

ATLAS 2020 – RECAP & UPDATE

Jim McIntosh
BSBI Scottish Officer

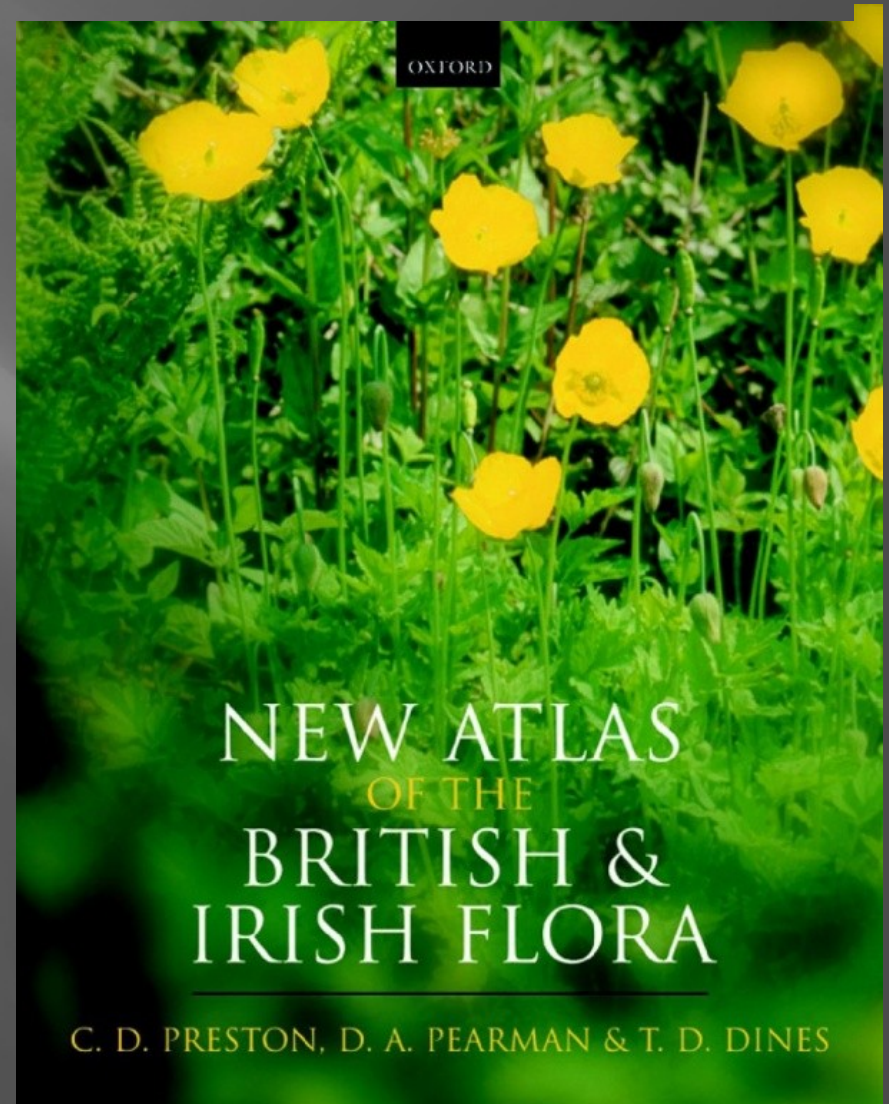


Atlas 2020: Recap

- Third atlas of the British & Irish flora
- Systematic recording at tetrad precision or better across GB and Ireland
- Updated distribution maps for native and introduced taxa in the wild

Will try to answer:-

- How has our flora changed over the past 20 years? And
- why has our flora changed?



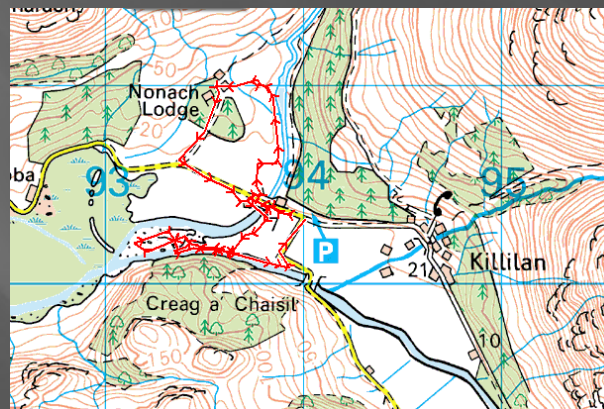
Atlas 2020: Recording Aim

To record a comprehensive list of taxa *in the wild* in every 10 x 10km square (hectad) in Britain & Ireland.

By sampling 2 x 2km squares (tetrads) - or better.

Need

- To sample all the main habitats present in the square,
- revisit any known hotspots,
- And visit all lowland squares twice - in different seasons - spring & summer, summer & autumn, spring & autumn (but not upland or remote squares where not worth the effort)



Atlas 2020: Taxonomic Scope

- All vascular plants **and** stonewort species



- including all alien species (So like Atlas 2000)
- Records for hybrids, critical/difficult taxa will be accepted & positively encouraged but recording critical species is *not* compulsory you will be relieved to learn!

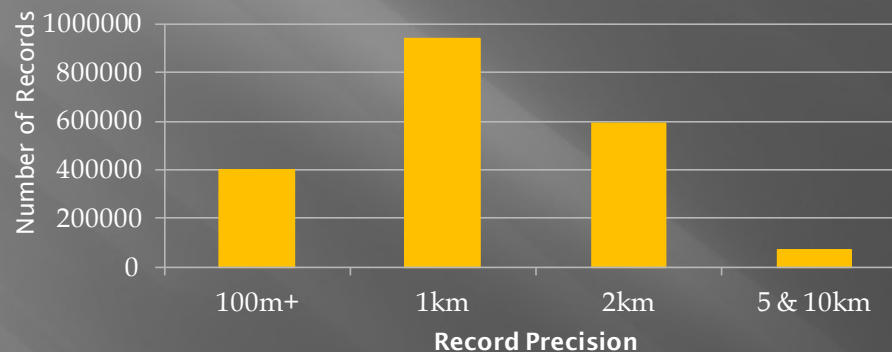
Atlas 2020: 'the wild'

- Everything up to boundary of private gardens include anything planted outside them, e.g. street trees.
- Everything in woods, plantations and hedgerows.
- Anything growing wild and naturalised in public gardens & parks - including private estates.
- Ignoring cultivated crops other than arable weeds.

¹ There is detailed description on the Atlas 2020 webpage entitled: "**Where and What do we Record?**"

Atlas 2020: Resolution

- A minimum sample of 5 tetrads per full hectad or *pro rata*.
- However majority of Atlas 2020 recording is at monad resolution in Scotland:-



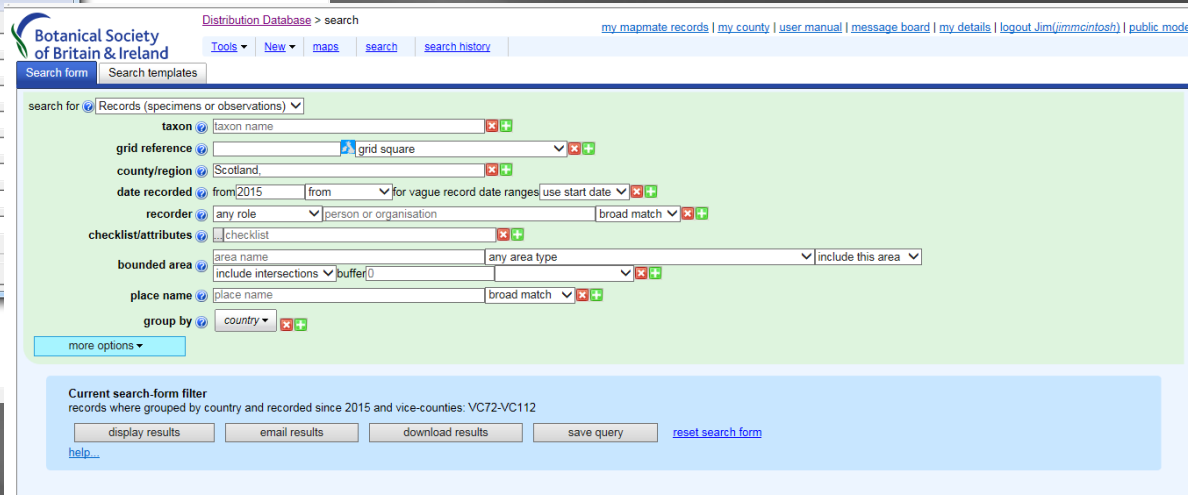
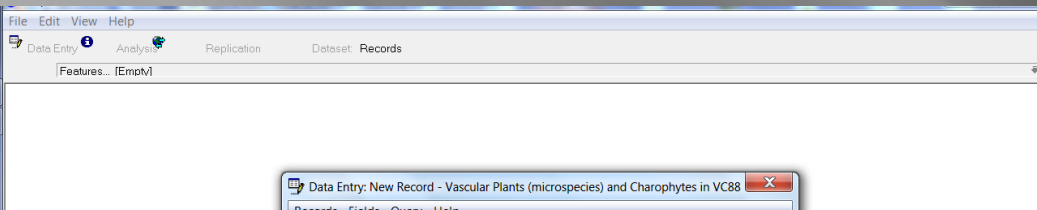
Resolution of all 2 million 2000+ Scottish Records as at April 2016

- And the equivalent is 16 monads per full hectad
- All nationally and locally rare/scarce/threatened or otherwise notable species should be recorded at ≤ 100 m resolution

Atlas 2020: Digitisation

We ask Recorders to:

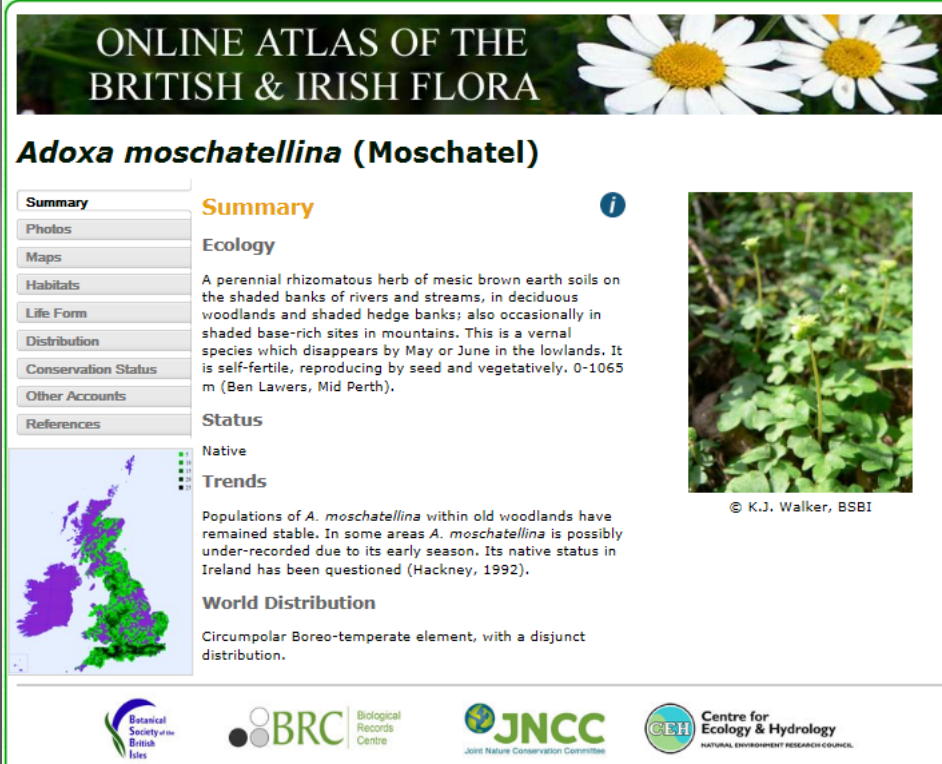
- digitise and upload their data to DDb - little & often preferably.
- verify their records in the DDb – but we will help with automated systems as far as possible.



Atlas 2020: Outputs

Unlike previous atlases we plan to:

- Provide maps online
- Produce interactive maps that can display frequency and distribution at a variety of scales
- Produce maps for taxa not previously covered such as infraspecific taxa, rare aliens, hybrids, etc.
- Produce interpreted outputs e.g. Scottish Red List, a new GB Red List and a report summarising the state of Britain and Ireland's plants

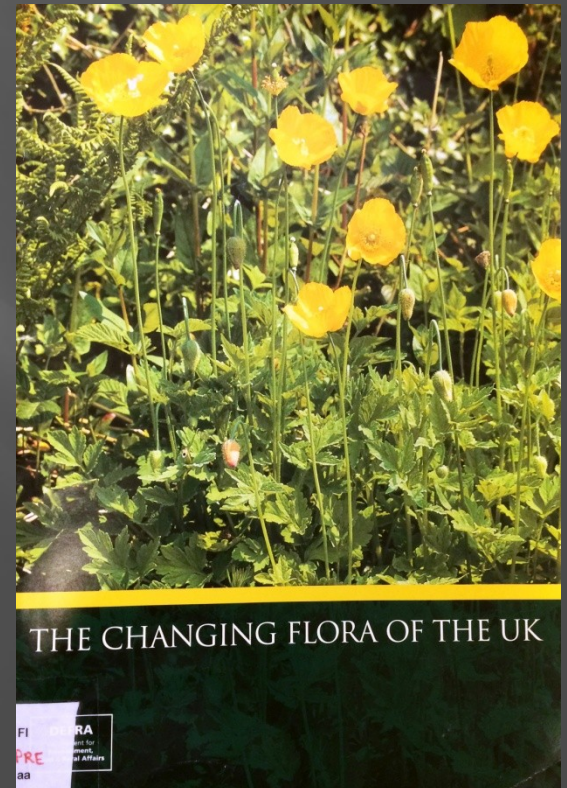


The mock-up displays the online atlas interface for *Adoxa moschatellina* (Moschatel). At the top, the title 'ONLINE ATLAS OF THE BRITISH & IRISH FLORA' is shown next to a daisy image. Below this, the species name '*Adoxa moschatellina* (Moschatel)' is prominently displayed. A left-hand navigation menu includes links for Summary, Photos, Maps, Habitats, Life Form, Distribution, Conservation Status, Other Accounts, and References. The 'Summary' section is active, showing an 'Ecology' description: 'A perennial rhizomatous herb of mesic brown earth soils on the shaded banks of rivers and streams, in deciduous woodlands and shaded hedge banks; also occasionally in shaded base-rich sites in mountains. This is a vernal species which disappears by May or June in the lowlands. It is self-fertile, reproducing by seed and vegetatively. 0-1065 m (Ben Lawers, Mid Perth)'. To the right of the text is a photograph of the plant, credited to '© K.J. Walker, BSBI'. Below the ecology text, there are sections for 'Status' (Native) and 'Trends', followed by a 'World Distribution' section stating it is a 'Circumpolar Boreo-temperate element, with a disjunct distribution'. A distribution map of Britain and Ireland is shown on the left, with a legend indicating different status levels. At the bottom, logos for the Botanical Society of Britain Isles, BRC (Biological Records Centre), JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee), and CEH (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology) are displayed.

A mock up based on BRC's Online Atlas of the British & Irish Flora

What will the Atlas look like?

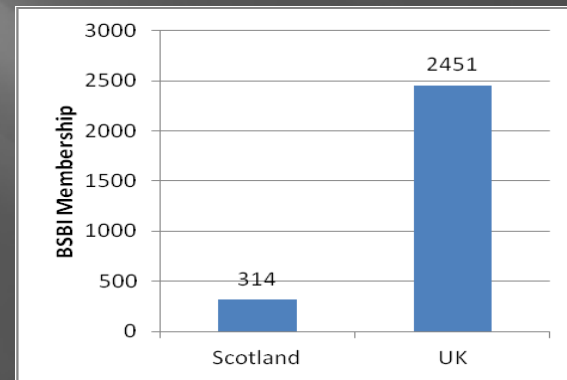
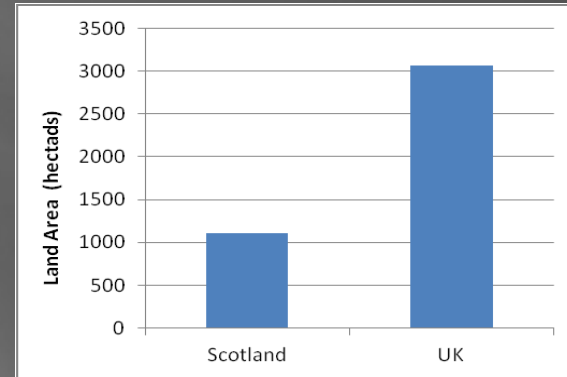
- Personal preference is for a book (inc. CD) & online maps
- Book to focus on our changing flora – telling the story using example species, maps (not just hectad), photos, etc.
- Options went to Council Meeting in April followed by wider discussion with Recorders, members and other stakeholders



Atlas 2020: A Big Challenge

A Big Challenge in Scotland




- where we have one third of the total land area of the UK
- half of which is very remote and / or mountainous
- But just 13% of the BSBI membership!



Given the size of the challenge, we need to support and encourage all BSBI Recorders & members and non-members to participate fully!

Atlas 2020: How members can help

- Book on Recording Field Meetings – particularly one of the Recording Weeks!
- Speak to your local Recorder and ask them how you can help – offer to ‘adopt a hectad’. Find out whether record 1 km or 2 km squares.
- Speak to recorders in areas you might like to visit – you could offer to survey squares while on holiday.
- Sign up for the Rough Crew (Targeted Recording Group)



Survey a square for Atlas 2020!

The BSBI is asking its Vice-county Recorders to get into every 10km square in their county and survey a sample of 1² km grid squares (monads) or 4² km grid squares (tetrads) in each. This is a big challenge in many areas and we are looking for volunteers to help. To find out where you can contribute to Atlas 2020, zoom in to find a square:

[Atlas 2020 - the third atlas of the British and Irish flora](#)

This map shows grid squares that are suggested as targets for surveying in preparation for the new atlas of the British and Irish flora in 2020. They have been selected in part randomly; in part by the scarcity of recent records in these areas and in part by the diversity of the landscape in the grid square.

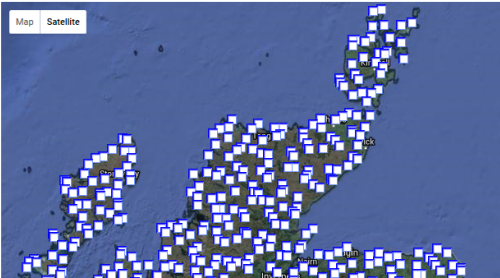
They are not the only places that are worth surveying and we hope that many other places will be recorded. These suggestions are to guide you if you don't know where you should go recording, particularly if you want to fill some gaps.

Local Information

Before surveying please get in touch with the [local Recorder](#) or check any local website. For example, [Hampshire](#) has its own website for Atlas 2020 priority recording. Across the country different counties prefer to survey in 1² km grid squares (monads) or 4² km grid squares (tetrads). Before surveying find out what methodology the vice county recorder prefers, if possible (http://www.bsbi.org.uk/local_groups.html).

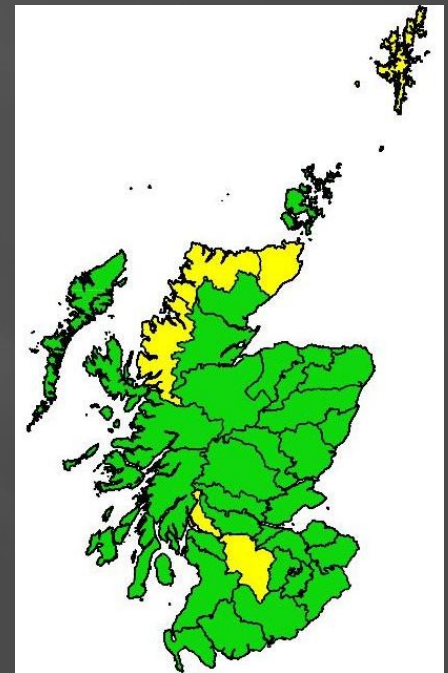
Safety

These areas are not necessarily safe to survey, nor are they necessarily



Atlas 2020: Progress in Scotland

- We have had some success in appointing 'Atlas 2020' Recorders just for the Atlas period e.g. on Jura
- But new or joint recorders, or at least Atlas 2020 recorders, are now needed in at least four counties: Shetland, Caithness, Lanarkshire & Dumbarton.
- And Recorders in the far north and west (West Ross & West Sutherland) need significant help.
- Everywhere else Recorders tell us they will manage (more or less).



Atlas 2020: Support In Scotland

We are

- Trying to mobilise the membership to help Recorders
- Organising Recording Weeks (in Shetland & Lanarkshire this year)
- Contracting surveyors to help record in a few really remote areas
- Repeating the Cairngorm National Park recording project

- Helping a couple Recorders with big backlogs of records
- Helping one Recorder move to MapMate
- Helping several Recorders make a start with Validation

There is much guidance on Atlas 2020 on the BSBI website – aimed at recorders & members: www.bsbi.org.uk/atlas_2020.html

If there is anything else we can do just ask! Jim.mcintosh@bsbi.org