

## **VC 87 West Perth – A most unexpected find!**

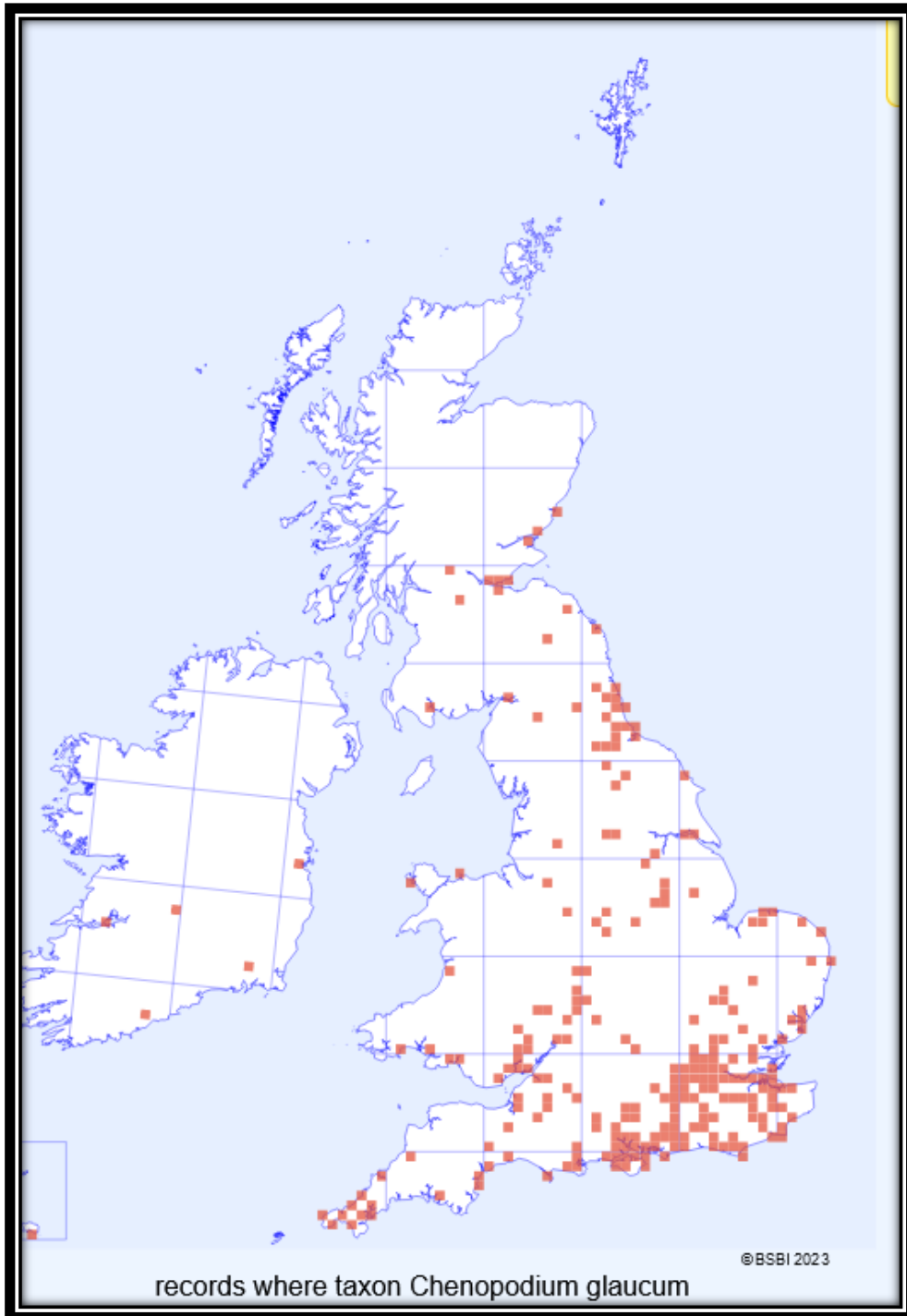
***Chenopodium glaucum*, now *Oxybasis glauca* (Oak-leaved Goosefoot)**

**Matt Harding and Liz Lavery**

While on his way to post a letter in the village of Thornhill, Matt noticed some young plants of a strange Goosefoot growing at the base of a bollard on the pavement on Main Street. Not fruiting on 18 July 2023, he collected some and sent it off to John Ackeroyd, BSBI referee for Amaranthaceae - *Atriplex* and *Chenopodium*. John confirmed it was *Chenopodium glaucum* (Oak-leaved Goosefoot). The oak shaped leaves are obvious in the accompanying photos. Sadly when Matt came back to collect some ripe fruits street cleaners had obliterated all signs of the plants.

This fleeting record is a first for our vice-county. According to the BSBI database *Chenopodium glaucum* has only been recorded 3 times in Scotland since 2000: it is Nationally Scarce and listed as Vulnerable. Stace describes it as an archaeophyte, an annual of waste places on rich soils often near the sea, occurring mostly in South and Eastern England. Atlas 2020 suggests it is becoming commoner after declining last century. How did this species appear on the main street in the wee village of Thornhill miles from the sea!

I was lucky enough to find *Chenopodium glaucum* after much searching on the Eden Estuary SSSI, while carrying out site condition monitoring for NatureScot in 2004. It was growing on the sandy foreshore, also in a very vulnerable position easily swept away by fierce winter storms. Yet the seeds had managed to survive. However on checking my record does not seem to have reached the BSBI database. I must follow this up.



The distribution of *Chenopodium glaucum* - *Oxybasis glauca*  
BSBI Database, 2023



***Chenopodium glaucum* (*Oxybasis glauca*) – Oak-leaved Goosefoot, VC87**