

Welcome to this our 16th 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: <a href="https://bsbi.org/north-west-yorkshire">https://bsbi.org/north-west-yorkshire</a> and click on 'A brief tour of v.c.65'.

Firstly my thanks must go to Kevin Walker, my corecorder for v.c.65 who has resigned from this position due to a heavy work load and family commitments. He has been a great help over the last 16 years guiding me through the recording process and collecting records. He will still be in the background if I hit any problems.

I am also deeply indebted to my band of recorders, Carol & Andrew Armstrong, Janet Bethune, John Durkin, Dee Holladay, Sue and Les Knight, Yan-Yee Lau, Dan McAndrew, Deborah & Rebecca Millward, Nick Morgan, Trish New, John O'Reilly, Jim Parkin, Helen Proctor, Anne and Ken Readshaw and Sue Thurley, you have all been a tremendous help this last year.

Many thanks also to Alan Gendle who helps with the many Orchid and Orchid hybrid identifications.

Thanks must go Paul Maurice for joining us all the way from New Zealand for a very enjoyable day's recording with Helen Proctor and myself up Marsett and Bardale.



# <u>Flora of North-</u> <u>west Yorkshire</u>

<u>A botanical newsletter for VC65</u>

Issue 16, Spring 2024

## Monitoring and Surveys in 2023

We have had a good year, the Field Meetings were relatively well attended, we even added a few extra days in and around Marfield Wetlands and Marfield Fen SSSI with some excellent results. We recorded *Cladium mariscus* (Great Fen-sedge) at Marfield Fen, quite exciting as it hadn't been recorded in the SSSI designation and this is the third record in the v.c.. We also found the relatively rare *Alchemilla filicaulis* ssp. *filicaulis* (subspecies of Hairy Lady's Mantle) on a dry bank on the edge of the fen. The subspecies *vestita* is very common on the limestone grasslands in the v.c. but we only have eight records of subspecies *filicaulis* on the Database.

After another successful year of cultivating the critically endangered *Hieracium bakeranum* (Baker's Hawkweed) I planted around thirty plants out in damper areas from just below Wynch Bridge up to Bleabeck Force. The previous years introductions suffered terribly during the drought and only one site was successful. We will be checking on these in August 2024.

The annual monitoring of *Neotinea ustulata* (Burnt Orchid) took place around the beginning of June, the Glebe Field had five flowers and Swinithwaite Pastures also had five this year. The fields on private farm land below West Witton had a total of one hundred and fifteen flowering plants, rather down on last year's total,

presumably due to the drought conditions but the SSSI was still in favourable condition. The reintroduction programme by Natural England and the Yorkshire Dales National Park is going well, plants have been successfully raised and hopefully will be planted out at sites which have been undergoing habitat restoration work in the not too distant future.

The *Pseudorchis albida* (Small White Orchid) numbers were much reduced this year, again the drought was blamed. Carol and Andrew Armstrong kindly did the monitoring for us and only recorded nineteen plants at Fotheringholme and two plants at Marsett. The Low Row site will have to wait till later this year although I managed to visit a couple of historic sites for the species, unfortunately with no result.

In 2022 Sue Thurley and myself (LR) counted and recorded all the plants of *Alchemilla monticola* in one section of Hayberries Nature Reserve near Eggleston. The remaining sections were surveyed by myself this year. The 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. To help sort out the differences we will be having a Field Meeting to enable folk to identify these Alchemilla's.



Positions and numbers of all plants of Alchemilla monticola

#### Notable Species found in 2023

Alchemilla filicaulis ssp. filicaulis (one of the Lady's Mantles) This rarer subspecies was found on a dry bank near Marfield Fen by LR and Helen Proctor in June. (SE22.82)

**Alchemilla wichurae** (Rock Lady's Mantle). Recorded beside the Pennine Way footpath above Middleton-in-Teesdale by LR in October. NY94.25.

**Asplenium ceterach** (Rustyback). This diminutive fern is relatively rare in the v.c. It was found by LR in a couple of locations in the same monad on roadside retaining walls in Garsdale in May. (SD77.90).



Asplenium ceterach

Campanula portenschlagiana (Adria Bellflower). A wellestablished clump of this species was found by LR in April on the wooded edge of the Ure below Kilgram Bridge. (SE19.86).

*Carex vaginata* (Sheathed Sedge). A few plants of this *Carex* was spotted by LR in June on the neutral zone between a calcareous flush and heather moorland on the summit of Cronkley Fell. (NY84.28).

**Cedrus atlantica** | (Atlas Cedar). Planted in woodland at the top of Moor Lane, Dalton. Recorded by LR in August. (NZ09.07).



Cedrus atlantica

**Chara hispida** (Bristly Stonewort). Found in the fishing pond in Jervaulx Park in August by LR, Deborah Millward and Ken Readshaw. (SE18.85).

**Cladium mariscus** (Great Fen-Sedge). This was found in Marfield Fen in June by LR, Deborah and Rebecca Millward, Yan-Yee Lau, Dan McAndrew and others. (SE22.81).

*Crocus tommasianus* (Early Crocus). A probable garden throw out on the verge south of Eshington Bridge near West Burton, recorded by LR in February. (SE01.87).

**Eleocharis uniglumis** (Slender Spike-rush). Whilst surveying *Alchemilla monticola* in Hayberries Nature Reserve in July, LR spotted this small Spike Rush in a wet area with *Carex vesicaria* (Bladder-sedge). (NY99.22).



Eleocharis uniglumis

**Epipactis dunensis** (Dune Helleborine). The population on the banks of the Swale in Richmond was checked by LR, Anne and Ken Readshaw and Caroline Stott in July.

There were seven plants growing under Beech this year. (NZ16.00).

**Euphorbia cyparissias (Cypress Spurge).** A well naturalised clump of this species was spotted in the wooded area next to the lagoons in Marfield Wetlands in May by LR, Deborah and Rebecca Millward, Trish New, Yan-Yee Lau and Jim Parkin. (SE21.82).

Galanthus elwesii (Greater Snowdrop). This Snowdrop was recorded firstly on the New Year Plant Hunt in January in Bedale Churchyard by LR and Deborah Millward. (SE26.88), it was then seen later in March on the verge near Howgate Bridge, Newbiggin by LR. (SD95.91). The second and third records for the v.c.

**Galanthus woronowii** (Green Snowdrop). This Snowdrop was spotted by LR and Deborah Millward in April on the edge of the Swale in the Brompton Park Holiday Site. This is a second record for the v.c. (SE20.99).

Gentianella amarella ssp. septentrionalis (form of Autumn Gentian). This subspecies is often under recorded as G. amarella. Plants are usually smaller than G. amarella with maroon/pink colouring beneath the petals and white above. Recorded twice in the last year, a small colony was seen on the roadside over Oxnop Common near the upper cattle grid in August by LR (SD94.94) and on a limestone knoll above the river Swale below Keld on a Field Meeting in August by LR, Deborah and Rebecca Millward, Ken and Anne Readshaw Sue and Les Knight, Janet Bethune and Jim Parkin (NY89.00).



Gentianella amarella ssp. septentrionalis

*Geranium phaeum* (Dusky Cranesbill). This was found by LR naturalised on a verge on Barningham Moor near Long Green Gate in June. (NZ07.06).

Hemerocallis fulva (Orange Day-Lily). A probable garden throw-out on the verge near New Bridge, West Burton, recorded in February by LR. SE01.87.

*Juglans regia* (Walnut). Planted on the verge at Jolby Lane near Croft-on-Tees in September by LR. NY94.25.



Distinctive leaves of Walnut

*Juncus bulbosus* ssp. *kochii* (subspecies of Bulbous Rush). Found by LR in September in a calcareous flushed area beside the Pennine Way from Thwaite to Great Shunner Fell. SD87.98.

**Lepidium didymus** (Lesser Swine-cress). Found alongside the track in Jervaulx Park in August by LR, Deborah Millward and Ken Readshaw. (SE18.85).

Lepidium heterophyllum (Smith's Pepperwort). Numerous plants were seen on the dry tracks between lagoons in two monads at Marfield Wetlands in May. Recorded by LR, Deborah & Rebecca Millward, Trish New, Yan-Yee Lau and Jim Parkin. (SE22.82 & SE21.82).

Lysimachia nummularium (Creeping Jenny). This was widespread over the ground in the wet woodland near the fishpond upstream of Jervaulx Abbey, spotted in August by LR, Deborah Millward, Ken Readshaw and Jim Parkin. (SE15.86).

Oxalis corniculata var. atropurpureum (Procumbent Yellow Sorrel, purple leaved form). This common garden weed was found on heaps of topsoil deposited in the field next to the river just upstream of Jervaulx Abbey by LR,

Deborah Millward, Ken Readshaw and Jim Parkin in August. Only the second record for the v.c. (SE16.86).

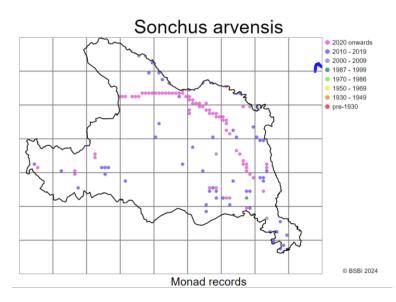
*Persicaria vivipara* (Alpine Bistort). Two small populations were found in September by LR on the very over-grazed turf on Oxnop Side, one in the Mason How area and another near the Butt. (SD91.96 & SD92.95).

**Plantago coronopus (Buck's-horn Plantain).** Seen along a track at Marfield Wetlands by Trish New in August. Only the second record in the v.c. (SE22.81).

**Polygonatum** x hybridum (Garden Solomons-Seal). Two populations shown to me in May by Helen Capstick on the wooded edge of a farm track near Thwaite, Howgill. Confirmation of previous records in Geoffrey Halliday's Flora of Cumbria. (SD63.94 & SD62.94).

**Senecio erucifolius** (Hoary Ragwort). This very local species was recorded around Redmire Station by Trish New in October. SE04.91.

Sonchus arvensis (Perennial Sow-thistle). This species has spread rapidly along roadsides and verges over the last twenty years or so, especially the A1M and the A66. Last year whilst being driven I recorded every monad on the roadside where this species occurred. The following map shows these records.



*Symphytum tuberosum* (Tuberous Comfrey). Found on the edge of Howgill Churchyard in May during a survey by LR. (SD63.94).

*Trichophorum* x *foersteri* (Hybrid Deergrass). This hybrid is around in the uplands and probably under-recorded, it needs microscopy to confirm it. It was recorded by LR in August on Oxnop Common (SD94.94) and in September

on Blackburn Edge (SD86.99) and Pennine Way between Thwaite and Great Shunner Fell (SD86.98).

*Vaccinium uliginosum* (Bog Bilberry). Recorded growing in a crack in millstone outcrops on Stags Fell. Spotted by Ken Readshaw on a Field Meeting in July, confirmation of an earlier 2010 record by Brian Burrow. (SD87.93).



Vaccinium uliginosum

## **Recording Method**

I record in Monads for a finer resolution. If you do send in records, an email, a list on excel or word or even handwritten lists (it need not be in alphabetical order) sent by post are fine. Please remember to put in Recorder(s) name, 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).

I can now supply you with grid sheets of monads in each hectad throughout the v.c. with numbers of records to date. I can also supply lists of species for each monad and old records to re-find. If anyone would like some of these sheets please get in touch specifying which hectad(s) you require. Below is an example for NY91 with numbers of species recorded to date.

NY91 Bowes, Gilmonby Moor, Hury, Blackton, Baldersdale, Stainmore BSBI										
Grid Ref.	NY90.19	NY91.19	NY92.19	NY93.19	NY94.19	NY95.19	NY96.19	NY97.19	NY98.19	NY99.19
No. Records	0	1	0	81	82	373	341	167	143	314
Grid Ref.	NY90.18	NY91.18	NY92.18	NY93.18	NY94.18	NY95.18	NY96.18	NY97.18	NY98.18	NY99.18
No. Records	18	10	14	1035	122	471	0	51	106	5
Grid Ref.	NY90.17	NY91.17	NY92.17	NY93.17	NY94.17	NY95.17	NY96.17	NY97.17	NY98.17	NY99.17
No. Records	11	1	5	56	0	26	0	76	39	71
Grid Ref.	NY90.16	NY91.16	NY92.16	NY93.16	NY94.16	NY95.16	NY96.16	NY97.16	NY98.16	NY99.16
No. Records	7	67	14	118	28	0	0	0	110	1
Grid Ref.	NY90.15	NY91.15	NY92.15	NY93.15	NY94.15	NY95.15	NY96.15	NY97.15	NY98.15	NY99.15
No. Records	33	0	46	0	0	0	46	0	0	135
Grid Ref.	NY90.14	NY91.14	NY92.14	NY93.14	NY94.14	NY95.14	NY96.14	NY97.14	NY98.14	NY99.14
No. Records	13	41	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	68
Grid Ref.	NY90.13	NY91.13	NY92.13	NY93.13	NY94.13	NY95.13	NY96.13	NY97.13	NY98.13	NY99.13
No. Records	63	7	5	0	0	0	2	15	105	336
Grid Ref.	NY90.12	NY91.12	NY92.12	NY93.12	NY94.12	NY95.12	NY96.12	NY97.12	NY98.12	NY99.12
No. Records	57	2	0	4	4	176	513	91	69	7
Grid Ref.	NY90.11	NY91.11	NY92.11	NY93.11	NY94.11	NY95.11	NY96.11	NY97.11	NY98.11	NY99.11
No. Records	0	0	0	0	0	9	369	7	6	24
Grid Ref.	NY90.10	NY91.10	NY92.10	NY93.10	NY94.10	NY95.10	NY96.10	NY97.10	NY98.10	NY99.10
No. Records	0	0	24	32	0	66	0	18	0	96

#### Recording plans for the future

I am still working my way through the forthcoming Checklist for North West Yorkshire. It is taking a lot longer than I anticipated. 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
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

 ${\it Helianthe mum\ oelandic um\ subsp.\ levigatum-Subspecies}$ 

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 thyrsiflora* – 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 caerulescens – 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

narianearas arverisis Corri Batter

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 pectin-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. 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 2024

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. A good number of meetings are based on roadside verges so if you have any high visibility clothing, please bring it along. I do have one or two high visibility waistcoats which you can borrow.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Skipton Bridge to record possible *Gagea lutea* and other spring species and fill in some nil record monads. Meet in Skipton near the Church at SE368.798.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** — Humberton area near Boroughbridge, to record spring species fill in blank monads. Meet roadside near junction with Burton Grange at SE417.691.

Sunday  $28^{th}$  April – Danby Wiske to record spring species and fill some blank monads. Meet in village near the Pub at SE336.985.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May** – Sedbergh, Dowbiggin area to record monads with very few records. Meet near the bridleway at Fellgate, SD694.924.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May** – Stalling Busk to record under-recorded and blank monads and look for old record of Pulicaria dysenterica. Meet in Stalling Busk near Church (possible parking) at SD916.859.

**Wednesday 5th June** – Pott Moor and High Ash Head Moor to hopefully record *Lysimachia* (*Trientalis*) *europaea*. Meet on roadside near Agill Bridge at SE129.762.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** — Churchyards, starting at Spennithorne and moving on to Finghall and maybe others nearby. Meet outside Spennithorne Church SE137.890.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Len Pasture SSSI in conjunction with Yorkshire Naturalists Union members. Meet at entrance at SD976.969. (NB. May have to park in Crackpot up the hill).

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July** – Hayberries Nature Reserve to have a look at and indentify four species of *Alchemilla (monticola, glabra, xanthochlora* and *mollis)* growing there. The aim is to eventually dig out and hopefully eradicate the invasive *Alchemilla mollis* over the next few years. You will also see some of the other interesting species on the Reserve. Meet in the car park of the Reserve at NY921.229.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July** – Shaw Cote area, north of Bainbridge, to record in under recorded monads. Meet roadside near track to Skell Gill at SD921.907.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August** – Dent area, recording low and nil value monads. Meet near the bridge to the east of Dent at SD706.871.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August — Checking on Hieracium bakeranum planted out last year. We will be walking from Low Force up to Bleabeck Force. Meet in the car park at Bowlees where we can have a coffee before we set off. NY907.282.

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August** – Tan Hill area, to records monads along the Pennine Way with very few or no records. Meet in or near the old quarry at NY900.068.

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