesfoot Crane's-bill), *Geranium sanguineum* (Bloody Cranesbill), *Medicago sativa* (Lucerne),

Cichorium intybus (Chicory), *Linaria vulgaris* (Common Toadflax), *Silene vulgaris* (Bladder Champion), *Lapsana communis* (Nipplewort), *Centaureum erythraea* (Common Centaury), *Vicia cracca* (Tufted Vetch), *Smyrniolum olusatrum* (Alexanders), *Hippophae rhamnoides* (Sea Buckthorn), *Blackstonia perfoliata* (Yellow-wort), *Papaver rhoeas* (Common Poppy), *Securigera varia* (Crown Vetch). *Senecio jacobaeae* (Common Ragwort), *Thalictrum minus* (Lesser Meadow-rue). *Cakile maritima* (Sea Rocket), *Atriplex laciniata* (Frosted Orache) and *Glaux maritima* (Sea Milkwort) were located in dunes just off the path.

Insects identified included *Perizoma albulata* (Grass Rivulet), *Zygaena lonicerae* (Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet), *Camptogramma bilineata* (Yellow Shell Moth), *Philaenus spumarius* (Common Froghopper), *Cassida rubiginosa* (Tortoise Beetle) and *Tyria jacobaeae* (Cinnabar).

I am grateful to Jo Scott & Daphne Aplin for sending me additional records.

Wednesday, 28th June, 1.30pm, leader Maggie and Graeme Boyd GR NZ444228. Gravel Hole Nature Reserve.

Sunday, 2nd July, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle GR SE430307. Ledston Luck.

A party of 9 members enjoyed an exploration of this extremely rich former colliery site now transformed into a local nature reserve. Ledston Luck has a wide range of habitats including limestone grassland, rough grassland, large and small ponds and areas of scrub and woodland. The day, though pleasantly warm was marred only by a rather strong wind.

Lepidoptera sighted included *Thymelicus flavus* (Small Skipper) and *Ochlodes sylvanus* (Large Skipper), *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlet), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral), *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell) *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Small Heath) and *Polygonia c-album* (Comma). Moths included *Scotopteryx chenopodiata* (Shaded Broad Bar) and a Yellow Underwing species, which immediately fled. Damselflies, both *Enallagma cyathigerum* (Common Blue Damselfly) and *Ischnura elegans* (Bluetailed Damselfly), were abundant as were *Libellula quadrimaculata* (Four Spotted Chaser) One or more *Anax imperator* (Emperor) were observed over the large pond. Also seen were *Euptercyba jucunda* both adult and nymph, *Picromeris bidens* (Spiked Shieldbug), *Tingis cardui*, (Spear Thistle Lacebug) *Harmonia axyridis*, (Harlequin Ladybird) and *Deraeocoris ruber*.

Many birds were seen and heard. Among the more notables a *Milvus milvus* (Red Kite) and *Buteo buteo* (Buzzard) flew overhead whilst a *Falco tinnunculus* (Kestrel) nesting in a building in the car park was seen by all. *Emberiza schoeniclus* (Reed Bunting) and *Emberiza citrinella* (Yellowhammer) were calling. A *Sterna hirundo* (Common Tern) hunted over the pond, plunging frequently into the water.

Notable Orchids included *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted), *Dactylorhiza purpurella* (Northern Marsh), *Orchis praetermissa* (Southern Marsh), possibly Early Marsh and many intra specific hybrids. A wide range of the usual plants of limestone grassland were present including the uncommon *Blackstonia perfoliata* (Yellow-wort).

Trees included *Acer campestre* (Field Maple) and both *Alnus glutinosa* (Common Alder) and the rare *Alnus cordata* (Italian Alder). The Common Alder had many examples of the *Taphrina alni* (Alder Tongue Gall) bursting out of the fruiting cones.

Wednesday, 5th July, 6:30 pm, leader Jo Scott GR SE468993. Cod Beck Reservoir.

A small group of members met to do a walk around the reservoir and through the woods on a very pleasant evening. A good number of species were recorded including hundreds if not

thousands of tiny froglets which made walking along very difficult and a fallow deer ran across the path through the woods.

Plants

Persicaria amphibia (Amphibious bistort)
Pteridium aquilinum (Bracken)
Dactylorhiza fuchsii (Common spotted orchids)
Ranunculus repens (Creeping buttercup)
(Creeping corydalis)
Cruciata laevipes (Crosswort)
Digitalis purpurea (Foxglove)
Plantago major (Greater Plantain)
Galium saxatile (Heath Bedstraw)
Stachys sylvatica (Hedge Woundwort)
Geranium pyrenaicum (Hedgerow cranesbill)
Geum urbanum (Herb Bennett)
Geranium robertianum (Herb Robert)
Heracleum sphondylium (Hogweed)
Lapsana communis (Nipplewort)
Silene dioica (Red campion)
Urtica dioica (Stinging Nettle)
Potentilla erecta (Tormentil)
Torilis japonica (Upright Hedge Parsley)
Achillea millefolium (Yarrow)



Alder Tongue
Tephрина alni

Galls

Taphrina alni (Alder tongue)
Puccinia urticata (Nettle rust)
Andricus kollari (Oak Marble Galls)

Lichens

Caloplaca flavescens
Evernia prunastri
Hypogymnia physodes
Lecanora muralis
Parmelia saxatilis
Ramalina farinacea

Fungi

Coprinus lagopus (Inkcap)
Calocera pallidospathulata (Pale stagshorn)
Phallus impudicus (Stinkhorn)



Amphibious Bistort

Sunday, 9th July, 11.00am, leader Malcolm Birtle GR NZ470387. Blackhall

This meeting was held on a warm, cloudy, breezy day. We initially walked along the cliffs towards Crimdon Dene to briefly examine the small un-named dene that runs towards South Black Hall Farm. This dene contained some interesting grassland amongst the scrub. *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlet), *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Small Heath), *Thymelicus flavus* (Small Skipper), *Polyommatus icarus* (Common Blue) and *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown) were flying along with *Bombus lapidarius* (Red Tailed Bumblebee) busy amongst the flowers. *Agapanthia villosiviridescens* (Golden-bloomed Grey Longhorn) was found again. This spectacular beetle seems to have completely colonised County Durham in the last few years. We returned along the railway to the cars for lunch. In the afternoon we visited the old colliery site around Blue House Gill before returning along the cliffs. The colliery site was remarkable for the extensive flora that has developed with many interesting species. We encountered thousands of *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid)-truly the 'swarms of orchids' described by earlier authors. *Saxicola rubicola* (Stonechat) were frequent companions during the day with their distinctive pebble clacking notes.

Campanula glomerata (Clustered Bellflower)



Wednesday, 12th July, 10:30 am, leader Daphne Aplin GR NZ586250. Coatham Marsh.

Eight of us set out on a beautiful summer's day to explore this very interesting site owned by Tata Steel and managed by the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. The walk started well with Joyce Scott finding a large number of lichens on the handrail of the first boardwalk:- *Xanthoria parietina*, *Physcia adscendens*, *Lecanora polytropa*, *Micarea denigrata*, *Parmelia saxatilis*, *Melanelixia subaurifera*, *Lecanora aitema* and David Laing spotting Water Milfoil under one of the bridges. On the freshwater fleet there was *Nuphar lutea* (Yellow water-lily). The banks of the small mounds were swathed in a wide variety of grasses and colourful flowers. After lunch we spent time admiring and photographing a beautiful carpet of *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid), *Gymnadenia conopsea* (Fragrant Orchid) and *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid). Unfortunately, although it was a lovely day and there was such an array of wildflowers, it was disappointing that there was very little insect activity. We counted 10 species of butterflies but sadly none in any number. In the mud left from the dredging of the fleet where one of the boardwalks had been I found a few stunning ground beetles that looked as though they had jewels in depressions on their elytra – possibly *Elaphrus cupreus*? Malcolm encouraged us to search for shells and we found *Lymnaea stagnalis* (Great Pond Snail) and *Lymnaea peregra* (Wandering Pond Snail).

Wednesday, 19th July, 10:30 am, leader Andrew Ferguson GR NZ672165. Lingdale Meadows.

This was a cool day at first, with low cloud, dull and threatening rain which materialised for a short time. It eventually became warm and sunny. We first explored the park developed on the old spoil tip and mine site. There was a good mix of tree species typical of a landscaped site but nothing exceptional was found. We then walked to Lumpsey Mine via North Skelton, returning past East Pasture and Greenhills. The highlight was a quartering Barn Owl at Lumpsey. The mine site had an interesting mixed flora which included a pink and white naturalised Fuschia which was busy with bees and other insects.



Lumpsey Mine

Saturday, 22nd July, 10:30 am, contact Tony Wardhaugh GR NZ668216. Saltburn-by-the-Sea.

This was the YNU VC 62 meeting at Cat Nab car park. Please see YNU publications for report.

Wednesday, 26th July, 10:30 am, leader Neil Baker GR NY968234. Mickleton to Middleton circular.

Saturday, 29th July, 8.00pm, leader Paul Forster GR SE769861. Beadale Wood.
Cancelled due to bad weather.

Wednesday, 2nd August, 10:30 am, leaders Mark and Hazel Stokeld GR NY825431. Killhope lead mining area.

This was a warm, cloudy day which threatened rain when we arrived. This materialised and the day cooled noticeably. The party went underground on a guided tour of the mine. On emerging we found very little insect activity and the weather curtailed the meeting. Some Red Squirrels were seen in the adjacent woodland.

Saturday, 5th August, 11.30am, leader Malcolm Birtle GR NY989249. Eggleston Burn.
Members walked to the Burn on a warm, sunny if breezy, day. Clear views up Teesdale were admired. No notable species were found but *Oiceoptoma thoracicum* (Red-Breasted Carrion Beetle) and *Idaea arversata* (Riband Wave) were of interest. At Blackton four *Buteo buteo* (Buzzard) were soaring and duelling above a wood and attracted our attention. They were joined by a probable *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine).

Oiceoptoma thoracicum (Red-Breasted Carrion Beetle)



Wednesday, 9th August, 10:30am, leader Jo Scott GR NZ668216. Saltburn Rockpools.

This was a joint meeting with Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club. The party walked onto the rocky foreshore beneath Huntcliff and worked the pools until the incoming tide forced our return in the early afternoon.

Species reported were-

<i>Balanus balanoides</i>	Barnacle
<i>Actinia equina</i>	Beadlet Anemone
<i>Halichondria panicea</i>	Breadcrumb sponge
<i>Pholis gunnellus</i>	Butterfish
	Chiton (coat-of-mail-shell)
<i>Plocamium cartilaginium</i>	Cockscomb weed
<i>Ophiothrix fragilis</i>	Common brittlestar
<i>Corallina officinalis</i>	Coral Weed
<i>Porcellana platycheles</i>	Crab- Broad clawed porcelain
<i>Cancer pagurus</i>	Crab- Edible
<i>Pagurus bernhardus</i>	Crab- Hermit
<i>Pisidia longicornis</i>	Crab- Long clawed porcelain
<i>Carcinus maenas</i>	Crab- Shore
<i>Necora puber</i>	Crab- Velvet swimming
<i>Nucella lapillus</i>	Dog Whelk and eggs
<i>Palmaria palmata</i>	Dulse
	Gaper shells
<i>Eulalia viridis</i>	Green Leaf worm
<i>Psammechinus milaris</i>	Green sea urchin
<i>Ulva intestinalis</i>	Gutweed
<i>Tima bardii</i>	Jellyfish
<i>Porphyra sp.</i>	Laver Bread
<i>Patella sp.</i>	Limpets
<i>Laminaria digitata</i>	Oar Wrack
<i>Phyllodoce sp.</i>	Paddleworm
<i>Ceramium rubra</i>	Pincer Weed

	Pipefish
<i>Cladophera</i>	Racing Green Weed
<i>Ensis sp.</i>	Razor shells
<i>Ulva lactuca</i>	Sea Lettuce
<i>Membranipora membranacea</i>	Sea Mat
<i>Electra pilosa</i>	Sea Mat
<i>Fucus serratus</i>	Serrated Wrack
<i>Corella eumyota</i>	Solitary sea-squirt
<i>Asterias rubens</i>	Starfish
<i>Saccharina latissima</i>	Sugar Kelp
	Topshell
<i>Potamaceros triqueter</i>	Tube worms
<i>Psammechinus milaris</i>	Urchin
<i>Membranoptera alata</i>	Winged weed
	Winkles

Sunday, 13th August, 10:30 am, leader Bill Hall GR NZ945002. Jugger Howe, Fylingdales Moor.

Wednesday, 16th August, 1.30pm leader Tony Wardhaugh GR NZ617201. Errington Woods.

Invertebrate species recorded during the walk are listed in the table. Of interest are the snail species *Cochlodina laminata* (the Plaited Door Snail), *Clausilia bidentata* (the Two-toothed Door Snail) and *Merdigera obscura* (the Lesser Bulin), all of which were found near the eastern end of the wood (NZ6320) but not towards the west (NZ6220). In the Cleveland area *C. laminata* is strongly associated with old woodland sites and, to a lesser extent, so too is *Clausilia bidentata*. This suggests that the area where they occur may have been continuously wooded for some time, this in spite of extensive mining activity here in the past. Both species were seen in numbers on the trunks of Ash and Sycamore. *Merdigera obscura* seemed to occur as one small colony (NZ6362.2046) where a few individuals were found climbing on Ash trunks; it is not common in the Cleveland area.

Taxon	Scientific name	Vernacular name (if any)
Molluscs	<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	Smooth Snail
	<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>	Copse Snail
	<i>Arion distinctus</i>	Brown Soil Slug
	<i>Arion subfuscus</i>	Dusky Slug
	<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	White-lipped Snail
	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	Brown-lipped Snail
	<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	Two-toothed Door Snail
	<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	Plaited Door Snail
	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Common Snail
	<i>Deroceras invadens</i>	Tramp Slug
	<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>	Netted Field Slug
	<i>Merdigera obscura</i>	Lesser Bulin
	<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	Cellar Snail
	<i>Oxychilus draparnaudi</i>	Draparnaud's Glass Snail
	<i>Trochulus striolatus</i>	Strawberry Snail

Millipedes	<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	Pill Millipede
	<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>	Striped Millipede
	<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>	Common Flat-backed Millipede
	<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>	
Woodlice	<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	Common Shiny Woodlouse
	<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	Common Striped Woodlouse
Harvestman	<i>Leobunum rotundum</i>	
Dragonflies	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common Darter
Beetles	<i>Anatis ocellata</i>	Eyed Ladybird
	<i>Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata</i>	22-spot Ladybird
Butterflies	<i>Aglais io</i>	Peacock
	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood
	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White
	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral

Sunday, 27th August, 10:30 am, leader Andy Astbury GR SE451933. Kepwick and Cowesby.

This was a warm, sunny clear, still day when we walked from Over Silton to Nether Silton noting the Linden tree on the green. We then walked across the fields past Hall Farm towards Kepwick Lodge. From there we walked along the road down Peasland Lane and Cow Bridge to Cowesby. After briefly examining the church yard we walked past Home Farm and Atlay Bank to Kepwick to return to the Siltons across the fields. This walk passed some interesting places namely St. Mary's, Over Silton, St. Michael and All Angels, Cowesby, All Saints Church, Nether Silton and the Kepwick Limekilns Tramway. Few notable species were encountered except *Celastrina argiolus* (Holly Blue) which was seen hanging around an Ivy clad tree at Cowesby, and an *Elasmucha grisea* (Parent Bug) was noted near Nether Silton. *Buteo buteo* (Buzzard) could be heard mewing also near Nether Silton.

Ganoderma australe (Southern Bracket) and Bridge over Kepwick Limekilns Tramway



The party had lunch next to a bridge over the Kepwick Limekilns Tramway. This was active from 1833 to 1893. It went from the quarry on Kepwick Moor to 'draw type' lime kilns near Furlands North of Borrowby. The kilns were built close to the Thirsk to Yarm turnpike in the early 1830s by Colonel Sir Joshua Crompton, owner of the Kepwick estate. Coal fuel was

brought by road and lime taken away. The gauge was 4' 6" and horses worked the line, with the 1 in 5 incline being rope-worked. Jet and coal were also exploited on the Kepwick Estate.

Wednesday, 6th September, 10:30am, leader Jo Scott GR NY908282. Bowlees Woods and Riverside.

The idea behind this outing was to show members how to identify some of the most common lichens. Bowlees Nature Reserve includes some varied habitats; woodland, riverside and an old quarry that encourage a good variety of lichen species to grow. We found *Porina aenea* on twigs, *Pertusaria pertusa* on tree trunks, *Protoblastinia rupestris* on the quarry walls, *Rhizocarpon geographicum* making map like patterns on the walls, *Pertusaria corallina* on the rocks by the river and *Placynthium nigrum* on the walls.



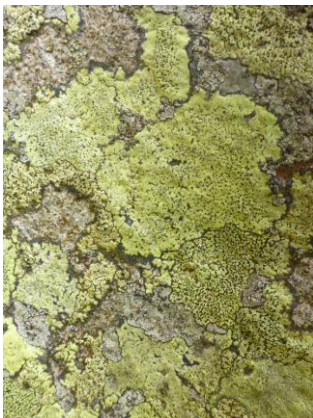
Pertusaria corallina



Placynthium nigrum



Porina aenea



Rhizocarpon geographicum



Protoblastinia rupestris



Pertusaria pertusa

Full list of lichens recorded.

<i>Arthonia radiata</i>	<i>Parmotrema pertusa</i>
<i>Caloplaca holocarpa</i>	<i>Peltigera membranacea</i>
<i>Evernia prunastri</i>	<i>Pertusaria coralline</i>
<i>Hypogymnia physodes</i>	<i>Pertusaria pertusa</i>
<i>Ionopsis lacustris</i>	<i>Phlyctis argena</i>
<i>Lecanora albescens</i>	<i>Physcia airpolia</i>
<i>Lecanora rupicola</i>	<i>Placynthium nigrum</i>
<i>Lecidella elaeochroma</i>	<i>Platismatia glauca</i>
<i>Lepraria incana</i>	<i>Protoblastinia rupestris</i>
<i>Melanelixia subaurifera</i>	<i>Ramalina farinacea</i>
<i>Ochrolechia parella</i>	<i>Rhizocarpon geographicum</i>
<i>Parmelia saxatilis</i>	<i>Sarcogyne regularis</i>
<i>Parmelia sulcata</i>	<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>

Wednesday, 20th September, 10:30am, leader Alan Simkins GR NZ900112. Whitby to Saltwick Bay.

This was a joint meeting with the local Regionally Important Geological Sites Group and will be reported in their publications.

Wednesday, 27th September, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle GR NZ047167. Deepdale Woods.

The party descended through the woodland from the meeting point, crossed the River Tees and enjoyed a pleasant autumn walk, though muddy, in Deepdale. Some fungi were noted but not all identified. The walk was not completed as hoped because footpaths marked on the map did not appear on the ground and a possible route across the stream was impossible, so the party had to return by the same route. An enjoyable but not productive day.

Clitocybe geotropa (Trooping Funnel)



Sunday, 22nd October, 11.00am, leader Alan Simkins GR NZ237149. High Coniscliffe.

This was a joint meeting with the North Eastern Fungi Study Group. Results will be reported in their publications.

Grey Willow Gall – Billingham Beck Valley

Jo Scott

During a visit to Billingham Beck Valley in June a rather large and attractive looking gall was seen on Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*). A sample was collected to investigate the cause of the gall.



Cutting the gall in half revealed a pupae which eventually emerged as a Barred Fruit Tree Tortrix moth (*Pandemis cerasana*). I sent the gall and pupae with photographs of the moth to Margaret Redfearn of the British Plant Gall Society for confirmation. Her reply emphasised the care needed not to assume that you have the correct identification of the gall causer.

The gall was probably caused by a virus or phytoplasma and is very common. (ref: p. 291 of the keys

British Plant Galls, 2011)



The fact that the pupae was inside the gall was probably because the young caterpillar of the tortrix crawled into it to feed until fully grown and then it pupated, or the larva fed in a rolled leaf and then burrowed into the gall when ready to pupate.

The tortrix moth is not a gall causer, so it was an interesting experience in trying to identify galls.

The Hemiptera of North Gare

Daphne Aplin

Having studied the Terrestrial Hemiptera of a mixed woodland at Cowpen Bewley over the last couple of years I was interested to find out about True Bugs in other habitats. As Field Club members have been researching the biology of an area of the River Tees known locally as North Gare GR NZ540283 (see <http://clevelandnats.org.uk/>), I thought I would take a brief look to see what species can survive in the harsh conditions of windswept sand dunes, scrub and trees to add to that project.

In the Dunes I used a beating tray to sweep for the insects as Marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) is quite sharp. My first capture was a 3mm Mirid bug *Dicyphus annulatus* which lives on Restharrow (*Ononis repens*) in sandy areas. Over a few days towards the end of 2017 I found the species in the table below.

Acknowledgements

I am, as always, indebted to the patience and support of Jim Flanagan, National Recorder for Terrestrial Heteroptera (Plantbugs and allied families), Dr. A.J.A. Stewart, the National Auchenorrhyncha recorder and Malcolm Birtle.

References

Aplin. D., '*Bitten by Bugs A Personal Encounter with the Hemiptera of Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park.*', Proc. Clev. Nats. Field Club, **Volume 11**, Part 3, 2017

Terrestrial Hemiptera from North Gare 2017

Date	Grid ref	Name	Habitat	Stage	No	Where	Size	R	V	
23/12/17	NZ536272	<i>Acomporis sp.</i>	Pine tree	Adult	1	North Gare		DA	JF	
02/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Agallia consobrina</i>	Dunes	Adult	1	North Gare	4mm	DA	AS	
28/10/17	NZ536273	<i>Anthocoris sp</i>		Adult	1	North Gare		DA		
02/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Anthocoris sp</i>		Nymph	1	North Gare		DA		
14/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Berytinus minor</i>	Dunes	Adult	1	North Gare		DA	JF	Poss. 1st Durham record
02/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Dicyphus annulatus</i>	Dunes	Adult	1	North Gare	3.5mm	DA	JF	
28/10/17	NZ536273	<i>Eupteryx urticae</i>	Nettle	Adult	2	North Gare	3mm	DA		
23/12/17	NZ536272	<i>Euscelis sp.?</i>	Vegetation	Nymph	1	North Gare	3mm	DA	AS	
02/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Kelisia sabulicola</i>	Dunes	Adult M and F	2	North Gare	3.5mm	DA	AS	
03/11/17	NZ536271	<i>Kleidocerys resedae</i>	Birch	Adult	1	North Gare	5mm	DA		Birch Catkin Bug
23/12/17	NZ536272	<i>Metidiocerus rutilans</i>	Vegetation	Adult	2	North Gare	5mm	DA	AS	
23/12/17	NZ536272	<i>Mocytia crocea</i>	Vegetation	Adult	1	North Gare	4mm	DA	AS	
14/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Notostira elongata</i>	Dunes	Adult M and F	1	North Gare		DA		To be confirmed
23/12/17	NZ536272	<i>Orius sp.</i>	Vegetation	Adult	1	North Gare	2mm	DA	JF	

02/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Stenocranus minutus</i>	Dunes	Adult	1	North Gare	5.5 mm	DA	AS	Poss. 1st Durham record
14/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Stenodema laevigata</i>	Dunes	Adult	1	North Gare	8mm	DA		To be confirmed
09/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Stygnocoris sabulosus</i>	Dunes	Adult	1	North Gare	3mm	DA		To be confirmed
02/11/17	NZ537274	<i>Tingis cardui</i>	Thistle	Adult	1	North Gare	3.5mm	DA		Spear Thistle Lacebug
28/10/17	NZ536273	<i>Tingis sp</i>	Thistle	Nymph	2	North Gare		DA		

Additions to the Hemiptera of Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park 2017







Daphne Aplin







The species listed in this note are additions to the list provided in '*Bitten by Bugs, A Personal Encounter with the Hemiptera of Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park*', Proceedings of Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club 2017, **Volume 11** Part 3 Spring 2017. Details of the location and habitats of the Park can be found in that article. These additional records were made in 2017 from searches across the whole Park area.








Acknowledgements








All records (bar *Scolopostethus thomsoni*) have been verified by Jim Flanagan National Recorder for Terrestrial Heteroptera (Plant bugs and allied families) and Dr. A. J. A. Stewart National Recorder for Auchenorrhyncha.







Records








GRID REF	FAMILY	GENUS	SPECIES	AUTHORITY	NO	LIFE STAGE	HABITAT	DATE	RECORDER	VERIFIER	
NZ478251	Cicadellidae	<i>Acericerus</i>	<i>vittifrons</i>	Kirschbaum, 1868	1	Adult Male		02/03/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ477249	Cicadellidae	<i>Adarrus</i>	<i>ocellaris</i>	Fallen, 1806	1	Adult		15/09/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ473252	Cicadellidae	<i>Alebra</i>	<i>albostriella</i>	Fallen, 1826	1	Adult	Oak	30/07/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ473252	Cicadellidae	<i>Allygus</i>	<i>mixtus</i>	Fabricius, 1794	1	Adult	Oak	03/08/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ477249	Cicadellidae	<i>Eupteryx</i>	<i>aurata</i>	Linnaeus, 1758	1	Adult	Nettle	14/09/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ480253	Cicadellidae	<i>Eupteryx</i>	<i>urticae</i>	Fabricius, 1803	1	Adult	Nettle	23/10/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	




NZ474252	Cicadellidae	<i>Eurhadina</i>	<i>loewii</i>	Then, 1886	1	Nymph	Sycamore	18/06/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ479253	Cicadellidae	<i>Evacanthus</i>	<i>interruptus</i>	Linnaeus, 1758	1	Decapitated Adult	Vegetation	18/08/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ480253	Cicadellidae	<i>Idiocerus</i>	<i>herrichi</i>	Kirschbaum, 1868	1	Adult Female	Ash	24/02/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ480254	Cicadellidae	<i>Idiocerus</i>	<i>sp.</i>		1	Adult	Swept	07/08/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ477253	Cicadellidae	<i>Mocydia</i>	<i>crocea</i>	Herrich-Schaffer, 1836	1	Adult		26/11/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ481255	Cicadellidae	<i>Oncopsis</i>	<i>flavocollis</i>	Linnaeus, 1761	1	Adult		22/05/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	

NZ480254	Cicadellidae	<i>Oncopsis</i>	<i>sp.</i>		2	Nymph	Birch	15/04/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ477253	Cicadellidae	<i>Ribautiana</i>	<i>ulmi</i>	Linnaeus, 1758	5	Adult		26/11/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ480254	Cicadellidae	<i>Speudotettix</i>	<i>subfuscus</i>	Fallen, 1806	2	Mating Pair	Alder	16/05/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ473252	Cicadellidae	<i>Typhlocyba</i>	<i>quercus</i>	Fabricius, 1777	1	Adult	Oak	29/07/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ481255	Cixiidae	<i>Tachycixius</i>	<i>pilosus</i>	Olivier, 1791	1	Adult		22/05/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ480259	Delphacidae	<i>Delphacid</i>	<i>sp.</i>		1	Nymph		25/08/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ480253	Delphacidae	<i>Delphacodes</i>	<i>venosus</i>	Germer, 1830	1	Adult	Ash	26/02/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	

NZ477249	Delphacidae	<i>Javesella</i>	<i>dubia</i>	Kirschbaum, 1868	1	Adult	Nettle	14/09/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ480253	Delphacidae	<i>Stenocranus</i>	<i>major</i>	Kirschbaum, 1868	9	Adult		25/11/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ476251	Delphacidae	<i>Stenocranus</i>	<i>minutus</i>	Fabricius, 1787	2	Adult		05/12/17	D.Aplin	A.Stewart	
NZ482254	Lygaeidae	<i>Drymus</i>	<i>sylvaticus</i>	Fabricius, 1775	1	Adult		22/05/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ473254	Lygaeidae	<i>Scolopostethus</i>	<i>thomsoni</i>	Reuter, 1874	1	Adult		03/12/17	D.Aplin		
NZ476248	Miridae	<i>Acompocoris</i>	<i>sp.</i>		1	Adult	Pine	03/09/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ479253	Miridae	<i>Closterotomus</i>	<i>norwegicus</i>	Gmelin, 1790	1	Adult	Flag Iris	30/06/17	D.Aplin		

NZ474252	Miridae	<i>Cyllecoris</i>	<i>histrionius</i>	Linnaeus, 1767	1	Dead Adult	Oak	18/06/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ476251	Miridae	<i>Dicyphus</i>	<i>stachydis</i>	J.Sahlberg, 1878	2	Adult		05/12/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ473252	Miridae	<i>Megaceolum</i>	<i>infusum</i>	Herrich-Schaffer, 1837	1	Adult	Oak	28/08/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ473252	Miridae	<i>Monalocoris</i>	<i>filicis</i>	Linnaeus, 1758	Few	Adult	Fern	29/08/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ473252	Miridae	<i>Neolygus</i>	<i>contaminatus</i>	Fallen, 1807	1	Adult	Birch	28/07/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ480259	Miridae	<i>Notostira</i>	<i>elongata</i> agg.		1	Adult Female		25/08/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	

NZ473252	Miridae	<i>Orthops</i>	<i>campestris</i>	Linnaeus, 1758	1	Adult	Alder	28/07/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ480254	Miridae	<i>Phytocoris</i>	<i>ulmi</i>	Linnaeus, 1758	1	Adult	Nettle	07/07/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ477248	Miridae	<i>Phytocoris</i>	<i>varipes</i>	Boheman, 1852	1	Adult		06/08/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ479253	Miridae	<i>Pinalitus</i>	<i>cervinus</i>	Herrich-Schaffer, 1841	1	Adult	Dogwood	06/10/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ473252	Miridae	<i>Psallus</i>	<i>varians</i>	Herrich-Schaffer, 1841	1	Adult Female	Apple	24/07/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ477249	Miridae	<i>Stenodema</i>	<i>calcarata</i>	Fallen, 1807	1	Nymph		24/08/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ480254	Miridae	<i>Sthenarus</i>	<i>rotermundi</i>	Scholtz, 1847	1	Adult	Poplar	07/08/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	

NZ477248	Nabidae	<i>Nabis</i>	<i>limbatus</i>	Dahlbom, 1851	1	Adult Female		06/08/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ479253	Nabidae	<i>Nabis</i>	<i>rugosus</i>	Linnaeus, 1758	1	Adult Macropter		17/08/17	D.Aplin	J.Flanagan	
NZ480253	Tingidae	<i>Physatocheila</i>	<i>dumetorum</i>	Herrich-Schaffer, 1838	1	Adult	Yew	23/03/17	D.Aplin		

Observations on some of the ‘rarer’ North East Plant Galls

Jill Cunningham

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Beginning

Five years ago, I knew nothing about plant galls, other than the Robin’s Pincushion and Pea galls on Dog Rose, the Marble Gall on Oak and Witches Brooms on Birch. After joining the Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists’ Field Club (DTNFC) I came across the obvious stem galls of *Phanacis hypochoeridis* on Cat’s-ear and the purple bumps of *Cystiphora sonchi* on Common Sowthistle leaves on the NE coast. I did not take this any further than identification and recording. As the club already had a number of plant recorders I began taking more interest in mycology and joined the North East Fungi Study Group. Two years later I started to study micro-fungi often found on plants and leaf debris and, having been surprised by the beauty of Nettle rust, *Puccinia urticata*, aecia under a lens, began to search for other plant rusts.

Cystiphora sonchi midge galls on *Sonchus arvensis* (Perennial Sowthistle) leaf. NBN records-32 (1 in NE)



In June 2016 I remember finding a Lime leaf with ‘white rust’ patches on the underside and was puzzled why there wasn’t anything like it in Ellis and Ellis ‘*Microfungi on Landplants*’ or on the internet. Eventually, after trawling through sites and images, I spotted one match – not a rust but a gall – but surely a gall is large and swollen? Apparently these were ‘erineum’ galls caused by the mite ‘*Eriophyes leiosoma*’. The larvae cause the leaf cells of *Tilia* sp. to produce tiny white hairs on the leaf undersides in which the microscopic mites live. These later turn brown.

This led to others: - *Aceria pseudoplatani*, another very common erineum gall causer and specific to Sycamore; *Aceria rudis* on Birch; *Aceria nervisequa* on Beech. From these, my research began in earnest and I worked my way through the internet in order to list every gall causer, host and description that I could find. A whole new world opened up and I was amazed by the extent of plants affected and variety of gall formations and the fact that I had never seen them before.

Familiarity

On every trip out I noted and identified the galls seen and soon became familiar with some of the more common species. The majority of gall causers are host specific and form on particular areas of a plant. My background knowledge of wild plants helped to spot possible gall-like abnormalities. These often take the form of bud, ovary or stem swellings; protrusions, blisters, hairs on leaves; leaf edge rolling and distortions. The gall causers tend to be species of mites, psyllids, midges, sawflies, wasps, aphids, fungi and occasionally micro-moths, bacteria and nematodes.

Some rusts are also classed as galls if they cause the plant cells to deform such as *Triphragmium ulmariae* on Meadowsweet, *Albugo candida* on Shepherd’s Purse and *Puccinia lagenphorae* on Groundsel. I frequently find the last two around urban pavements and kerbs possibly because stressed plants are more prone to attack. Many are under recorded.

Discoveries

Puccinia lapsanae is less frequent and infects young Nipplewort plants and causes multiple red/purple swellings on the upper-side of leaves and aecial cups on the undersides. Finding 40+ plants infected at the margin of a carpark at Piercebridge was a surprise.

Some rusts gall alternate hosts and need both plants to complete their life cycle. European Pear Rust, *Gymnosporangium sabinae* had infected the leaves of a Pear tree in Darlington in the summer causing vivid orange spots above and orange brown ‘udder-like’ growths below. Apparently the spores, which can travel 6km, then infect Juniper (the introduced *J. sabina*), as a winter host and cause orange ‘tongues’ to erupt through the bark, (as yet not seen by myself). Both hosts survive but are less healthy.

Usually the insects that cause galls are inconspicuous but during lunch on a DTNFC outing at Bollihope ‘Picture Wing’ flies were spotted on Knapweed. The larvae of *Urophora jaceana* develop in the knapweed heads and the galls are not seen outwardly, but a solid callous can be felt in them in the autumn. A similar ‘Picture Wing’, *Tephritis bardanae*, was seen on Lesser Burdock at Barnard Castle.

The ‘hairy big buds’ on Germander Speedwell are more obvious and very common and are caused by the gall midge *Jaapiella veronicae*. When I saw similar on Wild Thyme on the North Yorkshire Moors above Hawnby I guessed that they too had been galled. The causer was the midge *Aceria thomasi* and when I looked for the North East records on National Biodiversity Network (NBN) there were none, (now one). This would make it appear rare in the North but since then I have found it at Frosterley, Rookhope, Harehope Quarry and at the side of an escarpment above Malham Cove. Is it possible that it is a ‘rarity’ because there are few gall recorders and it is found in out-of-the way places? Now that I have found the gall and know its favoured habitats – sheltered slopes in full sun and spoil heaps – do I find it more frequently because I know where to look?

While weeding in a Leeds garden it dawned on me that the leaves of the Herb Bennet were unusually crumpled and hairy. Research led me to the gall mite *Cecidophyes nudus* which I have now found on other streets in Leeds. How do they get from area to area? Do they hitch a lift on birds’ feet or on other insects? It had not been found in North East England until December 2017 when I found 60 Herb Bennet plants galled by *Cecidophyes nudus* in a cobbled back alley in Darlington, near the Station. Both finds of this species have been in urban environments – have the insects followed the rail-side weeds of the appropriately named *Geum urbanum*? Herb Bennet seeds notoriously stick to clothes, fur and feathers – if the mites move onto these and can survive to the growth of the seedling then is it possible they are spread by man and/or animal?

Cecidophyes nudus galling Herb Bennet, *Geum urbanum*. NBN Atlas records – 7 (all south of Nottingham)

Emails from BPGS members suggest that this species may rely on the warmth of urban habitats and does not survive in colder natural environments. My own garden also produced a surprise – enlarged buds on my Broom bush. On examination each had a



from ‘Published Records’.

larva inside. It was a gall midge *Asphondylia sarothamni*, again supposedly a species ‘not up North’. (NBN Atlas - 59 records, 0 in NE) I initially thought it could have come from a plant nursery - but I have found it since in the river valley below Cockfield, Shildon railway path, Allendale, (and SW Scotland!). A small clause on NBN Atlas does state that their records are only

This species also introduced me to some curios in life cycles. Asphondylia have two different generations on Broom. The female injects an egg into a developing bud and in early spring the bud gall swells as the larva grows and pupates. The emerging midges mate and lay their eggs in the developing seed pods and towards autumn a gall swelling is seen usually nearest the stalk. The larva pupates and emerges to continue the cycle in spring. Asphondylia galls are lined with a dark fungus and it is thought that the midges carry the mycelium spores which are injected along with the egg. The fungus feeds on the plant tissues and provides food for the larva.

There are also new species arriving in the UK. On a walk round local streets in October, I spotted some leaf edge rolls containing larvae on False Acacia/Black Locust leaves hanging over a fence at The Denes in Darlington and identified them as *Obolodiplosis robinae* midge galls. The confirmation from the British Gall Society said ‘*the species arrived in 2007 and is now well established in the UK*’. This raised more questions as NBN records showed only two in the far south. An email to Paul Stevens at ERIC revealed that NBN was last updated in 2008. (Perhaps explaining the lack of many other northerly species records?) Apparently these minute midges were introduced to Europe in 2003 from China and, with three to four generations a year, quickly spread over Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Russia, Belgium and France before arriving in the UK.



An unusual swelling on a fallen Spruce twig picked up at Foxglove Covert, Catterick turned out to be a ‘Pineapple’/‘False Cone’ gall caused by the aphid *Adelges laricis*. A week later a similar find – this time *Sacchiphantes abietis* at Pecknell Wood, Barnard Castle and Dukehouse Wood, Hexham. Both are recorded on NBN Atlas as only in the far North and South of the UK. However they are frequently mentioned in foray records in the British Plant Gall Society Journals.

Looking on the branches of a Turkey Oak on Cockerton Green, Darlington, I spotted a cluster of woody galls, (like peas with points), that were the sexual galls on catkins caused by the gall wasp *Andricus grossulariae*, another newcomer to the NE. This species arrived in the UK in 2000 and has 2 hosts - the second generation on Sessile or Pedunculate Oaks is agamic, (all female) and is similar to the Knopper gall but with longer projections, as yet not found in the NE. Turkey Oak is not native, but has naturalised and it is likely that many new species of gall wasp have followed the plantings across Europe.

I have joined the British Plant Gall Society and go on regular outings with Steve Robbins, the North East Coordinator, who has given me an invaluable book, *British Plant Galls* by Margaret Redfern. He has pointed out numerous species and continues to pass on a wealth of knowledge. On a visit to the coast Steve described a gall on Plantain and something clicked with a supposed unidentifiable ‘fungal’ growth on Sea Plantain that I had found the year before - not a fungus but a galling of the leaf made by a nematode *Ditylenchus dipsaci*. The minute ‘worms’ I had seen under the microscope were the causer and not an infection on an old specimen as I had first thought.

Ditylenchus dipsaci nematodes galling *Plantago maritima*, (Sea Plantain), leaf. NBN Atlas - 6 records (0 in NE)

‘Big bud’ galls found on coastal dune grass last year proved difficult. Initially I thought they were on



Marram and therefore of *Eurytoma longipennis*. Steve agreed saying that they were locally abundant on the NE coast so he was surprised that the British Plant Gall Society said that the species would be new to the UK. Specimens were sent off but the only emerging adult identified was *Tetramesia hyalipennis* normally found on Couch grass. So was my gall on Marram or on Sand Couch growing amongst it? Sadly it was the latter – a final site check and yes it was in the Marram but not on the Marram. A lesson learnt and probably a good reason why amateur records are not accepted!

The recent public recording sites on ERIC and iRecord should begin to give a clearer picture of galls, (and other wildlife), in the NE. Perhaps then the very common Sycamore Felt Gall, *aceria pseudoplatani*, found on nearly every tree, will get the NE recognition that it deserves. (See following tables for this and other anomalies).

Eighteen months on at the time of writing, and more confident in my recording, I now have the daunting task of entering a thousand 2017 records onto relevant sites – hard to do on nice days when I would much prefer to be out – maybe this too is a reason for a lack of records?

Relevant reading and websites

British Plant Galls, Margaret Redfern and Peter Shirley, FSC publications, 2002. (New edition 2011)

British Plant Gall Society – £10 per year – forum/ emails/ 2 Cecidology journals each year.

www.britishplantgallsociety.org

www.bladmineerders.nl – host and parasite lists, information and photos

www.pflanzengallen.de

www.naturespot.org.uk

www.hainaultforest

www.nature-diary.co.uk







‘Rare’ and Interesting Galls from North East England, 2015-2017

This table lists just a few examples of gall species that are not as rare in the NE as the published NBN records suggest.

SR-Steve Robbins. JC-Jill Cunningham. + shows SR has previously found it. Unless stated NBN UK records are spread throughout UK.



Taxon		Number of Records				Notes
		SR	JC	NBN Atlas all records UK	NBN Atlas North East England	
<i>Aceria thomasi</i>	mite	-	3	211	1 Frosterley	need to visit hillsides and spoil slopes
<i>Andricus quadrilineatus</i>	wasp	-	1	32	0	tiny, hard to spot on catkins
<i>Asphondylia ulicis</i>	midge	-	1	9	0	hard to spot on buds and pods
<i>Contarinia loti</i>	midge	+++	1	12	0	
<i>Contarinia tiliarum</i>	midge	+++	4	113	0	
<i>Dasineura acrophyla</i>	midge	+	3	65	0	
<i>Ditylenchus dipsaci</i>	nematode	+	2	6	0	NBN all below Norwich
<i>Macrodiplosis dryobia</i>	midge	++	2	186	0	
<i>Macrodiplosis volvens</i>	midge	+	1	73	0	
<i>Neuroterus saliens</i>	wasp	-	1	2	0	NBN Norfolk, arrived in UK 2007
<i>Obolodiplosis robiniae</i>	midge	-	1	0	0	This species is not even on NBN dropdown list yet. Arrived in UK 2007
<i>Pemphigus populinigrae</i>	aphid	-	1	3	0	NBN all Suffolk
<i>Pemphigus spyrothecae</i>	aphid	+	2	66	0	
<i>Puccinia phragmitis</i>	fungal rust	+	1	352	3 Newcastle/Catterick	
<i>Sacchiphantes abietis</i>	aphid	+	3	10	0	NBN 7 N. Scotland, 3 London/Suffolk
<i>Synchytrium aureum</i>	fungus	-	1	23	1	
<i>Taphrina populina</i>	fungus	+	1	209	2	
<i>Tetraneura ulmi</i>	aphid	+++	2	53	0	SR has often found these in NE
<i>Urocystis violae</i>	fungal smut	+	2	75	4	2 Scotland. Barnard Castle most northern in England
<i>Xestophanes potentillae</i>	wasp	+++	1	17	0	NBN all south of Leeds

(Hosts and details are noted in the Biological Records table)

<p><i>Gymnosporangium sabiniae</i> rust galls on <i>Pyrus</i> (Pear) leaves JC – 2 NE records.</p> <p>NBN Atlas – 521 records (1 NE, Newcastle area) A species moving north</p>		<p><i>Adelges laricis</i> aphid gall on Spruce twig JC – 1 Catterick.</p> <p>NBN Atlas – 17 records (16 N.Scotland; 1 London)</p>	
<p><i>Puccinia lapsanae</i> rust galls on <i>Lapsana communis</i> (Nipplewort) leaves JC – 3 NE records</p> <p>NBN Atlas – 358 records, (8 in NE)</p>		<p><i>Andricus grossulariae</i> wasp galls on <i>Quercus cerris</i> (Turkey Oak) petioles JC – 1 NE records</p> <p>NBN Atlas – 16 records, (0 in NE) New species moving North</p>	
<p><i>Aceria thomasi</i> mite galls on <i>Thymus polytrichus</i> (Wild Thyme) buds JC - 4 NE records NBN Atlas – 211 records, (1 in NE)</p>		<p><i>Urophora jaceana</i> gall flies on <i>Centaurea nigra</i> (Knapweed) JC – 3 NE records NBN Atlas – 705 records, (6 in NE)</p>	

Some Common but Under Recorded Galls from North East England, 2015-2017

Taxon		Number of Records				Notes
		SR	JC	NBN Atlas all records UK	NBN Atlas North East England	
<i>Acalitus rudis</i>	Birch erineum	++	6	110	0	Does require microscope
<i>Aceria pseudoplatani</i>	Sycamore erineum	+++++	30+	682	0	So common it is virtually on every tree in the NE but the nearest NBN records are in Hawes and Pickering
<i>Andricus kollari</i>	Oak Marble	++++	15	1007	0	NBN nearest NE records are 3 North of Newcastle
<i>Andricus quercuscalicis</i>	Oak Knopper	+++	9	515	1	Was it still moving north when records done?
<i>Diplolepis rosae</i>	Robin's Pincushion	+++	15	710	2	Was it still moving north when records done?
<i>Eriophyes leiosoma</i>	Lime erineum	+++	10	173	1 Richmond	Often found in NE
<i>Jaapiella veronicae</i>	Germander Speedwell 'big bud'	++++	14	428	1	Found on every other NE site, where ever plant grows and throughout year.
<i>Phanacis hypochoeridis</i>	Catsear stem swelling	+++	4	100	1 Sunderland	Redfern book says it is rare but local. 100s on NE coast sites
<i>Tetramesia hyalipennis</i>	Grass 'big bud'	+++	3	6	0	SR regularly points these out

<p><i>Aceria nervisequa</i> mite erineum galls on <i>Fagus</i> (Beech) leaves. JC – 15 NE records and frequently seen in the NE.</p> <p>NBN Atlas – 60 records, (0 in NE)</p>		<p><i>Puccinia urticata</i> rust galls on <i>Urtica dioica</i> (Common Nettle) stems. JC- 14 NE records, very common but under-recorded.</p> <p>NBN Atlas – 945 records, (5 in NE)</p>	
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NE Biological Records

Taxon	Site	Grid Ref	Recorder	Date	Quantity		Stage	Comment and Host
<i>Synchytrium aureum</i>	River Gaunless, Cockfield Fell.	NZ127252	Jill Cunningham	10/06/2017	1 plant	fungus	gall	warts covering leaves, river margin. Host: <i>Nasturtium officinale</i>
<i>Taphrina populina</i>	Woodham, Newton Ayecliffe	NZ269268	Jill Cunningham	20/06/2017	3 leaves	fungus	gall	raised yellow spots on upperside of leaves. Host: <i>Populus nigra</i> sp.
<i>Urocystis violae</i>	Baydale Beck path, Mowden, Darlington	NZ25701425	Jill Cunningham	03/05/2017	20+	fungal smut	gall	black swellings, distorted plants, along a 2m strip of damp path edge, nr waterworks corner. Host: <i>Viola canina</i>
<i>Gymnosporangium sabinae</i>	Lingfield Way, Darlington	NZ31991423	Jill Cunningham	16/09/2016	1 tree	fungal rust	gall	European Pear Rust. scarlet spot on leaf upperside, orange projections on corresponding spot on underside. Host: <i>Pyrus</i> sp
<i>Puccinia phragmitis</i>	Drinkfield Marsh, Darlington	NZ287173	Jill Cunningham	06/05/2017	10+ plants	fungal rust	gall	Bright maroon blister-like swellings on leaf upperside, aecial cups on underside. Host: <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
<i>Puccinia lapsanae</i>	Hudeshope bridge above Middleton in Teesdale	NY94802707	Jill Cunningham	07/03/2017	1 plant	fungal rust	gall	red/purple blisters + distorted leaves/petioles. Growing in bridge mortar. Host: <i>Lapsana communis</i>
<i>Puccinia lapsanae</i>	near West Hide, Nosterfield reserve	SE27557920	Jill Cunningham	16/03/2017	3 plants	fungal rust	gall	red/purple blisters + distorted leaves/petioles. Dry pathside. Host: <i>lapsana communis</i>
<i>Puccinia lapsanae</i>	Piercebridge car park green off Bates Avenue, Cockerton, Darlington	NZ21251548	Jill Cunningham	20/03/2017	40+	fungal rust	gall	red/purple blisters + distorted leaves/petioles. Disturbed ground, carpark margin. Host: <i>Lapsana communis</i>
<i>Pemphigus spyrothecae</i>	Black Path, A68 to A1, Darlington	NZ27461614	Jill Cunningham	01/12/2017	3 galls	aphid	gall	pea sized twisted swelling on petiole. 20+ seen in 2015, 2 in 2016. Host: <i>populus nigra</i> var. <i>italica</i>
<i>Pemphigus populini-grae</i>	Foxglove Covert, Catterick	SE159969	Jill Cunningham	23/09/2017	1 gall	aphid	gall	1 found on fallen leaf, midrib pouch on upper, long slit opening below. Host: <i>Populus nigra</i> var. <i>italica</i>
<i>Adelges laricis</i>								Pineapple gall on tip of shoot. On fallen twig. Host: <i>Picea</i> sp

<i>Sacchiphantes abietis</i>	Pecknell Wood, Barnard Castle	NZ03981738	Jill Cunningham	29/09/2017	3 galls	aphid	gall	Pineapple gall on shoot. Growth continuing beyond gall. On fallen branch. Host: <i>Picea</i> sp
<i>Tetraneura ulmi</i>	B6277 opp Gill Lane, Barnard Castle	NZ04781612	Jill Cunningham	11/07/2017	prolific	aphid	gall	Fig Galls. Large stalked club-like galls. 70+ on leaves between road and river. Host: <i>ulmus</i>
<i>Cecidophyes nudus</i>	back alley west of Pensbury St, Darlington	NZ29361417	Jill Cunningham	07/12/2017	50 plants	mite	gall	on small overgrown and cobbled area. 90% of plants galled. Bulges on upper side of leaves, erineum on underside. Host: <i>Geum urbanum</i>
<i>Aceria thomasi</i>	Harehope Quarry, SE of Frosterley	NZ037364	Jill Cunningham	11/11/2017	1 gall+	mite	gall	collected by NEFSG member. Host: <i>Thymus polytrichus</i>
<i>Aceria thomasi</i>	quarryside hillocks, SW of Frosterley	NZ01073494	Jill Cunningham	12/06/2016	3ft patch	mite	gall	bunched hairy tip buds. Host: <i>Thymus polytrichus</i>
<i>Aceria thomasi</i>	rocky east facing slope above Malham Cove	SD89696422	Jill Cunningham	01/07/2017	2ft patch	mite	gall	bunched hairy tip buds. Host: <i>Thymus polytrichus</i>
<i>Aceria thomasi</i>	top of Hawny Moor, NY Moors	SE539908	Jill Cunningham	31/07/2016	many	mite	gall	bunched hairy tip buds. Host: <i>Thymus polytrichus</i>
<i>Asphondylia sarothamni</i>	Shildon to Newton Ayecliffe rail path	NZ257247	Jill Cunningham	09/07/2017	3+ plants	midge	gall	swelling at stalk end of seedpods, fungal lining. Host: <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
<i>Asphondylia sarothamni</i>	Spring Court garden. Darlington	NZ27421622	Jill Cunningham	08/04/2017	40 galls	midge	gall	On 1 plant, swollen bud, single point tip, unstalked, fungal lining. 1 midge reared. (17 in seed pod galls, single swellings near stalk end, in autumn). Host: <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> f <i>andreas</i>
<i>Asphondylia ulicis</i>	Woodham, Newton Ayecliffe	NZ27342650	Jill Cunningham	20/06/2017	5	midge	gall	swollen buds + exit holes. Host: <i>Ulex europaeus</i>
<i>Contarinia jacobaeae</i>	Shildon to Newton Ayecliffe rail path	NZ260246	Jill Cunningham	09/07/2017	3+ plants	midge	gall	swollen ovaries + pale orange jumping larvae. Host: <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
<i>Contarinia loti</i>	Coastal path, North Gare	NZ535269	Jill Cunningham	08/07/2017	10+	midge	gall	swollen closed buds. Host: <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
<i>Contarinia tiliarum</i>	Tees bank woodland, Blackwell, Darlington	NZ273130	Jill Cunningham	06/06/2017	6 leaves	midge	gall	Seen on passing. Host: <i>Tilia</i> sp
<i>Macrodiplosis volvens</i>	Wynyard Woodland Park	NZ400274	Jill Cunningham	29/11/2017	3 leaves	midge	gall	fine rolls between lobes on leaf margin. On self sown saplings. Woodland edge. Host: <i>Quercus robur</i>
<i>Macrodiplosis dryobia</i>	Haggarleases Path, River Gaunless, Cockfield Fell.	NZ126253	Jill Cunningham	10/06/2017	7+ on 2 trees	midge	gall	On path-side trees, seen on passing. Host: <i>Quercus robur</i>
<i>Dasineura acrophyla</i>	Haggarleases Path, River Gaunless, Cockfield Fell.	NZ126253	Jill Cunningham	10/06/2017	5+ on 1 tree	midge	gall	pouch galls on leaves, path-side tree. Host: <i>Fraxinus</i>
<i>Obolodiplosis robiniae</i>	The Denes, Darlington	NZ28131551	Jill Cunningham	10/10/2017	10 leaves	midge	gall	overhanging railings, fine leaf rolls, photo ID confirmed BGS. Host: <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
<i>Andricus grossulariae</i>	Cockerton Green, Darlington	NZ27191549	Jill Cunningham	12/05/2017	1 cluster	wasp	sexual	1 cluster of 15, 4mmgalls + points, brown, hard, at shoot tip above old catkins. No more visible then or since. Photo taken and sample verified by Steve Robbins. Host: <i>Quercus cerris</i>
<i>Andricus quadrilineatus</i>	allotment path, Bellburn Lane, Darlington	NZ278162	Jill Cunningham	19/05/2017	few	wasp	gall	ovoid, creased, unstalked on catkins. Allotment path trees. Host: <i>Quercus robur</i>
<i>Neuroterus saliens</i>	Dinsdale House,	NZ34091202	Jill Cunningham	17/09/2017	4 galls	wasp	gall	ovoid galls on petioles. Confirmed by BGS. Host: <i>Quercus</i>

	Middleton One Row							<i>cerris</i>
<i>Xestophanes potentillae</i>	car park, North Gare	NZ53262821	Jill Cunningham	15/10/2016	3 galls	wasp	gall	swollen red stem, like peanut case. Host: <i>Potentilla reptans</i>
<i>Ditylenchus dipsaci</i>	Path to hide, Greatham Creek, Billingham	NZ250852522	Jill Cunningham	26/09/2016	3 leaves	nematode	gall	purple swellings on leaves, containing nematodes. saltmarsh path edge. Host: <i>Plantago maritima</i>

Field Meetings 2018

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.

If you require further details about a walk, or in case of bad weather and possible cancellation, please contact the leader of the walk. Please bring 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.

I should like to welcome any prospective members to join some of our outings. I am sure that you will find our members both friendly and helpful. I have found the field trips an excellent way of learning more about the natural history of the areas we visit.

Malcolm Birtle (President)

Unscheduled Adhoc Events

Please note that, in addition to the scheduled walks included in this programme, our intention is to also have several adhoc events which are best organised at short notice because they are highly dependent on suitable weather conditions. These include moth trapping with Paul Forster, and possibly some bat walks and recording meetings. If you are interested in events such as these, please let either Eric Gendle or Neil Baker have your contact details (an email address if possible) and we will ensure you are kept informed about them as and when they are arranged.

Wednesday, 18th April, 1:30 pm, leader Tony Wardhaugh ☎ 01642 322935

GR NZ668216. **Saltburn Gill**. Meet in the Cat Nab car park. A fairly easy walk at a gentle pace to look for spring flowering plants, snails and other invertebrates.

Sunday April 22nd 2.20 pm

GR NZ 10537 14911 **Whorlton**. Meet at village green (leave Abbey Rd Darlington 2.00 pm)

Wednesday, 2nd May, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616

GR NZ570128. **Newton Wood**. Meet in the Roseberry Topping car park. A circular walk of about 4 to 5 miles through Newton Wood and around Roseberry Topping.

Sunday, 6th May, 10:15 pm, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547

GR NZ421132. **Transporter Bridge**. Meet in the Transporter Bridge car park. Come early if you would like to take the glass lift to the high level walkway on the Transporter for a bird's eye view of Saltholme and Teesside, weather permitting. A small entrance fee applies. Please contact Neil Baker at least a week beforehand if you would like to book a place on this visitor experience. Otherwise join us at 11:30 for a linear riverside walk to the Newport Bridge via Teesaurus Park.

Sunday, 13th May, 10:30 am, leader Andy Astbury ☎ 01642 823114

GR SE537897. **Hawnby Circular**. Meet just beyond the church near Dalicar Bridge where there is car parking. A moderate circular walk of about 5 miles with some climbing. An exploration of Ryedale country with some springtime botanical interest along the way.

Wednesday, 16th May, 1:30 pm, leader Maggie and Graeme Boyd ☎ 01287 634707

GR NZ444228. **Gravel Hole Nature Reserve.** Park in Shearwater Lane, Norton. A short walk to explore Gravel Hole Nature Reserve.

Saturday, 19th May, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616

GR SE468992. **Cod Beck Reservoir.** Meet in the Sheepwash car park. A circular walk of about 3 miles around the reservoir and nearby woods.

Wednesday, 23rd May, 10:30 am, leaders Mark and Hazel Stokeld ☎ 01642 783819

GR NZ483372. **Crimdon Dene.** Park in Crimdon Dene car park on the cliff top. An exploration of the dunes, grassland and woodland around Crimdon Dene. A moderate walk of about 3 miles.

Wednesday, 30th May, 6:30 pm, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 649938

GR NZ322152. **Great Burdon Woodlands.** Meet at the grid reference. Park with care on the B6270 roadside laybys.

Saturday, 2nd June, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235

GR SE900010. **Scalby Beck nr Scarborough.** Meet at the grid reference by the bridge over the beck. Park in Scalby or Newby. A walk led by Vic Fairbrother many years ago, to walk west along the picturesque North Beck Drain to Mowthorpe Farm and return along Keld Runnels road, with minor diversions possible. A walk of about 5 miles with very minor climbs.

Wednesday, 6th June, 10:30 am, leaders Peter and Ruth Waterton ☎ 01642 724270

GR SE535882. **Murton Wood, Murton Grange.** Meet at Murton Grange, where there is car parking. A walk to enjoy Murton Wood and nearby areas which will involve some climbing.

Wednesday, 13th June, 10:30 am, leader Andrew Ferguson ☎ 01642 311831

GR NZ672165. **Lingdale Meadows.** Meet near Saint Chad's church on Lingdale High Street. An easy morning walk around an area of reclaimed land that is a good local wildlife site. In the afternoon we will drive down to South Kilton to explore the local area further.

Saturday, 16th June, 10:30 am, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 649938

GR NZ423375. **Castle Eden.** Meet in the car park. There is additional parking on the roadside in the village. This is a walk on old railway trackbeds. Note this is NOT Castle Eden Dene.

Sunday, 17th June, 10:30am, leader Jo Scott ☎ 01642 897843

GR NZ668216. **Saltburn Rockpools.** Meet in the Cat Nab car park. A chance to explore the rockpool life on this interesting stretch of shore. Wellingtons are advisable and please bring a bucket and small net if you can. This is a joint meeting with Darlington Nats.

Wednesday, 20th June, 10:30 am, leader Daphne Aplin ☎ 01642 884719

GR NZ454228. **Billingham Beck Valley Country Park.** Meet in the visitor centre car park. A leisurely full day to explore different parts of this interesting wetland area.

Sunday, 24th June, 10:30 am, leader Bill Hall ☎ 07753 663589

GR SE289761. **High Batts near Ripon.** Meet in the lay-by on the A6108 at the grid reference. From there we will drive down to the private nature reserve. In the afternoon there

should be time to visit some more ponds nearby. This is a joint meeting with the Yorkshire Dragonfly Group.

Tuesday, 26th June, 12.00

GR NY908282. **Bowlees**. Meet in Bowlees car park (leave Abbey Rd Darlington 11.00 am)

Wednesday, 27th June, 6:30 pm, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235

GR NZ615161. **Guisborough Walkway**. Meet at the east end of Westgate (the main street). A stroll along the old railway line looking for anything of interest. Return route negotiable.

Wednesday, 4th July, 10:30 am, leaders Mark & Hazel Stokeld ☎ 01642 783819

GR NY937186. **Hannah's Meadow**. Meet in the Balderhead Reservoir car park. An easy walk to enjoy the wildflowers in Hannah's Meadow and other wildlife in the surrounding countryside close to Low Birk Hatt farm, famous as the former home of Hannah Hauxwell, a truly remarkable daleswoman, who sadly died earlier this year.

Wednesday, 11th July, 10:30 am, leader Jo Scott ☎ 01642 897843

GR NZ325486. **Rainton Meadows**. Meet at the visitor centre where there is car parking. An easy walk around this lovely Durham Wildlife Trust nature reserve looking for butterflies and flowers.

Saturday, 14th July, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235

GR SE569920. **Birch Wood, Bilsdale**. Meet by the roadside where there is limited parking for only 5 to 6 cars. After a fruitful evening walk in 2017, it was felt that a day long exploration and survey of all aspects of this YWT semi ancient woodland would be enjoyable. Anything and everything can be recorded.

Wednesday, 18th July, 6:30 pm, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547

GR NZ421132. **Yarm Circular**. Meet by the church at Egglecliffe. An easy circular walk to Yarm.

Sunday, 29th July, 10:30 am, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547

GR SE603834. **National Centre for Birds of Prey Centre in Duncombe Park**. Meet in the free NCBP car park in Duncombe Park. There are three flying displays during the course of the day featuring different birds at each one, giving the opportunity for a very leisurely day. Some of the more energetic of us may like to also take a walk around the woods and parkland of the Duncombe Park National Nature Reserve. All the usual facilities are available onsite, including a café. An entrance fee applies with a wristband giving ready access to the NCBP for the full day.

Saturday, 4th August, 10:30am, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 649938

GR NZ351123. **Dinsdale – Middleton One Row**. Meet opposite the Devonport Hotel. There is car parking on the roadside. A walk to explore the Durham side of the Tees riverbanks.

Wednesday, 8th August, 10:30am, leader Alan Simkins ☎ 01642 477484

GR NZ643158. **Guisborough Woods**. Meet at the Fox and Hounds, Slapewath. Park on the roadside nearby. We will walk up to Belman Bank alum quarry, paying particular interest to the local geology. This is a joint meeting with the Tees Valley RIGS Group.

Sunday, 12th August, 10:30 am, leader Daphne Aplin ☎ 01642 884719

GR NZ398152. **Coatham Stob**. Meet in the car park just off the minor road between Longnewton and Urlay Nook. An easy walk around this interesting site which is good for both butterflies and dragonflies.

Wednesday, 15th August, 12:00 pm, leader Jo Scott ☎ 01642 897843

GR NZ556276. **Beachcombing at South Gare**. Meet at the Coast Guard station. We will have lunch and then walk out along the high tide mark to see what we find before returning along the low tide mark to see what shells and seaweeds we come across. Low tide is at 13:50. This is a joint meeting with Darlington Nats.

Saturday, 18th August, 10:30 am, contact Tony Wardhaugh ☎ 01642 322935

GR SE524883. **Sutton Bank**. Meet in the car park at the National Park Centre. This is the YNU VC 62 meeting. Please see the YNU website events page for further details.

Wednesday, 22nd August, 6:00 pm, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 649938

GR NZ480140. **Stainton Wood**. Meet at the St. Peter and Paul church. Park in and around Stainton village.

Sunday, 2nd September, 10:30 am, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547

GR NY997393. **Ashes Quarry and Stanhope Beck**. Meet in the free long stay car park at the top end of the Durham Dales Centre in Stanhope. A circular walk of about 5 miles to explore some abandoned quarry and mine workings now gradually being reclaimed by nature. This walk involves some climbing which we will take at a gentle pace.

Sunday, 16th September, 10:30 am, leader Andy Astbury ☎ 01642 823114

GR SE467908. **Kepwick Circular**. Meet in the car park in the grounds of the old school. A moderate walk of about 5.5 miles with a steady climb at the beginning. A rich assortment of scenery and fine viewpoints are provided by this walk. There is an easy escape route back to Kepwick about half way round this circular walk if required.

Saturday, 13th October, 10:30 am, leader Alan Simkins ☎ 01642 477484

GR SE817913. **Newtondale**. Meet on the forest trail near Levisham station. From Levisham village go down the road to Levisham station, drive over the railway track, turn right and park along the forest trail. This is a joint fungus foray with the North Eastern Fungus Study Group.

Mobile Phone

The walk leader on the day carries the Club's mobile phone (☎ **07826 787650**) that members may ring if necessary (to find the group if late arriving, for example).

Websites

Members with internet access will find the following sites of interest:

www.clevelandnats.org.uk; www.barlow.me.uk; www.pwforster.co.uk and
www.the-vasculum.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Fresh material for inclusion on our Club website is always welcomed.

DATES FOR WINTER MEETINGS 2018-2019

Sep 24. Oct 15, 29. Nov 19. Dec 17. Jan 21. Feb 18, 25. Mar 18, 25.