

# DERBYSHIRE FLORA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

EDITED: Dr. ALAN WILLMOT (County Recorder)

Number 24 - WINTER 2014/2015

## 1. EDITORIAL

Apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter which is due to work involved with completion of our Flora. I report here on progress with our Flora, our contributions to two national recording schemes and on recent local records. There are also details of a new recording scheme. **Please note that although we have completed our Flora there is still recording to do, see section 7.**

## 2. RECENT PLANT RECORDS v.c. 57

Here are a few of the more interesting records I have received over the last year or so.

***Ailanthus altissima*** (Tree-of-heaven) I noticed a patch of this growing in scrub on the side of the A52 (SK4335) in December 2014. To my surprise this turned out to be a first county record for the species, presumably casual.

***Antennaria dioica*** (Mountain Everlasting) Kieron Huston discovered a small patch of this surviving in an improved field at Longcliffe (SK2255) in August 2014, presumably native.

***Atropa belladonna*** (Deadly Nightshade) On our Group meeting to Lathkill Dale in May 2014 Grace Wheeldon asked if the *Atropa* was still growing on the roadside at Conksbury (SK2165). To our surprise and pleasure it was still there, presumably native.

***Cuscuta epithymum*** (Dodder) The first record for this for over 100 years was sent in recently by Peter Tattersfield from Hassop Common (SK2273) September 2014 on *Lotus*. He thought it might have been introduced with habitat restoration of old mineral workings, presumably casual.



Photo 1. *Cuscuta epithymum* from Hassop Common September 2014 (P. Tattersfield)

***Eleocharis uniglumis*** (Slender Spike-rush) The first county record for this was made in Steetley Quarry (SK5478) in October 2010 by Peter Hoy. The original site was destroyed in 2011 but material translocated nearby was still surviving in 2013, presumably native originally.

***Epilobium x schmidtianum*** (A hybrid willowherb) The first record for this in over 100 years, and only the third record ever, was made for this hybrid on Hathersage Moor (SK2681) by Graeme

Kay and Ken Balkow in September 2014, presumably native.

***Galanthus plicatus*** (Pleated Snowdrop) David Shaw noted a rather strange snowdrop in Pleasley Park (SK5166) in March 2015. It had wider leaves than usual with a striped pattern and was confirmed from its photo as the subspecies *plicatus* by Dr A. Davis of Kew. This is a new county record.



Photo 2. *Galanthus plicatus* ssp. *plicatus* from Pleasley Park March 2015 (D. Shaw).

***Lathyrus aphaca*** (Yellow Vetchling) was recorded at Street Lane (SK3848) reinstated opencast coal site in September 2014 by Roy Frost. This is the first record for over 60 years.

***Lathyrus nissolia*** (Grass Vetchling) was found by Roy Frost with the Yellow Vetchling above and by Roy Smith at Marehay (SK3948) in June 2014. This is a plant which seems to be increasing at present and so its crimson flowers should be looked out for in areas of restored grassland.



Photo 3. *Lathyrus nissolia* (Internet).

***Oreopteris limbosperma*** (Mountain Fern) I found several plants of this growing in Mugginton Sand Pit (SK2745) in September 2014. This is a very southerly site for a plant usually associated with the moors of the Dark Peak.

***Polypogon viridis*** (Water Bent) This is a plant which is increasing on roadsides round England. I therefore specifically looked out for it last year and finally managed to find it at only its third local station of Allestree village (SK3539) in November.

***Pseudosasa japonica*** (Arrow-bamboo) was found on waste land at Old Whittington (SK3874) by Ken Balkow in April 2014. This is the commonest grown and naturalized bamboo in the country but our first county record.

***Pulmonaria rubra*** (Red Lungwort)  
David Blowers discovered this introduced species growing on a wooded embankment of the A6 near Buxworth (SK0281) in April 2014. This is a new county record presumably as a casual.

***Rosa x sabinii*** (A hybrid rose) Penny Anderson discovered this hybrid rose in Monk's Dale (SK1374) in July 2014 whilst searching for Burnet Rose. This is the hybrid of Soft Downy-rose (*Rosa mollis*) and Burnet Rose (*R. spinosissima*). This was the first record for this native plant since 1911.

***Stranvaesia davidiana*** (Stranvaesia)  
Marion Bryce found one plant of this evergreen bush or small tree growing under a large oak tree at Pioneer Meadows LNR (SK4539) in October 2014. There are a few records for this plant around London but very few further north. Probably bird sown it is currently considered a casual though it may become established. This is a new county record.



Photo 4. *Stranvaesia* Pioneer Meadows  
October 2014 (M. Bryce).

***Taraxacum argutum*** (A dandelion)  
This was recorded on Longstone Edge (SK1972) by Rhodri Thomas in May 2012 in thin open grassland. The only

other record for this native species of dandelion was from Dove Dale in 1993.

### 3. COMPUTERISATION OF CURRENT RECORDS

I have just managed to keep up with these on the MapMate database I now maintain at home. This basically contains all local records for data class 5 (2010-2019). I am pleased to report we now have over 160,000 records on line which have all been forwarded to the BSBI Big Database of British records. This is available to view as maps on their website. Our records contain over 1,400 taxa now, which means species, hybrids and subspecies. These records will be used for the third national atlas due to be published in 2022 as well as the class 5 records on the maps.

If you have any records which you have not submitted yet please let me have them now so I can keep our database up-to-date.

### 4. COMPLETION OF FLORA PROJECT

The proofs have all been corrected and the final copy has been sent to the printers. The finished volumes should be ready by the end of April for distribution at the start of May. We have sold so far 300 pre-publication copies and thus have decided to print 1,100 copies. We are hoping to have a launch in early May to which you will be invited. Pre-publication copies can still be ordered up until the end of the month so please let anyone know who is still undecided about ordering. Details can be found on Blogspot under FloraofDerbyshire.

### 5. ATLAS 2022 RECORDING (2000-2019)

According to the BSBI we are doing rather well here. Apparently for the second Atlas recording period of 1987 to 1999, some 23,000 records were submitted for v.c.57. A record here

means a plant in a hectad so if we had an average of 500 plants per hectad for 30 hectads that would be 15,000 records. Derbyshire already has over 24,000 records for the third Atlas i.e. for data classes 4 and 5 (2000-2019). Thus we already have more local records for the third Atlas than we had for the second one. Well done all.

**6. NEW RECORDING SCHEME**

This new scheme is known as the NPMS or National Plant Monitoring Scheme. Details are still being sorted out but this will involve the repeated recording over several years of small areas of vegetation. Small areas mean plots 5x5m or 10x10m and repeated means between every year or every five years. Recording will involve noting the abundance of plants within the areas to see how the vegetation is changing. I will keep the group informed of this scheme through e-mails as I hear details.

**7. CLASS 5 RECORDING (2010-2019)**

Number of records for each tetrad on our current MapMate database is shown in Fig 1. The shaded squares are those which are entirely or almost so in Derbyshire and therefore I consider are our special responsibility. Taking an arbitrary number of 500 plants per hectad as an essentially completed hectad, and ignoring squares where someone has already taken responsibility for the area. There are seven hectads which I am concerned about as needing extra work. These are highlighted in red on the figure. I shall be organizing Flora Group meetings there over the next few years but any help with recording in these squares would be gratefully received. This could be to either just make a single visit /card or to take over responsibility for recording the hectad.

	SE00	SE10				
SJ99 37	DM SK09 203	SK19 211				
SJ98 109	DB SK08 392	CMS SK18 594	SK28 309	SK38 270	SK48 80	
SJ97 37	CMS SK07 606	SK17 483	SK27 586	KB SK37 698	SK47 547	GC SK57 283
	SK06 248	SK16 449	SK26 540	IW SK36 504	SK46 603	SK56 254
		GH SK15 354	CMS SK25 648	MH SK35 503	RS SK45 566	
		SK14 307	SK24 412	KH SK34 491	BG SK44 487	
	SK03	SK13 338	CH SK23 494	AW SK33 601	MS SK43 606	SK53 204
		SK12	SK22 377	SK32 519	SK42 163	
		SK11	NL SK21 343	SK31 72		

**Fig. 1 Number of Taxa Recorded in 2011 to 2015 for Each Tetrad**

Note that where a tetrad has initials in it the square is being recorded by that Person.

Hectads SK13, SK14, SK16, SK17, SK19, SK22 and SK24 are areas where more recording effort is needed.

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**8. OUTDOOR MEETINGS 2015**

Details of these have already been circulated but a copy is attached below in case you did not receive one.

### **9. ENQUIRIES**

Any enquiries about the Flora, plant recording locally or the contents of this newsletter can be sent to me as below.

Dr Alan Willmot  
2 Kedleston Close  
Allestree  
Derby  
DE22 2RA  
Tel. 01332 550373  
E-mail [alan\\_willmot@o2.co.uk](mailto:alan_willmot@o2.co.uk)

Appendix

## DERBYSHIRE FLORA GROUP MEETINGS 2015

Group leader Dr Alan Willmot county plant recorder for Derbyshire v.c.57

All meetings start at 10.30 am and continue until about 4.30 pm. Carry lunch.

In case of problems on the day my mobile number is 0794 121 4977.

At other times my phone is 01332 550373 or use my e-mail of alan\_willmot@o2.co.uk .

DATE	TO VISIT	MEETING PLACE
March	28 <b>Northern part of hectad SK24</b> for square bashing	Meet in Millfields car park of Carsington Water (SK248499) for general lowland flora. Leader: Alan Willmot
April	25 <b>Central part of hectad SK16</b> for square bashing	Meet in Sparklow car park on High Peak Trail (SK128659) for general limestone flora. Leader: Alan Willmot
May	16 <b>Northern part of SK27</b> for square bashing	Meet on access road to Grindleford Station (SK250786) for upland woodland flora with possibility of Cow-wheat, Goldenrod & Leopard'sbane. Leader: Ken Balkow.
June	6 <b>Ashover</b> an area of mixed acid and calcareous rocks	Meet in Ashover Parish Hall car park, Milken Lane (SK351632), area of mixed limestone/gritstone flora with possibility of Fly Orchids. Leader: Ken Balkow.
June	27 <b>Great Hucklow</b> and west for square bashing in SK17	Meet by the Buttercross in centre of village (SK177778) where there is limited parking in wide road, for limestone and lead tolerant floras with possibility of Dyer's-greenwood, Moonwort & Blue Sow-thistle. Leader: Ken Balkow.
July	18 <b>Trowell</b> area	Meet in car park of the Festival Inn SK483398 for wasteland and aquatic flora on Derbyshire side of the boundary. Leader: Brian Gough
August	8 <b>Cressbrook Dale</b> for roses	Meet in car park at Upperdale SK176721 for limestone grassland flora and in particular Burnet Rose & its hybrids. Leaders: Graeme Kay & Penny Anderson.
Sept	5 East bank of <b>Derwent Reservoir</b> for square bashing in SK19	Meet in car park at head of Ladybower Reservoir (SK172893) for upland heath grass and bog floras. Leader: Alan Willmot.

A.Willmot

03.02.2015.

Floravc57/Meets 2015