

BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2003

At last the new Atlas of the British Flora has been published after many years' work, and a magnificent, though slightly flawed work it is. Recording has, of course, continued in Cheshire with several exciting discoveries. Ralph Goodchild has been scouring the Wirral and come across *Kickxia elatine* (Sharp-leaved Fluellen) and *Physalis peruviana* (Cape-gooseberry) on disturbed areas and remarkably, *Echium plantagineum* (Purple Viper's-bugloss) as a weed in a crop of quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa*), a grain from South America. *Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort) is worth looking out for, as it seems to be increasing. It looks like a scrawny Oxford Ragwort. Another foreigner was *Acaena novae-zelandiae* (Pirri-pirri-bur), which is naturalised in several places on the new trans-Europe footpath between Lymm and Altrincham. On the rose front, it is now clear that *R. obtusifolia* (Round-leaved Dog-rose) is not at all rare with records from many more hectads than in the Atlas. We were not sure of it on the meeting at Gallantry Bank, which was geared to finding it, but it was very wet! *R. virginiana* (Virginian Rose) is well naturalised near Dunham Massey crematorium and two possible sites for *R. x alba* (White Rose of York) are under investigation. Pride of place goes to *R. arvensis x tomentosa* at Antrobus which only has one other located site in Britain and *R. agrestis* (Small-leaved Sweet-briar) which needs limestone and hence should not occur in Cheshire, but is happily growing on an ICI lime-waste tip near Runcorn!

This year sees the start of the Local Change Project to monitor changes since the Monitoring Scheme in 1987-8 and several meetings are in relevant tetrads. The idea is to record tetrads A, J & W in SJ37, SJ64, SJ67 & SJ97 and perhaps, SD90. Let me know if you want to get involved. The meetings mainly begin at 2pm and last until 5pm-ish, though a couple are all day excursions. Everyone is welcome even if it is just for the walk! I thought it might be more social if we met in a pub for a drink and a sandwich first, and two of the meetings do just that. So, on April 26th I plan to be in the Bleeding Wolf at Scholar Green from 12.30pm and to start the walk at 2pm, so you can arrive for either time. If they will not let us park, we can move to Church Lawton church (SJ821557). On 22nd July, I plan to reach the Antrobus Arms for ca 12.30pm and move on at 2pm, so you can join in just for the afternoon if you wish. A shuttle service will return you to your car.

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.

Graeme M Kay 4, Geneva Road, Bramhall, Cheshire SK7 3HT
0161 439 7995 mobile on meeting days 07890 338268
email graeme.m.kay@talk21.com

CHESHIRE PLANT RECORDING MEETINGS FOR 2003

Saturday April 26th SCHOLAR GREEN/HALL GREEN
Meet in the Bleeding Wolf SJ832561 at 12.30pm or 2pm to head west.

Sunday May 18th BARTHOMLEY 2pm
Park in lay-by on A500 at SJ776524 to walk west.

Saturday June 21st BACKFORD 2pm Local Change tetrad
Park under motorway on west side of road at SJ392727 to walk west.

Saturday July 5th SOUND 2pm Local Change tetrad
Park in car-park at SJ623479. We will explore lanes to the north.

Tuesday July 22nd FRANDLEY 10.30am Local Change tetrad
Park in lane at SJ632784 and walk north to the Antrobus Arms SJ637796
for lunch or meet there for 2pm.

Saturday August 16th WAVERTON 10.30am
Park in lay-by at SJ472624 for a clockwise circuit of the tetrad along
canal and footpaths.
Bring a packed lunch.

Saturday September 13th MOSSLEY 2pm (Local Change tetrad)
Park in lay-by at SD984028 and go west to the old railway and canal.

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