

Norfolk Flora Group Programme of field meetings 2004

Firstly, many thanks to Frances Schumann who has agreed to take on the arrangements for the western half of the programme. Gillian continues to maintain the records for VC28 (West Norfolk), so any interesting finds west of the great divide should still be submitted to her.

Once again, we have a very full programme. Alec is continuing to organise meetings in north Suffolk to help with the proposed flora there. There is still some work to do for the BSBI Local Change project, and as Bob is now helping to co-ordinate this for the BSBI, Norfolk needs to put on an especially good show! The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society are holding two further meetings in the 'Identifying Wild Flowers' series. Again, your assistance with these would be much appreciated and the details are included in the list of meetings. There were a couple of sites outstanding from last year's *Genista anglica* survey and these have been included in May. Our rock sea lavender *Limonium binervosum* subspecies *anglicum* is a nationally rare (red data book) plant, so we have arranged a couple of meetings to gather more information on it.

One departure this year is that we have planned a workshop to look at *Salix* species and (hopefully) hybrids. If this proves popular, we hope to hold similar meetings in subsequent years to look at other difficult groups.

There are two plants that we feel merit surveying yet are not really suitable for field meetings:

***Smyrniium olusatrum*.** There is a general feeling that alexanders is extending its range in Norfolk and is becoming a problem in some places by outcompeting less robust species. With the tetrad maps published in the Flora five years ago, we have a good opportunity to gather some hard evidence about its alleged expansion. Gillian has suggested that to provide a base line for future surveys as well, it would be ideal (though not essential) to have records based on 1km squares. The easiest way is to have a black and white copy of part of the Landranger (1:50 000) O.S. map of your chosen area (copies are allowable for scientific purposes) and colour in either the 1km squares where you see plants, or all the

roads which have alexanders along their verges. We are particularly keen to cover tetrads adjacent to those where *Smyrniium* occurred in the Flora. If you are interested, please let us know the area you are hoping to cover, so that we don't have too much wasted overlap. We will also encourage members of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society to take part.

***Campanula rotundifolia*.** According to floras, this is quite common, but when Gillian checked its occurrence in some areas where she recorded it for the Flora, it was no longer to be found. This is typical of the fate of many of the smaller, easily smothered species and we feel it would be useful to know where they survive. You are encouraged to submit records of any finds of *Campanula rotundifolia*, ideally with a grid reference and a note on the number of plants present (or the area they cover if they are abundant). If you feel like it, an NVC-style 4 square metre quadrat would also be useful. This is, of course, a summer job and perhaps could be undertaken in pairs.

In addition:

We have been invited to make a group presentation to the NNNS on the evening of Tues 21st December 2004. This will be a mixture of exhibits and short talks – it is also the Christmas meeting so there will be seasonal refreshments! Hopefully, we will be able to present the results of some of the surveys, but other ideas and contributions will be very welcome – no doubt we will discuss it as the season progresses.

We have also accepted an invitation to have a table at the Wild About Norfolk event in October. This year it will be held at Hoveton. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this it would be greatly appreciated.

We hope to arrange a joint indoor meeting for both east and west sections of the group (if there really is such a split) somewhere central (possibly Gressenhall) in October to discuss interesting finds during the year and plans for the 2005 season. More on this later in the season.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at many of the meetings and would like to stress that botanists of all abilities are welcome.

All meeting start at 10.30 a.m. except June 26th (willow workshop) which will be at 11 a.m.

- Sat Apr 3rd TL 867 818 **Barnham Cross Common**. Suffolk Flora recording.
- Sat Apr 17th TM 233 687 **Worlingworth Church**, nr Eye. Suffolk Flora recording.
- Tue Apr 20th TM 004 816 **Garboldisham**. Meet at village hall by church. Local Change in tetrad TM08A.
- Sat Apr 24th TG 308 108 **Plumstead**. Meet at Little Plumstead Hospital. Local Change in tetrad TG31A.
- Sat May 1st TM 180 668 **Bedingfield Church**, nr Eye. Suffolk Flora recording.
- Sat May 15th TL 824 645 **Westley Church** west of Bury St. Edmunds. Suffolk Flora recording.
- Sat May 22nd TG 142 183 **Swannington & Cawston**. Meet at Swannington Uppgate Common. For *Genista anglica* and other heathland plants.
- Wed May 26th TF 946 279 **Gt Ryburgh Common**. In Gt Ryburgh turn down Highfield Lane opposite the pink house, and park on the sugar beet pad by Highfield Farm. Be prepared for mosquitoes. To survey Gt Ryburgh Common for *Genista anglica* in the morning. We shall be moving on to other local sites in the afternoon.
- Sat May 29th TM 359 779 **Chediston Church**, nr Halesworth. Suffolk Flora recording.
- Thu June 3rd TG 252 083 **Carey's Meadow**. Meet at the small car park directly opposite the entrance to Broadland District Council. If this is full, there is residential parking over the road in Stanley Avenue. The first of 2 meetings to record the meadow.
- Fri June 11th TF 700 109 **Marham**. South of the Church in Marham turn west down Spring Lane and then at the triangle bear right on the farm road and park at a sugar beet pad. Local Change in tetrad TF71A. To look at Button Fen and other areas in the tetrad.
- Sat June 12th TG 289 184 **Belaugh & Horstead**. Meet at Belaugh Church. We will move on to Horstead during the morning. NNNS 'Wildflowers Revealed'. Belaugh and Horstead churchyards and a walk beside the railway and river.
- Thu June 17th TF 714 449 **Holme Dunes**. Park at the Firs. Entrance c. £2 for non-members of NWT. To record on the Reserve, including the Lavender Marsh.
- Sat June 19th TL 951 682 **Stowlangtoft Church**, nr Ixworth. Suffolk Flora recording.
- Sat June 26th TG 341 066 **Strumpshaw** RSPB Reserve. **N.B. 11 a.m. start**. Small parking fee for non-RSPB members. A workshop on willows given by Brian Eversham who is Conservation Director of the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants and has a particular interest in *Salix* spp.
- Fri July 9th TM 004 816 **Garboldisham**. Meet at village hall by church. Local Change in tetrad TM08A.
- Sun July 11th TF 705 399 **Ringstead Downs**. Meet at the entrance to the reserve. NNNS 'Wildflowers Revealed'.
- Wed July 14th TM 319 888 **Earsham**. Meet at the junction southwest of Earsham. Local Change in tetrad TM38J.
- Mon July 19th TF 780 062 **Drymere**. Meet at the Drymere entrance to the forest (Fire road 107). We shall be splitting up and moving on from here. To survey chalk species in the area.
- Sat July 24th TL 692 838 **Lakenheath**. Lane end to Stallode Wash, nr Lakenheath. Suffolk Flora recording.
- Sat July 31st TG 036 183 **Bylaugh**. Meet at the church (limited parking). Local Change in tetrad TG01J.
- Tue Aug 3rd TL 775 940 **Cranwich Heath**. Meeting place Cranwich Camp, but the party will move on to work from TL772 934 (Fire road 43). To record compartments previously surveyed, part of the heathland re-creation scheme. If time, back to Cranwich Camp for the afternoon.
- Sat Aug 7th TM 232 740 **Stradbroke Church**. Suffolk Flora recording.
- Thu Aug 12th TG 252 083 **Carey's Meadow**. Meet as June 3rd. The 2nd meeting to record the meadow.
- Sat Aug 21st TM 323 813 **St. James South Elmham Church**. Suffolk Local Change and Flora recording.
- Wed Aug 25th TF 844 443 **Burnham Overy Staithe**. Meet on the Hard. To survey *Limonium binervosum*.
- Sat Sep 4th TM 359 779 **Chediston Church**, nr Halesworth. Suffolk Flora recording.
- Thu Sep 9th TG 048 452 **Salthouse/Blakeney**. Meet at Cley Eye car park. Small parking fee for non-NWT members. To survey *Limonium binervosum*.
- Sat Sep 18th TM 233 687 **Worlingworth Church**. Suffolk Flora recording.