

BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2020

The first meeting at Frodsham was hampered by low temperatures and high winds which did not help. Considering that the tetrads had been visited previously, we did quite well. In the 1st one. SJ57E, we added 7 to the grand total of 221. *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Corylus*, *Ficaria verna*, *Sinapis arvensis*, *Veronica arvensis* and *Vicia sepium* all featured. In the 2nd tetrad, SJ57D, we actually added 22. *Arum italicum* and *Vinca major* were "nice" aliens. *Erophila verna* was abundant on the bridge where we parked. *Fumaria officinalis*, *Pentaglottis*, *Rumex conglomeratus*, *Sagina procumbens*, *Trifolium medium*, and *Veronica agrestis* were among the additions. The total includes some additions to the latest date class. As for the *Euonymus*, it is described as having green twigs, turning grey-brown with age. Given the number of flowering branches, it obviously flowers on last year's branches and will produce green twigs later in the year, so I was happy with *E. europaeus* (planted).

Only three of us braved the weather in SJ54U. We added 48 to the previous 91 which was good under the conditions. *Ranunculus auricomus* and *Primula veris* were highlights. In May, better weather helped recording in SJ64G where we added 74 making 172. Road verges produced the usual species, but *Filago vulgaris* on a rough track was a surprise and a nice strip of woodland added several characteristic species such as *Veronica montana*, *Lamium galeobdolon* ssp *montanum*, and *Conopodium majus*. A special treat was *Stellaria neglecta* which also occurred in SJ64L which we later examined. Here we added 28 making 289. *Malva neglecta* and *Trifolium micranthum* were outside a farm and a good clump of *Armoracia* was flowering on the road verge. An area of dumping yielded *Anisantha diandra* as relief from the ubiquitous *A. sterilis*.

In SJ99T, Matley the initial fine start was spoiled by heavy rain for the last hour. Amazingly, we added 49 making 217. Nice new ones were *Salix pentandra*, *S. x multinervis*, *Dactylorhiza x grandis*, *Carex leporina* and *Lathyrus grandiflorus*. In July we visited Marbury in fine weather. The pub car park lawns surprised us with *Trifolium micranthum*, *T. arvense* and especially *T. striatum*. The *Bolboschoenus laticarpa* was doing splendidly by Marbury Big Mere along with *Typha angustifolia* and we added 56 to SJ54S out of a total of 181. In SJ54M, 44 were added out of 104 making 187. The tetrad was totally rural so only 5 aliens were seen which inevitably lowers the score. Highlights were convincing *Phleum bertolonii* and *x Schedolium loliaceum* (the old *Festuca pratensis x Lolium perenne*). The Wincle meeting in SJ96N was very successful. We scored a satisfying 200 which added 93 to the previous total. Good records were *Oreopteris*, *Rhamnus catharticus* (though planted), *Salix x multinervis*, *Stachys x ambigua* and especially the huge colony of *Pimpinella saxifraga*, so all the ups and downs were worth it!

Bank Holiday Saturday was not the best choice for a visit to Queen's Park, Crewe in SJ65X but the crowds were not a problem and the lakes surprisingly, not too tidy. Low budgets, presumably. We made 163 records bringing the total to 200 after I added *Populus* sp. from the eastern extreme of our perambulations. An Evening Primrose was later identified as *Oenothera x fallax* and the startlingly large, late flowering *Caltha* seems to be *C. ssp* (or var) *polypetala* (Giant Marsh-marigold). The edges of the lakes were richer than expected with *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*. *Lythrum salicaria* and *Stachys palustris*, but I hope the 2 small plants of *Cotula coronopifolia* don't spread too much and that the amazing new county record of *Rorippa islandica* in thousands, continues to flourish. *Sherardia* and *Carex spicata* were other good records.

In September we ventured to the NE extreme of the VC and while trespassing in Yorks we found *Gentianella amarella* which was a new hectad record. For VC58, we saw 32 species in SE00X making a total of 33. Masses of *Calluna*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *Deschampsia flexuosa* as expected, but the stream valley added a bunch of records. The best records were *Rubus chamaemorus* (spotted by Richard) and especially *Huperzia selago* (spotted by Richard) which was only the second record since 1900!

Solo recording produced *Parentucellia viscosa* at several places on the new A555 where was also *Myosotis discolor ssp dubia* and *Lipandra* (*Chenopodium*) *polysperma*. A good colony of *Nicandra physalodes* was found on a farm dump near Goostrey. A nice crop of naturalised Crocuses was seen at Frodsham church; *C. vernus*, *neopolitanus*, *tommasinianus* and *x luteus* in Stace 4 nomenclature. Stewart Hinsley found *Crocus kotschyianus* new to Cheshire.

As for 2020, the meetings are mostly for pleasure rather than hard-core recording. However, the BSBI is likely to require all future records to be to at least 4 figures (ie monad) with a recorder and a precise date to be acceptable. As there are nearly 3000 monads in VC58, it will be a big task, but doing one monad is fairly easy, so please try to record a monad local to you. You might even enjoy it! It is only a 1Km square, so if 30 people did one a year, it would only take 100 years!

CHESHIRE PLANT RECORDING MEETINGS FOR 2020

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.

Saturday April 18th to visit Warburton's Wood. Meet on the verge at SJ557755.

Sunday May 17th at Parkgate. Meet in carpark at SJ273791 to walk north.

Wednesday May 27th Crown Farm quarry. Park at SJ576702 at the end of the quarry road at 10.30am with packed lunch. See * below.

Sunday June 14th. Meet at SJ210868 by the West Kirby jetty at 10.30am to visit Hilbre Island taking a packed lunch.

Saturday July 4th at Farndon. Meet in the carpark just S of the road bridge at SJ412544 to walk south along the river.

Saturday August 1st in Northwich. Park in small carpark at SJ655743 at the end of what looks like Beswicks Road. This is opposite a hospital(?) where you turn right on a big bend. We will explore Furey Wood.

Saturday August 22nd meet opposite the Cat and Fiddle Inn on the A537. SK001719, to explore verges to the south.

Saturday September 12th at 10.30am at SJ289762 on the shore to look at Salicornias. Bring lunch.

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*Best system for parking is to congregate at the car park by the old offices (shanty town) on the right just inside the gate. Then we can go down to the little car-park halfway down the hill. If we do that we can go down the road in the minimum number of cars. The road down the hill has 20-ton trucks struggling up and empty trucks racing down. Scary! A local rule is that vehicles have to be parked facing out.



Rorippa islandica (R. Bointon)



Parentucellia viscosa



Huperzia selago Holme Moss (R. Bointon)



Nicandra physalodes seen near Goostrey.