



# Flora of North-west Yorkshire

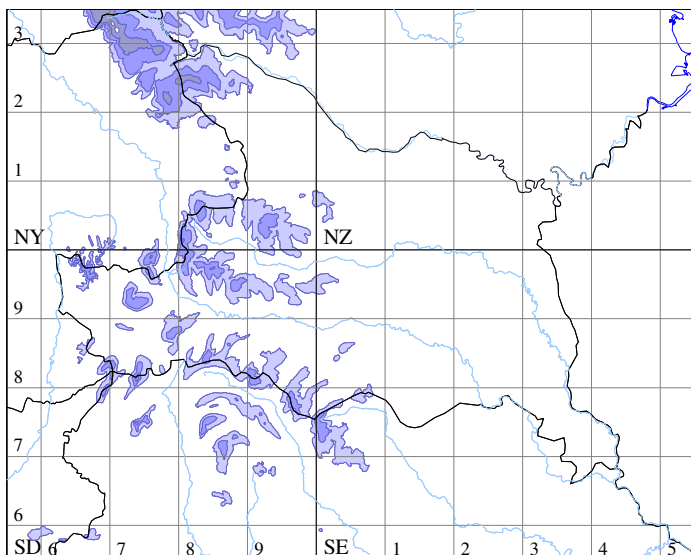
## A botanical newsletter for VC65

Issue 3. Spring 2010/11

**Welcome** to this our third newsletter for VC65 which is intended to keep you up-to date with botanical activities in North-west Yorkshire.

### A brief tour of the county

Many of you are probably not familiar with the county so here is brief botanical tour of its boundary. VC 65 is a relatively big county by British standards covering 24,081 km<sup>2</sup> (the 39<sup>th</sup> largest in GB). It encompasses 39 hectads including 11 which are entirely within the VC (see map opposite) - these are given in bold in the following list: SE36, SE46, SD97, SE07, SE17, SE27, SE37, SE47, SD68, SD78, SD88, SD98, **SE08, SE18, SE28**, SE38, SD69, SD79, SD89, **SD99, SE09, SE19, SE29**, SE39, NY80, **NY90, NZ00, NZ10**, NZ20, NZ30, NY81, **NY91**, NZ01, NZ11, NZ21, NY72, NY82, NY92, NZ02. We start our tour on the summit of Crag Hill in the SE corner of the county where VC65 meets three other counties (VCs 64, 60 and 69). From here the boundary runs over the NE slopes of Whernside and crosses the northern edge of Upper Wharfedale above Oughtershaw crossing the B6160 north of Cray to the summit of Buckden Pike.



Botanical vice-county 65 (land above 500m in blue)

From here it follows the northern watershed of Nidderdale meeting the River Ure near to West Tanfield north of Ripon. The Ure then forms a natural southern boundary as far as Boroughbridge (although there are complications where the river has been re-aligned) where it meets the River Swale just north of the confluence.

The Rivers Swale and Wiske form the eastern boundary of the county as far north as the Tees at Stockburn. It then runs west along the south bank of the Tees as far as Maize Beck, taking in the botanical delights of High and Low Force, Holwick Meadows and Cronkley Fell. The western boundary is very indistinct crossing a remote area of moorland via Mickle Fell, the Stainmore Gap (and the A66) and the head of Swaledale. From here it follows the watershed on the Mallerstang ridge before crossing the upper Eden Valley and the southern half of the Howgill Fells. The final stretch runs south along the Lune Valley to the south of Sedbergh and across the south of Dentedale to Crag Hill.

### Field Meetings in 2010

The Field Meetings in the eastern side of the vice county were again quite well attended thanks mainly due to Dr. Margaret Bradshaw and her Monday night Botany Group members, notably Falgunee Sarker, Trish Snaith and Andy Watson. Megs, Chris, Janet and Angela from Northumberland again travelled up to 2 hours to attend meetings in this half of the v.c.

On the central and western side of the vice-county we have to thank Julie Clarke who has taken on the recording of Dentedale (Hectad SD78), Dr. Mike Canaway and his Craven Botany group and Brian Burrow whose interest in the Hieracia and Taraxacum is a real bonus for the v.c.

Many thanks for your help.

## Notable finds in 2010

*Cardamine x zahlbruckneriana* – the hybrid between *Carex flexuosa* and *Carex hirsuta* was spotted by Brian Burrow, accompanied by Julie Clarke, Mike Canaway and Linda Robinson (LR) on a roadside verge on the outskirts of West Burton village on 23.4.10, this was a 1<sup>st</sup> record for v.c.65. (SE00 86).

*Carex aquatilis* after being searched for very thoroughly in the last two years was sadly thought to have gone from its two v.c.65 sites in Teesdale, however the sharp eyes of Falgunee Sarker and Margaret Bradshaw on a Field Meeting with the Teesdale Botany Group discovered it on the edge of a ditch in Cronkley Meadows known as the Little Tees. Unfortunately moves were afoot to dig out the ditch to improve drainage in the field with guidance from Natural England. Fortunately the discovery of the Water Sedge in what might now be its only site in v.c.65 came just at the right time and although the ditch will still be cleaned out the contractors will try avoid the Sedge which hopefully will survive. (NY86 28).

*Cerastium semidecandrum* – Found during a visit to Easby Abbey near Richmond by LR on 14.8.10 growing among the ruins, this was the 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record since 1970. (NZ18 00).

*Cirsium x celakovskianum* – the hybrid between *Cirsium palustre* and *Cirsium arvense* was spotted by Mike Wilcox on the road from Hawes to Ribbleshead near the Old Dairy Farm on 22.7.10. 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record (SD82 86).

*Cirsium x celakovskianum* – this was spotted by Julie Clarke on the roadside verge below Dent Head Viaduct on 31.7.10, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> v.c.65 record (SD76 82). It was found again later the same day at nearby Mossy Bottom.

*Crataegus laevigata* – One tree planted near farm buildings at Swineley House, Widdale, found by Julie Clarke, Sheila Wynn and LR on 30.6.10 (SD80 84). This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for v.c.65.

*Geranium rotundifolium* – 1<sup>st</sup> record for v.c.65, found by Julie Clarke on waste ground in Sedbergh on 9.9.10 (SD64 92).

*Gymnadenia conopsea* – May be 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record, found by Ian Wallace and LR on 11.7.10 at Nosterfield Nature Reserve. Det. Alan Gendle & Orchid Society. (SE26 78).

*Mentha x gracilis* – 1<sup>st</sup> record in v.c.65 since 1970. Found by LR, Brian Burrow, Mike Canaway and Julie Clarke growing on roadside verge below Dent Head Viaduct on 31.7.10. (SD76 84).

*Mentha x villosa* var. *alopecuroides* – May be 1<sup>st</sup> record in v.c.65. Found alongside the river in Cotterdale by Brian Burrow on 20.9.10. (SD84 90).

*Rosa x sabinii* – 1<sup>st</sup> record in v.c.65 since 1970. This hybrid between *Rosa spinosissima* and *Rosa villosa* was found below Dent Head Viaduct, by Julie Clarke, Brian Burrow, Mike Canaway and LR on 31.7.10 (SD76 84). Another bush was found near the railway line at Mossy Bottom in the next tetrad the same day. Both det. R. Maskew.

*Trichophorum x foersteri* – 1<sup>st</sup> records in v.c.65 of the hybrid between *Trichophorum cespitosum* and *Trichophorum germanicum*. Found in 2 tetrads on Cam Fell by LR on 16.8.10 (SD80 82 & SD82 82), det. M. Braithwaite. Found a week later near the issue of White Well on Cronkley Fell by Margaret Bradshaw on 23.8.10 (NY82 28) det. F.J. Roberts. Jeremy now has a website <http://www.edencroft2.demon.co.uk/Deergrasses/deergrasses.html> which will help in the identification of *Trichophorum* spp. and the *Hymenophyllum* spp. Filmy Ferns

*Vaccinium uliginosum* – Another plant found by Brian Burrow on 31.8.10. growing on gritstone below Lovely Seat, this is the 4<sup>th</sup> record in v.c.65. (SD86 92).

## Aliens

*Fallopia baldschuanica* – 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record. Found by LR probably planted by the bridge in Cotterdale on 3.9.10 (SD82 92).

*Geranium x oxianum* – 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record for this garden species, found by Brian Burrow, Julie Clarke, Mike Canaway and LR near the waterfall in West Burton on 23.4.10 (SE00 86).

*Linum grandiflorum* – 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record. This usually red coloured garden species is often included in commercial wild flower mixes. This was planted on the village green in Barningham along with other 'wild flowers'. Recorded by Julie Clarke, Graeme Kay, Priscilla Tolfree, John Somerville and LR on 29.8.10 (NZ08 10).

*Sanguisorba minor* ssp. *balearicum* – 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record for this agricultural species also known as 'Fodder Burnet', planted with the *Linum* above on the same patch of

Barningham village green on the same day 29.8.10 (NZ080 10).

*Spiraea* 'Anthony Waterer' – 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record, spotted by Julie Clarke naturalised and spreading down river opposite a garden below Dent Head Viaduct on 31.7.10 (SD76 84).

*Trachystemon orientalis* – 1<sup>st</sup> v.c.65 record. Garden throw-out spreading alongside the river below the waterfall in West Burton, recorded by Julie Clarke, Brian Burrow, Mike Canaway and LR on 23.4.10 (SE00 86).

### Non-botanical record for v.c.65

Steve Hewitt, an entomologist at Tullie House Museum in Carlisle, Cumbria noticed *Trollius europaeus* leaves which had been mined by insect larvae in the north of Cumbria at Gowk Bank. He was interested to see if they had been seen elsewhere in Cumbria and accompanied LR and fellow botanist Marie Saag to a good *Trollius* site in the northern Pennines near Alston in June 2010. A good population of the leaf mining Sawfly *Pseudodineura enslini* (Hering) was found, this Sawfly which is mainly found in Scotland was new to Cumbria.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June LR was down on Marsett Rigg near Semerwater in v.c.65 and found two good populations of the Sawfly on two patches of *Trollius* – see picture below.



Steve Hewitt would appreciate it if people could keep an eye out for these larvae which are the only Sawfly species to mine *Trollius* leaves, the grubs vacate the leaves around July but the mines will still be obvious and full of frass. If you spot these mines can you let

Steve know, also if you would like to read his paper published in *The Carlisle Naturalist*, 18, (2), Autumn 2010 p.40-41 please get in touch with him at Tullie House Museum, Carlisle or email [SteveH@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:SteveH@carlisle.gov.uk)

### Requests from other Organisations

Timothy Laurie, Chairman of the recently formed 'Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeological Group' <http://swaag.org/> got in touch with Linda offering their records of relict woodland vegetation recorded on the limestone scars in the area, they are also interested in receiving any records of buried tree remains below peat. If anyone know of any sites perhaps they could email Timothy Laurie with details on [tlaurie2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tlaurie2000@yahoo.co.uk)

### BSBI Threatened Plant Project

During this summer, Threatened Plant Project surveys were carried out by Kevin Walker on the *Polystichum lonchitis* sites on the south-western edge of the v.c., LR did the *Polystichum lonchitis* site on Cam Fell. Julie Clarke did sterling work on the western edge of the v.c. surveying numerous *Meum athamanticum* sites, thanks also to Geoffrey Halliday who assisted. *Chrysanthemum segetum* was recorded by LR in an arable field near Dishforth in the south of the v.c., unfortunately she never gave a thought to the TPP Survey so this will have to be done in 2011. Another *Coeloglossum viride* site was found in Mossy Bottom on the edge of the railway line, LR did a TPP survey form for this site. TPP forms were filled in by LR for an extra site of *Blysmus compressus* found alongside the Tees just above Middleton-in-Teesdale and an extra site for *Gentianella campestris* on the banks of the Tees alongside Cronkley Meadows.

This project covers a new set of species in 2011, these are *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain), *Cicendia filiformis* (Yellow Centaury), *Cuscuta epithymum* (Dodder), *Galium pumilum* (Slender Bedstraw), *Juncus compressus* (Round-fruited Rush), *Neotinea ustulata* (Burnt Orchid), *Pseudorchis albida* (Small-white Orchid), *Sedum villosum* (Hairy Stonecrop), *Silene conica* (Sand Catchfly) and *Torilis arvensis* (Spreading Hedge-parsley). Linda and Kevin will be visiting these sites and if you would like to come along please get in touch with them or if you know any localities in v.c.65 for any of these we would very much appreciate the information.

## New checklist

In 2010 KW and LR helped compile a new checklist of the flowering plants and ferns of Yorkshire covering all five Watsonian vice-counties. This has been produced to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the YNU and the spreadsheet is available at: <http://www.ynu.org.uk/plants> It was a very useful exercise and has, for the first, time allowed us to see just how many plants have been recorded in the county. The table below gives a breakdown. What really stands out are the large number of native and alien species that have been recorded in the VC and the fact that many have not been recorded recently. Although many of the aliens are probably casuals, the numbers of natives seems quite high and probably reflects the lack of systematic recording across the county in recent decades. Having said species such as *Cypripedium calceolus* are genuinely extinct but are others like *Bartsia alpina*, last recorded 1906, just overlooked? So if you want a challenge we can supply the list of 'extinctions' for you to refind!

Numbers of native and alien species recorded in VC65

| Last recorded | Native | Alien | Total |
|---------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Pre-1900      | 74     | 70    | 144   |
| 1901-1950     | 59     | 53    | 112   |
| 1951-1970     | 67     | 51    | 118   |
| 1970-1999     | 275    | 182   | 457   |
| 2000+         | 682    | 183   | 865   |
| Unknown       | 1      | 2     | 3     |
| Total         | 1158   | 541   | 1699  |

## Recording plans for the future

We are still dealing with the backlog of paper records that we inherited from Deborah; this is proving to be a big job as there are literally 1000s of records lurking in our files and card indexes. A good start has been made and these will be inputted into MapMate over the next few winters and added to the c.40,000 records or so already in the *Vascular Plants Database* at CEH Wallingford (formerly Monks Wood).

As we need to produce a Rare Plants Register for the v.c. we are still focusing our recording efforts on species that are either nationally rare or scarce (i.e. recorded in less than 100 10 × 10 km squares) or classified as threatened in the new Red Data List of the British flora published in 2005. Currently this includes the 126 native and archaeophyte taxa listed below:

|                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Actaea spicata</i>         | <i>Hypericum montanum</i>       |
| <i>Alchemilla acutiloba</i>   | <i>Juncus alpinoarticulatus</i> |
| <i>Alchemilla glaucescens</i> | <i>Juncus compressus</i>        |

|                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Alchemilla glomerulans</i>     | <i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i>    |
| <i>Alchemilla minima</i>          | <i>Limosella aquatica</i>         |
| <i>Alchemilla monticola</i>       | <i>Linum perenne</i>              |
| <i>Alchemilla subcrenata</i>      | <i>Luronium natans</i>            |
| <i>Alchemilla wichurae</i>        | <i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>     |
| <i>Allium oleraceum</i>           | <i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>      |
| <i>Alopecurus borealis</i>        | <i>Meum athamanticum</i>          |
| <i>Anthemis arvensis</i>          | <i>Minuartia hybrid</i>           |
| <i>Arabis glabra</i>              | <i>Minuartia verna</i>            |
| <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> ssp. | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i>         |
| <i>pachyrachis</i>                | <i>Myosotis stolonifera</i>       |
| <i>Bartsia alpina</i>             | <i>Myosurus minimus</i>           |
| <i>Blysmus compressus</i>         | <i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i> |
| <i>Bromopsis benekenii</i>        | <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>         |
| <i>Cardamine impatiens</i>        | <i>Ophrys insectifera</i>         |
| <i>Carex capillaris</i>           | <i>Anacamptis morio</i>           |
| <i>Carex digitata</i>             | <i>Neotinea ustulata</i>          |
| <i>Carex ericetorum</i>           | <i>Orobanche alba</i>             |
| <i>Carex muricata</i> ssp.        |                                   |
| <i>muricata</i>                   | <i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>   |
| <i>Carex vaginata</i>             | <i>Orobanche reticulata</i>       |
| <i>Chenopodium bonus-</i>         |                                   |
| <i>henricus</i>                   | <i>Papaver argemone</i>           |
| <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>      | <i>Persicaria minor</i>           |
| <i>Circaea alpina</i>             | <i>Peucedanum ostruthium</i>      |
| <i>Clinopodium calamintha</i>     | <i>Pilularia globulifera</i>      |
| <i>Cochlearia micacea</i>         | <i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>       |
| <i>Cochlearia pyrenaica</i>       | <i>Polygala amarella</i>          |
| <i>Coeloglossum viride</i>        | <i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>      |
| <i>Crepis mollis</i>              | <i>Potamogeton coloratus</i>      |
| <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>     | <i>Potamogeton friesii</i>        |
| <i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>      | <i>Potentilla crantzii</i>        |
| <i>Dactylorhiza</i>               |                                   |
| <i>traunsteinerioides</i>         | <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>       |
| <i>Daphne mezereum</i>            | <i>Potentilla neummanniana</i>    |
| <i>Draba muralis</i>              | <i>Primula farinosa</i>           |
| <i>Dryas octopetala</i>           | <i>Pseudorchis albida</i>         |
| <i>Dryopteris submontana</i>      | <i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>        |
| <i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>       | <i>Ribes alpinum</i>              |
| <i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i>      | <i>Ribes spicatum</i>             |
| <i>Equisetum pratense</i>         | <i>Rosa agrestis</i>              |
| <i>Equisetum variegatum</i>       | <i>Rumex pseudoalpinus</i>        |
| <i>Eriophorum gracile</i>         | <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>         |
| <i>Erophila majuscula</i>         | <i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>        |
| <i>Euphorbia exigua</i>           | <i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>     |
| <i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i> ssp. | <i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>     |
| <i>montana</i>                    | <i>Sedum villosum</i>             |
| <i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i> ssp. | <i>Sesleria caerulea</i>          |
| <i>rostkoviana</i>                | <i>Silene gallica</i>             |
| <i>Filago vulgaris</i>            | <i>Silene noctiflora</i>          |
| <i>Fumaria purpurea</i>           | <i>Sium latifolium</i>            |
| <i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>     | <i>Sorbus rupicola</i>            |
| <i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>         | <i>Spergula arvensis</i>          |
| <i>Genista anglica</i>            | <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>        |
| <i>Gentiana verna</i>             | <i>Stachys arvensis</i>           |
| <i>Gentianella campestris</i>     | <i>Stellaria palustris</i>        |

|                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>    | <i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>  |
| <i>Groenlandia densa</i>        | <i>Teucrium scordium</i>     |
| <i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i> | <i>Thlaspi caerulescens</i>  |
| <i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i>  | <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>    |
| <i>ssp. levigatum</i>           | <i>Utricularia australis</i> |
| <i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>     | <i>Valerianella dentata</i>  |
| <i>Hornungia petraea</i>        | <i>Vicia orobus</i>          |
| <i>Hymenophyllum wilsonii</i>   | <i>Viola tricolor</i>        |
| <i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>         | <i>Woodsia ilvensis</i>      |

Some of these species are long extinct (e.g. *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Woodsia ilvensis*) whereas others are relatively common in VC65 (e.g. *Minuartia verna*, *Primula farinosa*, *Sesleria caerulea*). We would welcome any recent records or help with checking out old sites for any of these species.

We have already made a start to record the flora of the entire county, at the tetrad scale, indeed a lot of our records are at the monad scale and we are now thinking perhaps this may be the way forward as other Yorkshire v.c.'s have recorded on this scale, we hope to keep going over the next 19 years. Initially we intend to focus on hectads for which we have very few records. To this end we have planned a series of field trips to various parts of the county during next summer (see below). Please feel free to come along to these meetings or alternatively if you would like to concentrate on specific areas or hectads closer to home then please feel free to get in touch to see how we can help. We can supply lists of species for each hectad, probably some old records and recording forms.

### Field Meetings 2011

All Field Meetings start at 10.30am

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April** - Checking old records of *Gagea lutea* in Wensleydale. Meet Cover Bridge at SE144.870 (roadside near the Pub). This a joint meeting with the U3A Botany Group from Cumbria.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April** - Checking riverside for *Gagea lutea* and other spring species. Meet at road junction at NZ001.207, just N of Wilden Bridge near Cotherstone.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May** - Spring flora. Meet near Sharow, Ripon - near Church and School at SE326.721.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** - North of Sedbergh on the wide verge north of Foxhole Rigg Wood at SD693.955. Looking for an old record of *Festuca altissima*

**Week-end 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May** - *Alchemilla* identification course with Dr. M.E. Bradshaw, based in Egglestone in Teesdale. If you would like to attend details can be obtained from Dr. M.E. Bradshaw on 01833650589.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June** - Catterick riverside and woodland. Meet in centre of Catterick village near the Church at SE240.980.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June** - Great Knoutberry Hill. Meet at end of Coal Road above Dent Station at SD779.880. This meeting is in conjunction with the Craven Conservation Group.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June** - Roadside verges, moorland footpaths and waterfalls near Cotherstone. Meet at NY996.174 near cattle grid at Northgill Bridge.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June** - Calver Hill above Reeth, to find old record of *Saxifraga aizoides*, meet at roadside near Clay Intake Nook at NZ011.014.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - Wold Fell - Meet in the car park below Dent Head Viaduct at SD776.844. This meeting is in conjunction with the Craven Conservation Group.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July** - Pinkers Pond near Middleham. Meet on roadside verge beside Pond at SE114.868.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July** - Yorkshire Fern Group meeting at Mossy Bottom near Dent Viaduct. Meet in car park below Dent Head Viaduct at SD776.844. We have been invited to attend.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August** - Meet at Nosterfield Reserve Car Park at SE277.795. We will be searching the nearby banks of the Ure near High Batts for Thistle Broomrape which has been recorded in the past.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August** - Ravenseat/Birkdale Tarn area. Meet at the cattle grid near the Ravenseat road at NY858.015.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September** - Burton cum Walden area, meet near start of footpath through woodland at SE007.837.

### Contact details

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