

BSBI eNews – June 2018

From Jim McIntosh, Senior Country Officer, jim.mcintosh@bsbi.org

Post Atlas Projects Consultation

Thank you to all the BSBI County Recorders who have responded to the questionnaire on potential recording projects that might follow the completion of Atlas 2020. The consultation is being organised by Country Officers and [Robert Northridge](#) on behalf of BSBI Council and Robert asked for responses by the 1st of June. If you haven't responded yet there is still time but could you please do it by return? Please send your completed forms directly to Robert.

Later in the year, non-VCR members of the Society will be given an opportunity to comment on the suggested projects, and the results of the consultations will be used to guide the BSBI Council in deciding the details of what projects are undertaken subject to external interest, funding and availability of resources, variously.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Atlas 2020 Data Entry & Validation

At the risk of being accused of nagging.... Do keep on top of record entry, and regularly submit the records to the DDb and validate them as soon as they arrive. All three operations are much better done 'little and often' and as soon as possible after your day in the field. Here are [six useful tips for MapMate users](#).

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Data Entry Spreadsheets

Recorders, if you have local members who regularly contribute records on recording cards, or in spreadsheets, encourage them to use a new spreadsheet which Phill Brown, joint Recorder for Westmorland & Cumberland, has cunningly developed. With the new spreadsheet, once the site / grid ref / VC/ date / recorder / etc details have been completed, the species recorded can be simply checked off a list, which is identical to that used on the VC customised recording cards. So, data entry can be very quick indeed. Additional details for any of the recorded species can be added simply, such as a more detailed grid reference, determiner, status & comments.

The spreadsheet produces a list of records which can easily be checked and then converted to a format suitable for importing into MapMate by Recorders. If you would like a spreadsheet customised for your local members then please added your name to this [poll](#)... We will create one and send it to you.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

BSBI DDb Grid Ref Lookup Tool

I have often extolled the virtues of the brilliant [BSBI DDb Grid Ref Lookup Tool](#) in BSBI eNews. The Tool is particularly useful when planning Atlas 2020 fieldwork. Well it has just got even better. 'New' post

2000 records are easier to distinguish at a glance as they are in bold and not in italics, whilst those recorded both pre and post 2000 are identified by being in bold **and** italics.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Use of BSBI data on the NBN Living Atlas of Scotland

As many of you will be aware, Scottish BSBI records have been free to download at full resolution¹ via the NBN Living Atlas of Scotland (LAS) since early 2017. This was with the permission of the VCRs affected. The records have been made available for download under a non-commercial Creative Commons license (CC-BY-NC) – this means that they can be used for non-commercial purposes with due acknowledgement (attribution) to the BSBI.

A year since being made available on LAS, over 18 million BSBI records have been downloaded. We scrutinised information provided by the NBN and discovered that 6.4 million records appear to have been downloaded by 48 commercial companies. These range between large engineering multinationals and small ecological consultancies and although we don't know what they were used for, we strongly suspect it was for commercial purposes. Obviously, we raised this with the NBN.

Due to this, and concerns raised by other data providers, the NBN have agreed to a) make it clearer to those downloading data that there are restrictions on its use, and b) impose a £500 fine for breaching them, however, the responsibility for 'policing' this sits with the data provider. These measures were put in place last month so their effect isn't yet known.

Clearly, BSBI will be monitoring this situation and will report back when appropriate to the VCRs affected. Of course, if you have any comments or concerns about this matter, please get in touch with Kevin and Jane.

It should be noted that the NBN Atlas only covers the UK. BSBI will only ever make records available through it with the permission of the relevant VCR.

[Kevin Walker](#) & [Jane Houldsworth](#)

Scottish Recording Conference

Two one-day conferences were held in Scotland in April. Thirty-five members enjoyed the conference based in Edinburgh on Saturday 14 April and another eighteen participated in the equivalent event 'up north' two weeks later when the programme was more or less repeated.

After a welcome by BSBI President, Chris Metherell, there were three talks on Atlas 2020; a Scottish [Progress Report](#), one on [Making the most of the final two field seasons](#) and one on [Validation & Verification](#). The latter two presentations will be of interest to all BSBI eNews readers.

Five Recorders each gave a five-minute VC report and Michael Philip gave a very entertaining talk on [Local Groups](#), based on his experience in Lanarkshire with 'Team 77'. However, the highlights were two workshops on identifying Bladderworts (lead by Nick Stewart and Claudia Ferguson-Smyth) and on [distinguishing Deergrass taxa](#) (by Jeremy Roberts and Andy Amphlett). We finished off two great days with lively discussions on post 2020 BSBI projects.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

¹ Records for a few 'sensitive' species/sites and records less than 5 years old are excluded.

Annual Summer Meeting

Booking for the [Annual Summer Meeting](#) on the Isle of Man (16-23rd July) is still open, so if you are thinking of coming do sign up. You can either return the flyer that came with *BSBI News* along with a cheque, or pay via PayPal on the webpage and send the booking form. If you do fill the webpage form, remember to download it first then edit the downloaded version, before returning it.

[Jonathan Shanklin](#), Honorary Field Meetings Secretary

Field Meetings

If there are still spaces on your field meeting and you would like more people to attend, please ask the Communications Officer [Louise Marsh](#) to use her social media outlets to drum up support. The field meetings are widely regarded as one of the strengths of the BSBI, and if there aren't enough current members participating, perhaps we can entice some new ones to join. Your contribution by hosting the meeting is much appreciated.

[Jonathan Shanklin](#), Honorary Field Meetings Secretary

Lyme Disease

Over 3,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported in Britain each year, but the number of cases is probably far higher. Apparently, a vaccine is undergoing trials which is looking very promising but it will be at least 5 years before it becomes available according to a Times article on Monday this week.

Everyone going into the field should be aware of the danger of picking up ticks carrying Lyme disease. There is an excellent leaflet published by [Lyme Disease Action](#) or see the [NHS's advice](#). Key Points:

- **Always** check for ticks as soon as you return from fieldwork
- Remove ticks **as soon as possible** using fine tweezers or a tick removal tool
- Learn to identify the symptoms and see your GP if you have been bitten and develop them.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

BSBI Photographic Competition

Now summer is here, remember to take your camera out in the field and look for images you can enter in the 2018 competition. There are just two simple and very broad categories in 2018: 1) Plants and People and 2) Plants and Pollinators. Photographs should be taken in the wild in Britain or Ireland and be of flowering plants, conifers, ferns, horsetails, club-mosses or stoneworts. For full details see [here](#) or page 76 of *BSBI News* 137!

The images from previous BSBI Photographic Competitions are available to view on the [BSBI's Flickr photograph collection](#) – take a look!

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Snippets:

Specimens wanted: *Geum urbanum* and *Oxalis acetosella* for a pan-European study. Details [here](#).

Specimens wanted of *Brachypodium pinnatum* (Heath False-brome) and *B. rupestre* (Tor-grass); preferably fresh in a plastic bag. Details needed (GPS – possibly 10 figs.) Hopefully this will help to improve knowledge of their distributions and confirm their characters. Any suspected hybrids with *B. sylvaticum* (False Brome) would be welcome but I may need a piece with live root to grow so fertility can be checked over more than one year.

Michael Wilcox, 43 Roundwood Glen, Greengates, Bradford, BD10 0HW michaelpw22@hotmail.com

Potentially invasive garden plant species: In 2015, BSBI recorders [contributed to a project](#) to find out which ornamental plants might become 'the next Japanese Knotweed'! The [results of that survey](#) have just been published - BSBI is thanked in the acknowledgements and a full report is being prepared for the September issue of *BSBI News*.

David Pearman has a new email address – it is dpearman4@gmail.com.

New on the BSBI website in May

- Bookings have opened for the Mayo Recording Event in August – details and a booking form on the [Ireland page](#).
- Also on the Ireland page, you can now download a copy of the 2018 issue of *Irish Botanical News*.
- On the [Scottish Conferences page](#): five presentations are now available to download.
- New on the [Resources page](#): updated guidance from Jim McIntosh about buying/ using a GPS and an updated GB Red List for vascular plants (thanks to Pete Stroh for forwarding this!).
- On the password-protected [members-only page](#): a new membership list, prepared by Gwynn Ellis.
- The new Safeguarding Policy and the Personal Data Policy – available to download from the [Governance page](#) - look out also for our new GDPR-compliant boxes across the website, showing how we are meeting our legal requirements as a charity and demonstrating good governance
- The [Meetings Diary](#), [Field Meetings](#) and [Annual Summer Meetings](#) pages have been updated, courtesy of Field Meetings Secretary Jon Shanklin.
- Bookings have opened for the [Welsh AGM](#) in August.
- The [FISC page](#) has been updated with information about FISC tests in Devon and Cumbria.
- New on the [Scotland page](#): links to several presentations from the recent 'Introduction to Recording' workshop. These beginner-friendly resources are likely to be of interest to recorders across Britain and Ireland.
- There's a new county webpage for [VC63 South-west Yorkshire](#).
- 16 alerts posted on the [News page](#) in May, including links to scientific papers (one co-authored by Kevin Walker, one co-authored by Paul Ashton, Chair of BSBI's Training & Education Committee) and BSBI members in the media.

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

On the News & Views blog in May

An interesting [opportunity for a botanist](#) – as a lexicographer on the Oxford English Dictionary, checking plant and animal entries; a [note about the reprint](#) of *Threatened Plants in Britain and Ireland*; a [report](#) on a new book, *Eireannach: celebrating native plants of Ireland* which features a section about BSBI; a [note](#) about wild flowers on road verges; this month's [post about Byron's Gin](#) focuses on the award-winning distillery and the people who work there; we report on the recent [plant ID workshops](#)

[held in Scotland](#) and the [first field meeting of the year](#) for the Dublin BSBI group; and finally an [interview with BSBI President Chris Metherell](#) about the forthcoming BSBI Handbook, [Eyebrights of Britain and Ireland](#).

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

BSBI Personal Data Policy

BSBI now has a [Personal Data Policy](#), which can be found on the [Governance page](#) of our website. We also have a [Safeguarding Policy](#) (all charities are required to have one of these) that can be found on the same page.

Just a brief reminder to those involved in local botany groups: please Bcc email recipients when sending out messages to a group and always include a message at the bottom of the email to tell people that they can be taken off the mailing list if they wish. Check out the [May 2018 issue of BSBI eNews](#) for more guidance to help you administer local group mailing lists.

If you have any questions about our Personal Data and Safeguarding Policies, and how they apply to you, please don't hesitate to email me.

[Jane Houldsworth](#), BSBI Head of Operations

BSBI eNews

BSBI eNews is aimed at all BSBI recorders, referees and members involved with recording. 225 of the 306 regular BSBI eNews recipients opted in to continue to receive their monthly news email. This includes many who took the opportunity to update their email addresses. Thank you very much indeed. Remember you can update your contact details or unsubscribe at any time.

If you are reading this online, or perhaps because it was forwarded to you, and are one of the 46 County Recorders and 28 Referees who did not sign up - you can do so via a link on the [BSBI Publications](#) page at any time.

I'd welcome short contributions from anyone on topics of interest to fellow readers. BSBI eNews is generally published on the 1st of each month so contributions should reach me by the 21st of the preceding month. I'd also be pleased to have feedback on any of the articles in BSBI eNews.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer