

North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter 70 August 2013



Lycoperdon excipuliforme. Oakdale, September 2010 Olympus E510, 35mm macro lens, aperture priority, f11, 1/20sec
David Smith

...it ain't half hot, mum!
Foray venues and instructions.
The NEFSG Fund Raising Raffle
Just when you thought it was all over.....

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The NEFSG actively encourages contributions from the membership for publication in this Newsletter. The content of submitted articles is the responsibility of the author. The views, comments, opinions or statements contained in published articles are not necessarily those of the NEFSG or of the editorial personnel. The NEFSG reserves the right to refuse publication of any material considered offensive or dangerously inaccurate. For identity queries please contact the Group Consultant: Alan Legg at 36, Carleton Drive, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 9QP. Tel: 01325 350834. Secretary: Alan Bunn, 60 Roseberry Crescent, Great Ayton, North Yorks. TS9 6EP. Tel. 01642724955 E-mail alanbunn456@btinternet.com. Chairman: Alan Simkins. Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Tom Kirby. If you would like to submit an article or question for the next Newsletter contact Tom Kirby, 4 Bishopton Crossings, Stillington, TS21 1NJ. Tel: 01740 630179 E-mail: tectak@aol.com.



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...It ain't half hot, mum.

In keeping with the weather this editorial is written whilst suitably unfettered by the traditional British summer attire...unusually, then, any errors of grammar or veracity may be put down to the irritation of harvest flies in interesting crevices and perspiration. It is hot.

A prediction was made in the last Newsletter, concerning the poor showing of Boletes in 2012. In the Shires and Home Counties, this lack has been attributed to the Eastern Europeans, over-zealous restaurateurs, gangs of hunger-crazed foragers spurred on by the media's promise of "food for free"; whereas in this neck of the woods, the Boletes just decided that last year's summer was such a cold and wet vigil, it was not worth getting out of bed for. So they didn't.

The upshot of this year's weather, wet spring and hot, steaming summer days (and nights) is yet to be determined, but encouragingly an e-mail from Keith Cunningham recently gave cause for optimism...as far as the Boletes are concerned, anyway. Not wishing to go into details save to say that Keith has suffered from a health anomaly after being bitten by a Scotsman in Glen-coe (speedy recovery wishes from all), it was heartening to hear that on one of his recent therapeutic rambles he found a bolete. Keith writes:

" I found *Boletus erythropus* today under beech in the hospital grounds in Durham. NZ 26***43***".

I am sure you will agree, this is an early indication of a return to better times...for Keith, too.

Of course, one fungi does not a cluster make; but with our packed lunches, pent up enthusiasm, and wide ranging selection of foray venues for 2013 we must expect a good year end. Our first venue in the current year takes us to Castle Eden Dene. Natural England keeps a close watch on this patch of very varied woodland and micro-climate habitat. As part of our mission statement we actively encourage conservation and good practice in the treatment of the natural environment. Accordingly, this foray is to be a joint venture between the NEFSG and NE. Hopefully, somewhere in the Dene conditions will be supportive of fungi in what may turn out to be a "late" year...summer is almost timed out, if using the disconnected chronometer of human-kind, but assuming the natural world dances to the beat of a different drum, we may still find summer species in evidence. Talking about "time" could you all make a note that the foray at **Castle Eden Dene starts at 10:00 am prompt....**not our usual start-time, but it is a one-off.

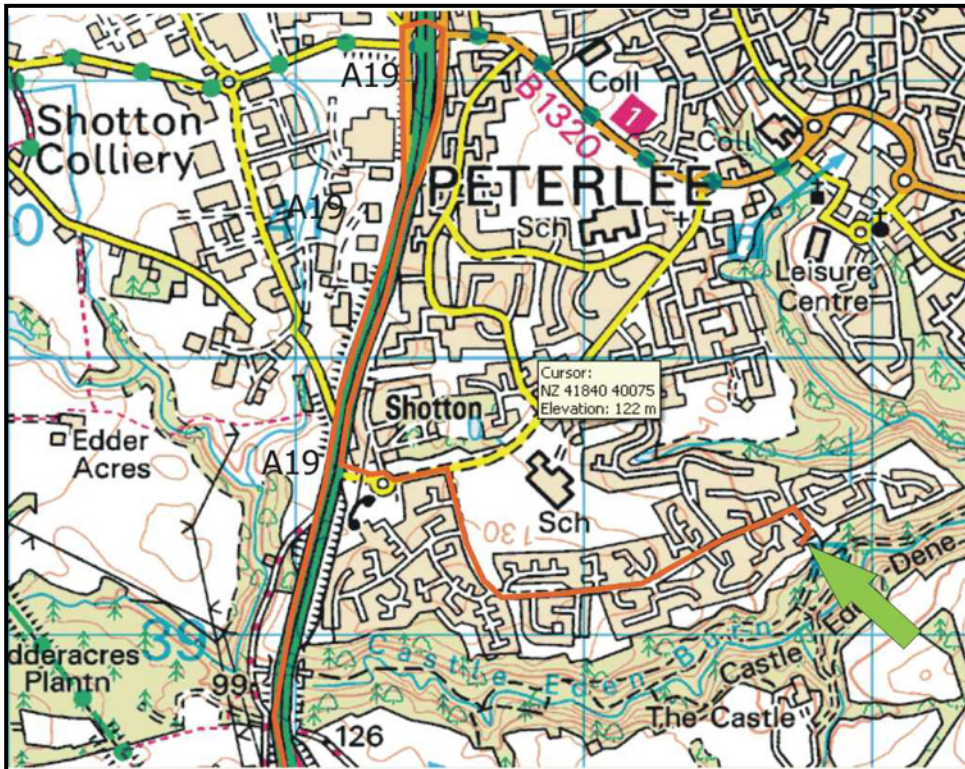
A final reminder...no, there will be others...regarding the exchange visit with MAK, the Kirkle-based Mycology group who will be accepting the hospitality of the NEFSG next year. Cath Gillie is working hard to secure lodgings for a late September 2014 location in Kielder. Offers of help in organising the event will be snapped up but in essence, what we really need is your support. Funds from subscription payments still carry us happily through a "normal" year— web page costs, printing and Newsletter distribution — but a deviation from the norm, such as this much anticipated event, will bring some as yet unquantified requirement to raise funds. This should not present a problem for a group our size, 50 or so members, but we are a friendly society and not given to "leverage" by even the modern definition (debt!).

If any members can raise funds by their own endeavours, we would ask that you do so. There will be no pressure and nor would you expect there to be. Where is this leading?

Well, we intend raffling the much underused NEFSG microscope on a simple basis. In this Newsletter you will find facsimile raffle tickets, twenty, which we would ask that you actively "sell" for a chance to secure this valuable item. More details are in this Newsletter and it is to be hoped that we will all do our bit. Once again, it is important that you do not feel any pressure whatsoever to contribute either your time or effort...this is purely voluntary. Thank you in

Forays & Events

Castle Eden Dene JOINT FORAY AUGUST 31st.

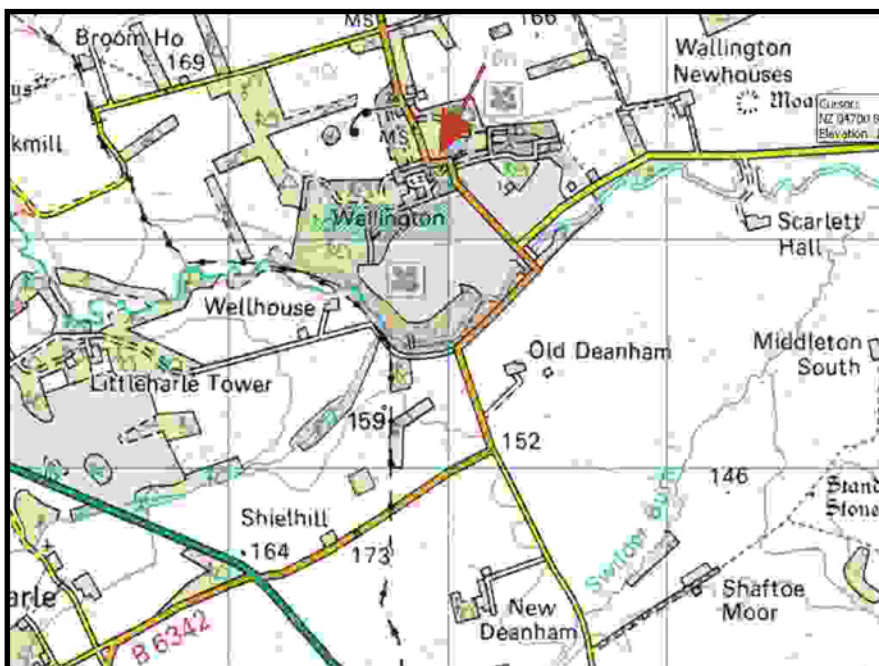


This foray begins at 10:00 am. The foray is the first of our joint forays with other groups and organisations. If travelling North on the A19 you need to go past the Shotton turn off and go right round the Peterlee roundabout as indicated (orange line), so that you are now southbound. The Shotton turn off is a pull-in and is well signed. There are the usual brown information signs indicating the venue. There are excellent facilities here. There are toilets and rooms for

display available. Park at green arrow.

The foray route is weather dependent but will always be on a path though with some steep inclines. Tom is your contact 0796 850 8775.

Wallington (Note. Venue Change) September 7th, 11:00 am.



Take the A1 north to Newcastle then 20 miles north-west on the A696 Airport/Ponteland road, turn off on the B6342 to Cambo.

If travelling from the North, take the A1 south to Morpeth then 12 miles west on the on the B6343 (or A68).

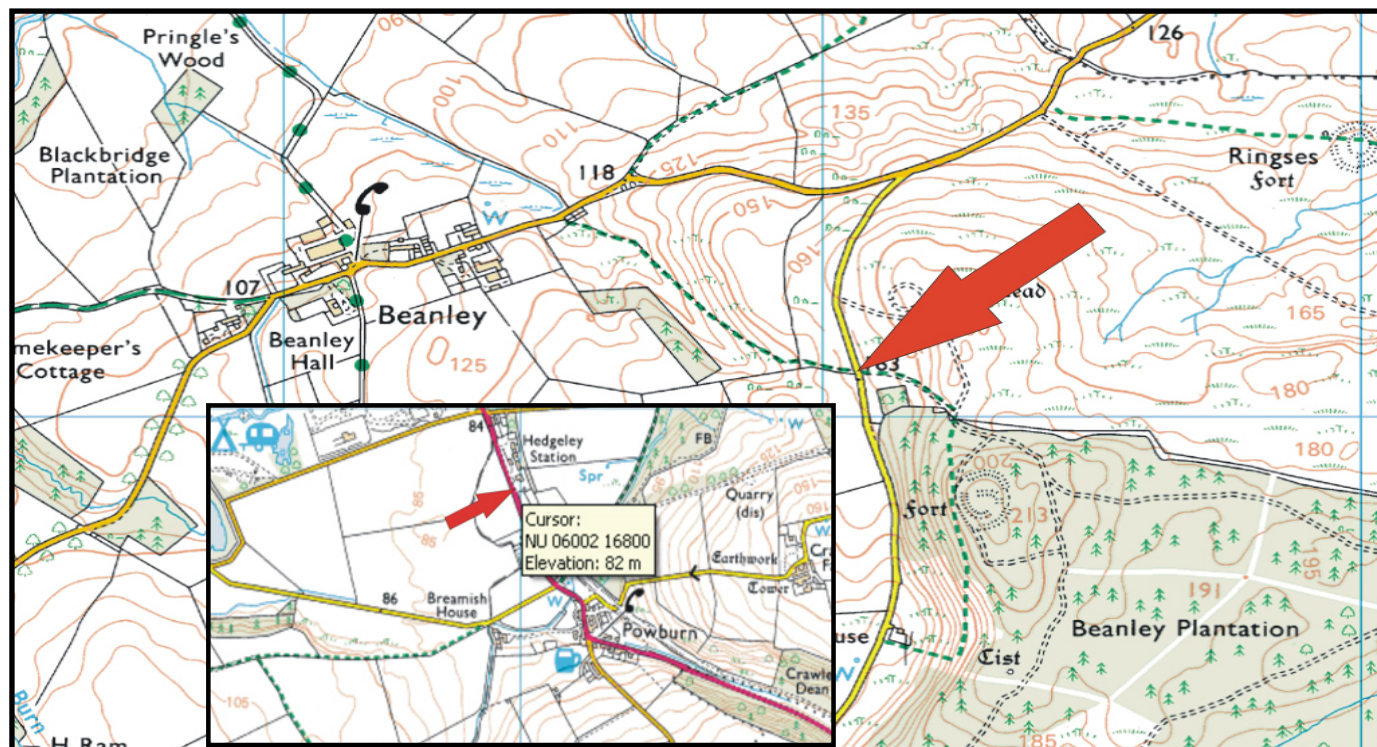
Once on the B6343 take the Rothbury, Wallington turn off on to the B6342. Parking is FREE after 200 yds. Grid ref.

NZ030843 or Postcode NE61 4AR.

Paths are reasonably level with few inclines. We expect to split in to two groups and to foray in

the East and West woods. Dom is your contact. 07523216993

Beanley Plantation (near Powburn) September 14th.



Entry Point NU 090181 (top red arrow) A wide gateway with verge space for a few vehicles so please car share if at all possible. There is a reasonable car parking area in nearby Powburn behind the garage and supermarket which is on the East of the A697 immediately North of the village limits. **NU060168** (detail red arrow) It is free and is used by customers to the small complex which also includes a tea room if anyone needs a mid morning or afternoon cuppa etc. **If we congregate here for say 10-30** we can car share then drive to the site with as few vehicles as possible!. Conditions permitting we can hopefully drive up the hill into the forest and have the morning session at the top of the hill 170m in altitude which at the interface between the plantation and the open moor contains an old boundary with some huge veteran trees. For the afternoon session we will retrace our steps and drive to NU 104178 which is about 100m altitude. There we can walk uphill for 300/400m then explore some mature mixed conifer woodland and a damp birch woodland with a sprinkling of oak rowan etc. Underfoot conditions should normally be reasonably dry except for some wet patches here and there so stout foot-wear is recommended. Doug's Mobile 07582965025

PLEASE NOTE!

Unless otherwise stated forays commence 11:00 on the day. Arrive by 10:30 for a prompt start. If you cannot avoid being late please contact the Foray Leader using the number published.

Every effort will be made to indicate to late arrivers the whereabouts of the group by left message.

Note that the Castle Eden Dene foray starts at 10:00

Cow green, Upper Teesdale. September 21st.

OS Grid Ref NY8103090

Start Lat 54 385752003866186 + Long-3.5275678000449817

Postcode DL11 0HX (approx location)

This is an upland foray on heather dominated blanket bog, acid grassland alongside limestone paving and grass land – sorry no trees!

Cow Green Reservoir is 2 miles long built between 1967 and 1971 to supply the industries of Teesside. Environmentally this part of upper Teesdale is of national importance and the plan to construct the reservoir was opposed strongly by conservationists, their main concern was the protection of the rich flora and fauna of the district and preservation of rare alpine plants like the unique Teesdale violet. Thankfully only about a tenth of the plants' habitat was destroyed. The remaining area is now part of the Moor House Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve which is England's largest terrestrial reserve lying within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding National Beauty and European Geopark



Meet at the car park and picnic area at 11am near the information display.

We will head left and follow the track towards Cauldron Snout and the Dam to join a defined path and the Pennine way.

In the event of severe weather, as this is a very exposed site, we will still aim to meet at Cow Green but may head in convoy towards Middleton Teesdale and stop at the Bowlees picnic area and car park to foray in the woods around Bowlees picnic area and low force.

Directions

From Middleton in Teesdale follow the B6227 north west towards High Force. Go past High Force hotel for approx 2.5 miles and turn left at the Langdon Beck hotel. Follow signs for Cow Green which take you left onto a restricted access road for just over 3 miles and park overlooking the reservoir near the information area.

Please note mobile phones have very limited reception if any ☺

The lavatories at Cow Green are closed and the nearest public lavatories are at Bowlees Picnic area ☹

Foray leaders Val Standen & Catherine Gillie

Tel 07834 658562 – 01833 621313

Tees Banks, Barnard Castle. September 28th.



This foray is in the woodland along the banks of the Tees using an established walkway. Access is via Raby Avenue, see the blue box illustrated above. Coming in on the A67 from Darlington, take the route to the town centre (blue) and with the first shops on your left and right you will see a large chapel ahead, just before the left turning into the High Street. Turn **right** in front of the chapel then left and right into Raby Avenue.

Go to the end of the avenue and park on the left side of the street next to the allotments.

We expect to foray along the Teesdale Way but there may be opportunity to split into two groups and explore Flatts Wood to the North East.

There are no contact numbers for this foray so please arrive 10:30 for a 11:00 start. Note that both Teesdale Way and Flatts Wood have good paths so late arrivals should have no difficulty finding other group members.

Grid reference for meeting-up: NZ047168

Foray Leader: Alan Legg.

On all forays every effort is made to secure some adequate cover for the end-of-foray display and identification procedure, but this is not always possible.

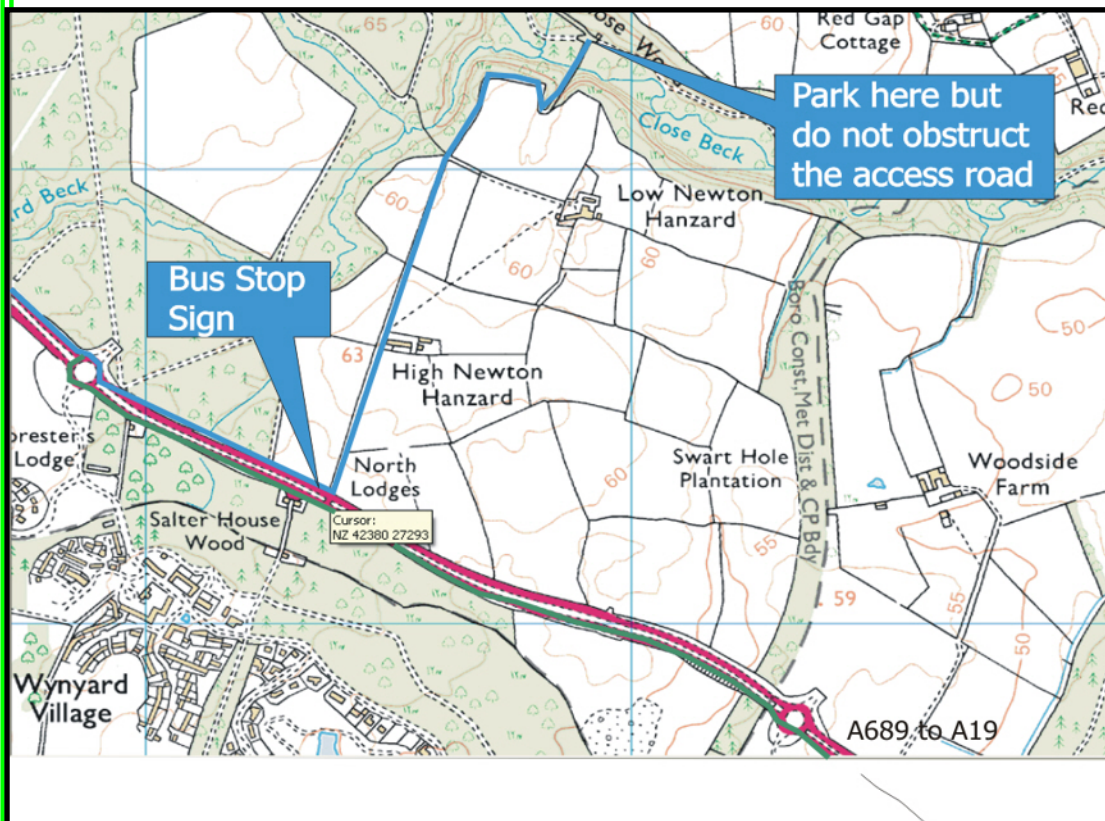
Writing up the taxus for the day is not a particularly onerous task but it is made much easier if forayers use identification slips with their own name, the latin bi-nomial for the record, association and any notes on habitat not apparent from the site name.

Without the field identification slips the foray organiser has no record of your find and often will be obliged to seek identification during the display procedure, allocating the finder on an arbitrary basis. Please use the slips on all forays...one day, it may be your turn!

Close Wood. Hanzard Plantation, Wynyard. October 5th.

Close Wood plantation is a mixed wood planted up with Poplars and other "trial" species after the Second World War. The area was originally the site of a medieval village, forested but with clearings, some of which were kept as open spaces, which now, regrettably, are the subject of planning permission for eco-housing, whatever that may turn out to be.

There are two farms still occupied but are converted and the forested areas which we will foray are on private land. We have permission to foray in these areas, to the west of the car parking as shown.



Please take care when leaving the A689. It is advisable to turn left in to the access road from the west, as shown in blue. If coming from the east (A19) go straight on at the first two roundabouts (as shown in green) and then right round the Wynyard Village roundabout to head back east. The entrance to

the access road is not easily seen but if you look out for the road side Salter House on the right going east, the turn off comes up quickly. There is a Bus stop sign at the access road entrance. Once off the A689, head north through a large open field with the derelict High Newton Hanzard Farm on your right, and watch out for sharp bends.

There are many warning sign deterrents against entry but keep going until just after a very sharp left hand bend after which you will cross a small, steel railed bridge and come to two gates, one on each side of the road. Park here, but with care and consideration. We will be foraying to the west of the road heading towards Close Wood.

The path is not circular but is very variable terrain and is well surfaced. There are so many off-tracks in to mixed woodland that there should be no difficulty in distributing ourselves in to different eco-systems!

Start time is 11:00, so be there for 10:30 for a prompt start.

Foray leader: Tom Kirby

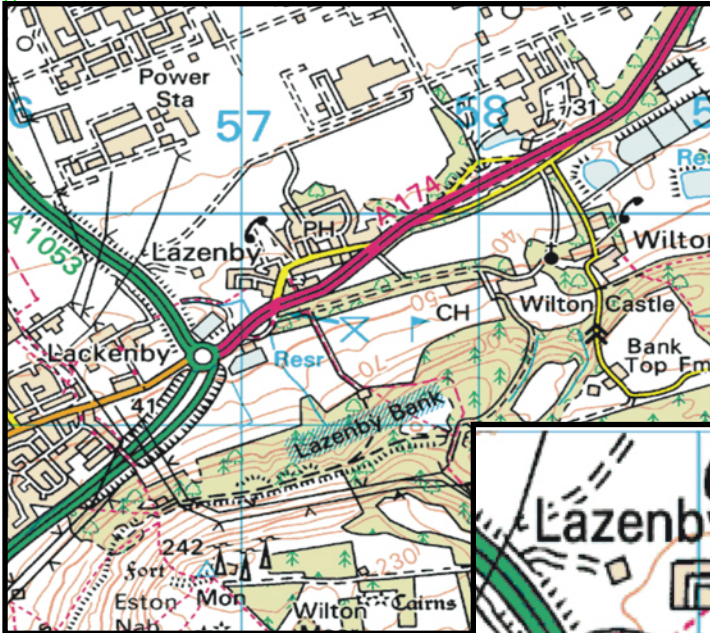
Contact: 0796 850 8775

Please note that although this is a relatively flat walk, some of the land north of the foray route rises very steeply and is hazardous. Wear suitable footwear if you intend mountaineering....you know who you are!

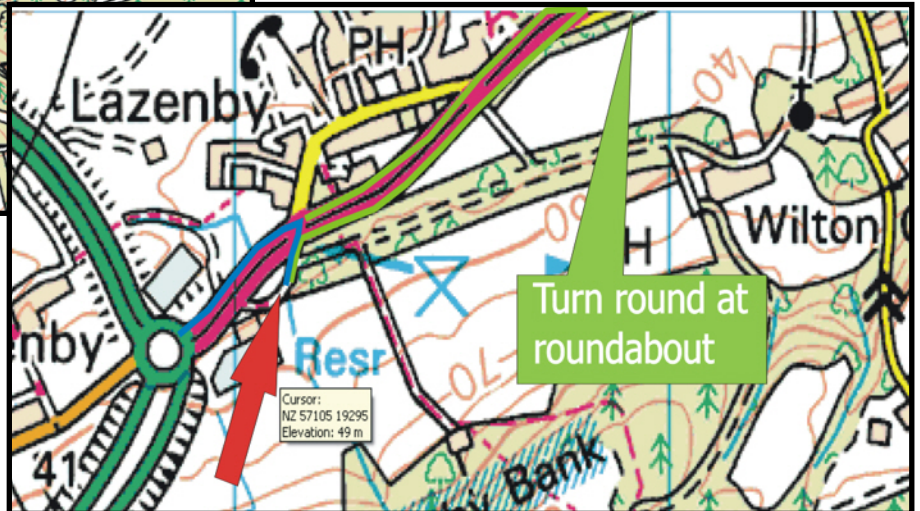
On the south side of the route runs a usually placid stream but there are drops from the bank edges and to cross into the conifer woods may require some dexterity and waterproof boots! The path ultimately ends in a fine clearing, with some cover, after about 2Km. Perfect for lunch.

TAK

Eston Woods with Cleveland Nats. October 12th.



This is the second of our joint events. Cleveland Nats. Have much in common with the NEFSG, or perhaps that should be "many". Paul Forster, Aubrey Colling and David Smith are participating members of both groups, as well as some others who interact with us, in a good way, from time to time. Though the interests of the Cleveland Nats. are wide ranging, the mycological world has opened



up some great photo-opportunities and it is to be hoped that we will all enjoy a foray with a difference. Meet in the Lazenby Bank car-park at 10:30, taking care at the turn off from the A174. Note that you can turn right, across the carriage-way (blue line), coming from Lackenby but you may find it less hazardous to go to the Redcar (just off the map, NE) roundabout and come back towards Lackenby (green line), turning off just before the Lazenby roundabout into a pull-in lay-by. Park here.

NOVEMBER 23RD 2013 - INDOOR MICROSCOPY WORKSHOP

Please see below an advance notification from Alan Simkins concerning the much anticipated microscopy workshop. This event gives you a great opportunity to improve your microscopy skills at all levels. Further information on the venue will be given much nearer the time but put this one in to your diaries NOW!

Courtesy of Val Standen we have arranged a microscopy workshop at Durham University.

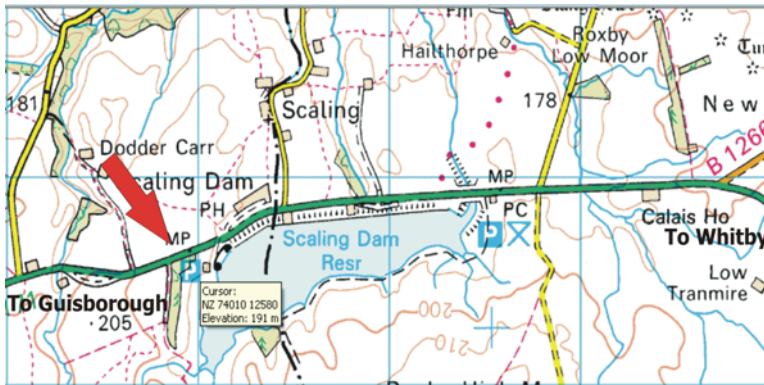
To facilitate preparations for the day we need to know numbers coming [for microscopes], car registration numbers [for security passes], and skill level at the microscope [beginner/intermediate/advanced].

For those wishing to attend please provide the above information to me by 30th. September.

Regards

Alan Simkins (alansimkins687@btinternet.com)

Scaling Dam Reservoir. October 19th.



Follow the A171 past Lockwood Beck heading south-east. Scaling Dam is well sign posted. Turn right into the main entrance and continue down the main road to the end of the parking area at NZ 741127. 10.30 am arrival for a prompt 11:00 start .

Habitat is varied consisting of grass land , conifer plantation, Birch and moor . It is hoped we can gain access into a small reserve if the warden is available . Ac-

tion has been taken to secure an inside venue for our use at the end of the foray; again this is dependant on availability.

Foray Leader: Paul Forster.

Thrislington Plantation. October 26th.

Grid Ref: NZ304330



We need to be together as a group before we are allowed beyond the working quarry – **so please be on time.**

Location: East of main line railway - east of Ferryhill.

From the A1 you need to leave at exit 60, heading west towards Bishop Auckland BUT immediately upon exiting the motorway stay in the RIGHT HAND LANE to turn right after 200 yards to Ferryhill. Just before Ferryhill you will go down a long bank, at the bottom is a T-junction on a bend. Turn right up the bank and keep going through Ferryhill until you come to an offset mini-roundabout/T-junction. Turn acutely right and over the railway bridge, then left at the Mainsforth junction. You will come to the Main Entrance to LaFarge Quarry on your left. Turn LEFT into the car-park. This is our initial meeting point where we all must arrive before being allowed on the site. Follow the red line route on the map (left).

Conditions: Well drained mag lime on moderate slope so should be easy going.

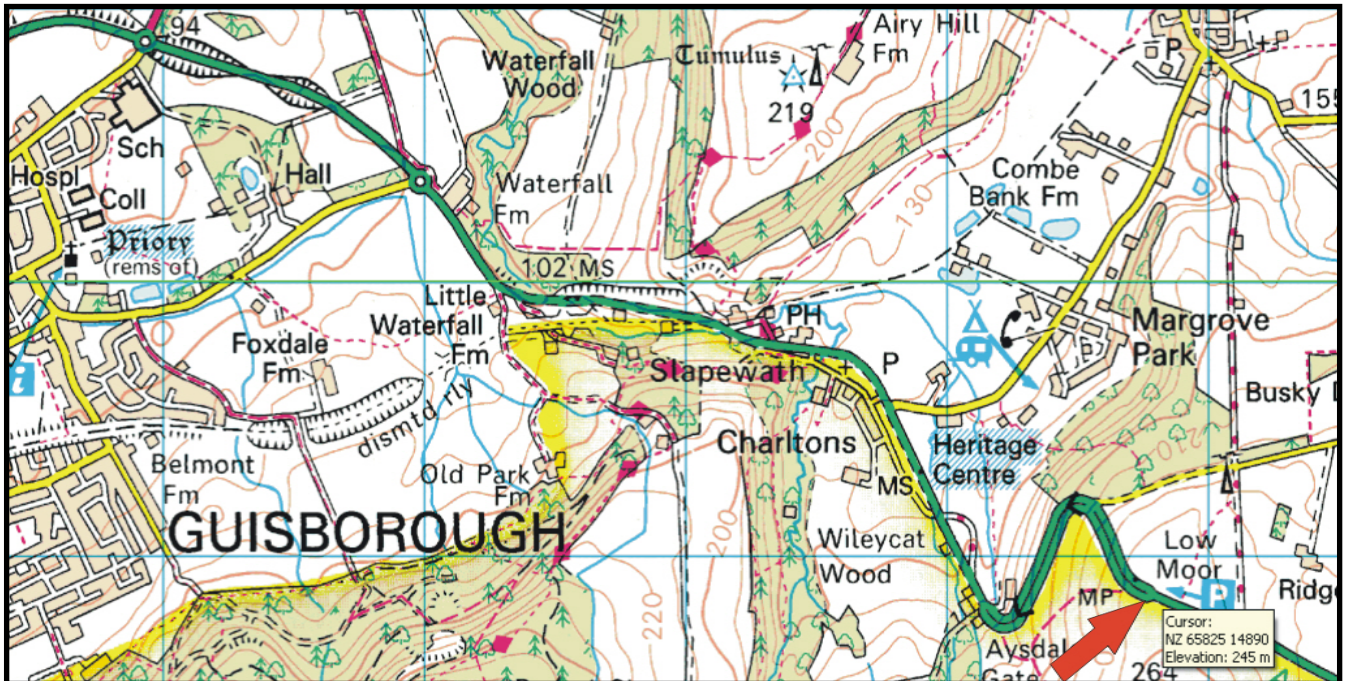
Route: To be decided once within the woodland.

Leader: Val Standen

Mobile phone number – 07792072012

Margrove Park, Near Guisborough. November 2nd.

For those from the west and north [the majority] travel on the A171 some 4 kms. east from Guisborough and park in the car park at the top of Birk Brow [NZ658149]. Two foray routes are likely both starting on level grassland before descending into mixed deciduous/coniferous woodland on gently sloping ground [no abseiling necessary, Dom]. The plan is to foray for 2 1/2 to 3 hours, then return to our cars and drive back down the A171



to the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust H.Q. (Heritage Centre on the map) at NZ651155 [a converted Victorian school on the side road to Boosbeck.] where we will eat and identify our finds (sic).

...hidden finds and flaming saddles!

This fantastic outcropping of *Polyporus squamosus* was discovered by accident during a reconnoitre of the route for the Close Woods Foray on October 5th.



There are surprisingly few fallen trees in the wood, largely due to the sheltered location, but the majority of those that have succumbed to gravity (and, no doubt, age) are beside the river where the winter waters have washed away at the banks.

These large specimens were almost missed in the gloom of an over-cast day in early August

but once the sun came out they glowed in the dense woodland. There are more to the right of this picture on a branch fractured off the main trunk. TAK

THE NEFSG FUND-RAISING RAFFLE.

The NEFSG is expanding its horizons and embarking on joint forays with other groups with similar aims and ambitions.. This year we will be linking up with English Nature and Cleveland Naturalists for combined forays and botanical excursions into the countryside.

Next year we will be playing host to MAK, the Mycological group which members visited in Germany a few years ago.

The NEFSG has resisted increases in membership fees and will always strive to keep the subscription as low as possible. Some additional expenditure will always be necessary over and above our base running costs and so this is an opportunity to boost funds in a practical way.

The NEFSG raffle is for the HUND H500 above, an excellent professional stereo-microscope with two objective lenses of 10x and 40x, giving magnification of 125 and 400 with the graticuled 12.5x eye-piece lenses. This micro-

scope has some excellent features including full condenser adjustment and fine control stage and focus . The raffle will be drawn at

Christmas 2013 so you have plenty of time to sell tickets! We only ask that you manage to sell 20, yes, 20 tickets at £1 each, that is individually or four strips

of five for five pounds....but more significantly, that you do the best you can. More tickets available on request or just print more off. No limit !

This is how the RAFFLE works. Printed over-leaf are the four strips of five tickets. Each ticket requires that you fill in a "contact" detail. This can be YOUR name, as a member, with just the initials of the person you sold the ticket (s) to, if you know them personally or a telephone number, e-mail address, or postal address in order that the winner can be contacted. No need to tear off tickets. Just keep the WHOLE SHEET and money collected until the draw date. This will be announced nearer to Christmas. The sheets will be collected in by various means and the tickets separated in order that the draw can be made. The winner will be notified directly and the prize will be delivered by a mutually acceptable arrangement. All members are entitled to enter, as well as colleagues and friends.

Please note that this prize is worth £300-350 and identical microscopes sell regularly on e-bay for £300-500. This is NOT A NEW MICROSCOPE but is in excellent condition and has been little used.

TAK

NEFSG Draw Member Initials: Entrant Contact Details:	NEFSG Draw Member Initials: Entrant Contact Details:	NEFSG Draw Member Initials: Entrant Contact Details:	NEFSG Draw Member Initials: Entrant Contact Details:
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Just when you thought it was all over.....

The Chairman's Stroll

All who attended the annual NEFSG lunch were very disappointed that Tom, who arranged the meal, was taken ill and could not partake in the proceedings. Ann looked after him and he recovered a few days later. Thank you Tom and Ann for arranging such a great venue and very good food.

After the meal our chairman Alan planned a walk to the east of the Golden Lion, then north to Cod Beck reservoir followed by a walk along the council road back to Osmotherley. We were assured it would be a stroll with no bogs so shoes would suffice. Just past the church and between hedges I found three mildews at SE458972, *Podosphaera tridactyla* on *Prunus spinosa*, *Sphaerotheca fusca* on *Taraxacum officinale* agg and *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on *Sonchus asper*. I wanted to show the group these microfungi but their stroll became a gallop and I stood alone. Eventually I caught up with some members that were pondering on a black sphere high up a small ash tree at SE461972. The light was poor so somebody had to climb the tree to investigate the mystery. As an octogenarian I was about to volunteer when a young lady, Rachel, took off her shoes and demonstrated what our ancient ancestors could do. She climbed the tree and threw down the object which had been attached to a dead branch. Yes, it was *Daldinia concentrica*. The remaining members galloped off again. Just to the east whilst crossing a bridge I pointed out to Rachel a gall on alder leaves. A mite *Eriophyes inangulis* had induced pustules about 3mm diameter scattered unevenly on top of the leaf. Entering the fields Rachel spotted a small skipper butterfly and soon after we saw meadow brown and ringlet too. By this time the group were almost out of sight but Rachel and I tried to look for fungi and other wildlife. In one field I spotted *Epichloe clarkii* at SE462973 on creeping soft grass *Holcus mollis* and I gathered a specimen to show the group if we ever caught up with them. I demonstrated to Rachel how to catch the larger hoverflies in my fingers, identify them then release them almost unharmed. Two species were identified, *Helophilus pendulus* with yellow lines on its thorax and *Eristalis pertinax* which has orange toes on its front feet. The path went through a boggy, note boggy, alder wood. Red root nodules were visible in a few places where the roots were close to the surface. Several groups of *Naucoria escharioides* were located at SE462974. At last we caught up with most of the group in a farm yard where they were admiring a hedgehog. Further east I found the gall *Phyllocoptes goniothorax* on hawthorn leaves. This gall is caused by a mite that rolls up the edges of the leaves for about 5mm and the leaf edge is much paler than the remainder of the leaf. By this time the group had slowed down. Along a green lane holly was profuse. In a foxglove flower a dead bumblebee was seen. I showed the group that it had two yellow bands on its thorax and one on its abdomen close to the back thoracic stripe. It had a white tail and an elongated head. This identified it as the garden bumblebee *Bombus hortorum* which has a long proboscis so it can gain access to the nectar in a foxglove flower without biting a hole towards the base of the flower. Another record for *Epichloe clarkia* was noted at SE467981. The young greylag geese were quite tame on Cod Beck reservoir, probably they are fed by members of the public.

There is an ever increasing tendency for specialist wildlife groups to consider recording other wildlife so this article shows NEFSG can take part.

(Thank you for your kind words, Gordon. On the following Tuesday, fully recovered, I met up with Bernard Otto in Yarm and together we went to Osmotherley where I had the meal I missed and a walk round the reservoir. Glad we all enjoyed ourselves! TAK)

.....it is now!