

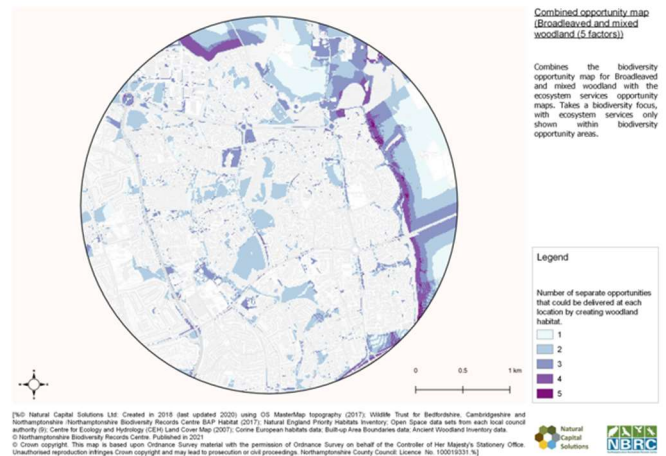
NBRC Newsletter 22

Autumn/Winter 2022

We just seen the biggest legislative change in UK environmental policy in over a decade with the passing of our new UK Environment Bill into law. Alongside this, are new global targets to address climate change from world leaders at COP26. These are intrinsically linked. How we implement these changes will affect the health of our habitats and the biodiversity they support. The Local Recovery Network, as championed by the Wildlife Trusts, for 'bigger, better and more connected' planning is a key government approach along with a mandate for net gain in biodiversity. We have also seen big targets for carbon sequestration of which land use will play a key role. Meeting these challenges with ecologically informed decision-making is of key importance if we are going to get this right. Nationally Biological Record centres are working closely with local stakeholders to meet their evolving local needs in implementation.

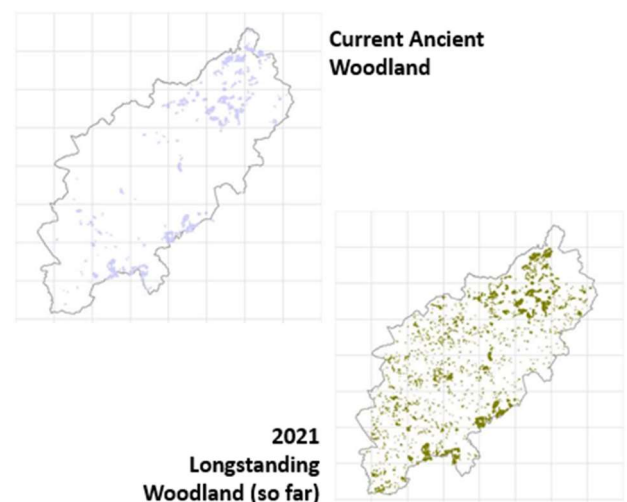
In light of this, we are progressing with our new collaborative service with [Natural Capital Solutions](#), as supported by our Local Nature Partnership, in the provision of detailed reports from the county level models detailing the natural assets, ecosystem services and habitat opportunities. Well-planned and protected natural assets can deliver multiple benefits (from carbon sequestration, to flood risk reduction, and recreational value) as well as act as havens for biodiversity. Where decision making on land use is considered, the maps are weighted towards biodiversity net gain and show the potential options to consider for a joined-up approach.

We will launch the new 'add on' service, in spring, with the 2021 newly remodelled layers (based on the most current and comprehensive data currently available). This will be provided as either a bespoke 2km+ buffer circular search, or at a parish level, for use alongside our sites, habitat and species data for ecologist use in valuing and enhancing natural capital within decision-making. The service will be charged in line with our fair non-profit principle and support staff time, continual base habitat information improvements, as well as periodic remodelling by Natural Capital Solutions.



Combined Opportunities Map (2016 model) of Lings showing where ecosystem services could be met through broadleaf woodland habitat creation (native woodland, hedgerow, orchard etc.)

A major undertaking this year has been the mapping of longstanding woodland, in the first stages of Northamptonshire's **Ancient Woodland Inventory Update**. James has completed over 80% of the county, and there is a marked difference between the existing map and possible ancient woodland in this latest update. We can only protect what we know, the digitisation of the current valuable long-standing woodlands (and some of these being ancient woodland) aids decision making for habitat enhancement and protection. Newly spatially identified these habitats can be connected for biodiversity benefit and reducing the need for land use change from other key habitats (good grassland and wetland).



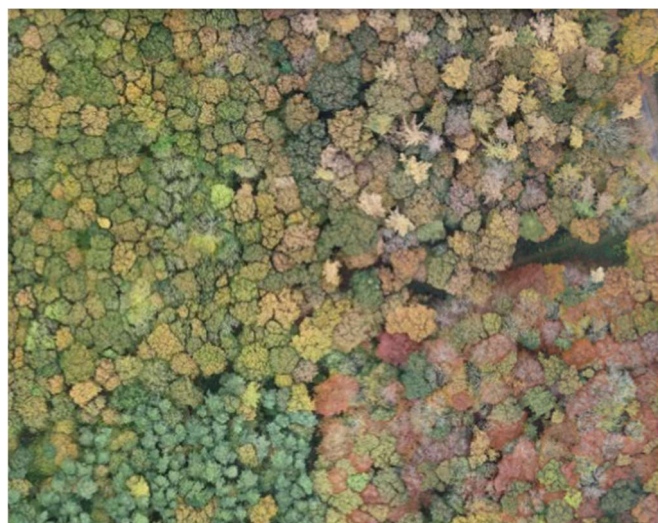
Ancient Woodland Inventory mapping progress



The next stages will begin in the 2022 spring survey season where through a combination of archive check and ground survey the mapped longstanding woodland will be assessed for incorporation in the final layer. The next stage of the work is fully supported for Northamptonshire, and we will work with the Wildlife Trust BCN Monitoring and Research team in their delivery of these next stages for our whole region. There are new Ancient Woodland Officer roles currently being advertised.

For active monitoring of our locally designated wildlife sites we work collaboratively with the Wildlife Trust BCN wider countryside team. Nathalie, having supported surveys in the summer is now working on database incorporation of the 30+ surveyed sites currently, updating the species lists, citations and habitat information held ready for the sites assessment panel in February 2022.

This year has been a bit trickier to undertake drone bookings however thanks to agreed regular access to a quiet SSSI Nathalie has kept up to date with her skills and we have another year of commercial licence in place for 2022. As an add-on to the Kelmarsh Bioblitz Nathalie and myself headed out in November to capture orthomosaic and footage of the lakes and house, and gain a bird's eye view of the Sunderland and Rabbit Spinney woods.



Kelmarsh Estate Rabbit Spinney, 300ft drone, Nov 2021 ©Nathalie Hueber

Having completed most flights in meadow/grassland when training, and since worked on a number of river and wetland based projects, so we wanted to use the drone for woodland experience. In particular, we were keen to gain imagery of Rabbit Spinney before the showers hit, as an aid to Northamptonshire University PhD research. The processed results were very clear, with the potential application of

identification of woodland sections and use of RGDVI for plant health assessment.

We have a number of volunteers active throughout the year in the digitisation of historically held records, these require card by card scanning, digital input and checks for accuracy. In October, Rachel received a new set of records from the Kettering Natural History Society and she has set up our longstanding volunteer to embarked on a project to extract biological record information.

Winter is always our busiest time for data processing. As it's the main period we work on validating the records we have received from you. We check every single submission before they are sent out to our county recorders. We have also been receiving their annual data sets. Particularly notable is the huge five-fold increase in bird records (19,000 for 2019 and 100,000+ for 2020), one of the biggest annual datasets we have received! This is due to the incorporation of multiple online recording platforms this year by county recorder Jon Cook, picking up records from bird track, ebird and irecord. A mammoth task at an important juncture.

As you will recall we, with the local nature partnership, and Northants Bird Committee are calling for your aid in monitoring Golden Plover and Lapwing activity in the county. To support survey effort, Natural England have purchased a thermal imager as available on loan to capture flocks from dusk. This tool have been particularly helpful in surveys conducted by the [West Midlands Bird Ringing Group](#). Priority will be given to recording of Golden Plover and Lapwing around the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA, to help gain a better understanding of their use of the wider landscape surrounding the SPA. We can provide further details to recorders and groups who want to take part.



Meet your local County Bird Recorder Jon Cook

Jon uses his expertise to support evidence based conservation through guidance in survey and ID, his big job of verifying and compiling of all the submitted county data and reporting this annually for the Northants Bird Club.



We work together to ensure that quality data is captured from a range of sources, species protection status' lists are up to date and the data is used for informed conservation.






Follow & contact Jon on twitter and email: [@jcbirder](#)
joncooknorthantsbirds@gmail.com
Northants Bird news: <https://northantsbirds.com/>

Golden Plover, Jon Cook

Introduction to Biological Recording



With Jon, we were invited to speak with third year students of Northampton University and introduce the joys of recording. We plan to return when we hit



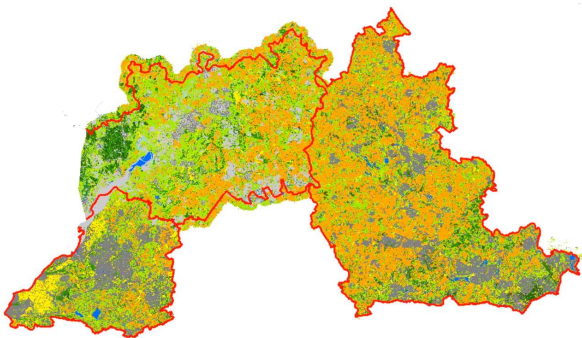
the spring of 2022 to take the theory into practice. Looking to the summer we hope to promote our active local groups and restart some more public walks, talks and bioblitz events working together with our county recorders and the [Northamptonshire Natural History Society](#). We will keep you posted about opportunities and look forward to recording with you in 2022!

Rosalind Johnston, NBRC Centre Manager

Follow our [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for the latest from the team. [Email us](#) to keep our mailing list up to date with any changes in your details and preferences.

News from the Network

The ALERC (Association of Local Record Centres) conference focussed on habitat data and new projects to enhance and join up the information held for use in the application of a 'bigger, better and joined' approach as expected in environmental policy. This data is recognised to be patchy across the UK, with a number of survey classification systems used, due to patchy investment. We heard from an eCountability supported pilot with 5 LERCs to deliver high quality and seamless data using UKHab. The involved LERCs both translating existing data digitally held (phase 1, priority habitat) to the new system classifications and trialling a new survey app for inputting new data. This resulted in increased compatibility of the data and gaps filled with survey effort. We also heard from Bill Butcher, the development lead, who told us they were looking at developing bespoke licences for record centres with ALERC to meet supply needs of users, including as a commercial service, whilst still protecting their intellectual property rights.



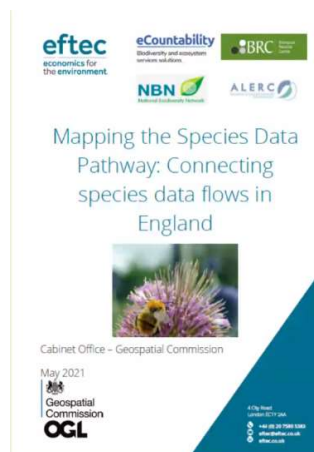
UKHab data across Bristol, Gloucester and Thames Valley @eCountability

We have a new chair at the NBN (National Biodiversity Network), Lisa Chilton who will be sharing their 5 year strategic approach in the new year, as shared in an overview at both the NBN and ALERC conferences. In particular they will be looking to enhance the data

network and will be working on straightforward and transparent data flows. This includes removing the barriers for data sharing with the Atlas, introducing access controls and working on partnerships for this including increased global data sharing. As part of the citizen tools, iRecord and now iNaturalist data will now be part of this database. The latter has raised some concern within the Local Environmental Record Centre community in terms of data quality. Underway however is iRecord development of a two-way exchange with BTO Bird Track. The NBN will be looking at ways to improve the quality of data on the Atlas and working with partners to deliver this, noting the magnitude of data on the Atlas that was removed after BTO completed their data cleanse, from this one quality check in data sharing.

The NBN are key partners in Scotland's trailblazing reform of the data pathways. This new system will standardise data services and support the data pathways sustainably. We heard from Bill Butcher, on the UK Geospatial Strategy review of the values and challenges in the species data flows for England and made 14 key recommendations. These summarise as: improving the partnership in the pathway by transparently & sustainably maintaining local databases to feed into a centralised set; applying purposeful and quality collection in order that data standards are met; ensuring investment through understanding of the pathway value and end users

are supporting this; and application of the FAIR data principles, mandating that the 'best available data' is used in development and that species surveyed are submitted for re-use.



Geospatial Commission full report: 2021-05-25-Speciesdatapathway-final-report-forpublication.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

As ever one of the highlights of the conference season is hearing from notable recorders and recording groups active in the UK as celebrated in the NBN awards ceremony.

Rosalind Johnston, NBRC Centre Manager

The slides and many presentations for the [NBN conference](#) for 2021 are available online.



Pondweed Heaven at Yardley Chase

I was invited by Graham Warnes this summer to survey some of the ponds in Yardley Chase MOD area. One of the ponds had a blanket of moss formed by a mixture of *Drepanocladus aduncus* and *Calliergonella cuspidata* floating on top of it. Although it wasn't a sphagnum moss it looked very much like a bog. I thought this was very unusual and that I'd better check carefully for acid loving plants.



Bog pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*)
©Nathalie Hueber

Looking at the broad-leaved pondweeds (*Potamogeton natans*) on the edges of the pond, one of them caught my eye. When I had a closer look I could see it was clearly different, so I took some home with me to find out exactly what it was. At the time I thought the most likelihood would be bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, not only because it was in a bog type environment but also because there is not very much else which looks like broad-leaved pondweed.

Later at home, I was able to confirm that yes indeed it was likely to be bog pondweed. This is because unlike broad-leaved pondweed;

- It had narrow submerged leaves rather than phyllodes
- It lacked the discoloration at the top of the petiole
- It had dark translucent transversal veins on floating leaves
- It had a clear stipule rather than a brownish stipule

I thought how convenient to find bog pondweed in a "bog" in Northamptonshire! Its status in the county was uncertain. There was some old records pre 1930 mainly in the Soke of Peterborough but they were not confirmed. So, I sent my specimen to Chris Preston,

the BSBI referee, to confirm the identification. I was very excited to find out it had been accepted.

It usually grows in slow moving shallow acidic mesotrophic water and is most frequent in the North and West of England and in Scotland. It is decreasing in some southern counties where peats and bogs are drying out. So, it is a much unexpected find and something to keep an eye on.



(top) Broad-leaved pondweeds (*Potamogeton natans*); (bottom) Bog pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*) ©Nathalie Hueber

The Yardley Chase SSSI is unusual in Northamptonshire with its series of ponds, each unique in character, around numerous bunkers. It is part of the Whittlewood Ridge, a physical boundary between the catchments of the River Nene and the River Great Ouse. The underlying geology and subsequent drifts of boulder clay were deposited after the last ice age and overlain by various soils such as Oxford clay. This varied mosaic of soil types gives rise to soils that range from free draining to less permeable clay and are mostly pH neutral but occasionally acidic in nature.

This local variation in soil structure and chemistry has allowed development of an intricate patchwork of different plant communities. In addition, local base



enrichment also provides the right conditions for Shining Pondweed (*Potamogeton lucens*) to flourish. This native lowland aquatic plant doesn't have floating leaves and is present in several larger ponds with deeper water, up to three metres. Nationally there is evidence of a decline of this species.

Another plant most particular to Yardley Chase is Red pondweed (*Potamogeton alpinus*). Chris Carter contacted me in October to let me know that he had seen the plant this year. Again, there were some very old records for the county in the flora and it hadn't been recoded for over 100 years until Gill Gent found it there in 1996. This pondweed only has submerged leaves and it can look similar to Shining Pondweed apart from the leaf margins, which are entire and not denticulate. The tip of the leaves also are blunt and slightly hooded. Interestingly it turns red when drying. You can see some of the leaves developed a red coloration if you compare the pictures from Chris and mine (taken a few days later).



Red Pondweed (*Potamogeton alpinus*) ©Chris Carter

Like Bog Pondweed, this species of pondweed also prefers mesotrophic, often neutral or mildly acidic slow-flowing water. It is most frequent in northern England and Scotland and it is now extinct in many of its lowland sites. Yardley Chase SSSI is certainly a very special site when it comes to aquatic plants as it also supports many charophytes. It has been recognised nationally for its stonewort assemblages and is listed as an Important Stonewort Area by Plantlife, one of the best 118 sites for stoneworts in the UK. I am pleased to see that some work is undergoing to open

up some of the ponds over shaded by woodland. This intricate networks of ponds is a haven for still water loving plants and invertebrates alike.



Red Pondweed (*Potamogeton alpinus*) ©Nathalie Hueber

Nathalie Hueber, NBRC Data Officer

Northants Diptera: 2021 Update

With this strange year, it is appropriate that the Diptera have also been unusual. It was a very slow start and numbers seemed to have been well down on previous years. However, we have had a number of unusual records to encourage us.

The first was a message from Ron Follows, a lepidopterist, who had been running a couple of traps in Fineshade Woods. He found what he initially thought was a micromoth he did not recognise and took it home to examine. He soon realised it was a fly and sent me a photo. I recognised it as *Rhamphomyia marginata* and arranged to collect the specimen from him. He told me he had had a second specimen in his other trap but had not retained that. This was the first record for Northants, although a photo of one appeared on the front cover of Dipterists Digest a while ago, but that record never made it to me or to the Empid Recording Scheme. The photo had been taken in Wakerley Wood, just a couple of miles away. Nigel Jones, of the Empid Recording Scheme, said that this was a North-westerly range expansion for the species. Strangely, a few weeks later, I took the crane fly *Dactylolabis transversa* near a pond in Fineshade Wood. Checking the NBN Atlas, this represented a South-easterly range expansion and a county first.



Odontomyia ornata (Ornate Brigadier), a soldierfly, was recorded by Robin Gossage for the second year running at Whiston Locks. The soldierfly is normally associated with coastal grazing marshes but a few records from inland are reported each year. It needs well vegetated ditches which are cleared every few years for breeding. Another soldierfly, *Nemotelus uliginosus* (Barred Snout), which is associated with saltmarshes, was found by Bob Gill at Yardley Chase. This species has been found in both the Nene and Great Ouse floodplains so may have strayed onto the Chase from either side.

Yardley Chase also produced the hunchback fly (family Acroceridae) *Ogcodes pallipes* (Jeff Blinow), only our second record for Northants. Kev Rowley found another Acrocerid – *Acrocera orbiculus* at Lilbourne Meadows Nature Reserve. This is a county first. The Acroceridae are spider parasitoids, the adult lays eggs on suitable vegetation and the larva then emerges and awaits a suitable host. If it finds one, it enters the spider via a leg joint and overwinters feeding inside its host before killing it and emerging to pupate in the Spring.

During the winter Titchmarsh Local Nature Reserve was extensively flooded so we carried out a survey of the meadows hoping to find some floodplain species. The survey found two new crane fly species for the reserve: *Nigrotipula nigra* and *Tipula pierrei*, both of which are associated with floodplains.

A search of Castle Ashby Gardens by Kev Rowley produced the saproxylic and nationally notable hoverfly *Callicera aurata*. It breeds in rot-holes in trees.



***Callicera aurata* ©Kev Rowley**

This summer saw the long-awaited publication of Alan Stubbs's "British Craneflies". It did not disappoint. In

anticipation of an increase in interest in crane flies stimulated by the book, the Wildlife Trust will be running an online talk on crane flies by Pete Boardman, who runs the national Crane fly Recording Scheme. This will be followed up by a two day workshop on finding and identifying crane flies with John Kramer (editor of Crane fly News) and myself. Look out for these in the Trust's programme.

The Northants Diptera Group would like other people who are interested in invertebrates or botany to join us to form a more diverse recording group next year. We meet every Sunday morning between the end of April and the Autumn to record species in targeted areas throughout the county. There is no formal membership, we just want to improve the recording coverage of less well-known taxa in the county. If you are interested please get in touch with me or the Northants Biodiversity Records Centre.

John Showers,

Northants County Recorder for Diptera

Get in touch and get involved!

Email: showersjohn@gmail.com

<http://northantsdiptera.blogspot.com/>



Online Introduction to Crane flies
with Pete Boardman

Wednesday 23 February 2022 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Online

An introduction to crane flies

Join the [Wildlife Trust BCN crane fly training workshop](#) online at 7pm the 23rd February

Northamptonshire's Amphibians and Reptiles: 2021 Update

With respect to the Northants Amphibian and Reptile Group (Northants ARG), this season has been particularly busy. Significant effort has been spent surveying for reptiles in various areas of the Rockingham Forest woodlands and, in the case of adders in particular, populations appear to be somewhat localised due to fragmentation and isolation. To better understand the key factors at play, initiatives have been put in place to track movement of individual snakes using radio tagging and photo ID software. Next season we are also planning to undertake more extensive amphibian surveys during the breeding season – currently amphibians are mainly recorded during reptile surveys when they are found under refugia.



Reports of alien species in the county have been followed up. Marsh frogs (*Pelophylax ridibunda*) have been reported at a site near Nether Heyford, where four separate visits were made on favourable days during the spring and summer, but none were seen or heard. Unlike our native common frog, the “water frogs” (*Pelophylax* species) spend significant time basking in sunshine and are particularly vocal in the breeding season. Rumour has it that the frogs have died out due to predation by a large population of grass snakes. A report of a small population of midwife toads (*Alytes obstetricians*) near Kettering hasn’t yet been checked



Marsh frog (*Pelophylax ridibunda*), reported at a site near Nether Heyford

A dog was reported in the press to have been bitten by an adder at Kelmarsh Tunnels and subsequently two visits were made to the site, but no snakes were found. However, disused railway lines often provide good habitat for adders and it was noted that adjacent to the railway line there is an unoccupied MOD site which could potentially host a small adder population. Visits to the site are planned again for next year. Bites by adders to animals are frequently misreported in the press, probably because symptomatic diagnosis alone is used whereas in humans, more precise clinical diagnosis is normally undertaken so reports of snake bite are much more reliable. However, even then cases of deaths in this country are extremely rare; for example, the last known human fatality was in 1975. Adders are in decline nationally and whilst habitat loss and fragmentation are key issues, persecution still remains a concern today. Not far away from the Tunnels, NBRC held a BioBlitz at Kelmarsh Hall in July. It was a great day and it was nice to see both common frogs and grass snakes, although neither had been formally recorded there before. This of course is purely due to lack of recorders for the herps. It would be good to visit again with a view to doing a more extensive

search next year - it would be very surprising if more amphibian species aren’t present.

Pair of common toads in amplexus, Salcey Forest



©Alan Butler

Further south in the county good numbers of common frogs, common toads, and smooth newts were seen breeding at Salcey Forest in the early months. Both common lizards, slow worms and grass snakes were also seen in the wood. At Bucknell Wood healthy numbers of palmate newts were seen along many rides in deep ruts created by heavy machinery used to cut and remove timber. Sadly, as last year, many of the ruts dried out before the larval stages metamorphosed. Other known casualties were tadpoles of both common frogs and common toads.



Male common lizard, Whistley Wood ©Alan Butler

The number of herpetological records from the south of the county is lower than the number received from the north and the distribution records to some extent reflect the distribution of recorders. Whilst it is clear that the Rockingham Forest area in the north is richer than the south, both in abundance and numbers of species, it remains a hope that increased monitoring in the southern areas might yet throw out a surprise or two. The problem however is that surveyors and recorders remain in short supply. Records always very



welcome, particularly from observers in the south of the county (and of course elsewhere), and anyone wishing to join ARG and undertake surveys on a regular basis would be most welcome. When submitting records it is always helpful if photos can be made available, particularly in the case of snakes and newts. Even “poor” photos can prove invaluable in differentiating the species.

Alan Butler

**County Recorder & Chairman of Northants
Amphibian and Reptile Group**

Get involved

Herpetological recorders are in short supply, could you help out?

Email: alanbutler@icloud.com

October Mushroom Foray Salcey Forest



Mike Taylor ©Rosalind Johnston

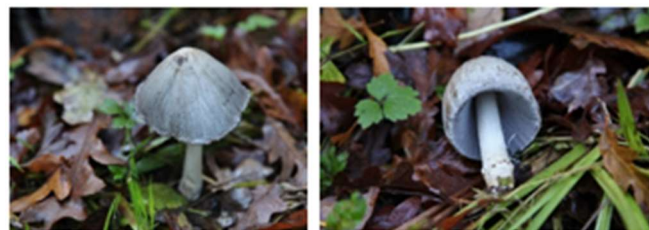
The NBRC team, as led by myself carried out a mushroom identification foray on the morning of 26th October 2021. We explored the area across the main road from the main car park commencing at SP 79225 51733 part of the Hartwell Clear Copse. This area of the forest was chosen because other areas were showing very few signs of activity, whereas this area had recently sprung into life. The group found and identified the following fungi (the photographs used

here were taken earlier in the season) and I have shared the identification signs used for our finds to aid others in their fungi recording:-



***Mycena polygramma* ©Mike Taylor**

***Mycena polygramma* – Grooved Bonnet:** The common name was a reference to the prominently grooved stipe. This specimen had a diameter of approx. 3 cm and they grow to around 5 cm. It grows on the buried dead wood of deciduous trees and is very common.



***Coprinopsis atramentaria* ©Mike Taylor**

***Coprinopsis atramentaria* – Common Inkcap:** This starts as a robust, egg-shaped fungus growing from buried wood of deciduous trees, often in clumps, as in this case. The cap margin becomes uplifted and disintegrates into a black ink until the entire cap is disappears. This is how this genus spreads its pores.



***Armillaria ostoyae* ©Mike Taylor**

***Armillaria ostoyae* – Dark Honey Fungus:** It is a strongly pathogenic honey fungus growing from the roots of living and dead trees. It grows either individually or in small groups whereas Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*) tends to grow in much larger groups. It is hated by foresters for the damage it causes to otherwise healthy trees.





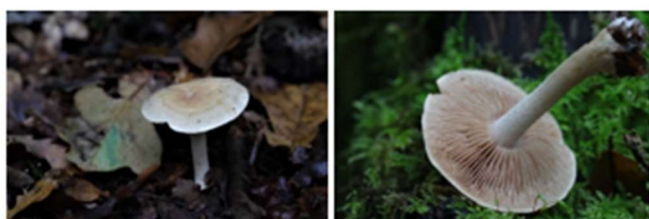
***Russula emetica* ©Mike Taylor**

***Russula emetica* – The Sickener:** Part of the difficult to identify *Russula* group of fungi. The bright red Brittle Gill is named because of its capacity to cause vomiting. It is associated with conifers, and is very similar to the Beechwood Sickener, which is associated with deciduous woodland, particularly beech.



***Hebeloma sacchariolens* ©Mike Taylor**

***Hebeloma sacchariolens* – Sweet Poisonpie:** This is nationally uncommon but common in Salcey Forest. It is a small, buff coloured mushroom, with a darker centre, characterised by its strong, sickly-sweet smell, redolent of naphthalene. As its name implies it is poisonous.



***Hebeloma crustuliniforme* ©Mike Taylor**

***Hebeloma crustuliniforme* – Poisonpie:** This is a very common mushroom with a strong radish-like smell typically with transparent droplets on the gills and apex drying as brown spots. Normally found in deciduous woodland and is poisonous.



***Laccaria laccata* ©Mike Taylor**

***Laccaria laccata* – The Deceiver:** A very common mushroom in deciduous woodland. It is a very variable mushroom by virtue of its size, colour and habitat. It is generally orange-brown in colour and often has a wavy cap margin.



***Stropharia caerulea* ©Mike Taylor**

***Stropharia caerulea* – Blue Roundhead:** A widespread and common mushroom. It starts with a blue-green colouration but becomes paler and yellowish with age. It is generally viscid and sticky.



***Galerina marginata* ©Mike Taylor**

***Galerina marginata* – Funeral Bell:** A highly poisonous fungus containing the same amatoxins as the Death Cap and growing from dead wood of both deciduous and coniferous trees. It is a common species but easy to mistake for a number of similar species.



***Lactarius lacunarum* ©Mike Taylor**

***Lactarius lacunarum*:** An occasional species with an orange to red-brown cap, often with darker circular patches and indistinct banding. The milk is white turning slowly yellow and is mild turning bitter.





***Helvella crispa* ©Mike Taylor**

***Helvella crispa* - White Saddle:** This common but unusual, distorted mushroom was growing alongside the path which is its favoured habitat. The stem has deep longitudinal ridges and grooves with a series of hollow chambers.



***Lactarius pyrogalus* ©Mike Taylor**

***Lactarius pyrogalus* – Fiery Milkcap:** This unmistakable Milkcap was growing beside the path under a hazel with which it is very often associated. The “Fiery” and “pyrogalus” names refer to its burning hot milk. It is a common species.



***Macrocystidia cucumis* ©Mike Taylor**

***Macrocystidia cucumis* – Cucumber Cap:** An unusual dark brown fungus with a strong smell of cucumber. It grows in both deciduous and coniferous woodland and is frequent in one of the recently harvested conifer plantations in Salcey.



***Mycena archangeliana* ©Mike Taylor**

***Mycena archangeliana* – Angels’s Bonnet:** Away from the path and into the woods we found the Angel’s Bonnet. This is characterised by a greyish yellow-green cap and a darker stipe. Found on decayed wood of deciduous trees and both widespread and common.



***Pluteus cervinus* ©Mike Taylor**

***Pluteus cervinus* – Deer Shield:** The most common Shield growing on decayed deciduous wood and occasionally conifers. This area of woodland is host to a variety of Shields because of the large number of dead oak trees, ringed and poisoned by the Forestry Commission in the 1980s. These include Velvet, Yellow, Lion, Wrinkled, Willow, Veined Goldleaf Shields and *Pluteus podopileus*.



***Lactarius uvidus* ©Mike Taylor**

***Lactarius uvidus*:** This is a member of the Milkcap genus, occasional and more common in Scotland than England. It has abundant, watery white milk which turns lilac when in contact with the cap flesh, its defining characteristic (see image).





***Armillaria gallica* ©Mike Taylor**

***Armillaria gallica* – Bulbous Honey Fungus:** One of the less common of the Honey Fungus genus, tending to grow in a solitary manner rather than the large clusters associated with the other species of Honey Fungus.



***Tricholoma stiparophyllum* ©Mike Taylor**

***Tricholoma stiparophyllum* – Chemical Knight:** Found growing in large numbers under oak trees in certain areas of Salcey Forest. It is easily recognised by its very unpleasant, gassy smell.



***Cortinarius anthricitus* ©Mike Taylor**

***Cortinarius anthricitus*:** Cortinarius are a particularly difficult genus to identify with any degree of certainty given the large variety of similar species and the sometimes microscopic distinctions. For this reason, I am not certain of this identification. The specimen is small and has a dark lilac base to the stipe, a characteristic of the species.



***Amanita phalloides* ©Mike Taylor**

***Amanita phalloides*:** This specimen was found in its immature state, just emerging from its volva. This is a highly dangerous fungus responsible for more death than any other. Its muscarine content causes violent vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pains which can last for days. More dangerous however, is the alpha-amanitin which destroys the liver and kidneys and for which there is no known antidote.



***Mycena rosea* ©Mike Taylor**

***Mycena rosea* – Rosy Bonnet:** Frequent in Salcey Forest, particularly under oaks. Beautiful shade of pink and occasionally darker red. The species has a strong radish smell.



***Coprinopsis lagopus* ©Mike Taylor**

***Coprinopsis lagopus* – Hare'sfoot Inkcap:** An immature specimen, covered in furry white fibrils was found growing in the leaf litter. It develops in an amazing way by losing the fibrils and taking on a very delicate and beautiful structure (see photo).



***Cortinarius ochroleucus* ©Mike Taylor**

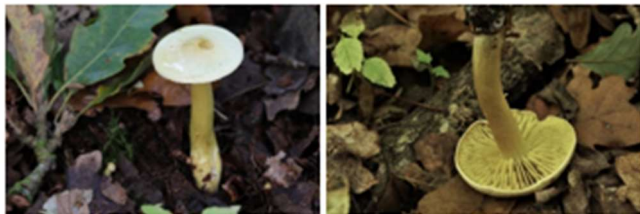
***Cortinarius ochroleucus*:** One of the easier Webcaps to identify as its ochre colouration is unusual in this genus. It is nationally uncommon although relatively common in Salcey Forest. It grows in deciduous woodland, in this case under oak.





***Lepiota castanea* ©Mike Taylor**

***Lepiota castanea* – Chestnut Dapperling:** A small, poisonous toadstool found in deciduous woodland, particularly on calcareous soil.



***Tricholoma sulphureum* ©Mike Taylor**

***Tricholoma sulphureum* – Sulphur Knight:** Easily identified by its yellow cap and matching stipe. It also has an unmistakable, strong and unpleasant smell, redolent of coal gas. Grows in deciduous woodland often with oak, as is this case.



***Mycena haematopus* ©Mike Taylor**

***Mycena haematopus* – Burgundydrop Bonnet:** A clump was found growing from the base of an old oak tree. The cap is reddish brown and the stem “bleeds” a burgundy red coloured liquid when broken. These are widespread and common.



***Pluteus chrysophaeus* ©Mike Taylor**

***Pluteus chrysophaeus* – Yellow Shield:** This attractive little Shield is found on very rotten deciduous timber. It has a variable yellow cap with a greenish hue. The is often slightly wrinkled at the centre. The image shows the pink spore print.



***Russula aurora* ©Mike Taylor**

***Russula aurora* – Dawn Britlegill:** Part of the very difficult to identify *Russula* or Brittlelegill group of fungi. It is not possible to identify this definitively without access to a microscope and chemicals, but it looks very much like Dawn Brittlelegill.



***Mycena galericulata* ©Mike Taylor**

***Mycena galericulata* – Common Bonnet:** Found growing in a large cluster on decayed deciduous timber. A very common species, as the name suggests.



***Clitocybe nebularis* ©Mike Taylor**

***Clitocybe nebularis* – Clouded Funnel:** Found as a trooping group under a large oak tree. These used to be regarded as a good edible species with the proviso that a small amount should be tried first to establish if one was allergic to it. It transpired that this species



does in fact contain a toxin and is not now recommended for consumption.



Tricholoma scalpturatum ©Mike Taylor

***Tricholoma scalpturatum* – Yellowing Knight:** Found in deciduous woodland growing under an old oak tree. The name derives from its yellow discolouration which occurs only after it begins to rot. It has a very strong mealy smell which helps with identification.

We only had the morning but encountered a number of species, 31 species in total from just a small area of forest, with just a few hours of surveying. The team later submitted the records.

Mike Taylor, Local Recorder

Let us know if you want to be contacted about walks with Mike nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk and check our [Facebook](#) around October 2022

Walks, Talks and Events

Nene Valley Bat Group is up & running



The NVBG held its first AGM online on Wed 20 November. The group now has around 30 paid up members in addition to a Facebook group with 120 members.

Equipment has been kindly donated by the Roots of Rockingham (Back from the Brink) project and a donation received from Waitrose, Brackley.

Work is underway to organise some online winter talks after Christmas, training sessions, walks, talks and surveys.

Juliette Butler, Secretary NVBG

For further information see our website www.nenevalleybats.org.uk or join us on [Facebook*](#)

(*note that joining this group does not mean you automatically become a bat group member).

New Year Plant Hunt



©Nathalie Hueber

Calling all botanists!

2022 will be the 11th annual New Year Plant hunt held between 1st-

4th January by the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland. All are encouraged to take part and aid in this monitoring of climate driven shifting patterns.

In Northants, County Recorder, Brian Laney has very kindly arranged a #BSBI New Year Plant Hunt on the January 2nd. Recorders are welcome to join, meeting at the Swansgate Shopping Centre, Wellingborough at 10.30 am and searching together for anything in flower for 3 hours.

<https://bsbi.org/new-year-plant-hunt>

<https://bsbi.org/northamptonshire>

Wildlife Training Workshops 2022



The Wildlife Trust BCN workshops are open for bookings, mostly returning to face-to-face training with a few online workshops, using Microsoft Teams Live.

<https://www.wildlifetrustbcn.org/get-involved/training-workshops>

NBRC Contact Details

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre

c/o The Wildlife Trust BCN
Lings House, Billing Lings, Northampton, NN3 8BE
Tel: 01604 400448

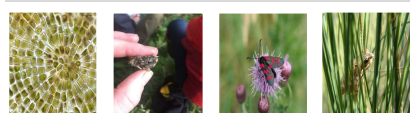
Email: nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk

Website: www.northantsbrc.org.uk

Twitter: [@ Northants BRC](#)

Facebook: [WILDside Recording Community](#)

NBRC's staff members are Rosalind Johnston, Nathalie Hueber, Rachel Tate, and James Skinner.



GAPS IN THE MAPS

SIGNS OF SPRING

Use the 2021 online map to target local squares for a spring survey
<http://bit.ly/2lgapNBRC>
Explore new 1km 'yet to be discovered' parts of Northants and turn more 'orange squares blue' by submitting what you see. Monitor change in the 'blue' previously unrecorded 1km squares in Northants.



ALL RECORDING
HELPS AND ALL
RECORDS MATTER

