



Flora of North- west Yorkshire

A botanical newsletter for VC65

Issue 14, Spring 2022

Pseudorchis albida, Small White Orchid in Fotheringholme SSSI

Welcome to this our 14th newsletter for v.c.65 which is intended to keep you up-to date with botanical activities in North-west Yorkshire. For geographical details of the vice county please visit our website at: <https://bsbi.org/north-west-yorkshire> and click on 'A brief tour of v.c.65'.

2021 was a continuation of 2020 with social distancing, mask wearing and not many field meetings. It was a slight improvement because of the Vaccinations. My two vaccinations were done in the spring followed up by a booster, despite feeling invincible I then caught Covid in September and was confined to barracks for 10 days. It left me feeling pretty exhausted, no sense of smell and brain fog despite only being really off colour with a temperature and flu symptoms for a couple of days.

Upper Teesdale Special Flora and Conservation Trust

Dr. Margaret Bradshaw has studied the Vegetation and Special Flora in Upper Teesdale since the 1950's. Her long-term records show the changes in population size and distribution of this unique flora. Margaret now 96, set up the 'Upper Teesdale Special Flora and Conservation Trust' so that this vital work will continue. An initial project funded by Margaret from 2017 to 2019 shows a decline in the number of rare plants and their distribution in selected areas studied that includes parts of v.c.65. The detailed and accurate figures collected paint a depressing picture. There are fewer plants in fewer areas. Something

is wrong, badly wrong. The findings emphasise how vital on-going survey work is to discover what is happening to the very special flora in all parts of Upper Teesdale. Old and new records are needed to inform future land management and conservation effort to help the flora to survive

To fund further survey work over the next five years the Trust needs to raise £100,000 and is looking for donations. If you feel you could help with a one off donation or even better a regular, monthly or annual donation please email teesdaleflora@gmail.com or take a look at their Facebook page 'Friends of Teesdale Flora' where you can contribute.

Botanical Correspondence in 2022

Many thanks to the following people who sent records in for 2022. Jo Parmenter sent in her records taken whilst surveying in Teesdale and Lunedale, she updated some of the Teesdale rarities into the present decade. Rachel Hepburn also sent in records whilst doing ecological survey work in the v.c. Other records were received from Deborah and Rebecca Millward, Fal Sarker, Helen Mars, Jim Fisher, Nick Morgan and Robert Hall.

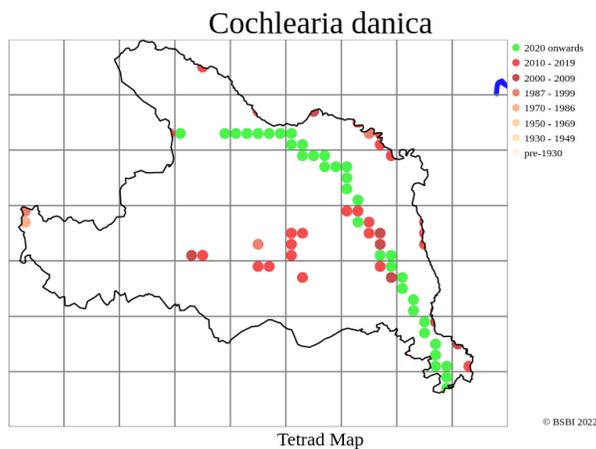
Some of these species appear in the following Notable Finds.

Notable finds in 2022

***Allium oleraceum* (Field Garlic)**, this was recorded by Deborah and Rebecca Millward at Woodhall in dense scrub on the 19th March (SD97.90)

***Brunnera macrophylla* (Great Forget-me-not)**, this was recorded by Nick Morgan on a verge on the outskirts of Ainderby Steeple on 23rd March (SD33.91)

***Cochlearia danica* (Danish Scurveygrass)**, On the 5th April on a journey as a passenger up the A1M and the A66, I took the opportunity to record every monad in which I spotted this little halophyte, It was slightly early for any plants on the top of Stainmore, hence the gaps.(see map)



***Colchicum autumnale* (Meadow Saffron)** Deborah and I visited a site near Lord's Bridge on 15th October to check



on a small population in the corner of a field near the footpath. We found five individual plants flowering, good

that they were still there albeit only a small number. SE07.88.

***Crepis mollis* (Northern Hawk's-beard)** on the 3rd July I visited Teesdale whilst monitoring Small White Orchids, on the off-chance I had a look at the quarry site for the Northern Hawk's-beard which had not been seen for a few years. A bit worryingly there were only 5 plants flowering, the population is somewhat at risk. (NY90.27).

***Euphorbia amygdaloides* (Wood Spurge)** Recorded on 12th June near Morton-on-Swale near the Crossing by Nick Morgan, SE32.92.

***Foeniculum vulgare* (Fennel)** Recorded on 9th September on a footpath near houses in Morton-on-Swale by Nick Morgan, SE32.91.

***Gagea lutea* (Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem)** This was recorded from five sites, some updated decade records and one new:

1. Recorded from Redmire Falls on 19th March by Robert Hall, SE04.91.
2. Recorded from Apedale Beck, Redmire, by Deborah and Rebecca Millward on 19th March, SE04.91.
3. Recorded from two places on the Ure riverbank between Lord's Bridge and Wensley Bridge on 24th March by Deborah and Rebecca Millward, both sites in SE08.89.
4. Recorded by Fal Sarker on 4th April on Spoil Bank, Croft-on-Tees, she counted a total of 43 clumps, NZ29.08.
5. Recorded from three new Monads up Gill Beck near Scargill by Tim Laurie and myself on 19th April, NZ05.10, NZ06.10, and NZ05.09.

***Genista tinctoria* (Dyer's Greenweed)** This site is one of only two recorded since 2000 in the v.c. Jim Parkin and myself visited the site on a steep bank under Applegarth Scar on 24th August and found it ungrazed and getting shaded out by rampant grass growth and Hawthorn spreading over it. Will be getting in touch with the powers that be to see if we can change the management on the site as we don't want to lose it. (see pic on next page). NZ11.01.

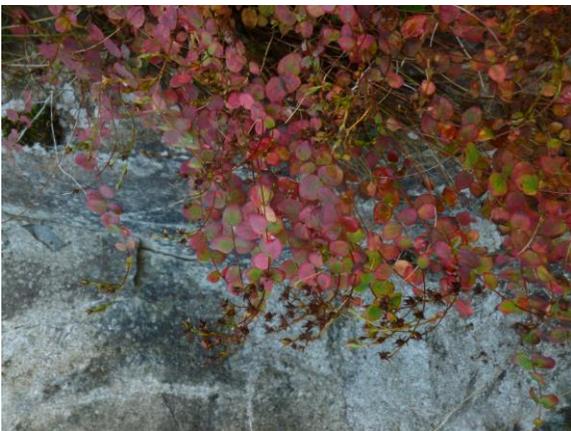


Genista tinctoria being shaded out by grasses,
black seed pods just visible

Glebionius segetum (Corn Marigold) Recorded near Morton-on-Swale in the Bottom fields in a small enclosure on 22nd June by Nick Morgan, SE33.91.

Glyceria maxima (Reed Sweet-grass) Recorded near Morton-on-Swale in the Bottom fields in Rich Ditch on 24th July by Nick Morgan, SE33.91.

Hypericum nummularium (Round-leaved St. John's-wort) - Deborah and I visited the quarry on 15th October. This small introduced rockery plant had been recorded in the upper part of the Quarry previously but Deborah pointed out another site lower down in the quarry which had



probably been introduced at the same time. The plants at the lower end of the quarry appeared to be spreading along a ledge on the limestone and the site appears to be missing from the BSBI records. SD992.884 & SD992.885.

Hieracium bakeranum (Baker's Hawkweed) This plant is critically endangered and almost extinct with only two individuals left in the wild in Upper Teesdale. Four years ago Trevor and I collected some seed and fortunately I managed to germinate and grow on two individual plants, one of these flowered the following year. The seed was collected and I now have around 18 individual seedlings which hopefully will flower in 2022. Some of these have been given to NE staff in Teesdale who are going to plant them out in the hope that they will spread further downstream. I will be planting some out at White Force and around Wynch Bridge which were sites for this plant in the past. NY82 & NY83.



Hieracium bakeranum flowering in a pot in my garden

Hordelymus europaeus (Wood Barley) John Durkin and myself visited Deepdale in July around the Cat Castle area and spotted some good riverside populations of this lovely grass. NZ01.16.



Hordelymus europaeus in Deepdale

***Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort)** Recorded by Helen Mars at Cover Banks on the 5th April, SE181.

***Mimulus moschatus* (Musk)** Recorded by Jim Parkin and myself on 30th June whilst surveying part of Foxglove Covert Nature Reserve on the outskirts of Catterick Army Camp, a few plants were spotted on the edge of the new pond Spigot Mere. This little plant often grown in houses in the past for its musky scent appeared to mysteriously lose its smell around the 1900's. SE15.97.

***Neotinea ustulata* (Burnt Orchid)** Two plants were recorded flowering in the Leyburn Glebe Field by the Warden at the beginning of June, a few days later there was no sign of them, not sure if the Rabbits had them or maybe human rabbits purloined them, we will never know, very sad because the population there has declined drastically in the last ten years.

On the 5th June a group of volunteers accompanied me to monitor the best population of Burnt Orchids left in Wensleydale, these are on private property and comprise three lovely well managed hay fields, we counted 112 individual plants along with Frog Orchids, Green-winged Orchids, Common Spotted Orchids, Heath Spotted Orchids and Common Twayblade as well as a Lapwing nest and Snipe nest. The family who own the fields have now

looked after these Orchids for three generations. Because the Burnt Orchid is classed as 'Critically Endangered' by Natural England they are trying to reintroduce them to areas where they were known in the past, seed has been collected and hopefully any reintroductions will be successful. This is the first year that the SSSI fields have been classed as being back in 'Good Condition' since the 1980's.

These two populations may be the last in Wensleydale, three others having disappeared recently within the last ten years due to habitat degradation. SE08 & SE18.

***Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid)** – This was looked for above Gunnerside in Birkbeck Wood on the 16th June by Carol and Andrew Armstrong, Alan Wilson and myself. It appeared that the site had been washed out in the serious floods in 2019. .

***Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid)** - Recorded on 18th June in Hudswell Wood near Richmond from its known site by Carol and Andrew Armstrong, three spikes were seen. NZ15.00.

***Pseudorchis albida* (Small White Orchid)** This small Orchid was looked for and monitored where it was present at six sites in v.c.65:

1. Carol and Andrew Armstrong, Alan Wilson and myself visited the old Small White Orchid site up Gunnerside Pasture on 16th June but a nil result was recorded, SD94.99.
2. This site was visited on 16th June by Carol and Andrew Armstrong and myself. Thanks to Carol's sharp eyes we spotted just two spikes. A bit disappointing but this site is very dry and has a good population of rabbits. SD97.96.
3. Jim Parkin and myself went up Marsett Rigg on 22nd June, we found three spikes flowering on the upper site, SD89.86.
4. Carol and Andrew Armstrong, Jim Parkin and myself went up Fotheringholme SSSI on 23rd June. Carol and Andrew had a Grid Reference from a friend which turned out to be a previously unrecorded (by myself) site, here we found 14 spikes one of which was in a new tetrad so two dots on the map ! At the well known site at the west

end of the SSSI we recorded a record 34 spikes and just to the east of that at a small site just discovered last year we found 4 spikes. The site ownership changed a few years ago and the Small White Orchid seems to be liking the present management. NY98.04, NY99.04, NY99.03.

5. I went down to the Teesdale site near Scoberry Knoll on 3rd July, unfortunately it was a nil result.

6. Jim Parkin and myself went to the site at the head of Deepdale near Dent on the 21st August, we were rather late in the season but couldn't find any spikes. SD72.83.

***Verbena bonariensis* (Argentinian Vervain)** This garden escape was spotted by Nick Morgan on 7th September along the railway near Waterboard Lane in Morton-in-Swale, SE33.92

***X Dactyloдения evansii* (*Gymnadenia borealis* x *Dactylorhiza maculata*)** This inter-generic hybrid orchid was seen on 23rd June by Carol and Andrew Armstrong, Jim Parkin and myself near one of the Small White Orchid sites. NY99.04.

Recording Method

We record in Monads (1x1km squares) but if we stray over the 1 km border into another Monad in the same tetrad (2x2 km squares on the even numbered grid) we sometimes just record the extras, you can however make a new list if you have the inclination. If however you cross the Tetrad border into another Tetrad you must make another complete list. That way if we ever decide to record at Monad level for a finer resolution, the records are already in the correct format. The 2020 Atlas unlike previous versions, will be in Tetrads not Hectads (10x10 km squares).

If you do send in records, an email or a list on excel or word will suffice, it needn't be in alphabetical order, even handwritten lists sent by post are fine. If you need recording cards just let me know, I can supply hard copies or email templates for you to print your own. Please remember to put in Recorders names, the date you recorded, GR of Monad ie. NY81.11 or for notable plants perhaps an eight or ten figure GR. If you record Orchids could you send a picture too, this helps reduce erroneous records (please do not pick a specimen). We can supply lists of species for each Hectad and lists of old records to re-find. We have produced an excel spreadsheet with all the tetrads and number of species recorded in each, if you

would like a copy please ask me, it helps to highlight under-recorded Tetrads.

Recording plans for the future

I have made a start on a Check List of North West Yorkshire now that the pressure of the Atlas is off. There is still plenty of recording to do, looking through all the ancient records has produced a list of species and sites to search and check to see if anything is still around

The Rare Plants Register will be compiled alongside the Check List, this will include the 126 native and archaeophyte taxa listed below:-

Actea spicata - Baneberry
Alchemilla acutiloba – Starry Lady's Mantle
Alchemilla glaucescens – Silky Lady's Mantle
Alchemilla glomerulans – Clustered Lady's Mantle
Alchemilla minima – Least Lady's Mantle
Alchemilla subcrenata – Large-toothed Lady's Mantle
Alchemilla wichurae – Rock Lady's Mantle
Allium oleraceum – Field Garlic
Alopecurus magellanicus – Alpine Foxtail
Anacamptis morio – Green-winged Orchid
Anthemis arvensis – Corn Chamomile
Asplenium trichomanes subsp. *pachyrachis* – Maidenhair
Spleenwort
Bartsia alpina – Alpine Bartsia
Blysmus compressus – Flat Sedge
Bromopsis benekenii – Lesser Hairy-brome
Cardamine impatiens – Narrow-leaved Bitter-cress
Carex capillaris – Hair Sedge
Carex digitata – Fingered Sedge
Carex ericetorum – Rare Spring-sedge
Carex muricata subsp. *muricata* – Large-fruited Prickly-Sedge
Carex vaginata – Sheathed Sedge
Chenopodium bonus-henricus – Good King Henry
Circaea alpina – Alpine Enchanter's-nightshade
Clinopodium calamintha – Lesser Calamint
Cochlearia micacea – Mountain Scurvygrass
Cochlearia pyrenaica – Pyrenean Scurvygrass
Coeloglossum viride – Frog Orchid
Crepis mollis – Northern Hawk's-beard
Cynoglossum officinale – Hound's Tongue
Cypripedium calceolus – Lady's Slipper Orchid
Dactylorhiza traunsteinerioides – Pugsley's Orchid
Daphne mezereum - Mezereon
Draba muralis – Wall Whitlow Grass
Dryas octopetala – Mountain Avens
Dryopteris submontana – Rigid Buckler Fern
Epipactis atrorubens – Dark-red Helleborine

Epipactis phyllanthes – Green-flowered Helleborine
Equisetum pratense – Shady Horsetail
Equisetum variegatum – Variegated Horsetail
Eriophorum gracile – Slender Cottongrass
Erophila majuscula – Hairy Whitlowgrass
Euphorbia exigua – Dwarf Spurge
Euphrasia officinalis subsp. *monticola* – Montane
 Eyebright
Euphrasia officinalis subsp. *pratensis* – Rostkov’s
 Eyebright
Filago vulgaris – Common cudweed
Fumaria purpurea – Purple Ramping-fumitory
Galeopsis angustifolia – Red Hemp-nettle
Galeopsis speciosa – Large-flowered Hemp-nettle
Genista anglica – Petty Whin
Gentiana verna – Spring Gentian
Gentianella campestris – Field Gentian
Glebionis segetum – Corn Marigold
Gnaphalium sylvaticum – Heath Cudweed
Groenlandia densa – Opposite-leaved Pondweed
Gymnocarpium robertianum – Limestone Fern
Helianthemum oelandicum subsp. *levigatum* – Subspecies
 of Hoary Rockrose
Hordelymus europaeus – Wood Barley
Hornungia petraea - Hutchinsia
Hymenophyllum wilsonii – Wilson’s Filmy-fern
Hyoisycyamus niger - Henbane
Hypericum montanum – Pale St. John’s-wort
Imperatoria ostruthium - Masterwort
Juncus alpinoarticulatus – Alpine Rush
Juncus compressus – Round-fruited Rush
Kobresia simpliciuscula – False Sedge
Limosella aquatica - Mudwort
Linum perenne – Perennial Flax
Luronium natans – Floating Water-plantain
Lysimachia thyrsoiflora – Tufted Loosestrife
Melampyrum sylvaticum – Small Cow-wheat
Meum athamanticum - Spignel
Minuartia hybrida – Fine-leaved Sandwort
Minuartia verna – Spring Sandwort
Myosotis alpestris – Alpine Forget-me-not
Myosotis stolonifera – Pale Forget-me-not
Myosurus minimus - Mousetail
Myriophyllum verticillatum – Whorled Water-milfoil
Neotinea ustulata – Burnt Orchid
Noccea caerulea – Alpine Penny-cress
Oenanthe fistulosa – Tubular Water-dropwort
Ophrys insectifera – Fly Orchid
Orobanche alba – Thyme Broomrape
Orobanche rapum-genistae – Greater Broomrape
Orobanche reticulata – Thistle Broomrape
Papaver argemone – Prickly Poppy
Persicaria minor – Small Water-pepper

Pilularia globulifera - Pillwort
Polemonium caeruleum – Jacob’s-Ladder
Polygala amarella – Dwarf Milkwort
Polystichum lonchitis – Holly Fern
Potamogeton coloratus – Fen Pondweed
Potamogeton friesii – Flat-stalked Pondweed
Potentilla crantzii – Alpine Cinquefoil
Potentilla fruticosa – Shrubby Cinquefoil
Potentilla tabernaemontani – Spring Cinquefoil
Primula farinosa – Bird’s-eye Primrose
Pseudorchis albida – Small-white Orchid
Ranunculus arvensis – Corn Buttercup
Ribes alpinum – Mountain Currant
Ribes spicatum – Downy Currant
Rosa agrestis – Small-leaved Sweet-briar
Rumex pseudoalpinus – Monk’s Rhubarb
Saxifraga hirculus – Marsh Saxifrage
Saxifraga hypnoides – Mossy Saxifrage
Scandix pecten-veneris – Shepherd’s-needle
Scheuchzeria palustris – Rannoch Rush
Sedum villosum – Hairy Stonecrop
Sesleria caerulea – Blue Moor-grass
Silene gallica – Small-flowered Catchfly
Silene noctiflora – Night-flowering Catchfly
Sium latifolium – Greater Water-parsnip
Sorbus rupicola – Rock Whitebeam
Spergula arvensis – Corn Spurrey
Spiranthes spiralis – Autumn Lady’s-tresses
Stachys arvensis – Field Woundwort
Stellaria palustris – Marsh Stitchwort
Teesdalia nudicaulis – Shepherd’s Cress
Teucrium scordium – Water Germander
Tilia platyphyllos – Large-leaved Lime
Turritis glabra – Tower Mustard
Utricularia australis - Bladderwort
Valerianella dentata – Narrow-fruited Cornsalad
Vicia orobus – Wood Bitter-vetch
Viola tricolor – Wild Pansy
Woodsia ilvensis – Oblong Woodsia

Some of these species are long extinct (e.g. *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Woodsia ilvensis*), a couple of these have been reintroduced recently and some like *Vicia orobus* only present at one site near Sedbergh have been seen post 2000 but now appear to be extinct. Others are relatively common in VC65 (e.g. *Minuartia verna*, *Primula farinosa*, *Sesleria caerulea*).

Facebook

We now have a Facebook Site if you are on Facebook look up **North West Yorkshire Botany**, you are welcome to become a member of the group. Whilst it is not directly associated with the BSBI it was set up with a view to getting a 'not too serious' look at our work out there, and hopefully getting some records back, this has worked well and we have had more records coming in to date. We have also gained a few new members.

Field Meetings 2022

All Field Meetings start at 10.30am. unless stated otherwise. If you intend to come along to meetings please try and let Linda Robinson know, contact details at end of Newsletter.

Sunday 6th March – Gill Beck and River Greta near Scargill to update *Gagea lutea* records. Meet Gillbeck Bridge NZ062.105.

Saturday 19th March – Jervaulx Abbey to try and retrace a record of *Helleborus viridis* from the 1960's in SE18 Jervaulx and Eelmire, also checking out the *Myosotis ramosissima* recorded from there. Will be walking footpaths around the area and recording all the spring flora. Meet in the car park at Jervaulx Abbey Tea Shop at SE168.856.

Wednesday 13th April – Coverham Abbey and Pinkers Pond, to see if we can trace pure *Viola canina* and other spring species. Meet on the verge beside Pinkers Pond at SE114.868.

Tuesday 26th April – Garsdale to check out an old record of *Primula farinosa*. Meet near Hind Keld West, possible parking on the unfenced verge at SD711.913.

Wednesday 11th May – Check out old records of *Potentilla crantzii* and *Persicaria vivipara* on Green Scar Crags above Widdale. Meet at Newby Head Gate at SD790.834.

Saturday 28th May – Monitoring Burnt Orchids at Low Wanless, meet at the Farm at SE062.895.

Saturday 4th June - Marsett Rigg, a Field Meeting in conjunction with the YNU, monitoring Small White Orchids plus a look at other rare and interesting limestone flora. The terrain is fairly steep, rough pasture land but the distance is within a kilometer of the parking place. There

is other interesting flora on the track downstream from Marsett and on the village green. Meet on Marsett Village green SD902.862.

Tuesday 7th June – Swinithwaite, checking for Burnt Orchids and Green-winged Orchids, meet at Berry's Teashop for a coffee before we set off. SE044.892.

Sunday 10th July – Trip to Tanfield to check out some old records of *Blysmus compressus* and *Atropa bella-donna* near the Mill, also a visit to Thornborough Henge to see *Genista tinctoria* and *Filipendula vulgaris*. Meet in Tanfield centre, not sure about parking around SE269.788

Friday 29th July – Teesdale, from Wynch Bridge up to Holwick Head recording everything we see to update for the present decade. Meet in the car park at Bowlees (there is a voluntary contribution for parking) NY908.282.

Sunday 7th August - Meeting in conjunction with the Wildflower Society at Deepdale, Whitcliffe Scar and Woodland via Willance's Leap. Interesting limestone flora including Many-leaved Sedge (*Carex divulsa* ssp. *leersii*), Spiked Sedge (*Carex spicata*), Silver Hair-grass (*Aira caryophyllea*), native Limes (*Tilia* sp.), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Small Teasel (*Dipsacus pilosus*), Hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) and lots of other limestone species. The terrain is steep in places but mainly on well defined footpaths and tracks with a slight deviation to look around an old Neolithic settlement Meet on the roadside at the top of Deepdale at NZ130.025 at 10.30am. Bring all weather clothing, sun screen, insect repellent and lunch plus drinks. **(This Field Meeting is now fully booked)**

Sunday 21st August – Howgills near Four Lane Ends, up to lower reaches of Long Rigg Beck, we should see *Meum athemanticum* and will be checking for the elusive and possibly now extinct *Vicia orobus*. Meet at Four Lane Ends at SD642.959.

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