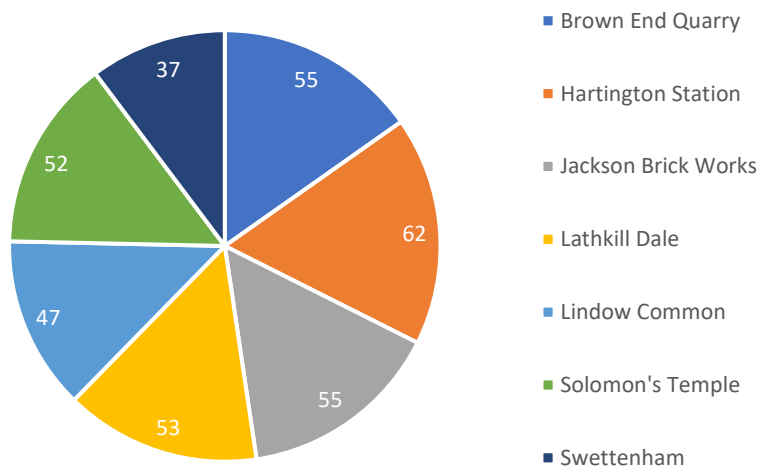


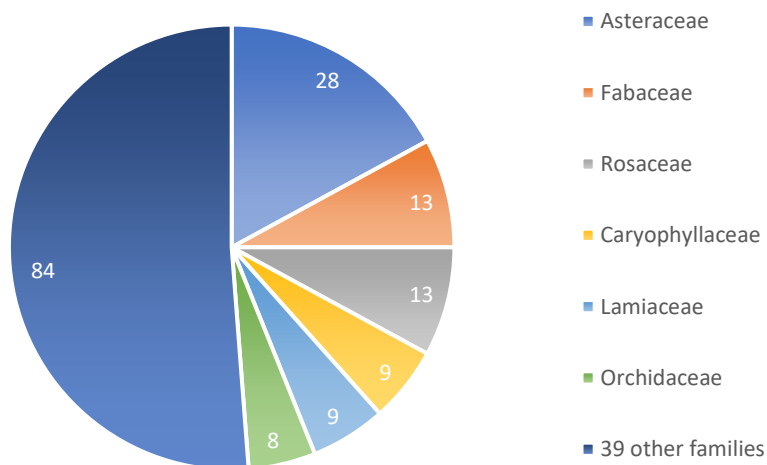
Macclesfield u3a Wild Flower Group Report 2026

We visited seven locations this summer spotting wild flowers. The chart below shows the number of species spotted in each area.



In total we spotted 361 plants and 164 species. Some species were spotted in multiple locations. And some in only one owing to the geology of each different location.

The chart below shows the number of species we found in each family. As we only spotted one or two species in many families these have been amalgamated on the pie chart and 84 species were found in 39 additional families to the ones individually analysed.



The aster family dominated, with 28 species found. This family is one of the largest plant families comprising 32,000 species throughout the world including daisies, sunflowers, dandelions and thistles. Whilst trying to identify various species in the hawkweed genus we discovered that 'yellow flowers' like hawkweeds have so many species that you have to be an academic botanist to be able to distinguish them from each other!

Then in the bean family which includes clovers, trefoils, vetches and brooms, we found 13 species. This family also includes all the peas and beans which we eat.

Similarly, we found 13 species in the rose family. This family includes roses (of course) and many of our fruit trees and shrubs. Species we spotted in this family included dog rose, blackberries, raspberries, wild strawberries, tormentil and lady's mantle. Because of the very dry summer we were able to walk across the bog at Lindow common and found marsh cinquefoil, also in the rose family.

We spotted eight species of orchid including twayblade and fragrant orchid.

On Lindow common we were privileged to find a small spot of sundew, one of the few carnivorous plants in the UK. Acid bogs don't hold many nutrients which is why this plant lives there.

And one final bit of botanical information. Bog bean was spotted on Lindow Common. And on researching its family it was found to be the only species in the family of Menyanthaceae. Compare that to Asteraceae with 32,000 species. Plant taxonomy is not easy.

Outings for 2027 are being planned at the moment and will be on the u3a website soon.