

Flora of North-west Yorkshire

A botanical newsletter for VC65

Issue 2. Spring 2009/10

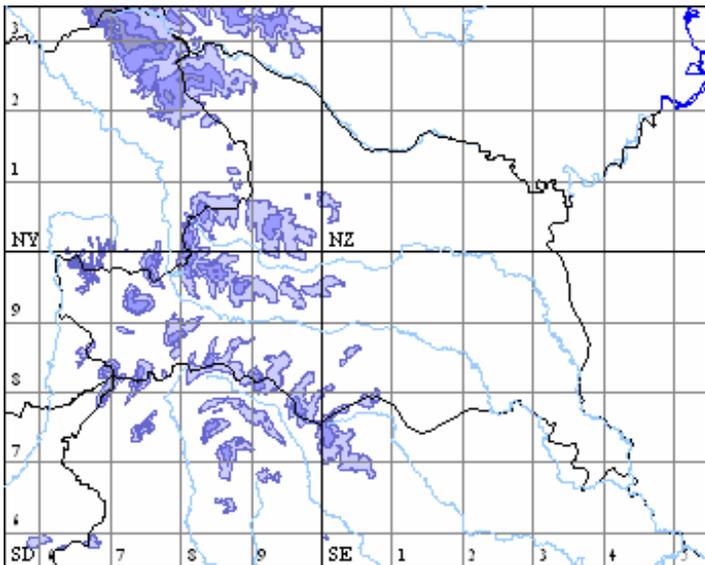


Welcome to this our second newsletter for VC65 which is intended to keep you up-to date with botanical activities in North-west Yorkshire.

A brief tour of the county

Many of you are probably not familiar with the county so here is brief botanical tour of its boundary. VC 65 is a relatively big county by British standards covering 24,081 km² (the 39th largest in GB). It encompasses 39 hectads including 11 which are entirely within the VC (see map opposite) - these are given in bold in the following list: SE36, SE46, SD97, SE07, SE17, SE27, SE37, SE47, SD68, SD78, SD88, SD98, **SE08, SE18, SE28, SE38, SD69, SD79, SD89, SD99, SE09, SE19, SE29, SE39, NY90, NY91, NZ00, NZ10, NZ20, NZ30, NY81, NY91, NZ01, NZ11, NZ21, NY72, NY82, NY92, NZ02**. We start our tour on the summit of Crag Hill in the SE corner of the county where VC65 meets three other counties (VCs 64, 60 and 69). From here the boundary runs over the NE slopes of Whernside and crosses the northern edge of Upper Wharfedale above Oughtershaw crossing the B6160 north of Cray to the summit of Buckden Pike.

Botanical vice-county 65 (land above 500m in blue)



From here it follows the northern watershed of Nidderdale meeting the River Ure near to West

Tanfield north of Ripon. The Ure then forms a natural southern boundary as far as Boroughbridge (although there are complications where the river has been re-aligned) where it meets the River Swale just north of the confluence.

The Rivers Swale and Wiske form the eastern boundary of the county as far north as the Tees at Stockburn. It then runs west along the south bank of the Tees as far as Maize Beck, taking in the botanical delights of High and Low Force, Holwick Meadows and Cronkley Fell. The western boundary is very indistinct crossing a remote area of moorland via Mickle Fell, the Stainmore Gap (and the A66) and the head of Swaledale. From here it follows the watershed on the Mallerstang ridge before crossing the upper Eden Valley and the southern half of the Howgill Fells. The final stretch runs south along the Lune Valley to the south of Sedbergh and across the south of Dentedale to Crag Hill.

Great Shunner Fell

Great Shunner Fell continues to give up its secrets. The sharp eyes of Mike Wilcox spotted something we botanists on the ground had missed. Whilst looking through John Somerville's superb photographs on his www.British-Wild-Flowers.co.uk website Mike spotted that the close-up picture of what had been identified in 2008 as *Epilobium alsinefolium* was in fact a hybrid, the stigmas which should have been club shaped were 'confused' ie. intermediate between club shaped and four-lobed. The flower colour, pale petals with darker tips were also an indication that this was the hybrid between *Epilobium alsinefolium* and *Epilobium montanum* - *Epilobium x facchinii* which was duly confirmed by Mr G.D. Kitchener. It is a first record for the vice-county.

In July Richard Dimon and Mark Owen made the spectacular discovery of *Vaccinium uliginosum* on peat hags on the summit plateau of the fell. It was described by them as a 'Hallelujah moment'. This was the first record from the Shunner Fell area and the second only in v.c.65, the original record was from a site in Teesdale which was last seen in 1970.

Later in the year in October Stephen Hewitt on an entomological foray from Tullie House Museum in Carlisle discovered more *Vaccinium uliginosum*, unusually this time in acid mire on the west side of the fell, whether this is an old site or more tantalizingly perhaps a seedling cannot be determined.

Another notable find was a small Australian alien *Cotula alpina* from the Snowy Mountains, found by Linda on Potts Moor between Leighton Reservoir and Nidderdale and new to Britain and Europe. This resulted in a paper published in January 2010 edition of the BSBI News. There is also a copy of this paper on John Somerville's www.British-Wild-Flowers.co.uk website, log on and go to Alpine Cotula to read it.

BSBI Threatened Plant Project

During this summer, Threatened Plant Project surveys were done by Kevin on the populations of *Carex ericetorum* on Cronkley Fell. Linda surveyed a *Dactylorhiza viridis* site found by Julie Clarke earlier in the year near Dent Station but unfortunately missed the Hannah's meadow site in Baldersdale; this will have to be done in 2010. A negative TPP form was filled in for the non-recording of *Vicia orobus* above Sedbergh. After a thorough search by Linda it was decided that the plant(s) had become extinct although an eye will be kept on the site just in case something was missed. Many thanks to Mike Porter who knew the site a few years ago and could pin-point it's exact position. A couple of new sites for *Blysmus compressus* (one of the TPP plants in 2008) were surveyed by Linda, one found by Diane Dobson and Linda near Semerwater on the BSBI Recording Meeting in July and another found near Bowes by Linda on a v.c.65 Field Meeting.

This project covers a new set of species in 2010, these are *Chrysanthemum segetum* (Corn Marigold), *Hordeum marinum*, *Juniperus communis* (Juniper) (lowland populations only), *Melittis melissophyllum* (Bastard Balm), *Meum athamanticum* (Spignel), *Herminium monorchis* (Musk Orchid), *Polystichum lonchitis* (Holly Fern), *Sibbaldia procumbens* (Sibbaldia), *Sium latifolium* (Greater Water-parsnip) and *Viola lactea* (Pale Dog-violet). Please let us know if you would like to be involved or if you know any localities in v.c.65 for any of these we would very much appreciate the information.

Recording plans for the future

We are still dealing with the backlog of paper records that we inherited from Deborah; this is proving to be a

big job as there are literally 1000s of records lurking in our files and card indexes. A good start has been made and these will be inputted into MapMate over the next few winters and added to the c.40,000 records or so already in the *Vascular Plants Database* at CEH Wallingford (formerly Monks Wood).

One of the big data jobs this year was to produce a checklist for v.c. 65, as the only one that currently exists in the Vice-county Census Catalogue, is now well out of date. The motivation needed to do this came from Geoffrey Wilmore who is currently compiling a 'checklist' for all the Yorkshire vice-counties (v.cs 61, 62, 63, 64 & 65) to be published in a forthcoming book to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union. The overall figures for v.c. 65 are given below and includes all taxa ever recorded including hybrids, aliens, microspecies, etc.

Last recorded	Native taxa	Alien taxa	Total
Before 1900	74	70	144
1901-1950	59	53	112
1951-1970	67	51	118
1970-1999	275	182	457
Since 2000	682	183	865
Unknown	1	2	3
Grand Total	1158	541	1699

Clearly there are still a lot of taxa that we don't have recent records for so in VC65 so if you would like a copy of the list to see what needs refinding then please ask!

This exercise has also allowed us to refine the list of nationally rare, scarce and threatened species that we produced for v.c. 65 last year. The new list includes the 167 native and archaeophyte taxa and for the first we can also list the year in which they were last recorded:

Taxon	Year of last record
<i>Actaea spicata</i>	1990
<i>Alchemilla acutiloba</i>	1999
<i>Alchemilla glaucescens</i>	2009
<i>Alchemilla glomerulans</i>	2008
<i>Alchemilla monticola</i>	2009
<i>Alchemilla subcrenata</i>	2008
<i>Alchemilla wichurae</i>	2008
<i>Allium oleraceum</i>	1992
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Before 1900
<i>Alopecurus borealis</i>	2009
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	1987
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	1950
<i>Arabis glabra</i>	1981
<i>Bartsia alpina</i>	1906

<i>Betula nana</i>	1970
<i>Blysmus compressus</i>	2009
<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	2006
<i>Bromopsis benekenii</i>	1930
<i>Bromus secalinus</i>	1987
<i>Bupleurum rotundifolium</i>	1863
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	1988
<i>Camelina sativa</i>	Before 1901
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	1974
<i>Carex capillaris</i>	2009
<i>Carex digitata</i>	1977
<i>Carex ericetorum</i>	2009
<i>Carex magellanica</i>	1974
<i>Carex ornithopoda</i>	1978
<i>Carex vaginata</i>	2009
<i>Carum carvi</i>	2009
<i>Caucalis platycarpus</i>	Unknown
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	1950
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	2009
<i>Chenopodium glaucum</i>	1950
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	1950
<i>Chenopodium urbicum</i>	1888
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	1988
<i>Cicuta virosa</i>	1863
<i>Circaea alpina</i>	1974
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	1987
<i>Clinopodium calamintha</i>	1863
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	2009
<i>Crepis mollis</i>	2008
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	1854
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	1951
<i>Dactylorhiza traunsteineri</i>	1991
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	1906
<i>Draba muralis</i>	2009
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	2009
<i>Dryopteris submontana</i>	2009
<i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>	2009
<i>Epipactis leptochila</i>	1987
<i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i>	1987
<i>Equisetum pratense</i>	2007
<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	2009
<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	1838
<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	1999
<i>Fumaria purpurea</i>	1960
<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	1987
<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	1987
<i>Galium pumilum</i>	1987
<i>Galium tricornutum</i>	1863
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	2009
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	2009
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	1972
<i>Groenlandia densa</i>	1956
<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i>	1987

<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	1992
<i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>	1994
<i>Hornungia petraea</i>	2009
<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	1944
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	1950
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	1988
<i>Iberis amara</i>	1943
<i>Impatiens noli-tangere</i>	1883
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	1999
<i>Juncus alpinoarticulatus</i>	1987
<i>Juncus filiformis</i>	1970
<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i>	2009
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Before 1902
<i>Limosella aquatica</i>	1989
<i>Linum perenne</i>	1987
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	1950
<i>Lolium temulentum</i>	1970
<i>Luronium natans</i>	1958
<i>Lysimachia thyrsoiflora</i>	1972
<i>Lythrum hyssopifolium</i>	1987
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	1958
<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	2009
<i>Medicago minima</i>	1950
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	1959
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Before 1903
<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	1990
<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	1956
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	2009
<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>	1987
<i>Minuartia stricta</i>	Before 1904
<i>Minuartia verna</i>	2009
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	1950
<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>	1950
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	1950
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	2009
<i>Myosotis stolonifera</i>	2009
<i>Myosurus minimus</i>	1863
<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	1908
<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	1950
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	1960
<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	1987
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	1950
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	2009
<i>Orobanche alba</i>	2009
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	1903
<i>Orobanche reticulata</i>	1992
<i>Papaver argemone</i>	1958
<i>Persicaria minor</i>	1974
<i>Persicaria mitis</i>	1943
<i>Peucedanum ostruthium</i>	1987
<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	1863
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	2009
<i>Poa glauca</i>	1858

<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>	1987
<i>Polygala amarella</i>	2009
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	1942
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	1958
<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>	2009
<i>Potamogeton coloratus</i>	1987
<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>	1970
<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>	2009
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	2008
<i>Potentilla neumanniana</i>	1987
<i>Primula elatior</i>	1987
<i>Primula farinosa</i>	2009
<i>Pseudorchis albida</i>	2009
<i>Pyrola media</i>	Before 1905
<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>	Before 1906
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	1987
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	2009
<i>Ribes spicatum</i>	1992
<i>Rosa agrestis</i>	1893
<i>Sagina saginoides</i>	1987
<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	2009
<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>	2009
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	1956
<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>	1876
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	1950
<i>Sedum forsterianum</i>	2009
<i>Sedum villosum</i>	2005
<i>Sesleria caerulea</i>	2009
<i>Silene gallica</i>	1950
<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	1987
<i>Sium latifolium</i>	1999
<i>Sorbus rupicola</i>	1991
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	2003
<i>Stellaria palustris</i>	1988
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	1863
<i>Teucrium scordium</i>	1857
<i>Thlaspi caerulescens</i>	2009
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	2009
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	1863
<i>Trifolium glomeratum</i>	Before 1907
<i>Valerianella dentata</i>	Before 1908
<i>Verbascum lychnitis</i>	1863
<i>Verbascum pulchellum</i>	Before 1909
<i>Veronica triphyllos</i>	1888
<i>Vicia orobus</i>	1991
<i>Viola rupestris</i>	Before 1910
<i>Woodsia ilvensis</i>	1950

Some of these species are long extinct (e.g. *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Woodsia ilvensis*) whereas others are relatively common in VC65 (e.g. *Minuartia verna*, *Primula farinosa*, *Sesleria caerulea*). We would welcome any recent records or

help with checking out old sites for any of these species, especially those not seen in the last decade or so.

We have already made a start to record the flora of the entire county, at the tetrad scale, and hope to keep going over the next 19 years. Initially we intend to focus on hectads for which we have very few records. To this end we have planned a series of field trips to various parts of the county during next summer (see below). Please feel free to come along to these meetings or alternatively if you would like to concentrate on specific areas or hectads closer to home then please feel free to get in touch to see how we can help. We can supply lists of species for each hectad, probably some old records and recording forms.

Field Meetings held in 2009

The Field Meetings in the eastern side of the vice county were quite well attended thanks mainly due to Dr. Margaret Bradshaw and her Monday night Botany Group members and some Northumbrian botanists notably Megs, Chris, Janet and Angela who sometimes traveled up to 2 hours attend meetings.

On the central and western side of the vice-county we have to thank Julie Clarke who has taken on the recording of Dentdale (Hectad SD78), members of John Somerville's Wednesday Group based in Cheshire, Dr. Mike Canaway and his Craven Botany group and Richard O'Connor who is unfortunately moving away from the area but who is hoping to come back to visit in the future.

The meetings in the south of the vice-county were not so well attended but hopefully word is getting around.

Some notable records for 2009

Alchemilla monticola - NZ00.20 (A) - Four plants found on roadside verge near Hunderthwaite junction by Linda Robinson, conf. M.E. Bradshaw. New site.

Alopecurus ovatus (*A. borealis*) - SD84.96 (N) - A second flush found on Great Shunner Fell by Rod Corner and Linda Robinson with approximately 80 flowering heads.

Alopecurus myosuroides - SD76.84 (S) - Found at the head of Dentdale by Julie Clarke, this is the first recent record in the vice-county since 1969.

Asperula cynanchica - SD82.86 (I) - Frances Graham from the YDNP Authority found a patch 1m x 1.5m in a hayfield in Widdale during a hay meadow survey. First record for v.c.65.

Carex x elytroides (*C. acuta* x *C. nigra*) – SD98.86 (D)
Recorded from the southern end of Semerwater on the
Sedge Course by Mike Porter. First record for v.c.65.

Dactylorhiza x grandis (*D. praetermissa* x *D. fuchsii*) –
SE20.82 (B) – Found and photographed by Linda
Robinson on the edge of a lagoon at Marfield Wetlands.
Conf. by Alan Gendle and the Orchid Soc. First record
for v.c.65.

Epilobium x facchinii (*E. montanum* x *E. alsinefolium*) –
SD84.96 (N) – Wrongly identified as *Epilobium*
alsinefolium in 2008, Mike Wilcox spotted the hybrid on
John Somerville's Website and identified it from an
excellent close-up photograph showing the confused
stigmas. Conf. G.D. Kitchener. First record for v.c.65.

Equisetum x littorale (*E. fluviatile* x *E. arvense*) – SD98.88
(Z) – Recorded from Ballowfield Nature Reserve during
the BSBI Meeting held there in July by John Newbould.
First record for v.c.65.

Equisetum x rothmaleri (*E. arvense* x *E. palustre*) – SD98.88
(Z) – Recorded from Ballowfield Nature Reserve during
the BSBI Meeting held there in July by John Newbould.
First record for v.c.65.

Euphrasia artica – SE02.86 (I) – Spotted in a field near
West Burton by Phyl Abbot and the YNU Botany
Section. The first recent record in v.c.65 since 1986.

Galium x pomeranicum (*G. mollugo* x *G. verum*) –
Recorded by Julie Clarke and Linda Robinson on
Kilmond Scar. First recent record in v.c.65 since 1970.

Hieracium leyi – SD78.88 (Z) – Found by Brian Burrows
and conf. by D. McCosh. First record for v.c.65.

Neottia nidus-avis – SD94.98 (P) – Found whilst tracing
an old record of Judy Palmer's from 1997 in Birkbeck
Wood, Gunnerside Gill under *Salix caprea*. Record
missing from Atlas.

Orobanche alba – 98.90 (V) – Two spikes shown to us on
Ivy Scar by Deborah Millward on the BSBI Meeting
held in July.

Vaccinium uliginosum – SD84.96 (N) – Found on peat
hags on the summit plateau of Great Shunner Fell by
Richard Dimon and Mark Owen. This is the first
record from the Shunner Fell area and the first recent
record from v.c.65 since 1970. The 1970 record was
from the Teesdale area.

Vaccinium uliginosum – SD84.96 (N) – Found in
November in acid mire on the west side of Great
Shunner Fell by Stephen Hewitt, a second record on
Great Shunner Fell.

Aliens

Astilbe x arendsii – SD76.84 (S) – Garden escape found
by Mike Canaway and Linda Robinson naturalized by
the river at Stonehouse Bridge. First record for v.c.65.

Cotula alpina – SE10.74 (H) – This small Australian alien
was found on Potts Moor between Leighton Reservoir
and Nidderdale by Linda Robinson (see paper in BSBI
News, January 2010). New to the British Isles and
Europe.

Kniphofia uvaria – SE20.82 (B) – Garden escape on bank
above the River Tees, recorded by Fall Sarker, Cliff
Evans etc. on a v.c.65 Field Meeting. First recent record
since 1986.

Lychnis coronaria – SE20.82 (B) – Garden escape found
by Linda Robinson on the edge of a lagoon in Marfield
Wetlands. First v.c.65 record.

Phytolacca acinosa – SE36.68 (U) – Probable garden
escape found by Ian Wallace, established behind the
Windmill on private land. The second record for v.c.65.

Tulipa gesneriana (Garden Tulip) – SE08.90 (V) – Planted
around a seat on Leyburn Shawl and recorded by Beryl
Armstrong and Linda Robinson. First record for v.c.65.

Chiastophyllum oppositifolium – SD76.86 (T) – Found by
Brian Burrows naturalized near a road bridge in
Dentdale. A first record for v.c.65. The same plant was
spotted a few days later by Julie Clarke, John
Somerville etc. on a v.c.65 Field Meeting.

Saxifraga x geum (*S. umbrosa* x *S. hirsuta*) – SD76.86 (T) –
Scattered alongside the river in Dentdale, recorded by
Brian Burrows and possibly the first record for v.c.65.

Luzula luzuloides – SD76.86 (T) – On the edge of the
railway track at Dent Station and down the banks of the
stream. Found by Julie Clarke. The first recent record
in v.c.65 since 1986.

Leucanthemum paludosum – SD70.86 (D) – Found by Julie
Clarke growing in cobbles at the base of a wall in Dent,
an escape from hanging baskets. First record for v.c.65.

Phlox paniculata – SD70.86 (D) – A garden escape
growing in a hedge near Dent. Found by Julie Clarke,
John Somerville etc. on a v.c.65 Field Meeting. A first
record for v.c.65.

Geranium macrorrhizum – SD74.86 (N) – A garden
escape in a lay-by between Cowgill and Dent. Found
by Julie Clarke, John Somerville etc. on a v.c.65 Field
Meeting. Possibly a first record for v.c.65.

Primula denticulata – SD74.86 (N) – Another garden
escape in same lay-by as the above sp. between Cowgill

and Dent. Found by Julie Clarke, John Somerville etc. on a v.c.65 Field Meeting. A first record for v.c.65.

Field Meetings 2010

All Field Meetings start at 10.00am

Sunday 11th April – Checking old records of *Gagea lutea* and *Galanthus* sp around Wensley. Meet at lay-by at Wensley Low Lane. SE101.895.

Friday 23rd April – Checking old records of *Hutchinsia petraea* in Hectad SE08 West Burton/West Witton. Meet in West Burton near the Pub. SE015.866.

Sunday 9th May – Search for *Gagea lutea* and other spring species along banks of Tees down to Soursike Gill. Meet at junction of A167 with Eryholme Lane. NZ 336.059.

Saturday May 22nd and Sunday May 23rd - Alchemilla identification workshops with Dr. M.E. Bradshaw. For details please ring Dr. Bradshaw on 01833650589 or email mebhilltop@btinternet.com.

Saturday 29th May – Dishforth/Boroughbridge area. Meet at Cemetery gates in Dishforth. SE384.735.

Wednesday 9th June – Great Knoutberry Hill-Coal Road. Meet SD779.880 (Junction of Coal Road and Bridleway) – Joint v.c.65 & Craven Conservation Group Meeting.

Sunday 13th June – SSSI Hay meadows and species rich banks near Stonesgill and Keld. Meet at car park beside Little Bridge above West Stonesdale. NY885.030.

Wednesday 30th June – Wold Fell area. Meet at Redshaw Bridge lay-by. SD805.851. Joint v.c.65 & Craven Conservation Group Meeting.

Sunday 11th July – Nosterfield and Tanfield. Meet at Visitor Centre at Nosterfield. SE277.795.

Saturday 31st July – Mossy Bottom, south of Dent Head Viaduct. Meet near Dent Head Viaduct. SD777.844.

Saturday 14th August – Searching for old records of *Epipactis* sp (including *E. dunensis*, *E. phyllanthes*, *E. helleborine*, *E. palustris* & *E. atrorubens*). Meet at roadside beside old Quarry near Easby. NZ188.007.

Sunday 29th August – Barningham Moor, meet in Barningham beside phone box in centre. NZ084.103.

Saturday 11th September – Cotherstone Moor, meet in Car Park beside Clove Lodge. NY935.176.

Sunday 19th September – Newsham/Dalton area, meet outside Church in Dalton. NZ115.084.

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