**Bloody-nosed beetle (*Timarcha tenebricosa*)**

The bloody-nosed beetle is a large leaf beetle, or chrysomelid. Bloody-nosed beetles can be recognised by their thick antennae and long tarsi – the final segments of the legs. They are named for their tendency to extrude foul-tasting bright orange/red fluid (actually the insect’s haemolymph or blood) from their mouths as a defence mechanism known as reflex bleeding.

**Bloody-nosed beetle larva (*Timarcha tenebricosa*)**

The metallic green larvae of the bloody-nosed beetle are monophagous (feeding only on one type of plant or animal) and feed on bedstraw (*Galium*) species, especially ladies bedstraw (*Galium verum*) or hedge bedstraw (*G. mollugo*)

**Spring squill (*Scilla verna*)**

Spring squill are perennial plants (living for several years) of the Asparagaceae family. The flowers are produced in spring, are scentless and have six blue tepals (petals and sepals which are indistinguishable from each other). Spring squill is found within short turf and maritime heath on exposed cliff tops near the sea.

**King Alfred’s cakes (*Daldinia concentrica*)**

King Alfred’s cakes are an inedible fungus found living on dead and decaying wood of ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The fruiting body of the fungus is hard, black and shiny, resembling the burnt cakes for which it is named. The purple/black flesh of the fungus is arranged in concentric circles, with each layer representing a season of reproduction. Many invertebrates live in the fungus, and it plays a vital role in the decomposition and recycling of dead wood.

**Dog’s mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*)**

Dog’s mercury is a common woodland plant that spread via underground stems, often covering large areas of the woodland floor and sometimes outcompeting other woodland species. It is a dioecious species, meaning it has separate male and female plants, and flowers are produced in spring. Dog’s mercury is an indicator species of ancient woodlands.

**Lords and ladies or Cuckoo-pint (*Arum maculatum*)**

Lords and Ladies or cuckoo-pint is an unusual looking plant with brown-purple spike contained within a greenish hood or spadix. The flower first appears early in the year, and the spike produced is actually a compound flower with male parts positioned above the female parts. Through the summer, the female flowers produce green berries, which turn bright red and persist until autumn. All of the plant, particularly the berries, is poisonous and there are some instances of poisoning every year.

**Common twayblade (*Neottia ovata*)**

Named for its two large leaves, common twayblade is one of our most common orchids, but is often overlooking owing to its green flowers. They are commonly found in woodland, scrub and grassland of calcareous soil. Up to 100 green flowers are produced in a loose cluster up the stem from May to July.