

**ANGLESEY (VC52)
COUNTY RARE PLANT REGISTER**

Flowering Plants and Ferns

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Contents

Introduction To First and Second Editions	2
Acknowledgements	3
Layout of the Register	3
References	8
The Register	9

INTRODUCTION As used in the 2006 Edition

This first edition of the Rare Plant Register for Anglesey aims to indicate the locations of the rarer flowers and ferns on the island to those who need to know, so as to minimise the risk of damaging their habitats and help enable them to be conserved for the future.

The Register is produced in electronic (PDF) and paper format, and lists plants in a series of **International**, **National** and **Local (County)** categories of rarity, which are explained in the section describing the layout of the Register.

This Register has been produced to help all those concerned with the conservation and management of Anglesey, on the assumption that the better landowners and other managers and decision makers are informed the more likely it is that these plants and their habitats will prosper in the future.

Additional information about many of the entries will be available either via the local offices of NRW, NWWT, RSPB or direct from the BSBI Vice-county Recorder (see below).

The Register concentrates on those species that characterise the semi-natural habitats that make up the ecological importance of Anglesey. In many cases these habitats continue to be at risk from inappropriate management as well as direct and indirect damage. In other cases, new habitats are created which are colonised by some of these rare and scarce plants.

It is to be hoped that publication of this Register will stimulate a flow of new and updated records, as much work needs to be done to refine the information in this first edition. Especially to check locations without recent records, and to provide detailed grid references for many of the earlier records. Also, to begin to cover the "critical" genera like the Hawkweeds (*Hieracium*), Brambles (*Rubus*) and Dandelions (*Taraxacum*), as their distributions in Anglesey are inadequately known.

However, it is important to stress that many of the sites listed are on private land and should not be visited without the permission of the owners and occupiers.

The Register is held in an Open Office Spreadsheet and while every effort has been made to reduce errors, some mistakes may remain. The Vice-county Recorder will therefore welcome corrections, as well as updates and additional information. These should be sent to: Ian Bonner, at <mailto:crpr@caetrefor.co.uk>

INTRODUCTION TO SECOND EDITION 2021

The opportunity has been taken to add to the Summary Tables and Register the relevant taxa from the revised UK BAP list of flowering plants and ferns, following the Report on the Species and Habitat Review (June 2007).

Also the relevant taxa from the revised List of Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Wales. Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 7. (In 2021 the content is unaltered from Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006).

Also included are relevant taxa from the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Wales (2008), this list of flowering plants and ferns has been developed by Plantlife, with assistance from BSBI, CCW, JNCC and WAG.

Other additional taxa include, for example *Potamogeton gramineus* (Various, leaved Pondweed), scarcity not appreciated in 1st edition); *Ruppia cirrhosa* (Spiral Tasselweed) newly rediscovered on Anglesey and *Lathyrus palustris* (Marsh Pea) newly discovered in 2014.

A few taxa (c.20) have been removed as no longer satisfying the selection criteria, a list of these has been added at the end of the Full Register and Summary Tables.

The most important change is that the date for a record qualifying for inclusion has been brought forward to 2000.

Records prior to this date have been retained for reference, but are in a grey type face.

The Register is in two versions:

- a CIRCULATION version, with a reduced number of columns and corrected to July 2021.
- a MASTER version, with additional columns of information and kept up to date as more information becomes available.

There are also two SUMMARY TABLES:

- a) of all Taxa listed by conservation status
- b) of all EXTINCT taxa and those that are PROBABLY or POSSIBLY Extinct.

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I am most grateful to BSBI and CCW for support and encouragement in compiling this Register, and to CCW for publishing the first edition. In particular to Andy Jones and Alan Hale at CCW's Headquarters and to John Ratcliffe and the Anglesey team for access to their data. In particular thanks are due to Trevor Dines for help in setting up the original spreadsheet, in formatting the register for publication and for enthusiastic support throughout the project. Also to Plantlife International for allowing some of the input from Dr. Dines to have come as part of his formal work as Plantlife's Wales Officer. And to Polly Spencer-Vellacott for help while BSBI's Wales Officer.

Finally thanks to all those individuals and organisations which have both supplied the records that form the Register, or helped with their confirmation or determination. In particular: Charles Aron, John Bratton, Nigel Brown, Arthur Chater, Les Colley, David Evans, Debbie Evans, Ivor Rees, Jane Rees, Wendy McCarthy and Martyn Stead.

LAYOUT OF THE REGISTER

Plants are listed in alphabetical order, using the scientific name (in bold), the common name in English, according to Stace, Fourth Edition, 2019, and the Welsh name (in italics) according to Bebb-Jones *et al.* 2003.

Below the plant name is given its International rarity (if applicable), National rarity, and Local (County) rarity, these terms are defined below.

International Rarity comprises those taxa **endemic** to Britain, and those that are of such a limited distribution internationally that they are recognised by some **international standard**, such as the IUCN Red Lists, the EU Habitats Directive, or the Bern Convention.

The Register follows Cheffings & Farrell, 2005, for endemic taxa and those for which Britain has an international responsibility.

The **National Rarity** categories have been updated since the publication of the *New Atlas of the British & Irish Flora* (Preston, Pearman & Dines, 2002) through the Species Assessment Project of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and now follow the IUCN categories set out below:

EX - Extinct

EW - Extinct in the wild

CR - Critically Endangered

- a. > 80% decline
- b. 1 location and continuing decline
- c. < 250 individuals plus continuing decline
- d. < 50 individuals

EN - Endangered

- a. > 50% decline
- b. 5 locations and continuing decline
- c. < 2500 individuals plus continuing decline
- d. < 250 individuals

VU - Vulnerable

- a. > 30% decline
- b. 10 locations and continuing decline
- c. < 10,000 individuals plus continuing decline
- d1. < 1000 individuals
- d2. < 5 locations

NT - Near Threatened

- a. >20% decline
- b. 30 locations plus continuing decline
- c. <10,000 individuals

LC - Least Concern. No threat recognised. Equates to **None** in the Register.

DD - Data Deficient (Species of Potential Conservation Concern) where a possible threat has been identified, but too little is known about the distribution or taxonomy to be certain.

Reference is also made in the Summary Tables to a **Waiting List**, which is used by Cheffings & Farrell for taxa which have either inadequate distributional data, taxonomic uncertainties, or uncertainty over native, archaeophyte or neophyte status.

Eight taxa in the Register are on the Data Deficient or Waiting Lists and these have been allocated to their relevant International and County (Local) categories, pending full assessment of their National status.

For an explanation of all these criteria see Cheffings & Farrell, 2005.

The former categories of Nationally Rare and Nationally Scarce are given in brackets for those taxa now covered by the new categories, or have been retained, without brackets, for those taxa not otherwise covered by the IUCN criteria. These are defined as follows:

Nationally Rare: Taxa not included in an IUCN category; but still occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain.

Nationally Scarce: Taxa not included in an IUCN category and occurring in 16 – 100 hectads in Great Britain.

Note: A hectad equates to a 10 x 10 km. square.

A tetrad equates to a 2 x 2 km. square.

A monad equates to a 1 x 1 km. square.

The National grouping also includes the revised **UK BAP Priority Species**, in the Report on the Species and Habitat Review by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG) in June 2007.

Also the revised **List of Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Wales** now S.7 Environment (Wales) Act 2016, formerly Section 42 of the NERC Act, 2006 and S.74 (2) list of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).

Currently (May 2021) the content of the Lists is unchanged.

This Act requires the National Assembly of Wales to prepare and publish a list of species and habitats that it considers to be of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity. This list includes all UK BAP species, (see above), plus other species, that while not a UK priority, are none the less of conservation importance to Wales.

Taxa identified as especially vulnerable in Wales, as listed in **A Vascular Plant Red Data List for Wales** (2008) are included. Although for taxa which are still widespread across Anglesey the full list of localities has not been added to the Register; but these are available if required from the Recorder. Taxa involved include: *Jasione montana* (Sheep's-bit), *Silene vulgaris* (Bladder Champion), *Sinapis arvensis* (Charlock), *Spergula arvensis* (Corn Spurrey), *Stachys arvensis* (Field Woundwort).

Plants listed under **Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981**, which receive special protection against picking, uprooting, destruction and sale are also included in the Register.

The **Local** or **County Rarity** level categories for Anglesey are:

Locally Rare: occurring in 3 or fewer sites.

Locally Scarce: occurring in 4 - 15 sites. Species with more sites included, are usually those that are in a National category and for which Anglesey has a significant part of the national population.

Sites are loosely based on "Wells" sites, where a "Wells" site is defined as an area not exceeding that which can be enclosed by a notional 1 km square. However, if there is any indication that sites less than 1km apart are in different management units then they are treated as separate sites.

Only records since 2000 count towards the County (Local) Rare and Scarce categories, although for some taxa earlier locations have been retained in the tables in a paler font

colour, often these localities are a priority for resurvey.

Taxa in the Register and listed in the *Anglesey Local Biodiversity Action Plan* as being **Anglesey Species of Conservation Concern (ASCC)** are referred to under the Local rarity heading.

Axiophytes are defined as 'worthy plants' species usually restricted to habitats that are natural or semi-natural and important for conservation. This is often because they are rare, threatened and not easily re-creatable. Most of the taxa listed in the Register are axiophytes. A first list of Anglesey Axiophytes is available from Ian Bonner and can be viewed on the BSBI web-site.

Extinct species are categorised in two ways. Those with no record since before 1970 are classed as **Extinct**, while those without a record for the period 1970 –1999 are classed as **probably** or **possibly Extinct** (the adjective has been applied subjectively by the compiler).

Summary Tables of taxa in all the above categories are included between the Introduction and the Register.

The bulk of the **Register** comprises a series of columns containing the following information:

Note: Column letters in (red) are held in the Master spreadsheet, but not included in the Circulation Version.

Column A: A code (0-9) indicating to the compiler how recently the record was added or updated in the Register.

Column B: BRC (Biological Records Centre) number, this is a unique reference number to identify each taxon. In the full code each is preceded by 0920.

Column C: Status in Anglesey: **N**: Native; **Arch**: Archaeophyte (naturalised before AD1500); **Neo**: Neophyte (introduced after AD1500, persisting for more than a year and usually spreading). The *New Atlas* (Preston, Pearman & Dines) has been used as the standard in applying these first three categories. Additional status categories are: **Alien**: (not considered native in Anglesey; but is native elsewhere in Wales or Great Britain, the introduction could be intentional or not); **P**: Planted (where the individual recorded is known, or likely, to have been planted and is not spreading); **C**: Casual (an introduction not persisting for more than a year).

Column D: Grid reference: all of Anglesey is within the 100km national grid square SH (23). Up to eight-figure references are given where the information is available.

Most of the earlier locations were without grid references, so these have been derived subsequently to the nearest likely unit, sometimes a grid square, often only to a 10km square; but there is a risk of introducing errors in this process.

Many recent records have been located with a GPS; but there is no distinction between those measured in this way from those estimated from a map.

Column E: Date of most recent sighting. Only records made since 12000 are used to generate the number of County (Local) sites, although some earlier records are included (in paler font colour) for some taxa in the Register.

(Column E): Date of first known record.

(Column F): Intermediate dates, to give some idea of the frequency of records from this location.

Column G: **Protection:** SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) has been used for all international and national statutory designations, irrespective of whether the site falls within a National Nature Reserve (NNR) or not. The Register grid references were checked against CCW's SSSI database in late 2014. This has not been comprehensively updated in the 2021 Revision. The accuracy is also limited by the number of Register records with less than six-figure grid references.

There are five Local Nature Reserves (LNR), covering about 50ha of Anglesey and whilst some reference is made to these in the Register they have not yet been checked exhaustively.

The same applies to non-statutory nature reserves, which are indicated by reference to the managing body, (i.e. the site may be owned, leased, or subject to some form of agreement). Organisations are abbreviated as follows: NT: National Trust; NWWT: North Wales Wildlife Trust; RSPB: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Column H: **Location:** The official name of formally protected sites is used, unless more precision is available. Otherwise, the name given by the most recent recorder is used, though this probably results in a number of names being used for the same locality; but conversely this should reduce the risk of "data creep" by renaming locations to produce a tidier list.

Column I: **Habitat:** No specific classification has been followed, that cited by the recorder has usually been used.

Column J: **Abundance:** When the most recent record includes any measure of abundance it is given, again using that cited by the recorder.

(Column K): **Recorder** of the most recent record. Initials only are used for the most frequent names, or where multiple recorders are cited. A list of initials and names of recorders is available from the compiler.

(Column L): **Determiner:** name of specialist confirming or making the identification from this Wells site; but not necessarily from the most recent date.

(Column M): **Herbarium:** standard abbreviation of herbarium holding a specimen from this Wells site; but not necessarily from the most recent date.

(Column N): **Comments.**

(Column O): **Reference:** source of record if not a field record.

Column P: **Conservation priority:** subjective assessment on scale 1(high) to 3(low) of need for conservation management.

Column R: **Monitoring priority:** subjective assessment on scale 1(high) to 3(low) of need for monitoring the population at this locality.

Column S: **Best population** (subjective assessment) in Anglesey and "area of search" for statutory designations.

Note: Columns P, R & S have been trialled with a few taxa only in the first version of the Register and not used comprehensively.

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