

Introduction

The proposal to carry out the South Lancashire Flora Project was developed at a meeting of the NWNLU at Liverpool Museum in 1997. The aim was to produce a series of species accounts covering **marine algae, fungi, lichens, bryophytes** and **vascular plants** as well further accounts covering **habitats the history of botanical recording**, associated **herbarium collections and local botanical artwork**. In the autumn of 2022 (after a minimum of 25 years of research) it was considered appropriate to begin to place some of the completed documents on the NWNLU website as well as some sample documents for the extensive work relating to vascular plants.

For the vascular plant section recording prior to 1994 was mainly carried out to the 10km square recording level. Exceptions including recording to 1km precision by Peter Jepson from c. 1974 particularly within the Blackburn-with-Darwen and the Chorley district and by David Earl in the Salford Borough 1991-1992 with additional records within the vice-county for *Rubus* species 1991-1994. Then from 1994 John and Helen Lowell began tetrad recording in the Bolton area and from 1995 onwards Peter Gateley organised local recorders to carry out recording to the tetrad level across the vice-county. The tetrad mapping of species continues to the present day and in most cases the species distribution maps accompany the species accounts presented on this website. Note that with the passage of time recorders have gradually moved from recording species to the tetrad precision level to that of 1km precision or greater.

Although the original intension was the production of a published book with time it has becoming increasing apparent that we could utilise modern day technology and the flora committee now consider the placing of the pdf documents on our website to be the best option. This means that we can greatly enhance the information made available particularly by adding images of species to the species accounts. Note that for some of the species which are extinct in the vice-county it is intended that images of herbarium specimens will gradually accompany the species accounts.

Note also that in recent years there has been a shift from the use of recording cards and notebooks to that of uploading records and images to websites such as iRecord and iNaturalist. Work is underway to download thousands of records held on these applications as well as capturing additional records held by the Local Record Centres. This will eventually lead to a revised set of vascular plant species accounts and associated maps appearing on the website hopefully at some stage during 2023.