

Wild Oakingham 26 September 2023

FSO Committee members met on a crisp September morning to be greeted by Jane Ibrahim, owner of a rewilding project in Nuffield near Henley-on-Thames called Wild Oakingham. Also present was Professor Alastair Driver FCIEEM, the Director of Rewilding Britain who has been giving advice to Jane about her efforts to rewild the 250-acre former stud farm. Jane asked the Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire to survey parts of her property on a long-term basis to monitor the effects of rewilding.



The first stop was an area of grass named by Jane's son as the "football pitch". This area of well-mown untreated lawn was full of grassland species like this beautiful *Suillus grevillei* (Larch Bolete).





(left) A *Mycena speirea* (Bark Bonnet) was found on a twig while (right) a *Pholiotina vestita* grabbed our attention.



(left) *Inocybe flocculosa* (Fleecy Fibrecap) sensu lato



(right) *Leotia lubrica* (Jellybabies)



A solitary *Hygrocybe conica* (Blackening Waxcap) gleamed in the grass as we left the football pitch to survey a different area. The cap of this grassland mushroom turns black with age and can remain standing in this form for weeks. Also known as a Witch's Cap for obvious reasons, it varies from yellow to orange (like this one) to red before blackening.

Entering Rotmoor Shaw, a beech woodland in the middle of the farm, we found woodland fungi in profusion, including this *Scleroderma verrucosum* (Scaly Earthball), here showing the black spores inside its tough, leathery skin.



Caroline Jackson-Houlston and Professor Richard Fortey confer on the identity of a mushroom in Rotmoor Shaw.

Collybia succinea



Xerocomellus pruinatus (Mat Bolete)



A ubiquitous Chiltern mushroom is *Mycena crocata* (Saffrondrop Bonnet), seen (below left) just emerging from its woody home, and (below right) in its full saffron-stained glory. When the stem or cap is damaged, the mushroom exudes an orange latex that colours the cap as well as mycologists' fingers.



Another Chiltern favourite is the *Mycena galopus* (Milking Bonnet) seen here on the left exuding a milky latex from its stem.



Agrocybe praecox (Spring Fieldcap)



Daedaleopsis confragosa (Blushing Bracket) is easy to identify in the field, because when you press on the pore surface it blushes pink.



Two stages of the *Pluteus cervinus* (Deershield) mushroom. The cystidia (found on the edges of the gills) of this mushroom appear to have deer antlers when viewed under the microscope.



Pleurotus pulmonarius (Pale Oyster) seemed to glow from a fallen branch in Rotmoor Shaw.