

THE RARE PLANT REGISTER

OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND THE SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH



2014

ROB WILSON

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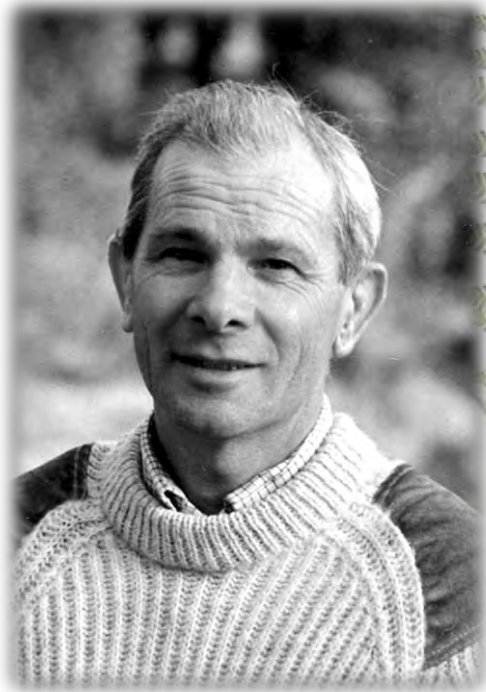


NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FLORA GROUP



ROBERT WILSON DESIGNS

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for
CLIFF CHRISTIE
Naturalist,
Friend,
Inspiration,
Entertaining companion.

G R E A T L Y M I S S E D

VICE-COUNTY 32 RARE PLANT REGISTER

This County Rare Plant Register includes all the plants thought to be a species to be found as a native or archaeophyte in vice-county 32, broadly consisting of Northamptonshire and the former Soke of Peterborough, now administratively part of Cambridgeshire. Where possible records of native or archaeophyte species that have been introduced into the wild are either not included or differentiated on the species distribution map. Some species, where the distribution data is patchy or uncertain including *Rubus* sp., *Hieracium* sp., *Taraxacum* sp. and some *Rosa* and *Salix* sp.

Native and archaeophyte species are defined as follows:

Native A plant which has been growing in VC32, usually for many thousands of years, without being either accidentally or intentionally introduced by man; it includes naturally occurring hybrids even if the parents are not native to the vice-county

Archaeophyte A naturalised plant believed to have been introduced into VC32 by man before 1500 AD; it is considered to be naturalised if it maintains itself or increases from year to year by seed set or vegetative spread.

The criteria for including species are as follows:

Those which are or may be:

INT

I : internationally rare;

RDB

NT: near threatened; **VU** : vulnerable; **EN** : endangered; as detailed in the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain, Cheffings, C. and Farrell, L. (Editors), (2005 and later revisions).

Left blank for English Red Data Book status, when available

BSBI

S : included in the BSBI list of Nationally Scarce Species

R : included in the BSBI list of Nationally Rare Species

VC32

10 : present in VC32 at ten sites or less and may be declining or **3** : present in vice-county 32 at less than three sites

BAP

N : included in Northamptonshire or **C** : Cambridgeshire Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

The map that heads each species endeavors to show the changes in distribution across the centuries. Most of the pre1970 records are taken from the original Flora of Northamptonshire by George Claridge Druce (*T. Buncl* 1930). There are few other early records but where any are known they are included. Druce's records are generally listed as the name of a village, occasionally only the name of a site. Consequently, although it is perfectly possible to allocate these names to a particular 5km square, this may not be the actual locality of the species record: for example Barnack and Barnack Hills and Holes fall into adjoining squares and it is likely that some of the records that are given as Barnack are actually from Barnack Hills and Holes. Equally clearly few plants will have been recorded in the centre of a village so the shown square could be out by one square in any direction. This does not apply to later records although those from the 1970 to 1986 period are mainly from the records collected for the Flora of Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough are also shown to 5km accuracy as most records from this era were only made to this degree of accuracy. Recent records are to 2km of accuracy. Nevertheless many of the maps clearly show the changes in distribution over the years, in some instances scattered and isolated modern records being shown clearly as remnants of a more contiguous distribution.

The names of the species in this register generally follow those given used in the 'New Flora of the British Isles' by Clive Stace, (3rd Edition, Cambridge University Press 2010)

Wherever possible a six figure grid reference has been given, but occasionally this has not been possible. This may be due to a lack of data in our possession or we may feel that it is inappropriate that the exact location should be revealed.

The site name is that generally used on Ordnance Survey maps of the area, or the locally used name if the site is not named on maps, except for SSSIs and nature reserves. The former are named in conformity with the titles used by Natural England, nature reserves use the name given by the Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust or other responsible body. A gazetteer of sites can be found in 'The Flora of Northamptonshire & the Soke of Peterborough. Gill Gent & Rob Wilson (*Robert Wilson Designs 2013*).

The year given in the date column is the latest date that the species is known to have been present at the site. The author would be pleased to receive notification of any later dates. Generally species are included that have been recorded in the vice-county since 1987.

Details of the species status as given in the various floras of vice-county 32 are given on the last line of each species description:

Druce refers to The Flora of Northamptonshire, George Claridge Druce (*T. Buncle & Co. 1930*)

Gent & Wilson 1995 refers to The Flora of Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough (*Robert Wilson Designs 1995*)

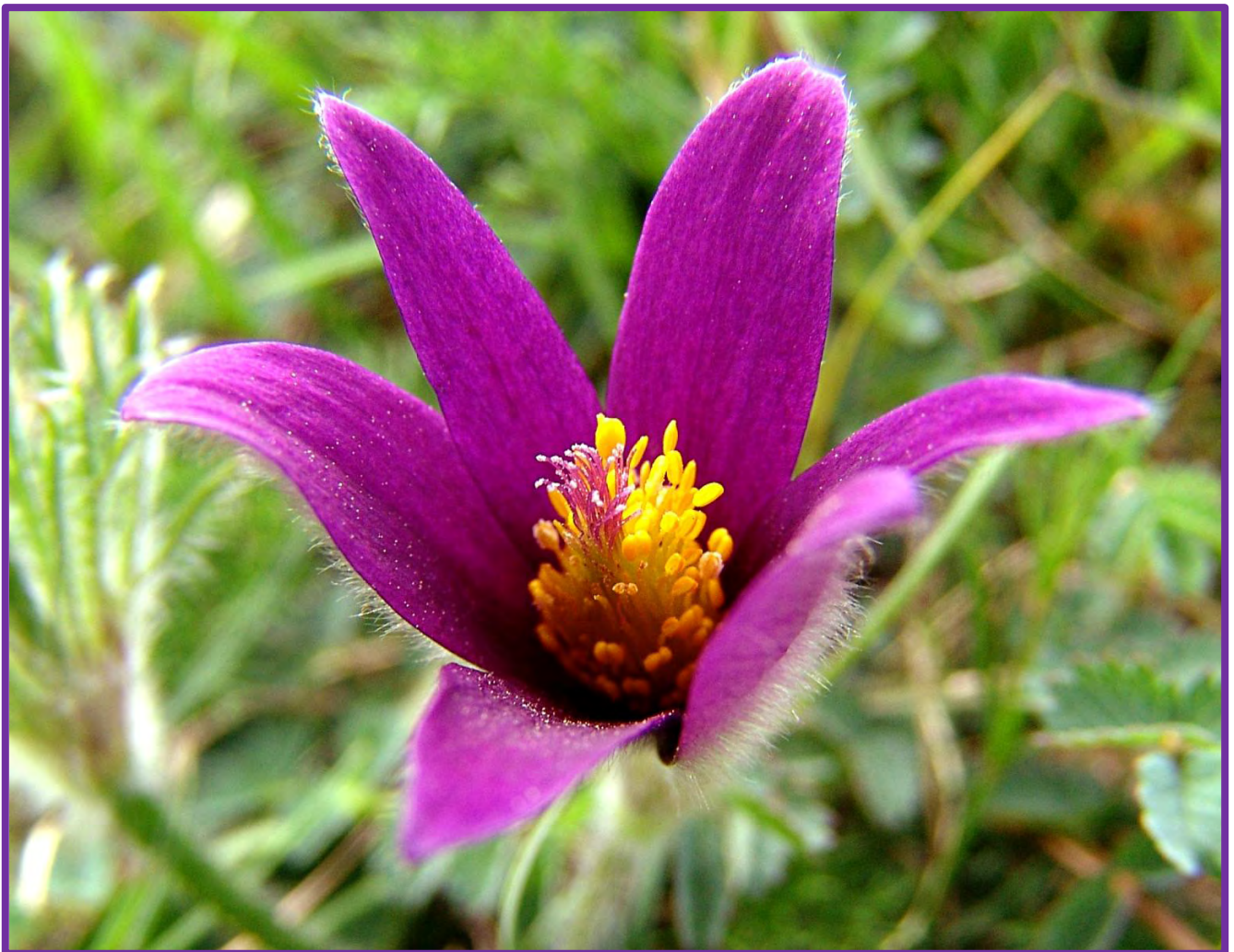
Gent & Wilson 2013 refers to The Flora of Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough (*Robert Wilson Designs 2013*)

Thanks to everyone who has helped with this publication, especially those who supplied the records, their names too numerous to mention although a list of recorders is given at the end of this introduction which may be related to the initials given in the tables of individual records.

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Pasqueflower *Pulsatilla vulgaris*

KEY TO RECORDERS

A

AC	Adrian Colston
AF	Ann Fells
AG	Andrew Gagg
AK	Ann Kennard
AL	Alex Lockton
AM	Anne Massie
AMa	Andy Massie
AN	Alan Newton
AP	Andy Patmore
AR	Andrew Robinson
ARi	A J Richards
AS	Alan Stubbs
ASh	Andy Shaw
ASm	Alan Smith
AW	Angela Walker

B

BA	Brian Adams
BC	B. Coulson
BD	B N K Davis
BE	Brian Eversham
BF	Beryl Few
BH	B Horswell
BK	Brian Knott
BL	Brian Laney
BM	Beth Nightingale
BS	Bruce Shortland
BSBI	Botanical Society of the British Isles
BW	Brian Webster

C

CC	Cliff Christie
CC	Chris Carter
CD	Chris Dony
CDo	Chris Downie
CG	Chris Gardner
CL	Colin Lucas
CP	Christa Perry
CP	Chris Preston
CT	Caroline Tero

D

DB	David Broughton
DC	Dougie Clark
DH	David Hughes
DHo	D Horsefield
DK	D Knight
DN	David Nash
DP	Donald Payne
DS	David Soden
DW	Doreen Williams
DWo	Dominic Woodfield

F

FP	Franklyn Perring
----	------------------

G

GB	Gavin Boyd
GC	George Crawford
GF	Graham French

GG	Gill Gent
GK	G M Kay
GK	Gwen Keech
GM	Graham Martin

H

HB	Heather Ball
HS	Henry Stanier

I

IC	Ian Cameron
IT	Ioan Thomas
IW	Ian Wilson

J

JA	Jon Atkinson
JB	Jeff Best
JBi	Joan Birch
JC	Joyce Christie
JCh	John Chandler
JCo	James Cooke
JCr	Janet Cropley
JG	J Gibbons
JL	Judith Line
JM	John Minney
JR	J Rowling
JS	Jane Stubbs
JSh	Jonathan Shanklin
JSq	Jane Squirrel
JW	Joan Wilkinson

K

KC	Kay Cameron
KD	K DuRose
KH	K Horswell
KNHS	Kettering & District Natural History Society
KR	Katherine Ridout
KT	Kim Taylor

L

LA	Lisa Adams
LF	Lynn Farrell
LH	Liz Hammock
LM	Linda Moore

M

MA	Martyn Adkins
MC	M Coulson
MC	Max Coleman
MCl	Mary Clugston
MD	Martin Dove
MF	Margaret Faulkner
MG	Mick Goodman
MJ	Mark Jannick
MJa	Matt Jackson
MJo	M D C Jones
MJu	Mark Julu
MM	M E Massey
MN	May Nobles
MR	M E S Rooney
MW	Mrs Walton
MWi	Martin Wiggington

N

NC	Neil Crossman
----	---------------

NE	Natural England
NFG	Northamptonshire Flora Group
NH	Nathalie Hueber
NM	Nick Millar
NO	Nick Owens
Nor	Nichola Orchard

P

PC	Perdita Cawthorne
PE	Paul Evans
PG	Peter Goodfellow
PH	Paul Hayter
Pho	Peter Horn
PL	P S Lusby
PP	P Precey
PR	Phylida Rixon
PS	Pete Stroh
PSt	Paul Stanley
PT	Peggy Tuffs
PW	Philip Wilson
PY	Peter Yeo

R

RC	Ray Cleaver
RD	Roy Dexter
RM	Roy Maycock
RMa	Roger Maskell
RP	Rosemary Parslow
RPa	R C palmer
RS	Ray Summers
RW	Rob Wilson
RWo	Rob Woodall

S

SB	Steve Brayshaw
SBr	Sharon Brown
SC	Sara Chapple
SG	S Galvin
SH	Sharon Halmkahn
SK	Sean Karley
SL	Sarah Lambert
SP	Sue Payne
ST	Stella Taylor
SW	Sheila Wells
SWi	Sarah Whild

T

TB	Tony Balbi
TBi	Tom Birch
TE	Tony Edwards
TF	T Finnemore
TH	Trevor Hold
TP	Tim Pridmore
TR	Tony Richardson
Tri	Tim Rich
TW	Terry Wells
TWa	Tony Walshe

W

WS	Winifred Smith
WT	Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust

LIST OF SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE RARE PLANT REGISTER

TO FIND THE DISTRIBUTION MAP AND DETAILS OF A PARTICULAR SPECIES USE TYPE THE PAGE NUMBER LISTED BELOW IN PAGE DISPLAY BOX OF ADOBE READER XI

TAXON		COMMON NAME
<i>Adonis annua L.</i>	12	Pheasant's-eye
<i>Agrimonia procera Wallr.</i>	13	Fragrant Agrimony
<i>Agrostis vinealis Schreb.</i>	15	Brown Bent
<i>Aira praecox L.</i>	16	Early Hair-grass
<i>Anagallis arvensis ssp. foemina (Mill.) Schinz & Thell.</i>	17	Blue Pimpernel
<i>Anagallis tenella (L.) L.</i>	18	Bog Pimpernel
<i>Antennaria dioica (L.) Gaertn.</i>	19	Mountain Everlasting
<i>Anthemis arvensis L.</i>	20	Corn Chamomile
<i>Anthemis cotula L.</i>	21	Stinking Chamomile
<i>Aphanes australis Rydb</i>	22	Slender Parsley-piert
<i>Apium inundatum (L.) Rchb. f.</i>	23	Lesser Marshwort
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris L.</i>	24	Columbine
<i>Arabis hirsuta (L.) Scop.</i>	25	Hairy Rock-cress
<i>Asperula cynanchia ssp. cynanchia L.</i>	26	Squinancywort
<i>Astragalus danicus Retz.</i>	27	Purple Milk-vetch
<i>Baldellia ranunculoides ssp. ranunculoides (L.) Parl.</i>	29	Lesser Water-plantain
<i>Blechnum spicant (L.) Roth</i>	30	Hard-fern
<i>Blysmus compressus (L.) Panz. ex Link</i>	31	Flat-sedge
<i>Bromus racemosus L.</i>	32	Smooth Brome
<i>Callitriche brutia ssp. hamulata (Kütz. Ex W.D.J. Koch) O. Bolòs Vigo</i>	33	Intermediate Water-starwort
<i>Callitriche obtusangula Le Gall</i>	34	Blunt-fruited Water-starwort
<i>Carex binervis Sm.</i>	35	Green-ribbed Sedge
<i>Carex distans L.</i>	36	Distant Sedge
<i>Carex divulsa ssp. leersii (F.W. Schultz) W. Koch</i>	37	Grey Sedge
<i>Carex elata All.</i>	38	Tufted-sedge
<i>Carex ericetorum Pollich</i>	39	Rare Spring-sedge
<i>Carex hostiana DC.</i>	40	Tawny Sedge
<i>Carex lepidocarpa Tausch</i>	41	Long-stalked Yellow-sedge
<i>Carex muricata ssp. pairae (F.W.Schultz) Celak</i>	42	Prickly Sedge
<i>Carex pulicaris L.</i>	43	Flea Sedge
<i>Carex rostrata Stokes</i>	44	Bottle Sedge

<i>Carex vesicaria</i> L.	45	Bladder-sedge
<i>Catabrosa aquatica</i> (L.) P. Beauv.	46	Whorl-grass
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> L.	47	Cornflower
<i>Ceratocarpus claviculata</i> (L.) Lidén	49	Climbing Corydalis
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i> L.	50	Good-King-Henry
<i>Chenopodium vulvaria</i> L.	51	Stinking Goosefoot
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i> (L.) Kuntze	52	Basil Thyme
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i> (L.) Hartm.	53	Frog Orchid
<i>Convallaria majalis</i> L.	55	Lily-of-the-valley
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i> (L.) L.	57	Dodder
<i>Cuscuta europaea</i> L.	59	Greater Dodder
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> ssp. <i>incarnata</i> (L.) Soó	60	Early Marsh-orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i> ssp. <i>ericetorum</i> (E.F. Linton) P.F. Hunt & Summerh.	62	Heath Spotted-orchid
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i> (L.) DC.	63	Heath-grass
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> (L.) Trin.	64	Wavy Hair-grass
<i>Dryopteris cambrensis</i> ssp. <i>cambrensis</i> (Fraser-Jenk.) Beitel & W.R. Buck	65	Narrow Male-fern
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i> (L.) Roem. & Schult.	66	Needle Spike-rush
<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i> L.	67	Wood Horsetail
<i>Erica cinerea</i> L.	68	Bell Heather
<i>Erica tetralix</i> L.	69	Cross-leaved Heath
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> Honck.	70	Common Cottongrass
<i>Erodium moschatum</i> (L.) L'Hér.	71	Musk Stork's-bill
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i> L.	72	Dwarf Spurge
<i>Euphorbia platyphyllos</i> L.	74	Broad-leaved Spurge
<i>Filago minima</i> (Sm.) Pers.	75	Small Cudweed
<i>Fumaria densiflora</i> DC.	76	Dense-flowered Fumitory
<i>Fumaria muralis</i> ssp. <i>boroei</i> (Jord.) Pugsley	78	Common Ramping-fumitory
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i> ssp. <i>wirtgenii</i> (W.D.J. Koch) Arcang.	80	
<i>Gagea lutea</i> (L.) Ker Gawl.	81	Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i> Ehrh. Ex Hoffm.	82	Red Hemp-nettle
<i>Galeopsis bifida</i> Boenn.	83	Bifid Hemp-nettle
<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i> Mill.	85	Large-flowered Hemp-nettle
<i>Galium parisiense</i> L.	87	Wall Bedstraw
<i>Genista anglica</i> L.	88	Petty Whin
<i>Genista tinctoria</i> ssp. <i>tinctoria</i> L.	89	Dyer's Greenweed

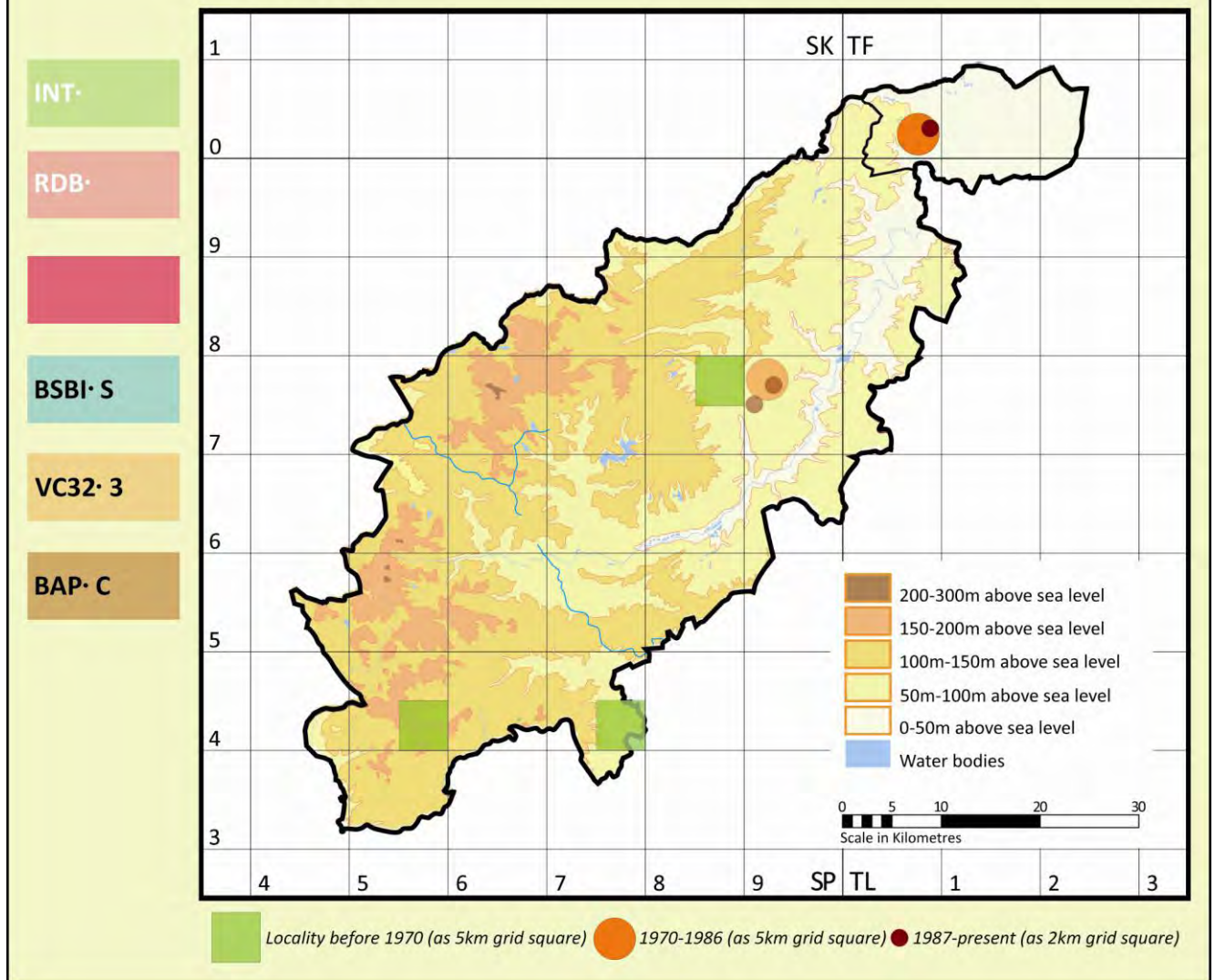
<i>Gentianella amarella</i> ssp. <i>amarella</i> (L.) Börner	90	Autumn Gentian
<i>Geum rivale</i> L.	93	Water Avens
<i>Glebionis segetum</i> (L.) Fourr.	94	Corn Marigold
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i> L.	96	Heath Cudweed
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> (L.) R. Br.	97	Chalk Fragrant-orchid
<i>Gymnadenia densiflora</i> (Wahlenb.) A.Dietr.	98	Marsh Fragrant Orchid
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i> L.	99	Stinking Hellebore
<i>Helleborus viridis</i> ssp. <i>occidentalis</i> (Reut.) Schiffn.	101	Green Hellebore
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i> L.	103	Horseshoe Vetch
<i>Hordelymus europaeus</i> (L.) Jess. ex Harz	104	Wood Barley
<i>Hottonia palustris</i> L.	105	Water-violet
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i> L.	107	Marsh Pennywort
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	108	Henbane
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i> L.	110	Smooth Cat's-ear
<i>Hypochaeris maculate</i>	111	Spotted Cast's-ear
<i>Juncus bulbosus</i> L.	112	Bulbous Rush
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i> L.	113	Toothwort
<i>Limosella aquatica</i> L.	115	Mudwort
<i>Linaria repens</i> (L.) Mill.	117	Pale Toadflax
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L.	118	Field Gromwell
<i>Littorella uniflora</i> (L.) Asch.	119	Shoreweed
<i>Luzula forsteri</i> (Sm.) DC.	120	Southern Wood-rush
<i>Lythrum portula</i> (L.) D.A. Webb	121	Water-purslane
<i>Melampyrum cristatum</i> L.	122	Crested Cow-wheat
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i> ssp. <i>pratense</i> L.	124	Common Cow-wheat
<i>Melica nutans</i> L.	125	Mountain Melick
<i>Mentha pulegium</i> L.	126	Pennyroyal
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> L.	127	Bogbean
<i>Minuartia hybrida</i> (Villars) Schischk.	128	Fine-leaved Sandwort
<i>Misopates orontium</i> (L.) Raf.	129	Weasel's-snout
<i>Moenchia erecta</i> (L.) P.Gaertn, May. & Scherb.	131	Upright Chickwewed
<i>Molinia caerulea</i> (L.) Moench	133	Purple Moor-grass
<i>Montia fontana</i> L.	134	Blinks
<i>Myosurus minimus</i> L.	136	Mousetail
<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i> L.	138	Whorled Water-milfoil
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> L.	139	Daffodil

<i>Neottia nidus-avis (L.) Rich.</i>	140	Bird's-nest Orchid
<i>Oenanthe aquatica (L.) Poir.</i>	142	Fine-leaved Water-dropwort
<i>Oenanthe fistulosa L.</i>	143	Tubular Water-dropwort
<i>Oenanthe lachenalii C.C. Gmel.</i>	144	Parsley Water-dropwort
<i>Oenanthe silaifolia M. Bieb.</i>	145	Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort
<i>Ophrys insectifera L.</i>	146	Fly Orchid
<i>Orchis anthropophora (L.) All.</i>	148	Man Orchid
<i>Oreopteris limbosperma (All.) Holub</i>	150	Lemon-scented Fern
<i>Papaver hybridum L.</i>	151	Rough Poppy
<i>Pedicularis palustris L.</i>	152	Marsh Lousewort
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica ssp. sylvatica L.</i>	153	Lousewort
<i>Petroselinum segetum (L.) W.D.J. Koch</i>	154	Corn Parsley
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris L.</i>	155	Common Butterwort
<i>Platanthera chlorantha (Custer) Rchb.</i>	156	Greater Butterfly-orchid
<i>Poa humilis Ehrh. Ex Hoffm.</i>	158	Spreading Meadow-grass
<i>Polygonum rurivagum Jord. Ex Boreau.</i>	159	Cornfield Knotgrass
<i>Populus nigra ssp. betulifolia (Pursh) Dippel.</i>	160	Black-poplar
<i>Potamogeton alpinus Balb.</i>	162	Red Pondweed
<i>Potamogeton coloratus Hornem.</i>	163	Fen Pondweed
<i>Potamogeton compressus L.</i>	164	Grass-wrack Pondweed
<i>Potamogeton obtusifolius Mert. & W.D.J. Koch</i>	166	Blunt-leaved Pondweed
<i>Potamogeton praelongus Wulfen</i>	167	Long-stalked Pondweed
<i>Potentilla argentea L.</i>	168	Hoary Cinquefoil
<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris Mill.</i>	170	Pasqueflower
<i>Ranunculus arvensis L.</i>	172	Corn Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus hederaceus L.</i>	173	Ivy-leaved Crowfoot
<i>Ranunculus peltatus Schrank</i>	174	Pond Water-crowfoot
<i>Ranunculus sardous Crantz</i>	175	Hairy Buttercup
<i>Sagina nodosa L.</i>	177	Knotted Pearlwort
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris L.</i>	178	Shepherd's-needle
<i>Schoenus nigricans L.</i>	180	Black Bog-rush
<i>Scleranthus annuus ssp. annuus L.</i>	181	Annual Knawel
<i>Sedum telephium L.</i>	182	Orpine
<i>Sium latifolium L.</i>	184	Greater Water-parsnip
<i>Sparganium natans L.</i>	185	Least Bur-reed
<i>Spergularia rubra (L.) J. & C. Presl</i>	186	Sand Spurrey

Stachys arvensis (L.) L.	188	Field Woundwort
Stellaria palustris Ehrh. ex Hoffm.	189	Marsh Stitchwort
Teucrium scorodonia L.	190	Wood Sage
Thymus pulegioides L.	191	Large Thyme
Torilis arvensis (Huds.) Link	192	Spreading Hedge-parsley
Trifolium micranthum Viv.	193	Slender Trefoil
Trifolium ochroleucon Huds.	194	Sulphur Clover
Ulmus plotii Druce	196	Plot's Elm
Umbilicus rupestris (Salisb.) Dandy	198	Navelwort
Valerianella dentata (L.) Pollich	199	Narrow-fruited Cornsalad
Viola canina ssp. canina L.	200	Heath Dog-violet

Adonis annua L.

Pheasant's-eye



Archaeophyte

A rare arable weed on limestone soils.

Because of their possibly doubtful status the Sandy Spinney Quarry records are shown in a lighter colour.

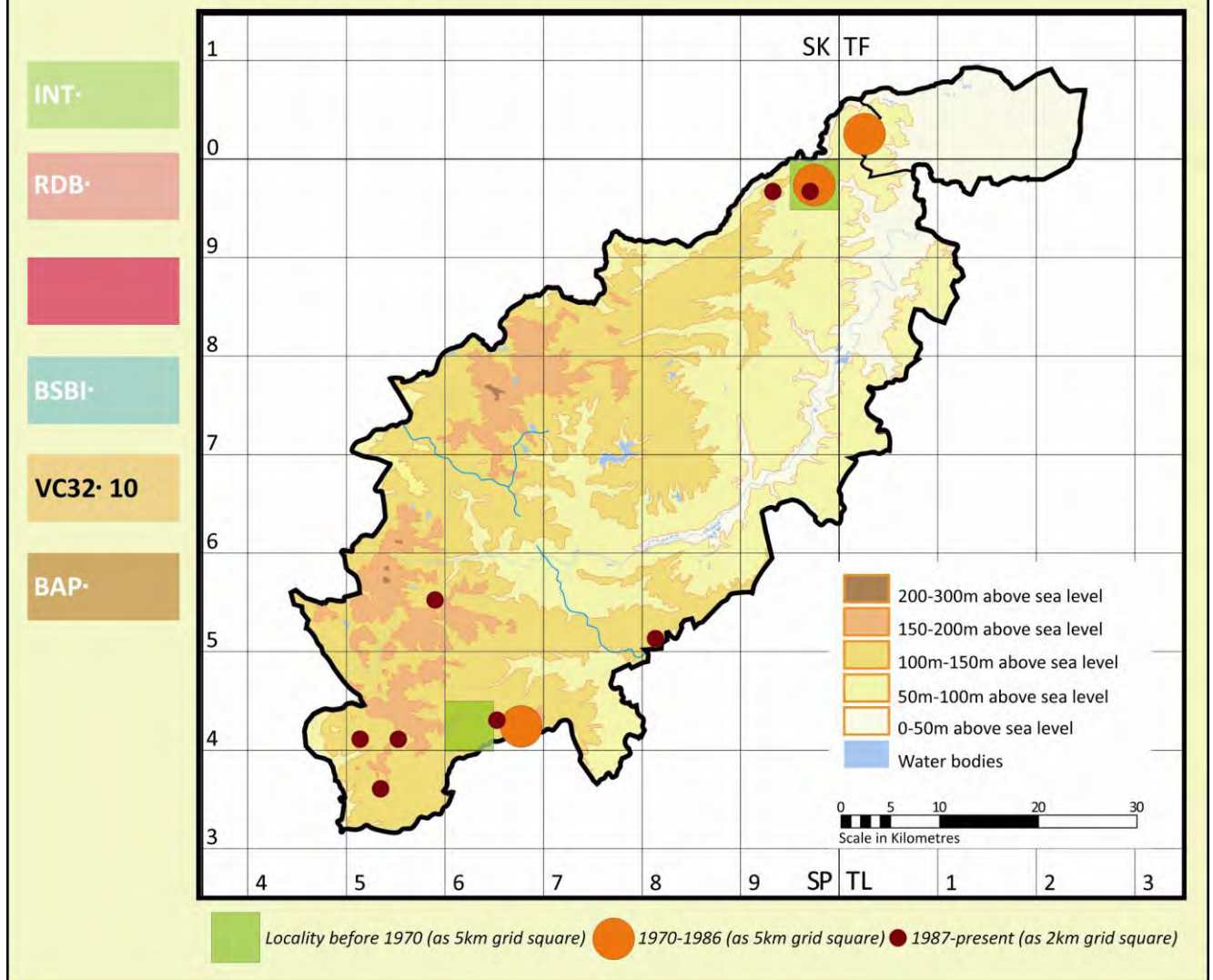
TF091022	Southorpe	S	2006	PS
TF085024	Southorpe	S	2006	PPa

This species was never common in the vice-county, even before the general use of herbicides in agriculture, with only three records listed before 1970. The last record in this era was at Southorpe in 1956. Generally the few subsequent records were of garden escapes, and as such are ignored here. Subsequently it was thought to be extinct as a wild plant. There was a further sighting in the centre of Northamptonshire at Sandy Spinney Quarry, dating from 1970, and another possible sighting in 2012 at the same location (not listed above) but the latter sighting is unconfirmed and the earlier sighting may well be a garden escape, but these records need further research and observation, especially as they are close to an earlier, 1903 record from Kettering. Then, about 50 years after it was last seen at Southorpe, it was rediscovered in the same field where it is certainly native and in the same year it was also recorded on the edge of a bean field a few hundred yards away. With so few records in the vice-county, confined as a native species to a couple of adjoining fields, its future must be viewed with concern.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: No status given, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Agrimonia procera Wallr.

Fragrant Agrimony



Native

A perennial of woodland margins and rough grassland on heavier damp soils that are neither too acidic or too calcareous.

SP963978	Adams Wood	N		2010	JS/GF
SP545359	Charlton (verge near)	N		2002	CC/JC
SP543411	Cockley Brake	N		2002	CC/JC
SP518403	Farthinghoe Nature Reserve	N	NR	2008	RW
SP651426	Hazelborough Forest	N		2002	CC
SP589548	High Wood and Meadow	N	NR/SSSI	2006	TB
SP810504	Salcey Forest	N	SSSI	1987	GG/RM
SP938960	Spanhoe Wood (roadside near)	N		2005	GG

This species is found in similar habitats to the much more common *Agrimonia A. eupatoria* and although it now seems to be more common than previously thought, the increase in recent records is probably due to both a better understanding of the species and to diligent searching. At some sites, however, the species is so obvious a feature that it is difficult to see how it could have been missed in earlier years and it does seem to be expanding from its former centres. A species to watch with interest. Some sites are on road verges and could be vulnerable to poor cutting regimes.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

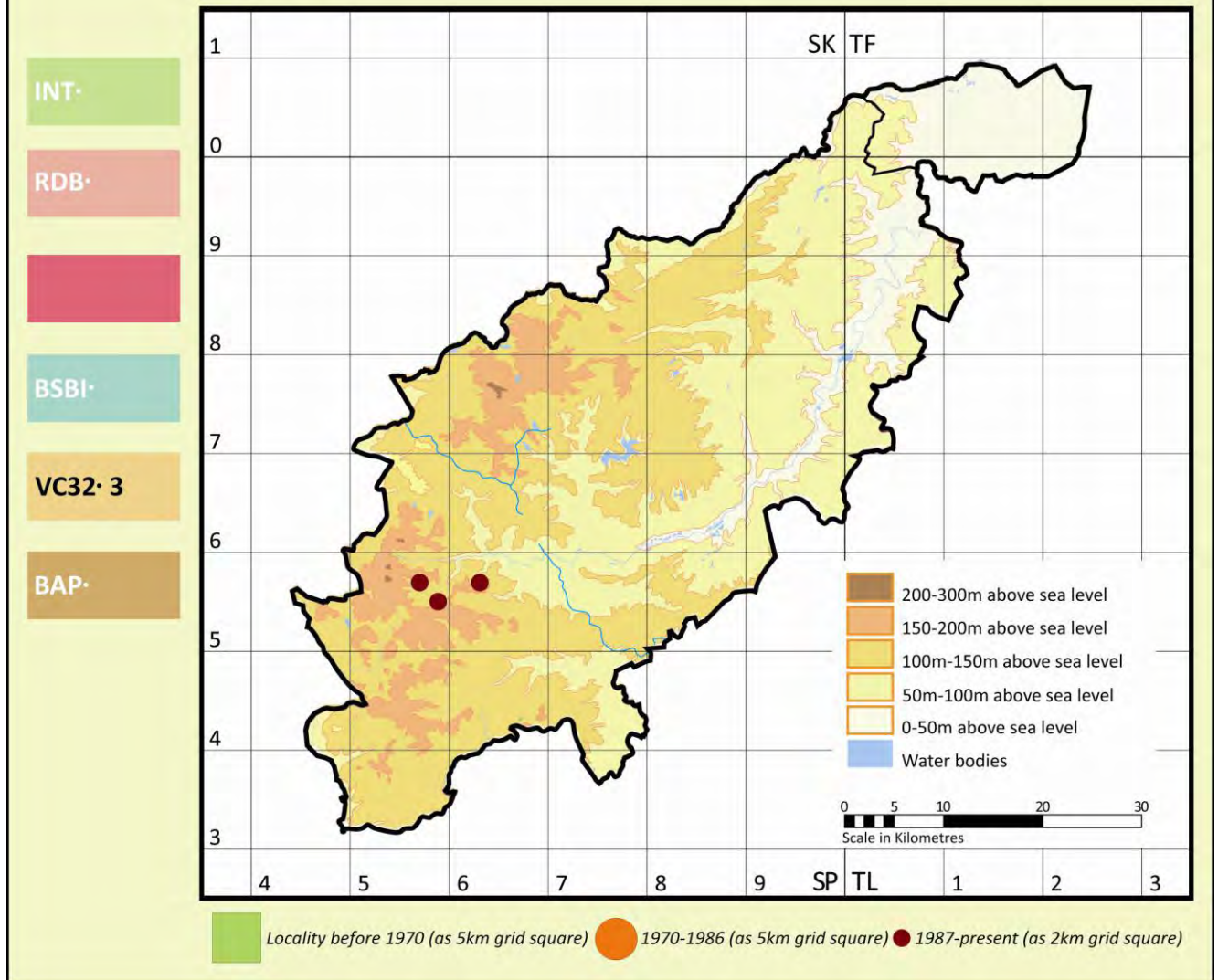


Joyce Christie standing beside Fragrant Agrimony in Farthinghoe Reserve, showing the distinctive height of the plant that has made it easier to spot in the rough grass where it is generally found.

Cliff Christie

Agrostis vinealis Schreb.

Brown Bent



Native

A perennial herb of dry, acidic sandy and peaty soils.

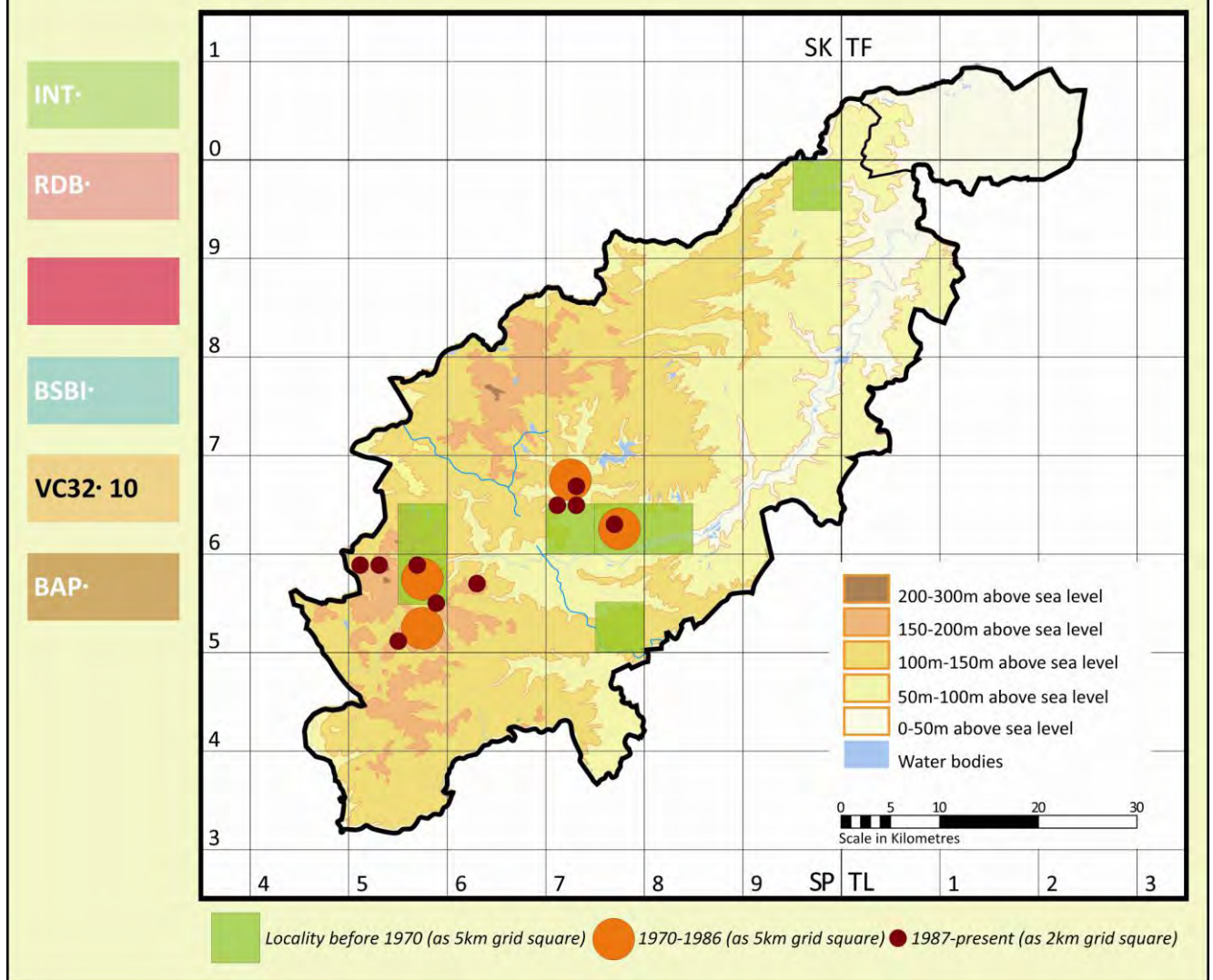
SP561577	Fawsley Park West	N		2012	TB
SP589548	High Wood and Meadow	N	NR/SSSI	1994	CT
SP624564	Ramsden Corner Plantation	N	NR/SSSI	1997	TB

Only ever recorded once at each of the three sites listed above, but it may be under-recorded as until recently it was only recorded as a variety or sub-species of velvet bent *A. canina*. Its preferred habitat means that this species will never be common in this county.

Druce: No record, Gent & Wilson 1995: No record, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Aira praecox L.

Early Hair-grass



Native

An annual of thin, sandy, acidic soils.

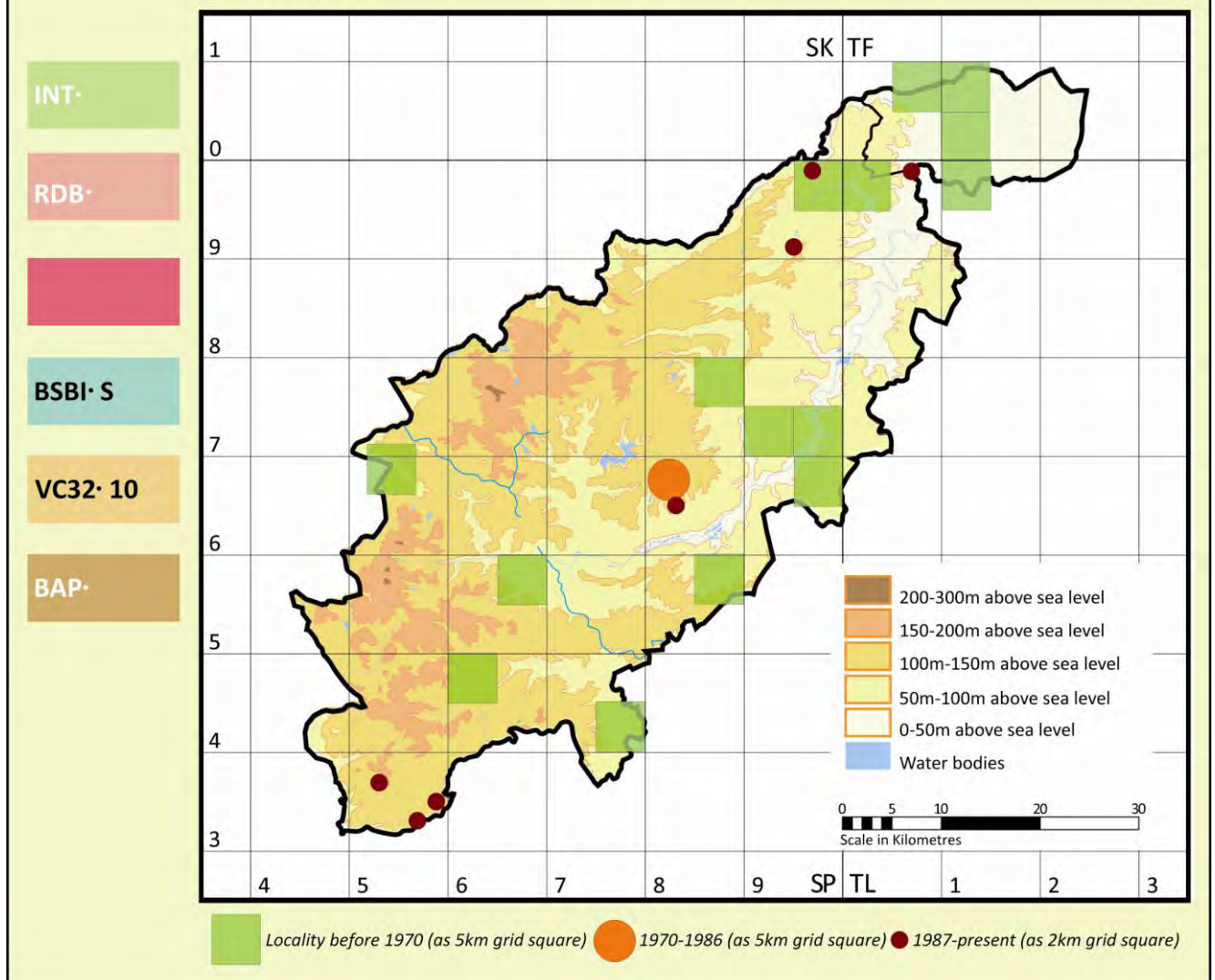
SP771630	Bradlaugh Fields, Northampton	N	NR	1996	GG
SP735665	Brampton Valley Way	N		1994	LM
SP52-58-	Catesby (near)	N		2012	GG
SP548509	Disused railway near Eydon	N		1997	GG
SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N		2005	MJ
SP504581	Hellidon Hill Golf Course	N		1998	LM
SP592546	High Wood & Meadow	N	SSSI/NR	2006	TB
SP737653	Pitsford Station, Brampton Valley Way	N		1994	LM
SP624564	Ramsden Corner Plantation	N	SSSI/NR	2008	PE
SP771757	Shortwood House	N		2011	RW

This was always a rare species with only eight early localities, of which Harlestone is the only one where it still survives. Although, as suitable habitats become rarer it should be a decreasing species although there are now more records, all the records confined to the acid soils around Northampton and close to the locations of 19th century sightings. This is probably due to better recording rather than any increase and the preferred soil conditions mean that it is unlikely to become more widely recorded.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Anagallis arvensis ssp. foemina (Mill.) Schinz & Thell.

Blue Pimpernel



Archaeophyte.

An arable weed of cultivated fields and gardens.

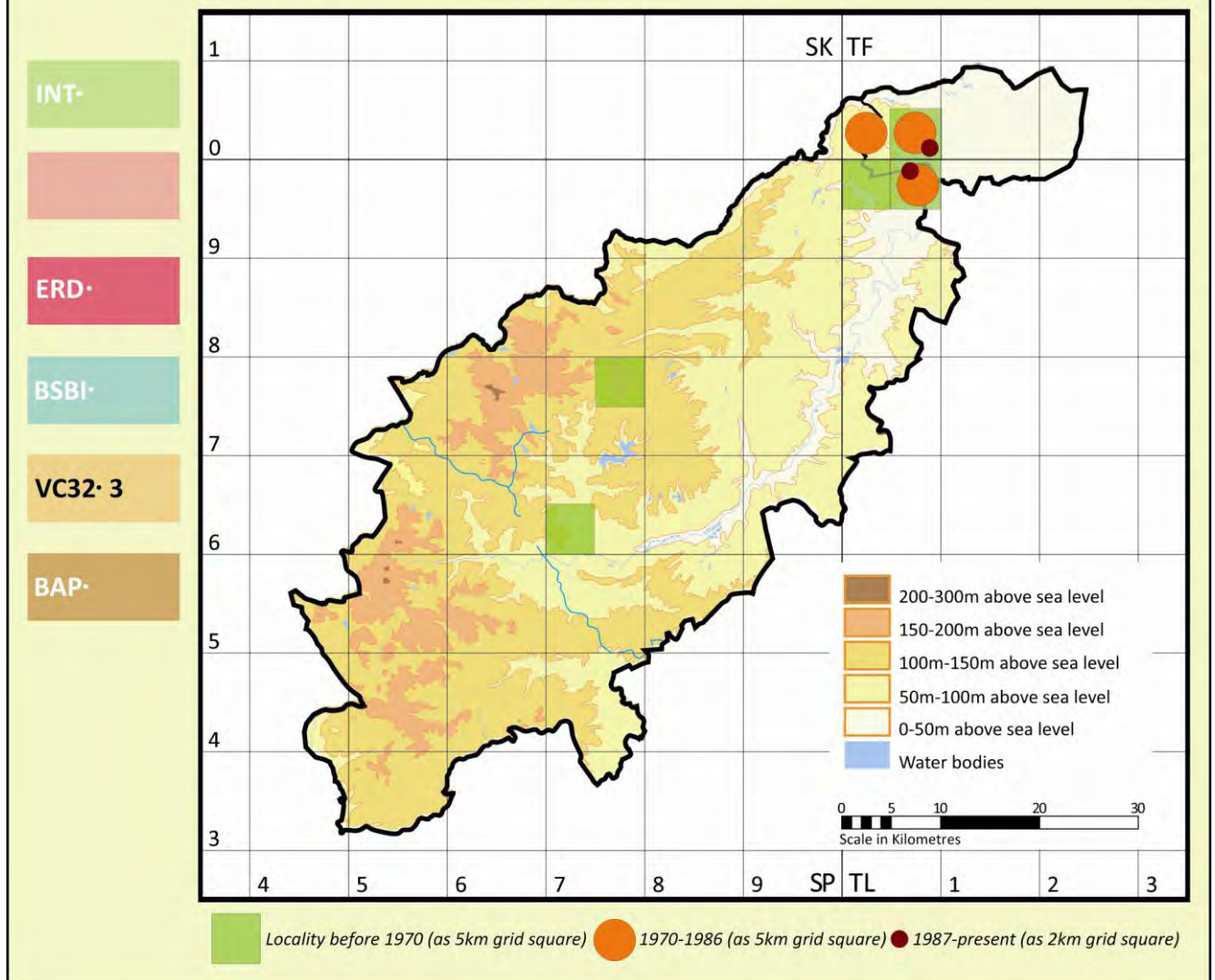
SP537376	Colready Plantation	N		1997	GG
SP565325	Croughton Airfield	N		2001	CC
SP85-35-	Evenley	N		2001	CC
SP946912	Lodge Farm, Deenethorpe	N		2008	BL
SP833652	Sywell Country Park	N		1988	GG
SP969985	Wakerley Spinney (near)	N		1997	PT/RW
TL070994	Wansford Pasture	S	SSSI/NR	2000	

As a weed of arable land this plant appears very sporadically in suitable habitats, often not being seen until after the field crop has been harvested. As such it is difficult to determine its true status but it was always a rare plant and now it is only ever found in very small numbers or as a single plant and never seemed to have any definable centres of population. With the increasing use of herbicides and the autumn planting of crops it must be assumed that this species is seriously threatened.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Anagallis tenella (L.)

Bog Pimpernel



Native

An evergreen perennial herb of base poor damp turf, bogs and marshy ground.

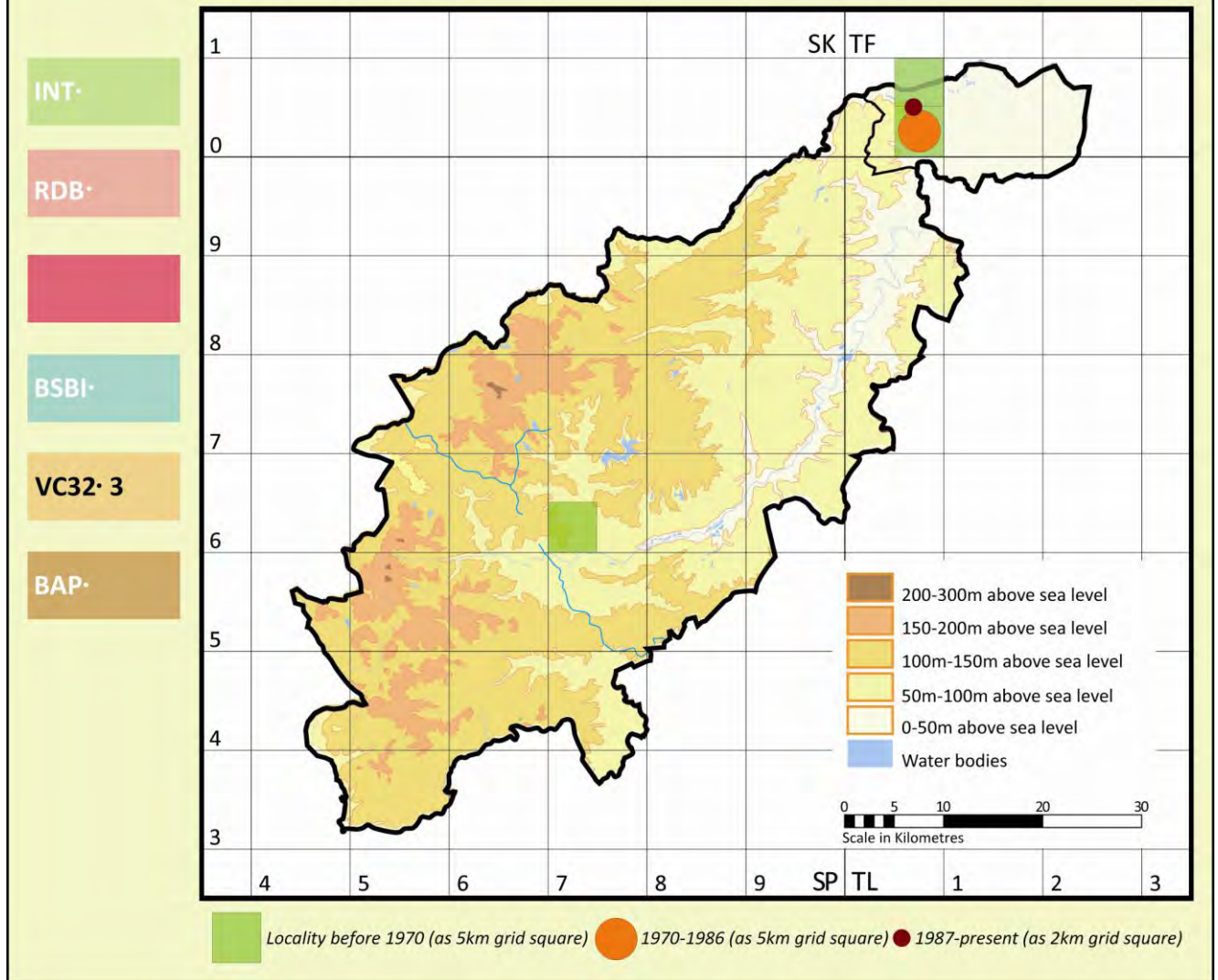
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2012	AFr
TL070994	Wansford Pasture	S	NR/SSSI	1998	PT

Always a rare plant in the vice-county, it has become increasingly so over the years. Around the end of the 19th century it was known at Foxhall, Harlestone Heath, King's Cliffe, Southorpe (probably Southorpe Mill Bog), Wittering (1880), Wansford, and Sutton Heath. It has long-disappeared from the first three named, it survived until 1957 at Southorpe until it was destroyed by 'agricultural improvements', it lasted at Wittering, near Bonemills Hollow, until 1965 when the site was destroyed by pigs that were kept in the field in which it was found and there is a record dating from 1954 of a sighting in Barnack Drift. Fortunately both the current sites are protected, giving it some hope of survival.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Antennaria dioica (L.) Gaertn.

Mountain Everlasting



Native

A perennial herb of basic or slightly acidic soils.

TF076047

Barnack Hills and Holes

S

SAC/SSSI/NNR

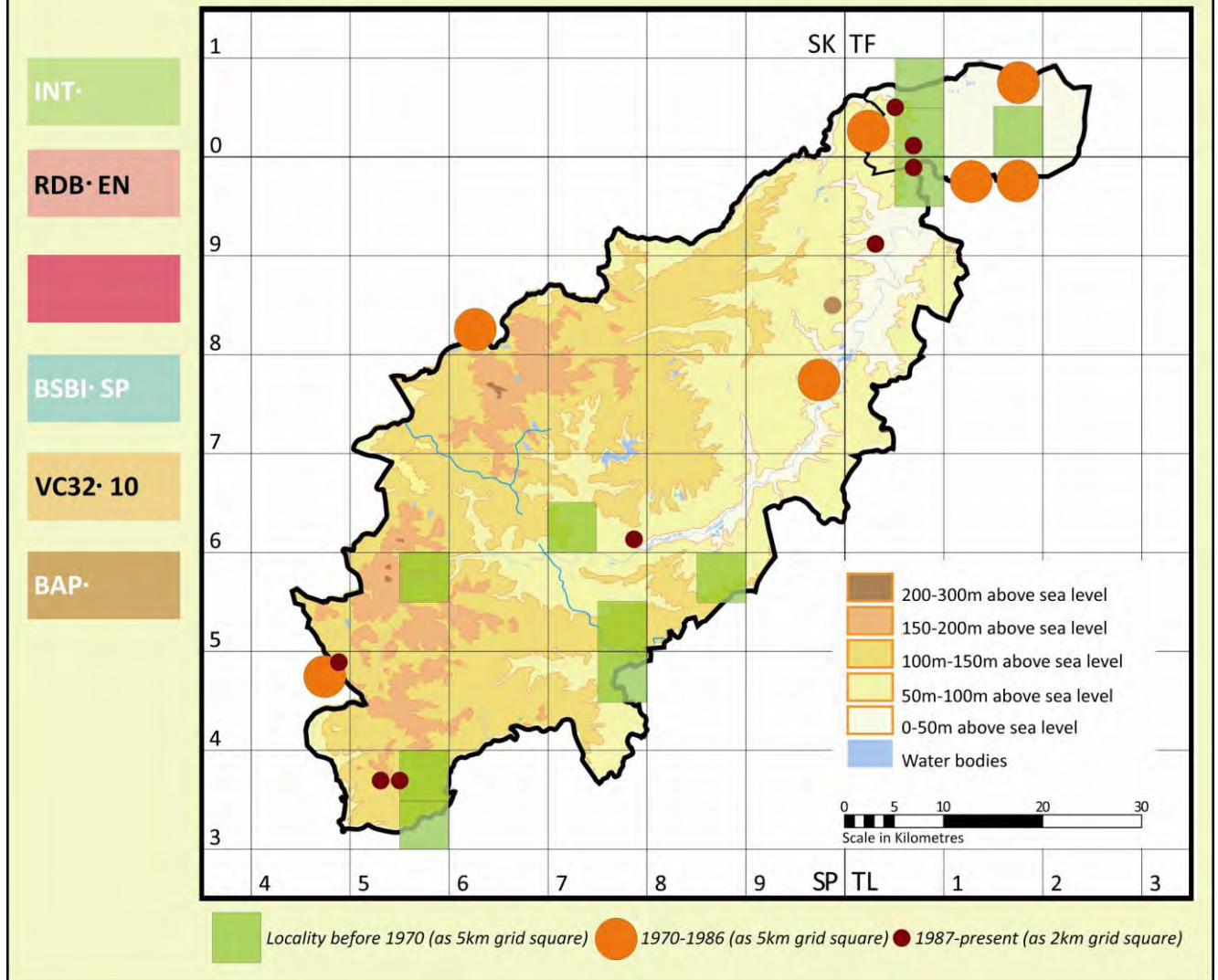
2010 BL

Known for many years at this ancient quarry in the north of the county, this is by some distance the most southerly site in eastern England. Although the plant is by no means prolific, it has been here recorded since 1871, and possibly earlier. Here a few dozen rosettes grow in *Brachypodium pinnatum* grassland. This solitary and small colony – in 1977 it was confined to a 15cm. square with three flowering spikes - is the only site in the east of England south of the River Derwent and east of the Peak National Park, and one of the rare sites away from the coast and uplands, but as this site is a National Nature Reserve and its population has remained stable for many years, as far as can be foreseen its future is secure.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Anthemris arvensis L.

Corn Chamomile



Archaeophyte.

An annual of light, calcareous soils on waste and arable land.

The Lyveden record, shown in a lighter tone, may be introduced with grass seed.

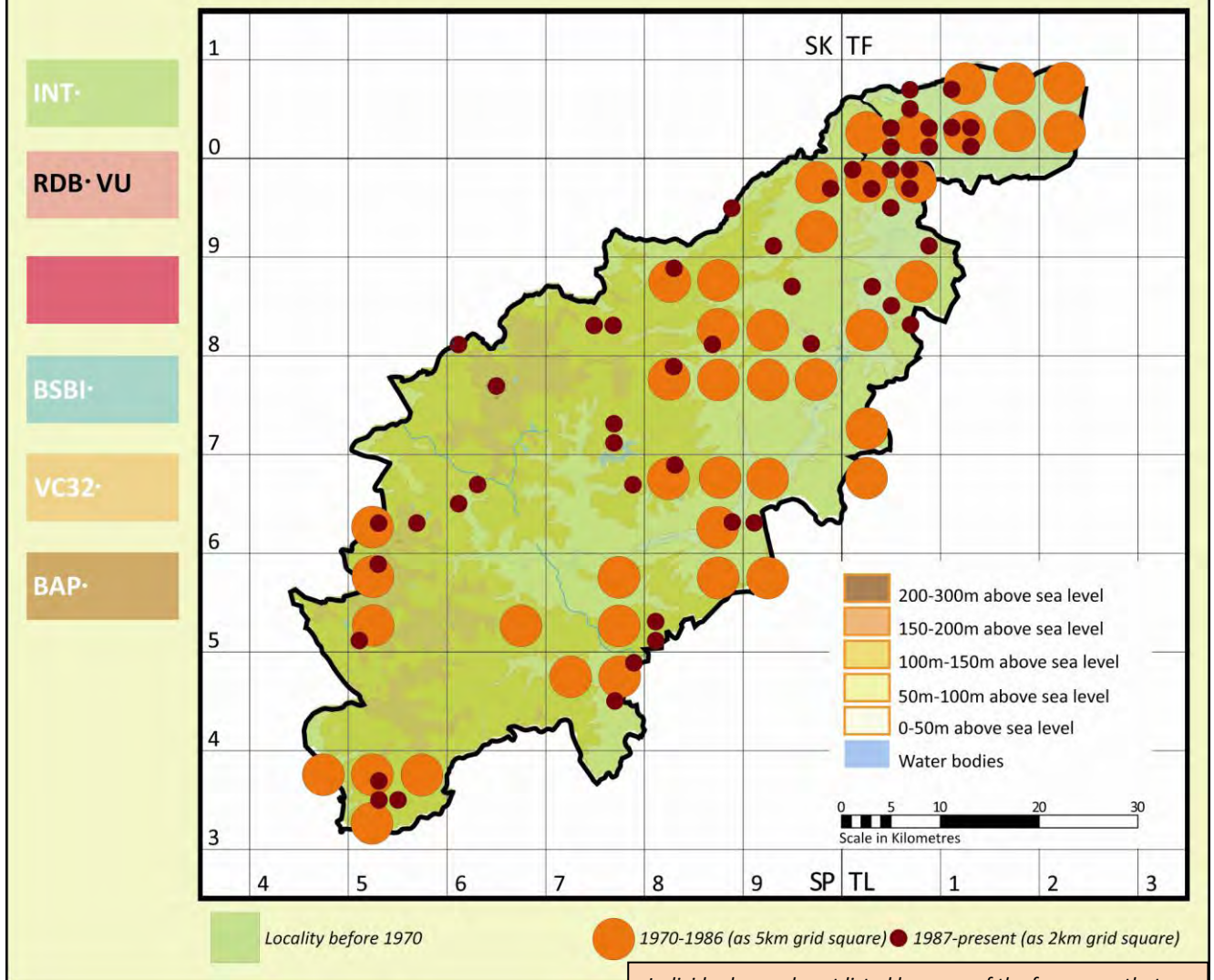
TF058047	Barnack, Ermine Street	S	2009	DB
SP495490	Chipping Warden (airfield)	N	1994	GG
SP540377	Colready Plantation (near)	N	1997	CC
SP984853	Lyveden New Bield	N	1998	-
TF078012	Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre Field 8	S	1999	TW/SW
SP791608	Weston Favell Mill	N	1995	TB
TL069977	Yarwell Allotments	N	2010	NC

Never a common species but the use of herbicides has caused a decrease in populations everywhere and it is now restricted to the limestone area in the north plus a few other localities on suitable soils. At Lyveden New Bield it may have been introduced with wildflower mixes in the adjoining fields.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Anthemis cotula L.

Stinking Chamomile



Individual records not listed because of the frequency that this species is found in VC32. Druce records only that the species is abundant and generally distributed, hence the overall background colour for pre 1970 records.

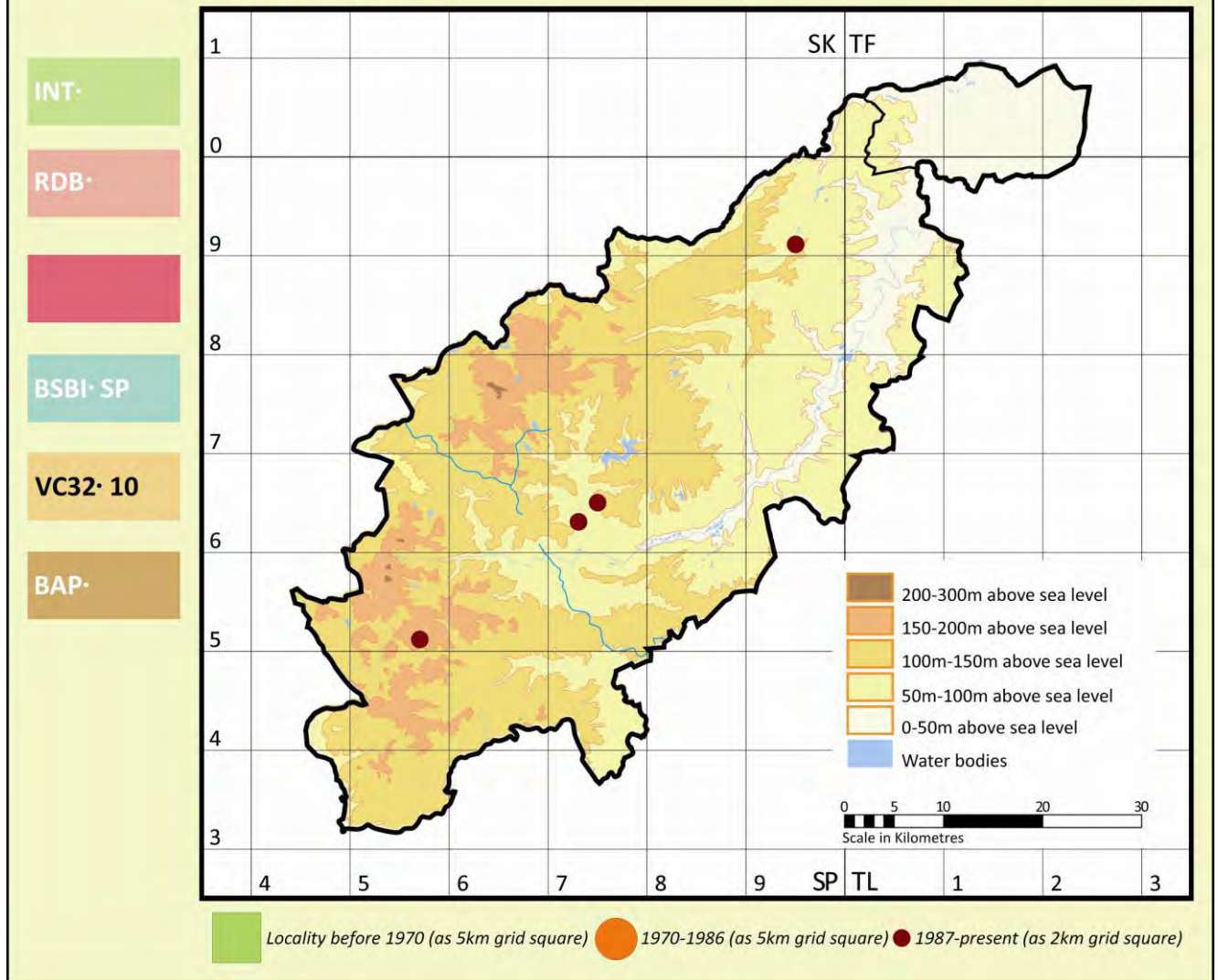
Archaeophyte.
An annual of rough or marginal ground on heavier soils.

Although a nationally rare species, the stinking chamomile is still found fairly frequently in Northamptonshire although it is decreasing owing to the use of herbicides. It was once described as *'abundant and generally distributed'* and while it can still be seen as an arable weed in arable fields it is now generally confined to the margins. It is absent from the acid soils in the west and must be considered as a decreasing species.

Druce: Abundant and generally distributed, Gent & Wilson 1995: Fairly frequent as a weed, Gent & Wilson 2013: Occasional.

Aphanes australis Rydb.

Slender Parsley-piert



Native

An annual of acidic, sandy or gravelly soils.

No early records as this species was unknown in VC32 until 1987.

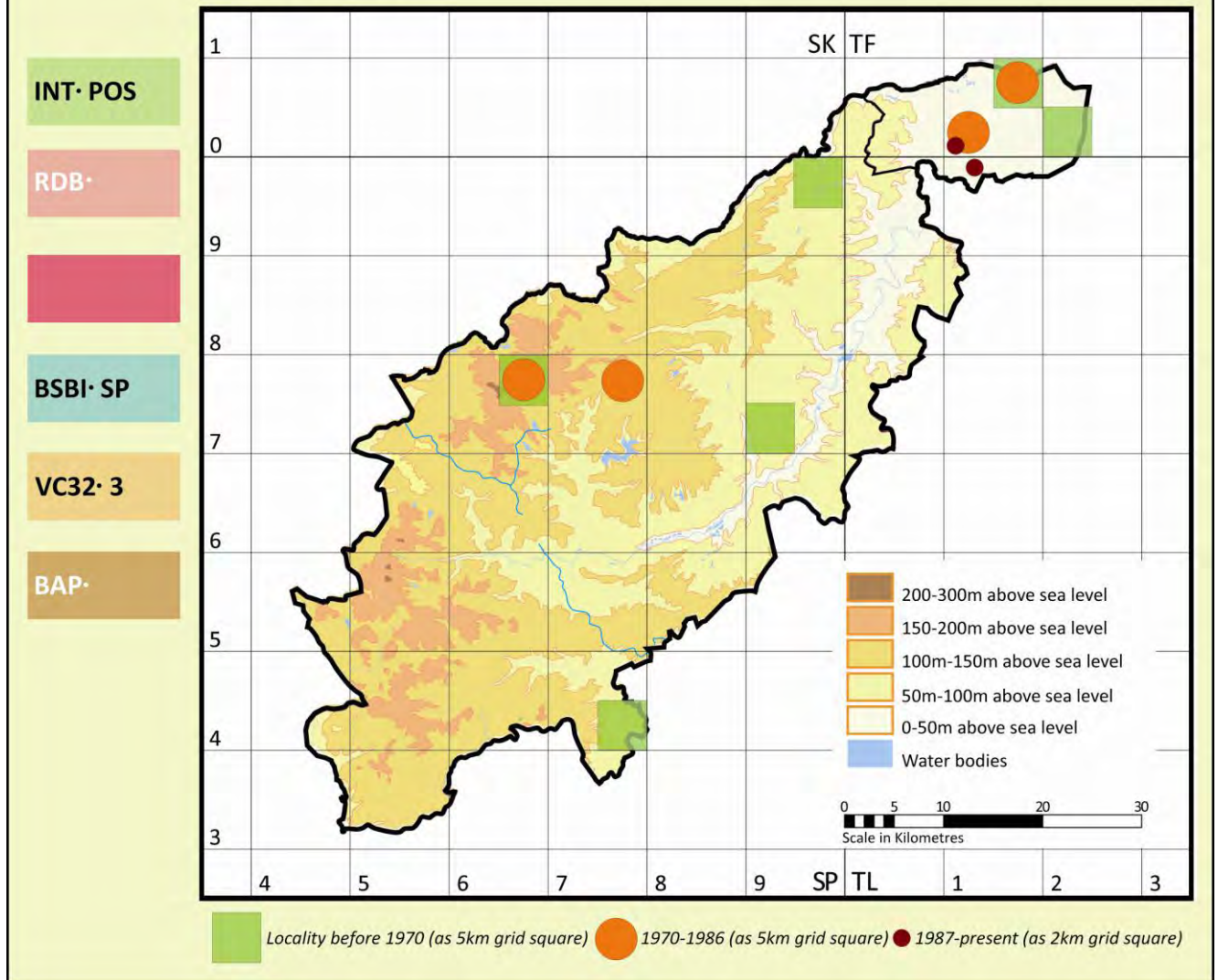
SP860593	Canon's Ashby	N	1987	-
SP722631	Dallington Heath	N	2008	BL
SP751646	Kingsthorpe Cemetary	N	2008	BL
SP946912	Lodge Farm, Deenethorpe	N	2008	BL

There are very few records for this species and those are well scattered across the vice-county. It is generally found instead of *A. arvensis* on poorer soils, and is extremely rare in a band across the Midlands through Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. It had only been recorded at a single site, at Canons Ashby (1987) in the county until 2008 but in that year it was found at three new sites, probably due to better recording than to an increase in sites. Some earlier records of *A. arvensis* may be attributable to this species.

Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Apium inundatum (L.) Rchb.f.

Lesser Marshwort



Native

A species of shallow water bodies or lake and pond margins that are subject to periodic drying out.

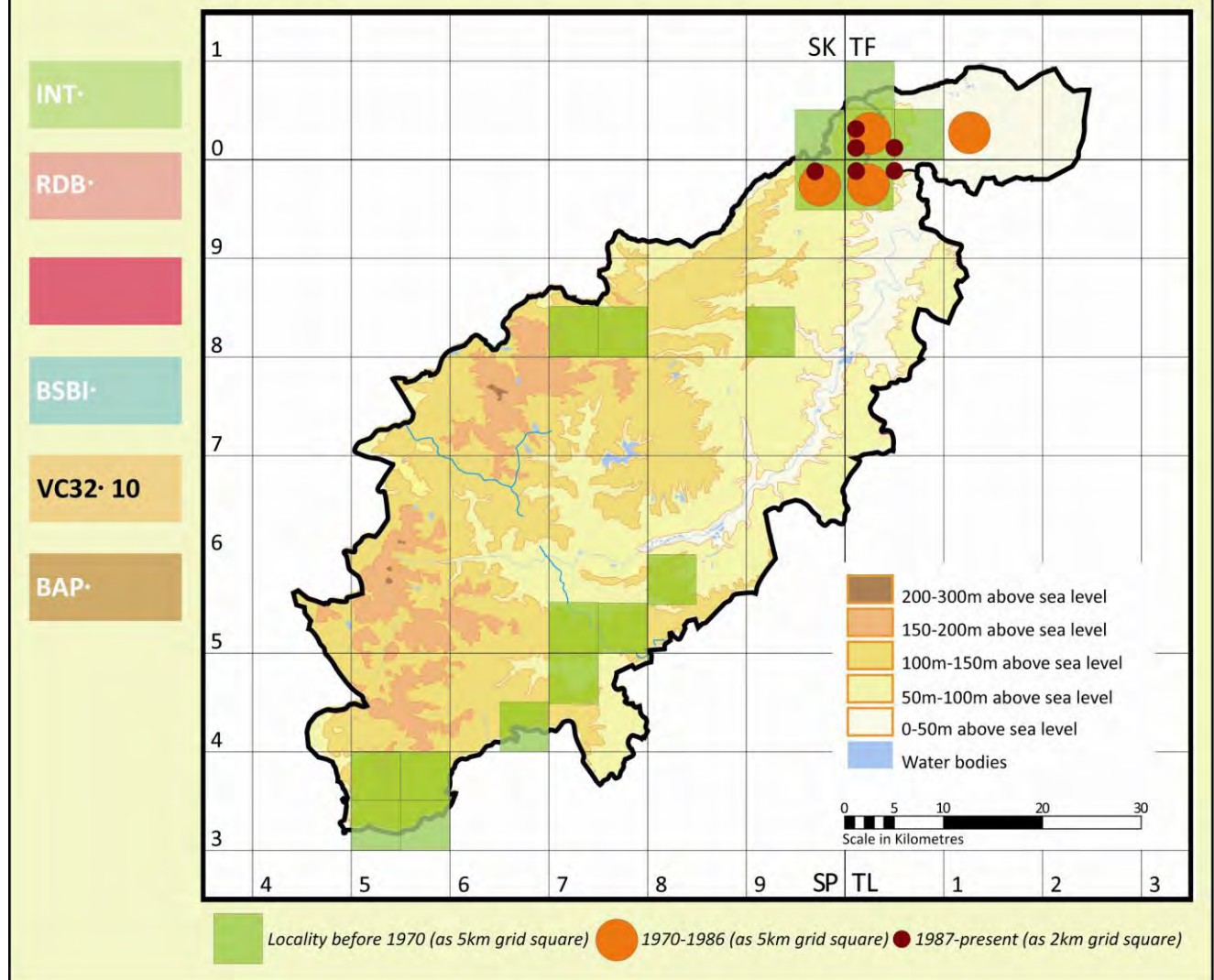
TF123981	Castor (ditch, near)	S		1994	JBi/TBi
TF115015	Castor Hanglands (pond)	S	NNR/SSSI	1994	JBi/TBi

A declining species nationally that has never been less common than it is at present in this area. Until the Second World war the number of sites seems to have remained consistent and during the third quarter of the 20th century it was still at Castor Hanglands (where it may still be present although it has not been seen for over a decade), Naseby Reservoir and Peakirk where it has been present from since 1911. Unfortunately in recent years the number of sites has seriously declined and it has recently only been seen in the Castor Hanglands area. Never common in this area it should be considered to be under threat as ditches are often poorly maintained although it should have an assured future at Castor Hanglands.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare..

Aquilegia vulgaris L.

Columbine



Native

A perennial of open woods and scrub on calcareous soils over limestone.

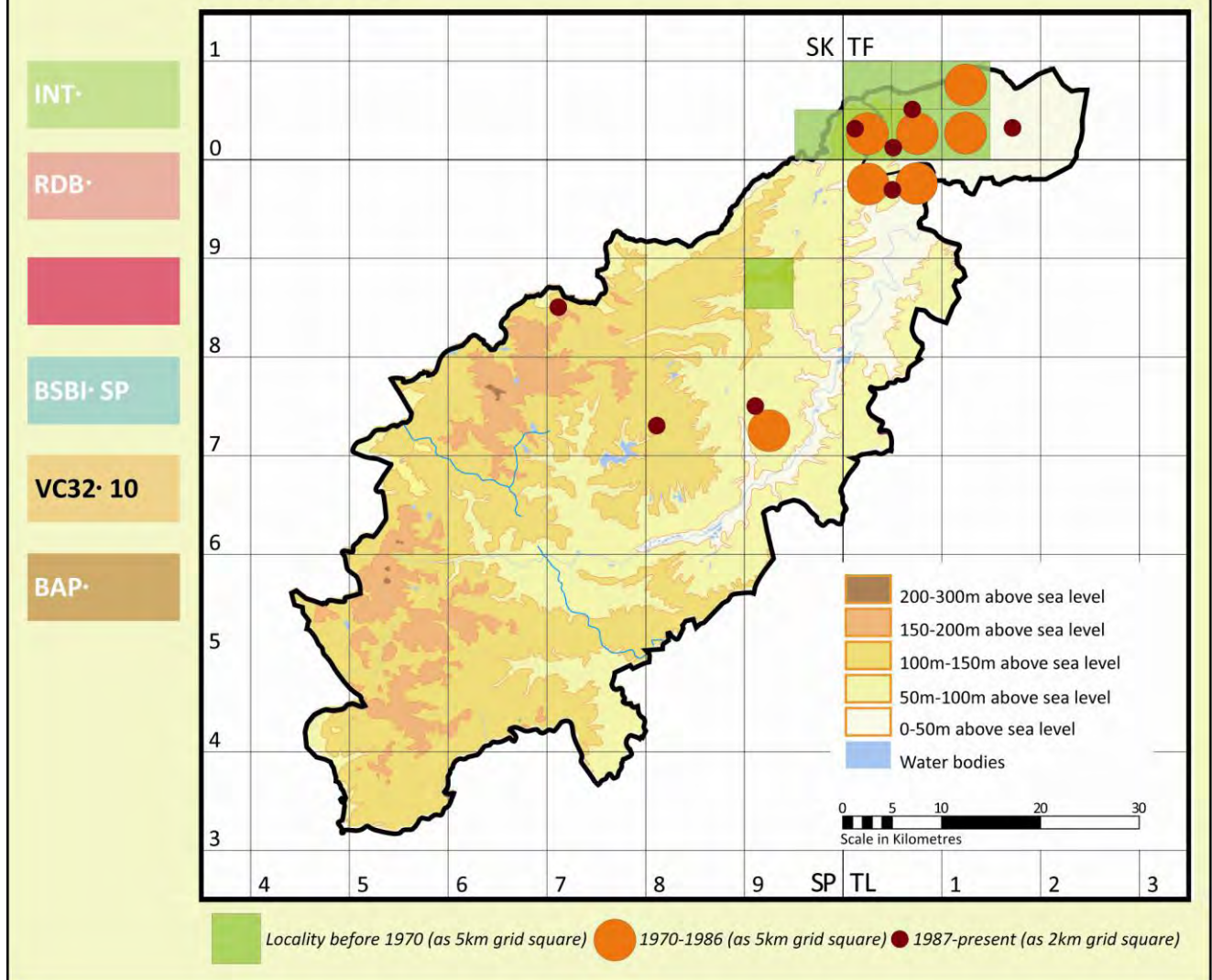
TF042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2012	AFr
TF04-01-	Bonemills Hollow Road Verge	S		2011	SR/CTu
TF013005	Collyweston Great Wood & Easton Hornstocks	S	SSSI/NNR	2008	DH
SP984986	Fineshade Woods	N		2002	NWT
TF10-02-	Southey Wood	S		2012	WT
SP960980	Wakerley Woods	N		2009	JS/GF

Records for the species are rapidly increasing, but this is solely due to its popularity as a cottage garden plant. It is now seen as a solitary escape, in a variety of cultivar colours and forms, growing in cracks in pavements close to gardens in most villages. It is also a popular churchyard plant. 120 years ago the situation was somewhat different and almost all of the two dozen records from this era are undoubtedly the blue or white flowered native plants in ancient woodland, especially those on the limestone in the north. It is still found in the localities of old records at Bedford Purlieus, Collyweston Great Wood, Easton Hornstocks and Fineshade Wood, where it has been known since the middle of the 19th century, while in the same area it is now known at nearby Wakerley Great Wood. Two centuries ago these woodlands, with the exception of the latter, formed a single block of forest, implying that in the north at least this species was essentially confined to a single site. Some records such as from Newbottle Spinney in the south have been considered to be native recently but this may be an error, therefore this record is not now included here. This also applies to some records from the north of the vice-county.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Arabis hirsuta (L.) Scop.

Hairy Rock-cress



Native

A perennial of dry, sunny and bare grassland especially over chalk and limestone.

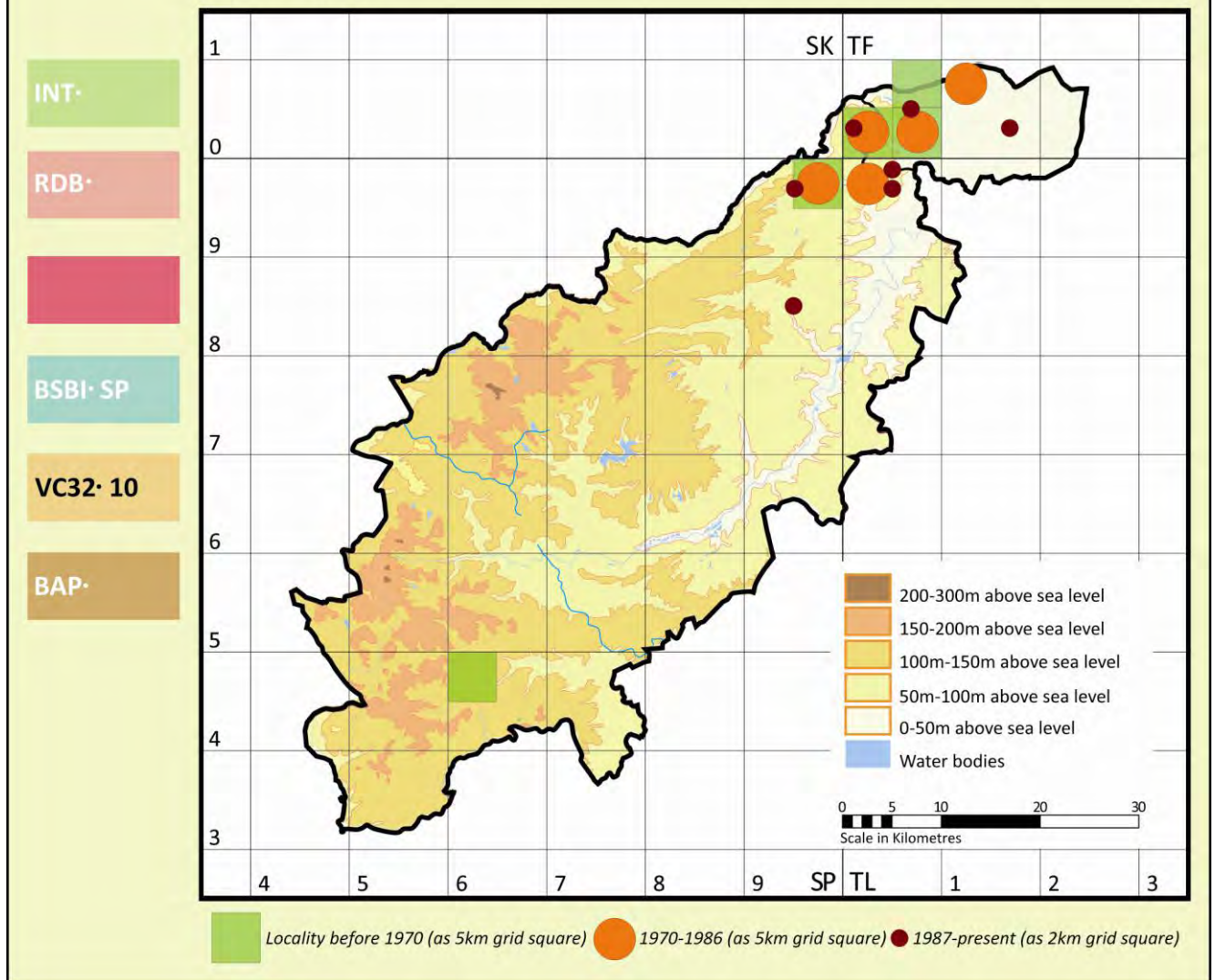
TF076047	Barnack Hills and Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	2004	DB
SP90-74-	Burton Wold	N		2011	RW
TF004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	NR/SSSI	2009	BL
SP70-84-	East Farndon	N		2009	RW
TL04-96-	Old Sulehay (Ring Haw)	N	NR/SSSI	2009	NC
TL055973	Old Sulehay (Sammocks Hill)	N	NR/SSSI	2007	NO
TF05-00-	Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre, Mill House	S		1999	TW/SE
SP80-72-	Walgrave	N		2008	RW
TF16-02-	Werrington	S		2010	JS/GF

Although this species is less common than formerly, it has almost always been confined to the limestone area in the extreme north with very few records ever being recorded away from there. Although there are a few more records from the centre of Northamptonshire, the retreat of the species in the north is clearly seen.

Druce: Local and rather uncommon, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Asperula cynanchia ssp. cynanchia L.

Squinancywort



Native

A perennial herb of shallow, dry calcareous grassland.

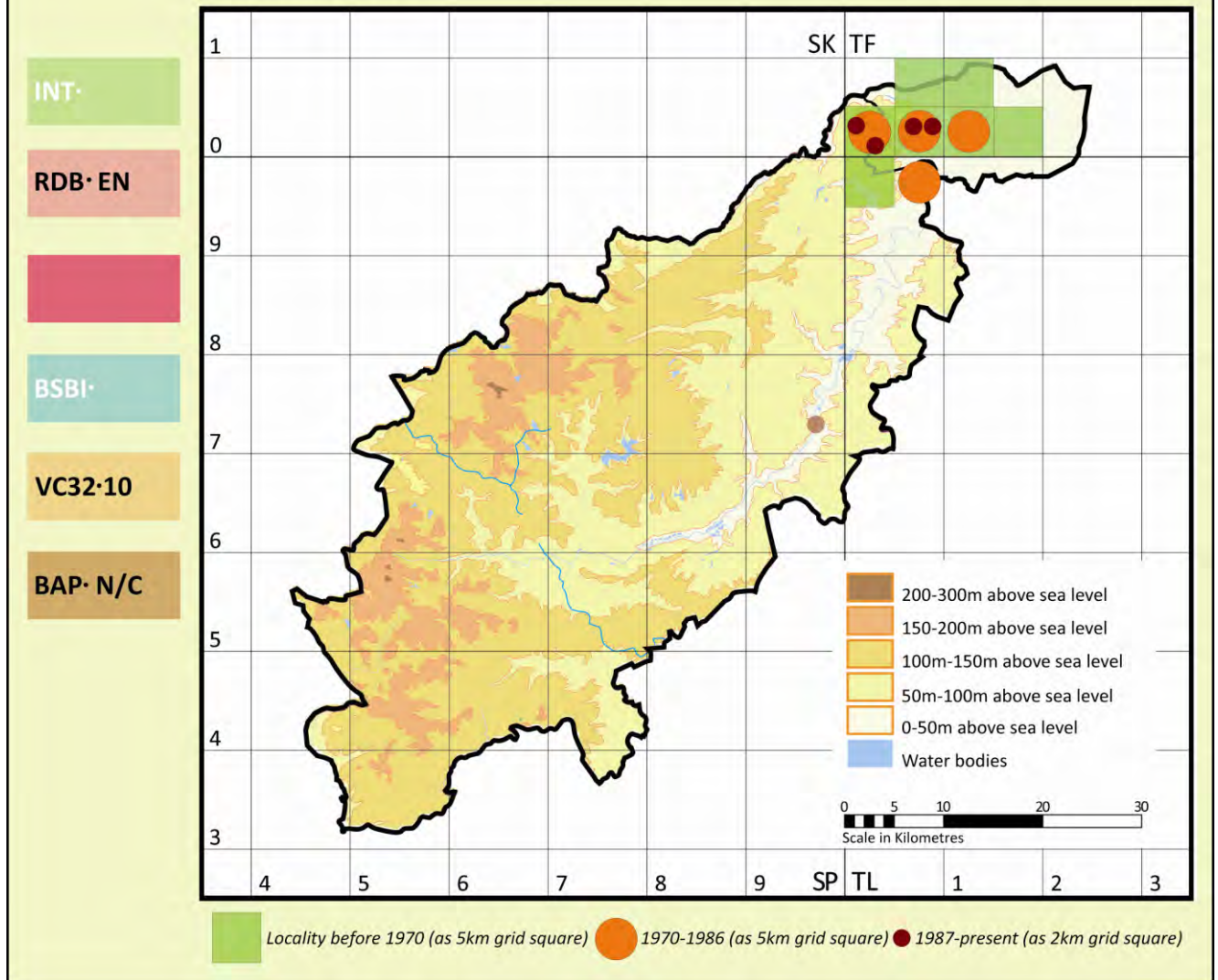
TF076047	Barnack Hills & Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	2009	DB
TF041995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2002	EN
TF004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	NR/SSSI	2006	GG
SP954850	Fermyn Woods Country Park	N		2009	TB
TL043969	Little Moreton Sale Quarry	N		2010	TB
TL054973	Old Sulehay (Sammocks Hill West)	N	NR/SSSI	2004	GG
SP941979	Spanhoe Airfield	N		2010	PC
TF16-02-	Werrington	S		2010	JS/GF

This species is now restricted to seven sites, on the limestone at the northern end of the county and in the Soke of Peterborough. At Spanhoe airfield it grows mixed with other county rarities, fortunately just beyond the boundary of the area threatened by quarrying. Records beyond the core area in the north are probably due to better recording rather than any spread of the species although suitable new habitats have been created in the many former quarries in the north.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Astragalus danicus Retz.

Purple Milk-vetch



Native

A perennial of short grass on calcareous soils.

Because of its possibly doubtful status the Mallows Cotton record are shown in a lighter colour.

TF076047	Barnack Hills and Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	2007	DB
TF038013	Bonemills Hollow	S	SSSI	-	HS
TF004034	Collyweston Quarries	N	SSSI/NR	2012	AFr
SP972725	Mallows Cotton Lakes	N		2003	TWa
TF084021	Southorpe Paddock	S	SSSI/NR	2003	PE
TF073031	Southorpe Roughs	S	SSSI	2008	BL

Never common, this species has always been confined to a relatively few sites in the Soke of Peterborough and the extreme north of Northamptonshire. It is still found at some of the general localities where it was recorded about 100 years ago. At Mallows Cotton Lakes it is well south of the core area and has never been recorded away from the extreme north and it may be a planted species. It has recently been introduced in seed mixtures for roadside planting but without proper maintenance it is unlikely to survive.

Druce: Locally abundant, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

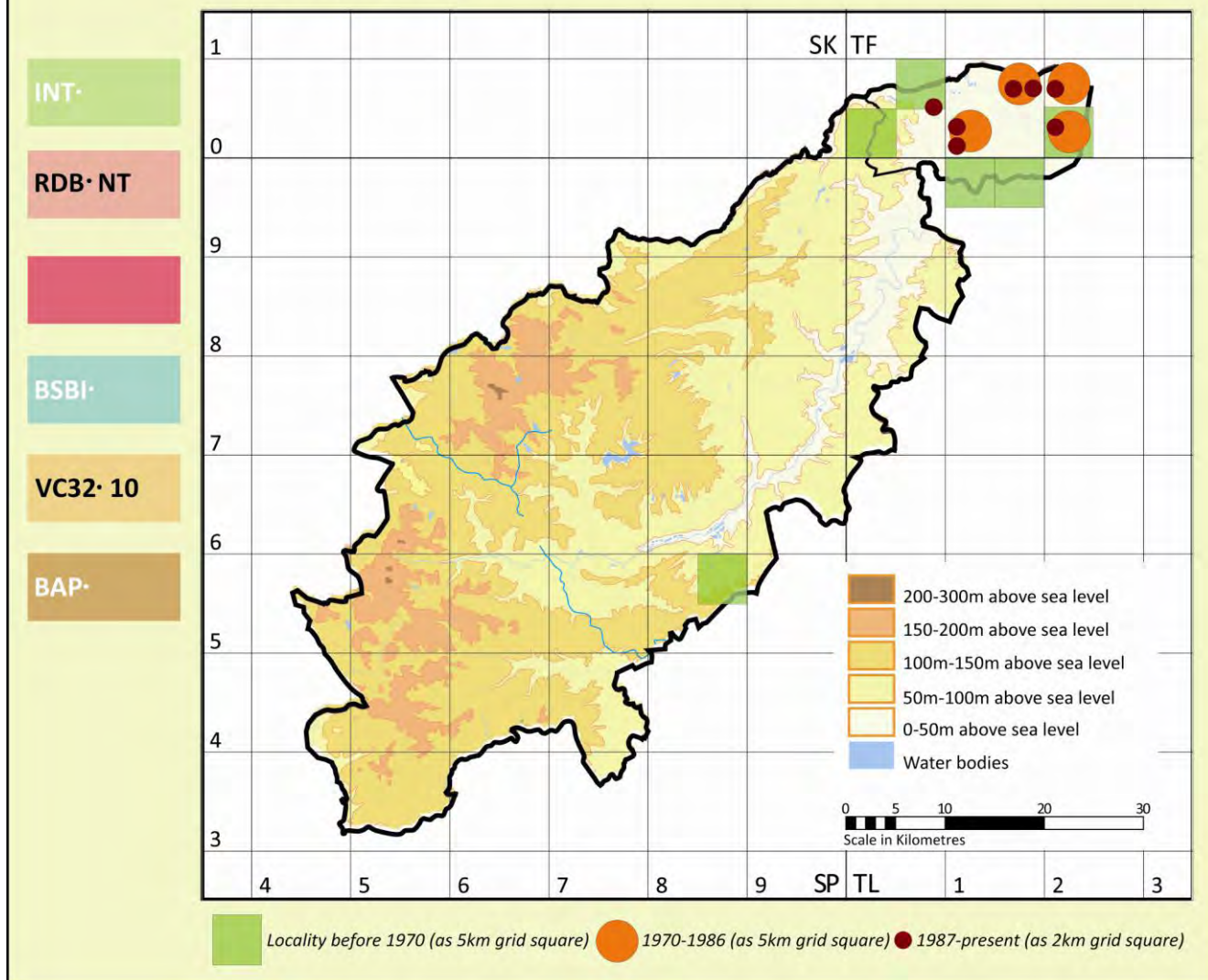


Purple milk-vetch at Collyweston Quarries.

Gill Gent

Baldellia ranunculoides ssp. ranunculoides (L.) Parl.

Lesser Water-plantain



Native

A perennial herb of water's edge habitats where competition is suppressed by variable waterlevels.

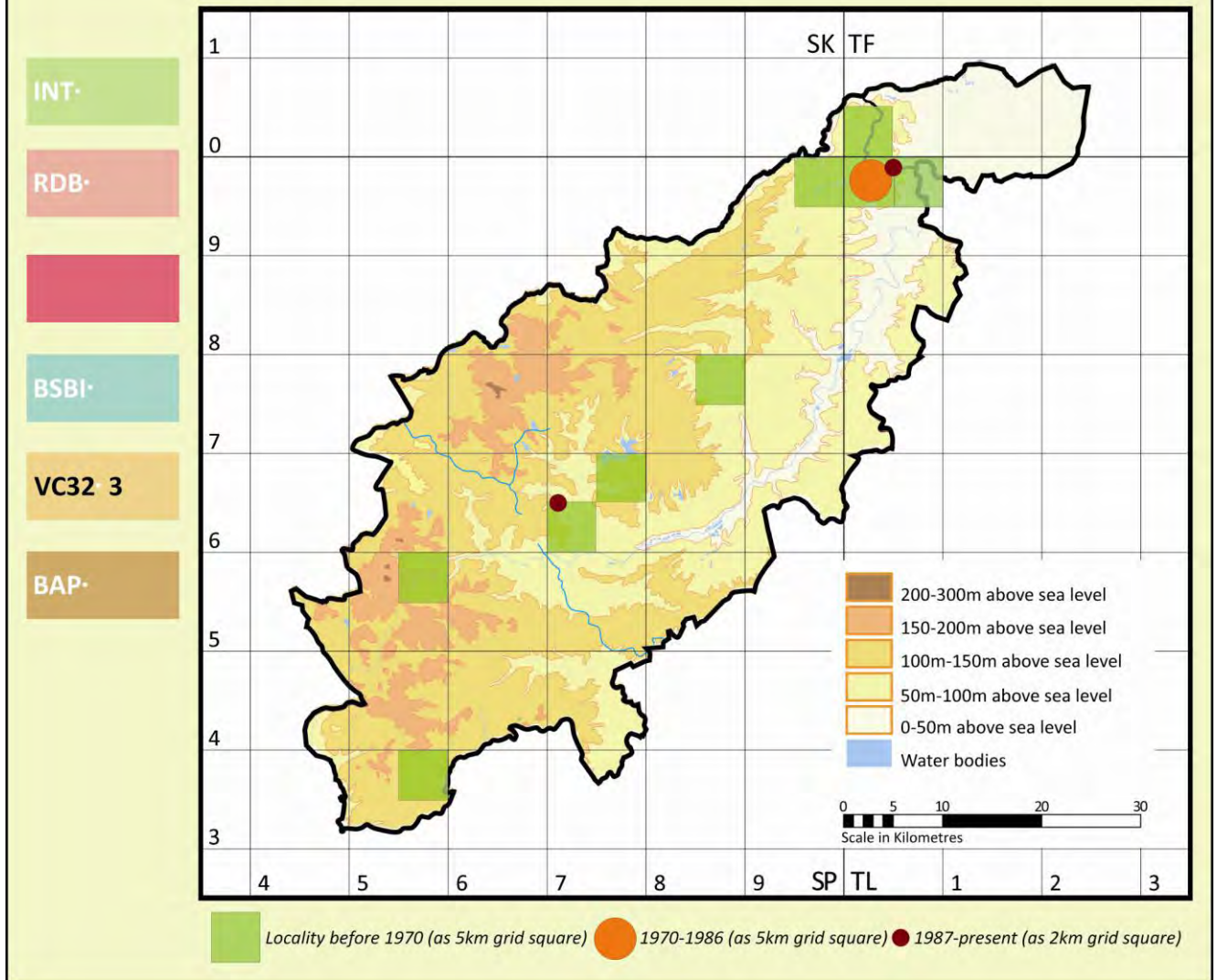
TF176072	Asholt Drain, Newborough	S		1993	WT
TF195064	Highland Drain	S		1993	WT
TF202063	Highland Drain	S		1993	WT
TF093057	Bainton Conservation Area	S		2013	PS
TF115015	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2008	DH
TF212026	Dogsthorpe Star Pit	S	SSSI	2000	PP
TF195064	Newborough Fen	S		1993	AG/GG

This has never been common and with the exception of some 19th century records from the Yardley Hastings – Castle Ashby area (1886-1889) it was always confined to the Soke of Peterborough. It is no longer to be found at the sites of some old records such as Helpston Heath, Borough Fen and Peakirk, but it seems to be reasonably well established at the few sites where it can still be found. It has been recorded regularly at Dogsthorpe Star Pit, Peterborough for well over 20 years, and even longer at Newborough Fen, where it grew until 1975 in the drain beside Guntons Road, and has since then been recorded in the nearby Catchwater Drain and Bainton Conservation area. In 2008 it was recorded at Castor Hanglands, where it had not been seen for many years.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Blechnum spicant (L.) Roth

Hard-ferrn



Native

A fern of damp, peaty heathland and woodland

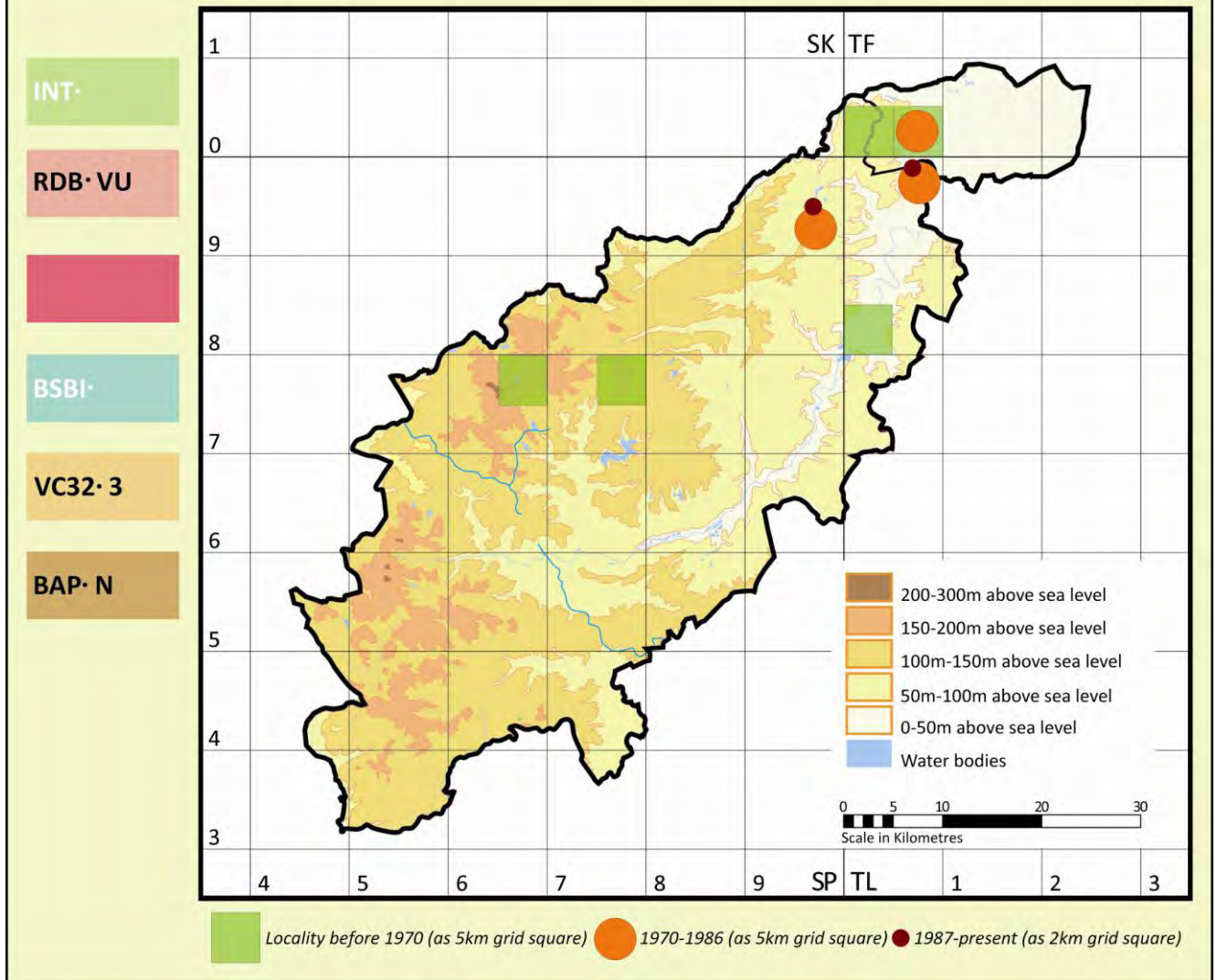
TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2008	DB
SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N		2010	RW

Although it was at one time known from a number of localities, it had been reduced to just one, Bedford Purlieus, until it was recently re-discovered at Harlestone Firs, one of the very few remaining areas of suitable habitat in the county, in 1989. Although it has a reduced distribution, it is probably reasonably secure although it is only found in small numbers which is a cause for concern.

Druce: Very local and rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Blysmus compressus (L.) Panz. ex Link

Flat Sedge



Native

A perennial of fen, marsh and calcareous flushes in marshy fields cut for hay and then aftermath grazed.

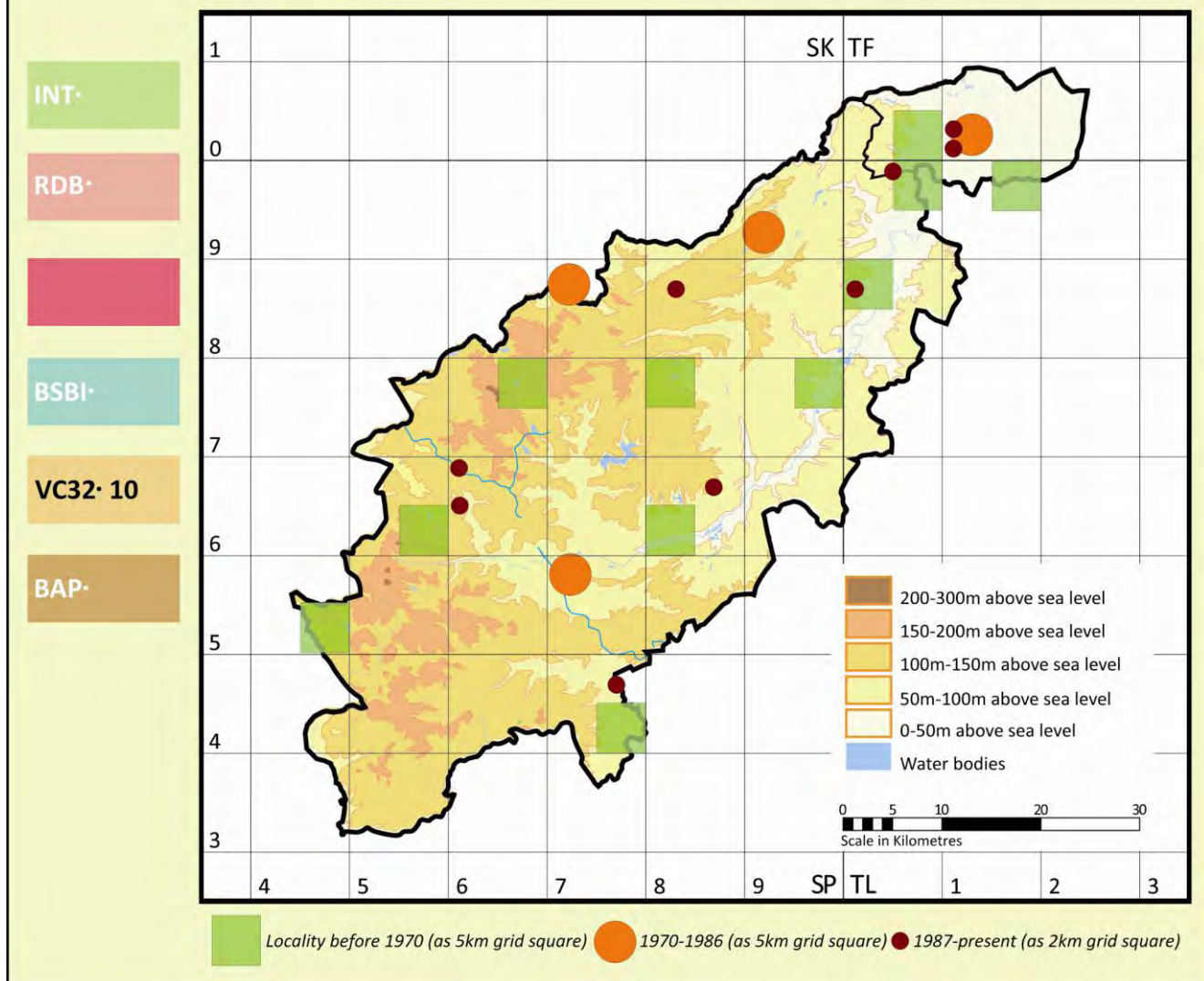
SP961944	Bulwick Meadows	N	SSSI	1997	PT/PC/RW
TL070994	Wansford Pasture	S	NR/SSSI	1989	NWT

One of the rarer sedges that was only recorded in five localities before 1930: Foxhall Bog (1878), Naseby, Sutton Heath, Wadenhoe (1908), and Wittering. Since then it has disappeared from most of these sites, and it is only presently found at Bulwick Meadows and in a wet limestone flush at Wansford Pasture, which may be the same locality as the original Wadenhoe record. Hopefully the status of the sites will afford the two colonies some protection.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Bromus racemosus L.

Smooth Brome



Native

An annual of unimproved hay meadows and flood meadows, rough grassland etc.

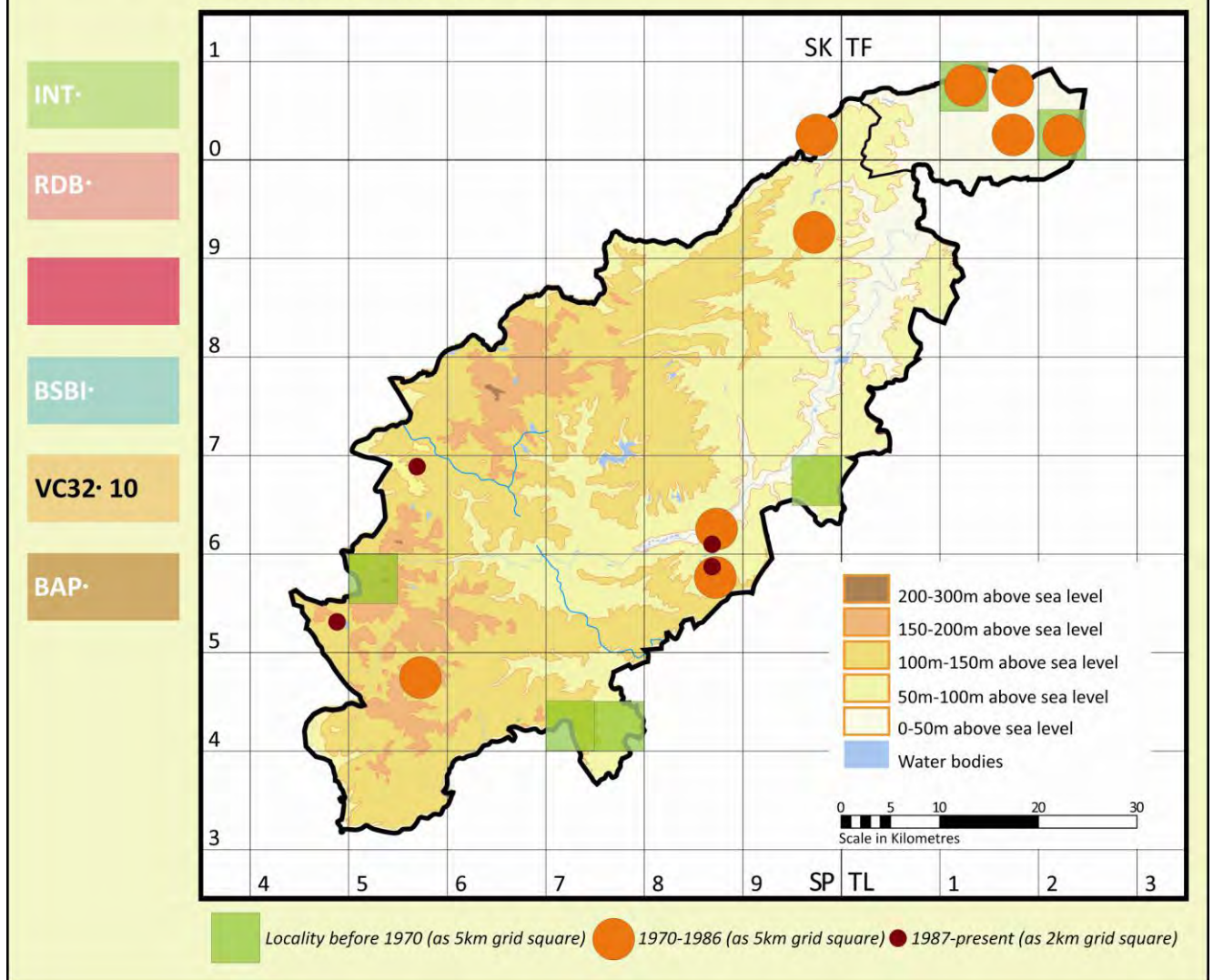
TL039989	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	1996	BSBI
TF10-00-	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	1997	
SP765466	Grafton Regis Meadow	N	NR	1996	AR
SP878667	Hampton Brook Lake	N		2003	
SP600659	Norton Junction	N		2008	GG
TF01-87-	Oundle Wood	N		1994	FP
TF11-03-	Swaddywell Pit	S	NR	2009	LF/SL/CM
SP605681	Weedon Lodge Meadow	N		2008	NH/HB

Never a common species, before 1930 it was only known at a dozen localities – Boddington, Borough Hill, Cransley, Grendon, Islip (1867), Longthorpe, Naseby (1898), Old Stratford, Oundle, Wittering (1889), Yardley Hastings (1891) and Wansford (1902). The next records are from Croughton (1943), Warmington (1954). A species that must be declining in distribution as suitable habitats disappear, in spite of an increase in records which is probably due to better recording. Always a rare species, it may in due course become extremely rare.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare but may become extremely rare.

Callitriche brutia ssp. hamulata (Kütz. Ex W.D.J. Koch) O. Bolòs Vigo

Intermediate Water-starwort



Native

A perennial of deep still, fast or slow-flowing water in ponds, dykes and rivers.

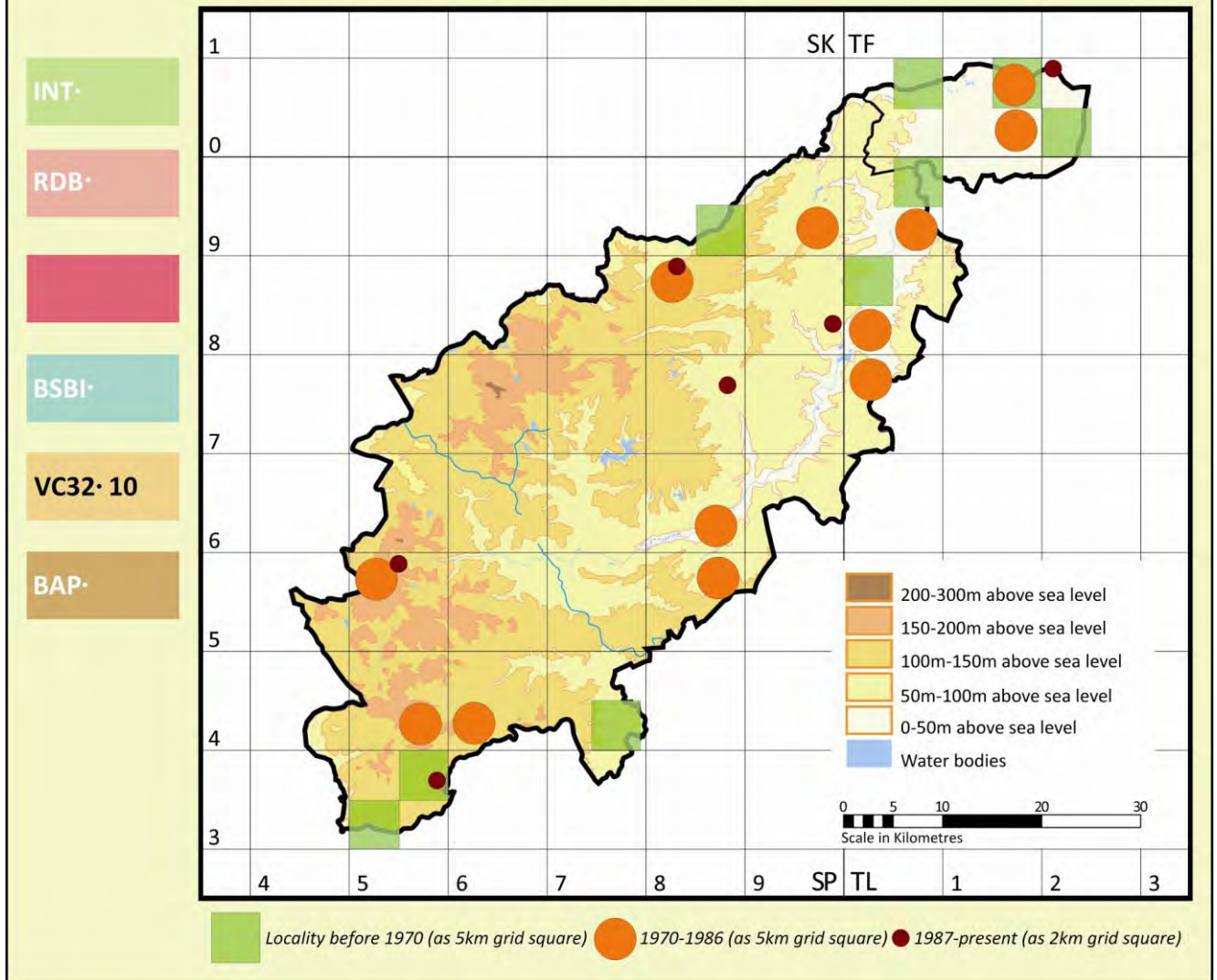
SP867590	Castle Ashby Menagerie Pond	N	1987	GG/GC
SP864617	Earl's Barton	N	1997	GG
SP565696	Kilsby Landfill Site	N	1992	LM
SP495535	Old Brook	N	1997	NWT

First seen in 1874 and over the next 50 or so years it was recorded at half a dozen further localities. It has not survived at any of these sites although it may be overlooked as it often grows with other species of the same genus and it is still, in some instances, to be found in the same general area.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Callitriche obtusangula Le Gall

Blunt-fruited Water-starwort



Native.

A perennial herb of ponds, ditches, streams etc. containing medium to excessive nutrients.

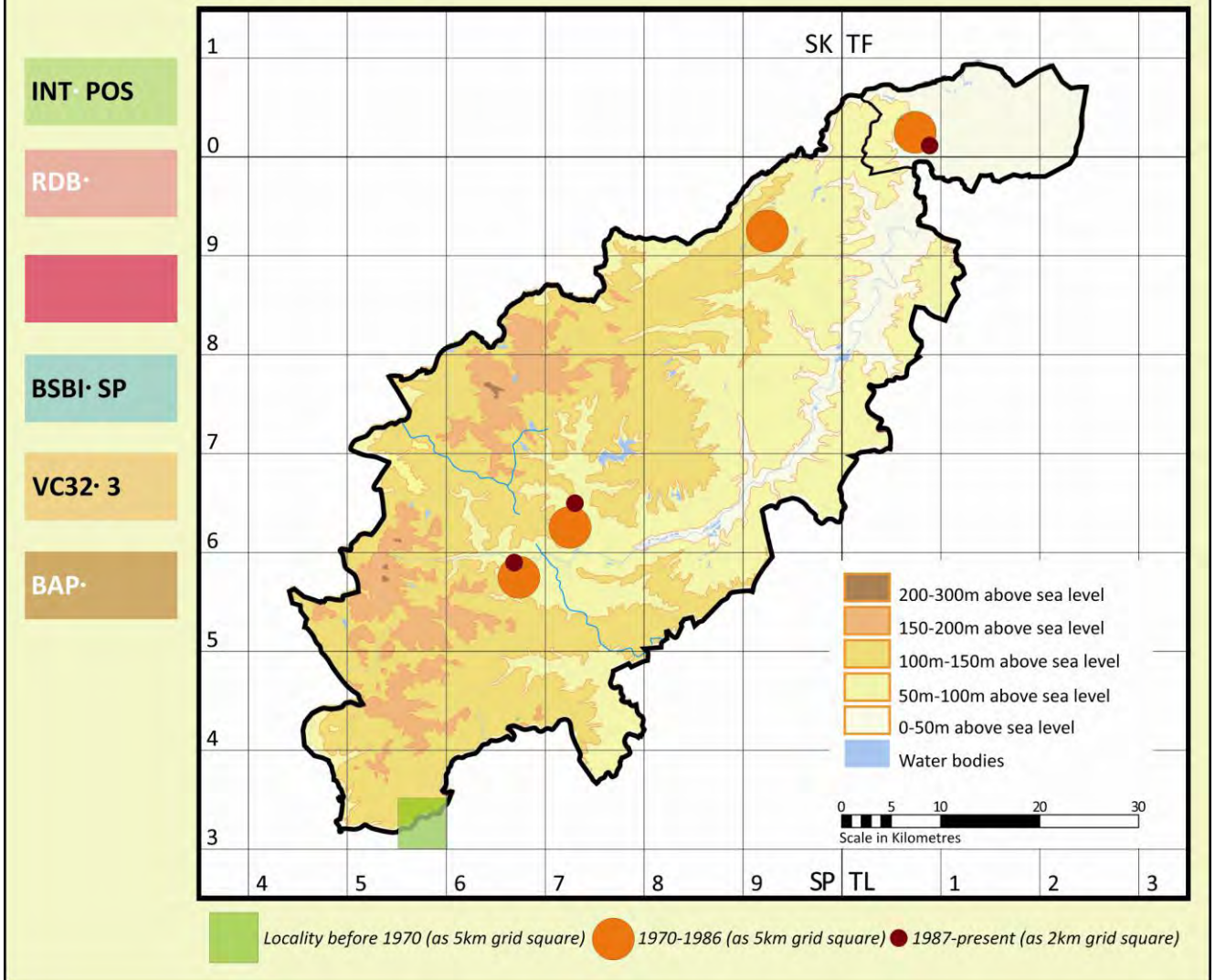
SP89-77-	Alledge Brook	N	1991	GG
SP546588	Badby (pond)	N	1987	TB
TF200080	Borough Fen Duck Decoy	N	1994	
SP58-36-	Brackley By-pass	N	2010	PH
SP580367	Brackley Pocket Park	N	2009	TB
SP984831	Green Side Wood	N	1994	WT
SP838881	New Coppice/Middleton Bridleway	N	1988	BC/MC

Early records only show about one dozen sites, predominantly in the north and the south of the county. Most recently it has been recorded at a number of sites including the Great Ouse (1974), River Avon (1980), River Tove (1981), in a pond at Badby (1987), Nassington (1984), East Carlton (1988), the Alledge Brook (1991), at Green Side Wood (1994), Borough Fen Duck Decoy (1994) in the north and in a ditch at Brackley Pocket Park in the south in 2009. Although it is still to be found in the same general areas as in earlier times, the number of sites within these localities are diminishing, giving concern for the long-term future of this species.

Druce: Locally common. Gent & Wilson 1995: Occasional. Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare

Carex binervis Sm.

Green-ribbed Sedge



Native

A perennial of both wet and dry acid grassland.

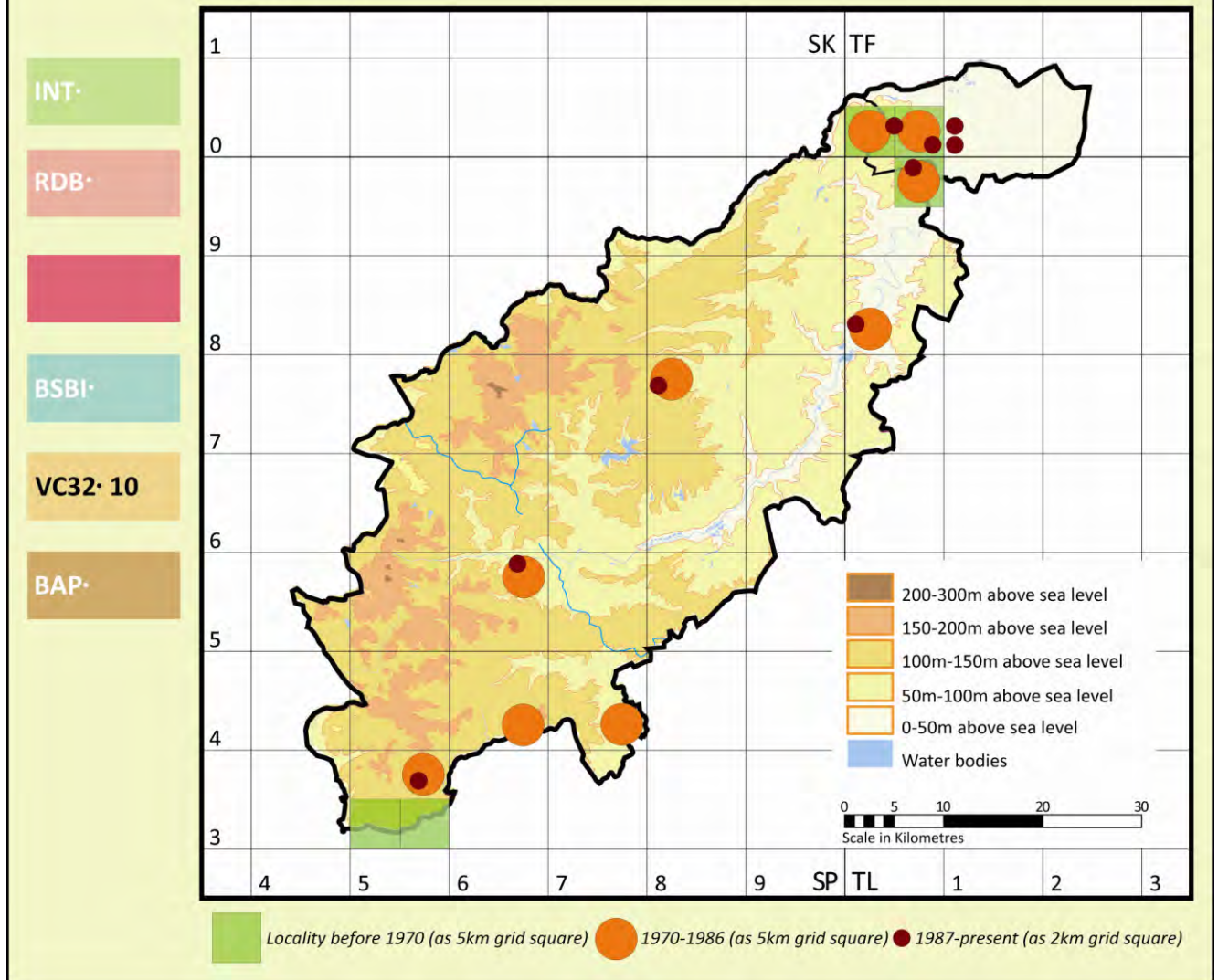
SP672586	Bugbrooke Meadow	N	SSSI/NR		
SP721647	Harlestone Heath	N	NR	1990	LM
TF088001	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2006	PS

Always extremely rare, it was first recorded in 1889 at Evenley Camp where it may have survived until the second half of the 20th century. It was during this latter period that a number of new records were made in Southorpe (1959), SP76 - possibly Harlestone Heath - (1971), SP99 (1974), Barnack Mill and Sutton Heath and Bog (both 1976) and SP87 (1979). There are also undated records from Ailsworth Heath, Bugbrooke Meadow, Harlestone Heath, Southey Wood, Ufford and Wittering Marsh. Today it has disappeared from all of these except Bugbrooke Meadow, Harlestone Heath and Sutton Heath and Bog. It is to be hoped that the status of all these sites will offer this species some protection.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Carex distans L.

Distant Sedge



Native

A perennial of wet meadows and marshes on mineral rich soils.

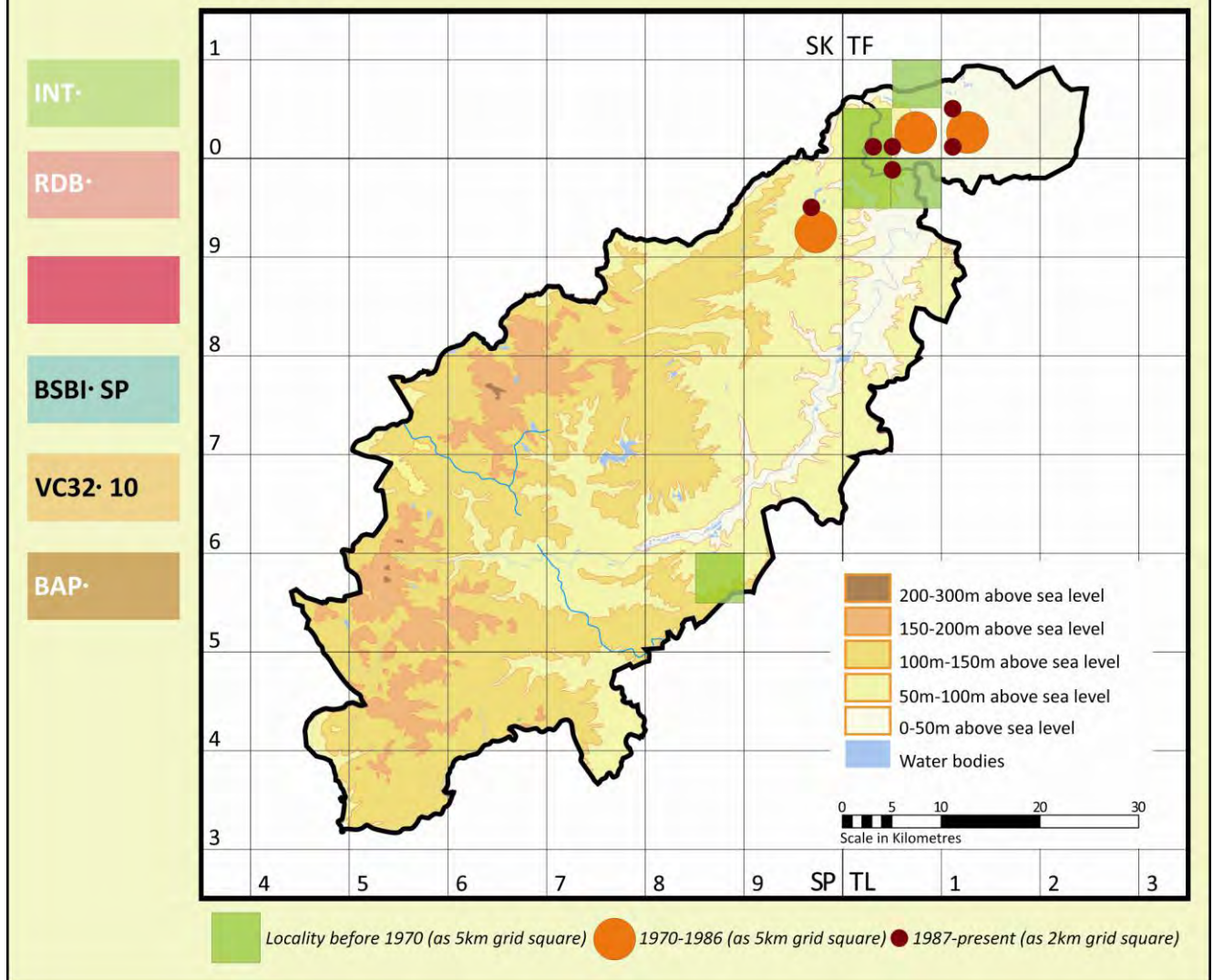
TL012821	Aldwincle Marsh	N	SSSI	1996	LM
SP809767	Birch Spinney & Mawsley Marsh	N	SSSI	2001	GG/NWT
SP672586	Bugbrooke Meadows	N	SSSI/NR	1999	LM
TF115015	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2008	DH
SP599349	Evenley Meadow	N		2008	GG
SP645452	Second Wydmore	N		1992	AC
TF090000	Sutton Heath & Bog	S	SSSI	2010	DWd/MWo
SP59-53-	Tunningham Farm (near)	N		2001	CC
TL070994	Wansford Pasture	S	SSSI/NR	2011	NC
SP841553	Yardley Chase MoD	N	SSSI	1998	GG

First recorded at Croughton Bog in 1876; other early records were at Evenley Marsh (still present), Wittering Marsh (1908 & 1932), a marsh near Wansford (probably Wansford Pasture, still there in 1999) and near Easton Hornstocks (1913). In recent decades many more sites have been discovered, including Southorpe Bog (1951), Salcey Forest (1953), near Hinton in the Hedges (1964 – det. E.F. Warburg) Bonemills Hollow, Barnack Mill (1970 and 1976), Bucknell Wood Pasture and Cosgrove (1979), while it is still to be found at the sites detailed above. The change in status over the past couple of decades is probably due to better recording as suitable sites are disappearing.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Carex divulsa ssp. leersii (F.W. Schultz) W. Koch

Grey Sedge



Native

A perennial of roadsides and grassland but always on calcareous soil.

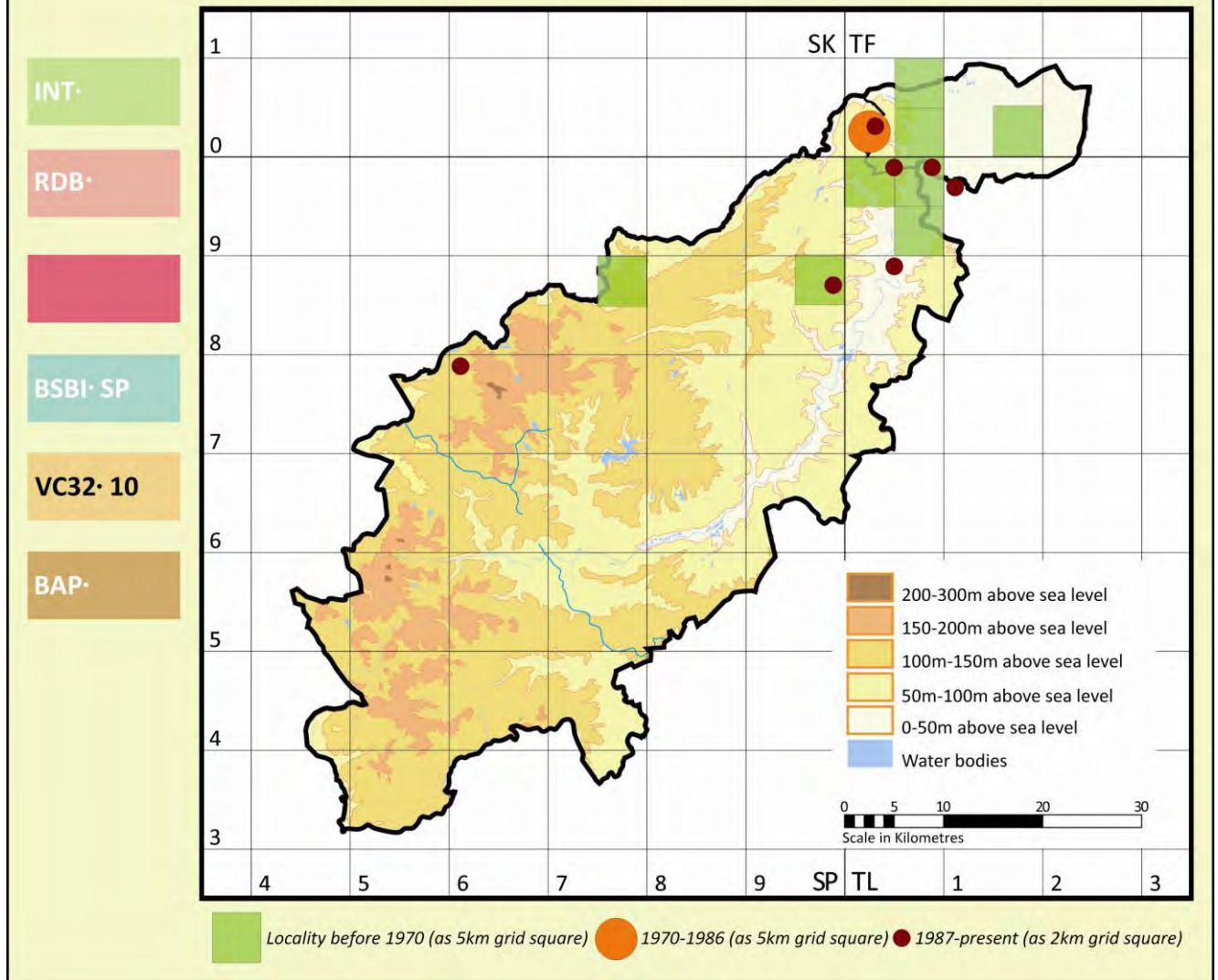
TF04-01-	Bonemills Hollow Road Verge	S		2011	SR/CTu
SP962944	Bulwick Meadow	N	SSSI		NE
TF115014	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2007	DB
TL055973	Old Sulehay (Sammocks Hill)	S	NR	2009	NC
TF03-01-	RAF Wittering	S		2004	PS
TL118050	Rice Wood	S		2004	LH

Although present as a native species, the sites in this county are outside of the species' main range and it is only found in absolutely ideal habitats. Fortunately three of the sites are protected as nature reserves or SSSIs. At one of these, Bulwick Meadows, in the flood plain of the Willow Brook, this species is an important component of a wetland site that is renowned, amongst other things, for its wide variety of sedges.

Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Carex elata All.

Tufted-sedge



Native

A tussocky perennial of marshes and pool margins.

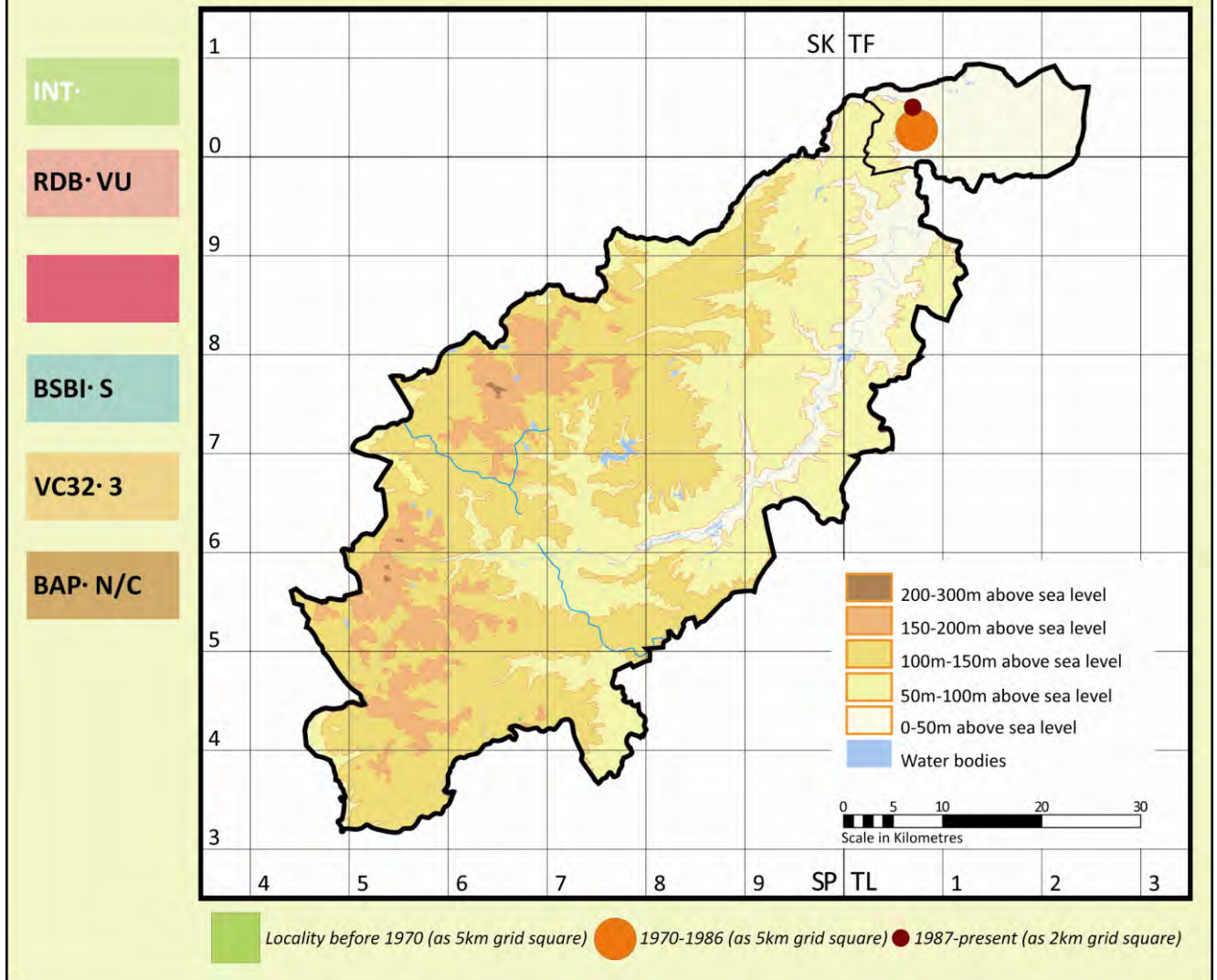
SP618795	Grand Union Canal, Leicester Arm	N	2010	JM/R
SP983860	Lyveden New Bield (moats)	N	1989	KDNHS
TL104978	River Nene, Ailsworth	S	2009	DB
TL042893	Snipe Meadow, Oundle	N	1998	
TL094981	Sutton Meadows	S	2008	SBr
TL046998	Thornhaugh Quarry	S	2011	DB
TF044036	Whitewater Valley	S	1994	GG/RW

Never known from more than a few sites and most of these have been lost, some due to drainage and habitat destruction, and this species is probably under threat at some of the remaining localities.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Carex ericetorum Pollich

Rare Spring-sedge



Native

A perennial of short and dry calcareous grassland overlying limestone.

TF076047

Barnack Hills & Holes

S

SAC/SSSI/NNR

2009

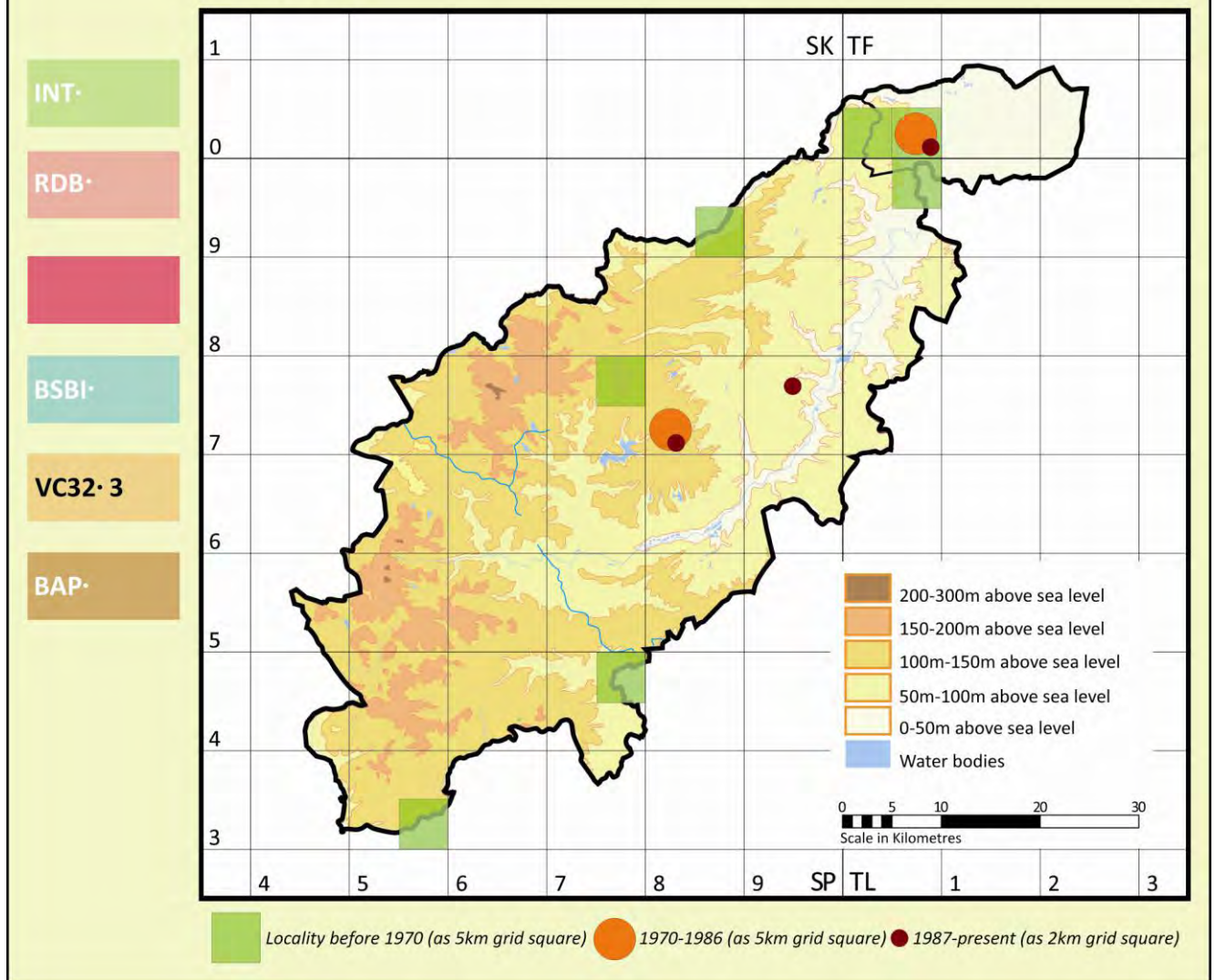
NC

A species that is normally found in the Brecklands and very occasionally on calcareous grassland in a line that runs roughly north from there, with only about a dozen sites stretching to Westmorland, the site at Barnack Hills and Holes being the first in this chain. It is also the only site in the vice-county.. A well established colony with five small populations of this plant was not found until 1982, with a total population of about 100 plants, but may have been present before this. During a recent survey hundreds of plants were recorded. Because the site is sympathetically managed with a programme of sheep grazing and scrub control, this rare plant is probably reasonably secure.

Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Carex hostiana DC.

Tawny Sedge



Native

A perennial of base-rich flushes and marshy ground.

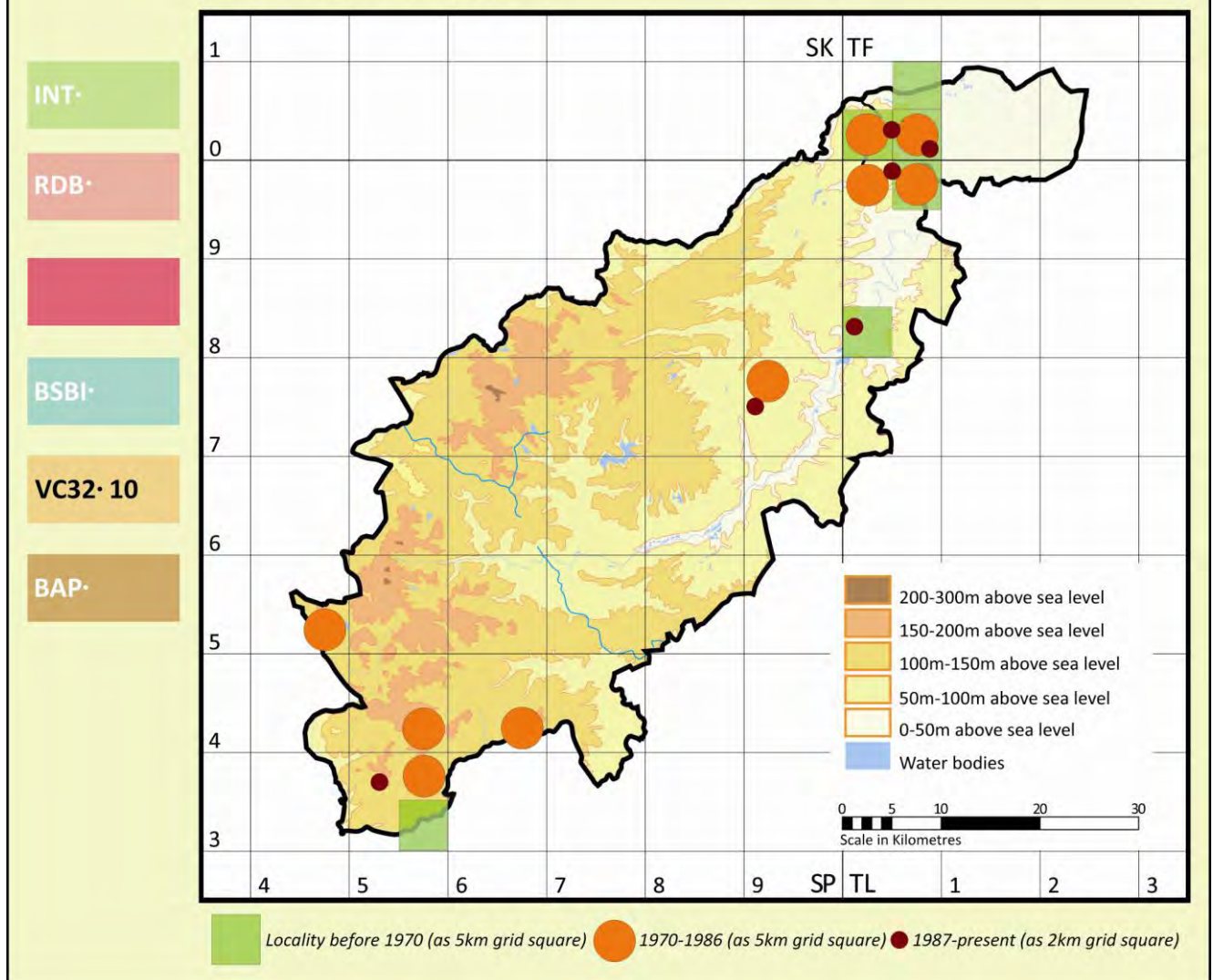
SP835704	Hardwick Lodge Meadow	N	SSSI	2010	GG
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2008	DH
SP945776	Twywell Gullet	N	SSSI/NR	1991	RP

This species main area of distribution has always been in the extreme north with a few other scattered records across the rest of the vice-county. Formerly known from only a dozen sites, it is now much scarcer and must be considered a threatened species as it is only now known from a single site in its northern heartland..

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Carex lepidocarpa Tausch.

Long-stalked Yellow-sedge



Native

A perennial herb of winter-flooding wet grassland, marshes and old quarries.

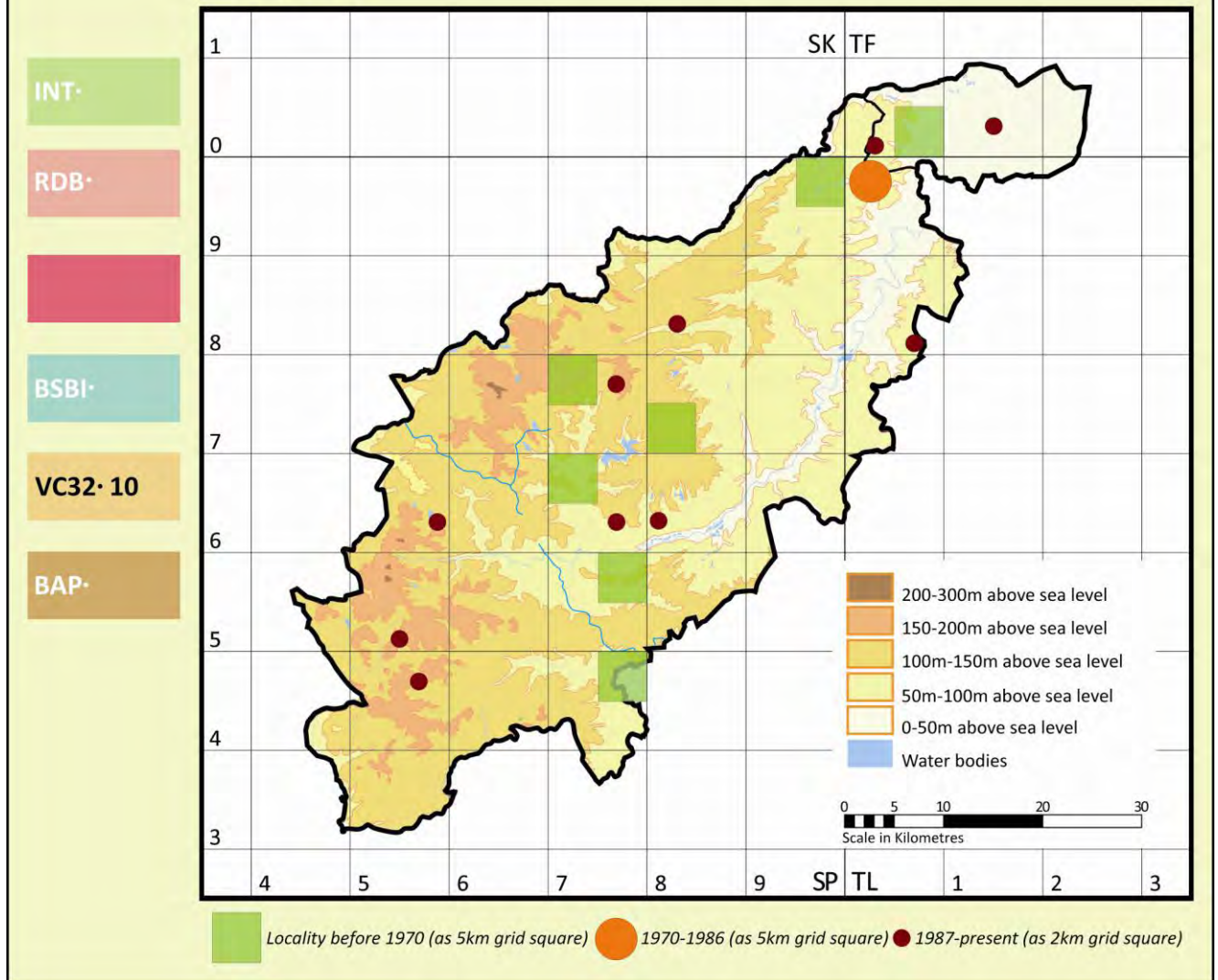
TL007826	Aldwincle Marsh	N	SSSI	1994	GG/RW
SP04-98-	Bedford Purlieus	N	SSSI/NNR	2010	NC
SP533360	Charlton (near)	N		2008	PH
SP537378	Colready Plantation	N		1997	GG/CC
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2012	WT
TL007815	Titchmarsh Nature Reserve	N	SSSI/NR		
TF053023	Wittering	S		2011	NC

Old records show this species to have been present at Barnack, Evenley Camp, Sutton Heath and Bog (1976), Wadenhoe, White Water and Wittering (possibly Bonemills Hollow) in 1926. It was found between Brackley and Hinton-in-the Hedges in 1964 (det. E.F. Warburg) and was present at White Water and Bonemills Hollow until the mid 1980s. At about the same time it was seen in the Wash Dyke Pond in Burghley Park, in a roadside ditch north of Radstone (1980 and where it survived for over ten years), Bedford Purlieus (1984 – still present in 2010 but no plants found in 2011), and Cranford Quarry in the 1990s.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Carex muricata ssp. pairae (F.W. Schultz) Celak.

Prickly Sedge



Native

A perennial of dry grassy places often on light, sandy soils.

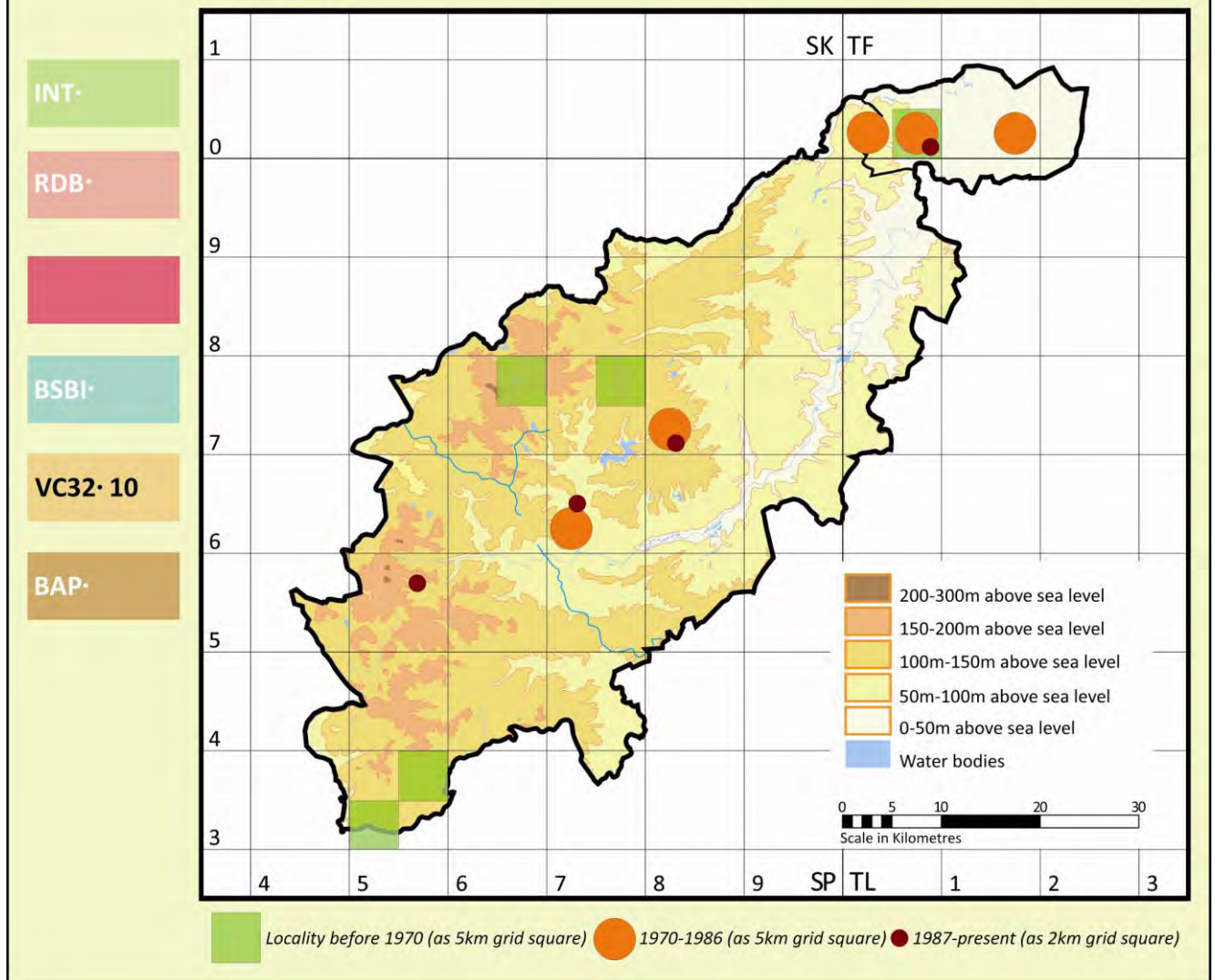
SP585625	Borough Hill	N			TB
SP762634	Bradlaugh Fields Triangle	N		2008	NH
TF11-01-	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	1999	KDNHS
SP549507	Eydon Disused Railway	N		2010	HB
SP800639	Lings Way Meadow	N		2008	NH
SP568467	Sulgrave Disused Railway (North)	N		2010	HB
SP576447	Sulgrave Disused Railway (South)	N		2010	HB

Possibly overlooked, but it is generally rare in the midlands which is well outside the main range of the species.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Carex pulicaris L

Flea Sedge



Native

A perennial of damp grassland.

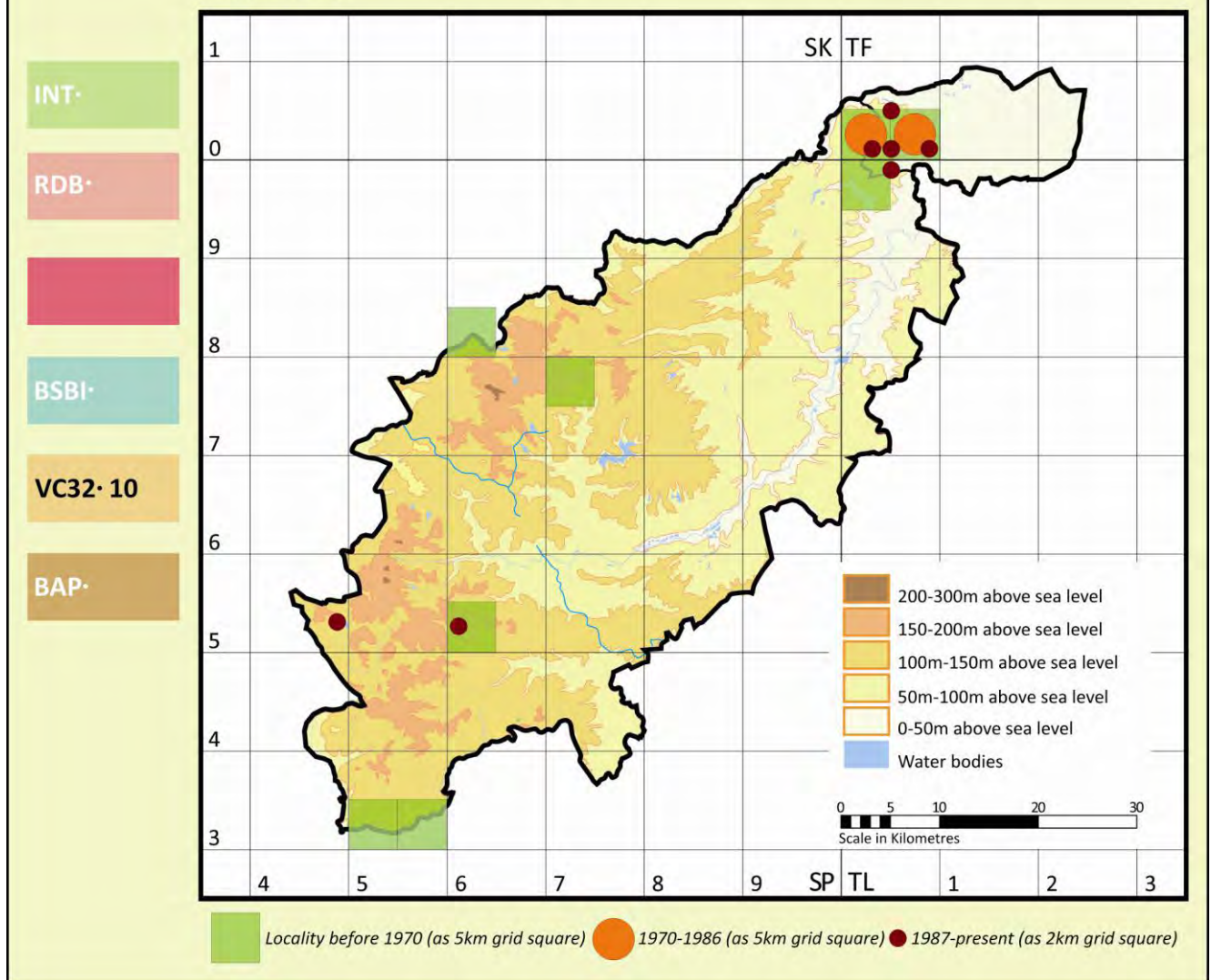
SP835704	Hardwick Lodge Meadow	N	SSSI	1994	GG
SP721647	Harlestone Heath	N	NR	1990	LM
SP569563	Sewells Pond	N		1994	LM
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2012	AFr

Druce recorded this from Croughton Bog, Evenley, Foxhall Bog (1878), Naseby, Southorpe, Sutton Heath (1887) and Wittering Marsh. It is still to be found at Sutton, where it grows with black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*, and a small number of other sites but the number of plants is certainly decreasing, although the number of sites seems to be fairly static.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Carex rostrata Stokes

Bottle Sedge



Native

A perennial found bogs and a variety of water bodies.

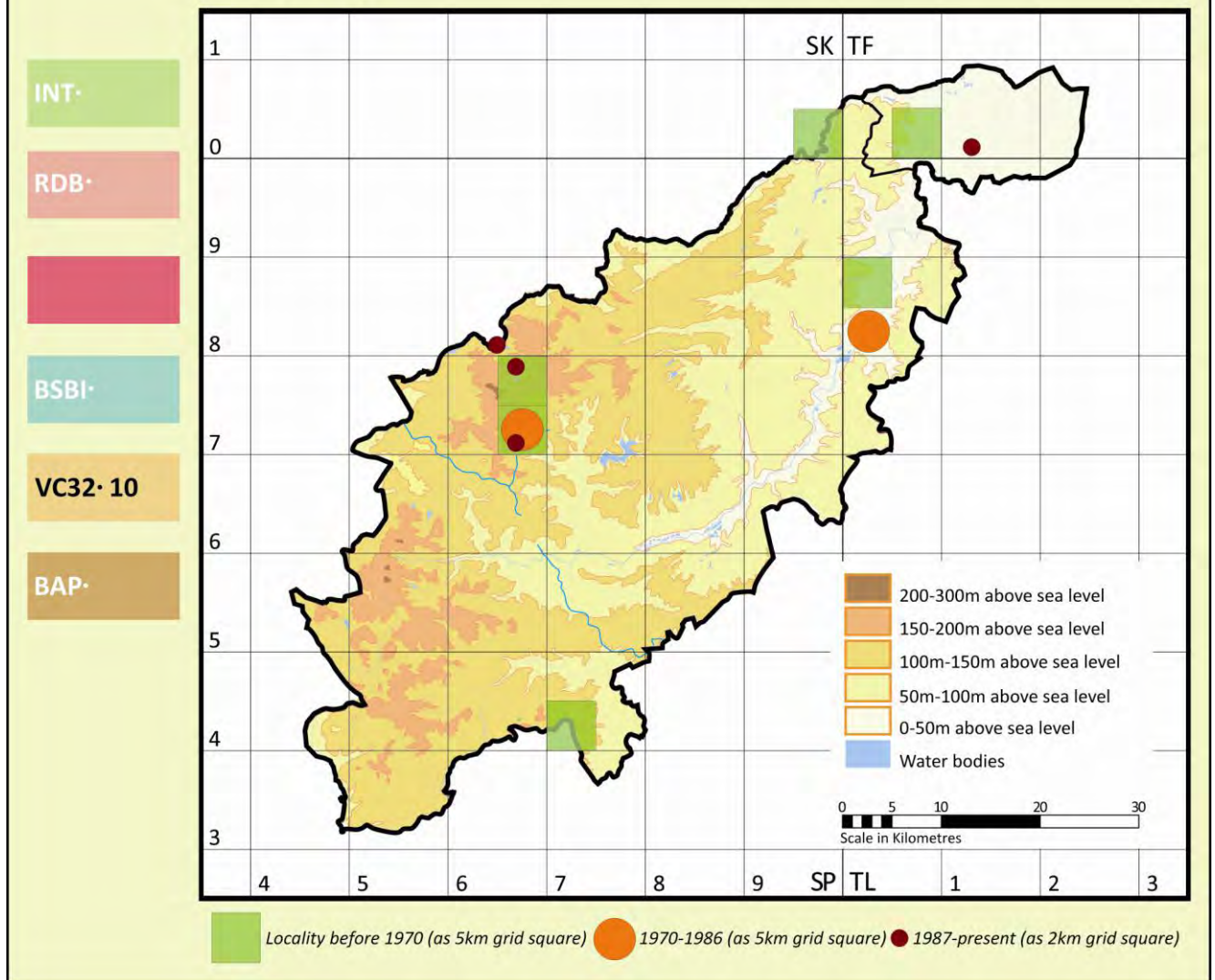
TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR		
SP498530	Boddington Marshy Field	N		2007	NH
TF038013	Bonemills Hollow	S	SSSI	2002	GG
TF048042	Burghley Park	S		1986	TW/SW
SP612538	Maidford Bog	N		1996	LM
TF05-00-	Sacrewell Farm & Country Centre	S		1999	TW/SE
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2008	DH

Always a rare species and becoming more so over the years as suitable habitats have been drained. This species has only ever been known at less than twenty sites and about a third of these are concentrated in the Soke of Peterborough to the south and west of Stamford. Of the remaining sites three confirm records dating from before 1930 – Bedford Purlieus where it was originally recorded as '*especially luxuriant at the brick ponds*', Maidford Bog and Sutton Heath and Bog where just a few plants remain. Probably decreasing with the destruction of suitable habitat.

Druce: Rare and decreasing, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Carex vesicaria L.

Bladder-sedge



Native

An herb of water's edge in emergent vegetation on mainly mesotrophic soils.

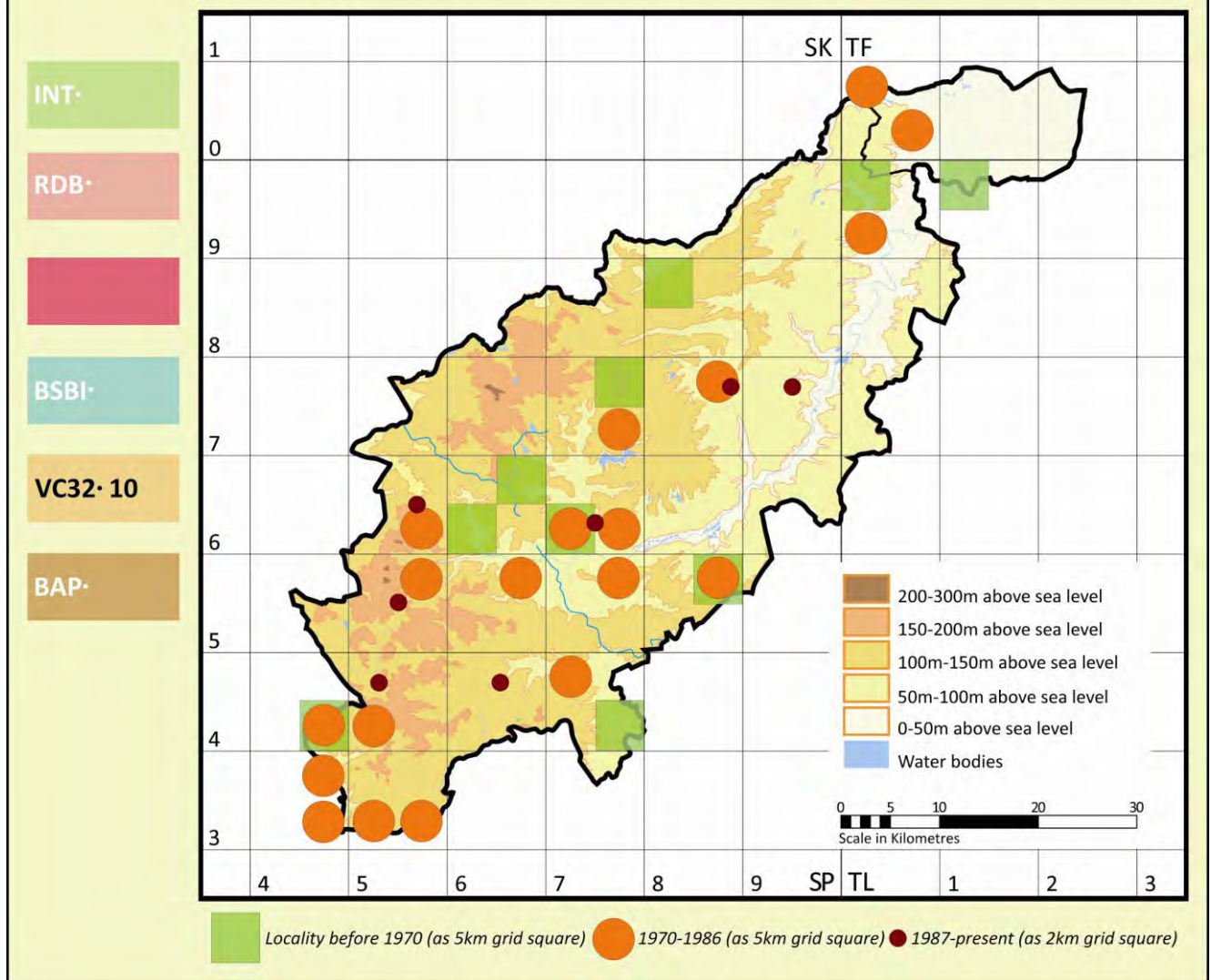
TF120015	Castor Hanglands	S	2012	
SP673781	Naseby Reservoir	N	2009	TB
SP674712	Ravensthorpe Reservoir	N	1997	GG
SP655810	Sulby Reservoir	N	2009	TB

It was first recorded at Teeton (now Ravensthorpe) Reservoir in 1905 and although it has not been seen since 1997 it is probably still there today. Apart from the recent record at Castor Hanglands it seems to be confined to the margins of reservoirs. Unfortunately its range seems to be decreasing and inappropriate maintenance may threaten this species.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Catabrosa aquatica (L.) P. Beauv.

Whorl Grass



Native.

A perennial of damp locations often on almost bare mud on the borders of ponds, streams etc.

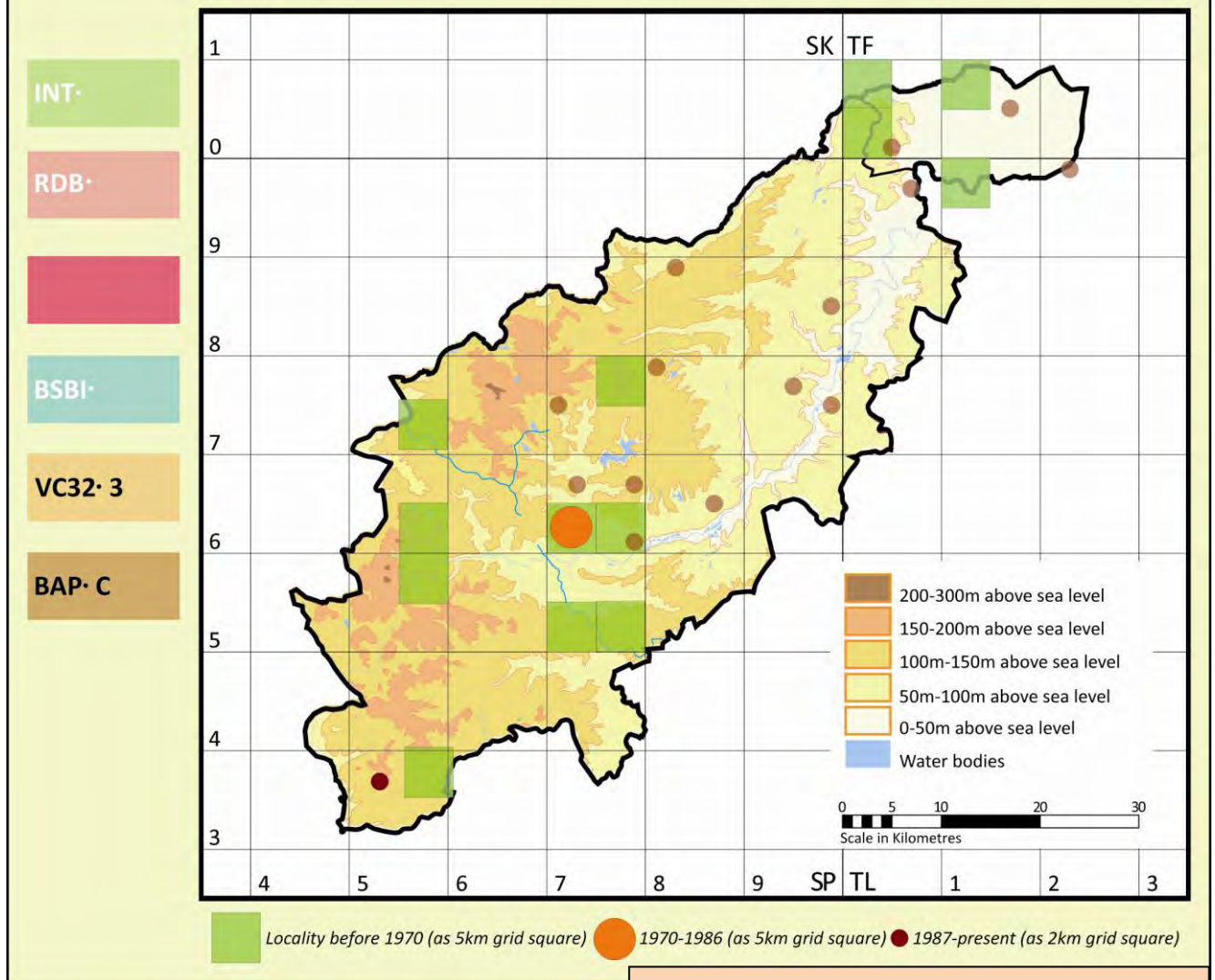
SP886772	Castle Field, Wellingborough	N	2008	TB
SP54-54-	Church Charwelton	N	2008	GG
SP535472	Culworth Marsh	N	1995	WT
SP577641	Daventry Country Park	N	2011	BL
SP746622	Kingsthorpe	N	1991	GG
SP943770	Woodford House and Lake	N	1990	WT
SP640467	Slapton Churchyard	N	1990	

Extremely rare. It has always only been established in a few widely separated areas, with old records including such diverse localities as Castle Ashby (1882), Althorp Station (1905), King's Cliffe (1909), Raunds Station (1925), Bonemills Hollow (1973) and Ailsworth. Where it does occur it is usually well established although the current sites show that it is retreating south within the vice-county.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Uncommon, Gent & Wilson 2013:Extremely rare.

Centaurea cyanus L.

Cornflower



Current records shown in a lighter colour are all introductions in country parks, farm centres etc or escapes from gardens

Archaeophyte

An annual weed of arable fields, rubbish tips etc.

SP526368

Charlton (near)

N

2011

PH

Even by the early 20th century this was a decreasing species with just over a dozen sites listed by Druce and there have been a number of records in recent years (shown on the map in a paler colour) that were obviously garden escapes or deliberate introductions and it was thought to be extinct, but in 2011 the native plant made a dramatic reappearance at four localities near Charlton. These were generally just a small number of plants but one fallow field contained at least 50 plants. The spread of introduced plants shows the increasing popularity of this species as a component of wild flower gardening.

Druce: Local and decreasing, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extinct as a native plant, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

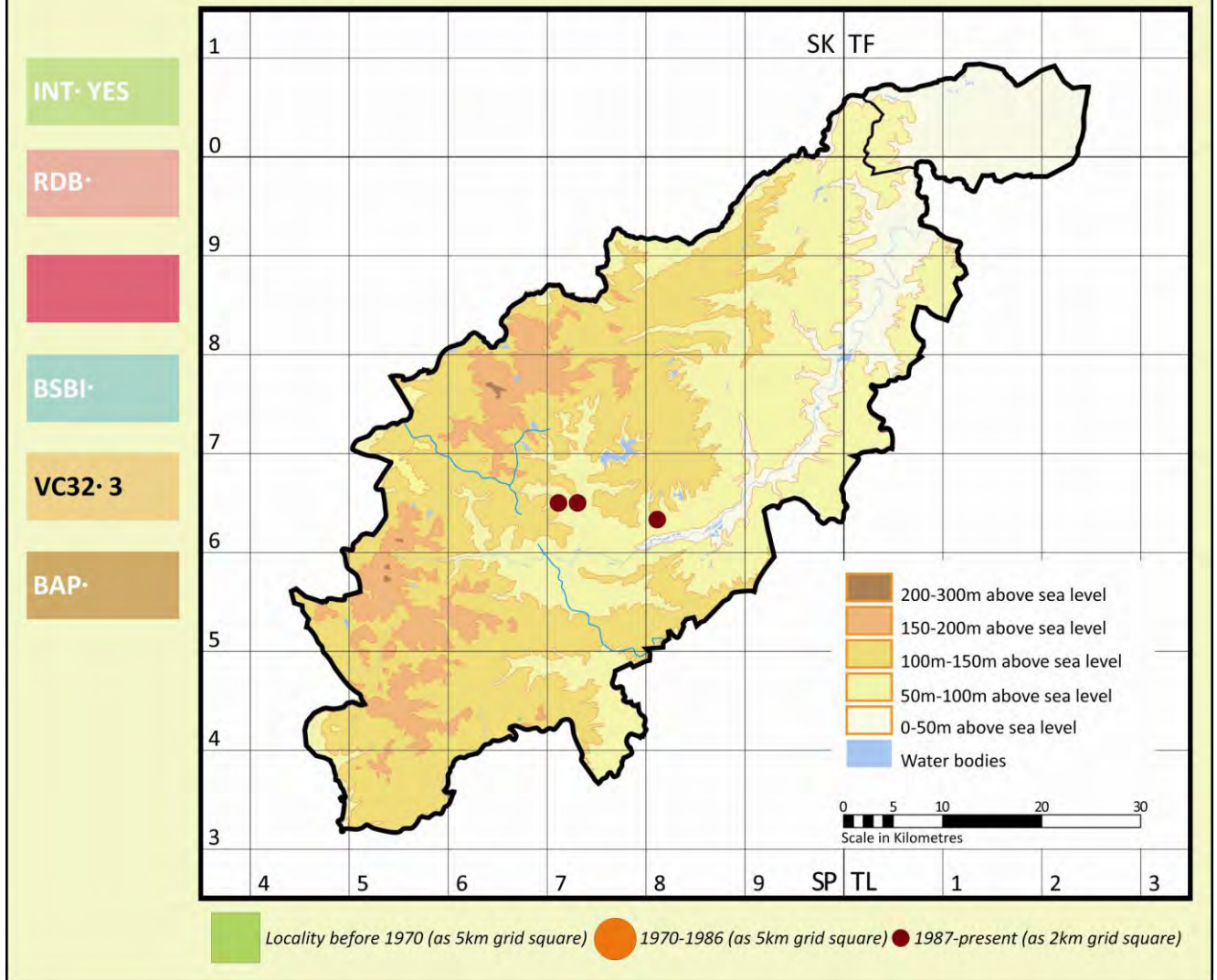


Cornflowers growing in an unimproved field near Charlton in 2011.

Paul Hayter

Ceratocarpus claviculata (L.) Lidén

Climbing Corydalis



Native

An annual climber of free-draining acidic soils in woodland.

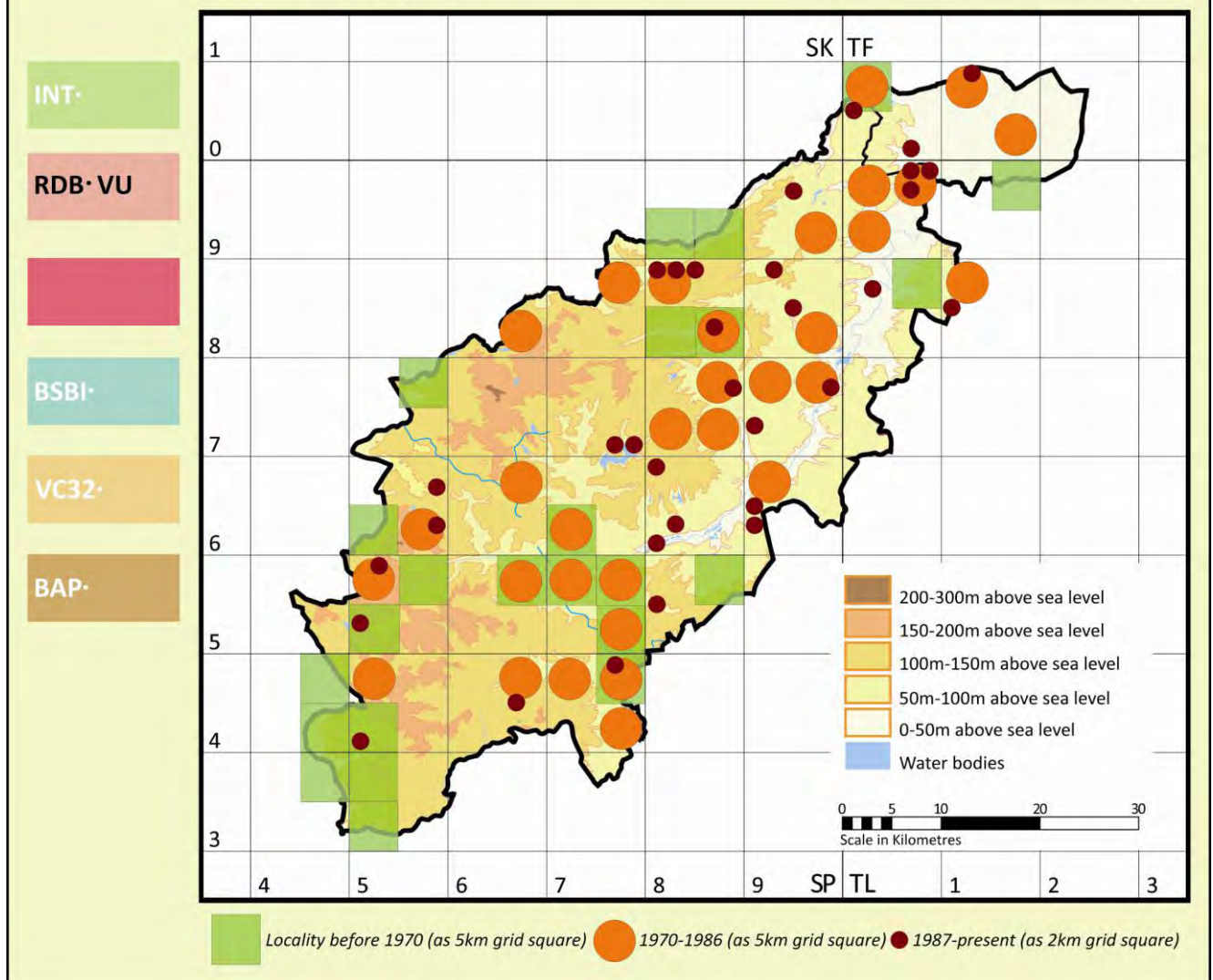
SP722649	Church Brampton Golf Course	N		2007	RW
SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N		2010	MD
SP803638	Lings Wood	N	NR	2008	NH

It was unknown before 1996 when a well established colony was found at Harlestone Firs. Until 2007 this was the only colony known in the county, but then another one was discovered on the adjoining golf course and the following year a further site was found at Lings Wood. All these sites are in Northampton in areas of rare relic heath.

Gent & Wilson 1995: No record, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Chenopodium bonus-henricus L.

Good-King-Henry



Archaeophyte

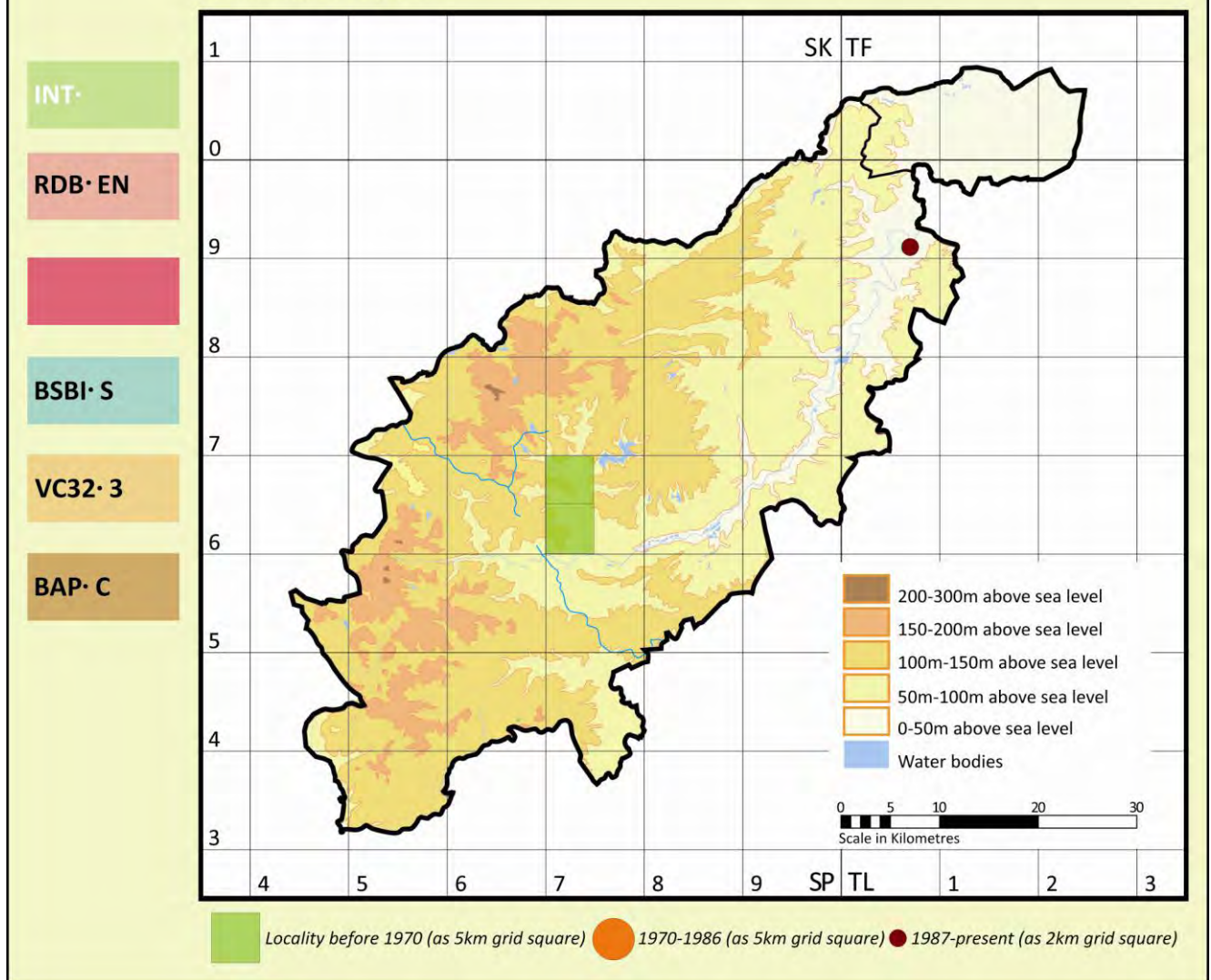
A perennial of disturbed enriched soil of roadsides, pastures and waste ground.

Probably not as common as it used to be, it is present both as a native species and as a garden escape although it is no longer commonly grown as a vegetable, and so records of the latter are probably decreasing but it is impossible to differentiate between native and introduced plants. It is still almost entirely recorded close to habitation, however and many of the records will be of plants and colonies that originated as garden escapes, and its exact native status cannot be determined. Historically and currently it is largely absent from the north- west of Northamptonshire.

Druce: Widely distributed, Gent & Wilson 1995: Occasional, rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Occasional.

Chenopodium vulvaria L.

Stinking Goosefoot



Archaeophyte

An annual of fields that have been manured with animal dung and other waste places with nutrient enriched soil.

Oundle to Peterborough Road

S

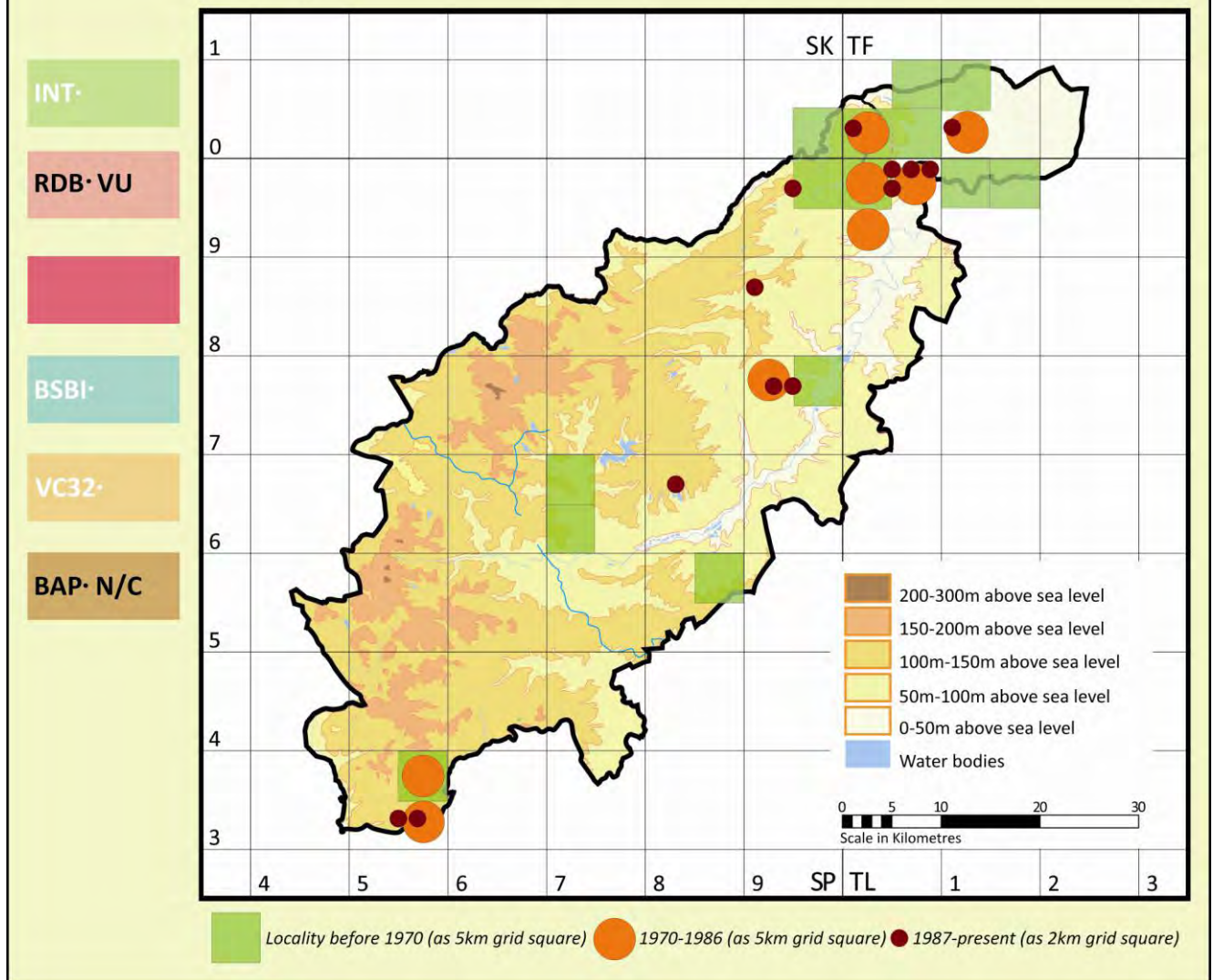
2004

A decreasing species by the early 20th century when the only suitably enriched site was Northampton Sewage Works and where it was first recorded in 1877. Prior to this there was a record dating from the early 18th century from the enriched soil of the churchyard of St. Sepulchre's church, Northampton. It was eliminated from inland sites by changed farming practices and was thought to be extinct until a small colony was discovered on the Oundle road in Peterborough in 2004.

Druce: Vey rare, a decreasing species, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Clinopodium acinos (L.) Kuntze

Basil Thyme



Native

An annual of dry, disturbed areas on calcareous soils.

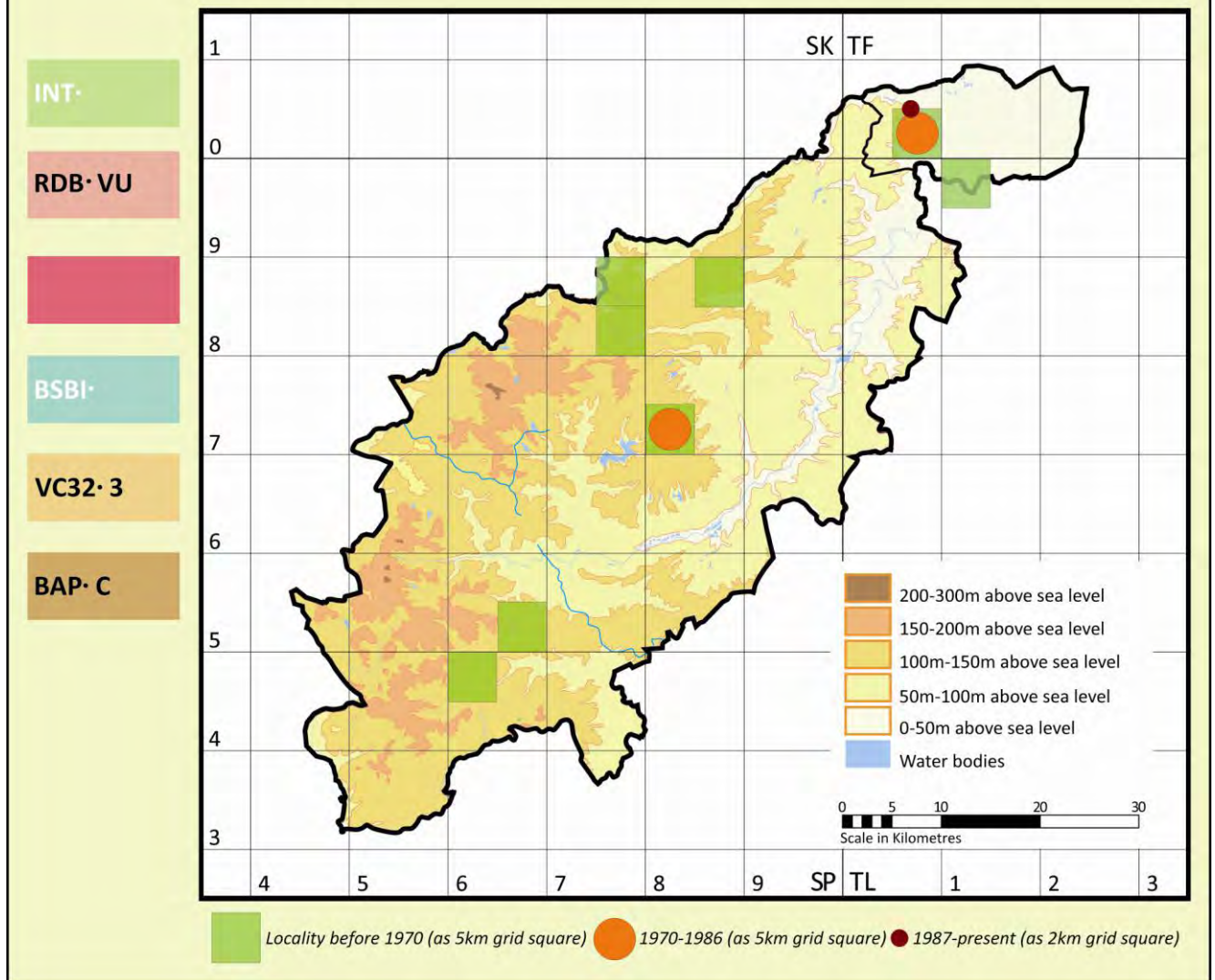
Individual records not listed because of the frequency that this species is found in VC32.

Much diminished in its distribution and numbers since 1930 as suitable cultivated fields have become much rarer and it is now almost entirely confined to old quarries.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Coeloglossum viride (L.) Hartm.

Frog Orchid



Native

A perennial herb of well drained nutrient poor soils in woodlands.

TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2011	NC
TF013005	Easton Hornstocks	S	SSSI/NNR	2011	GG
TF106029	Southey Wood	S		2003	PE

It has only ever been a native plant in the north-east of the vice-county where there are old records from a number of woods, including those where it is still found. All other records are of garden escapes or deliberate introductions.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

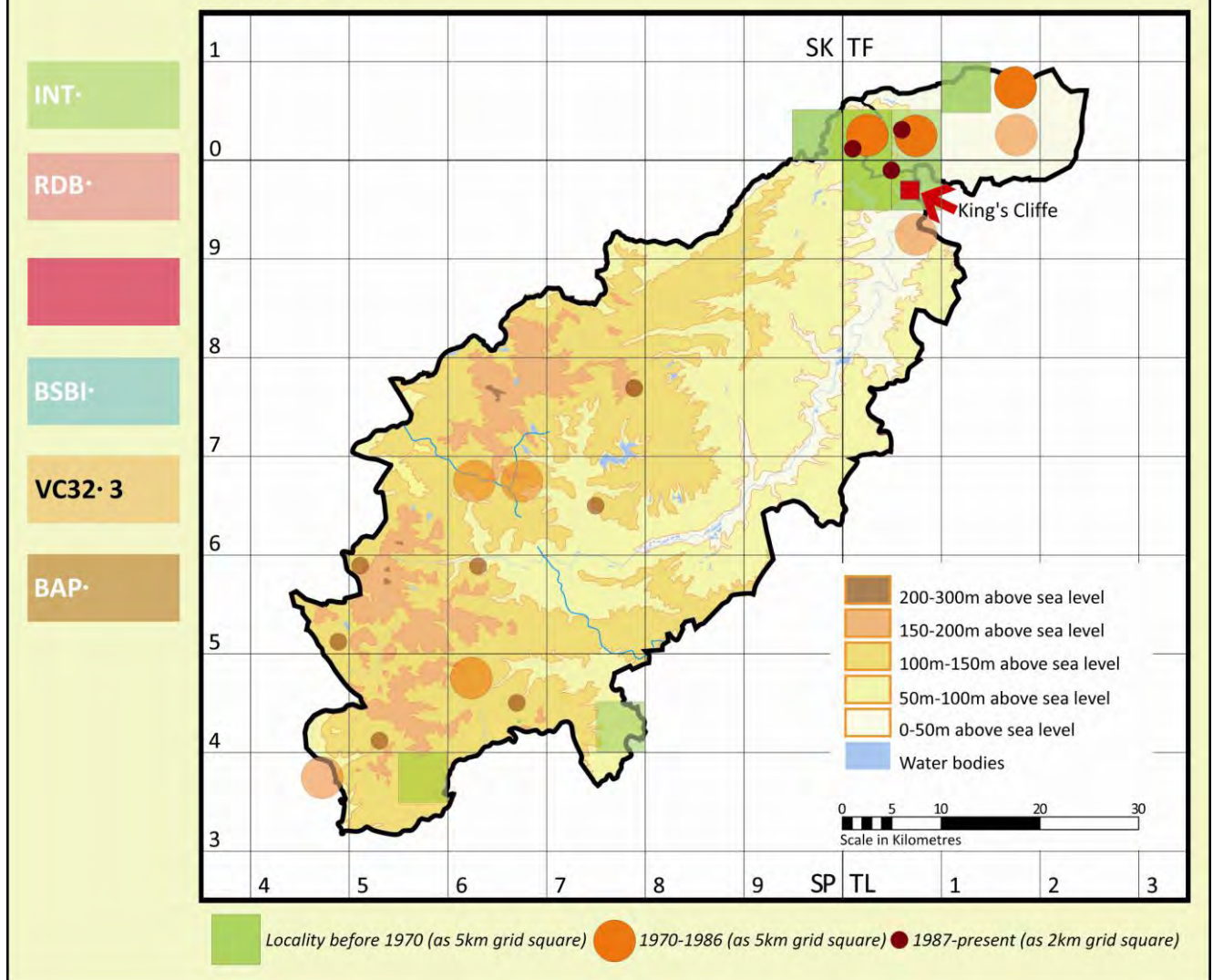


Frog Orchid at Barnack Hills and Holes

Rob Wilson

Convallaria majalis L.

Lily-of-the-valley



Native

A perennial herb of well drained nutrient poor soils in woodlands.

TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2011	NC
TF013005	Easton Hornstocks	S	SSSI/NNR	2011	GG
TF106029	Southey Wood	S		2003	PE

It has only ever been a native plant in the north-east of the vice-county where there are old records from a number of woods, including those where it is still found. There are other records that are of either garden escapes or deliberate introductions, notably in churchyards and parkland and these are probably under-recorded. Some of the early records, especially in the south of the county, may also be of introductions. Now confined as a native plant to its core area, it is only present there in greatly diminished numbers. John Morton notes in his *Natural History of Northamptonshire* (1720) notes that *some of the woods on the north side of Kings Cliffe are full of (Lily-of-the-valley.)* Now only very small native colonies remain.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

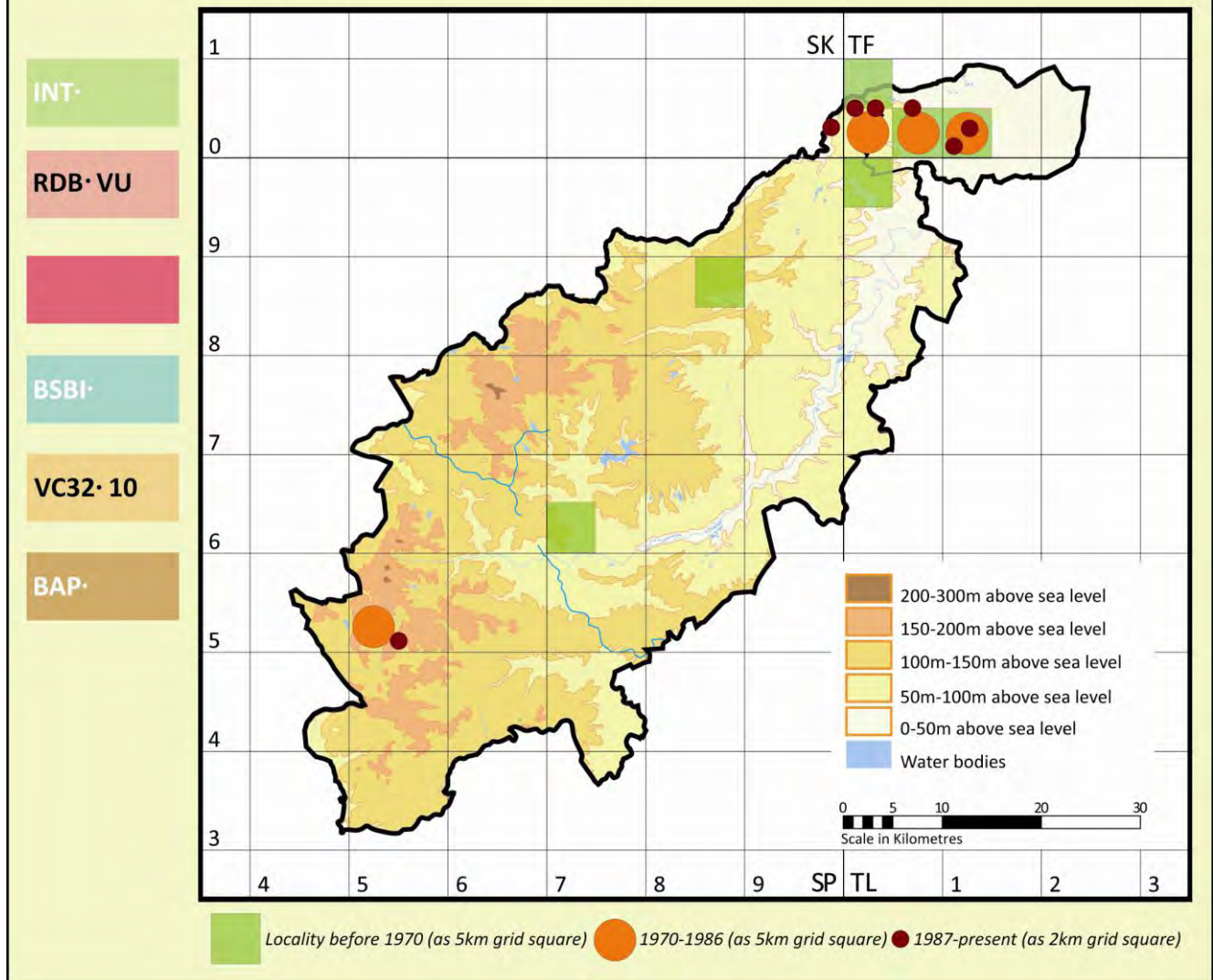


A Lily-of-the-Valley in the small colony in Bedford Purlieu

Rob Wilson

Cuscuta epithymum (L.) L.

Dodder



Native

An annual, occasionally perennial, rootless parasitic herb mainly on *Genista tinctoria* ssp. *tinctoria*, *Helianthemum chamaecistus* etc.

TF076047	Barnack Hills & Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	2012	AFr
TF125023	Blacklands, Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2008	DH
TF116015	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2004	SL
SK998028	Collyweston Pocket Park	N		2003	PE
TF004037	Collyweston Quarries	N	SSSI/NR	2012	AFr
TF029041	Racecouse Farm Field	S	SSSI	2007	NO
SP540518	Woodford Halse railway cutting	N		1990	LM

Druce lists records for this species under *C. epithymum* (which he records as 'very rare') and *C. trifolii* (recorded as 'now becoming scarce where cleaner seed is sown'); old records list seven sites, all in the north of the vice-county. It is now known from seven sites, all on the limestone soils in the north except for a single record from the disused railway cutting in the south-west. As the majority of sites have some protection and the Collyweston Quarries site, where it grows in large numbers, is excellently managed by the Wildlife Trust, it is hoped that this unusual species has a reasonably secure future.

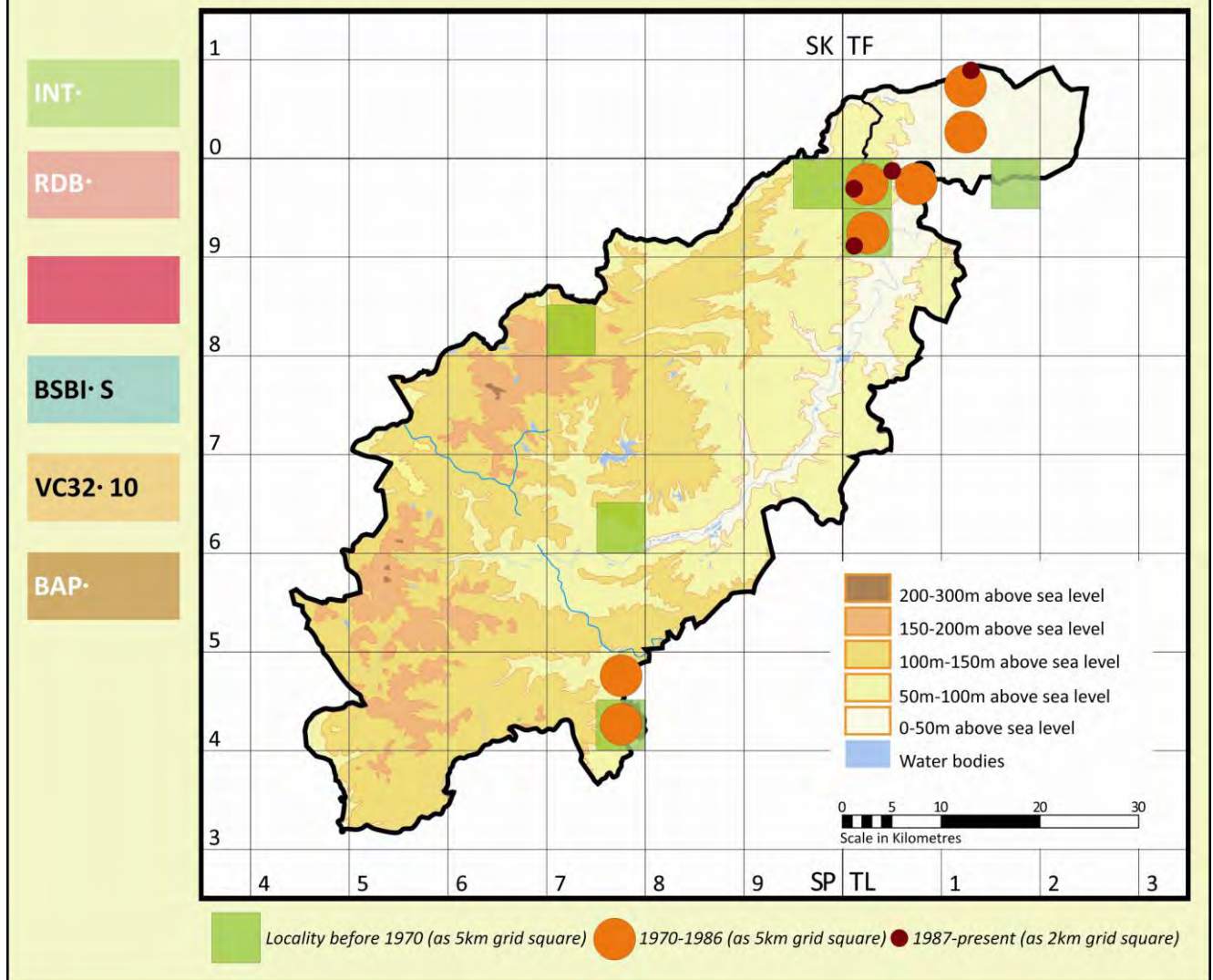
Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

GG



Cuscuta europaea L.

Greater Dodder



Native

A parasitic herb of damp, nitrogen rich habitats mainly on *Urtica dioica* in this county.

TL017964	Apethorpe	N		2009	BL
TL004905	Glaphorn Cow Pasture	N	SSSI/NR		IT/NWT
TF122086	Maxey	S		1987	AT/JT
TL053997	Ring Haw	S	SSSI/NR	1991	LM

This species was always rare in the vice-county with early records from nine sites and by the late 1970s and 1980s it was limited to a five sites: near Bozenham Mill (1979), near Apethorpe, Glaphorn Cow Pastures (1982 & 1986) and possibly extinct there since the 1990s, Maxey (1987) where it was parasitic on wild hops *Humulus lupulus* and Ring Haw (1991). The Northamptonshire records are the most northerly of current records. This plant has a tenuous existence, only ever growing here in small numbers

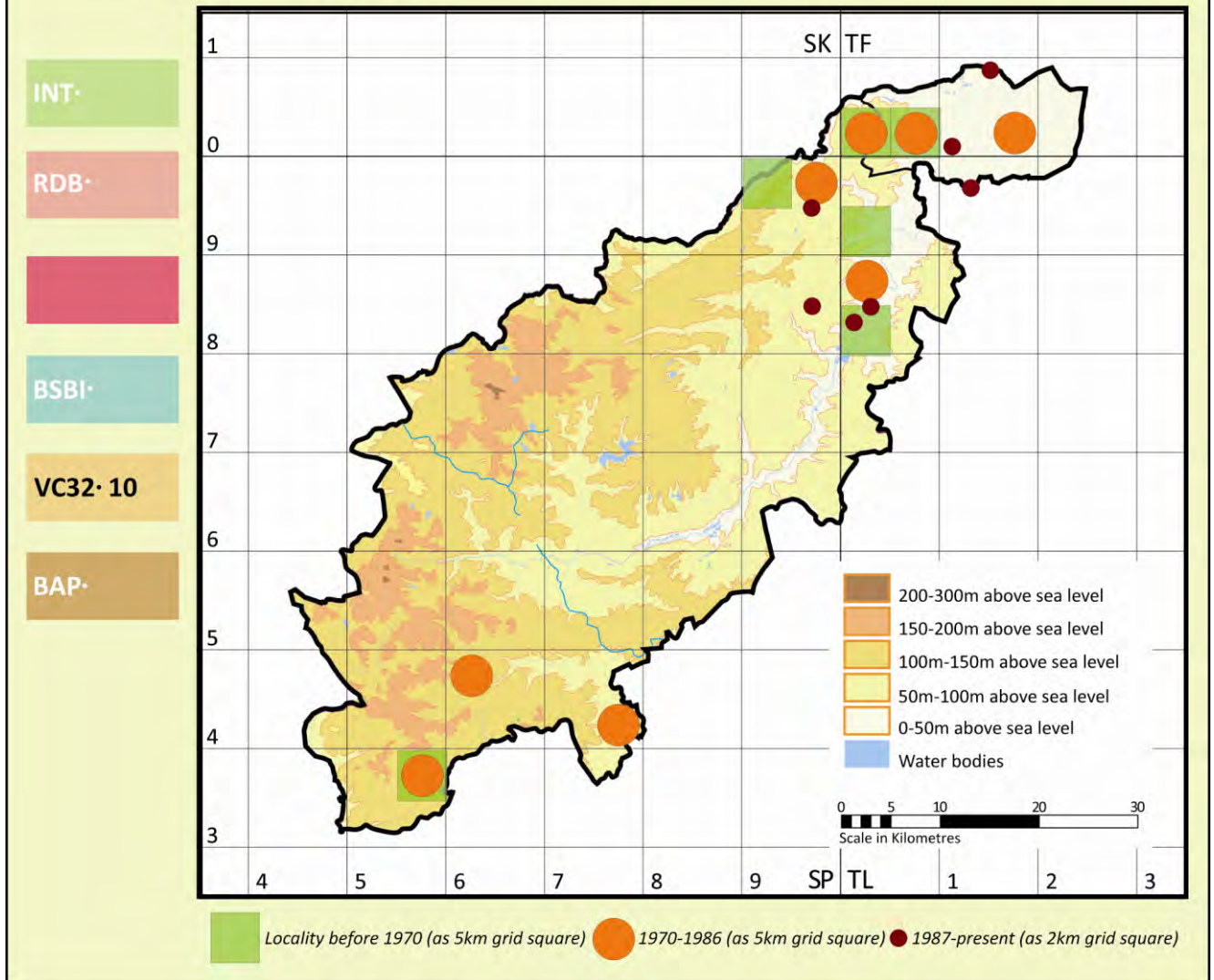
Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Brian Laney

Brian Laney

Dactylorhiza incarnata ssp. incarnata (L.) Soó

Early Marsh-orchid



Native

A perennial herb of calcareous or base-rich marshes, damp or wet areas in grassland.

TL007826	Aldwinckle Marsh	N	SSSI		
SP962944	Bulwick Meadows	N	SSSI	1994	GG
SP123973	Castor Flood Meadows	S	SSSI		
TF115015	Castor Hanglands (Ailsworth Heath)	S	SSSI/NNR	2009	DB
TF151092	Deeping Gate Fen Meadow	S		2008	GG/CP/RW
TL034851	Lilford Meadow	N		2008	AM/AN
SP97-84-	Sudborough Green Lodge Meadow	N	SSSI	1998	

The preferred habitat of this species is much diminished in the county and new sites that have recently been found are probably records of previously unknown localities. Unfortunately it is very vulnerable to drainage and should be considered to be under threat, with the sites where it is recorded becoming more concentrated in the north.

Druce: Rare, confined to marshes, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

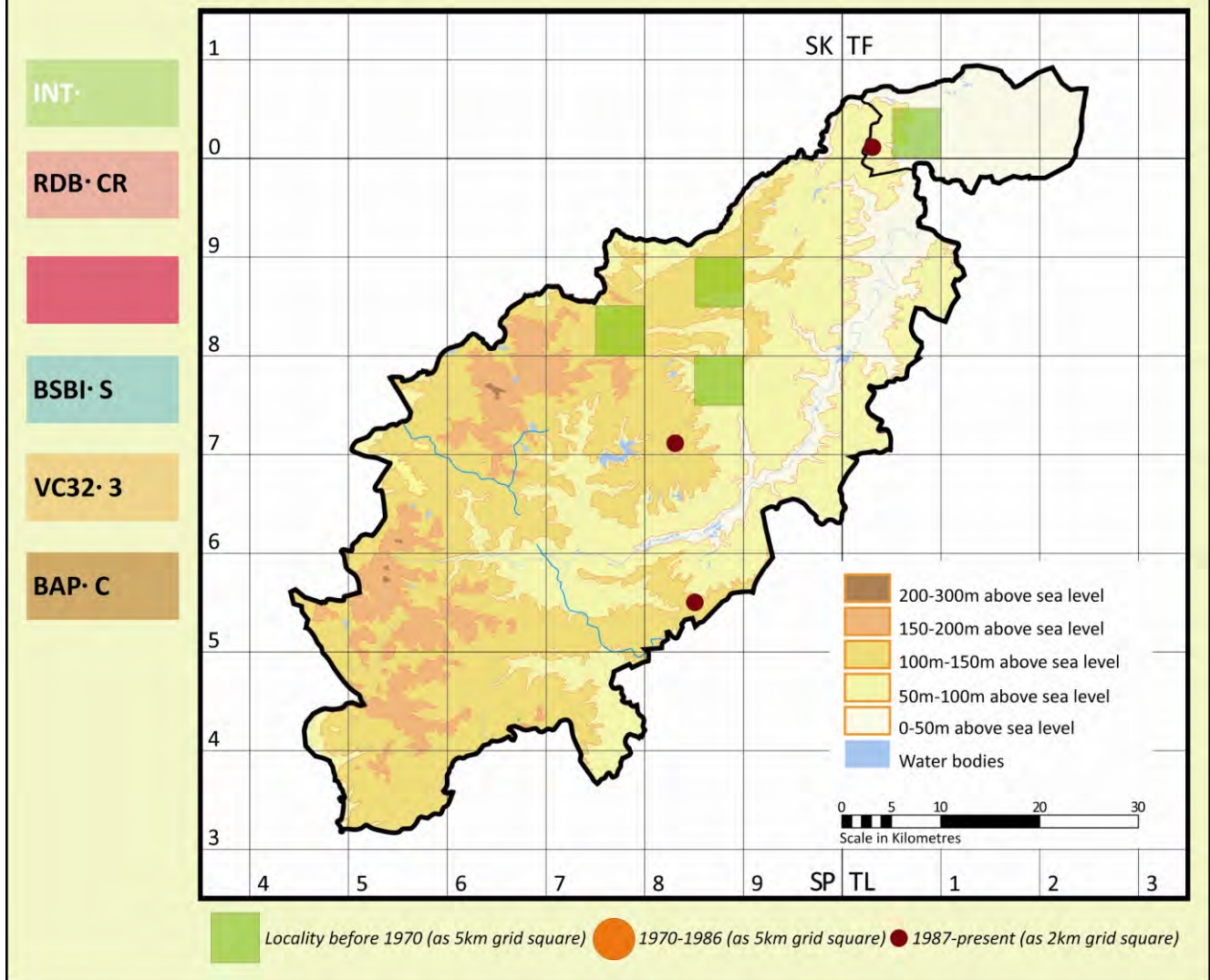


Early Marsh-orchid at Castor Hanglands

David Broughton

Dactylorhiza maculata ssp. *ericetorum* (E.F.Linton) P.F. Hunt & Summerh.

Heath Spotted-orchid



Native

A perennial herb of damp acidic pastures or acidic pockets in calcareous meadows.

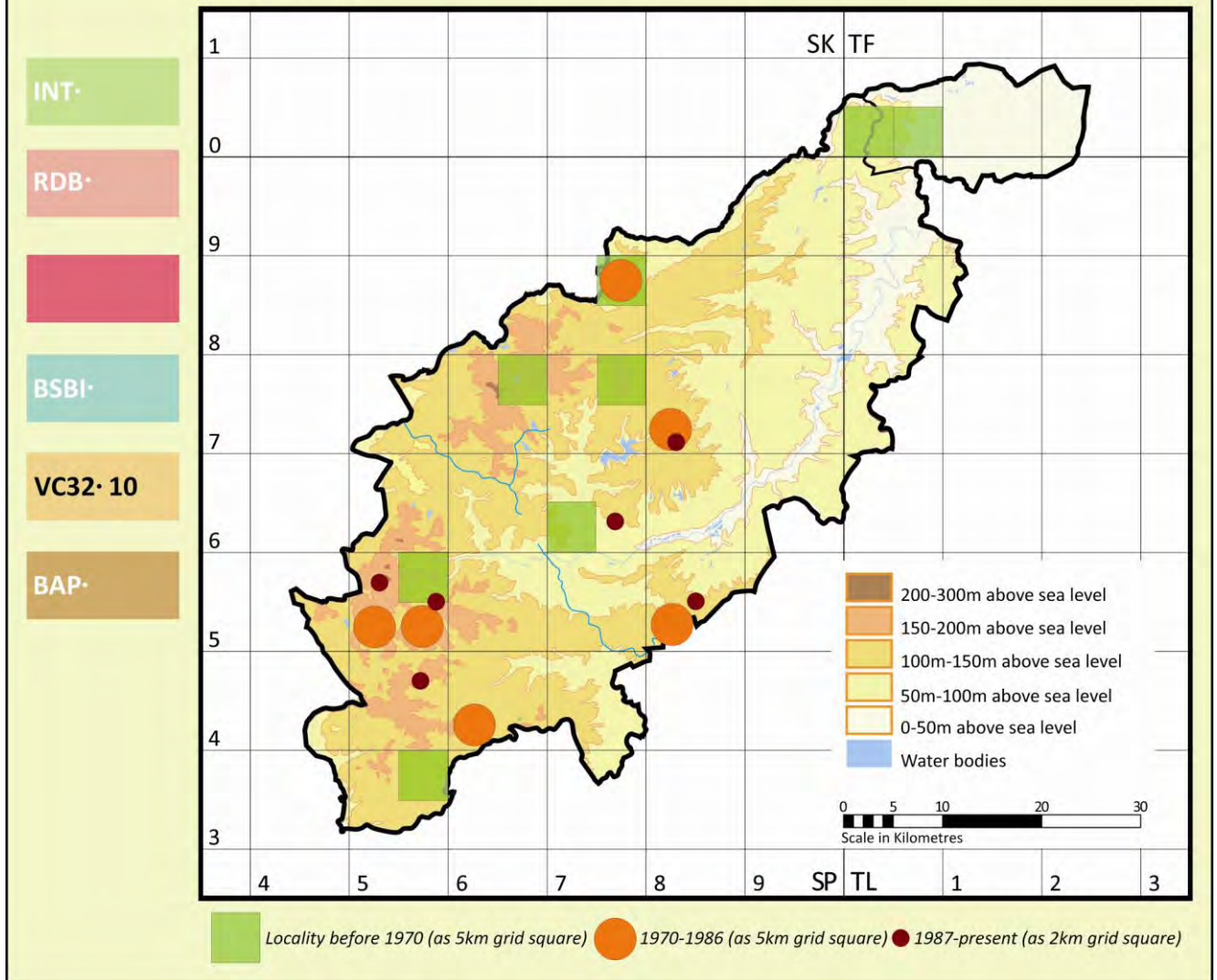
TF040013	Bonemills Hollow	S	SSSI	2006	TW/SE
SP833704	Hardwick Lodge Meadow	N	SSSI	2005	NOr
SP843555	Yardley Chase (MoD)	N	SSSI	1998	AN

Always an extremely rare species, it was only known at about three sites before 1930 – pastures near ‘Great Oakley Wood’, possibly Oakley Purlieus (1911), Brampton Ash and possibly at Easton Hornstocks. It was seen at Botany Bay Kettering in 1941 but from then until the mid 1990s it was thought to be confined to unimproved grassland at Hardwick Lodge Meadow in the centre of the county, where it grows together with common spotted-orchid *D. fuchsii* on permanently wet ground beside a stream that bisects part of the site. In 1998, during an visit to Yardley Chase MoD area, made as part of the BSBI Druce Weekend in the county, an orchid was seen that resulted in much discussion about the exact determination but was later confirmed as heath spotted-orchid *D. maculata* at only the third site in the county and there is a 2006 record from Bonemills Hollow. At all sites it occurs in small numbers amongst a much larger quantity of common spotted-orchid and may be threatened by hybridization with that species..

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Danthonia decumbens (L.) DC.

Heath-grass



Native

A perennial of heathy, acid grassland often in damp situations and on clay.

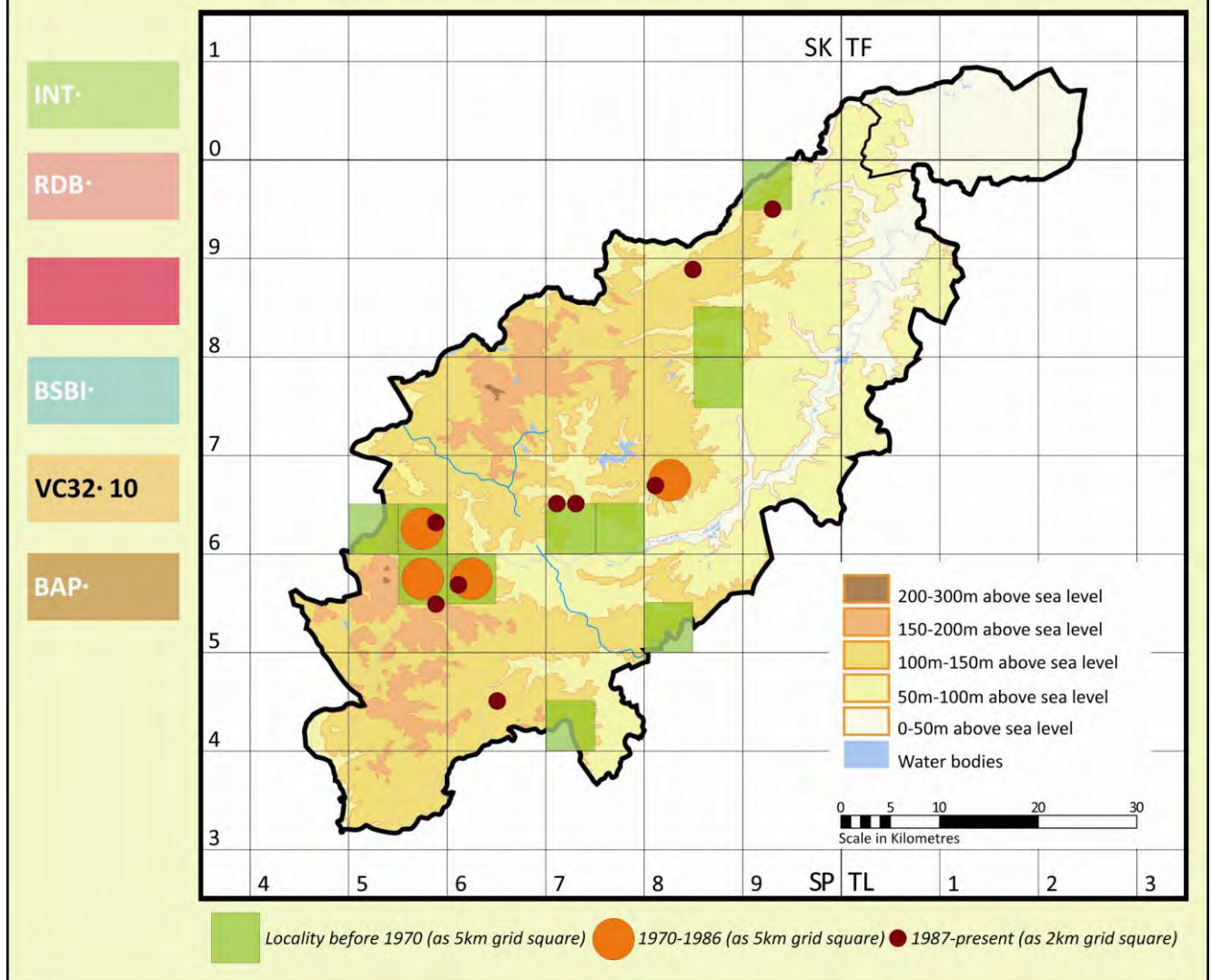
SP770630	Bradlaugh Fields	N	NR	1991	AC
SP86-58-	Chadstone, Castle Ashby	N		2008	GG
SP533570	Charwelton Disused Railway (North)	N		2006	MA
SP829705	Hardwick Wood & Meadow	N	SSSI		GG
SP589548	High Wood and Meadow	N	SSSI/NR	1994	AR
SP566473	Sulgrave Disused Railway	N		2000	NM
SP82-54-	Yardley Chase (MoD)	N		2008	GG

The lack of suitable heath sites has meant that this grass has only ever been recorded at a very few places and it was thought to have long disappeared from all of the early sites. It has, however, been found, during the latter years of the 20th century, at about the same number of sites as formerly, no doubt due to better recording, and it still occurs in close proximity to some of the early records.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Very rare.

Deschampsia flexuosa (L.) Trin.

Wavy Hair-grass



Native

A perennial of acid heathland and open woods.

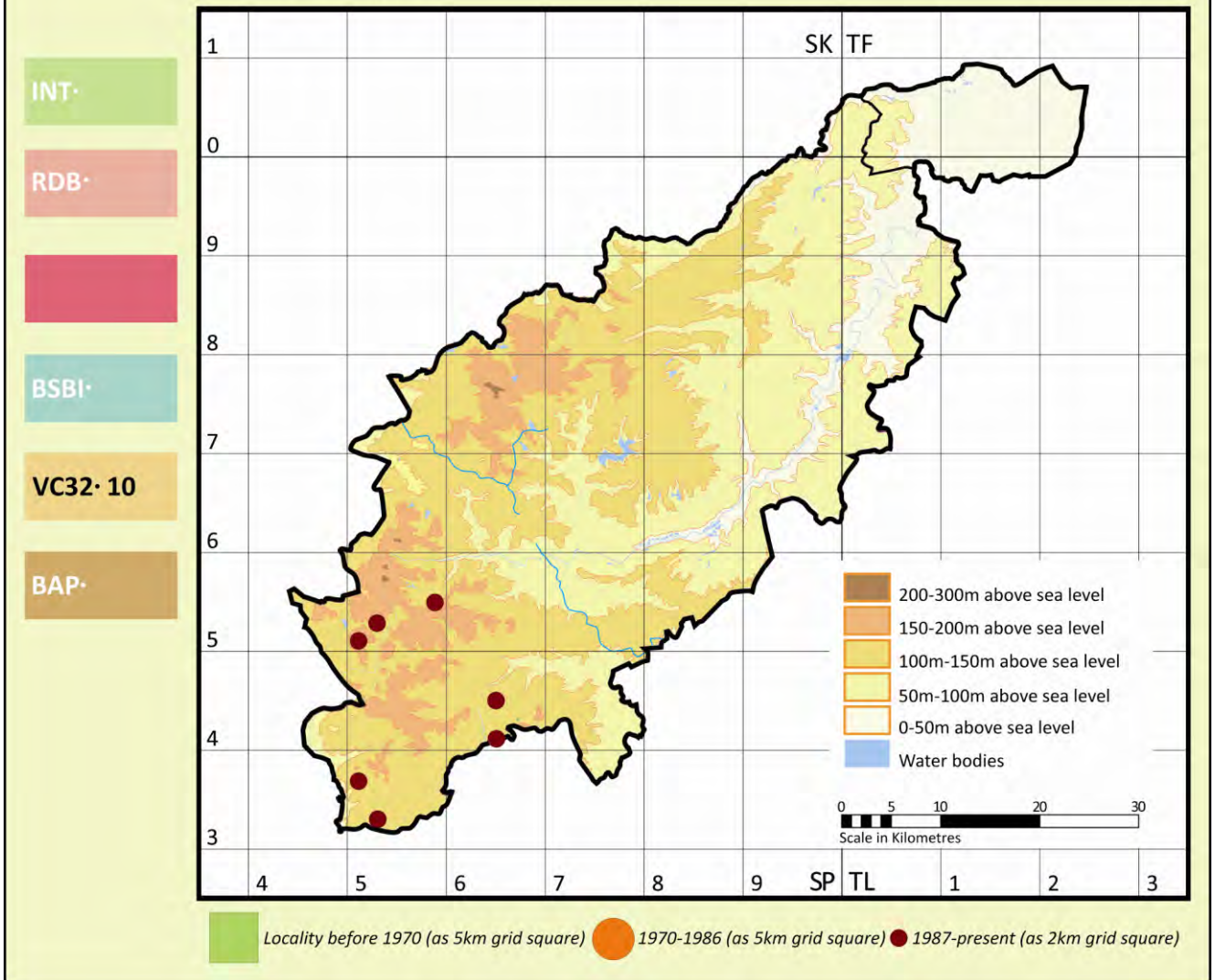
SP588626	Borough Hill, Daventry	N		1997	TB
SP644459	Bucknell Wood Meadows	N	SSSI	1991	GG
SP806670	Cow Pasture Spinney, Overstone	N		1992	LM
SP921945	Dryleas Wood	N		2002	PE
SP604565	Everdon Stubbs	N	SSSI	1992	GG
SP852890	Great Cattage Wood	N		1993	LM
SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N		2006	GG
SP589548	High Wood & Meadow	N	SSSI/NR	1993	TB
SP723645	Northamptonshire County Golf Club	N		1990	DS

Ever an infrequent species, it is still known from Harlestone Firs and Borough Hill, two of just over a dozen sites recorded before 1930. It is now less commonly seen only recorded in recent years from nine sites although most of these are inevitably close to the old locations, heathland being a scarce habitat in VC32..

Druce: Local & rather rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very uncommon.

Dryopteris cambrensis (Fraser-Jenk.) Beitel & W.R. Buck

Narrow Male-fern



Native

A fern found in shady areas usually in acidic woodlands.

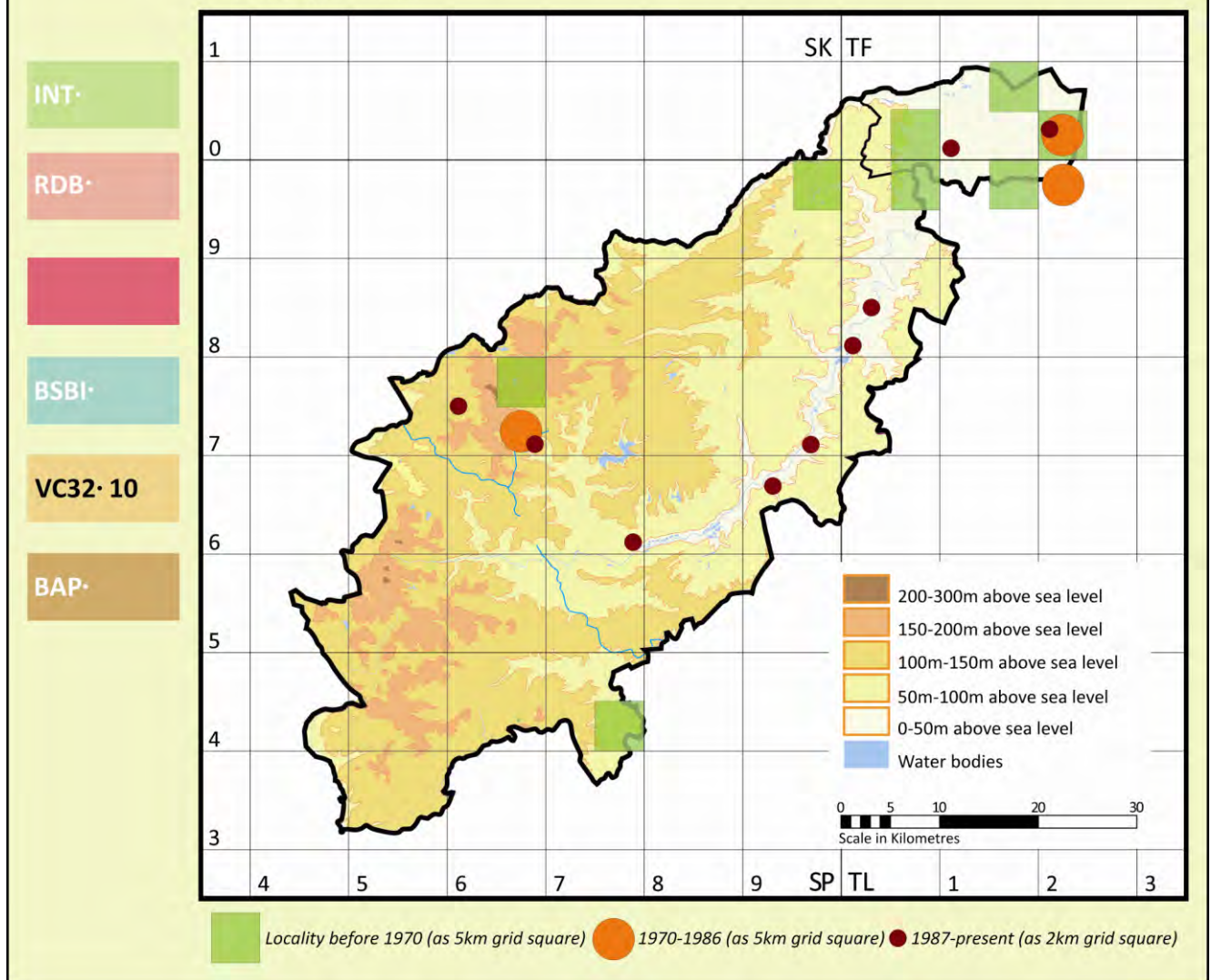
SP658447	Bucknell Wood	N		2002	CC/JC
SP593547	High Wood	N	SSSI/NR	2002	CC/JC
SP535327	Old Down Covert	N		2002	CC/JC
SP507508	Redhill Wood	N		2002	CC/JC
SP514378	Rosamund's Bower	N		2002	CC/JC
SP534525	Smanhill Covert	N		2002	CC/JC
SP643411	Wood Green Plantation Hazelborough	N		2002	CC/JC

Not previously recorded in the county, its concentration in the south may be due to recording bias although it does seem to be absent from sites in the north.

Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Eleocharis acicularis (L.) Roem. & Schult.

Needle Spike-rush



Native

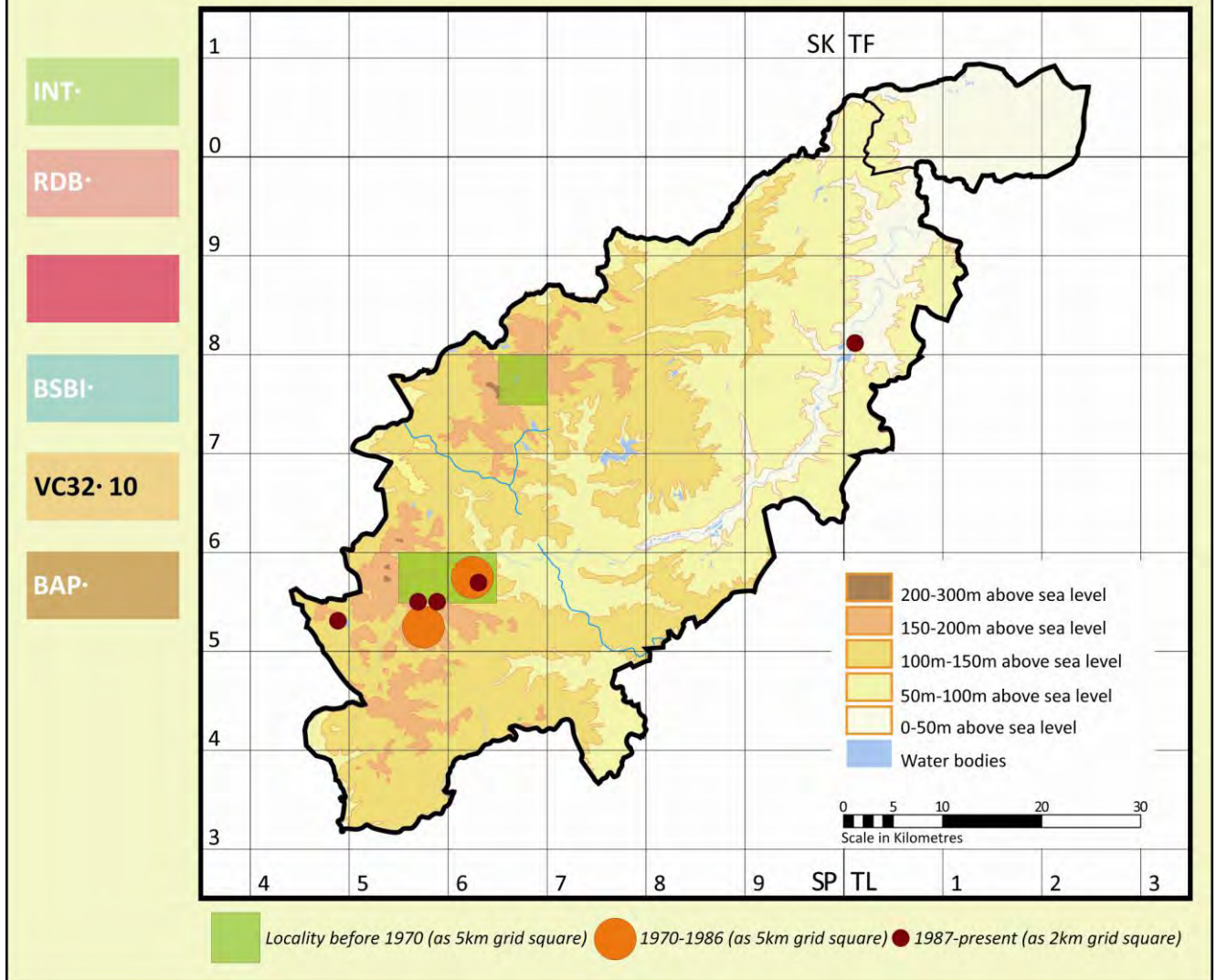
A perennial growing at the edges of reservoirs and other bodies of still water.

Although it has always been a rare species it seems to be maintaining its presence in the county. Early records show it at Blatherwycke, Borough Fen, in the Grand Junction Canal near Cosgrove, Mason's Drain, Naseby Reservoir (1909), Oxney Lode, Sutton Heath and Bog and near Wansford.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Equisetum sylvaticum L.

Wood Horsetail



Native

A deciduous herb of shady places, often on permanently damp acidic soil.

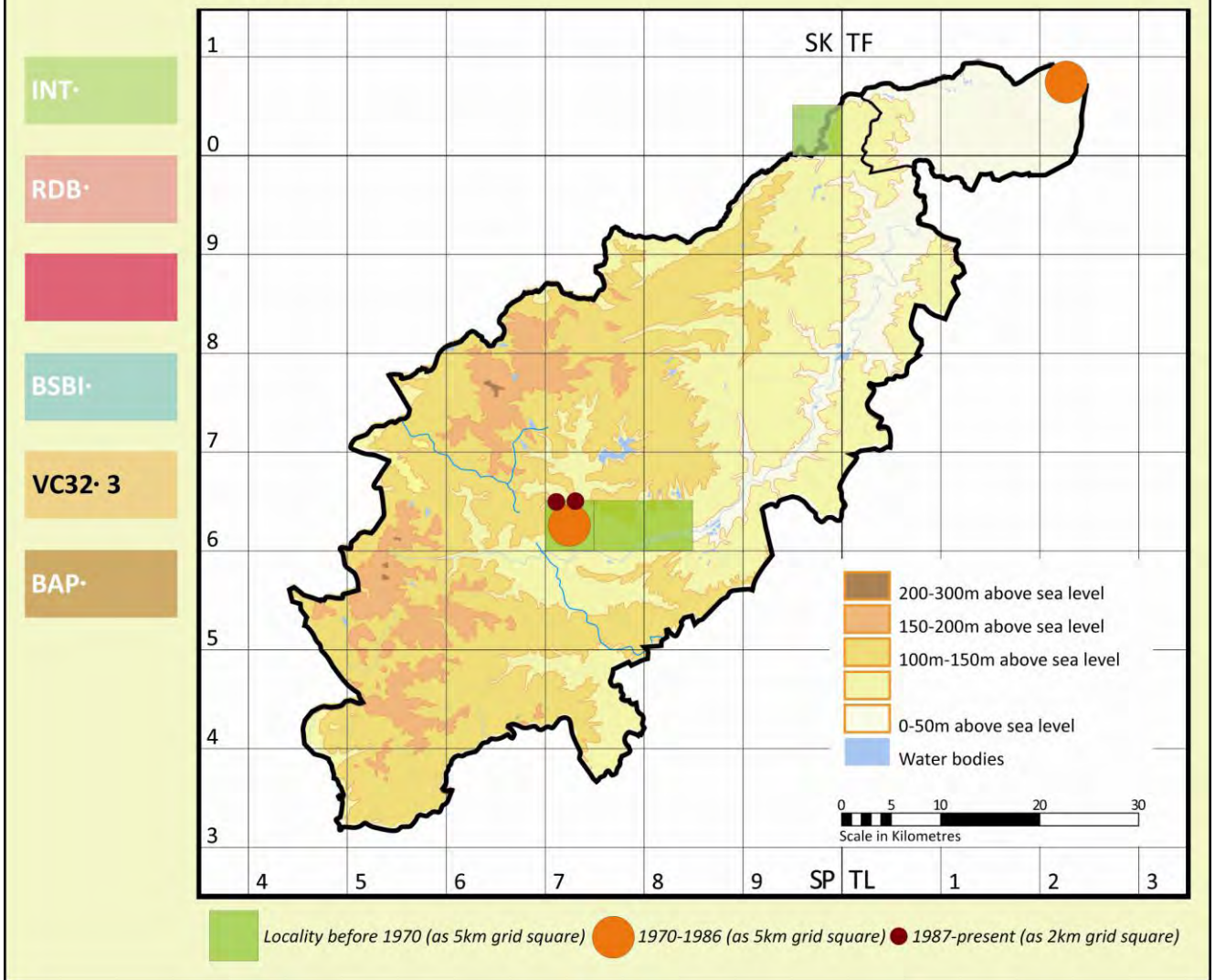
SP497530	Boddington Reservoir	N	NR	1999	TE
SP570549	Church Wood	N			TB
SP589548	High Wood & Meadow	N	SSSI/NR	1993	TB
SP625563	Ramsden Corner Plantation	N	SSSI/NR	1996	TB
TL007815	Titchmarsh Nature Reserve	N	SSSI/NR	2001	MWi

Druce considered this to be a very rare species, with two of the three records dating from before 1820 and vice-county 32 being outside of its normal range. It was still present at one of these early sites, Badby Wood, in 1930. It is still primarily to be found in the main area of the early records and four of the five sites where it is to be found today are nature reserves where sensitive management will encourage this species to thrive.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare.

Erica cinerea L.

Bell Heather



Native

A shrub of thin peaty soils on dry heaths.

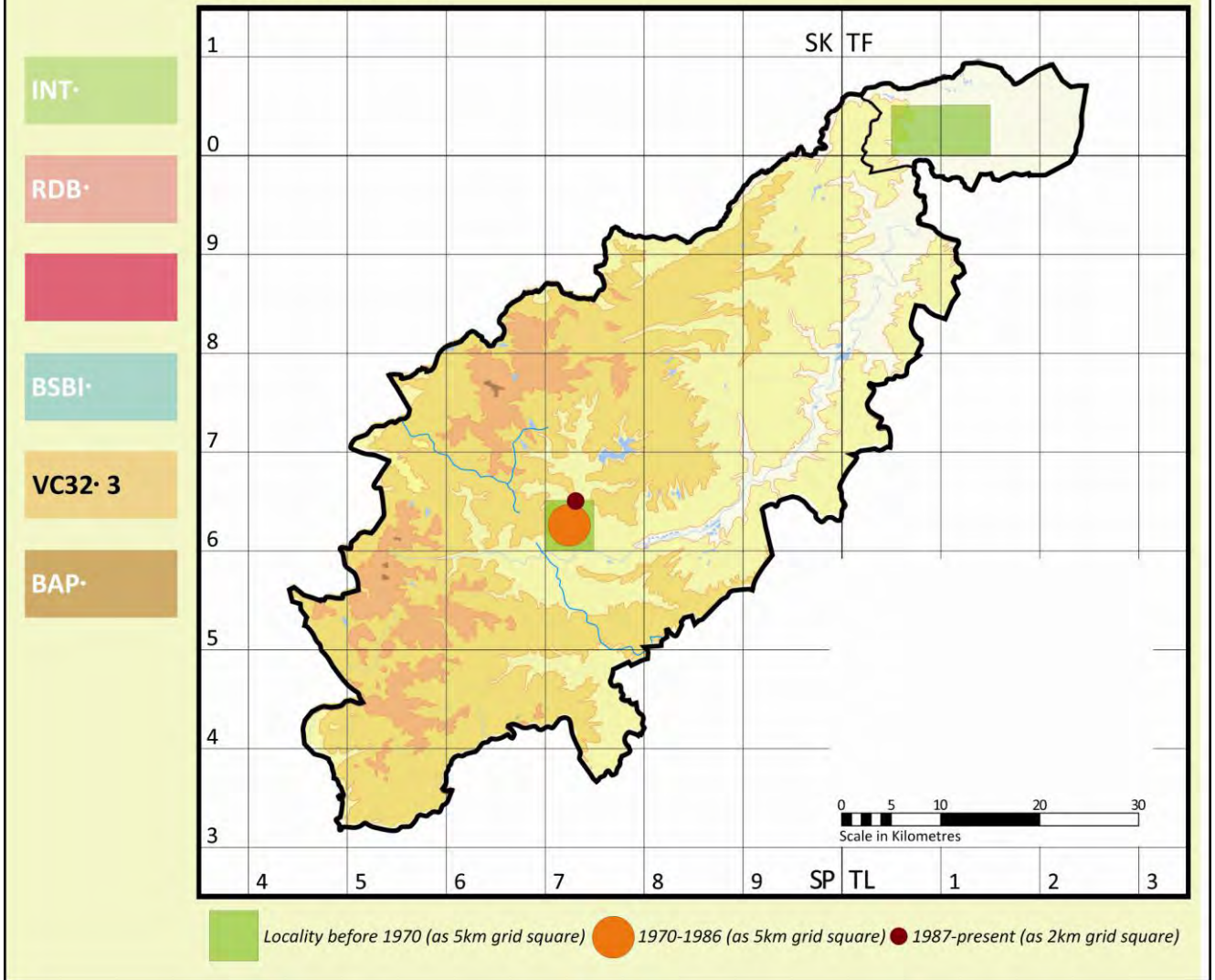
SP714640	Harlestone Heath	N	NR	2006	GG
SP725647	Northamptonshire Golf Club	N		1992	LM

This species has only ever been known at four or five sites: Billing Lings, Duddington Wood, Harlestone and the adjoining Dallington Heath and Kingsthorpe Bushes. It is now only known from Harlestone Heath and the adjoining golf course on Dallington Heath, which together form one of the few areas of true heathland remaining in the county. It is only found in small numbers here and at Harlestone it survives in a recently cleared area where its future is insecure..

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Erica tetralix L.

Cross-leaved Heath



Native

A shrub of nutrient poor bogs and wet heathland.

SP721645

Harlestone Heath

N

2011

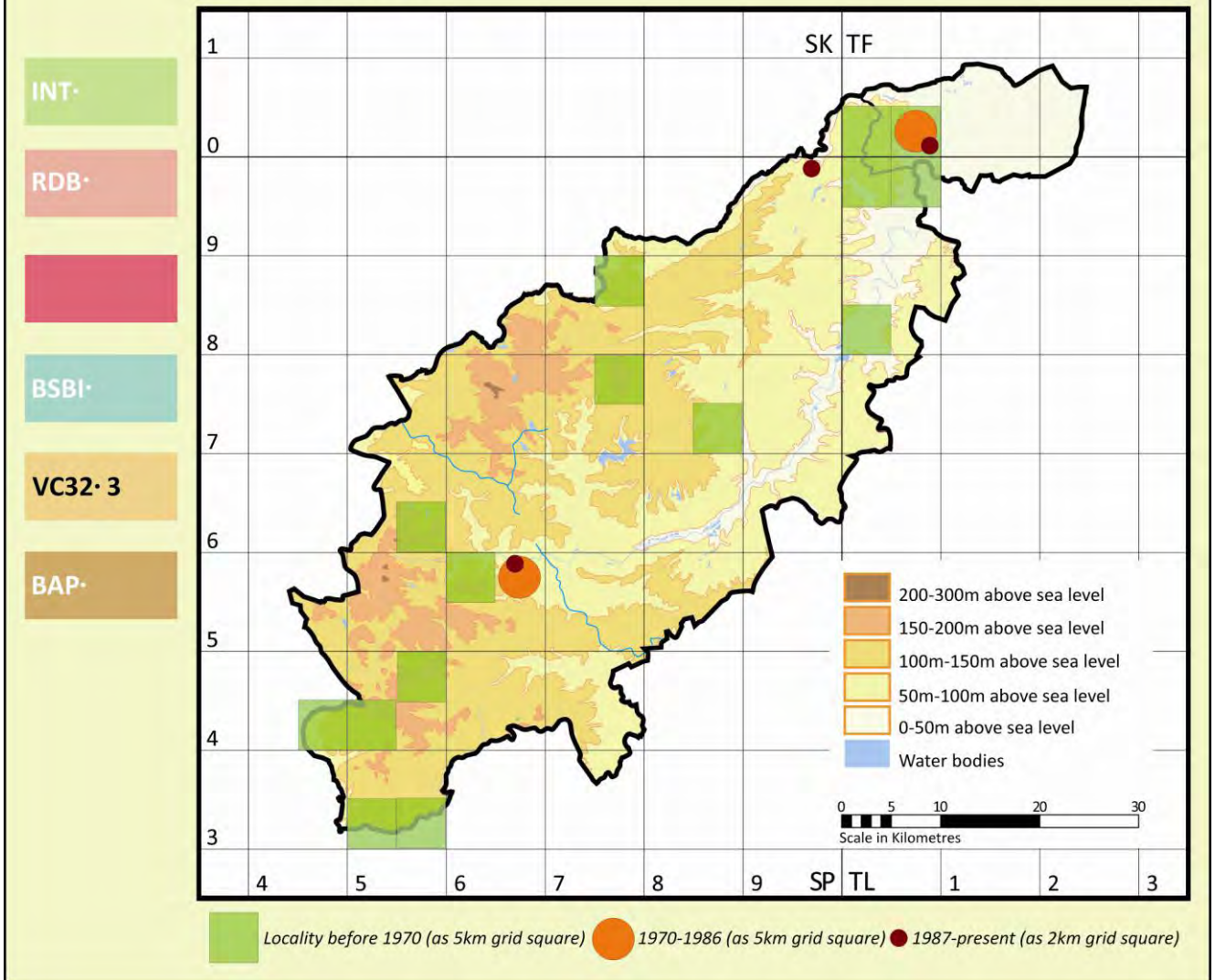
SB

Once known from three sites in the Soke of Peterborough: Ailsworth Heath, Helpston Heath and Sutton Heath and Bog, from all of which it has disappeared. There was a single site in Northamptonshire, at Harlestone Heath, from where it was also thought to have been eliminated but it was rediscovered there in the 1980s and it hangs on at this small relic heath, one of the few such remaining in the vice-county.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Eriophorum angustifolium Honck.

Common Cottongrass



Native

A perennial herb of acid or calcareous peaty sites

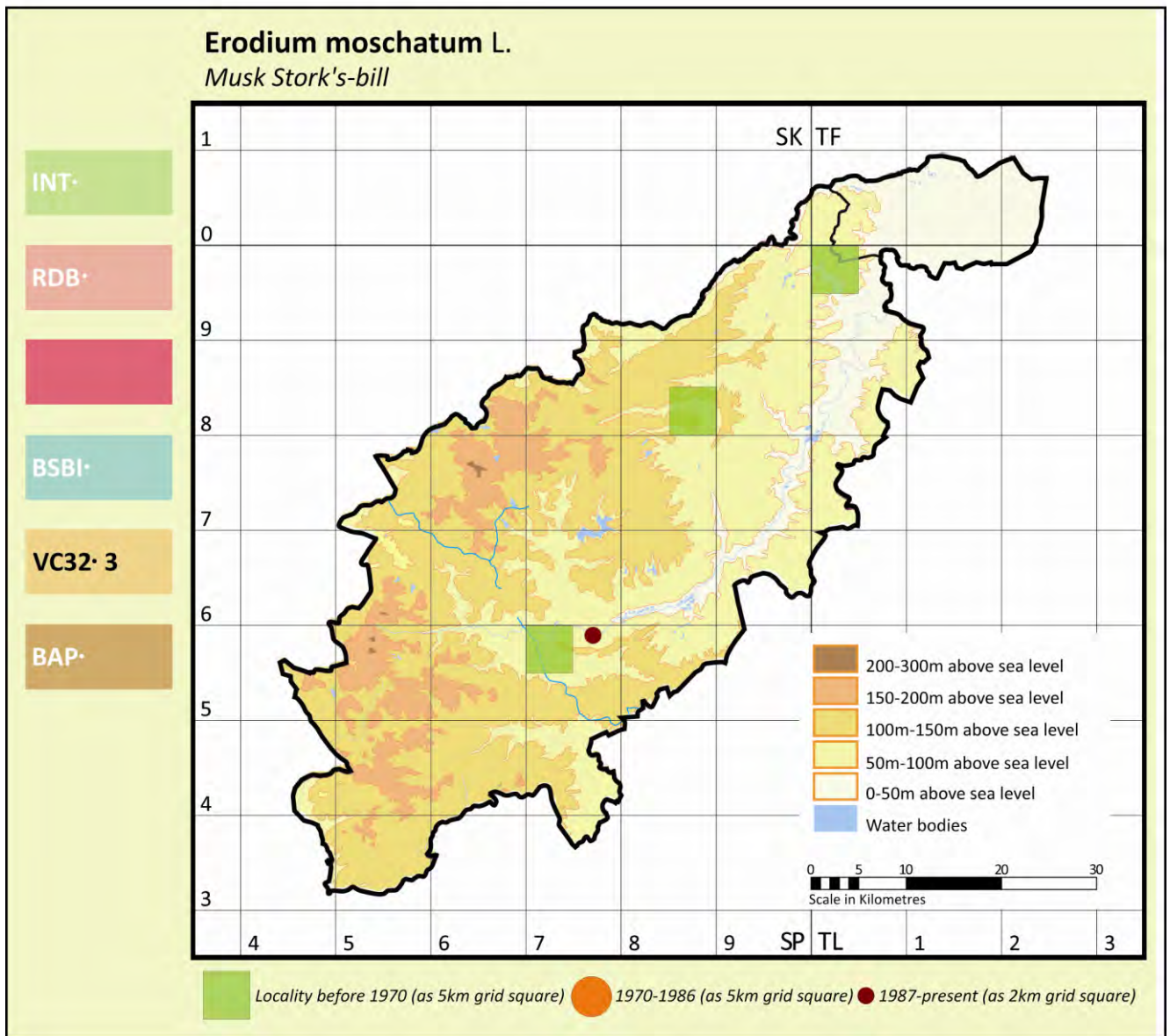
SP675587	Bugbrooke Meadows	N	SSSI/NR	1997	GG
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI		
	Wakerley (St Luke's Meadow)	N			
SP973996					

This species is the most common of the cottongrasses, but it was already declining 100 years ago, and it has been much affected by groundwater extraction, the drainage of agricultural land and the fact that there has never been much suitable habitat for this species, meaning Common Cottongrass never had many opportunities to establish itself in this county. Even at the remaining sites it only occurs in small numbers. It has previously been recorded from Aldwinckle Marsh, and it is possible it could still be re-found there.

Druce: Very local and, owing to drainage, a decreasing species, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Erodium moschatum L.

Musk Stork's-bill



Archaeophyte

An annual of bare ground, roadside verges and rough grassland on sandy soils.

SP775585 Northampton (Brackmills)

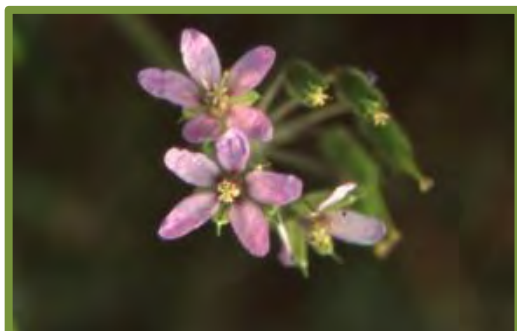
N

2008

RW

This species was thought to be extinct, with only a couple of records in Druce's Flora of Northamptonshire and a single record near Geddington during the 1940s. Then, in 2007, it was rediscovered on Brackmills Industrial Estate Northampton and during a visit to the site in 2008 in excess of 100 plants were counted in a small bank of mown grass and the adjoining roadside verge. This is only a short distance from the River Nene and about 2 miles downstream from where it was recorded, possibly as an introduction from wool or skin washing in 1878 and 1879.

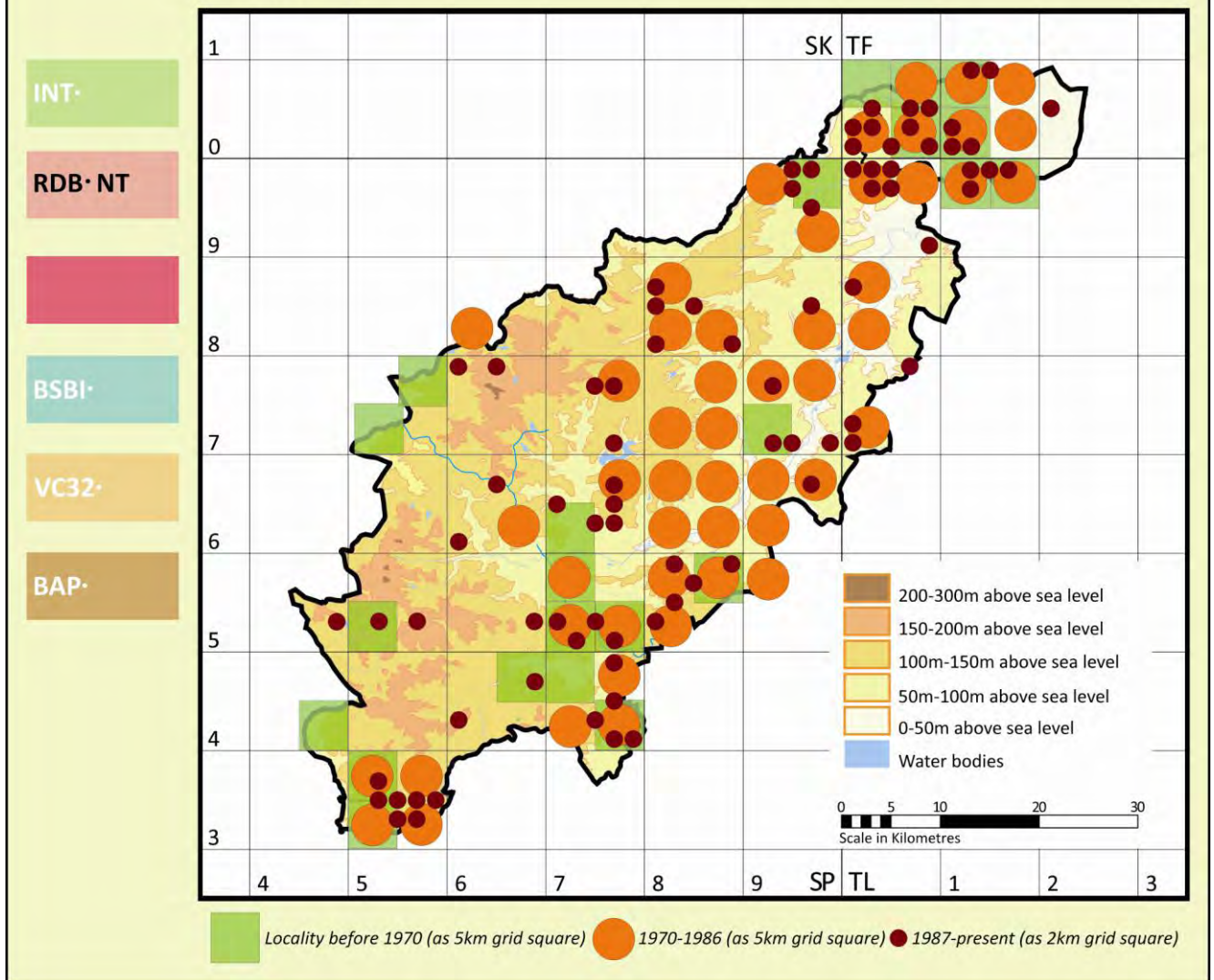
Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Probably extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.



Musk Stork's-bill at Brackmills Industrial Estate, Northampton. Brian Laney

Euphorbia exiugua L.

Dwarf Spurge



Archaeophyte

An annual weed mainly found on arable land, but occasionally in gardens and on bare ground in grassland on calcareous clays and limestone.

This species is declining due to modern farming practices, especially the use of herbicides in areas where it was once common and it is now generally found in small numbers in fields of beans and other similar crops, often growing in company with other rare arable weeds. It is largely absent from the heavier western clays. It has recently been recorded at more sites than in the past but this is undoubtedly a reflection of the recording effort at a time when it must have been very common.

Druce: Common . . . and widely distributed, Gent & Wilson 1995: Frequent but declining species due to sprays, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.



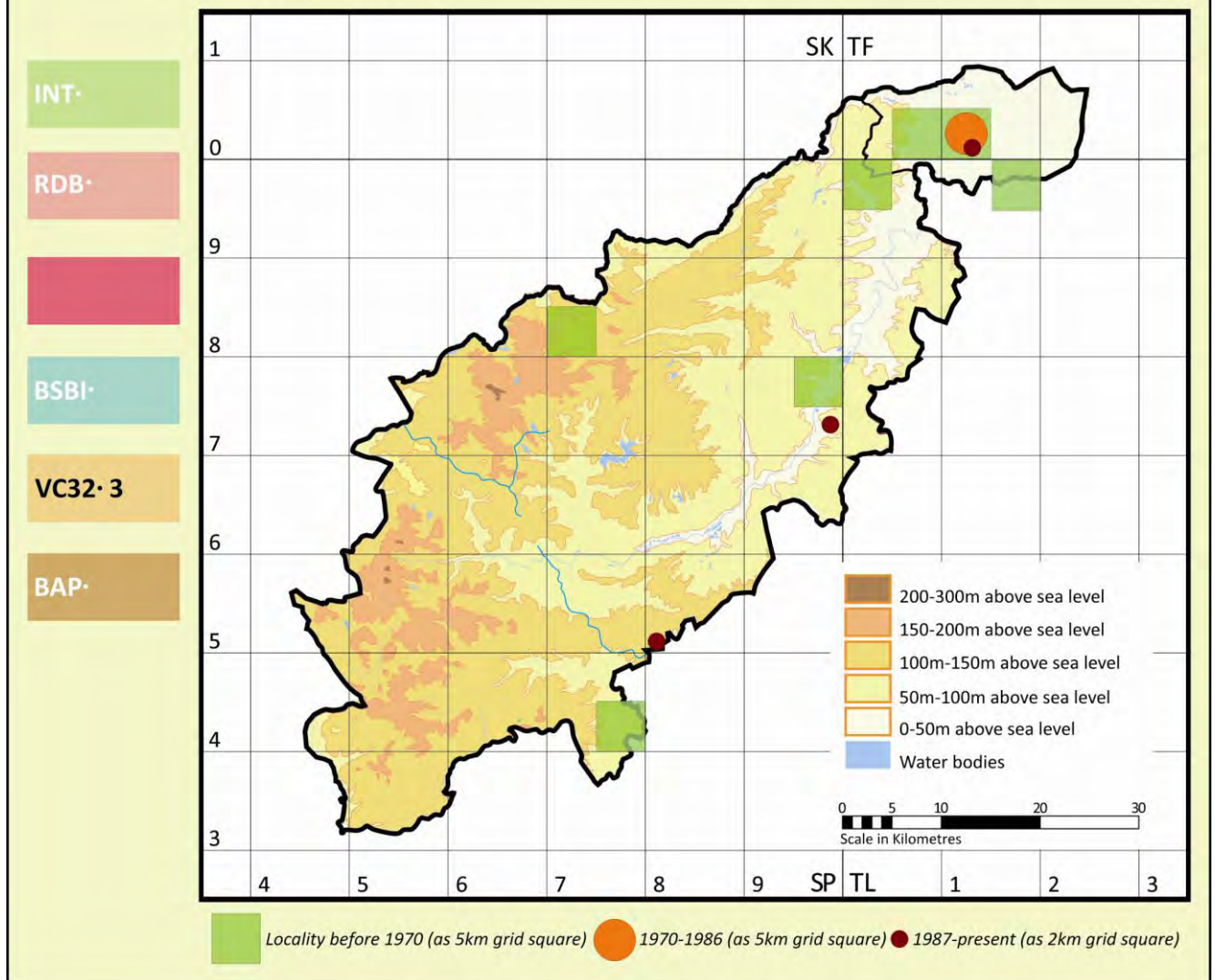
Dwarf Spurge at Harrington Airfield, a site where it has been long established.

Rob Wilson



Euphorbia platyphyllos L.

Broad-leaved Spurge



Archaeophyte

An annual weed found in crops growing on calcareous clay soil.

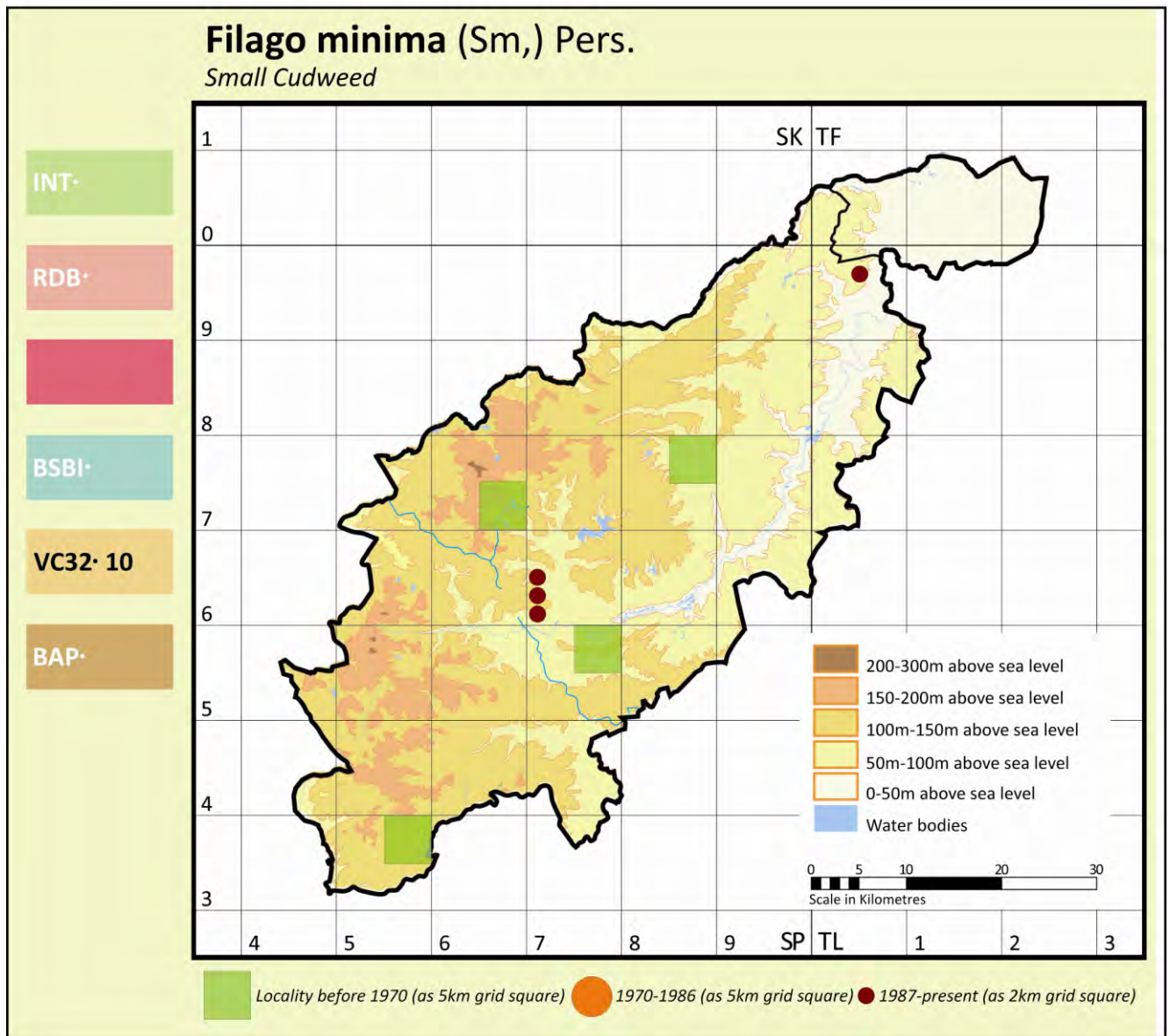
TF124010	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2007	DB
SP998729	Raunds	N		2005	BL
TF126010	White's Spinney	S		2007	DB

This species was decreasing due to agricultural intensification as long ago as the start of the 20th century, with only about half a dozen sites listed in Druce's flora. Nationally it has been retreating southwards out of our area and there have been very few records since 1930. It has been recorded at Castor Hanglands since 1977, and nearby White's Spinney since 1979 and in a beanfield near Raunds since 1991. It is still surviving at all three of these sites. With the exception of a single record in north VC54 Lincolnshire, these seem to be currently the most northerly record for this species.

Druce: Very rare. A decreasing species, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Filago minima (Sm,) Pers.

Small Cudweed



Native

An annual of a range of grassland habitats on neutral to mildly acidic soil.

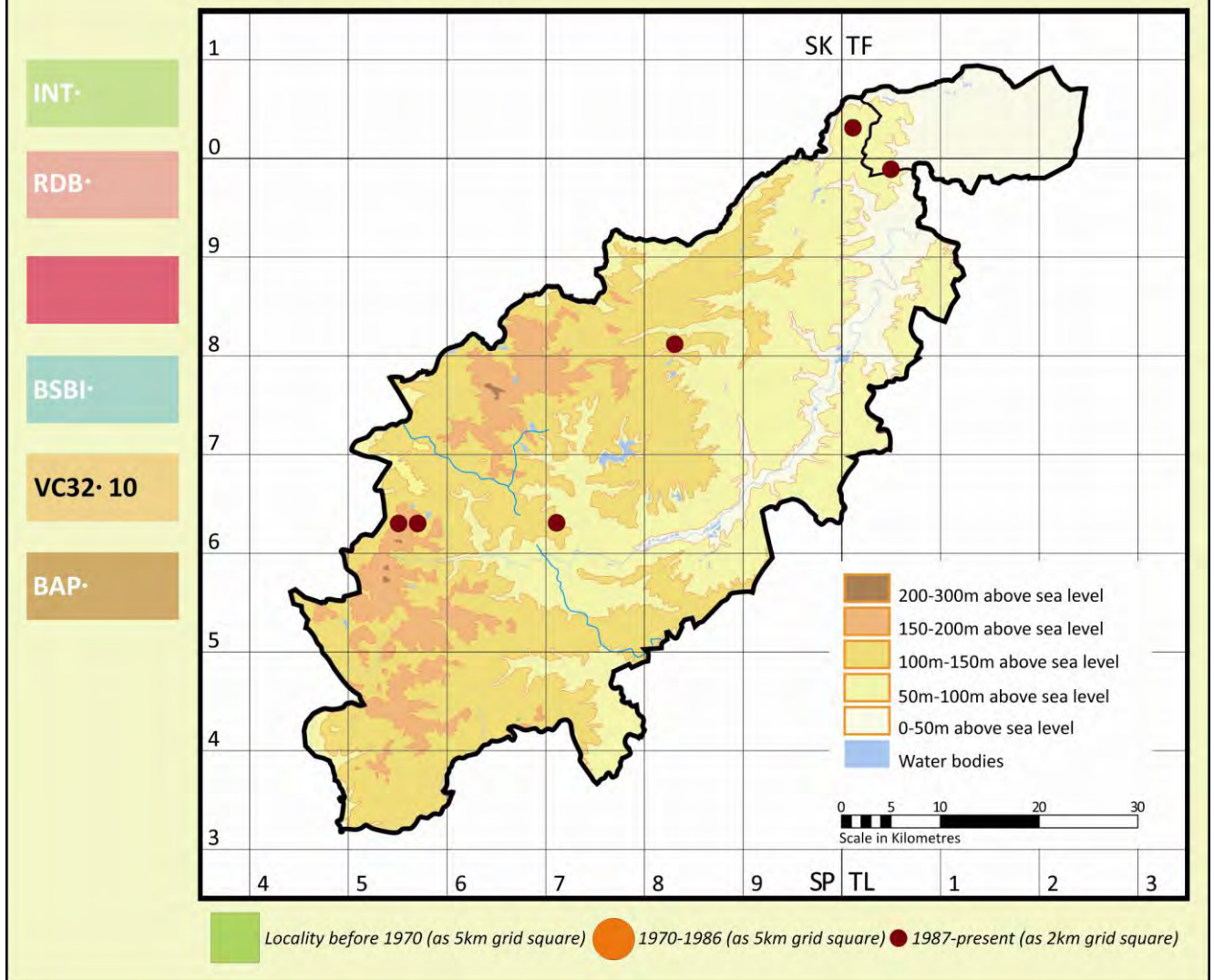
TL045968	Great Morton Sale (near, old quarry)	N	2005	BL
SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N	2004	BL
SP708626	Sandy Lane	N	2011	BL
SP705618	Harlestone (new road near)	N	2011	BL

With heathland habitats never being common it has never been a common species. Druce records it from two localities: Brackley Gorse and 'Holwell Heath' (probably Hollowell Heath, long since destroyed). Since these sightings it was seen in a sandpit in the area to the south of Northampton during a BSBI outing in the 1950s, and on a garden path in Kettering in 1951. It was thought to be extinct but in 2004 it was rediscovered at Harlestone Firs and has since been seen at a couple of other localities nearby plus a completely new locality in the north.

Druce: Very Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Probably extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Fumaria densiflora DC.

Dense-flowered Fumitory



Archaeophyte

A scrambling annual of disturbed arable fields, on free-draining soils.

TF004036	Collyweston	N	1988	PW
TL052997	Cook's Hole	S	2004	JB
SP557621	Daventry Bypass	N	2003	BL/PSt
SP575630	Daventry, Welton Road Allotments	N	2013	BL
SP820817	Rothwell	N	2011	RW
SP708626	Sandy Lane	N	2011	BL

This species was not recorded in the vice-county until 1988, when it was seen in an arable field near Collyweston. These records are outside the general range of this species so it is unlikely that it will ever become a common species in this area and whether the increase in records is due to a spread of the species or previous under-recording needs further research.

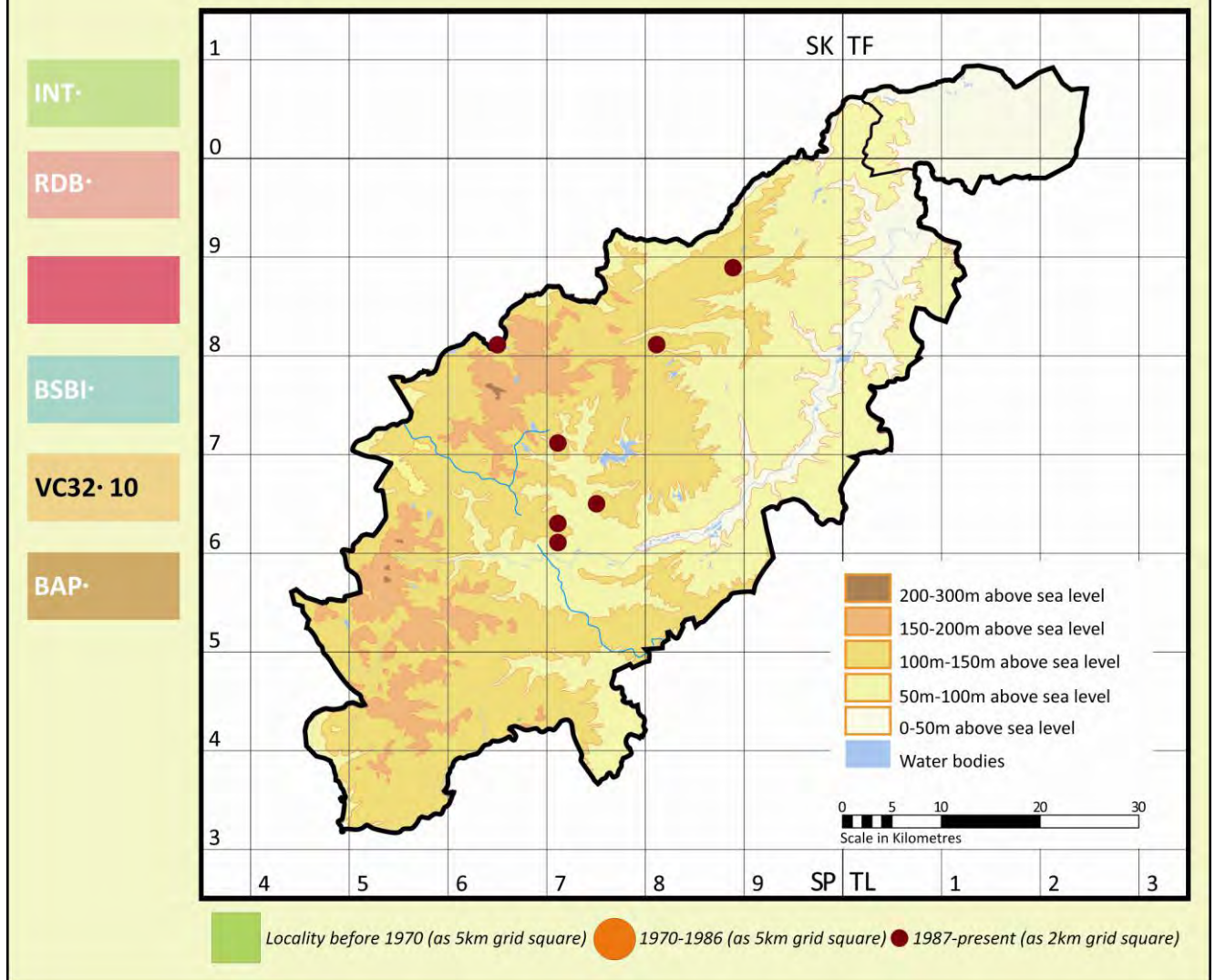
Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare [a single record], Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.



*Dense-flowered Fumitory at Welton Road Allotments,
Daventry.* *Brian Laney*

Fumaria muralis ssp. borei (Jord.) Pugsley

ood Horsetail



Native

An annual scrambling herb on free draining acidic soils in fields and gardens.

SP893885	Corby	N	2013	BL
SP733614	Duston (Bants Lane Allotments)	N	2008	BL
SP718614	Duston (Berrywood Road Allotments)	N	2008	BL
SP750643	Northampton (Kingsthorpe)	N	2008	BL
SP744651	Northampton (near)	N	2006	AS
SP818811	Rothwell	N	2012	RW
SP712700	Spratton	N	2006	BL
SP640803	Welford	N	2005	BL

This subspecies was first recorded from Welford in 2005, but it is extremely difficult to separate from other subspecies and is probably under-recorded.

Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare

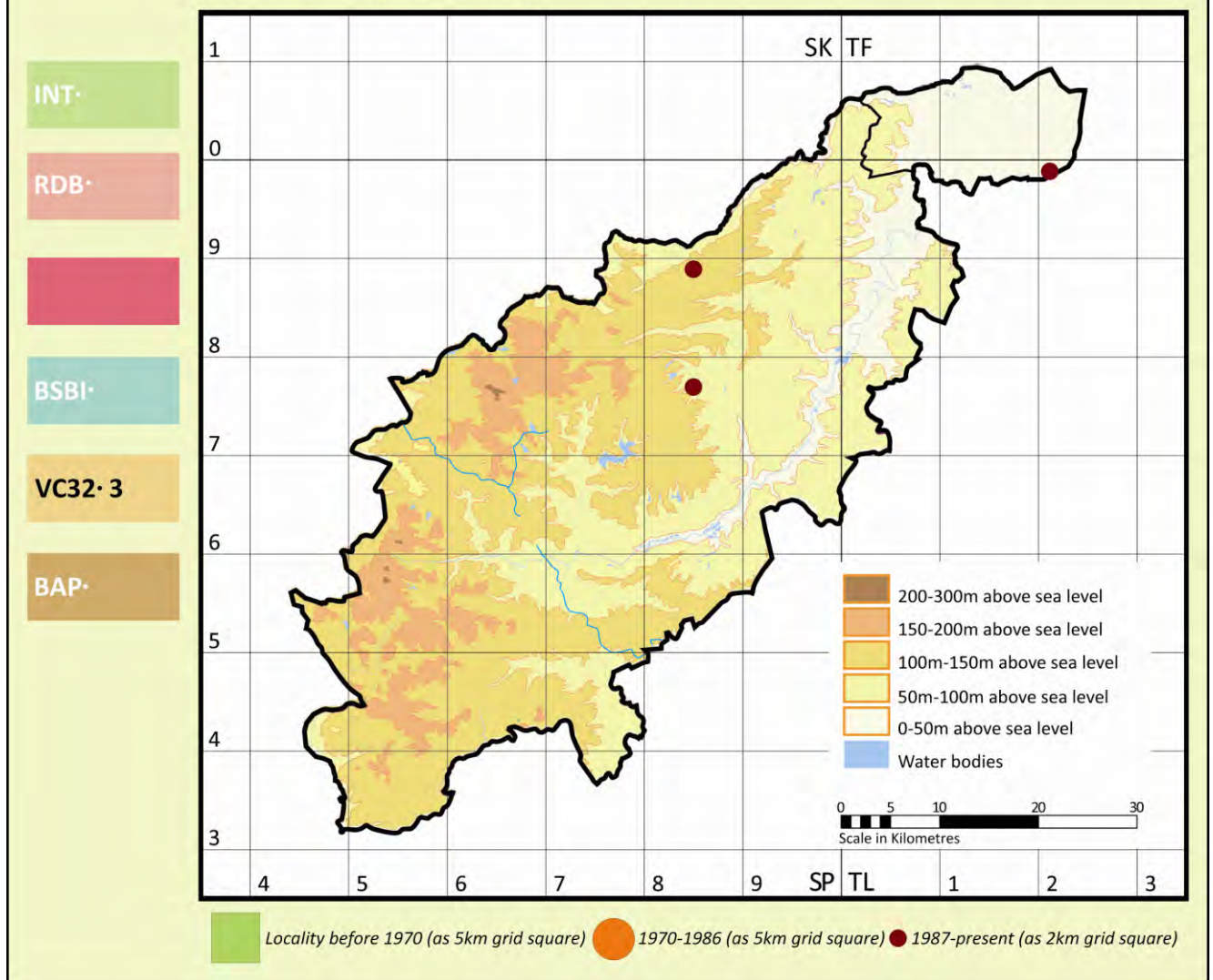


Common rampign-fumitory in a newly planted area near St Mark's Road in Corby.
Brian Laney



Fumaria officinalis ssp. wirtgenii (W.D.J. Koch) Arcang.

Common Ramping-fumitory



Archaeophyte

A weed of disturbed ground, field edges and rubbish heaps on lighter soils.

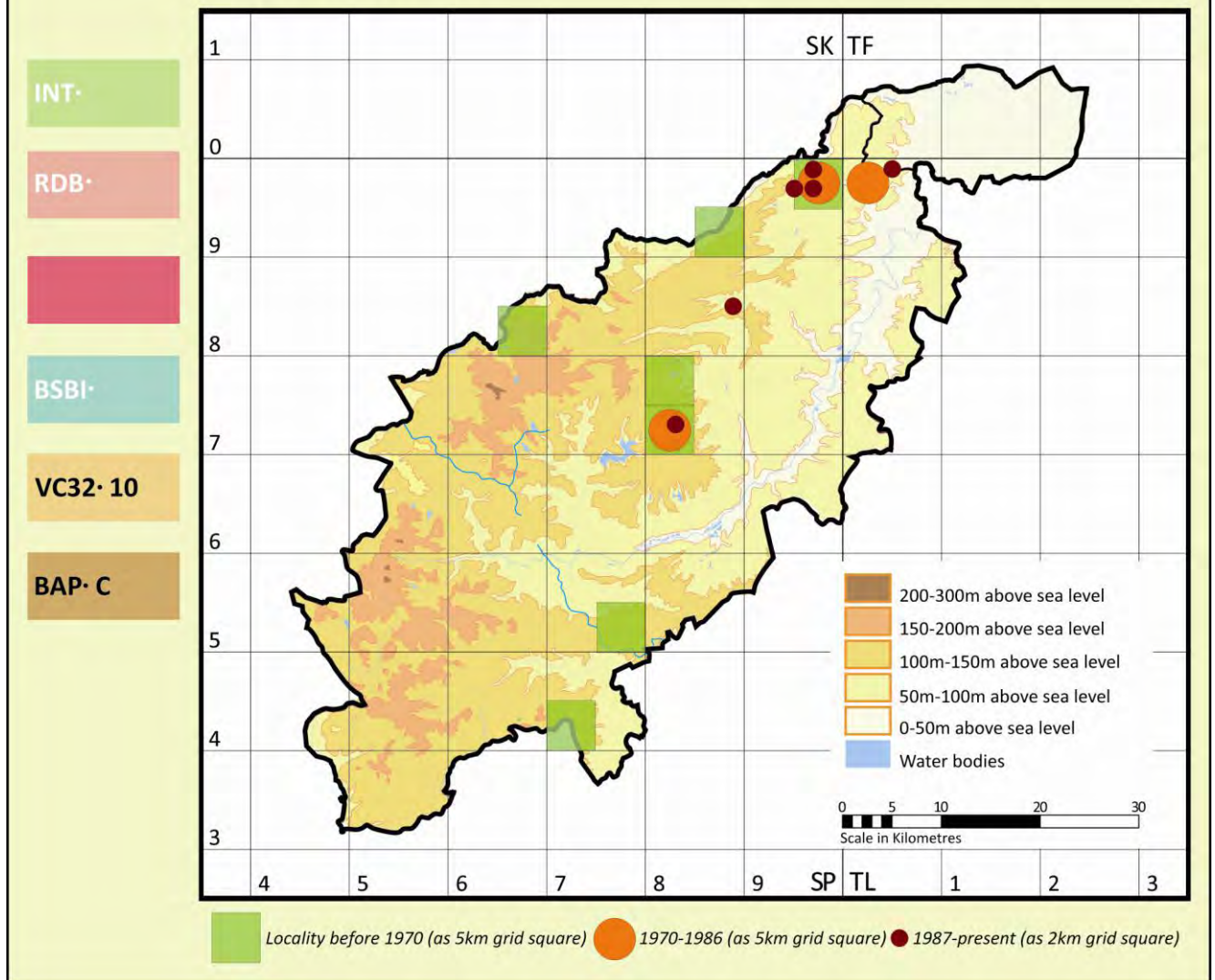
SP84-89-	Cottingham Quarry	N	1988	BC/MC
TL20-98-	Peterborough	S	2006	DB
SP851775	Cransley Park, Kettering	N	2011	RW

The record from Cottingham was the only recorded occurrence of this subspecies until it was seen growing in disturbed ground at the edge of a car par in Carr Road Peterborough in 2006. Its preference for the lighter soils in the east of England means that it will never be a common species here.

Gent & Wilson 1995: A single record, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Gagea lutea (L.) Ker. Gawl.

Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem



Native

A perennial herb of shaded habitats in damp, deciduous woodlands

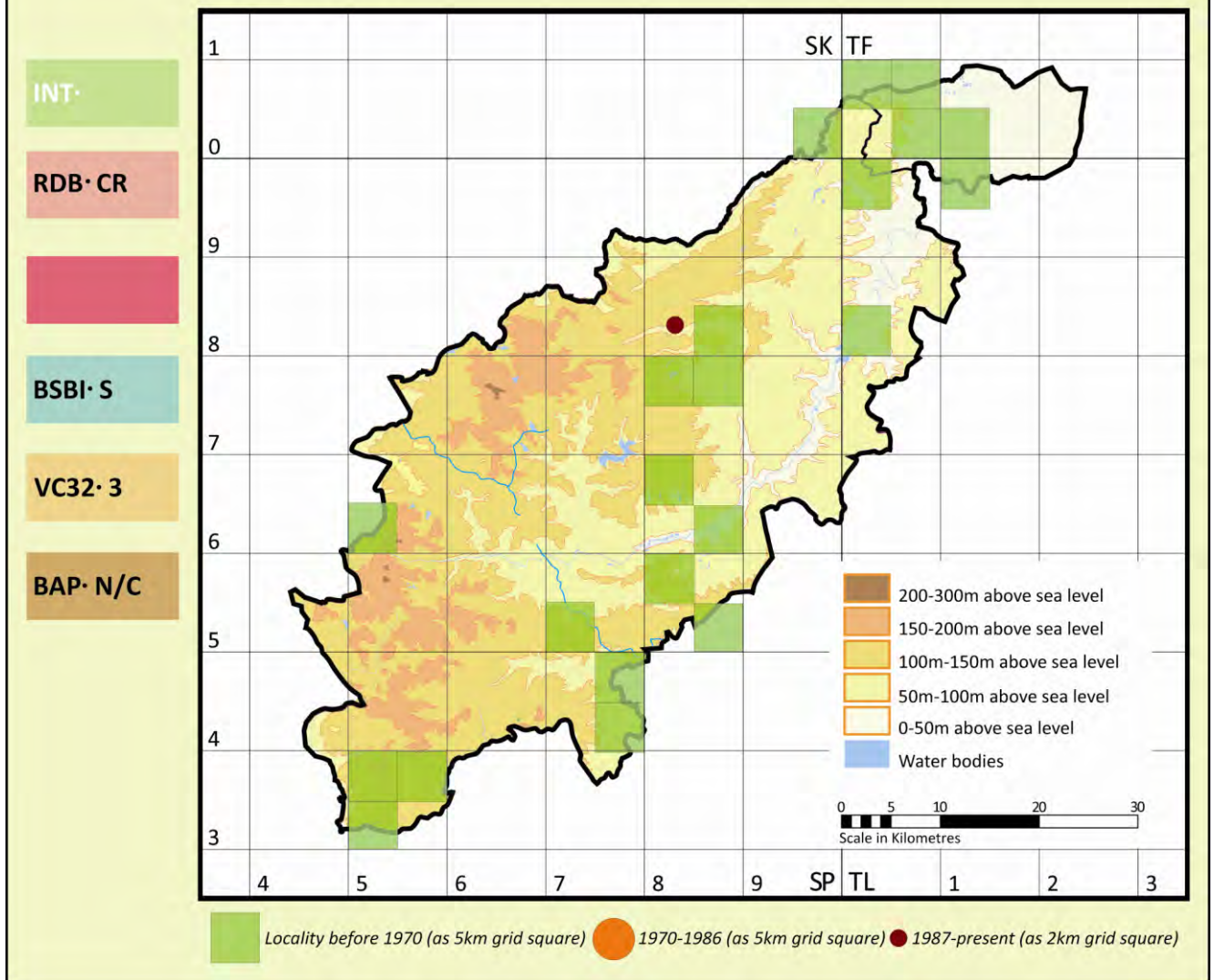
SP830727	Badsaddle Wood	N	SSSI	2013	JM
TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2011	BL
SP972970	Blatherwycke Lake (near)	N		2003	MK/BL
SP951979	Fineshade	N		2004	BL
SP972973	Lynn Wood	N		2011	BL
SP898854	Sart Wood	N		1993	LM
SP976981	Wakerley Great Wood	N		2010	JSq/GF

Rare but may be abundant where found. Recent surveys have revealed more sites than originally thought and there are now records from six localities, all in the north of the county. Of the seven localities listed by Druce, the colonies in Badsaddle Wood and Blatherwycke remain. In all cases it exists as a small colony within a much larger area of woodland and does not seem to spread. Although all of the colonies are small, and sometimes reluctant to flower, this species has appeared consistently at most of these for many years and seems to have an assured, if very local future.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare. Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare but may be abundant where found.

Galeopsis angustifolia Ehrh. ex Hoffm.

Red Hemp-nettle



Archaeophyte

An annual weed of arable ground, mostly on calcareous soils.

SP822823 Rothwell (near)

N

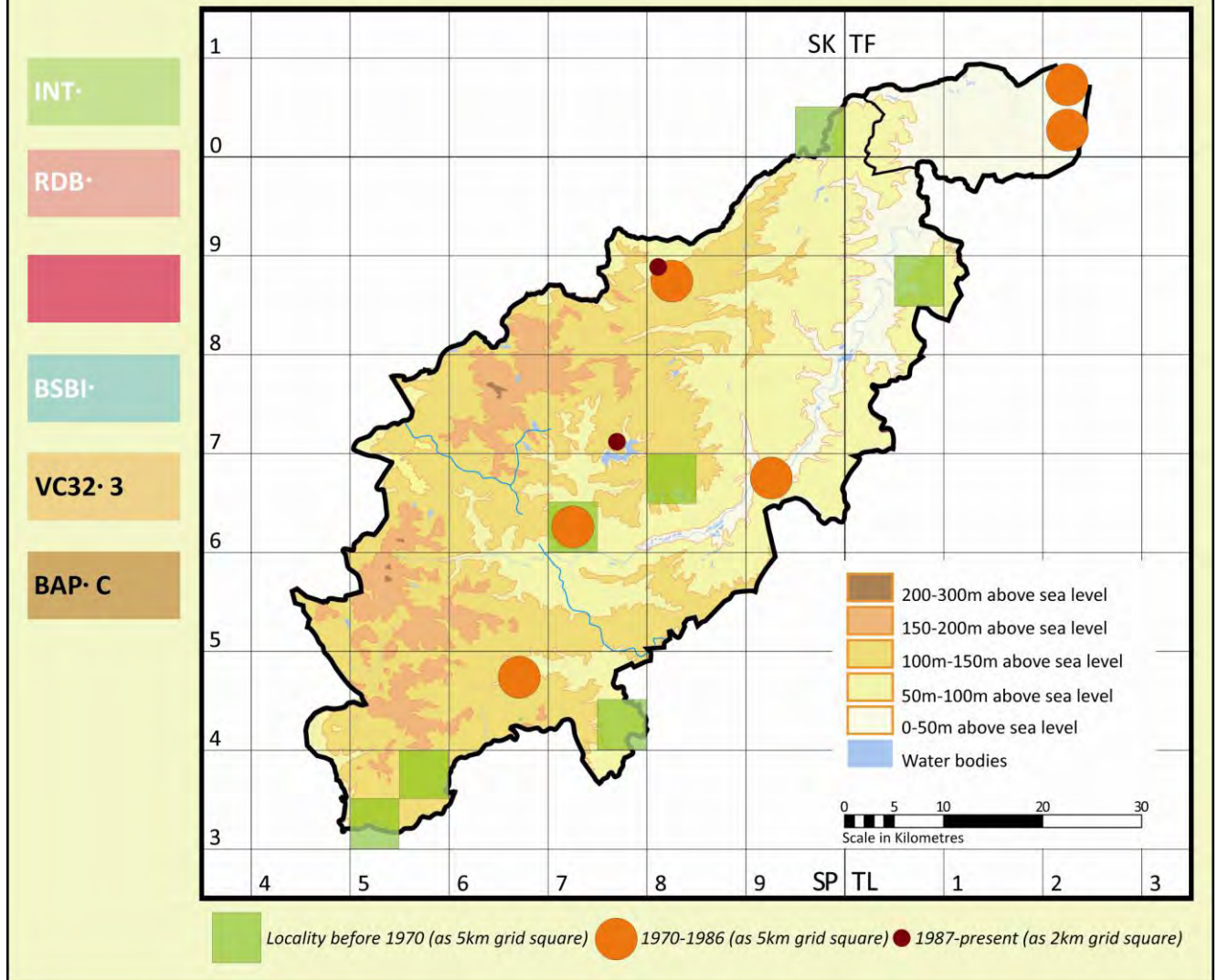
2005 RW

This was once a fairly common weed in the calcareous area to the west of the Soke of Peterborough and along the Nene valley. It was thought to be extinct as it had not been seen since the 1950s and 1960s with the last records at this time being Bedford Purlieu in 1951 (where it has also been recorded in 1908), on the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Loddington Branch in 1953, near Southey Wood in 1960 and at Gray's Pit, near Burton Latimer, in 1965 (where it had been known since 1932). Forty years later, in 2005, it was found once more in the poorly seeded corner of an arable field, near Rothwell, that until the previous year had been setaside. It has not been seen since.

Druce: Locally common and widely distributed, Gent & Wilson 1995: May now be extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare or extinct.

Galeopsis bifida Boenn.

Bifid Hemp-nettle



Native

An annual of arable land, waste ground and woodland margins.

SP772709	Pitsford Reservoir (near)	N	2011	BL
SP677600	Upper Heyford (near)	N	2013	BL
SP80-88-	Wilbarston	N	1998	BC/MC

Until relatively recently this species was considered to be a variety of *G. tetrahit*, and often no attempt was made to differentiate between the two very similar plants which often grow together and it is certainly under-recorded. It seems never to have been known from more than half a dozen localities in the vice-county, and in recent years there are only a few records. In the recent past it was known from about half a dozen sites and appears to be decreasing, but it is a species that needs further research.

Druce: No status given, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Possibly rare.

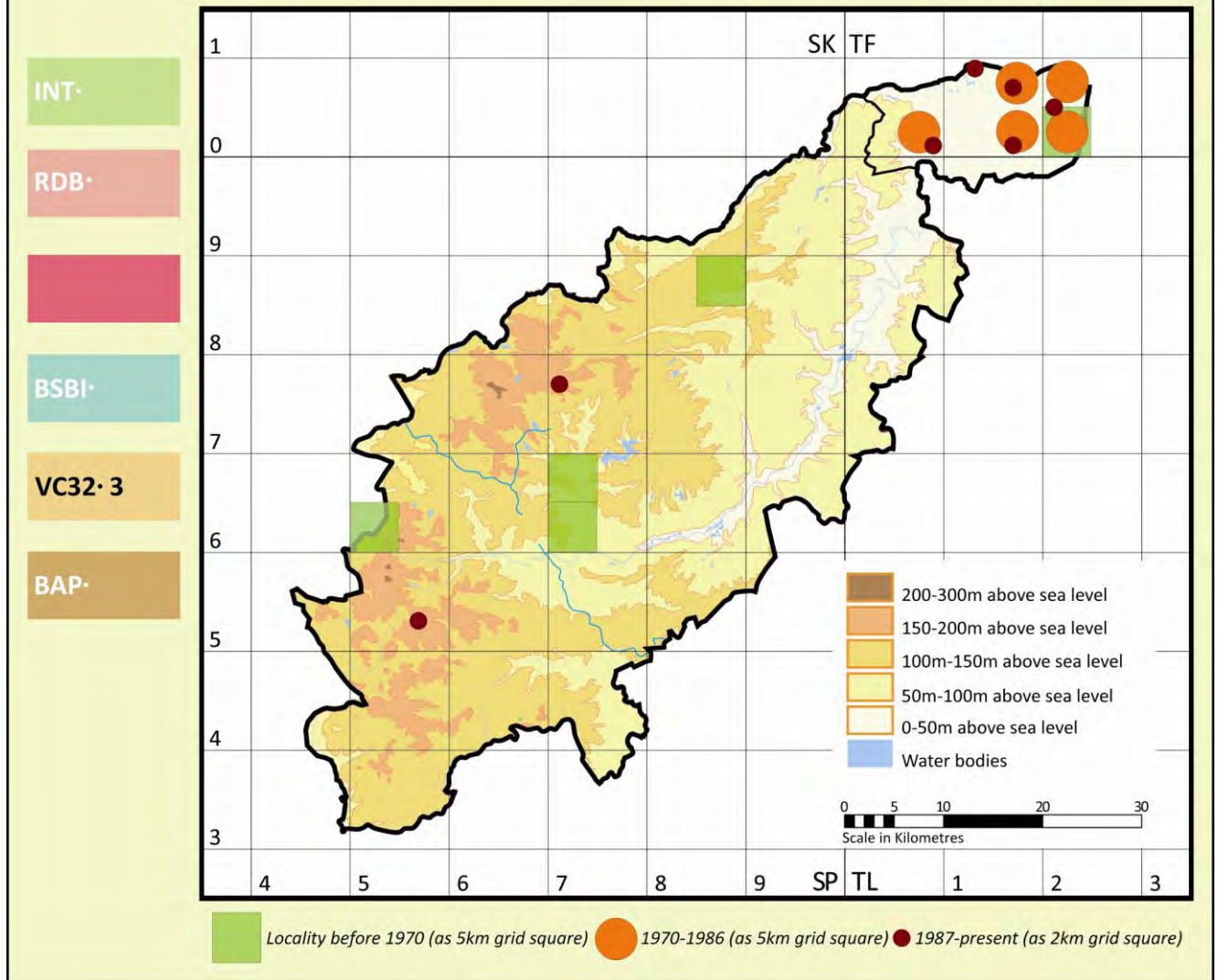


Lower inset: Bifid Hemp-nettle. Pete Stroh. Top inset and Main picture: Bifid Hemp-nettle near Spratton.

Brian Laney

Galeopsis speciosa Mill.

Large-flowered Hemp-nettle



Archaeophyte

An annual of arable land on peat and silt fens and also found occasionally on boulder clay but not on calcareous soils.

SP70-76-	Maidwell	N	1993	JBi/TBi
TF128081	Maxey	S	1994	KDNHS
TF20-05-	Newborough	S	2008	GG
SP57-52-	Oxford Lane, Canons Ashby	N	1988	KH
TF169064	Peakirk	S	1998	RW
TF169001	Peterborough	S	2012	ST
TF080000	Sacrewell Farn & Country Centre	S	1999	TW/SW

Although rare in the county it can be seen consistently in fields around Peakirk and Newborough, where it enjoys the peaty soils. Otherwise it appears sporadically as it is vulnerable to modern weed control methods.

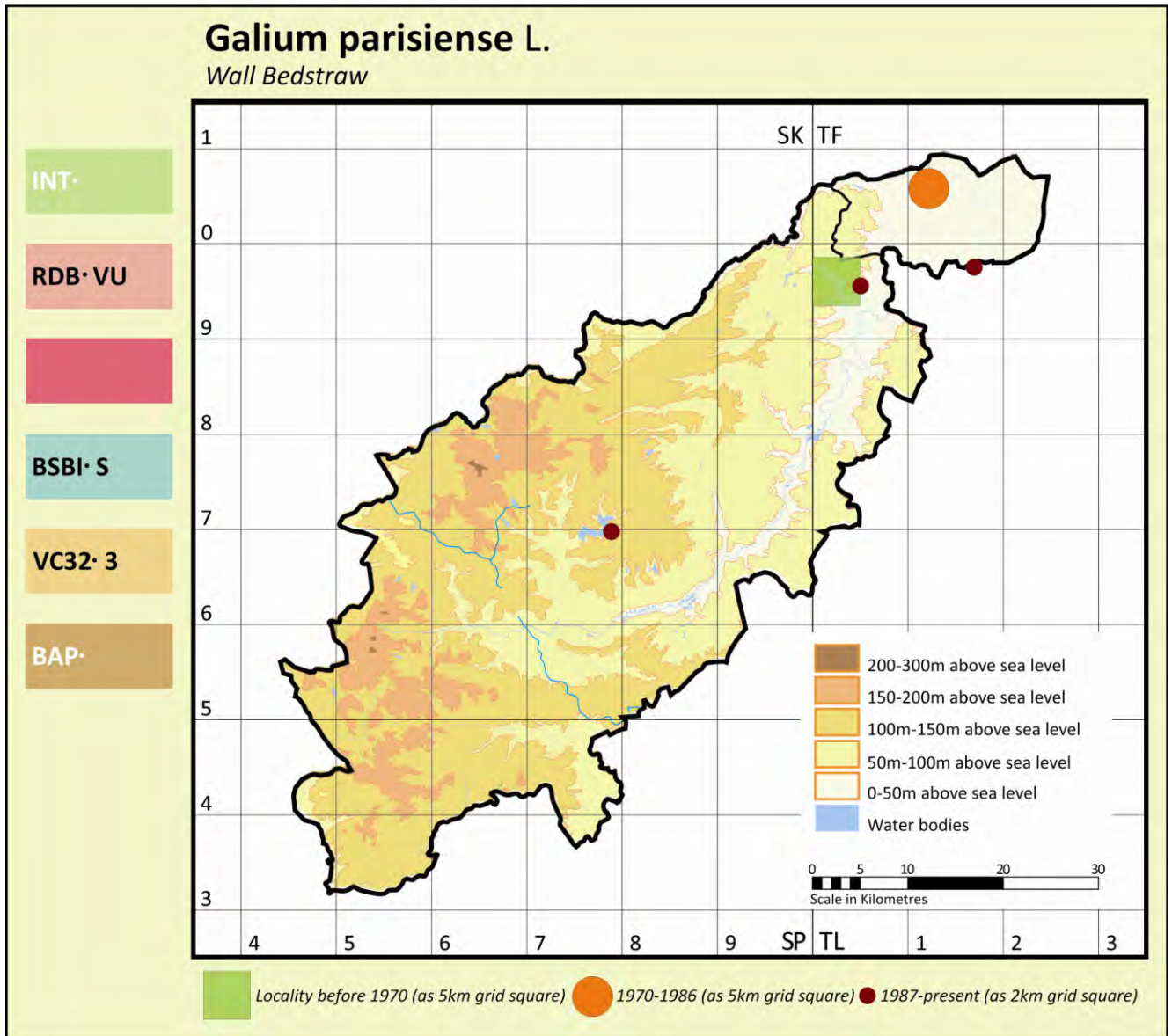
Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.



Large-flowered Hemp-nettle near Bretton Gate, Peterborough. Stella Taylor

Galium parisiense L.

Wall Bedstraw



Native

Embankments of bare ground, either artificially created or natural

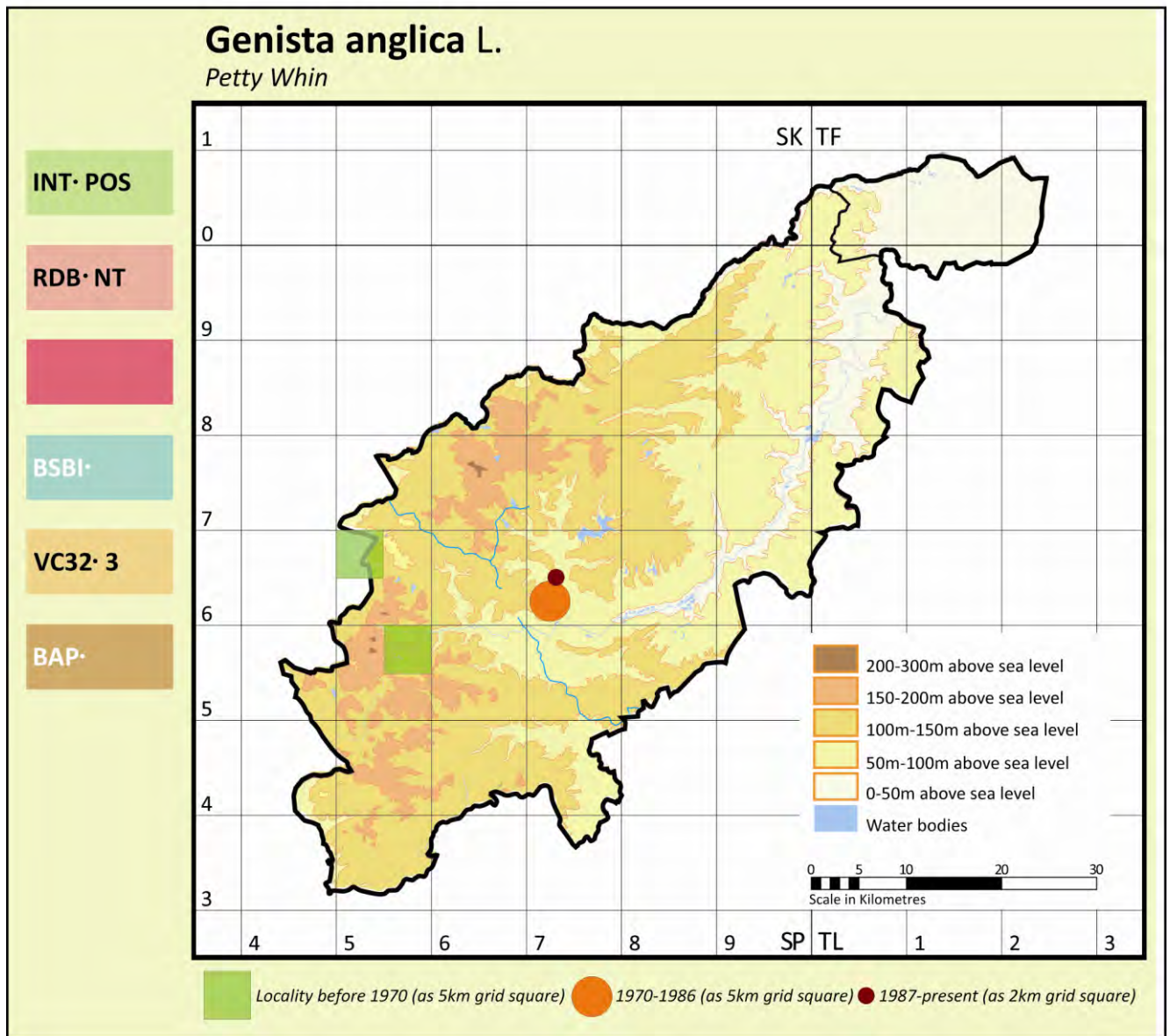
TF122053	Helpston	S		1992	RW
TL172991	Peterborough	S		2009	SL
SP700780	Pitsford Reservoir	N	SSSI/NR	2001	CC/JC

Always an extremely rare species of very sporadic appearance, in recent years it has been recorded at more sites than ever before. It has disappeared from both the Helpston and Pitsford localities, being destroyed by grazing geese at the latter and it must be considered to have a precarious future..

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare, possibly extinct.

Genista anglica L.

Petty Whin



Native

A spiny shrub of heathland.

SP714640 Harlestone Firs

N NR

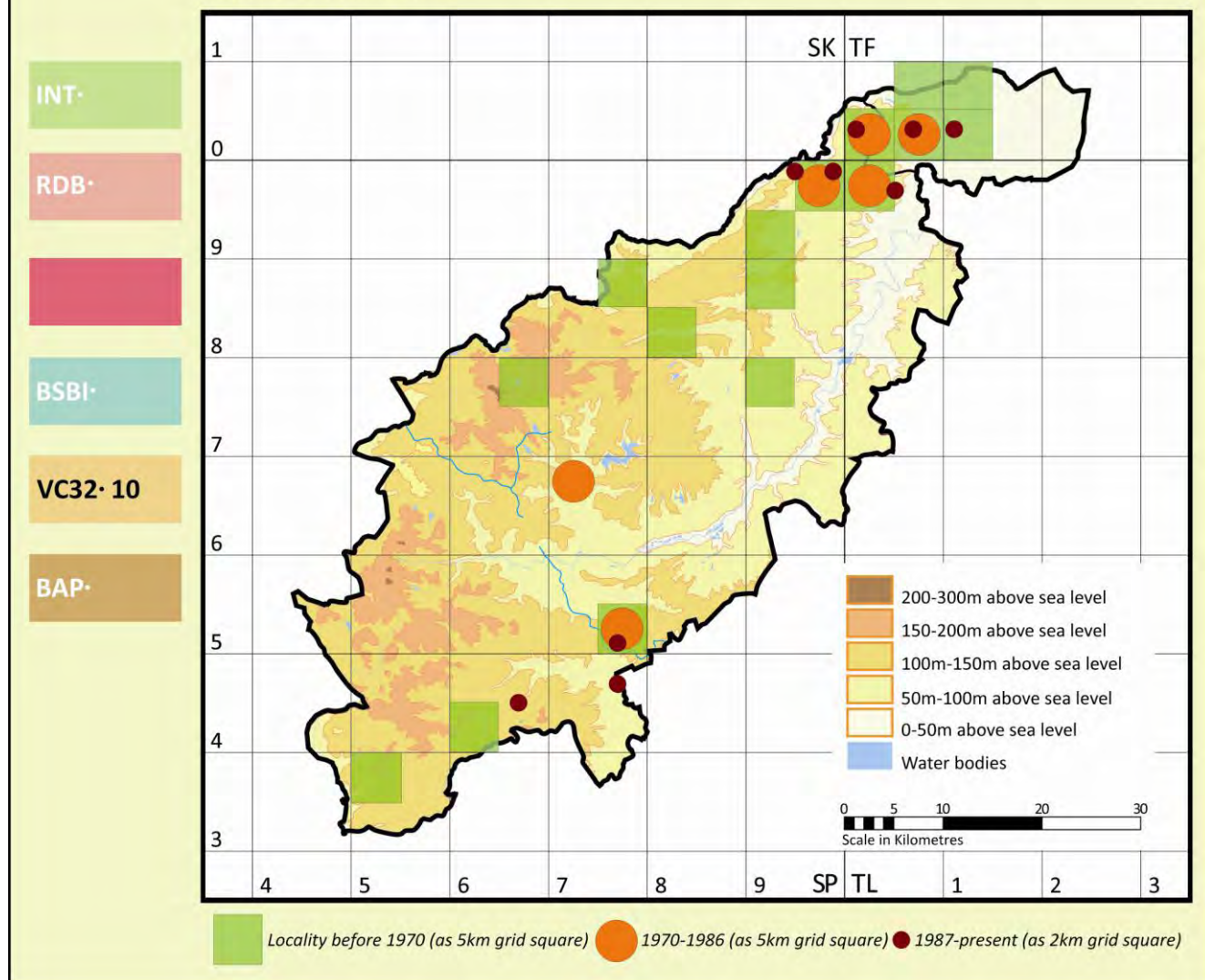
1997 GG

This species was thought to be extinct until it was re-discovered at Harlestone Firs where one of the last remaining areas of heathland in Northamptonshire is protected from agricultural improvement by being planted with pine trees for the commercial production of timber. It is now thought to have disappeared again due to encroaching scrub but could reappear as scrub and trees are cleared.

Druce: Very rare, almost extinct, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Genista tinctoria ssp. tinctoria L.

Dyer's Greenweed



Native

A perennial of grassy places, road verges, field margins etc., on heavy, usually calcareous soils.

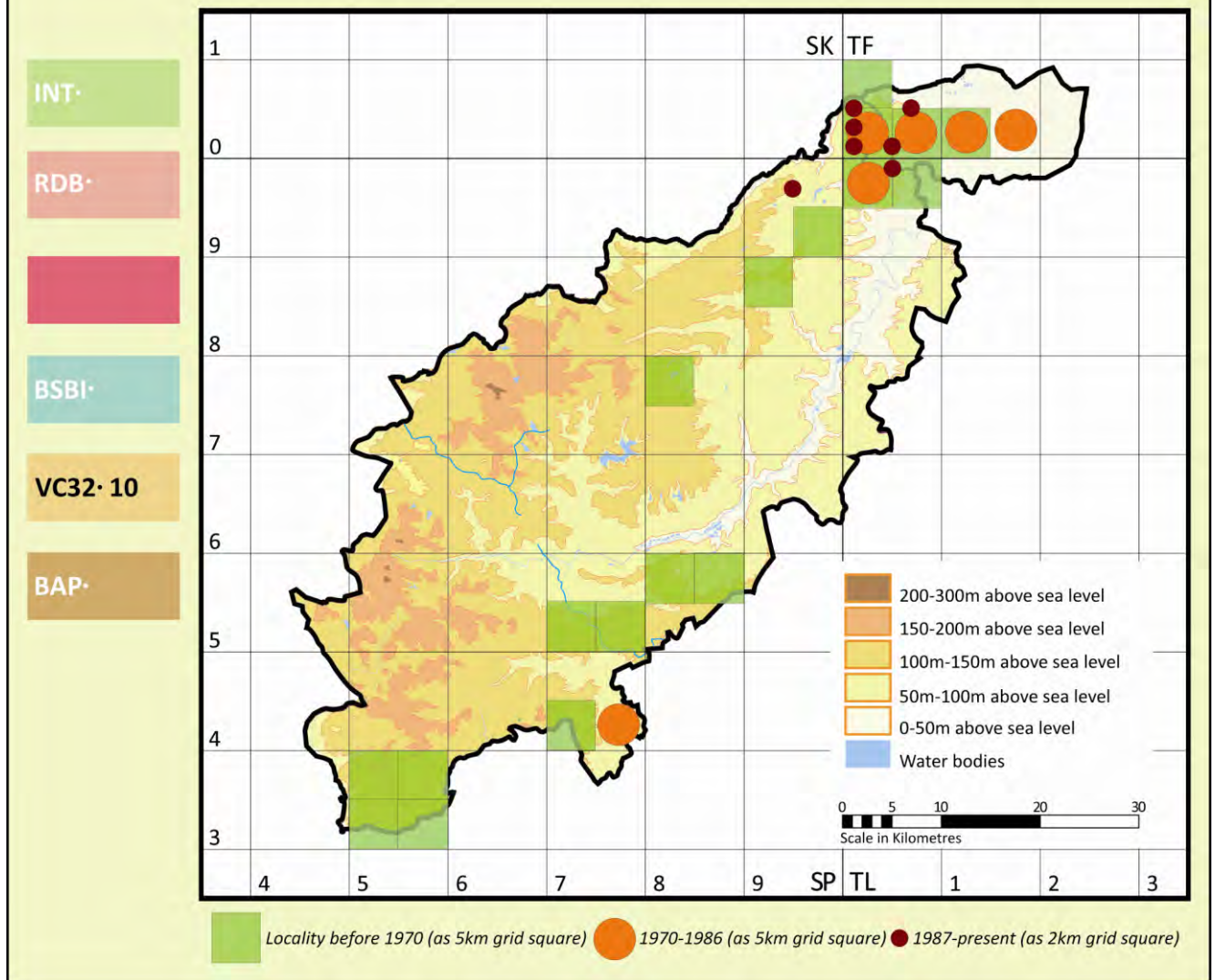
TF004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	SSSI	2012	AFr
SP765466	Grafton Regis Meadow	N	SSSI/NR	2000	NE
TL04-96-	Old Sulehay (Ring Haw)	N	SSSI/NR	2011	NC
SP773516	Road Disused Railway (East)	N		1991	LM
SP66-44-	Silverstone (near)	N		2010	PC
TF073031	Southorpe Roughs	S	SSSI	2008	BL
TF11-03-	Swaddywell Pit	S	SSSI	2009	LF
SP964985	Wakerley Woods Road Verge	N	SSSI	2005	GG
SP984986	Westhay Wood	N		2010	PC

The first record of this species in the British Isles was from marshes in the valley in Naseby Field, the site of the determining battle of the Civil War. Formerly known at more than 20 sites, many of which were in the extreme north, due to the loss of old pastures and other agricultural improvements this number has been reduced to eight.

Druce: Very rare, almost extinct, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Very rare.

Gentianella amarella ssp. amarella (L.) Börner

Autumn Gentian



Native

An annual or biennial herb of well grazed calcareous pastures.

TF076047	Barnack Hills & Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	2012	AFr
TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2008	GG
TF038013	Bonemills Hollow	S	SSSI	2006	TW/SE
TF004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	NR/SSSI	2012	AFr
TF015005	Easton Hornstocks	S	SSSI/NNR	2011	GG/RW
TF018042	Racecourse Farm Fields	S	SSSI	2011	NE
SP940978	Spanhoe Airfield	N		2010	PC

It has long disappeared at sites in the south at Yardley Hastings (1885) and Evenley Camp (1889), Cosgrove Pits and Blisworth, where it was known towards the latter part of the 19th century. It is now only found growing at a series of sites stretching across the north. From the number of earlier records it is obviously much less common than formerly. It can be abundant at Barnack Hills and Holes but it is at Spanhoe Airfield that it grows in glorious profusion. Unfortunately this site is threatened with quarrying from 2012 which must cause some concern for the future of this species although its future should be assured at the other sites listed..

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.



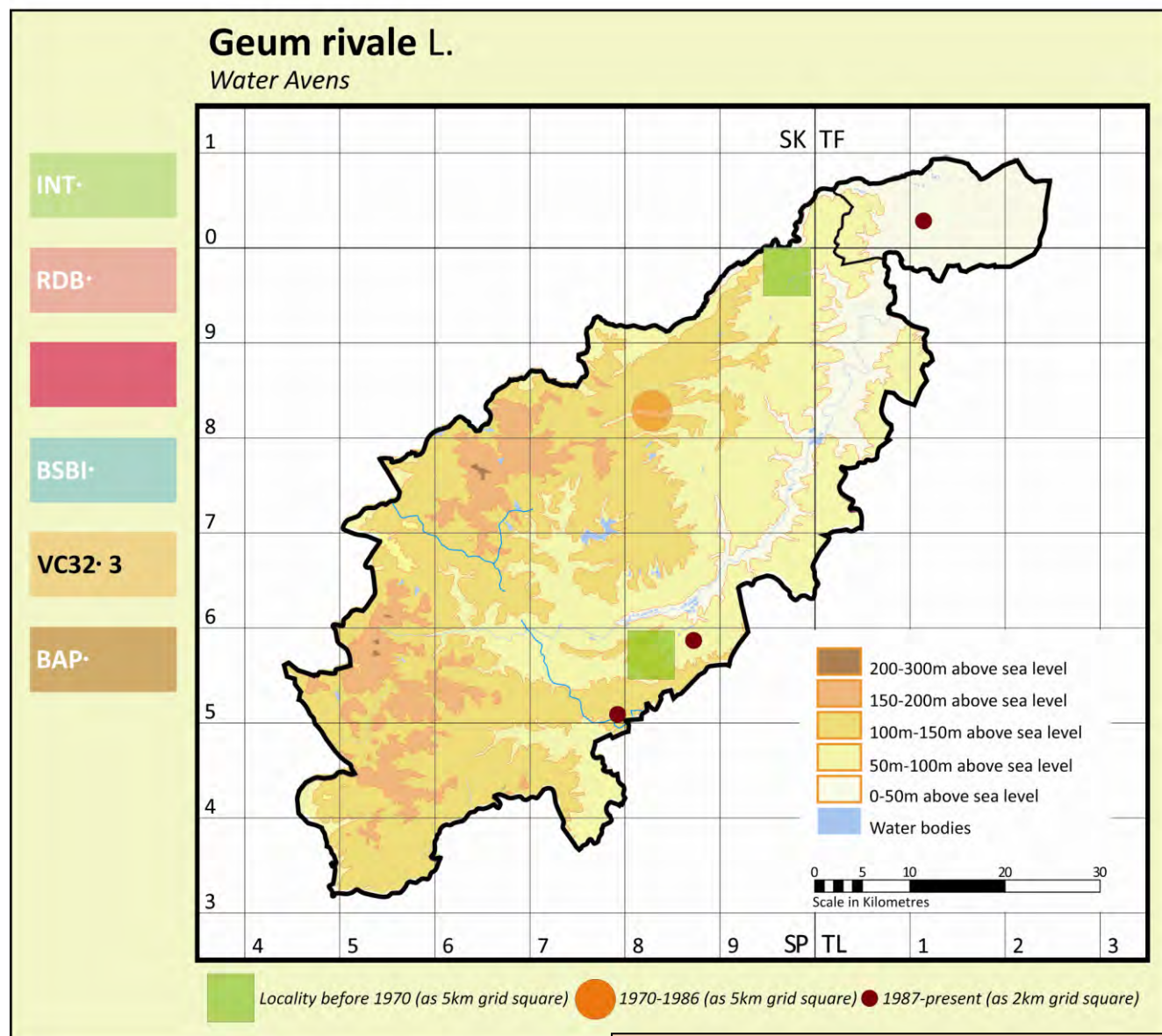


Autumn Gentian growing on thin soil over old concrete taxiways at Spanhoe Airfield.

Rob Wilson

Geum rivale L.

Water Avens



The record of the introduction in Desborough Pocket Park is shown in a lighter colour.

Native

A perennial herb of shaded or open damp habitats on mildly acidic or calcareous soils such as stream sides or flushes.

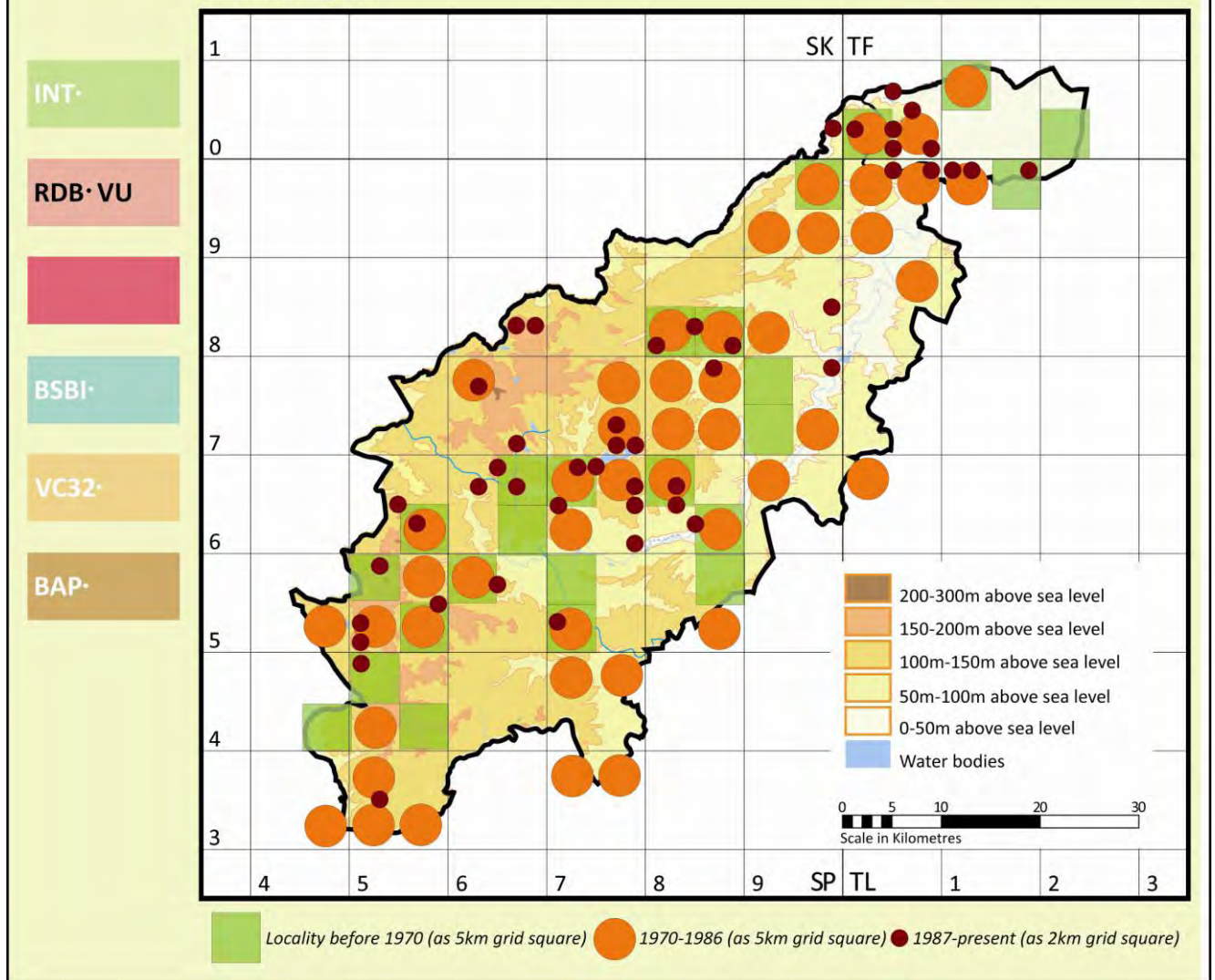
SP795518	Salcey Forest	N	SSSI	2007	MD
TF104032	Southey Wood	S		2009	SL
SP836555	Yardley Chase (MoD)	N	SSSI	2008	TR/GG

As a wild plant it has always been very rare with Druce only recording it in two locations. At one of these, Wakerley Great Wood (1907 and where it certainly survived until the 1950s), it was possibly lost when much of the wood was replanted with conifers. The other record was an unconfirmed verbal record passed on to Druce by a local botanist who had been told that it occurred in Yardley Chase. Interestingly, in 2007 it was found in this location, possibly confirming the original record. It is not uncommon as a garden plant but does not seem to escape. In 1993 two plants, probably introductions, were found growing beside a small stream within a green area that is now Desborough Pocket Park. The number of plants had increased in 1994, but soon afterwards it disappeared.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Glebionis segetum (L.) Fourr.

Corn Marigold



Archaeophyte

An annual of disturbed soil.

This species makes a sporadic appearance when ground containing the seed is disturbed by farming, building and road-works. It has recently been recorded growing on the edge of a field of elephant grass *Miscanthus x giganteus*, which is now appearing as a crop and which may give an opportunity for some other arable weeds to survive. Although the records seem to indicate that it is not rare, it appears only sporadically at each location, the seeds relying on disturbed ground to germinate. It is often found at a particular locality for one or two seasons only. It has always occurred in the centre of the vice-county to the north-east of Northampton and as it is gradually becoming eliminated by farming practices the area around Moulton and Scaldwell, in the centre of its heartland is becoming the area where it is still most commonly found.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Occasional

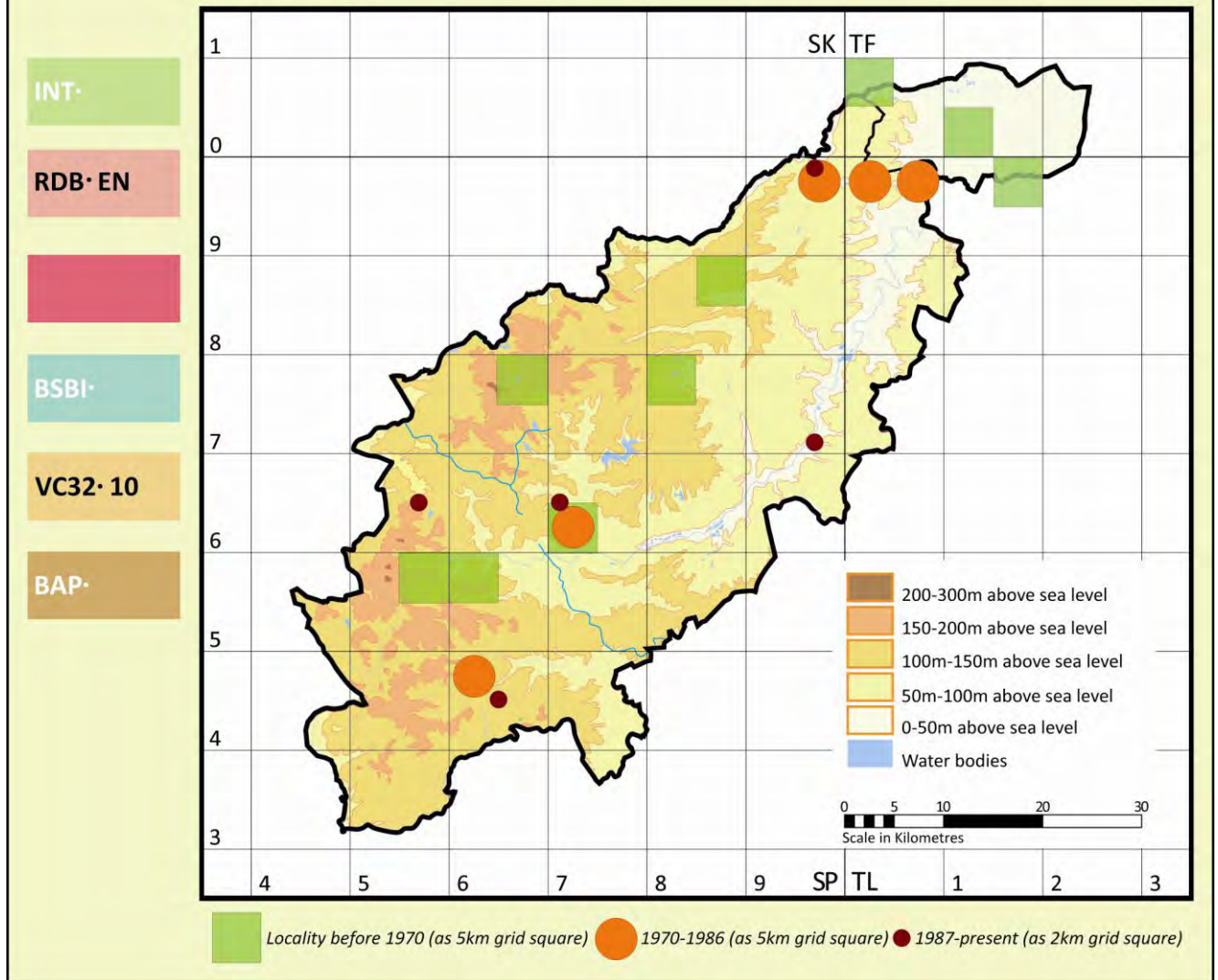


A rare sight, in the distance a field yellow with Corn Marigold.

Brian Laney

Gnaphalium sylvaticum L.

Heath Cudweed



Native

A perennial of open ground and heaths on dry, acidic sand or gravel soils.

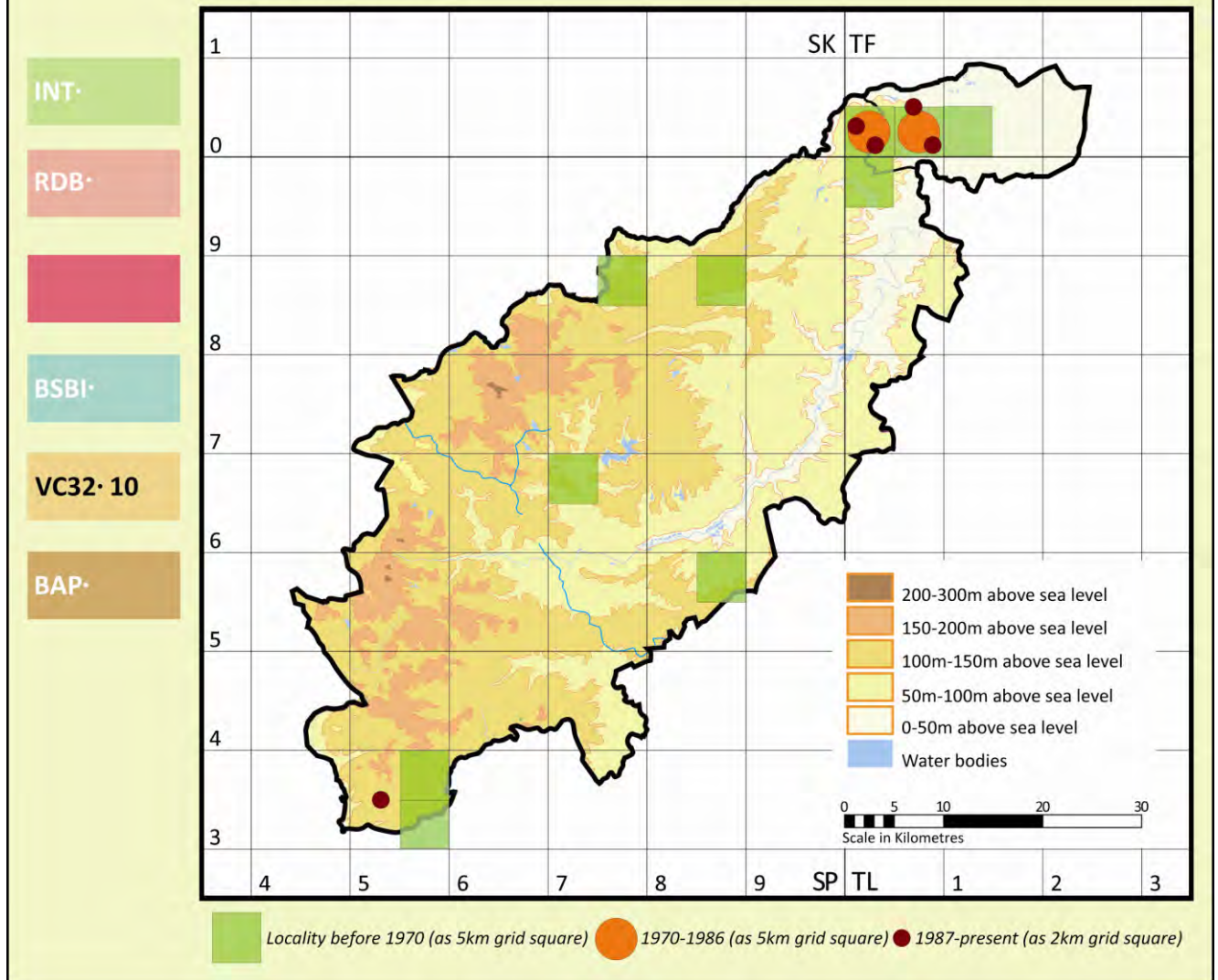
SP567648	Drayton Reservoir	N	1991	LM
SP645452	Great Wydmore	N	1992	AC
SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N	2005	GG
SP966719	Stanwick Gravel Pits	N	2003	GG/RW
SP960980	Wakerley Woods	N	2011	BL

This short-lived species has always been unpredictable in its appearance at the few suitable sites in the county. It has been most consistently to be seen at Harlestone Firs, where it has been known since at least 1887, on the northern edge of Northampton, almost the last remaining area of heathland in the county, but at least one of the records from this area is on a site of proposed development and its future in the county must be of some concern.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Gymnadenia conopsea (L.) R. Br.

Chalk Fragrant Orchid



Native

A perennial herb of species rich limestone pasture, old quarries etc.

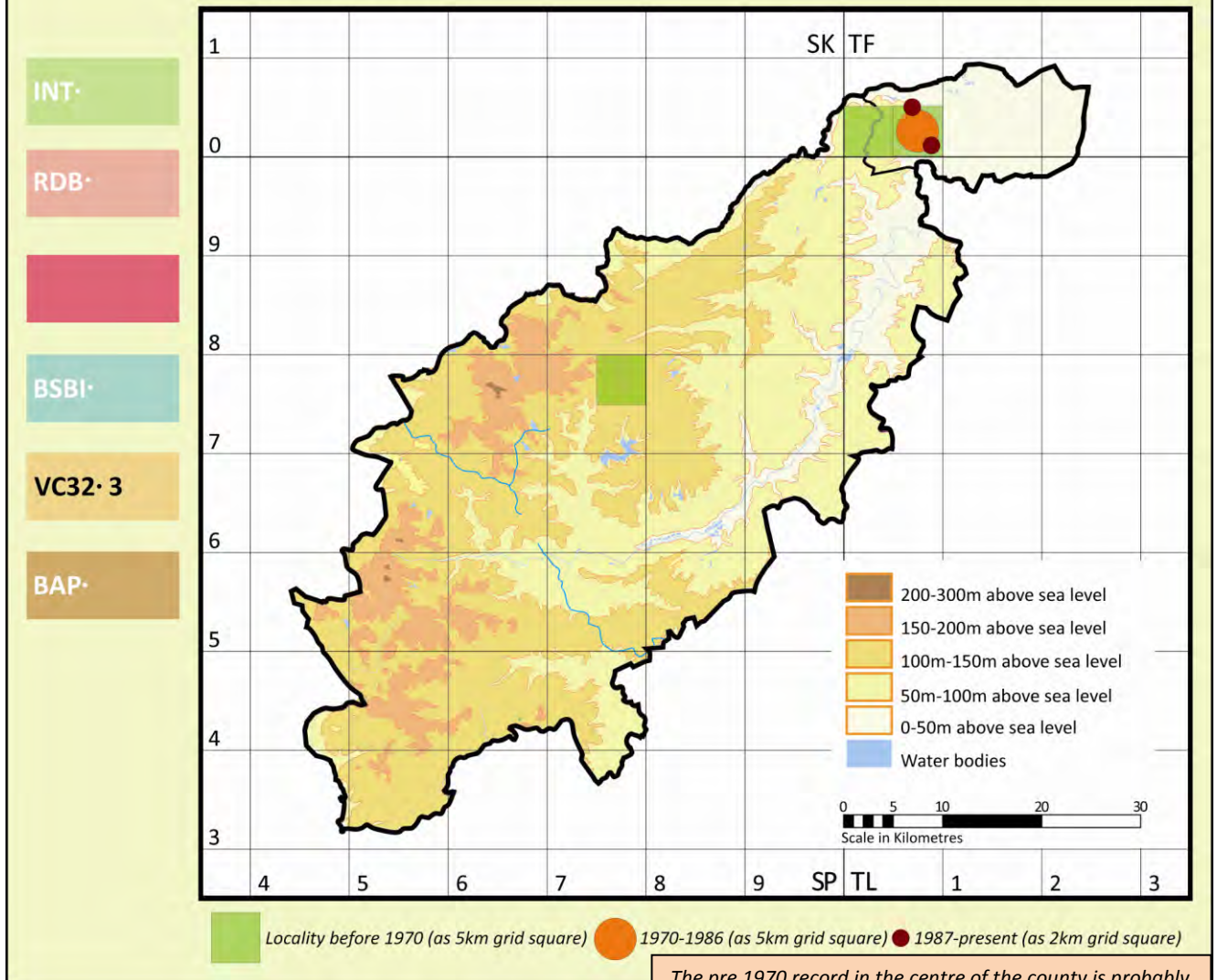
TF076047	Barnack Hills & Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	2004	DB
TF038013	Bonemills Hollow	S	SSSI		
SP526359	Charlton Stonepits	N		2006	PH
TF004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	SSSI/NR		
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2004	DWd/MWo

Although previously more widely distributed, this species has recently been recorded at only four sites within in the north of the county and an isolated site in the extreme south. Although it has a very restricted distribution, the fragrant orchid occurs in large numbers at Barnack and as all sites in the north are to some degree protected by their status, we can hopefully look forward to its presence in the county for many years to come.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Gymnadenia densiflora (Wahlenb.) A.Dietr.

Marsh Fragrant-orchid



The pre 1970 record in the centre of the county is probably this species rather than *G. conopsea* as the site was well known for its marsh plant.

Native

An herb of base-rich wet meadows and occasionally found in similar habitats to *G. conopsea*.

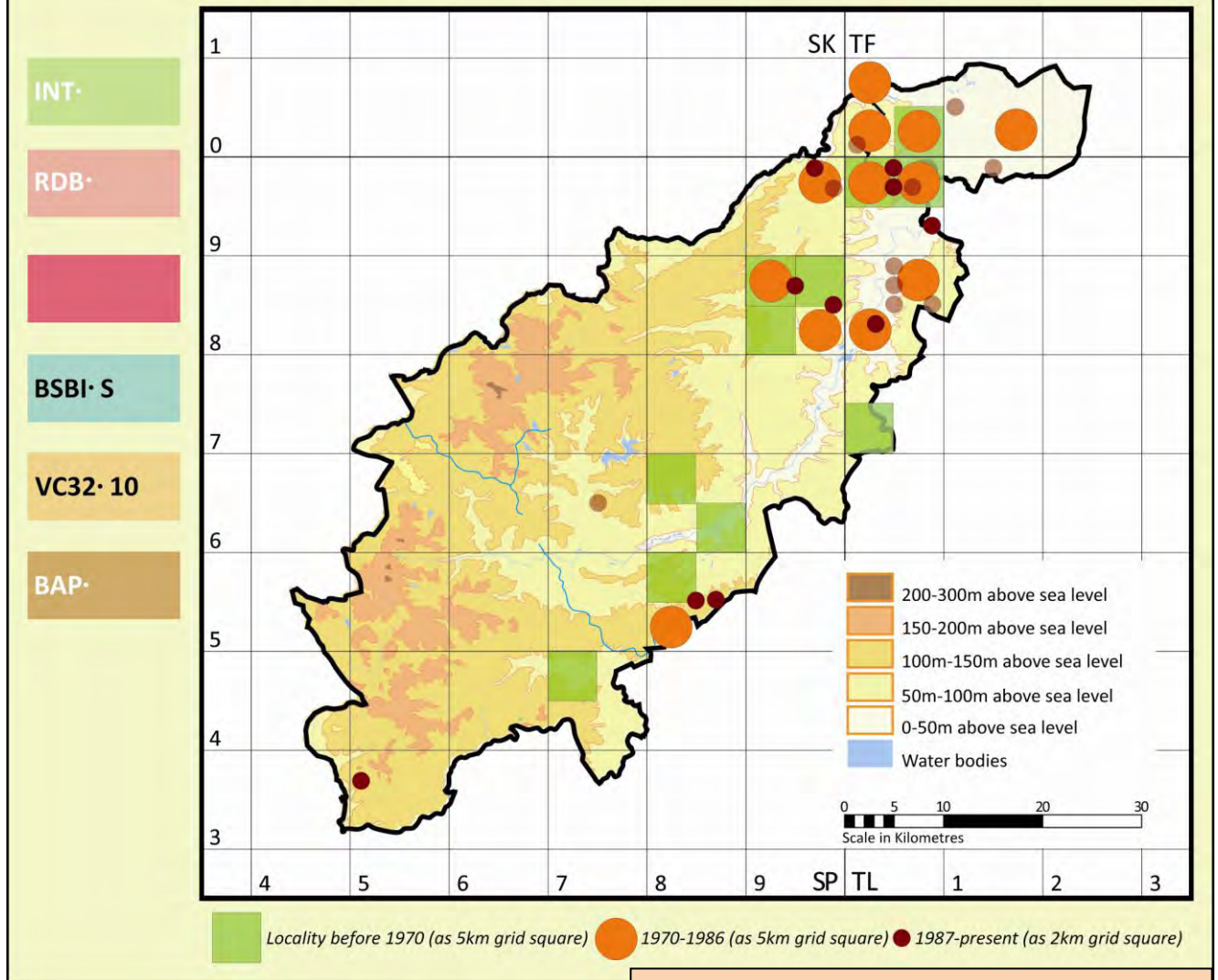
TF076047	Barnack Hills & Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	RW
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2004 DD/MD

Formerly present at Wittering Marsh, it is now only regularly found at Sutton Heath and Bog, where it occurs in very small numbers. The record from Barnack Hills and Holes was for a single specimen and as far as is known it has not been recorded since at this site.

Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Helleborus foetidus L.

Stinking Hellebore



Records of plants that are considered introductions or throw-outs are shown in a lighter colour.

Native

A perennial herb of woodland glades and open woodland on shallow calcareous soils.

SP98-84-	Bearshank Wood	N		1997	FP
TL04-98-	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2012	AFr
TL083926	Lady Margaret's Wood	N		2008	NH
TL038835	Lilford Spinney	N		2002	WT
SP50-36-	Newbottle Spinney	N		2008	RW
SP940864	Old Dry Hills	N		2011	BL
TL05-97-	Old Sulehay (Ring Haw)	S	NR	2011	NC
SP960980	Wakerley Woods	N		1997	GG
SP843555	Yardley Chase (MoD)	N	SSSI	1989	TR
SP877550	Yardley Chase (Old Pond Close)	N	SSSI	1988	RM

As a native plant it has always been largely confined to the ancient woodlands on calcareous soil in the north of the county although it is difficult to tell from early records in which particular woods it occurred - the record from Thornhaugh in Druce's flora may refer to Bedford Purlieus as this woodland was once part of a larger woodland known as Thornhawe Wood and is close by the village of the same name (modern spelling Thornhaugh). At the present time it occurs as a native species at less than a dozen sites, and it is thought to be a native species at the above sites. It is also present as a deliberate introduction or a throw-out, but even these are largely confined to the north. These sites can become established.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare

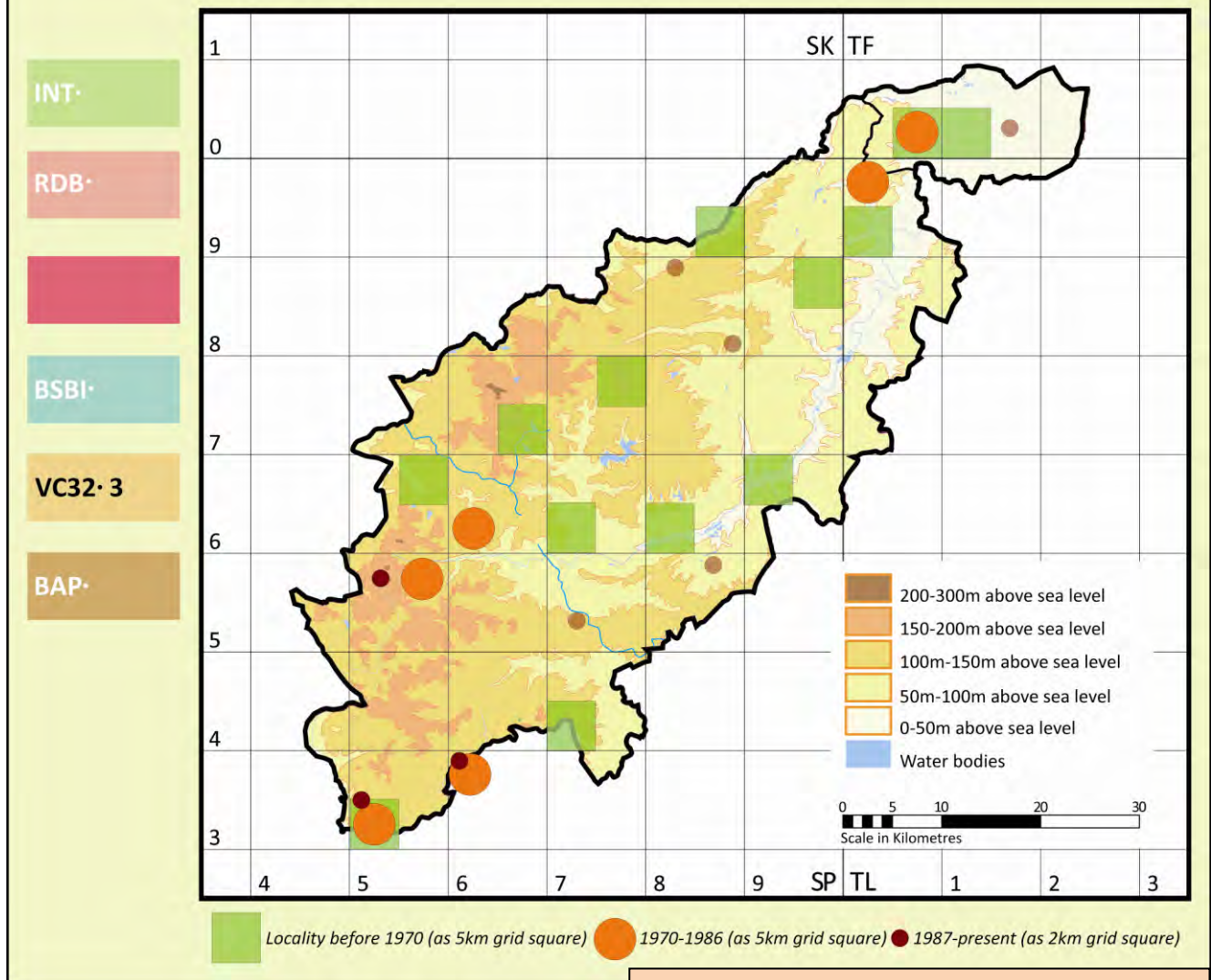


Stinking Hellebore, part of a large colony that grows in the Bedlams, part of Bedford Purlieus.

Rob Wilson

Helleborus viridis ssp. occidentalis (Reut.) Schiffn.

Green Hellebore



Records of plants that are considered introductions or throw-outs are shown in a lighter colour.

Native

A perennial herb of damp calcareous woodland or scrub.

TL045987	Bedford Purlieus	N	SSSI/NNR	1986	TW/SW
SP574566	Mill Spinney	N		2006	BL
SP510346	Walton Grounds	N		2010	PH
SP607392	Whitfield Border Spinney	N		2008	BL

It is now known to be in Bedford Purlieus, a fourth site within the vice-county where it was previously only known with any certainty from three sites in the south, the best of which is Walton Grounds. At this former nature reserve there are in excess of 100 flowering plants although it seems that this site may be threatened in the future by the encroachment of bramble. Otherwise it has in the past been introduced on country estates as at Castle Ashby, Brockhall etc. and possibly at other localities. Even a century ago it was introduced into some woodlands - there is an early record of its introduction to Steane Wood. Changes in woodland management have probably contributed to its extinction at the sites of earlier records. Although present as an escape it does not seem to readily establish itself.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013 Extremely rare.

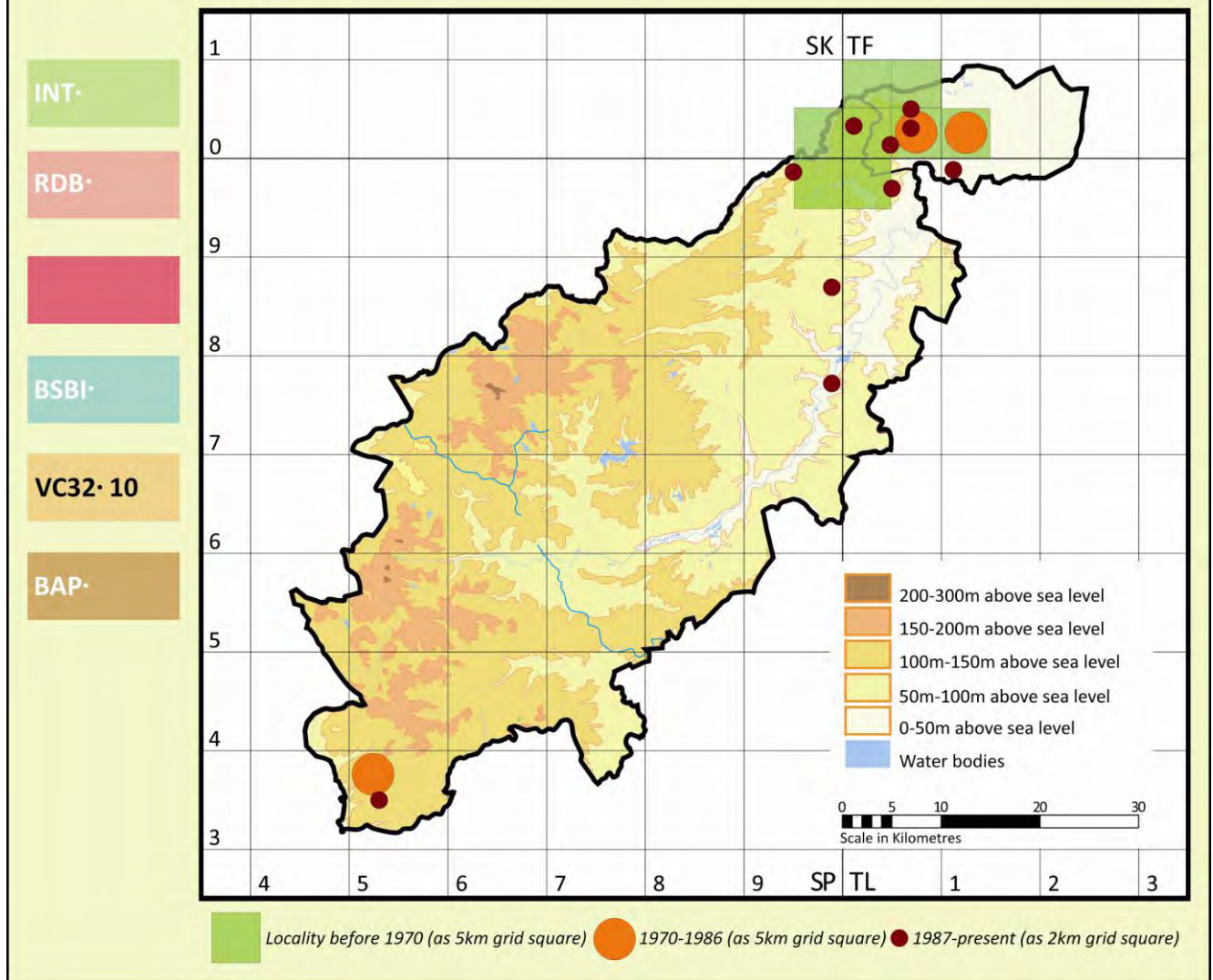


Green Hellebore in Mill Spinney, Fawsley.

Brian Laney

Hippocrepis comosa L.

Horseshoe Vetch



Native

A herb of dry, open places on thin soil over chalk, limestone or abandoned concrete taxiways.

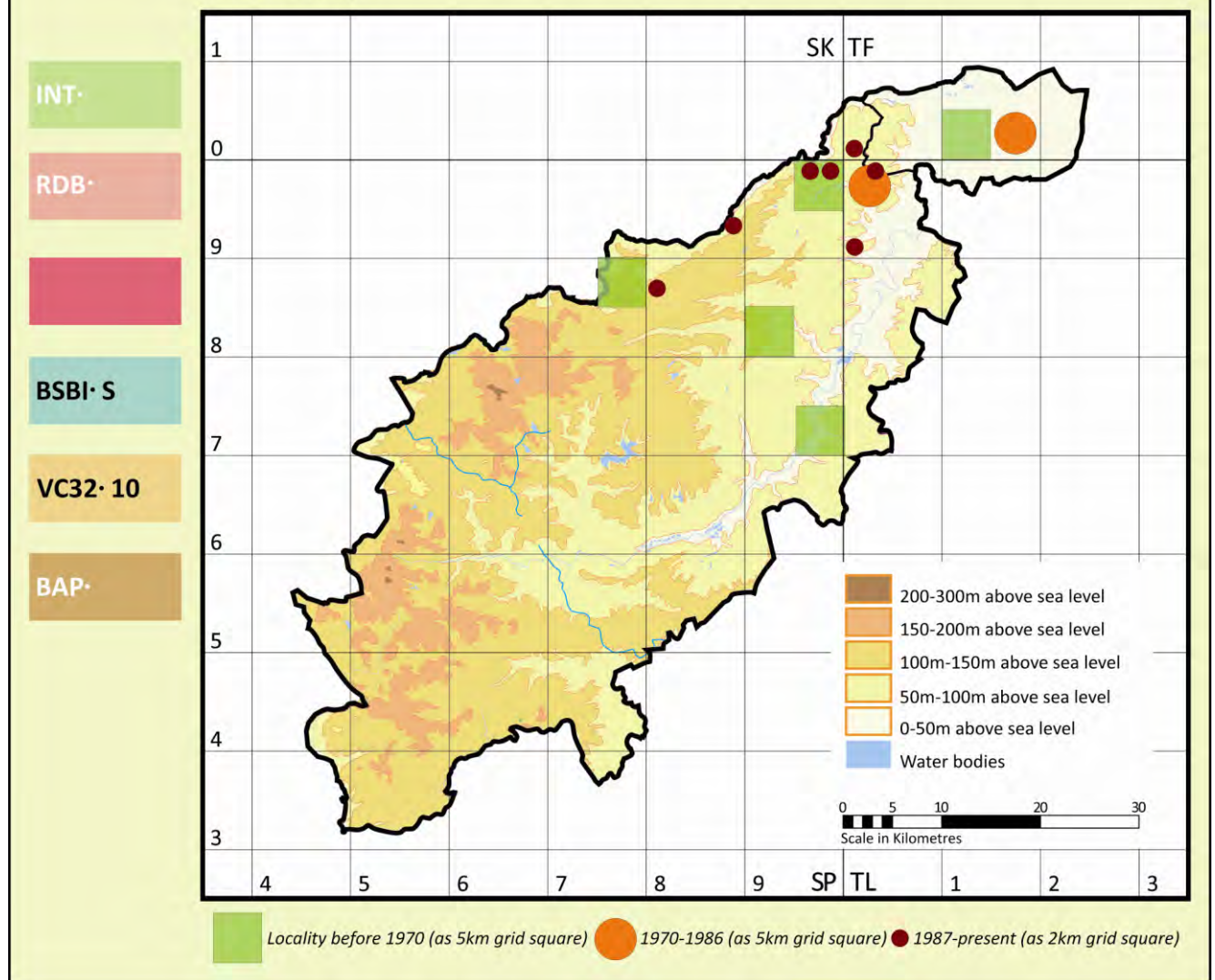
TF076047	Barnack Hills & Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	2008	GG/SK
SP98-86-	Bearshank Wood (near east side)	N		1999	FP
TF04-01-	Bonemills Hollow Road Verge	S		2011	SR/CTu
SP527360	Charlton Stone Pits	N		2008	PH
TF004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	SSSI/ NR	2008	GG
TL110985	Ermine Street Roman Road	S		1993	SL
TL04-96-	Old Sulehay (Ring Haw)	N	SSSI/NR	2011	NC
TF073031	Southorpe Roughs	S	SSSI	2008	BL
SP942980	Spanhoe Airfield	N		2006	RW
SP942776	Twywell Gullet	N	SSSI/NR	1997	DH

Confined to short turf over limestone, this species is largely restricted to the north of the county. At Spanhoe Airfield it grows on short turf, probably over the concrete of a former taxi-way, simulating the preferred limestone habitat, but this site may be threatened by quarrying. It has recently been found at former quarries in the north, which may mean it will be slightly more secure in this area.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Very rare.

Hordelymus europaeus (Reut.) Jess ex Harz

Wood Barley



Native

A perennial of woods and copses on calcareous soils.

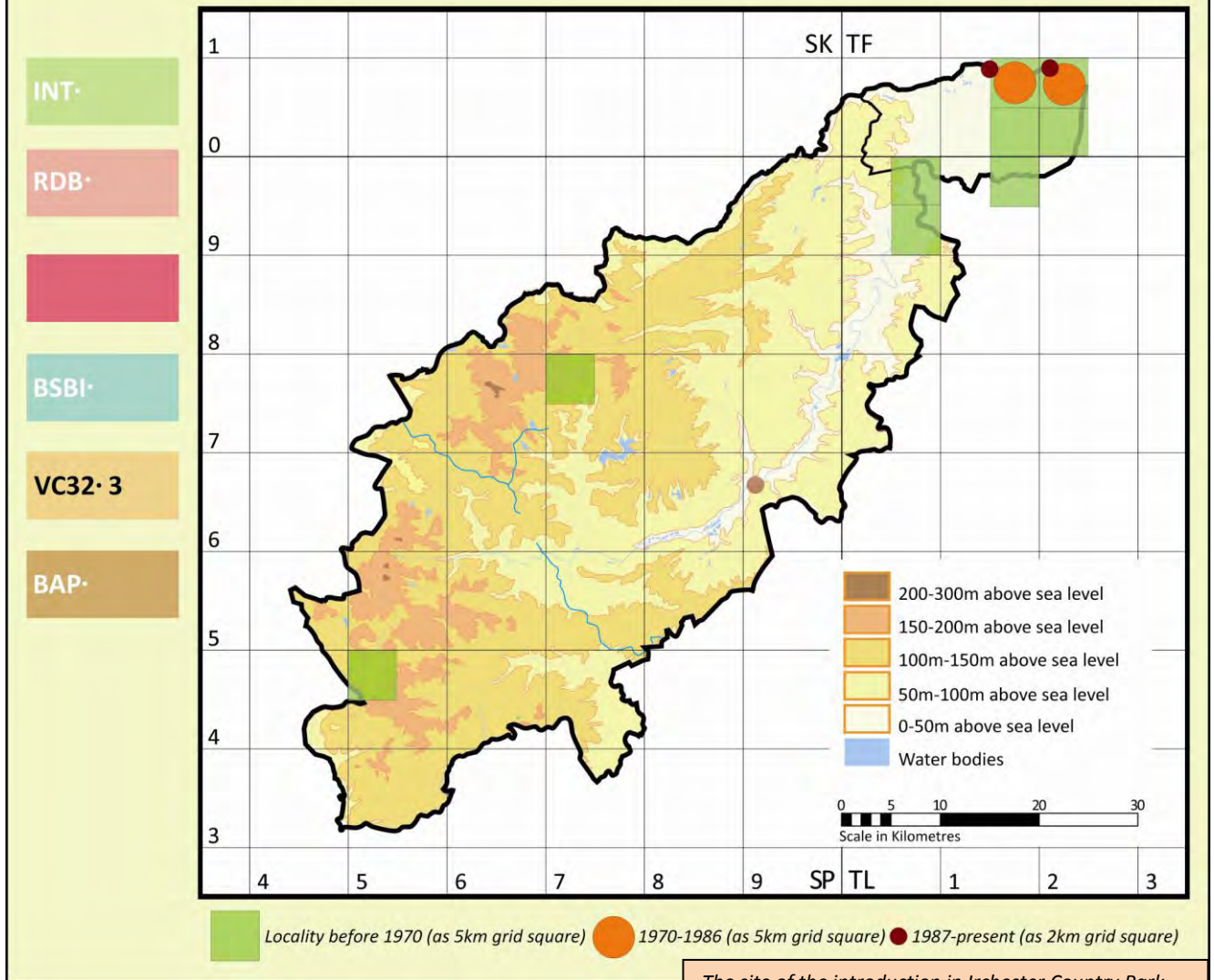
TL02-98-	Bedford Purlieus	N		2010	GG
TF00-00-	Easton Hornstocks	S	SSSI	1998	GG
SP992996	Fineshade Wood (North Spinney)	N		2008	DB
SP90-92-	Gretton, Rockingham Road	N		2011	RW
TL01-91-	Short Wood	N	SSSI/NR	2011	MD
SP801862	Stoke Wood	N	NR	1997	PC
SP960980	Wakerley Spinney Road Verge	N		2007	GG

Formerly known only from Bedford Purlieus, it has since been discovered in both Short Wood and Wakerley Woods, although whether this is due to a spread of this species – seeds on the boots of botanists could be one cause – or better recording is not known. As the Forestry Commission completes its programme of replacing conifers with native trees, the species should be given a better opportunity to establish itself in suitable woodlands. It does seem to be on the edge of its range in this area however, and must always be vulnerable to some degree.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Hottonia palustris L.

Water-violet



The site of the introduction in Irchester Country Park, not listed in the detailed sites, is shown in a lighter colour

Native

A perennial of still, shallow base rich drainage channels.

TF20-08-	Borough Fen Duck Decoy	S	1995	BA
TF150093	Deeping Gate Fen Meadow	S	2007	CP/RPt/SHa

This species was only ever common in the fen ditches in the extreme north of the vice-county, but has greatly declined, mainly due to vegetation clearance in the ditches and eutrophication. It is now probably only present at a couple of native site, where it grows in small numbers and should be considered under threat of extinction. The plants growing in ponds at Irchester Country Park have been introduced.

Druce: Locally abundant, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

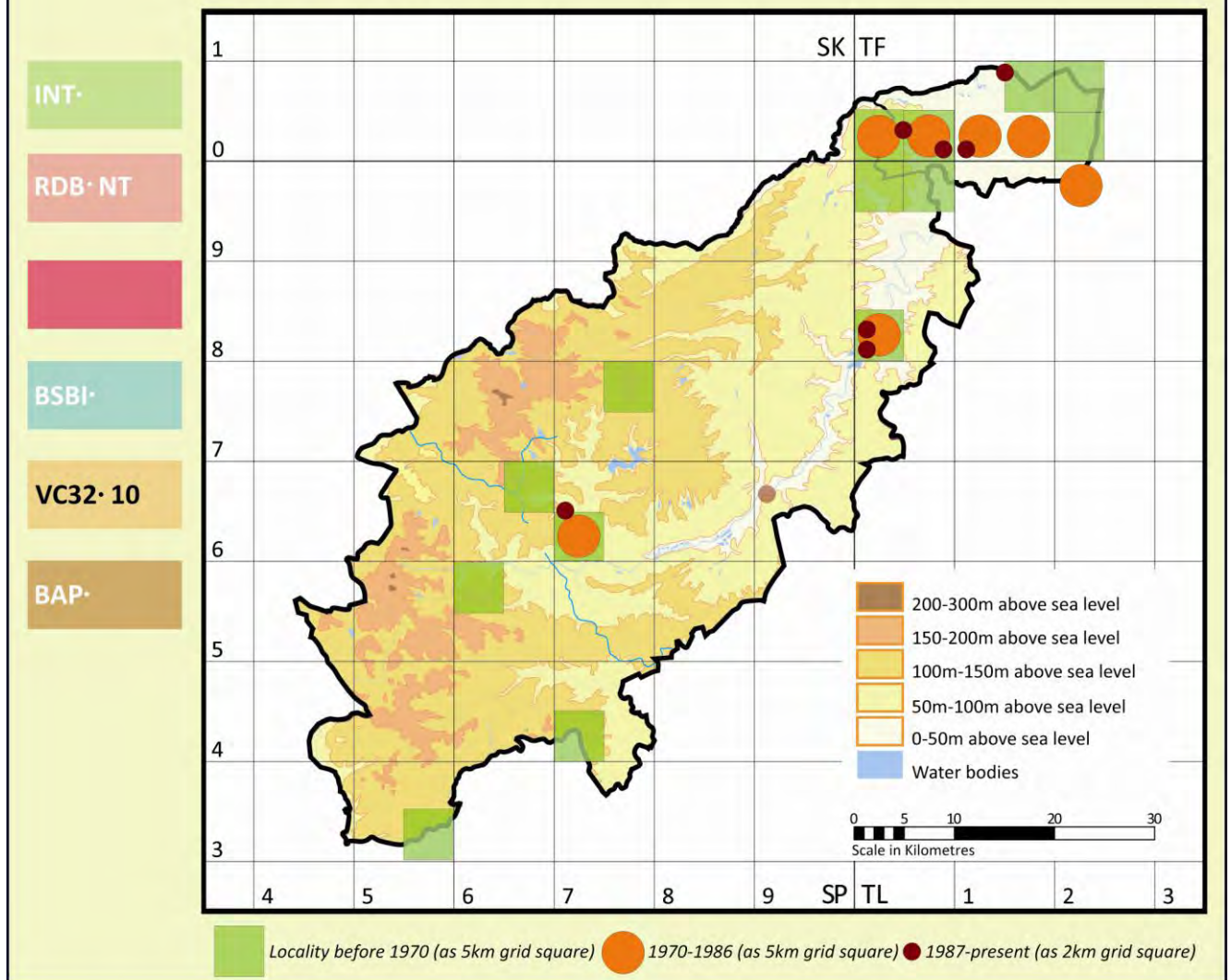


Water-violet

Gill Gent

Hydrocotyle vulgaris L.

Marsh Pennywort



Native

A perennial, mat-forming herb of bogs, fens and marshes, usually on acid soils.

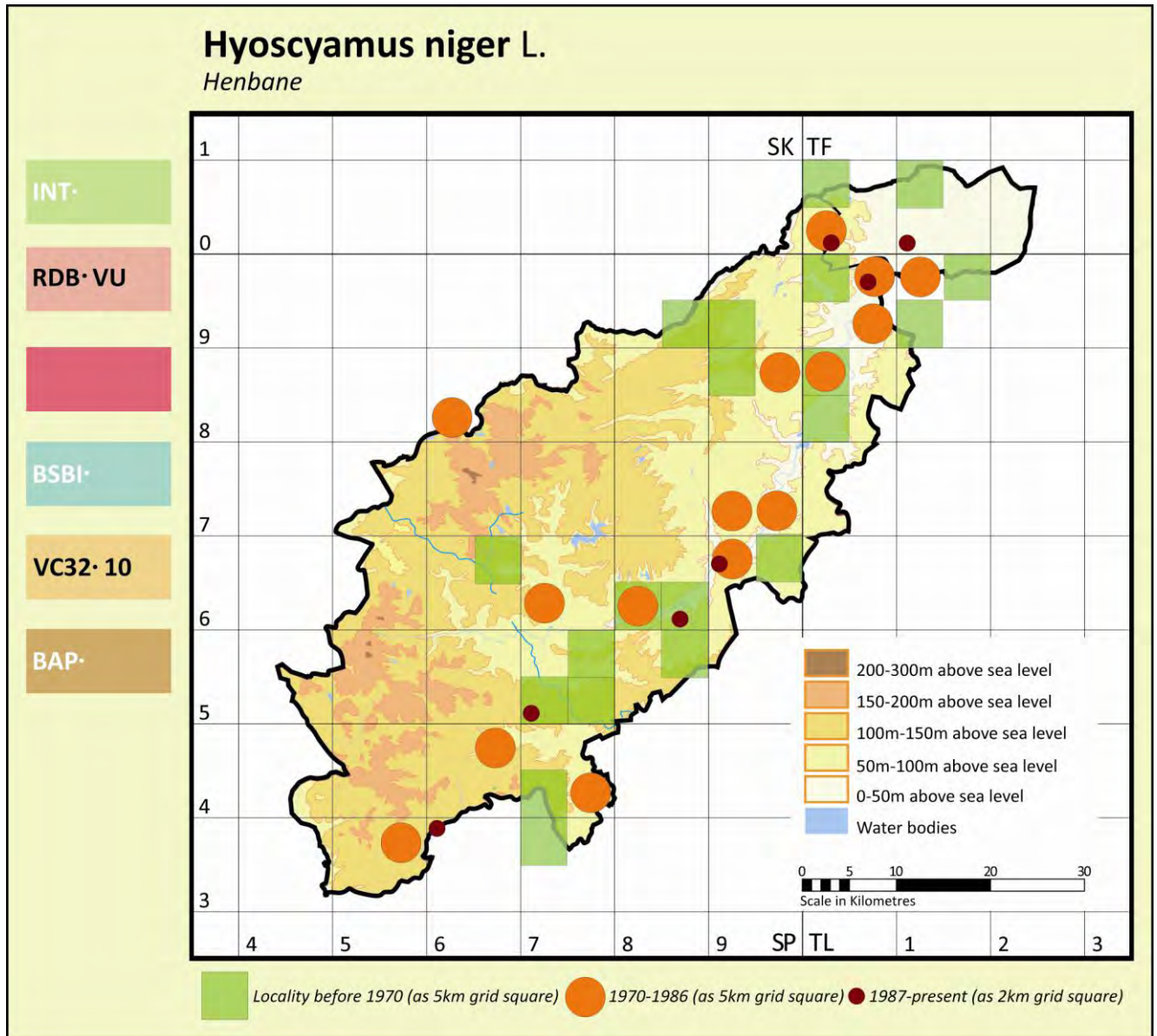
TL004808	Aldwinle Marsh	N	SSSI	2008	NH/CL
TF115015	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2001	KDNHS
TF151092	Deeping Gate Fen Meadow	S		2008	GG/CP/RW
SP714640	Harlestone Heath	N	NR	2003	GG
TL008829	River Nene (Wadenhoe Ox-bow)	N	SSSI	2001	GG/MG
TF080000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2012	AFr
TF044036	Whitewater Valley	S	SSSI	1994	GG/RW

Now a much rarer species than formerly as suitable sites have been drained. One hundred years ago there were almost 20 sites which included fens at Borough Fen and Peakirk, calcareous marshes formed along seepage lines where the limestone met the adjoining impermeable clays at White Water Marsh, Sutton Heath and Bog, Wittering Marsh and other nearby sites, a scattering of sites in the centre around Thrapston, Rothwell, and Northampton, including Harlestone Heath (1877 and still present in the Wildlife Trust reserve), Wadenhoe and Aldwinle and in a band across Northamptonshire. Currently it is much more restricted with most sites in the south now gone, although a number of the old sites remain and most of the sites now have a degree of protection.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Hyoscyamus niger L.

Henbane



Archaeophyte

A biennial herb of dry, calcareous soils on waste and newly disturbed ground.

SP707510	A43 (near Windmill Hill)	N		2008	RW
TF028008	Bonemills Hollow	S	SSSI	2008	DH
TF115015	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2006	DA
SP868616	Grendon	N		2007	GC
SP915660	Irchester Country Park	N		2002	GG
TL074976	Old Sulehay (near)	S		2011	NC
SP903667	Wellingborough – Whitworth's Mill	N		1989	GG
SP61-39-	Whitfield	N		2008	SC
TL072972	Yarwell	N		2011	NC

This species occurs sporadically on scattered sites, sometimes reappearing after many years absence but it is mainly found on the more calcareous soils in the east, although it has been decreasing due to the use of herbicides. There may be other reasons for its decline for Druce in 1930 described it as a '*decreasing species*'. Seeds can lie dormant for many years however, and a recent increase in records may indicate that the use herbicides is decreasing at last and giving the long-lived seeds a chance to germinate.

Druce: A rare and decreasing species, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

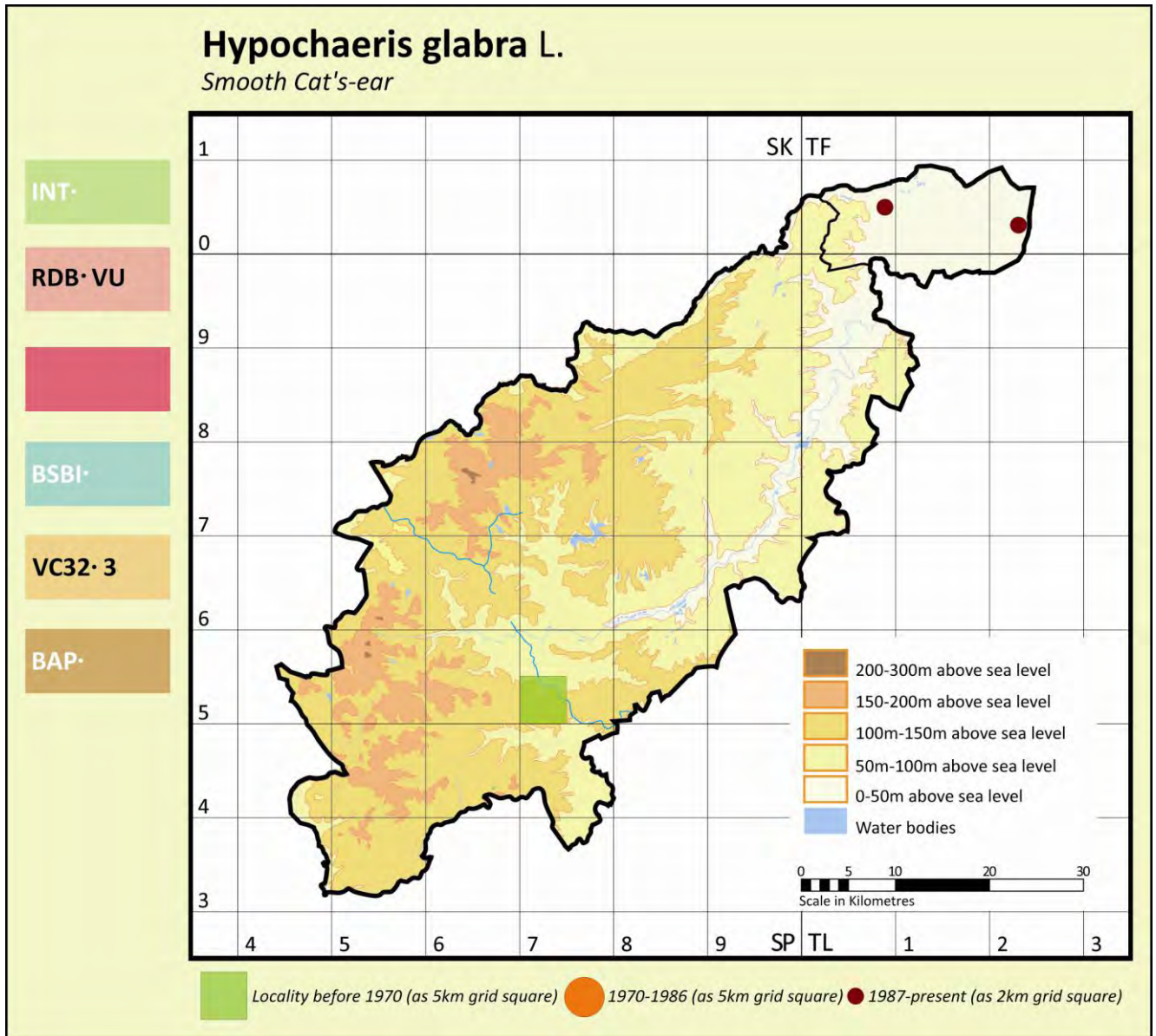


Henbane

David Broughton

Hypochaeris glabra L.

Smooth Cat's-ear



Native

An annual of open ground on acidic sandy soils.

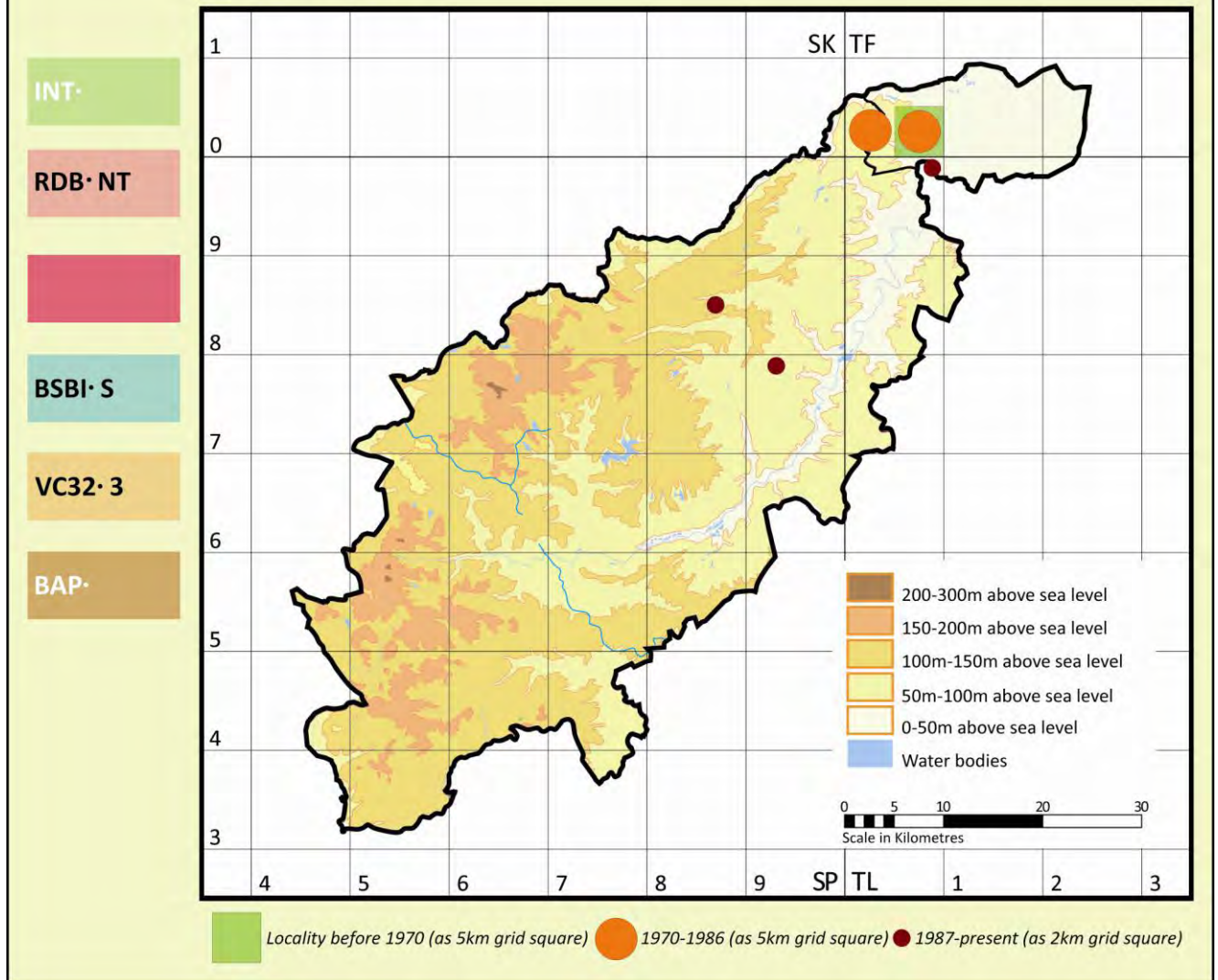
TF231034	Eye Green	S	NR	2003	BF
TF101039	Stamford Rd./Heath Rd Road Verge	S		2006	SBr

Druce records it at Blisworth in 1878, noting that it has probably been destroyed, presumably by 'agricultural improvement' which seems to be the fate of this rare species nationally. It was thought to be extinct but it has been recorded twice in recent years, at Eye Green (2003) and near Ufford (2006).

First record: Druce 1878, Druce: Very rare, possibly extinct, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extinct.

Hypochaeris maculata L.

Spotted Cat's-ear



Native

A perennial herb found on free draining grassland over a calcareous substrate.

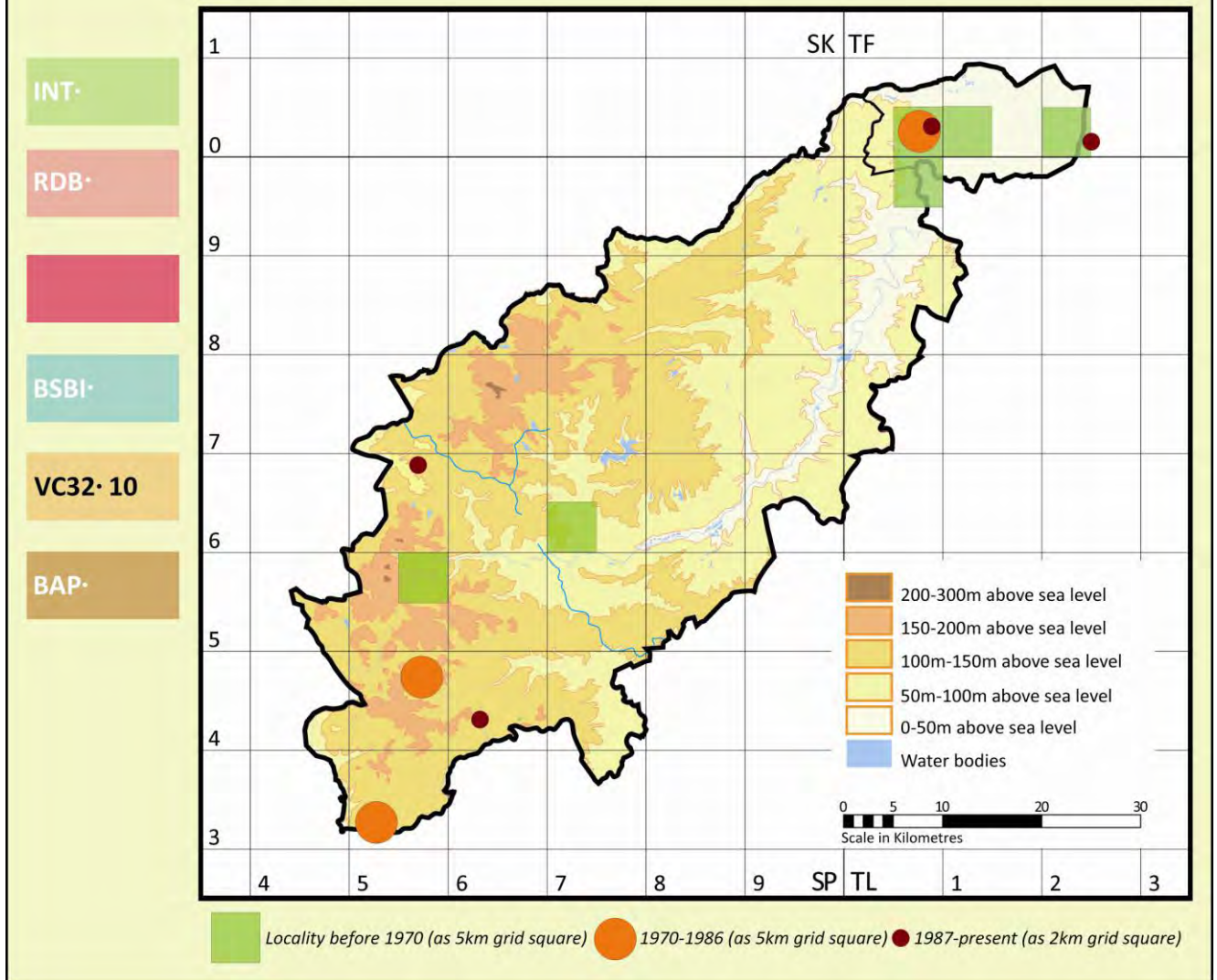
TF004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	SSSI/NR	1996	BSBI
SP877840	End Quarry, Newton	N		1991	LM
SP928782	Sand Spinney Quarry	N		1991	LM

Originally discovered within the vice-county in 1696 on Barnack Heath. It could not be found here in 1712 although in about 1860 it was seen once more in the Barnack area. Then in 1878 plants were recorded at the nearby Southorpe Roughts, where it was re-found in 1962 and could still be found in the 1970s but since then there have been no further sightings at either of these sites. It was not seen again until 1980, when a single plant was recorded in the old limestone quarry at Collyweston – now Collyweston Quarries nature reserve. The plant remained confined to a small area of quarry which was fenced to provide some protection, and eventually nine plants were recorded but it failed to establish itself owing to competition from other plants and has not been seen for a number of years

Druce: Very rare, if not extinct, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare or extinct.

Juncus bulbosus L.

Bulbous Rush



Native

A perennial found in or by water and in damp places with acid or neutral soils.

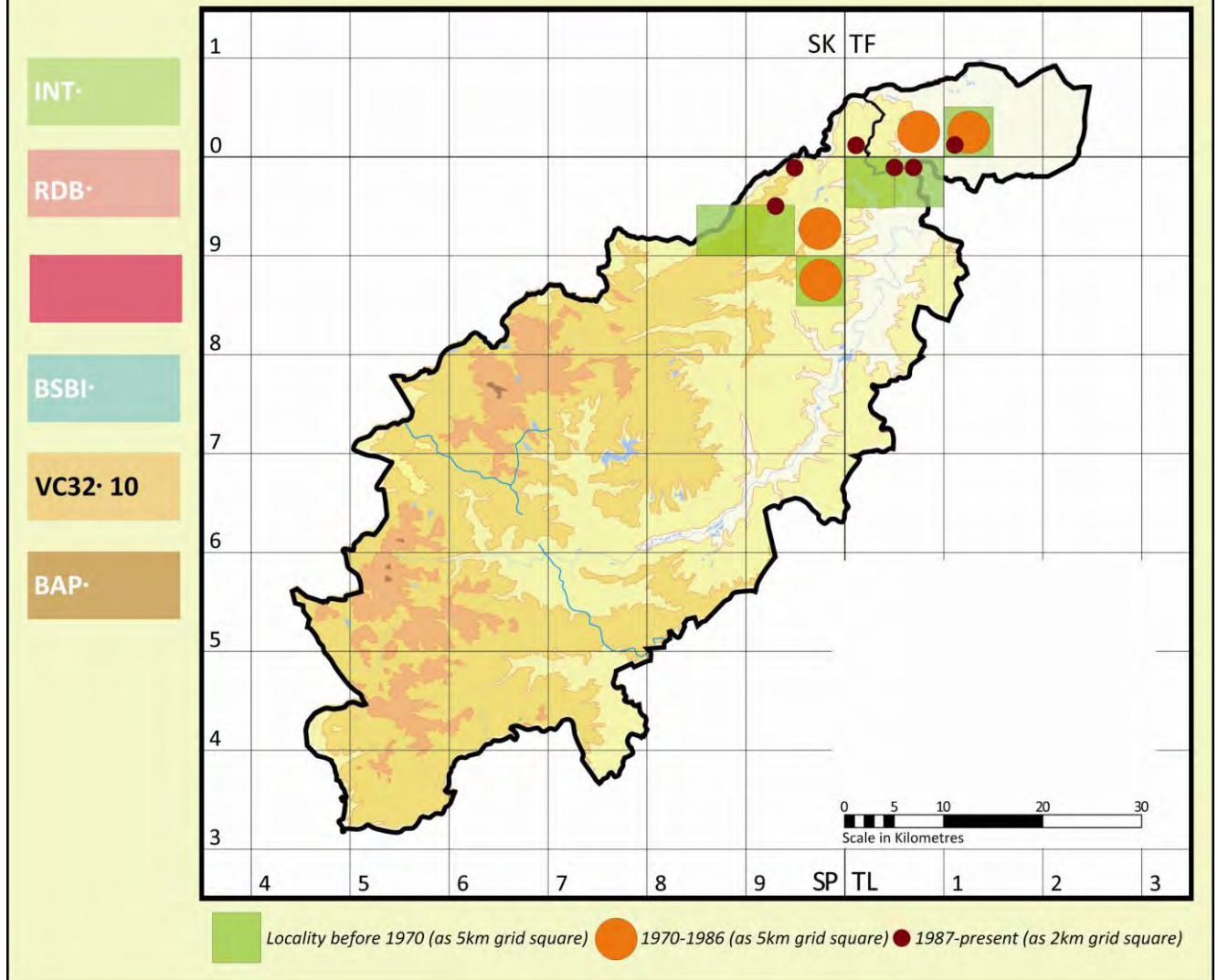
TF241014	Cat's Water Drain	S		2009	DB
SP565696	Kilsby Landfill Site	N		1992	LM
TF085021	Southorpe Paddock	S	SSSI/NR	1986	SL
SP637423	Syresham Field	N		1991	LM

There have always been few suitable sites where this species could establish itself and many of these have now disappeared under the name of agricultural improvement. Records from Wadenhoe Marsh and Achurch Meadow (2001) have never been substantiated. Now split into two subspecies, *bulbosus* and *kochii*, this has been recorded here as an aggregate.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Lathraea squamaria L.

Toothwort



Native

An annual herb parasitic on the roots of hazel, ash and wych elm in woods and coppices.

TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2011	NC
TF115015	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2010	JSo
TF015005	Collyweston Great Wood	S	SSSI	2011	BL
SP932949	Lodge Coppice	N		2002	JA/PE
TL063985	Old Sulehay (forest)	S	SSSI/NR	2013	JM
TL06-98-	Old Sulehay (Ring Haw)	N	NR	2005	DD/MD
SP960980	Wakerley Woods	N		2011	BL

Of the half a dozen sites that are listed in Druce's flora, it is possible that it is still present in about half of these. It has probably disappeared from Rockingham Park, Kirby and Marholm, but it has recently been recorded again in Bedford Purlieus where it has been known since 1860 and Old Sulehay (probably Druce's record from Wansford) while in Fermyn Woods (probably Druce's Brigstock Wood) it was recorded in the latter half of the 20th century and may still be present. It was described as abundant in Thornhaugh Wood in 1952 but has not been seen since. It has always been confined to the north of the vice-county and although the area where it is found is becoming more restricted it is probably fairly secure.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

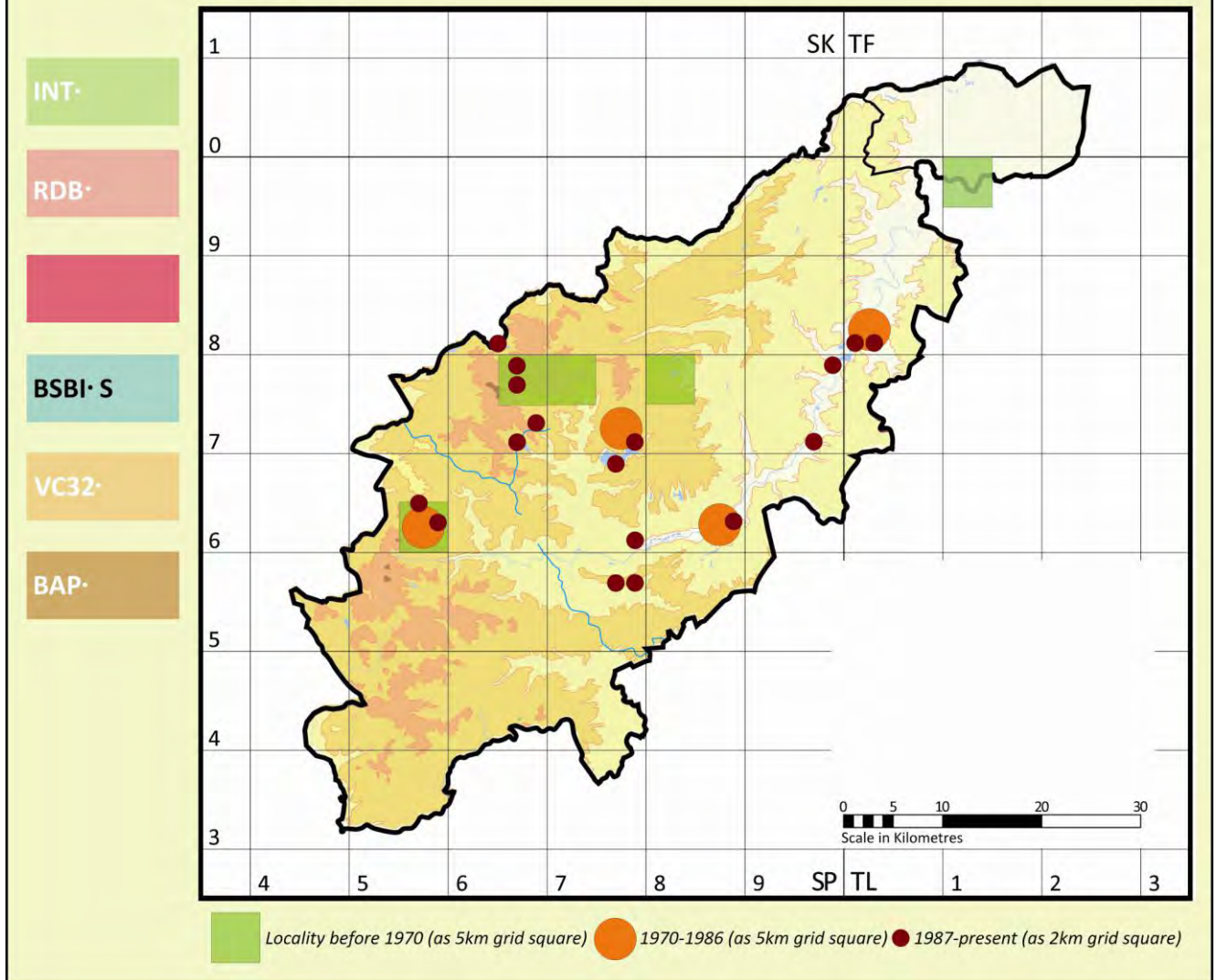


Toothwort

Pete Stroh

Limosella aquatica L.

Mudwort



Native

An annual of disturbed mud and draw-down zones beside lakes, reservoirs, pools etc.

Once very rare and at one time thought to be extinct, this late-flowering species is probably more common than ever before but is often overlooked. It is most common in the Nene valley where the margins of former gravel pits and flood control lakes provide an ideal habitat.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare and not seen in the county for many years until 1987

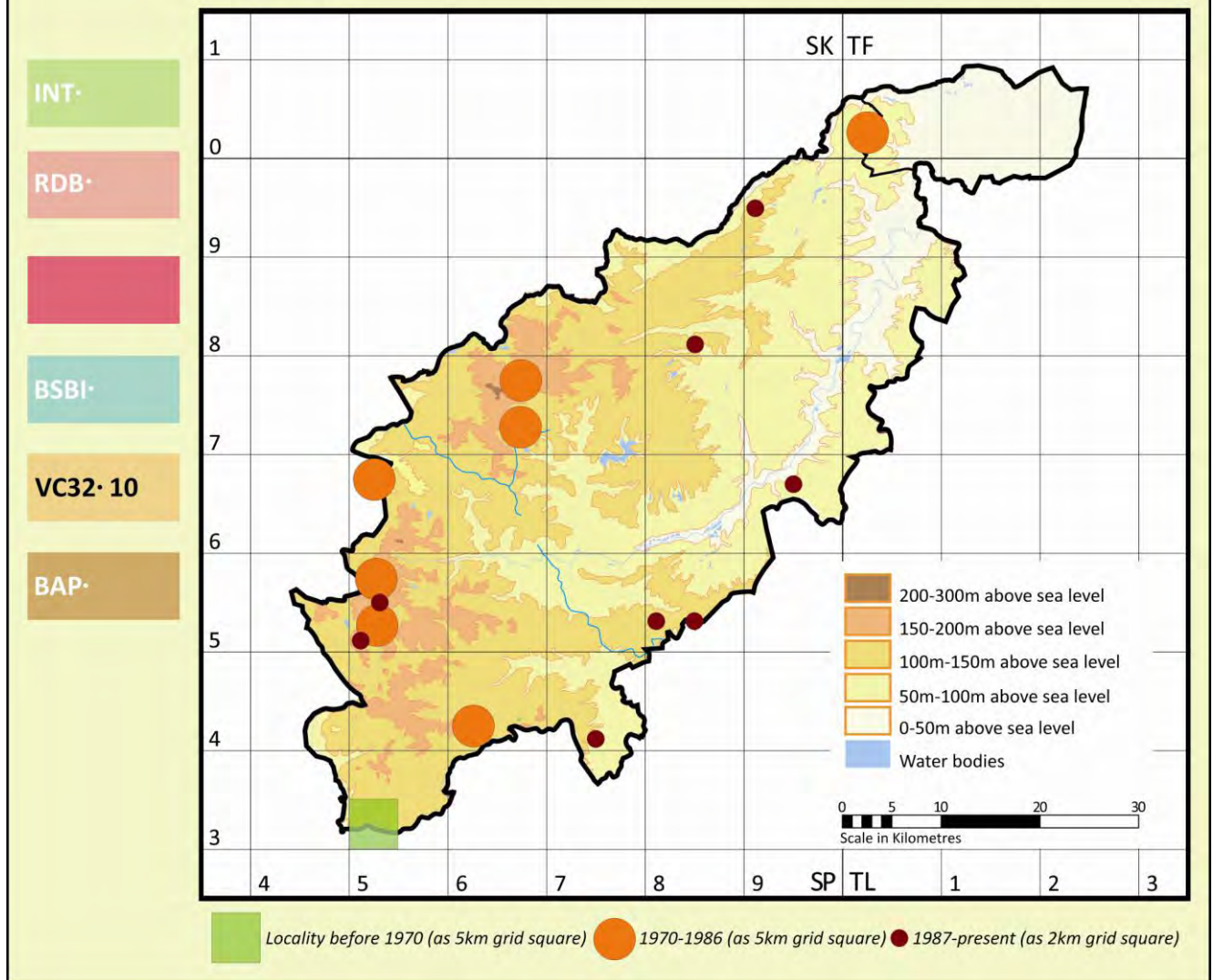


Mudwort

Nathalie Hueber

Linaria repens (L.) Mill.

Pale Toadflax



Native

A perennial of stony ground and rough grassland.

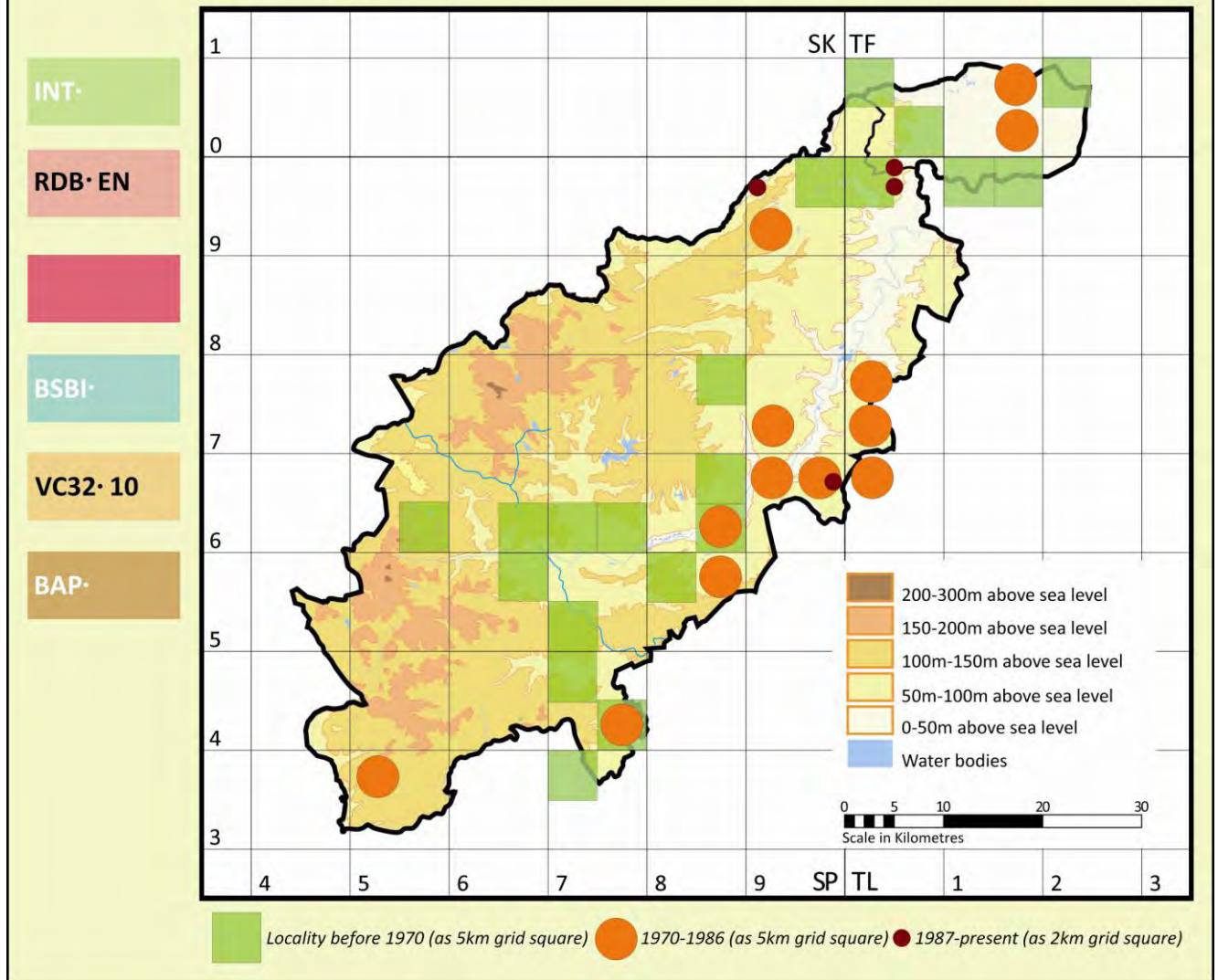
SP53-54-	Church Charwelton	N	1989	IC/KC
SP74-40-	Deanshanger (near)	N	2011	MD
SP90-94-	Gretton (near)	N	2009	RW
SP817534	Horton (disused railway, near)	N	1988	GG/GC
SP85-80-	Newton	N	1988	BA/AR
SP84-52-	Ravenstoke Copse	N	2008	GG
SP94-66-	Rushden	N	2010	RD
SP542518	Woodford Halse Railway Cutting	N	1988	IC/KC

Druce gave details of a single sighting – ‘a plant was found in 1883, near Aynhoe, by the railway. The seeds were brought by passing trains from South Oxford, where it is abundant.’ Aynho is on the Great Western line from Oxford and the distribution of this species nationally is still predominantly ‘Great Western’, with Northamptonshire being right on the eastern edge of this area so the species remains a rarity and it remains largely a plant of the railways. There are probably less than a dozen sites where it has ever been recorded

Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Lithospemum arvense L.

Field Gromwell



Archaeophyte

An annual of arable fields and occasionally rough ground on light, dry, calcareous soils.

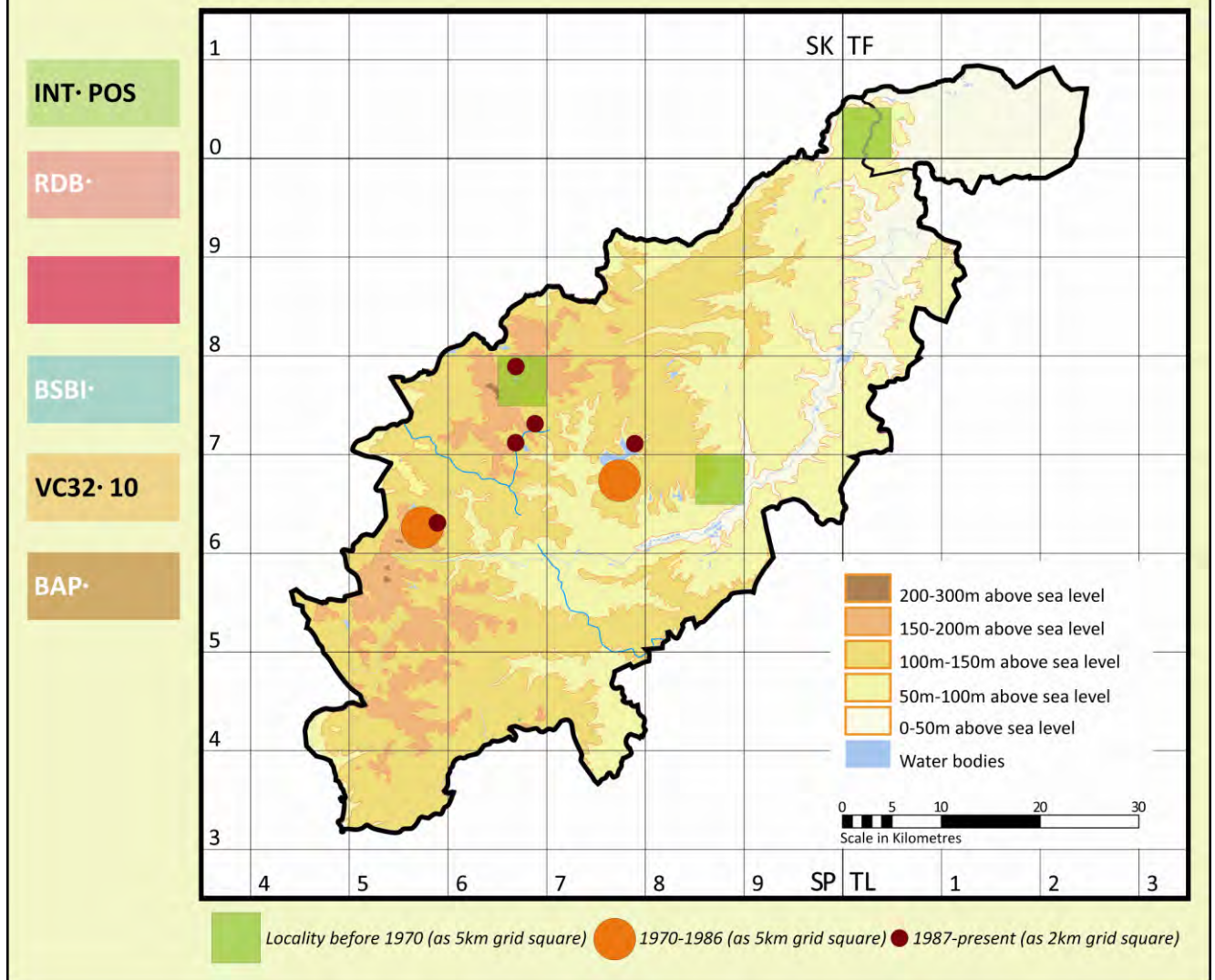
TF04-99-	Bedford Purlieus (Upper Moiseys & Upper 40 Acres)	S	SSSI/NNR	2006	DB
SP915968	Harringworth (near)	N		2002	GG
TL04-96-	Old Sulehay (Ring Haw)	N	SSSI/NR	2006	
SP96-66-	Rushden	N		2001	GG

Recorded from arable field borders where herbicides have not penetrated. It is noticeably decreasing and as with all arable weeds its future must give some cause for concern.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Littorella uniflora (L.) Asch

Shoreweed



Native

A perennial herb of muddy margins or in the water of oligotrophic or mesotrophic water bodies.

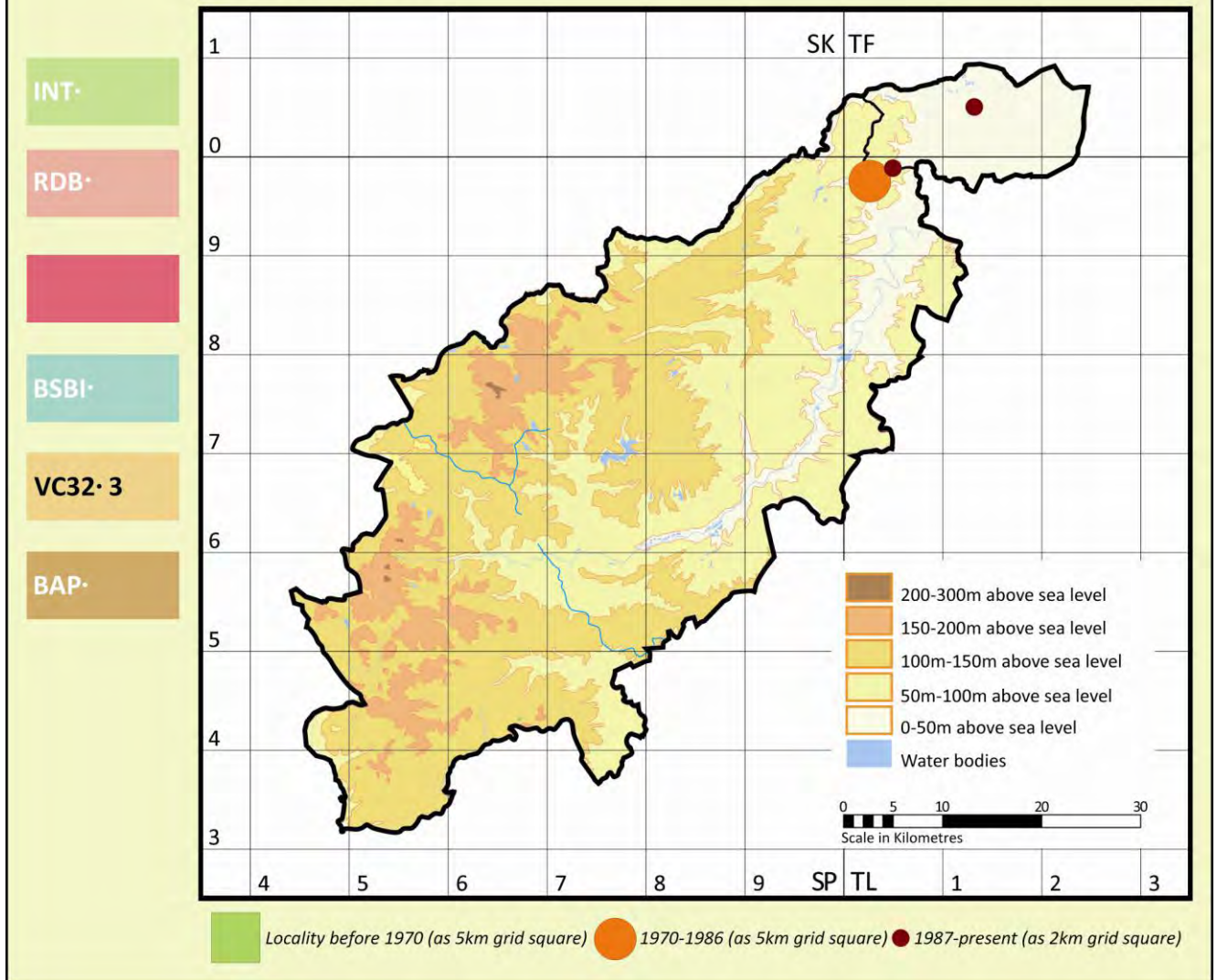
SP580635	Daventry Country Park	N	1991	LM
SP690727	Hollowell Reservoir	N	2011	BL
SP668777	Naseby Reservoir	N	2010	BL
SP780708	Pitsford Reservoir	N	2008	GG
SP678706	Ravensthorpe Reservoir	N	2005	BL

Only recorded from five sites but here in Northamptonshire it is growing well outside of its normal range, which is predominantly in the western half of the country. As it only flowers when exposed in draw-down zones it may well be overlooked. Seeds of this species can remain viable for many decades awaiting the right conditions to germinate.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Luzula forsteri (Sm.) DC.

Southern Wood-rush



Native

A perennial of well drained and shaded woodland.

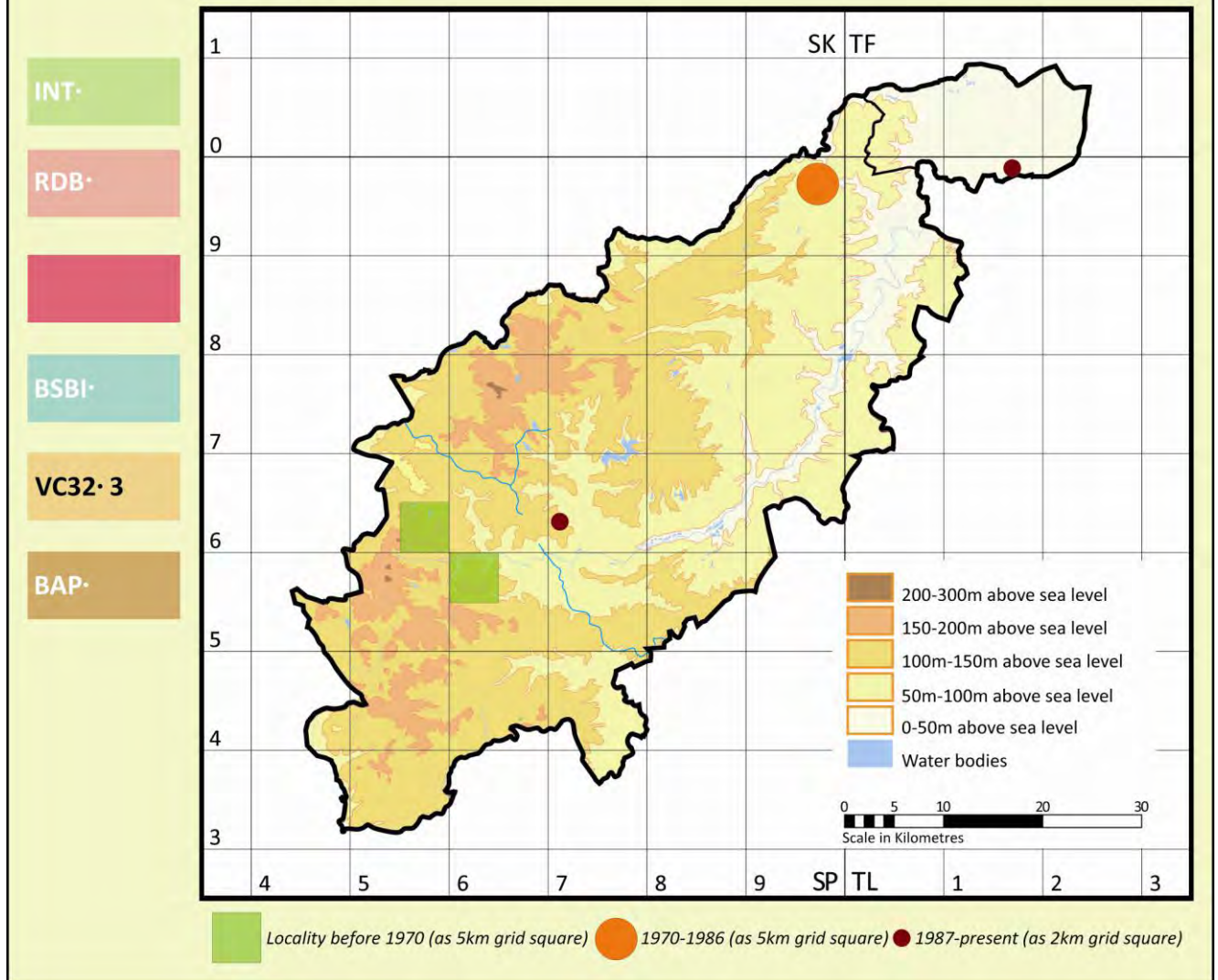
TF042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	1996	GG
TF120050	Rice Wood	S		2007	TW

For many years it was only known in Bedford Purlieus, where it has appeared in one ride fairly constantly since it was first seen over 40 years ago; in 2007, however it was discovered at a new site near Helpston

Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Lythrum portula (L.) D.A. Webb

Water-purslane



Native

An annual of acidic pond sides and marshes.

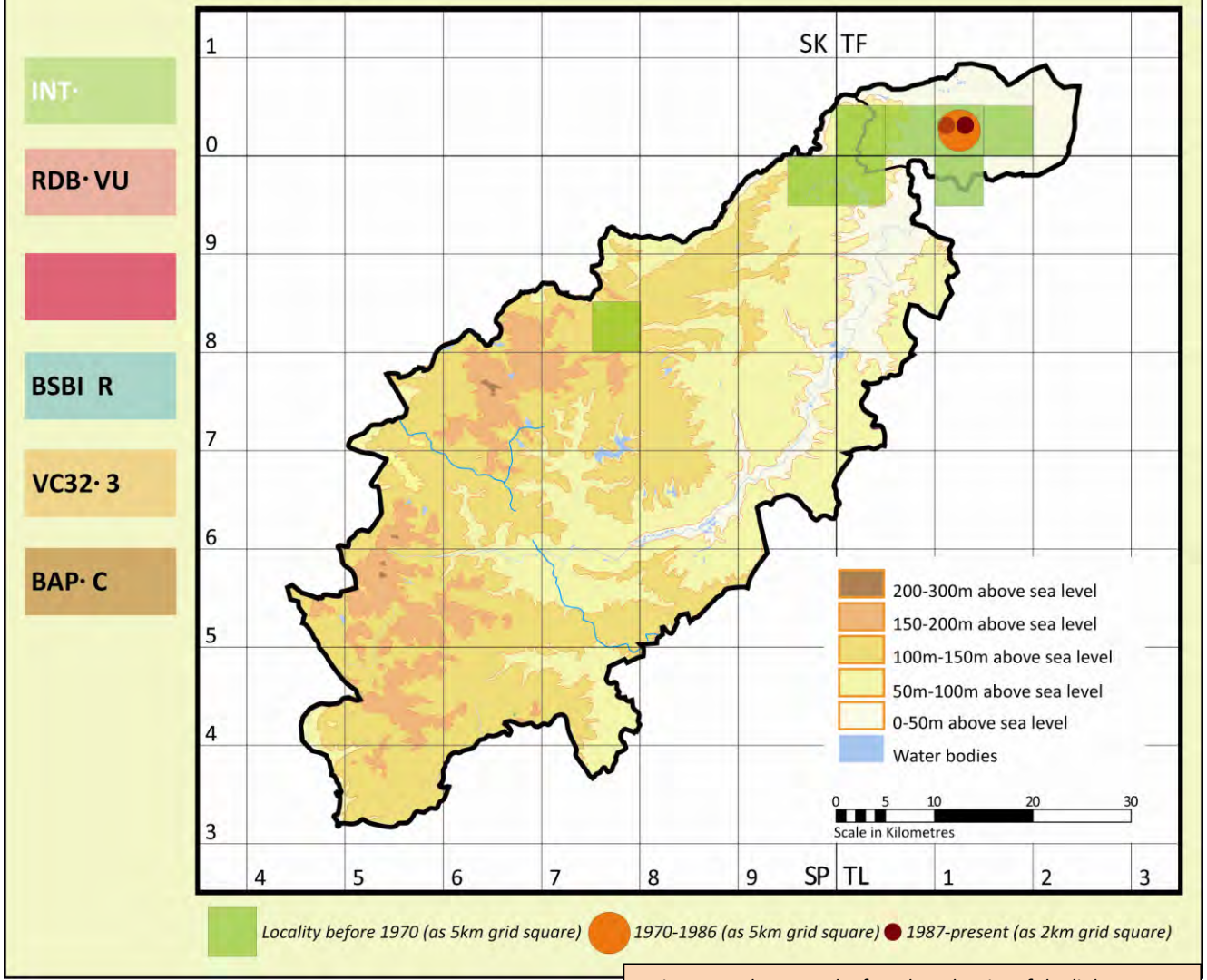
SP762634	Harlestone Firs	N	2008	MD
TL177981	The Boardwalks, Peterborough	S	2008	JQ/GF

Formerly considered extinct as it had only previously been recorded from Badby Wood and Castle Dykes before 1930. In 1952, however, it was recorded in Wakerley Woods, in 2000 it was discovered in a recently cleared area of very wet sandy soil where water stands in the winter at Harlestone Firs and in 2008 it was recorded at The Boardwalks, Peterborough.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Melampyrum cristatum L.

Crested Cow-wheat



It is now no longer to be found on the site of the lighter coloured dot.

Native
An annual hemiparasitic herb mainly found in ancient oak woodland.

TF125 023	Blacklands, Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2004	NE
TF1108023	Southey Wood (Road verge)	S		2006	DA

Only ever known in the north of the vice-county, it was recorded on the road verge at Southey Wood until 2006 (where it was probably known from 1933), but it may now be extinct at this site as a result of insensitive mowing and management, in spite of being on a protected road verge. Under the auspices of English Nature (now Natural England) and using seed gathered at this road verge in 1996 it was introduced to nearby Blacklands where it is now established and consideration is currently being given to introducing it at another site, possibly Castor Hanglands, where it previously occurred in the 1960s and up to 1976.

Druce: Very local and rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

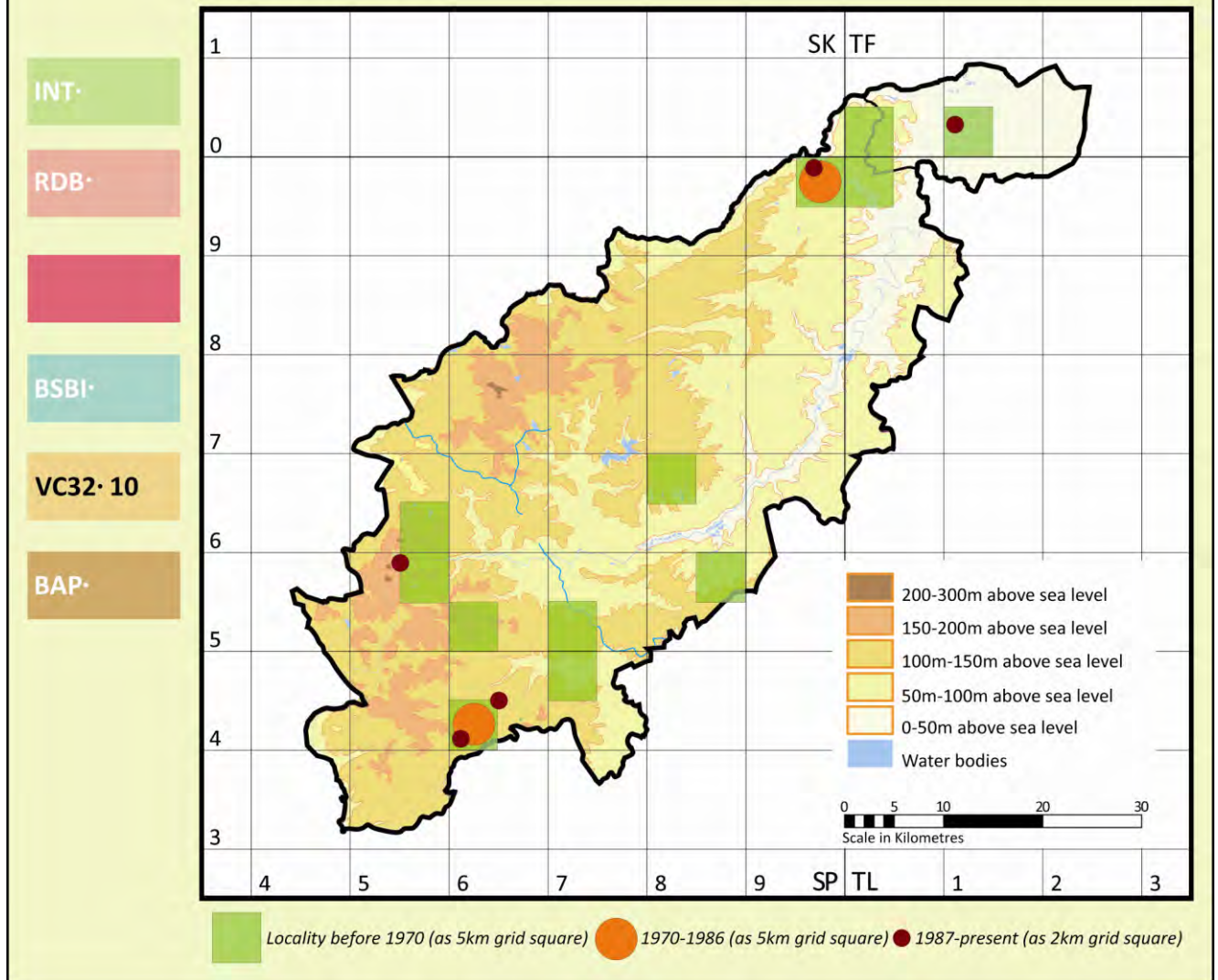


Crested Cow-wheat

Pete Stroh

Melampyrum pratense ssp. pratense L.

Common Cow-wheat



Native

An annual hemiparasitic herb of ancient woodland on nutrient poor soils.

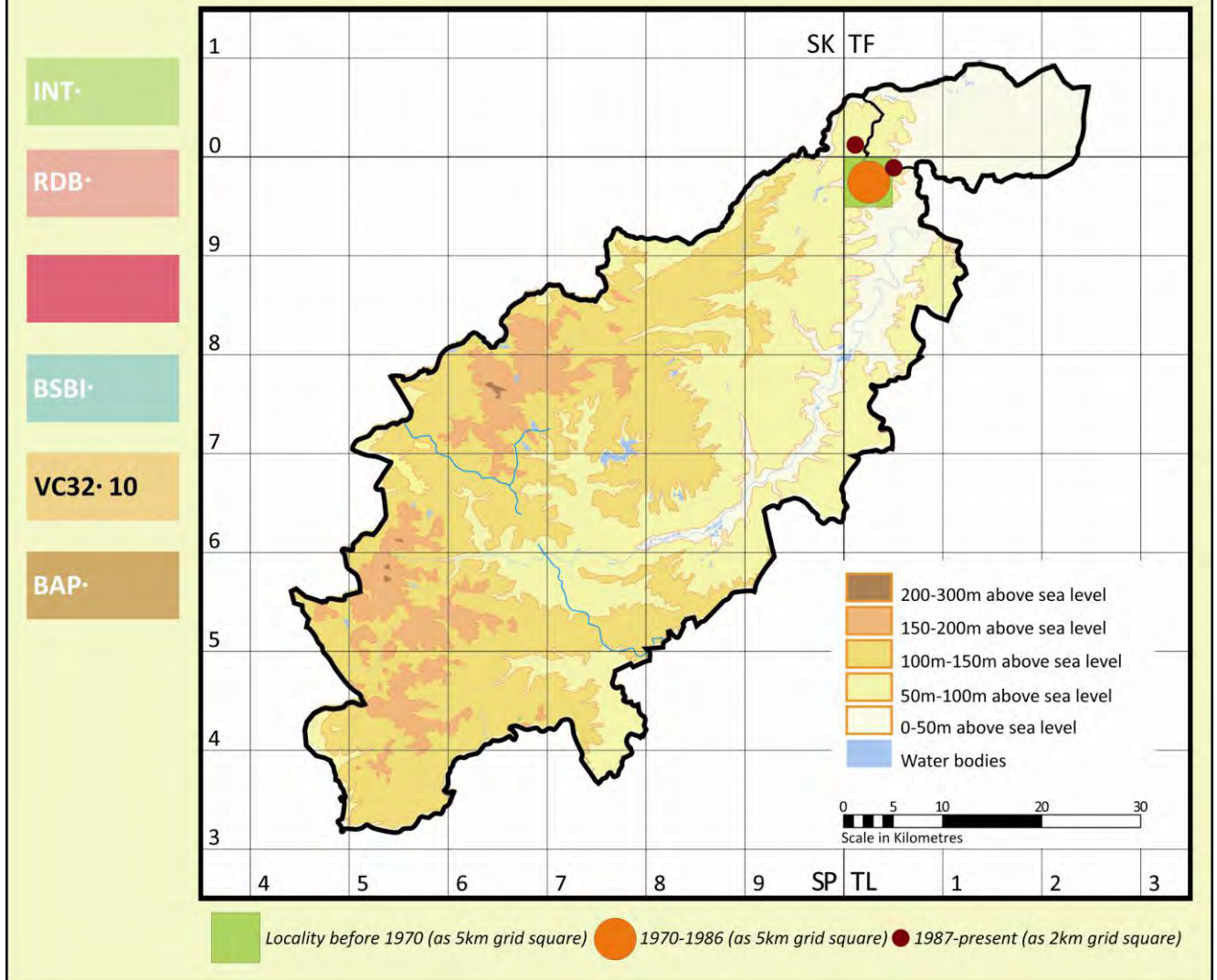
SP660450	Bucknell Wood	N		2010	BL
TF105022	Southey Lodge	S		1992	DBe/DS
SP611414	Whistley Wood	N		2009	BL
SP964985	Wakerley Spinney	N	SSSI	2008	RD

Only known from four woods in the county, it was formerly more common but has declined due to changes in woodland management, but it is to be hoped that its decline has now halted as more enlightened management plans are put into place but it is only ever found in confined areas small numbers.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare..

Melica nutans L.

Mountain Melick



Native

A perennial grass growing on basic soils over limestone.

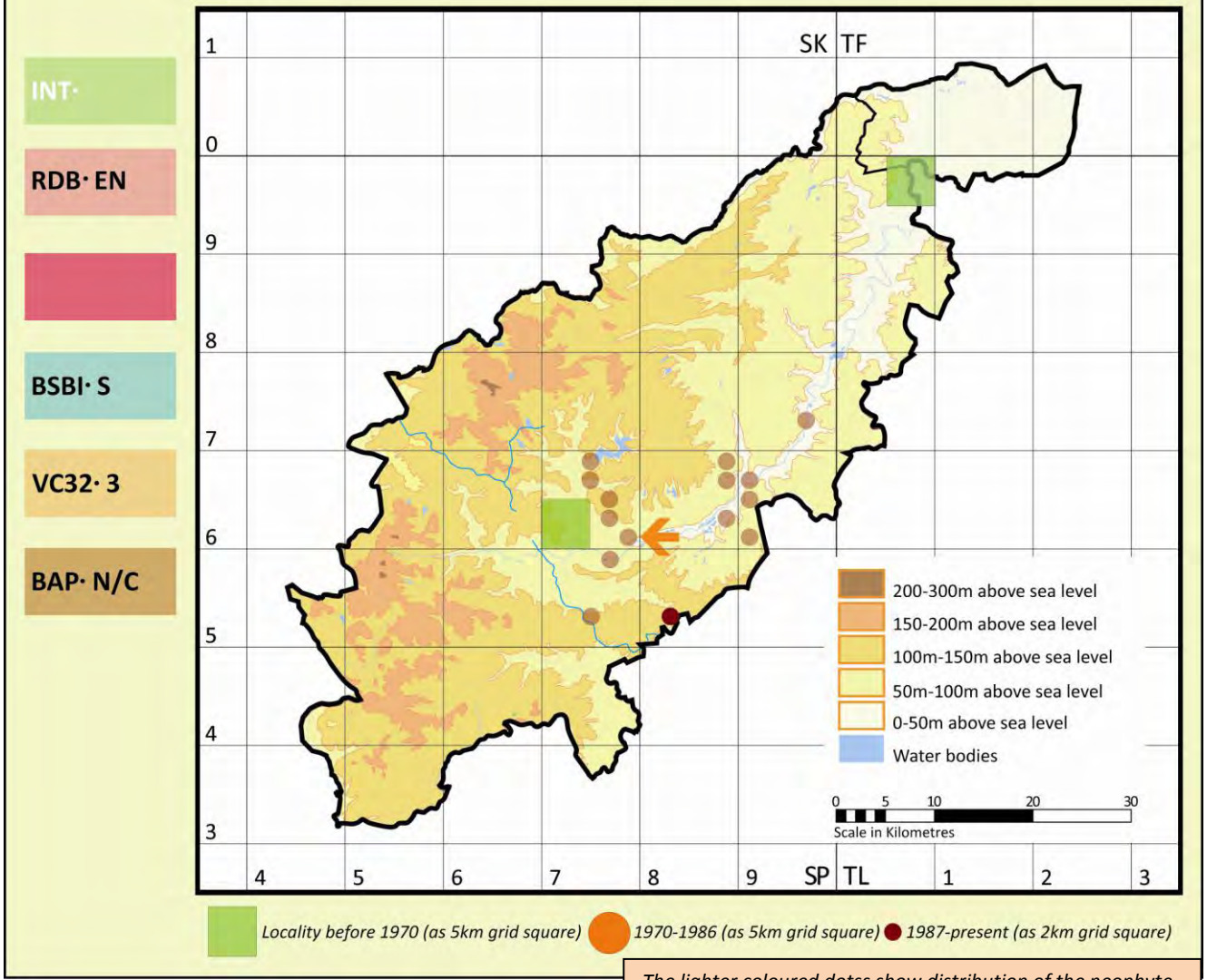
TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2011	NC
TF018004	Collyweston Great Wood & Easton Hornstocks	N	SSSI/NNR	2008	DH

These two sites are well outside the usual northern and western range of this species, a situation that has probably always been so with Druce recording that '*hitherto it has been recorded for no other bordering county*', a statement that is still largely true. Although its extreme rarity in this area could make these plants vulnerable, they are probably reasonably secure.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Mentha pulegium L.

Pennyroyal



The lighter coloured dots show distribution of the neophyte erect species which is spreading around Northampton and northwards along the Nene valley since its introduction at Weston Favell Mill (arrowed) in 1995.

Native

A perennial herb of seasonally inundated grassland on substrates of silt or clay.

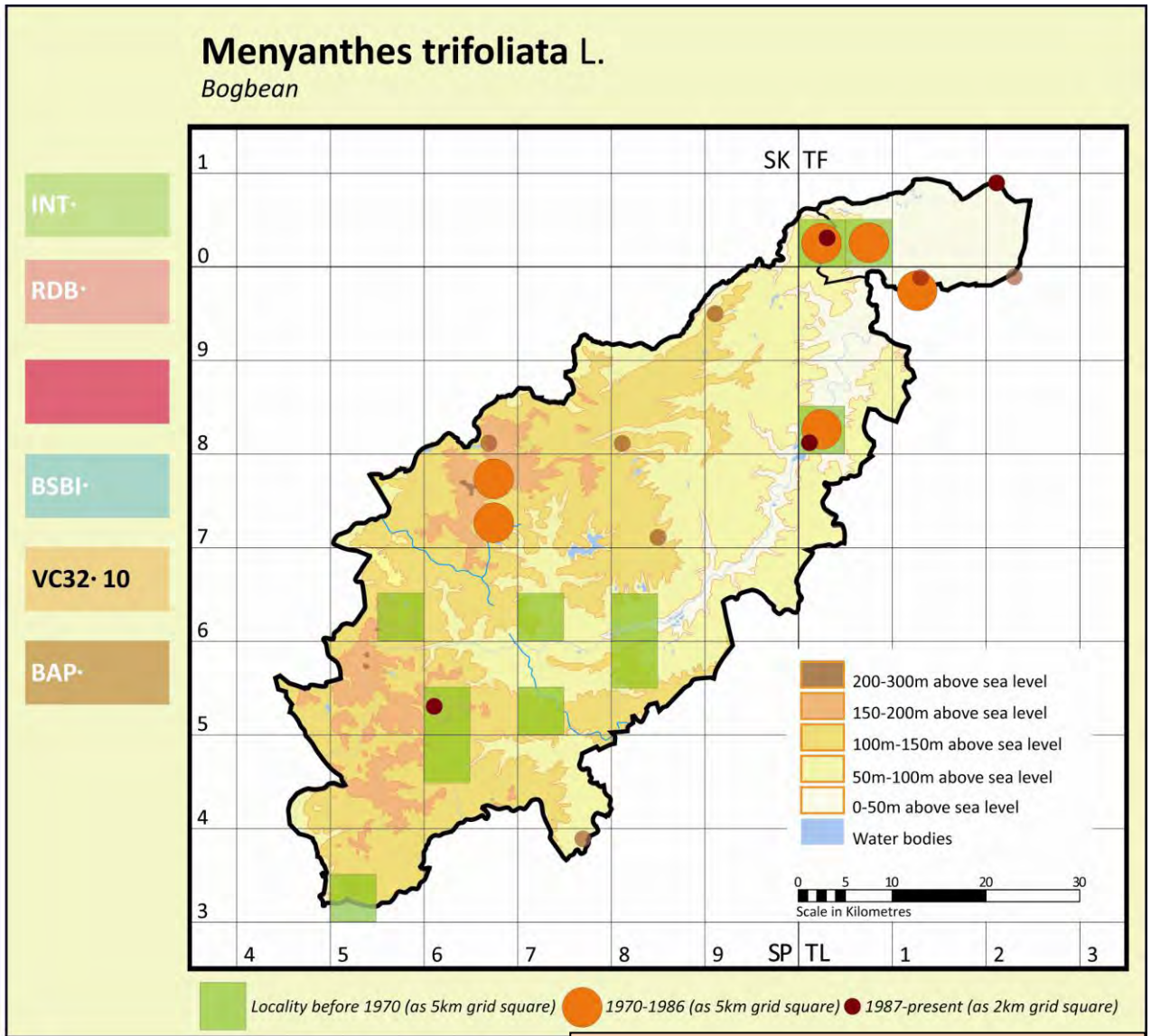
SP827523 Horton Woods N 1996 TR

The only certain native record is detailed above. There are many records from the Nene Valley but these are all of var. *erecta*, probably not a native species and originating from imported North American grass seed originally used at one riverside meadow from where it has spread downstream.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Probably extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare [this description takes the records in the Nene Valley into account].

Menyanthes trifoliata L.

Bogbean



Recent colonies thought to be introduced are shown in a pale brown.

Native

A perennial of bogs, marshes and shallow standing water, tolerating a wide range of water chemistry.

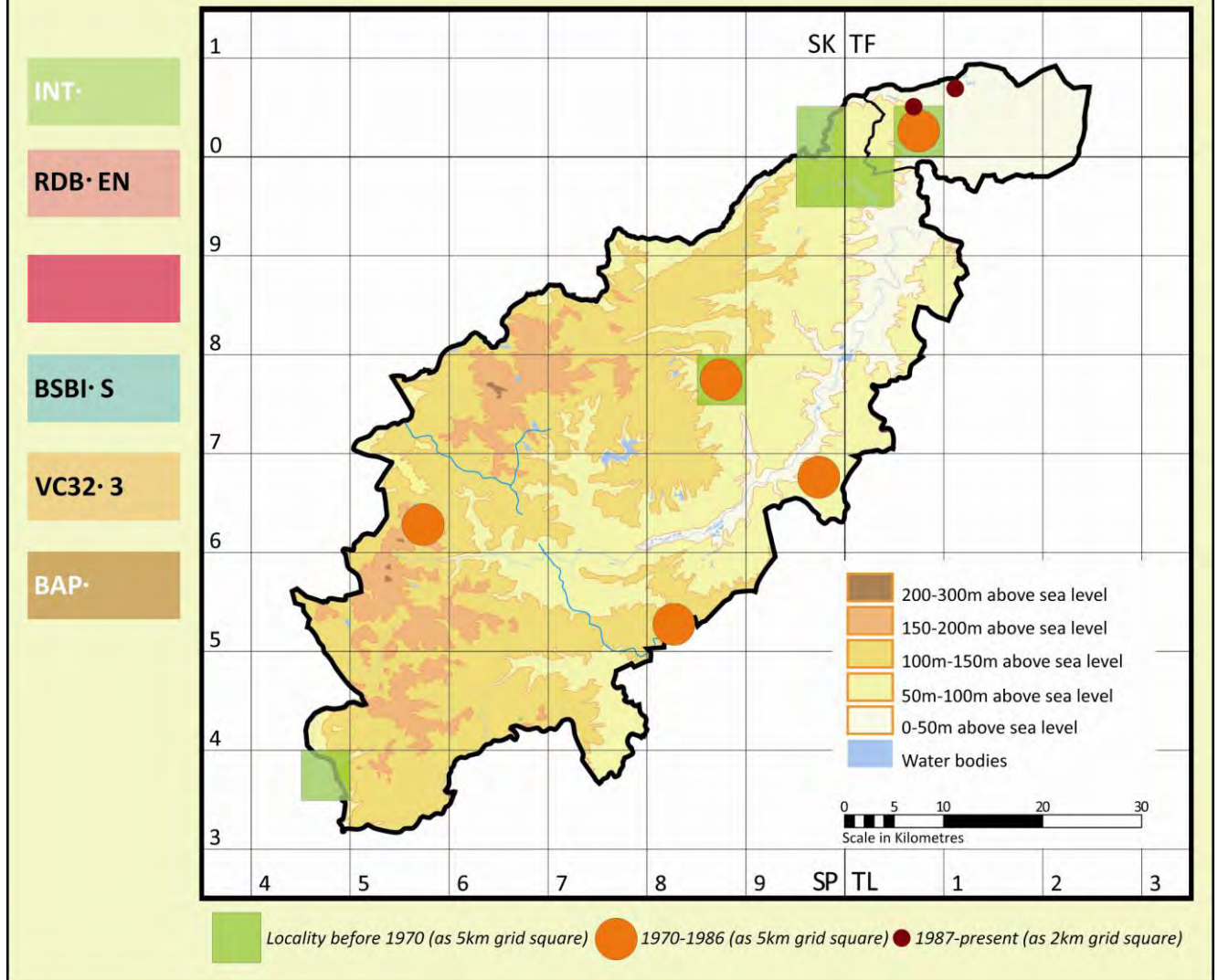
TL004808	Aldwincle Marsh	N	SSSI	2008	NH/CL
SP602538	Maidford Bog	N		1996	LM
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI		
TF044036	Whitewater Valley	S	SSSI	1994	KDNHS

Rare as a native plant, this species has been introduced at a number of sites, notably holding ponds beside major roads and ponds on golf courses etc. Only the certain native sites are listed here. Its future as a native plant must be tenuous while the introduced plants can easily get eliminated as larger species become more established and spread.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare as a native plant.

Minuartia hybrida (Villars) Schischk.

Fine-leaved Sandwort



Native

An annual of bare patches of light soil in calcareous grassland over limestone.

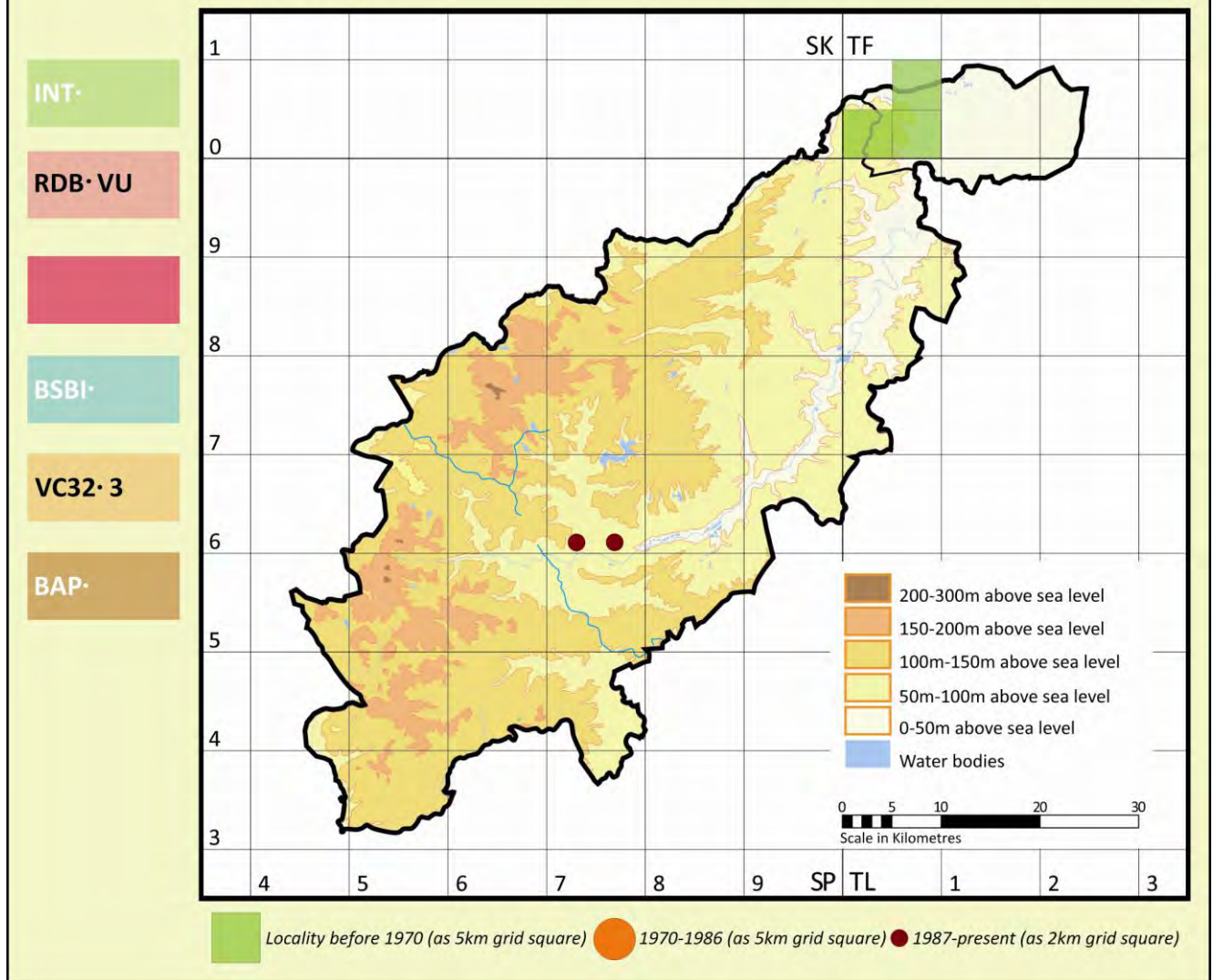
TF076047	Barnack Hills & Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	1996	NE
TF11-07-	Lolham Bridges	S		1997	MW

Always very rare, the decreasing number of sites must give cause for concern.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Misopates orontium (L.) Raf.

Weasel's-snout



Archaeophyte

An annual of light soils on cultivated ground.

SP732614	Duston (Bants Lane Allotments)	N	2007	BL
SP77-60-	St Andrew's Hospital, Spencer House	N	1993	BL

Only recorded five times since about the beginning of the 18th century when it was seen in the 'old slate pits at Collyweston' and 1951 when it was found near Old Sulehay. Between these dates it was recorded at Thornhaugh in the 19th century and Barnack (before 1930). All of these records are situated close to one another on the Lincolnshire limestone. The disappearance of this species follows the national trend and it was thought to be extinct until it was re-found in 1993 and 2007 growing in small numbers at sites well away from earlier records.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

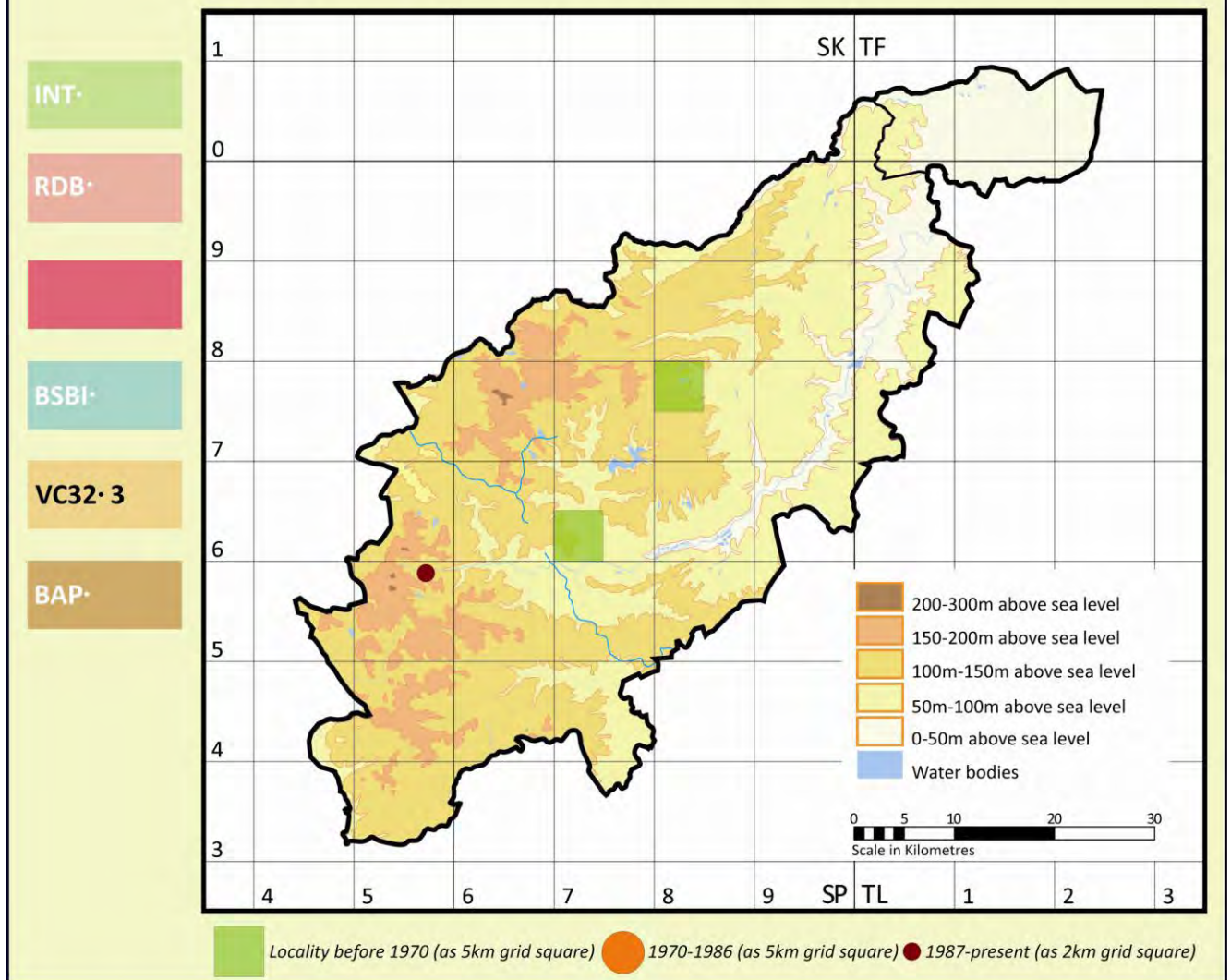


Weasel's Snout

Brian Laney

Moenchia erecta (L.) P.Gaertn., Mey. & Scherb.

Upright Chickweed



Native

An annual of summer-dry, bare, sandy or gravelly ground. .

SP567580 Fawsley Park

N

2013 BL

Noted as growing 'amongst the Gorse in Thorpe Malsor' sometime before 1712, it was not seen again until 1877 when it was recorded from Harlestone Firs, probably surviving from before the heath was made into a fir plantation. There were no subsequent records until it was found in 2013 in grassland in Fawsley Park

First record: Morton 1712, Gent & Wilson 1995: Presumed extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Presumed extinct

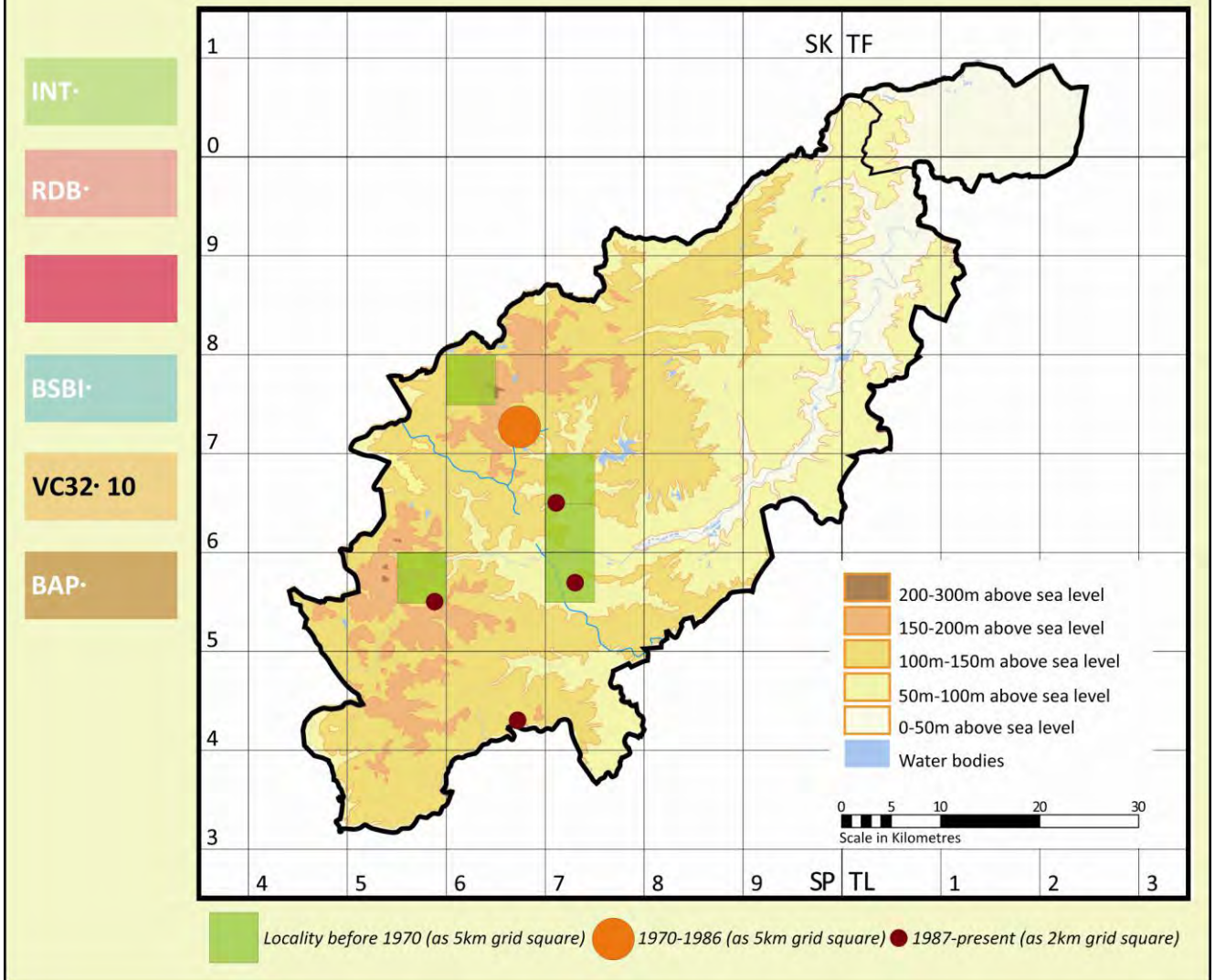


Upright Chickweed and its habitat in Fawsley Hall Park.

Brian Laney

Montia fontana L.

Blinks



Native

A perennial of damp, shady places.

SP599549	Farthinghoe Golf Course	N	2011	BL
SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N	2005	BL
SP738585	Hunsbury Hill	N	2006	BL
SP669423	Silverstone Race Circuit	N	2013	BL

Druce recorded it at Badby Downs, Brampton, Elkington, Harlestone, Honey Hill and Hunsbury Hill. It was presumed to be extinct as there had been no sightings despite searches at these localities. However, in 2005 it was rediscovered at Harlestone Firs, growing on an area where timber had previously been stacked in front of the sawmill, although it may be vulnerable to scrub encroachment if the area where it is growing is not kept clear. The following year it was finally re-found at Hunsbury Hill. At both of these localities there is probably over 100 years between sightings in spite of Harlestone Firs being a much visited site for rare plants.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Presumed extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

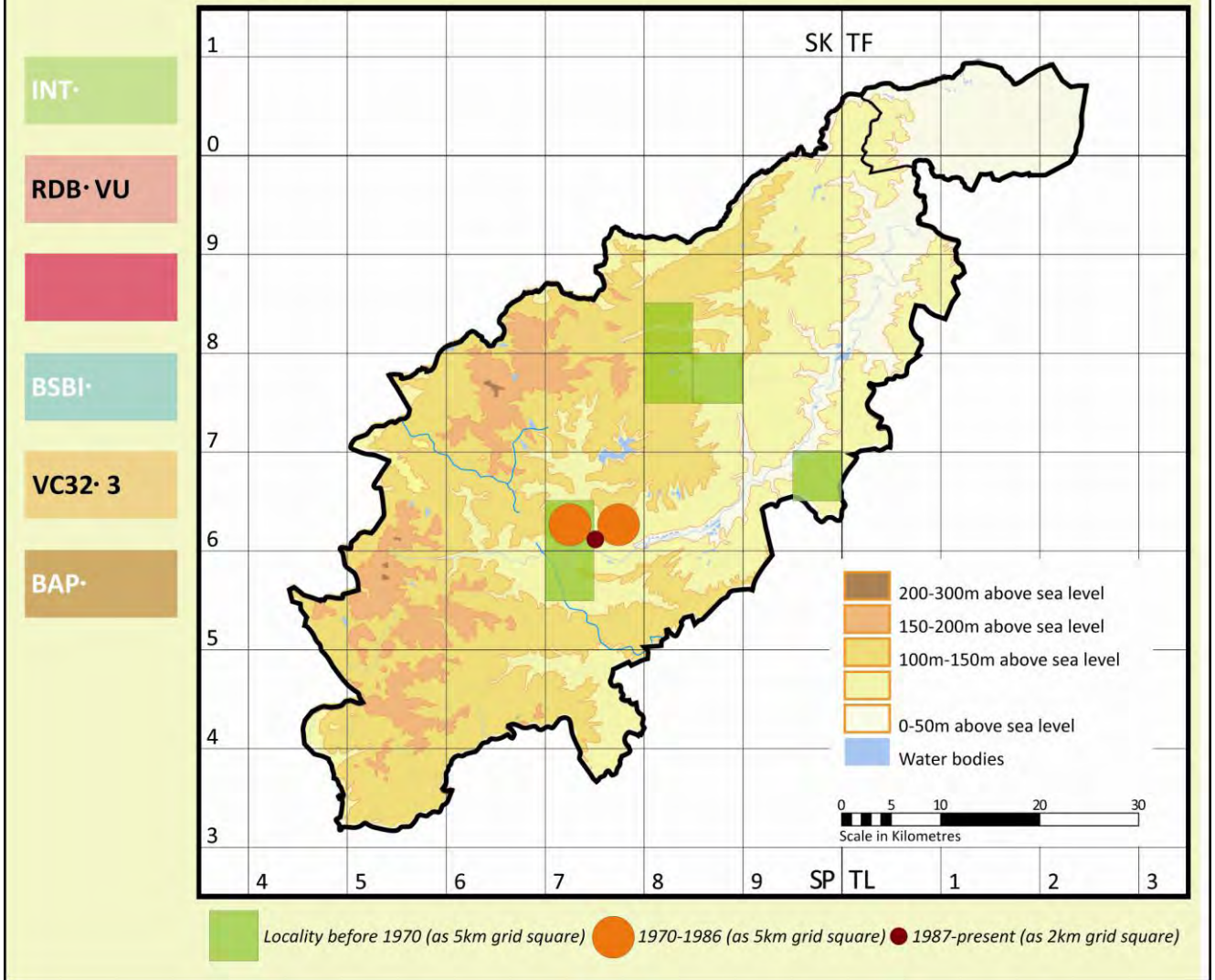


Blinks

Brian Laney

Myosurus minimus L.

Mousetail



Native

An annual of seasonally flooded bare and waste habitats, path margins, rutted tracks etc.

SP749600 Northampton, St James Retail Park N 2014 BL

It has only ever been seen nine times and had not been seen in the county since 1981 (in spite of searching) and it was thought that it was probably extinct although the longevity of the seed precluded it being fully assigned to this category. Then in 2013 it was found at two sites on bare soil very close to each other in St James Retail Park, Northampton and although it was eliminated by herbicides, efforts have been made to try and ensure that this will not happen again and a considerable number of rosettes appeared in early 2014.

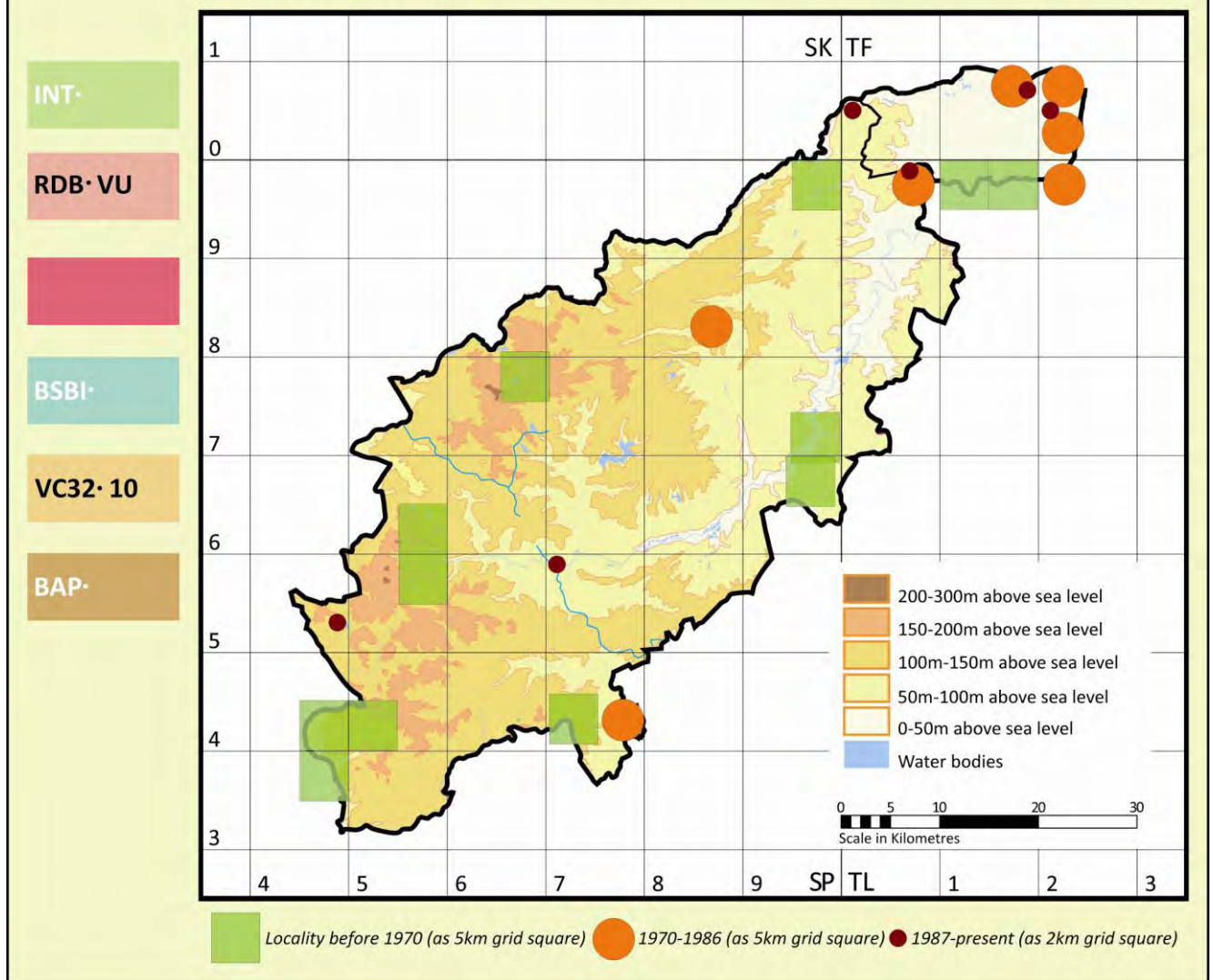
Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Possibly extinct.



Mousetail and typical habitat beside the access path at St James Retail Park. Brian Laney

Myriophyllum verticillatum L.

Whorled Water-milfoil



Native

A perennial of slow-moving water, including streams, canals, ponds and ditches.

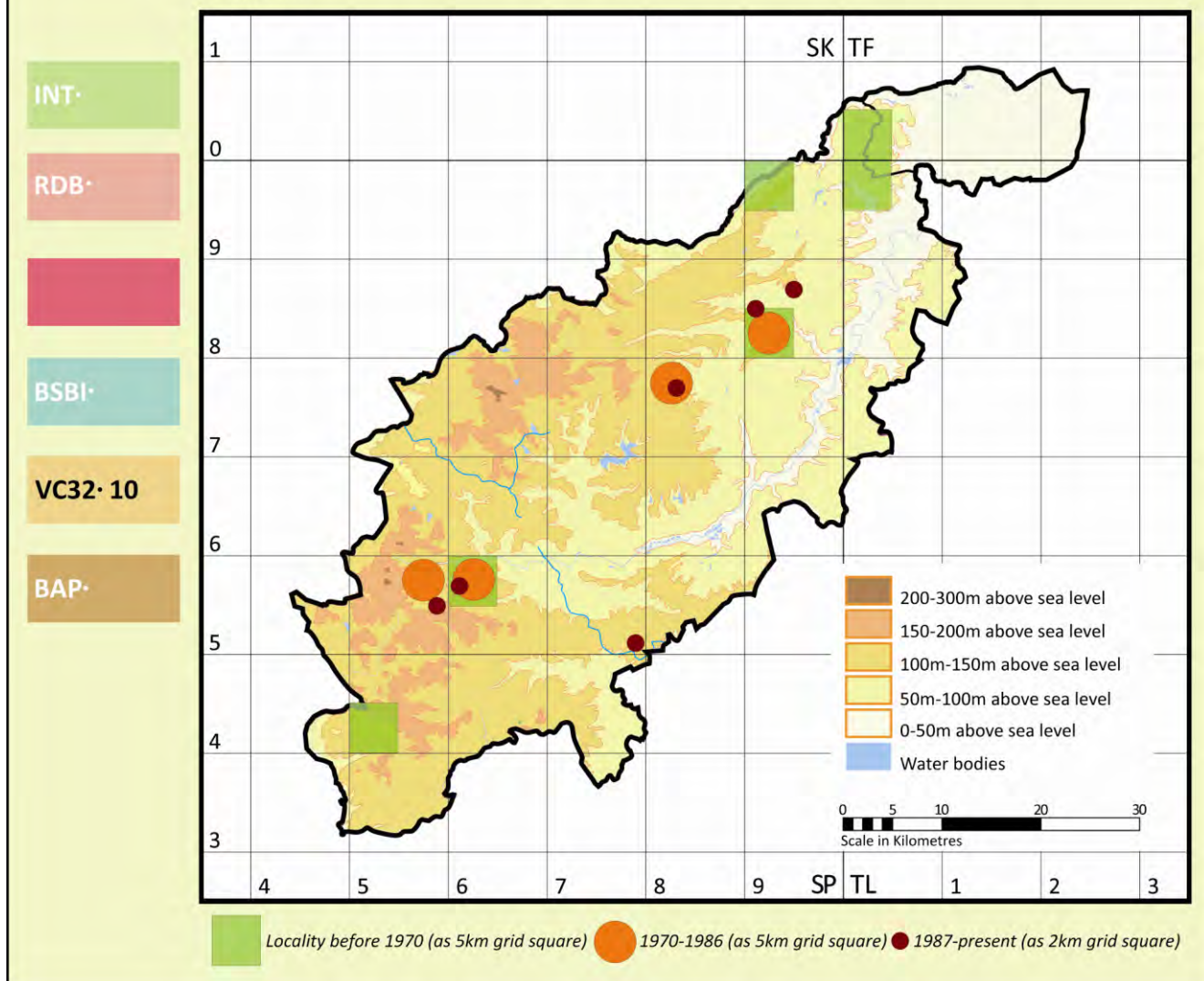
TF20-05-	Newborough	S	2008	GG
SP495535	Old Brook	N	1997	LM
TF190065	Peakirk Fen Ditch	S	1994	GG
TF005052	Peter's Pond	N	1990	LM
TL075983	River Nene (Wansford Lock)	S	2011	NC
SP715591	Upton Mill Lakes	N	1996	LM

Always a rare species, it was first recorded in Peterborough sometime before 1712. Other early records are from Drayton Reservoir, Duddington (1915), Farthinghoe, Grimsbury Wharf (presumably just inside the county border), Higham Ferrers, Huscote Mill, Kings Sutton, Naseby, Raunds (1911), Wakefield Lawn, and various locations on the River Nene at Peterborough. Since then it has been recorded at a range of sites which show that it has generally retreated to the north of the county.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Narcissus pseudonarcissus L.

Daffodil



Native

A perennial herb of ancient woodland.

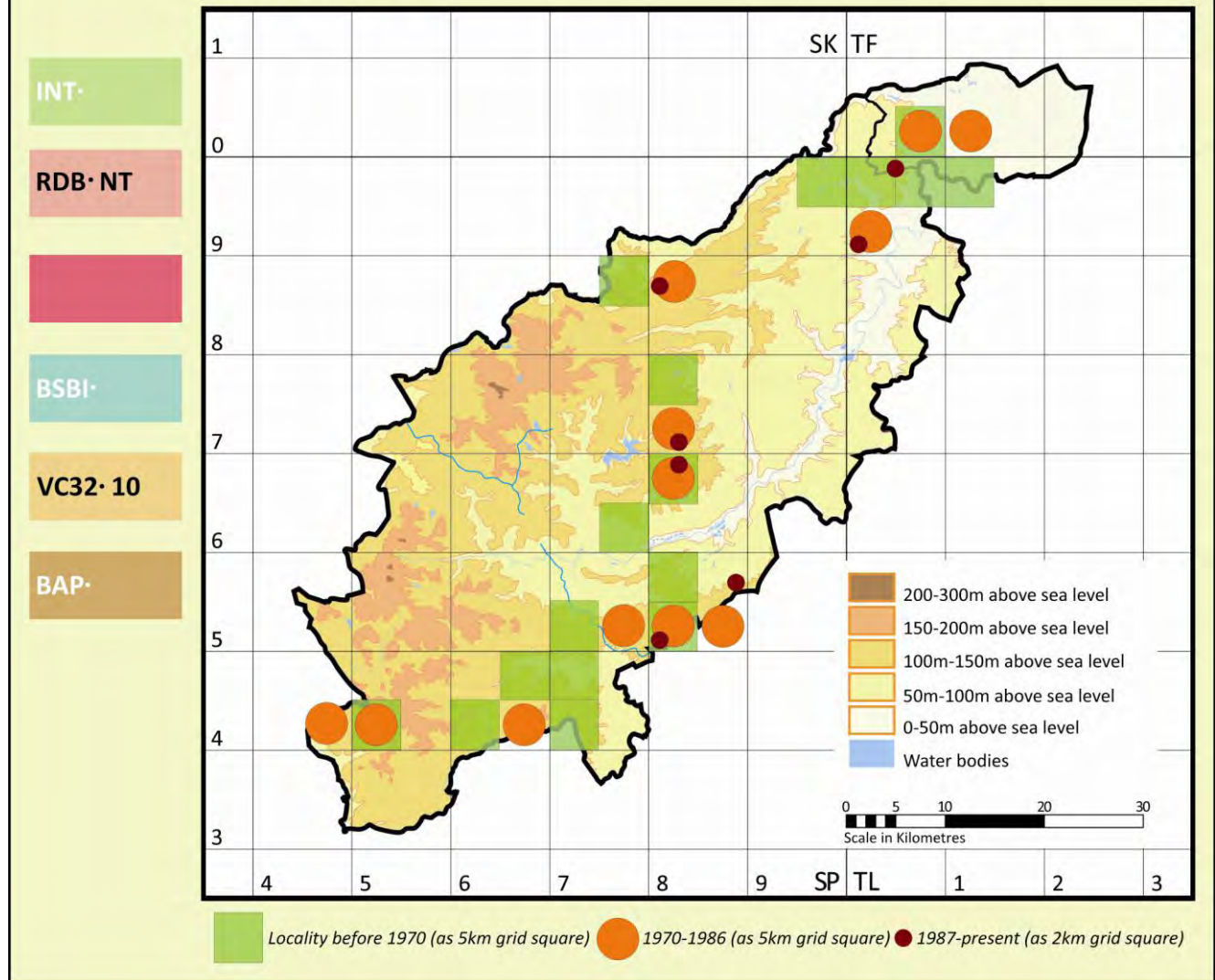
SP822766	Cransley Wood	N		1993	LM
SP608564	Everdon Stubbs	N	SSSI	2007	NOr
SP913847	Geddington Chase	N	SSSI	2007	NOr
SP94-86-	Harry's Park Wood	N		2009	PS
SP597553	Mantles Heath	N	SSSI	1987	GG
SP783508	Rowley Wood	N		1992	LM

Very localised and isolated populations still remain, generally within or adjoining ancient woodlands, as at Geddington Chase and Everdon Stubbs. In 2009 it was newly recorded in Harry's Park Wood, part of Laundimer Woods north of Brigstock. The situation is confused by the deliberate planting of a wide variety of daffodil species on road verges, farm entrances and churchyards and garden escapes or throw-outs which can be found in a wide variety of localities, generally beside roads, but also on waste ground, field margins and in woodland. Some of these plants are well established and some can be very difficult to tell from the true wild daffodil, while others are quite obviously of garden origin and include a wide variety of cultivars from the small *Narcissus tête-à-tête* to varieties that are much larger than the wild species. Planted species are under-recorded so are not mapped here, but can be found in virtually every 2km square where there is a village.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Neottia nidus-avis (L.) Rich.

Bird's-nest Orchid



Native

A saprophytic herb of ancient woodland.

TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2011	NC
SP829705	Hardwick Wood	N		2010	BL
SP804505	Salcey Forest	N	SSSI	2003	AP
TL015913	Short Wood	N	SSSI/NR	1996	NWT
SP800864	Stoke Wood	N	NR/SSSI	2003	RW
SP830692	Sywell Wood	N		1994	GC
SP88-56-	Yardley Chase (Old Pastures/Horn Wood)	N		1998	GG

Seen intermittently at a small number of sites including the ancient woodlands of Bedford Purlieus, Fineshade Wood, Oundle Wood, Salcey Forest, Short Wood near Oundle, Stoke Wood, Storefield Wood, Sywell Wood where it has been known since 1837, Weekley Hall Wood and Yardley Chase. At Stoke Wood it was re-discovered in 1993. In 1994 a second colony was discovered there and it was seen at the original site in Stoke Wood until the spring of 1995, when it flowered very early in the season after that compartment had been coppiced. Such is the erratic appearance of this plant that it was then not seen in Stoke Wood for eight years, until in 2003 it was found at the 1993 site. It has also been recorded in Hardwick Wood, a plantation on the site of an ancient woodland for over thirty years, where over 100 flower spikes were found in 1992 and where it still survives. It has formerly been recorded in other ancient woodlands and it is possible that, because of its preference for deep shade, it may still be present but overlooked in other woodlands. Probably much more common a century ago before woodlands became neglected or replanted with conifers.

Druce: Local and rather rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

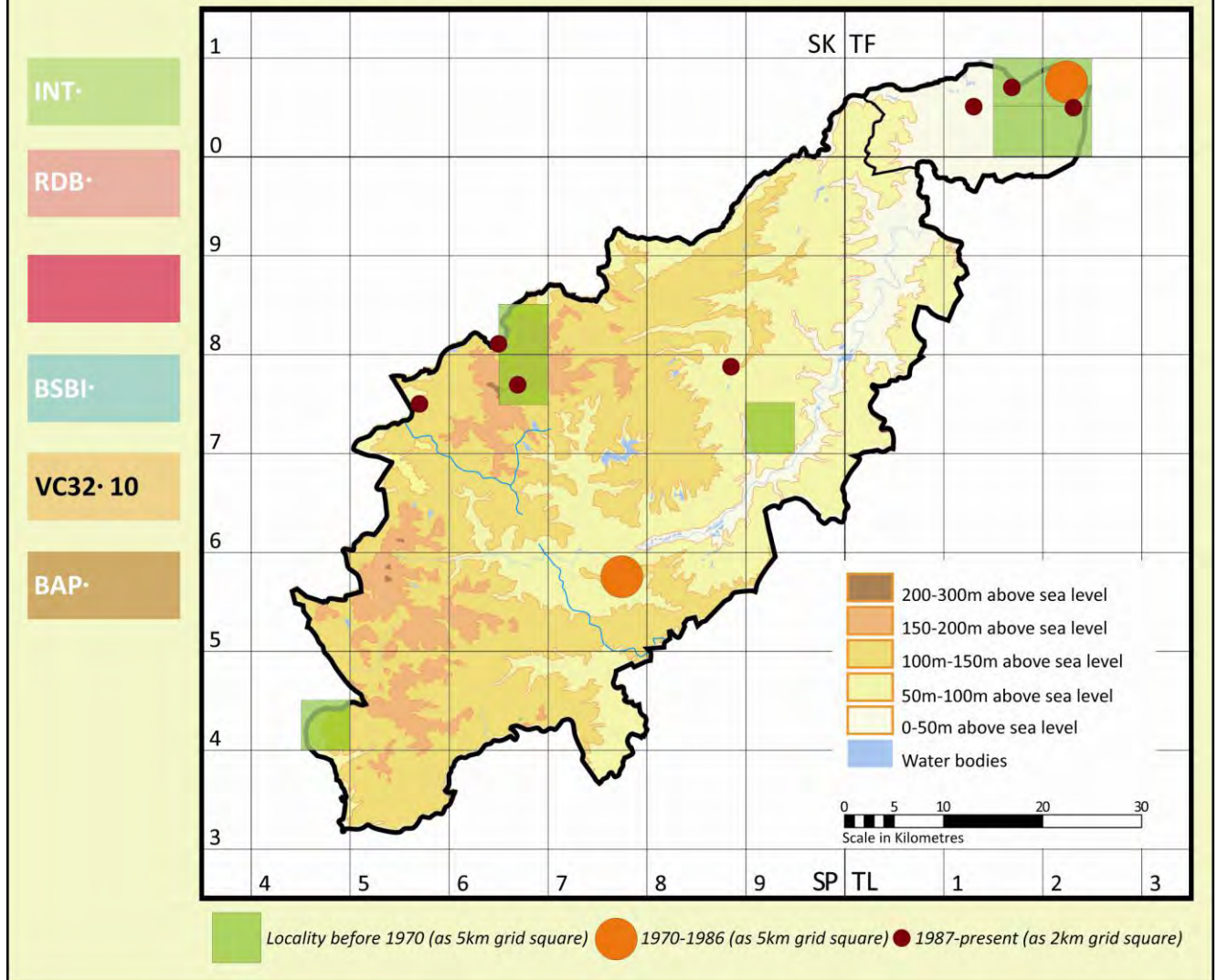


Bird's-nest Orchid

Pete Stroh

Oenathe aquatica (L.) Poir.

Fine-leaved Water-dropwort



Native

A perennial of slow flowing or stagnant water.

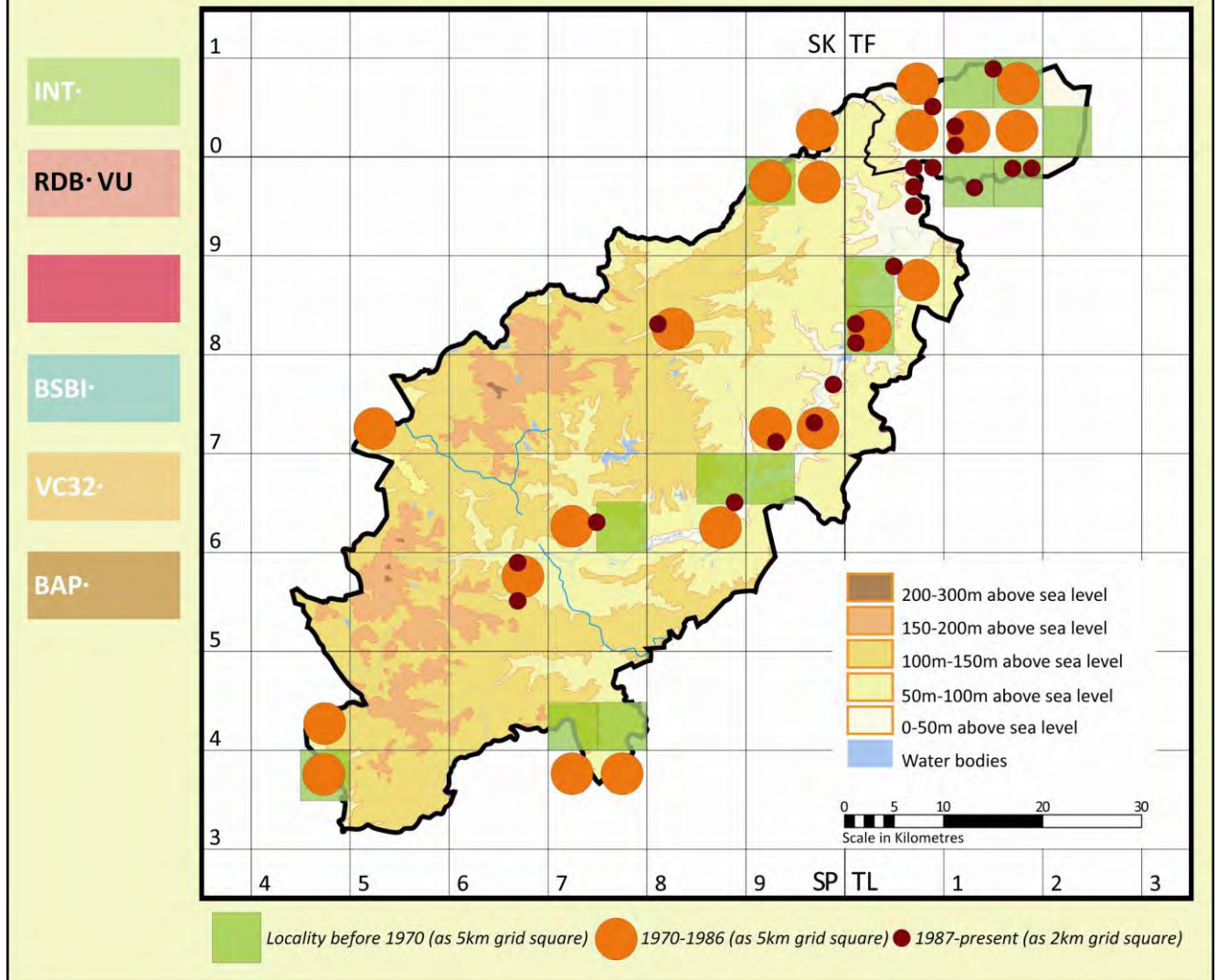
TF224056	Hill Farm Pond	S	1991	WT
TF160067	Hermitage Field	S	1992	SL
TF134047	Maxham's Green Lane Pond	S	1999	
SP669776	Naseby Reservoir	N	1991	LM
TL073960	Nassington Meadows and Dykes	N	1991	LM
SP882788	River Ise	N		RW
SP567751	Shenley Farm Ponds	N	1991	LM
SP647809	Welford Reservoir	N	2010	BL

A decreasing species that has always been confined to the northern part of the vice-county. Found at about half-a-dozen sites today, with at least a couple of old localities surviving from earlier times. It has probably a better chance of surviving today than for many decades, with decreased pollution levels in the rivers and other water bodies.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Oenanthe fistulosa L.

Tubular Water-dropwort



Native

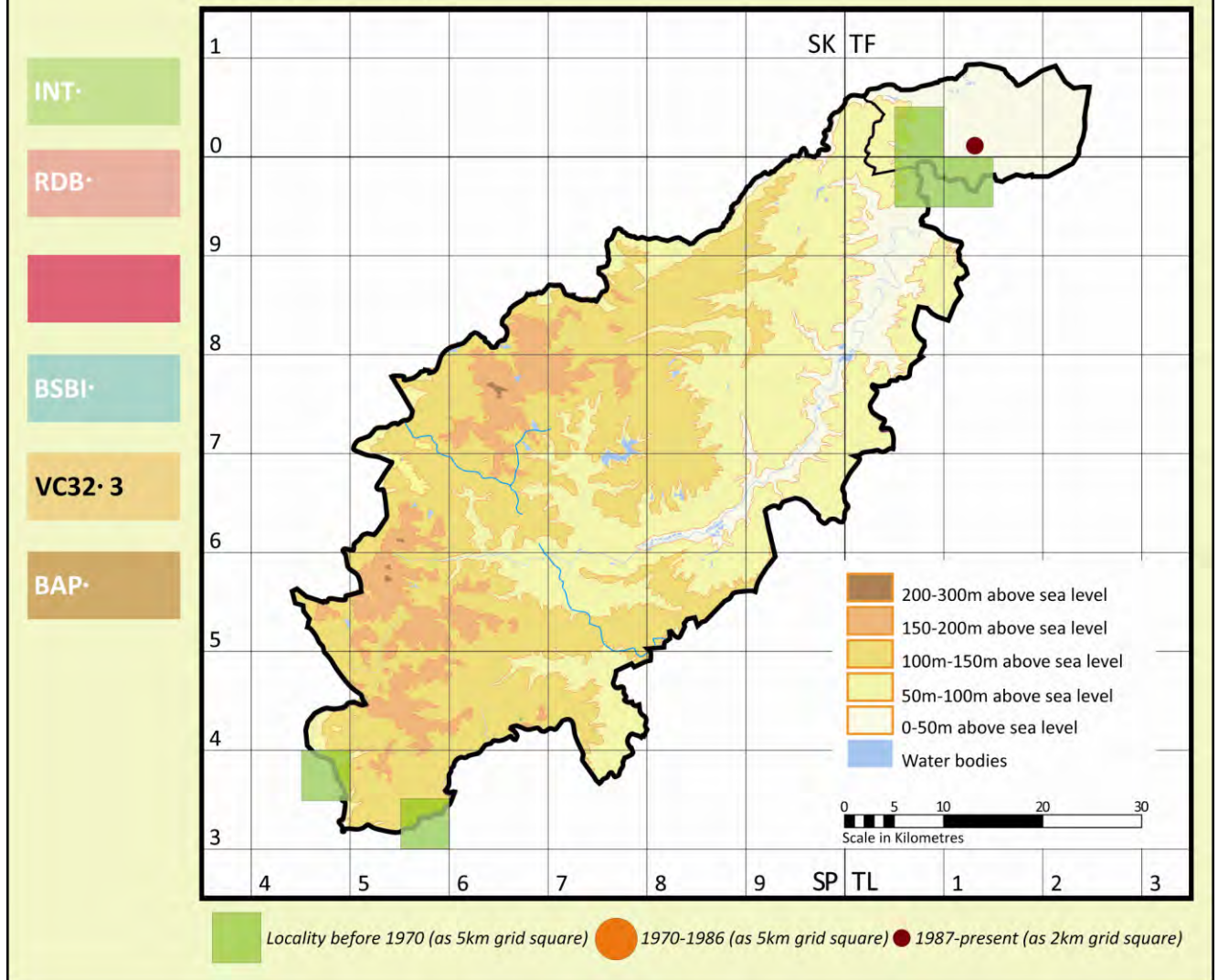
A perennial of wet habitats, marshy places, flood meadows and shallow water.

It is the most commonly found of the water-dropworts even though drainage has meant the loss of most of the sites where it was recorded at the beginning of the 20th century, especially those on the River Welland, although it is still present in this area just across the county border in Seaton Meadow. Today most of the sites are close to the River Nene. Away from the main rivers in Northamptonshire it has been recorded at Ise Marsh and on the line of the new Northampton North-west Bypass.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Oenanthe lachenalii C.C. Gmel.

Parsley Water-dropwort



Native

A perennial of base-enriched marshes and fens.

TF129002 Castor Hanglands

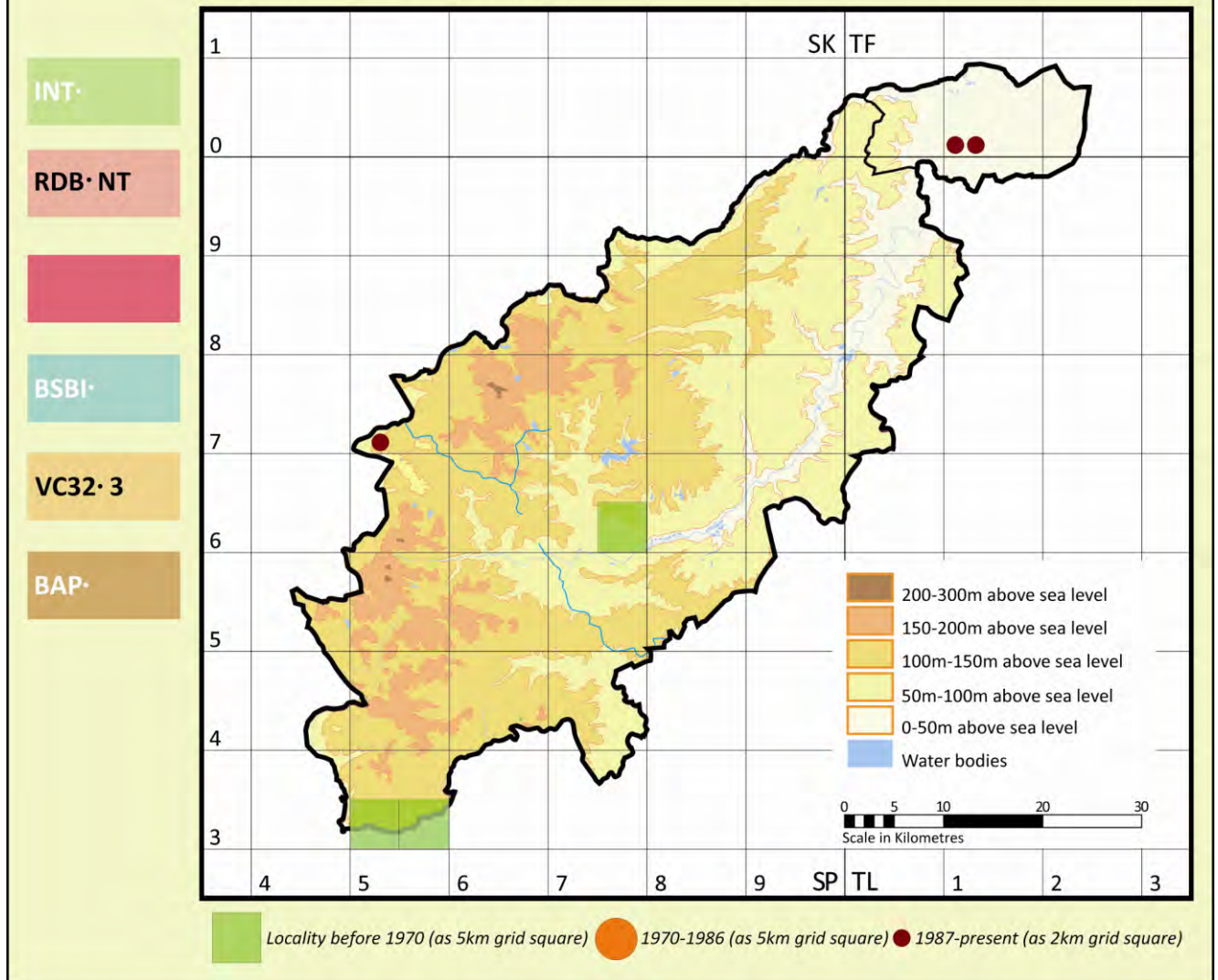
S NNR/SSSI 2008 DB

Recorded prior to 1930 but thought to be extinct but it was recently re-found. Probably present for many years and previously mis-identified or over-looked as it grows here amongst other water dropwort species. Although it is on a protected site, it is only present in a small ponded area and there must be concerns about its long term future.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Oenanthe silaifolia M. Bieb.

Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort



Native

A perennial of damp, rich meadows, usually near rivers and especially when prone to winter flooding.

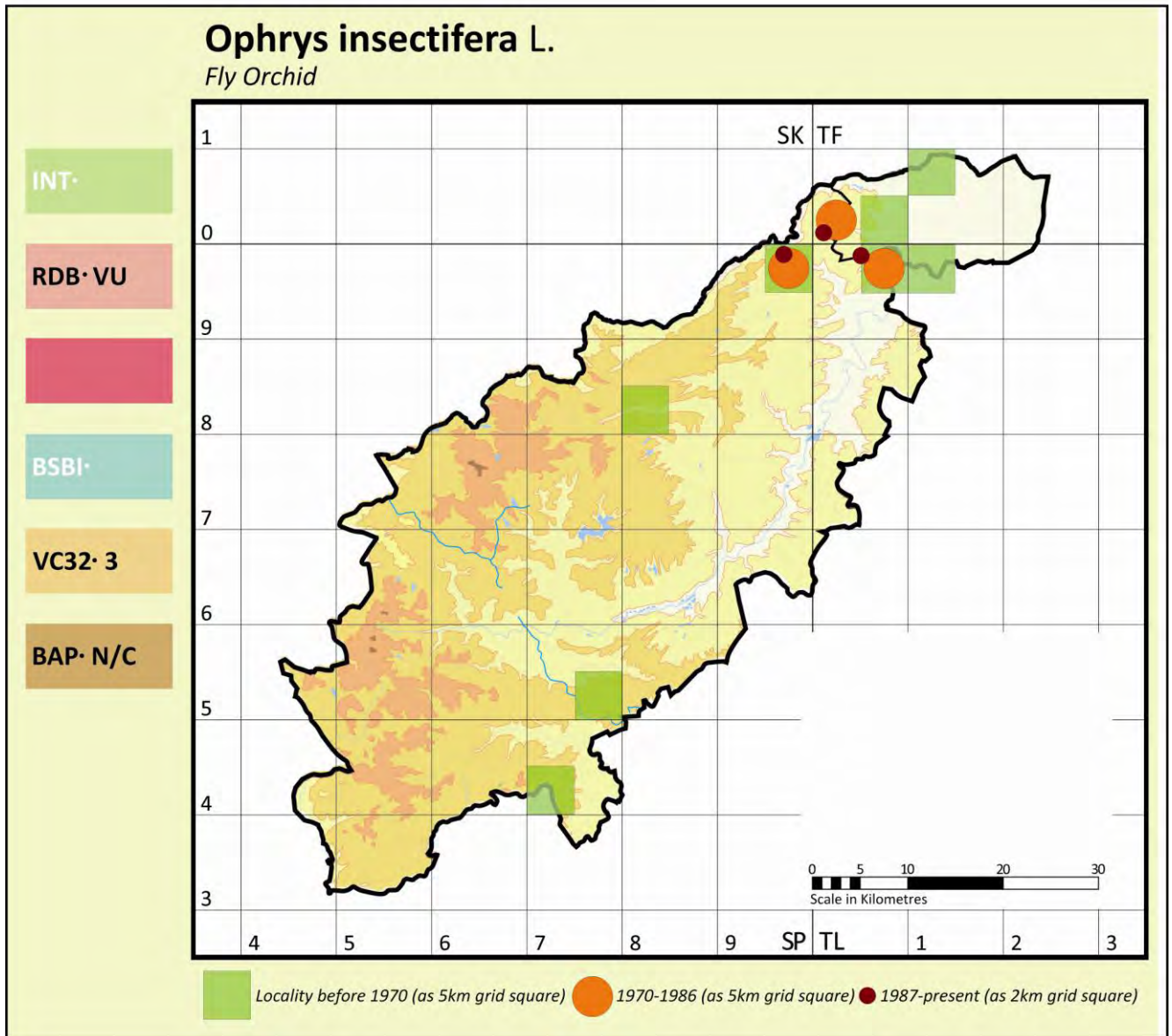
SP529716	Barby Old Canal	N		1991	LM
TF118018	Castor Hanglands (Ailsworth Heath)	S	SSSI/NNR	2008	DH
TF13-00-	Oldfield Pond Wood (near)	S		2006	DB

Druce only noted one site – meadows near Aynho where it was abundant – and it continued to thrive in the meadows beside the River Cherwell to the west of Aynho until they were ploughed in the late 20th century. Otherwise there are only early records from Evenley Camp in 1907, in Kingsthorpe Meadow in 1944. It was then not seen in the vice-county until it was recorded recently at the three sites listed here. Its presence here must be tenuous.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Ophrys insectifera L.

Fly Orchid



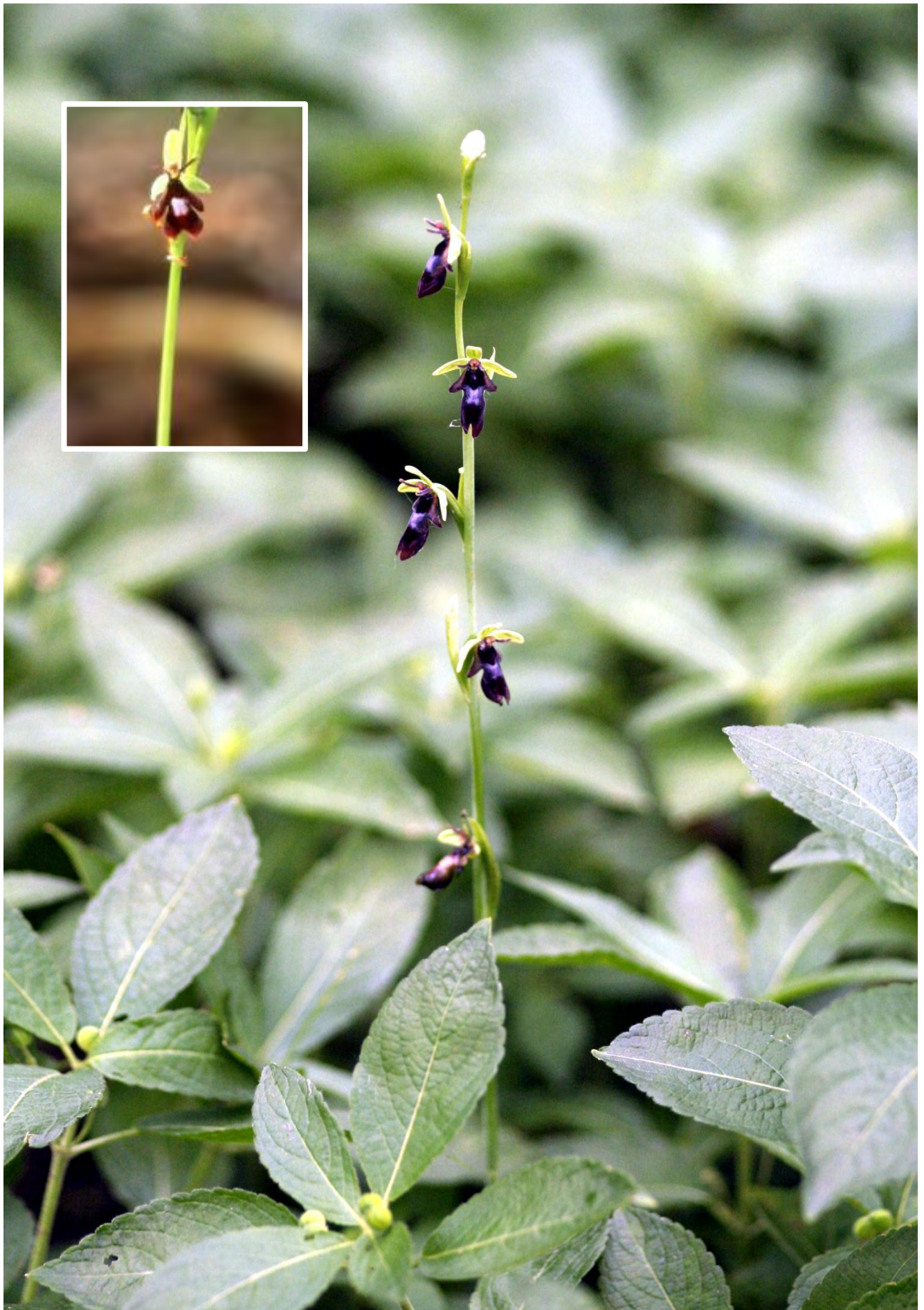
Native

A shade-tolerant herb found in woodland on calcareous soil.

TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2008	DH
TF006008	Easton Hornstocks	S	SSSI/NNR		
SP965983	Wakerley Spinney	N	SSSI	2013	PS
SP960980	Wakerley Woods	N		1997	PT

An elusive species growing in small numbers, with its small, dark-coloured flowers, it can be difficult to find. Nevertheless it has probably always been confined to woodlands in the limestone area and the sites listed above give a reasonable idea of its presence. Apart from Wakerley Spinney it tends to occur as a solitary plant and consequently there is concern for its future presence although the population of this species seems to be reasonably stable.

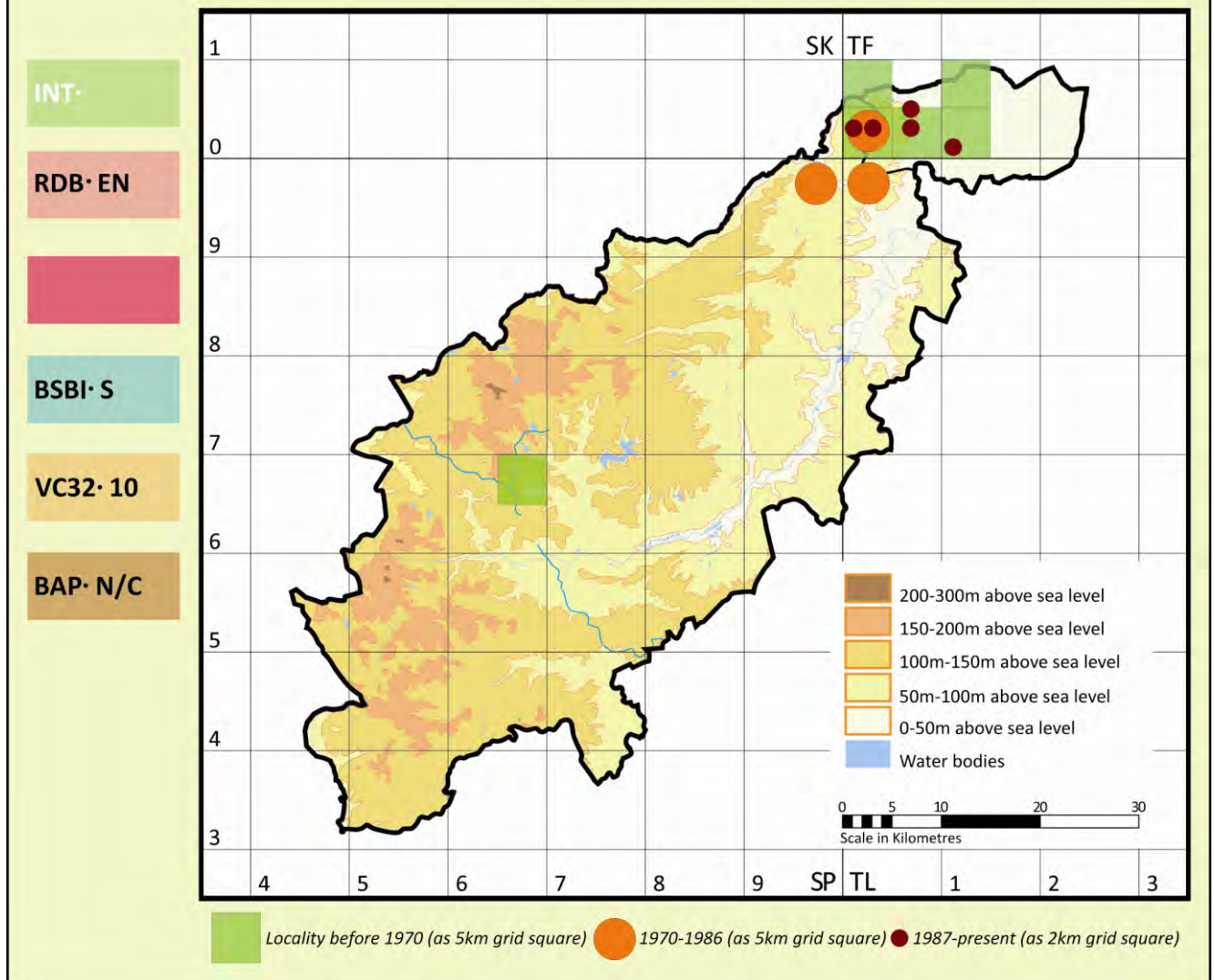
Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.



Main picture: Fly Orchid in Wakerley Spinney. Pete Stroh Inset: Fly Orchid in Bedford Purlieu. Rob Wilson

Orchis anthropophora (L.) All.

Man Orchid



Native

A perennial herb of calcareous pastures, old quarries and woodland edge.

TF076047	Barnack Hills and Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	2010	BL
TF06-04-	Barnack Road Verge	S		2006	SBr
TF038013	Bonemills Hollow	S	SSSI	2008	BL
TF115015	Castor Hanglands (old quarry)	S	SSSI/NNR	2009	RW
TF004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	SSSI/NR	2005	PA
TF075039	Walcot Hall Parkland	S		2007	RHa/SHa/MB

This orchid is only found in very small numbers – sometimes as few as a single flowering spike – except at Barnack, where it has been known to botanists since at least 1850. It thrives on the National Nature Reserve where, in the recent past it has been estimated that there were in excess of 5000 plants, but in 2011 only eleven plants were found although there was a slight increase to 19 in 2012. This fluctuation in numbers at the only site where it is recorded in any quantity must be a worrying trend.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare, but can occasionally be abundant where it occurs.



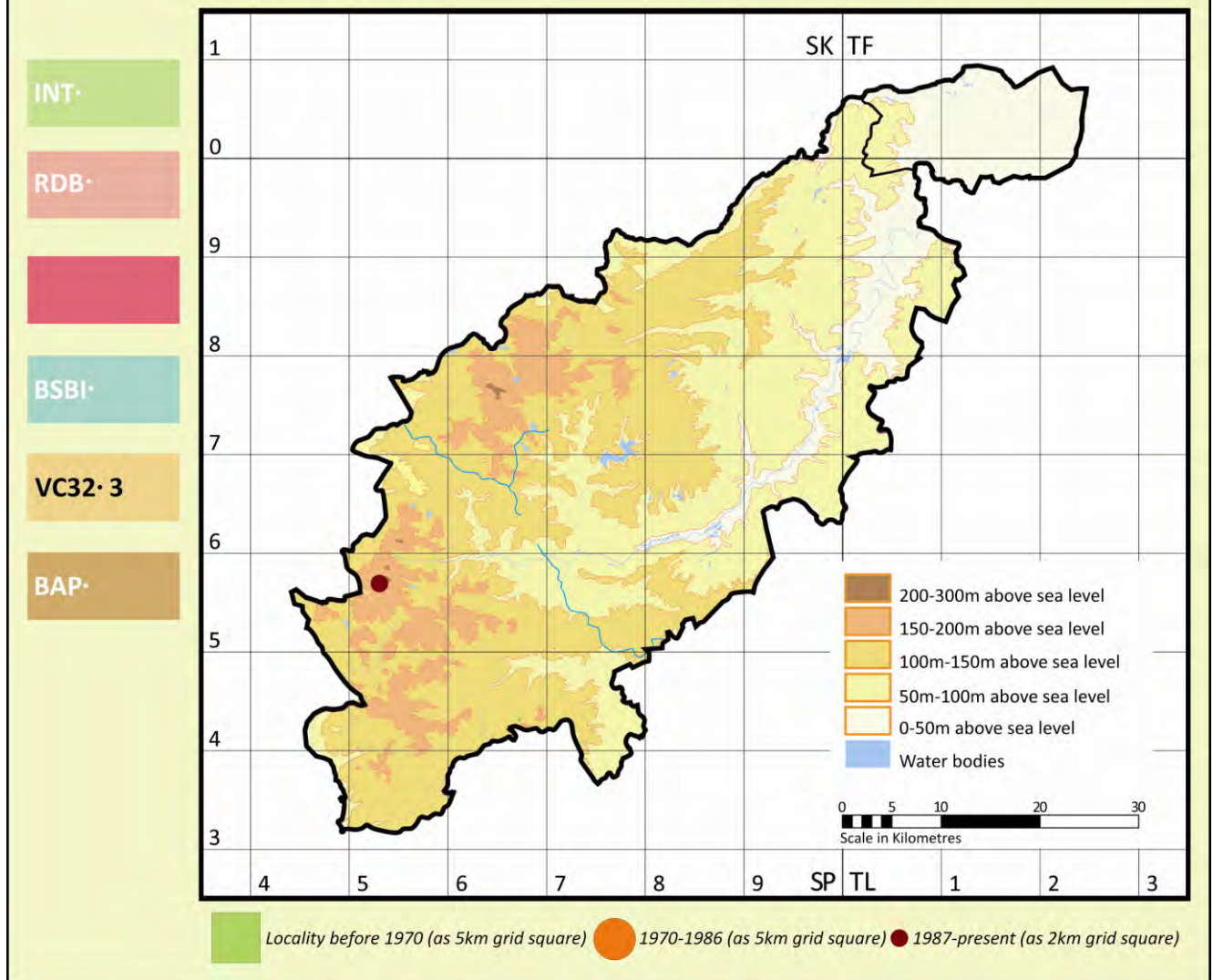
Man Orchid at Bonemills Hollow



Rob Wilson

Oreopteris limbosperma (All.) Holub

Lemon-scented Fern



Native

A fern of acid soils in open woodland.

SP534568 Charwelton Railway Cutting

N

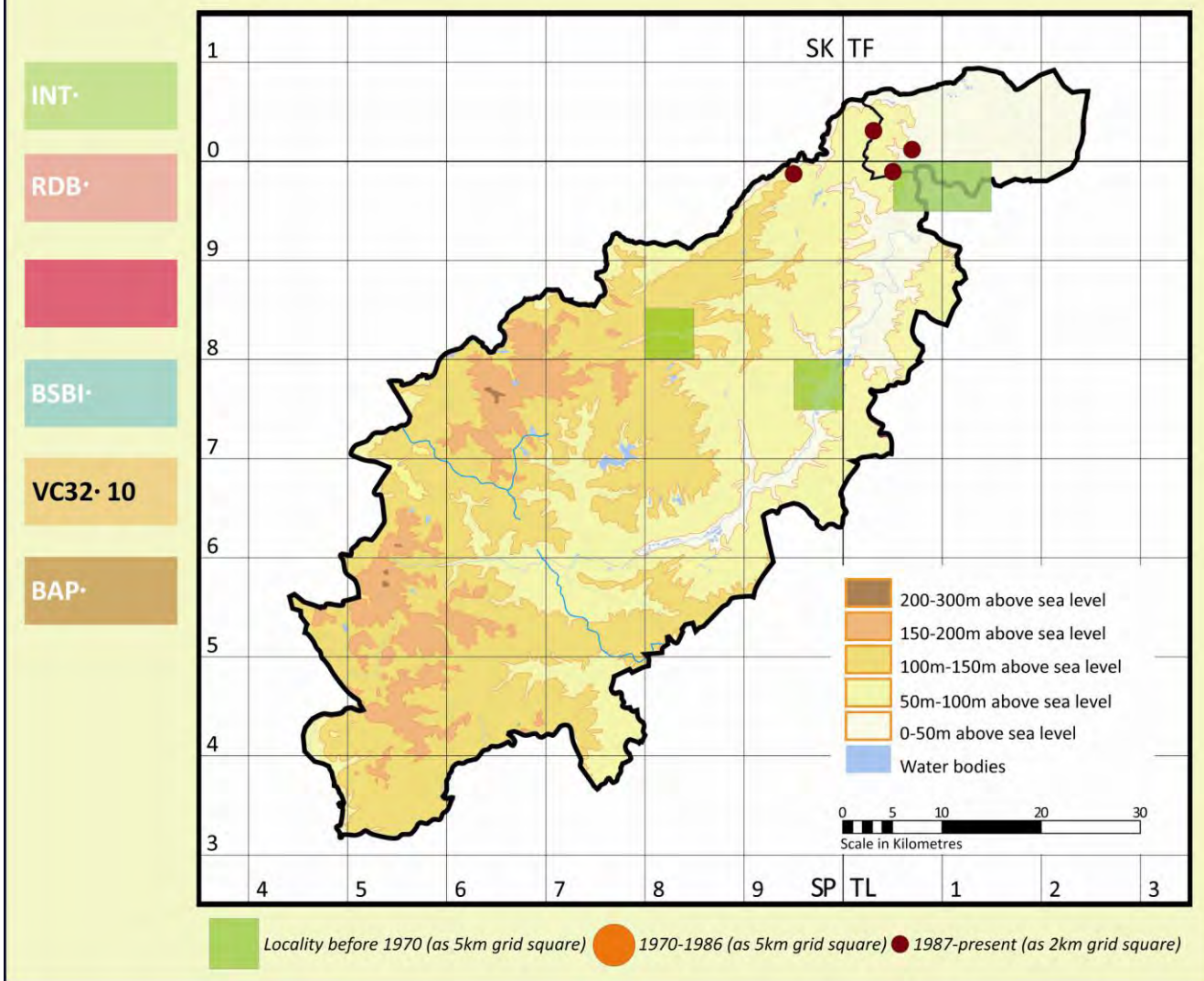
2008 GG

Unknown for many years in the county before a single plant was discovered growing amongst male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* in the former Grand Central railway cutting to the south of Catesby Tunnel. Prior to this the last records were well before 1930, when it was then described as '*probably extirpated*'. It is possible that other examples could be found in similar plant colonies to that at Charwelton but it would take much detailed searching.

Druce: Very rare and probably extirpated, Gent & Wilson 1995: Possibly extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Papaver hybridum L.

Rough Poppy



Archaeophyte

A weed of arable crops on calcareous soils.

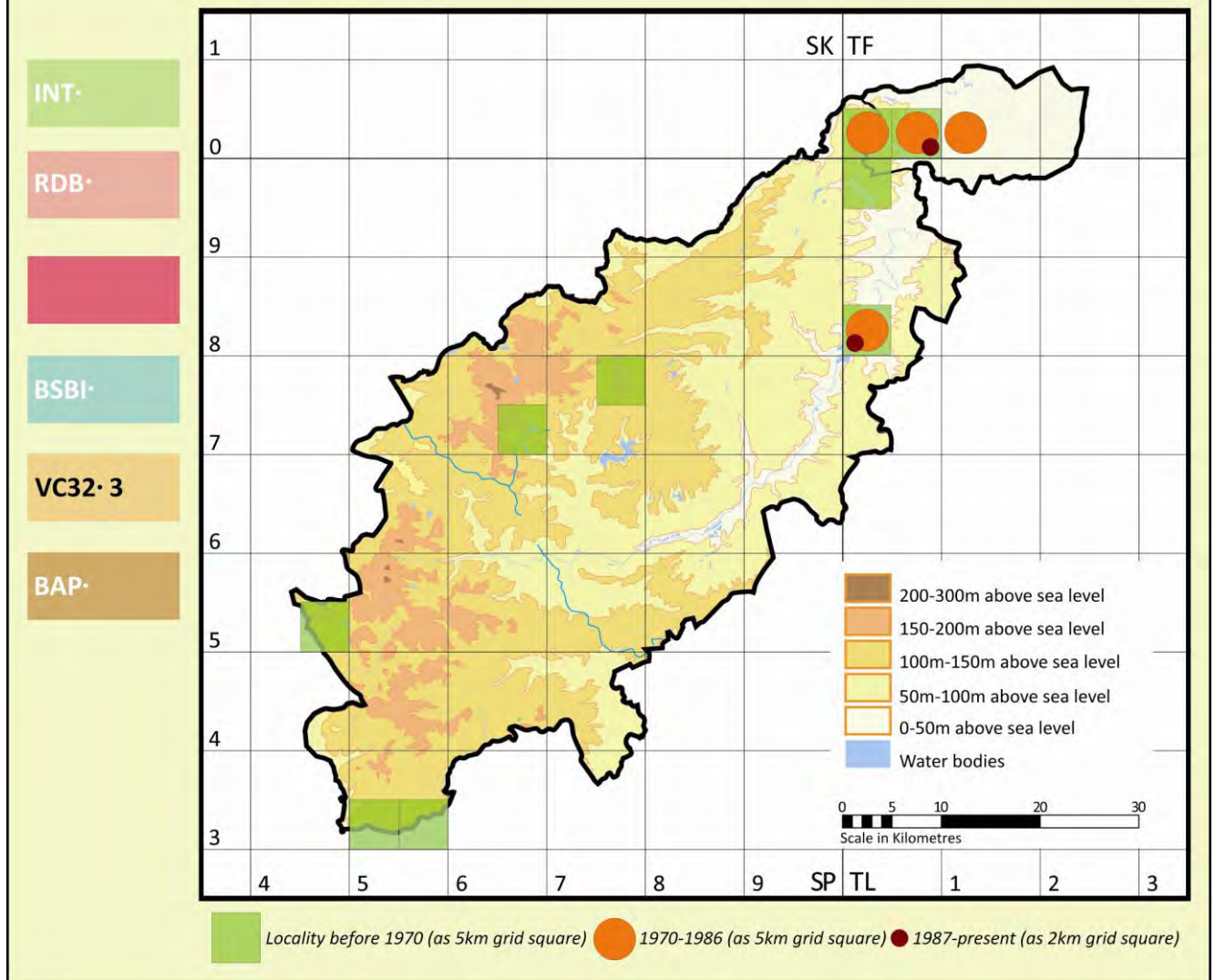
TL052997	Cook's Hole	N		JB
TF077013	Sacrewell Farm & Country Centre	S		1999 TW/SW
SP945987	Spanhoe Airfield (near)	N		2010 PC
TL036033	Whitewater Reservoir	S	SSSI	2003 PE

Long thought to be extinct in the county, it was first rediscovered at the edge of an arable field, growing beside a track that leads to the old Spanhoe airfield on a site that has since proved to be interesting for a number of arable weed species and where this species can regularly be found. This field is regularly sown with sugar beet and gives an ideal habitat for this species along the field margins, especially at the edge of the concrete track that crosses the field. Since then a few other sites, all in the same locality, have been discovered, one at a farm and country centre where it may have been introduced. It should be considered as a vulnerable species in the vice-county.

Gent & Wilson 1995: Probably extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Pedicularis palustris L.

Marsh Lousewort



Native

An annual or biennial of base rich or acidic marshes and wet grassland.

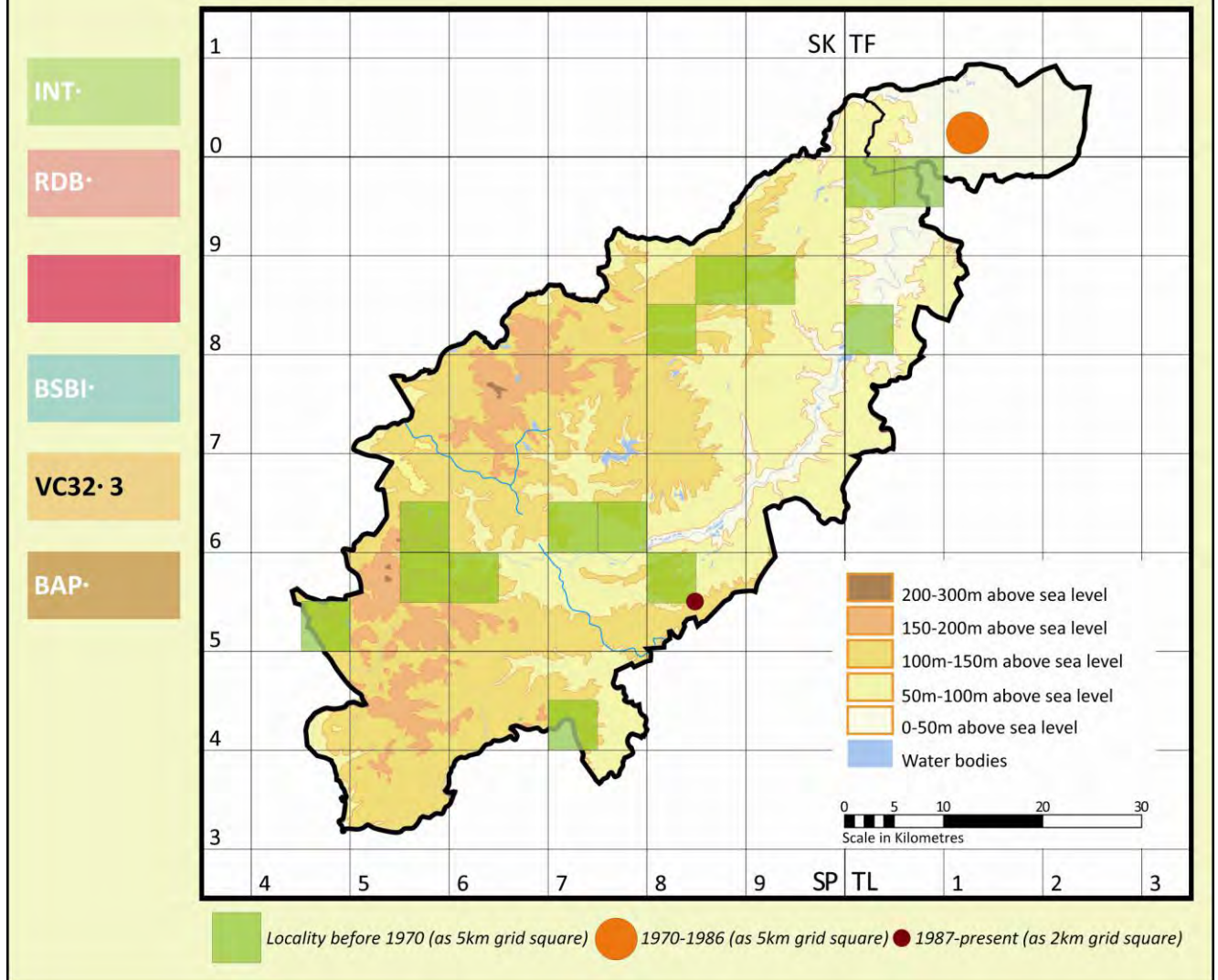
TL00-80-	Aldwinle Marsh	N	SSSI	1994	GG/RW
TF043016	Sutton Heath & Bog	S	SSSI	2012	AFr

This rare species has decreased in the past century; in 1930 it was known at ten localities but at most of these have been drained and consequently the lousewort has disappeared. It was known at Wittering Marsh (recorded under the site name of Barnack Drift) until at least 1955, while there are old records from outside Boughton Wood (1932), Helpston Heath (1951), Southorpe Mill (1951) and Evenley Meadow (1973). It has been known at Aldwinle Marsh since 1906 and Sutton Heath and Bog since at least 1914 and hopefully it remains secure at these sites.

Druce: Local & rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Pedicularis sylvatica ssp. sylvatica L.

Lousewort



Native

An annual or biennial of damp heaths, bogs and pastures.

SP843555 Yardley Chase (MoD)

N SSSI

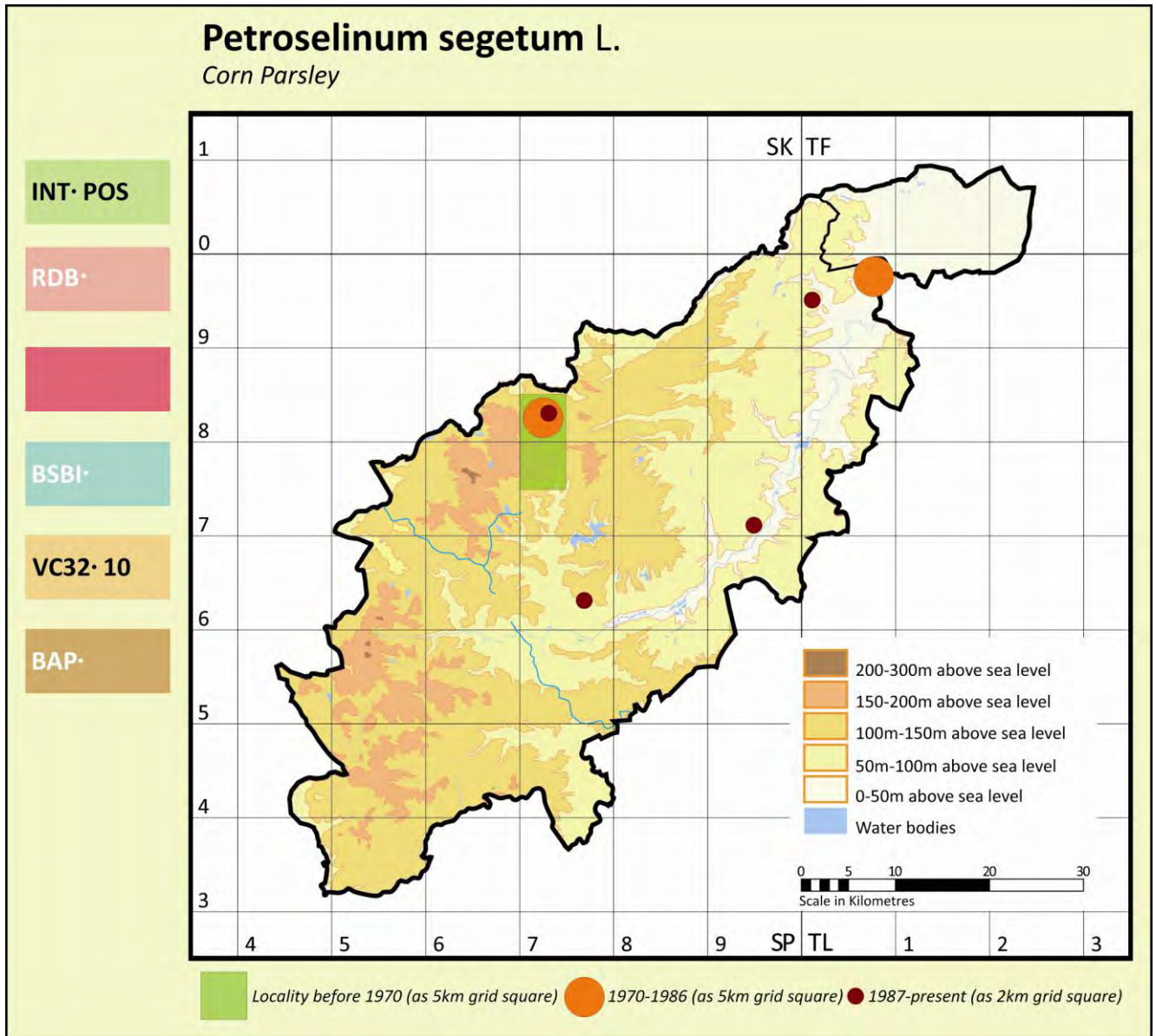
1997 MCo

About 100 years ago it was known at about 15 sites, but by the Second World War most of these seem to have disappeared and it was thought to be extinct in the vice-county until it was found in Yardley Chase in 1997. Currently parts of this site are not in good condition which may threaten the existence of this species here.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Presumed extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Petroselinum segetum L.

Corn Parsley



Native

A perennial of grass banks, road-sides etc. on calcareous soils.

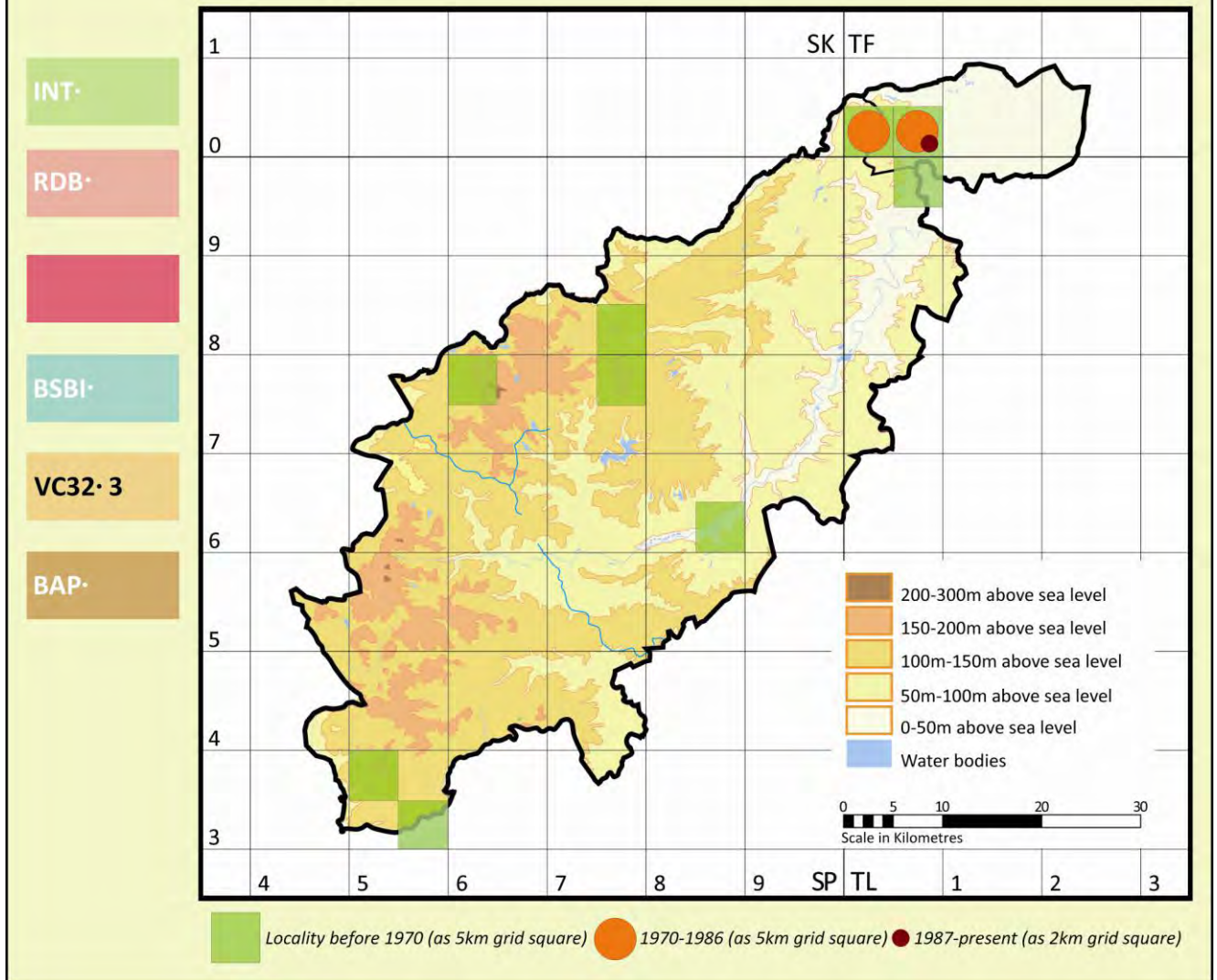
SP765639	Bradlaugh Fields	N	NR	2010	BL
SP735838	Great Oxenden	N		1992	MMi
SP94-70-	Irthlingborough	N		2005	BL
TL001974	King's Cliffe	N		1991	SG/LF

Close to the northern edge of its range in Northamptonshire, this species has always been very rare although it is difficult to find and may be under-recorded. Druce only cites two records, from Kelmarsh and the next village northwards on the A508, Great Oxendon. It is still to be found at Great Oxendon, plus the new sites listed above.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Pinguicula vulgaris L.

Common Butterwort



Native

A perennial insectivorous herb found in nutrient-poor bogs.

TF090000 Sutton Heath and Bog

S

SSSI

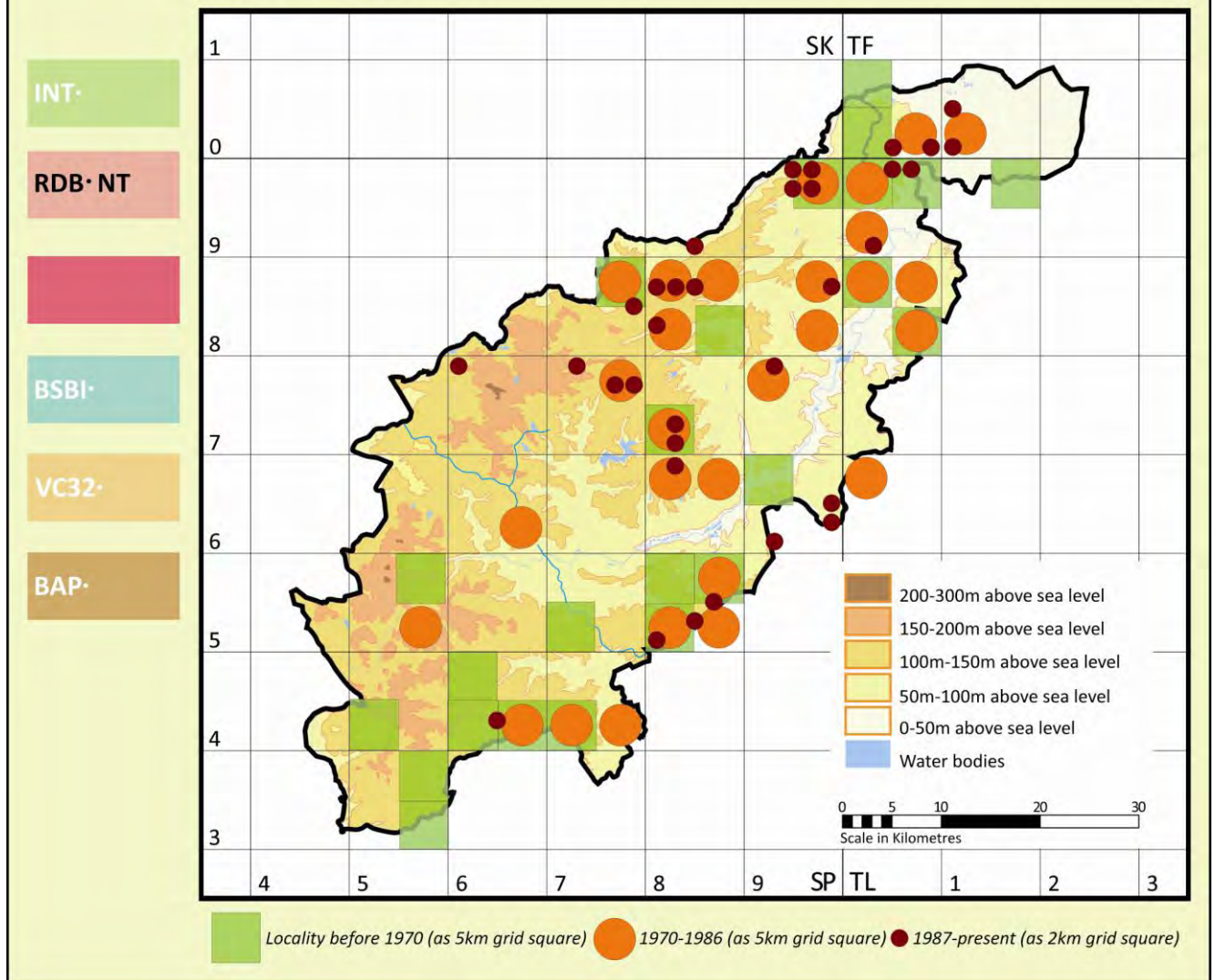
2008

Always rare, it is now even more so, the number of sites have been decreasing for at least a century. It is still present in small quantities at the single remaining site in the Soke of Peterborough, it was been lost at Croughton Bog, the only site in the south, following drainage. Fortunately the only remaining site is protected by its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Platanthera chlorantha (Custer) Rchb.

Greater Butterfly-orchid



Native

A perennial herb of coppiced woodland and woodland rides on calcareous soils.

An elusive species that can remain in a vegetative state for many years, blooming only when light conditions are right, it can be found in small numbers in many of the county's woodlands (and occasionally in old quarries such as the Plens nature reserve at Desborough, where a few plants regularly appear following scrub clearance). Because it is rarely noticed however it probably appears to be more rare than it really is, although the days when some woodlands had colonies that covered the wood floor have long since faded into memory with numbers and localities being reduced by woodland neglect. Although it is reasonably secure in the vice-county, it is nevertheless retreating towards the north with fewer southern sites now known.

Druce: Widely distributed but not common, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

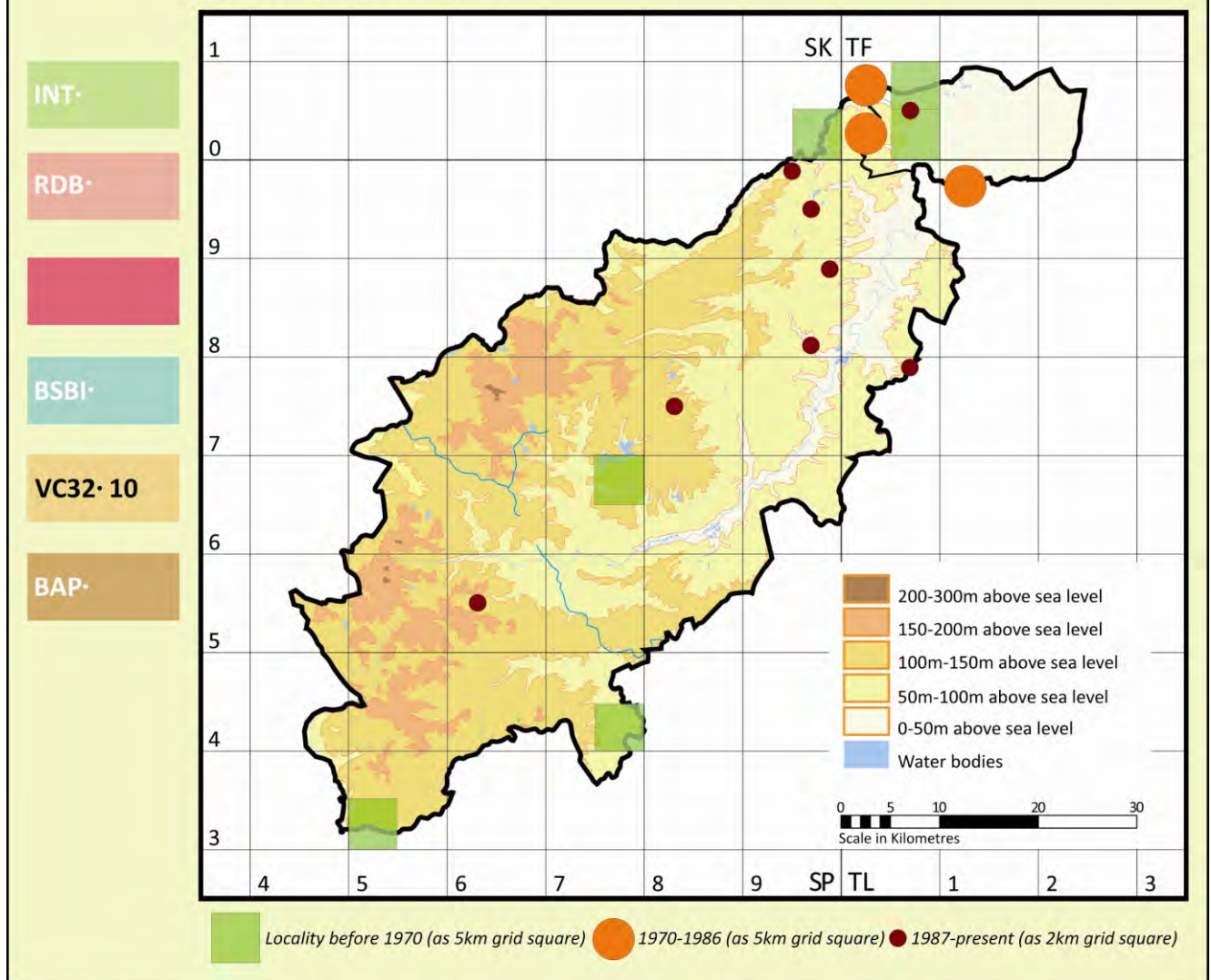


Greater Butterfly-orchid

Pete Stroh

Poa humilis Ehrh. Ex Hoffm.

Spreading Meadow-grass



Native

A perennial of various grassland, dry banks and old walls.

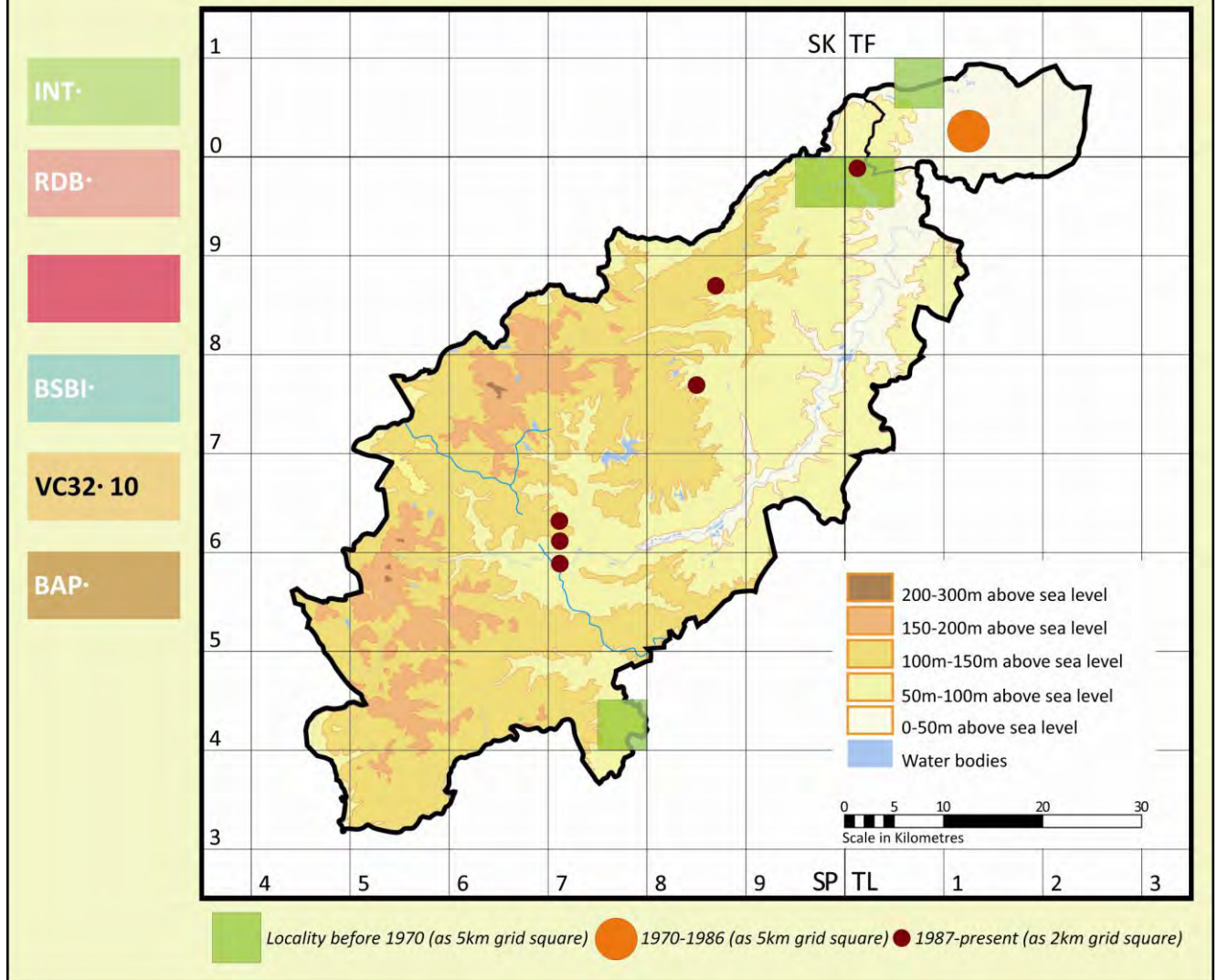
TF075046	Barnack Hills & Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	2003	DWd/MWo
SP963942	Bulwick Churchyard	N		1999	FP
SP82-74-	Broughton	N		2005	BL
SP632532	Litchborough (churchyard)	N		1996	FP
SP883888	Lower Benefield	N		2009	PS
SP96-80-	Lowick	N		2009	PS
TL06-78-	Old Weston, Cockbrook Lane Verges	N		1999	
SP960980	Wakerley Woods	N		1996	PT

Growing here outside of its main population centres it has always been a rare species since it was first discovered in 1888. It has probably survived longest at Barnack, surviving past 1948, when the site became very overgrown. It is still known at about the same number of sites as in earlier years.

Druce: No status given, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Polygonum rurivagum Jord. ex Boreau

Cornfield Knotgrass



Archaeophyte

An annual of arable fields on calcareous soils.

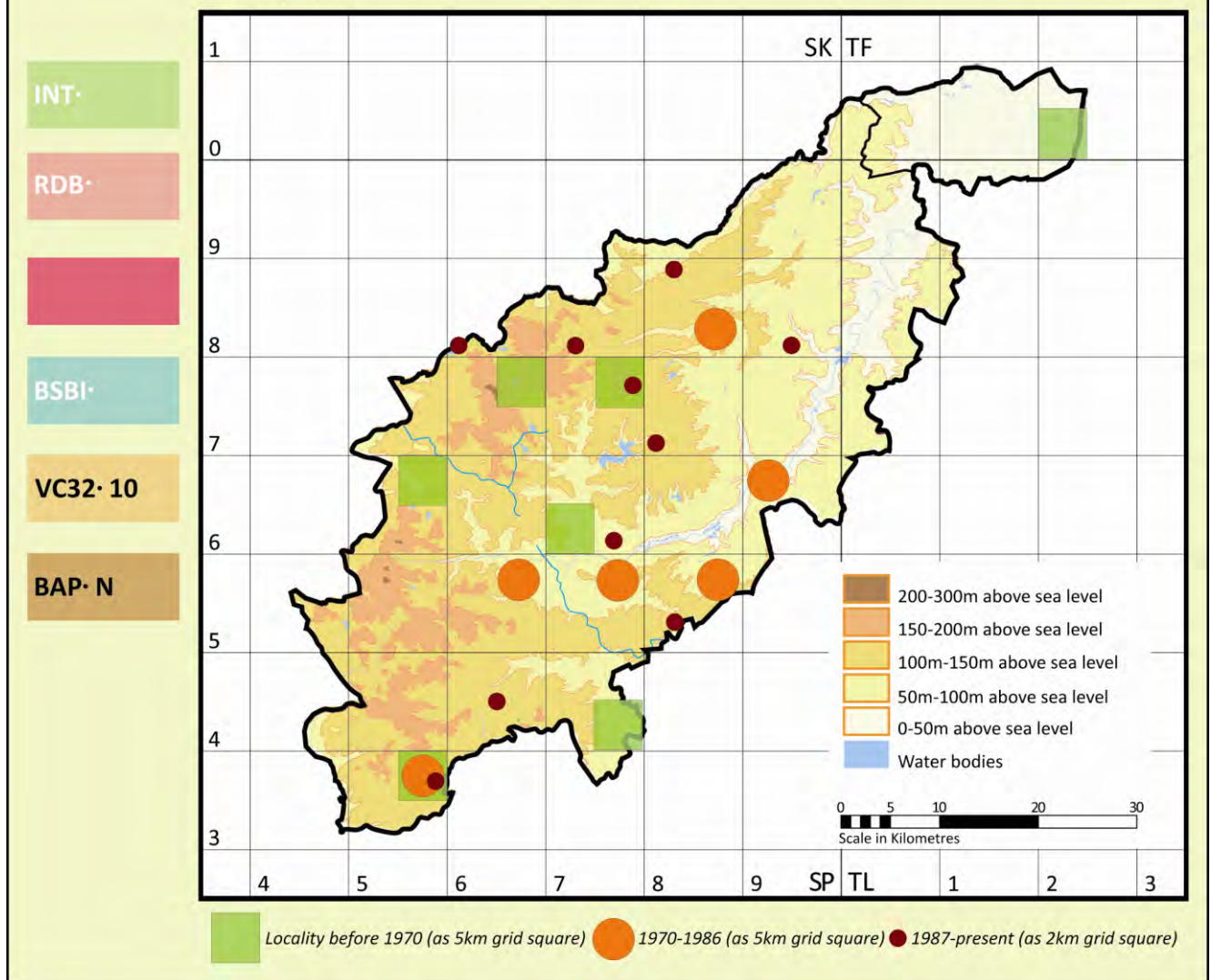
SP847776	Old car yard by the A43/A14	N	2011	BL
SP708626	New road system by Duston/Harlestone Firs	N	2011	BL
SP708599	Upton Valley Way North	N	2009	BL
SP710608	St Crispins housing development	N	2010	BL
TL00-97-	King's Cliffe	N	202	JSh

A rarely and probably under-recorded species, that is probably diminishing with the general decrease of cornfield weeds.

Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Populus nigra ssp betulifolia (Pursh.) Dippel

Black-poplar



Native

A deciduous tree found in fields and hedgerows in damp situations.

SP 786775	Bullocks Penn Spinney	N	1990	LM
SP 652448	Bucknell Wood	N	1991	LM
SP833893	East Carlton Park	N	2011	RW
SP 829524	Horton Woods	N	1992	LM
SP 949816	Long Lown Wood	N	1992	LM
SP 828706	Hardwick Wood	N	1992	LM
SP 739819	Old Clay Pits	N	1994	LM
SP77-60-	St Andrews's Hospital	N	2013	BL
SP615808	Welford (near)	N	2006	GG
SP595374	Brackley	N	1995	GG/AG/RW

It is now a very rare species in lowland England. It has always been rare in the vice-county with Druce's flora listing a mere seven localities: near Brackley, Dallington, near Deanshanger, between Eye and Crowland, Foxhall, Naseby and near Welton. Of these only the Brackley site seems to remain – there is a fine pollard on the county boundary there still, possibly an ancient boundary marker. Today most of the black-poplars that exist in Northamptonshire are coming towards the end of their life, so one can only assume that they were unknown to Druce rather than not present, as they can attain 200 years of age, although the tree at St Andrew's was planted in the 1990s. In addition there is a distinct lack of female trees making natural regeneration unlikely.

Druce: No status given, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.



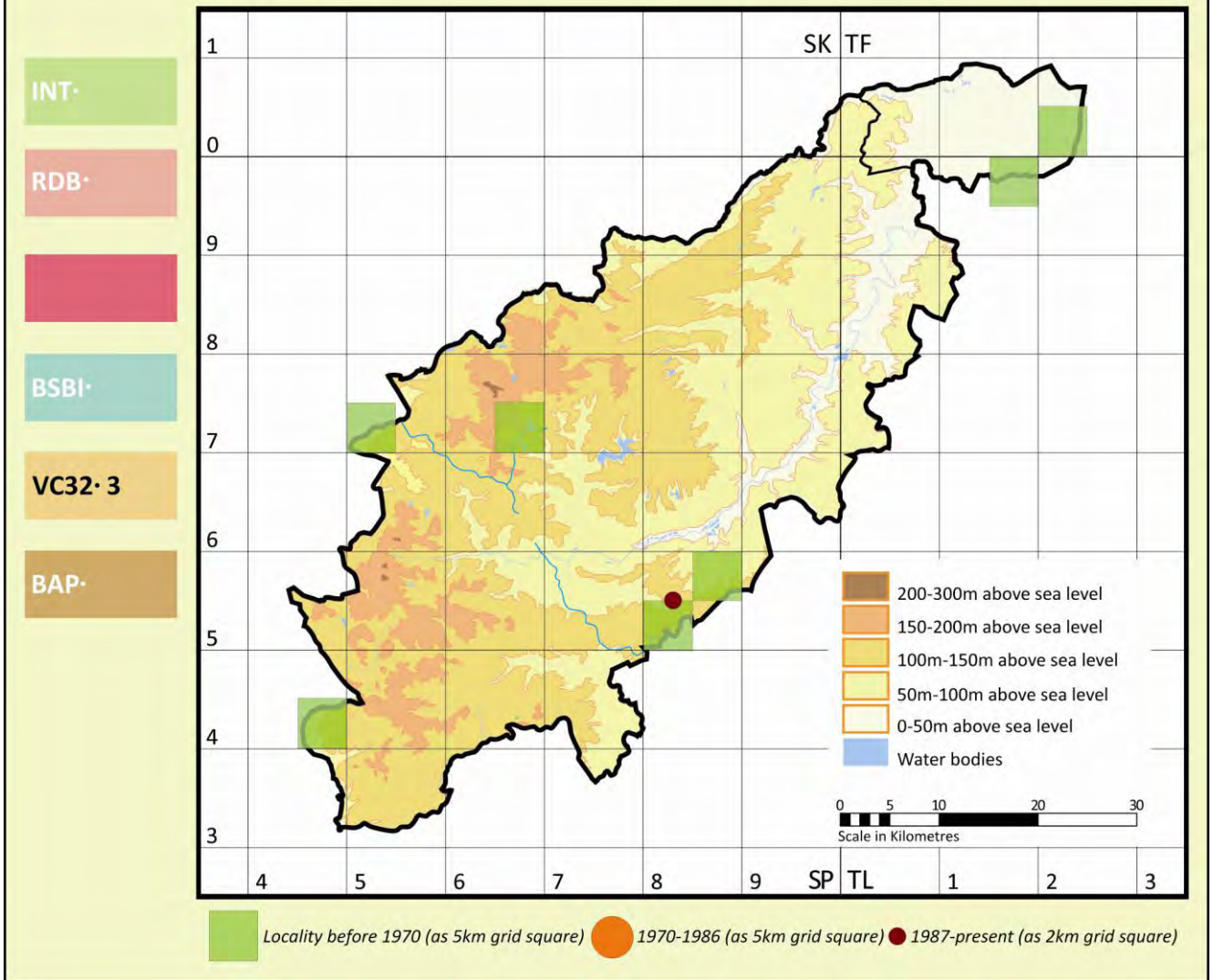
Roadside Black Poplar near Kilworth.



Brian Laney

Potamogeton alpinus Balb.

Red Pondweed



Native

A perennial of still or slow-flowing water in neutral or mildly acidic lakes, ditches and streams.

SP843555 Yardley Chase (MoD)

N SSSI

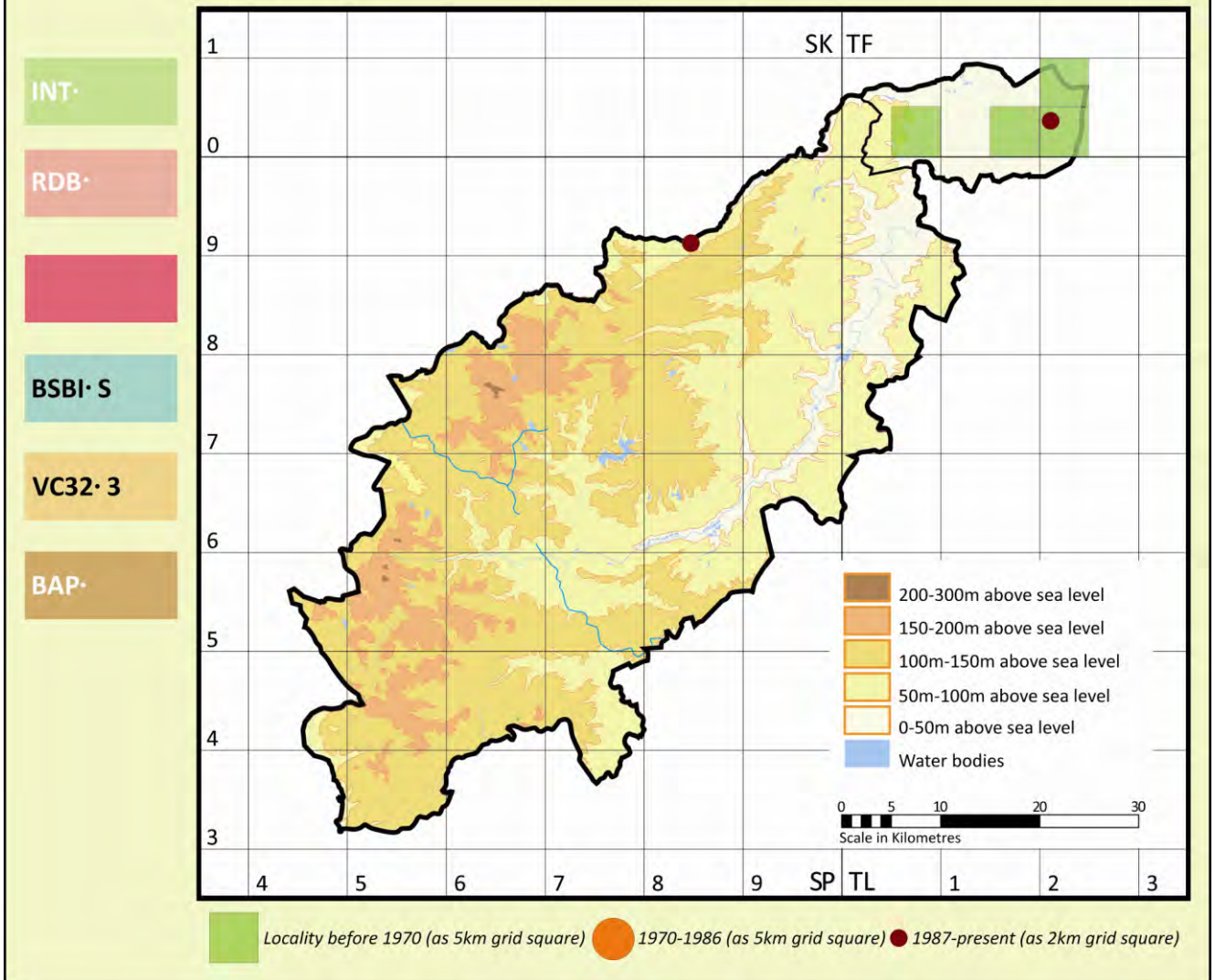
2007 CCa

Always very rare, it was lost in the county for over 100 years until it was re-found in 1996, it continues to survive at the single known site.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Probably extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Potamogeton coloratus Hornem.

Fen Pondweed



Native

A perennial of shallow, nutrient poor but calcium rich still water, such as pools in old ironstone quarries.

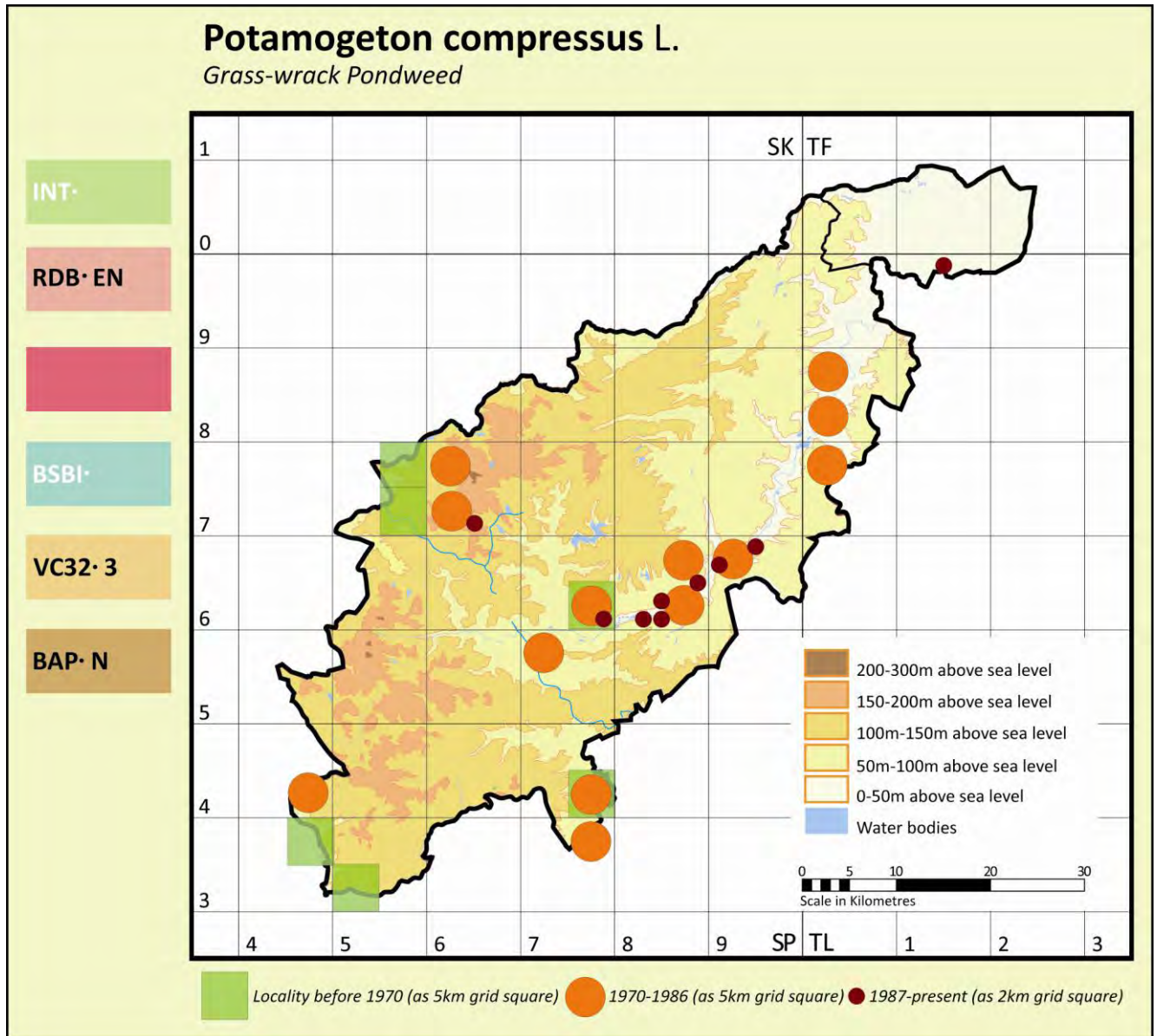
TF213025	Dogsthorpe Star Pit	S	SSSI	2007	DB
SP898926	Gretton (quarry pool, near)	N		1990	BA

There is an unconfirmed and doubtless dubious record from what was probably an unsuitable habitat in Daventry Reservoir before 1846. The earliest realistic records are from the area around Sutton Heath and Eye, dating from around 1909 and Newborough Fen (1911). It was seen again in the Soke of Peterborough in 1966 before being recorded at the sites listed above.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Potamogeton compressus L.

Grass-wrack Pondweed



Native

A perennial of sluggish river channels or lakes.

SP792606	Clifford Hill Gravel Pits	N	2008	GG/RW
SP823612	Cogenhoe Lock	N	2005	GG
SP951688	Higham Ferrers Gravel Pit	N	2008	NH
TL176982	Thorpe Meadows	S	2009	SL
SP913672	Wellingborough East Pit	N	2010	TB
SP792605	Weston Favell Mill	N	2010	TB
SP84-60-	Earls Barton Old Quarry	N	2008	GG
SP648712	Winwick Bridge	N	2000	GG
SP88-64-	Wollaston Meadow	N	2010	GG
SP785605	Abingdon Old Mill Pond	N	1998	WT

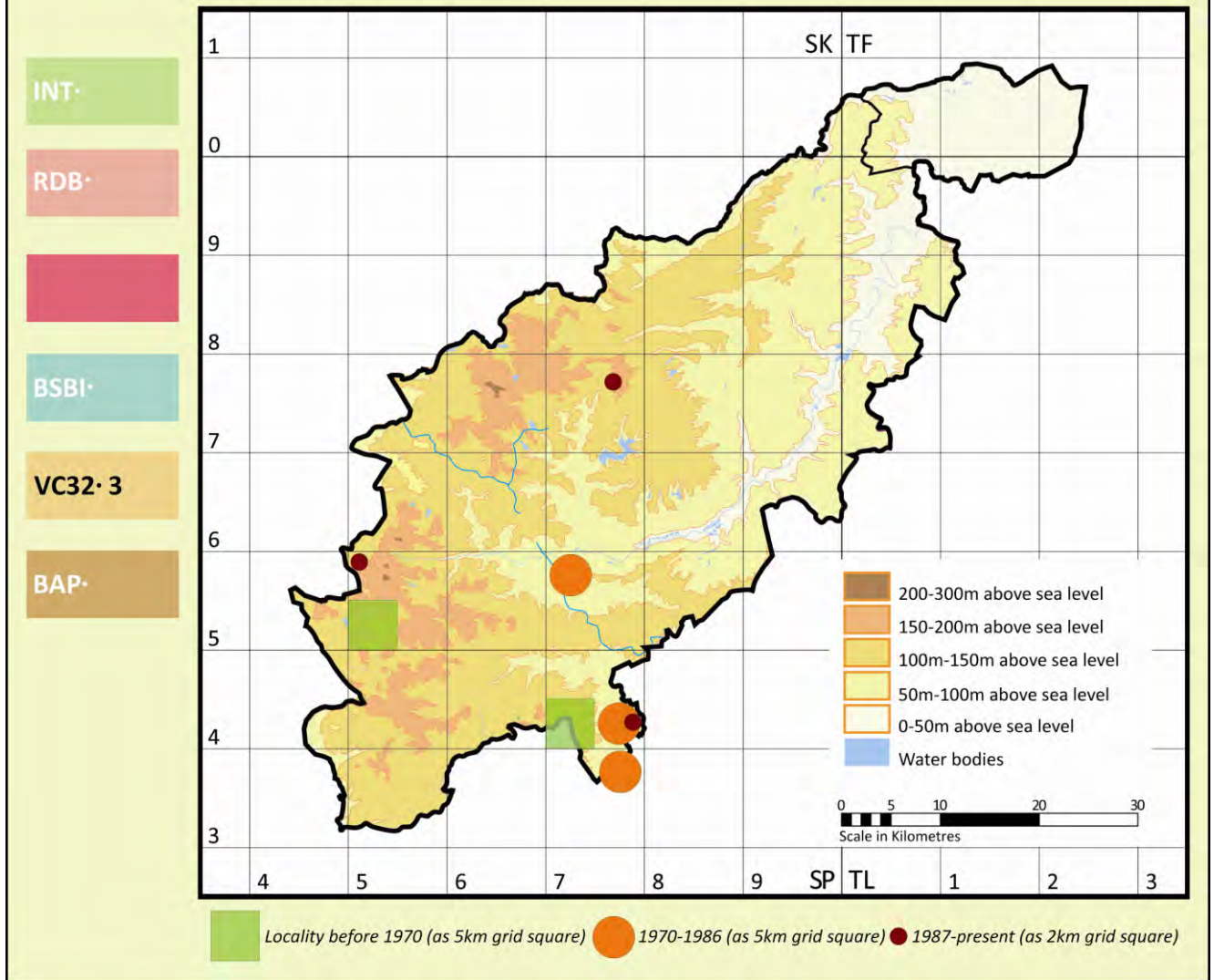
This Nationally Scarce species is actually relatively common in branches of the River Nene, with deeper, slow moving water. It has recently been found in about ten different widely distributed (albeit probably transient) sites in the vice-county between Weston Favell and Peterborough, with large populations at most of these. It is also known to be in the Northampton Arm and the Leicester Branch of the Grand Union Canal, it being known in the former waterway since 1886, while there are old records from the main line of the canal at Cosgrove, the Buckingham Arm of the canal near Deanshanger (1934 det. J.E. Dandy & 1969) and the River Cherwell (this latter record from near Huscote Mill was confirmed by J.E. Dandy). The River Nene in Northamptonshire and beyond into the Soke of Peterborough would seem to be home to a significant proportion of the UK population, and management plans are being put in place to ensure that this species is

secure here. In this location it has also spread to the flooded gravel pits at Higham Ferrers and Wellingborough. When Druce published his flora it was known from very few localities, but most of these are restricted to the same area where it is presently found.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Ocasional, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Potamogeton obtusifolius Mert. & W.D. Koch

Blunt-leaved Pondweed



Native

A perennial of still or slow-moving waters of various types in ponds, canals or the backwaters of rivers.

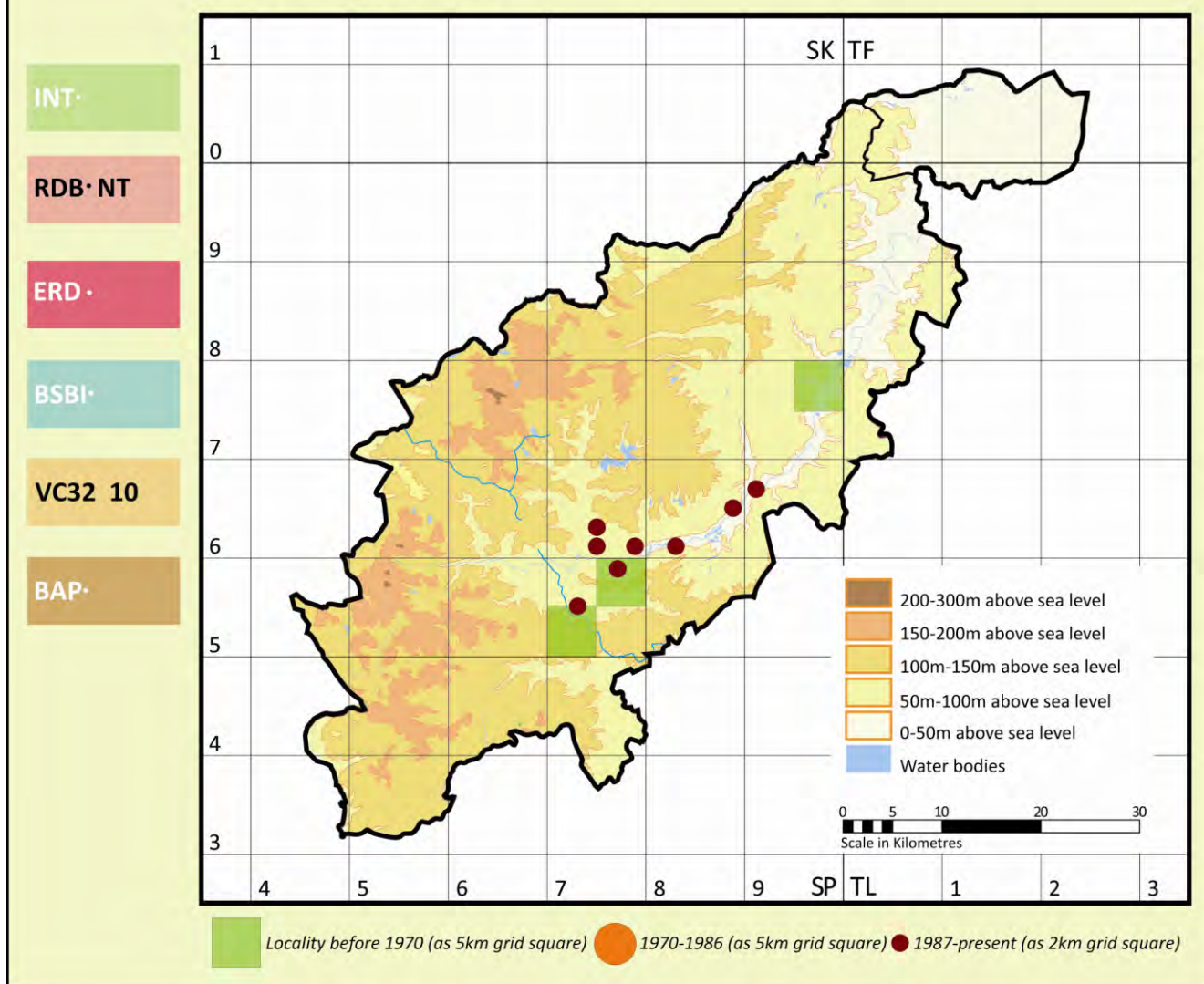
SP775766	Draughton	N	1994	BA
SP51-58-	Helidon	N	1988	SK
SP787436	Thrupp Wharf	N	1994	

It has only ever been known from a very few localities, with Druce recording it from Wakefield lower pond and Charwelton, the latter in 1898. During the latter half of the 20th century but before the records detailed above, there have only been four known locations in the county, including the canal at Grafton Regis (1981), Castlethorpe and near Foxhall quarry. A rare and vulnerable species.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Potamogeton praelongus Wulfen.

Long-stalked / Pondweed



Native

A perennial of deep mesotrophic water in canals, rivers and streams.

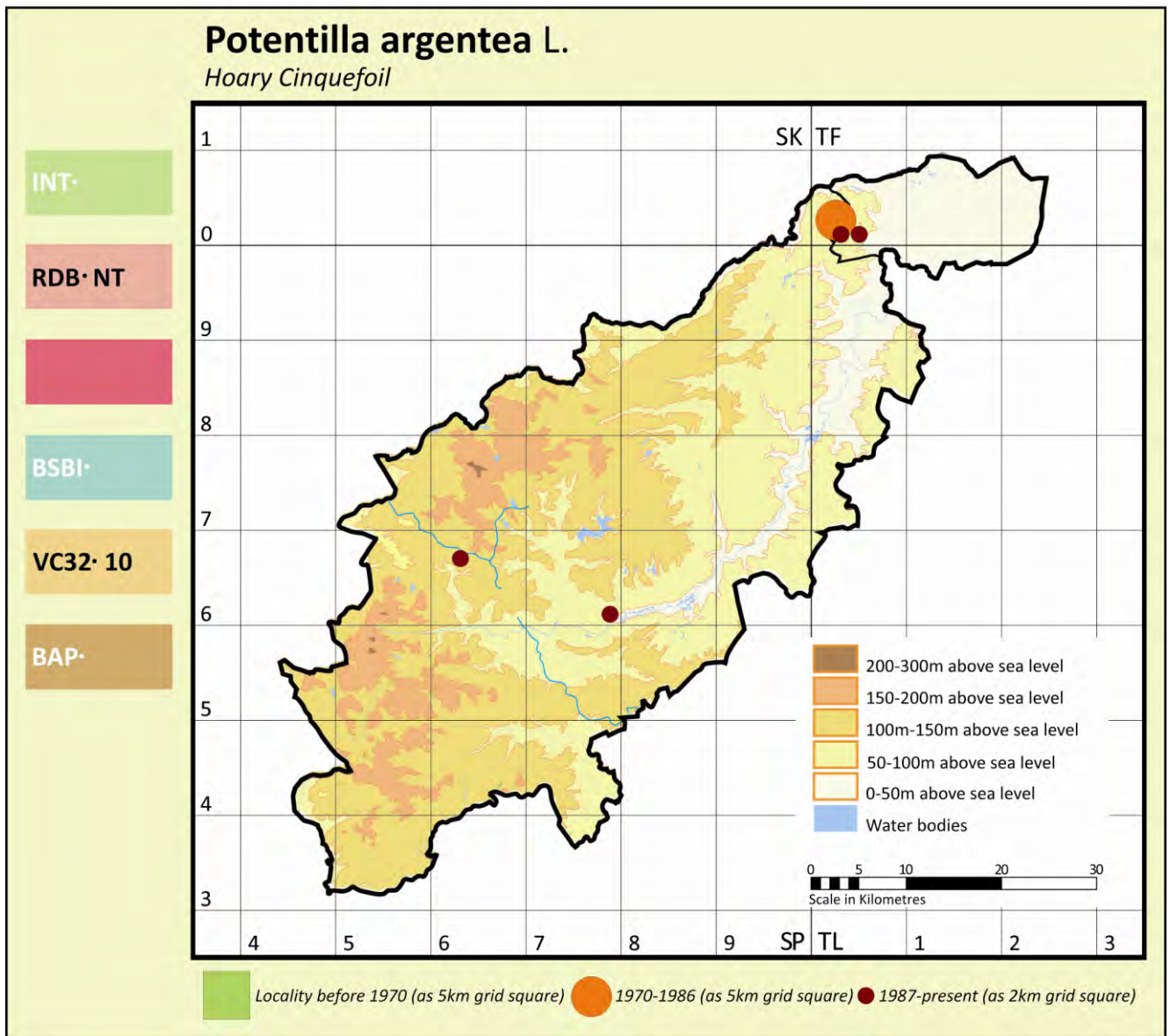
SP886643	Doddington Marshy Field East	N	2010	TO
SP720550	Grand Union Canal (Hunsbury)	N	2005	TB
SP745627	River Nene (Brampton Arm, Northampton)	N	2005	TB
SP831612	River Nene (Cogenhoe Mill)	N	2005	GG
SP779596	River Nene (Northampton)	N	2005	AF/NH
SP747604	River Nene Brampton Arm (West Bridge)	N	1990	JM
SP792605	River Nene (Weston Favell Mill)	N	2003	SW
SP892647	Wollaston Mill Meadows	N	2010	TB
SP792606	Clifford Hill Gravel Pits	N	2003	GG/RW

In the 19th and early 20th centuries it was recorded in the River Nene (1880) and the adjoining Grand Union Canal Northampton Branch (1874, 1880 & 1886), the Nene at Wellingborough (1916 & 1942), at Thrapston (1916 & 1932), and between Hardingstone and Northampton (probably also in the River Nene) in 1905. It was not then seen anywhere in the Nene valley for over 60 years and by the end of the twentieth century it was thought that it was probably extinct there. But from 2003 it has been rediscovered at a number of localities in the Grand Union Canal and downstream, in the River Nene from where the canal joins the River at Northampton.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare and possibly extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Very rare.

Potentilla argentea L.

Hoary Cinquefoil



Native

A perennial herb of free draining waste ground.

TF046013	Bonemills Hollow	S	SSSI	2008	TW/SW
TF028008	Bonemills Hollow (near)	S		2008	DH
SP627674	Long Buckby, Pittams Close	N		2013	BL
SP792608	Riverside Park, Northampton	N		2010	BL

This species made its first appearance on a grassed over spoil heap in Bonemills Hollow in 1964 where it was growing with *Trifolium scabrum* and *Trifolium striatum*. It was still there in 1981 but was then thought to have disappeared but since 2006 it has been recorded a number of times at this locality and recently it made a surprising appearance in an out of town shopping park in Northampton.

Druce: No record, Gent & Wilson 1995: No status given, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

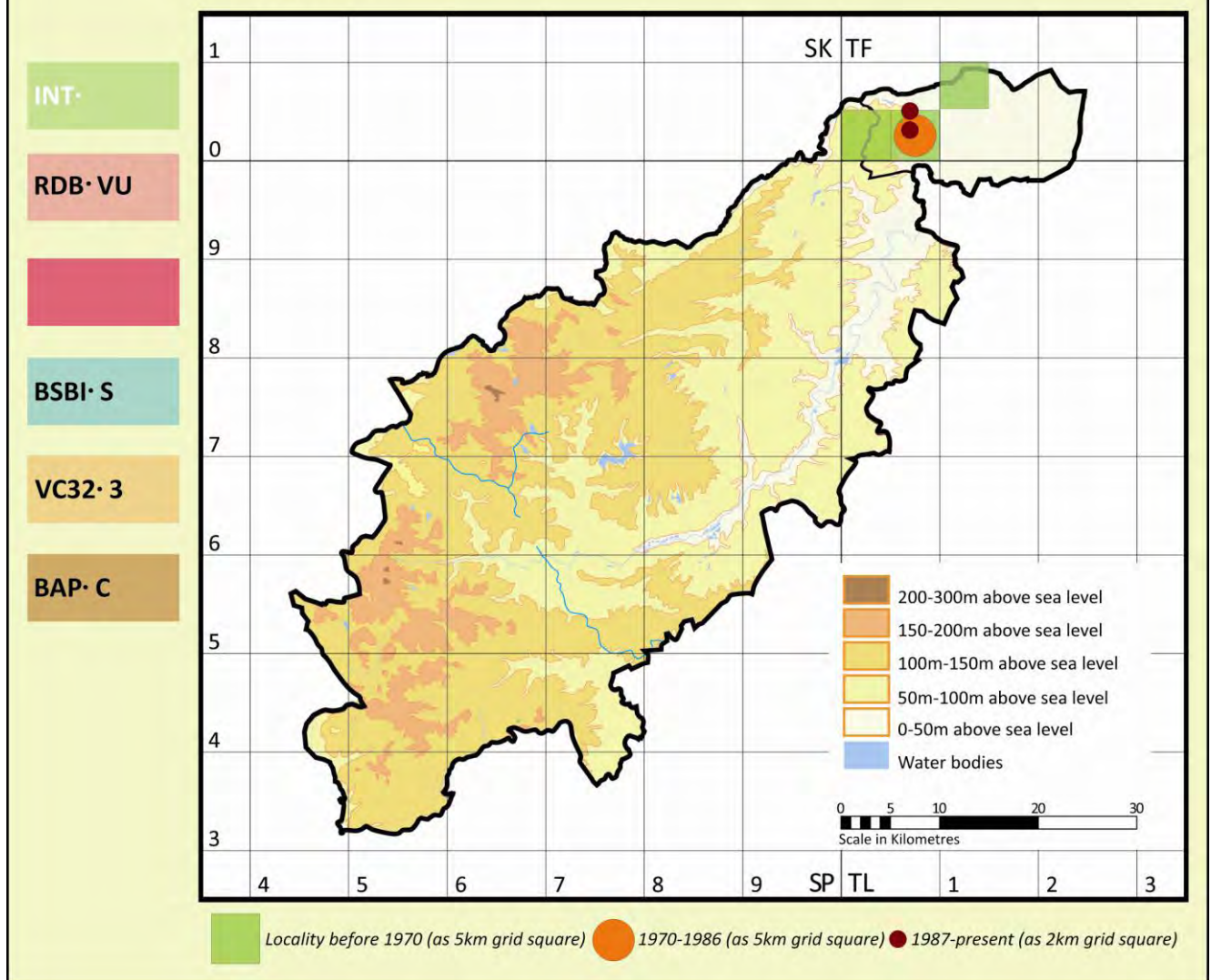


Hoary Cinqufoil growing at the base of a kerb on a Long Buckby housing estate.

Brianb Laney

Pulsatilla vulgaris L.

Pasqueflower



Native.

A perennial herb of short turf over thin calcareous soil on earth banks.

TL06047 Barnack Hills and Holes S SAC/SSSI/NNR 2012 RW

Only ever recorded from six sites in the Soke of Peterborough, it has disappeared from five of these: Helpston Quarry (the only known record is 1818), Orton Longueville (1892), Southorpe Disused railway (1985), Southorpe Roughs (last seen in 1975), Southorpe Paddock, where it was last seen during the 1960s and Thornhaugh (1946). It is still to be seen in very large numbers at Barnack Hills and Holes, however, where the spring-time display is one of our botanical glories. There has been hope that it would reappear at two former sites when a new management regime was instituted but these hopes have been unfounded.

Druce: (Anemone pulsatilla) Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare.

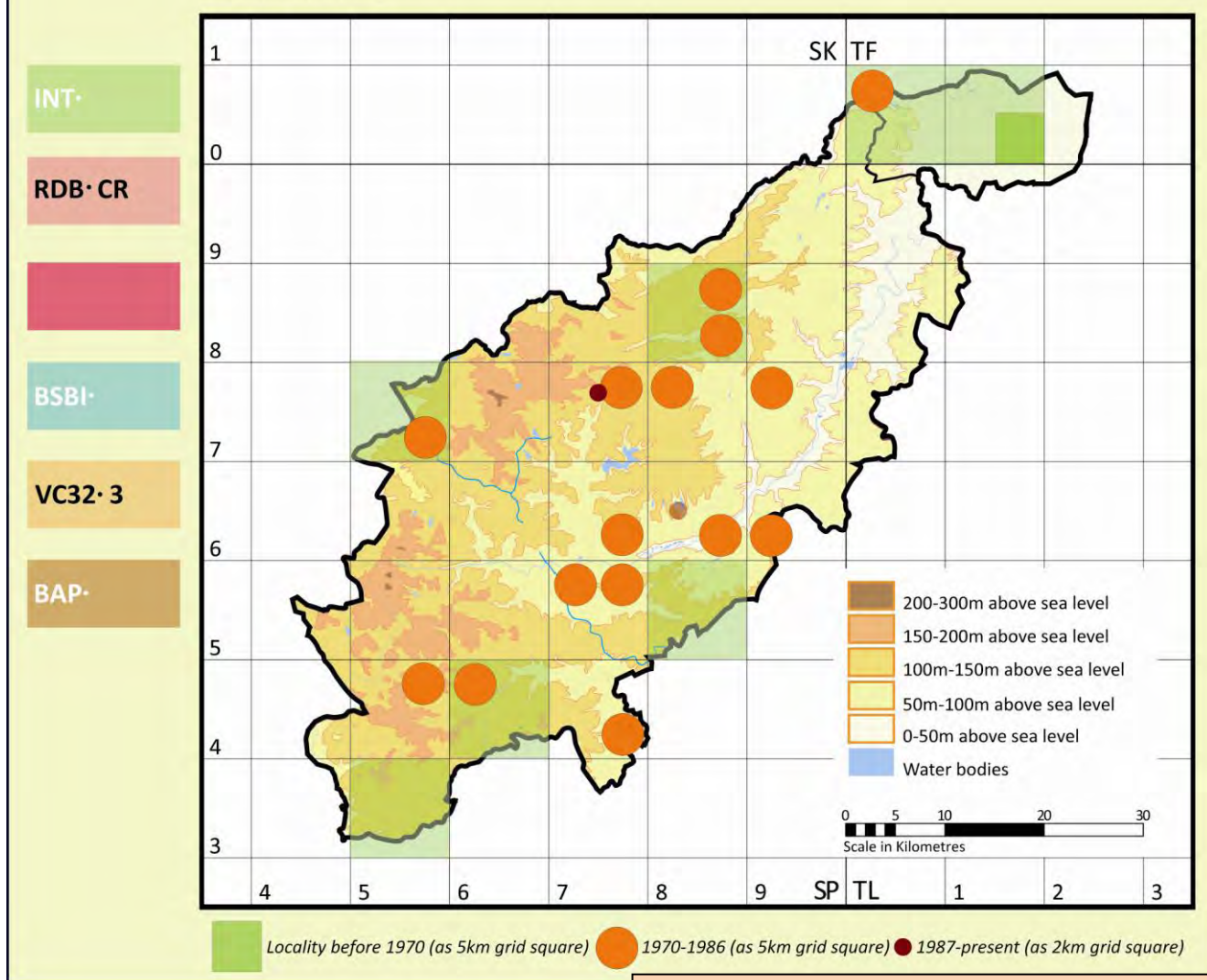


Pasqueflower growing with Early-purple Orchid at Barnack Hills and Holes

Rob Wilson

Ranunculus arvensis L.

Corn Buttercup



Because of their possibly doubtful status the Sywell Country Park record, it is shown in a lighter colour.

Archaeophyte

An annual of arable land, especially cornfields on calcareous or clay soils.

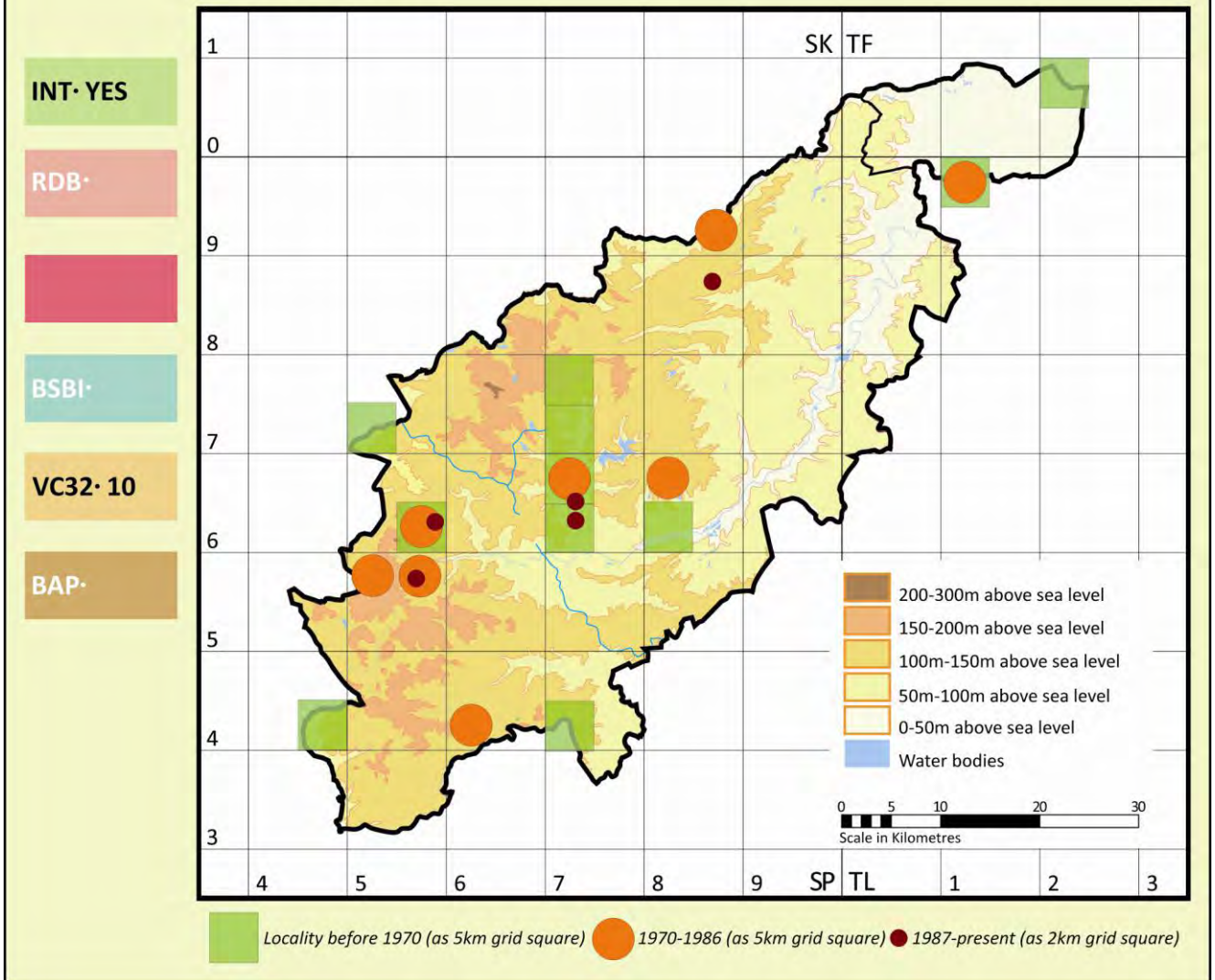
SP755773 Brampton Valley Way (Draughton Crossing) N 1991 GG

Once considered a common cornfield weed, it has declined drastically due to agricultural improvements, seed screening etc. Its seeds remain fertile for many years and so it can appear sporadically when soil conditions are right but its distribution probably needs investigating to ascertain its current presence. The record from Sywell Country Park, in the scented garden, may be introduced with plants or seed.

Druce: Common in all districts . . . but a decreasing species, Gent & Wilson 1995: Occasional, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare, possibly extinct.

Ranunculus hedereaceus L.

Ivy-leaved Crowfoot



Native

An annual of muddy habitats including poached ground at the edge of water bodies and shallow water.

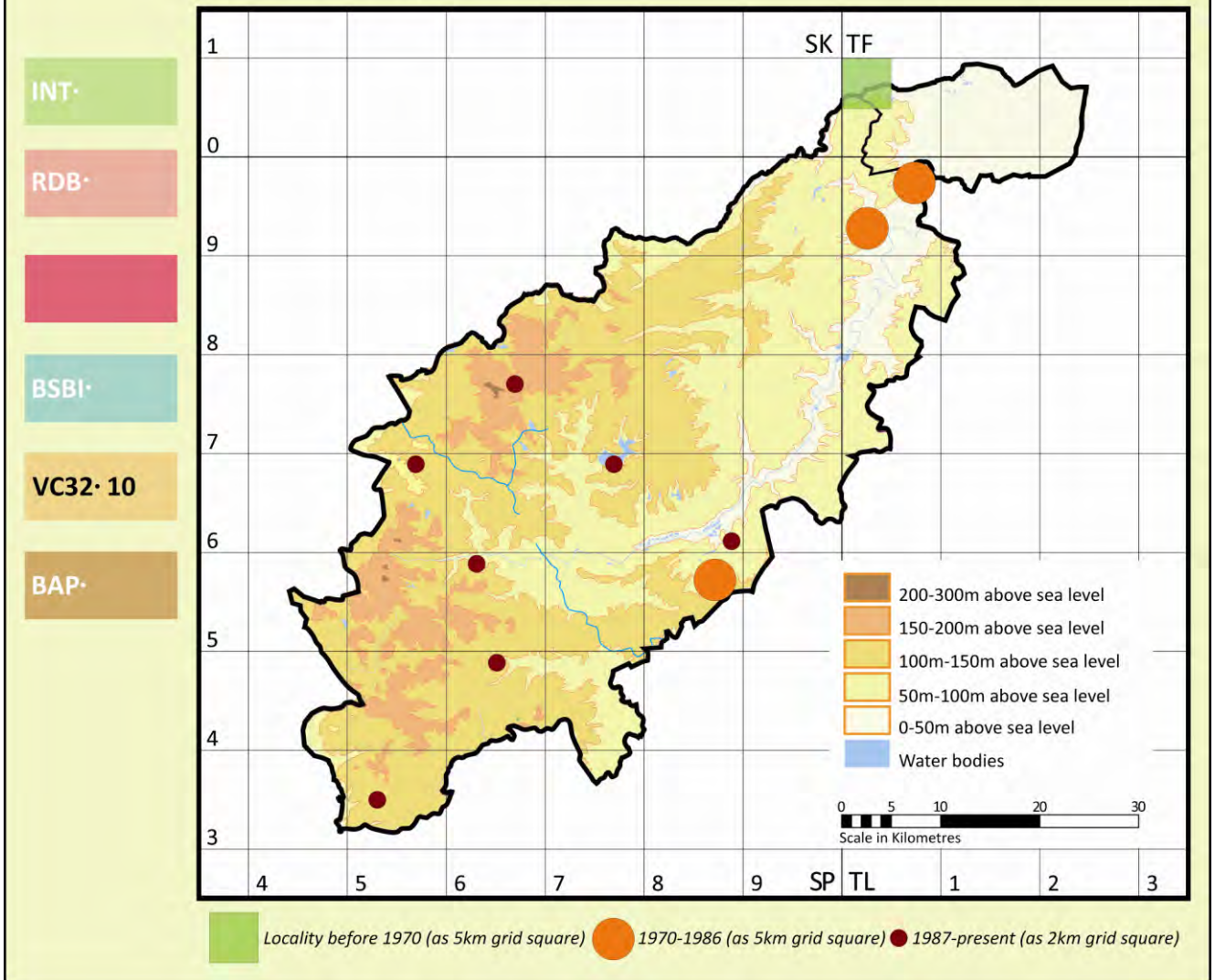
SP589626	Borough Hill	N		2006	GG/JO/RW
SP586633	Daventry & District Golf Course	N		1992	LM
SP578573	Everdon Hill	N		2006	TO
SP865871	King's Wood, Corby	N	NR	2006	JB
SP734641	Kingsthorpe Drains	N		1996	LM
SP72-63-	Northampton (North West Bypass)	N		1993	LM
SP733645	Pitsford (Merry Tom Crossing)	N		1993	LM

There are several records of this plant, mainly from the west of the county, but no up-to-date sightings until 1993, when it was recorded at two separate sites - Borough Hill, which confirms an old record, and the Nene valley north of Kingsthorpe. The scarcity of records is probably due to the increasing drainage of wet areas, probably a future threat to this species.

Druce: Local and not common, Gent & Wilson 1995: No up-to-date sightings until 1993, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Ranunculus peltatus Schrank

Pond Water-crowfoot



Native

An annual of slow-flowing streams, rivers and lakes.

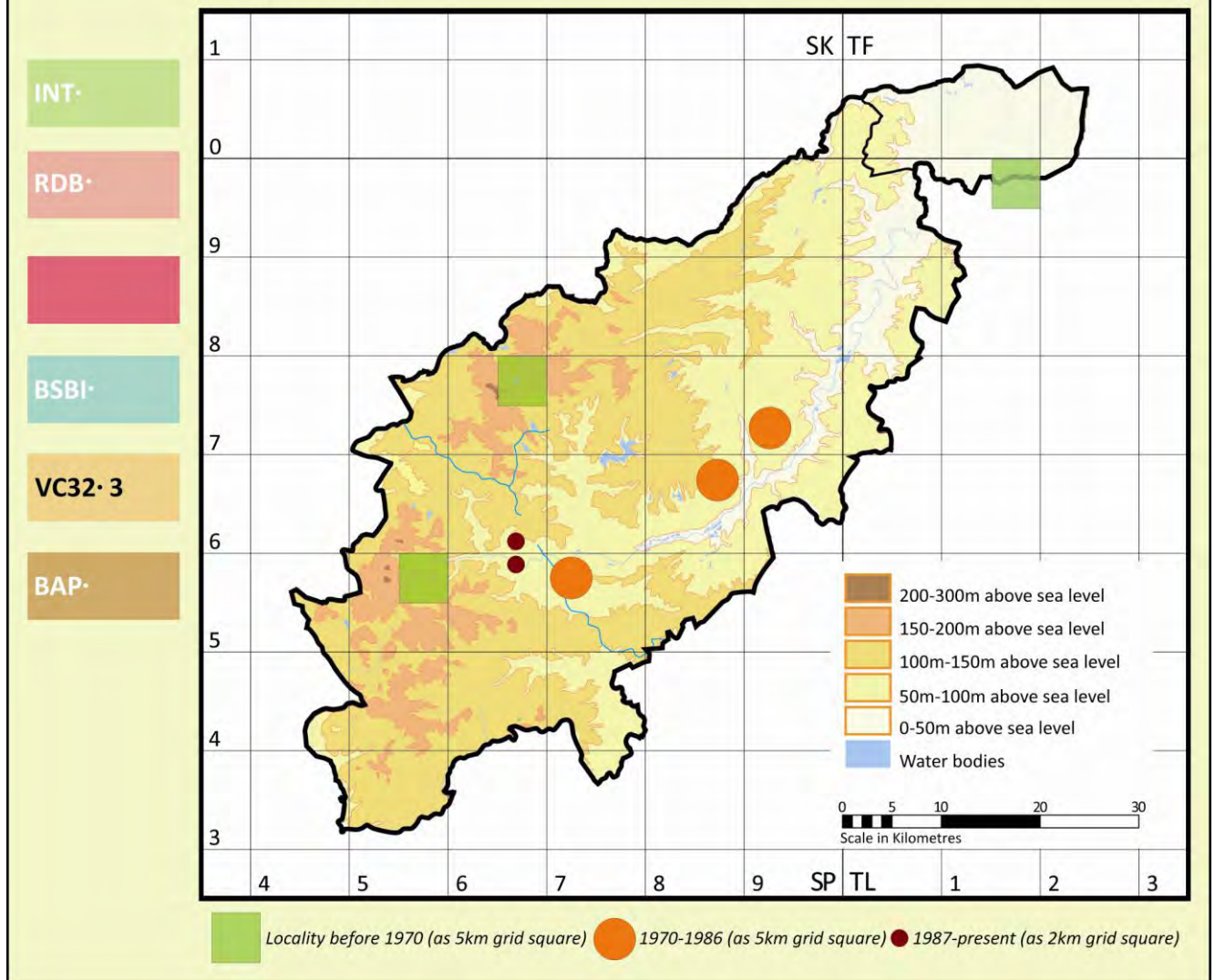
SP64-48-	Bradden	N	2010	RW
SP533359	Charlton (near)	N	2010	PH
SP565696	Kilsby Landfill Lake	N	1992	LM
SP669776	Naseby Reservoir	N	2009	TO
SP773681	Pitsford Reservoir	N	2009	TB
SP900612	Strixton Plantation	N	1992	GC
SP627596	Weedon Depot Canal Arm	N	1991	LM

Once almost unknown in the vice-county with just a couple of early records in the Stamford/Peterborough area, and none before 1933, it has since been noted at a few sites including the River Welland, Bearshank Wood, Milton Park (1970), Pitsford Reservoir, Strixton Plantation, Weedon Depot canal arm (1991), Dogsthorpe Star Pit (1999), the lake at Kilsby Landfill Site, Charlton (probably at or near the source of a stream feeding to the River Cherwell) and Naseby Reservoir (2009). The present records are probably due to more intensive recording and not a spread of this species which should be considered vulnerable.

Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Very occasional, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Ranunculus sardous Crantz

Hairy Buttercup



Native

An annual of damp, disturbed ground and grazed valley meadows, generally on thin turf or bare, moderately neutral soil.

SP67-62- Brington Moors N 2005 BL

With Druce only listing three localities (he eliminated a few older records as mis-identifications and may have been unsure about the remainder) this plant has always had a tenuous existence in the vice-county. Apart from a single record from Thorpe Road Peterborough (1876) there were no further sightings until 1981, when it turned up in dozens on the infill of an old ironstone quarry at Finedon. In 1982 it was recorded at Duston Mill, Northampton, on a rubbish tip and, in 1983, growing on dumped soil near the River Nene lock, Wellingborough. All of these sites have since been destroyed and the species was once more thought to be extinct until 2005, when, it was re-discovered at two sites near Great Brington.

Gent & Wilson 1995: Possibly extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

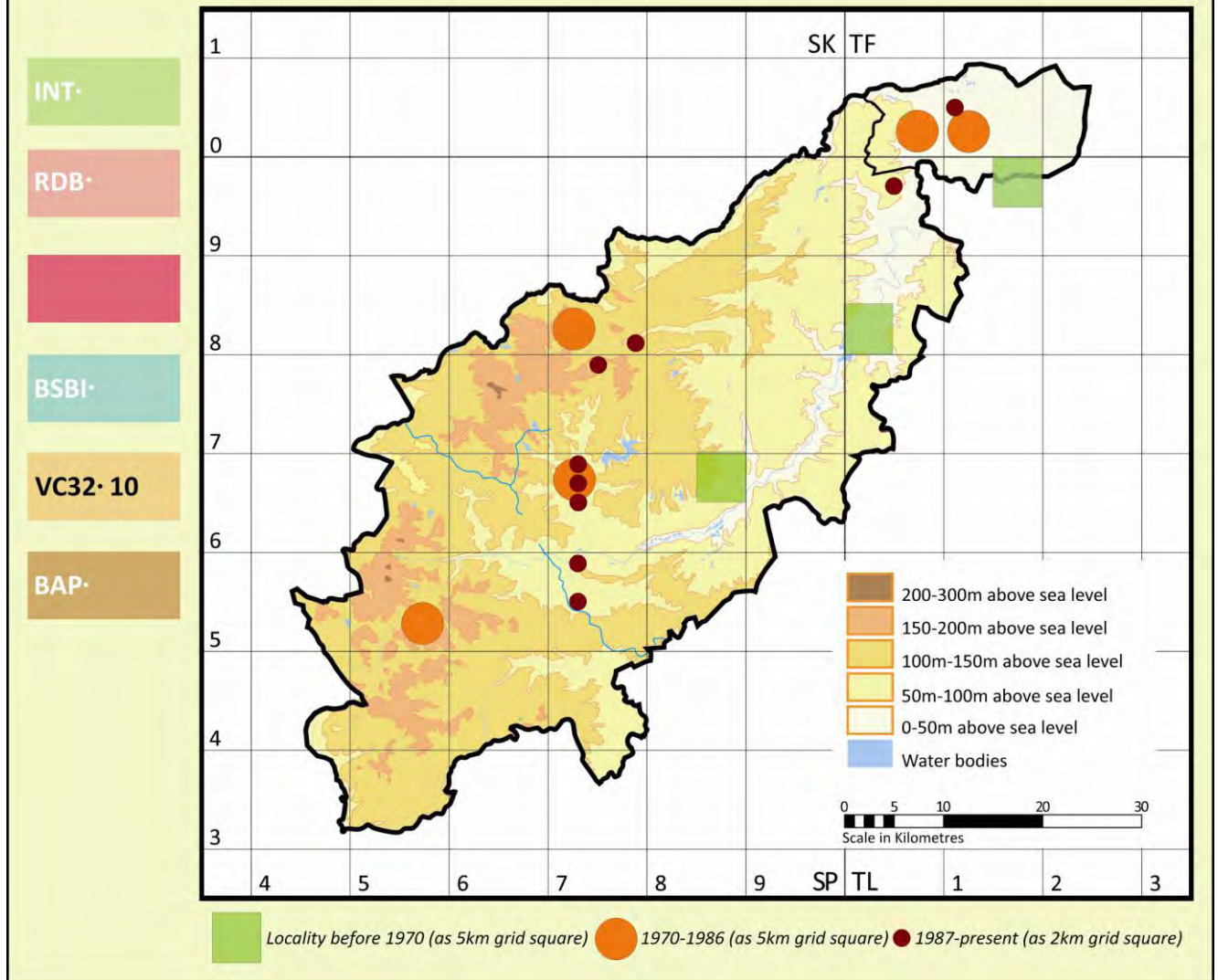


Hairy Buttercup

Brian Laney

Sagina nodosa (L.) Fenzl

Knotted Pearlwort



Native

A plant of damp, open sandy or peaty ground.

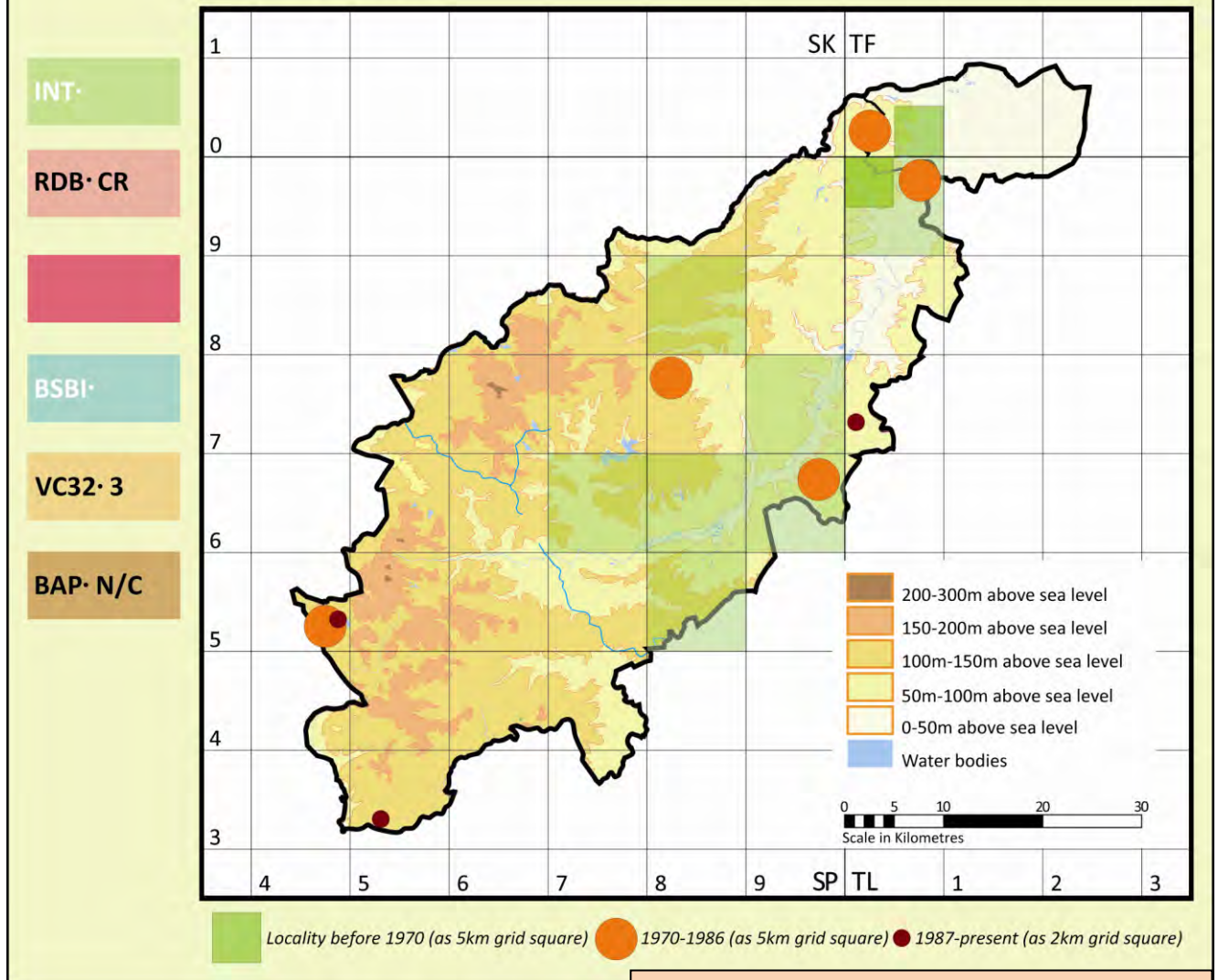
SP749797	Brampton Valley Way, Kelmarsch Tunnels	N	1992	LM
SP734680	Brampton Valley Way, Merry Tom Crossing	N	1992	LM
SP737666	Brampton Valley Way, Pitsford Station	N	1994	LM
TL041973	Fair Oak Sale Quarry	N	1991	LM
SP720550	Grand Union Canal (Northampton Arm)	N	2005	TB
SP78-60-	Harrington	N	2011	RW
SP734586	Hunsbury Ironstone Railway	N	2005	TB
TF111054	Torpel Manor Field	S	2007	CP/MFa/MB

It had been thought to be extinct because it had disappeared from the three localities listed by Druce and had not been seen since it was recorded at Castor Hanglands during the 1960s, but in 1991 it was re-found in Fair Oak Sale Quarry near Nassington. Since that time it has been recorded at several localities but this is probably due to better recording and its future remains insecure as it has always been rare in the county.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Scandix pecten-veneris L.

Shepherd's | Needle



Prior to 1930 localities are given only in very general terms and these are shown as 10km squares in a paler colour. These probably understate the distribution.

Archaeophyte

An annual or biennial found on dry, open, sandy soil.

SP487528	Boddington Reservoir	N	2005	BL
TL007736	Brook Farm, Raunds	N	2012	BL
SP526363	Charlton	N	2008	PH

Much less common than in former times and now rarely seen. This is due to changes in agricultural practice, especially the increased use of herbicides and more efficient seed cleaning. The site at Raunds is now a horse pasture, but permission was gained from the owner to create disturbed plots along the fence-line to secure the species future survival. Forty seedlings have been seen in plots created by BL in December 2007 and it continues to survive. It could not be found when searched for at Boddington in 2012 and would not survive at Raunds without intervention to create a suitable habitat.

Druce: Con but locally distributed, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

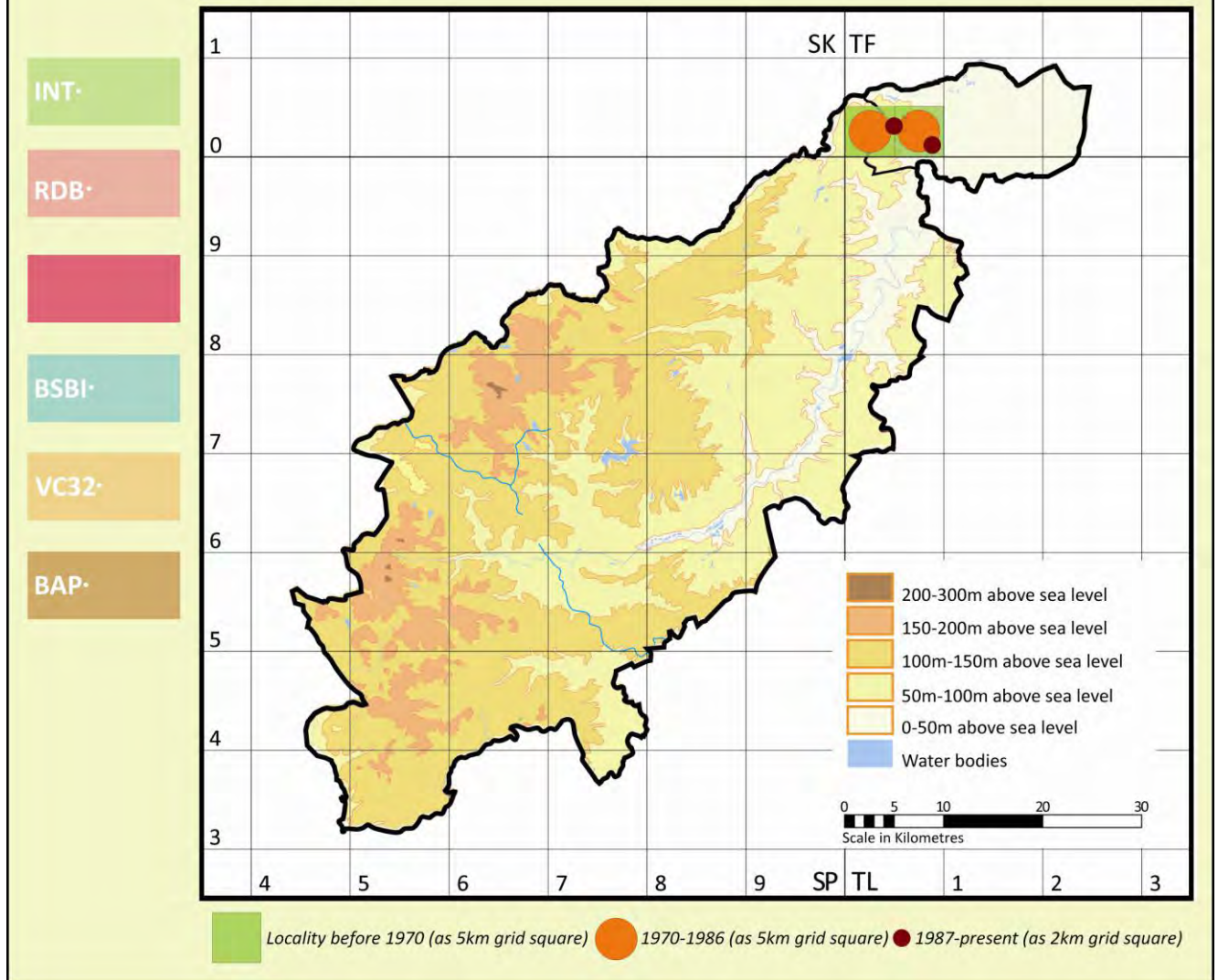


Shepherd's Needle, and the strip of land at Raunds where regular rotation ensures its survival.

Top left and main photo Brian Laney, top right Peter Stroh

Schoenus nigricans L.

Black Bog-rush



Native

A perennial of base-rich marshes, especially near springs.

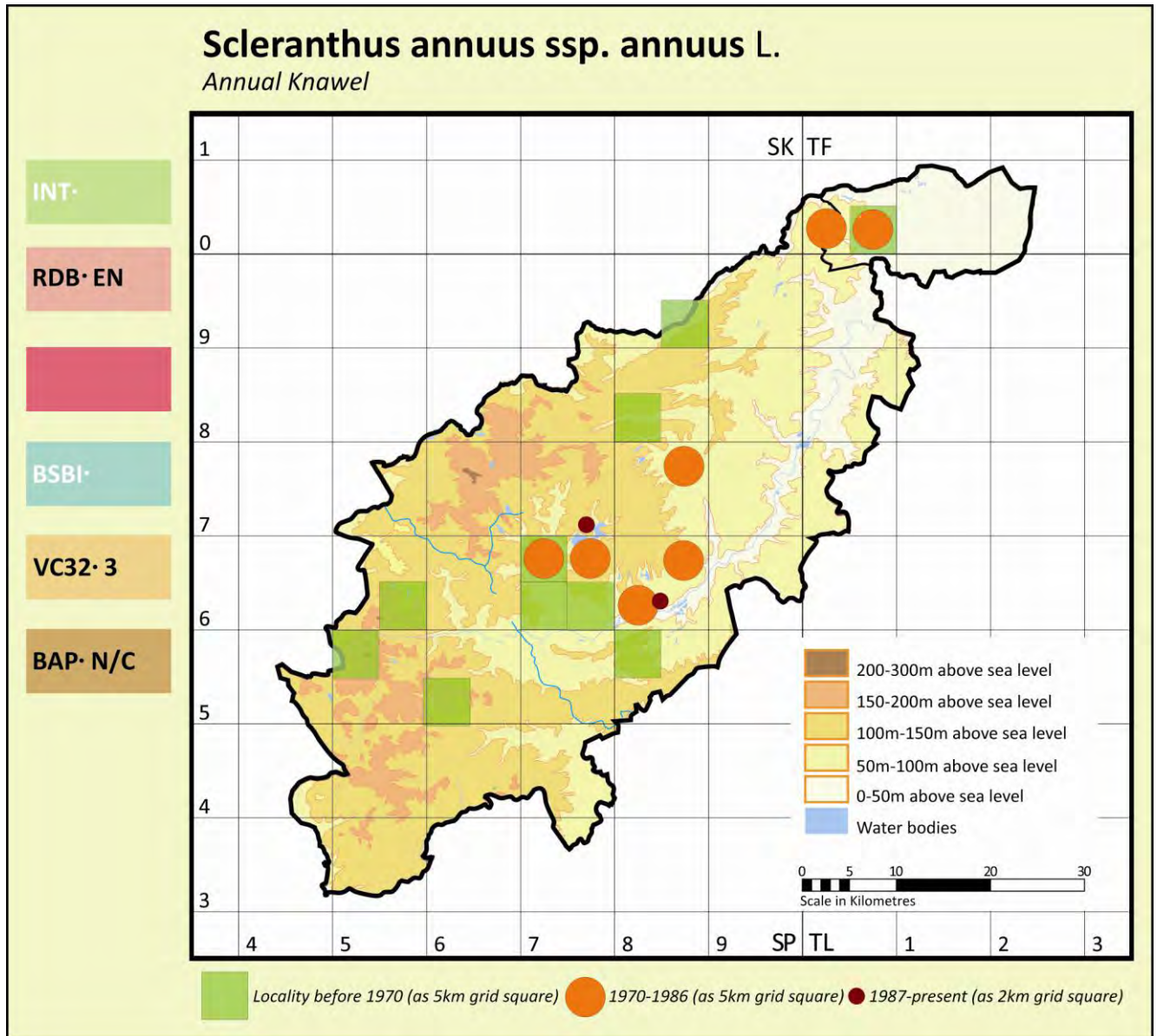
TF090000	Sutton Heath and Bog	S	SSSI	2012	AFr
TF046037	Whitewater Valley	S	SSSI	2011	NC

Very few localities ever recorded for this species and virtually all of these have been in the area of the present sites. It was formerly present in quantity in the White Water and Wittering Marsh area in 1884 and it is still there, admittedly in smaller numbers. It has been known from Sutton Heath & Bog since the middle of the 20th century. at Sutton Heath and Bog (1950, 1963 and 1976). It was still present at this site in 2008.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Scleranthus annuus ssp. annuus L.

Annual Knawel



Native

An annual or biennial found on dry, open, sandy soil.

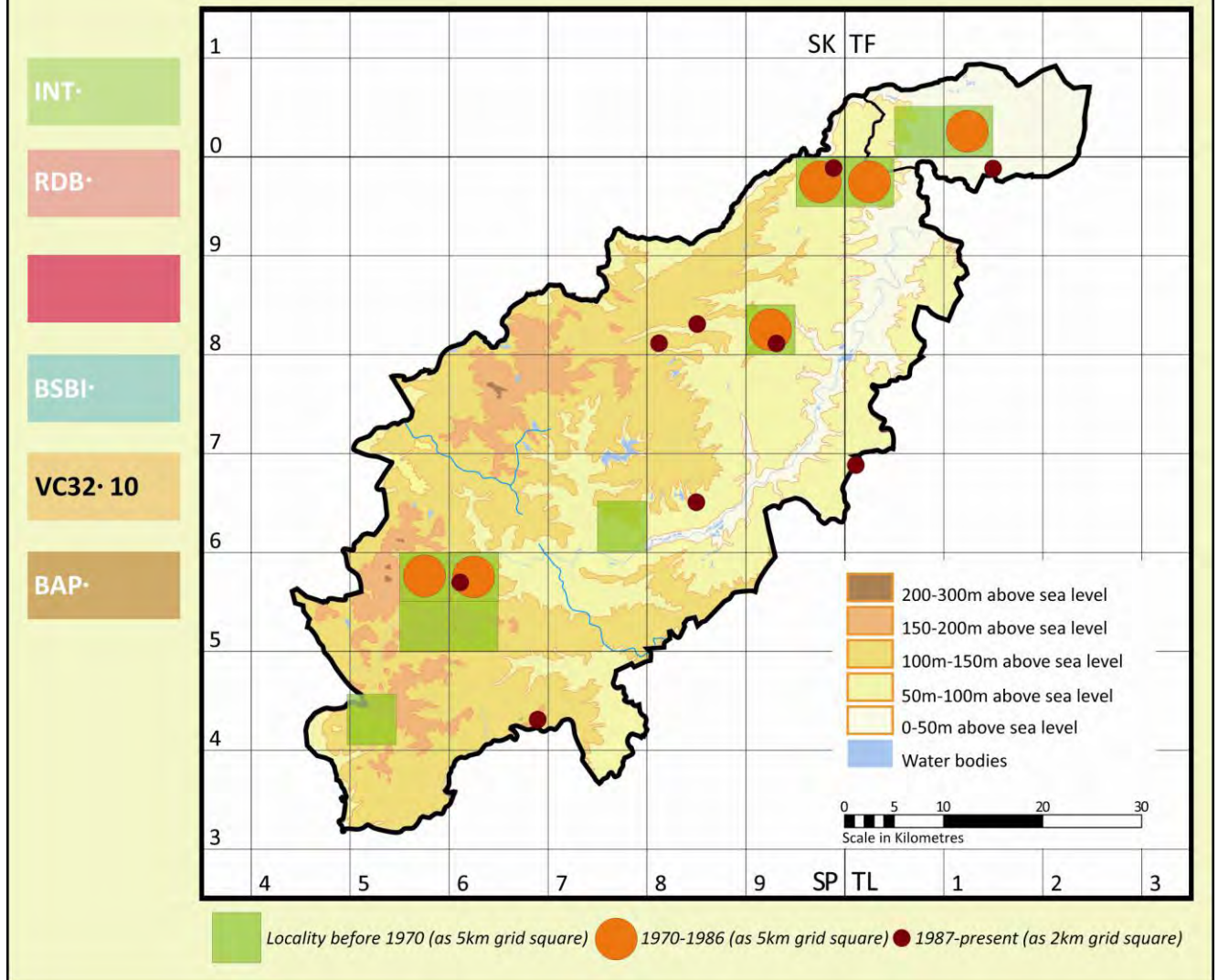
SP858625	Earls Barton	N	1989	GG
SP773714	Rectory Farm, Scaldwell	N	2011	BL

Druce recorded this species from half a dozen scattered sites, growing in cultivated ground on sandy soil at Arbury Hill, Borough Hill, Brampton, Harlestone, Southorpe and Yardley Chase. It was also recorded in 1880 in Kingsthorpe, in 1907 at Rockingham and in 1945 from between Litchborough and Grimscote. More recently it has continued to be recorded at scattered sites – Rothwell (1955), Bonemills Hollow (1964), near Bedford Purlieu (1970), Wellingborough (1973), Moulton (1983), and Wittering. The colony at Rectory Farm, Scaldwell is a large one found in an area known for its arable weeds.

Druce: Locally common, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Sedum telephium L.

Orpine



Native

A perennial herb naturalised on walls, rocks, and in woods.

SP858826	Barford Meadows	N	SSSI/NR	2003	GB
SP84-64-	Earl's Barton	N		2009	RW
SP604566	Everdon Stubbs	N	SSSI	2001	MJ
SP98-98-	Fineshade Woods (near)	N		2002	PC

TL158985	Thorpe Wood	S		2013	SL
TL00-68-	Wireless Station	N		2010	RD
SP699420	Whittlebury (near, beside A413)	N		2013	BL

Although a native species some of the records are of garden escapes for it is also a popular garden plant. No attempt has been made to differentiate between native plants and garden escapes it is likely that a percentage of records given here are of plants of garden origin.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare as a wild plant.

SP935814	Grafton Park Wood	N		2009	PS
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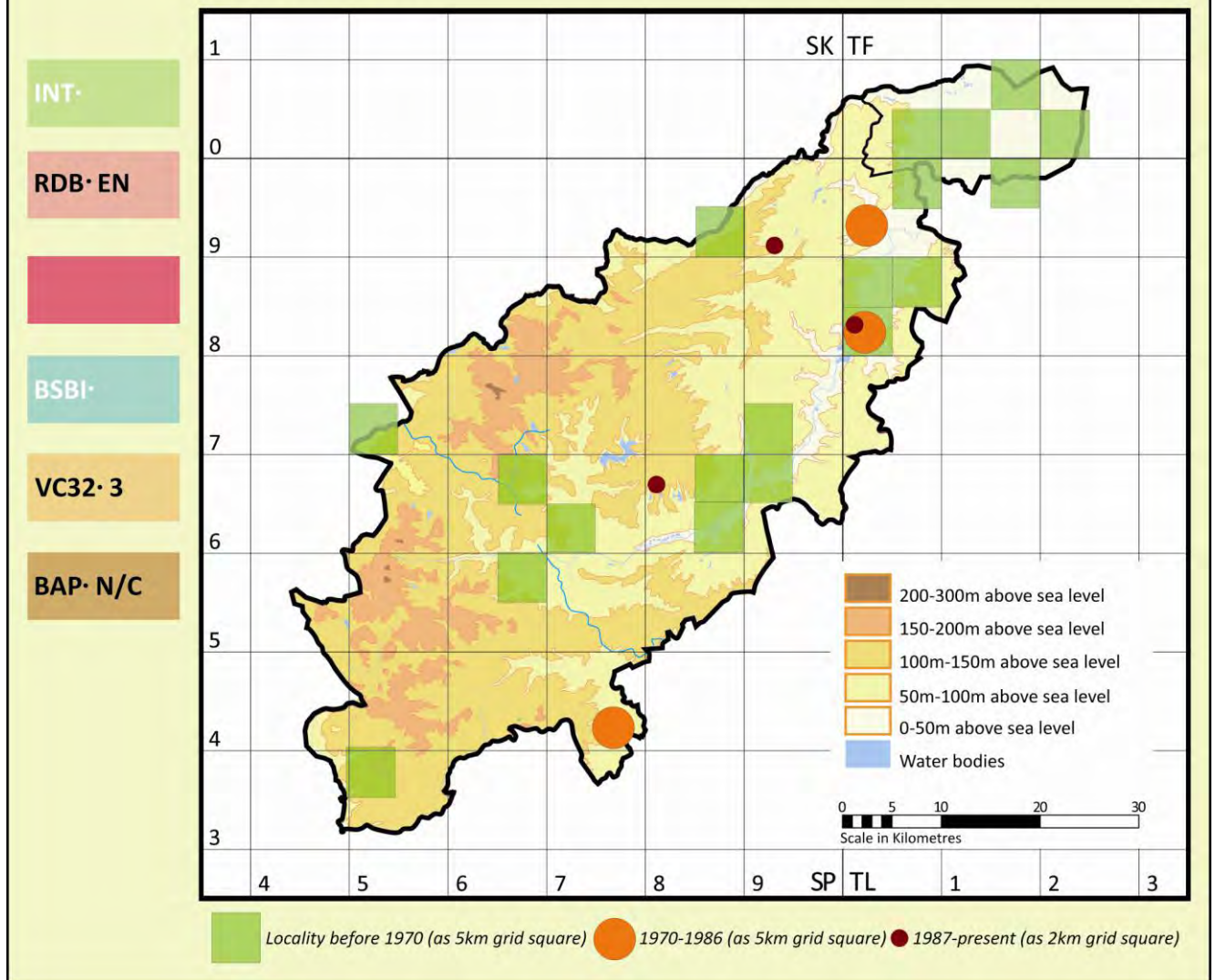


Orpine

Brian Laney

Sium latifolium (Sm.) DC.

Southern Wood-rush



Native

A perennial of wet places, dyke sides, reed swamp and rivers.

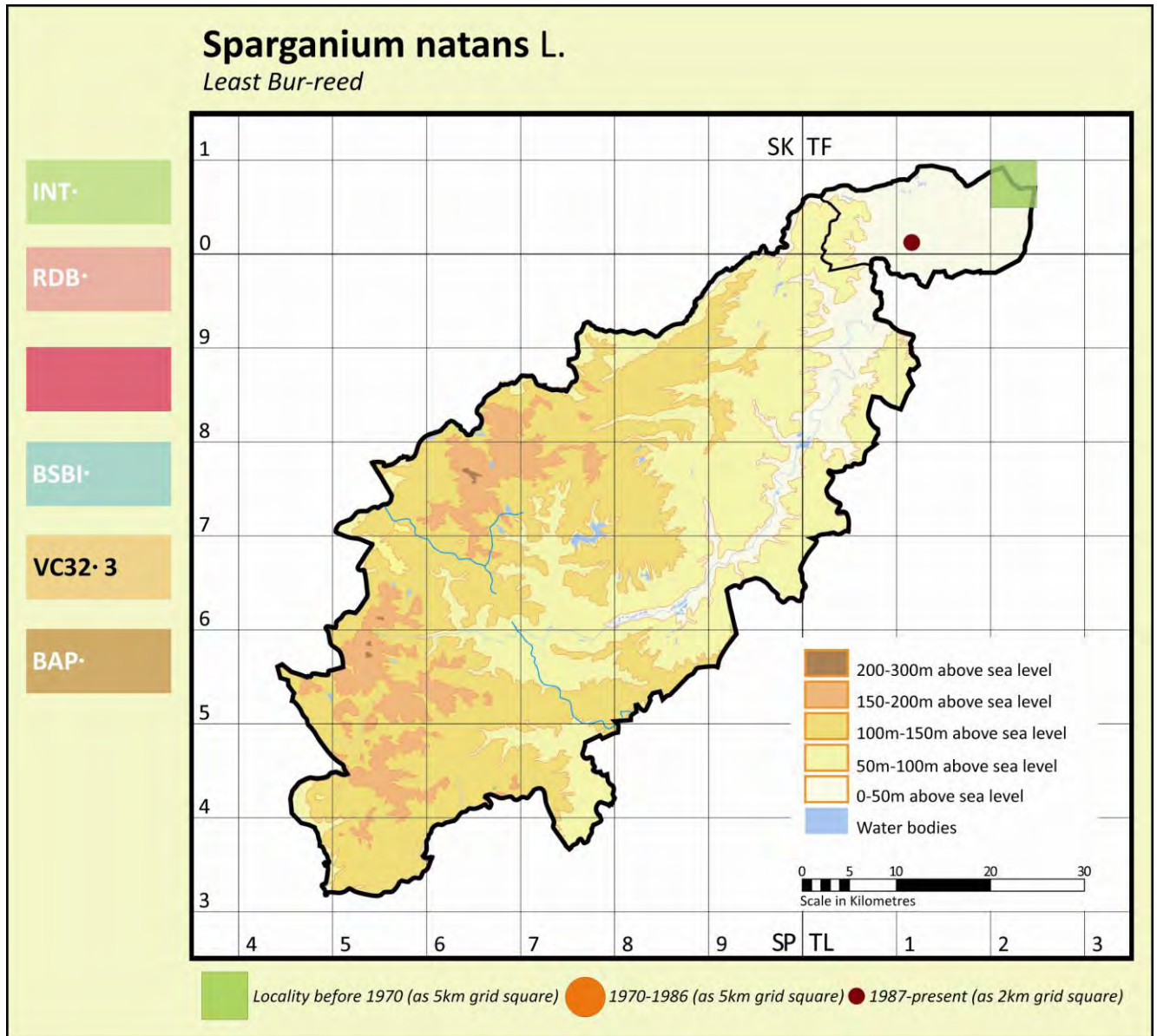
SP806670	Overstone (Cowpasture Spinney)	N		1992	LM
SP92-91-	Priors Hall, Corby	N		2010	RW
TL008829	Wadenhoe Marsh & Achurch Meadow	N	SSSI	2001	GG

This has a greatly reduced distribution from earlier times with many of the sites are in or close to the Nene valley, with a few in the valley of the Welland. It was never a common species however and can be considered to be under threat of extinction.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Very rare.

Sparganium natans L.

Least Bur-reed



Native

A perennial of shallow and sheltered water in mesotrophic ditches, generally on peaty soils.

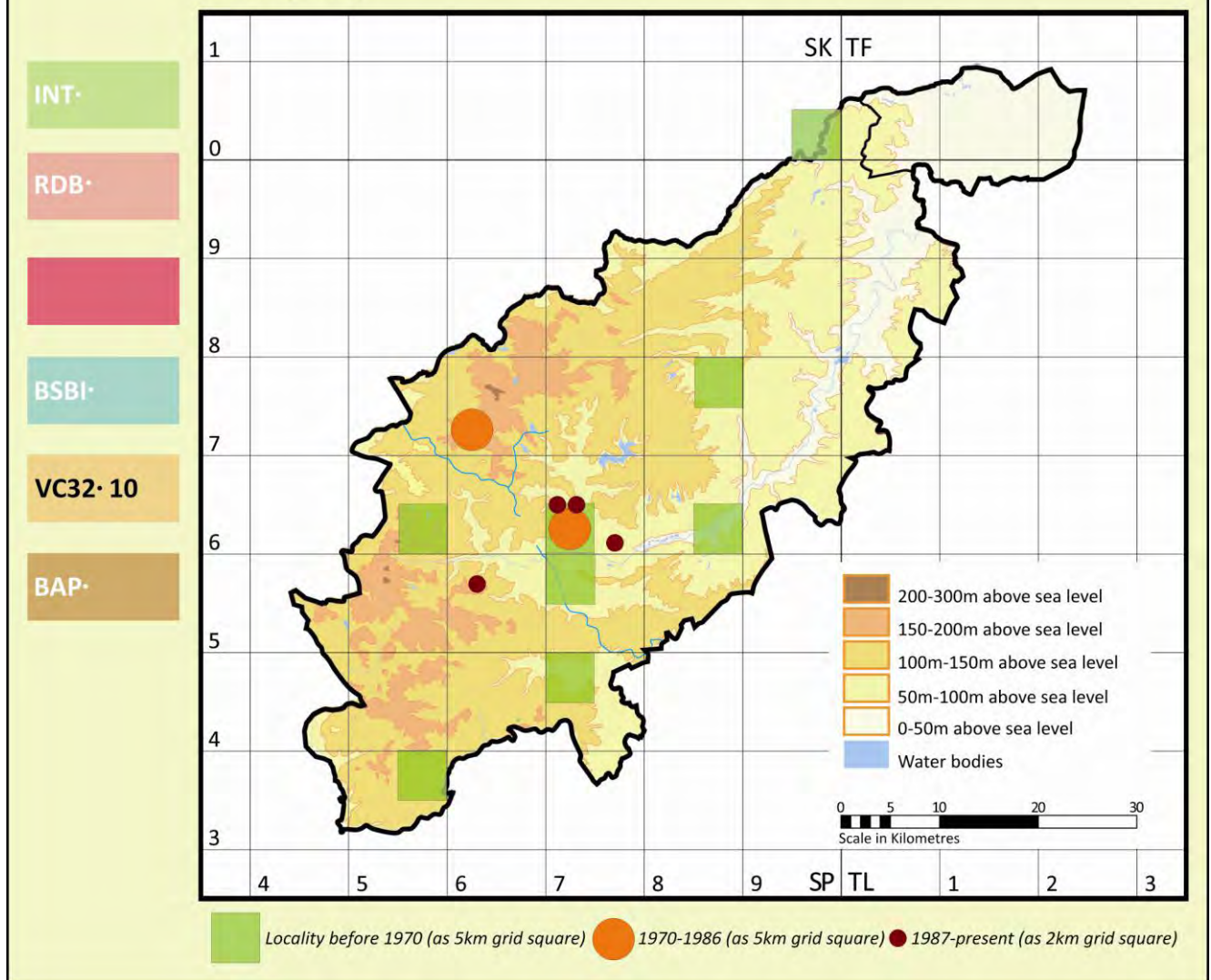
TF115015 Castor Hanglands S SSSI/NNR 2008 CG det.CPr

Until recently there was only a single sighting from Highborough Fen in the Soke of Peterborough, in 1910, when it was seen in the 'drains in High Boro Fen, between Black Bull and Peakirk. Abundant in this locality for about a quarter of a mile' was the only record until it was found at Castor Hanglands in 2008.

Druce: Abundant in drains at High Boro Fen near Peakirk, Gent & Wilson 1995: Probably extinct, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Spergularia rubra (L.) J. & C. Presl

Sand Spurrey



Native

An annual of freely draining acidic, sandy or gravelly ground.

SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N		2008	GG
SP725647	Northamptonshire County Golf Club	N		2005	BL
SP625563	Ramsden Corner Plantation	N	SSSI	2003	FK
SP774602	St Andrew's Hospital Golf Course	N		1994	BL

A lack of suitable habitats means that this has always been an extremely rare species, with records from about a dozen different sites through history, with just over half of the records dating from before 1930. Early records show it at Stoke Bruerne (1907), Borough Hill (1843), Collyweston, Coppice Moor, Danes Camp, Daventry, Northampton, nearby Hunsbury Hill and Harlestone Firs. It was not seen again until it was found at Great Doddington in the 1950s. This was followed by records from Old Hall Brackley (1963), Northamptonshire County Golf Club Church Brampton (formerly part of Dallington Heath and adjoining Harlestone Firs) (from 1978), by the canal at Winwick (1980), and the records listed above. Probably a threatened species.

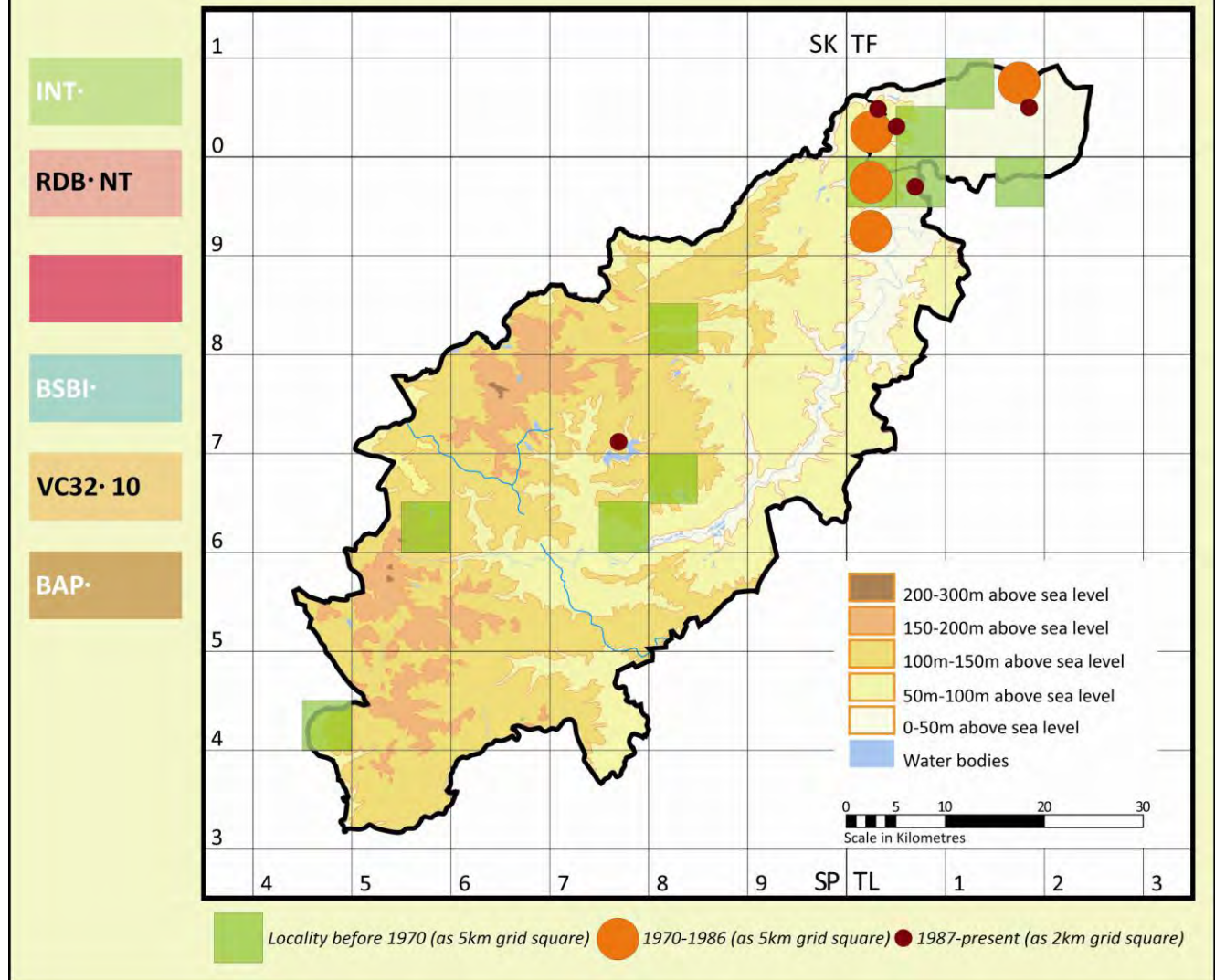
Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.



Sand Spurrey

Stachys arvensis (L.) L.

Field Woundwort



Archaeophyte

A summer or winter-annual weed of arable ground, usually on non-calcareous soils.

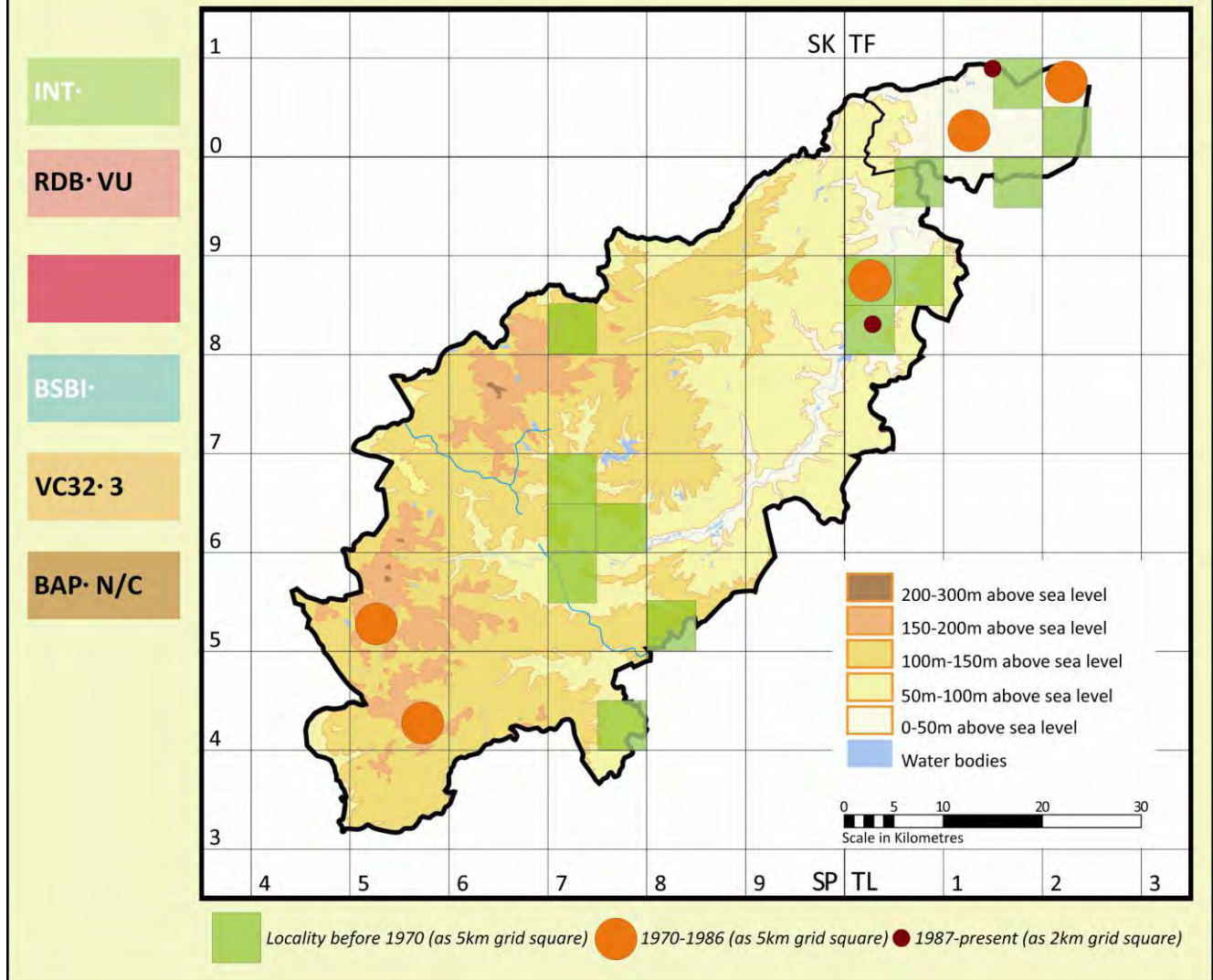
SP771714	Laundon's Lodge	N	2008	BL
TF19-04-	Newborough (near)	N	1993	GG
TF035041	Racecourse Road	S	2011	RW
TF05-02-	Wittering Airfield	S	1993	KDNHS
TL070977	Yarwell (allotments)	N	2010	NC

A declining weed of cultivated ground that is probably on the verge of extinction. Even before 1930 it was not common and the majority of the records were in the north on the limestone with records from Apethorpe, near Banbury, near Bedford Purlieus (1912), Borough Hill, Daventry, Helpston, Mears Ashby, Peterborough, near Rothwell, Thornhaugh turnip fields, a cornfield near Walcot Hall, Wansford and Weston Favell. It is probably still in the fens around Newborough but since the start of the 21st century it has only been seen in small numbers at four sites and seems to be decreasing.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Rare.

Stellaria palustris Ehrh. ex Hoffm.

Marsh Stitchwort



Native

A perennial herb of damp grassy habitats, marshes and fens.

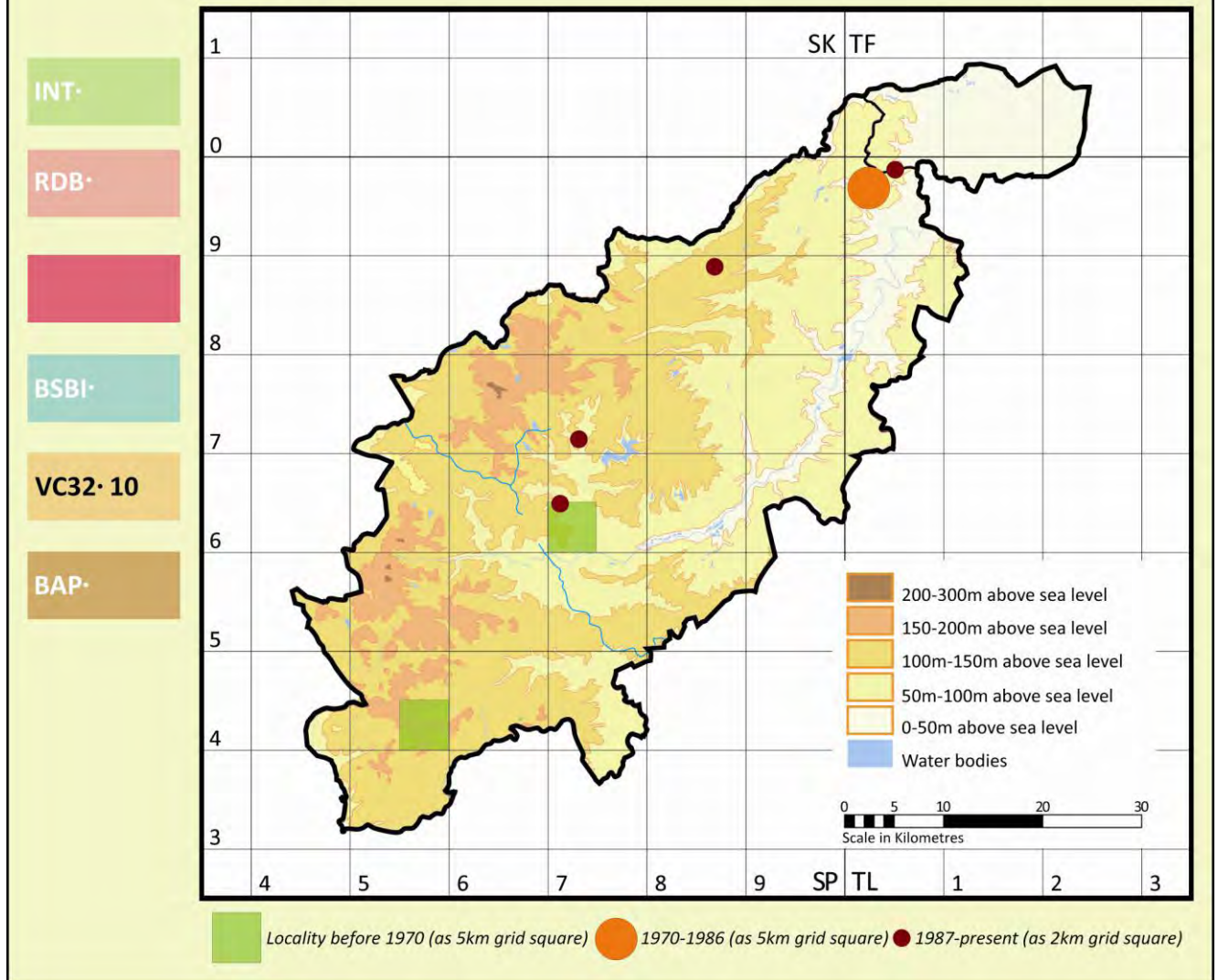
TL022833	Achurch Marsh	N	SSSI	2002	JA
TF151092	Deeping Gate Fen Meadow	S		2008	GG/CP/RW

Extremely rare. Druce recorded this species from about 14 localities. It seems to have disappeared from all of these although it might just be refound at some that have not been drained such as Borough Fen Duck Decoy and Oxney Lode. Since this time there have been very few records. It was known in Salcey Forest until the 1950s and at Ashton near Oundle and Biggin until sometime before 1970. It was seen near Castor in 1971, near Newborough in 1976 and at Byfield Pool in 1988. The records from Trafford Bridge Marsh in 1990 has since been determined to be incorrect and it was thought to be extinct in the vice-county but in 2002 it was discovered in Achurch Meadow and in 2008 an enormous colony, probably in excess of 100,000 plants and covering hundreds of square metres was found at Deeping Gate Fen Meadow, a wonderful meadow that needs protection to preserve this and other rare species..

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Teucrium scorodonia L.

Wood Sage



Native

A perennial of heathland and woods on well-drained acid soils

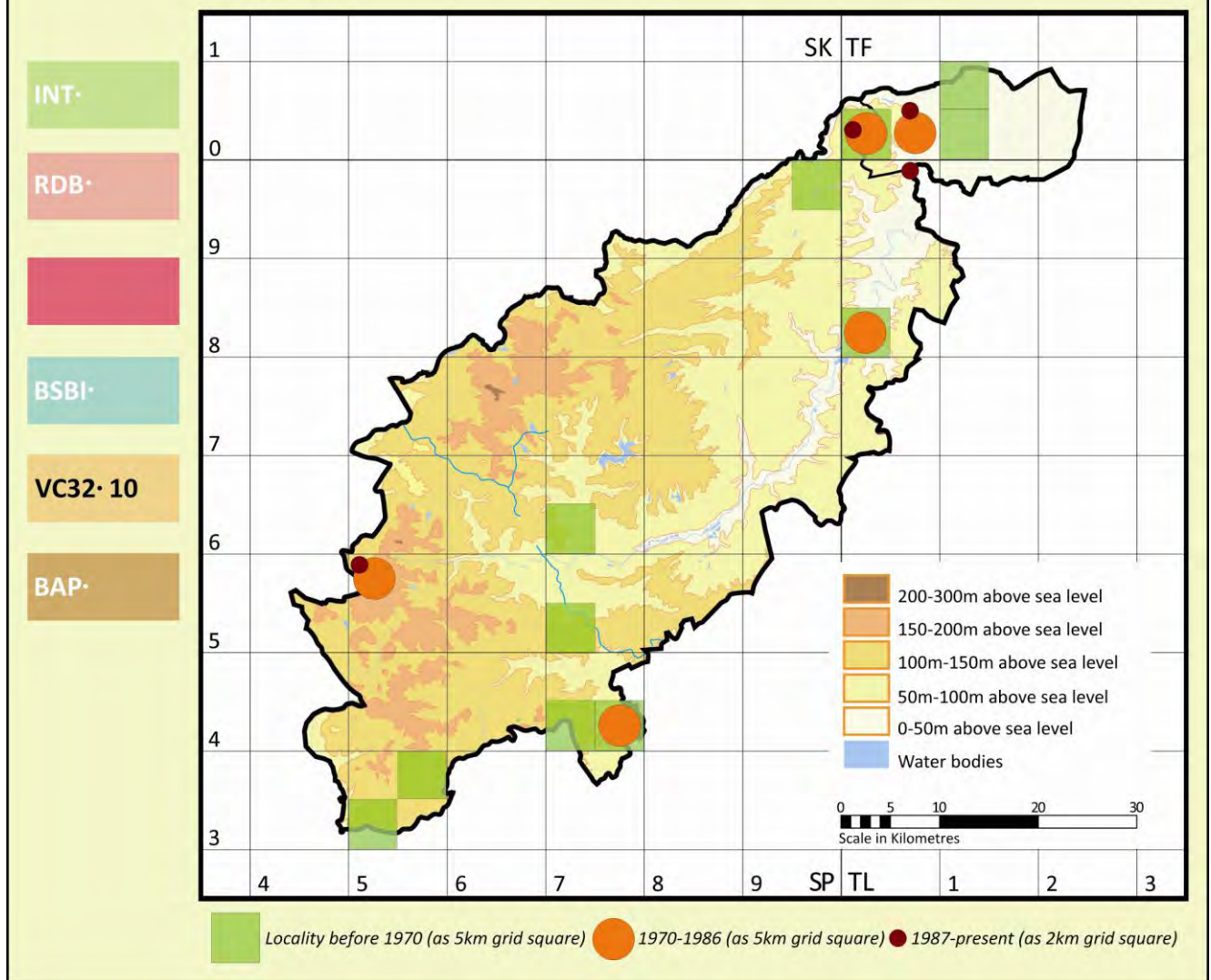
TF042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	2008	DB
SP737718	Brampton Valley Way	N		2004	BL
SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N		2010	MD
SP875890	Thoroughsale Wood, Corby	N		1991	WT

It was formerly known at 'Hulse' – possibly Halse Copse – and Harlestone Firs. It had long been lost from both of these localities but in 1997 it was rediscovered at the latter when it came up in a recently cleared area. It is still present and spreading at this site. It has also recently been discovered at new sites in the north.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Thymus pulegioides L.

Large Thyme



Native

A perennial of bare ground over limestone or occasionally on heathy soils.

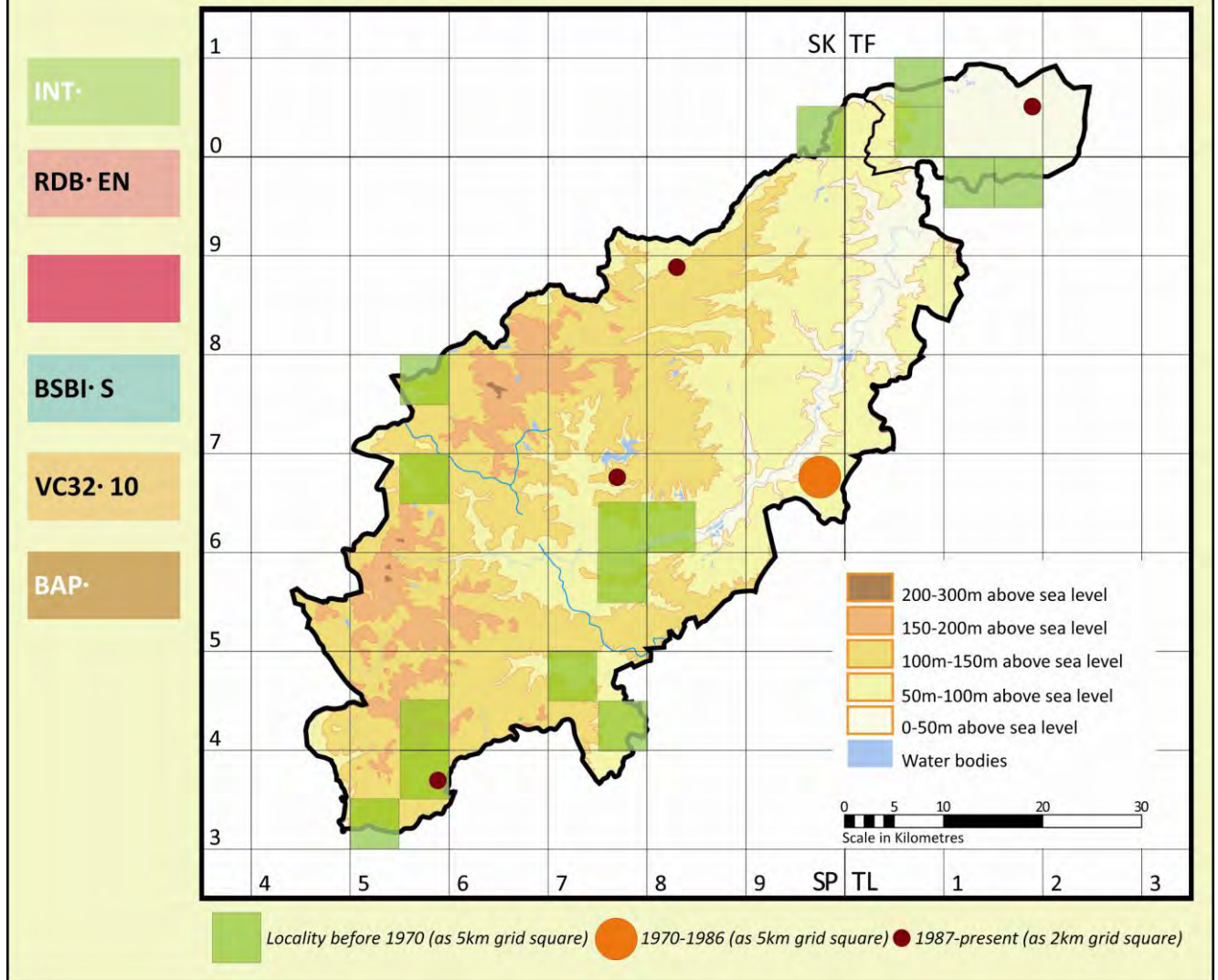
Tf075045	Barnack Hills and Holes	S	SAC/SSSI/NNR	1996	TW/SW
Tf004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	SSSI/NR	2001	TW/SW
SP5158	Hellidon	N		1988	SK
TL063984	Old Sulehay	N	SSSI/NR	2002	GB

Only known in the 19th century at Harlestone Firs (1873) and Plain Woods, since then it has been recorded at a few places, the result of better recording rather than the spread of the species. There are possibly records from Wittering Heath, Helpston and Ailsworth but these need confirmation. VC32 is currently on the extreme edge of its northerly range.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Torilis arvensis (Huds.) Link

Spreading Hedge-parsley



Archaeophyte

Arable fields and disturbed ground on clay loams and calcareous clay soils.

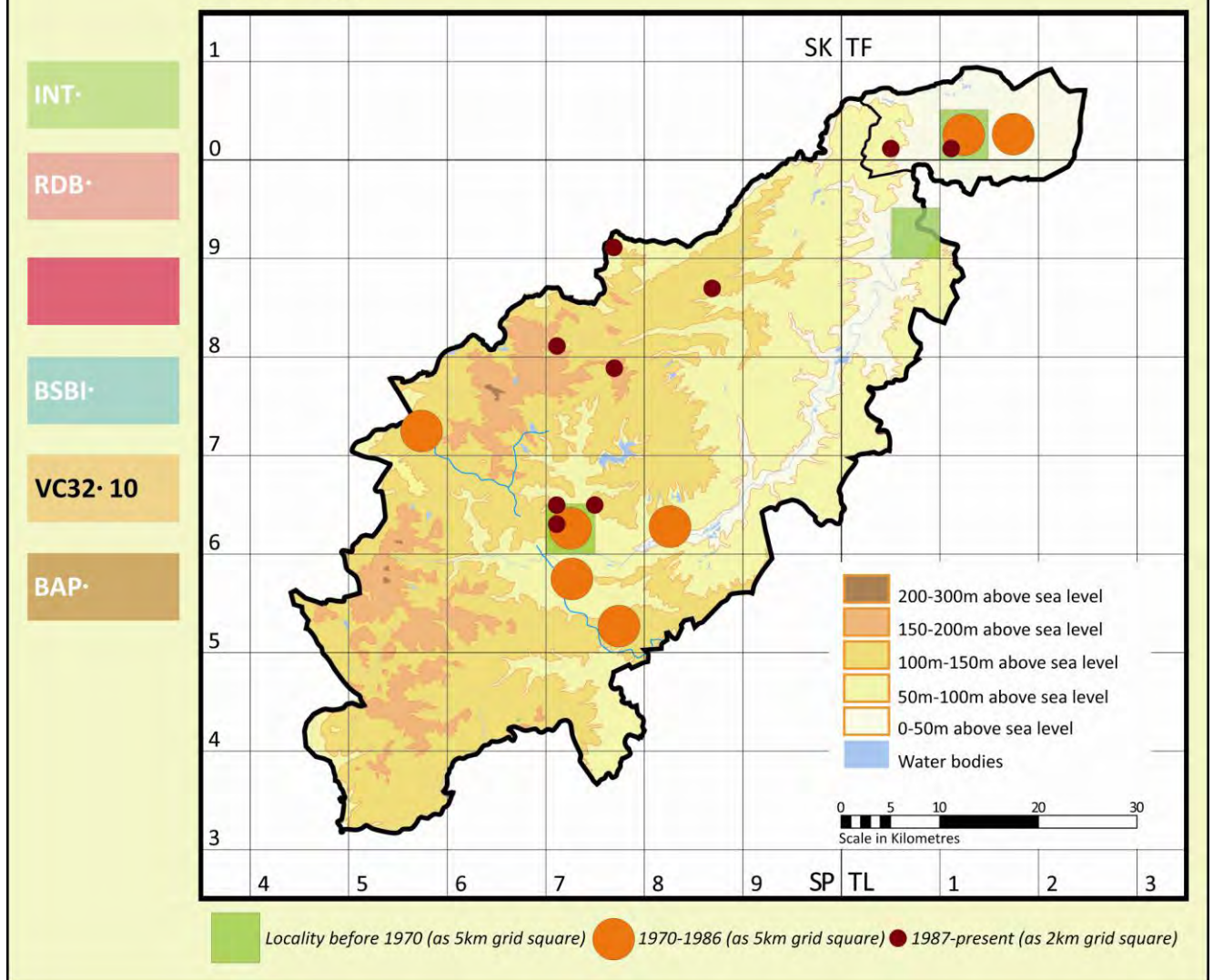
SP588363	Brackley disused railway, east	N	2009	TB
TF193059	Catchwater Drain (near Newborough)	S	2009	
SP76-66-	Pitsford (near)	N	1992	
SP8—8--	East Carlton/Wilbarston area	N	1987	BC/MC

Never a common species, in recent times it has still declined considerably and become extremely rare, and in recent years it has only been recorded very sporadically. This is a species of concern in the vice-county; the recent increase in records is probably due to better recording as it is generally a species in decline owing to loss of field margins and the more effective use of herbicides on farms.

Druce: Locally common Gent & Wilson 1995: [A single recent record], Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Trifolium micranthum Viv.

Slender Trefoil



Native

An annual of well-established short turf, lawns, garden paths, open sandy and slightly acidic areas etc. that are prone to drought.

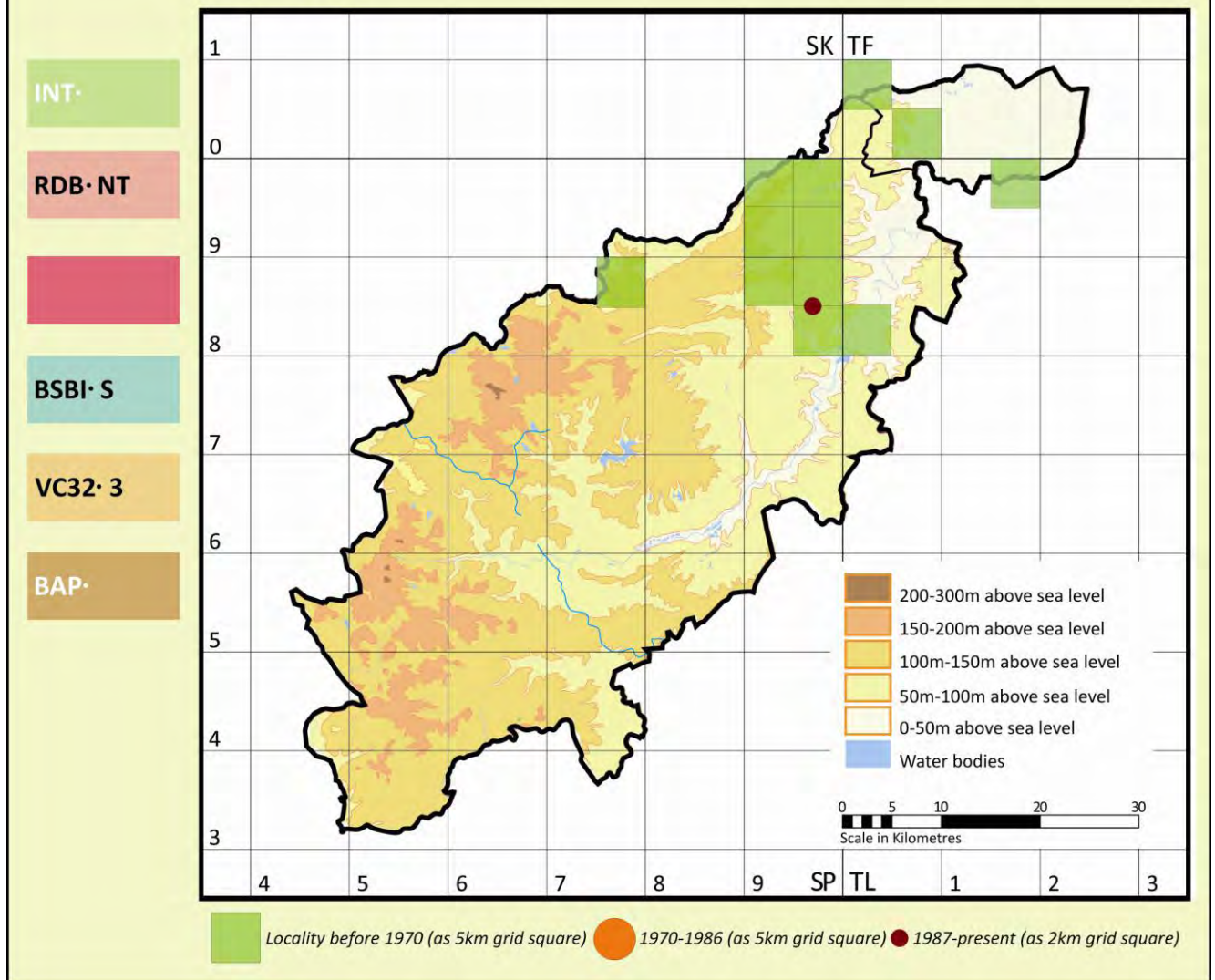
SP770631	Bradlaugh Fields	N	NR	1998	PA
TF115015	Castor Hanglands	S	SSSI/NNR	2004	DB
TF004038	Collyweston Quarries	N	SSSI/NR	1984	PT
SP866874	Corby	N		2009	RW
SP75-68-	Kingsthorpe (Lawn)	N		1997	GG
SP963678	Rushden	N		2001	GG
TF047001	Thornhaugh Quarry	S		1992	SL
SP77-90-	Weston by Welland	N		2009	RW

Not known in the vice-county until it was recorded at Harlestone Firs in 1901 – it was still to be found there in 2008. After the first record it was not recorded at any other site until 1960 when it was seen near Castor Hanglands a site where it also still persists and Elton (1964). In 1974 it was seen at Little Houghton and this was quickly followed by a number of records, it is possibly overlooked, however and consequently under-recorded.

Druce: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare but possibly overlooked, Gent & Wilson 2013: Very rare.

Trifolium ochroleucon Huds.

Sulphur Clover



Native

A perennial of grassy places on chalky boulder clay or chalk.

SP970843 Sudborough Green Lodge Meadow N SSSI 2007 NOr

Druce lists about a dozen localities for this species, all in the north of the vice-county and mostly within a small area of countryside – Aldwinckle, Blatherwycke, Brampton Ash (1910), Bulwick, Lowick (1904), near Lyveden New Bield, Peterborough, near Stamford, near Wakerley, Weldon Quarries and Wittering Marsh (1908). It was seen at Barnack Hills and Holes in 1946 and after this it was thought that it had disappeared completely from its former sites, due no doubt to habitat destruction, but in 1994 it was found in Sudborough Green Lodge Meadows, which is very close to the old records for Lowick and Lyveden, and sat the southern end of its core area within the vice-county.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

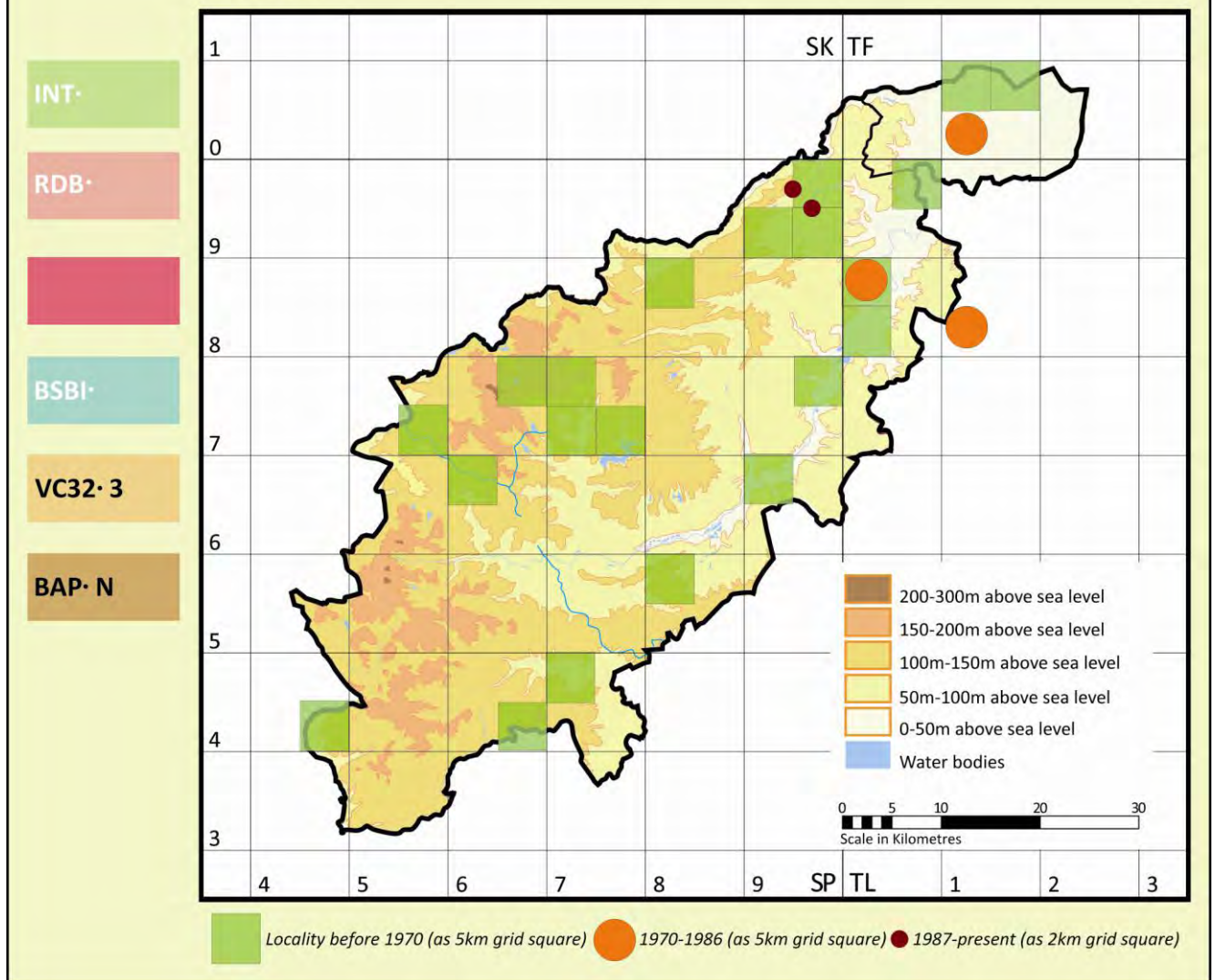


Sudborough Green Lodge Meadow

Gill Gent

Ulmus plotii Druce

Plot's Elm



Native

A deciduous tree of neutral or base rich clays, largely confined to valley hedgerows and field margins in the East Midlands.

SP962942 Bulwick
 SP950961 Laxton

N
 N

2009 JS/GF

It has recently been shown that, based on the evidence of recent molecular research, *U. plotii* should no longer be recognised as a separate species, but should be recognised as *U. minor* var. *plotii*. as it consists of a single widespread clone mixed with a number of morphologically similar but genetically unrelated entities. Whatever its correct status it is recorded here under the established name to give details of a potentially valued genetic resource which is worthy of protection and conservation. It has never been a particularly common tree in this vice-county and Dutch elm disease virtually eliminated it in the latter half of the 20th century. Indeed, it was thought that the grubbing out of hedges, which may have killed off any regeneration that might have been successful, had rendered it extinct. It was recorded at Dogsthorpe Star Pit in 1984 and a single mature tree was discovered to have survived at Laxton, while in 1992 several juveniles were recorded as growing at nearby Bulwick, on the edge of a farm adjacent to a roadside hedge. It has recently been reported that the Laxton tree has finally succumbed to Dutch elm disease, while at Bulwick the hedge that contained the young trees has been grubbed up. Obviously this is a species that seems to have a limited future in the vice-county.

Druce: Locally common, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

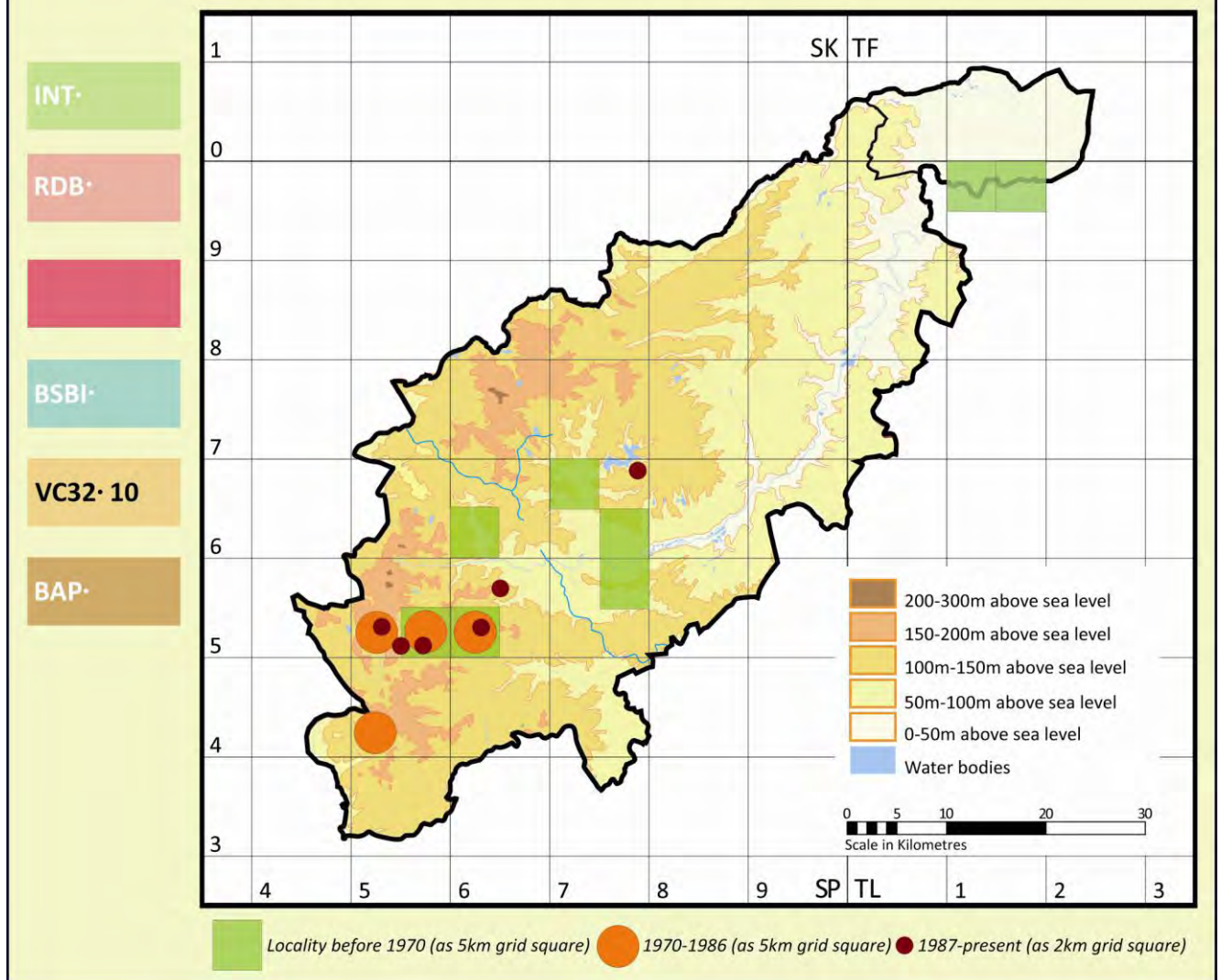


Plot's Elm at Laxton

Briogan Laney

Umbilicus rupestris (Salisb.) Dandy

Navelwort



Native

A perennial of old walls

SP577505	Canons Ashby	N	2011	RW
SP543503	Eydon	N	2010	MA
SP52-52-	Hinton	N	2010	MA
SP791697	Holcot	N	2006	BL
SP632532	Litchborough	N	2009	JA
SP644566	Upper Stowe	N	2007	RD

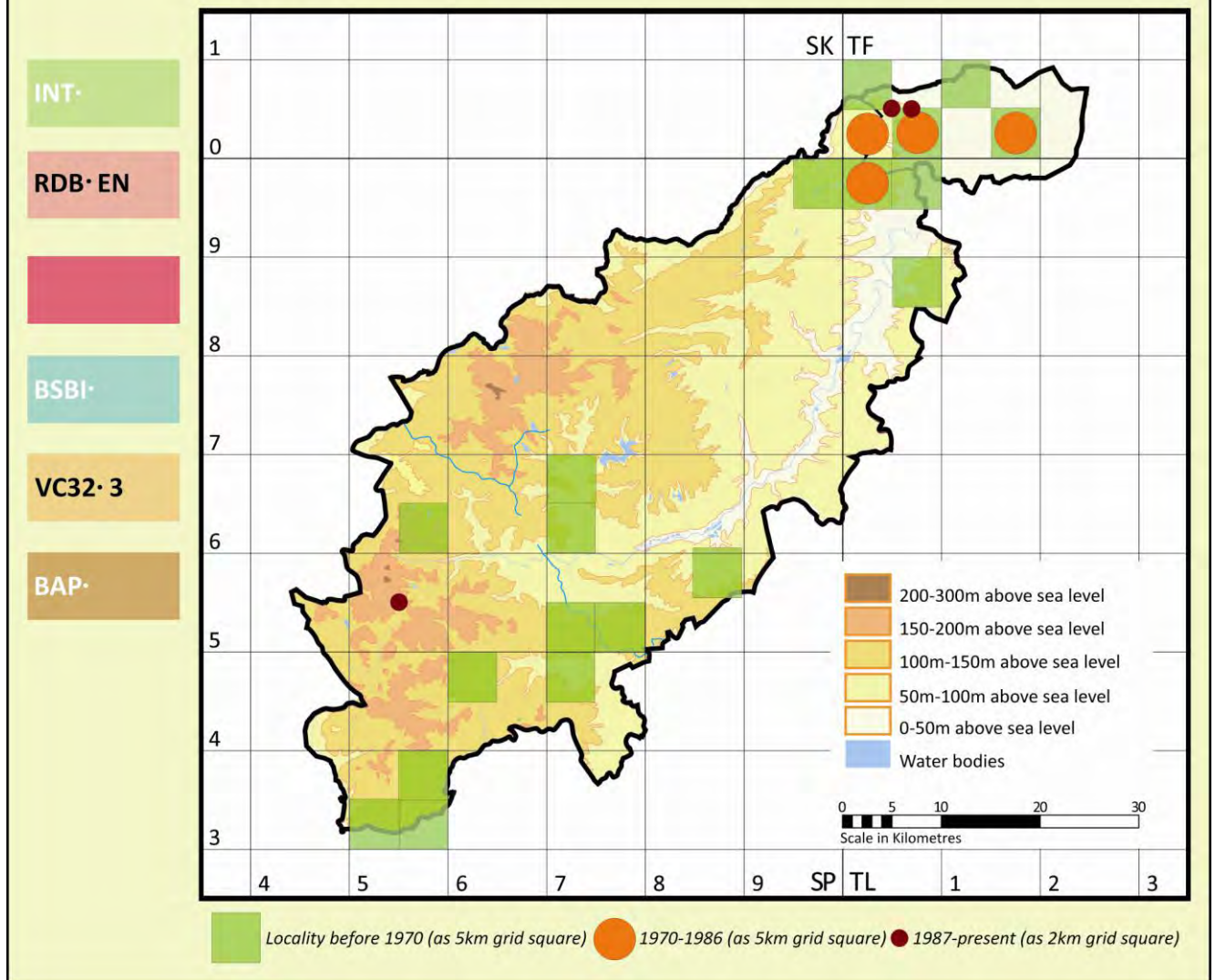
A species with a primarily western distribution, the sites in Northamptonshire are thought to be the most easterly occurrences of this plant north of London, other than garden escapes or deliberate planting. It was always a rare plant and there are only a few old records from across the vice-county. In the 17th century John Gerard describes as growing on every stone wall in Northampton, and although it was largely destroyed by the Great Fire of Northampton in 1675 it was still to be found in the town in 1877 although it probably disappeared shortly afterwards. It was known in Peterborough in the 18th century but had disappeared from there by the end of the 19th century. In the early 20th century it was plentiful on the walls of Canons Ashby House (still present in the first decade of the 21st century) and there are other old records from Chapel Brampton, Delapre Abbey, Dodford, Kingsthorpe, Maidford and Preston Capes. By the latter part of the 20th century its range had decreased and it was then confined to a small area in the south-west of the county, where it is now found on old stone walls at Canons Ashby, Eydon churchyard, and at Litchborough churchyard. In 2001 a quantity of

this species was found on a wall in Holcot and at Upper Stowe. This continued the eastward extension of the range of this rare species. As far as is known these are all records of wild plants.

Druce: Very local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Extremely rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Valeriana dentata (L.) | Polich

Narrow-fruited Cornsalad



Archaeophyte

An annual of arable fields on calcareous soils.

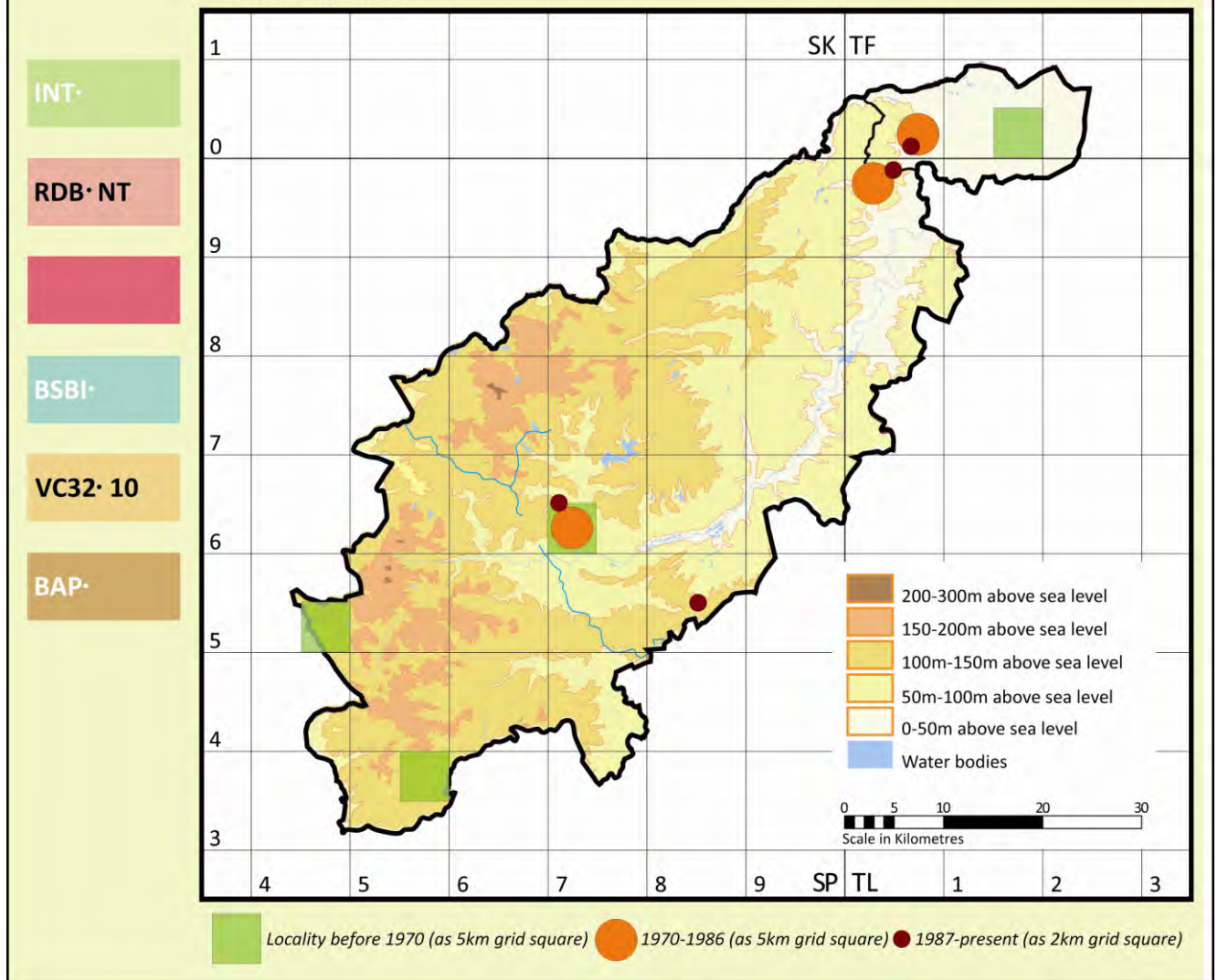
TF058047	Barnack, Ermine Street	S	2009	DB
TF063044	Burghley Park	S	2001	PP
SP5—5--	Church Charwelton	N	1987	PG

It is now confined to the area of the vice-county on the lighter soils over the oolitic limestone in the north. It was formerly less rare and more widely distributed but the last record in the south dates from 1987. The reductions are caused by the intensification of arable farming. It was more commonly seen in the Soke of Peterborough up to the 1980s.

Druce: Local, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare and probably decreasing, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.

Viola canina ssp. canina L.

Heath Dog-violet



Native

A perennial herb of dry, sandy heaths.

TL042995	Bedford Purlieus	S	SSSI/NNR	JF/JI
SP714640	Harlestone Firs	N		2005 GG
TF05-00-	Sacrewell Farm	S		1999 TW/SE
SP843555	Yardley Chase (MoD)	N	SSSI	1998 GG

There are only four early records: from Aston-le-Walls, Harlestone Firs, from heathland between Milton Park and Helpston and Thistle Moor Wood. It is still to be found at Harlestone Firs having been recorded a number of times up to the present. In 1956 it was discovered in the general area of Brackley, followed by records from Bedford Purlieus, Yardley Chase MoD where a large colony was discovered in 1998 and Sacrewell Farm & Country Centre (1999). It is never present in large numbers.

Druce: Rare, Gent & Wilson 1995: Very rare, Gent & Wilson 2013: Extremely rare.