



Cambridgeshire Flora Group

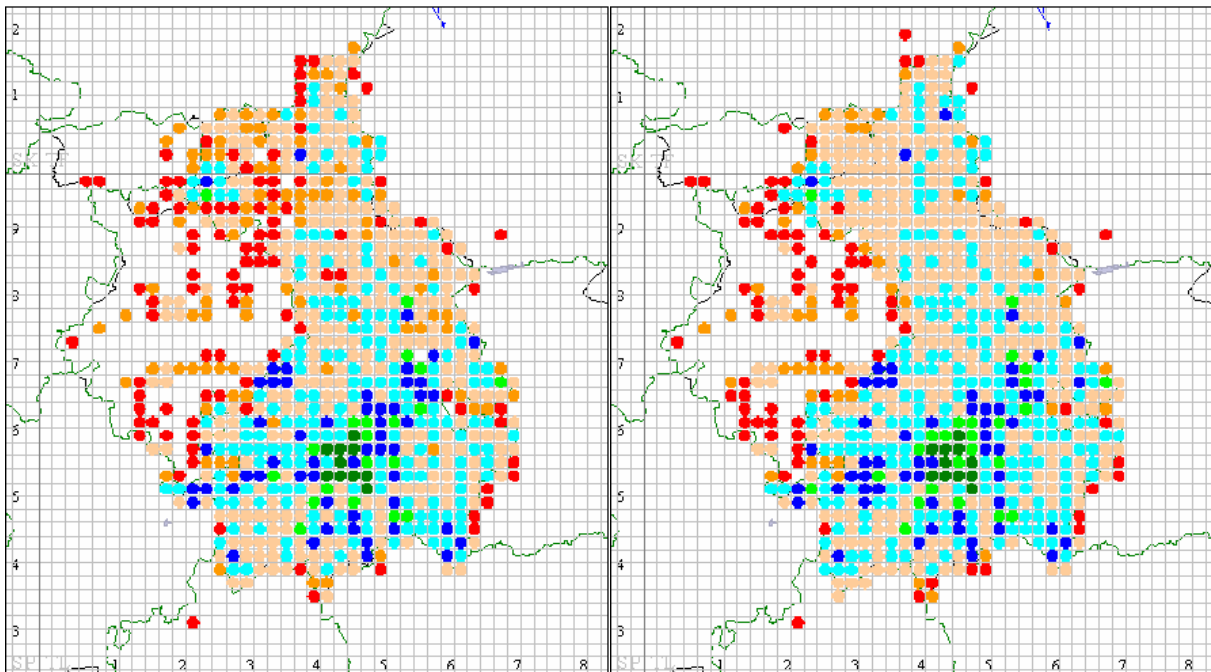
Newsletter 2016

News

Further progress has been made with collating data from various sources into our database and from there into the BSBI Distribution Data-base, though the records still require a lot of checking and editing, both for format and content. It would be a great help if recorders would follow the recording guidelines! Further records for 2014 have come in and its total now stands at 30423, whilst so far there are 24566 records for 2015. One recorder can time travel as we already have a record for 2018! Overall in the vc database the most frequent species are *Urtica dioica* (622 tetrads out of the 664 in the vc), followed by *Cirsium arvense* (617) and *Galium aparine* (614). The commonest species from the new England Red List is *Knautia arvensis*, which is present in 231 tetrads. We (Jonathan) missed this species in the note in the previous newsletter and it is far more common than *Euphorbia exigua*, which is now known from 135 tetrads. We have MapMate records for 2183 different species, subspecies, hybrids or varieties and there are some additional ones in the BSBI DDb.

Cambridgeshire tetrad richness 2014 12

Cambridgeshire tetrad richness



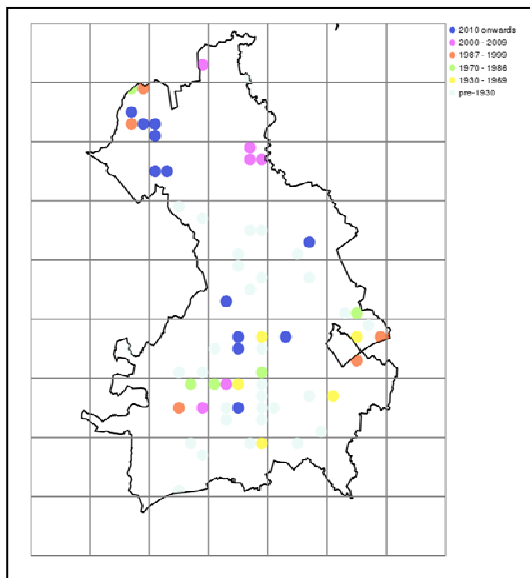
Recording progress in 2015 showing the increase in coverage between January 1 and December 31. There is an animation showing progress in monthly steps since 2013 November on the web page.

May was again the most popular month to record (4253 records) but this time January was the least (291). Preliminary coverage of the county for Atlas 2020 is nearly complete, with around a dozen full tetrads still to visit. Progress in the

northern fens has been much assisted by parallel recording for the Fenland Flora. Additional records from any of the amber or red tetrads will be very welcome, as will records of new species from any tetrad. Some tetrads may appear well covered, but be deficient in common species because they include wildlife sites, for example Jonathan recorded *Cirsium vulgare* from The Beechwoods and *Urtica dioica* from the Bedford Gap tetrad of the Fleam Dyke for the first time in November. Even frequently visited areas will have surprises and additions, with Jonathan and Steve Hartley often finding or re-finding species at sites that they visit during conservation work parties.

At the risk of repetition, we know that some of the county botanists have been making records since 2010 (or even since 2000), but have so far not managed to send them to us. If you want your observations to be used for the Flora or Atlas 2020, please send them sooner rather than later. If you have a large number of records in manuscript it may be possible to get BSBI help to have them digitised. If you can digitise them yourself this is a great help, particularly if you can use a standard data entry system that does some quality control (eg consistent plant names) and formats your records. There are hints and tips on format and recording on the county web page at <http://www.cnhs.org.uk/vc29%20recording.htm> There is a very helpful xls utility to input records which will create nicely formatted records at http://www.cnhs.org.uk/Species_Mapmate_vc29.xls

Jonathan Shanklin has continued updating the draft rare plant list and hopes to start converting this into a Rare Plant Register in 2016. He has extracted a field list from this that fits on two sides of A4, and also a list of those species not seen recently, which is subdivided into decades. Both of these are on the web page. The decadal listing might help people to target specific species and perhaps re-discover them. Of the 563 species on the current list, 181 were seen in 2015, and 341 have been seen since 2010. Currently 70% have been seen since the start of the Atlas 2020 period and there are good chances that some more will still be extant in the county.



James Cadbury visited over 60 sites looking at arable weeds and a report on his findings will appear in *Nature in Cambridgeshire*. Many are declining and the BSBI DDb allows the production of distribution maps that show this. An example is *Torilis arvensis* (left), which had a good year in the fens (blue dots), but in general has declined markedly.

BSBI members will have received a copy of "Notes on identification works and some difficult and under-recorded taxa". Whilst this does draw attention to many species it does not offer immediate help with their identification, which is a pity as taking all the volumes of Sell & Murrell into the field is a

non-starter. It also doesn't mention some of our problem plants, so whilst *Lemna* gets a mention, the apparent *Lemna minor* with large cells which we record as *Lemna gibba* does not. The booklet lists some under-recorded hybrids, but you will

need the new “Hybrids” book to help identify them. Some we do regularly record, but I suspect that we are missing *Epilobium* hybrids. Chris Metherell compiled a helpful field booklet for vc68 giving tips on some of the difficult species and Jonathan has used this as a basis for a draft for vc29 which is distributed with this newsletter. If you have suggestions for improvements or additions please let him know.

Progress with the Flora

At the time of writing (December 2015) the accounts for Cambridgeshire grasses are taking shape and following these there remains just the orchids to do. The accounts from *Asteraceae* onwards will need to be checked against the herbarium specimens in **CGE**, as this always uncovers some errors and things that have been missed: not least more variants collected by Peter Sell! As well as all this there are the introductory chapters to be considered and what illustrations are needed. A painting of our unique umbellifer hybrid X *Beruladium procurrens* [*Apium nodiflorum* has become *Helosciadium nodiflorum*] has been commissioned and this may be joined by a couple of other special plants named for or occurring only in the county (e.g. *Ranunculus cantabrigiensis* which is part of the *R. auricomus* complex and *Rubus cantabrigiensis*). Good images of Cambridgeshire localities with botanical significance or images of Cambridge botanists would be most welcome if any readers have possible candidates to offer. It is reasonable to suppose that all this work might see the light of day in 2017.

Vascular Plant Records 2015

Full details of the notable records for the year will be published in *Nature in Cambridgeshire*, which is due out in mid June. Here we give some highlights of the records, first from Alan then from Jonathan.

It has been a notable year for new alien records, but there were also some good news stories relating to native plants. Following the re-location of *Potentilla tabernaemontani* on Newmarket Heath in 2014, it was seen again on the Gogs golf course in 2015, apparently the first record there since 1988. As reported below the CFG excursion saw a fine set of species more typical of Breckland at the edge of a flooded sand pit near Isleham, an area only discovered last year by Jonathan Shanklin and apparently a remarkable survival: some of the surrounding fields were also very sandy. Also of some note was a single plant of *Bidens cernua* in a ditch beside the Ouse north of Over, *Potentilla argentea* on sandy ground along the Fordham bypass and a large new population of *Cephalanthera damasonium* in plantation woodland above Worsted Lodge. There were also reports of other native British plants which are probably not



Cephalanthera damasonium, shown here at Nightingale Avenue

native with us and have always been rarities in the county: these included a great deal of *Epilobium lanceolatum* on the old sidings at Chesterton (rapidly disappearing under the new station), *Stellaria neglecta* under a new hedge by flats off Rustat Road in Cambridge and yet another site for *Poa bulbosa*, this time under mature London Planes in Alexandra Gardens in the same city.

There have been some interesting new hybrid records too. Perhaps best of all was a solitary plant of *Cirsium eriophorum* x *C. vulgare* on a roadside north of Comberton, where it was growing with both parents (this was a new site for the Woolly Thistle too) and is our first recent and perhaps only entirely accepted record for what seems to be a rare hybrid. We had confirmed records too for *Rumex conglomeratus* x *R. hydrolapathum* (by a ditch near the Ouse, north of Over) and *R. crispus* x *R. pulcher* (in Ditton Meadows, Cambridge).

Of the non native records quite the most exciting was a new parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa* subsp. *urens* which was spotted in good quantity on the A14 north-east of Newmarket and found subsequently in smaller numbers along the same road at Quy and Milton. This is also known from the Suffolk coast and may well be overlooked elsewhere. Other notable aliens (all new to Cambridgeshire) included *Rubus niveus* (on Sheep's Green in Cambridge), *Pteris tremula* (in a basement light well behind the University Botanic Garden offices), the Loquat, *Eriobotrya japonica* (at the base of railings in York Street, Cambridge), *Bromus madritensis* (in a shrub bed by the Elizabeth Way roundabout in Cambridge), *Vicia benghalensis* (on a small holding near Whittlesey), *Trifolium purpureum* (in a meadow at Murrow) and Peanut, *Arachis hypogaea* (in a road drain in Abbey Road, in Cambridge). Details of all these and more will be in the next *Nature in Cambridgeshire*.

Although it seemed unlikely that tetrad TL45J (West Cambridge) would have many more species to offer this proved not to be the case, with some interesting new finds. Perhaps most astonishing was *Turritis glabra* which appeared in a flower bed. Although this is a Cambridgeshire BAP species and has not been seen elsewhere since 1995 the majority of plants were quickly weeded out by the Cambridge University gardeners. Its origin here is uncertain, but one possibility is that it came in with bark chippings generated during the dualling of the A11 near Thetford. *Vulpia ciliata* subsp. *ambigua* turned up on the Observatory site (briefly used by contractors again in the autumn) and *Anacamptis pyramidalis* on a grass border at the British Antarctic Survey. *Lotus pedunculatus* appeared in the dry "canal". Sadly, an unusually tall, green and non-fleshy *Chenopodium* on the Cavendish site couldn't be made into anything other than *C. rubrum*. A report on the 2014 studies appeared in the 2015 *Nature in Cambridgeshire*, and species



Turritis glabra on the West Cambridge Site

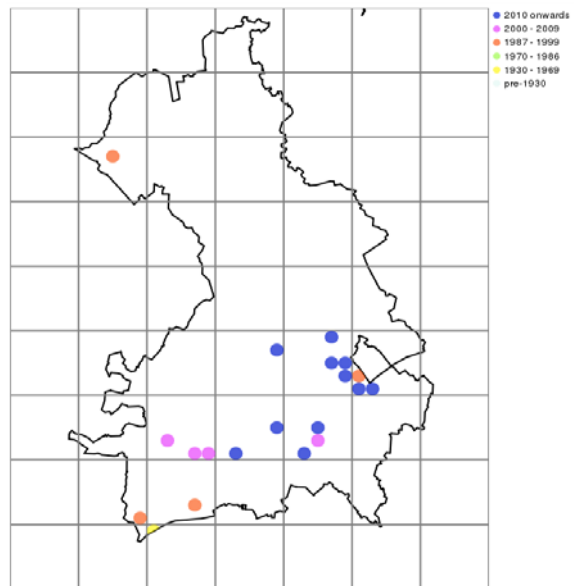
lists are on the CNHS web site. Nothing so spectacular was found during the CNHS field studies of the Coe Fen area, although the year did start with the find of *Rubus niveus*, a new county record. Two notable species, *Catabrosa aquatica* and *Epipactis phyllanthes*, were re-found here.

Cambridgeshire Rare Plants

This item is something of a space filler in order to make the newsletter up to 12 pages, but I hope it is of interest. It may become a regular feature! For this issue I have chosen two recent additions from the England Red List. The figures show their approximate current distributions from the DDb, though there are Fenland Flora records and records from 2013 and 2014 to add, so the situation is not quite as bad as it seems.

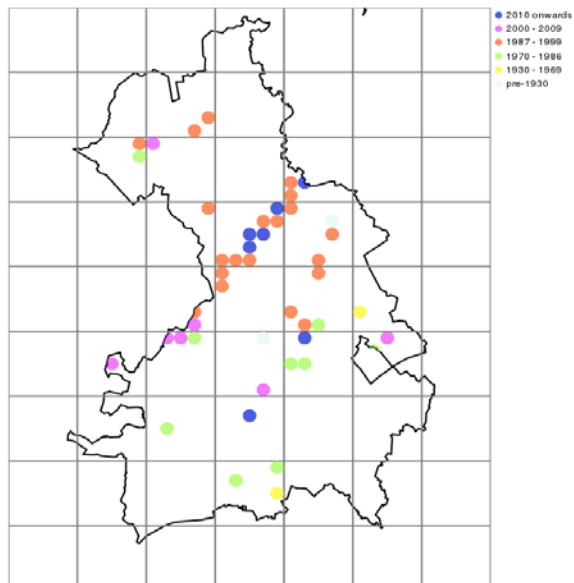
Carlina vulgaris

Carline Thistle was first recorded in the County by Ray in 1660, when he saw it in great plenty on the Gogmagog Hills. It is still there, though not in plenty and most recently seen there on a chalk bank that is being restored at The Beechwoods. It is classed as Near Threatened in England on account of a significant decline in the area of occupancy. There are no recent records from the far south-west of the County. The plant prefers dry chalky ground, though there is an old record from Grunty Fen. The long bracts surrounding the flower are hygroscopic, so they open in warm, dry weather and close when it is wet. The dry flower head persists through the winter. The genus is named after the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.



Senecio aquaticus

Marsh Ragwort was also first recorded in the County by Ray in 1660, in “moist and watery places”. It is fairly widespread across the county, though most common in washes along the main drainage rivers. It is classed as Near Threatened in England on account of a significant decline in the area of occupancy. It appears to have been lost from some of its sites in the far south of the County. *Senecio x ostenfeldii*, its hybrid with *Senecio jacobaea* is much rarer, or at least very rarely recorded, with only three locations in the County. At one of these, Coe Fen in Cambridge, it has been known for nearly forty years.



Review of 2015 excursions

April 30: Kingston Wood. Kingston Wood is in private ownership and we were grateful to Peter Reynolds for organising access. The wood actually comprises four woods: Kingston Wood itself, Hawk's Wood, Lady Pastures Spinney and Pincote Wood. Further details are in an article by Peter in *Nature in Cambridgeshire* No 45 (2003). We started in the northern monad of Kingston Wood, first recording the flora of the Clearing. Moving southwards Lynne Farrell re-found one of the "wanted" plants, Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* although it had been found by Peter on a recce the week before. Nearby he showed us Green Hellebore *Helleborus viridus* in its only extant site in the wood. We continued south, but although some boulders looked good for a lunch spot the party wasn't allowed to stop as it wasn't yet 12:30.



Paris quadrifolia in Kingston Wood

A little later, an old bank in Hawk's Wood was deemed a suitable spot. Next was Lady Pastures Spinney, where we saw the only Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea* in the woods. Pincote Wood has a central pond and here we re-found Adderstongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, which hadn't been recorded since Babington saw it in 1860. The edge of the newer pond added several willows (and a certain amount of discussion on their identification) before we returned to the northern part of Kingston Wood. We didn't find any more species on the "wanted" list, but were pleased to find a good amount of Pignut *Conopodium majus* and one plant of Greater Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*. Altogether we made 294 records of which some 105 were tetrad records since 2000. We added several new species to the wood list, including Carrot *Daucus carota* and Wavy Bittercress *Cardamine flexuosa*.

May 28: Whitehall Farm, Isleham. Whitehall Farm lies in Fenland in an area that has an interesting mix of sand and peat fen. It is not that far from the Brecks and this may be the source of some of the plants. We were welcomed onto the site by Jackie Seddon. Our day began with a walk around the newer of their two reservoirs, as this gave late comers a chance to spot us on the way in. We found several of the expected water plants on the margins, although *Crassula helmsii* provided something of a blanketing carpet. From there we headed for a couple of mounds of material, possibly from the construction of the reservoirs. Mark Hill found the liverwort *Aneura pinguis* on the north facing slope, which also had plenty of *Tussilago farfara*. Our next area of habitat was a landscaped lake and the surrounding area gave us most of our exciting finds. On a little peninsula we noted *Anthriscus caucalis*, and then half-a-dozen plants of *Scandix pecten-veneris*. Continuing round, a particularly sandy area had an amazing range of unusual plants, with a big population of *Carex arenaria*, and *Vulpia ciliata* subsp. *ambigua*, *Vicia lathyroides* and *Arabis hirsuta* being notable additions to the site list. We thought this was a fitting place to have lunch, picnicking on the beach. Perhaps inevitably the rest of the day was a bit of an

anticlimax, though we did make some good finds. Particularly notable was a single plant of *Erucastrum gallicum* found by Charles Turner at the edge of a wheat field. The grassed margin of one field provided a Brome which provoked much discussion as to whether it was *Bromus inermis* or *Bromus carinatus*, although it keyed closer to the latter. No firm conclusion was reached at the time, but later research showed that *Bromus carinatus* is now thought to be a complex of several different plants, and ours keyed out at *Bromus sitchensis*. We were now heading back to the cars, and the final area was a show-jumping paddock, which had perhaps the nicest ditch of the day. This had nothing special, but a *Callitriche* was retrieved for determination. Fortunately this was relatively easy as the pollen grains showed it to be *C. obtusangula*. Altogether we made 20 hectad records, one vc record and found eight plants on the draft county rare plant list.

June 21: Ashwell. On our June outing we joined forces with the Hertfordshire group to explore both sides of the county border in tetrad TL24Q. We started at Ashwell cemetery, and although Trevor had already had a quick look we were able to add a



A floristically rich road verge near Ashwell

few additional species such as *Trifolium fragiferum*, and discussed the difference between *Leontodon hispidus* and *L. saxatilis*. From here we headed north to the Ruddy Brook which more or less marks the vice-county border. A bit of latitude allowed records for both patches, though the exact identity of *Lemna minor* on one side and *Lemna gibba* on the other remains to be resolved, although it did have large cells!

The road verge provided more

discussion, with both *Atriplex littoralis* and *Atriplex prostrata* present, the former including a broader leaved, dentate form – was this the hybrid or just a variety? Parts of the road verge were quite nice, but we were told that it had declined markedly over the years. Lunch was eventually had not far from a large muck-heap, which resisted temptation while we ate. We suspected a sewage source in view of the presence of *Solanum lycopersicon*, and a Goosefoot provoked some debate with an eventual convergence on *Chenopodium rubrum*. Returning to the track we were amazed to find a substantial colony of *Scandix pecten-veneris* along the cornfield margin – missed as we headed for the muck-heap! When we reached the turn back into Hertfordshire, the remaining vc29 team made a diversion to Ruddy Pit, where we saw a large number of *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and some *Campanula glomerata* before returning to our car.

July 18: Wisbech. We had fine weather for this trip to the north of the County. A group of nine met outside the Friends Meeting House, though Owen Mountford quickly headed off across the border to record another fenland tetrad. We were pleased to welcome two BSBI members from South Lincolnshire who joined us for the day. Local resident Lewis Saunders had already surveyed the tetrad pretty thoroughly, so we weren't expecting to find many new species, although in the end

the multitude of eyes added another 77 species. Our main objective was to walk along North Brink, hoping to spot unusual or maritime plants, but this was somewhat thwarted by dense vegetation and extended flood protection barriers. One unusual plant near the top of the Brink was a large clump of *Cordyline australis*. We circled back, stopping for lunch at the edge of an orchard. The old railway at the end of Cox's Lane was



Jonathan "Abseiling" down the Brink

not much in evidence, and we continued down Barton Road, stopping at one or two rougher areas richer in plants. We decided to investigate South Brink, but thought that tea first was a good idea. The advertised entrance to the National Trust tea-rooms was not open, and the duty warden at the main entrance would not let us in unless we paid, so we tried the White Lion instead. This had a touch of Fawley Towers about it, but we did get a cup of tea. Thus fortified it was time to try investigating the South Brink. The descent by the bridge looked a bit steep, so



Jonathan sampling Duckweed from a ditch
(Monica Frisch)

Jonathan roped up and abseiled (nearly) down to have a look and came back with samples of *Bolboschoenus maritimus* and *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*. The hoped for *Puccinellia maritima* turned out to be *Agrostis stolonifera*. We continued along the Brink, but in general it was similar to the north side. We found some *Polypogon monspeliensis* at the back of Tesco's, and then round the front a new ditch produced some oddities including *Trifolium arvense*. We made a small detour to look at *Fumaria capreolata*, found by Lewis the previous year, and also saw *Hirschfeldia incana* and *Senecio inaequidens*. Returning to Cromwell Road we found *Apium graveolens* by a new hedge, but then headed back towards South Brink where a building plot produced *Carthamus tinctorius*. Continuing back to the car-park we picked up *Atriplex littoralis* along the roadside, but failed to add further maritime species.



A summer day in Borley Wood

August 9: Borley Wood. We began our visit with a look round Linton cemetery, which had been briefly visited by Jonathan in 2014 January. Perhaps most discussion centred on an *Agrostis*, which we eventually decided was the hybrid between *A. stolonifera* and *A. capillaris*. From the cemetery, which contributed 30 new records, it was up Rivey Hill and on the far side we noted *Rosa tomentosa* in a hedge and *Setaria pumila* in a cover-crop margin. We headed for Borley Wood along a track that admittedly said no public access, however we weren't stopped. We meandered around the rides, making some notable finds. *Hypericum maculatum* cropped up in several places on ride margins, other plants of more acidic soils included *Pteridium aquilinum* and *Holcus mollis*. *Lathyrus sylvestris*, long known from the wood, surprised us with a white-flowered form. An area of hard-standing had *Centaureum pulchellum* as well as *C. erythraea*, allowing comparison. This area also had *Carex*

muricata subsp. *pairae*, which as usual with this group engendered much discussion. We eventually left the wood at its south end and headed back towards Linton. *Clinopodium* on banks in the village caused some debate though the party had by now spread out, with the eventual conclusion that only *C. calamintha* was present. When the tail-enders got back to the cars, they discovered that those in front had stopped off at the village shop and were enjoying ice-creams!

September 17: Tetrads near Littleport. Our penultimate excursion took us to Fenland near Littleport. We were fortunate with the weather, as rain had cleared to leave us with a fine day. The designated tetrad had been visited by Jonathan the previous year, so we began by exploring a stretch of drove road that he had not visited. This gave a few additional species and with the arrival of more participants we continued down to the northern end of the drove. Here we were rewarded with a spoil tip, which as is often the case provided greater diversity than the surrounding farmland. Some were garden species such as *Hypericum androsaemum*, but others such as *Brassica nigra* and *Rumex maritimus* were species of fenland. Nearby we also found a single plant of *Erodium moschatum*, though it wasn't clear how it had arrived onto the rough ground of a farm stack area. We decided that rather than decamp to the tetrad that was short of records, we would walk round, though in the end this took much longer than anticipated



Centaureum pulchellum in Borley Wood
(Peter Leonard)

giving a rather late return. Our route took us to the outskirts of Littleport, and road verges gave us the usual halophytes, and also *Conyza floribunda*. Back into the fens we explored a drain, where a view from a bridge suggested either *Myriophyllum* or *Hippuris* was present. Jonathan went fishing and declared that both were present, with the *Myriophyllum* showing its identity as *M. verticillatum* by the presence of turions. A nearby overgrown field had an interesting display of pansies, which caused debate as to whether they were *V. tricolor* or *V. x wittrockiana*. In the end they were logged as *V. sp.*, with a note suggesting that the garden pansy was segregating to one of its parents. Also in the field was a rather odd Sunflower and *Rumex sanguineus* var. *sanguineus*. By now it was getting towards our normal finishing time, so more rapid progress was made towards the cars, although a few further interesting records were made, including *Sison amomum* by a farm, where a loquacious farmer delayed the tail-enders, although he did remark that *Malva sylvestris* had declined since it stopped being fed to rabbits, and that *Sambucus nigra* had declined substantially along the drove margins. As a footnote, later in the week another farmer told Jonathan that *Mercurialis annua* was so common in the fens because it was present in chicken manure that was spread on the fields.

October 3: Soham Mere. Our final excursion of the season took us to Middlemere Farm at the centre of the former Soham Mere, courtesy of the farmer, Mr Cox. The weather was ideal, with the overnight dew burning off by midday in the bright sunshine. The area was more or less completely arable, but with a few rough areas of former buildings and some drains with stewardship margins. The soil was a pale grey reflecting the basin of the former mere and the whole area formed a shallow saucer. We started by adding a few records to the adjacent tetrads, but on the call of go started recording in the only remaining complete tetrad with no records. The target was to find at least a hundred species, and we managed to achieve this before lunch. Highlights included *Bromus secalinus* in a rough area of hard-standing, *Senecio inaequidens* growing on an old rotavator, *Euphorbia exigua* on several field margins, *Thalictrum flavum* on a ditch bank and *Potamogeton pusillus* in Mill Drain. We finished by looking at a stewardship meadow, just outside our main tetrad, that ran alongside Soham Lode. The margin nearest the Lode was very sandy in places, consisting of a relatively pure white quartzite. This area produced several less frequent fenland species including *Ophrys apifera* and *Carex spicata*.



Senecio inaequidens at the centre of Soham Mere

Excursions 2016

Please take careful note that our excursions vary both in the day of the week on which they take place and in the time at which we meet on each occasion. Jonathan Shanklin will send out an email before each meeting reminding you of the details and of any changes, and they will also be posted on the web page. Participants are welcome to join us for all or part of any excursion. A packed lunch will be required for all meetings and we will generally finish towards the end of the afternoon. On occasion we will be walking over



Water Buffalo at Chippenham Fen

some distance over ground which may be rough. Please do read the BSBI advice to participants on field meetings, which is at http://www.bsbi.org.uk/Participants_guidance_201503.pdf Meeting places have been chosen as having some parking space, but this can not be guaranteed. Several landowners specifically request no dogs, and it is BSBI policy not to have dogs (except guide dogs) at meetings, so if you have a dog, please leave it at home. Our meetings often produce some surprising and interesting records so do come along if you can.

Thursday, April 28, 10am, Gamlingay Wood

Gamlingay Wood had some conifer clearance work carried out recently, and this may have created enough disturbed ground to encourage the emergence of previously lost species. Meet at the Wildlife Trust car park off the B1040 at TL240537. If there is time we may also visit Gamlingay Cinques.

Sunday, May 15, 11am, Heydon (northern v.c. 19)

The aim of this visit is to help Ken Adams to record a few monads in the northern part of Essex on the county boundary, in particular TL4240. Meet at the church in the centre of Heydon at TL432400. Early arrivals can record the churchyard, however we will move off at 11am to walk along the Heydon Ditch to the vc29 boundary. We will take the Icknield Way west (possibly getting some vc29 records), then take the footpath back to Great Chishill and thence to Heydon.

Sunday, June 5, 11am, Witcham and The Corkerets

The main target of this visit is an old hay meadow which is still traditionally managed. It has several plants of more acidic ground, such as *Rumex acetosella*, but we would like to make a more comprehensive list, so this visit is timed to be before the hay cut. Witcham church at TL464800 provides a convenient meeting point for a 7km circular walk.

Saturday, July 16, 10am, Chippenham Fen sedges

24 species of sedge and two hybrids are known from Chippenham Fen, though some have not been seen for a while. The visit will provide an introduction to sedges and

we will attempt to re-find some of the lost species. There is parking at the bottom of the lane adjacent to the fen at TL653690. We have been granted access, but you must drive up to the barrier slowly and then drive slowly along the track. The day will be a leisurely one, though over uneven and boggy terrain.

Sunday, August 7, 11am, Meg's Mount and the Roman Road

Whilst the Roman Road is well known for its flora, Meg's Mount is something of a secret. It is a County Farms wood, with several species from the county rare plant list, including *Clinopodium acinos*. We also hope to explore the ridge top above the Roman Road. Meet by the Roman Road at Mount Farm (TL527519), where there is some parking.



Conservation work on the Roman Road in January. Come and see the effects!

Saturday, September 24, 10am, Tydd St Giles, Tydd St Mary and Sutton St James.

In a joint meeting with South Lincolnshire we visit the northern reaches of vc29 and the southern reaches of vc53 to record some fenland tetrads. Tydd St Giles itself has been fairly well recorded, but the church provides a convenient meeting point at TF427164. We will then head east along the county border in a roughly 10km circular walk returning via several "Gates". For those less energetic there is an option for a shorter walk starting at 13:00, meeting the rest of the group after their lunch at Nutwalk Corner.

Saturday, October 1, 10am, Boulder Clay hawthorns

This visit aims to see if there are "look alike" alien species of *Crataegus* mixed in with the expected *C. monogyna*, *C. laevigata* and their hybrid. Meet at the water tower in Ditton Green at TL656581. We will start with Pickmore Wood at the SE end of the Devil's Ditch and then walk from there via Basefield Wood, down to Ten Wood and Great Widgham Wood, with Lucy Wood and Ditton Park Wood on the way back in the unlikely event we have time.

There is the possibility of one or two last minute additions to the programme if permissions come through or surveys are organised. In addition to the Flora Group meetings, many of the Cambridge Natural History Society field meetings have a botanical bias. This year the Society is carrying out a detailed survey of the monads TL4355, TL4356 and TL4456, focussing on the Grantchester Meadows. There will also be another of the "Nature in my neighbourhood" visits to explore Cambridge streets, a visit to Wandlebury Country Park and one to Magog Down. Dates for all these will be included on the web page.

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