

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017

## BSBI Week at Glynhir, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

Thanks to all who came to this year's Glynhir meeting for producing another exceptional variety of new and updated records. It was good to welcome Gary, an enthusiastic new participant with knowledge of several floral and faunal groups as well as vascular plants. Judging by the emails we've received, the week was enjoyed by all and you found it both instructive and enlightening. Thanks also for so generously giving your time to further advance the recording of the Carmarthenshire Flora and to revisit tetrads which had not been examined post-2000 or which only had a very few recent records. Many of your records were also new 'all-time' tetrad records and some of these are noted below. Although we had our fair share of dull weather and drizzle, conditions could have been much worse and didn't really hamper recording.

We've now had a chance to scan through the record cards and this review includes some of the highlights but a full description and analysis will have to wait until all the data is input.

Graeme showed exceptional enthusiasm by spending about two hours on Monday morning on his way to Glynhir recording in monad SN7740, south of Rhandirmwyn. He increased the total number of species for the tetrad from 2 to 100 and also recorded nearly 30 species from the adjacent monad (SN7739) a visit to which was necessary to access different parts of SN7740. *Rorippa islandica* was in both squares!



*Antennaria dioica*: a rare seed-head missed by the sheep, Banc Wern Wgan, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Photo Kath Pryce

Our Monday afternoon visit to the upland Carboniferous Limestone grassland area at Banc Wern Wgan, Mynydd Du (SN7818) was necessitated by access difficulties at our first-choice sites. In the event, the area, which, in the past, we've shunned because it has been so over-grazed, proved to be very rich, including small limestone crags and spoil heaps where eight previously unrecorded patches of *Antennaria dioica* were found, together with some areas with *Wahlenbergia hederacea* and *Anagallis tenella*, although we failed to find any *Gentianella amarella* plants. We were also convinced by the differences between *Trifolium dubium* and *T. micranthum* when undoubted plants of the latter were discovered juxtaposed with the much more common *T. dubium*!

2017 was the first time for many years that the Glynhir party did not visit the dunes at either the MOD site at Pendine or the RAF range at Pembrey. Defence Estates security is becoming increasingly difficult for group entry so, on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> most of the Glynhir folk were met by Paul Aubrey and Simeon Jones at the Pembrey Burrows Local Nature Reserve (SS4199) (which is also protected by SSSI and SAC designations) located at the opposite (southern) end of the Pembrey Peninsula to the RAF range. Paul is the volunteer ranger and knows the site like the back of his hand and was able to lead us to the most diverse areas.

Despite being well recorded in the past, new populations of *Epipactis palustris* were found in the vicinity of the first pond which holds large stands of *Ranunculus lingua* and *Thalictrum flavum*, both presumably originally introduced as the pond is of man-made origin near the site of some long-gone factory buildings. *Orobancha minor*, past its flowering best, was found in various locations in small populations whilst *Erodium lebellii* was seen only once. Also, only one plant of *Botrychium lunaria* was found - this species is seen in relatively large numbers in association with the thousands of *Anacamptis morio* in the spring of some years.

Of particular interest was *Parapholis strigosa* which was (relatively) prominent on the upper saltmarsh in the eastern part of the monad as, by chance, we had timed our visit just right for the anthers to be extended and easily seen. This was a new record for the LNR and a new tetrad record. In addition to occasional plants of the widespread *Centaureum erythraea*, several patches of the diminutive *C. pulchellum* were also seen in the top-most saltmarsh together with a few *C. littorale*. On the way back to the cars, *Sagina nodosa* and *S. maritima* were found growing together and afforded an opportunity for their comparison, the latter being a new hectad record for the Carms section of SS49.



Above: Examining *Parapholis strigosa* at Pembrey Burrows, 27th June 2017

Below: A small part of the *Usnea articulata* population at Glynhir, 28th June 2017

Photos Kath Pryce (above), Richard Pryce (below)

Also on 27<sup>th</sup> June, encouraged by the target of a tetrad with only two previously recorded post-2000 species, Arthur Copping, Mary and Martyn visited an area on the north-west edge of Brechfa Forest. This involved a difficult walk-in through tussocky *Molinia* (SN43R) to reach SN43W where they were thwarted by heavy windfarm construction traffic along the forest track which prevented them from accessing further into the forest. So, bearing in mind these difficulties, they were more than satisfied with the result of increasing the two previous records in SN43W to 40 and by recording well over 100 species in SN43R.



In the evening, Arthur Chater led the party to follow-up the report that the 'curtain-forming' lichen *Usnea articulata* grows on one of the apple trees in the Glynhir walled garden. There were several 'plants' but all were confined to the one tree. It's interesting to reflect that this species has not been seen here by any of the BSBI attendees in previous years.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>, a day of intermittent drizzle and low cloud, saw the whole of the party visiting Garn Ganol, Crwbin, which includes part of the Coedydd Capel Dyddgen SSSI (SN4612). The land extends to 44 acres and includes ash/hazel-dominated woodland and unimproved and semi-improved grassland on the Carboniferous Limestone as well as oak woodland and a bracken/bluebell-dominated area on acid Millstone Grit and flushed rush pastures, *Molinia*-dominated and *Agrostis capillaris*-dominated acid grasslands. We were met at the site by Nigel Stringer and Stephen and Ann Coker.

Although the numerous *Orchis mascula* and sheets of white *Allium ursinum* and blue *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* clothing the limestone



Above: Near dominant ground-layer of *Neottia ovata* in woodland at Garn Ganol, Crwbin, 28th June 2017 Photo Kath Pryce  
Below: Woodland between the lakes, Talley, 29th June 2017 Photo Kath Pryce



woodland floor were well over, there was plenty of interest in the grassland with abundant *Sanguisorba minor*, *Betonica officinalis*, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, *Briza media* and abundant yellow composites, together with *Carex caryophyllaea* and *C. flacca*. Also, Arthur Copping identified *Schedonorus pratensis* new to the site. At the woodland edge, a few plants of *Geranium columbinum* were discovered together with a putative *Rosa canina* x *caesia* provisionally identified by Arthur Chater and Graeme. *Comarum palustre* was frequent in parts of the largest flushed field (SN4712) and two flowering plants of *Triglochin palustris* were found by Martyn which was also a new species for the site and tetrad. The *Molinia* field, where, in May, we discovered Marsh Fritillary butterflies, has *Carex pulicaris*, *C. hostiana* and *Carum verticillatum*, in unusual abundance. However, we haven't yet found the hybrid of *C. hostiana* with *C. demissa*, perhaps because the latter is particularly scarce with only three plants having been seen to date. Gary pointed-out a Scarlet Tiger moth sheltering in the sward. *Neottia ovata*, although locally abundant in the limestone woodland, was past its best but the few plants of *Botrichium lunaria* discovered by Kath the previous weekend proved to be of particular interest as no-one present was able to recall having previously seen this species growing in woodland. Bron discovered a further three plants, bringing the total to 14.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> saw most of the group visiting Talley Lakes (SN63G) where we were met by Becca Killa and Vaughn Matthews of the Wildlife Trust, Rosie Carmichael of Carmarthenshire County Council Countryside Unit and Stephen and Ann Coker. Again, the weather was dull with periods of rain. The southernmost stand (in the world) of *Carex*

*aquatilis* was monitored on the southern shore of the Upper Lake and found to be in good health although the water quality appears to have deteriorated in recent years, thought to be due to the increasing numbers of Canada Geese. Although Andy found *Littorella uniflora* by the southern shore, the poor water quality may have been the reason for not finding either *Elatine hexandra* or *Isoetes echinospora*, both recorded here during the previous BSBI visits in 2001 and 2004. The *Sparganium* dragged out by Andy probably matches the vegetative plant that keyed out as *S. angustifolia* recorded by Sam Bosanquet in 2012 and the *Typha* that Martyn suspected might be *T. angustifolia* could well be the same species as that which Sam noted on the western bank in 2012. So another visit is required! The *Salix daphnoides* found by Polly in the hedge on the east side of the lake was a new hectad record.

We had been invited by Colin Law, Treasurer of the Carmarthenshire Meadows Group, and had arranged to visit his land near Ffarmers (SN6645) on Friday (30th) from which he'd recently reported *Silene flos-cuculi* without divided petals. A small group comprising of Arthur Chater, Graeme, Richard and Kath set out where it was found that the abnormality was probably the result of the effects of nearby herbicide application and subsequent flowering shoots were normal! However, his land was worth the visit and included a well established *Sorbus torminalis* tree in his boundary hedge as well as a few plants of *Sanguisorba officinalis* in a small area of dominant *Molinia*. The second half of the day was spent tetrad-bashing in SN64M in the vicinity of Cae Caradog as well as in Ffarmers village. The frequency of *Carex pallescens* in rush grassland at Cae Caradog was notable, together with *Juncus x kern-reichgeltii* and a single plant of *Carex laevigata*, but very worrying was the great dominance of *Crassula helmsii* completely covering a small lake and starting to colonize the second lake. A prominent plant of *Trisetum flavescens* was found on a nearby roadside verge which was the first post-2000 hectad record. Ffarmers was not remarkable but several gravel areas around the village had *Rorippa islandica* and *Vulpia bromoides*.

Whereas last year we found *Epipactis helleborine* in many places, only two records were made this year, the first on Friday by Mary, Polly, Bron and David in SN73T at Dolauhirion (SN7636). On rocks by the Afon Tywi at Dolauhirion Bridge they recorded *Campanula rotundifolia*, a plant that has become increasingly scarce in recent years, as well as *Wahlenbergia* and *Claytonia sibirica*, whilst *Rorippa islandica* was growing on a drive not far away. Elsewhere in the tetrad (SN7736) many plants of *Spergula arvensis* and two of *Fumaria muralis* were scattered in a *Matricaria discoidea* 'sward' in a gateway.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July was fine and sunny and Andy, Martyn and Delyth found *Papaver lecoqii* in Laugharne (SN3010), a new hectad record and only the 4th county record (2nd post-2000), whilst, on the saltmarsh, during their unsuccessful search for *Puccinellia rupestris*, previously recorded in 2009, found *Parapholis strigosa*, the first post-2000 hectad record. Martyn and Delyth also found *Geranium columbinum* on both sides of a gateway in Llansadurnen (SN2810) and went on to find a very large population of *Scleranthus annuus* extending along 230m of a track over Hugden Hill, one of the 100 acre enclosures of the medieval Laugharne Corporation three-field system (SN2810 & SN2910). This was the first record for the hectad and only the second post-2000 VC record.

Also on Saturday, Graeme, Mary, Bron and David visited SN73Z where they increased the species total from 14 to about 170. Included was the second *Epipactis helleborine* record of the week, whilst on gravelly heaps in Allt Ty'r-coed (SN7838) they found many plants of *Ornithopus perpusillus*, a new tetrad record and the second post-2000 hectad record. They also found another clump of *Trisetum flavescens*, also on a road verge, this time near Llettyrhaflaeth (SN7839), the first record for the hectad. They also noted *Carum* growing in a field nearby and also in a field in the adjacent tetrad SN73U (SN7738), the latter being a new, all-time tetrad record.



Delyth on the track of the *Scleranthus annuus*, Hugden Hill, Laugharne, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017  
Photo Martyn Stead

Saturday was National Meadows Day and Ruth Watkins of Pen-y-graig-goch (SN7422) had invited us to take part. Both Arthurs, Brian, Pat, Kath and I met Stephen and Ann Coker and Nigel Stringer at the farm. Most of the party spent the morning in the ravine grassland and woodland where a large *Tilia cordata* tree grows on the lip of the gorge of the Sawdde Fechan. After lunch in the shade of the woodland we emerged



Above: Brian, Nigel and the two Arthurs, Pen-y-graig Goch. Photo Kath Pryce  
Below, the M10 flush cordoned-off to avoid excessive trampling, with Nigel, Stephen & Arthur Chater, Pen-y-graig Goch, 1st July 2017. Photo Richard Pryce



to examine the fen meadows of the SSSI where *Platanthera bifolia* was not as plentiful as on previous visits although *Genista anglica* seemed to be somewhat more plentiful. A few *Serratula tinctoria* and *Genista tinctoria* were also seen before we walked over to the NVC M10 flush where five plants of *Epipactis palustris* were in flower amongst the base-loving community including *Eriophorum latifolium*, *Carex pulicaris*, *Eleocharis multicaulis*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Valeriana dioica* and *Pinguicula vulgaris*.

Back at Glynhir, many plants of *Cardamine corymbosa* were pointed out by Graeme growing in the cobbles of the courtyard, who said that Martyn had seen them there a couple of years previously and thought he'd told Kath and me! This is the second county record of the plant, the other site being under the cover of the Great Glasshouse at NBGW. Even more remarkable was the single, rather mangled plant of *Filago vulgaris* growing in the Glynhir cobbles with the *Cardamine* - the fifth post-2000 county record!

On the Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> July), in a distant and unpromising tetrad south of Newcastle Emlyn, Mary, Arthur Copping, Bron & David refound the *Thalictrum flavum* on the roadside near Allt Rhyddgoed-fawr (SN3239) first recorded by Frank Webb in the 1970s, the first post-2000 hectad record. They also had *Stachys x ambigua* (also a new post-2000 hectad record) together with several new tetrad records (eg *Ceratocarpus claviculata*).

Graeme, Delyth and Kath visited the Llanpumsaint tetrad SN42E where they found *Knautia arvensis*, the first post-2000 hectad record, as well as a field with *Carum*, *Lythrum portula*, *Isolepis setacea* and *Veronica scutellata*, the last three being first tetrad records. Elsewhere in the tetrad they had *Rorippa islandica*, *Lathyrus linifolius* and *Hypericum humifusum*, all also first tetrad records.

Andy and Martyn visited the summit of Mynydd Llanybydder (SN53J) where near the source and in the upper valley of the Nant Garedig they found some very diverse mire vegetation and, in Andy's words, "the largest population of *Hypericum elodes* I've ever seen!" They also recorded *Eleogiton fluitans*, *Wahlenbergia* and *Eleocharis multicaulis*, (all these last recorded here in 1993), together with *Carex hostiana* (a new tetrad record) and *C. x fulva* (new to the hectad). On the roadside near their parking place, they had *Spergularia rubra*, only the second post-2000 hectad record.

Arthur Chater, Brian, Pat and I parked at Edwinsford north of Talley (SN63H) where we found an abundance of *Poa nemoralis* on the roadside estate wall, the first hectad record since 1995, whilst a single plant of

*Epilobium roseum* growing at the wall base was the first all-time hectad record. Specimens taken from the large suckering hedgerow elms along the road to the north-west will have to wait for determination until the final volume of Sell & Murrell appears later in the year. *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* in the roadside bank near the disused quarry was also a new post-2000 hectad record. In the quarry, *Euphrasia nemorosa* x *confusa* was a new hectad record (it would appear that there are very few *Euphrasia* records anywhere in SN63) but the highlight was the discovery of thousands of small plants of *Elatine hexandra* in shallow pools, the third VC record. Although Arthur refound the stand of *Brachypodium pinnatum* on the eastern side of Pen-y-Ddinas hill that he discovered there in 1995, there was no sign of the *Epilobium brunnescens* x *ciliatum* found on the same visit, although both parents are still present. A good day which brought the post-2000 species total for the tetrad up from 136 to 258!

There were, of course, many more plant records of interest and we will write a more comprehensive report for the *BSBI Yearbook* in due course.

We are again very grateful to Barry for setting-up two moth traps on the night of 1<sup>st</sup> July. His list is included below: another excellent year, the result of good trapping weather: a total catch of 108 species, including *Celypha aurofasciana*, a new county record!

We can't finish this review without mentioning Arthur Chater's micro-fungi and Nigel's rust recording. On the two days that Nigel joined us he and Arthur recorded 79 rusts of 36 taxa on 47 hosts, including noteworthy rusts on *Quercus x rosacea*, *Genista anglica* and *Carex pallescens*. As well as all the micro-fungi he found during the rest of the week, Arthur found 11 during the day at Garn Ganol including the uncommon Chytrid *Synchytrium succisae* on *Succisa pratensis*.

We have booked next years' Glynhir week from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018** when Dave Earl and Rob Randall intend to be present at least for part of the time so that we can have a stab at re-recording the county's brambles. But for those who might want to mix batology with 'normal' recording, there will be ample opportunities for tetrad bashing and species-monitoring. In this respect, the meeting will maintain a similar format to previous years but please feel free to let us know if you have any comments or suggestions. Rupert at Glynhir is already taking bookings for next year.



Andy coming to examine the single, rather mangled *Filago vulgaris* plant growing in the Glynhir courtyard, 1st July 2017 Photo Richard Pryce

Once again, thank you all very much for your contributions and expertise, including Katy, Carole, Rupert and staff at Glynhir, and we look forward to another successful week next year.

Richard and Kath

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**GLYNHIR MOTH TRAP RESULTS, 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017**  
Barry Stewart

**Lepidoptera**

<i>Yponomeuta malinellus/cagnagella</i>	a moth	1	
<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	Diamond-back Moth	1	
<i>Pseudatemelia josephinae</i>	a moth	1	
<i>Coleophora discordella</i>	a moth	1	
<i>Archips podana</i>	Large Fruit-tree Tortrix	1	
<i>Archips xylosteana</i>	Variegated Golden Tortrix	1	
<i>Pandemis cinnamomeana</i>	a moth	1	
<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	15	
<i>Cacoecimorpha pronubana</i>	Carnation Tortrix	1	
<i>Aleimma loeflingiana</i>	a moth	1	
<i>Acleris variegana</i>	Garden Rose Tortrix	1	
<i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	Marbled Orchard Tortrix	1	
<i>Hedya pruniana</i>	Plum Tortrix	1	
<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	a moth	3	
<i>Celypha aurofasciana</i>	a moth	1	new for vc44
<i>Eucosma cana</i>	a moth	1	
<i>Anania hortulata</i>	Small Magpie	1	
<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	Mother of Pearl	1	
<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	a moth	2	
<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>	a moth	3	
<i>Eudonia delunella</i>	a moth	3	
<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	a moth	1	
<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	Garden Grass-veneer	8	
<i>Crambus pascuella</i>	a moth	2	
<i>Drepana falcataria</i>	Pebble Hook-tip	1	
<i>Thyatira batis</i>	Peach Blossom	3	
<i>Habrosyne pyritoides</i>	Buff Arches	10	
<i>Laothoe populi</i>	Poplar Hawk-moth	13	
<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Elephant Hawk-moth	9	
<i>Idaea aversata</i>	Riband Wave	12	
<i>Timandra comae</i>	Blood-Vein	1	
<i>Campogramma bilineata</i>	Yellow Shell	1	
<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Common Carpet	3	
<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	July Highflier	2	
<i>Gandaritis pyraliata</i>	Barred Straw	5	
<i>Dystroma truncata</i>	Common Marbled Carpet	1	
<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet	4	
<i>Hydrelia sylvata</i>	Waved Carpet	4	
<i>Venusia blomeri</i>	Blomer's Rivulet	3	
<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	Double-striped Pug	1	

<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>	V-Pug	4
<i>Pasiphila rectangulata</i>	Green Pug	1
<i>Pasiphila debiliata</i>	Bilberry Pug	1
<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	Common Pug	1
<i>Pterapherapteryx sexalata</i>	Small Seraphim	2
<i>Abraxas sylvata</i>	Clouded Magpie	2
<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	10
<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	Early Thorn	2
<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i>	Swallow-tailed Moth	3
<i>Biston betularia</i>	Peppered Moth	20
<i>Deileptenia ribeata</i>	Satin Beauty	3
<i>Alcis repandata</i>	Mottled Beauty	2
<i>Ectropis bistortata/crepuscularia</i>	Engrailed/Small Engrailed	1
<i>Lomographa temerata</i>	Clouded Silver	5
<i>Campaea margaritaria</i>	Light Emerald	15
<i>Cleorodes lichenaria</i>	Brussels Lace	7
<i>Geometra papilionaria</i>	Large Emerald	1
<i>Hemithea aestivaria</i>	Common Emerald	7
<i>Stauropus fagi</i>	Lobster Moth	1
<i>Notodonta dromedarius</i>	Iron Prominent	2
<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	Pebble Prominent	1
<i>Pheosia tremula</i>	Swallow Prominent	1
<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	Buff-tip	15
<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	Straw Dot	8
<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	Snout	15
<i>Lymantria monacha</i>	Black Arches	1
<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>	Pale Tussock	1
<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	Buff Ermine	2
<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine	4
<i>Arctia caja</i>	Garden Tiger	6
<i>Eilema depressa</i>	Buff Footman	3
<i>Herminia tarsipennalis</i>	Fan-foot	1
<i>Herminia grisealis</i>	Small Fan-foot	7
<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	Spectacle	1
<i>Diachrysia chrysitis</i>	Burnished Brass	1
<i>Autographa pulchrina</i>	Beautiful Golden Y	8
<i>Autographa bractea</i>	Gold Spangle	1
<i>Deltote pygarga</i>	Marbled White Spot	10
<i>Acronicta tridens</i>	Dark Dagger	1
<i>Acronicta tridens/psi</i>	Dark Dagger / Grey Dagger	1
<i>Acronicta psi</i>	Grey Dagger	1
<i>Craniophora ligustri</i>	Coronet	7
<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	Small Mottled Willow	2
<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria</i>	Uncertain	2
<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Rustic	2
<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	Small Angle Shades	5

<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	2
<i>Oligia strigilis</i>	Marbled Minor	1
<i>Oligia versicolor</i>	Rufous Minor	1
<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	Middle-barred Minor	1
<i>Polia nebulosa</i>	Grey Arches	15
<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	Bright-line Brown-eye	6
<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Dot Moth	5
<i>Mamestra brassicae</i>	Cabbage Moth	1
<i>Mythimna turca</i>	Double Line	12
<i>Mythimna pudorina</i>	Striped Wainscot	2
<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	3
<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Heart and Dart	10
<i>Axylia putris</i>	Flame	6
<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>	Purple Clay	15
<i>Diarsia mendica</i>	Ingrailed Clay	2
<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	4
<i>Noctua janthe</i>	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	1
<i>Anaplectoides prasina</i>	Green Arches	40
<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	Setaceous Hebrew Character	1
<i>Xestia ditrapezium</i>	Triple-spotted Clay	1
<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	Double Square-spot	9
<i>Nycteola revayana</i>	Oak Nycteoline	2
<b><u>Coleoptera</u></b>		
<i>Lagria hirta</i>		1