

# Validation and verification – an introduction

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## What is a plant record? – [WWWW](#)

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**W**hen was it recorded (date)

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**Validated** (and **Verified**) – confirmation that the record is considered correct (and who confirmed it)

**Validation** - checking that dates are valid and sites, grid references and vice-counties are consistent

**Verification** - that the taxon ID is considered to be accurate

## What is the purpose of validation and verification?

To ensure that records are **good enough** for:

- Atlas 2020 (records correct at taxon x hectad & tetrad x date class precision) - the priority for the next Atlas.
- VCR needs; eg for a vc Checklist, RPR, even a Flora (probably needs to be accurate to at least monad precision, all records allocated to correct vc).
- Completely accurate (or as far as is achievable); accurate to monad or better precision (100m); all elements of records correct. Good enough for site based casework.

The above 3 aims differ in amount of time and effort required. VCRs needs to consider what they want to achieve, how much time they have available, but always keep in mind the Atlas 2020 deadline.

**Validation and verification is actually really quite satisfying, especially if you enjoy a bit of detective work. It is not a chore!**

Validation (examples of sources of errors)	Verification (examples of errors)
Grid ref estimated by eye from map	Misidentification
GPS and (especially?) smart phone grid ref inaccuracy	Correct ID but recorded wrong taxon, eg. crossed off wrong name on card or data entry error
Spurious grid ref precision, eg. precise grid ref applied to pre-1945 record; monad used for tetrad; monad used for quadrant	Taxonomic changes
Grid ref = centroid (especially where 'site' extends to more than one hectad or tetrad)	
Grid ref = where parked car (but recorded over wider area)	
100km grid ref error	
Misreading 3 and 8 in grid ref on GPS screen	
Transcription error	
Site grid ref not compatible with grid ref in Comments	
Site name includes grid ref, but not compatible with site grid ref	
Inaccurate vc boundary used	
MapMate assigned wrong vc	
Date of publication used as date of record	
Incorrect or misspelt site name	
Data entry by non-botanist / unfamiliar with local area	
Etc, etc ....	

**NOW**

However large the vc dataset,  
and however large the number  
of unchecked or incorrect  
records, it is a **finite** quantity.

Do not let the backlog of  
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**Check, (correct where necessary),  
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Check and validate all records



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Check and validate all records

Checking and validating records takes c. 2 - 3 minutes per record card

## Validation state options

'Validation' state	Mapped?	Returned by default queries?
Unchecked (i.e. newly added to the DDb)	✓	✓
Accepted / Confirmed	✓	✓
Needs verification / May need verification	X	✓
Doubtful	X	X
Rejected	X	X
Duplicate	X	X
Deleted externally (in the origin database)	X	X

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•There is no functional difference between **Doubtful** and **Rejected**. Rejected means that you are virtually certain the record is incorrect in some way; Doubtful means that it is highly likely to be incorrect.

•**Needs verification** should be used when you plan to, or want someone else, to follow the record up, and there is sufficient doubt about the record that you don't want it mapped (yet).

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- Detecting **Duplicate** records is not (an important) part of validating records.
- There is always something better to do with your limited time than searching for duplicates!
- But avoid creating new duplicate records as far as is practical.

Keeping on top of ongoing validation - regularly sync small batches of records to the DDb, and then search for just those records; then check and validate.

search for

county/region

→ creation or update stamp  equals

mapmate centre   exclude

validation state

**Current search-form filter**  
 records where validation state unchecked and vice-county: VC96 and [data set 'MapMateCentre:2dd'](#) and record created on 4/3/2017

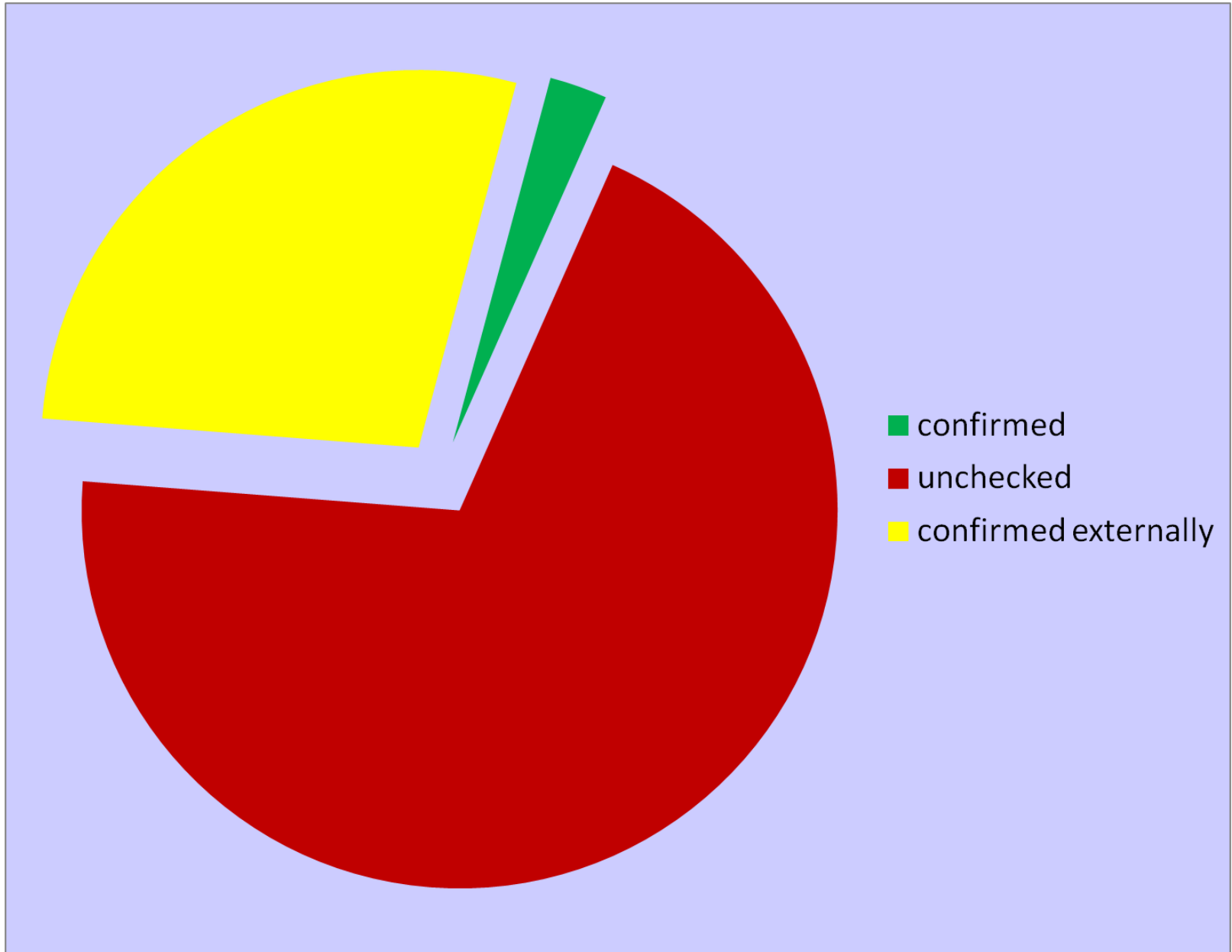
results table

64 records matched your query.

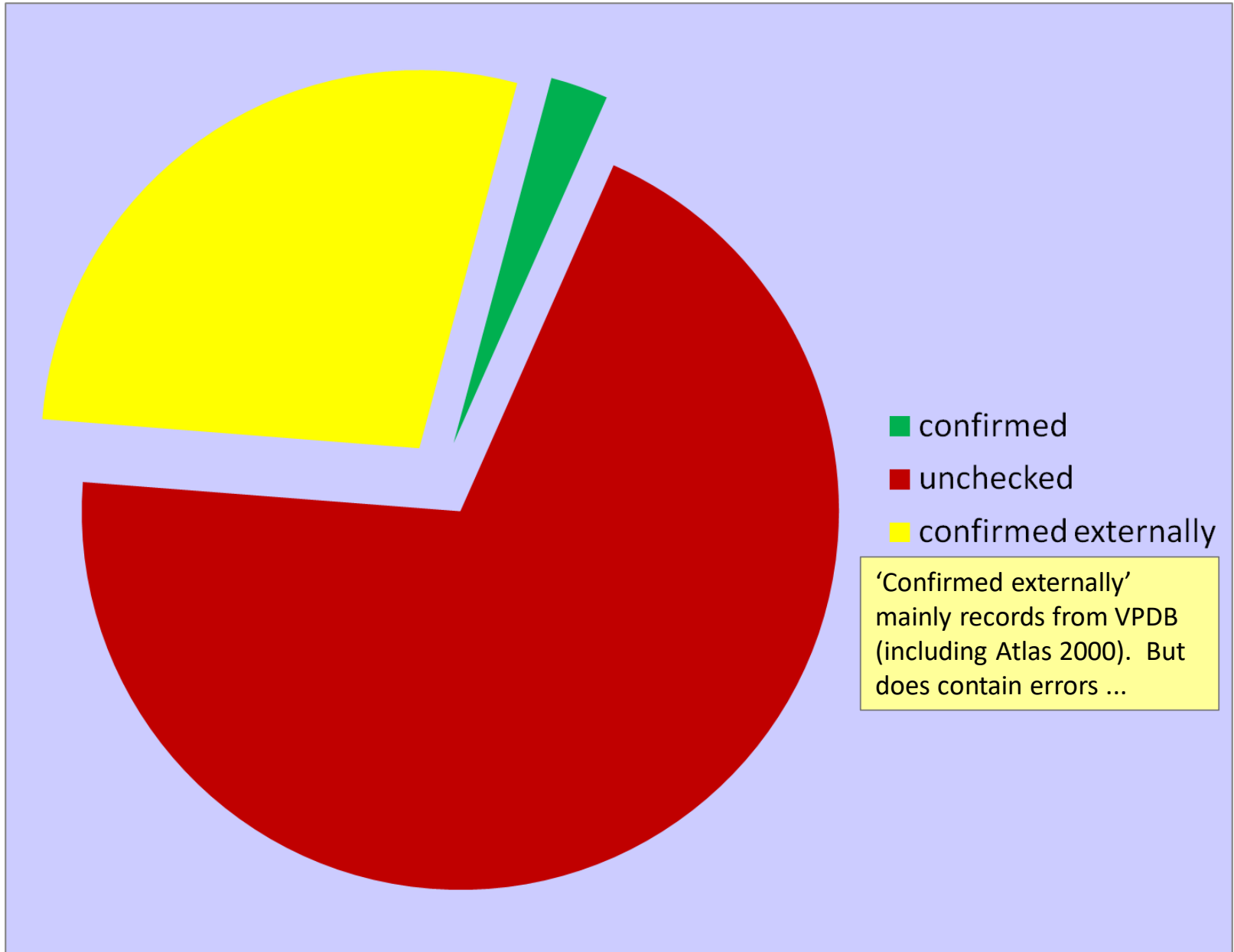
<< first < prev 1 **2** next > last >>

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> record	<input type="checkbox"/> taxon	recorder	<input type="checkbox"/> vc	locality	grid ref	date	<input type="checkbox"/> status
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Aegopodium podagraria</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Agrostis stolonifera</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Ajuga reptans</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Alchemilla glabra</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Anemone nemorosa</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Anthoxanthum odoratum</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Arabidopsis thaliana</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Bellis perennis</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Betula pubescens</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Cardamine hirsuta</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Cerastium fontanum</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Cerastium glomeratum</a>	<a href="#">Barron, Margaret</a>	VC96	<a href="#">Foyers Burial Ground</a>	<a href="#">NH4920</a>	12/5/1983	

# Validation state of records on DDb at (24/2/2017)



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4.8 million records added to the DDb in 2016 ... BUT only 2.3% confirmed so far (24/2/2017)

