

Annual Report Form for BSBI VC Recorders, 2014

Name: Delyth Williams

Vice-County: 50 Denbighshire

1. Brief summary of 2014 in your Vice-county:

Not so much recording until June because of work commitments, but an amazing number of records were taken until well into November because of the mild weather. 22 Denbs Recording Group meetings were held:

May: Coed Cefn Heskin, Nant-y-rhiw, Eglwysbach

June: Pennant, Glyn Ceiriog, Llanarmon DC, Eryrys, Cors Maen Llwyd

July: Mynydd-y-Briw, Gwytherin

August: Cors Nug, Rhaeadr y Bedd, Chirk, Conwy RSPB, Coed Shed, Eryrys again, Lidiart Annie

September: Old Colwyn Promenade

November: Llanrhaeadr DC, Maerdy, Llanferres, Bryneglwys

Many hundreds of records have also been sent in from loyal and valued recorders.

The season finished with a summary of progress and plans for Atlas 2000, followed by lunch at Bryn Siriol.

If you would like to publish this summary on the BSBI website (on existing or newly-created VC web-pages), **please tick here**...Please put on the Denbs website...

2. Anything else to report that you wouldn't want published or that updates the feedback you gave us last year on Atlas 2020, for example?

Should be able to record properly at least 5 tetrads per hectad for the Atlas.

Really sorry to be losing the Welsh Officers, - SO helpful and supportive. Always instant response to queries and requests, most especially with IT and also plant ID.

3. What could we do to make your role as Recorder more fulfilling and enjoyable?

It's already very fulfilling and enjoyable!

(see response to Q2). Ensure continued and prompt support with MapMate and DDB usage and other IT issues.

I also value the presence of the Welsh Officer at recording sessions & field meetings; I learn such a lot from those who are better botanists than me.

4. Are there any specific things we can help you with?

Not just now thank you, but who knows after the Welsh Officers have gone?

Questionnaire on accessing BSBI plant records via the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway

Up to now BSBI data has reached the National Biodiversity Network's (NBN) Gateway via the Biological Records Centre (BRC), who have forwarded on our completed datasets, once every six months or so. These records have (generally) been made publicly available at 10km resolution on the Gateway. For various reasons nothing has been sent to the Gateway for two years or more, and, in addition, we have agreed that it will be us, rather than BRC, who will be responsible for future uploading of BSBI data to the Gateway.

We have already circulated all of you (in April 2013) on our views on the benefits of making all of our UK¹ plant records publicly available on the Gateway at full resolution (a copy is available from your Country Officer, listed below). In a nutshell, we strongly believe that these records should be used in the interest of the plants themselves and that in doing so the BSBI will be all the stronger for it (regardless of whether funders prefer us to make data available). More specifically increasing access to our data will lead to:

- improved management and conservation decision-making due to greater awareness on the part of land-owners over the plant interest(s) on their land
- improved understanding of our flora due greater scientific/research use
- promotion of the BSBI and plant recording more generally

The main risk of greater disclosure would seem to be that sensitive populations are accidentally or intentionally damaged. However, the NBN Gateway already has mechanisms in place to guard against this for a small number of species² (i.e. blurring of records for 'sensitive species') and we would seek to address more local concerns by allowing recorders to 'flag' other species or records that they considered to be under threat from disclosure. These could either be marked as 'not to be passed on' or have their details blurred when forwarded onto to the NBN Gateway. These two controls can be administered by the vice-county recorder within the BSBI's Distribution Database (DDb).

At a recent Recording and Research Committee we agreed that:

- Each VC would decide its own resolution of public access (full, monad or tetrad) on the Gateway but the BSBI's default recommendation would be full resolution (except for sensitive species).

¹ The Gateway covers the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland but excludes the Republic of Ireland.

² The full list of sensitive species is available on request.

- We would continue to omit, for the moment at least, site and recorder names.
- The NBN Trust’s ability to control mass downloading of data is not clear, and so we will not start uploading data until we are clear how they intend to deal with this.

So, the questions we would like to ask you are given below (please underline your choice). They should only take 5 minutes to complete but the information you provide will be vital in informing our negotiations with the NBN Trust regarding access to records in the coming year.

5. At what resolution would you prefer records for your vice-county to be made available on the NBN Gateway?

Full resolution³ Monad (1x1km) Tetrad (2x2km)

6. Regardless of the resolution you have chosen are there species or individual records that you would want to flag as sensitive/confidential before they are forwarded to the NBN Gateway?

Yes No

7. Would you be happy for non-sensitive historic records, collected before 2000, to be released at full resolution?

Yes No

8. To allow time for editing (validating) records the BSBI would not release the most recent data for a period after arrival at the DDB. What delay would you prefer for your county?

1 year 2 years 3 years

9. Would you be happy for site and recorder names to be included in non-sensitive records made available at full or monad resolution?

Site names Yes No

Recorder names Yes No

10. Do you have any comments or questions on these proposals?

No.

³ We will have to assume this if you don’t respond.