

## A Resurvey of Plants in the Periwinkle Field, Penlanole. Late June and Early July 2016

All the species recorded in 2013 were refound with the exception of daisy, autumn hawkbit, mouse-ear hawkweed, oxeye daisy, bulbous buttercup, creeping buttercup, red campion and slender soft-brome. By the time of the 2016 survey there was a fine tall crop of hay that probably concealed some of the above species such as daisy, bulbous buttercup and mouse-ear hawkweed. The autumn hawkbit was probably not yet in flower. A brome was noted that could have been slender soft-brome but a close inspection revealed it to be smooth brome (*Bromus racemosus*). Separating some species in this genus is not easy and the earlier records of slender soft-brome might well refer to this species which was abundant along the NW side of the field mixed with occasional plants of soft brome.

The apparent loss of oxeye daisy is disappointing but not unexpected in a meadow grazed in spring by sheep. To more than compensate for this loss an additional 17 species were recorded and are listed below. A few, such as field woodrush and wood soft-grass were probably overlooked in earlier surveys. Some may be genuine recent colonists such as self-heal, false oat-grass, common nettle and soft rush. Others may be recent colonists from the field margins previously excluded from the survey such as musk mallow, meadow vetchling and betony.

The field is spectacularly floriferous with the yellow of hay rattle, smooth hawk's-beard and cat's-ear set against the white of eyebright and hums with insect life including grassland butterflies. It provides a stark contrast to the monotonous and largely wildlife-free green deserts of modern high production, high input silage fields that are now the norm over most of Britain.

### Additions to the 2013 List

<i>Arrhenatherum elatior</i>	False Oat-grass
<i>Bromus racemosus</i>	Smooth Brome
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goosegrass
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Wood Soft-grass
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Birds-foot-trefoil
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch