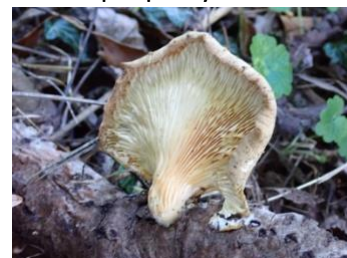


## Wild Oakingham 6 October 2025

Four FSO members met in early October to do a second survey of a rewilding project in Nuffield near Henley-on-Thames called Wild Oakingham. The owner Jane Ibrahim (who could not be there) asked the Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire to survey parts of her property on a long-term basis to monitor the effects of rewilding.

While we were waiting, we walked in the area around the cottage where we had parked and Chris found a dried up *Pleurotus ostreatus* (Oyster Mushroom) on a branch. There wasn't much else around; the area was very dry despite recent rain.



As we walked along the path adjoining the cottage, Chris noticed a patch of *Lactarius blennius* (Beech Milkcap) that we realised was probably mycorrhizal with a beech tree some distance away.



We walked through a gate to the grassy area named by Jane's son as the "football pitch".

This well-mown untreated lawn had several grassland species like this colourful *Suillus grevillei* (Larch Bolete) which was growing under larch in the exact place we found it on our previous survey.

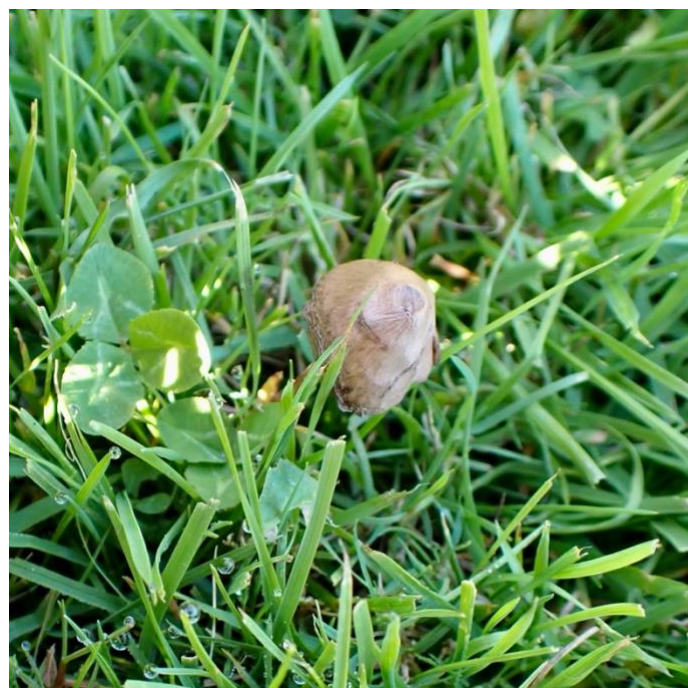




There are several old beech trees that yielded these beautiful *Mycena rosea* (Rosy Bonnets). If the pink colour doesn't give it away, a firm identification can be achieved by smelling the gills which will give off the scent of radish.



Many milkcaps were present under the same beeches, including *Lactarius subdulcis* (Mild Milkcap) on the left and *Lactarius turpis* (Ugly Milkcap) on the right with its gills showing milk and a baby emerging from the stipe.



Walking across the grassland we spied this *Psilocybe semilanceata* (Liberty Cap) in the same place we found it two years ago. The spores must have worked! We obviously did not pick it.



Our next area of study was Rotmoor Shaw, a beech woodland in the middle of the farm. Everything was very dry, so there weren't that many mushrooms of any size. We found some *Daedaleopsis confragosa* (Blushing Brackets) on a cherry log. The photo of the underside shows where the pores have turned pink (or blushed) which is how this fungus got its name.



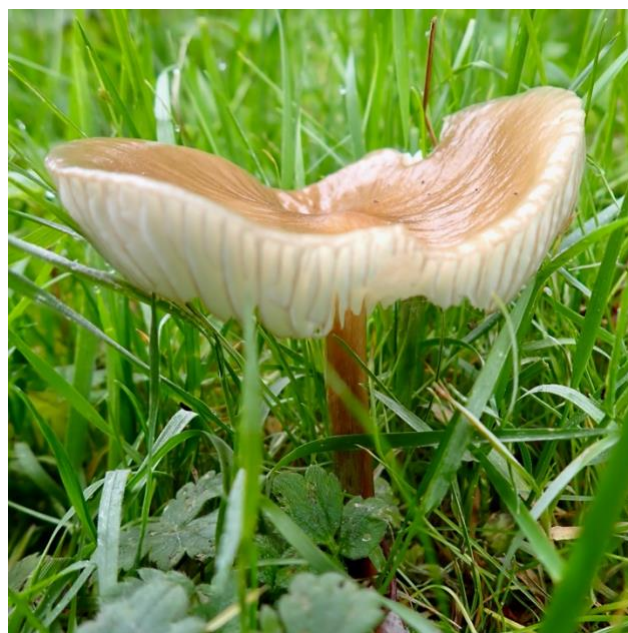
We found *Mycena crocata* (Saffrondrop Bonnets) on beech logs. Photo below right shows a "baby" of the same species with two capless stems.



Chris Crocker and Caroline Jackson-Houlston confer on the identity of a mushroom in Rotmoor Shaw which turned out to be *Megacollibia platyphylla* (Whitelaced Shank).



A grassy section on the side of the path was the home of this *Hymenopellis radicata* (Rooting Shank) showing its typical wrinkled cap with an umbo.



Mycologists often have to get down and dirty when seeking fungi and Caroline seems to do this more than most, but she gets the results! This tiny *Hygrophorus eburneus* (Ivory Woodwax) would have been difficult to see when standing upright.

Photos and text by Linda Seward