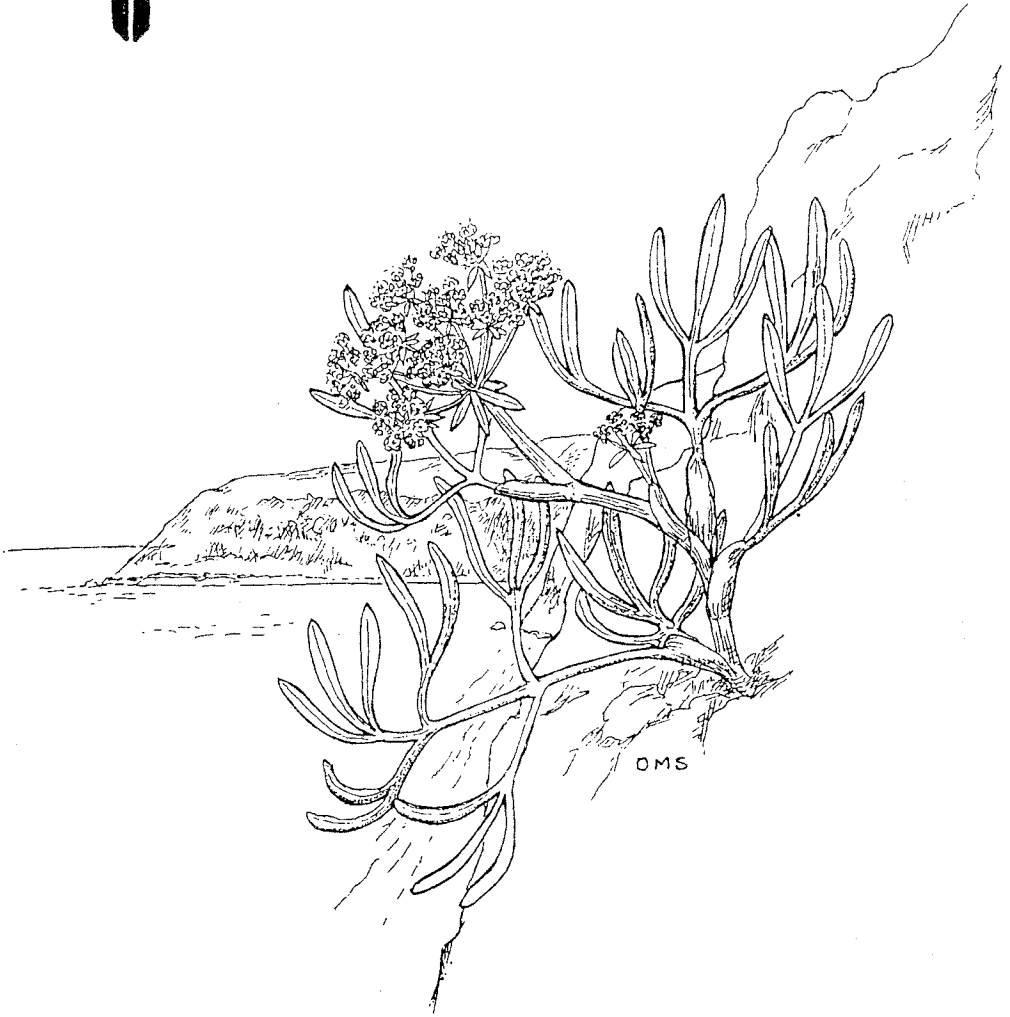




CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE GROUP



Newsletter number 35
July 1996

Kiltarsen/Kiltarsan/Kiltarsin?? Which and Where?

I was reading up on local covenanting history when I first came across the name Kiltarsen in Carsphairn Parish and asked where this was? No one knew and the best guess was Robin Ade's suggestion that it might have been in the vicinity of one of the hills Craigtarsen or Little Craigtarsen.

"The Place Names of Galloway" by Sir Herbert Maxwell listed one Kiltarsan in Kirkcowan parish with the following proposed origin and meaning:

(Register of the Great Seal, 1497 - Kiltarsyn; Pont - Kiltarsan.)

Kiltrasna in Cavan and Donegal, written Cilltarsna, the chapel of the crossing, in the Martyrology of Donegal.

This was enough to arouse my curiosity and a systematic search through our reference records produced another mention in the Ancient Valuation -

"John Gordon of Bar has pertaining to him the lands of Bradenoch, and Kilterson, and pays to him an hundred and twenty pounds".

The holding is clearly marked, spelt Kiltersin, on only one of our maps which was printed in the mid 18th Century. If that map is accurate, this was the holding of the stone crosses near the Old Pack Road. With a name derived from "chapel of the crossing" and the existence of these medieval stone crosses Kiltarsan/Kiltarsen/Kiltersin should not be forgotten.

I have yet to discover what became of Robert Mcmillan in Kiltarsen, ordered by Proclamation on 9th May, 1668, to be seized by magistrates and officers for refusing to sign the Bond to keep the public peace, but have enjoyed this "side-track" and look forward to a site visit to try and find any sign of the buildings.

Hugie Adamson

International Connections

Anna Campbell

From recent correspondence with several Australian families over the last few months it is becoming apparent that quite a number of people from Carsphairn emigrated to Australia in the mid-nineteenth century. One man being Fergus Clement who was born at Bardennoch on April 20th 1828. By the time he was 12

he was working as a servant at Moorbrock and later worked for John Walker at Drumgrange, Patna before emigrating to Australia in 1854 at the age of 26. He had married Elizabeth Foster at Muirkirk in 1851. In Australia he worked on various farms before purchasing a 108 acre property of his own which nostalgically he called Drumgrange. He was a pioneering farmer working land which firstly had to be cleared but was obviously successful as he managed to make enough money to send some home to support his mother and in-laws despite having nine children to bring up as well. His eldest son Fergus Montgomery Clement succeeded him and continued to farm after his father died in 1870 after a fall from his horse at the age of 42.

His family and friends in Scotland wrote long letters to Fergus Clement, many of which have survived and I have been given permission by the family in Australia to publish two extracts which are particularly interesting to us now.

From John Walker, Drumgrange - his old employer - 23rd September 1856

....."the iron works are getting on well. We have now four furnaces in blast - they intend to build two more and 70 workmann's houses immediantly - you would scarcely know the place, it is quite a town and folks steal my turnips as no allowance".....

(this extract refers to what is now known as Dunaskin)

From Joseph McDonald (his aunt's husband) written from Fallowheat, Balmaclellan July 1855

....."I don't know if you have any potatoes in your country - we have had an excellent season for growing everything well but victuals high. oatmeal retailing 2s 3d, barley about the same, butter 10d per 1lb, eggs 6d per dozen. Work has not been scarce. Wages good. Hiring for harvest was good from 3 pound to 3 pounds 10s. women 2 pound some 3 pound.".....

~ ~ ~ ~

Salmon May Return to Carsphairn

Robin Ade

The West Galloway Fisheries Trust, which is currently surveying the fish populations of the Ken-Dee system, is likely to recommend that salmon be re-introduced to the upper Ken and to the Deugh which, the Tinkler's Loup barrier notwithstanding, did apparently have a small annual run of fish.

The reason for the proposed re-introduction is based partly on the fact that the Ken-Dee system below Ken Doon consists largely of lochs in which salmon do not spawn. The only substantial spawning area, the Black Water of Dee- is now so badly acidified that few if any salmon are able to reproduce there. The opening up of the Deugh and upper Ken would open up about 50 miles of new spawning areas on the rivers and their tributaries and would therefore benefit the whole of the Ken-Dee system on their return from the sea.

Apparently a fish pass on Ken Doon would not be necessary. The procedure which has proven successful on some other Scottish rivers is to trap returning adults below a dam and transport them by lorry or fish lift upstream and to do the reverse with the young salmon on their seaward migration.

The West Galloway Fisheries Trust incidentally is a 'first' for Galloway. Initiated by Dr Alastair Stephen in 1980, its whole catchment management principles are now being copied both in other parts of Scotland as well as in England.

~ ~ ~ ~

**Extract from the Galloway Gazette of Saturday August 30 1873.
Referring to Capt. Clark Kennedy's intentions to improve sport at
Knockgray.**

"Mr Clark Kennedy is also engaged in improving the fishing of his own and neighbouring parishes, by the construction of a salmon ladder to enable the fish to ascend the Deugh Lynn, a waterfall of 40 feet, which, since the memory of man, has barred their progress to two miles of excellent spawning ground."

"The Coast, January 3 1874

Sir, - I have lately read in your paper that Captain Kennedy of Knockgray has removed the natural obstruction to the ascent of salmon at the falls of Deugh, no doubt for the purpose of acquiring the sport of rod fishing on his property adjoining the river. In Scotland salmon fishings do not pass as part and pertinent of land, but form a separate property requiring a special conveyance and charter from the Crown. Capt. Kennedy cannot yet angle for salmon on his own lands without a charter from the Crown, and it is questionable whether the Crown can now grant one without the consent of the whole of the lower proprietors adjoining the Ken and Dee. The removal of the obstruction will be the means of diverting the majority of the salmon to

the Deugh, and in the spawning season to become a prey to poachers and lead-miners from the Carsphairn district, and injuring the fishing rights on the Upper Ken.

When he and his ancestors acquired his lands adjoining Deugh there were no salmon fishing rights, nor had there been from time immemorial. He either has pulled down a gap in the fence for the purpose of allowing other people's stock to stray upon other people's land, or for providing a free spawning ground for, and improving the rights of, the lower proprietors, and increasing the food supply of the nation. To counteract the tendency of the salmon to migrate up the Deugh, the obstruction in the Upper Ken College Linn ought also to be removed, when, as a salmon river, the united Dee and Ken will be second to none in the United Kingdom. -

I am, Sir,

Periwinkle"

Copy of a bill for dinner the original:-

Carsphairn Kirk 27. May 1776.

Bill

Dinner for nine @ 1/- per	_____	.. 9 - -
Punch _____	_____	.. 4 - 8
Wd _____	_____	.. 9 -
Corn _____	_____	.. 6 -
		14 - 11

at the same time recd from David Newall
 payment of half of the above bill being Seven
 Shillings and Five pence half penny ster. —

James Grayson

and the transcript:-

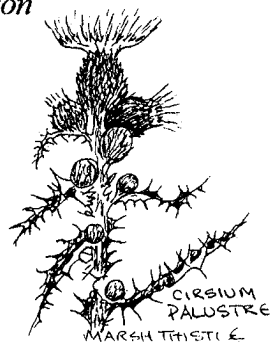
Carsphairn Kirk 27 May 1776

Bill

Dinner for nine @ 1/- per	"	9s
Punch	"	4s 8d
Ale	"	9d

At the same time rec'd from David Newall 14s 11d
payment of half of the above bill being seven shillings
and five pence halfpenny

Agnes Grierson



"Botanists Walk Very Slowly"

The Annual Walk

And so it proved. Our Annual Walk this year couldn't have been more different from the usual hike up and over the high tops of Carsphairn Parish with hot soup and solace at the end. From a chance meeting by Colonel Clark Kennedy with Olga Stewart, official botanical recorder for Kirkcudbrightshire for the Botanical Society of the British Isles, it was decided to have a short walk this year in low country.

Twenty nine members and friends of the Heritage Group met at Marbrack on the first cool, windy, rain-threatening day for weeks and proceeded to follow Mrs Stewart and Anna, a botanical friend, very slowly around the Hunter-Blair's farm.

The Colonel issued maps with directions which divided the party fairly soon into the keen-to-learn-botanists who stuck close to our experts and the walkers keen to keep warm by moving on.

With eyes down and making sure to keep within hearing of Mrs Stewart two of us noted down over ninety different plants along the farm road, on hill, pasture and in bogs from Pignut, Cuckoo Flower, Sorrel, Buttercup and many other common plants to a Heath

Spotted Orchid and the rarer Eyebright. A list of both Mrs Stewart's findings and ours is enclosed. On the way we learned that grasses have round stems while sedges have triangular ones and should have learned more if the wind hadn't kept whisking away and destroying the words of wisdom and learning that issued from this most interesting and knowledgeable botanist.

Talking about wild flowers in the garden and our mutual reluctance to hoick them out at times she offered her own definition of a weed. "When they become a pest they are weeds - otherwise they are wild flowers".

A current concern of Mrs Stewart's is the re-seeding along verges by the Council after road alterations. It seems the Roads Department is not particular enough where it buy its seed. This comes from inadequate vetting sources and while 80% is grass seed and a certain percentage native wild flower seed, some foreign plants appear rather frequently. Poppy and Bird's Foot Trefoil seen outside Dalbeattie, and Mignonette near Dumfries, while pretty to look at are not native and her concern is that introduced foreign plants may, in time, overrun our native ones.

Both botanists and walkers found the standing stone and some sat on it, as it is in fact lying down, but then some of the walkers, so keen to keep warm, went on to walk off the map onto Knockgray and found some interesting trees in the Colonel's woods.

The whole party met back at Marbrack where Joyce Hunter-Blair welcomed all with a really splendid tea and an opportunity to talk to Olga Stewart at last, indoors and out of the wind. Her book "Flowering Plants and Ferns of Kirkcudbrightshire" published 1990, was available to look at and buy - cost £4. In her introduction she says *"This check list covers the flowering plants and ferns of Kirkcudbrightshire, the area from the R. Nith in the East to the R. Cree in the West, and from the watershed in the North to the Solway. This is the old county boundary at the time when Dr H C Watson in 1873 divided the British Isles into 112 botanical regions and it has remained unchanged for recording purposes in spite of many municipal boundary changes since then."*

"I took over as official botanical recorder for Kirkcudbrightshire for the Botanical Society of the British Isles from the late Dr H Milne-Redhead some twenty years ago" (now 25 years ago) "and this is an attempt to bring up-to-date and expand the check list which he published in the Society's Transactions (Vol. XLIX, 1972). I have also given information on the past and present recordings to show how the plants are surviving with the continuous changes in land use. It is extraordinary how many of them have survived for over a hundred years, despite the increase in forestry, the drainage of marshes and the 'improvement' of agricultural fields; sadly, however, the sites and populations have diminished greatly in numbers".

This may be, but our all too brief exploration into the wild flowers on Marbrack one cool June day in 1996 produced in one heart the desire to leave my binoculars behind, forget about the birds, the sky, the hills and walk slowly, looking down to see what I'm about to tread on.

Carol Cathcart

Our front cover this month is Olga Stewart's drawing from the cover of her book

150 YEARS AGO May 20, 1846 - Ayr Observer

Carsphairn: Sudden death on a moor.- On Thursday morning last, Mr Archibald Jamieson, son of the late, and brother of the present farmer of Holm, died very suddenly, when on the hills. He started early that morning to view the flocks, which at this season of year required more than usual attention; and was seen by an old woman named McWhinnie, who lives at Bridgend, on the high road to Carsphairn, in the neighbourhood of Holm Farm. McWhinnie was then gathering a load of brambles for firing, in the Bank Wood, near to Langwine, and deceased was busily employed, at a little distance, among the ewes and lambs. He, however, went onwards to the banks of a stream, and was lost sight of by McWhinnie. Shortly afterwards she returned to the wood for a second load, and on her way found Jamieson lying beside the stream, quite dead. Information was immediately conveyed to the farm house, and the inmates proceeded to the spot and removed the body. The unfortunate man - who had thus expired, without a "friendly hand his eyes to close" being near, was lying at the edge of a precipice, near Lagswell; and one turn of the body would have precipitated it into the water.

ITEMS PRODUCED BY THE HERITAGE GROUP

for sale at the Centre

Past Newsletters each	.25p
Index to Newsletters numbers 1-32 ;	.35p
Newsletter Binders - binds 28 newsletters plus index	£3.50
Complete set of Newsletter 1-28 + index in binder	£10.90
Carsphairn - a history as depicted on the Timespan	£2.00
Boards hanging in the Centre - illustrated by Robin Ade	

Carsphairn Heritage Group Walk, Marbrack, Carsphairn

Saturday 29 June 1996 PLANTS FOUND ON THE WALK

*Plants identified and noted by Mrs Olga Stewart
 +Plants noted by Hugie Adamson and Carol Cathcart
 and identified by Mrs Stewart or Anna (See article).

NIF - not in flower

Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> *
Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> * +
Bitter-vetch	<i>Lathyrus (montanus) now Lintfolius</i> * +
Black Sedge	<i>Carex atrata</i> +
Blaeberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> * NIF
Blinks	<i>Montia fontana</i> * +
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides (endymion) non-scripta</i> * +
Bog Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria alsine</i> +
Bottle Sedge	<i>Carex rostrata</i> * +
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> *
Broad Buckler Fern	<i>Dryopteris diljitata</i> *
Broad Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> * +
Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i> *
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i> +
Bulbous Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus Bulbosus</i> * +
Bulbous Rush	<i>Juncus Bulbosus</i> *
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i> *
Carnation sedge	<i>Carex panicea</i> +
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i> *
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> *
Collsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i> +
Common Bent-grass	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> *
Common Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i> * +
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i> * NIF
Common Marsh Bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i> * +
Common Mouse-Ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> * +
Common Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i> * +
Common Sedge	<i>Carex Nigra</i> *
Com Spurrey	<i>Spergula arvensis</i> *
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i> * +
Creeping Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis secunda</i> *
Creeping Soft-grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i> *
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium Arvense</i> *
Crested Dog's-Tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> * +
Cuckoo Flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i> * +
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i> * +
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i> * +
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> *
Devil's-bit	<i>Succisa pratensis</i> * NIF
Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i> *
Downy Oat-grass	<i>Avenula or Helictotrichon pubescens</i> *
Early Hair-grass	<i>Aira praecox</i> *
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i> * + (Just the first ones we saw, there were others in the same field which had hairs but not long glands; they were probably <i>E. confusa</i>)
False Oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> * +
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> +
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> * +
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i> * NIF
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i> *
Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i> * +
Green-ribbed Sedge	<i>Carex Binervis</i> *
Ground-elder, Bishopweed	<i>Aegopodium Podagraria</i> *
Gnelder-rose	<i>Viburnum opulis</i> *
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> *
Heath Bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i> * +
Heath Speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i> *
Heath Spotted-Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata ssp. ericetorum</i> * +
Heath Wood-rush	<i>Luzula multiflora</i> *
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> +
Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium filix femina</i> * +
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i> * +
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla glabra</i> * +
Lesser Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> * +
Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i> * +
Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i> *
Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis sylvestris</i> * +

Marsh Cudweed	<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i> * NIF
Marsh Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i> * +
Marsh Hawk's Beard	<i>Crepis Paludosa</i> * +
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i> * +
Marsh Speedwell	<i>Veronica scutellata</i> * +
Marsh Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria palustris</i> +
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium Palustre</i> * +
Marsh Violet	<i>Viola Palustris</i> * +
Marsh Willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustris</i> * +
Mat-grass	<i>Nardus stricta</i> * +
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i> * +
Meadow Sweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> +
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> * +
Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i> annual*
Mountain Pansy	<i>Viola lutea</i> * +
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella (hieracium) officinarum</i> * +
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i> * +
Oatgrass	<i>Avenula pratensis</i> +
Oval Sedge	<i>Carex Ovalis</i> * +
Pale Sedge	<i>Carex Pallescens</i> * + (fairly common but hadn't been seen in that square 10km)
Pearlwort	<i>Sagina</i> +
Pepperwort	<i>Lepidium</i> +
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i> * +
Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i> * +
Pineapple Weed	<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i> * +
Ragged Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> * +
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i> * +
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> * +
Redshank	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i> * NIF
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> * +
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamaenerium augustifolium</i> +
Rough Meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i> * +
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> * +
Sheep's Fescue	<i>Festuca ovina</i> * +
Sheep's Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i> * +
Shepherd's Purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> * +
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i> * +
Sneezewort	<i>Achillea ptarmica</i> * +
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i> +
Soft Cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i> +
Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i> * +
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium Vuare</i> * +
Spreading Meadow-grass	<i>Poa (subcaerulea) humilis</i> * +
Spurrey	<i>Spergula</i> +
Star Sedge	<i>Carex echinata</i> * +
Sticky Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium Glomeratum</i> * +
Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> * +
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> * +
Thalecress	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> * +
Thyme	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> * +
Thyme-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i> * +
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i> * +
Tufted Hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> * +
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i> * +
Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i> +
Variiegated-coloured Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis discolor</i> * +
Wall Speedwell	<i>Veronica arvensis</i> +
Water Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scarpioides</i> +
Water Starwort	<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i> * +
Water-mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i> * +
Water-pepper	<i>Polygonum hydropiper</i> * +
Wavy Bittercress	<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i> * +
Wavy Hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> * +
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i> * +
Whorled Caraway	<i>Carum verticillatum</i> * + NIF
Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i> * NIF
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i> +
Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> * +
Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> +
Woodrush	<i>Luzula</i> +
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> * +
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> * +
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i> * +