

SID VALLEY HERBACEOUS SURVEY 2021, JANUARY UPDATE

Members of the Sid Valley Biodiversity Group are building on the 2020 Hedgerow Survey from Sidmouth Arboretum. The Arboretum survey found more than a hundred herbaceous species in the valley's hedgerows. This year, volunteers set out to survey 17 of the hedgerows known to be home to a good range of herbaceous species. The plants are only being recorded when they are in flower to provide data on the flowering period of the species they find.

This survey will also be linked to a survey being conducted by the Sidmouth Library Virtual Nature Table on Facebook. Members of the library staff have a copy of the 1849 Flora Sidostiensis by W. H. Cullen, a book that lists all the plants found in the valley at that time.



The survey results will be compared with 1849 data to see which species appear to have been lost, and new species that have arrived since the book was compiled.

It has been a very successful start to the project, we have 18 volunteers who have recorded 42 species of plant flowering, see below. We have added 16 species to the list compiled in last year's Hedgerow Survey. Some of the plants in flower are non-native garden escapes, but most of the recorded species, native or exotic, are not expected to be in flower now according to the textbooks.

The observations are being entered on the international data website iNaturalist. There is an umbrella project, Sidmouth Hedgerow Herbaceous, set up on the website. There are separate data collection projects for each month, the January one can be found at www.inaturalist.org/observations?project_id=94113.

The volunteers either use the iNaturalist app on their phones to record the flowers as they visit sites, or they take photographs and upload them on their computers back home.

The excellent volunteer response has allowed the scope of the project to expand beyond the original 17 sites. We are now looking at the old field hedges that have been retained as Woolbrook and Stowford have expanded. Does anyone know when the major building expansions of the area took place?

Also, the limited areas of semi-improved grassland in the valley have a huge potential for biodiversity and we are including some of them in the survey. We will be checking the Knapp and Peasland Knapp, Margaret's Meadow, James Cornish Field, and the parkland area of the Knowle site. The latter has been devastated by the flood alleviation works, it will be interesting to see how it recovers.

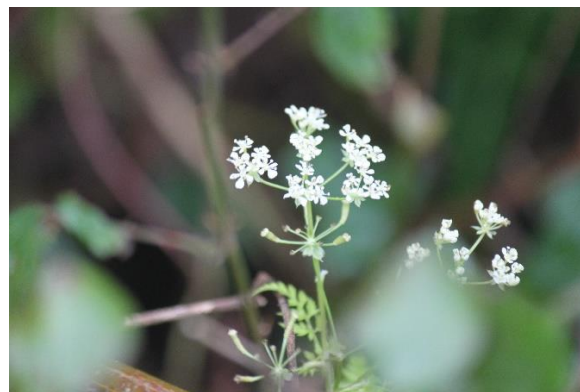
Ed Dolphin

Species in flower in January but not recorded previously in the 2020 Hedgerow Survey

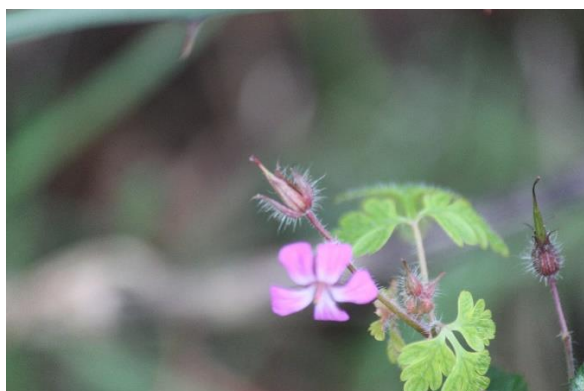
BELLFLOWER, TRAILING	MARIGOLD, POT	SPURGE, PETTY
BRAMBLE	OX-TONGUE, BRISTLY	VETCH, TUFTED
DAISY, COMMON	PERIWINKLE, GREATER	WINTER ACONITE
GARLIC, 3 CORNERED	PERIWINKLE, LESSER	WINTER HELIOTROPE
GORSE, EUROPEAN	SNOWDROP	
GROUNDSEL, COMMON	SNOWFLAKE, SUMMER	



SWEET VIOLET



UPRIGHT HEDGE PARSLEY



HERB ROBERT



WINTER ACONITE



RED CAMPION



WINTER HELIOTROPE

Hedgerow Survey 2020, species in flower in January 2021 are highlighted blue.

AGRIMONY	DOG'S MERCURY	PARSLEY HEDGE
ALEXANDERS	DROPWORT	PIGNUT
ALKANET	FAT HEN	PLANTAIN RIBWORT
ANGELICA	FIGWORT, COMMON	PRICKLY LETTUCE
ARUM	FLEABANE, MEXICAN	PRICKLY OXTONGUE
BEDSTRAW, HEDGE	FOX AND CUBS	PRIMROSE
BEDSTRAW, LADIES	FOXGLOVE	PULMONARIA
BINDWEED, FIELD	GARLIC MUSTARD	RAGWORT, COMMON
BINDWEED, HEDGE	GOLDENROD	SANICLE
BIRD'S FOOT TREFOIL, LARGE	GOLDENROD, CANADIAN	SCARLET PIMPERNEL
BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL	GROUND ELDER	SCENTLESS MAYWEED
BITTERSWEET	GROUND IVY	SHEPHERD'S PURSE
BLUEBELL	HAWKBIT	SILVERWEED
BRYONY, BLACK	HAWKSBEARD, ROUGH	SORREL
BRYONY, WHITE	HEDGE MUSTARD	SOW-THISTLE, ROUGH
BUGLE	HERB BENNETT	SOW-THISTLE, SMOOTH
BURDOCK	HERB ROBERT	SPEEDWELL
BUTTERBUR	HIMALAYAN BALSAM	SPOTTED LOOSETRIFE
BUTTERCUP, CREEPING	HOGWEED (not Giant)	ST JOHN'S WORT
BUTTERCUP, MEADOW	HOGWEED GIANT	STITCHWORT
CAMPION, RED	HONESTY	STRAWBERRY WILD
CATS EAR	IRIS, STINKING	TANSY
CATSEAR, SMOOTH	IRIS, YELLOW	TEASLE
CELANDINE	KNAPWEED	THISTLE, CREEPING
CHARLOCK	KNOTGRASS	THISTLE, SOW
CHICKWEED	LUCERNE	THISTLE, SPEAR
CINQUEFOIL	MADDER, WILD	TOADFLAX
CLEAVERS	MALLOW, COMMON	TOADFLAX, IVE LEAVED
CLOVER, RED	MALLOW, MUSK	TORMENTIL
CLOVER, WHITE	MEADOW-RUE	VALERIAN
COMFREY	MEADOWSWEET	VETCH, BUSH
CRANESBILL, CUT-LEAVED	MEDICK, SICKLE	VETCH, COMMON
CRANESBILL, DOVE'S FOOT	MUGWORT	VIOLET
CRANESBILL, LONG STALKED	NAVELWORT	WILD CARROT
CRANESBILL, WOOD	NETTLE, ANNUAL STINGING	WILD GARLIC
CROCOSMIA	NETTLE, PERENNIAL STINGING	WILD ONION
CUCKOO FLOWER	NETTLE, SMALL	WILLOWHERB, BROAD LEAF
DANDELION	NIGHTSHADE, BLACK	WILLOWHERB, GREATER
DEADNETTLE, RED	NIGHTSHADE, ENCHANTERS	WILLOWHERB, MARSH
DEADNETTLE, WHITE	NIGHTSHADE, WOODY	WILLOWHERB, SQUARE STEM
DOCK, BROAD LEAVED	NIPPLEWORT	WOODSAGE
DOCK, CURLED	OX-EYE DAISY	YARROW
DOCK, HYBRID	PARSLEY COW	YELLOW ARCHANGEL