

Natural Basingstoke

*Flora Surveying,  
Seed Collecting  
& Sowing*



# Course Overview (1)

- Course Lead: Marion Wolstencroft (Natural Basingstoke, Advisor Board member for Flora)
- This course assumes no previous knowledge!
- Aim: Participants become confident in basic knowledge of flora on their sites:
  - what flora population to expect/ how to assess what you have
  - annual growing cycle & monitoring actions
  - detailed practical steps for seed collection & storage
  - biodiversity improvement by seed sowing – what, when & how.

## Course Overview (2)

- Course is delivered in 3 steps :
  - **Step 1 – Theory and background (late spring/ early summer) – site surveying, flora Id, biodiversity assessment, seed collecting & storage, creating seed mixes and sowing them.**
  - Step 2 – Field practice (July) – Surveying, seed collecting and storage (opportunities to continue practice in July – September)
  - Step 3 – Practice (September/October) - Seed mix preparation & seed sowing
- This course covers Step 1!

1. Conservation context
2. Flora Surveying
3. Habitats
4. Seed harvesting & storage
5. Seed sowing



# Conservation Context (1)

## **Why is everyone talking about biodiversity?**

For 40+ years we have been curating green spaces for quality, rarity, priorities for action, etc. Suddenly everyone is talking about biodiversity and using the term Biodiversity Net Gain \* – why?

## **Environment Act (2021)**

This legislation introduces new UK long term environmental quality strategies – for air, water, green space etc. and mandates actions to achieve them.

For biodiversity, the legal obligation on planning authorities and developers to define and deliver 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) on new developments has provided legal backing and a source of funding for action – at this early stage the impact seems to be positive.

To work, both the developer (who pays to deliver BNG) and the Local Planning Authority (who can get some of the funding) need baseline data on biodiversity.

[\*Biodiversity Net Gain – Term used to describe an increase in biodiversity in a particular area – increase and improvement, in resident constituent species, sustained in the long term]

## Conservation Context (2)

- Whatever interests you regarding seed collecting and sowing – the first step is to get to know your patch
- What have you got, floristically and why, what else might you have?
- To answer those questions we will talk about habitats and their management (section 3).
- To identify individual floral species, you will need a source of reference – we use to use a field guide but you now have the option of using an app like Seek. See Appendix A for a list of Reference Material

2.1 Why, what, how?

2.2 Where to start

2.3 HBIC site surveys

2.4 NB site surveys



# Flora surveying

## 2.1 Why, what, how?

Biodiversity baselines - 'to know where you are going you need to know where you are coming from':

- biodiversity baselines, monitoring, & trend data, where are we winning/losing biodiversity,
- assessing & understanding the impact of climate change

Completing the cycle of conservation for flowering plants – 'everything is connected to everything else'

- role of flora in the ecosystem – food plant, habitat for breeding etc.
- management cycle – locating, harvesting, storing, reintroducing to expand biodiversity
- citizen science – an opportunity for new skill and understanding for volunteers.

## Flora surveying: 2.2 Where to start

So where do we start with surveying and Biodiversity data collection:

- HBIC site surveys – and how to read them
  - Most significant sites in Basingstoke have an HBIC site survey on which their original Management Plan was based
- NB Site surveys
  - flora (trees, grasses, flowering plants, fungi & lichens)
  - fauna (butterflies, insects, birds, amphibians, small mammals)

**Where is all that data going ? iRecord**



# Flora surveying

## 2.3 HBIC Site Surveys (2)

During the current survey 143 species, of which 9 are regarded as notable were recorded from the site, this included an impressive number of bird and butterfly species, which are taking advantage of the site for both foraging and breeding habitat.

### Site Designations

#### Designation

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

### Site Features

Type	Description
Geology	Clay-with-flints
Geology	Upper Chalk
Management	Mowing
Management	Unmanaged
Usage	Amenity
Usage	Dog Walking
Usage	Managed For Wildlife
Usage	Public Access

#### Priority Habitats

None

#### Priority Species

Taxon Name	Common Name	Status
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	Hampshire BAP Species NERC Act 2006, Sect 41 Birds of Conservation Concern: Red List
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	County Scarce
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	IUCN (EN2014) - Near Threatened
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	Hampshire BAP Species EU Birds Directive Annex 1 WACA Sch 1, Part 1 County Rare

### Species Recorded

Taxon Name	Taxon Common Name	Frequency	Notable
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	R	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	R/O	
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	O	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	OLF	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	R/O	

Etc. for 143 species found on site....

Followed by 8 pages of notes on the habitat areas identified, their past management, possible opportunities for improvement etc.

## 2.4 NB site surveys – Citizen science in action! (1)

### 1. Objective

- produce useful data to be shared with others and inform the site management actions of the team

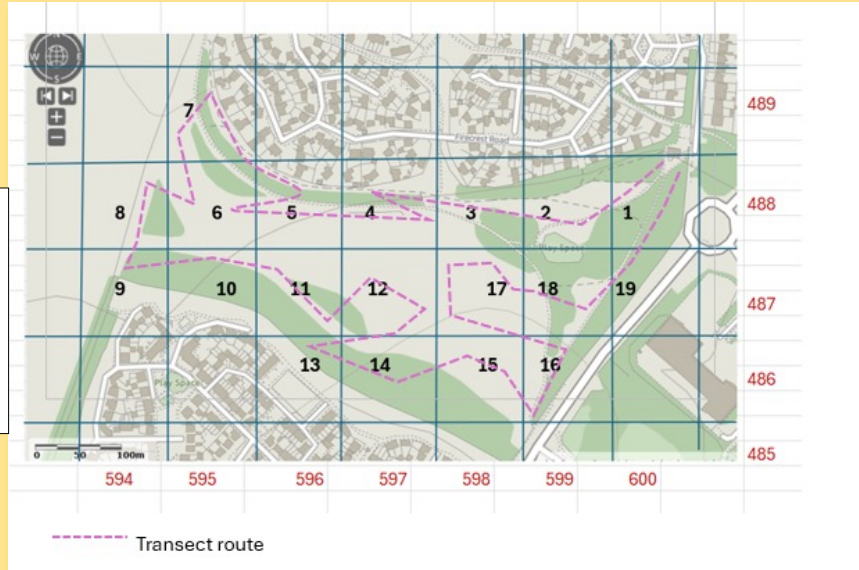
### 2. Method

- establish standard format for data capture over time
- repeated data capture at intervals to form trend data



- **Preparation**

**D – dominant** >75%  
**A – abundant** 51 – 75%  
**F – frequent** 26 – 50%  
**O – occasional** 11 – 25%  
**R – rare** <11%



Short Ref	Grid ref
1	SU600488
2	SU599488
3	SU598488
4	SU597488
5	SU596488
6	SU595488
7	SU595489
8	SU594488
9	SU594487
10	SU595487
11	SU596487
12	SU597487

- **Data collection:** walk the site several times per year logging flora by species, by location code (Grid ref), by abundance (DAFOR code)
- **Data sharing**
  - with others through iRecord
  - with volunteers, NB, Rangers, BDBC, HBIC etc.

3.1 Basic botany for seed collectors

3.2 Habitats & wildflowers to be found in each:

- 8 local habitat types and their characteristics
- basic flowering plant sets for each habitat

3.3 Grassland Habits - Grass control for biodiversity enhancement

3.4 Woodland habitats - Ancient Woodland Indicators

## 3.1 Basic botany for seed collectors

Flowering plants have been around for 130 million years (since the Cretaceous) the most successful group of plants on earth.

Understanding plant lifecycle :

- Annual - flowering and setting seed annually, the plant dies over winter
- Biennial - the plant flowers in its second year, setting seed and then dying
- Perennial - lasting for several years at least, flowering and setting seed in most years while the plant continues to grow

**Why does this matter to the seed collector?** Because it will influence the seed harvesting strategy applied for each species

**Understanding seed distribution strategy:** Strategies are many (gravity, wind, ballistics, water, animals...) which determine for how long they are available to harvest, how the seeds are packaged and how successfully collected

## 3.2 Habitats & wildflowers to be found in each (1)

**HABITAT:** “The combination of climate, soil chemistry, moisture, light level and living organisms which determine what species can live and thrive there”.

UK has 20 defined habitat types and 852 sub-groups (inc marine habitats) – we are only concerned with 4 types and specific sub-groups - we will focus on 8 habitats in total.

Basingstoke accommodates 4 important and quite different terrain groups within 5 miles of the town centre

- Chalk and alkaline clay grassland (e.g. our Downland sites)
- Lowland heath on neutral/acid gravels (e.g. Wigmore Heath)
- Clays/neutral soil grassland
- Alluvium associated with water features (e.g.: Millfield)

Added to these are the habitat types created by human adaptation of the land:

- Woodland                      and                      Woodland Edge
- Hedgerow                      and                      Waste

## 3.2 Habitats & wildflowers to be found in each (2)

- Most of us in Basingstoke work on sites where alkaline soils are the main influence – there are exceptions (e.g. Wigmore Heath has acid heathland).
- Most of us have dry sites – some groups curate sites with streams and ponds (wetland habitats) – with water tolerant species on the intersection.

Local Geology (meadow sites):

- **Chalk downland** – (most of) Old Down, Beggarwood &, Crabtree. Overton Hill.
- **Alkaline soil (clay on top of the chalk subsoil)** - lower slopes of Old Down, Beggarwood & Crabtree. Down Grange.
- **Rich Neutral riverine soil** - most of Millfield, meadow areas in Chineham.

Code	Category	Description of usual plant characteristics	Soil type	Moisture level
W	Woodland-mixed deciduous	Early flowering or tolerates deep shade, often corms or bulbs	any draining soil	
E	Woodland edge	May flower early or tolerate semi shade	any draining soil	
M-c	Meadow - Chalk	Alkaline tolerant, well drained, summer flowering, seed disseminated by wind or disturbance	chalk & limestone	dry
M-w	Meadow - Water	Water tolerant specialists, summer flowering	loam or clay	wet
M-a	Meadow - Acidic/neutral	Acid/neutral soils, summer flowering	loam/sand/clay	
H	Hedgerow	Summer flowering but semi shade tolerant, often tall	any draining soil	
P	Poor Wastes	Tolerant of dry conditions & very poor soil	neutral poor soil	dry
Hth	Heaths	Acid/neutral, poor soil, dry conditions but often mosaic of micro conditions	neutral/acidic sand or clay	dry but water logging in places

## 3.2 Habitats & wildflowers to be found in each (3)

- 8 local habitat types and the core populations of flowering plants for each habitat
- JNCC lists flora for each of these 8 habitat types.
- Typically, 20–30 species in each habitat type, core species are highlighted (none of these species are considered rare and most are on our sites).
- Some species appear on several lists – common, robust and adaptable species which can usually survive on most sites.
- Probably a further 20 species which you might find (if lucky) – this is where a field guide is helpful.

*See Appendix B for Species Lists by habitat type*

[JNCC = Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Dept of Environment]

## 3.3 Grassland Habitats (1)

### Grass control for biodiversity enhancement:

- Historically, temperate grassland developed as a highly successful biome from the late Cretaceous period.
- In the wild it includes two control mechanisms – fire and grazing. Large conservation bodies (e.g.: Wildlife Trusts), where public access can be controlled, have always used grazing as it provides:
  - low impact, low energy grass control without soil compaction or degradation of valuable features like ant hills
  - automatic recycling of nutrients at existing levels
  - automatic control of scrub species when young,
- This type of management is not without effort, in boundary control and cattle husbandry, but where it can be applied it has proved very successful.

# Habitats

## 3.3 Grassland Habitats (2)

### Grass control for biodiversity enhancement:

- On modern day urban and ex-urban conservation areas neither grazing nor burning is currently available for controlling the vigour and density of grass - but control is necessary if the aim is increased biodiversity because the soil is generally rich, after centuries of agricultural use and soil improvement.



< Yellow Rattle  
– *Rhinanthus Minor*

Red Bartsia  
– *Odontites verna*

are annual flowering plant species which are semi-parasitic on grass and highly effective in reducing the vigour and density of existing grasses and are important elements in achieving biodiversity enhancement.



## 4 Woodland Habitat – Ancient Woodland Indicators (AWI)

**Woodland habitats are primarily categorised as:**

Terrain:

- Lowland
- Upland
- Wetland

X

Genus:

- Conifer (pine)
- Deciduous (oak, ash...)

- In north Hampshire our woodland habitat is predominantly oak, or ash based mixed broadleaf woodland – either ancient woodland or later plantation woodland.
- Much attention is given to **Ancient Woodlands** – primarily because the amount of this habitat is constantly shrinking and once lost is gone forever.
- The AWI definition (“woods over 300 years old never clear felled”) is a demanding yardstick, dependent on soil and climate conditions, so is broken into several lists, depending on geography.
- Ancient Woodlands will support a range of flowering plant species rarely found today (see Appendix C for AWI list ).
- **Why are AWIs so uncommon?** The rarer plants are more specialised, less vigorous, slow to spread so now cannot compete with some common species – they are isolated in their current niche. For Hampshire this is a list of 55 species (see Appendix B)
- Typically, a mature wood (150 or so years old) may well have 10–20 AWI species.

# *Coffee break!*



## 4. Seed harvesting, & storage

4.1 Planning & wider context

4.2 Mechanical and single species harvesting

4.3 Seed collecting 'Rules'

4.4 When to harvest & harvesting routines

4.5 Grassland control

4.6 NB Seed Inventory



# Seed harvesting, & storage

## 4.1 Planning & wider context

- Old Down Park has taken 20 years of good management to reach its current condition.
- An enrichment project can take 2–5 years to show results.
- Seed collecting team need to be involved from early stages of an upgrade project, to advise on seed availability, anticipate needs and build stocks.
- Not only do groups need to have a good knowledge of the habitats on their site; those engaged in seed collecting need to be aware of the flora on the sites within which they collect to be able to expand the seed stocks available to all groups.

# Seed harvesting, & storage

## 4.2 Mechanical & single species harvesting

Ranger Team have a mechanical seed harvester for seed collecting on meadow areas without seriously damaging the plants. It can be passed over an area to collect the ripe seed several times (from July to September). Collected seed is laid out to dry for 2 weeks, then sent to a seed company for winnowing and bagging

Pros	Cons
Quick collection on multiple site visits	Non-selective harvesting includes weeds and grass
Easy and effective seed release from chaff/pods	While seed is 'clean', chaff still in the mix as winnowing ineffective on non-selective harvesting

**Manual harvesting of individual species will still be vital – but mechanical winnowing is being investigated.**

# Seed harvesting, & storage

## 4.3 Seed collecting 'rules' (1)

### Annuals

- Chalk downland annuals [examples: Common Centaury – *Centaureum erithraeus*, Eyebright – *Euphrasis*, Field Poppy – *Papaver Rhoeads*]
- Do not harvest and remove all the seed presented to you, leave sufficient to ensure the species thrives in situ where it is obviously growing successfully.
- Apply rule of harvesting no more than 30 % of the seed set, leaving the other 70 % on site, even when you visit the site several times during mid-July to mid-September
- To avoid over collecting, keep notes of each season's collection dates and results.
- Good practice to spread ripe seed around within the general area you are visiting.

### Biennials

- Flowering in 2nd year [examples: Foxgloves -*Digitalis purpurea*, Teasel -*Dipsacus fullonum*].
- Good reason to 'know your patch', note where plants are in years 1 so you can return ready to harvest the seed in year 2.
- Like annuals, leave some seed at harvest site to repeat the life cycle.

# Seed harvesting, & storage

## 4.3 Seed collecting 'rules' (2)

### **Perennials**

- The majority of species
- Ensure seed is mature and ready for collection, collected too soon and it will not keep and germinate,
- Visit to harvest too late and it has dispersed.

Keep in mind - distribution and rarity of species: ensure that while you are harvesting you are also spreading some seed around locally.

## 4.4 When to harvest & harvesting routines (1)

- Harvest mature seed on dry days, preferably when the previous day was also dry.
- Climate change is making forecasting ripening difficult – on 1 May 2025 plant growth was up to 2 weeks ahead of normal.
- Learning to recognise seed heads by species takes time – they are usually dissimilar to their flowering selves!
- The **NB Seed Inventory list** (Appendix C) includes clues from their flowering stages
- **The Seed Site** <http://theseedsite.co.uk/> holds details of most species seed pods and seeds.

# Seed harvesting, & storage

## 4.4 When to harvest & harvesting routines (2)

### **Is it collectable?**

You learn by experience....when the seedhead is brown not green, when the stem has gone brown or partially brown. The trickiest are the wind distributed seeds – they can go from attached to the flower head to blown away in half a day. The exploders can be collected when fat and full ( and still partly green) but not yet split open.

### **When is it dried out?**

What you have collected MUST be laid out to complete drying – 1-2 weeks exposure to air to avoid mould growing – a dry green house for example. A moisture absorbing surface - several sheets of newspaper at base help.

### **Releasing seed from pod and husk**

After drying, the stalks, leaflets and pod sheaths should snap off or opened. The material can be passed through a series of sieves – the seed is dry and will not be harmed by this process. Finally, when there is just seed and fine chaff left, the seed can be winnowed ( best done outside). Whatever weight the seed is it will be heavier than the chaff – July demonstration and practice.

**ALWAYS remember to weigh the container of seed , label with Name and Year of production and log it!**

# Seed harvesting, & storage

## 4.4 When to harvest/ harvesting routines (3)

### The NB Seed Inventory :

List of common locally found species and habitats they are found in -	Woodland-dry	Woodland edge	Heath	M-c	M-w	M-a	P	Hth	A/B/P	Flower Colour	Max Stalk Height	Flower Period	Seed Stock Ref
	W	E	H	M-c	M-w	M-a	P	Hth					
Agrimony - Agrimonia eupatoria		X	X		X	X			P	Yellow	50 cms	Jun - Sept	11
Barren Strawberry - Potentilla sterilis	X		X				X	X	P				100
Bell Heather - Erica cinerea								X	P				101
Betony - Betonica officinalis					X	X			P	Pink	50cms	Jun - Sept	1
Birdsfoot trefoil - Lotus corniculatus				X	X	X		X	P	Yellow	35cms	May - Aug	2
Black Medick - Medicago lupulina				X	X				A	Yellow	40cms	May - Aug	3
Black Mullein - Verbascum nigrum				x					P	Yellow	120cms	Jun - Oct	4
Bladder Campion - Silene vulgaris				X	X				P	Yellow	80cms	May - Aug	5
Blue Fleabane - Erigeron acer (annual)				X					P	Blue	35cms	Jul - Sept	6
Bugle - Ajuga reptans	x	x				x			P	Blue	30cms	May - Jul	7
Bulbous Buttercup - Ranunculus bulbosus				X		X			P	Yellow			102
Bush Vetch - Vicia sepium		x	x	x			x		P	Pink	> 60cms	Apr - Sept	8
Clustered Bellflower - Campanula glomerata				x					P	Blue	15cms	May - Sept	10
Common Cats ear - Hypochaeris radicata				X					P	Yellow	50cms	May - Oct	9
Common Centaury - Centaurea erythraea (annual)				X					A	Pink	15 cms	Jun - Aug	12
Common Figwort - Scrofularia nodosa	X	X					x		P	Yellow			104
Common Fleabane - Pulicaria dysenterica		X		X					P	Yellow	40cms	Jul - Sept	13
Common Hemp Nettle - Galeopsis tetrahit			X				X		A	Pink	80cms	Jul - Sept	14
Common Knapweed - Centaurea nigra		X	X	X	X	X			P	Yellow			40
Common Mallow - Malva Sylvestris			X						P	Pink	75cms	Jun - Sept	15
Common St John's Wort - Hypericum perforatum									P	Yellow	50cms	Jul - Sept	16
Common Valerian - Valeriana officinalis				x	X		x		P	Yellow			105
Common Vetch - Vicia sativa				X					P	Purple	>150cms	Apr - Sept	17
Corky-fruited Water-dropwort - Oenanthe pimpinelloides					X				P	Yellow			106
Cow Parsley - Anthriscus sylvestris	X	X	X						P	Yellow			107
Yellow Rattle - Rhinanthus minor				X	X	X		A	Yellow	40cms	Apr - Sept	73	
Counts	25	33	39	54	44	23	19	17					128

- NB seed stock will be moving to Wade Rd by the end of 2025. Held at normal temperatures – shelf life of 3-4 years. Containers are not vacuum sealed but shaded from sunlight and ingress of bacteria is minimised.
- Inventory list holds useful information on species features, habitats where each could be found, flowering period and seed weight code (see section 5).
- The inventory will be updated after the end of the collecting season ( August-December) and issued for reference in seeding projects. This gives an opportunity for groups to plan forward their seeding needs.

## Seed harvesting, & storage

### 4.5 Grassland control (by semi-parasitic species)

#### **Yellow Rattle – *Rhinanthus minor***

- **Annual – so leave some seed where you find it / in surrounding area**  
**Early seed setter – harvested July-August**
- **Chalk soil specialist prefers alkaline soil**
- **Does not tolerate foot fall well**

#### **Red Bartsia – *Odontites verna***

- **Annual – so leave some seed where you find it**
- **Late seed setter – harvested Sept-Oct**
- **Tolerant of neutral soils**
- **Tolerant of foot fall areas & being crushed**

- These species are not listed on the Habitat type lists or seed mix lists as can be required before, during or independently of wildflower seed application.
- Use rate – depends on grass sward (0.5gms – 1.5 gms /m<sup>2</sup>).
- Sow in prepared grassland in Autumn, needs to overwinter in the ground.

# Seed harvesting, & storage

## 4.6 NB Seed inventory

List of common locally found species and habitats they are found in -	Woodland- decid	Woodland edge	Hedgerow	Meadow - Chalk	Meadow - Wetley	Meadow - Acid/neutral	Poor Wetley	Heath	A/B/P	Flower Colour	Max Stalk Height	Flower Period	Seed Stock Ref
	W	E	H	M-c	M-w	M-a	P	Hth					
Agrimony - <i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>		X	X		X	X			P		50 cms	Jun - Sept	11
Barren Strawberry - <i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	X		X				X	X	P				100
Bell Heather - <i>Erica cinerea</i>								X	P				101
Betony - <i>Betonica officinalis</i>					X	X			P		50cms	Jun - Sept	1
Birdsfoot trefoil - <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>				X	X	X		X	P		35cms	May - Aug	2
Black Medick - <i>Medicago lupulina</i>				X	X				A		40cms	May - Aug	3
Black Mullein - <i>Verbascum nigrum</i>			x						P		120cms	Jun - Oct	4
Bladder Campion - <i>Silene vulgaris</i>				X	X				P		80cms	May - Aug	5
Blue Fleabane - <i>Erigeron acer</i> (annual)				X					P		35cms	Jul - Sept	6
Bugle - <i>Ajuga reptans</i>	x	x				x			P		30cms	May - Jul	7
Bulbous Buttercup - <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>				X		X			P				102
Bush Vetch - <i>Vicia sepium</i>		x	x	x				x	P		> 60cms	Apr - Sept	8
Clustered Bellflower - <i>Campanula glomerata</i>				x					P		15cms	May - Sept	10
Common Cats ear - <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>				X					P		50cms	May - Oct	9
Common Centaury - <i>Centaurea erythraea</i> (annual)				X					A		15 cms	Jun - Aug	12
Common Figwort - <i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	X	X					x		P				104
Common Fleabane - <i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>		X		X					P		40cms	Jul - Sept	13
Common Hemp Nettle - <i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>			X				X		A		80cms	Jul - Sept	14
Common Knapweed - <i>Centaurea nigra</i>		X	X	X	X	X			P				40
Common Mallow - <i>Malva sylvestris</i>			X						P		75cms	Jun - Sept	15
Common St John's Wort - <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>									P		50cms	Jul - Sept	16
Common Valerian - <i>Valeriana officinalis</i>				x	X		x		P				105
Common Vetch - <i>Vicia sativa</i>				X					P		>150cms	Apr - Sept	17
Corky-fruited Water-dropwort - <i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>					X				P				106
Cow Parsley - <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	X	X	X						P				107
Yellow Rattle - <i>Rhinanthus minor</i>				X	X	X			A		40cms	Apr - Sept	73
<b>Counts</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>					<b>128</b>

## 5. Seed Sowing

5.1 Building up a Natural Basingstoke wildflower seed bank

5.2 Plan ahead for biodiversity upgrades

5.3 Ground preparation, timing and sowing density

5.4 Creating sowing mixes

5.5 Rarer species

5.6 Non-native species

## 5.1 Building up NB wildflower seed bank (1)

Seed can be sourced reliably in the marketplace BUT there is no seed better than that sourced locally from sites we know intimately, and its FREE!

Not all species can be relied on to seed well each year – Birds' Foot Trefoil is a chalk downland staple – but the harvest in 20023 & 24 was very poor – we have no stock!

Not all species can be harvested mechanically and some need manual harvesting.

Biodiversity improvements may be planned several years out and want a tailored seed mix

# Seed Sowing

## 5.1 Building up NB wildflower seed bank (2)

We assume average seed viability at 3-4 years. Stocks were run down in 2020-22 and are still being rebuilt.

Habitat type	Past number of species stocked	Future target number of species stocked
Woodland	5	14
Woodland edge	15	17
Hedgerow	22	22
Meadow	43*	50*

- Some species listed here can be found in other habitat types as well.

We saw in Section 3 approximately 20–30 species represent the basic flora of each habitat type, while listing some species in two or more habitat types.

**What species do you have in your habitats? What is missing and could be added?**

## 5.2 Plan ahead for biodiversity updates (1)

- Plan ahead for biodiversity upgrades – very little in nature is instant!
- All meadow enrichment projects should review the existing grass population and apply grass control mechanism where appropriate (yellow rattle and red bartsia) before adding flowering plant mixes or specific flowering species.

<b>Project type</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Large area of ex-agricultural land or building site</b>	<b>1yr clear and remove , 1 year fallow then plow and seed, 2 years fresh growth = 4 +years</b>
<b>Smaller green spaces for upgrading areas</b>	<b>1 year clear and late autumn reseed 2 years fresh growth = 3 years</b>
<b>Small or medium areas of meadow grass</b>	<b>1 year scarify and prep + control seed 1 year grass management 1-2 years biodiversity seed mix 2-3 years fresh growth = 3-4 years</b>
<b>Cleared bare earth</b>	<b>1 year clear and late autumn reseed 1- 2 years fresh growth = 2- 3 years</b>

## 5.2 Plan ahead for biodiversity updates (2)

- If possible, use Natural Basingstoke sourced seed – check seed stocks well in advance
- Other reputable and useful suppliers of seed and seed mixes:
  - Emorsgate Seeds (<https://wildseed.co.uk/>) and
  - British Wildflower Meadow Seeds (<https://britishwildflowermeadowseeds.co.uk>)

[Their websites are useful databases on all things wildflower seed related and their seed is UK propagated].

## 5.3 Ground preparation, timing & sowing density (1)

**When to sow** – aim to sow in late Autumn (October /November)

- Autumn sowing allows a ‘winterizing’ process to settle the seed in the ground with a cold spell of weather.

**Ground preparation** is worth the effort

- Cutting grass as short and as close to the ground as possible with all arisings removed
- Scarifying the area to be seeded robustly or harrowing:
  - to break the surface and expose a proportion of bare earth
  - to ensure the seed, when sown, is in contact with the soil almost immediately and not held up in the stalks of the grass

**De-turfing** (removing the top 5-10cm of grass sward and root) is an effective way of reducing fertility and preparing ground for seeding. BUT - labour intensive and only practical when dealing with very small areas - less than 10 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Sowing Density**

- You only need to prepare 1.5 gms per m<sup>2</sup> of flower seed mix (excluding grass seed, yellow rattle or sand) for bare soil sowing - in some circumstances you may want to increase that quantity to 2 grams.

**With Yellow Rattle or without?**

- Ideally include yellow rattle every time (1 - 1.5 grams/m<sup>2</sup> yellow rattle) – but you may already have treated the area with yellow rattle before sowing seed or you may have removed the turf beforehand and only need to sow yellow rattle round the edge of the seeding area.

**Sowing**

- Seed sowing is by hand broadcast, with the seed well mixed with dry sand to ensure a fine distribution rather than clumped. For any larger areas of seeding, break the area down into sections and apportion the mixed seed into those sections then mixing with the sand to ensure even spread.

# Seed Sowing

## 5.4 Creating seed mixes

Wildflower seed is mostly extremely fine and is measured in grams (a gram is 1/28<sup>th</sup> of an ounce). For example, Musk Mallow weighs in at 500 seeds per gram while Toadflax weighs in at 7,000 seeds per gram.

**How to judge how much seed you need?** Not an exact science but relatively easy to calculate.

Introducing the concept of YRE- Yellow rattle equivalent:

Yellow Rattle (one of the heavier seeds) weighs 300 seeds to the gram and is usually spread at a rate of between 0.5 and 1.5 grams per square metre – usually 1.0gm/m<sup>2</sup>.

Almost all wildflower seed weighs significantly less than Yellow Rattle, so we have developed the concept of Yellow Rattle Equivalent (YRE).

- If all the seed being used weighed the same as Yellow Rattle how much by weight would you need of each species to sow at the rate of 1.5 -2.0 grams combined weight per square meter – excluding the carrying sand?
- Having calculated that figure – the weight of each species in the mix at YRE - you multiply each of those by the relative weight factor to get the actual weight of seed per species you will need.

Confused? Let's look at a worked example....

# Seed Sowing

## 5.4 Creating seed mixes – Worked Example

Seed Mix needed for 250m <sup>2</sup> of chalk meadow, previously seeded with Yellow Rattle	% of mix	Seed weight as YRE (375gms total)	Seed weight code	Actual weight of seed per species
Birdsfoot trefoil - Lotus corniculatus	10	38	M	<b>38</b>
Black medick - Medicago lupulina	5	19	M	<b>19</b>
Bladder Campion - Silene vulgaris	5	19	M	<b>10</b>
Cowslip - Primula veris	12	45	L	<b>90</b>
Hoary plantain - Plantago	7	26	VS	<b>3</b>
Horseshoe Vetch - Hippocrepis comosa	2	8	VS	<b>1</b>
Kidney vetch -Anthyllis vulneraria	5	19	M	<b>19</b>
Lady's bedstraw -Galium verum	5	19	M	<b>19</b>
Musk Mallow - Malva moschata	10	38	M	<b>38</b>
Oxeye daisy -Leucanthemum vulgare	15	56	M	<b>56</b>
Salad burnet - Poterium sanguisorba	2	8	L	<b>16</b>
Self-heal -Prunella vulgaris	2	8	S	<b>4</b>
Small Sabious - Scabiosa columbaria	10	38	M	<b>38</b>
Blue Fleabane - Erigeron acer	5	19	D	<b>1</b>
Common centaury - Centaurium erythraea	5	19	D	<b>1</b>
Total	100	375		<b>357</b>
Dry sand to assist distribution				1-1.5 kilos

Code	Seed qty/gm	Weight as YRE
D	10,000+	0.05
VS	3,000 - 10,000	0.1
S	1,000-3,000	0.5
M	300-1,000	1
L	<300	2

**D= Dust**

**VS = Very Small**

**S/M/ L = Small, Medium,  
Large**

**Notes:** The seed weight code is a simple way of adjusting the weight of each species required for the widely differing seed sizes and can be found on the species inventory schedule. Final required weight of each seed used

= YRE col x value of weight code

## 5.5 Rarer species, Orchid family & problem species (1)

Rarer Species (as defined by JNCC and indicated in any good flowering plant guide) - legitimate aim would be to reintroduce in places where they have been known but the seed bank has been lost,

### *Options*

- *acquire seed from a legitimate source*
- *Raise and plant out as plug plants where you wish to introduce them*
- *Establish a nursery and grow the population for further propagating and seed harvesting*



### 5.5 Rarer species, Orchid family & problem species (2)

Not easy to grow and propagate - seed is as fine as dust and does not contain nutrients needed to start germination & growth process (think of an egg without a yolk).

To germinate and grow initially require assistance of a mycorrhizal fungus. The process of getting the orchid to the stage where it can be transplanted into its ultimate habitat can take quite some time.

Not known what determines their flowering propensity. They can appear where they have not been seen before – clearly the seed is in the ground, long term, and the conditions were right for it to grow.



In **2025 we are focusing on surveying Helleborines and Twayblades** and hope to log these 4-5 species across Basingstoke sites – starting in May. Groups are asked to log the presence of these (What3Words) and let us know.

Come June we will be surveying grassland orchids again.

# Seed Sowing

## 5.6 Non-native species (1)

We suffer from the invasion of non-native species which have escaped from gardens.

- Containment is difficult – seed spread by wind, birds, etc has ensured that species like laurel and rhododendron are widespread in woodlands.
- Horticultural variants are often more vigorous than the native species and difficult to eradicate (e.g.: variegated leafed Alexander/Yellow Archangel – invades adjacent woodland)
- Negative influences on the natural environment–
  - not integrated into the system of native plant life checks and balances, have no known predators and thus can take over whole areas – like Japanese Knotweed.
  - ground shading and thus kill off native species which cannot compete, especially on the forest floor,
  - slow to rot down, poisonous, or climbing out of control

# Seed Sowing

## 5.6 Non-native species (2)

### Native Invasives

- There are a number of native species which can become a problem as they are difficult to eradicate or contain (shrubs include blackthorn and dogwood which spread by root creep) - but there are also some flowering plants which need to be managed: Wild Parsnip, Wild Chicory and Ragwort\*\*.
- While an integral part of the normal biome, and in some cases a valuable food plant for insects, why are they a potential problem:
  - control mechanism (fire or grazing) may be weak or absent leading to the species becoming dominant
  - species may have been modified or 'improved' for horticultural or agricultural purposes and become almost indistinguishable from the original unmodified species (other than at DNA level) but are much more vigorous.

[\*\*The fact that Ragwort is poisonous to horses and cattle is not usually an issue on conservation sites].

- A copy of the slides and associated Manual will be issued after the course.

## The Acid Test!!! - July 2025

Site visit to Old Down, to practice:

- using site survey documentation
- seed harvesting & processing

# *Flora Surveying, Seed Collecting & Sowing: Appendices*



## Appendix A: Reference Material

### Beginners:

A **photographic flower index, in date sequence of flowering**, is recommended.

Title/ description	Author
<b>Wildflowers of Britain</b>	<b>Roger Phillips</b>
<b>Wildflowers of Britain Month by Month</b>	<b>Erskine Wilson</b>
<b>SEEK</b>	<b>App</b>
	<b>App</b>

### Experienced:

A **technical manual, which includes information on habitat, distribution, flowering period** etc., is recommended

Title/ description	Author
<b>The Wild Flower Key</b>	<b>Rose</b>
<b>Wild Flower Guide (Collins)</b>	<b>Streeter, Hart-Davies, Hardcastle, Cole &amp; Harper</b>

# Appendix B – Species List

## Calcareous meadow, hedgerow & woodland edge

### Calcareous Meadow (34)

**Core perennials** 15 common & 15 optional

Bulbous Buttercup - *Ranunculus bulbosus*

**Birdsfoot trefoil** - *Lotus corniculatus*

**Black medick** - *Medicago lupulina*

**Bladder Campion** - *Silene vulgaris*

Common catsear - *Hypchoeris radicata*

Common knapweed -- *Centaurea nigra*

**Common vetch** - *Vicia sativa*

**Cowslip** - *Primula veris*

Dropwort - *Filipendula vulgaris*

Field scabious - *Knautia arvensis*

Greater Knapweed - *Centaurea scabiosa*

**Hedge Bedstraw** - *Galium album*

**Hoary plantain** - *Plantago*

Horseshoe Vetch - *Hippocrepis comosa*

**Kidney vetch** - *Anthyllis vulneraria*

**Lady's bedstraw** - *Galium verum*

Meadow Buttercup - *Ranunculus acris*

**Musk Mallow** - *Malva moschata*

**Oxeye daisy** - *Leucanthemum vulgare*

Red clover - *Trifolium pratense*

Ribwort plantain - *Plantago lanceolata*

Rough hawkbit - *Leontodon hispidus*

**Sainfoin** – *Onobrychis viciifolia*

**Salad burnet** - *Poterium sanguisorba*

**Self-heal** - *Prunella vulgaris*

and.....

**Small Scabious** - *Scabiosa columbaria*

Sorrel - *Rumex acetosa*

Stocky mouse-ear - *Cerastium glomeratum*

Yarrow - *Achillea millefolium*

Wild Carrot - *Daucus carota*

**Annuals – 2 common & 2 optional**

**Blue Fleabane** - *Erigeron acer*

**Common centaury** - *Centaurium*

**erythraea**

Fairy flax - *Linum catharticum*

Field Poppy Poppy - *Papaver rhoeas*

### Hedgerow and Woodland edge (26)

**Core perennials** 12 common & 14 optional

**Agrimony** - *Agrimonia eupatoria*

Cow Parsley - *Anthriscus sylvestris*

Crosswort - *Cruciata laevipes*

**Common Knapweed** - *Centaurea nigra*

**Field Scabious** - *Knautia arvensis*

**Garlic Mustard** - *Alliaria petiolata*

**Greater Knapweed** - *Centaurea scabiosa*

**Hedge Bedstraw** - *Galium mollugo*

Ladies' Bedstraw - *Galium verum*

Hedge Crane's-bill - *Geranium pyreniacum*

Lesser Burdock - *Arctium minus*

Meadow Crane's bill - *Geranium pratense*

**Musk Mallow** - *Malva moschata*

**Oxeye Daisy** - *Leucanthemum vulgare*

Ragged Robin - *Silene flos-cuculi*

Ribwort Plantain - *Plantago lanceolata*

Rough Chervil - *Chaerophyllum temulum*

**Red Campion** - *Silene dioica*

**Selfheal** - *Prunella vulgaris*

Teasel - *Dipsacus fullonum*

**Upright Hedge-parsley** - *Torilis japonica*

Vipers Bugloss - *Echium vulgare*

**White Campion** - *Silene latifolia*

Wild Carrot - *Daucus carota*

Wood Avens - *Geum urbanum*

Yarrow - *Achillea millefolium*

# Appendix B – Species List

## Woodland and heath

### Woodland

#### Core perennials

11 common &  
7 optional

Cow Parsley - *Anthriscus sylvestris*  
 Deadly Nightshade - *Atropa belladonna*  
**Dog Violet - *Viola riviniana***  
**Dogs Mercury - *Mercurialis perennis***  
**Enchanter's nightshade - *Circaea lutetiana***  
**Foxglove - *Digitalis purpurea***  
 Greater ~~Stichwort~~ - *Stellaria holostea*  
 Goldilocks Buttercup - *Ranunculus auricomus*  
 Herb Robert - *Geranium robertianum*  
**Lesser Celendine - *Ficaria verna***  
 Meadowsweet - *Filipendula ulmaria*  
**Primrose - *Primula vulgaris***  
**Ragged Robin - *Silene flos-cuculi***  
**Red Campion - *Silene dioica***  
 Rough Chervil - *Chaerophyllum temulum*  
**Sweet Violet - *Viola odorata***  
**Wood anemone - *Anemone nemerosa***  
**Wood Avens - *Geum urbanum***

### Poor Wastes

This is dry, neutral, very nutrient poor soil in which hardy and adaptable species survive in the absence of competition from more specialised species - 11 common & 3 optional

**Black Medic – *Medicago lupulina***  
**Bladder Campion – *Silene vulgaris***  
 Cats ear/hawkbit – *Hypochaeris tridactyla*  
**Common Agrimony – *Agrimonia eupatoria***  
 Common Hemp Nettle - *Galeopsis tetrahit*  
**Common St John's Wort – *Hypericum perforatum***  
**Foxglove – *Digitalis purpurea***  
**Garlick Mustard – *Alliaria petiolata***  
**Hedge Woundwort – *Stachys silvaticus***  
**Scentless Mayweed – *Matricaria inodora***  
**Selfheal – *Prunella vulgaris***  
 Teasle – *Dipsacus fullonum*  
**Valerian – *Valeriana officinalis***  
**Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium***

### Lowland Heath

#### Core perennials

7 common &  
10 optional

**Barren Strawberry - *Potentilla sterilis***  
**Bell Heather - *Erica cinerea***  
**Birds foot trefoil - *Lotus corniculatus***  
**Common Dog-Violet - *Viola riviniana***  
 Cross leaved heather-*Erica tetralix*  
 Crowberry - *Empetrum nigrum*  
 Devils-bit Scabious - *Succisa pratensis*  
**Harebell - *Campanula rotundifolia***  
 Hawkbit Species (Miscellaneous) - *Leontodon*  
 Heath Bedstraw - *Galium saxatile*  
**Heather - *Calluna vulgaris***  
 Lousewort - *Pedicularis*  
 Meadow Saxifrage - *Saxifraga granulata*  
 Meadowsweet - *Filipendula ulmaria*  
 Petty whin - *Genista anglica*  
**Square Stemmed St Johns Wort - *Hypericum tetrapterum***  
 Tormentil - *Potentilla erecta*

# Appendix B – Species List Grassland variants

## Grassland Variants

### Wet meadow & loamy soil by streams(30)

Core – 16 common & 14 optional

**Agrimony - Agrimonia eupatoria**

**Betony - Betonica officinalis**

Common Knapweed - Centaurea nigra

**Common Sorrel - Rumex acetosa**

Dandelion - Taraxacum officinale

**Devil's-bit Scabious - Succisa pratensis**

Field Scabious - Knautia arvensis

**Great Burnet - Sanguisorba officinalis**

**Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil - Lotus pedunculatus**

Hemp Agrimony - Eupatorium cannabinum

**Lady's bedstraw - Galium verum**

Musk Mallow - Malva moschata

Meadow Buttercup - Ranunculus acris

**Meadow Vetchling - Lathyrus pratensis**

**Meadowsweet - Filipendula ulmaria**

**Ragged Robin - Silene flos-cuculi**

**Red Campion - Silene dioica**

Ribwort plantain - Plantago lanceolata

Rough Hawkbit - Leontodon hispidus

Selfheal - Prunella vulgaris

**Toadflax - Linarea vulgaris**

Tufted Vetch - Vicia cracca

Yarrow - Achillea millefolium

**Yellow Loosestrife - Lysimachia vulgaris**

and .....

### Clay Soils (19)

Core – 13 common & 6 optional

**Agrimony - Agrimonia eupatoria**

**Betony - Betonica officinalis**

**Birdsfoot trefoil - Lotus corniculatus**

Common knapweed - Centaurea nigra

**Common Sorrel -Rumex acetosa**

**Cowslip - Primula veris**

**Lady's bedstraw Galium verum**

Meadow Buttercup - Ranunculus acris

**Meadow Crane's-bill – Geranium pratense**

**Meadow Vetchling - Lathyrus pratensis**

Meadowsweet Filipendula ulmaria

**Musk Mallow - Malva moschata**

**Oxeye daisy - Leucanthemum vulgare**

Ragged Robin - Silene flos-cuculi

Ribwort plantain - Plantago lanceolata

**Salad burnet - Poterium sanguisorba**

**Self-heal - Prunella vulgaris**

**Tufted Vetch - Vicia cracca**

Yarrow - Achillea millefolium

.....in pond edges and ditches:

**Gypsywort - Lycopus europaeus**

Corky-fruited Water-dropwort - Oenanthe pimpinelloides

**Tufted Vetch - Vicia cracca**

### Sandy Soils (19)

Core - 12 common & 7 optional

**Birdsfoot trefoil - Lotus corniculatus**

**Black Medick -Medicago lupulina**

**Bladder Campion - Silene vulgaris**

Common knapweed - Centaurea nigra

Crosswort -Cruciata laevipes

Field scabious - Knautia arvensis

**Horseshoe Vetch - Hippocrepis comosa**

**Kidney vetch - Anthyllis vulneraria**

**Lady's bedstraw - Galium verum**

Meadow Buttercup - Ranunculus acris

**Musk Mallow - Malva moschata**

**Oxeye daisy - Leucanthemum vulgare**

Ribwort plantain - Plantago lanceolata

**Salad burnet - Poterium sanguisorba**

**Sheeps Sorrel - Rumex acetosella**

Viper's-bugloss - Echium vulgare

**White Campion - Silene latifolia**

Wild Carrot - Daucus carota

**Yarrow - Achillea millefolium**

**Yellow Iris - Iris pseudacorus**

Wild Angelica - Angelica sylvestris

Water Avens - Geum rivale

# Appendix C: Ancient Woodland Indicator Species

## Ancient Woodland Indicator species

Of the AWI species listed for Hampshire, the flowering plant species (i.e. excluding trees, shrubs, grasses and ferns) are as follows:

\*Species listed in *italics* are bulbs or corms and are normally propagated from these rather than from their seeds.

Local Name	Scientific Name	Woodland Habitats specifics	Flower mths		Local Name	Scientific Name	Habitats	Flower mths
Yellow Pimpernel	<i>Lysmachia nemorum</i>	Neutral soil	5-9		Moschatel (Townhall Clock)	<i>Adoxa moschealellina</i>	Richer soil	4-5
Common Cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum pratensis</i>	Chalk & wet soils	5-9		<i>Ramsons</i>	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Damp chalky or richer soil	4-6
Three-veined Sandwort	<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	Richer soils	5-6		Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Dry	3-4
<i>Wild Daffodil</i>	<i>Narcissus psueonarcissus</i>	Clay and loam soil	3-4		Columbine	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Calcareous damp soil	5-6
<i>Bird 's-nest Orchid</i>	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Chalk beech woods	5-7		Nettle-leaved Bellflower	<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Calcareous soil	7-9
<i>Early Purple Orchid</i>	<i>Orchis maculata</i>	Chalk & neutral clay soil	4-6		Large Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine amara</i>	Damp	4-6
Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Dry	4-5		<i>Sword (Narrow) -leaved Helleborine</i>	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Chalk beech woods	5-6
Herb-Paris	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Damp chalky soil	5-7		Climbing Corydalis	<i>Ceratocarpus claviculata</i>	Dry neutral to acid soil	6-10
<i>Greater Butterfly-orchid</i>	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Calcareous & neutral clay	6-7		Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	Boggy woods	4-5
Solomon's-seal	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Dry calcareous or sand soil	5-6		Meadow Saffron	<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Damp	8-10
Barren Strawberry	<i>Potilala sterilis</i>		2-5		Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Dry neutral to acid woods	5-6
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>		3-6		<i>Lily-of-the-valley</i>	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Dry chalk or sandy soil	5-6
Narrow-leaved Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	Clay or loam soil	4-5		Small Teasel	<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>	Damp	7-8
Goldilocks Buttercup	<i>Ranuncula auricomus</i>	Neutral soil	4-6		<i>Broad-leaved Helleborine</i>	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>		7-9
Black Currant	<i>Ribes nigrum</i>	Wet woodland	4-5		<i>Narrow-lipped Helleborine</i>	<i>Epipactis meulleri</i>	Chalk beech woods	6-7
Red Currant	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Wet woodland	4-5		<i>Violet Helleborine</i>	<i>Epipactis purpurata</i>	Calcareous clay & beech woods	8
Field-rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Clay soil	6-7		Wood Spurge	<i>Euphordia amygdalodes</i>	Basic neutral soil	4-5
Butcher's Broom	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Dry	1-4		Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Richer- calcareous soil	5-6
Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Chalk beech woods	5-8		Water Avens	<i>Geum rivale</i>	Wet wodland	5-9
Orpine	<i>Sedum telephium</i>	Dry sand & gravel	3-5		Green Hellebore	<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	Calcareous soil	1-4
Saw-wort	<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>	Fens	7-9		Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Neutral soil	6-8
Golden-rod	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Dry	7-9		Slender St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Dry neutral soil	6-8
Black Bryony	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Chalk or neutral soil	5-7		<i>Stinking Iris</i>	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Chalky soil	5-7
Wood Speedwell	<i>Veronica montana</i>	Calcarious and neutral soil	4-7		Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Chalk or richer soil	5-7
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>		4-8		Toothwort	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Rich or calcareous soil	4-5
Wood Vetch	<i>Vicia syvatica</i>	Open woods	6-8		<i>Narrow-leaved Everlasting-pea</i>	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Open woods	6-8
Marsh Violet	<i>Viola palustris</i>	Acid wet woods	4-7		Bitter-vetch	<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Neutral to acid soil	4-7
Early Dog-violet	<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Chalky soil	3-5					

# Appendix D: NB Seed Inventory

List of common locally found species and habitats they are found in -	Woodland-decid.	Woodland edge	Hedges/row	Meadow - Chalk	Meadow - Water	Meadow - Acid/neutral	Poor	Wastings	Heaths	A/B/P	Flower Colour	Max Stalk Height	Flower Period	Seed
	W	E	H	M-c	M-w	M-a	P	Hth						Stock Ref
Agrimony - <i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>		X	X		X	X				P		50 cms	Jun - Sept	11
Barren Strawberry - <i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	X		X				X	X		P				100
<b>Bell Heather - <i>Erica cinerea</i></b>								X		P				101
<b>Betony - <i>Betonica officinalis</i></b>					X	X				P		50cms	Jun - Sept	1
<b>Birdsfoot trefoil - <i>Lotus corniculatus</i></b>				X	X	X		X		P		35cms	May - Aug	2
<b>Black Medick - <i>Medicago lupulina</i></b>				X	X					A		40cms	May - Aug	3
<b>Black Mullein - <i>Verbascum nigrum</i></b>				x						P		120cms	Jun - Oct	4
<b>Bladder Campion - <i>Silene vulgaris</i></b>				X	X					P		80cms	May - Aug	5
<b>Blue Fleabane - <i>Erigeron acer</i> (annual)</b>				X						P		35cms	Jul - Sept	6
<b>Bugle - <i>Ajuga reptans</i></b>	x	x					x			P		30cms	May - Jul	7
<b>Bulbous Buttercup - <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i></b>				X		X				P				102
<b>Bush Vetch - <i>Vicia sepium</i></b>		x	x	x				x		P		> 60cms	Apr - Sept	8
<b>Clustered Bellflower - <i>Campanula glomerata</i></b>				x						P		15cms	May - Sept	10
<b>Common Cats ear - <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i></b>				X						P		50cms	May - Oct	9
<b>Common Centaury - <i>Centaurea erythraea</i> (annual)</b>				X						A		15 cms	Jun - Aug	12
<b>Common Figwort - <i>Scrophularia nodosa</i></b>	X	X						x		P				104
<b>Common Fleabane - <i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i></b>		X		X						P		40cms	Jul - Sept	13
<b>Common Hemp Nettle - <i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i></b>			X					X		A		80cms	Jul - Sept	14
<b>Common Knapweed - <i>Centaurea nigra</i></b>		X	X	X	X	X				P				40
<b>Common Mallow - <i>Malva sylvestris</i></b>			X							P		75cms	Jun - Sept	15
<b>Common St John's Wort - <i>Hypericum perforatum</i></b>										P		50cms	Jul - Sept	16
<b>Common Valerian - <i>Valeriana officinalis</i></b>				x	X			x		P				105
<b>Common Vetch - <i>Vicia sativa</i></b>				X						P		>150cms	Apr - Sept	17
<b>Corky-fruited Water-dropwort - <i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i></b>					X					P				106
<b>Cow Parsley - <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i></b>	X	X	X							P				107
<b>Yellow Rattle - <i>Rhinanthus minor</i></b>				X	X	X				A		40cms	Apr - Sept	73
<b>Counts</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>						<b>128</b>