

## 2016 Annual Report for Roxburghshire, vc80

### Rod Corner & Jeff Waddell

In total 7,804 records were collected from Roxburghshire this year. Just under half were collected by Michael Braithwaite, and the bulk of these during field work for the A7 road survey relating to the publication "Flora of Hawick's Road and Rail Routes Compared". The records generated by Michael included many garden escapes, hybrids and difficult-to-identify taxa making his contribution even more valuable. Notable species included: *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's-tongue), *Poterium sanguisorba* subsp. *sanguisorba* (Salad Burnet), *Trichophorum x foersteri* (Hybrid Deer-grass), *Astrantia major* (Astrantia), *Vulpia myuros* (Rat's-tail Fescue), *Senecio cineraria* (Silver Ragwort) and *Pinus mugo* (Dwarf Mountain-pine). One of the valuable outputs of Michael's survey was greatly improved tetrad coverage of roadside halophytes including *Atriplex prostrata* (Spear-leaved Orache), which jumped from 9 to 23 post- 2000 tetrads!

Jeff Waddell targeted 13 poorly recorded tetrads with promising looking habitats, most of which were recorded by an informal group of beginner and improver botanists led by him. This produced several new sites for plants uncommon in the county and just under 2,500 records.

Early in the season, woodland tetrads were targeted in the Rule Water Valley; the most notable find here was *Oenanthe crocata* (Hemlock Water-dropwort) in two tetrads. New colonies of *Scirpus sylvaticus* (Wood Club-rush) and *Astrantia major* (Astrantia) were also of interest in this area. Elsewhere in early season recording, new colonies of *Agrimonia procera* (Fragrant Agrimony) and *Centaureum erythrea* (Common Centaury) were found in the Newcastleton area. Jeff snuck in evening recording sessions after work in three tetrads in the northern corners of the vice county on the long days of midsummer and found an arable field with tens of thousands of plants of *Galeopsis speciosa* (Large-flowered Hemp-nettle). *Berula erecta* (Upright Water-parsnip) was also seen in a dug pond in Wooplaw Community Woodlands far from any native colonies and *Chenopodium rubrum* (Red Goosefoot) in a farm midden.

Late in the season, recording was undertaken in some of the tetrads around Hownam in the lower lying east of the county. This produced some choice calcicoles including *Scabiosa columbaria* (Small Scabious), *Origanum vulgare* (Wild Marjoram) and new colony of *Dianthus deltoides* (Maiden Pink) from a rock outcrop on the Beirhop Burn. In late December, Jeff Waddell followed up old records of *Goodyera repens* (Creeping Lady's-tresses) in the Scots Pine plantations east of Jedburgh and found many colonies including new tetrad records.

Rod Corner continued work on his Flora for the counties and a Rare Plant Register, but also found time to do some new fieldwork in Roxburghshire. Highlights included *Persicaria hydropiper* (Water-pepper) in an old quarry on the Kershope Burn and refinding *Vaccinium*

*uliginosum* (Bog Billberry) at Holm Hill. Rod also attended the local records centre (TWIC) assessment meetings for notifying wildlife sites, contributing botanical advice.

Many recorders were active in the county under their own initiative too, producing valuable records. Roger Manning recorded *Allium scorodoprasum* (Sand Leek) on a road verge near Crookhouse in the third and fourth tetrad records in the county and *Malva neglecta* (Dwarf Mallow) in a churchyard. Martin Moncrieff refound *Bidens cernua* (Nodding Bur-marigold) at Folly Loch and *Solanum nigrum* (Black Nightshade) in his garden as a weed. Luke Gaskell turned up many good species in ground disturbed by the new railway construction such as *Galinsoga quadriradiata* (Shaggy Soldier), *Hirschfeldia incana* (Hoary Mustard) and *Senecio inaquedens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort). The Wildlife Information Centre recorded *Poterium sanguisorba* subsp. *sanguisorba* (Salad Burnet) at Carham Station and Sarah Eno recorded *Sanguisorba officinalis* (Great Burnet) in grassland near Dunhog Moss.