

SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE FLORA GROUP

2016 Newsletter

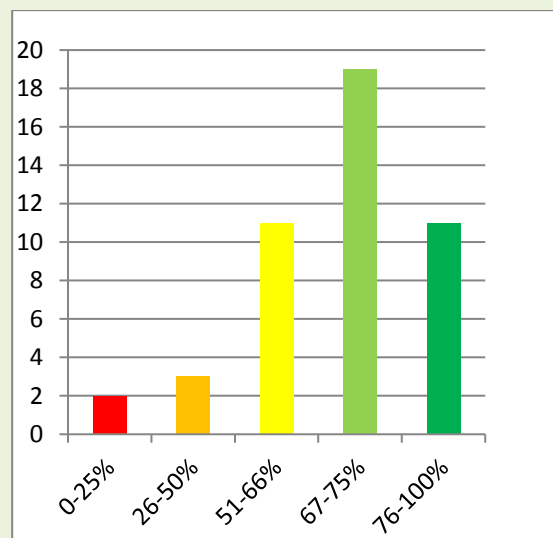
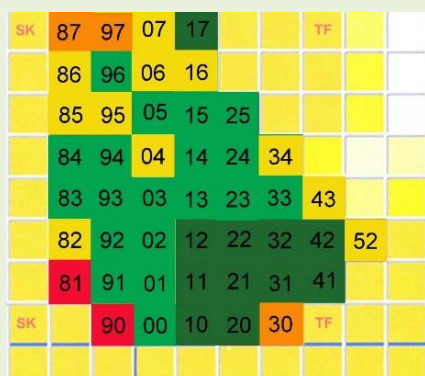
Sarah Lambert, BSBI Recorder VC53

Recording progress

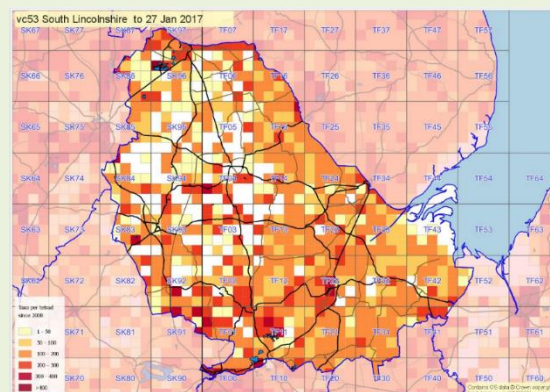
So far, I've entered just under 25,000 records into the MapMate database for 2016, which is our largest total ever, compared with just over 20,000 records for 2014 and 2015 (although there is still a backlog of records to enter for the latter year). This is made up of 1145 taxa, a fairly similar number to 2015, from 37 hectads.

Recording has been more evenly distributed over the vice-county, though some parts of the north still need attention. Kerry Harrison has contributed many records for TF04 as well as from the LWT reserves along the River Glen from Thurlby Fen Slippe to Pinchbeck Slippe. Malcolm Pool has sent records from twenty-five tetrads, mostly in SK93 and Richard Jefferson has thoroughly recorded two tetrads in TF02 and SK92. As usual there has also been a very significant contribution from Owen Mountford and Jon Graham in the fenland area. Many others have contributed records, including Neil Harris, who has an uncanny knack for finding rarities! In terms of the number of records, the best recorded hectad this year has been SK93, followed by TF02, TF04, TF01, TF06 and TF21. The highest number of species was recorded from TF04.

For the 2020 Atlas, the BSBI consider that a hectad is well recorded when there are post-2000 records for more than 75% of taxa that have ever been recorded, although in South Lincolnshire 66% may be a more realistic target. The map and bar charts below show how we're progressing against that goal. We now have good coverage of the southern part of the county, and the remaining gaps are mostly south-west of Lincoln and east of Lincoln.



The map below shows the number of species recorded from each tetrad since 2000, taken from the BSBI database, which does not have all the most recently entered records. Coverage is more even in the fens, but there are still a significant number of tetrads in the central and northern part of the county that don't yet have any post-2000 records. Although we will continue on a policy of prioritising certain tetrads for thorough survey, it would be good to fill in some more of the gaps in 2017.



New Additions to the flora of VC53

We have recorded 70 new taxa in 2016, a very similar number to the 73 recorded in 2015. A rough attempt to partition species into categories gives the following breakdown.

- ❖ 35 (53%) garden escapes
- ❖ 11 (16%) planted trees and shrubs
- ❖ 7 (7%) subspecies / other taxa
- ❖ 4 (6%) weedy neophytes
- ❖ 9 (13%) hybrids
- ❖ 2 (3%) wildflower mix species
- ❖ 2 (3%) native species
- ❖ 2 (3%) critical taxa

This is a very similar pattern to that found in 2015; over time I would expect the rate of addition to decline, but it may require several more years of intensive recording before we see that happening.

The most intriguing new vice-county record is that of Fragrant Agrimony *Agrimonia procera*, which was recorded from three sites by three different recorders. Two of the sites are owned by the Forestry Commission: Temple Wood and Bourne Wood, while the remaining population was recorded from a roadside verge west of Dunsby Wood by Richard Jefferson. It seems very strange that it should suddenly appear at so many sites, which makes me wonder whether it's been overlooked previously, or whether it's a relatively recently established, brought in on machinery or FC clothing. When in fruit it looks very different from Common Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*. The base of the fruit is bell-shaped and lacks grooves at the base, giving a much squatter and smoother appearance, and the basal spines are clearly deflexed.



Two other rather showy species new to VC53 were Straw Foxglove *Digitalis lutea* and Goat's-rue *Galega officinalis*. Kerry Harrison alerted me to a population of Straw Foxglove on the verge of the A15 near Silk Willoughby in July. It was growing in a rather species-rich sward, which appeared to have an unusual mix of native and garden species including Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare*, Chicory *Cichorium intybus*, Everlasting Pea *Lathyrus latifolius*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*. In Grantham, Malcolm Pool recorded Goat's-rue near the east coast railway line. This is a very attractive but rather aggressive ruderal species which is very well-established in south-east England and the cities of Leicester, Nottingham and Sheffield.



Woodlands

In 2016 there have been quite a few visits to the South Kesteven woodlands, particularly some of the larger Forestry Commission sites. These have confirmed that many of the rarer species have survived commercial management.

On 24th May I visited to Morkery Wood in the hope of tracking down a colony of Herb-paris *Paris quadrifolia*, last seen in 1989. I failed with that, but did re-discover a large colony of Orpine *Sedum telephium*, which hadn't been recorded in the wood since 1965. It was quite close to a shallow seepage with abundant Thin-spiked Wood-sedge *Carex strigosa*, and a very fine specimen of Scaly Male-fern *Dryopteris borreari*, which I suspect is in most of the larger ancient woodlands. I also found a single, well-grown plant of Common Lady's-mantle *Alchemilla filicaulis* subsp. *vestita* along one of the major east-west rides, the first post-2000 record for VC53. Neil Harris has since found more *Alchemilla* in Morkery Wood.

Other species of note that have been found in these woodlands include abundant Small Teasel *Dipsacus pilosus* in several woods, Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, Purple Small-reed *Calamagrostis canescens* at Boothby Great Wood and more populations of Lesser Centaury *Centaureum pulchellum* on compacted woodland rides, including a very significant population found by Richard Jefferson in Spring Wood.



Grasslands

Two grassland species were recorded for the first time since 2000. I found a small population of Vervain *Verbena officinalis* in a glade in Temple Wood in August. This is a new site for this species which has only ever been recorded from four other sites in VC53, the most recent record dating

from 1989 in Kirkby Underwood, less than a kilometre from the extant population.



In September 2016 Malcolm Pool recorded Hawkweed Ox-tongue *Picris hieracioides* from Gonerby Tunnel. This is a new site for this very local species, which appears to have been more widespread in the past, with records along the western edge and centred on SK94, TF03 and TF04.

2016 was also a very good year for Meadow Saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*, and a targeted search confirmed the presence of this species from a number of sites where there were no recent records, as well as one new one on a roundabout near Grantham.

Wetlands

There have not been a significant number of important records from wetlands this year, but a few species are worthy of note.

In the spring, Malcolm Pool confirmed the continued presence of Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage in the valley of the River Witham at Grantham. The only other post-2000 records of this very scarce species are from the marshy vegetation alongside the Cringle Brook at Great Ponton and from an area near the River Witham in Belton Park, both records made by Jeremy Fraser in 2013.



In July 2016 Owen Mountford recorded a population of Soft Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* from a rectangular pond at Baythorpe, where it was growing in the deeper water. Both recent records for the species have been from fenland; there are only two other known sites in VC53, Culverthorpe Lake and a pit near Gosberton.

Two aquatic species characteristic of fen drains were found in unusual locations. In March 2016 I found a small population of Opposite-leaved Pondweed *Groenlandia densa* in the headwaters of the River Witham at South Witham, and in April Peter Kirby and I found a very tiny amount of Fragile Stonewort *Chara globularis* in the Spring Wells at Billingborough.

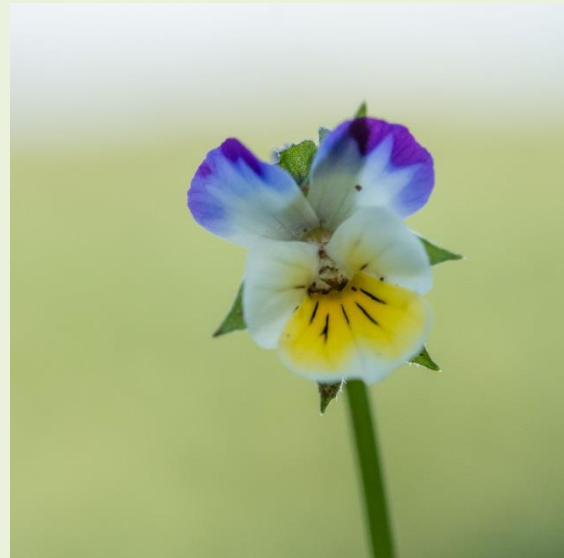
Saltmarsh

In September 2016 Steven Heathcote discovered a population of Slender Hare's-ear *Bupleurum tenuissimum* in a small area of saltmarsh on the eastern Nene Bank by Sutton Bridge (just inside VC53). This species is Vulnerable in the UK, and in recent years has only been recorded from Frampton Marsh, although it is also locally frequent just over the border in VC29 at Tydd Gote.

Arable

2016 has been a relatively good year for some of the scarcer arable species. There have been multiple records for Dwarf Spurge *Euphorbia exigua* and Night-flowering Catchfly *Silene noctiflora*, particularly in SK93, where Malcolm Pool has visited many arable field margins. There have also been four records of Wild Pansy *Viola tricolor*. In October, 2016 Wild Pansy was growing in an arable field at Gorse Hill, east of Navenby along with much Field Pansy *Viola arvensis*, and the hybrid between the two, *Viola x contempta*, was also present. This hybrid has only been recorded from two other sites in VC53; in 1998 it was recorded from a location about 900m to the

north of the 2016 site, and connected to it by a green lane.



In July 2016 I found some very rich arable field margins to the north of Cranwell, with smoky clouds of Common Fumitory *Fumaria officinalis*, sprawling masses of Round-leaved Fluellen *Kickxia spuria*, Musk thistle *Carduus nutans* in profusion and five plants of Prickly Poppy *Papaver argemone*, a species that was once widespread in south-east England, but is now considered to be Endangered in the England Red List. It's the first record in VC53 for five years. The small orange-red flowers are very distinctive, and only last a day. In fact, in hot weather, the petals seem to drop by lunchtime, so one to get up early for.



Towns and villages

Many of the new vice-county records have been recorded from towns and villages, and are predominantly either garden escapes or planted trees and shrubs. Bird seed is another source of aliens and may be responsible for one of the less welcome species to have been recorded in 2016, Ragweed *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* which was recorded from Wharf Road, Stamford in September 2016 by Alyson Freeman.



Ragweed *Artemisia ambrosiifolia* in Stamford



Erodium pelagoniflorum growing in pavement cracks in Navenby



New Zealand Hair-sedge *Carex comans* growing in a gutter in Holbeach



Sorbus x thuringiaca planted as a street tree in Stamford



Giant Herb-Robert growing under a hedge in Haconby

Report of BSBI Field Meeting 23rd / 24th April 2016



On a chilly weekend in late April Richard Jefferson and I led a BSBI recording meeting based in the northern part of the vice-county. We met at Branston village hall and split into two groups to record this large village which covers both TF06D and TF06I. Both groups found some interesting areas. In the western part of the village the grounds of Branston Hall Hotel had some relatively unimproved grassland with species such as Pignut *Conopodium majus* and Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris*. A naturalised population of Bird-in-bush *Corydalis solida* was a nice find. Highlights of the eastern half of the village were the churchyard, which had three species of fern on the stone walls and a population of Yellow-flowered Strawberry *Potentilla indica*, and a damp area along a small stream, which had several clumps of flowering Marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*.

At lunch-time we drove to Potterhanworth Wood SSSI, where we were joined by the LNU. The large number of people caused a bit of an organisational nightmare, as we tried to split the group into two! However, eventually Richard led a group into Potterhanworth Wood and I took another group to Nocton Wood. As expected, Potterhanworth Wood retained a good ancient woodland flora including species such as Moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*, Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Sweet Woodruff *Galium odoratum* and Early Purple-orchid *Orchis mascula*. Although Nocton Wood retains areas of semi-natural woodland, more of the site has been planted with non-native species, and some of these taxed our taxonomic abilities. Among the more unusual trees were Noble Fir *Abies procera*, Japanese Red-cedar *Cryptomeria japonica*, Rauli *Nothofagus alpina*, Roble *Nothofagus obliqua* and Coastal Redwood *Sequoia sempervirens*. Other highlights of Nocton Wood included re-finding a thriving population of Orpine *Sedum telephium* in the southern part of the wood, and recording several very local acidophilous species such as Climbing Corydalis

Ceratocarpus claviculata and Green-ribbed Sedge *Carex binervis*.



Roble *Nothofagus obliqua*

On Sunday, we spent the whole day recording in Skellingthorpe Old Wood, which is owned by the Woodland Trust, and adjacent rights of way. This site supported an incredibly rich ancient woodland flora, with breath-taking sweeps of Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and Wood Anemone in some areas. One of highlights of the day was finding two extremely large populations of Herbaris *Paris quadrifolia*, the one in the northern part of the wood estimated to have more than 500 plants. It was also exciting to record Hard Shield-fern *Polystichum aculeatum* from two tetrads; this species is rare in VC53 and has previously only been recorded from the southern part of the vice-county. Other species of note include Moschatel, Early Purple-orchid and single, non-flowering Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, near the western boundary of the wood, whose identity was later confirmed by David Harrison.

Despite the rather unseasonably cold weather, which meant that the flora was not as advanced as had been anticipated, we all had a very enjoyable and successful weekend. In total, we accumulated 1200 records of 386 species, many of which were new to the tetrads we visited, and a few of which were new hectad records.



Reports of SLFG field meetings 2016

Heckington 19th March 2016

On Saturday 19th March a group of six botanists from the South Lincolnshire Flora Group braved the north-east wind to record plants in Heckington. We started in the car-park of the famous eight-sailed windmill, and found an interesting area of waste-ground behind it which kept us occupied for quite some time. There was a mix of ruderals and garden throw-outs, including a single very healthy-looking plant of Spanish-dagger *Yucca gloriosa*. It was too early to record some potentially interesting species, such as a Lamb's-lettuce *Valerianella* sp. and an Evening-primrose *Oenothera* sp., but the rather fine grass, which initially looked like a rather weak Red Fescue, was identifiable and proved to be Rat's-tail Fescue *Vulpia myuros*, which was last recorded from the same location in 1975 by Miss. E. Gibbons.

We recorded many of the usual suite of urban species while walking through the streets of the village, but a couple of plants of flowering Rocket *Eruca vesicaria* subsp. *sativa* were a bit of a surprise. The appeared to be self-seeded in an area formerly planted as a herb garden, but now neglected. Other highlights of the street flora included rather frequent patches of naturalised Glory-of-the-snow *Scilla forbesii*, two populations of Spotted Medick *Medicago arabica* (one of which was in exactly the spot where Malcolm Pool recorded it in 2001) and a good population of Hart's-tongue Fern *Asplenium scolopendrium* on the north-facing wall of Heckington Hall.



Although the cemetery looked rather well-groomed, the grassland had areas of interest. There was a significant population of Common

Wood-rush *Luzula campestris* just coming into flower, as well as a scatter of species such as Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Sweet Violet *Viola odorata*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Cowslip *Primula veris* and Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*. A semi-naturalised population of Green Snowdrop *Galanthus woronowii* prompted some discussion on snowdrop identification. Unfortunately, the churchyard was significantly less interesting botanically, but we made up for that by exploring the interior, which has one of the finest stained-glass windows in Britain.

All-in-all it was a satisfying day, both botanically and culturally. We recorded in two tetrads, and found 155 species (90 new) in TF14L and 110 (38 new) in TF14M. I can also recommend the tea room at Heckington Windmill where we had both lunch and afternoon tea - very necessary in the rather cool and grey conditions.

Woodnook Valley & Boothby Great Wood 22nd May 2015



Six of us met at Woodnook Valley on a glorious May morning. We started out on the southern side of the valley, taking a somewhat circuitous route to the main colony of Man Orchids *Orchis anthropophora*, finding another smaller colony on the way. We had been proposing to count them, but many flowering spikes were only just emerging, and they were also rather scattered, so we contented ourselves with an educated estimate. There were plenty of other calcicole species to record including a fine show of Common Milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*.

Having said farewell to Richard O'Connor, we then proceeded to the south slope, where we sat and had lunch surrounded by Dingy Skippers. There was a fine display of Horseshoe Vetch *Hippocrepis comosa* on the sun-baked slope, and we found another colony of Man Orchids among this, as well as a couple of outliers later on! Overall, we estimate that there were at least 200 flowering spikes of Man Orchid, in three main areas. We became diverted from botany for a while to admire a small number of Four-spotted Moths, a rare and declining species that feeds on Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, but only on sun-baked slopes. This may be the most northerly colony in Britain.

Despite the rather sticky conditions four of us went on to Boothby Great Wood, which proved to be far more interesting than we first thought. There was a good ancient woodland flora, including more Woodruff *Galium odoratum* than I've seen anywhere else. Plants of particular interest included Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, which was frequent along a shaded ride (4th post-2000 record), a large stand of Purple Small-reed *Calamagrostis canescens*, some splendid 'shuttlecocks' of Scaly Male-fern *Dryopteris borreri* (whose id caused some discussion) and a sizable stand of Small Teasel *Dipsacus pilosus*. The combination of ancient woodland, a rather nice wet ride and some dry calcareous grassland meant that we recorded 158 species, rather more than the 126 species at Woodnook Valley. In total, we recorded 233 different taxa - pretty good for South Lincolnshire!!

Holywell Wood & Holywell Banks SSSI 3rd July 2015

We had an amazing day of botanising in SK91X! We started off in Holywell Wood, which none of us had visited previously, as there is no official public access. There was a reasonable set of old records, with a few rarities that hadn't been seen recently, including *Alchemilla filicaulis* subsp. *vestita* (last seen in 1977) and Trailing Tormential *Potentilla anglica* (last recorded in 1954), but our expectations weren't that high.

Although it had been heavily replanted, and the woodland ground flora was rather poor over large areas, the rides were quite rich, particularly the main ride at the bottom of a slope, where a large open glade extended east along a bifurcating stream valley. This area was full of goodies - the

ride itself had a good population of the *Alchemilla*, and the margins supported species such as Beautiful St. John's-wort *Hypericum pulchrum* and Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*.

Two species on the ride have proved to be new records for SK91: Common Yellow-sedge *Carex demissa* and Lesser Centaury *Centaureum pulchellum*. There was a good population of the sedge, which only has a scatter of previous records from the southern part of VC53, with recent records being confined to the north-west corner of the vice-county, on the more acid soils. There was only one plant of *Centaureum pulchellum*, growing on the compacted clay soil towards the centre of the ride, a classic habitat for this tiny species. This was only the second record in VC53, the first being from a similar habitat in Twyford Forest in 2015. We also found a large population of a *Potentilla* with a mix of four- and five-petalled flowers on a ride, but close examination suggests that this is the hybrid *Potentilla x mixta* sens. lat., rather than *P. anglica*, as all the leaves had long stalks and it appeared to be rooting freely.



The glade itself appeared rather rank, but underneath the tall grasses there was a wide diversity of damp-loving species including several which are now considered to be Near Threatened in England: Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, Ragged-Robin *Silene flos-cuculi* and Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis*. There was also a very healthy population of Lady Fern *Athyrium filix-femina*. The small stream valley supported the rather local Tufted Forget-me-not *Myosotis laxa*, as well as *Nasturtium microphyllum* (one row of seeds) and a population of Giant Horsetail *Equisetum telmateia*.

Although we didn't venture off the rides very much, the woodland supported a range of ancient

woodland indicator species including Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Wood Sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and Wild Service-tree *Sorbus torminalis*. The most exciting record was a small stand of Greater Wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*, a scarce species in VC53, which appears to have declined significantly. This is only the second post-2000 record for the species, which was last recorded from this tetrad in 1952.

All the excitement must have distracted me, as somehow, we took a wrong turn and ended up walking along an arable field margin to the east of the wood, rather than the north, where I expected to be! However, this proved to be very lucky, as this particular margin supported a rich arable weed flora including large populations of Stinking Chamomile *Anthemis cotula* and Dwarf Spurge *Euphorbia exigua*, as well as individual plants of Sharp-leaved Fluellen *Kickxia elatine* and Round-leaved Fluellen *K. spuria*. But the highlight for all of us was the discovery of a couple of plants of Blue Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis* subsp. *foemina*, the first time any of us had seen this taxon in the UK. The brilliant blue flowers were just so stunning, and it was photographed by almost everybody! This is the first post-2000 record in VC53 and a new hectad record. Interestingly it has been known from the Holywell area since 1853, when it was found by the Reverend Dodsworth, with two further records in 1941 and 1951. Amazing to think that we were possibly the first people to see it for 65 years!



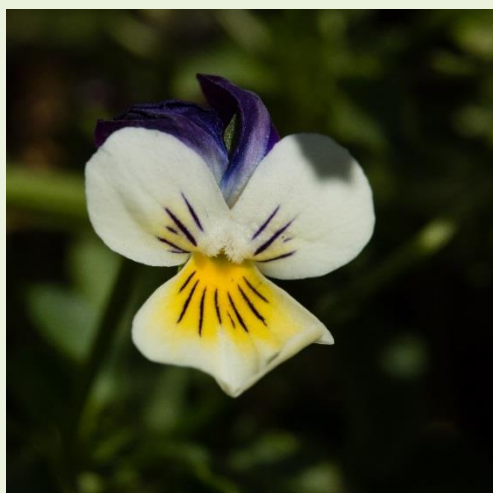
Although my map-reading failure was lucky in that respect, it did mean we had a long walk along country roads to reach our next location, the Holywell Banks SSSI, not helped by the fact that the weather had turned quite hot and sticky. We

were rather disappointed when we arrived as the grassland appeared to be largely semi-improved with no sign of the limestone grassland indicator species we'd been expecting. A group of us headed down the hill and eventually found the expected rich flora on the steeper slope of the valley. There was a good representation of characteristic species, including Clustered Bellflower *Campanula glomerata*, Rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, Salad Burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, Meadow Oat-grass *Avenula pratense* and Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, but nothing exceptional. The western end of the SSSI and the quarry to the south of the road looked potentially more interesting, but unfortunately, we hadn't been able to get access permission for those.

We finally got back to the cars about 4.30pm and drove to Phil's for a very welcome cup of tea and cake! We certainly deserved them because in total we had recorded a massive 272 species, 106 of which were new to the tetrad, including many ancient woodland and neutral grassland indicators. The total number of species ever recorded from the tetrad now stands at 350, 84% of which have been recorded since 2000. Thanks to all who came along and helped to achieve this – I just hope nobody has suffered from the after effects of the rather longer than planned walk!

Moor Closes & Sudbrook 7th August 2016

Another very successful outing, recording around the village of Ancaster. We started by visiting the cemetery and admiring the Tall Thrift *Armeria maritima* subsp. *elongata*, which was putting on a splendid show in an area of uncut grassland. However, it rapidly became clear that it wasn't popular with all the locals, one of whom suggested digging them all up and putting them in a corner out of the way! There was a good range of grassland species present, including two sedges found by Neil, Prickly Sedge *Carex muricata* subsp. *pairae* and Many-leaved Sedge *Carex divulsa* subsp. *leersii*. There was also a very fine display of Dark Mullein *Verbascum nigrum*. An extension to the cemetery is currently under construction and the bare ground yielded more interesting species, including Wild Pansy *Viola tricolor*, a now much declined arable weed of light soils. There are currently only four post-2000 records for Wild Pansy in VC53, so a very good find.



We then walked along the footpath to Moor Closes NR, an extensive area of fen meadow, with a range of characteristic wetland species, including Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, Sharp-flowered Rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, Fen Bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*, Ragged-Robin *Silene flos-cuculi*, Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. The range of grasses, sedges and rushes certainly kept us occupied. A mystery *Agrostis* with semi-contracted panicles proved to be the hybrid between Creeping Bent *A. stolonifera* and Common Bent *A. capillaris* (*A. x murbeckii*), having intermediate characters and no viable seed set. A rather odd-looking rush was also largely sterile and appears to be the hybrid between *Juncus acutiflorus* and *J. articulatus*, known as *J. x surrejanus*. Both taxa are very rare in VC53, but not surprising in the type of habitat present.

After lunch, a smaller group of us went off to record in Sudbrook (SK94S). We started off in Moor Plantation, a gloomy Sycamore-dominated woodland with a rather poor ground flora, though with some fine ferns locally. We found a patch of naturalised Lily-of-the-Valley *Convallaria majalis*, and managed to relocate the Wild Service *Sorbus torminalis*, presumably originally planted but now suckering quite vigorously. A rather attractive pinkish form of Common Hemp-nettle *Galeopsis tetrahit* was a good find – despite its name it's not that common and this is the first post-2000 record for SK94. A trip to a pond added some wetland species including Galingale *Cyperus longus*, and the sandy arable field margins were notable for the quantity of Musk Thistle *Carduus nutans*, Bugloss *Anchusa arvensis*, Field Pansy *Viola arvensis* and rather painful Small Nettle *Urtica urens*, as well as some extensive stands of Canadian Fleabane *Conyza canadensis*.

The group dispersed about half-past three, but I carried on recording, driving up a bye-way onto the limestone in the northern part of the tetrad, where I was pleased to find two species that are now Near-Threatened in England, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis* and Crosswort *Cruciata laevipes*. The hamlet of Sudbrook held many of the usual village species, though a population of Henbit Dead-nettle *Lamium amplexicaule* growing in a limestone wall was a nice surprise. The most exciting finds came from a footpath south of the railway, which passed through a sandy arable field used for carrot growing. I found a single plant of Night-flowering Catchfly *Silene noctiflora* in fruit among a much bigger population of White Campion *Silene latifolia*, and one plant of Green Nightshade *Solanum physalifolium* among a bigger population of Black Nightshade *Solanum nigrum*. In both cases, the sticky glandular hairs were the clue. I also found a plant of *Carduus x stangii*, the hybrid between Musk Thistle *C. nutans* and Weltered Thistle *C. crispus*, only the second time it's been recorded in South Lincolnshire.



As I was heading back to the car I got into conversation with a local resident, who asked me whether I'd come and identify the fluffy creeping plant growing in his sandy meadow. I went to have a look and found a good population of Hare's-foot Clover *Trifolium arvense*, which is a very local species in VC53. Rather a good way to end the day! And we certainly massively improved the total for SK94S which had started the day with 16 records, and ended it with a total of 192, 178 of which are post-2000.



Tydd St. Giles
24th September 2016



Our last field meeting of the year was a joint trip with the Cambridgeshire Flora Group, surveying a couple of fenland tetrads crossing the border between our two vice-counties. We met at Tydd St. Giles church and spent a bit of time scouring the churchyard for additional species. The church was holding a flower festival, and some of us took advantage of their coffee and cake stall before we moved on in a smaller number of cars to Nutwalk Corner, which is right on the county boundary. We initially headed north into VC53, recording a short circuit in TF31Y before having lunch on a grassy bank at Star Bridge. In the afternoon, we did a longer circuit in TF31X, which was a vc29 priority tetrad. The range of species recorded was fairly unexceptional, but we increased the total in TH32Y from 12 species to 103, including Sharp-stipuled Willow *Salix x mollissima* (*Salix triandra x viminalis*) which is only the second ever record for VC53. We all benefited from the expertise of Alan Leslie and Jon Shanklin, and were shown several of the more frequent bramble species of the fens, as well as an unusual yellow-berried form of Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. We arrived back at the church just in time for tea and biscuits – a good way to end a very pleasant and useful trip.



South Lincolnshire Field Meetings 2017

*The exact date and times of meetings held by the South Lincolnshire Flora Group will be confirmed nearer the date using a Doodle poll, but will be close to the suggested date.

Date and time	Site name	Meeting Location	Tetrads and habitat	Organiser
*Saturday 1 April 10.30-15.30	Thurlby	To be confirmed	TF01Y Village	SLFG Sarah Lambert 07784 169260 sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com
*Saturday 22 April 10.00-16.30	Hartsholme CP & Swanholme Lakes	Meet in the car-park of Hartsholme Country Park, LN6 0EY SK947696	SK96P Acid grassland, gravel pits, woodland	SLFG Sarah Lambert 07784 169260 sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com
*Sunday 21 May 10.30	Tunman Wood NR	The Dovecote Public House Car Park, off the A46. SK 890631	SK86X, SK86W Re-planted ancient woodland, farmland	SLFG Sarah Lambert 07784 169260 sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com
*Saturday 24 June 10.30	Long Hollow	Park at a by- passed section of the A 52 only approachable from the east TF005 368	TF03C/TF03D Limestone grassland	SLFG Sarah Lambert 07784 169260 sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com
*Friday 21 July 10.30	Stapleford Wood / Beckingham	Meet in the Stapleford Wood car- park SK860565	SK85N, SK85S, SK85T, SK85U Acid grassland, heathland & woodland	SLFG Sarah Lambert 07784 169260 sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com
Sunday 30 July 12.00 for a 13.00 start	Thurlby Fen Slipie NR	Park on Baston Edge Drove at TF119164	TF11D & TF11I Borrow pits, hedgerows, woodland, grassland River Glen	LNU Nick Tribe 07733 073984 nick.tribe@ntlworld.com
Saturday 5 August Meeting times: 10am, 1pm and 8.15pm at reserve car park	Mareham Pastures LNR	Park in the LNR car-park at NG34 7JP TF072447	TF04S Meadows and woodland over restored landfill site	LNU / Friends of Mareham Pasture Brian Hedley 07989 665794 brian_hedley@hotmail.com
*Saturday 2 September 10.30	Nocton & Nocton Wood	Meet in the car-park at Nocton village Hall TF057643	TF06R & TF06S Ancient woodland and farmland	SLFG Sarah Lambert 07784 169260 sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com
*Saturday 30 September 10.30	Haddington & Auborn	Stepping Out car park, Dovecote Lane, Haddington, LN5 9EF SK913629	SK96B & SK96G Farmland, village, River Witham	SLFG Sarah Lambert 07784 169260 sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com