
Flora of North- west Yorkshire

A botanical newsletter for VC65

Issue 15, Spring 2023



Gagea lutea (Yellow Star of Bethlehem)

Welcome to this our 15th 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'.

Thanks to Pauline Mellor-Greenhalgh for our picture of *Gagea lutea* (above).

Thankfully 2022 was a definite improvement on the last two years with the Covid epidemic and its lockdowns. The only constraints this year will be the rising cost of fuel and a slight reduction in Field Meetings reflects this.

Botanical Correspondence in 2022

Many thanks to the following people who sent records in for 2022.

Jo Parmenter sent in more records taken whilst surveying in Teesdale and Lunedale. We updated records from Cautley Spout when Nik Aspey sent in the results of his visit on the 10th September. Trish New who has been recording in the south of the v.c. sent in some interesting records and Catherine Ashdown sent in some records from Easby Abbey. We received a record from Paul Waite of *Platanthera chlorantha* in a meadow in Dentdale, and Rob Dixon sent in the record of *Carex laevigata* (Smooth-stalked Sedge)

Colin Conroy sent in the results of a Survey he did in 2022 at Tancred Quarry and Lisle Ryder sent in records from the Churchyard at Patrick Brompton. As a result of this

Churchyard Survey we have included a few Churchyards in the Field Meetings for 2023.

Monitoring and Surveys in 2022

The now annual monitoring of *Neotinea ustulata* (Burnt Orchid) in its three remaining sites in the v.c. took place on 24th & 28th May and 1st June. The Glebe Field had three individual plants recorded, the Swinithwaite Pasture only had two individuals but the three fields on private farm land below West Witton had a total of two hundred and sixty four which brought the SSSI up into favourable condition according to Natural England. This once relatively common species in Wensleydale is now considered 'critically endangered' and is subject to a reintroduction programme by Natural England and the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Seed has been collected over the past couple of years with the intention of reintroducing it back into its old sites where habitat restoration work is being carried out. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped at the West Witton site, Carol, Andrew, Sue, Janet, Phil, Yan Yee, Marco, Rob, Jim and Sheila.

The *Pseudorchis albida* (Small White Orchid) was monitored in three of its sites this year, there were four individuals recorded on 4th June at Marsett Rigg, two individuals counted at Len Pastures and on 22nd June forty six individuals were counted at Fotheringholme SSSI. Also seen and confirmed thanks to Alan Gendle and his friends were *Dactylorhiza x formosa* (*D. maculata* x *D. purpurella*) and *Dactylorhiza x venusta* (*D. fuchsii* x *D. purpurella*).

Thanks to volunteers Carol, Andrew, Sue, Janet, Deborah, Ken and Anne.

Sue Thurley and myself counted and recorded all the plants of *Alchemilla monticola* in one section of Hayberries Nature Reserve near Eggleston. The remaining section will be surveyed in 2023. This Reserve has been invaded by the garden escape *Alchemilla mollis* and hopefully some work parties will be organised this year to help dig this out. It needs to be done by people able to differentiate between the extremely rare *Alchemilla monticola* and this invader. Adding to the mix and confusion are plants of *Alchemilla glabra* and *Alchemilla xanthochlora* which are relatively common here.



Positions and numbers of plants of *Alchemilla monticola*



Classic *Alchemilla monticola* leaf

Ash Die Back

Most trees in the v.c. are showing the initial signs of having the disease and some are already completely dead. It doesn't look like they will regenerate from the base like the Elms have done. We are trying to record all the monads that have Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in them so we have a clear indication of their distribution throughout the v.c. If you could record every monad where you see Ash

trees and send the records to me this would be a great help.

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)

***Alnus rubra* (Red Alder)**. This was recorded as planted on the path downriver from Tanfield Road Bridge on 10th July by Linda Robinson, Yan-Yee Lau, Trish New, Anne & Ken Readshaw and Jim Parkin. SE26.78.

***Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid)**. This was recorded by Sarah Chilton on her property at Scarth Nick above Preston-under-Scar. This is the second record from this Hectad, the first record was one by John Percival in his 'Flora of Wensleydale' in 1888 from Bear Park near Aysgarth. SE06.91.

***Aquilegia vulgaris* (Columbine)**. This native Aquilegia was shown to us by Deborah Millward up Bardale Beck above Marsett Rigg on 4th June. Approximately 10 plants were seen on a damp narrow limestone ledge. SD89.86.

***Betula nana* (Dwarf Birch)**. This was an exciting new record for v.c.65 when John O'Reilly found two bushes on the 29th August on the summit area of Cronkley Fell, amazing it had not been discovered before because Cronkley Fell is very well botanised. There is one bush just over the river on Widdybank Fell in v.c.66. NY84.28.



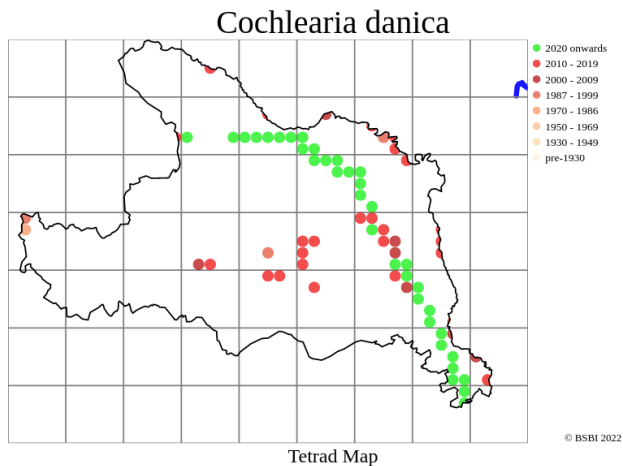
Betula nana photographed by John O'Reilly

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

***Carex laevigata* (Smooth-stalked Sedge).** This was found by Rob Dixon at High Agra, Gollinglith Foot on 28th June. SE15.81.

***Carex muricata* subsp. *pairae* (Prickly Sedge).** This uncommon Sedge in v.c.65 was found in two new locations in the lane to Castley above Four Lane Ends above the Crook of Lune, by Deborah Millward and Linda Robinson on 21st August. SD63.95, SD64.95.

***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.



***Cotula alpina* (Alpine Cotula).** This small Australian native was spotted by Trish New at Marfield Wetlands on 12th June, this is a lowland record as opposed to all the other records in the v.c. which are found on the upland Grouse Moors. SE21.82.

***Crepis mollis* (Northern Hawk's-beard).** This now uncommon species was confirmed from an old site near Thornton Rust by Deborah Millward, Ken and Anne Readshaw on 7th June. SD96.89.

***Galium parisiense* (Wall Bedstraw).** This had been seeded on new verges just off the A1M near Leeming Bar at Coney Hill. Presumably sown in the seed mix spread by the road builders. SE28.90.

***Hieracium bakeranum* (Baker's Hawkweed).** This critically endangered species had only a couple of plants left on the Planet in 2018. Since then seed has been collected and plants grown on. Some have already been reintroduced at various places along the Tees between Widdybank Farm and Wynch Bridge. This work has been carried out by Linda Robinson helped by Martin Furness of NE, Trevor

Lewis, Jim Parkin, Deborah Millward, Mark Lynes and Anne and Ken Readshaw, Tim Rich gave helpful advice too. NY84.29, NY88.28, NY89.28, NY90.27 & NY90.28.

***Leucojum vernum* (Spring Snowflake).** A few clumps were found naturalised on the riverside below the track to Danby Mill by Linda Robinson, Yan-Yee Lau, Ken and Anne Readshaw, Alan Wilson and Jim Parkin on 6th March, a second record for the v.c. SE14.87.



Leucojum vernum

***Lilium martagon* (Martagon Lily).** This lovely garden escape was spotted at Marfield Wetlands on 3rd July by Trish New. SE21.82.

***Meum athemanticum* (Spignel).** Four new sites were discovered on 21st August by Deborah Millward and Linda Robinson up the lane to Castley above Four Lane Ends, above the Crook of Lune. All found in SD63.95.



Meum athemanticum

***Orthilia secunda* (Serrated Wintergreen).** This confirmation of an old record was received from Nik Aspey on 10th September from Cautley Spout. SD68.97..

***Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern).** This was recorded by Jo Parmenter on 5th June in Deepdale Nature Reserve near Lartington. This is the 3rd record for the v.c. NZ03.16.

***Phytolacca acinosa* (Indian Pokeweed).** Recorded by Trish New on the edge of a car park in Masham on 5th September. A second record for the v.c. SE22.80.

***Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly Orchid).** This was recorded by Paul Waite on 15th August at a new site in a meadow near Cowgill in Dentdale. SD75.86.

***Potentilla fruticosa* (Shrubby Cinquefoil).** This was recorded by Jo Parmenter on 5th June in Deepdale Nature Reserve near Lartington. NZ04.16.

***Rosa multiflora* (Many Flowered Rose).** This was recorded on 24th June by Linda Robinson on a newly constructed part of the junction just off the A1M near Leeming Bar at Coney Hill. Lots of bushes planted by the road builders, possibly their take on Wild Roses. SE28.90.

***Scrophularia vernalis* (Yellow Figwort).** This species is quite rare in the v.c. Recorded by Linda Robinson, Chris Weaver and Trish New on 27th April on the verge south of the wooded Thornborough Henge, this is only the second record in the v.c. since 2000. SE28.79.

***Sedum rosea* (Roseroot).** This old record was confirmed by Nik Aspey on 10th September from Cautley Spout. SD68.97.

***Viola canina* (Early Dog Violet).** This increasingly uncommon Violet was recorded on Ever Bank, above Pinker's Pond by Linda Robinson, Jim Parkin and Ken Readshaw on 13th April. SE11.87.

***Viola odorata* var *sulphurea* (Sweet Violet).** This rare variety of Sweet Violet was shown to us by Chris Weaver who discovered it in 2021. It is a first record for the v.c. SE27.79.

Recording Method

We record in Monads for a finer resolution.

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. 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.

Plant Atlas 2020

The BSBI have just published the Plant Atlas for 2020, it is available through Summerfield Books. It has information on the British Flora and Maps at tetrad resolution since plant recording began up to 2020.

<https://www.summerfieldbooks.com>



Recording plans for the future

I am still working my way through the forthcoming Checklist for North West Yorkshire. The Rare Plants Register is being compiled alongside it. The RPR 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
Hyoscyamus 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*) but a couple of these have been reintroduced recently. Others like *Vicia orobus* only present at one site near Sedbergh up to 2004 now appear to be extinct, hence the Field Meeting on the 23rd of May near the Crook of Lune. 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 click on **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 giving people look at our work and generate some interest in the flora. We do get records in from people and we have gained a lot of new members.

Field Meetings 2023

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.

Wednesday 22nd March – Colburn Beck Wood looking for *Gagea lutea*. Meet near dismantled railway east of Colburn at SE215.985.

Tuesday 28th March - Egglestone Abbey and walk up Thorsgill Wood. Meet at Egglestone Abbey at NZ063.151.

Saturday 8th April – Patrick Brompton Churchyard, Finghall Churchyard and Hunton Churchyard. Meet at Patrick Brompton Church at SE219.907.

Sunday 30th April – West Burton for walk up Morpeth Gate track and back via woodland. Meet near waterfall in West Burton at SE019.866.

Tuesday 23rd May, Crook of Lune, Lunedale. Meet near telephone box at SD634.950.

Wednesday 31st May – Marfield Wetlands in conjunction with the Yorkshire Naturalists Union. Meet at the entrance at SE213.822.

Wednesday 7th June – Masham, upstream of the bridge to check for Burnt Orchids which used to grow here. Meet in car park next to bridge at SE224 812.

Tuesday 4th July – Surveying *Alchemilla monticola* at Hayberries Nature Reserve. Meet in the car park on the Reserve at NY991.229.

Saturday 22nd July – Abbotside Common to check out a record of *Vaccinium uliginosum*. Meet at roadside near bridleway at SD866.937.

Tuesday August 8th – Jervaulx Abbey carr woodland to search for *Calamagrostis canescens* last recorded in 1994. Meet at car park opposite entrance to Abbey at SE168.857.

Saturday August 19th – Woodlands below Crackpot Hall searching for an old record of *Hieracium bakerianum* dating back to 1858. Meet in the car park in Keld. NY891.013.

Finally, not strictly higher plants but may interest some folks:-

Saturday 28th October – Waxcaps and other Grassland Fungi. Meet at Horsehouse Churchyard. This is a Yoredale Natural History Society Meeting arranged by Anne Readshaw from NE.. **Meet at 10.00am** at SE047 813.



Vicia orobus (Upright Vetch)

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