

Good Plants 2 (2026)

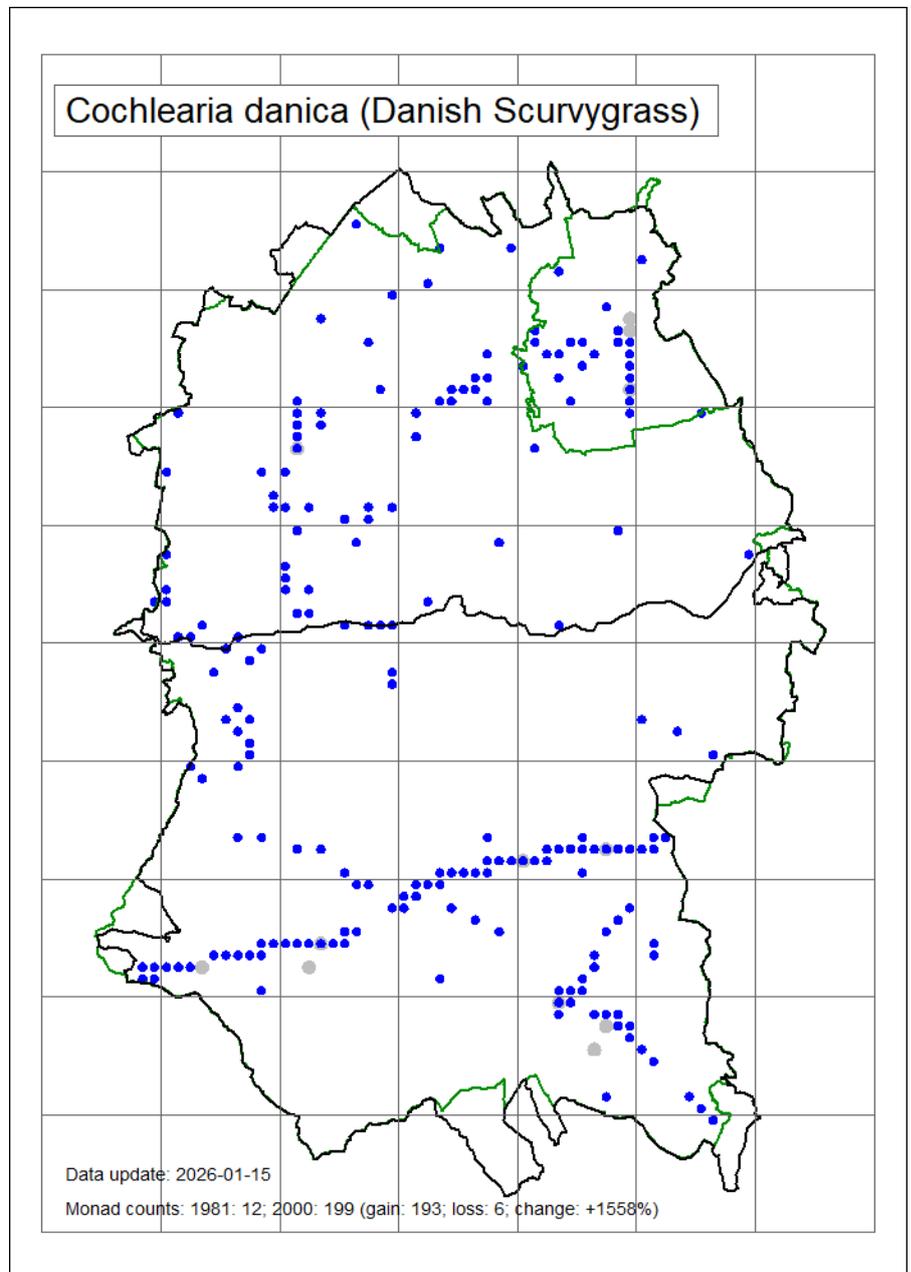
Hi everyone, another request from the Flora Committee. We hope you have enjoyed looking out for snowdrops and the speedwells; please continue with the latter but now is time for a few more species to record if you please. The first is Danish Scurvy-grass which must be familiar to many of you but perhaps not recorded yet, the second is Hoary Cress that you may not be so familiar with but as you will see from the accompanying map has more apparent losses than gains. [Grey dots are from pre-2000 and the blue dots post 2000.] and finally Field Woodrush, an early plant of lawns and meadows (check out your local church yard.)

Danish Scurvy-grass *Cochlearia danica*

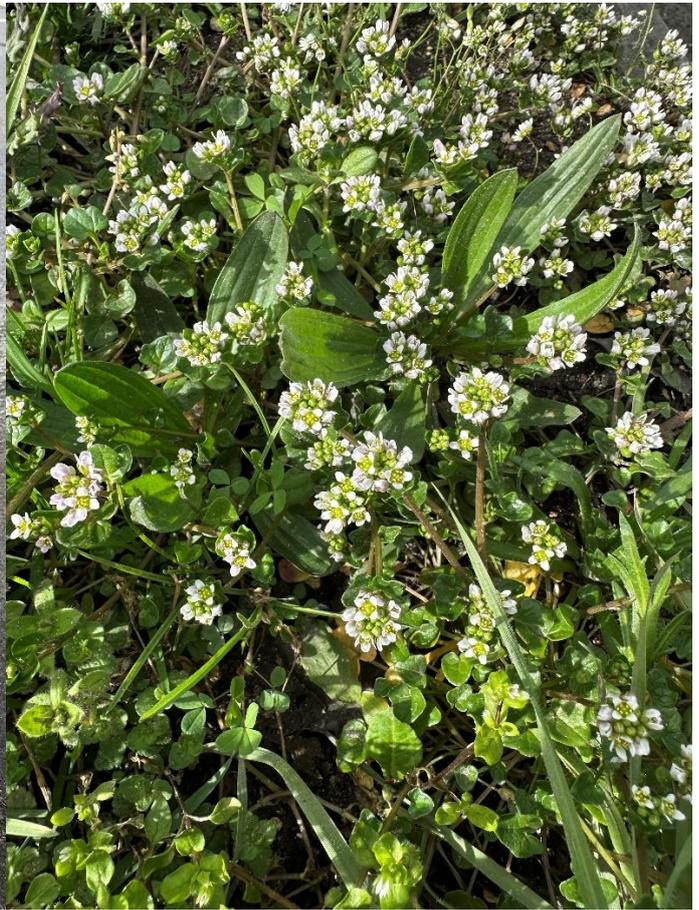
This is a halophytic herb which means it is a plant adapted to saline conditions. It enjoys the bare edges to grassed road verges or central reservations, or grows in the accumulated soil at the sides of kerbs or even on splitter islands at roundabouts where the salt from gritting lorries increases the salinity.

The plants can vary in size between 5 and 25cm in height according to conditions. Flowers are white, often with a pink or purplish tinge and appear between February and the end of May. Even the leaves can exhibit some purplish hue.

Along with the grid reference we would like you to nominate the road name and/or the road number if you are able. As you can see from the adjacent map, the blue dots are indicating some of our main roads, but it is believed to be much more widespread. Can you help with this? Be safe: Please don't try to write something down or record on your phone whilst driving; we'd rather lose the record than you!



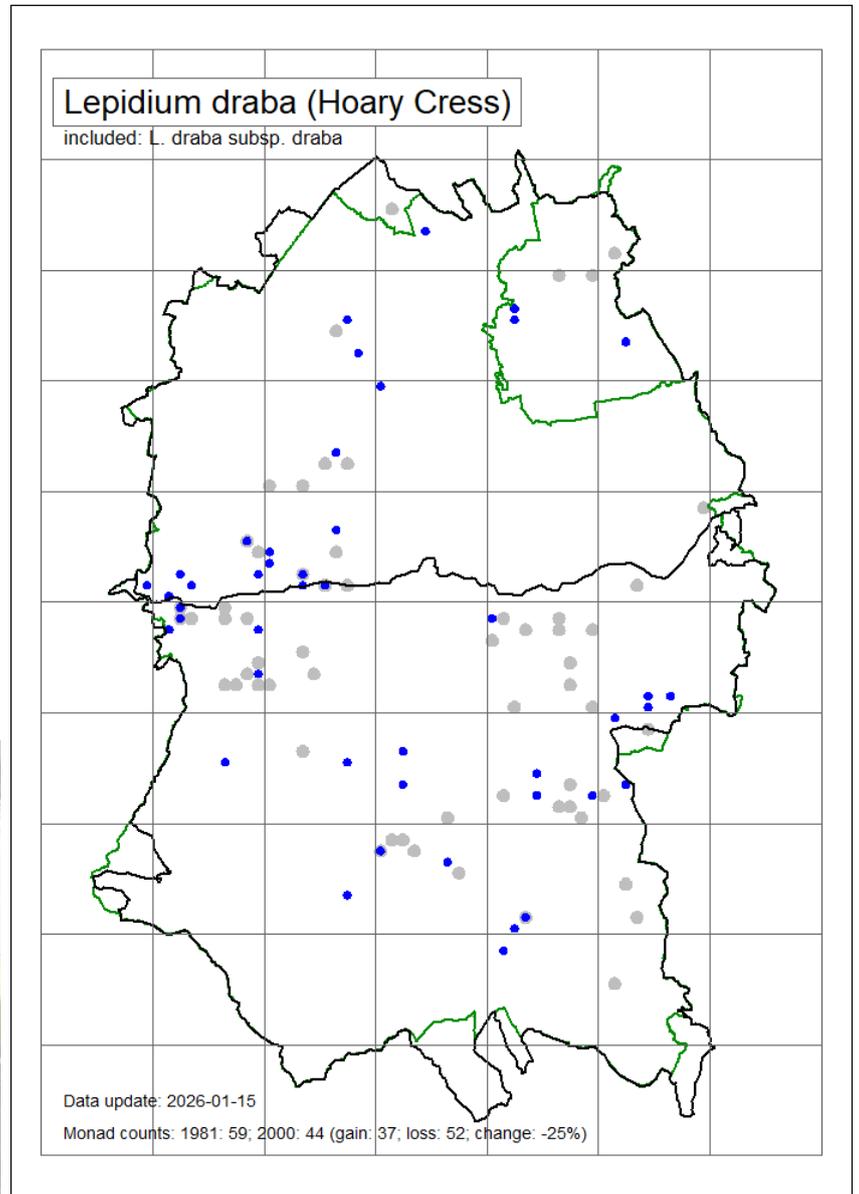
Please note that the M4 is being surveyed separately with a driver and buddy for recording.



Danish Scurvy-grass amassed at the edge of the road, top left. A close-up of our target amongst verge vegetation above; and left a singular clump.

Hoary Cress *Lepidium draba*

Another halophyte that maybe not so familiar to you. It grows up to 60cm tall and spreads by runners forming dense patches, often linear, at the edges of roadside verges. The leaves are green with a greyish hue. The flowers are white in dense flat-topped heads and show between the end of March and the beginning of June. As you can see from the map there appears to be a lot of areas from where this species appears to be missing. Is this simply because it has been overlooked? Whilst it enjoys soils with a high salt content it is not restricted to it and can occur on waste ground or at the edges of arable fields. See pics. Below.



Field Woodrush *Luzula campestris*

Sometimes known as Good Friday grass, this species starts flowering early in March and continues until June. It thrives best in poor or infertile grassland such as lawns, verges, meadows, and pasture. It is best found early in the year when the flower heads, see below, rise above the other vegetation. As the seasons progress the woodrush plants 'gets lost' amongst the other taller plants.

Look out for the hairy leaves that form low rosettes. The young leaves often have reddish-brown tips to them.

