

BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2019

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter and meetings list in future, please let me know and I will delete your email address.

The meeting in March 2018 proved a bit early after some very cold weather, but we still added a few to a tetrad near Plumley. *Crataegus laevigata* and *Arum italicum* were noteworthy. Crewe SJ65Y ended up with 188 of which 36 were new on that meeting and the rest came from a list from Rachel (who guided us around) in 2017. *Lamium amplexicaule*, *Erophila glabrescens*, *Prunus cerasifera*, *Sherardia arvensis*, and *Poterium officinale* were interesting finds. At Wrinehill on a hot sunny day in SJ74N, right on the somewhat confusing border with Staffs, we made 118 records. *Malva neglecta*, *Symphytum Hidcote Blue*, *Lamium amplicaulle*, *Chaerophyllum temulum*, and *Lepidium didymum* (which seems commoner than *L. squamatum* these days) were refreshing plants to see. An actively ploughed field modified our route.

Late May in Farndon, on a pleasant stroll by the R. Dee and a bash at SJ45C gave us 35 new to the tetrad but also many new to the latest date-class whose total went to 286. *Juglans regia*, *Erigeron karvinskyanus*, *Fumaria bastardii* and *muralis* ssp *boraei* making a very useful comparison, (the latter has returned to its previous spelling in Stace 4!), *A Armoracia rusticana* and *Chaerophyllum temulum* in plenty were notable. *Thalictrum flavum* was doing well. *Barbarea stricta* was a good find as it seems to stick to the Dee Valley in Cheshire. Halfway round we changed tetrads for a short while and recorded in SJ3955 where 80 species were seen. *Carduus crispus*, *Myosotis discolor*, and *scorpioides*, *Brassica nigra*, *Rorippa sylvestris*, and a curious fasciated form of *Ranunculus bulbosus* occurred.

The visit to Hilbre Islands was on a lovely sunny day but a cool breeze made it more comfortable. We added *Spergularia rupicola* to Little Eye along with one much cherished bonsai tree. Little Hilbre gained *Asplenium marinum* and *Carex extensa*, probably via boots from Red Rocks. On Hilbre Island itself, we added 12 including *Cakile maritima*, *Elytrigia juncea*, *Lepidium didymum*, and saw amazing quantities of *Spergularia rupicola* though a few expected old records were not seen.

July's visit to Grindley Brook added 98 to SJ5243 with *Triglochin palustre* perhaps the best find. The *Carduus nutans* that were left after the owner's tidying were beautiful but no hybrid thistle was seen. *Stachys x ambigua* by the canal was some compensation. SJ5143 was a new square and we found 110 taxa but nothing special. It was nice to see plenty of *Chaerophyllum temulum* again.

Our trespass into Salop added 3 to a tetrad (*Plantago coronopus*, *Spergularia marina* and *Centaurea cyanus*). On another hot day at Sound, where *Drosera intermedia* was only just hanging on in the drought, we tackled SJ64E and made 46 additions to the good previous total of 223. *Eleocharis palustris* was by a pond, despite the efforts of *Crassula helmsii* to subdue it. A white-fruited *Ribes rubrum* was tasty. *Ceratochloa carinata* was an interesting and increasing alien. *Stachys x ambigua* was on the canal bank as were both parents watched over by a kingfisher. *Carex hirta*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Juncus articulatus* and *J. conglomeratus* were surprise additions of common species.

Little Budworth was abandoned due to predictions of heavy motorsport traffic, so we moved to Cholmondeston SJ65J and probably did a lot better, adding 65 making 161. The abundance of *Myosoton* and *Impatiens capensis* in Crowton Brook was pleasing, along with *Rorippa palustris*, *Apium nodiflorum*, *Persicaria amphibia* and *lapathifolia*, *Veronica agrestis* and *polita*. *Berberis vulgaris* was a good find, only the 10th since 2000. *Chenopodium ficifolium* was a good spot also. *Puccinellia distans* was unexpected on the road verge.

Finally, in Alderley Edge in SJ87P we added 114 making 251. *Campanula poscharskyana*, *Lamium hybridum*, *Oxalis exilis*, and *Soleirolia soleirolii* betrayed the more urban setting. A whole field of *Chenopodium polyspermum* was a big surprise and most pleasing. Martyn spotted an odd dock which proved to be *Rumex obtusifolius* forma *trigranis* conf J Akeroyd. Just a few of the more than 5500 records added in 2018.

Mike Wilcox has realised that the *Pilosella* by the station at Sale is *P. caespitosa* x *aurantiaca* (*P. x fuscoatra*), not *P. x stolonifera* as I thought. This is new to Britain, so I have an excuse! It has been confirmed by continental experts. The relevant paper is "Observations on some rare or poorly known taxa of *Hieracium* subgenus *Pilosella*, including the very rare *H. x fuscoatrum* new for Belgium." I will try to remember to attach it to the email. Also, Mike saw *P. praealta* x *officinarum* on Ashton's Flash, which is also new to Britain. I need to recheck the other alien *Pilosellas*.

I have included a map showing the state of play last November. Please feel free to record in any tetrads, especially those with <100 records, though several are meetings targets. White squares are purely aquatic! Why not look for wild snowdrops (away from gardens) near you. They are splendid just now!

CHESHIRE PLANT RECORDING MEETINGS FOR 2018

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

Sunday 24th March Frodsham. Park by M56 bridge at SJ511779

Saturday 27th April SJ54U Park near crossroads at SJ565490.

Saturday 25th May SJ64G Park by Oldmill Bridge at SJ642429 to record to the west.

Saturday 15th June Matley. Park in sideroad at SJ978970 to explore the valley.

Saturday 6th July Marbury Mere (not the Northwich one). Park along lane round SJ562455. We hope to see *Bolboschoenus laticarpus*.

Saturday 3rd August Wincle. Park in small layby at SJ954675 to record in SJ96N.

Saturday 24th August Crewe SJ65X. Park in carpark at SJ690555. May have to pay.

Sunday 8th September Crowden. Pay to park at SK071993. If this is full, relocate to SK111999 further east.

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Asplenium marinum, Hilbre Island



Carduus crispus, Grindley Brook (R Bointon)



Lepidium didymum



Alopecurus myosuroides



Pilosella x fuscoatra Sale

