CLEVELAND NATURALISTS'

FIELD CLUB

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Volume 7 Part 2 **Spring 2000**

THE OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2000-2001

President: Dorothy Thompson

Secretary, Mr Eric Gendle, 13, Mayfield Road, Nunthorpe.

Membership Secretary, Mrs Jean McClean, 28 Pendle Crescent, Billingham.

Programme Secretaries, Mr Vincent Jones, 'Hillways', Ingleby Greenhow.
Mr Neil Baker

Treasurer:Colin Chatto

The immediate past-president, Mr Norman Thompson.

Ordinary members: Mr Ian Lawrence, Mr Alick Hunter, Maurice Hallam, David Barlow

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mrs Jessie Graham, Mrs Joan Williams, Mr Ian Lawrence, Mr Maurice Hallam

CONSULTANT MEMBERS

The following members will be pleased to assist in the identification of specimens.

Flowering Plants	Bryophytes	Birds	Lepidoptera	
Ian Lawrence	John Blackburn	Maurice Hallam	Neville Harwood (and General Entomology)	Malcolm Birtle (and Geology), Eric Gendle

Representatives

I.C. Lawrence (TVWT) J.Blackburn (YNU) M.Birtle (NNU)

Membership Details

The Club seeks to promote an interest in all branches of Natural History and to assist members in finding out about the living things that they see in the countryside around them. The present membership includes those who have particular interests in birds, insects, slugs and snails, lichens, fungi, flowering plants and mosses and liverworts. Members with interests in other fields would be very welcome.

In spring and summer there are evening, half-day and whole-day visits to investigate the natural history of a particular area. During the winter months there is a series of monthly meetings that are held at the Leeds University Centre, Harrow Road, Middlesbrough. A meeting usually takes the form of a lecture given by a club member or visiting speaker. The annual subscription is £5.

Any person interested in joining the Cleveland Naturalists Field Club should send their subscription to the Membership Secretary. Potential members are welcome to our field meetings listed at the back of this issue.

Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st January each year.

(Adult £5.00. Students under 18 yrs. £1.00)

Members are entitled to attend meetings of:

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Northern Naturalists' Union

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust The Ramblers' Association.

The Club is affiliated to these organizations.

Editorial

This is the tenth issue of the new 'Proceedings'. Ten years since that field excursion to Tripsdale when we first discussed the possibilities of reviving the annual Proceedings. Please remember Malcolm Birtle will accept any contributions that can include scientific articles, records, historical or biographical articles, poems, artwork, in fact anything which documents or celebrates natural history in Cleveland. Contributions can be hand-written, typed or received electronically at any time of the year. The deadline for contributions in any year is the same date as the General meeting.

Acknowledgements to Contributors

So many people contribute in various ways to the 'Proceedings' it seems a little unfair to pick people out-so, many thanks to all contributors.

News

Ring Ouzel

A request for records of Ring Ouzel from the North Yorkshire Moors appeared in the Darlington and Stockton Times on December 10th, 1999. The article stated that '*there are only five breeding pairs on the vast moorland'*. Rosedale may be the most important site for these birds. They are easy to identify, looking like blackbirds but with distinctive white markings. Anyone seeing the bird, particularly at sites other than Rosedale, should record the grid reference and report the sighting to Mr. Ken Hutchinson on 01751 475412

It was reported on December 28th in the Evening Gazette that fish populations in the Tees are changing since the construction of the Barrage. Bream and Roach populations are increasing relative to the population of Chub according to the fisheries management officer for the Environment Agency. Large numbers of Salmon and Sea Trout have been seen as well as very large numbers of Sprats.

Malcolm Birtle

Elgee Memorial Lecture

The Field Club will host the annual Elgee Memorial Lecture on Friday, 1 December 2000 at the Leeds University Centre, Harrow Road. Phil Gates will give a lecture on '*Alien Species – Encouragement or Eradication'*.

Addendum

Two corrections to the paper entitled '*Molluscs from Billingham Beck'*. Specimens named Pea Mussels (*Psidium sp*.) were actually the Horny Orb Mussel (*Sphaerium corneum)*, and the river limpets consisted of solely *Ancylis fluviatilis*. Thanks to Tony Wardhaugh for helping with these specimens.

Malcolm Birtle

In Memoriam

We all learned with great sadness of the death of Maurice Ward last year at the grand old age of 91. In spite of his age Maurice was active right to the end and regularly attended our indoor meetings. Indeed, he led at least one walk for us each year right up to his own 90th year.

I joined the Field Club in 1949 and I still remember Maurice and Mary in those way back years. He was primarily a bird man but was very tolerant towards the botanists, who were lingering at the back studying some plant or other. He always shared an interest in our finds. In all those 50 years Maurice was to me THE Field Club- his enthusiasm was unbounded and I always held both Maurice and Mary in great regard.

We have had some outstanding members in these past years. I can remember Tom Brown with his wife Kate who were also prominent figures in those earlier days of my membership.

The passing of Maurice has been a sad loss to the Field Club, but it is still wonderful that Mary comes to our meetings with the kind help of those who offer her lifts. Long may she come and join us in our meetings as she always shows the same enthusiasm in everything just as her late husband did.

Ian Lawrence

Highlights of Field Meetings 1999

Saturday, 17th April, Cockchafer Wood, led by Eric Gendle.

The most interesting area botanically was a patch of grassland amongst scrub where Hairy Violet (*Viola hirta*) and the hybrid between Primrose and Cowslip (*Primula x polyantha*) were in fine flower. The woodland edge hosted Stinking Hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*),a very rare plant in the North York Moors.

Sunday, 25th April, St.Gregory's Minster, led by Alick Hunter.

A large group of members met at St.Gregory's Minster on a fine day to explore Kirkdale Woods, an area of primary calcareous woodland. Plants seen included Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon ssp montanum*), Violets (*Viola riviniana* and *V. reichenbachiana*) , Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*), Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*) and Wood Stitchwort (*Stellaria nemorum*).

The following birds were noted: Pheasant, Goldcrest, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blue Tit, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Robin, Wren, Tawny Owl, and Blackbird. Butterflies seen were Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*), Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*), Peacock (*Inachis io*), Comma (*Polygonia c-album*), Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*). The single Brimstone seen was at the edge of Kirkdale Wood East, late afternoon at approx grid ref. SE674862.

Molluscs found in Kirkdale-

Carychium tridentatum
Ena obscura
Arion ater agg.
Arion circumscniptus
Arion distinctus
Vitrina pellucida
Vitrea contracta
Aegopinella nitidula
Oxychilus alliarius
Limax cinereoniger
Deroceras reticulatum
Cochlodina laminata
Perforatella subrufescens
Thrichia hispida
Cepaea nemoralis
Lauria cylindracea
Discus rotundatus
Arion sub fuscus
Arion fasciatus
Arion intermedius
Vitrea crystallina
Aegopinella pura
Oxychilus cellarius
Limax maximus
Lehmannia marginata
Euconulus fulvus
Clausilia bidentata
Trichia striolata
Arianta arbustorum
Cepaea hortensis

Thirty species recorded during one meeting is a very good total. Of interest are the slug *Limax cinereoniger* and the snail *Perforatella subrufescens.* Both were found in Kirkdale Wood East (grid ref. SE674862) and are characteristic of old woodland.

Various millipedes, woodlice and harvestmen were also recorded, all being common species:

Millipedes:

Tachypodoiulus niger
Ommatoiulus sabbulosus
Glomeris marginata

Woodlice

Tnichoniscus pusillus
Philoscia muscorum
Oniscus asellus
Armadillidium vulgare

Harvestman

Nemastoma birnaculatum
Rilaena triangularis

Wednesday, 12th May, Guisborough Woods, led by Darroll Fryer.

We explored the area from Butt Lane up into the woods above the disused quarry. There were very few plants in flower other than a preponderance of Wood Sorrell (*Oxalis acetosella*) but plenty of ferns emerging including Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Scaly Male Fern (*Dryopteris affinis ssp affinis* and *borreri*) and Lemon-scented Fern (*Oreopteris limbosperma*).

Wednesday, 19th May, Hilton area, led by VincentJones.

During the evening grasses were studied, including a good range of Fescues and Meadow-grasses. In particular, growing by the track-side by arable fields was a variant of Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra ssp megastachys*). As we descended into the valley Dropwort (*Filipendula vulgaris*) and Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*) were on a calcareous bank side. In the woodland was Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*) and undoubtedly the best find of the evening Common Gromwell (*Lithospermum officinale*).

A Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) and Clouded Silver (*Lomographa temerata*) were seen amongst vegetation on the track adjacent to the A19 and on the bank of the Leven where Common Carpet (*Epirrhoe alternata*) was also noted. The White Lipped Banded Snail (*Capaea hortensis*), Strawberry Snail (*Trichia striolata*) and the Black and Red Froghopper (*Cercopis vulnerata*) were observed amongst long vegetation

Wednesday,26th May, Stillington area, led by Malcolm Birtle.

This is an industrial area that has been cleared and re-seeded. There are still quite a few bare areas but it is still regenerating. Trees planted consist mainly of alder and willows as there are a number of wet areas here and some ponds.

Plant List:

Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*
Water Plantain	*Alisma plantago-aquatica*
Alder	*Alnus glutinosa*
Cow Parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*
Kidney Vetch	*Anthyllis vulneraria ssp.polyphylla*
Quaking Grass	*Briza media*
Bindweed	*Calystegia sp.*
False Fox Sedge	*Carex otrubae*
Hardheads	*Centaurea nigra*
Common Mouse-ear	*Cerastium fontanum*
Rosebay Willowherb	*Chamerion angustifolium*
Fat Hen	*Chenopodium album*
Spear Thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Crested Dogs Tail	*Cynosurus cristata*

Cock’s Foot	*Dactylis glomerata*
Wild Carrot	*Daucus carota*
Teasel	*Dipsacus fullonum*
Hairy Willowherb	*Epilobium hirsutum*
Field Horsetail	*Equisetum arvense*
Red Fescue	*Festuca rubra*
Meadowsweet	*Filipendula ulmaria*
Wild Strawberry	*Fragaria vesca*
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Goosegrass	*Galium aparine*
Cut Leaved Cranesbill	*Geranium dissectum*
Wood Avens	*Geum urbanum*
Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium ssp.sphond*
Yorkshire Fog	*Holcus lanatus*
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*
Soft Rush	*Juncus effusus*
Hard Rush	*Juricus inflexus*
White Dead Nettle	*Lamium album*
Nipplewort	*Lapsana communis*
Meadow Vetchling	*Lathyrus pratensis*
Common Duckweed	*Lemna minor*
Ox-eye Daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*
Garden Privet	*Ligustrum ovalifolium*
Ragged Robin	*Lychnis flos cuculi*
Musk Mallow	*Malva moschata*
Black Medick	*Medicago lupulina*
Lucerne	*Medicago sativa*
Field Forget-me-not	*Myosotis arvensis*
Spiked Water-milfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum.*
Wild Parsnip	*Pastinaca sativa*
	Persicaria maculosa
Lesser Cat’s-tail	*Phleum bertolonii*
Scot’s Pine	*Pinus sylvestris*
Ribwort Plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*
Greater Plantain	*Plantago major*
Rough Meadow Grass	*Poa trivialis*
Salad Burnet	*Poterium sanguisorba ssp. muricata*
Self-heal	*Prunella vulgaris*
Meadow Buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*
Creeping Buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*
Celery-leaved Crowfoot	*Ranunculus sceleratus*
Wild Mignonette	*Resedea lutea*
Yellowrattle	*Rhinanthus minor ssp. minor*
Burnet Rose	*Rosa pimpinellifolia*
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus agg.*
Common Sorrel	*Rumex acetosa*
Curled Dock	*Rumex crispus.*
Broad Leaved Dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*
Wood Dock	*Rumex sanguineus*
Goat Willow	*Salix caprea*
Osier	*Salix viminalis*
Hoary Ragwort	*Senecio erucifolius*

Red Campion	*Silene dioica*
Charlock	*Sinapsis arvensis*
Hedge Mustard	*Sisymbrium officinale*
	Sonchus perennis
Branched Bur Reed	*Sparganium erectum*
Hedge Woundwort	*Stachys sylvatica*
Russian Comfrey	*Symphytum x uplandicum*
Coltsfoot	*Tussilago tarfara*
Great Reed-mace	*Typha latifolia*
Gorse	*Ulex europaeus*
Brooklime	*Veronica beccabunga*
Hairy Tare	*Vicia hirsuta*
Common Vetch	*Vicia sativa ssp. segitalis*

N.B.There was masses of *Myriophyllum spicatum* in flower covering the large pond. A small patch of Black Grass, *Alopecurus myosuroides* was found which was probably introduced when the area was re-seeded. There are only two previous records for this in Cleveland. There were also a number of non native plants here like *Malva moschata* and *Anthyllis vulneraria* ssp.*polyphylla* which suggests the seed used was obtained from abroad.

The following common species were also noted-Garden Snail (*Helix aspersa*), Brown Lipped Banded Snail (*Capaea nemoralis*), Hook Marked Conch (*Agapeta hamana*), Latticed Heath (*Semiothisa clathrata*), Silver Ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata*), 2-spot Ladybird (*Adalia bipunctata*), and the Black and Red Froghopper (*Cercopis vulnerata*). A number of interesting birds were seen. These included Heron, Grey Wagtail,Pied Wagtail, Reed Bunting, Coot, and Moorhen.

Sunday, 30th May, Cotcliffe Woods, led by Judy Dinwiddie.

The club joined with members of the C M Rob Natural History Society to explore Cotcliffe Woods near Borrowby, Thirsk.. These mixed woodlands lie on the steep, west facing scarp of a fault. Cotcliffe, Landmoth and Kirkby Sigston Woods are under the same ownership and carefully managed for timber. The bluebells were past their best but still put on a good show. Down towards Wood House Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) was seen. When we reached Cod Beck we saw a good stand of Leopard's-bane (*Doronicum pardalianches*). In damp areas of the wood we saw Bog Stitchwort (*Stellaria uliginosa*). Water Pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*) and Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*). Plenty of Hops (*Huxnulus lupulus*) were trailing through the Blackthorn and Hawthorn. Ferns included Scaly Male Fern (*Dryopteris affinis*), Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) and Broad Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris dilitata*). Shoots of Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) were just appearing. This would dominate the vegetation later in the year. Several badger setts were seen.

Common White Wave (*Cabera pusaria*), and Common Carpet (*Epirrhoe alternata*) were seen amongst the undergrowth in the wood and the Yellow Barred Shade (*Eulia ministrana*) was found on a tree leaf. The Black and Red Froghopper

(*Cercopis vulnerata*) and the Hawthorn Shield Bug (*Acanthasoma haemorrhoidale*) were also observed in the wood.

Wednesday, 2nd June, Easington, led by Pamela Law.

In the evening of a persistently wet day, three stalwarts explored parts of the Mines Wood area from Easington Church. Not a lot was seen but we spotted Squirreltail Fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*), Winter-cress (*Barbarea vulgaris*),and Two-rowed Barley (*Hordeum distichon*)

Wednesday, 9th June. Castle Eden Dene, led by Joan Bradbury.

We set out along the walkway which is the line of the old Hart to Haswell railway. The verges at the side of the track were covered in flowers which included kidney vetch. This inspired the entomologists to look for Small Blue butterflies, which feed on Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), but in fact none were found. We then left the walkway and walked across to the dene where we found a stand of Leopardsbane (*Doronicum pardalianches*). Clouded Magpie (*Ennominae sylvata*), Grass Rivulet (*Perizoma albulata*), and *Scoparia ambigualis* were also seen in the Dene.

Saturday, 12th June,Lythe and Mulgrave Woods, led by Jack Marshall.

A wet preceding day and a poor forecast resulted in a small attendance but the day proved dry and even sunny at times. On the walk across the fields from Lythe to Sandsend a good selection of plants was seen including Goat's-beard (*Doronicum pardalianches*), Wood Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*) but unfortunately not the Shepherd's Needle (*Scandix pecten-veneris*) seen here in 1997 which had suffered in the herbicide spraying of a set-aside field. Heath Groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*) was beside the disused railway track and Alexanders (*Smyrnium olusatrum*) near the car park. After lunch we enjoyed a walk through Mulgrave Woods although unfortunately the Head Forester was not available to guide us. We inspected the refurbished Mulgrave Castle ruins and saw some very large specimens of Hemlock (*Comium maculatum*).

In the fields between Lythe and the cliffs Grey Partridge, Willow Warbler, and Yellowhammer were evident followed by breeding Fulmar on the cliffs. Jackdaws provided some interesting aerobatics. We were entertained by the calls of skylarks around the quarries and Oystercatchers down on the foreshore. Greenfinch, Kestrel, Chaffinch, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Swift and Housemartins were also watched. A number of Common Lizards were found basking on the fence alongside the old railway.

In Mulgrave Woods Chiffchaff, Green Woodpecker, Heron, Garden Warbler, Robin and Goldcrest were seen. The following lepidoptera were noted in the woods- Nettletap, Common Carpet (*Epirrhoe alternata*), Raspberry Moth (*Lampronia rubiella)*, Chimney Sweep (*Odezia atrata*) (in some grassland), and the Indefinite Marble (*Olethreutes lacunana)*

Sunday,20th June, Holy Island, led by Pamela Law.

The group met on the Northumberland Coast and while waiting to cross to Holy Island we examined the saltmarsh area and found Narrow-leaved Eel-grass (*Zostera angustifolia*), Common Cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*) and Common Saltmarsh Grass (*Triglochin maritima*). Once on the island we explored the Snook area where we found plenty of interesting plants including Seaside Centaury (*Centaurium littorale*) ,Pirri-pirri-bur (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*), Brookweed (*Samolus valerandi*), Houndstongue (*Cyanoglossum officinale*), Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), Small-fruited Yellow Sedge (*Carex serotina*) and Black Bog Rush (*Schoenus nigricans*). After lunch in the sand dunes the party split up to explore further areas of the fascinating island. Some ventured to the rocky north shore, others to the nature reserve area, others to explore the local facilities - including teashops! Finds included Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*), Corn Spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*), Milk Thistle (*Silybum marinum*) and Bristle Club-rush (*Isolepes setacea*). We were fortunate to have a fine day for this delightful venue as we could see and hear distant thunderstorms but did not get wet!

Some members walked to the North coast of the Island. Here they found Cinnabar (*Tyria jacobaeae*). Wood Tiger Moth (*Parasemia plantaginis*), Rock Pipits, Wheatears, Ringed Plovers and Grey Seals. On the North coast the Green Sea Urchin (*Psammechinus miliaris*) was found with the molluscs Banded Wedge Shell (*Donax vittatus*), Flat Periwinkle (*Littorina littoralis*), Cowrie (*Trivia arctica*), Dog Whelk (*Nucella lapillus*), Edible Periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*), Grey Topshell (*Gibbula cineraria*), Thin Tellin (*Tellina tenuis*), and the Baltic Tellin (*Macoma balthica*)

Wednesday, 23rd June,Saltburn, led by Jack Marshall.

From Cat Nab car park we walked up Saltburn Gill and saw a good selection of plants including Russian Comfrey (*Symphytum x uplandicum*, Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*), Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europeaus)*. We later passed the entrance to Rushpool Hall where we saw a colourful display of Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), Corn Chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis*) and Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*).These had probably been planted when the grass field had been reseeded. Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllus vulneraria*) and Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) were also seen. As we walked down beside Skelton Beck to the Valley Gardens we saw a good specimen of Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) and plenty of Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandilifera*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)and Wild Turnip (*Brassica rapa ssp campestris*).

A torpid Ghost Swift was found at the entrance to the Gill. In the Gill The Snout (*Hypena proboscidalis*), Twin Spot Carpet (*Perizoma didymata*), and the snail *Ashfordia granulata* were also found.

Wednesday, 30th June, Cowpen Marsh, led by Malcolm_Birtle.

This was a windy, cool, and cloudy evening. The following were noted-Blue Tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*), Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*), 6-Spot Burnet

(*Zygaena filipendulae*), Latticed Heath (*Semiothisa clathrata*), Brown Lipped Banded Snail (*Capaea nemoralis)*, Yellowhammer, Linnet, Swift, and Mistle Thrush.

Sunday, 4th July, Nunnington, led by Eric Gendle.

In Stonegrave village Procumbent Yellow-sorrel (*Oxalis corniculata)* was growing in footpath cracks near the Post office,Prickly Sedge (*Carex muricata ssp lamprocarpa*) on the roadside and Giant Scabious (*Cephalaria gigantea*) on a grassy bank side. A cornfield edge was rich in arable weeds, including three very rare plants for North East Yorkshire- Dwarf Spurge (*Euphorbia* exigua) Narrow-fruited Cornsalad (*Valeriana dentata*) and Venus's-looking-glass (*Legousia hybrida*).

Wednesday, 7th July, North Skelton area, led by Ian Lawrence.

This walk started from East Pastures farm complex and followed the route along the old, dismantled railway track towards the spoil heaps of the old Lumpsey mine near Brotton. From there we used the public pathway across grasslands (which had recently been cut) across the beck and rejoined the road leading to our starting point. The flora proved to be interesting as there were species which have adapted themselves to this now abandoned man-made site. These included a new Cleveland record for the Meadow Oat-qrass (*Helictotrichon pratense).* Other species included: Northern Eyebright (*Euphrasia arctica ssp*. *borealis*), Small Toadflax (*Chaenorhinum minus*), Yellow Toadf lax (*Linaria vulgaris*), Alsike Clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), Zig-zag Clover (*Trifolium medium*), Slender Sandwort (*Arenaria leptoclados*), Weld (*Reseda luteola*) and the Sweetbriar Rose (*Rosa rubiginosa*) which is very rare in the north. It has a distinctive smell of sweet apples!

We had a very good view of a Whitethroat on the extensive gorse scrub and a Bank Vole which was found in a torpid state maybe because of the cool weather and rain was threatening. In spite of that we did see a Yellow Underwing moth (*Noctua pronuba*).

Wednesday, 14th July, Crathorne, led by_Ian Lawrence.

On a pleasant summer evening we met at Crathorne church where we admired a large Oriental Plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*) nearby. Our varied walk through fields, woodland,and riverside showed many plants in flower including Giant Bellflower (*Campanula latifolia*) ,Hairy St.John's Wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) ,Meadow Cranesbill (*Geranium pratense*), Welted Thistle (*Carduus crispus*), Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*) and Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). There was also opportunity to study some grasses along the field edges. Those seen included Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Black Bent (*A*. *gigantea*), Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*).

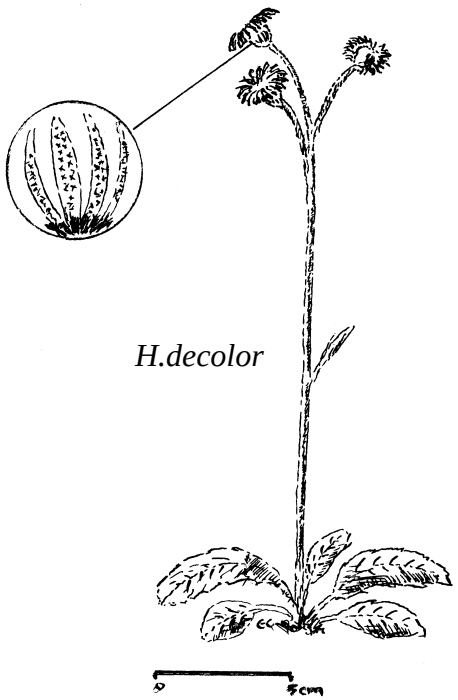
Following a period of little rain, few mollusc species were found, all of which are widespread and common.

Discus notundatus
Arion ater agg.
Arion sub fuscus
Aegopinella nitidula
Oxychilus alliarius
Thrichia striolata
Cepaea nemoralls
Cepaea hortensis

Large numbers of Peewits were seen in a stubble field. The Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*), Twin Spot Carpet (*Perizoma didymata*), Yellowshell (*Camptogramma bilineata*), Snout (*Hypena proboscidalis*), Pale Straw Pearl (*Udea lutealis)* and the Green Oak Tortrix (*Tortrix viridana*) were also noted.

Sunday, 18th July, Wensleydale, led by Norma Pagdin

Calcareous grassland yielded Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), river shingle Creeping Yellow-cress (*Rorippa sylvestris*) and Hybrid Monkey-flower (*Mimulus x Robertsii*),and a lane edge Good King Henry (*Chenopodium bonus-henricus*). Three hawkweeds, common in Yorkshire were still in good flower at Redmire Force - *Hieracium vulgatum, H.acuminatum* and *H.decolor*.



H.decolor

H.acuminatum

Hieracium vulgatum

Wednesday, 21st July, Swainby, led by Neil Baker
We left the north end of Swainby village to join the Cleveland Way and follow a circular route round to Whorlton and back into the village. The walk was enjoyed by seven members but there were very few plants still in flower. We spotted Hairy Bindweed (*Calystegia pulchra*) beside a stream.

Sunday 22nd August, Ashdale led by Norman Thompson

On a pleasant sunny day, the group walked up Ashdale and back by the Carlton road, then had a look round the quarry area near Helmsley, where we sat in the afternoon sunshine and had a cup of tea. It was unfortunate that forestry work had made the path through Ashdale rather muddy in parts. In spite of the late time of year, quite a few uncommon or scarce plants of the North York Moors Park were found in flower. Pink Purslane (*Montia sibirica*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites verna*), Square Stemmed Willow Herb (*Epilobium tetragonum*), Purple Toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), Climbing Corydalis (*Corydalis claviculata*), Good King Henry (*Chenopodium bonus-henricus*), Hedgerow Cranesbill (*Geranium pyrenaicum*), Giant Scabious (*Cephalaria gigantia*), Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*), Black Horehound (*Ballota nigra*), Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), and Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*). The high-light of the day was to find a single flower of Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum seqetum*) growing at the edge of a cornfield.

Sunday, 1st August, Gribdale Gate. Led by Andrew Astbury.

This was a very hot, hazy day. Small Heath (Coenonympha pamphilus), Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) and Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*) were on the wing between Gribdale and Roseberry. On the moorland paths there were many Mining Bees (*Andrena* sp.) active. Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) and Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) were seen feeding on Bramble in the Plantations at Gribdale. Twin Spot Carpet (*Perizoma didymata*) was also found in the plantation.

Saturday, 14th August, Little Fryup Dale, led by Darroll Fryer.

The moors were just approaching their late summer best with Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) coming into fine flower. Moorland path edges had good patches of Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*) and Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*). The walk took us through Crow Wood, a wood rich in ferns and bryophytes. Members spent some time studying the common ferns, distinguishing between the Male-fern group, the Buckler-fern group and Lady-fern. As we left the wood Marsh Ragwort (*Senecio aquaticus*) and Water-pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*) were seen in marshy ground.

Honey Bees were seen at their nest in an Ash tree on a field edge near Danby. Large White (*Pieris brassicae*), Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) and Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) were seen flying across the moor. Green Tiger Beetles (*Cicindela campestris*) were also seen on the moor. Artichoke Galls and the distinctive Muscid House Fly *Mesembrina meridiana* were observed in Crow Wood.

Sunday, 22nd August, Helmsley, led by Norman Thompson.

We met near the church in Helmsley and walked across the fields and up through Ashdale where we had a picnic in a clearing and were entertained watching a large wood wasp laying eggs in a rotting log. We crossed the fields to Canton village and down to the large disused quarry and back into Helmsley. Plants seen included Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Climbing Coydalis (*Ceratocapnos claviculata*), Common

Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*), in the woods,field weeds Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) and Field Pansy (*Viola arvensis*), and by the roadside Hedgerow Cranesbill (*Geranium pyrenaicuni*) and Black Horehound (*Ballota nigra*).

Saturday, 4 September, Hackness led by Colin Chatto

A small group of us set off west from Hackness school along the road leading to Highdales. The weather was hot and sunny. At Lowdales we watched some young Spotted Flycatchers and Goldfinches. A Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*) butterfly was seen and two hoverflies, which may have been *Leucozona glaucia*. We headed towards Highdales but turned off left and had lunch in a field in the shade of Fewler Gate Wood. We then went up through the wood and walked through the picturesque village of Broxa. From there we came down Broxa Banks to the River Derwent which we crossed at Thompson's Steps (stepping stones). We followed the course of the river until we reached the bridge from Wood House. Along the way we saw Marsh Cudweed (*Filaginella uliginosa*), a frog, a toad and a large number of young/female Mallards in the river. The Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) was much in evidence along the river bank where a Stinkhorn (*Phallus impudicus*) fungus was also seen amongst the trees. In the field next to the farm road from Wood House it was noted that there was an English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) in full leaf However, some of the leaves had turned prematurely yellow possibly indicating Dutch Elm disease (or an early Autumn?). A little further on was a dead Elm tree! We followed the road to the outskirts of Hackness where a Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) butterfly was seen. In the grounds of a hotel was the clematis Traveller's Joy (*Clematis vitalba*). A short cut was taken which led along the edge of Chapman Banks Wood to our starting point. It was mentioned that this walk would also be rewarding, botanically, in the Spring.

Saturday, 25th September, Swaledale. led by Neil Baker.

An unusual form of Small-flowered Hairy willow-herb (*Epilobium parviflorum*), which has been named *var.nivulanis*, was seen in a runnel. Another marsh had Spear Mint (*Mentha spicata*), and Slender Rush (*Juncus tenuis*) was found near the river. Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*), some plants still showing flower in late September, was growing in profusion on spoil heaps.

North East Yorkshire Bryophyte Recording Scheme`

John Blackburn, Stockton-on-Tees

The recording of bryophytes throughout the Cleveland County area was carried out between 1991 and 1994. I then, somewhat apprehensively, extended recording to the whole of North East Yorkshire, ie Watsonian Vice County 62. This area includes the North York Moors National Park, the Vales of Mowbray, Pickering and York, the Howardian Hills and the lower Tees valley south of the R.Tees and consists of 894 tetrads (2 by 2 km squares).

It was soon apparent that a manual system for recording data from such a large area would be very cumbersome. Following the purchase of a computer in 1995 I installed Dr. Alan Morton's DMAP biological recording package which incorporates the MAPRECS software for data entry and storage which has proved ideal for the task.

North East Yorkshire has a relatively dry climate compared with western Britain, so it does not have the rich bryophyte flora of that region. Nevertheless, since records began, over 550 taxa have been found in the vice county. Since systematic recording began in 1991 a total of 374 taxa has been recorded. It is significant, therefore, that about 176 species have, so far, not been refound during the present survey. Some of these species will be rediscovered as the work proceeds but, undoubtedly, much of our bryophyte flora has been lost since the end of the 19th Century. This is due to considerable changes in farming practices, the draining of wetlands, incorporation of marginal land into profitable use, loss of hedges, the felling of native trees, coniferous plantings and atmospheric pollution.

North East Yorkshire has many diverse habitats within its boundaries, including extensive heather moorland in the northern part of the national park, with limestone country to the south of this, some good ancient and semi-natural woodlands, both upland and lowland and extensive coniferous plantations.The coast provides its own special interests with salt marsh, cliffs and dunes, and there is an extensive river system. The lowlands away from the urban areas are largely agricultural apart from two prominent heaths at Strensall Common and Pilmoor.

There is a long history of bryophyte recording in Vice County 62 with much work in the 19th century from prominent figures such as Richard Spruce. The early records were brought together by Baker in his North Yorkshire Flora. These have since been augmented, largely by the activities of local natural history societies, the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union and the British Bryological Society.

As records have accumulated, particularly since 1995*,* the distribution patterns for each species have gradually become clearer. Some species are proving more widespread than earlier records suggested. For example, *Hookeria lucens*, a moss found in woodland, particularly by streams, is recorded from 77 tetrads, *Seligeria recurvata*, which grows mainly on shaded rocks, has been seen in 25 tetrads mostly in the south of the national park, and *Nowellia curvifolia*, a liverwort found only on rotting wood, from 20 tetrads. On the other hand *35* species have only one record to date. Some of these are, clearly, only just hanging on in the vice county. I reported on the finding of *Tortula freibergii* in Cleveland in 1993 (Bryophyte Recording in Cleveland 1995). This tiny moss was first recorded in Britain in 1966 from East Sussex, and was later found by the Blackwater Canal near Manchester. It was then seen at Hayburn Wyke on theYorkshire coast between Ravenscar and Scarborough in 1992 by Dr. F.J. Rumsey. During my surveying work I have recorded it in a further 7 sites since 1995, always on sandstone rocks, mostly by fresh water near the coast.

Other significant finds are listed below:

Cephalozia macrostachya var macrostachya -*	Fen Bog	1992	(PCB)
Ditrichum flexicaule (senso stricto) -*	Nabgate Quarry Dalby Forest	1994	(JMB)
*Dicranum montanum**	- Ellers Wood SSSI Thornton Dale	1994	(TLB & JMB)
Jungermannia subelliptica -*	Dundale Griff near Levisham	1995	(TLB)
Cryphaea heteromalla -	South west of Stokesley	1996 (first record since 19th Century)	(JMB)
Heterocladium heteropterum var flaccidum -*	Wass Bank	1997	(JMB)
Marchantia polymorpha ssp montivagans -*	Saltergate Gill	1997	(VJ)
Moerckia hibernica -	Saltergate Gill	1997 (first record since 19th Century)	(GS)
Aloina brevirostris -*	Coatham Marshes, Redcar	1998	(DTH & JMB)
Ephemerum serratum var minutissimum -*	Butterwick	1998	(JMB)
Tortula subulata var angustata -	Hasty Bank near Stokesley	1998 (first record since 19th Century)	(JMB)
Fissidens taxifolius var pallidicaulis -*	Mallyan Spout Goathland	1999	(TLB)
Schistidium maritimum	Hayburn Wyke	1999 (first record since l9th Century)	(AWR)

* denotes a new record for VC 62

Recorders: JMB J.M. Blackburn, TLB T.L.Blockeel, PCB P.C.Bowes, DTH D.T. Holyoak, VJ V.Jones, AWR, A.W. Ritson, GS G. Smith

One benefit of studying bryophytes is that they can be seen at all times of the year. In fact many of them fruit during the autumn and winter months. So my work proceeds throughout the year. But we have an enthusiastic team which meets regularly outside the flowering plants' season, consisting of Pam Law, Sylvia Robinson, Vincent Jones, Alan Ritson and myself.

A milestone in the recording work was reached in October 1999 when I recorded the final squares. The average for the 894 tetrads is now 45 species. This hides a wide variation between the tetrads. In most of the farming areas the number of species recorded is between 18 and 25 per square. At the other end of the spectrum 35

tetrads have more than 100 records, the best being SE58S, Ashbury and Rievaulx, where 141 species have been found.

The discipline of “square-bashing” is over and it is refreshing now to be able to concentrate on gap-filling and targetting the many areas worthy of further attention where, incidentally, many of the older records were found. But at least now, with 40300 records in the data-base at the end of 1999, we have a good picture of the distribution of bryophytes in North East Yorkshire at the end of the 20th Century and, thus, a base-line for future monitoring.

References:

Blackburn J ‘*Bryophyte Recording in Cleveland - progress report’*, Proceedings of the Cleveland Naturalists’ Field Club Vol.**6** Pt. **1** Spring 1995
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A Rough Guide to Ferns

Vincent Jones, Eric Gendle

The following is a table of aide memoirs to help in the field identification of ferns. It is **NOT** intended as a formal key or similar to the identification of ferns. A basic knowledge of the general structure and characters of a fern is assumed.

Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Pinnule Shape**	**Sori Approx. no. per row**	**Comments/Occurrence**
FROND is bigger than **PINNA** is bigger than **PINNULE**				
Lady fern	*Athyrium felix-femina*	pointed **strongly incised**	5/6 **Comma shaped** “L shaped ” for Lady	20 to 100cm **Variable Delicate and Feathery** not on lime
Male Fern	*Dryopteris filix-mas*	Round tip **Lobed**	5/6	**LARGE** 90cm Lightly scaled stipe. **Pale stipe/ Pinna Junc.** Common.
Scaly Male Fern	*Dryopteris affinis*	**Square** Tip which is slightly **lobed**.	3/4	**Stipe dense orange scales**. **Dark Stipe/Pinna junction (compare with Male)**. Wood/scree on acid soils (STIPE is the MAIN STEM)
Broad Buckler Fern	*Dryopteris dilatata*	Strongly **incised**	3/5	**Stipe scales dark centre. Shuttlecock shaped** woods hedges Common

Narrow Buckler Fern	*Dryopteris carthusiana*	Tapered **incised**	8/9	30 to 120cm **Stipe scales pale**. **Narrow frond**. Damp woods and marshes
Rigid Buckler Fern	*Dryopteris submontana*	Blunt **Slightly incised**	4/5	**Greyish Slightly Aromatic** Limestone Rock/Cracks Pavements W Rid Lancs South Cumbria
Hay Scented Buckler Fern	*Dryopteris aemula*	Turning **Upwards incised**	sori at **Pinnule centre**	**Fronds** 15/60cm **Red**/**Brown Scales** Shady woods especially S&W Eng **Rare in woods North York Moors**
Lemon Scented Fern	*Oreopteris limbosperma*	Tapered	sori at pinnule **edge**	**Pale green.lemon Smell**.. Streams & roads Acid soils Mts
Parsley Fern	*Cryptogramma crispa*	Delicate **Parsley like**	Dep at inrolled pinnule **edges**	**Fronds** 11/30cm **Fertile** 7/15 **Infertile** Rock/scree M'tns Lakes N.Wales Pennines
Royal Fern	*Osmunda regalis*		Dense dep on fertile fronds	Huge Fertile Fronds erect above plant. West Great Britain and marshes
Polypody	*Polypodium vulganis*	Tapered **Pinna** No Pinnules	2 **Long** Rows On **Pinna**	**Fronds** 10/40cm **Pinna** wall tops trees_rocks mainly W
Hard Shield Fern	*Polystichum aculeatum*	Bristly Tips	2/6 vanable	Pinnule/Pinna joint **Acute Angle ('Hacute'=Hard)** Shade/woods Mts on limes West But also in woods North York Moors
'**S'** for **S**HARP& **S**HIELD-referring to the pinnule shape				
Soft Shield Fern	*Polystichum setiferum*		8/10	**Pinnule/Pinna joint at 90 deg** Woods/Hedges mainly S of Eng But also in Woods in North York Moors
Brittle Bladder Fern	*Cystopterism fragili*	Slightly **incised**	2/6 variable	**Small Fronds** 6/30 cm Rocks & crev N of England,Scotland Not in South Britain
Oak Fern	*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*		Variable at edges	**Fronds** 10/40cm **Broad Delicate** Shady Streams/Scree N of England, Scotland
Limestone Fern	*Gymnocarpium robertianum*		variable at edges	**Fronds** 15/55 cm Narrow/Dark compared with Oak Mealy Limestone Pavements W Riding, Lancs Cumbria

Beech Fern	*Phegopteris connectilis*		variable at pinnule centre	**Fronds** 20/40cm **Hairy**. **Swept back on lowest pinna**. Occurrence as Oak
Maidenhair Spleenwort	*Asplenium trichomanes*	**No pinnules**	A series of Rows	**Fronds** 5/35cm **Dark green Pinna. Stems Black**
Green Spleenwort	*Asplenium viride*	**No pinnules**	A Scattering	As above but green stem On Limestone or Limey Soils
Sea Spleenwort	*Asplenium marinum*	**No pinnules**	Long and narrow	Rocks by the sea. North and West Britain. Blackhall Rocks
Note that the 3 spleenworts above are similar in appearance and distinct from Black Spleenwort				
Black Spleenwort	*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*	Broad	long & thin at pinnule centre	Fronds with v.long black stalks
Wall Rue	*Asplenium ruta-muraria*	Almost **leaf shaped**	**Dense depos**.	On Rocks Walls Bridges often on Limestone
BRACKEN, HARD FERN AND HARTS TONGUE FERN are omitted as they are distinctive and well-known				

Helicella itala **(the Heath Snail) in South-east County Durham (V.C. 66)**

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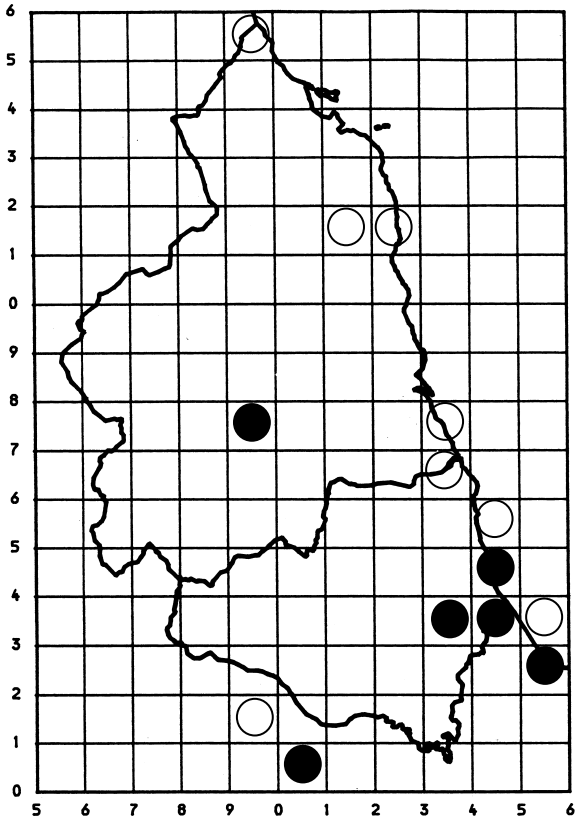
Helicella itala is a member of the Helicidae. It is an attractive, relatively large banded snail whose shell is formed into an almost flat spiral with a very low spire. It is easily identified by the very wide umbilicus. The last whorl turns down slightly, particularly at the aperture. The shell is white with brown/black bands the pattern of which is very variable. However, dead specimens can bleach white very quickly. It's favoured habitat is dry, exposed, calcareous, thin grassland.

In 1934 E. Percy Blackburn published 'A Survey of the Land and Freshwater Mollusca of Northumberland and Durham' in the Transactions of the Northern Naturalists Union. The entry for *Helicella itala* is as follows- '*For [Cheviotland],there are seven old records, it appears to be dying out there. A solitary specimen was found at Seaton Sluice, 1923. Still found in a few places along the Durham coast, Ryhope, Hart, Horden, Hartlepool, Blackhall Rocks, also, at same place, var. fasciatum, (this locality is now built upon), Seaton Carew. Inland records, Garmondsway, Bishop Middleham.'*

In 1989, Ralph Lowe published ‘An Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Mollusca of Northumberland and Durham’ (Lowe, 1989). The information in this document is in the standard form of ‘dot’ records in 10 km grid squares. Only five 10 km squares are marked as localities for *H*. *itala*. These are concentrated in South-East County Durham with an outlier in the Gunnerton/Chollerton area of Northumberland.



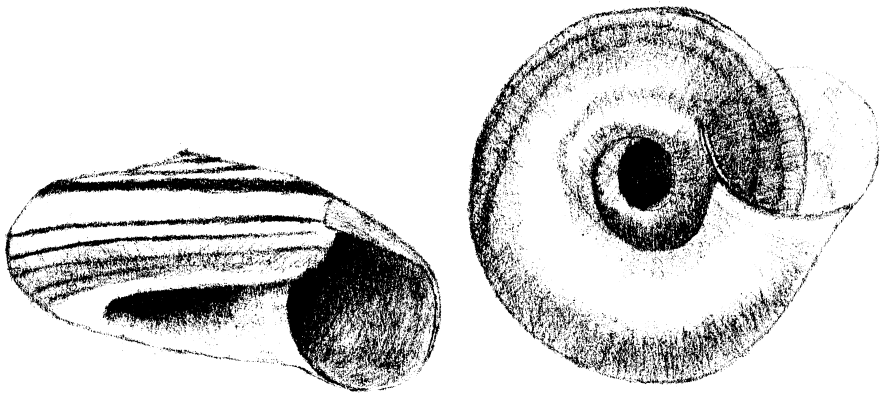
In the recently published ‘Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Mollusca of Britain and Ireland’ there are fourteen 10 km squares identified with ten squares in South-east Durham indicated as localities, four of which are pre 1965 records. This is illustrated in the distribution map here. Again the records are concentrated in South-East Durham. The Atlas indicates a significant decline and reduction in range for this species since 1965*. ‘It remains common by the sea in Western and Northern Britain, and in Ireland. In Southern and Eastern England, however there is clear evidence that populations have declined strongly this century; in many areas where it was formerly common only weathered shells can now be found.’* (Kerney,1999)

A number of sites have been checked by the author between October 1999 and March 2000, to confirm the continued existence of *Helicella itala* at the site or to add to the known distribution of the snail. Locations are named and full grid references are provided. All sites visited are listed, including those where *H*. *itala* was not found. The fact that *H*. *itala* was not found at a site does not mean that it is not there of course. However, sites were chosen because of previous records and the likely existence of suitable habitat.

The author would welcome any reports of this snail from any sites in Durham, Northumberland or North Yorkshire.

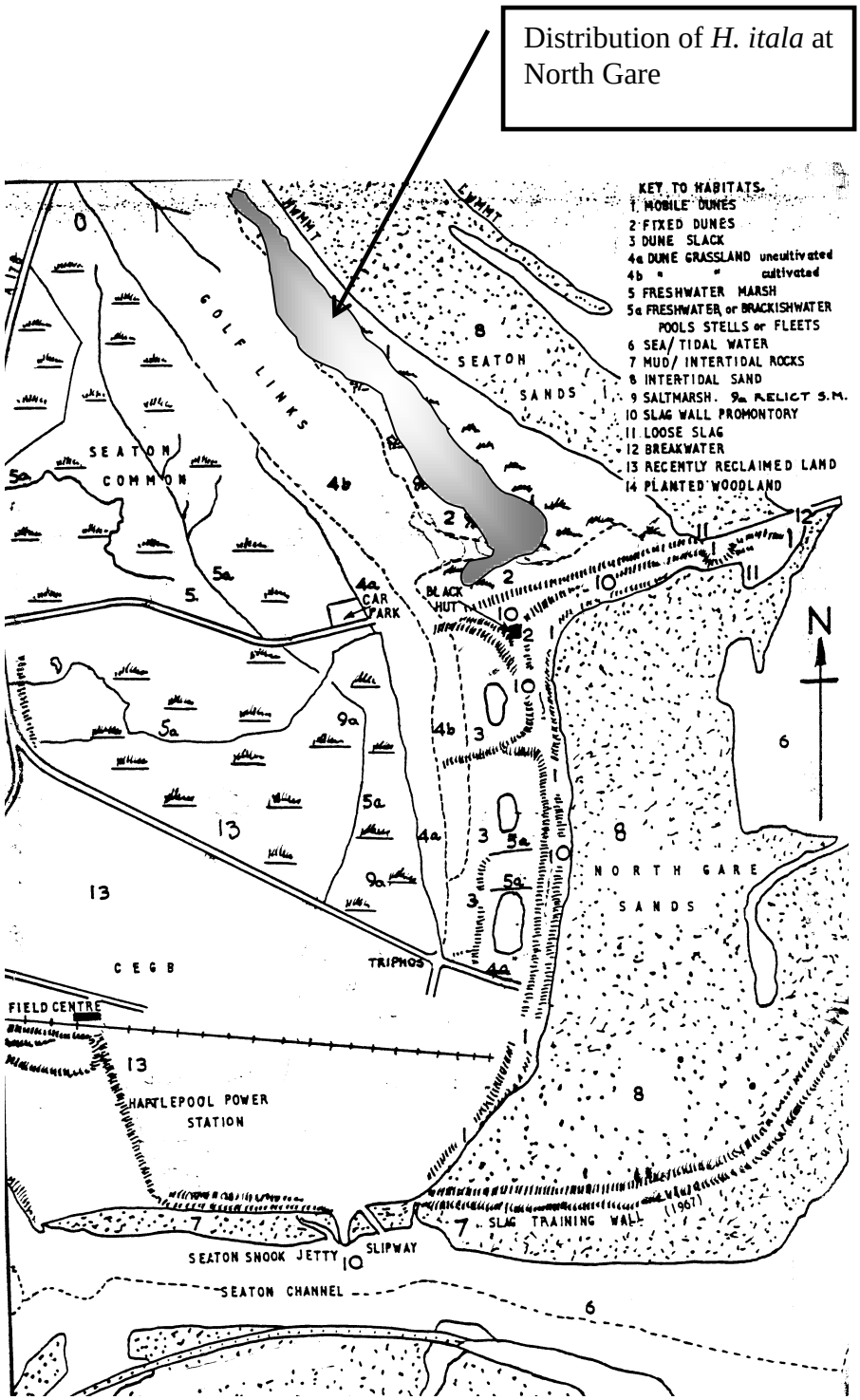
North Gare and Seaton Carew (NZ 537285)

H. *itala* is abundant here north of the Gare, but in a restricted zone between the Golf Course and the sand dunes proper. The zone roughly follows the line of old tank traps towards Seaton Carew. Unfortunately this is the area that is being heavily overgrown by Sea Buckthorn. Some management action is being taken by English Nature to prevent the Buckthorn spreading across the dune system. Both living and dead specimens were found here.



1 cm

Fig. 1: *Helicella itala* from North Gare


Distribution of *H. itala* at North Gare
KEY TO HABITATS.
1 MOBILE DUNES
2 FIXED DUNES
3 DUNE SLACK
4a DUNE GRASSLAND uncultivated
4b " " cultivated
5 FRESHWATER MARSH
5a FRESHWATER or BRACKISHWATER POOLS STELLS or FLEETS
6 SEA/ TIDAL WATER
7 MUD/ INTERTIDAL ROCKS
8 INTERTIDAL SAND
9 SALTMARSH. 9a RELICT S.M.
10 SLAG WALL PROMONTORY
11 LOOSE SLAG
12 BREAKWATER
13 RECENTLY RECLAIMED LAND
14 PLANTED WOODLAND
GOLF LINKS
SEATON SANDS
SEATON COMMON
CAR PARK
BLACK HUT
NORTH GARE SANDS
CEGB
TRIPNOS
FIELD CENTRE
HARTLEPOOL POWER STATION
SLAG TRAINING WALL (1967)
SEATON SNOOK JETTY
SLIPWAY
SEATON CHANNEL
N

Bishop Middleham Quarry Reserve (NZ 334321)
At this site the snail is found on the quarry slopes in those parts of the quarry bare of trees and scrub. Recently deceased specimens were found abundantly.

Garmondsway (NZ 351349 to NZ 358352)
Many dead specimens were found alongside the old railway, and in cutting sides, between Trimdon Grange Quarry and Raisby.

Raisby Hill Grassland Reserve (NZ 336354)
This area has been, and continues to be heavily quarried. Durham Wildlife Trust has a grassland reserve at Raisby Hill. This site has quite extensive woodland The bare areas seem to be recently disturbed and covered by quarry spoil. No specimens were found here.

Hart Warren (NZ 495363)
No specimens were found at this site.

Crimdon Dene (NZ 488369)
Many specimens that seemed to be rather old were found in dune debris (a mix of sand and rubble left after dune destruction) at Crimdon Dene below the car park. These specimens were not found in the kind of habitat *H. itala* normally prefers. None were found in the existing undamaged dune areas.

Blackhall Rocks (NZ 469394)
No specimens were found at this site.

Castle Eden Dene Mouth and Horden Cliffs (NZ 458406 to NZ 448419)
Dead specimens were found in landslips under the cliffs. It was impossible to tell if these were recent or ‘fossil’ specimens. The specimens were not bleached and in good condition. However, they were found only in landslip debris that had fallen from the cliff onto the beach. No specimens were found on the cliff or amongst vegetation at the foot of the cliffs. The situation resembled that at Crimdon Dene. Is it possible that the specimens are in wind-blown sand which has been deposited on the cliffs in the past from colonies that existed in dunes below the cliffs? These dunes would have been destroyed when colliery spoil was dumped on the foreshore.

Wingate Quarry Reserve (NZ 372376)
At this site the snail is found on the quarry slopes in those parts of the quarry bare of trees and scrub. Recently deceased specimens were found abundantly.

Trimdon Grange Quarry Reserve (NZ 363353)
No specimens were found at this site.

Hart to Haswell Walkway (NZ 485362 to NZ 455375)
There are some small cuttings on this old railway line that have seemingly suitable habitat for *H. itala*. However no specimens were found.

Discussion

It is difficult to come to any firm conclusions at this stage as this work was done during the winter period. More searching at these and other sites is required throughout the year. However, it is clear where searching should be concentrated. The coastal localities were important for this species in County Durham. Hart Warren in particular should have colonies. The destruction of habitat north of Hart Warren caused by the dumping of colliery spoil and erosion of sand dunes has probably damaged the distribution of *H. itala* along the coast. Dumping has now ceased and active conservation work on the habitats is being carried out. Given the scarcity of appropriate habitat in inland sites the coast still seems the best hope for survival of this snail in Durham.

Inland , the axis of country between Bishop Middleham and Trimdon Grange contains some important sites for *H. itala*. Old railway cuttings and quarries seem to be the favoured sites. However, it was a surprise that Trimdon Grange Quarry contained no specimens. Similar sites throughout the magnesian limestone country need to explored. If the destruction of the coastal colonies is confirmed these inland sites may be the last refuge for this species in Durham. Quarries are under risk from dumping and re-development, and old railways from invasive scrub.

References

Kerney M., '*Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*', Harley Books, Colchester, 1999
Lowe R., '*An Atlas of Land and Freshwater Mollusca of Northumberland and Durham'*, Northumberland Biological Records Centre, Hancock Museum, 1989
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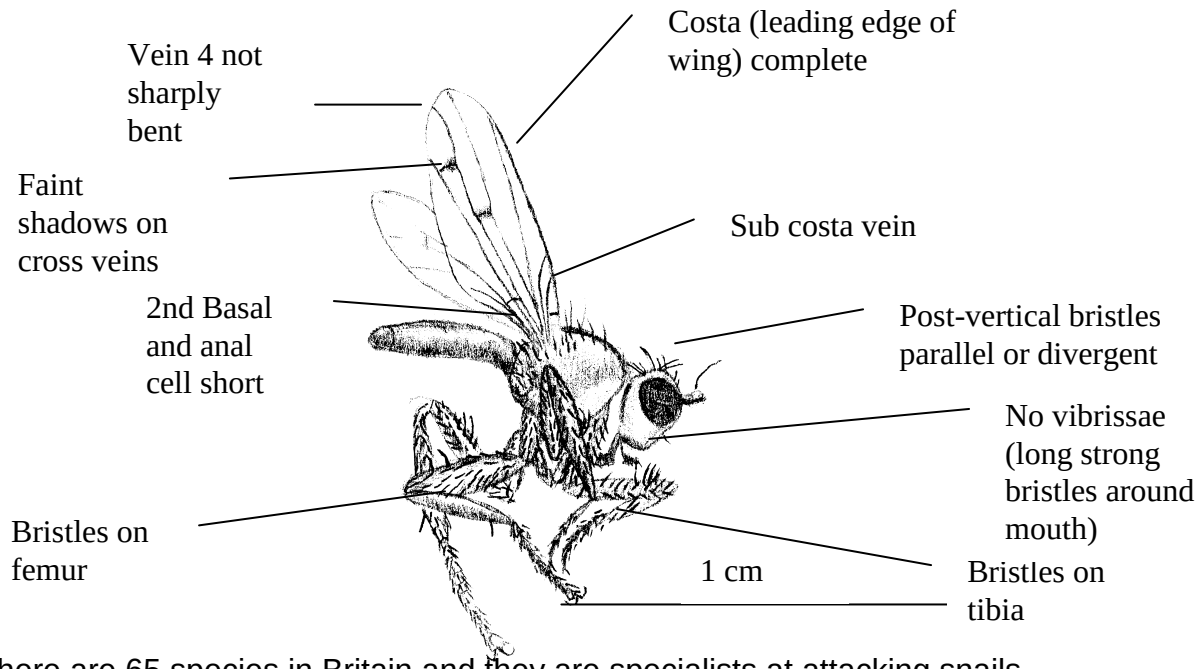
Some Flies from Bishop Middleham

Often, flies emerge from dead snails a number of days after the specimens are collected. The fly illustrated below emerged from a specimen of *Helicella itala* from Bishop Middleham Quarry. Judging by the size and features indicated on the drawing this seems to be a Marsh fly (*Sciomyzidae sp.*).



There are 65 species in Britain and they are specialists at attacking snails. Depending on a number of factors the fly larva may use one or many snails during the course of its development into an adult fly. The aquatic species may begin as an internal parasite on a snail which kills the snail and then becomes a predator on other snails. They can have a significant impact on snail populations.

Another fly which has been observed emerging from snail specimens is the Owl Midge (*Psychodidae* sp.). There are about 75 species of Owl Midge and they are best known as being an important element in the functioning of sewage farms when in larval form. They are characterised as a family by the small size and the extensive hairs on the body and wings.

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Frank Elgee, Naturalist, Archaeologist and 'Man of the Moors'

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(This paper is a transcript of a lecture delivered to the Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists Field Club, March 2000)

In 2000 the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club will host the Elgee Memorial lecture. This will be delivered by Dr. P. Gates of Durham University. His subject will be '*Alien Species – Encouragement or Eradication'*. As the years pass and membership of societies change the life and work of the people being remembered through these memorials can become obscured. This paper is intended as a reminder of Frank Elgee's life and work.

1880-1904 The Early Years

Frank Elgee was born in North Ormesby and attended Ormesby Elementary Board School and Hugh Bell Higher Grade School. In 1894 Elgee suffered pneumonia, a serious illness, especially in the days before antibiotics. Pneumonia, if not fatal, often left permanent damage. In this case the disease produced an empyema. This is the accumulation of pus in a body cavity or organ leading to breathlessness, pain, fever and infection. Today it would be rapidly removed and treated with antibiotics. In Elgee's case it was not treated for three years. This led to a period of severe illness and convalescence resulting in life-long health problems. This makes his work and the amount of physical effort required to complete it quite remarkable. Elgee spent his convalescence in Ingleby Greenhow where he seems to have taken his first interest in the moorland landscapes and natural history. He began spending increasing amounts of time wandering the moorlands on foot. However, with little income all his explorations had to be within the range of foot or low cost public transport. Consequently Eston Moor was frequently visited.

Elgee's first publications were records of Lepidoptera. He published these observations between 1900 and 1907 in the Naturalist. He was living in Kensington Road at this time. This is adjacent to the Albert Park and the Dorman Museum. In his lepidoptera list published in 1902 he describes Kensington Road as '…. *as a single row of newly-built houses, on the North side only. On the South side are fields and market gardens, separated by Hawthorn hedges with occasional Ash trees.'* This area is now part of the centre of Middlesbrough. There are three species of interest in his list

Large Ranunculus	*Polymixis flavicinct*	local and *'…..almost entirely confined to the coast'*
Sword Grass	*Xylena exsoleta*	Not seen since the 1960's.

Meal Moth *Pyralis farinalis* Recorded infrequently.

In 1904 (published 1905) Elgee discovered a species of Velvet Ant near Robin Hoods Bay. This was not the first record of *Mutilla europaea* in this area but is a notable record. Velvet Ants are actually a type of wasp (aculeate Hymenoptera). The female is wingless hence the similarity to an ant. There are two species in Britain. One species (*Smicromyrme rufipes*) is confined to southern counties. In northern England *Mutilla europaea* is confined to some northern Pennine localities and the north-east Yorkshire moorlands. It was distributed quite widely across the moorlands pre-1965, but more recently records have been confined to the area round Robin Hoods Bay, Guisborough-Commondale, and near Kirbymoorside (Edwards, 1997).

1904-1912 The Origin and Evolution of the Moorlands

In 1904 Elgee was appointed as the Assistant Curator to the Dorman Museum. He could now cover greater areas and make use of museum collections and contacts with workers in various disciplines elsewhere. In 1907 Elgee published some of his thoughts and conclusions in the Naturalist. In these papers he considered possible examples of species that may have survived the glacial period to exist today as 'glacial relicts'. He seemed to be trying to determine which parts of the moors had not been glaciated during the Ice Ages. Elgee had a strong belief in the antiquity of the moorlands and gives the impression that he was looking for evidence to confirm that the moorlands had a continuity through the Ice Ages to pre-existing landscapes and vegetation. It is now known that the moorlands are of fairly recent origin having been substantially covered with trees in the past. The vegetational history has recently been summarised by Margaret Atherden in her presidential address to the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (Atherden, 1999). This included a substantial list of references that could form an ideal reading list for anyone today with the same interests as Elgee.

In 1912 Elgee published '*The Moorlands of North-east Yorkshire'.* This is a substantial book which attempts to classify the distinctive components of the moorlands. Most of this work has been superseded by work carried out since 1912 using scientific techniques that would have been unimaginable by Elgee. However, it remains an interesting account from the perspective of the time it was produced.

Elgee attempted to classify different parts of the moors based on features recognised by local people living in the moors and dales. This employed a combination of substrate type, substrate depth and vegetation assemblages. He recognised a number of different types of moorland landscape.

Fat Moor
These are areas of very thick peat mostly on the highest, more remote parts of the moors. The dominant plant is Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*). Typically, there are few boulders. Examples:
Kempswithen, Easington High Moor, Stockdale Head (Westerdale)

Thin Moor
Thin moors are often found on the edges of Fat moors. They are also often on the Kellaways Rock. Elgee identified different types of thin moor
Examples:
Dry thin: Great Ayton Moor, Easby Moor, Steep slopes below High Castleton
Wet thin: Calluna-Nardus stricta: Danby Low
Wet thin Tufted Club Rush: Head of Lockwood Beck, Stanghow Moor,

Mosses
Mosses are moorland bogs on elevated watersheds such as Shunner Howes, Cock Heads, May Moss, Pike Hill Moss and Yarlsey Moss. Many of these have been modified and drained since Elgee's time. In places the distinction between a Moss and a Fat moor is rather blurred. Both mosses and fat moors have been used for extensive peat digging in the past. The remains of extensive turbaries can be seen on the eastern slopes of Cock Heads.

Moorland Slopes
Elgee intended moorland slopes to be the areas between the moors and the heavily farmed land in the dales. He noted that these areas could be different in character from the high moors and the dale landscapes.

Slacks and Gills
These seem to have been some of Elgee's favourite places judging by his comments in books, articles and diary. These are the valleys found intersecting the high moors in various places.
Examples

Ewe Crag Slack
Fen Bog
Hardale Slack
Rudland Slack
Tranmire Slack
Moss Swang

Ewe Crag Slack in particular appears many times in Elgee's works. He points out in '*Moorlands'* that all his moorland types i.e. fat moor, thin moor, mosses etc.. exist in and around Ewe Crag Slack. It is also one of the best examples of post-glacial runoff channels that are common on the moorlands.

The 'Moorlands' book includes a chapter on the erosion of moorland rocks. In this he describes finding pebbles in stream beds at various places on the moors. These pebbles are striking because many are composed of quartzite and other 'foreign' materials such as agate and flint. These pebbles also have the appearance of water-worn pebbles from beach deposits or river beds. The pebbles can be found in the peat itself. Elgee was puzzled by the origin of these pebbles. They appear glacial in origin but are not composed of material typical of glacial erratics such as Shap granite, limestone or porphyry. They occur in non-glacial material i.e. peat.

They are not everywhere on the moorlands as far as Elgee was aware but concentrated in specific areas such as Bluewath Beck, Wheeldale Gill, Pike Hill Moss, and just north of May Moss. A recent 'Time Team' programme on Channel 4 reported on archaeological work in the fen country in Cambridgeshire. The existence of water-worn pebbles in the peat there was mentioned and it was suggested that they may have been carried there by early inhabitants of the area i.e. they are archaeology rather than geology.

Elgee included a section on the entomology of the moors in his book. This included a colour plate of Moorland Butterflies and Moths. This plate includes some interesting species

Scarce Silver Y	*Syngrapha interrogationis*	Common on the moors in Yorkshire
Golden Rod Brindle	*Lithomoia solidaginis*	Occasional records on high moorland
Light Knot Grass	*Acronicta menyanthidis*	Very local on high moorland
Grey Scalloped Bar	*Dyscia fagaria*	Occasional records on high moorland
Bilberry Highflier,	*Hydriomena furcata*	the smaller moorland race of the July Highflier

(Sutton & Beaumont, 1989)

1913-1929 The Origins and History of Moorland People

After publication of his work on the origin and evolution of the moorlands Elgee turned his attention to the origin and history of the people who have inhabited the moors. In 1920 Elgee and his wife moved to Commondale which enabled more frequent and easier excursions onto the moors. Elgee was elected President of the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club from 1922 to 1923 and was appointed Curator of the Dorman Museum in 1923.

In 1930 he published **'***Early Man in North-east Yorkshire'.* This is a substantial review of all the artefacts and excavations related to the moorlands from the first signs of human activity to the Roman occupation. This is mostly based on studies by other workers but includes some of Elgee's original investigations. Particularly notable is his description and interpretation of excavations of the hill-fort on Eston Nab. Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club sponsored this excavation in 1927. In 1988, B. E. Vyner reviewed this work and subsequent investigations on Eston Nab. This work has revealed evidence of activity on Eston Nab from Mesolithic to mid pre-Roman Iron Age. The book also has some details and illustrations of flints Elgee found on the moorlands particularly on sites associated with the Kellaways Rock. This tends to form sandy substrates in contrast to the widespread peat deposits.

1931-1944 Final years

In 1931 the Elgee's moved from Commondale to Guisborough in order to seek a milder climate as Frank's health deteriorated. In 1932 Frank Elgee's health seems to have broken down completely and he was often bed-ridden. At this point he had to give up his job as curator.

In 1933 Elgee and his wife Harriet produced the 'Archaeology of Yorkshire'. This publication was in the Methuen County Archaeologies Series. Elgee was also awarded his Ph. D. from Leeds University. The Elgee's moved to Alton in Hampshire in a further search for a more amenable climate. Frank Elgee died and was buried in Alton on the 7th August 1944.

On October 21st 1953 a memorial stone was placed next to the Castleton-Hutton-le-Hole road about 100 yards south of Ralph's Cross (at the road junction where the road branches to Fat Betty and Rosedale Abbey).

Conclusion

Frank Elgee's life was dedicated to a study and understanding of the moorlands of north-east Yorkshire. It is a tragedy that he was not laid to rest in the area. Although his work has since been superseded by more recent scientific studies his achievements were significant in his time. We must remember that Elgee was working in the days before Carbon-14 dating, detailed pollen analysis, dendrelogical dating, electron microscopes and all the other sophisticated scientific tools and techniques available now. Elgee had profound feelings for the landscape of the moorlands. He believed that the moorlands were a very old environment barely modified by human hand. This is revealed by the commentaries in his publications. However, we now know that the moors are substantially the result of human activity over last 10000 years. In 1991 extracts from his diaries were published and these contain some of the most evocative writings to emerge from the moorlands. It may not surprise some of us that they were produced by a dedicated naturalist/archaeologist from humble origins rather than a major literary figure. His books appear regularly in second-hand bookshops, but his papers and pamphlets can be difficult to obtain. It seems appropriate to finish with Frank Elgee's own words taken from the opening pages of his diary extracts

'The moors have satisfied my reason, captivated my imagination and elevated my heart'

Some Selected Publications

April 1901, *'Cleveland Lepidoptera'*, Naturalist, p.108
A short note on some moths found in 1900.

April 1902, *Ennomos erosaria in Cleveland'*, Naturalist, p.140
A short note describing the September Thorn at Ingleby Greenhow.

June 1902, *'Lepidoptera in Kensington Road, Middlesbrough, During the years 1898-1900'*, Naturalist, pp193-197
This paper includes a list of moths from Elgee's residence, which was, then on the edge of Middlesbrough adjacent to the Albert Park.

July 1903, *'Cleveland Lepidoptera'*, Naturalist, p.264
A short note on some moths found in 1902.

February 1905, *'Hadena adusta in Middlesbrough',* Naturalist, p. 39
Short note on the occurrence of the Dark Brocade in Middlesbrough.

February 1905, *'Mutilla europaea at Robin Hoods Bay',* Naturalist, p. 40
The discovery of the Velvet Ant near Robin Hoods Bay.

August 1906, '*Glacial Phenomena in the Neighbourhood of Guisbrough'*, Naturalist, 595, pp.268-270
This is a brief description of some glacial and post-glacial features prior to a Yorkshire Naturalists Union meeting in the area.

April 1907, '*The Driftless Area of North-east Yorkshire and its Relation to the Geographical Distribution of Certain Plants and Insects'*, Naturalist, 603, pp. 137-143
This paper seeks to demonstrate that some parts of the moorlands were not glaciated during the last ice ages and that some flora and fauna currently present on the moors are pre-glacial in origin.

August, 1907, '*Glacial Survivals'*, Naturalist, 607, pp. 274-276
September 1907,*'Glacial Survivals'*, Naturalist, 608, pp. 314-315
This contribution further details Elgee's ideas on pre-glacial survivor species on driftless areas of the moors.

1912, '*The Moorlands of North Eastern Yorkshire'*, Brown and Sons, London, Hull, York
A complete account of Elgee's studies and explorations of the landscape of the moors. Out of print but fairly readily available from second hand and antiquarian book dealers.

1923, '*The Romans in Cleveland'*, Pamphlet, Private publication
Survey of the knowledge current at the time focussed on roads, forts and settlements.

1930, '*Early Man in North-east Yorkshire'*, Bellows, Gloucester
A survey of artifacts and studies on Roman and pre-Roman human societies. Out of print but fairly readily available from second hand and antiquarian book dealers.

1933, '*The Archaeology of Yorkshire'*, County Archaeologies, Methuen & Co. Ltd., London

Essentially a re-working of '*Early man*…' with slightly broader scope. Out of print but fairly readily available from second hand and antiquarian book dealers.

1991 '*A Man of the Moors, Extracts from the Diaries and Letters of Frank Elgee'*, Ed. Harriet Wragg Elgee, Roseberry Publications
G. G. Watson produced this publication from material supplied by Harriet, Elgee's wife. It contains entries from diaries kept by Elgee sporadically from 1904 to 1936. It contains some interesting detailed observations with some evocative prose describing the atmosphere and landscape of the moors at this time.

References

In addition to Elgee's own writings-

Atherden, M.A., '*The Vegetation History of Yorkshire: A Bog-Trotters Guide to God's Own Country*', Naturalist, **124**, 1031, 1999, pp. 137-156
Edwards, R. (ed.), '*Provisional Atlas of the Aculeate Hymenoptera of Britain and Ireland Part 1'*, Bees, Wasps, Ants Recording Society, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, JNCC, 1997
Sutton, S.L., Beaumont, H. E., *'Butterflies and Moths of Yorkshire*', Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, 1989
Vyner B.E., '*The Hill-fort at Eston Nab'*, Archaeol. J., 145, 1988, pp. 60-98. (Available as a Tees Archaeology Report from Tees Archaeology, Sir William Grey House, Clarence Road, Hartlepool TS24 8BT)

Snowdrops

Norman Thompson, Marton, Middlesbrough

'For the Snowdrops are the harbingers of Spring,
A sort of link between dumb life and light,
Freshness preserved amid all withering,
Bloom in the midst of grey and frosty blight,
Pale stars that gladden Nature's dereamy light.'
Caroline Elizabeth Norton

The botanical name for the flower *Galanthus nivalis*, is taken from two Greek words, *Gala*, milk and *Anthos*, flower= the milk-white flower. *Nivalis* is the Latin for resembling snow.

One of the old names for the flower was Candlemas Bells, because bunches of flowers were used to decorate churches to celebrate the feast of Candlemas on February 2nd. This was an old pagan festival which was taken over by the church in the 5th century. and re-named the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is generally agreed among botanists, that the snowdrop is not indigenous to this country. It was not recorded as growing wild in Britain until the 1770's, when they were found in Worcester and Gloucester, but the word Snowdrop appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1664.

In some cases, such as Oldstead, it is the only sign that a cottage once stood there. The cottage has long since gone, and the people forgotten, but over the years the plant has multiplied and there is now a lovely show there of double snowdrops.

There is a little known tradition associated with the snowdrop. During the Crimean War the soldiers suffered terribly from an extremely cruel winter. They looked for some signs of Spring. One day , in icy February, one of them discovered three white blooms. He and his comrades stood before the flowers with uncovered heads. On returning home, they brought with them bulbs of the Crimean Snowdrop to remind them of that time of hope for better times.

The two main areas for Snowdrops in my area, are the cemetery at Helmsley and the woods of Arden Hall. Arden is the prettier of the two as the Snowdrops are intermingled with Aconites, but the cemetery is more extensive.

There are a few clumps of *G*. *elwesii* just inside the entrance gate of the cemetery. It was introduced into Britain in 1874, having been found by Henry Elwes on Mount Balansa near Smyrna, Turkey.

Other churches with a good display are All Saints church on the Hawnby to Arden road which seem to be *G*. *ikariae* with green leaves, and there is a small clump of doubles outside the fence near the gate.

St. Gregory's Minster which has a few large patches at the rear.

Newburgh Priory which has a sheet of them on the bank at the side of the entrance road. There are also a lot mixed with aconites at the entrance from the Yearby road. The only snag is, the grounds do not open until April 1st.

Villages with a good display outside houses, are Hovingham which also has a lot of Aconites, Scawton a bank with Aconites in front of the Old Rectory, and Harome which has quite a lot.

Gilling East has a sheet in the wood on the right entering from the South, and also along the stream-side in the village on the left.

Very few Snowdrops can be found away from villages and churches.

There are two small clumps on the right of the entrance gate to Ashdale Quarry and two nice clumps of doubles on the left. In the quarry there are two very small clumps on the left of the access road, then a patch just before the main area.

The only other place where I have found them is on what I call the water meadows walk. Starting at the bridge over the river Rye out on the Sutton Bank road, there is a large patch on the right in the woods as you cross the first field. Then a few small clumps can be found after going through the wood in the meadow opposite the sewage farm. How these got there I don't know as they are well above the water-level.

The best time to view the flowers in a normal year is the end of January or very early February.

Field Meetings 2000

Full details of the walks and their starting-points are given below. If you require further details about a walk or in the event of inclement weather and possible cancellation please contact the leader of the walk. Please carry suitable refreshment with you! This will be necessary for the walks that start on a morning and it may well be appropriate to take tea on an afternoon walk.

Presidents message to members and potential members

I hope that you will find outings to your taste from this varied programme. Any suggestions for future outings are always welcomed by the committee. It is hoped that members will share transport, where possible, to ease any parking-problems and be prepared to offer lifts to members without cars.

I should like to welcome any prospective members to join some of the outings. I am sure that you will find our members friendly and helpful. I have found the field-trips a splendid way of learning more about the natural history of the area.

by thePresident

Saturday, 8th April, 11:00 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235
GR SE615768. **Gilling East, south of Helmsley**. Park in the village. An easy walk about six miles in length.

Saturday, 29th April, 11:00 am, leader Jack Marshall ☎ 01642 315365
GR SE614886. **Riccal Dale**. Meet at Cowhouse Bank picnic area. A walk of about six miles, involving some climbing.

Wednesday, 10th May, 7:00 pm, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380
Stewart Park. Access to the public car park is at GR NZ517167. The park is rich in ornamental trees. It is hoped our visit will coincide with the flowering time of many species.

Sunday, 14th May, 11:00 am, leader Judy Dinwiddie ☎ 01845 537340
GR SE406861. **Thornton Park**. The large lodge gates to the Park are just north of the village on the west side of the road. We shall park inside the Park about ½ mile from the gates. The going is very easy but is wet underfoot. There will be an option to continue, after lunch, to Lake Gormire.

Wednesday, 17th May, 7:00 pm, leader Tony Wardaugh ☎ 01642 322935
GR NZ712180. **Clarkson's Wood**. Meet at the Working Men's Club, but parking may be safest in Liverton Mines village. This will not be a sustained walk; Tony is going to help members identify common snails. A hand lens would be useful.

Wednesday, 24th May, 7:00 pm, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616
GR NZ494157**. Marton West Beck**. Park at the Botanic Centre. This circular walk, to Newham Grange Farm, Slip Inn Bank, Devil's Bridge and return, will be about 3 miles easy going.

Tuesday, 30th May, 7:00 pm, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055

GR NZ373375. **Wingate Quarry**. Park in the reserve car park.

Sunday, 4th June, 11:00 am, leader Pamela Law ☎ 01287 636976
GR NZ853936. **Hole of Horcum**. Meet in the car park above the Hole of Horcum (Saltergate Brow). A circular walk of not more than five miles. The terrain is not difficult but the descent into the Hole of Horcum requires care.

Saturday, 10th June, 10:30 am, leader John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815
GR SE533806. **Oldstead**. Meet at the bottom of the track leading to Cockerdale Farm. This is a YNU VC62 meeting.

Wednesday, 14th June, 7:00 pm, leader Pamela Law ☎ 01287 636976
GR NZ651155. Meet at the **Margrove Park Heritage Centre**. We shall explore the natural history of neighbouring waste land, ponds and a disused railway.

Sunday, 18th June, 11:00 am, leader Vincent Jones ☎ 01642 722814
GR SD804727. Meet at **Horton in Ribblesdale** station. There is a large car park in the village at SD808727. There will be a sustained walk of no more than six miles. Much of the terrain is easy but there will be some climbing and optional scrambling on limestone rocks. There are several rare plants in the area.

Sunday, 25th June, 11:00 am, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547
GRNY947254. **Cronkley Fell, Upper Teesdale**. We will meet at the main car park in Middleton-in-Teesdale and take some cars further up the dale to Hanging Shaw, where parking is more limited. A circular walk over the top of Cronkley Fell, taking in the English Nature enclosures, and back along the south bank of the river Tees.

Wednesday, 28th June, 7:00 pm, leader Vincent Jones ☎ 01642 722814
GR NZ514267. **Greenabella Marsh**. Turn right off the A178 into the second (travelling north) entrance of Tioxide. Park in the small visitors' car park in front of the office block on the left hand side.

Sunday, 2nd July, 11:00 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235
GR NY793128. For this visit to **Tarn Sike**, a Cumbria Wild Life Trust reserve, meet at the Brough Sowerby lay by on the A685 from Brough to Kirby Stephen. Tarn Sike is a superb upland marsh, rich in wetland plants and wading birds. Wellingtons (or a change of footwear) are essential. There will be no sustained walk. It is likely we shall move to some other special orchid sites in the area.

Wednesday, 12th July, 7:00 pm, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055
GR NZ479254. **Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park**.
Meet in the car park on the Seal Sands road. This is the same park as for Malcolm's 1999 walk, but we shall be researching a different area.

Wednesday, 19th July, 7:00 pm, leader Andrew Ferguson ☎ 01642 311831
GR NZ484372 **Crimdon Dene**. An easy walk to take a look at the Little Tern colony and examine some of the many interesting plants to be found in the area. Meet in the public car park. We will arrange for a volunteer to remain with the cars in order to keep a safe watch over them.

Sunday, 23rd July, 11:00 am, leaders Norma Pagdin and Joan Bradbury ☎ 01429 268416
GR NZ076377. **Tunstall Reservoir, Wolsingham, Weardale**. Park in the Demesne Mill picnic area, which is a short distance up the Tow Law road out of Wolsingham, on the left just before the road bridge over Waskerley Beck (marked waterfalls on the OS map).
An easy walk of between six to eight miles which does not include a lot of climbing.

Wednesday, 26th July, 7:00 pm, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380
Fairy Dell, Marton. We shall meet at the western end of Gunnergate Lane. Gunnergate Lane leaves Marton Road (the A172) at GR NZ519154 (turning left if you are approaching from the south).

Sunday, 6th August, 11:00 am, leader Andy Astbury ☎ 01642 823114
GR NZ572036. **Upper Bilsdale**. Meet at the Clay Bank car park. This will be a reasonably demanding walk of eight miles, with considerable hill climbing.

Sunday, 20th August, 11:00 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235
GR SE790895. **Gundale and Yatts Farm**. Park on the road verges around the grid reference. An easy walk about six miles in length.

Saturday, 2nd September, 11:00 am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616
GR NZ781185**. Staithes to Runswick Bay**. Meet in the car park at Staithes. We shall walk along the shore to Runswick Bay and return along the cliff path. The walk will be about six miles and will involve some scrambling walk on the shore.

Saturday, 23rd September, 11:00 am, leader Alick Hunter ☎ 01751 417630
GR SE697750. **Slingsby**. Park in the village by the green. An easy walk about six miles in length.

Saturday, 21st October, 11:00 am, leader Alf Rout ☎ 01642 818045
GR SE564888. **Newgate Bank to Helmsley**. Meet originally on the road verge at the top of Newgate Bank. We shall then take some cars to Helmsley. The walk will be about eight miles over easy terrain and will involve very little climbing.

Meetings of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

Details are available from John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815.

Sat. 20th May Brough VC61

Saturday, 10th June, 10:30 am, leader John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815
GR SE533806. **Oldstead**. Meet at the bottom of the track leading to Cockerdale Farm. This is the YNU VC62 meeting.

Sat. 1st July VC63 to be arranged
Sat. 5th August Mickle Fell VC65

Meetings of the Northern Naturalists' Union

Details are available from Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 558055.

Field Meeting number 228 May 6th Waldridge Fell. Leader Mike Mann. Grid ref NZ 251 499
Members and guests are invited to meet at 2 pm in the car park. This point is just off the road which runs between Chester le Street and Edmondsley. This site is well known to the NNU and was a favourite hunting ground of the late Tom Dunn. Probably best described as *Calluna* dominated mid altitude heath, the area is perhaps remembered for the Green hairstreak and Small Pearl Bordered fritillary butterflies.

Field Meeting number 229 June 17th Flatts Lane Car Park for Eston Moor, Nr. Middlesborough. Leader Malcolm Birtle. Grid Ref. NZ 552 169
Members and guests are invited to meet at 2 pm in the car park. Flatts Lane can be difficult to find although it is well sign-posted. For people coming from outside Teesside the easiest route to navigate (although probably not the shortest) is to come into Teesside on the A19 (from North or South). Turn East onto the A174 Parkway and continue for some five miles, across the front of Eston Hills, to the round-a-bout at Lackenby (actually crossing Flatts Lane in the process). Turn left at the round-a-bout into Eston. Go back into Eston, across the square, leaving the square by the exit in the right hand corner. Continue to the traffic lights at some cross-roads. Turn left at the traffic lights. This is Flatts Lane. Follow the lane, round some sharp curves, past a pub, and across the A174 Parkway, until it starts to climb the slopes of the hills and find the car-park on the right-hand side. This route will be worth checking out on a map first(!) Flatts Lane joins Eston to the Nunthorpe-Guisborough road. Members and guests who succeed in this navigational exercise will be rewarded by a walk across an outlier of the North Yorkshire moorlands which is free from grazing and substantially left to its' own devices. Parts of the moorland burn regularly but through the activities of the local youth rather than for grouse rearing. This has led to a patchwork of heath, regenerating birch woodland, and wetland. Parts of the slopes are covered by substantial woodland. Previous records made by the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club will be available on the day. Spectacular views of Teesside and the North York Moors are to be obtained from the

summit. There will be some uphill work initially to gain the moorland heights, but on well defined paths and level or downhill for the remainder of the excursion. Stout footwear and plenty of liquid refreshment recommended. If the weather is inclement we will work the woods on the slopes rather than venture onto the moor. This is also a possibility for members/guests who do not wish to go up to the moorland top.

Field meeting number 230 July 22nd. Low Countess Park, near Redesmouth,Bellingham, Northumberland. Leader Nick Cook. Grid ref NY 869 805 Members and guests are invited to meet at 2 pm. To reach this point from the A68, take the road to Bellingham and just before Redesmouth is gained look to the left for signs indicating direction and NNU.The entrance to the motorable track is through a field gate along which we must travel for almost 1 mile but the effort should prove very worthwhile. Owned by the Duke of Northumberland this picturesque bit of Northumberland will be of wide ranging interest to many areas of natural history and records taken on the day will be useful. Peregrine falcons should put in an appearance for the ornithologists and Ringlets may please the entomologists. A moth trap will be operated during the night before and will be examined before the walk. Binoculars essential.

Field meeting number 231 August 19th. Blackhall Rocks County Durham. Leader . Russell McAndrew. Grid ref. NZ 471 388
Members are invited to meet at the car park at 2pm. This point is just off the A1086 at Blackhall rocks village. This area is part of the Durham Coast SSSI and a nature reserve managed by Durham Wildlife Trust. It is a natural exposure of reef-limestone. The cliff consists of 20 feet of boulder clays separated by a bed of gravel. Below this the cliffs and the rocks exposed on the foreshore are a series of bedded algal-laminated calcareous dolomites forming part of the reef-top facies of the middle magnesian limestone barrier reef. Nationally important grassland communities include species such as quaking grass, cowslip, bloody cranesbill and rockrose. The wet gullies contain locally rare plants such as butterwort, grass of Parnassus, yellow flag and large wintergreen. Sea spleenwort is recorded from several places on the cliffs. Some salt marsh species are colonising the shore. Insects include the Durham Argus butterfly and the cistus forester moth. There are some steep footpaths down to the seashore.

Field meeting number 232 September 23rd Barnard Castle leader Steve Robbins. Grid ref. NZ 047 167
Members and guests are invited to meet at 11 am at the green outside the castle. This is to be primarily a plant gall foray along the River tees and up into Flatts Woods. The steep banks of the Tees here consist of mature oak trees. Areas have been cleared in the past and are generating with oak and other species, many types of gall should be found in these areas. Due to the terrain, stout footwear is to be recommended. Picnic lunches would be in order.

RULES OF THE CLEVELAND NATURALISTS FIELD CLUB 1993

1.The club shall be called THE CLEVELAND NATURALISTS FIELD CLUB
2.Its objects shall be to encourage an interest in all branches of natural history and to facilitate their study

(a) by the reading of papers and lectures:
(b) by general field work and excursions to places of interest:
(c) by the exhibition of specimens:
(d) by the recording of natural history facts in the district:
(e) by supporting conservation organisations and activities.

3.The Officers of the Club shall be: a president; an immediate past president; a general secretary; a membership secretary; programme secretaries; a treasurer; and. four other members of the club. All officers shall be elected annually, and. be eligible for reelection. 5 members shall form a quorum.
4.The annual subscription shall be recommended by the committee and confirmed at a general meeting of the club.
5.Student membership shall be open to people who are undergoing fulltime education.
6.The membership secretary shall send a list of future meetings to all members at the start of each season.
7.The Annual General Meeting shall be held in March or April when the officers of the club shall be elected. The report of the president, the treasurers report and any other reports shall be presented and discussed.
8.The club shall be affiliated to other natural history societies at the discretion of the committee.
9.The committee shall be responsible for the publication of proceedings and reports.
10.The committee may nominate members for honorary membership of the club for special services to the club or to natural history.
11.No alteration to these Rules shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Proposals for alteration of the rules must be in writing and duly seconded, and must be in the hands of the secretary not later than fourteen days before the advertised date of the Annual General Meeting, so that the proposal may be considered by the Committee, and placed on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting. The committee shall have the power to call a Special General Meeting at any time.