

Joint BFG / Friends of Naphill Common Foray at Naphill Common
November 4th 2012 Report by Penny Cullington

A group of thirteen intrepid forayers braved the elements on a most uninviting morning to explore the western end of this Common (adjacent to the National Trust's Bradenham Estate and Woods). Despite the very waterlogged ground we headed for an area called The Clumps led by local Peter Davis (also our webmaster); this area has an interesting and so far unexplained history with its rings surrounded by raised ditches and also the presence of Limes, apparently not encountered elsewhere in the woodland. The fungi found here were, however, of no particular note though there were a few grassland species collected in the surrounding clearings.

We managed a list of over 60 species, 24 of which were new additions for the site, though specimens (and forayers) were somewhat soggy and bedraggled which made identification less than easy at times. True to form this season few mycorrhizal species were in evidence, though *Amanita muscaria* (Fly Agaric) was found under Birch (late in the season for this species), also two Boletes: *Boletus chrysenteron* (Red-cracked Bolete) and *Boletus badius* (Bay Bolete), this last identified purely from two stems as both caps had vanished! Two species of *Inocybe* (FibreCAP) turned up, both singletons, also *Tricholoma sulphureum* (Sulphur Knight) and three common species of *Russula* (BrittleGill), also singletons, and the only other mycorrhizals were a few specimens of *Laccaria laccata* (The Deceiver) and *L. amethystina* (Amethyst Deceiver), also *Scleroderma citrinum* (Common Earthball).

Other things of interest were the many small fruitbodies of *Crepidotus* (Oysterling) on twigs and stems of various sorts - two different species were later identified, also several species of *Mycena* (Bonnetcaps) including *M. crocata* (Saffron Bonnet), a species which we'd like to propose for the title of 'Chiltern Fungus' as there can't be a piece of Beech woodland around here where this interesting species doesn't thrive on the fallen branches. A couple of *Psathyrella* species (BrittleGills) were identified by Derek, also two interesting and unusual species of *Galerina*, both found by Claudi. The first, *G. calyptrata*, was in moss and is only the second time it's been recorded in the County; the second, *G. sideroides*, was in Bracken litter and is new to the County. Various common brackets, jelly fungi and a few Ascomycetes turned up, one of which we spotted whilst inspecting the burnt ground of a bonfire site in the Clump area. There were colonies of a tiny ochre-orange disc with fine brown hairs around the margin, which later both Derek and I independently identified as *Anthracoobia melaloma*, a species with only a few previous County records.

For full details of the species found see the complete list.