

A revision to the Inventory of Vascular Plants for the Sefton Coast

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2005/06 was a particularly productive period for finding new plants on the Sefton Coast. This came about through continuing field work for the New Flora of South Lancashire project and BSBI and Bradford Botany Group field meetings at Birkdale in June and July 2006, when experts from further afield determined several new taxa. More significant additions were made during a 2006 survey of a recently scrub-cleared slack at Cabin Hill NNR, where several exotic ruderal plants turned up (Smith 2006a). Other interesting finds were made at Range Lane, Formby, where works to improve access for site traffic disturbed adjacent soils, leading to appearance of other scarce ruderals. Also, two new brambles (*Rubus*) were located on Freshfield Dune Heath.

In total, 25 new taxa were added to the Inventory and 5 “extinct” species were rediscovered (Table 2). In addition, two identifications were changed (*Triteleia laxa* for *Brodiaea* sp. and *Erigeron speciosus* for *E. glaucus*) and the omission of SCI status for *Fumaria bastardii* was corrected.

Table 1 lists the additional taxa, using the same format as the Inventory (Smith 2005, 2006b). Table 3 provides an overall summary of vascular taxa recorded in the Sefton Coast Partnership area and in the sand-dune system. The new total of vascular plants for the Sefton Coast is 1202 and, for the sand-dunes, 1075 taxa.

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References

Smith, P.H. (2005). *Inventory of Vascular Plants for the Sefton Coast*. Unpublished report to Sefton Coast Partnership.

Smith, P.H. (2006a). Vascular plants of a scrub-cleared area at Cabin Hill NNR.

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102: 4-9.

Table 1. New additions to the inventory.

Taxon	English name	Status	Habitat
<i>Acorus calamus</i> *	Sweet-flag	Rare	Scrape D
<i>Atriplex hortensis</i> *	Garden Orache	Rare	Disturbed Ground D
<i>Briza maxima</i> *	Greater Quaking-grass	Rare	Disturbed Ground
<i>Carex x pseudoaxillaris</i>	Hybrid sedge	Rare	Dune slack D
<i>Clarkia amoena</i> *	Godetia	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i> * SCI	Meadow Saffron	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Cotoneaster x suecicus</i> *	Swedish Cotoneaster	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Datura ferox</i> *	Angels' -trumpets	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Epilobium palustre</i> x <i>E. ciliatum</i>	Hybrid Willowherb	Rare	Dune slack D
<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> *	Buckwheat	Rare	Disturbed ground
<i>Hypericum x inodorum</i> *	Tall Tutson	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> *	Tartarian Honeysuckle	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Lysichiton americanus</i> *	American Skunk-cabbage	Rare	Dune slack D
<i>Melilotus indicus</i> *	Small Melilot	Rare	Strand-line D
<i>Papaver dubium</i> ssp. <i>lecoqii</i>	Babington's Poppy	Rare	Disturbed Ground
<i>Physalis peruviana</i> *	Cape Gooseberry	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Rubus bertramii</i>	Bramble	Rare	Dune heath D
<i>Rubus warrenii</i>	Bramble	Rare	Dune heath D
<i>Solanum physalifolium</i> *	Green Nightshade	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i> *	Mind-your-own-business	Rare	Disturbed ground
<i>Spiraea x cinerea</i> *	Bridewort	Rare	Disturbed ground
<i>Stachys byzantina</i> *	Lamb's-ear	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i> *	Spiderwort	Rare	Disturbed Ground

			D
<i>Typha x glauca</i>	Hybrid Bulrush	Rare	Dune slack D
<i>Viola tricolor</i> ssp. <i>tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy	Rare	Disturbed Ground D

Table 2. “Extinct” taxa rediscovered in 2005/06.

Taxon	English name	Status	Habitat
<i>Armeria arenaria</i> *	Jersey Thrift	Rare	Disturbed ground D
<i>Blysmus rufus</i> SCI	Saltmarsh Flat-sedge	Occasional	Dune slacks, salt-marsh D
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> *	Buttonweed	Occasional	Grazing-marsh
<i>Dactylorhiza x wintoni</i>	Hybrid marsh-orchid	Occasional	Dune slacks D
<i>Juncus compressus</i> SCI NT	Round-fruited Rush	Locally abundant	Dune slacks, grazing-marsh D

Table 3. Revised summary of data from the vascular plant inventory of the Sefton Coast.

	SCP area	Sand-dune system
Total no. of taxa	1202	1075
No. of species	1013	913
No. of sub-species	70	59
No. of hybrids	118	102
Native taxa	749	712
Introduced taxa	453	362
% introduced taxa	37.7	33.7
Extinct taxa	34	33
Nationally rare	15	15
Nationally scarce	13	13
Endangered	3	3
Vulnerable	17	16
Near Threatened	15	14
Species of Conservation Importance	122	116