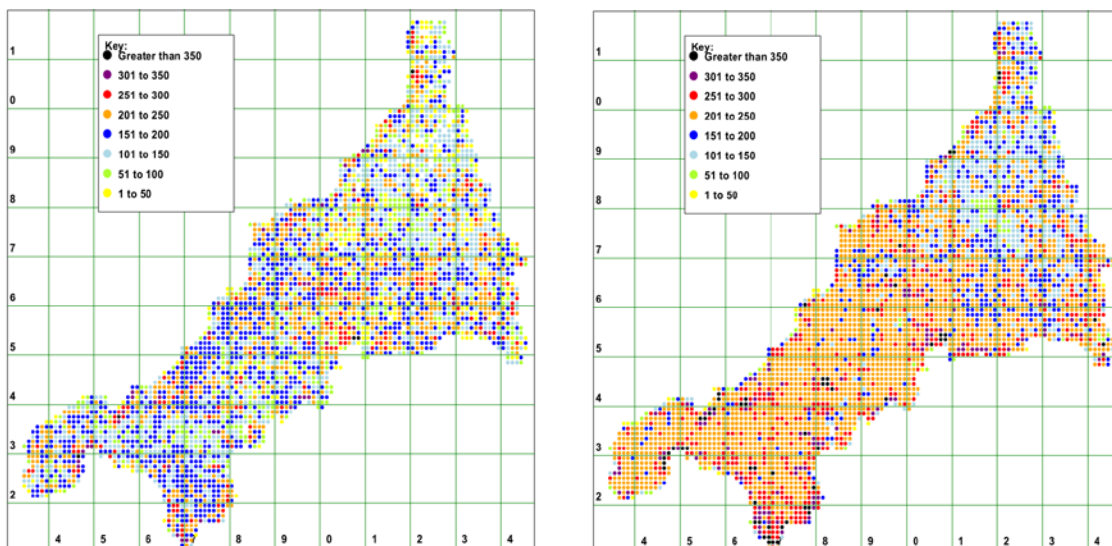


# 2021 Cornwall annual report (VC1 and VC2)

By

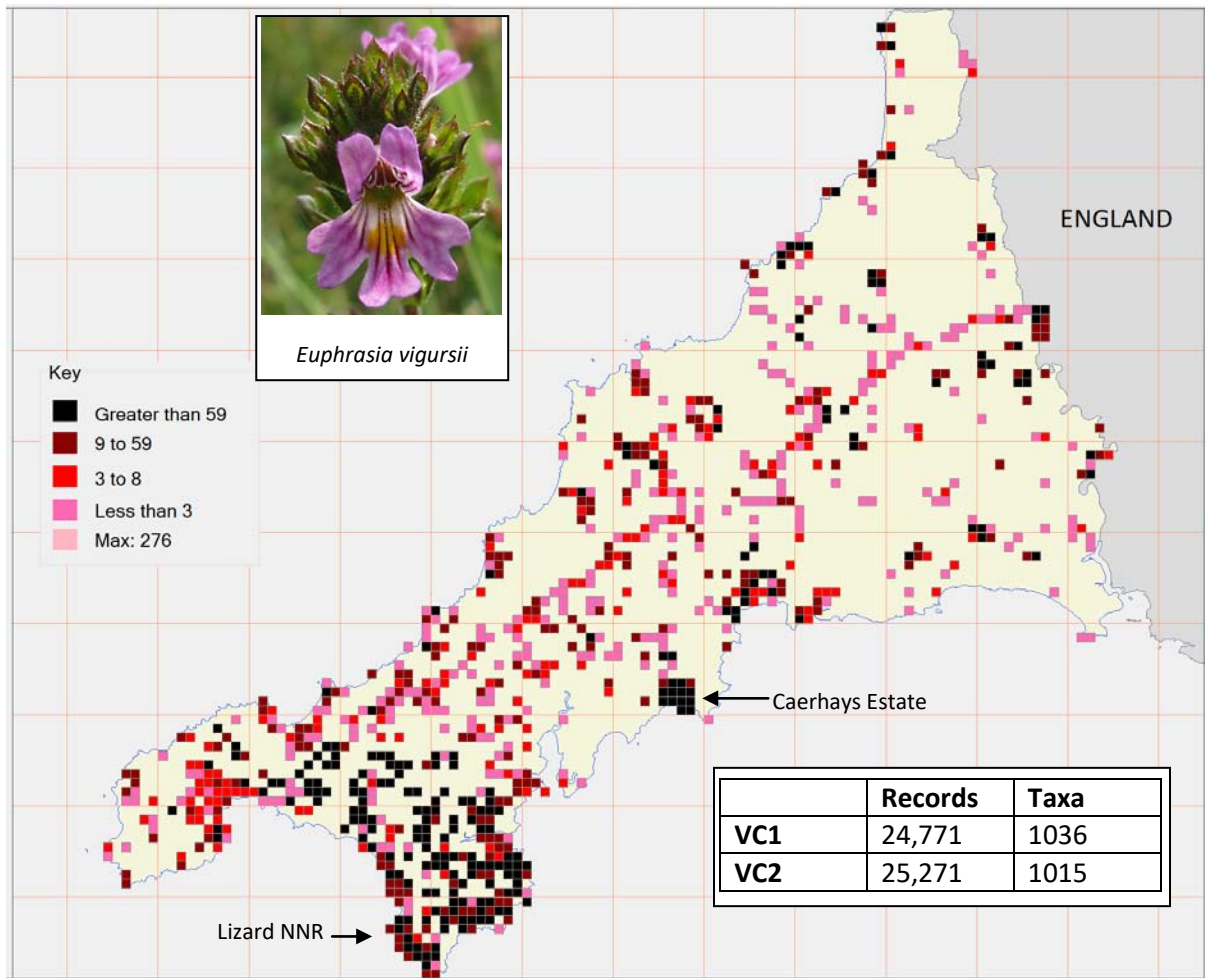
Colin French (VC1) and Ian Bennallick (VC2)

When the *Flora of Cornwall* was published in 1999 (French *et al.*, 1999) there followed a significant lull in the amount of botanical recording as the volunteer surveyors took a well earned rest. This respite lasted about five years. The 2020 publication of *A Flora of Cornwall* (French, 2020) has not seen the same reduction in recording as the Botanical Cornwall Group decided to continue systematically surveying every one kilometre square whilst moving the date class forward a decade. Thus for the 2020 Flora we were recording the number of plants since 1999. We are now recording plants seen since 2009, and as a consequence are targeting 1km squares that were well recorded between 1999 and 2009 but not since.



Map 1. Number of Flowering Plants and Ferns since 2009. Map 2. Number of Flowering Plants and Ferns since 1999.

In Cornwall we use the ERICA database to hold the botanical records alongside the records of many other taxonomic groups. Currently the ERICA database holds 4,572,797 biological records, covering 29,436 taxa, of which 2,380,014 are flowering plant and fern records (3139 taxa). In 2021 the database grew by 217,137 records including 70,994 flowering plant and ferns (99 people contributed the plant records). In total 50,042 flowering plant and fern records were actually made in 2021 (the remainder – 20,952 – were made in previous years). The number of records and number of taxa reported for each Vice County that were actually recorded in 2021 are tabulated on the hotspot map overleaf which shows the 1km squares where records were made in 2021.



Map 3. Hotspot map showing the number of Flowering Plants and Fern records made in 2021.

The 1999 *Flora of Cornwall* was a Tetrads atlas and a significant proportion of the records for East Cornwall were recorded at that scale. Ian Bennallick has an ongoing project to improve the grid reference from Tetrads to 1km for many of those records. Thousands of those records were so converted in 2021. It is now the case that 94% of the vascular plant records have a one kilometre square grid reference or better. The most productive recorders use handheld GPS devices and as a result an increasing proportion of the records made are submitted with hectare or 10 metre square grid references. This increase in precision greatly enhances what can be done with the records for wildlife conservation and other purposes.

Grid reference scale	Number of records	%
One kilometre square	927,406	38.96
Hectare	784,272	32.95
Ten metre square	528,634	22.21

Table 1. The number of plant records according to grid reference scale.

The covid pandemic did adversely affected recording activities in 2021. No formal Botanical Cornwall Group meetings (field meetings or AGM) were organised for the year. Instead some of the recorders met up informally and continued square bashing whilst others, such as Colin Wild, preferred to survey on their own. An intensive survey was undertaken of the Caerhays Estate in 2021 and a rapid, wide ranging survey took place of the Lizard NNR in the early spring, which discovered new sites for some of the key Lizard rarities.

Since the publication of the 2020 Flora the following plants have been added to the Cornish List.

Species name	Authority	Common name	Notes
<i>Actinidia</i> sp.		Kiwi Fruit	Growing in hedge
<i>Apium graveolens</i> var. <i>dulce</i>	(Miller) DC.	Celery	Scilly on waste tip
<i>Araucaria angustifolia</i>	(Bertol.) Kuntze	Parana Pine	
<i>Betula x aurata</i>	Borkh.	<i>Betula pendula x pubescens</i>	Native
<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	L.	Black-jack	
<i>Brachyglottis rotundifolia</i>	J.R. Forst. & G. Forst.	Muttonbird Scrub	
<i>Calandrinia menziesii</i>	(Hook.) Torr. & A. Gray	Red-maids	Isles of Scilly
<i>Catapodium rigidum x C. marinum</i>			Isles of Scilly
<i>Celtica gigantea</i>	(Link) F.M.Vázquez & Barkworth	Giant Feather Grass	
<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i> subsp. <i>thuillieri</i>	Dostál	Radiate Slender Knapweed	Native
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	(Poir.) DC.	Midland Hawthorn	Probably planted
<i>Crocus neapolitanus</i>	(Ker Gawl.) Loisel.	Spring Crocus	
<i>Cryptogramma crispera</i>	(L.) R. Br. ex Hook.	Parsley Fern	1 <sup>st</sup> confirmed record. Native
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	A. Rich.	Giant Umbrella-sedge	Isles of Scilly
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	(L.) Greuter	Woody Fleabane	Isles of Scilly
<i>Erodium manescavii</i>	Coss.	Garden Stork's-bill	
<i>Jubaea chilensis</i>	(Molina) Baill.	Chilean Wine Palm	Locally spreading
<i>Juglans ailantifolia</i>	Carr.	Japanese Walnut	
<i>Knautia macedonica</i>	Griseb.	Macedonian Scabious	
<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i>	L.	Sweet Pea	
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Mill.	Garden Lavender	
<i>Linum perenne</i>	L.	Perennial Flax	Isles of Scilly
<i>Lonicera henryi</i>	Hemsl.	Henry's Honeysuckle	
<i>Lysimachia thyrsoiflora</i>	L.	Tufted Loosestrife	Naturalised at one site
<i>Musa basjoo</i>	Siebold & Zucc. ex Linum	Hardy Banana	
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	G. Forst.	Mousehole Tree	Isles of Scilly
<i>Olearia</i> Talbot de Malahide			
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Lam.	Monkey Orchid	Orig planted - naturalised
<i>Orobanche minor</i> var. <i>heliophila</i>	Thorogood & Rumsey	Brachyglottis Broomrape	Native
<i>Orobanche minor</i> var. <i>pseudoamethystea</i>	Thorogood & Rumsey	Sea Holly Broomrape	Native
<i>Pseudognaphalium stramineum</i>	(Kunth) Anderb.	Chilean Cudweed	Isles of Scilly
<i>Salvia hispanica</i>	L.	Chia	
<i>Sedum pallidum</i>	M. Bieb.	Turkish Stonecrop	
<i>Taraxacum pulchrifolium</i>	Markl.	Beautiful-leaved Dandelion	Native
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Vell.	Wandering-jew	Isles of Scilly
<i>Viola riviniana</i> var. <i>rosea</i>	Auct.	Pink Common Dog-violet	Native

## References

French, C., Murphy, R., & Atkinson, M. (1999). *Flora of Cornwall*. Wheal Seton Press.

French, C. (2020). *A Flora of Cornwall*. Wheal Seton Press.