



Flora of North-west Yorkshire

A botanical newsletter for VC65

Issue 6. Spring 2014

Welcome to this our sixth newsletter for VC65 which is intended to keep you up-to date with botanical activities in North-west Yorkshire. For geographical details of the vice county please visit our website at: http://www.bsbi.org.uk/nw_yorkshire.html and click on 'A brief tour of v.c.65'.

Field Meetings in 2013

The Field Meetings were reasonably well attended last year despite many of them being in the south-east of the vice county, we were basically filling gaps on the map (see page 5). We were very grateful to Stuart Hedley and John O'Reilly for organizing the BSBI week-end meetings in Upper Teesdale on Cronkley Fell and Black Hill further up the Tees, these were way over-subscribed and as a result a further week-end meeting is planned for this year and is already booked up. The records we got that week-end were phenomenal, they included the first v.c.65 records of *Trichophorum cespitosum* (Northern Deer-grass) and the re-finding of an old *Carex magellanica* record on the summit of Black Hill by Anne Middleton and lots of other records of the unique Teesdale assemblage.

Thanks must go to Mike Canaway who organized two field meetings at Kingsdale Head and Flinters Gill in Dentdale, these were well attended thanks to the Craven Conservation Group and some good records collected.

Things don't always go to plan, the Field Meeting planned on the 4th May at the Druids Temple was hi-jacked by a Druid Wedding taking place there, I found myself in among a hundred or so guests and decided I wasn't really dressed for the occasion so changed tack and recorded in an adjacent tetrad, also the meeting on 1st June on Melmerby Moor was changed about 10.29am when Deborah Millward and myself met at the appointed site

and after a coffee and brief discussion we noted that the Burnt Orchids were out (a no brainer as far as we were concerned) so we ended up in Swinithwaite sussing out a 1980's record of Mike Porter's, we had a null record from the site in 2012, but we found 4 plants in flower and a rare lowland site for *Antennaria dioica*. Sadly no Green Winged Orchids were found, these had been present in some numbers in the 1980's. Hopefully with Natural England's intervention these rich calcareous pastures will now be managed for their flora, especially these Orchids. The owner of Berry's teasop was also very interested in our finds as these are their farm's lower fields with a farm walk for their patrons.

Thanks must go to Beryl Armstrong, Mary Smith and Lizzie Maddison who accompanied me on some of the earlier field meetings looking for *Gagea*, we managed to fill in a lot of blank tetrads on the Tees along with a couple of sites well above the river on roadside verges.

As well as the official field meetings every fortnight or so there are other unofficial jaunts and thanks must go to Eileen and Tim Laurie who are busy recording the small remnant woodlands on the various scars, we have been turning up some really good records from these unique remnants of the original woodland present just after the ice melted 12,000 years ago. *Salix caprea* subsp. *Sphacelata* (Scottish Willow) keeps on turning up, it was seen just over the border in Swindale Woods above Brough along with its hybrid with Sallow, possibly new to England.

Brian Burrow and Mike Canaway have also been filling in tetrads on the south-western edge of the v.c., many thanks both. They discovered what might be the last Juniper hanging on to a scar in the Ure catchment (Wensleydale) at the head of Coverdale. Deborah

informed me that the last one she knew died in the 1980's. Brian Burrow has also sent me lots of Taraxacum and Hieracium records for which I am extremely grateful.

I received an email from Roger Singleton-Turner who lives in Richmond telling me about a Pulicaria and Small Teasel he had found in the area, I went down to meet Roger and his wife Jacqui and they kindly showed me the sites, resulted in quite a few new records (see below). Many thanks Roger.

One of the most exciting unofficial meetings was up above Ravenseat near Red Mea Well with Eileen and Tim Laurie. After recording over fairly homogenous blanket bog we came across a calcareous flush, nothing out of the ordinary down below but when we reached the top lo and behold another new site for Saxifraga hirculus (Yellow Marsh Saxifrage), we filled in a Rare Plant Form and took various pics (see our Facebook Page – North West Yorkshire Botany), where you will see Eileen and I looking very studious when really I just wanted to dance up and down like an idiot (just confirmed everyone's suspicions !!!). A short report of the two most recent finds of this plant will appear in the next BSBI Newsletter.

Thank you to all my Cumbrian friends Marie Saag, Mary Smith, Diane Dobson, Jim Parkin, Trevor Lewis, Jan Owen, June Byerley, and Celia Cooper who have all accompanied me on forays into v.c. 65 in 2013.

Thanks also to Dr. Michael Foley, John Durkin and others who have given me records and other useful comments via the new Facebook site.

Notable finds in 2013

Abies grandis (Giant Fir) Some mature specimens were noted, planted below Ilton beside Sole Beck in May by LR (SE18.78)

Abies grandis (Giant Fir) A self-set seedling about half a metre in height was spotted by Beryl Armstrong and LR on the riverbank above Winston Bridge in April. The needles when crushed smell of Tangerines (NZ14.16)

Alchemilla acutiloba (Starry Lady's Mantle), An established clump of this Teesdale rarity was found by Beryl Armstrong and LR on the riverbank above Winston in April. It must have been washed down from further up the Tees. (NZ14.16)

Alchemilla acutiloba (Starry Lady's Mantle) A good clump was spotted on the riverbank just below Holwick Head Bridge on 30.05.2013 by LR (NY88.28)

Alchemilla glomerulans (Clustered Lady's Mantle) Four separate populations were found downstream of Holwick Head Bridge and one population just upstream on the side of the footpath above Holwick Head Bridge by LR on 30.05.2013 (NY88.28)

Alchemilla wichurae (Rock Lady's Mantle) Three separate populations were spotted and TPP forms filled in by Jim Parkin and LR on the path from Holwick Head Bridge to High Force on 22.06.2013 (NY88.28)

Anacamptis morio (Green Winged Orchid) Fifty three plants were counted in a meadow on Low Wanless Farm on 04.06.2013 by Jim Parkin and Linda Robinson, a TPP form was duly filled in (SE06.88)

Andromeda polifolia (Andromeda) A small population was found almost on the v.c. boundary above Arkleside on 18.08.2013 by LR. Records of this are few and far between in this v.c. (SE04.78)

Antennaria dioica (Mountain Everlasting) One 1m diameter patch found by Deborah Millward and LR on 01.06.2013 in the pastures below Swinithwaite on calcareous glacial till (SE04.90)

Asplenium ceterach (Rusyback) This uncommon small fern was found by Brian Burrow and Mike Canaway on 07.08.2013 on High Pike along the track near the old shafts up there (SD70.82)

Butomus umbellatus (Flowering Rush) This is quite uncommon in v.c.65 and was spotted on the edge of the Swale below Holme on 10.08.2013 by LR who got a closer look than intended when I descended, I would like to think gracefully, into about half a metre of water beside it and had to sit on the bank for ages till I had stopped dripping before walking back though the village to the car. (SE36.80)

Carex magellanica (Tall Bog-sedge) A good patch of this rare Carex was spotted by Anne Middleton on the BSBI Teesdale Field Meeting near the summit of Black Hill opposite Cauldron Snout on 19.07.2013, well done Anne ! (NY80.26)

Carex otrubae (False Fox-sedge) This was seen by John Newbould on a verge near Pepper Arden on 01.07.2013

(NZ28.00) and again at Ellerton lagoon on 19.06.2013 by Deborah Millward, Martin Hewitt and LR (SE26.96)

Convallaria majalis (Lily-of-the-Valley) This was found at Sedbusk by Brian Burrow on 26.06.2013 (SD88.90) and again on Towns Fell in August by Brian Burrow (SD68.84)

Crepis biennis (Rough Hawk's-beard) Found by John Newbould at Hudswell Wood in riverside grassland on 04.07.2013 (NZ16.00) and again by June Byerley, Celia Cooper and LR on a verge near Castle Bolton on 10.07.2013 (SE02.90)

Diphasiastrum alpinum (Alpine Clubmoss) Found on the trackside just below the summit of Rogan's Seat on 27.09.2013 by Trevor Lewis and LR (NY92.02)

Dipsacus pilosus (Small Teasel) Spotted by Roger Singleton-Turner on 24.08.2013 by the footpath on the old railway track near Richmond Station (NZ18.00)

Epilobium anagallidifolium (Alpine Willowherb) This was seen in a flush at Clove Head between Brough and Middleton-in-Teesdale on 28.08.2013 by LR (NY82.20)

Helminthotheca echioides (Bristly Oxtongue) One plant was found in flower on the edge of the pond at Scorton by LR on 16.06.2013 (NZ24.00)

Hemerocallis fulva (Orange Day-Lily) One clump seen by Diane Dobson and LR on the riverbank below Cleasby along with Otter footprints on 06.04.2013 (NZ24.12)

Juniperus communis (Juniper) The first record of Juniper in Wensleydale since the 'last' one died in the 1980's, found on a scar at the top of Coverdale by Brian Burrow and Mike Canaway (SD98.76)

Lonicera nitida (Wilson's Honeysuckle) This was spotted by the Craven Conservation Group naturalized in Flinter's Gill, above Dent on 17.07.2013 (SD70.86)

Neotinea ustulata (Burnt Tip Orchid) A total of twelve plants were found and a TPP survey done by Jim Parkin and LR in a meadow at Low Wanless Farm on 04.06.2013 (SE06.88)

Neotinea ustulata (Burnt Tip Orchid) Four plants were found in the pastures below Swinithwaite by Deborah Millward and LR and another TPP survey form filled in on 01.06.2013, they covered two tetrads (SE04.88 and SE04.90)

Neottia nidus-avis (Bird's Nest Orchid) Found by John Newbould on his recording week in v.c.65, in Hudswell Woods near Richmond on 04.07.2013 (NZ14.00)

Polemonium caeruleum (Jacob's Ladder) Not the native plant but definitely a garden escape found on the edge of Ellerton Lagoon by Deborah Millward, Martin Hewitt and LR on 19.06.2013 (SE26.96)

Pulicaria dysenterica (Common Fleabane) Not common as the name implies and an email from Roger Singleton-Turner alerted me to the record, a few plants in flower were present in a damp patch in a riverside meadow below Richmond, the site was visited by Roger, his wife Jacquie and LR on 25.09.2013 (NZ16.00)

Ranunculus lingua (Greater Spearwort) This very uncommon plant in v.c.65 was found in the company of the above record of *Pulicaria* on 25.09.2013 (NZ16.00)

Saxifraga hirculus (Yellow Marsh Saxifrage) This rare and protected species was found in a new site above Ravenseat in Swaledale at the head of Red Mea Well, discovered by Tim & Eileen Laurie and LR on 26.07.2013 (NY86.04)

Saxifraga hirculus (Yellow Marsh Saxifrage) this site whilst not new in 2013, was discovered a few years previously by Natural England Staff near Standards, in Lunedale. The site was monitored in 2013 by Chris McCarty and LR along with the Mickle Fell population (NY84.22)

Sorbus rupicola (Rock Whitebeam) This species was noted by Jim Parkin and LR on the footpath above Holwick Head Bridge and High Force on 22.06.2013 (NY88.28)

Symphytum grandiflorum (Creeping Comfrey) This first v.c.65 record was spotted by Tim Laurie and LR naturalized on a roadside verge just outside Whaston towards Hartforth Wood on 18.04.2013 (NZ14.04)

Trichophorum cespitosum (Northern Deer-grass) The first and second v.c. 65 records of this species were made by Stuart Hedley whilst recce'ing for the BSBI week-end field meeting on 19-20.07.2013, both were below Black Hill, opposite Cauldron Snout (NY80.26 & NY80.28)

Vulpia myuros (Rat's-tail Fescue) Probably planted at Scorton on the banks of the pond/lagoon behind the village, seen in the afternoon of 16.06.2013 by LR (NZ24.00)

Threatened Plant Project

This Project has now finished and the last few survey forms have been filled in, one or two where we unfortunately did not find the species have been filled in as null entries. The last record we had for *Vicia orobus* (Upright Vetch) north of Sedbergh has never been re-found, so sadly we have to assume this plant may now be extinct in v.c.65, but you never know, if you are around the Crossroads area above the Lune, near Sedbergh just before the bracken gets up, please watch out for it. It is only a couple of years ago that a new site was found for it in South Cumbria.

We found some new sites for *Alchemilla wichurae* near High Force, Teesdale but some old sites for Burnt Tip Orchid and Green Winged Orchid have sadly been given null records although on the positive side we have been given an old 1980's record of Burnt Tip Orchids in Len Pasture SSSI, near Crackpot, Swaledale, by Dr. Michael Foley, we are having a field meeting there this year in the hope that we will turn them up. If they are still there it will be the only record of Burnt Tip's in Swaledale.

Recording plans for the future

About 45,600 records covering mainly 2000-2013 have been put into MapMate by L.R. over the winter months in the last few years but there are still the records up to 2000 to get in. Two sets of box files are now on excel but there is still three quarters of a briefcase full of paper records to go through, when these get put on excel they can be sorted, duplicates discarded and missing grid references and place names put in, then they can be put into MapMate and added to the c.40,000 records or so already in the *Vascular Plants Database* at CEH Wallingford (formerly Monks Wood), this is still a work in progress but we are getting there.

We were hoping to produce a check list for v.c. 65 last year but due to unforeseen personal circumstances this was put off till 2014. We are still in the process of producing a Rare Plants Register and focusing our recording efforts on species that are either nationally rare or scarce (i.e. recorded in less than 100 10 × 10 km squares) or classified as threatened in the new Red Data List of the British flora published in 2005. Currently this includes the 126 native and archaeophyte taxa listed below:

Actaea spicata
Alchemilla acutiloba

Hypericum montanum
Juncus alpinoarticulatus

Alchemilla glaucescens
Alchemilla glomerulans
Alchemilla minima
Alchemilla monticola
Alchemilla subcrenata
Alchemilla wichurae
Allium oleraceum
Alopecurus borealis
Anthemis arvensis
Arabis glabra
Asplenium trichomanes ssp. pachyrachis
Bartsia alpina
Blysmus compressus
Bromopsis benekenii
Cardamine impatiens
Carex capillaris
Carex digitata
Carex ericetorum
Carex muricata ssp. muricata
Carex vaginata
Chenopodium bonus-henricus
Chrysanthemum segetum
Circaea alpina
Clinopodium calamintha
Cochlearia micacea
Cochlearia pyrenaica
Coeloglossum viride
Crepis mollis
Cynoglossum officinale
Cypripedium calceolus
Dactylorhiza traunsteinerioides
Daphne mezereum
Draba muralis
Dryas octopetala
Dryopteris submontana
Epipactis atrorubens
Epipactis phyllanthes
Equisetum pratense
Equisetum variegatum
Eriophorum gracile
Erophila majuscula
Euphorbia exigua
Euphrasia rostkoviana ssp. montana
Euphrasia rostkoviana ssp. rostkoviana
Filago vulgaris
Fumaria purpurea
Galeopsis angustifolia
Juncus compressus
Kobresia simpliciuscula
Limosella aquatica
Linum perenne
Luronium natans
Lysimachia thyrsoflora
Melampyrum sylvaticum
Meum athamanticum
Minuartia hybrid
Minuartia verna
Myosotis alpestris
Myosotis stolonifera
Myosurus minimus
Myriophyllum verticillatum
Oenanthe fistulosa
Ophrys insectifera
Anacamptis morio
Neotinea ustulata
Orobanche alba

Orobanche rapum-genistae
Orobanche reticulata

Papaver argemone
Pericaria minor
Peucedanum ostruthium
Pilularia globulifera
Polemonium caeruleum
Polygala amarella
Polystichum lonchitis
Potamogeton coloratus
Potamogeton friesii
Potentilla crantzii

Potentilla fruticosa
Potentilla neummanniana
Primula farinosa
Pseudorchis albida
Ranunculus arvensis
Ribes alpinum
Ribes spicatum
Rosa agrestis
Rumex pseudoalpinus
Saxifraga hirculus
Saxifraga hypnoides
Scandix pecten-veneris
Scheuchzeria palustris
Sedum villosum
Sesleria caerulea
Silene gallica
Silene noctiflora
Sium latifolium
Sorbus rupicola

<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>
<i>Genista anglica</i>	<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	<i>Stachys arvensis</i>
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	<i>Stellaria palustris</i>
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>
<i>Groenlandia densa</i>	<i>Teucrium scordium</i>
<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i>	<i>Thlaspi caerulescens</i>
<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i>	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>
<i>ssp. levigatum</i>	<i>Utricularia australis</i>
<i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>	<i>Valerianella dentata</i>
<i>Hornungia petraea</i>	<i>Vicia orobus</i>
<i>Hymenophyllum wilsonii</i>	<i>Viola tricolor</i>
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	<i>Woodsia ilvensis</i>

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.

We have already made good start to record the flora of the entire county, at the tetrad scale, our Field Meetings this year reflect the areas where we have few or no records, along with some to turn up old records. 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 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.

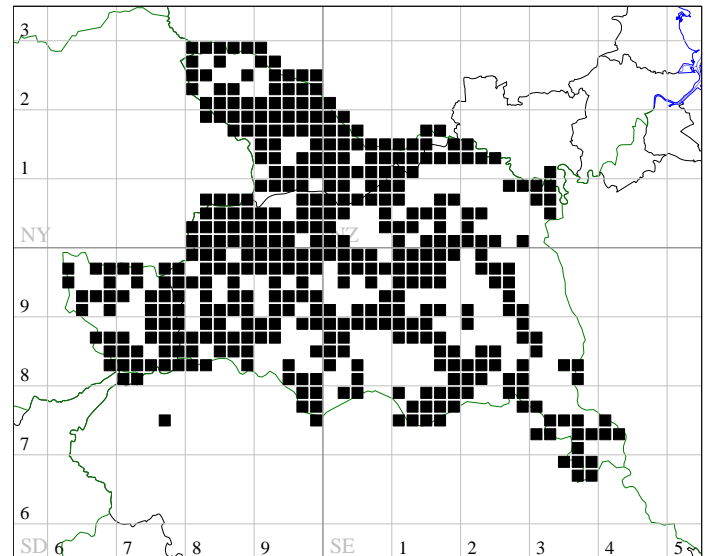
Facebook

We now have a Facebook Site if you are on Facebook look up **North West Yorkshire Botany**, and become a member of the group, whilst it is not directly associated with the BSBI it was set up by myself, with the help of a friend Pete Cochrane – thank you Pete, with a view to getting a ‘not too serious’ look at our work, out there and hopefully getting some records etc. back. This has worked very well and we have had some reliable older records from the 1980’s and 90’s coming in, these are now on Mapmate as well as some new ones, and quite a few folk are wanting to come along to our field meetings, so a worthwhile venture I think.

Field Meetings 2013

All Field Meetings start at 10.30am. If you intend to come along to meetings please try and let Linda Robinson know, contact details at end of Newsletter. The following map shows all the recorded tetrads so far:

VC65 Vascular Plants Recorded Sites 2km



Saturday 5th April – Gagea hunt in Wensleydale, meet at Car Park west of Aysgarth at SD996.889

Sunday 13th April – Gagea hunt at Brompton-on-Swale, meet at Cemetery gates at SE222.995

Saturday 3rd May – Uckerby, meet at entrance to Uckerby Grange, it is a Byeway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) and Bridleway at NZ245.022

Sunday 11th May – Cocklake, Lunedale, meet at end of track above Hargill Bridge at NY885.216

Saturday 31st May – Burnt Tip Orchid hunt at Len Pasture, Crackpot, Swaledale, Meet at entrance to Waterfalls below Crackpot at SD974.966

Saturday 14th June – Kirby Wiske, meet at Back Lane at SE371.848

Sunday 22nd June – Hunt for Small White Orchid from Gunnerside Pasture to above Ivelet with John Newbould, YNU, meet at end of Bridleway at SD941.983

Wednesday 25th June – Arten Gill, Dentedale, Field Meeting in conjunction with Craven Conservation Group. Maximum 300m (vertical) of ascent. Meet at Dent Head Viaduct at SD777.845 (For additional information call Mike Canaway on 01729823808)

Sunday 29th June – Small White Orchid hunt near Fairy Glen Waterfall, Teesdale, meet at roadside near Park End Wood at NY922.259

Thursday 3rd July & Friday 4th July – BSBI Field Meeting in Upper Teesdale (fully booked)

Saturday 12th July – Morton-on-Swale, meet at Back Lane at SE326.919

Sunday 20th July – Deepdale Woods near Barnard Castle, meet in Car Park at NZ045.167

Saturday 2nd August – Great Langton, meet near disused Quarry at SE295.964

Wednesday 6th August – Monkeybeck Scar near Dent Station, extreme care needed in this steep and deeply incised gill. Field Meeting in conjunction with the Craven Conservation Group. Meet at Dent Station car park at SD764.876 (For additional information call Mike Canaway on 01729823808)

Sunday 16th August – Cumbria Flora Meeting at Winton Fell, just over the border from v.c.65. Meet near the telephone box and village green in Winton village at NY783.105

Sunday 24th August – Danby Wiske, meet near Pub in village at SE337.985

Saturday 6th September – Melmerby Moor, meet at cattle grid near Wraykeld Well at SE067.868

There will be other unscheduled field trips which get organised at the last minute depending on weather, work etc. so if anyone is prepared to drop everything at a moment's notice you are welcome to come along. Please give me your contact details and I will let you know and be glad of the company.

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