

BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2011

The year began at Newhall in SJ64C where 111 records were added. *Fritillaria meleagris* on the road verge was an odd throw-out as was *Ranuncus ficaria flore pleno* (now *Ficaria verna* fp). Both *Crataegus laevigata* and the hybrid were spotted in a hedge, and *Cochlearia danica* was inevitably on the A530. Next we went to Aston juxta Mondrum where a nice churchyard had *Ranunculus auricomus* and 123 additions were made to SJ65N. We then wandered into 65M and added 16 new species out of 61 records including *Ilex x altaclarensis*. Spring flowers included *Mercurialis perennis* and *Ranunculus auricomus* again. SJ55R at Faddiley had 61 new species with rather boring fields but *Oenanthe aquatica*, *Carex spicata* and confirmed *Rhamnus* revived us. We passed through SJ55Q adding 82 including *Rosa x dumetorum* and *Trisetum flavescens*.

SJ74J with 176 records was enlivened by *Anisantha diandra*, *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*, *Oenanthe aquatica*, *Stachys x ambigua*, and *Senecio sylvaticus*, and yet more *Anisantha diandra* appeared on our trip from Winterley Pool in SJ75N where it was joined by *A. rigida*. 158 records included *Frangula alnus* and *Phalaris canariensis*, which seems rare these days. In SJ75M, a kind farmer showed us a site for *Catabrosa aquatica*, which was flourishing under his management. *Echinochloa crus-galli*, unexpected *Thalictrum flavum* by a new pond (probably introduced) and more *Frangula* contributed to 207 records. Recording SJ64M, N, S and T in one day was a logistical nightmare and one member got so dizzy, he fell into the R. Weaver! Very fortunately only dignity was injured. 280 records were added including a splendid new colony of *Dipsacus pilosus*, *Carduus tenuiflorus* miles from the sea and a solitary *Tilia platyphyllos*. A post-pub wander through water-meadows at Mickle Trafford gave us 160 in SJ47K with *Thalictrum flavum*, *Diplotaxis muralis*, and *Carex riparia*, while SJ47Q added 49 with *Stachys x ambigua*, and *Urtica urens*. Other interesting finds for the year included *Lepidium latifolium* flourishing in the middle of the M56, and *Dipsacus laciniatus* on the M56/A556 roundabout. This was also found at Ringway and is increasing rapidly. *Calceolaria tripartita* was a remarkable find by a ranger by the R Etherow. *Hypopitys monotropa* spread outside its building site thus escaping the destruction and was also translocated nearby. David Bishop spotted that *Geum macrophyllum* was well naturalised in Wythenshawe Park amid the *Geum urbanum* and like-wise, *Sibthorpia europaea* at Rode Hall was found by Stewart Hinsley, which mirrors its occurrence at Biddulph Grange in Staffs, not far away. *Cardamine corymbosa* has finally and inevitably turned up in Cheshire, found by Martyn Stead and Julie Clarke in different places.

Now, how about all you bashful members doing a bit of recording on your own? If everyone recorded a local tetrad, perhaps the one you live in, it would be a big help in building the hectad numbers. It only takes a few visits to get a reasonable list and they need not all be in one year. Covering the seasons and the area gives the best result and you can choose a sunny day! Being close by makes it easy to do a little bit now and then. It is often the locals who spot the unusual plants and know where the best areas are, and local knowledge might get you access to sites a non-local might not. Any problems could be sent to me as specimens or good photos.

If you receive this by post, please let me know if you have an email address and if you are not interested in recording, please also let me know. If this comes via email, please let me know you got it!

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CHESHIRE PLANT RECORDING MEETINGS FOR 2011

Meetings begin at 2pm unless otherwise stated and last until 5-6pm. It is usually a gentle stroll and all are invited but these days it is at your own risk.

Sunday 17th April 2pm Warburtons Wood
Park in lay-by at SJ557755. Rich spring woodland flora.

Saturday 14th May 2pm Croxton Green
Park in lay-by at SJ558527 for a circuit to the west.

Sunday 12th June 2pm Bate's Mill
Park on verge N of canal at SJ532603 to walk west on the south side of the canal. Lunch in the Bate's Mill pub 12 noon onwards.

Friday 24th June 10am Hilbre Island
Meet by the toilets (none on island) at SJ210867 West Kirby, for a prompt departure. We must leave the island by 3pm. Park along the road to the south and don't forget a packed lunch.

Tuesday 5th July 2pm Bradley Green
Park in lay-by at SJ507458. Old site for *Baldellia*, and *Apium inundatum*.
Lunch in the Wheatsheaf Inn, No Man's Heath, SJ515480

Sunday 24th July 2pm Farndon
Park in disused lane at SJ422542 to record in Kings Marsh. *Baldellia* site.
Meet in the White Horse Inn at Churton SJ418564 12 noon onwards for a pub lunch if you wish.

Saturday 27th August 10.30am Kelsall. Bring packed lunch.
Park in broad road at SJ513682 and walk to Kelsall and to the north.

Saturday 10th September 2pm Nantwich
Park in old lane at SJ673518.

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Lepidium latifolium on M56



Dipsacus laciniatus on M56 roundabout



Calceolaria tripartita (courtesy Marion Chappell)