

# Needle ice



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*Needle ice on 17 January 2013: these growths of needle ice were at the side of a track through chalk in the Chiltern Hills, following two nights of hard frost. Groundwater seeping through the chalk has frozen and expanded to form fluted columns of ice. Each column grows from the top of a chalk pebble, which acts as a wick. The picture shows evidence of two cycles, with the first layer of ice lifted into the air along with surface debris.* (© Peter Gibbs.)