

Key for ground flora in Hook's Grove in early spring

1. Leaves very long and narrow (grasses and sedges)..... 2
 - Leaves not very long and narrow 5
2. Stem triangular, leaves with a sharp edge (sedge) 3
 - Stem round or flat, not triangular (grass) 4
3. Leaves >1 cm wide – **Pendulous Sedge***
 - Leaves < 1cm wide – **Wood Sedge***
4. Leaves soft and hairy – **False Brome**
 - Leaves tough, plant forms a dense tussock – **Tufted Hair-grass**
5. Leaves develop on a shoot 6
 - Leaves form a rosette 17
6. Shoots woody 7
 - Shoots not woody 8
7. Shoots prickly – **Bramble**
 - Shoots not prickly – **Ivy**
8. Leaves arranged in groups of 5-8 around the stem, clings to the clothes – **Cleavers (Goosegrass)**
 - Leaves are not arranged in groups around the stem, does not cling to the clothes 9
9. Shoot square in cross-section 10
 - Shoot not square in cross-section 11
10. Plant upright, with unpleasant smell - **Hedge Woundwort**
 - Shoot often lying on the ground, with faint not unpleasant smell – **Yellow Archangel***
11. Plant upright 12
 - Plant creeping or scrambling (weak shoot, use other plants as a support) 13
12. Leaves roughly as wide as long, plant with stinging hairs – **Common Nettle**
 - Leaves longer than wide, plant with small flowers – **Dog's Mercury**
 - Leaves long and narrow, pairs of leaves arranged at right angles – **Greater Stitchwort**
13. Leaves made of smaller paired leaflets, scrambling plant – **Bush Vetch***
 - Leaves simple (not made of smaller leaflets but could have lobed leaves) 14
14. Leaves alternate (not paired) with 3 lobes – **Creeping buttercup**
 - Leaves paired 15
15. Leaves heart-shaped, plant with pungent smell – **Ground Ivy**
 - Leaves not heart-shaped 16
16. Stem with hairs all around – **Wood Speedwell***
 - Stem with 2 opposite lines of hairs – **Germander Speedwell**
17. Leaves simple (not made of smaller leaflets) 18
 - Leaves made of smaller leaflets 21
18. Leaves heart-shaped 19
 - Leaves arrow-shaped – **Lord-and Ladies (Cuckoo-pint)**
 - Leaves oval – **Dock**
19. Leaves fleshy, shiny dark-green – **Lesser Celandine**
 - Leaves not fleshy 20
20. Leaves smell of garlic – **Garlic Mustard**
 - Leaves do not smell of garlic – **Dog-violet***
21. Leaflets radiate from a central point 22
 - Leaflets arranged on both sides of a common stalk 23
22. Leaves made from 3 simple leaflets – **Barren Strawberry***
 - Leaves made from 3-7 further lobed leaflets – **Herb Robert**
23. Leaf made of one large and a few smaller leaflets – **Herb Bennet / Wood Avens**
 - Leaflets similar sized, deeply lobed (fern-like) – **Cow Parsley**
 - Leaflets similar sized, irregularly lobed, roughly hairy - **Hogweed**

* Ancient Woodland Indicator (AWI) for the south-east region (Rose F. 2006 The wild flower key)