

## **Report on plant life on Calton Hill, following the walk on 10 September 2023**

We met at 10.00 by the National Monument, from where we set off to look at whatever plants we could find. The group was small in number (five, all living locally) but big on enthusiasm. We were also joined by Simon Holledge (Chair of Friends of Calton Hill) and Masumi Maruo Holledge for part of the time.

We walked an anticlockwise route on the upper part of the hill, looking at plants in grassland, parkland, scrub, pathsides and woodland margins. We found 65 vascular plant species, including a good range of trees, grasses and herbs. It was good to hear one of the group say that she found the grasses of the day particularly interesting and now intends to look more at these plants in future.

Part of the ground we saw had much burned, bare ground, but plants such as Rosebay Willowherb, Sheep's Sorrel, Groundsel, Scentless Mayweed, Rat's-tail Fescue and *Funaria hygrometrica* (Bonfire-moss) were taking advantage of the space temporarily available after the previous (and probably denser) vegetation had been lost to the fire.

During our three hours we didn't walk a great distance, so there will surely be many more plant species to find in other parts of this site. The reason for our slow physical progress was that the group was so keen, with many questions to ask and with interesting things to say that linked our findings with their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Calton Hill. It was great to spend time with such a lively and companionable group. Thanks to everyone for attending, and to Simon for organizing this day of nature walks.

Ben Averis

<b>Plant species found on Calton Hill, Edinburgh, on 10th September 2023 (Ben Averis)</b>	
<b>Latin name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	Black Bent
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Aster</i> sp.	Michaelmas Daisy
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair-grass
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson's Cypress
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescus
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Hieracium</i> agg.	Hawkweed
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog

<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Ragwort
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Malus</i> sp.	Apple
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Oxford Ragwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Common Whitebeam
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	Swedish Whitebeam
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed
<i>Tropaeolum</i> sp.	Nasturtium
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Rat's-tail Fescue

Mosses (just a few species noted while looking at vascular plants):	
<i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	Creeping Feather-moss
<i>Funaria hygrometrica</i>	Bonfire-moss
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	Cypress-leaved Plait-moss
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	Heath Plait-moss
<i>Lewinskia affinis</i>	Wood Bristle-moss
<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>	Springy Turf-moss