

VC Annual Reports for 2019 for England and the Channel Isles

Rosemary Parslow	1b	<p>Isles of Scilly: With the new Flora having been published there has been something of a lull in recording. Mistakenly some people seemed to think there was no need to carry on sending in records so I have been encouraging them to continue submitting records. Unfortunately, I have not made as many visits to Scilly as I would like. Up until recently I have relied on getting paid work on the islands to supplement my recording trips there. But organisations such as NE having less involvement with Scilly those opportunities have almost dried up. Fortunately, a good friend Liz Askins who lives on Scilly has joined BSBI and has been taking an increasing part in recording so we now have someone on the Isles for the first time. During my visits I have been trying to fill in gaps in recording as well as checking on some of the particularly vulnerable plants such as coastal species. The increased storminess and sea level rise are clearly having an impact. Additionally, the earlier and earlier appearance of <i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i> (Least Adder's-tongue) is striking – could this indicate a response to global warming? With an archipelago of very small, low-lying islands perhaps such changes may be more obvious?</p>
Colin French	1	<p>There are now 2,259,536 flowering plant and fern records for Cornwall. An increase of 64k (18,133 for VC1 and 31,679 for VC2). The difference making up the 64K are records added to the database for previous years. 35 new taxa added to the Cornish List. Finally, I was not able to do much recording myself during 2019 and instead spent the whole year, 7 days a week, apart from holidays, writing the new Flora of Cornwall. This should be published in the summer of 2020.</p>
Ian Bennallick	2	<p>A busy year with 17 Botanical Cornwall Group field meetings organised all over Cornwall, early season meetings refound <i>Stellaria pallida</i> (Lesser Chickweed) in nearly all its old sites. As part of the ongoing recording of every monad in Cornwall for the New Flora (covering 2000-2020) several square-bashers finally visited the last of ALL the monads in Cornwall: there are 3,963 monads (whole or parts of monads). In 2019 we got another 235 monads over 199 spp. recorded since 1999 (2,697 in total are now over 199).</p> <p>No significant discoveries but many new or updated records have been made. <i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i> (Jersey Cudweed) continues to spread (now in 21 monads since first seen in 2014) and <i>Epilobium pedunculare</i> (Rockery Willowherb), now in 30 monads after 1999, appears to be replacing <i>E. brunnescens</i> (New Zealand Willowherb) in gravel tracks in plantations. One of the highlights was the discovery by David Pearman of copies of the 620 exquisite watercolours painted by Emily Stackhouse, of Trehane, nr Truro, from the period 1832 to 1858. These range from the earliest record of Babington's Leek, <i>Allium ampeloprasum</i> var. <i>babingtonii</i> to rare cornfield aliens, including several first county records.</p>
Roger Smith	3	<p>Notable native plants in South Devon include a large population of <i>Carex montana</i> (Soft-leaved Sedge) in a new site on Dartmoor found by Andy Byfield, <i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i> (Four-leaved Allseed) at Plymouth found by Tim Purches, <i>Verbascum lychnitis</i> (White Mullein) at Killerton found by Bob Hodgson and <i>Centaureum × ubsdellii</i> found during the DAB field meeting to Dawlish Warren. Twelve new aliens including <i>Brachypodium phoenicuroides</i> at Exmouth (see BSBI News) were also recorded.</p>

Stephen Parker & Simon Leach	5	<p>Another year concentrating mainly on improving coverage for Atlas 2020, we submitted more than 26,000 records to the BSBI database for South Somerset. We targeted under-recorded parts of the county, as well as key under-recorded habitats and species, such as unimproved neutral grassland and the undoubtedly declining <i>Anacamptis morio</i> (Green-winged Orchid). In contrast, <i>Lathraea squamaria</i> (Toothwort) is doing well, with targeted searches in 2019 re-finding many populations not recorded since 2000.</p> <p>Much recording has been undertaken by members of Somerset Rare Plants Group (SRPG), and we greatly appreciate their continuing endeavours to understand and document our flora. Both SRPG and the Somerset Botany Group are successfully attracting new members, including many botanically less-experienced people keen to develop their field skills. Local groups are flourishing and contribute massively to the overall recording effort. New VC records in 2019 included <i>Crepis biennis</i> (Rough Hawk's-beard), <i>Carex x boeninghausiana</i> (<i>C. paniculata x remota</i>), <i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> subsp. <i>pulchella</i> (an Early Marsh-orchid) and <i>Trifolium tomentosum</i> (Woolly Clover).</p> <p>We supported Plantlife's 'Colour in the Margins' project, aimed at conserving rare arable plants. A small team of volunteers continued to work on the county's herbarium in Taunton, supported by the South West Heritage Trust. Much good work has been done recently on critical taxa. With help from John Richards, we continued to add to our tally of dandelions (<i>Taraxacum</i> spp.), which now stands at 140 species, including several species new to science. One of these, <i>T. amicum</i>, translates as 'the Dandelion of Friends', commemorating both the BSBI's <i>Taraxacum</i> workshop here in 2016 – based at the Meeting House of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Taunton – and (quoting John Richards) "the friendly circle of botanists [in the SRPG] who were inspired ... to tackle the <i>Taraxacum</i> flora of their area".</p>
Helena Crouch	6	<p>In 2019, over 66,000 records were made in North Somerset, input to MapMate and sent to the BSBI: I inputted nearly 48,000 of those. Maps of species density per monad and tetrad were updated regularly on the SRPG website to focus our coverage of recording for Atlas 2020. All 2019 records have been input; validation is ongoing.</p> <p>A number of active groups, as well as many dedicated individuals, contributed records: Somerset Rare Plants Group (SRPG), Somerset Botany Group (SBG), Cam Valley Wildlife Group (CVWG), Bath Natural History Society (BNHS) and Bristol Naturalists' Society (BNS). Thousands of records were made on field meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRPG held 9 all-day field meetings in VC6 • SBG met weekly from April to September, with 15 surveys in VC6 • CVWG recorded on Wednesday evenings for 23 weeks over summer • BNS held 4 botanical field meetings in VC6 • BNHS made botanical records on 5 field meetings in VC6 • SRPG also held 3 indoor meetings early in 2019, and organised 2 well-attended field workshops, on sedges and aquatic plants. <p>I gave talks on aspects of the Somerset flora to 5 local organisations, ran a Duckweed workshop at the Scottish Botanists' Conference and did a talk on the West Galway BSBI meeting at the AEM. Progress with the Rare Plant Register</p>

		was slow in 2019. The RPR list is kept updated on the SRPG website , with over 200 species accounts written so far.
Robin Walls	9	<p>Extracts from the Dorset Flora Group AGM last November are: Notable new records: <i>Senecio inaequidens</i> (Narrow-leaved Ragwort), <i>Galium parisiense</i> (Wall Bedstraw), <i>Cuscuta campestris</i> (Yellow Dodder), <i>Lotus angustissimus</i> (Slender Bird's-foot-trefoil), <i>Ludwigia palustris</i> (Hampshire-purslane) and <i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> (Buttonweed).</p> <p>Numbers of records in the BSBI database are 275,126 post-2000 records (excluding duplicates). More recently, the Living Record total is 199,532 (at 27th Nov 2019) from the following sources: Dorset Flora Group 101,437; National Trust Purbeck 34,288; DERC 34,255; Living Record Team 10,363; BU Students 4,410 and other groups 14,779.</p>
Colin Pope	10	<p>2019 has been a busy year filling recording gaps on the Isle of Wight. All records for 2019 have been digitised and validated. Botany Group field meetings have been well attended (averaging 20 individuals per meeting) as has the annual indoor meeting (35 individuals). We hosted a weekend field meeting of the British Pteridological Society in May which was well received.</p> <p>It has been particularly heartening to be able to re-record two native species for which there were no vc 10 post 2000 records: <i>Juncus squarrosus</i> (Heath Rush) and <i>Hieracium calcaricola</i> and to re-find rare Island natives at sites where they have not been seen since 2000: <i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i> (Narrow Buckler-Fern), <i>Fumaria densiflora</i> (Dense-flowered Fumitory), <i>Moenchia erecta</i> (Upright Chickweed), <i>Silene uniflora</i> (Sea Champion), <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> (Cornflower), <i>Torilis arvensis</i> (Spreading Hedge-parsley) and <i>Alopecurus aequalis</i> (Orange Foxtail).</p>
Martin Rand	11	<p>South Hants: I diverted quite a lot of recording effort to chasing up taxa with hectad records between 1970 and 1999 but nothing for the hectad since. This had a low yield and was rather dispiriting (habitat loss / degradation), but I felt it was necessary. All expected 2019 records were digitised by the end of the year. Location-related validation was completed, and validation of rarities / isolated records / oddities was started. The Hampshire Notables list has been revised in the light of Atlas recording and other factors, and the latest version in an improved format is now available to download from the new Hants Plants web site currently under development.</p> <p>I ran a workshop on herbarium techniques and use of a herbarium jointly with the VC12 recorder at Hampshire County Museums Service; Atlas 2020 review sessions; a workshop on GPS and use of recording technology in the field; a 2-day sedge ID workshop; a 1-day grass ID workshop jointly with Andy Cross of BSBI / Hampshire Flora Group; and organised a visit to Portsmouth City Museum herbarium.</p> <p>I participated in various other group meetings, encouraged people to join me for Atlas recording trips and led a botanical walk for Wildlife Trust members. I gave talks at events organised by organisations like Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), and wrote plant reports and articles on ID recording for the Hampshire Flora Group newsletter. I continue to be a member of the Wildlife Trust Conservation and Science Committee and HBIC Steering Group.</p>

Tony Mundell	12	<p>North Hants: In 2019 I was out with my helpers for typically three days each week between March and early November. Some attention was diverted to trying to re-find old records of particular species where there was no post-2000 record for the whole 10 km square. In all 78 previously recorded plants were re-found, 291 were not re-found, and a further 19 could not be checked because of access. The re-find rate of 26% was rather poor, but it was worth doing for those extra 78 records, each one the only recent record for the whole hectad. However, I did find it a rather depressing exercise, seeing how habitats I had known over 20 years ago had deteriorated. We also made the level of recording more uniform across all tetrads. Omitting part-tetrads on the county borders, by the end of 2019 all tetrads have over 200 taxa recorded from 2000 onwards. Also, all tetrads wholly in VC12, except one, are now up to over 60% re-found or new from 2000 onwards. Eight tetrads now exceed 500 taxa found from 2000 onwards. At 10km scale, many hectads now exceed 1,000 taxa ever recorded.</p> <p>Our local Hampshire Flora Group is very active with many field meetings etc throughout the year. I led four of them in 2019. I also helped with 'square-bashing' for Atlas 2020 in Alderney. Validation of DDb records started cranking up towards the end of the year. The best finds in 2019 include a new colony of <i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i> (Narrow-leaved Helleborine) and some <i>Phelipanche purpurea</i> (Yarrow Broomrape).</p>
Geoffrey Kitchener & Sue Buckingham	15 & 16	<p>Kent Botany 2019 gives a full report on Kent botanical developments for the year. Finds included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Juncus ranarius</i> (Frog Rush), now restored to the Kent flora, discovered at Crossness (vc16); • <i>Juncus x surrejanus</i>, unrecorded in vc15 for over 50 years, appearing plentiful and overlooked at Hothfield; • <i>Myosotis x suzae</i>, discovered at Stodmarsh NNR (vc15), the first Kent record; • <i>Parapholis incurva</i> (Curved Hard-grass), re-found in its 1632 location at Margate (vc15); • <i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i> subsp. <i>australis</i> (Salsify), now recorded in both vice counties, previously overlooked as a subspecies; • <i>Verbena incompta</i> (Purpletop Vervain), an invasive plant in various parts of the world related to <i>Verbena bonariensis</i> (Argentinian Vervain), found in vc15. <p>We finished the year with over half a million records for 2010-19, of which some 81% were made by or reported to Kent Botanical Recording Group. The group programmed 15 field meetings during the season, focussing several on Low Weald areas which appeared under-recorded: these were rewarded by <i>Carex elongata</i> (Elongated Sedge), <i>Ranunculus arvensis</i> (Corn Buttercup) and <i>Ranunculus tripartitus</i> (Three-lobed Crowfoot) and <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> (Marsh Fern).</p> <p>We held a winter meeting to practise using John Poland's Field Key to Winter Twigs, a meeting with instruction on identification of willows and another concentrating on Salicornia (Glasswort) species. The latter was arranged at the request of the Wild Flower Society and attracted a large attendance. Records were added for some 270 previously unvisited monads so that monad coverage</p>

		(in the sense of at least one visit) was substantially complete. Validation for Atlas 2020 was started. Drafting the rare plant register reached Part Q/R and all earlier parts were refreshed online. In April, yet more of Francis Rose's missing and unpublished Flora of Kent was discovered; the online transcript has been developed further. Also now online is Alex Lockton's Flora and Vegetation of Hothfield Heath, produced in 2019. David Johnson's Wild Orchids of Kent was published, in which the recording group's contribution of mapping data is fully acknowledged.
Kenneth J Adams	18 & 19	<p>Our Essex recording team added 33,000 new monad records during the year, bringing our total database records to 827,000. The monads for which more than 100 records have been added post 2000 are shown on the map in green. All post 2005 data has been entered on MapMate, but we have a backlog of 2000-2005 records still at the paper stage.</p> <p>As in previous years recording sessions open to all comers have been held on 3-days a week in different parts of the county throughout the season. Unfortunately, our small team of fully competent elderly recorders has been decimated over the autumn/winter by cancer and bereavements etc. and checking will be slow this spring. County Recorder Ken Adams has given up running his up to 7 days of botanical I.D. courses a year for the FSC after 47 years, to concentrate on writing the 3rd Flora & Atlas of Essex plants. He will however continue to produce the 1,000 run Essex Botany twice a year with No: 10 published this January. An exhibit of historical accounts with monad maps showing how 16 invasive species have spread out from our major towns and ports since the 1970s was exhibited at the Wat Tyler Centre, Pitsea in December and will be available at the BSBI Regional Recorders' Workshop.</p>
Ian Denholm	20	<p>Ian Denholm (ID) assisted by Alla Mashanova (AM) led six one-day field visits by the Herts Flora Group to update plant lists for under-recorded hectads and to check on the status of uncommon species. AM additionally collated plant records from field meetings of the British Natural History Society. ID participated in several botanical surveys of Local Wildlife Sites and SSSIs commissioned by the Herts Environmental Record Centre and the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. All these events generated new plant records and included valuable training opportunities.</p> <p>Records continued to be digitised via iRecord or Recorder 6 but by the end of 2019 there were still records of relevance to the new Atlas awaiting transfer to the DDb. ID led a national BSBI meeting to Rothamsted Research that was greatly over-subscribed and will be repeated. ID, AM and Trevor James contributed to the botanical component of a State of Nature report for Herts scheduled for launch in early 2020.</p> <p>Botanical highlights included reappearance of <i>Orchis militaris</i> (Military Orchid) where it was last seen in 2016, and discovery of a new site for the locally rare <i>Viola canina</i> (Heath Dog-violet). ID (with Richard Bateman) revisited historical sites for rare orchids, failing to relocate <i>Epipactis leptochila</i> (Narrow-lipped Helleborine) and <i>Herminium monorchis</i> (Musk Orchid) for the county and noting an alarming decline in sites for <i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i> (Green-flowered Helleborine). More positively, <i>Epipactis palustris</i> (Marsh Helleborine) is still present in appreciable numbers at its only recent site in Herts.</p>

Mark Spencer	21	<p>Middlesex: 2019 has largely consisted of preparing large datasets for submission to our LRC, Greenspace for Greater London and the BSBI DDb. These data have consisted of 'historic' records, most pre 1990 from various literature sources and the London Natural History Society's botany card index archive. A lot of these data require validation, doing this is going to take a very long time! The dataset compilation has (obviously) been for Atlas 2020 as well as the next flora of the London area which I will start writing in 2020. In my joint role as BSBI vc 21 and LNHS vascular plant recorder I have undertaken various recording events across London and have supported a local community initiative to save an important urban grassland, Warren Farm, from being developed. Unfortunately, we have not had any 'exciting' botanical finds in the vice-county this year.</p>
David Morris	23	<p>The last season of Atlas 2020 very much dominated my mind and the activities of local botanists in Oxfordshire in 2019. Many of the nice finds were documented on my Oxfordshire Botany blog; for instance, we had a few county resurrections such as <i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i> (Bog Pondweed). However, my abiding memory of the 2019 will be completing the verification of the roughly 300,000 records made since 2000. Oxfordshire can be pleased with its Atlas 2020 dataset, especially considering the relatively small number of recorders and how late we started recording for Atlas. In spite of their exertions for Atlas, many local recorders enjoyed the recording and so we will be continuing in a similar vein into 2020 and beyond.</p>
Bob Ellis	27	<p>Norfolk Flora Group held 29 field meetings and 3 workshops (Conifers, Brambles, Dryopteris) across the two vice-counties. 11 of the field meetings were held in vc27. 10,299 records were collected and entered into MapMate for vc27. This is fewer than the 18,737 in 2018 largely because of more precisely targeted recording as well as an even greater emphasis on vc28 with the Flora Group.</p> <p>Perhaps the most satisfying result of targeted recording was the refinding of <i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i> (Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage) in hectad TG23 in and around the Gunton Park Estate and perhaps the most surprising find was <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i> (Marsh Clubmoss) at Horsford Heath in TG11 where the last dated record was in 1888. <i>Geranium columbinum</i> (Long-stalked Crane's-bill) was found in two new localities within its East Norfolk heartland in TG03 and TG13 but it has yet to be refound in any of its south-east Norfolk localities in TM19, TM39 and TG30. <i>Lathyrus nissolia</i> (Grass Vetchling) was found in TM18 new to the hectad and was abundant on an airfield and <i>Medicago minima</i> (Bur Medick) was new to TG10, though possibly just a casual. It was good to revisit <i>Crithmum maritimum</i> (Rock Samphire) at Scratby where it has been for 11 years now. Unusual finds during the year were <i>Calandrinia ciliata</i> (Red-maids) on imported soil at the edge of an old canal which is being restored, <i>Euphorbia (Chamaesyce) prostrata</i> (Prostrate Sandmat) in pavement cracks in Norwich and perhaps unwelcome, <i>Ludwigia grandiflora (hexapetala)</i> (Uruguayan Primrose-willow) in a pond near Paston.</p>
Jonathan Shanklin	29	<p>Without doubt the highlight of the year for Cambridgeshire has been the publication of Alan Leslie's Flora of Cambridgeshire. Another major event was the retirement of Alan as VCR.</p> <p>All hectads and tetrads in the county achieved the desired target of at least 75% of species known from the squares being recorded post 1999 with at least</p>

		<p>120 species recorded from each tetrad. The completion of coverage in vc29 by late summer allowed time for visits to improve coverage in the vc31 part of administrative Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>The county RPR and RPCC were updated, with several additional species being noted in significant decline in the county; a few species were deleted from the lists following re-finds.</p> <p>Thorough surveys were made of several sites – RSPB Fen Drayton, Kingfishers Bridge, the Furze Hills [with <i>Dianthus deltoides</i> (Maiden Pink) found in flower], Magdalene College and Robinson College. Recording for the Fenland Flora project wound down, but made many records in the north of the county.</p> <p>Several <i>Taraxacum</i> species were added to the county list following the BSBI <i>Taraxacum</i> workshop. There were several new alien species found, and <i>Campanula rapunculoides</i> (Rampion Bellflower) was found on a Cambridge common. Two BSBI meetings visited the county and there were eight Cambridgeshire Flora Group meetings. In addition, the Cambridge Natural History Society field meetings invariably included botanical recording. A county newsletter circulated news, meeting reports and excursion plans to the local community.</p>
John Wakely	30	<p>2019 was spent searching for remaining ‘missing’ taxa not found since 1999 in Bedfordshire. Success was limited, largely due to factors previously noted. Seven field trips were held during the season. The county RPR update is near completion, providing a focus for activity in 2020. NCRs: <i>Tragopogon x mirabilis</i> (<i>T. porrifolius x pratensis</i>) and <i>Sorbus croceocarpa</i> (Orange Whitebeam) which was naturalised/self-sown.</p>
Alyson Freeman	32	<p>Atlas 2020 recording continued apace in 2019, targeting tetrads with few or no records in Northants. Quite a few records for previous years were also gathered in, resulting in excellent coverage for the vice-county and all targets achieved. It was very helpful to have some recorders sending in records on Excel spreadsheets. Atlas 2020 digitisation and validation: the main bulk of the records were uploaded by the end of 2019, with just a few outstanding. Validation had started but still plenty to do.</p> <p>Local initiatives: Field meetings of the Northamptonshire Flora Group were held throughout the year. In January we trialled Poland’s Field Key to Winter Twigs at Southey Wood. Between March and July, we held 7 full day field meetings, concentrating on poorly recorded villages. A few of us attended Bioblitzes at Yarwell Quarry in April and in June. We welcomed several new members to the group, and the Facebook page showed plenty of activity. I completed my 6th year as a tutor on the Identiplant course, while Brian Laney led a wild flower walk at Irchester Country Park in July and delivered talks at the Northamptonshire Biological Recording Conference and for the Rutland NHS.</p> <p>We were excited to find <i>Equisetum variegatum</i> (Variegated Horsetail) (NCR) and <i>Cerastium pumilum</i> (Dwarf Mouse-ear). <i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i> (Jersey Cudweed) has reappeared in several locations after 30 years’ absence, while <i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i> (Four-leaved Allseed) has proved persistent in the middle of Peterborough.</p>
Christopher Dixon	33	<p>A total of 27,195 records were collected in East Gloucestershire during 2019, spread quite evenly across the recording season. Nearly 12,000 of the records</p>

		<p>from 2019 (as well as similar numbers of records from recent years) were validated before the year's end. As in previous years, a large proportion of the recording was carried out under the aegis of the Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society; the most prolific recorders were John S. Rees, Mark & Clare Kitchen, Clive M. Lovatt and Christopher J. Dixon, who were together responsible for over 95% of the vice-county's records. Deliberate efforts were made to survey areas that had not been recently visited in order to improve our geographical coverage for Atlas 2020. A total of 235 monads received more than 30 records over the year, which equates to more than 13% of the vice-county's area.</p> <p>Notable finds included the discovery of <i>Dittrichia graveolens</i> (Stinking Fleabane) by Paul Stanley at two sites along the M5, mirroring the species' distribution along other UK motorways, and a population of <i>Scutellaria altissima</i> (Somerset Skullcap) in a field margin, over 50 km from its nearest known occurrence; these two were among 30 species recorded in the vice-county for the first time.</p>
Clive M Lovatt	34	<p>The Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society held eight Plant Group field meetings wholly or partly in West Gloucestershire whilst the Bristol Naturalists' Society held five field meetings and three indoors. Attendance was usually about eight. Two BioBlitzes were attended and two invited surveys were completed. GNS publishes the annual list of worthy Gloucestershire plant records, written by Clare and Mark Kitchen, the previous BSBI recorders, and the undersigned.</p> <p>The 2019 list has 20 new VC records, mostly garden escapes but including two Euphrasia hybrids kindly determined by the BSBI referee, Chris Metherell, one being only previously known in VC6. The BNS Bulletin (10 issues) includes reports of their meetings, new plant records, and notes on old botanists. VC34 had another record-breaking year in 2019 with about 35,000 records added to the BSBI database, mainly from three sources. Notable was the re-appearance west of Severn of <i>Limonium vulgare</i> (Common Sea-lavender). Over 10,000 accumulated records came from occasional recorders wanting to make a mark on Atlas2020. We worked with neighbouring recorders to eliminate some boundary misallocations. Whilst filling some of the white areas in the coverage map below, and keeping busy the BSBI referees for Cotoneaster, Hieracium and Euphrasia, we now intend to work on our own projects held in abeyance in the run-up to Atlas2020. I have 100 pages of typescript for the Historical Flora of the Avon Gorge and a rare plant register for the county is much needed.</p>
John Walton	38	<p>Warwickshire validation is up-to-date, and all records have been sent in for Atlas 2020. We participated in the New Year Plant Hunt with over twenty people attending, we have organized a Field Meeting for 2020 for our county. During 2019 we held 17 local recording meetings and run an indoor meeting on Conifer Identification.</p>
John Hawksford	39	<p>All Staffordshire records received have been entered into MapMate and, hence, the BSBI Distribution database. There were 13,040 of them. 19 individuals provided substantial lists; 11 shorter ones; and 48 a few records. There are 49 hectads or part-hectads in the vice county. Final Atlas2020 totals for them and their individual tetrads reached satisfactory values: after targeting those few that had previously fallen short of 75% targets. The vast majority of validation has been completed for the priority categories: boundary matches, singleton anomalies, rarities and altitude ranges.</p>

		<p>The Annual Plant Report has been prepared and posted on the Staffordshire page of the BSBI website. Plant identification and other queries received in e-mails and the post have all been answered in detail. Detailed comparisons and collaboration have been undertaken with the work of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Survey Teams and Staffordshire Ecological Record.</p> <p><i>Carduus acanthoides</i> (Broad-winged Thistle) was found on waste ground in Lichfield, SK1210; <i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i> (Grass-poly) on Jubilee Wetlands, SP2099; and <i>Rosa micrantha</i> (Small-flowered Sweet-briar) at Stone Cross, SP0194.</p>
Sarah Lambert	53	<p>South Lincolnshire: By the end of 2019, we had exceeded our revised target of ten well-recorded tetrads per hectad, and had achieved re-find levels over 75% in 60% of hectads, with another 16% achieving 70 to 74%. A total of just under 40,000 records were made and over 65,000 records were entered into the BSBI Db. Digitisation of records has progressed well, though some older data were outstanding at the end of the year including half of the Lincolnshire LWS survey data covering the period 2008-2010.</p> <p>The South Lincolnshire Flora Group has 55 people on the mailing list and 62 members of the Facebook group. We held nine field meetings and a successful NYPH in Sleaford, as well as a joint NYPH in Stamford with the Northamptonshire Flora Group. We also held a winter social and planning meeting in March. The SLFG has continued to support the 'Love Lincs Plants' project and collected over 220 herbarium specimens in 2019. We helped to organise and run a Bramble Workshop for the project, which was led by Alex Prendergast. The group has now decided to start work on a Rare Plants register for VC53 and to continue monad recording for a new 'Flora of Lincolnshire' to be published with the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union.</p> <p>In August 2019 Malcolm Pool found <i>Eryngium campestre</i> (Field Eryngo) on a verge of the A1 just north of Grantham. Reports of field trips and other interesting finds are publicised in our newsletter which is circulated to all members.</p>
Geoffrey Hall	55	<p>Leicestershire: Our aim for the last five years has been to produce the minimum required for the Atlas - five well-recorded tetrads per hectad - which we finally achieved on 28th December, following a visit to Ryhall (TF01F). We didn't make 75% coverage in 7/40 hectads, although all are more than 71% well-recorded. Record digitisation has been completed with 35,861 records added for 2019, and an additional 37,721 pre-2019 records. The total added since 2000 is 386,214 records. Validation is proceeding and mostly concerns records on boundaries of adjoining VCs. The RPR needs to be updated, and we probably have enough data to produce a new one in the near future.</p> <p>We organised a New Year Plant Hunt and six meetings for local botanists, participated in the Leicester City Bioblitz, gave talks and presented posters at the Leicestershire Recorders Conference, and gave talks to local natural history societies. We organised a four-day meeting in Rutland to improve coverage and invited local naturalists to record with us. Steve and Geoffrey were invited to join the Advisory Group of the Leicestershire & Rutland Environmental Records Centre, and Geoffrey has joined the Conservation Committee of the Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust, of which Steve is already a member. We</p>

		<p>have made some contacts with local farmers and landowners, and have surveyed private land for some of them.</p> <p>The most significant finds are <i>Carex x haussknechtii</i> (2nd British record), <i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i> ssp. <i>rotundifolia</i> (Round-leaved Wintergreen: FCR) and <i>Sison segetum</i> (Corn Parsley, last record 1967).</p>
Mark Woods	56	<p>Another busy year in Nottinghamshire with more than 50,000 records submitted. No targets were set, but sufficient data was gathered to ensure thorough coverage of all hectads in the county. Information on the database has been checked and it is hoped that validation is near completion. Important records have been checked and duplicates examined.</p> <p>Other Activities: Third edition of the RPR is planned for 2020. Field data is ready for updating the spreadsheet and the PDF document. 2013 checklist for Nottinghamshire is being updated and is based on the Atlas work G. Coles and S. Matthews have been carrying out historical research to identify first records and the history of botanical surveying in Nottinghamshire. K. Widdowson has been carrying out taxonomic research and his work will soon be put on the county web-page. Species re-introduction work continues apace with heathland species being targeted for re-introduction to former sites. Steered by Species reintroduction Forum for Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>New County Records: <i>Bistorta affinis</i>, 6 October 2019, SK564579, Lindhurst Track; <i>Buplerum rotundifolium</i>, 10 June 2018, SK61263084 Keyworth; <i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>, 7 April 2019, SK550415 Bobbers Mill; <i>Cyrtomium fortune</i>, 17 Jul 2019, SK634456 Lambley Lane Stream; <i>Euphorbia dulcis</i> L., 6 May 2019, SK547391. University of Nottingham; <i>Gastridium ventricosum</i>, 4 August 2019, SK771894, Saundby; <i>Lolium x boucheanum</i>, 17 July 2019, SK624441, Lambley Field; <i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i> 27 May 2019, SK530367, Beeston Bus Station; <i>Ruta graveolens</i>, 21 September 2019, SK640351, Cotgrave; <i>Sisymbrium irio</i>, 9 March 2019, SK793538, Newark-on-Trent Lock.</p>
Dr Alan Willmot	57	<p>Derbyshire started the final recording season for Atlas 2020 with 10 hectads out of its 42 at less than the 75% refind rate, so we targeted these over the year. Our efforts were quite successful here as we managed to raise all but one hectad to the magic 75% refind rate. This was SK14 which was where our long-time county recorder Miss Hollick used to live and botanise. She had covered her home patch exhaustively and we were not able to refind many of her rarities, especially those she recorded as growing in her garden! By the end of the year virtually all records were digitised, and similarly virtually all records flagged up for validation had been looked at.</p> <p>Our local group continues to meet and attract new members with the Atlas 2020 project forming a very useful focus for us to work round. Conversely the absence of a new national project, and a substitute local one, has left many of the group asking what we are to do next. We continued to record new species for the vice-county, the vast majority of which were neophytes probably overlooked earlier as not worth recording. There were, however, a couple of species which may be genuine recent additions to the county, though still neophytes. These included <i>Cardamine occulta</i> (Asian Bittercress) and <i>Galium murale</i> (Small Cleavers).</p>

Rohan Lewis	61	<p>Atlas 2020 recording in SE Yorkshire aimed for a minimum of 20% coverage, sampling all significant habitats. We attempted to include, in each hectad, one tetrad known to be species-rich, one tetrad with good variety of habitat, one tetrad with good access, one tetrad with few previous records and one tetrad with an unusual plant assemblage. Surveying of the 186 tetrads thus selected (average 5 per hectad) was completed in 2019, some during the six organised field meetings and others through the efforts of individual members of the East Yorkshire Botany Group. Reports on the field meetings are on the vc61 website. The vc recorders are members of the East Riding Local Wildlife Sites Panel, and have been supplying records to support the local authority's ecologist in progressing candidate Local Wildlife Sites.</p>
David Barlow	62	<p>It has been a difficult year for me as recorder of NE Yorkshire as my very experienced and knowledgeable co-recorder Vincent Jones has suffered from Alzheimer's. Despite this I did manage to fill in some tetrads which had no records at all. However, at the end of the year with the excellent help and hard work from members of the North East Yorkshire Botany Group we managed to have at least some records in all but 29 tetrads out of some 900. Overall, with records from iRecord we managed some 37K records in 2019. All the records from 2019 were uploaded to the BSBI database before the deadline, even though I still received records on the 31st December.</p> <p>During the year I developed a Facebook group for the North East Yorkshire Botany Group plus anyone else interested in botany in VC62. At the time of writing we have 115 members. We are at present finalising our 2020 field meetings where we will hold at least one joint one with the YNU (Yorkshire Naturalists Union).</p> <p>Three notable finds during 2019 were. <i>Iris orientalis</i>. NCR <i>Mentha cervina</i> NCR <i>Euphorbia paralias</i> NCR and first for Yorkshire.</p> <p>My task in 2020 is to update and check the existing RPR and to add resources and more material to the VC62 page on the BSBI web site.</p>
Louise Hill and Kay McDowell	63	<p>SW Yorkshire: We had a couple of successful joint meetings with Saddleworth Nats. I spent more time recording in previously unrecorded areas including hectad SD90 south west of Skipton with various helpers. Jonathan Shanklin and I found <i>Polystichum setiferum</i> 'Divisilobum group' (a Soft Shield-fern) at Thornton-in-Craven in July 2019. Mike Canaway found <i>Polypodium interjectum</i> (Intermediate Polypody) in the Greenfields area in February this year.</p>
Linda Robinson	65	<p>2019 was spent trying to update older records in NW Yorkshire. On trip up Mickle Fell on the Pennines, <i>Euphrasia ostenfeldii</i> was found by Brian Burrow and David Tennant. The previous day it had been found over the border on Little Fell, Cumbria by John O'Reilly, these were first records for the Northern Pennines and a first for v.c.65. Other notable species were <i>Catabrosa aquatica</i> (Whorl-grass), <i>Dryopteris expansa</i> (Northern Buckler-fern), <i>Epilobium anagallidifolium</i> (Alpine Willowherb) and <i>Festuca rubra</i> ssp. <i>arctica</i> (a Red Fescue).</p> <p>Natural England contacted us requesting help in surveying the <i>Neotinea ustulata</i> (Burnt Orchid) population on Low Wanless Farm, Wensleydale. We surveyed four fields and found a total of 76 spikes, not up to the 300+ that</p>

		<p>Mike Porter and Michael Foley found in the 1980's, but a good population nonetheless considering its severe decline and extinction elsewhere in the v.c.</p> <p>We were contacted by Andrew Jones and Fred Rumsey who had been looking at <i>Myosotis ramosissima</i> (<i>Early Forget-me-not</i>) specimens in various Herbaria. They identified two specimens as <i>Myosotis stricta</i>, not previously recorded in Britain. One specimen from Sandscale in Cumbria, the other from West Burton, v.c.65. After thoroughly searching, slightly late in the season we came up with nothing but Pete Burton in Cumbria found a small population at Sandscale. A good new addition to the British Flora. We will be searching again this year.</p> <p>After a dramatic decline in the Upper Teesdale assemblage, Dr. Margaret Bradshaw has formed a Conservation Trust working with Natural England to try and reverse this. Details on Facebook Page 'Friends of Teesdale Flora' and at https://teesdaleflora.home.blog.</p>
Keith Robson	66	<p>Having taken over as County Durham recorder only at the start of the last year of Atlas recording it has been a challenge. Fortunately, a great deal had been done, largely thanks to the previous county recorder, John Durkin. In 2019 I was committed to finishing off some survey work within the county on the A19 grass verges but this produced many useful records. There are only a small number of active recorders in VC66 and many of them have been working on various projects in the western dales, particularly Upper Teesdale. This meant that these areas have been well covered so it has been the urban east coast and some of the central arable floodplains that needed to be concentrated on in 2019. Durham Botany Group was formed late 2018 and has grown to over 150 members. It has an active Facebook page, and now a website: www.durhambotany.org.uk.</p> <p>Notable Records in 2019 <i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i> (Four-leaved Allseed) – Cobbled street in Darlington NCR (det. John Mason), <i>Rorippa islandica</i> (Northern Yellow-cress) in a disused quarry in upper Teesdale, 2nd county record (det. Tim Rich), <i>Viscum album</i> (Mistletoe) in 2016 the first county record since 1971, with another two records in 2018 and two more in 2019.</p>
John Richards	67	<p>There was a significant push in South Northumberland to record monads in areas of the county with poor recent coverage. All 2019 records have now been digitised and thanks are particularly due to Megs Rogers and her team of volunteers for this achievement. Significant data sets from the Kielder and Wark forests and from the MOD ranges have also been entered. Some validation work has been completed, including iRecord data sets until June 2019, but the final sets remain. A flurry of new records resulting from 2020 Atlas work has encouraged the updating of our RPR. This has now been completed in draft, but needs to be indexed. It is hoped that it may result in a publication as well as an on-line presence in the Flora North-east website.</p> <p>Amongst exciting new finds in south Northumberland was a new stand of well over 500 <i>Crepis mollis</i> (Northern Hawk's-beard), possibly containing half the plants in the country. The rediscovery of a site with many tens of thousands of <i>Paris</i>, with <i>Trollius</i> (Globeflower), <i>Neottia nidus-avis</i> (Bird's-nest Orchid) and <i>Rubus saxatilis</i> (Stone Bramble) also stays in the mind. Two upland specials were <i>Cochlearia pyrenaica</i> subsp. <i>alpina</i> (NCR) and the second record for <i>Salix caprea</i> subsp. <i>sphacelata</i>. Neither <i>Valerianella carinata</i> (Keeled-fruited</p>

		<p>Cornsalad) nor <i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i> (Bird's-foot) had been recorded for two centuries, but the most exciting southern invader is <i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i> (Four-leaved Allseed) colonising urban streets in North Shields. <i>Lamium hybridum</i> (Cut-leaved Dead-nettle) and <i>Lactuca serriola</i> (Prickly Lettuce) are also being found with increasing regularity. Nevertheless, pride of place might go to a new record for the UK, <i>Vicia dumetorum</i> at the Low Hauxley Nature Reserve.</p>
Chris Metherell	68	<p>Nothing particularly astounding to report in North Northumberland. We continued to track down Pre-2000 records and have finally achieved a better than 87% refind rate. We have covered virtually the whole VC at tetrad level over the last few years.</p>
Mike Porter	69	<p>The final year of Atlas recording saw our Westmorland recorders - teams and individuals - working furiously to complete coverage of the county of Cumbria... as far as humanly possible! Problems arose inevitably in that in almost every case the last remaining pockets of 'unsurveyed' land were inaccessible upland moors and mountains, involving long walks in over rough ground, and often with long drives even to get near them. Such days usually produced few records, but at least "got dots on the map".</p> <p>The prodigious amount of work done by our record man, Phill Brown, both in recording and entering everyone's records, should be noted. Many of our records came from a well-attended series of 7 field meetings organised for the Flora of Cumbria Recording Group and we also contributed our collective expertise to field meetings held by the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre. We encouraged interest in plants with our Cumbria Botany Facebook site (461 members) and treated BSBI members to the delights of the sedges of Roudsea Wood – in continuous heavy rain! Work on updating the RPR and the county flora was discussed but had to be postponed until after the field work for Atlas.</p> <p>The best records were a small number of plants of <i>Myosotis stricta</i> (Small-flowered Forget-me-not) found at Sandscale Haws following the correction of the re-determination of a 1914 record(!), a thriving patch of <i>Myosurus minimus</i> (Mousetail) and a new site for the declining <i>Eleocharis mamillata</i> subsp. <i>austriaca</i> (Northern Spike-rush) in a remote abandoned quarry.</p>
Anne Haden	113a	<p>It has been another busy year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the monads on Jersey were visited and well recorded. • A total of six new records were made for the island including <i>Plantago afra</i> (Glandular Plantain) and <i>Ehrharta erecta</i> (Upright Chickweed). • One area that had not been recorded before is the airport and thanks to one of the firemen a trip round the perimeter of the of the airfield some interesting plants were recorded such a large population of <i>Kickxia elatine</i> (Sharp-leaved Fluellen). • The 2 squares for NPMS continued to be recorded. • The Botany Section of the Societe Jersiaise went on fortnightly outings, including two sites not visited before. • A visit from the Wildflower Society yielded some interesting records. • Jersey is updating its Wildlife Law and the Botany Section advised on the status of the 67 protected plants on the island. Also, the Section took part in a campaign to improve roadside and verge cutting known locally as 'branchage' and is undertaken by landowners.

Helen Litchfield	113b	Guernsey: Working in conjunction with the Botany Section of La Société Guernesiaise our almost weekly expeditions have been scrupulously recorded and submitted. Towards the end of the year, I was pleased to be asked to assist in surveying Areas of Biodiversity Importance. This gave us access to several new areas of land. However, as surveying didn't start until October it is assumed that many plants have been unrecorded and agreement was secured to re-survey some areas in spring. 2020 will be another busy year for the Botany group. The island welcomed Chris Packham in May as part of a Pollinator Project initiative and we were delighted that he subsequently 'tweeted' photographs of our fabulous Orchid Fields in full bloom to his thousands of followers. Building on the work of previous botanists, our 'Check List of Guernsey Plants' was digitalised and a button added to La Société Guernesiaise Website Botany page so that this important data can be accessed by everyone at the click of a button. We have included on the same spreadsheet details of whether these plants are held in our two herbariums and where.
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