

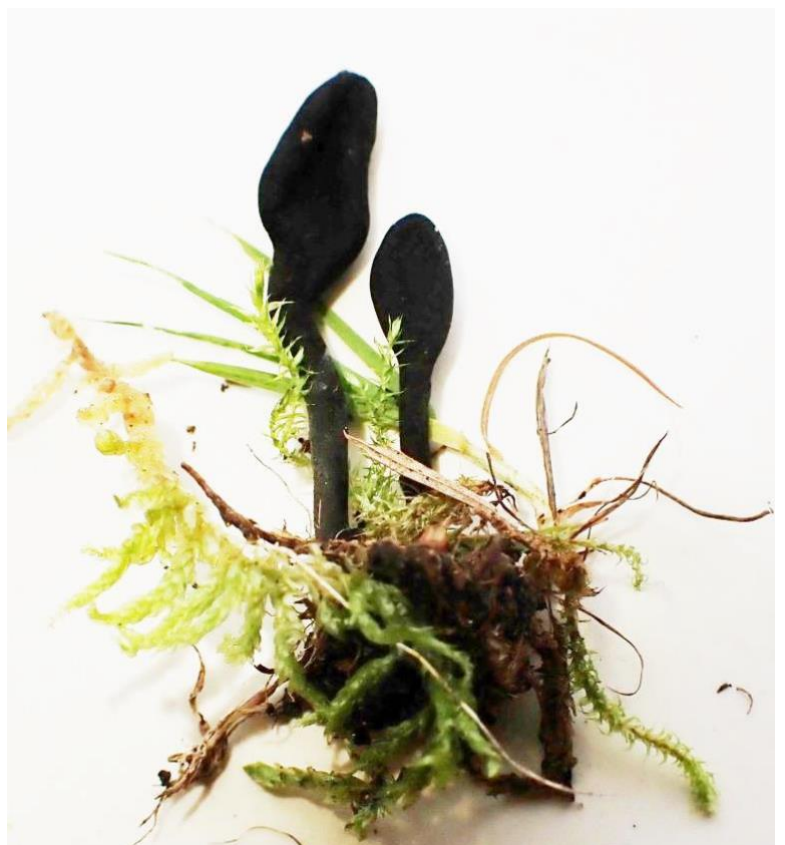
Aston Rowant Woods and Grasslands

9 November 2025

Members of the Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire started the survey by walking through oak woods on the clay cap from the Cowleaze Woods car park. Here we saw the biggest cap of *Pholiota squarrosa* (Shaggy Pholiota) that anyone had seen. It was growing from the rotting base of an old whitebeam tree and had rather an odd shape but the scales on the cap and stipe were clear.



The group passed rather quickly through sheep-grazed grasslands (sheep eat fungi) on our way to a 30-year arable reversion field that was free of sheep and showing many typical grassland fungi. We found *Cuphophyllus virgineus* (Snowy Waxcaps) and *Hygrocybe conica* (Blackening Waxcaps) along with *Conocybes*, *Galerinas* and *Panaeolus* species. Highlights that were first encountered: a patch of *Geoglossum cookeanum* (Common Earth Tongues, below left) and later a patch of *Trichoglossum hirsutum* (Hairy Earthtongues—you need a hand lens to see the hairy/furry stipes, below right).



The next excitement was possibly up to three species of the strange little brown toadstools called *Hodophilus species* (Fanvaults), all of which are rare and limited to short low-nutrient grassland. Some groups had a strong smell of mothballs (naphthalene) and might be *Hodophilus foetens* (Stinking Fanvault). A non-smelly one with more yellowish tones will probably be a different species.



All brown and more yellowish *Hodophilus sp* (Fanvaults) above



We had no idea about what this little group of probable *Mycena* species with a distinctive 'pimple' on the top of each fawn-brown cap could be. One has been sent for DNA analysis.
left

Gliophorus psittacinus (Parrot Waxcaps) were common in many colours. Right are some bright yellow versions next to a deep green one (look closely).



On the way out of this field Keith Cohen found a nice example of the uncommon *Hygrocybe intermedia* (Fibrous Waxcap)

photo left KC

In the next grassland reversion field, we were pleased to encounter a good clump of the very uncommon *Clavulinopsis umbrinella* (Beige Coral, below left) and a ring of *Cystoderma amianthenum* (Earthy Powdercaps, below right).



Numbers of *Clavulinopsis* species (Golden/Yellow Spindles) and *Clavaria* species (White Clubs) were taken away for a microscopic study of their spores.

See the Records section of this website for a complete list of the day's finds; a password, available from the Secretary, will provide access to this section.

Leader: Judy Webb, Recorder: Julia Huggins.

Text and photos by Judy Webb except for photo labelled KC which was taken by Keith Cohen.