

SOME TIPS FOR RESEARCHING FOR AN IRISH COUNTY FLORA/ANNOTATED CHECKLIST

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Vice-county Recorder for Co. Monaghan (H32)



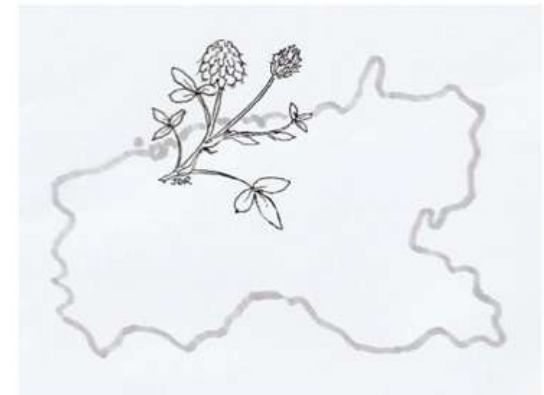
1. An 'atlas flora' is not the only type of flora

- **Rare plant registers (RPRs) – Limerick, 2021; Armagh, 2015**
- Only 6 counties in Ireland have published RPRs currently – Co. Antrim, Co. Armagh, Co. Down, Co. Fermanagh, Co. Limerick, Co. Waterford
- BSBI Docs page – taxon checklist query: <https://docs.bsbi.org/ddb/searching/example-searches/vc-checklist>

COUNTY LIMERICK RARE PLANT REGISTER

SYLVIA C.P. REYNOLDS

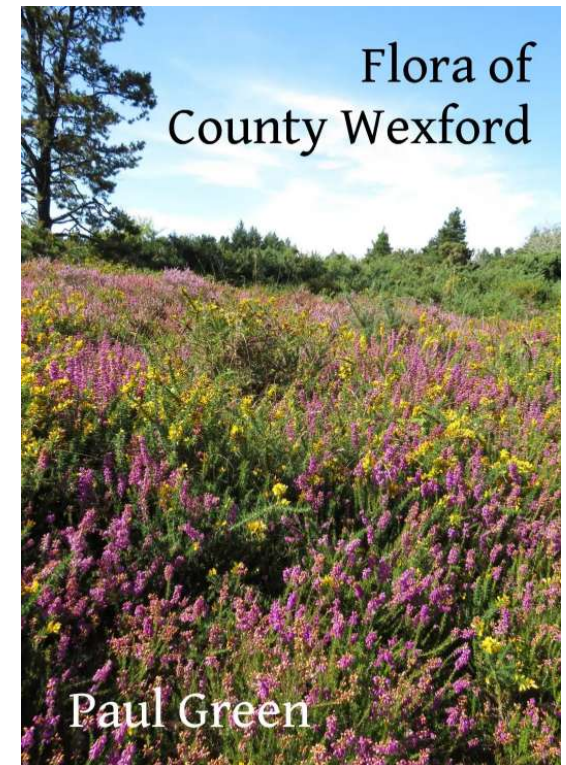
December 2021



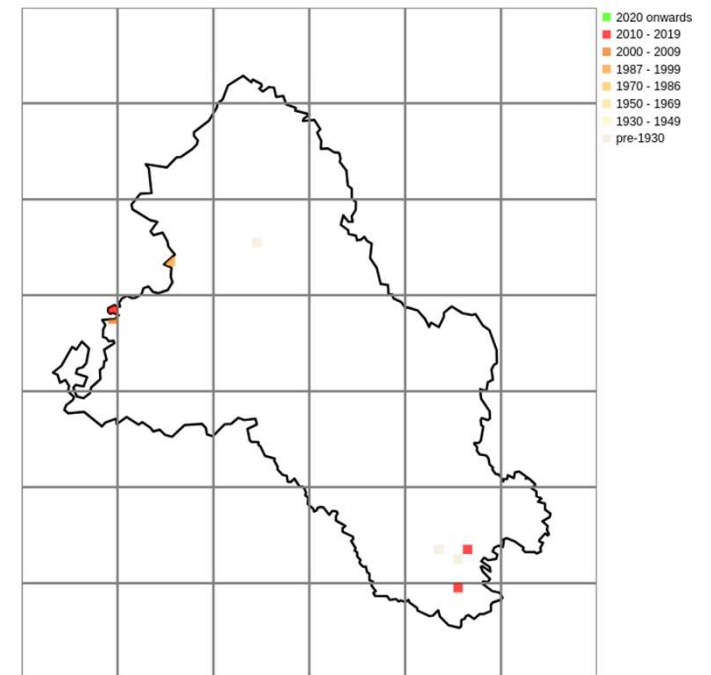
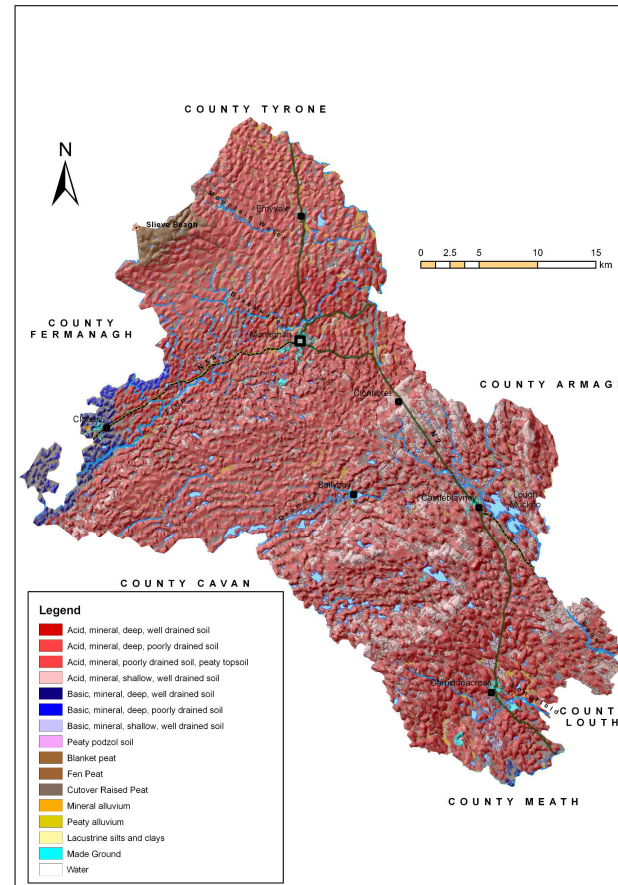
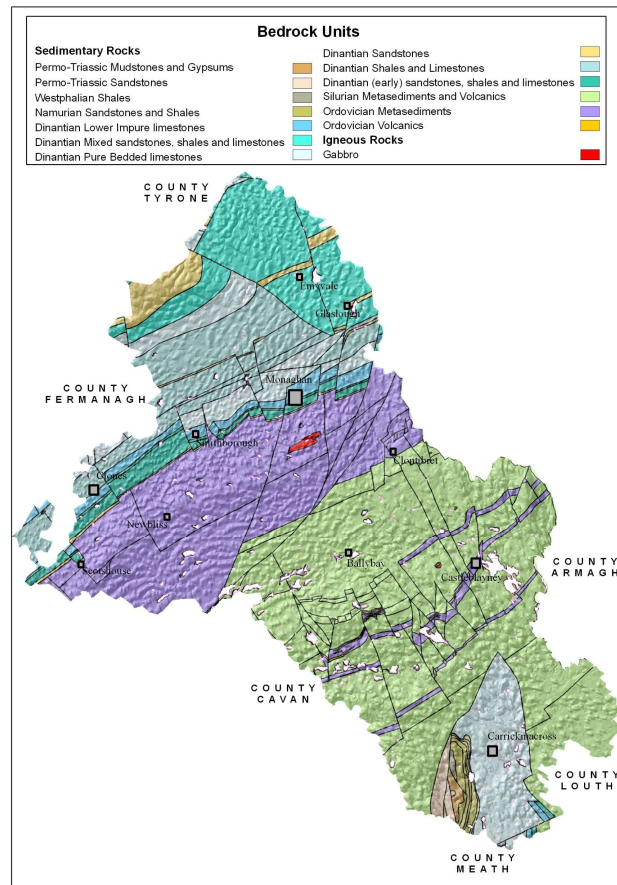
Privately circulated and on BSBI Rare Plant Registers webpage

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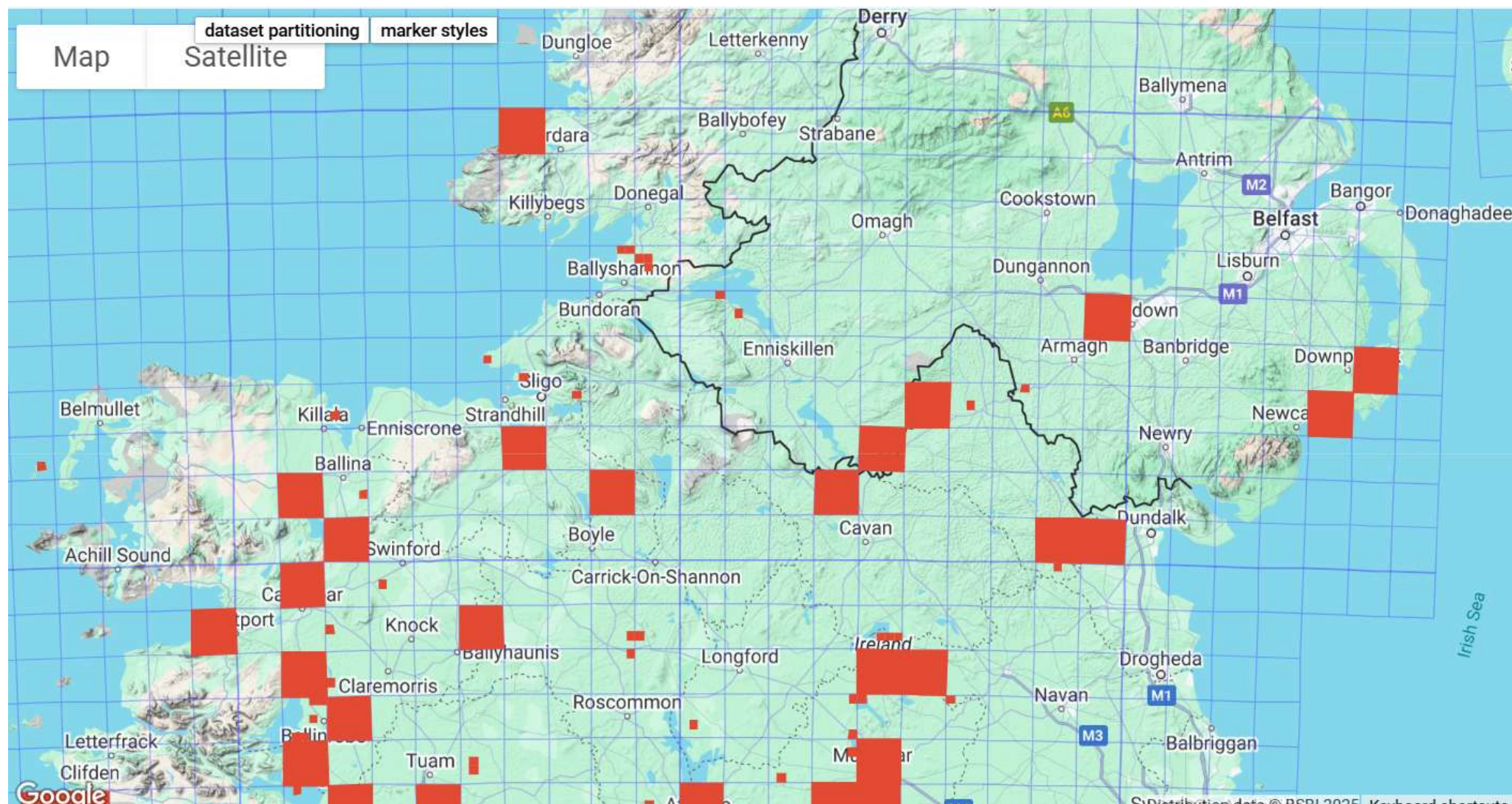
- **Annotated checklist flora** – with or without maps/images
- *The Flora of County Cavan* – Paddy Reilly (2001)
- *Flora of County Monaghan* – Alexis FitzGerald (2024)
- *Flora of County Dublin* – Declan Doogue et al. (1998)
- **'Atlas-style' flora** – *Flora of County Fermanagh* (2012), *Flora of County Wexford* (2022)
- Cross reference various Irish and British floras in your publication, where relevant



2. Not all maps are created equal

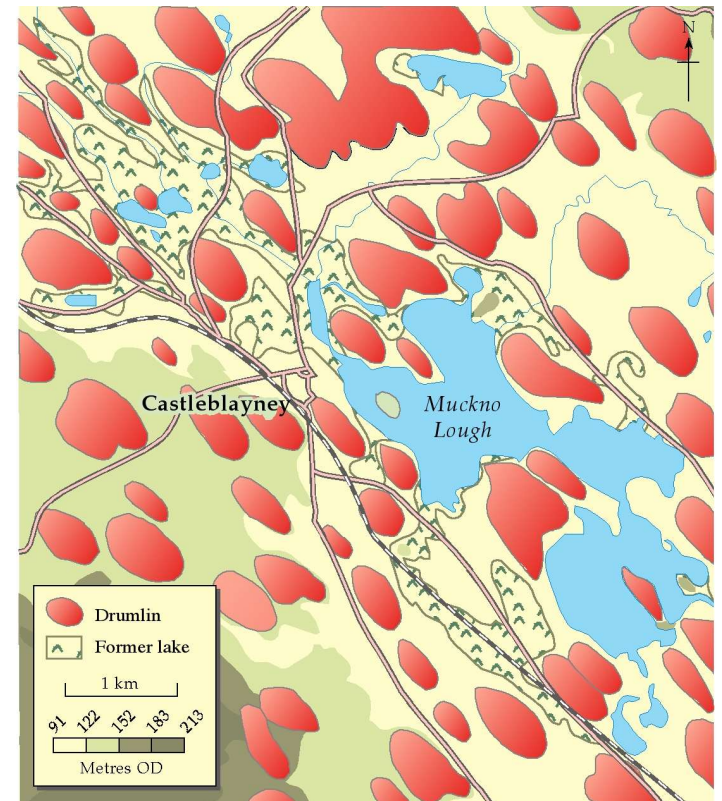


Chara aculeolata



3. Commit time to researching the land use history and botanical recording history of your county

- Old maps, estate surveys, archaeological findings
- Build a wide-ranging context for the area in question which focusses on the changes to local/regional vegetation caused by man
- The School's Collection – extensive Irish folklore collection scheme conducted throughout the Irish Free State from 1937 to 1939 (Irish Folklore Commission)
- *Chamaemelum nobile* (Chamomile) – archaeophyte



- *Conium maculatum* (Hemlock) – noted from scrubland on a farm at Crappagh, 1937-1939 – it is noted that the farmer D. Wales “*has the place [where C. maculatum grows] hemmed in with bushes lest the cattle would get at it. He remembers hearing his father say that cows belonging to a man named McGahy who used to lived in Crappagh were poisoned after eating it*”
- *Cymbalaria muralis* (Ivy-leaved Toadflax) – boiled and used to clean clothing in Monaghan
 - This is the first and only known reference to the traditional use of this species in Ireland (Peter Wyse Jackson, pers. comm., April 2020).
- Also research botanical recording history of your county – e.g. Philip Skelton (1748, Philosophical Transactions 45)
- Obscure but important manuscripts exist, e.g. John Templeton’s manuscripts, annotated copies of Threlkeld (1726), etc.

Pentstemon

C. nigra. S. B. 270.

Fields in every kind of soil.

C. scabiosa S. B. 56.

(On the shore near Black rock and Bullock
July 31. 1799) In many places about Dublin

C. byzantus S. B. 277. Curt. II. 62

In some fields about Dublin, Among Flax in a field
at Church hill near Castle Blaney C. Monaghan
Aug 3-1810. Near Hollywood among Flax in different
places 19. Aug- 1810.

C. Jacea L. Bot. 1670

In M^r. Lindoys Second Field on the road side
leading to Newbridge, situated about 1/4 of a mile
in the Belfast side of Drumbridge.)

C.

John
Templeton's
Catalogue of
the native
plants of
Ireland,
manuscript,
1794-1810 -
currently
housed in
RIA

4. 1962 BSBI Atlas data

| SPECIES | | | | | | | | | | DATE | | | | | | | | | | LOCALITY | | | | | | | | | | SOURCE | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHELIDONIUM MAJUS | | | | | | | | | | 12/6 | | | | | | | | | | CARRICKMACROSS | | | | | | | | | | HB. T.C.D. | | | | | | | | | |
| 1480 | | | | | | | | | | 1049 | | | | | | | | | | 16 | | | | | | | | | | 500 | | | | | | | | | |
| SPECIES | | | | | | | | | | DATE | | | | | | | | | | LOCALITY | | | | | | | | | | SOURCE | | | | | | | | | |
| CHELIDONIUM MAJUS | | | | | | | | | | 12/6 | | | | | | | | | | CARRICKMACROSS | | | | | | | | | | HB. T.C.D. | | | | | | | | | |
| LOCALITY | | | | | | | | | | DATE | | | | | | | | | | SPECIES | | | | | | | | | | SOURCE | | | | | | | | | |
| CARRICKMACROSS | | | | | | | | | | 12/6 | | | | | | | | | | CHELIDONIUM MAJUS | | | | | | | | | | HB. T.C.D. | | | | | | | | | |
| HABITAT | | | | | | | | | | COLLECTOR | | | | | | | | | | STATUS | | | | | | | | | | ALTITUDE | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | C. PEARSON | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 432 | | | | | | | | | |

- 1962 – first BSBI Atlas of Ireland and Britain published
- 40 column punch cards were used to transcribe the data onto dot maps, and these often contain useful codified information –
- British Grid lines were extended onto Ireland by David Webb for the 1962 Atlas
- Originally held in An Foras Forbartha, some were later in NBG and Belfast herbaria
- OSi grid reference and other annotations were later added to some of them in 1980s
- Top right number indicates data input person (500 = David Webb)

5. John Harron's record cards

SUBSPECIES * AGG = INCLUDES OTHER TAXA, X = HYBRID
 IRELAND RP 31

| GRID REFERENCE | | LOCALITY | RECORDERS' NAMES |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| N | 3 | 9 | |
| N 86 (98) | | | |
| VICE-COUNTY | | HABITAT | |
| 2. MOUNTAIN H132 | | Small lake overlying bog-rich strata | |
| DATE | | DATE | |
| 27-9-1990 | | | |

ROUTE AND TIME TAKEN RECORDING A short passing ~~the~~ stop at a small lake beside the county road at Coilderry.
 The exact locality here has not noticed of the time of visit. Coilderry is 9 km off the map of this point. However the site has close to a N. side of the road. Please to at the hillside.

| SPECIES | LOCALITY | G-FIG GRID | DATE | OTHER DETAILS |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|---------|---|
| 363 Carex X | disjuncta | N. | 27/9/90 | On temporarily wet bog-side vegetation |
| 998 Hydro. X | maris rance. | N. | | Thrombites plant 1728 in on surface |
| 1852 Salicophila X | Isob. | N. | | Turning - A stout bulrush stand in the rolling bog |
| 1655 Ranunculus X | lingua. | N. | | A stand seen in flower |
| 708 Epipactis X | holusis | N. | | Seeding shown in the bog and by Ranunculus, etc. |
| 1437 Ranunculus X | holusis | N. | | 9m flower in bog, very tall and in the approach to the lake |

NONEXHAUSTIVE FOLLOWING LIST OF VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE BRITISH ISLES AND STATE (1991) NEW PLANTS OF THE BRITISH ISLES
 234 Bauls erect N.
 L. B. FIELD CARD IRELAND RP 31
 BIOLOGICAL RECORDING CENTER (19)

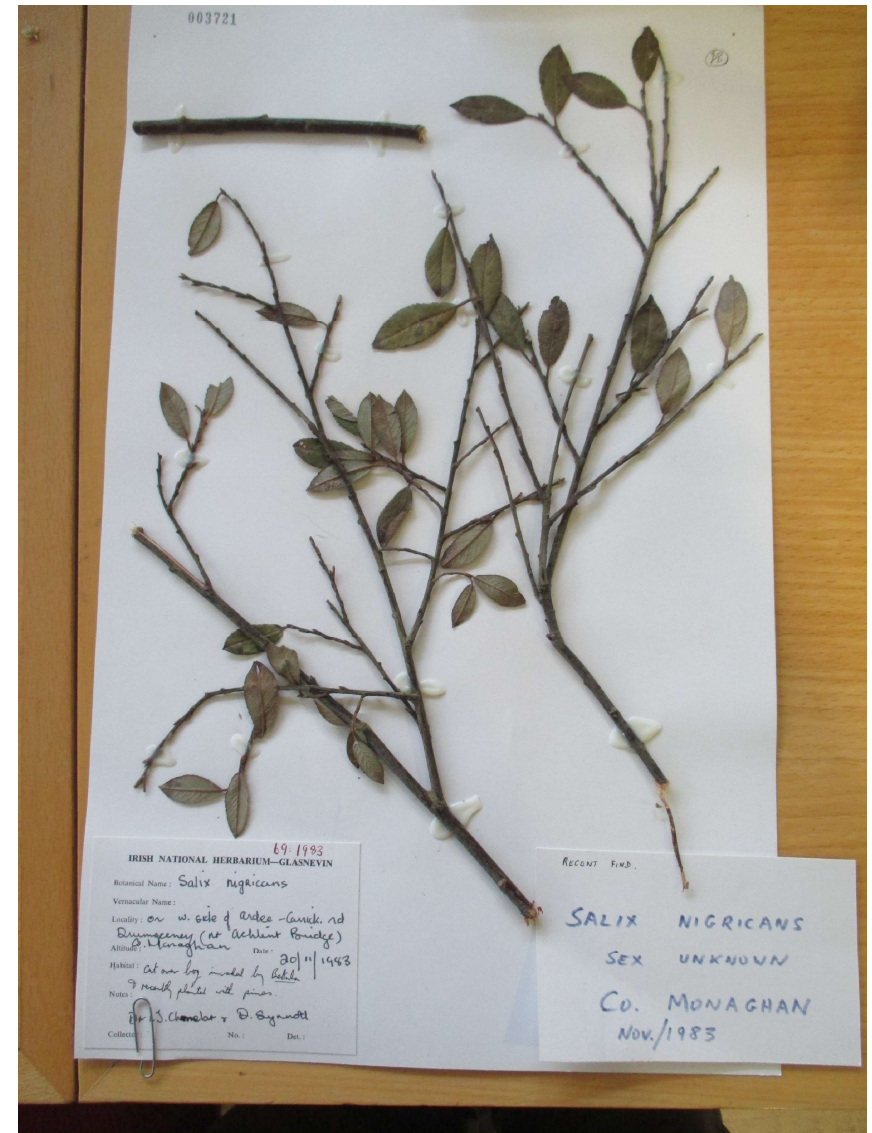
| | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| GRID REFERENCE | | | | LOCALITY | To BSH 2020 25/11 14/12 |
| H | 69 | 37 | | Next Upper Foulis Road | |
| TETRAD | | | | Y | |
| VICE-COUNTY | | | | HABITAT | |
| C. Monaghan H3 | | | | Rivers' edge banks | |
| DATE | | | | 100m up road from 50 m. elevation | |
| 19-6-2012 | | | | RECORDED NAMES | |

ROUTE AND TIME TAKEN RECORDING looked 27.5 min straight above the bridge - keeping to the South bank,

| SPECIES | LOCALITY | 6-FIG GRID | DATE | OTHER DETAILS |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|--------|---------------------|
| 1865 <i>Saxifraga</i> | <i>Saxifraga</i> R. | H69 37 | 9/6/12 | Single plant noted |
| 1546 <i>Polytrichum</i> | near Foulis Road | H69 37 | | Robust specimen |
| 1070 <i>Juniperus</i> | near Foulis Road | H69 37 | | stems |
| 1645 <i>Ranunculus</i> | near Foulis Road | H69 37 | | base of steep slope |
| 2342 <i>Stachys</i> | near Foulis Road | H69 37 | | Rivers' edge |
| 762 <i>Quercus</i> | near Foulis Road | H69 37 | | in shade of Alder |

6. Herbarium research

- Donate herbariums specimens, particularly for critical taxa and first county records
- Review all existing specimens for your county in Irish (and British/European) herbaria – not all herbaria are catalogued
- **BEL** = catalogued
- **TCD + DBN** = cataloguing underway
- **K + BM** = ?not yet catalogued
- Surprises will certainly turn up and will reward your efforts – e.g. *Viola* × *contempta* (*V. tricolor* × *V. arvensis*)





IRISH NATIONAL HERBARIUM—GLASNEVIN

Rorippa ambigua x *sylvestris*

DET. T. C. Rich 3/1/1984

Reg. No. 2:1973

RORIPPA ~~ambigua~~ PAUSSTELS

LOUGH NAHARREK, Co. MONMOUTH

25.7.72. H. 856.028.

L. FARWELL.

7. Use referees widely

- BSBI referee system gives us access to many regional and world experts on a wide variety of plant groups
- They will not be around forever, and their expertise may never be surpassed!
- They are more likely to notice details that you might not, due to their specialty expertise
- Allocate some budget to postage, or take trips to NI for postage!



8. Record infraspecific taxa, hybrids and apomicts

- Infraspecific taxa, hybrids and apomicts are still under-valued and under-recorded but most Irish and British botanists – lumpers vs splitters!
- Many stories can be told by studying these taxa, which you won't know unless you look
- E.g. *Sparganium erectum* subspp. – Schou *et al.* (2023)
- E.g. *Rosa canina* agg. – Stace (2010) vs Stace (2019)
- *Flora of Cardiganshire* (2010) and *Flora of County Wexford* (2022) are remarkable in this regard – *Flora of County Monaghan* (2024) has made an effort to follow suit
- *Flora of Cardiganshire* e-book is £5 on the BSBI website!



9. Think about a list of hotspot botanical sites in your county for inclusion and survey them in detail

- These sites will build towards a future site inventory for your county, which will aid greatly in conservation efforts
- Allows you to build up accumulated knowledge of particular sites
- Visit these sites many times and at different times of the year, noting any management issues that may be evident
- Communicate the importance of certain undesigned sites to your local Biodiversity Officers, NPWS, etc.



10. Visit the same hotspot botanical sites multiple times per year

- Different species/groups require visits at specific times of the year
- Leads to a deeper understanding of the key study sites in your counties
- *Taraxacum* agg., *Ranunculus auricomus* complex, winter annuals – March to May
- *Viola*, *Ficaria verna* subspp., *Lathraea squamaria* – April to May
- *Carex* – April to June
- *Ranunculus* subgenus *Batrachium*, *Potamogeton* – May to July/August typically (*Callitriche* agg., June to August)
- Orchidaceae, *Euphrasia* agg. – June to July typically



- *Dryopteris affinis* agg. – July to early August
- *Rubus fruticosus* agg. – July to early August
- *Hieracium* agg. – June to August
- *Rosa*, *Epilobium* hybrids – August-September
- *Atriplex* and *Salicornia* – September
- *Sparganium erectum* subspp. – early to mid October
- *Polypodium* – October to February
- *Salix* – early spring and summer!



11. Consider starting the writing process early

- Consider different chapters as mini-essays in their own right, which you can pour time and attention into separately
- Consider contacting guest authors for input on specialist topics e.g. geology, climate, paleobotany, history, etc.

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12. Perseverance!

