



North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 101 - Summer 2021

Index

Forthcoming Events	Page 1
FOTE Meeting Reminder - Sally Pattison	Page 10
NEFSG Lunch - Sally Pattison	Page 11
Some web-sites to explore - Mike Cruse	Page 16
The Strangler - Mike Cruse	Page 16
Lichen Lookout - Jo Scott	Page 18

NEXT ISSUE: The deadline for articles for the Autumn newsletter is 26th November 2021
All contributions will be gratefully received!



Forthcoming Events

Events are subject to cancellation or change depending on Covid-19 restrictions at the time.

Procedures on forays--the consensus is not to go for number limitation but to split into more than one group if needed on the day. Recording slips to be handed to foray leader [into a plastic bag on the day!] or sending list of finds by email later Social distancing, masks, gloves, tissues, hand sanitiser to be used with common sense. Multiple handling of fungi discouraged but arrange to display at end of foray for viewing [possibly hard to implement safely]. Details for some outings will follow by e-mail.

FORAY PROGRAMME 2021

Saturday September 4 th	Birch Wood—Bilsdale NYM - Alan Simkins
Sunday September 5 th	Croxdale - Val Standen
Saturday September 11 th	Langleeford Meadow - Harthope Valley - Leader Shiela Lillie
Sunday September 12 th	Lordstones—NYM - Alan Simkins
Saturday September 18 th	Druridge Bay - Mike Cruse
Sunday September 19 th	Hartford Hall - Sally Pattison
Saturday September 25 th	Crook - Louise Watson
Sunday September 26 th	High Plains - Mike Cruse
Saturday October 2 nd	Castle Eden Dene Foray - Fungus Day - Ron Pattison
Sunday October 3 rd	Auckland Deer Park - Alan Simkins
Saturday October 9 th	Hadrians Wall—Walltown - Shaun Hackett
Sunday October 10 th	Harbottle - Mike Cruse
Saturday October 16 th	Letah Wood—Tyne - Gordon Beakes
Sunday October 17 th	Gosforth Park , Newcastle – Mike Cruse
Saturday October 23 rd	Edmondsley Wood - Mike Cruse
Sunday October 24 th	Frost Hall—Farndale NYM - Alan Simkins
Saturday October 30 th	Malton—County Durham - Val Standen

Sunday October 31st
Sunday November 7th
Sunday November 14th

Mulgrave Castle—Whitby - Paul Forster
Boltby—NYM - Rhona Sutherland
Errington Woods—New Marske - Alan Simkins

Meeting Details. (10.30am for an 11am start)

Saturday September 4th - Birch Wood Bilsdale - Alan Simkins

Birch Wood is in Bilsdale in the North York Moors--grid ref SE570920--roadside parking is available on the B1257 Stokesley to Helmsley road.

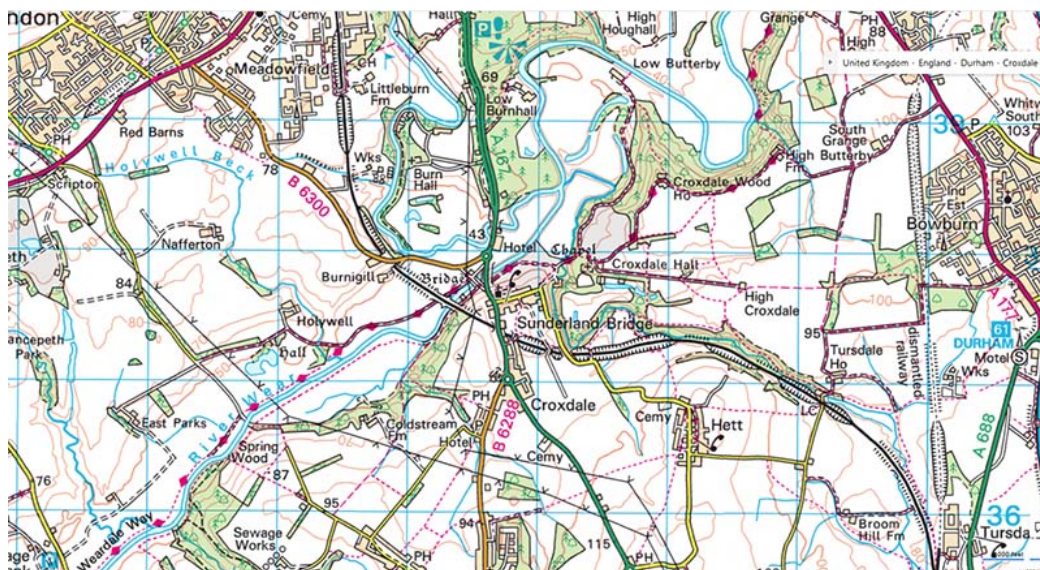
Birch Wood is a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve composed mainly of deciduous trees.



Croxdale Foray - NB new date - Sunday September 5th. - Val Standen

GR: - NZ 264379. Meet at 10.30 for 11am at Sunderland Bridge- just south of Durham on the A167. From the north pass the Cock of the North (Farewell Hall) roundabout, then right at the next roundabout and then immediately left. Park on the old bridge over the River Wear.

Val Standen: mobile - 07792072012



Saturday September 11th Langleeford Meadow - Harthope Valley - Wooler (BFG Invitation) - Sheila Lillie

Harthope Valley lies south west of Wooler and is the gateway to the three highest Cheviot Hills which lie in the upper reaches of Harthope Burn. The Valley floor has excellent unimproved lightly grazed pasture excellent habitat for grassland fungi, there is also lots of old *Alnus* along the river side which is easily accessible. For the more adventurous and agile (mountain goats) there is some nice old *Corylus* on a bank side where we park and *Quercus* higher on the hill at the beginning of the valley .

Park at the car park at the end of Harthope Valley . Grid ref :- NT 953 225 Postcode :- NE71 6RG

Signs for Harthope Valley on the A697 just south of Wooler . The link below provides an interactive map of the area .



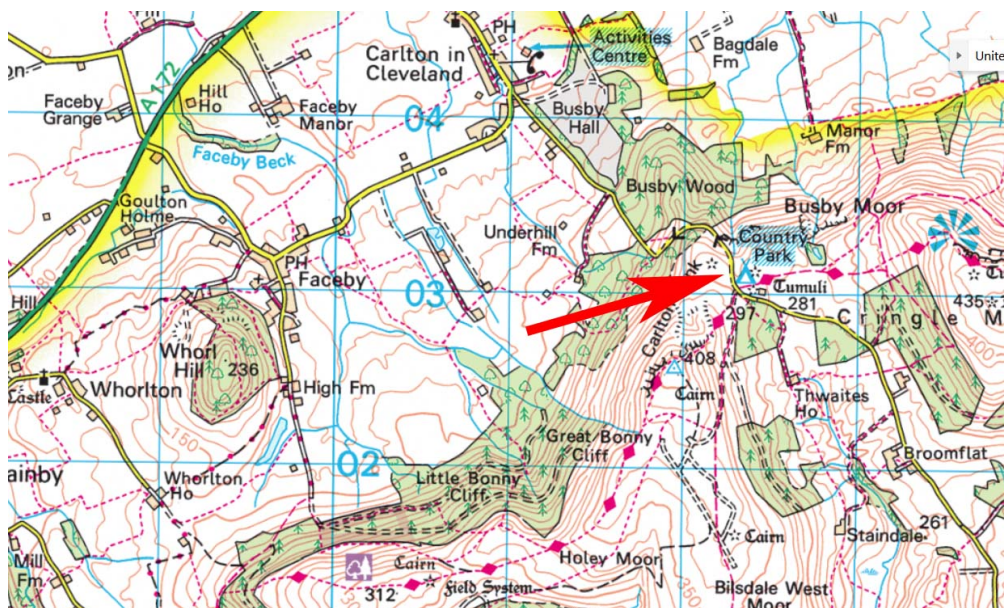
[Road bridge over Hawsen Burn, Langleeford](#) by [Andrew Curtis](#) geograph for square [NT9522](#)

The bridge is close to the **Langleeford** car-parking area beside the Harthope Burn. Harthope Burn. Housey Crag and Long Crag are behind.

Sunday September 12th - Lordstones - Carlton in Cleveland - Alan Simkins

From the A172 [the road from the A19 to Stokesley] turn right to the village of Carlton in Cleveland [if driving east from the A19]. Drive through the village and soon take a left turn [actually straight on as the main road turns to the right] signed for Chop Gate and Lordstones [1 1/4 miles]. Drive up the hill to the moor top and left into Lordstones carpark--drive through the carpark and follow signs to additional parking. If coming north up Bilsdale turn left at Chop Gate on to the minor road through Raisdale and turn right into Lordstones carpark etc. Lordstones is a commercial cafe so refreshments and toilets are available.

The foray is mainly in conifer plantations with a scattering of deciduous trees and some unimproved grassland. Lovely views over the Tees plain etc.--grid ref NZ524030



Saturday September 18th Druridge Bay Leader :- Mike Cruse

Grid ref :- NZ 275 965. Dunes and more dunes with the possibility of rare finds .

The site is accessed from the A1068 Amble road , coming from the south turn right at the roundabout at Widdrington towards the sea ,take the coastal dunes dead end road on the left after Druridge Farm . Proceed 0.3 miles and park near the large concrete structure on the right in the dunes . We will assemble there .

NB We are not at Druridge Bay CP a short distance north . The link below provides an interactive map of the area .



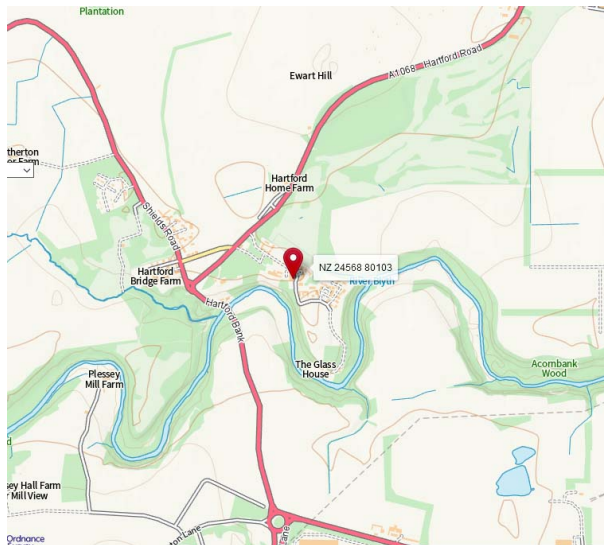
[Dunes, Druridge Bay](#) by [Richard Webb](#)
geograph for square [NZ2796](#)

Druridge Links, with a block building which is probably from World War II.

Sunday September 19th - Hartford Hall - Sally Pattison

Post Code: NE22 6AG GR: NZ 24568 80103

Join us for our foray within the grounds and woodlands of Hartford Hall, in Bedlington. The Hall dates back to 1807 and previous exploratory forays have found the site to have lots of potential for fungi. NB Residents of the estate may join us for part of the day.



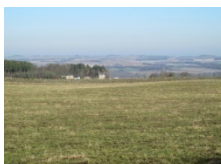
Contact: sallypattison@hotmail.co.uk, 07852 787 082

Sunday September 26th - High Plains - Mike Cruse

Woodland edge , field and wood , 1 mile south of Riding Mill . (After lunch we may relocate to another site .) Park at pull ins on the minor road near the entrance to High Plains Equestrian Centre . Our foray starts from the FP at this entrance . Near Healey leave the A68 opposite the Broomley turning .

Grid Ref :- NZ 012 595

Nearest Postcode :- NE 44 6 AY



The link below provides an interactive map of the area .

[Farmland south of High Plains](#) by [Mike Quinn](#)
geograph for square [NZ0159](#) Dist: 1.6km south

mikecruse@live.com

Tel :- 01661 823229

Mob:- (On the day only) 07486 992923

Saturday October 2nd UK Fungus Day (UKFD) Castle Eden Dene

This mysterious tangled landscape of trees, rocky outcrops and steep cliffs is a sensational survivor of 'the wildwood' that once covered much of Britain. Yew, oak, ash and dying elm create a home for other plants and creatures. 10,000 years of wild growth in a deep gorge has created a place you can explore again and again. The reserve covers 221 hectares of woodland and lowland grassland, where post-glacial melt waters have carved out some spectacular limestone cliffs and gorges. The steep crumbling sides of the gorge are made of soft magnesian limestone.

[Castle Eden Dene National Nature Reserve, - NE280](#)

publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6013576

Grid Ref :- NZ 426 398 Postcode :- SR8 1NJ

The link below provides an interactive map of the area .

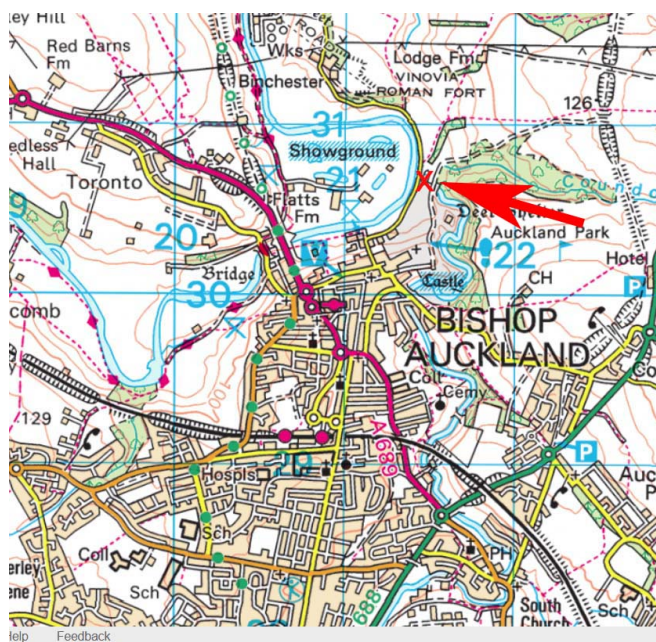


[Castle Eden Dene Nature Reserve Office](#) by [Les Hull](#)
geograph for square [NZ4239](#) Dist: 1.2km south

English Nature took over the management of the Dene in 1985 and immediately designated it a National Nature Reserve. Category: Of

Sunday October 3rd - Auckland Deer Park Bishop Auckland - Alan Simkins

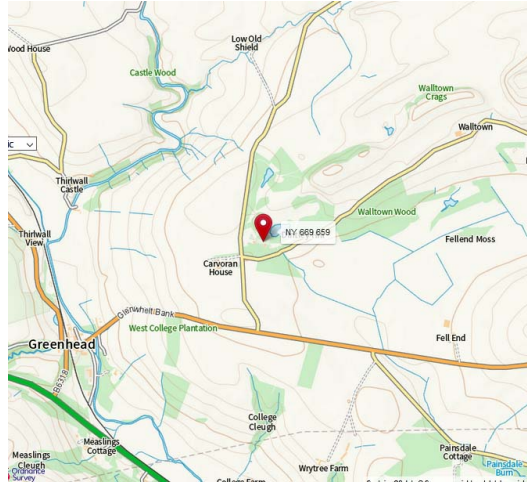
From whichever direction you are coming drive into the centre of Bishop Auckland and follow the one way system towards the marketplace-- but before you reach the marketplace turn left on a minor road signposted to Binchester Roman Fort--go down the hill and the road soon abuts the River Wear--park on the roadside close to the confluence of the River Gaunless with the Wear--grid ref NZ214306



Saturday , October 9th Walltown, Hadrians Wall - Shaun Hackett

Walltown country park is our site near Greenhead/Cumbria border NY 669 659. Plan for the day will be to add to our existing list of fungi species for the grasslands their which are notable for waxcaps. So not expecting to visit any woodland sites. The plan would be to look over two ancient grassland sites adjacent to each other - one an old Quarry and its spoil heaps. Collecting and

adding to existing knowledge of species on the sites will help future land management practises. The landowner is particularly interested and keen and appreciative of the fungi groups surveying effort. Any further records for this area will help go towards helping illustrate the fungal significance of the area particularly for grassland fungi and help consolidate Hadrian`s Wall as a nationally important site. We are surveying the same sites here as in 2019 but in more detail.



Sunday October 10th Harbottle Leader :- Mike Cruse

Mixed woodland and moorland . The FC site below provides an interactive map in the how to find us section and also gives directions .

[Harbottle | Forestry England](https://www.forestryengland.uk/harbottle)

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/harbottle>

mikecruse@live.com

Tel :- 01661 823229

Mob:- (On the day only) 07486 992923

Saturday October 16th Letah Wood

A Woodland Trust site , mixed woodland with burn . Grid Ref :- NY 939 604 There is an interactive map in the WT info below .

[Letah Wood - Woodland Trust](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/letah-wood)

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/letah-wood>

or use the Map Carta for directions

[Letah Wood Map - England, United Kingdom - Mapcarta](https://mapcarta.com/W481460024)

<https://mapcarta.com/W481460024>

Either approach from the south via Juniper or from the north via Hexham . There is limited parking at the entrance but there is good verge parking up the hill to the south past the pillar box . If coming from the north the entrance is very discreet and is opposite Newbiggin House which has a large tent in the front garden . Further details nearer the time from either Gordon Beakes or Mike Cruse .

Sunday October 17th Gosforth Park NR , Leaders :- Mike Cruse / Lydia Koelmans

Gosforth Nature Reserve is nationally important for its rare wildlife and plants. Many of which you won't encounter anywhere else in the city.

Explore expansive woodlands, wetlands and reedbeds and enjoy a fascinating range of wildlife that changes day by day, season by season.

From bitterns to barn owls, roe deer to rare orchids, with over 1,600 species recorded on site, you never know what you will discover next.

Gosforth Park Nature Reserve

<https://www.nhsn.org.uk/gosforth-nature-reserve/>

Saturday October 23rd Edmondsley Wood Leader :- Mike Cruse

Quietly secluded, this mature deciduous woodland is a mix oak, ash, silver birch, hawthorn, holly, rowan and abundant hazel coppice stools. There is a wide range of flora across the site, from bluebells to broad leaved helleborine and marshy areas where meadowsweet is abundant. Edmondsley Wood is part of the woodland corridor that runs along the steep Cong Burn Valley.

Directions to this Woodland Trust site are in the 2 links below .

[Edmondsley Wood | Durham](#)

<https://www.durhamwt.com/nature-reserves/edmondsley-wood>

[Edmondsley Wood Map - County Durham, United Kingdom - ...](#)

<https://mapcarta.com/N7573380558>

It is located 3m SW of Chester-le-Street near the village of Edmondsley .
Grid Ref :- NZ 231 492 Postcode :- DH7 6FG

mikecruse@live.com

Tel :- 01661 823229

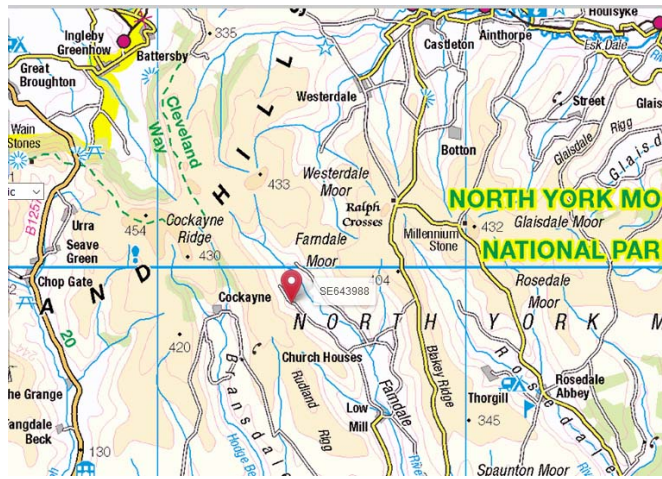
Mob:- (On the day only) 07486 992923

Sunday 24th October-Frost Hall Farndale-NYM - Alan Simkins GR-SE643988

Access into Farndale is from the Moor Road from Castleton to Hutton le Hole [there are 2 or 3 roads into Farndale depending on whether you are coming from Castleton or Hutton le Hole direction].

Once you get to Monket House at grid ref. SE661973 keep driving north west for approx. 2 miles passing Broom Hill, Shotten Hill, Ellers House, and Duffin Stone. The next farm on the right side of the road is Frost Hall. Ample parking is available on the forecourt and roadside verges.

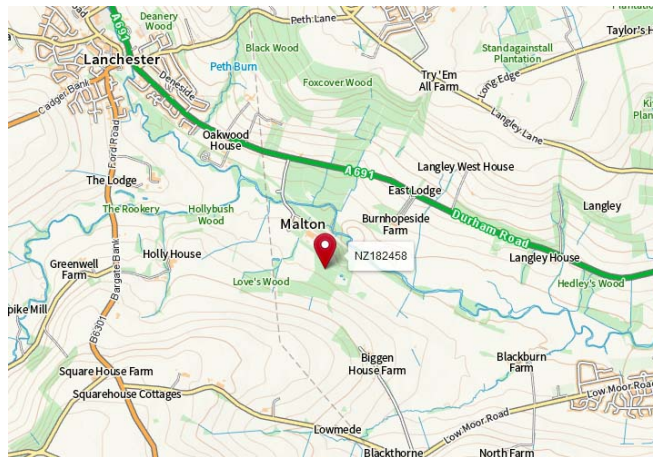
The foray is in fields to left and right of the road and some nearby woodland may also be available. The habitat is particularly favourable for waxcaps and associated genera.



Saturday October 30th Malton county Durham - Val Standen

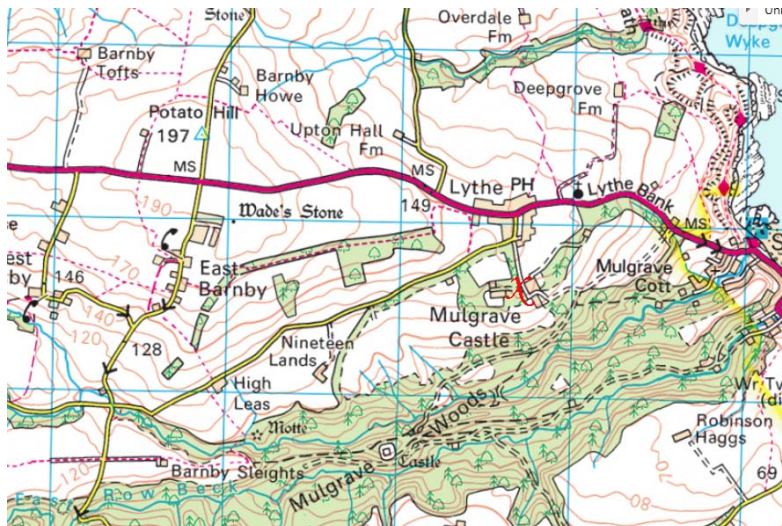
Malton Nature Reserve -Grid reference:-NZ182458 - Post code:- DH70TP

Driving from Durham towards Lanchester on the A691, the reserve is signposted on the left approx 1km before Lanchester. There is a large car park for use at the picnic site which can be busy at weekends. We walk from there to the reserve which has developed on an old coking work site and back along the disused railway path and the river Browney.



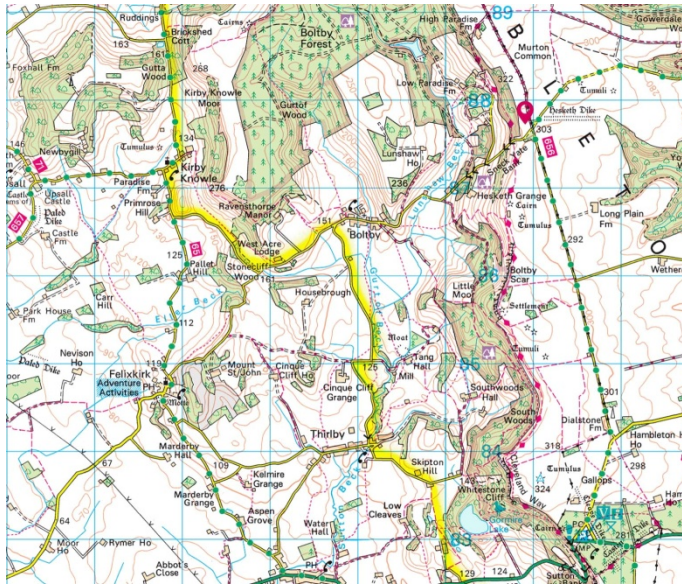
Sunday October 31st - Mulgrave Castle, Whitby - Paul Forster GR NZ845126.

Meet at the potting sheds in the grounds.



Sunday November 7th - Boltby - NYM - Rhona Sutherland

Take the A170 east from Thirsk to Sutton Bank. Turn left at the Visitors Centre and and left again at Dialstone farm following the Cleveland Road to Sneck Yate at SE510877. Park on the left hand side of the track that carries on north of the T junction.



Sunday November 14th - Errington Woods, New Marske - Alan Simkins

From the A19 take the A174 signed Redcar etc and keep on it past the first roundabout into Redcar, straight over the next roundabout, and turn right at the next roundabout towards New Marske and Errington Wood--after about 1 mile go straight over a crossroads and up a hill--at the hill top turn sharp left into the Errington Wood carpark--the foray is on paths in mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland.--car park grid ref NZ618202



Don't forget, the NEFSG holds regular online meetings to help understand the ID wheels in the Fungi of Temperate Europe books.

FOTE MEETING REMINDER



The meetings are always on a Monday evening and anyone is welcome to join.

CONTACT SALLY FOR MORE INFO

sallypattison@hotmail.co.uk

NEFSG LUNCH

WITH A WALK AROUND CROXDALE
WOODLAND TRUST SITE

"You forget what fun it is walking with others who are also interested in all aspects of natural history"



11 NEFSG members descended upon the Honest Lawyer Hotel in Durham on the last day of July. Everyone was in merry spirits and keen to catch up after, what has been, a drought of forays and social company. After a superb meal with every one fit to bursting, we set off to explore a new woodland at Croxdale.

Val led the way, marching over a small bridge, overlooking the River Wear with much Himalayan Balsam sweeping the rivers edge and giant stems of Butterbur towering over us as we wound our way along the path. Lydia carried a Butterbur leaf, heavily infected with an orange fungus, throughout the walk which doubled up as a useful umbrella.

A close-up photograph of large, green, heart-shaped leaves of a Butterbur plant. The leaves are densely packed and have prominent veins.

Butterbur, whose common name dervies from the traditional use of it's leaves to wrap butter, is the largest leaved plant in the UK with leaves up to 90cm. The male and female distributon of this plant is unusual with most plants in the South of England being male.



The rust, *Coleosporium tussilaginis*, is found on Butterbur and was the likely contender for Lydia's leaf fungus.

Interestingly, this rust also targets Coltsfoot, *Tussilago farfara*. Butterbur and Coltsfoot share a trait - the flower appears early but the large leaves remain.

Lydia spotted what she believed to be *Rhytisma punctatum* on Acer while Mike recorded *R. acerinum*. *R. punctatum* is not mentioned in 'Microfungi on Land Plants' by Ellis and Ellis but is described in 'Fungi of Temperate Europe' on page 1483:

'forms up to 15mm wide groups of small, approx. 1mm wide stromata; the attacked part of the leaf stay $\pm$ green and the asci and the spores are shorter, (than *R. acerinum*).'



Rhytisma acerinum differs in that it:

'initially produces small spots on living leaves that at maturity become black, = wrinkled and 10-25mm in diameter, (image 2). The stromata crack open in an irregular pattern during spring and expose the greyish hymenia (image 1).



INSECTS & PLANTS

With not much fungi to see on the day, we spent our time looking at any other things we could spy. A longhorn beetle, *Rutpela maculata*, was spotted on Yarrow early in the walk and identified by Doug, (image 1 above by Rhona). Doug sent 2 additional photos which show the variation in the markings of this striking beetle, (image 2 & 3 above).

Rhona did well to spy the larvae of a Swallow

Prominent moth taking cover from the showers under a Poplar leaf, (see next page for her pic), and

"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere."
Vincent van Gogh



Swallow Prominent moth (stock photo)

again, Doug identified it.

The Cinnabar moth caterpillar was also abundant, steadily consuming the bright Ragwort that we saw all over the area.



Cinnabar moth caterpillar



Swallow Prominent moth caterpillar

We encountered many plants. The first to stop us in our tracks was Black Horehound, *Ballota nigra*. This was a plant that, although common, a few of us hadn't seen before.



Black Horehound



Common Hemp Nettle

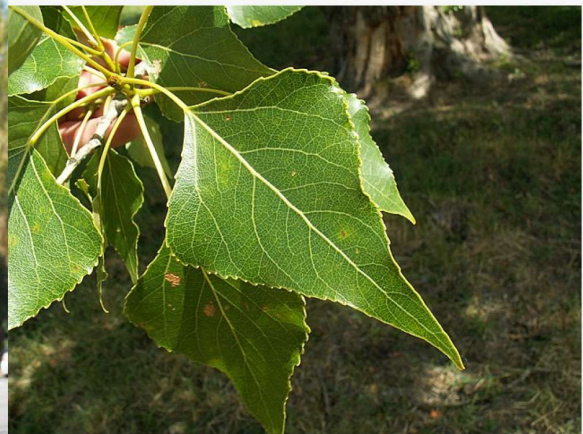
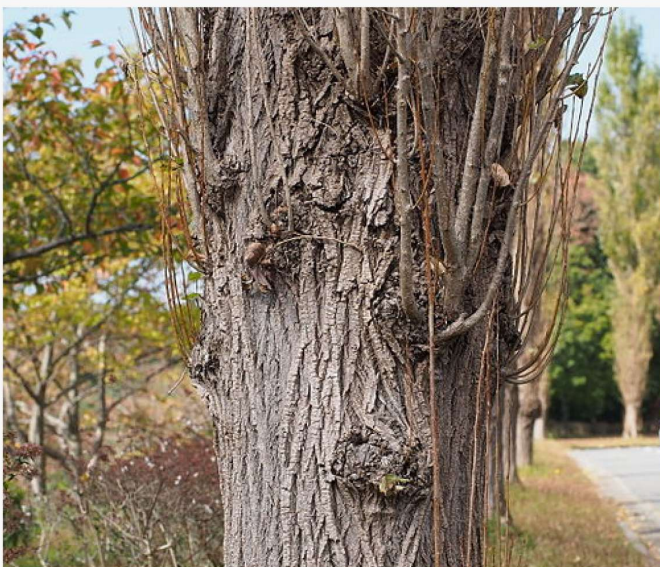
Another plant, that we admired, was the Common Hemp Nettle, *Galeopsis tetrahit*. This attractive plant was everywhere and drew our eye all along the path.

Both Black horehound and the Common Hemp Nettle are in the *Lamiaceae* family, along with Marsh Woundwort, *Stachys paulstris*, which we also found down near the rivers edge.

We were stumped when we came across Dame's Violet, *Hesperis matronalis*, but eventually Val managed to remember the name.

There was a discussion between Val and Mike about whether the Poplar trees that we saw dotted along the walk were propagated from some much older Black Poplar near Darlington and Waldrige Fell.

Apparently the Black Poplar Durham Biodiversity Action Plan was launched with this purpose but no-one knew whether the Poplars we were seeing were part of the BAP.



Black Poplar, *Populus nigra*

The original Black Poplar in the area makes up only a few sites in County Durham which have the tree as a true native. It is the UK's most endangered and rarest native timber tree and is associated with riversides and wetlands. A combination of drainage and the introduction of more productive foreign Poplars led to the near extinction of our native Poplar.

All in all, the day was a great success, and although rain-soaked by the end of our walk, everyone went home happy.



Some web sites to explore .

1. Fungi Families , excellent illustrations plus much more besides.

[Mushrooms and toadstools of Britain and Ireland - contents](https://www.delta-intkey.com/britfu/index.htm)

<https://www.delta-intkey.com/britfu/index.htm>

2. The Boletales.

[Home « boletales.com](http://boletales.com)

boletales.com

3. Plenty of families and children to keep you busy.

[EOL Fungi Hotlist - media.eol.org](http://media.eol.org)

media.eol.org/collections/54203?sort=0

.....“ The Strangler , did he wear gloves , and how was the Old Man OF the Woods involved ?”

No, not the start of a murder mystery but some interesting fungi that are out there waiting to be found.

The photogenic Earthy Powdercap , *Cystoderma amianthinum* has a parasitic fungi that grows on it, the Red Data list species , Powdercap Strangler , *Squamanita paradoxa* . Look out near any *Cystoderma amianthinum* for a nondescript fungi , look closely underneath at the stem and you may be rewarded . It has been found on NEFSG forays at Cow Green in 2013 and Cockfield Fell in 2017 . It has been recorded from August to November .

[Squamanita paradoxa \(A.H. Sm. & Singer\) Bas - iucn.ekoo.se](http://iucn.ekoo.se)

iucn.ekoo.se/iucn/species_view/339580

The Willow Glove Fungus , *Hypocreopsis lichenoides* inhabits wet places and is associated with Willow Glue , *Hymenochaete tabacina* . It has been found on a BFG foray at Gordon Moss in 2018 . It has been recorded year round .

Brian Douglas at Kew

In case it helps, finding willow crust (*Hymenochaetopsis/Hymenochaete tabacina*) in the same area as the "gloves", or finding the gloves covered in a brown powder of conidia, is the best indication of them maybe being willow gloves. Hazel gloves will grow on any host tree which has hazel glue (*Hymenochaetopsis corrugata*) on it, and willow gloves will grow on any tree that has willow glue on - the tree species themselves aren't the determining factor.

Finally, The Old Man of the Woods, *Strobilomyces strobilaceus*, was found this year at Glenkinnon Burn on a SBFG foray. It has been recorded most commonly from August to October.

Strobilomyces "floccopus": The Old Man of the Woods...

https://www.mushroomexpert.com/strobilomyces_floccopus.html

So get searching , they could be out there near you !

Lichen Lookout

Three distinctive lichens to look for on walls and rocks



Acarospora fuscata

Common on upland and lowland nutrient rich siliceous walls. Brown crinkly areaeoles like dried up mud. Apothecia dark and sunken.



Aspicilla calcarea

Thallus very white to a pale blue grey. This lichen has a cracked thallus with a distinctive margin. Apothecia black and sunken often more than one to an areaole. Found on limestone.



Ophiopalma ventosa

Found on upland walls and boulders. The thallus is thick and warty. Bright red apothecia. Comes in two colour forms - white and greenish which can grow side by side.