

# A survey of the flora of seven cemeteries in Dundee

In 2020 - 2021

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*Saxifraga granulata*  
Western Cemetery



*Potentilla erecta*  
Balgay Cemetery

# Seven cemeteries in Dundee

- The cemeteries were Balgay, Barnhill, Birkhill, Eastern, Howff, St Peter's, and Western. Variable in size
- Two visits following main paths in spring and summer 2020-2021.
- Noting all vascular plants that did not appear to have been planted.
- A total of 175 species was recorded
- An average of 63 species were found per cemetery. (Range 25 to 118).
- Commonest were *Bellis perennis*, *Epilobium montanum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Senecio vulgaris*, *Taraxacum* and *Trifolium repens* – all present in all 7 sites

# Dundee Cemeteries –some species

- Species of note included *Saxifraga granulata* (Meadow Saxifrage) in two sites, perhaps surviving because of early flowering and bulbil production. *Dactylorhiza fuchsia* (Common Spotted-orchid) was recorded in two sites.
- *Luzula campestris* (Field Woodrush) was present in quantity in three sites, perhaps helped by its low growth habit.
- One cemetery on a hilly site had *Potentilla erecta* (Tormentil) and *Galium saxatile* (Heath Bedstraw).
- *Amsinkia micrantha* (Fiddleneck) was on three sites, in quantity on one.
- Alien (neophyte) species accounted for 12.6% of the total.

# Comment

*Amsinckia micrantha*  
Balgay cemetery



- These sites were heavily managed with frequent grass cutting and herbicide application.
- There were a few less heavily managed areas particularly in one location.
- The species in a few places suggested a previous heathland or woodland habitat.
- There was greater diversity than in cemeteries in Easter Ross, although some Dundee cemeteries were larger.
- Some management is always required but some areas of less intensive management would be welcome.