

key to common yellow 'dandelion-flowered' composites of Herefordshire

stem unbranched	stem hollow, much white latex			dandelion <i>Taraxacum</i>	frequent and variable		
	stem solid, little latex	entire lvs with simple hairs, whitish beneath; heads lemon yellow		mouse-ear hawkweed <i>Pilosella</i>	likely in dry grassland, esp banks. Often associated with local areas of higher diversity		
		lobed lvs with forked hairs; heads typical yellow	whole stem hairy, <b>phyllaries</b> hairy throughout; all achenes with <b>pappus</b>	rough hawkbit <i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	likely on freer-draining sites, esp calcareous. Better quality indicators than <i>Pilosella</i> . <i>Saxatilis</i> a little less common, on drier sites.		
			stem with hairs below only, <b>phyllaries</b> hairless / few on midrib. Key trait= outer achenes have no <b>pappus</b> .	lesser hawkbit <i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>			
stem branched	stem hollow, much white latex	auricles at leaf base rounded; usually looks prickly		prickly sowthistle <i>Sonchus asper</i>	never a quality indicator; annuals likely in disturbed areas only		
		auricles at leaf base pointed; usually doesn't look prickly		smooth sowthistle <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>			
	stem solid, little latex	leaves all basal (ignore scales on stem if present)	lvs glabrous or sparsely hairy ('might put in salad'), acute, broadest at middle, with lobes/teeth variable in length but much narrower than spaces inbetween; heads tapering to stem, <b>phyllaries</b> with 'eyelash' hairs.	autumn hawkbit <i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>	likely in all areas. Less exacting than <i>Leontodon</i> although important components of s/n grassland. Happy on damp and acid substrates.		
			lvs bristly hairy (like inside of cat's ear; would not 'put in salad'), obtuse, broadest towards apex, with leaf lobes as wide or wider than the spaces inbetween; heads abruptly contract into stem, <b>phyllaries</b> purple tipped with 'dragon scale hairs' at top.	common cat's ear <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>			
		some true stem lvs present	Usually bristly hairy; lvs dark green, often blotched purple; <b>pappus</b> beige; <b>phyllaries</b> in > 2 or indistinct rows.			hawkweeds <i>Hieracium</i> spp	Most spp indicate dry acid or disturbed habitats, and very unlikely in meadows
			If hairy leaf not bristly; pappus white; phyllaries in 2 rows.	smaller annual, glabrous or sparsely hairy; lvs not clasping. Key trait = unbeaked achenes.		smooth hawksbeard <i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Because an annual /biennial, likely in dry, open grassland.
	larger hairy perennial, stem lvs clasp at base. Key trait = beaked achenes.			beaked hawksbeard <i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Never a quality indicator though can occur in some rich s/n swards.		
	Stem sparsely branched; outer <b>phyllaries</b> exceed flowers, leaves linear				goat's-beard <i>Tragopogon</i>	Typically indicates lightly-managed grassland	

**phyllaries** - the green scales that surround the flower head

**auricles** - outgrowths of leaf blade tissue at junction of leaf and stem

**pappus** - hairs on fruit (dandelion 'clock')