

Giant Butterbur *Petasites japonicus* (Siebold & Zucc.) Maxim. at Sandbourne, Bewdley

John Bingham

Giant Butterbur *Petasites japonicus* is an introduced/naturalised plant known from just a handful of locations in Worcestershire and Sandbourne has been a well recorded site for this species since the 1970s (Maskew 2014). I revisited the site on 15th April 2022 and I am pleased to report that the plant was flourishing along the side of the stream, adjacent to an old brick wall.



01. Giant Butterbur *Petasites japonicus* at Sandbourne 15.04.22.
John Bingham.

As to its origins perhaps we can suggest (though not prove) that landscape architect Gertrude Jekyll might be responsible. An internet search discovered that she was commissioned by Mrs Wakeman-Newport in 1912 to produce a landscape architecture drawing of Sandbourne House gardens. Her sketch map for the site shows planting beds and pathways for Sandbourne. Several bamboo species also seem to have persisted from this presumed planting.

References

Maskew, R. 2014. *The Flora of Worcestershire*. Published by the author Roger Maskew, Worcestershire.

Images

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