

VC91 Report 2019

We concentrated this year on adding extra monads or tetrads in hectads that fell short of them, and hunting for species not recorded since 2000. For the DDb, 1832 records excluding duplicates were added this year via DW's Mapmate, with more added for the vice-county from other sources. Roughly two-thirds of the species are now validated.

The usual one-day field meeting for the local SWT branch visited the NTS policies at Crathes Castle and the nearby former railway station and sand-pit; it attracted 20 participants. The outing and planning visits added 28 species to the NTS Rangers' site list, including *Chaerophyllum temulum* (Rough Chervil) not recorded in VC91 since 1959. Notable species found at the sand-pit included *Clinopodium vulgare* (Wild Basil), *Potentilla argentea* (Hoary Cinquefoil) and *Teesdalia nudicaulis* (Shepherd's Cress).

A long cycle and walk to Mount Battock by DE in search of *Gnaphalium supinum* (Dwarf Cudweed) yielded instead the NCR *Epilobium anagallidifolium* (Alpine Willowherb). Other NCRs this year were *Carex oederi* (Small-fruited Yellow-sedge) (found by Theo Loizou on the Nigg coast), *Luzula luzuloides* (White Wood-rush) (Marykirk), and *Raphanus sativus* (Fodder Radish) (Fettercairn). A notable 2nd record was *Symphytum officinale x asperum x tuberosum* (hybrid of Russian Comfrey) (Muchalls).

Rediscoveries included *Carex riparia* (Greater Pond-sedge) and *Milium effusum* (Wood Millet), with last records respectively pre-1845 and pre-1960.

For DW, refereeing *Myosotis* (Forget-me-nots) had the extra task of checking whether the sub-species of *Myosotis discolor* (Changing Forget-me-not) are worthy of species status, as suggested by recent studies.