

**Three Brooks LNR**  
**Wildlife walk, 7 June 2008**

Led by Rupert Higgins, Wessex Ecological Trust

**Grassland east of Webb's Wood**

Plants

Zigzag clover, *Trifolium medium* – a red clover which is an Avon Notable Species, associated with old pastures on clay. Red clover is better than white for bees.

Lesser trefoil *Trifolium dubium* and the similar black medick *Medicago lupulina* – the leaves have a little point.

Broad-leaved spurge

Hairy willow-herb

Hoary willow-herb (frosted leaves)

Field mint

Square St John's Wort

Common fleabane

Meadow vetchling

Cut-leaved cranesbill

Bird's-foot trefoil

Common mouse-ear

Charlock, *Sinapsis arvensis*

Teasel

Hedge woundwort

Tares

Black knapweed

Grass vetchling

Note – vetches have tendrils at the end of the leaves, vetchling does not.

Grasses, sedges & rushes:

(Sedges have a 3-cornered stem)

Glaucous sedge

Sweet vernal grass

Crested dog's tail

Cock's foot (*Dactylis*)

Tufted fescue

Clustered rush, *Juncus conglomeratus*, Avon Notable Species.

Hard rush

Hairy sedge

False fox sedge

Pendulous sedge

Smooth brome, *Bromus racemosus*

Meadow brome

## Invertebrates

Butterflies & moths:

Burnet companion

Burnet moth pupa

Large skipper on clover

Grass moths

Speckled wood butterfly

Yellow shell moth

Nettle-tap moth

Timothy tortrix moth

Straw dot moth

Bumble bee, either white or buff tip

Bumble bee *Bombus lapidarius* (orange tip)

Hoverfly

Beetle, *Idoma innobilis* (bright green with big leg muscles)

Shield bugs

Blue damselfly

Crab spider

### **By the lake**

Male blue-tailed damselfly

Straw dot moth

Banded demoiselle

### **Top of tump**

## Plants

Bird's-foot trefoil

Cut-leaved cranesbill

Fleabane

Meadow vetchling

Grass vetchling – lots!

Common sorrel

Beaked hawksbeard

Grasses, sedges & rushes:

Pendulous sedge

Remote sedge

Clustered rush

Hard rush

## Insects

Butterflies and moths:

Common blue butterfly

Straw dot moth

Burnet moth  
Burnet caterpillar (on bird's foot trefoil)  
Burnet companion  
Small heath butterfly – new on the BAP list. Its caterpillars eat fescue.  
Latticed heath moth  
Snipe moth, *Cydia aurana*  
Australian fruit tree moth on bramble.

White/buff-tailed bumblebee  
Solitary bee  
Hoverfly, *Chrysotoxum bicinctum*  
Broad-bodied chaser, *Libellula depressa*  
Sawfly, *Hymenoptera*- these eat the gooseberries in your garden

### **Into the woods...**

Wood sedge, an indicator of ancient woodland.

Hoverfly – *Volucella pellucens*.

We saw a cloud of demoiselles dancing over the stream.

### **General knowledge!**

Tips for insect spotting:

When looking up butterflies check their geographical range.

Close focusing binoculars are useful.

A good way to do a regular survey is to choose a transect which contains several different habitats and is representative of the site. Walk it once a week in hot weather.

There are ten times more moths than butterflies – a light trap is a good way to survey them.

Dragonflies reach their greatest diversity in August.

Rupert recommended the following books:

Michael Chinery's *Collins Guide to Insects* and *Insects of Britain*.

Porter, caterpillars

Evans and Edmondson – Shieldbugs & Squashbugs

There is a website for leafmines!

Rupert suggested it might be worth creating a pond on the Tump.