

Forum Report - Wild Flower Group July 25

On the 9th July, 11 of us set out on a beautiful summer afternoon at Augill Nature Reserve near Brough and just off the A66. The terrain was challenging with broken and overgrown steps leading up to the meadow but well worth it for the variety of plants that we saw.

In the woodland leading up to the meadow we were surprised to see a large patch of Herb Paris, it must like the habitat as this was the most of these plants any of us had ever seen. In the meadow we came across several patches of red bartsia, none of us recognised the plant; it seems that it is only found in a few places in the UK.

We were hoping to see butterfly orchids but sadly we could not see any. Last year on the 2nd July I had seen 15 butterfly orchids in the meadow. Perhaps they flowered earlier this year because of the hot weather. There were masses of common spotted orchids in flower.

We were surprised to come upon a globe flower which was in fruit. We are used to seeing globe flowers next to rivers and streams. This one was sat at the top of the hill in the meadow with no stream or river in sight.

In all we recorded 64 plants. We also saw many butterflies, small copper, small skipper and red burnet moths.

After the walk we made the short trip to the Brough Ice Cream parlour where we enjoyed our ice creams sitting outdoors in the sun and admiring the views.

On Friday 25th July there is an additional wild flower walk meeting at Hayberries nature reserve and followed by a visit to Cotherstone Chapel for refreshments.

Kate Keen

Walk leader