

Some highlights from the botanical year in Dumfriesshire in 2024

We held a NYPH in Dumfries on the 1 January and then managed 8 Dumfriesshire group meetings between April and September including a joint meeting with our Lanarkshire colleagues. Accounts of these meetings is available on the Dumfriesshire page of the website. A field meeting over a long weekend was held in Dumfries to advance the study of Scottish brambles with 8 people attending. We also ran an introduction to Sedges and Rushes training day.

Dave Pickett Reserve Manager for WWT at Caerlaverock thought he might have found **Holy-grass** *Hierochloe odorata* in amongst the gorse where they were digging pools for Natterjack toads. [See separate sheets for details.](#)

In mid May Jeff Waddell revisited the Moffat Hills with a small group of botanists and relocated a population of **Pyramidal Bugle** *Ajuga pyramidalis*. [See separate sheets for details.](#)

On a visit to Tarras Valley Reserve with Bryologists it was satisfying to re-find a 1952 Derrek Ratcliffe record of **Wilson's Filmy-fern** *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* alongside a great deal of **Green Spleenwort** *Asplenium viride* on a basalt outcrop.

The botany group visit to Springkell Estate in June revealed a healthy population of **Broad-leaved Helleborine** *Epipactis helleborine* and only the second known VC population of **Greater Butterfly-orchid** *Platanthera chlorantha*.

Brian Barrow confirmed the re-finding for **Rough-leaved Hawkweed** *Hieracium prenanthoides* from the Dalveen pass last recorded there in 1975 by Olga Stewart and **Western Hawkweed** *Hieracium stenopholidium* on Glenwhargen Craig which was last recorded there by Olga Stewart in 1997 ([see specimen](#)).

Further work was done to map brambles cross Dumfriesshire with huge help from Angus Hannah. As well as tutoring the bramble weekend Angus Hannah also determined or confirmed the identity of over 800 photos. [See separate sheets for details.](#)