

Report on the BMIG field meeting in Lincolnshire in 2013

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Introduction and background

The 2013 BMIG field weekend, held from 11th to 14th April, was based in Scamblesby, Lincolnshire; chosen as a good location for exploring under-worked areas such as the Lincolnshire Wolds, the Limewoods, heaths near Market Rasen and Woodhall Spa and also coastal dune systems, such as those at Saltfleetby. BMIG members were joined for the field excursions by local naturalists Charlie Barnes and Dave Sheppard.

A small amount of recording was undertaken patchily in Lincolnshire by Tony Barber in the late 1960s and a few additional records were added in the 1970s & 1980s. This included at least 12 species of millipede and 12 species of centipede, with *Geophilus impressus* (formerly *G. insculptus*) proving to be quite common and *Lithobius macilentus* recorded. Des Kime also undertook surveys in 1968 recording *Boreoiulus tenuis*, *Nemasoma varicorne*, *Cylindroiulus britannicus*, *Ophiodesmus albonanus* and *Macrosternodesmus palicola*.

The only previous excursion into Lincolnshire by BMIG (then two separate entities, BISG & BMG) was an informal ‘pirate’ field meeting organised by Jon Daws in October 1993 with just four enthusiastic participants (Jon, Steve Gregory, Dick Jones and Andy Keay). About 25 sites were visited and a brief account of the woodlice is given by Daws (1993) with fourteen species recorded including *Cylisticus convexus* and *Porcellio dilatatus* from a farmyard and seven sites for the elusive *Trichoniscoides albidus* (a species new to both VC 53, south Lincs and 54, north Lincs). Dick Jones (1994) reports that “nothing out of the ordinary” was recorded despite listing six millipedes as new county records (ibid, pg. 3), emphasising the level of under-recording within the county. These are *Allajulus nitidus* (VC 54), *Boreoiulus tenuis* (VC 53), *Cylindroiulus britannicus* (VC 54), *C. caeruleocinctus* (VC 53), *Macrosternodesmus palicola* (VC 53) and *Geoglomeris subterranea* (VC 53 and 54). There seems to be no account of the centipedes recorded (but records were submitted to the National Recording Scheme).

Sites visited

During the field meeting the group visited 25 different sites, though some are split into sub-sites to give 35 discrete localities. All are in North Lincolnshire (VC54); the majority being Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) Reserves.

A summary of the sites visited and the sub-locations within these sites is shown in Table 1.

Results

Records from the field meeting have been submitted by Charlie Barnes, Mike Davidson, Steve Gregory, Paul Lee, Angela Lidgett, Keith Lugg, Helen Read, Paul Richards, Dave Sheppard, Duncan Sivell and Imogen Wilde.

Table 1: List of sites visited.

LWT = Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserve. Recorders: CB - Charlie Barnes, MD - Mike Davidson, SG Steve Gregory, PL - Paul Lee, AL - Angela Lidgett, KL - Keith Lugg, HR - Helen Read, PR - Paul Richards, DSh – Dave Sheppard, DSi - Duncan Sivell, IW - Imogen Wilde.

Site Code	Locality	Grid Ref	VC	Date	Recorders
1a	Chambers Farm Wood	TF148739			HR, DSi
1b	Chambers Farm, Butterfly Garden	TF147739	54	12.iv.2013	HR, DSi
1c	Chambers Farm (Hatton Wood SSSI)	TF161747			DSi
2	Donna Nook NNR, LWT	TA41-00-	54	12.iv.2013	IW
3	Fir Hill Quarry, Little Cawthorpe, LWT	TF360829	54	12.iv.2013	PL, CB, DSh
4	Furze Hill, LWT	TF346689	54	12.iv.2013 13.iv.2013	PR HR, IW
5	Hagworthingham Churchyard	TF343692	54	12.iv.2013	PR
6a	Gibraltar Point, LWT	TF56-58-	54	12.iv.2013	AL, MD
“		“		13.iv.2013	DSi
6b		TF55-57-		13.iv.2013	AL
6c		TF56-57-		12.iv.2013	MD
“		“		13.iv.2013	AL, DSi
6d		TF55-58-		13.iv.2013	MD
7a	Great West Wood	TF11-76-	54	12.iv.2013	AL
7b	Great West Wood	TF10-76			MD
7c	Cocklode Wood	TF10-76			MD
8	Hopton Wood, Willoughby, LWT	TF461716 TF459718	54	12.iv.2013 13.iv.2013	PR HR, IW
9	Legbourne Wood, LWT	TF37-83- TF36-83-	54	12.iv.2013	SG, KL, PL, DSh, IW
10	Little Cawthorpe Churchyard	TF356837	54	12.iv.2013 13.iv.2013	PR IW
11	Mill Hill Quarry, LWT	TF454717 TF452716	54	12.iv.2013 13.iv.2013	PR IW
12	Muckton Wood, Muckton, LWT	TF382810	54	12.iv.2013	PL, DSh
13a	Saltfleetby, East Lindsey Dunes	TF468935	54	12.iv.2013	SG
13b	Saltfleetby, Rimac Dunes NNR, LWT	TF47-92-			SG, IW
13c	Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR	TF467917			KL
14	Saltfleetby, All Saints Churchyard	TF455904	54	12.iv.2013	SG, KL
15	Brook House Farm, Scamblesby	TF274785	54	11.vi.2013 13.iv.2013 14.iv.2013	KL, DSi KL, PR SG, KL
16	Red Hill Quarry, LWT	TF264806	54	13.iv.2013	SG, KL, PL
17	Riseholme College, University of Lincoln	SK98-75-	54	12.iv.2013 13.iv.2013	DSi SG, KL, PL
18	Snipe Dales Country Park, LWT	TF33-68-	54	12.iv.2013 13.iv.2013	MD AL, DSi
19	Welton le Wold, LWT	TF283883	54	13.iv.2013	SG, KL, PL

20	Wickenby Wood	TF084828	54	13.iv.2013	PR
21	Woodhall Spa & Tumbly	TF20-62-	54	13.iv.2013	PR
22	Derelict Weighbridge Building, Welton	TF281880	54	13.iv.2013	KL
23	Scamblesby Churchyard	TF276784	54	14.iv.2013	SG, KL
24	Lincoln Arboretum	SK986716	54	10.iv.2013	MD
25a	Greetwell Quarry SSSI (stream)	SK999723	54	10.iv.2013	MD
25b	Greetwell Quarry SSSI, LWT	TF001726			

A total of 57 BMIG species were recorded during the course of the meeting, comprising 24 millipedes, 16 centipedes and 16 woodlice and a waterlouse. The two locations with the highest species diversity were Riseholme College, University of Lincoln (site 17) with 36 species recorded (9 centipedes, 15 millipedes, 12 woodlice) and Brook House Farm, Scamblesby (site 15) with 29 species (10 centipedes, 9 millipedes, 10 woodlice). This is perhaps not surprising given the diversity of synanthropic habitats present at both sites, including a cottage garden, greenhouses and stables at Riseholme College. Of the semi-natural sites Legbourne Wood (site 9), an ancient woodland, was the third most diverse with 24 species (7 centipedes, 9 millipedes, 8 woodlice) including the Nationally Scarce *Brachychaeteuma bradeae* and the elusive *Trichoniscoides albidus*.

Details of the species records for each site are summarised in Tables 2 to 4.

Centipedes

16 species of centipede are recorded, the majority the more or less predictable ones to be expected for Lincolnshire. Synanthropic sites at Scamblesby (Brook House Farm and nearby churchyard) and Riseholme College proved to be the most diverse. At the latter site the *Stenotaenia linearis* was recorded independently by Duncan Sivell and Keith Lugg. This species, with its distribution centred on the Home Counties, seems to be almost always synanthropic in Britain and thus this observation is perhaps not unexpected.

Lithobius variegatus was recorded from Woodhall Spa & Tumbly (site 21) by Paul Richards, an area with much woodland. In Britain the species shows a marked western tendency and appears to be largely or entirely absent from much of eastern England and this record appears to fall into the 'eastern void'.

Geophilus carpophagus s.str. was recorded from two sites by Duncan Sivell, both in typical habitat. The first from a brick wall in a car park at Chambers Farm Wood (site 1), where it was associated with *Porcellio spinicornis*, and the second from the coast at Gibraltar Point (site 6).

Millipedes

24 species of millipede are recorded. Easily the most diverse site recorded was Riseholme College (15 species) where a variety of synanthropes were found. One of these was the Nationally Scarce *Allajulus nitidus*, a millipede most frequently seen in synanthropic sites in the eastern half of the country. Riseholme College was the only site where both *Polydesmus angustus* and *P. coriaceus* were found during the meeting; the latter species was noted much more frequently than *P. angustus* over the weekend in contrast to their relative frequencies nationally.

The semi-natural sites with the highest diversity were the LWT sites at Legbourne Wood (9 species) and Furze Hill (site 4, 10 species). The most notable millipede species collected during the meeting was the Nationally Scarce *Brachychaeteuma bradeae*. SJG collected a single male specimen attributable to this species in ancient woodland at Legbourne Wood. The gonopods of the specimen were considered typical of *B. bradeae* and it is this taxon rather than *B. bagnalli* that would be expected in East Anglia.



Figure 1: *Boreoiulus tenuis* observed at Riseholme College. Image © Keith Lugg.



Figure 2: *Ophiodesmus albonanus* observed at Riseholme College. Image © Keith Lugg.

Woodlice

During the field meeting 17 species of woodlice were recorded from all 35 locations visited (Table 4). As expected for eastern England, by far the most frequently recorded species were *Oniscus asellus* (29 sites), *Porcellio scaber* (28 sites), *Philoscia muscorum* sensu lato (27 sites) and *Armadillidium vulgare* (22 sites).

Riseholme College, with its greenhouses and stables, proved the most diverse site for woodlice with 12 species recorded, including *Porcellio dilatatus*, *Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii* and both *Haplophthalmus danicus* and *H. mengii* s.str. *Porcellionides pruinosus* was found at three sites, including a typical dung

heap habitat at Brook House Farm, under stones, logs and debris at Lincoln Arboretum, and also from a track within ancient woodland at Legbourne Wood. At the latter site the elusive trichoniscid *Trichoniscoides albidus* was also recorded from a track-side ditch (Fig. 3). *Porcellio spinicornis* was recorded from a single site by Duncan Sivell, a brick wall in a car park at Chambers Farm Wood where it was associated with the arboreal centipede *Geophilus carpophagus* s.str.



Figure 3: *Trichoniscoides albidus* observed at Legbourne Wood. Image © Keith Lugg.

For the purposes of this report *Philoscia muscorum* is being treated as a species complex, since it is possible that some records may refer to *Philoscia affinis* Verhoeff. Although first recorded in Britain in 2017, this woodlouse is of similar appearance to *P. muscorum* and appears to have been long overlooked (Gregory, 2020). On current evidence, *P. affinis* is mainly restricted to western Britain and it seems likely that the majority, if not all, records of *P. muscorum* sensu lato reported herein will refer to *P. muscorum* (Scopoli) sensu stricto.

Acknowledgements

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References

- Daws, J. (1993) The pirate BISG/BMG meeting in Lincolnshire. *British Isopod Study Group Newsletter* **36**: 5-7 (unpublished).
- Jones, R.E. (1994) We'll take the high road / Vice-county distribution: Millipedes. *British Myriapod Group Newsletter* **20**: p1 & p3 (unpublished).
- Gregory, S.J. (2020) Further observations of *Philoscia affinis* Verhoeff, 1908 (Isopoda, Oniscidea, Philosciidae) in Britain and Ireland: distribution, habitat and identification. *Bulletin of the British Myriapod & Isopod Group* **32**: 2-1.

Table 2: Centipedes recorded during Scamblesby field meeting. For details of sites see Table 1.

Centipedes	Site:			1	2	3	4	5	6				7			8	9	10	11	12
	a	b	c						a	b	c	d	a	b	c					
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>	#	#					#										#			
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i> s.str.	#								#											
<i>Geophilus easoni</i>			#														#			
<i>Geophilus electricus</i>																				
<i>Geophilus flavus</i>	#	#												#			#	#	#	
<i>Geophilus insculptus</i>																				
<i>Geophilus truncorum</i>			#				#		#				#		#	#	#		#	
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>											#				#		#			
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>	#	#	#						#		#		#	#	#	#	#	#	#	
<i>Lithobius melanops</i>																				
<i>Lithobius microps</i>		#					#									#		#	#	
<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>																				
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>									#		#						#			
<i>Stenotaenia linearis</i>																				
<i>Haplophilus subterranea</i>																			#	
<i>Strigamia acuminata</i>																			#	
Total 16 centipede species	4	4	3	-	-	3	-	4	-	3	-	2	2	3	3	7	3	2	4	

Table 2: continued

Centipedes (cont.)	Site:			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		Total
	a	b	c													a	b	
<i>Cryptops hortensis</i>					#			#	#						#			8
<i>Geophilus carpophagus</i> s.str.																		2
<i>Geophilus easoni</i>									#									3
<i>Geophilus electricus</i>				#														1
<i>Geophilus flavus</i>			#		#	#	#							#	#			12
<i>Geophilus insculptus</i>				#	#		#							#				4
<i>Geophilus truncorum</i>		#				#		#										11
<i>Lithobius crassipes</i>					#			#										5
<i>Lithobius forficatus</i>				#	#	#	#	#					#	#	#			20
<i>Lithobius melanops</i>				#	#	#	#							#				5
<i>Lithobius microps</i>				#	#	#	#			#	#			#	#		#	14
<i>Lithobius variegatus</i>												#						1
<i>Schendyla nemorensis</i>					#			#						#				6
<i>Stenotaenia linearis</i>								#										1
<i>Haplophilus subterranea</i>					#		#			#				#	#			6
<i>Strigamia acuminata</i>					#			#										3
Total 16 centipede species	-	1	1	5	10	5	9	6	2	1	1	1	1	7	5	-	1	

Table 3: Millipedes recorded during Scamblesby field meeting. For details of sites see Table 1.

Millipedes	Site:	1			2	3	4	5	6				7			8	9	10	11	12
		a	b	c					a	b	c	d	a	b	c					
<i>Allajulus nitidus</i>																				
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>																				#
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>							#													
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>																				#
<i>Brachychaeteuma bradeae</i>																				#
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>							#													#
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>			#																	
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>		#					#													
<i>Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus</i>																				
<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>									#		#									
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>		#	#	#			#	#	#		#		#		#	#	#			#
<i>Geoglomeris subterranea</i>																				#
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>		#		#		#	#							#	#		#			#
<i>Julus scandinavicus</i>									#											
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>																				#
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>																				#
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>											#									
<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>																				#
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>		#					#	#		#					#					
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>							#	#		#										
<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>		#					#						#		#	#	#	#	#	#
<i>Polyxenus lagurus</i>																				
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>				#			#													#
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>		#	#	#			#	#	#		#		#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Total 24 millipede species		6	3	4	-	1	10	2	6	-	6	-	3	2	5	3	9	3	7	4

Table 3: continued

Site: Millipedes	13			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		Total
	a	b	c												a	b	
<i>Allajulus nitidus</i>							#										1
<i>Archiboreoiulus pallidus</i>				#													2
<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>	#			#		#	#		#				#	#			8
<i>Boreoiulus tenuis</i>				#		#	#							#			5
<i>Brachychaeteuma bradeae</i>																	1
<i>Brachydesmus superus</i>					#		#										5
<i>Brachyiulus pusillus</i>							#										2
<i>Cylindroiulus britannicus</i>					#		#	#									5
<i>Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus</i>					#						#						1
<i>Cylindroiulus latestriatus</i>					#									#			4
<i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>				#	#	#	#	#	#	#			#	#			21
<i>Geoglomeris subterranea</i>						#											2
<i>Glomeris marginata</i>						#		#									11
<i>Julus scandinavicus</i>								#									2
<i>Macrosternodesmus palicola</i>				#		#	#										5
<i>Nanogona polydesmoides</i>							#										1
<i>Ommatoiulus sabulosus</i>					#						#						3
<i>Ophiodesmus albonanus</i>							#										2
<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>				#	#		#		#							#	10
<i>Polydesmus angustus</i>							#	#									5
<i>Polydesmus coriaceus</i>				#	#	#	#		#				#			#	16
<i>Polyxenus lagurus</i>				#													1
<i>Proteroiulus fuscus</i>				#			#	#									6
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	#			#	#	#	#	#	#	#		#	#			#	26
Total 24 millipede species	2			10	9	8	15	7	5	2	2	1	4	4	-	3	

Table 4: Woodlice and Waterlice recorded during Scamblesby field meeting. For details of sites see Table 1.

Site code:	1			2	3	4	5	6				7			8	9	10	11	12
	a	b	c					a	b	c	d	a	b	c					
<i>Androniscus dentiger</i>																#		#	
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>		#		#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#					#		#	
<i>Asellus aquaticus</i>																			
<i>Haplophthalmus danicus</i>		#				#													
<i>Haplophthalmus mengii</i> s.str.																			
<i>Ligia oceanica</i>				#															
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#		#		#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i> sensu lato	#	#	#		#	#		#		#	#			#	#	#	#	#	#
<i>Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii</i>																			
<i>Porcellio dilatatus</i>																			
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	#	#	#	#		#	#	#		#	#		#		#	#	#	#	#
<i>Porcellio spinicornis</i>	#																		
<i>Porcellionides pruinosus</i>																#			
<i>Trichoniscoides albidus</i>																#			
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i> agg.		#	#			#	#							#	#	#			#
<i>Trichoniscus provisorius</i>																			
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>		#					#											#	#
Total 17 isopod species	4	7	4	4	3	6	5	4	1	4	3	1	2	3	4	8	3	6	5

Table 4: continued

Woodlice	Site code:			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		Total
	a	b	c												a	b		
<i>Androniscus dentiger</i>				#				#		#								5
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#		#		#		#			#	22
<i>Asellus aquaticus</i>					#		#									#		3
<i>Haplophthalmus danicus</i>					#		#								#			5
<i>Haplophthalmus mengii</i> s.str.					#	#	#											3
<i>Ligia oceanica</i>																		1
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>			#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#			29
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i> sensu lato	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#		#		#	#		#	27
<i>Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii</i>								#										1
<i>Porcellio dilatatus</i>								#										1
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	#	#		#	#	#	#	#	#	#		#	#	#	#		#	28
<i>Porcellio spinicornis</i>																		1
<i>Porcellionides pruinosus</i>					#										#			3
<i>Trichoniscoides albidus</i>																		1
<i>Trichoniscus pusillus</i> agg.				#	#	#	#	#	#	#				#			#	17
<i>Trichoniscus provisorius</i>															#			1
<i>Trichoniscus pygmaeus</i>				#	#	#	#											8
Total 17 isopod species	3	3	3	7	10	7	12	4	6	2	4	2	5	6	1	4		