

# DERBYSHIRE FLORA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

EDITED: ALAN WILLMOT (*County Recorder*)

Number 23 - WINTER 2013/2014

## 1. EDITORIAL

I am producing this newsletter on my own this year as Nick is busy with other matters at the moment. It includes details of progress with our new Flora of Derbyshire and the current BSBI survey for date class 5 (2010-2019) plus some recent plant records and details of next summer's field visits.

## 2. RECENT PLANT RECORDS v.c. 57

Here are a few of the new county records and more interesting records I received last year. By the number of records for seaside plants, so called halophytes or salt tolerant plants, you might think that the coastal floods had reached Derbyshire. All records are for 2013 unless indicated otherwise. Disappointingly for me there are no fern records worthy of record this year. Note to me: must try harder.

**Thrift** (*Armeria maritima*) was found at Sheepbridge (SK374755) by Ken Balkow in June last year with Spear-leaved Orache (*Atriplex prostrata*). He commented that it was growing on the edge of the pavement so probably a halophyte rather than an escape.

**Mrs Wilson's Barberry** (*Berberis wilsoniae*) one bush of this was identified as a first county record by Graeme Coles on our first group meeting (7<sup>th</sup> April 2013) to Nether Padley (SK2578) last year.



**Thrift** (*Armeria maritima*)

**Meadow Brome** (*Bromus commutatus*) was found in an uncultivated field near Hall Farm (SK381778) by Ken Balkow in June last (25<sup>th</sup> June 2013). This was the first record in the current time period (i.e. 2010-2019).

**Bladder-sedge** (*Carex vesicaria*) three flowering stems of this rare sedge were discovered on the Bonsall Brook (SK274589) by Claire and Mary Smith in July (20<sup>th</sup> July 2013) just before...

**Whorl-grass** (*Catabrosa aquatica*) was found nearby by Kieron Huston at Bonsall Brook Marshy Hollow (SK27385901) in August (15<sup>th</sup> August 2013). This is the only recent record for this grass.

**Leptinella** (*Cotula squalida*) and **Corsican Toadflax** (*Cymbalaria hepaticifolia*), both first county records for these introduced species, were recorded last summer (9<sup>th</sup> June 2013) by Ambroise Baker from Whirlowbrook Park (SK30698291). They are both well established in the park and could be looked for elsewhere. Picture below is of Corsican Toadflax from the Park.



**Thorn-apple** (*Datura stramonium*) rather like buses you wait for ages for one to come and then two come along together, I had two records for this weed of cultivated ground within a day of each other in the autumn. Roy, a colleague, from the Derby Natural History Society reported a plant in a garden at Mapperley (SK434430) on 4<sup>th</sup> October

and the Ken Balkow reported a plant from the kitchen garden at Chatsworth (SK2670) on 5<sup>th</sup> October. My impression is that this plant grows unseen amongst other herbaceous garden plants but then becomes visible in the autumn when the plants hiding it die down.



**Seaside Daisy** (*Erigeron glaucus*) another first county record, this was recorded as well naturalized on a wall on Chatsworth Road, Somersall (SK353706) by Ken Balkow on 7<sup>th</sup> July. My impression is that this plant does not stand competition as I once grew it in a flower bed but it was crowded out by other perennials.

**Common Ramping-fumitory** (*Fumaria muralis*) This was recorded at Wadshelf (SK316709) amongst stone rubble from a wall by Ken Balkow on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013. This is another notable first for the current time period (2010-2019).





**Water-violet** (*Hottonia palustris*) turned up for the first time at Forbes Hole (SK495324) where it was noted by Marion Bryce on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The site has an interesting aquatic flora as she recorded at the same time from the site both Fine-leaved Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe aquatica*) and Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*).

**Purple Iris** (*Iris versicolor*) Over the period 2011 to 2013 John and Valerie Middleton carried out an extensive survey of the Big Moor area for the Eastern Moors Partnership and the Sorby Natural History Society. This produced a very full and detailed list of the native plants of the area plus a number of new county records for

introduced species including this from a road verge at Totley Moss (SK273801) in 2011.

**Bird's-foot** (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) As some of you may know, I often go out plant hunting with a colleague of mine, Roy Branson, who is interested in war memorials. This takes us to cemeteries and twice last year I recorded this diminutive plant from such areas. I first found it at Long Eaton Cemetery (SK487336) on June 13<sup>th</sup> and then at Clowne Cemetery (SK484762) on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Claire and Mary Smith also recorded it from Rose End Meadows (SK292561) on 17<sup>th</sup> August but as far as I know no one is buried there.

**Buck's-horn Plantain** (*Plantago coronopus*) is a roadside halophyte that seems to be increasing at the present. I first noted it last year on the verge of Kedleston Road at Markeaton (SK338376) in Derby on 27<sup>th</sup> July. We saw it at Tibshelf (SK440600) on our group visit there on August 10<sup>th</sup> where it was growing in the car park by the entrance to the horsebox park. Later on at fungal foray to Hilton Gravel Pits I noted it on the verge of the A516 (SK254312) on 5<sup>th</sup> October, and Felicity Jackson reported it from the A6 at Allestree (SK350399) on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Finally I saw it on the Wilsthorpe Roundabout (SK476337) on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Please look out for it to see if it is spreading but be careful near busy roads; we do not have many active field botanists.



**Water Bent** (*Polypogon viridis*) is an introduced grass from southern Europe that is becoming naturalized in southern England. However, we did not have a record locally until John Hawksford found it in Church Road New Mills (SK003852) on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012. He was surprised to find his record was the first county record here. Then on the 5<sup>th</sup> September last year I noticed an unusual grass on the roadside at Axe Edge Moor (SK031701) which was determined as this species. To me it looked like a rather blue-green Annual Meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) with white skeletal inflorescences since the seeds fall off leaving bare stems, as in the photo above.

**Lesser Sea-spurrey** (*Spergularia marina*) another roadside halophyte or

salt plant was recorded by Felicity Jackson from the junction of the A6 and A38 at Allestree (SK349393) on 6<sup>th</sup> October, and from the Goods Wagon round-about at Ilkeston (SK465425) by me on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

**Intermediate Bridewort** (*Spiraea x rosalba*) was another first county record for an introduced species made by John and Valerie Middleton during their Eastern Moors survey in 2012. They found it on Jack Flat at SK267735.

**Garden Tulip** (*Tulipa gesneriana*) Ken Balkow reported this first county record as growing at Stonegravels Chesterfield (SK388722) between the River Rother and the canal on 21<sup>st</sup> May. I wonder how this ever becomes naturalized since when I plant it in my garden it just flowers once and then disappears.

### **3. COMPUTERISATION OF CURRENT RECORDS**

With the demise of the Derbyshire Biological Records Centre at Derby Museum, I took on the computerization of local vascular plant records using a different computer system, known as Mapmate, provided by the Botanical Society of the British Isles. I have now entered all the records passed to me since the start of 2011 onto this system which is on my desktop at home. However, they do not stay there very long as I forward all new records every month onto the BSBI central recording database for display on their on-line national distribution maps, retaining copies on my machine. Our new local database now contains some 128,000 records from Derbyshire. However, only some 106,000 of these come from the current recording period of 2010-2019 as I have entered a number of records from 2009 and earlier which have only recently been passed on to me. Overall this Mapmate database now includes

records for some 1,336 different species and hybrids. Hopefully it will be possible to eventually merge this database with that which Nick managed at Derby Museum to provide a single resource for all Derbyshire vascular plant records.

**4. PROGRESS WITH FLORA PROJECT**

I had hoped we would be able to get the new Flora out for Christmas 2013. Clearly we failed to achieve this but significant progress has been made over the year. The great majority of the text has been drafted and large sections proof read. We now know that the text will probably run to some 200,000 words which includes around 2,000 systematic entries and introductory text. There should be about 1100 distribution maps and around 100 colored photos of local plants and views. We have just started serious discussions with the probable publishers, and should soon be in a position to hand over the systematic text and maps to them so they can start to lay out the work. Hopefully there will be something more concrete to say before the next newsletter which will be conveyed by e-mail, and by post to those not on the internet.

**5. CLASS 5 RECORDING**

As mentioned above, we now have some 106,000 records from vc 57 for this, the current, date class. The attached diagram breaks these down into individual hectads in terms of how many taxa (species, hybrids and subspecies etc) have been recorded for each since 2009. The diagram also indicates by means of initials where someone has taken responsibility for recording the square. I consider we are only responsible for recording the twenty-nine hectads shaded dark grey of which seventeen have already been adopted by members of our group.

	SE00	SE10				
SJ99	DM SK09 203	SK19 205				
SJ98 108	DB SK08 355	CMS SK18 566	SK28 237	SK38 109	SK48 58	
SJ97 37	CMS SK07 591	SK17 427	SK27 520	KB SK37 668	SK47 537	GC SK57 246
	SK06 245	SK16 386	SK26 470	IW SK36 459	SK46 551	SK56 245
		GH SK15 332	CMS SK25 595	MH SK35 467	RS SK45 536	
		SK14 290	SK24 344	KH SK34 389	BG SK44 487	
	SK03	SK13 318	CH SK23 478	AW SK33 580	MS SK43 557	SK53 204
		SK12	SK22 290	SK32 452	SK42 57	
		SK11	NL SK21 331	SK31 72		

**Fig. 1 Number of Taxa Recorded in 2011 to 2014 for Each Tetrad**

Note that where a tetrad has initials in it the square is being recorded by that person.

Vice-county 57 (i.e. Derbyshire) does extend into other hectads but I consider adjacent vice-counties have the major responsibility for these. Of the twelve so

far un-adopted hectads, three (SK27, SK47 & SK46) already have over 500 taxa recorded for each. It is the remaining nine hectads that I am most concerned about. I intend to organize group visits to these over the next few years but would encourage recorders to look at these if they have spare time.

#### **6. OUTDOOR MEETINGS 2014**

I have tried to produce a programme of meetings which include some good local sites for botanizing plus some sites in hectads that need covering for date class five. It is proving harder and harder to find sites away from pay-and-display car parks so I apologise in advance for including a number of these. If anyone can suggest alternative meeting sites for future years, I should be pleased to hear of them. Details of the meetings are attached as an appendix to this

newsletter, please note this list is identical to the one I circulated by e-mail earlier as a separate mailing.

#### **7. ENQUIRIES**

Any enquiries about the Flora project, plant recording locally or the contents of this newsletter can be sent to me as below.

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Tel. 01332 550373  
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Please note change of my e-mail address.

## Appendix

### DERBYSHIRE FLORA GROUP MEETINGS 2014

All meetings start at 10.30 am and continue until about 4.30 pm.

In case of problems on the day my mobile number is 0794 121 4977.

At other times my phone is 01332 550373 or use my e-mail of alan\_willmot@o2.co.uk .

		TO VISIT	MEETING PLACE
April	5	Roseland Wood	Meet on roadside near Elm Tree Inn, Scarcliffe at SK496686 for Magnesian limestone flora including <i>Campanula trachelium</i> , <i>Allium oleraceum</i> , <i>Orchis mascula</i> etc. Leader Ken Balkow
May	3	Eastern Lathkill Dale	Meet in Over Haddon car park at SK203664 for limestone dale grassland and woodland including <i>Polystichum x bicknellii</i> .
May	31	Winster/Birchover area	Meet in car park at Winster SK245606 for square bashing in a varied area of gritstone and limestone habitats. Leader Ken Balkow.
June	14	Monk's Dale	Meet in Miller's Dale Station car park at SK138733 for square bashing in one of the floristically richest areas of limestone grassland, scrub, crags and marsh in the county.
July	5	Hartington Reserve	Meet in Hartington Station car park at SK149610 for the limestone scrub, grassland and crags of this disused limestone quarry. Hopefully this will include the newly acquired area of the reserve.
July	26	Long Dale	Meet in Friden Station car park at SK172607 for this area of floristically rich limestone grassland hopefully with <i>Huperzia selago</i> .
August	16	Hardwick Ponds	Meet in National Trust car park by the ponds at SK453640 for waterside vegetation and unimproved grassland.
Sept	6	Burbage Brook	Meet in Upper Burbage Bridge car park SK260829 for general moorland vegetation and plants.

A.Willmot

08.02.2014.

Floravc57/Meets 2014