

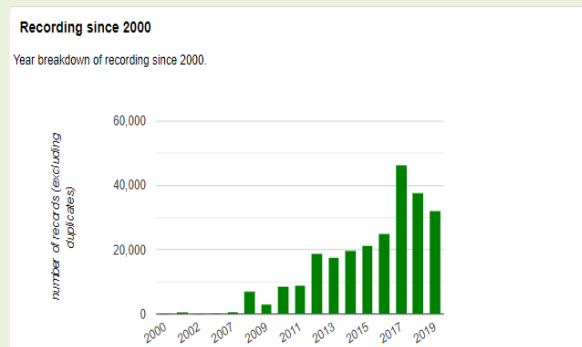
SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE FLORA GROUP

2019 Newsletter

Sarah Lambert, BSBI Recorder VC53, February 2020

Recording progress

So far, I've entered just under 33,000 records into the MapMate database for 2019, and there are still a few more to mop up before the final 2020 Atlas deadline at the end of the month. The bar chart below shows the number of records for each year in the BSBI database.



Interestingly, so far a total of 1081 taxa have been recorded for 2019 (including subspecies, varieties and hybrids), which is very similar to the 1077 taxa recorded for 2018 this time last year. The final total for 2018 was 1226, but I don't think we'll reach that number for 2019.

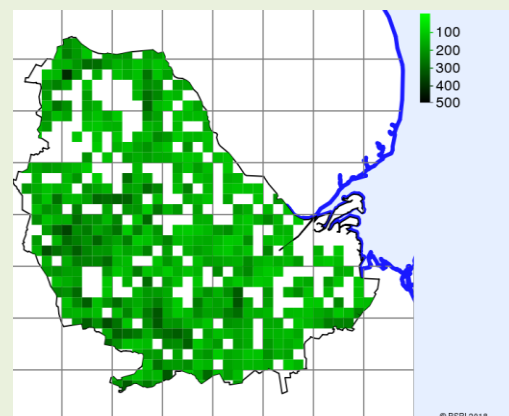
Malcolm Pool and Richard O'Connor have again been very busy in hectads surrounding Grantham, including SK92, SK93, SK94, TF03 and TF04 and this part of the county is now very well recorded. Sadly, I spent less time in the field than normal, because of work commitments and travel, but added records to the southern part of the county, including some fenland tetrads. Jeremy Fraser surveyed many sites around the City of Lincoln, and has increased the number of records for SK96 and SK97. Records have also been received from Alyson Freeman, Steven Dempster, Richard Jefferson, Mary-Anne Creedy, John Creedy, Phil Horton and Adam Lucas, as well as a number of other individuals. The recording phase of the Fenland Flora is now complete, so there were many fewer records from Owen Mountford and Jon Graham.

In terms of the number of records, the best recorded hectad this year has been SK92 with

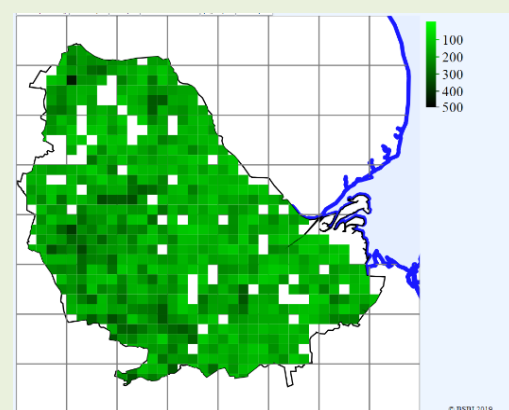
3488 records, closely followed by , followed by TF03 with 3303. Eleven tetrads had more than 1000 species recorded in 2019. The highest number of species was recorded from SK96 with a total of 557 taxa, followed by SK92 with 512 and TF04 with 505.

The maps below show all tetrads with a minimum of 100 species recorded in February 2017, February 2018 and February 2019. Comparison of the three maps shows the enormous progress that has been made over the two years

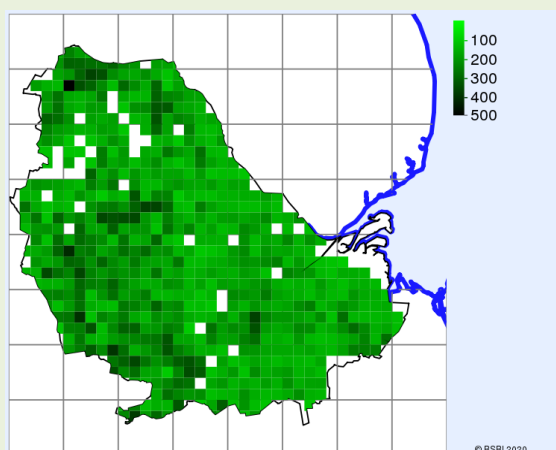
2017



2018



2019



For the 2020 Atlas, the BSBI considers that a hectad is well recorded when there are post-2000 records for more than 75% of taxa that have ever been recorded.

Thanks to our hard work 42 out of the 47 hectads in VC53, where more than 1km² is located within the vice-county, are now considered to be well recorded, and we have achieved a much higher rate of coverage that our original target of five well recorded tetrads per hectad.

The hectads which remain under-recorded are mostly on the edges of our area. Three Fenland hectads are included in the total: TF30 comprises a largely inaccessible tongue of land surrounded by VC29, TF43 is on the Wash and TF44 is also coastal and does not include any dry land! The only two tetrads in the 'uplands' which are not well-recorded are SK85, on the border with VC56 and containing a significant area of military land that was not accessed and SK97, which is to the south-east of Lincoln and borders VC54.

New Additions to the flora of VC53

So far, we've recorded 18 new taxa in 2019. Several of the new taxa are varieties of species already known from the vice-county, so that the actual number of new species is smaller than in previous years, which is to be expected after a prolonged period of intensive recording. The new taxa comprise:

- ❖ 5 (28%) garden escapes
- ❖ 3 (17%) planted trees and shrubs
- ❖ 7 (39%) subspecies/varieties/critical taxa including dandelions
- ❖ 1 archaeophyte

- ❖ 1 neophyte (11%)
- ❖ 1 stonewort (6%)

The proportion of garden escapes is about the same as in 2018, but the number of planted trees has reduced. The proportion of subspecies, varieties and critical taxa has again increased. This is likely to continue post 2020 as we attempt to get a better understanding of some of the critical taxa including brambles, dandelion and elms.

Some of the more interesting records are detailed below:

Neapolitan Garlic *Allium neapolitanum*



Taking advantage of the lovely weather on the 14th May, Alyson Freeman went for a lunchtime walk round Swayfield (SK9922) where she found this lovely clump of Neapolitan Garlic established on a grass verge, growing with hybrid bluebells. This southern European species is widely grown in gardens and has a number of records in southern Britain, but has not previously been recorded in VC53.

Cornelian-cherry *Cornus mas*



I made a late March visit to Grimsthorpe Park to see if I could find Toothwort *Lathraea clandestina* – no luck there, but I did some useful recording in

The Oaks, which is a plantation woodland of oak, but which contains a number of ornamental planted species including a flowering Cornelian-cherry. I'm not sure this species, which is native in southern Europe and western Asia, looked entirely happy in a cold spring woodland in the UK!

Field Eryngo *Eryngium campestre*



Field Eryngo is a prickly member of the Carrot family, which is native to Central and Southern Europe, and is considered to be an archaeophyte in the UK, with several established sites in southern Britain. However it also turns up as a casual, and has been recorded as far north as Northumberland. In August Malcolm Pool found a splendid plant of this species growing on the edge of the A1 near Grantham on a very ordinary looking piece of verge with lorries thundering past. It's interesting to ponder how it arrived - possibly a seed carried by a transcontinental lorry? A European visitor taking a break in the nearby lay-by, with a seed on his boot? However it arrived, it's certainly doing very well this year - let's hope that it persists at the site.

Italian Squill *Hyacinthoides italica*

On 7th April 2019 Richard Jefferson discovered a populations of a squill-like bulb naturalised near Spanby. He sent photographs to me, and I was able to confirm that the species in question was Italian Bluebell *Hyacinthoides italica*, a native of south-east France and north-east Italy, occasionally grown as a garden plant.

Spotlight on Sites of Botanical Importance

Robert's Field NR

After returning from the flowery meadows of Transylvania, Britain seemed a bit humdrum, especially in the rain! My first ever visit to Robert's

Field NR in June was just what I needed to re-invigorate me. Wonderful displays of Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, with a good scatter of Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*, Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and Tall Broomrape *Orobancha elatior* as well as colourful sweeps of many other meadow plants such as Yellow Rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and Zig-zag Clover *Trifolium medium*.



Among the more local species recorded were a single plant of Woolly Thistle *Cirsium eriophorum*, and small patches of Betony *Betonica officinalis*, Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, Heath Speedwell *Veronica officinalis*, Field Mouse-ear *Cerastium arvense*, Kidney-vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* and Pale Sedge *Carex pallescens*. The last species is very local, having been recorded from only ten tetrads since 2000. It's most frequent in the South

Kesteven woodlands, and has been recorded from nearby Holywell Wood, but this seems to be a new site for it.



yielded huge amounts of *Chara hispida*, *Chara vulgaris* and *Chara virgata*. These are only the third recent records of both *C. virgata* (other recent sites being Whisby Nature Park where I found it earlier this year and Tallington Lakes) and *Chara hispida*. The former species was new to the hectad, while the latter was last recorded by Joan Gibbons in the 1950's at Willoughby Gorse.



Sleaford Ballast Pits and Maltings

In early September Pete, Chris and I had an expedition to Sleaford, to try and find out whether Marsh Fern *Thelypteris palustris* was still present at Sleaford Ballast Pits. This is the only site in VC53 for this species, which was last recorded in 1999. After battling through some sallow carr we found an area of fen vegetation with thousands of plants of this attractive fern - just stunning!



There was more excitement when we surveyed an area of brownfield close to The Maltings. The small lake had well-established Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, and the surrounding grassland had a good range of calcicoles as well as a *Salvia* that I didn't recognise and which initially didn't seem to key out to anything sensible. After a lot of consideration I decided that it was most likely to be a rather depauperate specimen of Whorled Clary *Salvia verticillata*, which is occasionally established in rough ground in the UK, often near railways. There are a few old records of this species in VC53, but this would be the first since 1997.

Other interesting species from the day included Green Nightshade *Solanum physalifolium*, just coming into flower in an arable field; Small-flowered Evening-primrose *Oenothera biennis*, which is well-established in the area and Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus tenuis* on some dampish brownfield.

We then continued to the open water part of the Ballast Pits, and a few throws of the grapnel

Reports of SLFG field meetings 2019

Billingham 30th March 2019

Perfect weather for our first SLFG field trip round Billingham, a village north-east of Boston. We recorded 206 species - not bad for an early spring visit. What's more, approximately half of the species we recorded were new to the tetrad - mostly garden escapes and well-established 'village' species but with a scatter of vernal species too.

There were a number of unexpected finds, including a small population of Common Cudweed *Filago vulgaris* (Near Threatened in the UK) on an area of mown, parched grassland, growing with species such as Parsley-piert *Aphanes arvensis* and Knotted Hedge-parsley *Torilis arvensis*.



We also found some Cornsalad in and around the churchyard - not identifiable in the field as we couldn't see any fruit, but microscopic examination indicated that it was Keeled-fruited Cornsalad *Valerianella carinata*, a species with a predominantly south-western distribution that appears to be gradually spreading north and east in the UK.

Greylees 13th April 2019

Despite low temperatures and a bone-chilling north-easterly wind, we had an excellent turn out for our second field meeting of the season. We spent the morning exploring the grounds of the former Rauceby Hospital, which contained secondary woodland, planted trees and shrubs including an old orchard, areas of brownfield land and a rather nice sand pit with about twenty-five rosettes of Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*. By the end

of the day we'd recorded 183 species from TF0444, which gives TF04M a post-2000 total of 388 species, the highest figure for TF04.

Several people had to leave shortly after lunch, which was taken sitting near to the church which is being renovated, but the rest of us walked on towards Rauceby Warren. This monad had been relatively well-recorded, but we had the chance to examine many species characteristic of dry sandy soils such as Little Mouse-ear *Cerastium semidecandrum*, Early Forget-me-not *Myosotis ramosissima*, Bugloss *Anchusa arvensis* and Bur-chervil *Anthriscus caucalis*. We also went to look at the False Alkanet *Cynoglossoides barrelieri* which is well established within the nature reserve and saw flowering Field Mouse-ear *Cerastium arvense*.



The two most interesting species came towards the end of the meeting. An undistinguished looking plant threw all of us, and it wasn't until I looked at a small piece under the microscope that I realised it was Smooth Rupturewort *Herniaria glabra*, a specialty of the site. I've only ever seen it much later in the season when it's been in fruit and is characteristically yellow-green in colour.



The other plant that foxed us all was a rather undistinguished looking member of the Brassicaceae, just a single young plant growing on the road verge. As it didn't seem to fit any species know to us, I decided to take a small piece to

examine at home - as I picked it there was a strong smell of garlic which was noted by everyone in the group. Once it was under the microscope it was clear that it was a species of Penny-cress *Thlaspi*, and the garlic smell (and ridged stem) is characteristic of the rare neophyte Garlic Penny-cress *Thlaspi alliaceum*. There are very few records of this species, and most of the recent ones come from the south-east, particularly Essex. This is the first record for Lincolnshire, so my rather small specimen has been pressed!

Neil Harris stayed on Rauceby Warren after the rest of us left and successfully re-found Spring Vetch *Vicia lathyroides*, one of the target species that had not been recorded from TF04 since 2000. So, all in all, a very successful day.

Far Old Park Wood 4th May 2019

The field meeting to Far Old Park Wood near Irnham proved quite eventful! Despite careful arrangements by Richard Jefferson and myself, the farm gates were locked when we arrived, necessitating an emergency dash to Irnham Hall where Mary-Anne and I had an amusing conversation with the owner, and came back bearing keys. The rest of the day proceeded more smoothly, though the wind was biting cold and the two heavy hail showers were decidedly unpleasant.

Nevertheless we managed to record a good range of ancient woodland species, including two patches of Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*, new for the tetrad. Other highlights were the discovery of a very large patch of Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, not previously recorded from this wood, and the first record for the tetrad since 1962. Other species newly recorded for the wood include Water Avens *Geum rivale*, Scaly Male-fern *Dryopteris affinis* agg. and Plicate Sweet-grass *Glyceria notata*, all associated with ride-side ditches. The last species seems to be new for the hectad.



It was also good to find several species that are now considered to be Near Threatened in England, including Tormential *Potentilla erecta*, Ragged-robin *Silene flos-cuculi* (new to the wood), Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis* and good populations of Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* (also new to the wood). A very worthwhile visit, even if we all froze!

Marston STW 18th May 2019

A small group of us spent the morning walking public footpaths to the south and west of the sewage works, recording from a variety of habitats including arable field edges, wet grassland with planted willows, hedges and an area formerly used to tip inert waste which supported many typical brownfield species.

The highlights among the arable weeds were large quantities of Bur Chervil *Anthriscus caucalis*, lining many paths, and an area with Common Fiddleneck *Amsinckia micrantha* and Bugloss *Anchusa arvensis*.

The brownfield area supported an interesting mix of vetches including both Smooth Tare *Vicia tetrasperma* and Hairy Tare *Vicia hirsuta*, enabling us to examine key identification features. We also found a very showy spurge, which keyed out to Balkan Spurge *Euphorbia oblongata*, a popular species among flower arrangers that seems to be establishing outside gardens, particularly in the south-east.



A small cultivated area added a range of additional species including two species of barley, Two-rowed Barley *Hordeum distichon* and Six-rowed Barley *Hordeum vulgare*. Planting in the hedgerows included both Southern Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* subsp. *australis* and American Guelder-

rose *Viburnum opulus* subsp. *trilobum*, which has a much longer central lobe than the native subspecies, and has stalked glands rather than sessile glands on the petiole. Interestingly the native subspecies were also present, and also apparently planted.

We ate our lunch sitting on a concrete pipe near the sewage works - not the most scenic of settings and somewhat odoriferous. Nearby, huge swarms of non-biting midges were gathering over the tree tops forming quite a spectacle.

In total we recorded 139 species, not our best ever total but sufficient to raise SK94B into the well-recorded category.

Grimsthorpe Park **1st June 2019**

We spent the hottest day of the year so far exploring the north-west part of Grimsthorpe Park, recording in TF02G. After a less than propitious start, walking between the edge of a recently sprayed arable field and an area of rather species-poor semi-improved grassland with some alarmingly deep holes, we arrived at The lake, which had recently been subjected to some major scrub clearance.

While the area looked like a battle-zone, we found many of the marginal species that hadn't been recorded since 2000, including Mash Marigold *Caltha palustris* and Skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata*. I threw the grapnel into the water, and we confirmed that Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus* was still abundant though we couldn't find any of the submerged pondweeds that had previously been recorded. The water-starwort present proved to have both flowers and fruit and keyed out to Blunt-leaved Water-starwort *Callitriche obtusangula*. A small population of Rue-leaved Saxifrage *Saxifraga tridactylites* on the Red Bridge was a nice surprise.

A nice area of willow carr, with beds of Lesser Pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis* provided a range of woodland and wetland species, including a population of Small teasel *Dipsacus pilosus* and several locations for Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis* which was also present along the lake margin.

In Williamson's Plantation a rather spectacular dandelion keyed out to one of the Hamata group, most likely *Taraxacum lamprophylla*, an

introduced rather weedy species found scattered throughout Britain, but apparently new to VC53. However, this record will require confirmation.

The surroundings of an old farm building added some extra weedy species including a fine plant of Good-King-Henry *Chenopodium bonus-henricus*, a species which is Vulnerable in the UK, having been lost from many sites through excessive 'tidying' of the countryside.



The last part of our meander took us through The Oaks, where we added several woodland species such as Greater Burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella major*, Corn Mint *Mentha arvensis* and Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*, and were able to admire a spectacularly large population of Thin-spiked Wood-sedge *Carex strigosa*, a rather local species in VC53, with records largely restricted to ancient woodlands in South Kesteven where it particularly thrives on winter-waterlogged rides.



From a recording point of view it proved to be a very worthwhile visit. We found 226 species, about 35 of which were new to the tetrad. The four botanists forming the LoveLincsPlant team also had a good day, pressing specimens of 15 species, aided by the use of Chris Howes' pick-up truck as a work station. Chris certainly deserves our thanks for looking after us all so well.

The Drift SSSI & Saltby Airfield 23rd June 2019

We had a splendid midsummer outing to the Drift SSSI, a green lane on the border of South Lincolnshire and Leicestershire, on Sunday 23rd June. We parked at Saltby Airfield, and before we even reached the SSSI we were spotting interesting species on the edges of the airstrip including Small Mouse-ear *Cerastium semidecandrum*, Biting Stonecrop *Sedum acre* and Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*.

An area of arable land which had been sown with a seed mix for birds and pollinators occupied a fair amount of time. It was a glorious spectacle, with swathes of deep red Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas*, orange-red Long-headed Poppy *Papaver dubium* and white Stinking Chamomile *Anthemis cotula*, punctuated by the purple colours of Phacelia *Phacelia tanacetifolia* and Fodder Kale *Brassica oleracea* cv.



Under the canopy we found several very local arable weed species including Small Toadflax *Chaenorhinum minus*, Dwarf Spurge *Euphorbia exigua* and a single plant of Night-flowering Catchfly *Silene noctiflora*. Malcolm also found a population of Venus's-looking-glass *Legousia hybrida* nearby.

The green lane south of the SSSI supported a good range of calcicole species including the only population of Horseshoe Vetch *Hippocrepis comosa* we found during the day. We were surprised to find a small population of the non-native sub-species of Goat's-beard *Tragopogon pratense* subsp. *pratense*, only the second record for VC53. This European plant is a much more showy than our native *T. pratense* subsp. *minor*, which has the ligules less than 0.75x the length of the phyllaries. It may have been brought in with a seed mix.



The grassland of the SSSI didn't disappoint and much appeared in excellent condition with large populations of calcicoles such as Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and Quaking Grass *Briza media*, as well as good numbers of Bee orchid *Ophrys apifera* and a Pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*. Some parts of the SSSI, been damaged by vehicle use, had been re-sown with a wildflower mix. Here, the non-native forms of Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* var. *sativus* and Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* subsp. *ircutanus* were frequent and we also found a single plant of Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

Richard took us into the next tetrad to see a particular rich stretch of the SSSI. Concrete footings dating from WW2 supported species of

parched soils including a good population of Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare* and smaller amounts of Basil-thyme *Clinopodium acinos* and Field Mouse-ear *Cerastium arvense*. The grassland on the other side of the track was also of high quality with several flowering Twayblade *Neottia ovata* and a small population of pale-pink Common Milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, a species which has declined significantly in VC53 since 2000.



By this time heat and humidity had built up, so we were all ready to head back to the cars. We found a total of 185 species, and SK85T is now in the 'well-recorded' category. Many thanks to everyone who came along and made it such an enjoyable outing, only marred by the boorish behaviour of the illegal motorcyclists.

Nocton Estate & Dunston Fen 6th July 2018

On Saturday 6th July a small group of intrepid plant collectors gathered in the rain to collect arable weeds from field margins in Nocton Fen for the Love Lincs Plants project. We spent the morning scrabbling among damp vegetation, but managed to find a good range of species to sample including both species of Swinecress, *Lepidium coronopus* and *L. didymum*.

In the afternoon we visited a wetland site at Dunston, but many of the pools that had supported interesting marginal species in the hot summer of 2018 were still deeply flooded. Nevertheless we collected a good range of fen-species including Long-stalked Yellow-sedge *Carex lepidocarpa*, Fen Bedstraw *Galium uliginosum* and

some very nice quality Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*.

The team worked very well together and we collected forty specimens of twenty species, a new record for a single plant collection event.



Surfleet Lows NR & Surfleet Seas End 31st August 2019

On Saturday 31st August we had an interesting day of fenland botanising, thankfully in more moderate temperatures than the previous weekend!

We started at Surfleet Lows NR, an area of former salt pans now supporting an unusual type of alluvial grassland. While the site wasn't particularly species-rich (73 species recorded), there were several special plants, including a good population of Hairy Buttercup *Ranunculus sardous* at its only native site in South Lincolnshire. This annual buttercup usually flowers in May, but, in common with many other annual plants, this damp summer has allowed a second generation to occur which were just coming into bloom.



Other species of note included Golden Dock *Rumex maritima* and Pink Water-speedwell *Veronica catenata*, which had not been recorded since 1987 and 1980 respectively. A few additional taxa were recorded, the most interesting being *Glyceria x pedicellata*, the sterile hybrid between Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (also recorded) and Plicate Sweet-grass *G. notata*.

The afternoon was spent at Surfleet Seas End, walking beside a tidal reach of the River Welland. We found a good variety of species, including a decent range of calcicoles on the river bank; several species were added to the tetrad lists including Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum* and Knotted hedge-parsley *Torilis nodosa*. A small range of halophile species were recorded from the river margin and a tiny area of grazed saltmarsh which had formed in a bend of the river. It was good to re-find Sea Arrowgrass *Triglochin maritima* at its most inland extant site in VC53. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, we didn't find any Autumn Lady's-tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*, although small areas of the river bank looked potentially suitable for it.

Blankney Estate, 21st September 2019

Perfect weather for our last summer field meeting of the year! The vegetation was looking decidedly autumnal with many areas harvested or mown, but we still managed to record 152 taxa. This was despite the disappointment that the southern end of Metheringham Delph is just species-poor Common Reed *Phragmites australis* and Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, which rather limited the scope to find aquatic macrophytes.

We added species to both tetrads we recorded in, including good populations of Corn Mint *Mentha arvensis* and Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* in Blankney Wood, as well as a small population of Small Teasel *Dipsacus pilosus* (TF16A). The most exciting additional species was Frogbit *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, with a few plants present in a sheltered area of the Car Dyke (TF16B). There are recent records from further east in the hectad, but this is a significant extension to the west.

We also re-found a good number of species that haven't been seen for many years, including a very splendid multi-stemmed Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata* at the north end of Blankney Wood (TF16B), last recorded by Joan Gibbons in 1967. Other re-finds from Blankney Wood include Common Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*, Enchanter's Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* and Creeping Soft-grass *Holcus mollis*.

Disturbed and arable areas provided several good records. Many-seeded Goosefoot *Chenopodium polyspermum* was recorded from tetrad TF16A for the first time since 1963, and we were excited to find a small population of Wild Pansy *Viola tricolor*, growing with a much larger population of Field Pansy *Viola arvensis*, as well as several plants with characteristics of their hybrid *Viola x contempta*. Wild Pansy was last recorded from TF16A in 1957 by Joan Gibbons - before I was born!



Specimens were collected for the Love Lincs Plants project, though sadly not the Wild Pansy, as

the population wasn't large enough. A lovely way to end the season and to prepare myself for an autumn of entering records ready for the BSBI 2020 Atlas deadline!!

New Year Plant Hunt, Sleaford 2nd December 2020

Another very enjoyable New year Plant Hunt, this time in Sleaford, where we followed an intricate route planned by Malcolm Pool, which took us into corners of the town that most of us had never previously visited. With eleven pairs of eyes on the job, we amassed a very respectable total of 55 species in flower.

As well as the regular winter flowering species we found Hoary Ragwort *Senecio erucifolius*, Sweet Alison *Lobularia maritima* and a thriving population of Shaggy Soldier *Galinsoga quadriradiata* outside the dentist practice, which sent a receptionist out to discover what on earth we were looking at. We later caused a minor traffic hold up as we ticked off flowering Ivy *Hedera helix* and Honesty *Lunaria annua* from the margins of the River Slea on West Bank.

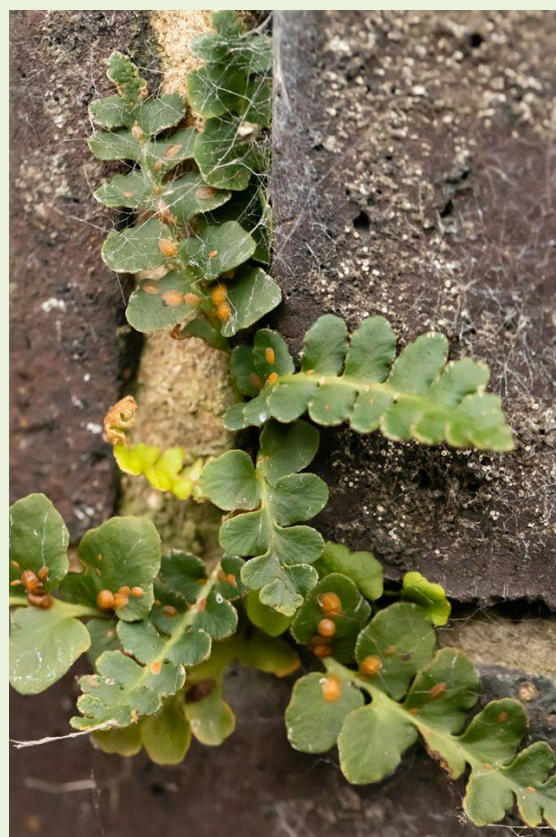
We added several new species to the tetrad, including flowering Southern Hawkweed *Hieracium argillaceum* on the edge of a footpath near the station, only the second post-2000 site in VC53.



Adam Lucas found flowering Fern-leaved Beggar-ticks *Bidens ferulifolia* in the Eastgate carpark (2nd record for VC53), though sadly this was outside the allotted three hours so couldn't be included in our total. Other non-flowering additions to the tetrad

included thriving populations of Musk Stork's-bill *Erodium moschatum* and Pale Pink-sorrel *Oxalis incarnata*.

We also had a chance to admire the Rusty-back *Asplenium ceterach*, re-found in Sleaford by Malcolm in December. It supported a colony of Brown Soft Scale *Coccus hesperidum*, which is an agricultural pest of glasshouse crops, citrus crops and a range of garden plants, but doesn't seem to have been previously recorded in the wild from VC53. One to check with Charlie Barnes.



The lunch break at Costa gave everyone a chance to warm up, and we all enjoyed cakes at the end of the hunt. Many thanks to Malcolm for organising such a successful day.

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