

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.

***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 bakerianum* (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.

***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.

***Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort)** Recorded by Helen Mars at Cover Banks on the 5th April, SE18I.

***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 Dactylodenia 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.