

Glamorgan Botany Group

2018 Excursion Report

This year, we homed in again on the less-well-recorded parts of v.c. 41, and found plenty of interest, from a rare chickweed in Coity to an equally uncommon willowherb in Blaenrhondda. In a summer that will long be remembered for its lengthy periods of fine and dry weather, we somehow managed to have rain on four excursions, but with the exception of the June outing, this didn't deter us from keeping going for the full day. In the course of doing all this recording, we've all become more confident with both the common species and with some of those difficult groups – sedges, ferns, grasses, willowherbs, eyebrights and even the occasional hawkweed are now getting more rigorous treatment!

We hope you enjoy reading this summary, and look forward to seeing you on our excursions again in 2019. In the meantime, don't forget our one-off special *Arum* excursion on 1 December, and our Christmas meet-up on 17 December.

David Barden, Karen Wilkinson and Julian Woodman

Coity – Sunday 15 April

After a brief introduction to the group and a short look at some nearby walls while the castle custodian unlocked the gates, our group of 14 first took a look around Coity Castle, on a rather cool day with frequent spells of mostly nuisance-value rain.

Saxifraga tridactylites (Rue-leaved Saxifrage) was occasional on the flat parts of walling, while in the same habitat the presence of *Cardamine hirsuta* (Hairy Bittercress) and *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (Shepherd's Purse) provided an opportunity to compare these two superficially similar white-flowered crucifers.

Erysimum cheiri

(Wallflower) was quite frequent on some of the higher parts, while small creeping plants initially passed-over as nutrient-starved *Stellaria media* (Common Chickweed) turned out on closer inspection to be *S. pallida* (Lesser Chickweed), normally a coastal dune species and a remarkable find here.



Two of the white-flowered annuals we found on Coity Castle – *Saxifraga tridactylites* (left) and *Stellaria pallida* (right) – the latter showing its characteristic habit of going to seed very early in the season.

Walking round the castle, a few ruderals were encountered along the roadside, and the churchyard had a reasonable diversity of species, with the highlight being a couple of good patches of *Persicaria bistorta* (Bistort), likely to originally have been an introduction here.



Primula vulgaris (Primrose, left) formed a fine display on the north-facing part of the ditch to the south of Coity Castle, as did some naturalised *Myosotis sylvatica* (Wood Forget-me-not, right). Photos: Tim Rich.

We then headed north across a large field which held small quantities of *Geranium columbinum* (Long-stalked Cranesbill), *Galium verum* (Lady's Bedstraw), *Torilis nodosa* (Knotted Hedge-Parsley) and *Carex caryophyllea* (Spring Sedge), associated with old earthworks and small exposures of limestone. Heading along the footpath running east from Heol Spencer, we entered a horse paddock, with a



Succisa pratensis (left) and *Plantago media* (right) hang on in the close-cropped turf of the paddock.



A fine clump of *Viola hirta* (left) and the vaguely sinister-looking *Lathraea squamaria* (right) were both found near the woodland edge.

The same species mix continued into the adjacent area of limestone woodland, where the very hummocky nature of the ground indicated a turbulent past. However, there was some good habitat here (and in the more open areas at the bottom of the shallow valley), including more *Lathraea*, *Adoxa moschatellina* (Moschatel), abundant *Allium ursinum* (Ramsons) towards the southern end, and a little *Hypericum hirsutum* (Hairy St-John's-wort).

After lunch, we walked up the valley bottom, where we noted an abrupt change in the underlying geology. As well as a curious area of woodland composed of mossy boulders of a pebbly quartz conglomerate, with *Dryopteris dilatata* (Broad Buckler Fern) and a little *Oxalis acetosella* (Wood Sorrel), further up we found a typical (though rather poor) acid flora, with plenty of *Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken). *Viola reichenbachiana* (Early Dog-violet) and *V. riviniana* (Common Dog-violet) were found in close proximity in an old hedge-bank here.



The strange boulder-woodland habitat at the valley bottom – the uniform age of the trees and the poor vascular plant flora suggests relatively recent human influence.

The small area of access land at Pant-y-pyllau was typical of sheep-grazed brackeney heathland and at this time of year did not yield much, although interest was provided by some *Rorippa palustris* (Marsh Yellow-cress) in a damp spot, vegetative *Danthonia decumbens* (Heath Grass) expertly spotted by Julian, a presumably escaped or planted bush of *Ribes nigrum* (Blackcurrant), and a small-flowered form of *Viola riviniana*. A few plants of *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* (Black Spleenwort) were found in the bank here – this is not exactly a rare species but at best is locally distributed in our area.



At the point where the footpath joined the access land at Pant-y-pyllau there was a remarkable twinned tree – a partly fallen *Betula* sp. (Birch) lies across the fork of a *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak) and has become joined with it.



Small-flowered forms of *Viola riviniana* – like this specimen at Pant-y-pyllau – are very occasionally found amongst populations of normal plants, and are sometimes referred to as var. *minor*.



As well as having unique flowers, *Adoxa moschatellina* has leaves with a distinctive colour that, once known, are easily recognised from a distance. In this roadside bank it is growing with seedlings of *Impatiens glandulifera* (Himalayan Balsalm).

Walking along pleasant lanes to Byeastwood, we saw more *Adoxa*, and a range of typical species, as well as a group of throwouts adjacent to a garden that included a *Pulmonaria* (Lungwort) and the rather invasive *Galium odoratum* (Woodruff). We then found *Asplenium ruta-muraria* (Wall-rue)

(remarkably, for the first time of the day) on the boundary wall of Ty Mawr, and then diverted off through a small patch of trees with *Ranunculus auricomus* (Goldilocks Buttercup) to an area of grassland with large blocks of limestone sheltering a few woodland species such as *Anemone nemorosa* (Wood Anemone) and *Arum maculatum* (Lords-and-Ladies) – the Old Series map from the early 1800s shows woodland on this site. Walking back to Coity, we found some *Erophila verna* subsp. *verna* (Common Whitlowgrass) to complete a very varied day.



Woodland near Byeastwood yielded the apomictic taxon *Ranunculus auricomus*, with characteristically poorly-formed petals. With the publication of Volume 1 of 'Sell and Murrell', there's now less excuse for not identifying these to microspecies!



Not far away, in an otherwise species-poor field, some limestone outcrops provided a refuge for a few species suggesting a former life as a woodland.

Llanbradach – Sunday 20 May

Our group of eight (later nine) met up on a fine warm day in Llanbradach village, from where we shared transport to Graddfa farm. There, we had a good chat with the site manager (for this farm and Llanbradach Fawr), with whom Julian had previously arranged access. After discussing the management of the farm and the challenges of an administering an over-subscribed secure dog-walking area (!), we turned to the flora of the pleasantly neglected farmyard, which included a good selection of ruderals. Moving east, we entered a species-poor 'improved' field, with the sole highlight being some *Myosotis discolor* (Changing Forget-me-not).



***Dryopteris cambrensis*, showing the rotated pinnae giving a 'ladder-like' structure to the frond.**

To the north, we found a much wetter field with some scrub and springs, and a range of typical species. These included *Myosotis secunda* (Creeping Forget-me-not), *Equisetum fluviatile* (Water Horsetail), and *Viola palustris* (Marsh Violet). The *Pedicularis sylvatica* (Lousewort) here was determined as subsp. *sylvatica*, which is typically glabrous-flowered but which encompasses plants – like these – with hairs around the lip. A bush of the hybrid *Salix cinerea* (Grey Willow) × *S. aurita* (Eared Willow) was also examined.

A drier field nearby had a few heathy species including *Danthonia decumbens* (Heath Grass) and *Molina caerulea* (Purple Moor Grass), while a pond held leaves of *Sparganium erectum* (Branched Bur-reed), and nearby we saw two plants of fairly convincing *Dryopteris cambrensis* (Narrow Buckler Fern). Some *Montia fontana* (Blinks) here turned out to



Examining the more southerly of the damp fields near Graddfa.

be subsp. *chondrosperma* upon later inspection of the seeds – which seems to be the taxon most frequently encountered in the vice-county. Further round the hillside, we admired some veteran oak and beech trees along old field banks, but a couple of grassy fields beyond this did not hold much, with a small quantity of *Trifolium medium* (Zigzag Clover) being one of the few points of interest. However, the views up the valley were excellent, and we chose this point for our lunch stop.



(Left to right) A rocky track yielded white-flowered *Geranium robertianum* (Herb Robert) and *Luzula pilosa* (Hairy Wood-rush), while Coed Llanbradach had massed *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebell).

Further round the hillside, a rough track generated a good species list, and we then dropped down (and it certainly was down) into the steep-sided valley of Coed Llanbradach. This was a delight with sheets of bluebell, but (typically for this type of woodland) rather little else. Fields on the other side of the valley were partly improved but were pleasant enough, with some botanical interest.

Back along the track, we had been warned about a rather intimidating dog at the farm, but instead we encountered only a pug, which keen for a walk, then accompanied us for the rest of the afternoon! Above the farm, a grassy track yielded two patches of *Persicaria bistorta* (Bistort) and a hybrid dock. *Deschampsia flexuosa* (Wavy Hair-grass) was seen on a grassy bank under trees, enabling comparison



***Ajuga reptans* (Bugle) was putting on a good show in one spot in damp grassland to the west of Coed Llanbradach.**



An imposing clump of *Rumex crispus* (Curled Dock) × *R. obtusifolius* (Broad-leaved Dock) commands the attention of its human subjects!



Veteran trees were a feature of the day, and this row of beeches high above Llanbradach Fawr was especially fine.

with another fine-leaved grass here, *Festuca ovina* (Sheep's Fescue). We then entered a large area of ungrazed, tussocky *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor Grass) heath, which eventually produced a reasonable species list, although large areas were rather uniform and species-poor. A little *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Bellflower), *Dryopteris carthusiana* (Narrow Buckler Fern) and *Oreopteris limbosperma* (Lemon-scented Fern) were seen here, and further down the hillside, flushes gave us *Narthecium ossifragum* (Bog Asphodel) and *Carex pulicaris* (Flea Sedge).



The *Carex pulicaris* we found was too young to have developed its characteristic downward-pointing utricles, but it was distinctive nonetheless.



In our area, *Umbilicus rupestris* is normally seen on walls and banks, but rarely in trees, as here in an Ash near Graddfa.

The stony track down to the farm yielded rather little of interest except the under-recorded *Poa humilis* (Spreading Meadow Grass), but on our way back to the cars we walked along a pleasantly shady lane with a typical species list. Here, there was an unusual colony of *Umbilicus rupestris* (Pennywort), and (from the cars on our way down to Llanbradach) we saw some extensive colonies of *Melica uniflora* (Wood Melick).

Ferndale – Saturday 16 June

Our group met in Lime Street car-park in what we hoped was a shower, but which ended up lasting for over four hours! While waiting for the full complement of 10 botanists to arrive, we examined the walls and margins of the car-park, seeing *Linaria purpurea* (Purple Toadflax) high up on the walls.

Entering the council-run Darran Park, we found locally dominant *Alchemilla mollis* (Soft Lady's-mantle), a small quantity of *Carex divulsa* (Grey Sedge) in a couple of places, and a solitary plant of *Triticum aestivale* (Bread Wheat). Taking care not to tread on the many baby toads hopping over the path by the lake, we noticed *Nuphar lutea* (Yellow Water-lily), *Sparganium erectum* (Branched Bur-reed) and *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (Water-Plantain) in the water, the first at least certainly originally planted.



Ferns were abundant by the path through the woodland in Darran Park.



A striking find was this single plant of *Meconopsis cambrica* (Welsh Poppy) with orange flowers (var. *aurantiaca*), and here very likely to be of garden origin.

Walking round the lake, we compared a couple of common *Epilobium* (Willowherb) species, before turning up the well-defined path through *Quercus petraea* (Sessile Oak) woodland, with a typical flora underneath dominated by brambles and ferns. The latter were largely *Dryopteris borrieri* (Borrer's Male Fern) and *D. dilatata* (Broad Buckler Fern), but there was also a little *Polystichum setiferum* (Soft Shield Fern), which was only the third record for the hectad. *Carex remota* (Remote Sedge) was locally abundant here, and we spotted a single plant of *Mycelis muralis* (Wall Lettuce).



A clump of *Calluna vulgaris* (Heather) in an old quarry provided an excellent platform from which to serve Jean Hamilton's yummy cakes!

Emerging onto the open ground of Tarren Maerdy, the flora changed rapidly to the usual mix of heath species, and a selection of *Carex* (Sedge), *Juncus* (Rush) and *Luzula* (Woodrush) species that enabled the key features of these groups to be demonstrated. The diminutive grass *Aira praecox* (Early Hair-grass) was new to some in the group, and easily told from *A. caryophylla* (Common Hair-grass) by the compact panicles.

By this time, the continuing dampness initiated a mass exodus, with just four of us left to enjoy lunch on a rocky outcrop. Afterwards, a quick walk around an old quarry produced little that we hadn't already seen, so we retraced our steps back to the cars. Although a curtailed excursion, it was a pleasant area, and we felt it was probably worth trying our luck with the crags of Tarren Maerdy in finer weather!

Lisvane - Saturday 21 July

Gradually working our way along the road from our meeting point, our group of seven botanists (later nine) soon built up a reasonable list, with the surprise being Tim's find of two plants of *Rorippa islandica* (Northern Yellow-cress) on some grass-crete. A *Juncus* nearby may have been *J. ranarius* (Frog Rush), but awaits confirmation, while a field to the south-east had two species of *Agrostis* (Bent) for comparison. We also had the opportunity to compare *Polygonum aviculare* (Common Knotgrass) with *P. arenastrum* (Equal-leaved Knotgrass).



Sappy shoots of *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) at our meeting point had these curious fused basal leaf-lobes.



Two plants of *Rorippa islandica* were spotted in the unusual habitat of a 'grasscrete' area by the roadside.



A sea of *Agrostis* – and Tim demonstrating the native *A. capillaris* (Common Bent, left) and the (probably) under-recorded archaeophyte *A. gigantea* (Black Bent, right) while the rest of us take notes!



More comparisons from Lisvane– *Polygonum aviculare* (Common Knotgrass, left) with *P. arenastrum* (Equal-leaved Knotgrass, right). Photo: Karen.

Bent). We also had the opportunity to compare two *Polygonum* (Knotgrass) species.

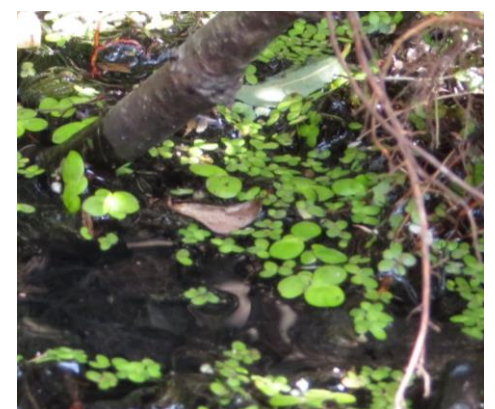
Keeping an eye out for traffic up this rather busy lane, we found a shady section with a couple of plants of *Cyrtomium falcatum* (House Holly Fern) on an old wall, along with quite a bit of *Equisetum telmateia* (Great Horsetail) and *Polystichum aculeatum* (Hard Shield Fern). Perhaps because of the shade, the leaf-vein characteristics of some *Trifolium medium* (Zigzag Clover) we saw weren't quite as convincing as usual.



The alien fern *Cyrtomium falcatum* is rare plant in v.c. 41. Here it has established itself on a damp wall, most likely from cultivated plants.

Turning off to the north-west, a couple of grassy fields and tracks gave us the garden plant *Hypericum × inodorum* (Tall Tutsan), which we rather struggled to distinguish from the native *H. androsaemum* (Tutsan), the petals on which the keys rely having all fallen off. Later on, we were more confident about the identification of the hybrid, on the basis of the style being more than 5mm long.

Next, a well-vegetated pond held a surprise in the form of *Spirodela polyrhiza* (Greater Duckweed), familiar to some in the group from its abundance in the Gwent Levels, but a plant with only a few records from Glamorgan, and here a new hectad record. Also in this spot were the finely-divided leaves of *Ceratophyllum demersum* (Rigid Hornwort), an uncommon plant in the vice-



The large, multi-rooted fronds of *Spirodela polyrhiza* were easy to spot amongst the smaller fronds of the common *Lemna minor* (Common Duckweed).

county and the first time we have seen it on our excursions. A damp woodland nearby had some nice habitat, with *Valeriana dioica* (Marsh Valerian), and in a damp meadow we found *Dryopteris carthusiana* (Narrow-leaved Buckler Fern).

We next headed north, and had lunch in the shade before tackling the lower slopes of Craig Llysfaen. We didn't pick up on anything new here, but found a few typical woodland species at the south-western end of Coed Llwyn-celyn. Enjoying great views down to Cardiff and the estuary beyond, we then dropped down through Tai Mawr farm and back on to Rudry Road.

Garw Forest – 12 August

A forecast for rain and memories of last year's soggy excursion to Pontycymer no doubt dissuaded more people from attending, but three of us did make it to the meeting point, and enjoyed a rewarding day, with only a few bursts of rain spoiling things.

A list for the vicinity of our meeting place – a couple of hundred metres of roadside bank – yielded a commendable total of nearly 100 species, including a stand of the alien *Leucanthemum × superbum*, and a small quantity of *Carex pallescens* (Pale Sedge). In the plantation, the main track yielded the usual botanical suspects, where not overtaken by the locally abundant *Impatiens glandulifera* (Himalayan Balsalm), with highlights being *Linum catharticum* (Fairy Flax) and *Euphrasia nemorosa* (Common Eyebright) in a gravelly area (the latter with the help of the new BSBI handbook).



The open, well-vegetated plantation on the south-west side of the Garw Fechan.

To make best use of our time, we then moved quickly on to look at the area of the 'Woodland Park' in another hectad, where a grassy area near the swollen waters of the Garw Fechan produced the hybrid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid) × *D. praetermissa* (Southern Marsh Orchid), *Salix viminalis* (Common Osier) and a few *Epilobium* (Willowherb) specimens for comparison.

After lunch, we headed up steep paths through diffuse plantation containing a healthy ground flora with plenty of *Calluna vulgaris* (Ling) and *Vaccinium myrtillus* (Bilberry). On reaching a track bend, a suggestion from David that we "just have a quick look at that bank" was rewarded with a single vegetative plant of *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern), one of only four post-2000 records in the eastern half of the vice-county.



***Osmunda regalis* was a surprise find on a grassy bank – we searched nearby but found no more. How did it get there?**

A nearby patch of *Mentha* seemed a reasonable fit for the garden-origin hybrid *M. × villosa* (Apple Mint), while a long, all-or-nothing struggle through thick vegetation (by this time, just David and Karen) to more open ground yielded en route a small specimen of the uncommon tree *Castanea sativa* (Sweet Chestnut).



***Mentha × villosa*, demonstrating its habit of forming extensive patches.**



Looking down across Craig Ddu to the woodland we had walked through earlier, with Pontycymer beyond.

The hillside known as Craig Ddu had large areas of bracken, but higher up there were some areas with a reasonable selection of acid grassland species, where not overgrazed. A stream did not add much to the species list here, but did give us the chance to confirm our suspicions on some *Sagina procumbens* (Procumbent Pearlwort) by spotting the roots emerging from the nodes.



The road less travelled... Karen gets acquainted with some 7ft-high bracken.

Another immersion in deep vegetation then followed, but was worthwhile for producing a fine tree of *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak) × *Q. petraea* (Sessile Oak) – showing leaves that had slight basal lobing, but short-stalked acorns. Further down the hill, we re-joined the overgrown footpath, and found on the rocky substrate here a little *Agrostis curtisii* (Bristle Bent) – a species with only four post-2000 localities east of the Gower. The plantation to the south-east was notable for containing lots more *Agrostis curtisii* and quite a bit of *Rhododendron ponticum* (Rhododendron), which we're either grossly under-recording in East Glamorgan or which seems to be curiously confined to the western half, according to the BSBI database.

Waste ground by the river had some nice *Polypodium interjectum* (Intermediate Polypody), *Carex otrubae* (False Fox Sedge) and single plant of *Verbena officinalis* (Vervain), while the old lane up the hill (long since closed to traffic) had a nice range of species, including locally frequent *Leontodon hispidus* (Rough Hawkbit).



Even without looking at the sporangia, the lanceolate frond shape suggests *Polypodium interjectum*.



The narrow grey-green leaves of *Agrostis curtisii* were conspicuous by a stony path on the hillside above Pont-y-rhyl.

Crossing the road, we entered a promising-looking field that we had seen from the other side of the valley, and it indeed turned out to be quite species-rich heathy grassland, including

Erica cinerea (Bell Heather), *Aira praecox* (Early Hair-grass), *Hypericum humifusum* (Creeping St-John's-wort), a tiny rosette of *Jasione montana* (Sheep's-bit) and yet more *Agrostis curtisii*, extending over two hectads. We then dropped down to the main road, finding waste ground with *Pimpinella saxifraga* (Lesser Burnet-saxifrage), and nearby the opportunity to test our knotgrass skills again, with some *Polygonum arenastrum* (Equal-leaved Knotgrass). The riverside had *Rorippa palustris* (Marsh Yellow-cress) and a selection of typical waterside plants, but then seeing the rain clouds gathering again, we headed back to the cars to finish quite a long day (7 hours in the field!).

Blaenrhondda – 15 September

Our group of 14 met on a largely cloudy but mostly dry day in Hendre'r Mynydd car-park, although some of us not *quite* on schedule (suffice to say Julian will never trust my judgement on the road network in Aberdare again...). So, a little late, we headed down across heathy ground with a typical selection of species, finding a few plants in the gaps between the piles of rocks marking the Iron Age settlement. A small rocky gully had a surprise in the shape of *Asplenium scolopendrium* (Hartstongue Fern) and *Polystichum setiferum* (Soft Shield Fern), in addition to the usual ferns, and we saw a little *Oreopteris limbosperma* (Lemon-scented Fern) nearby, which later proved to be frequent in suitably damp spots.



Exploring the remains of the Iron Age settlement at Hendre'r Mynydd.

Scree slopes and fine colliery spoil further down held lots of *Jasione montana* (Sheep's-bit) and *Carlina vulgaris* (Carline Thistle), while Tim Rich identified some post-flowering *Hieracium praealta* subsp. *praealta* here (Tall Mouse-ear Hawkweed), a relative of the familiar *H. pilosella* (Mouse-ear Hawkweed), but with glaucous undersides to the leaves.



The powder-blue flowers of *Jasione montana* were frequent to abundant on the steep colliery slopes.



Hieracium praealta clings onto the edge of an unstable spoil slope.



The broad leaves, large flowers and long glandular hairs of this *Euphrasia* mark it out as *E. arctica*.

After negotiating some bracken down to the main part of the landscaped colliery works, Rob Nottage spotted *Epilobium lanceolatum* (Spear-leaved Willowherb), and further down slope there was a good quantity of this – a new species even to seasoned members and a new hectad record. *Erigeron acris* (Blue Fleabane) was also present here, as well as large amounts of *Linum catharticum* (Fairy Flax), groups of *Euphrasia arctica* (Arctic Eyebright) and *E. nemorosa* (Common Eyebright),

***Epilobium lanceolatum* was for many of us the day's best find. The combination of four-lobed stigma and lanceolate leaves tapering into the petiole is distinctive... and not at all captured by this pretty useless photo.**



and tiny quantities of the spoil-heap regulars *Filago minima* (Small Cudweed) and *Anaphalis margaritacea* (Pearly Everlasting).

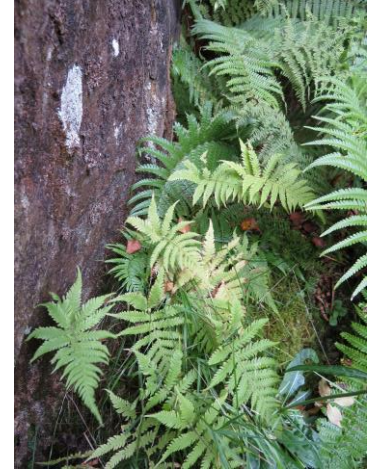
Further down, ditches proved productive, with Julian spotting a single clump of *Juncus inflexus* (Hard Rush) × *J. effusus* (Soft Rush), while some narrow strap-shaped leaves were tentatively identified as nutrient-starved *Typha latifolia* (Bulrush) rather than anything more exciting. Julian and David also saw *Carex rostrata* (Bottle Sedge), while *Equisetum palustre* (Marsh Horsetail) was a nice find, not often being encountered on our excursions.



Typha not-quite-so-latifolia?



The cliffs and waterfall looked promising, but were mostly lacking in interesting species...



...except this patch of *Phegopteris connectilis*.

Meanwhile, the rest of the group had headed up to the crags on the western side of the valley, where they found a patch of *Phegopteris connectilis* (Beech Fern) and a small quantity of *Succisa pratensis* (Devil's-bit Scabious) in the vicinity of a waterfall. Crossing the river here looked a bit risky to all except Tim, so the rest of us headed back downstream slightly and met up with him at some old colliery works, where he relayed his finds of *Valeriana officinalis* (Common Valerian) and *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Bellflower), amongst others.



Native? *Meconopsis cambrica* looks pretty well at home under a rock.

Nearby was another waterfall, where David spotted a single plant of *Meconopsis cambrica* (Welsh Poppy), in as native-looking a habitat as one could wish for – a species whose native sites in v.c. 41 are now dwarfed by the number of garden escapes. We then headed back up through bracken to pick up the earlier path, and so back to the car-park. With the exception of a small area near our starting point, we had remained in the same monad all day, but all agreed it had been a rewarding excursion.

Text and photos by David Barden, with contributions from Karen Wilkinson for the Lisvane excursion, and photos by other members of group as noted.