



- Ellen Hutchins (1785-1815) Ireland's first female botanist, born in Ballylickey on the shores of Bantry Bay
- Specialised in bryophytes, lichens and seaweeds several of which are named after her e.g. Jubula hutchinsiae
- Catalogued the species in her neighbourhood, recording over 1000 species
- Recorded the location of some of the rarer species e.g. Stag's-horn Clubmoss and Dwarf Elder
- Begin recording and follow in her footsteps . . .

www.ellenhutchins.com





- Charity for everyone interested in the flora of Britain and Ireland!
- Founded in 1836; Irish branch founded ~55 years ago.
- Support botany training, outreach, research, and RECORDING.
- One of the world's largest contributors of biological records, informing research and underpinning evidence-based conservation.
- Volunteer-led
- Find out more at BSBI.org!



What is today all about?

- What is a botanical record?
- Why are records important?
- What is needed for a complete record?
- What equipment is needed?
- How can you submit a record?
- How to get more involved?

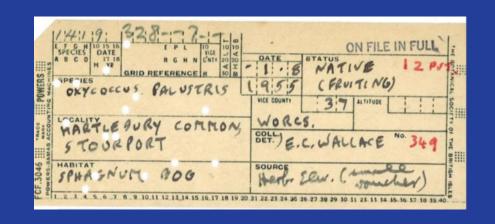


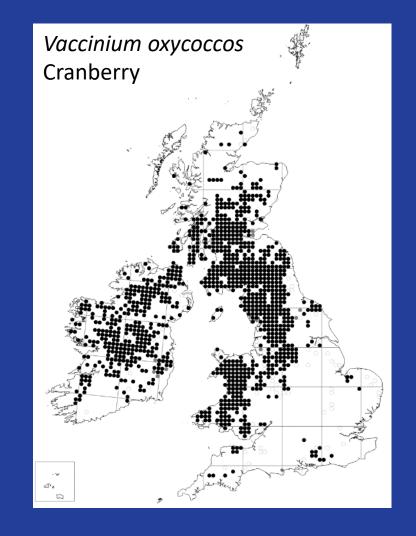
Photo: Rory Hodd



What is a botanical record?

- A record is "... an account in permanent form, esp. in writing, preserving knowledge or information..." (Collins concise dictionary)
- In botany: an account of where a particular wild plant grew, when it was seen, and by who





Why are records important?

- Protect rare plants
- Monitor changes over time
 - Important for common as well as rare species!
- Track new arrivals
- Create a clear picture of the state of the environment
- To improve our knowledge and understanding of the ecology and habitats of species, & inform conservation
- To allow decision-makers, land managers, interested parties access to botanical information





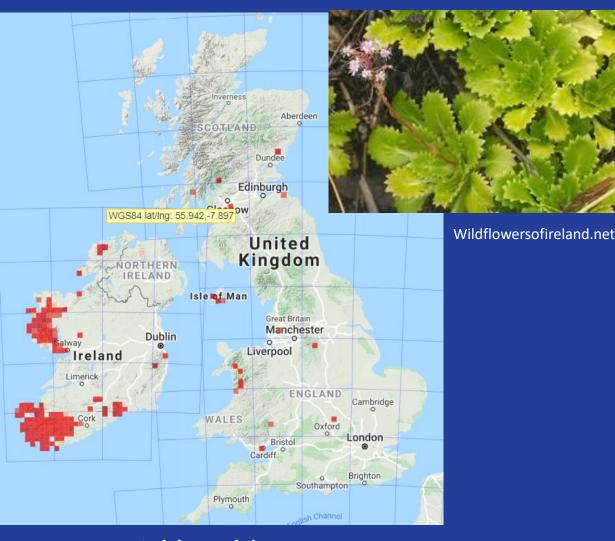
Spotted Rockrose Tuberaria guttata

Rare plant distribution

Edinburgh United Kingdom Isle of Man Dublin **Ireland** Cambridge

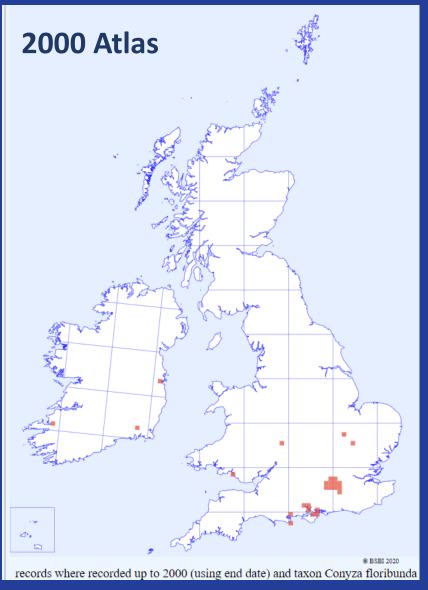
Cornish moneywort *Sibthorpia europaea*

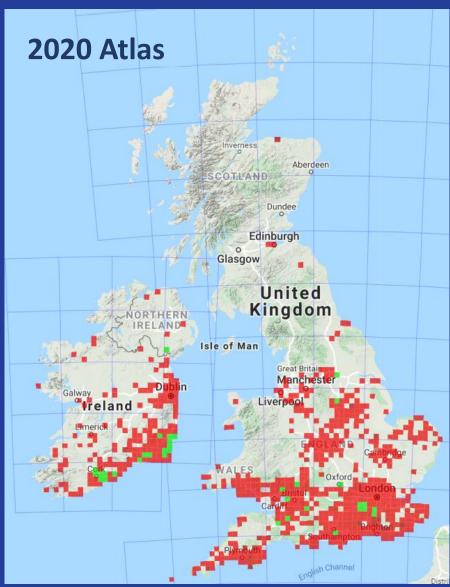
Plants with restricted distributions



St. Patrick's Cabbage Saxifraga spathularis

Tracking new arrivals





Bilbao Fleabane Conyza floribunda



But recording is about common plants too . . .











www.aphotoflora.com



What is needed for a record?

Cover the Four Ws!

- Who Name and contact details
- Where Site name and grid reference
- When Date you found it
- What Scientific name of the species

F °										
	Grid Reference	The Name	of the Locality	Route Map						
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- 9	Species	Locality	Grid Reference	Date	Notes					
– a										





Extra details for records

- Habitat descriptions and other species nearby
- Population size
- Photos and/or specimens to confirm ID (with caveats!)*
- Description of key features used to identify
- Detailed description of location for rare plants
- Status of species e.g. native, naturalised, planted



Completing a clubmoss recording form, Knockboy.

Photo: Clare Heardman

^{*}BSBI Code of Conduct

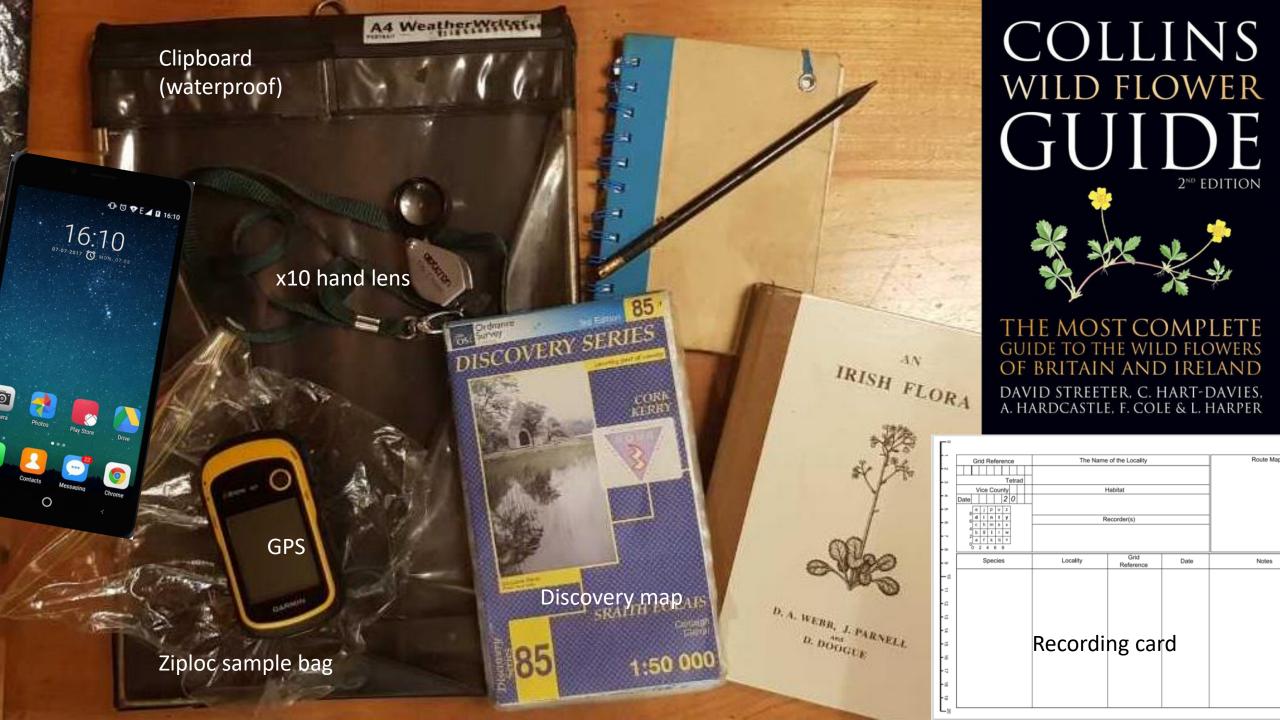


What do you need?

- A way to record what you find
 - Notebook, pencils, recording card, app
- A way to identify the location
 - Map, GPS, phone or online grid reference finders
- A way to tell what you've found
 - Identification guides, plant keys, <u>online</u> resources, <u>apps</u>
- Tools to support identification
 - A hand lens/magnifier, sample bags, camera



Photo: Pat Lenihan



Advice on buying and using a GPS by Jim McIntosh (BSBI)





Advice on Buying and Using GPSs

Buying

- Even basic models do more than most users will ever need. So, I recommend a basic model like the
 yellow Garmin eTrex 10 for under £100. The only drawback of this model is that the text is a bit
 small, but it is possible to adjust the readout to use twice the normal font size see the eTrex 10
 manual. Cheapest on-line (Amazon) but Argos and outdoor activities shops all stock them.
- 2. Buying GPSs which can display maps: These can display position on a map, but the size of the screen and the scale of the maps reduce usefulness. Also, the GPSs are quite expensive (£150+) and the maps usually have to be bought separately and are also expensive.
- 3. The Garmin Foretrex is a lightweight, wrist-mounted GPS with built-in rechargeables and most of the features of larger models. The Foretrex 401 costs just over £125 and is more expensive than an eTrex 10, but it is very good for keeping hands free and being readily viewable.
- 4. Smartphones can give very accurate Grid References and many use the Russian Satellite network as well as the American GPS network, to improve accuracy. However, you must always wait a few moments before taking a reading to allow your phone to reach full accuracy because, unlike Garmin GPSs, they will give a reading straight away even when the given accuracy is over +/- 1km! "OS Maps", "Memory Map" and other apps will very helpfully display your position on a detailed map. You can even text, email or tweet your location with a message using "OS Maps" or the "GB or Irish Grid Ref Compass" app handy if you are caught short without a notepad and pen! The main problem with using phones as GPSs is that it tends to flatten their batteries rather quickly.

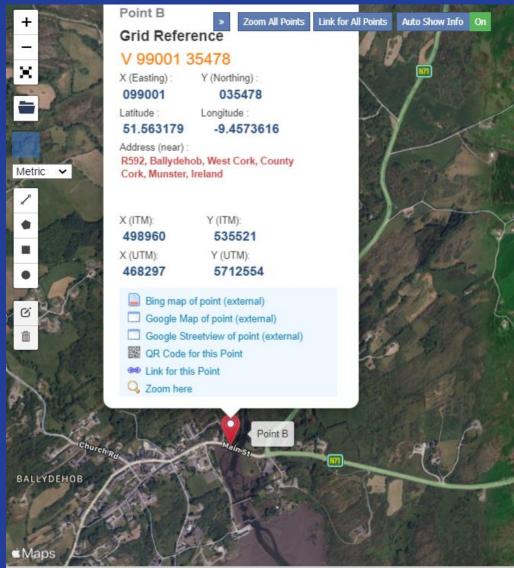
https://bsbi.org/resources





Online grid reference finders

- https://irish.gridreferencefinder.com/
- http://www.gridreference.ie/
- <u>www.biodiversityireland.ie</u> (built in feature when entering records)





How to use a hand lens

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUc_wtooHdA&feature=youtu.be





How to submit a record

- Submit directly to a monitoring scheme
 - Garden Wildflower Hunt, NYPH
- Submit records to a local or national recording centre
 - Biodiversity Ireland or CEDaR
 - Great for occasional/one-off records or when recording lots of species groups
- Submit plant records directly to BSBI
 - Particularly important for rare/unexpected finds and systematic recording



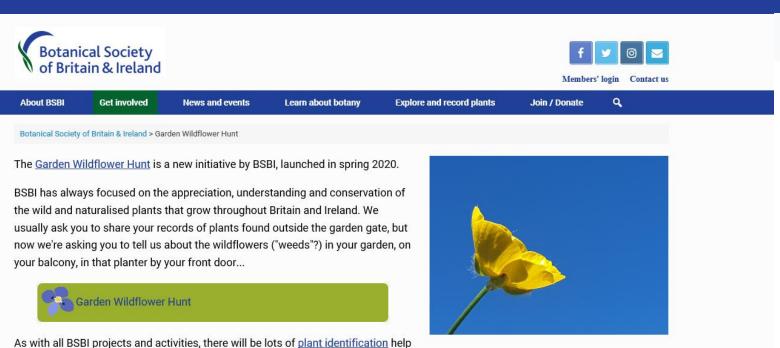
New Year Plant Hunt, Glengarriff

Remember: Data quality is important 'if in doubt, leave it out!



Submit directly to a monitoring scheme

- New Year Plant Hunt or Garden Wildflower Hunt
 - Native or naturalised: flowers, trees, grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns.



and <u>useful tips</u> available for you.

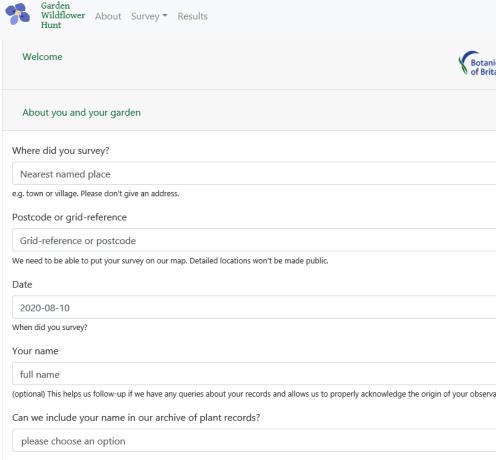
Garden Wildflower Hunt has two main aims:

- To help us find out which wildflowers are growing in gardens across Britain and Ireland so we can understand more about their distribution and ecology.
- To help you improve your plant ID skills and get more enjoyment out of your garden while you're at home under the Covid-19 restrictions.



I don't have a garden - does that mean I cath't take part in the Garder

Do ornamental plants count? The ones platted in my garden?

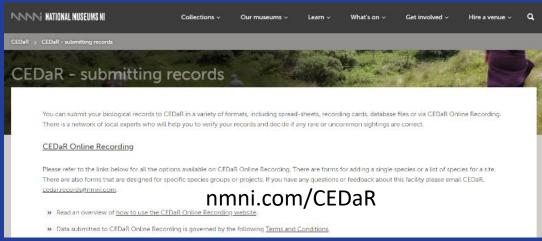




Submit records to a National data centre

- National Biodiversity Data Centre(NBDC)
 <u>https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/</u>
- Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR)
 <u>www.nmni.com/CEDaR/CEDaR-submitting-records.aspx</u>
- Great for occasional records or recording multiple types of wildlife

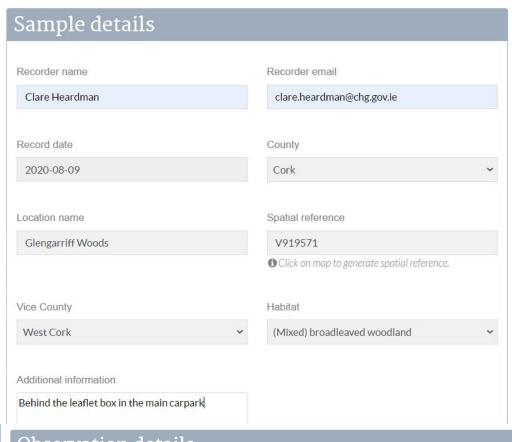




NBDC online recording form



Vascular plants





Observation details

Species Abundance Strawberry-tree (Arbutus unedo) 1

Reset Species



Submit records to BSBI

- Online "Record a Plant" form
 - Best for one-off records
 - bsbi.org/record-a-plant
- Send to county recorder or country officer
 - Best for systematic recording
 - Can use recording cards or spreadsheets
 - bsbi.org/local-botany



Systematic recording

- Species distribution mapping e.g. Plant Atlas 2020
 - Visit all the main habitat types in an area
 - Visit geographical features e.g. cliffs, lakes, coast, etc.
 - Don't forget carparks and 'wasteground'!
- Site surveys e.g. of a local park or nature reserve
- Specific plant groups e.g. aquatics
- Habitat survey and monitoring
- Rare plant surveys

Remember: it's always worth talking to your VCR to see where effort is needed





Systematic recording – BSBI recording cards

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2 a f k q V	Clare Heardman,	Salah Piel			
0 2 4 6 8					
Species	Locality	Notes			
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Optimised for the Vice County of West Cork (203)

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7	Achil mil	244	Blech spi	528	Clena vital	772	Eupho hel	1020	Hypoc rad	4328	Mimul gut	1523	avi	1765	mar	1999	x anb
9	pta	1860	Bolbo mar	533	Cochl dan	773	hyb	1023	Ilex agu	1305	Moehr tri	1522	*avi	1766	nod	2007	Stell als
20	Aegop pod	250	Brach syl	2547	*off	775	par	1026	Impat gla	1307	Molin cae	1544.1	Folyp cam	1767	pro	2009	gra
2241	Aescu hip	251	Brass nap	3345	off off	777	peplus	1038	Iris pse	1312	Monti fon	1544.3	int	1769	sub	2010	hol
21	Aethu cyn	254	rap	1592	Comar pal	780	por	1046	Isole cer	1317	Myoso arv	1544.2	vul	2242	Salic*agg	2012	ned
22	Agrim eup	256	Briza med	540	Coniu mac	7310	Euphr arc	1047	set	1321	disco	1544	*vul	1784	Salix alb	2019	Suaed mar
35.2	Agros can	269	Bromu hor	541	Conop maj	785	arc bor	1048	Jasio mon	1319	lax	1548	Polys set	1787	aur	2021	Succi pra
35	*can	277	Buddl day	544	Convo arv	2243	*agg	1050	Juncu acutif	1322	sco	1563	Potam cri	1788	cap	2022	Symph alb
40	cap	291	Cakil mar	557	Coryl ave	799	tet	1052	acutus	1323	sec	1570	nat	1789	cin	2034	Tarax*agg
39	sto	2249	Calli *agg	563	Coton sim	810	Fagus syl	1054	art	1328	Myric gal	1574	pec	1786	cin ole	2046	Teucr sco
35.1	vin	303	*han	4526	*agg	1527	Fallo con	1057.2	buf	1330	Myrio alt	1576	pol	1793	fra	2060	Thynu pol
41	Aira car	307.1	pla	569	Crata mon	1528	jap	1057	*buf	1331	spi	1583	Poten ang	1802	rep	2069	Toril jap
42	pra	307	*sta	572	Crepi cap	822	Festu ovi	1058	bul	1344	Nardu str	1584	ans	1805	vim	1858.2	Trich ger
46	Ajuga rep	30.9	Callu vul	578	ves	821	*ovi	1063	con	1345	Narth oss	1588	ere	2335	x multi	2080	Trifo cam
58	Alche*vul	310	Calth pal	579	Crith mar	822.1	ovi avi	1067	off	1346	Nastu mic	1594	rep	5441	Salso kal	2081	dub
6.3	Alism pla	311	Calys sep	580	Croco x cro	824	*rub	1069	ger	1348	*off	1596	ste	1815	Sambu nig	2091	pra
74	Alliu tri	311.1	sep ros	592	Cymba mur	826	viv	1070	inf	1347	off	2709	x sub	1817	Samol val	2092	rep
75	urs	311.2	sep sep	592.1	max max	1649	Ficar ver	1072	max	1349	x ste	1607	Primu vul	1819	Sanic eur	2101	Trigl mar
77	Alnus glu	313	sil	597	Cynos cri	1649.2	ver fert	1075	adn	1356	Nupha lut	1610	Prune vul	1821	Sapon off	2102	pal
82	Alope gen	312	sol	1822	Cytis sco	833	Filip ulm	1077	ten	1358	Nymph alb	1613	Prunu cerus	1833	Saxif hirs	1241.1	Tripl inc
85	pra	325	Capse bur	1822.2	sco sco	835	Foeni vul	1084	Knaut arv	1361	Odont ver	1614	dom	1840	spa	1241.3	nar
97	Annop are	328	Carda fle	607	Dacty glo	838	Fraga ves	1087	Koele mac	1363	Cenan cro	1615	lau	1843	tri	2105	Trise fla
98	Anaca pyr	329	hir	608	Dacty fuc	841	Frant exc	1100	Lamiu hyb	1366	lac	1617	api	1834	x pol	4398	Tropa maj
99	Anaga arv	331	pra	609	inc	844	Fuchs mag	1103	pur	2620	Olear mac	1619	Pterid aqu	813	Sched aru	2109	Tussi far
99.8	arv arv	344	Carex are	611	ker	845	Funar bas	1104	Lapsa con	1377	Ononi rep	1622	Pucci mar	816	gig	2111	Typha lat
100	ten	350	bin	610	mac	850	mn r.	1104.1	com com	1387	Orchi man	1625	Pulic dys	823	pra	2112	Dlex eur
105	Anemo nem	361	demis	1915	Danth dec	846	mur bor	1112	Lathy lin	1397	Ornit per	1638	Querc pet	1851	Schoe lac	2113	gal
109	Angel syl	366	dista	5474	Daucu car	864	Galeo bif	1116	pra	1411	Osmun reg	1640	rob	1852	tab	2119	Ulmus gla
121	Antho odo	4520	divu	620	CAT CAT	869	tet.	1126	Lemna minor	1413	Oxali ace	1639	M ros	1855	Schoe nig	2115	min
125	Anthr syl	369	div div	627	Desch ces	868	*tet	1131	Leont sax	1415	art	1641	Radio lin	1129	Scorz aut	2125	Umbil rup
126	Anthy vul	370	ech	627.1	ces ces	873	Galiu apa	551	Lepid did	1426	Papav dub	1642	Ranun acr	1865	Scrop aur	2126	Urtic die
131	Aphan*agg	374	ext	628	fla	882	pal	1139	het	7046		1643.1	aqu	1867	nod	2128	ure
132	arv	376	flac	640	Digit pur	882,2	pal pal	502	Leuca vul	1430	rho	1647	bul	1874	Scute min	2130	Utric min
133	aus	382	hos	655	Drose int	878	nax	1142	Leyce for	1434	Paren vis	1651	fla	1875	Sedum acr	2132	*vul
135	Apium inu	385	las	657	rot	907	verum	2250	Ligus ova	1435	Farie jud	1653	hed	1876	ATE	3144	LALL T
137	nod	398	ova	662	Dryop aem	907	Geran dis	1144	vul	1442	Fedic pal	1643.3	omi	1891			
	Arabid tha		mur		*aff		luc		Limon hum		syl		pen				
150	Arcti*min	398.2	mur pai	661	dil fil	911 918	mo1	1169	Linum cat	1442.1	syl hib	1643.8	pen pen	1899			
153	nem	395	nig	671		924	rob	1175	Litto uni Lobel dor	1442.2	syl syl	1660	repens	1903			
162.2	Arena ser	400	OCT	674	Elect hex Elect mul	925	Geum riv	1182		1521	Persi amph	5439	ace notes	2612			
166	her ser	400	panicea	675	pal	930	Glaux mar	1183	Loliu mul	1531	hyd lap	5481	Rapha rap	1912			
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Optimised for the Vice County of West Cork (203)

5	Acer pse	242	Biden tri
7	Achil mil	244	Blech spi
9	pta	1860	Bolbo mar
20	Aegop pod	250	Brach syl
2241	Accou hip	251	Brass nap
21	Aethu cyn	254	rap
22	Agrim oup	256	Briza med
35.2	Agros can	269	Bronu hor
35	*can	277	Buddl day
40	-cap	291	X Cakii marX
39	sto	2249	Calli*agg
35.1	vin	303	*ham
41	Aira car	307.1	pla

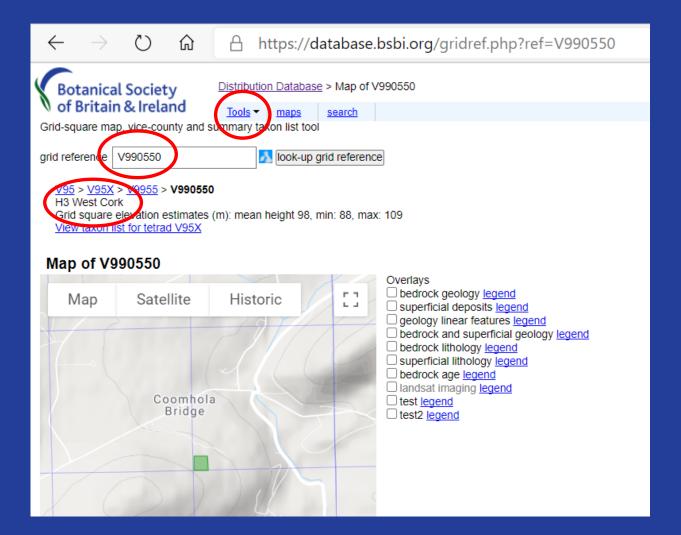
Please cross through the species names only. */agg refers to aggregate species encompassing other taxa. Any taxa in bold are of Conservation Concern and a detailed record should be made. Version 3, 2011

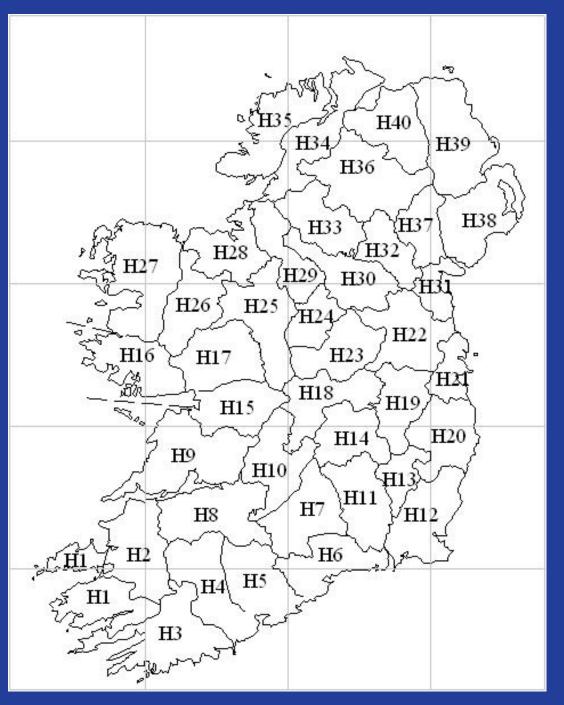


Grid reference tip: crawl before you walk! https://www.osi.ie/education/map-reading/how-to-use-map-scales-and-grids/

Vice county system & DDb

https://database.bsbi.org/





of Britain & Ireland grid reference

√95X exclude taxa with fewer than earliest year 1987 recent record boundary year include taxon list from the whole county

> sort recent records separately ☐ include infra-specific taxa

show taxon list

Taxon list for V95X

Acer pseudoplatanus (2006) 0 2 Ajuga reptans (2006) 0 1 Allium triquetrum (2006) 0 1 Alnus glutinosa (2019) 0 2 Alopecurus geniculatus (2006) 0 1 Alopecurus pratensis (2006) 0 1 Anemone nemorosa (2008) 0 3 Angelica sylvestris (2006) 0 1 Anthoxanthum odoratum (2006) 0 2 Aquilegia vulgaris (2017) 0 1 Asplenium ceterach (2006) 0 1 Asplenium scolopendrium (2006) 0 1 Asplenium trichomanes (2006) 0 1 Athyrium filix-femina (2006) 0 2 Bellis perennis (2006) 0 1 Betula pubescens (2006) 0 1 Blechnum spicant (2008) 0 3 Brachypodium sylvaticum (2006) 0 2 Brassica rapa (2017) 0 1 Bromus hordeaceus (2006) 0 1 Calluna vulgaris (2017) 0 3 Carex demissa (2006) 0 2 Carex echinata (2006) 0 1 Carex flacca (2006) 0 1 Carex pilulifera (2008) 0 1 Cerastium glomeratum (2006) 0 1 Chamaecyparis lawsoniana (2006) 0 1

Chrysosplenium oppositifolium (2006) 0 1 italicised taxa, previously present in grid-square **bold taxa**, present in grid-square, with recent records Circaea lutetiana (2019) 0 1 Cirsium palustre (2017) 0 2 Cirsium vulgare (2006) 0 1 Conopodium majus (2006) 0 1 Corvius avellana (2017) 0 3 Crataegus monogyna (2019) 0 3 Crepis capillaris (2006) 0 1 Crocosmia × crocosmiiflora (2006) 0 2 Cynosurus cristatus (2006) 0 2 Cytisus scoparius (2006) 0 2 Dactylis glomerata (2006) 0 2 Digitalis purpurea (2008) 0 2 Drosera rotundifolia (2017) 0 1 Dryopteris affinis agg. (2008) 0 3 Dryopteris dilatata (2006) 0 1 Dryopteris filix-mas (2006) 0 1 Epilobium ciliatum (2006) 0 1 Erica cinerea (2017) 0 3 Erica tetralix (2017) 0 1 Escallonia rubra (2006) 0 1 Euphorbia hyberna (2006) 0 1 Fallopia japonica (2016) 0 5 Festuca ovina (2006) 0 2 Festuca rubra (2006) 0 2 Ficaria verna (2008) 0 1 Filipendula ulmaria (2006) 0 1 Fragaria vesca (2006) 0 1 Fraxinus excelsior (2006) 0 2

records.

Galium aparine (2006) 0 1 Geranium robertianum (2008) 0 3 Hedera helix s.l. (2006) 0 1 Hedera hibernica (2006) 0 2 Heracleum sphondylium (2006) 0 2 Hieracium sect. Cerinthoidea (2006) 0 1 Holcus lanatus (2006) 0 1 Hypericum androsaemum (2017) 0 1 Hypericum humifusum (2017) 0 1 Hypericum pulchrum (2006) 0 1 Hypochaeris radicata (2006) 0 2 llex aquifolium (2006) 0 2 Juncus bufonius s.s. (2006) 0 1 Lathyrus linifolius (2006) 0 1 Lathyrus pratensis (2006) 0 1 Leucanthemum vulgare (2006) 0 1 Leycesteria formosa (2006) 0 1 Lolium multiflorum (2006) 0 1 Lolium perenne (2006) 0 1 Lonicera nitida (2006) 0 1 Lonicera periclymenum (2006) 0 1 Lotus corniculatus (2006) 0 2 Luma apiculata (2008) 0 1 Luzula sylvatica (2006) 0 2 Lysimachia nemorum (2006) 0 1 Lythrum salicaria (2017) 0 1 Melampyrum pratense (2019) 0 1 Mentha aquatica (2006) 0 1

Molinia caerulea (2006) 0 1 Narthecium ossifragum (2017) 0 1 Oenanthe crocata (2006) 0 2 Oreopteris limbosperma (2008) 0 1 Osmunda regalis (2006) 0 2 Oxalis acetosella (2006) 0 1 Persicaria wallichii (2015) 0 1 Petasites fragrans (2006) 0 2 Phleum pratense s.l. (2017) 0 1 Pilosella officinarum (2006) 0 1 Plantago lanceolata (2006) 0 2 Plantago major (2006) 0 1 Poa annua (2017) 0 3 Poa trivialis (2006) 0 1 Polypodium interjectum (2006) 0 2 Polystichum setiferum (2006) 0 1 Potentilla anserina (2017) 0 2 Potentilla erecta (2006) 0 1 Potentilla sterilis (2006) 0 1 Primula vulgaris (2006) 0 1 Prunella vulgaris (2019) 0 3 Pteridium aquilinum (2017) 0 3 Quercus robur (2006) 0 1 Ranunculus acris (2008) 0 3 Ranunculus flammula (2017) 0 2 Ranunculus repens (2006) 0 1 Rhododendron ponticum (2006) 0 2 Rhynchospora alba (2017) 0 1

Rubus fruticosus agg. (2017) 0 3 Rumex acetosa (2006) 0 1 Rumex obtusifolius (2006) 0 1 Sagina procumbens (2006) 0 2 Salix × multinervis (2006) 0 1 Salix cinerea (2006) 0 2 Sanicula europaea (2006) 0 2 Saxifraga spathularis (2006) 0 2 Sedum anglicum (2006) 0 1 Senecio aquaticus (2006) 0 1 Senecio jacobaea (2006) 0 1 Senecio vulgaris (2006) 0 1 Solidago virgaurea (2017) 0 2 Sonchus asper (2006) 0 1 Succisa pratensis (2017) 0 3 Teucrium scorodonia (2006) 0 1 Thymus polytrichus (2006) 0 2 Trifolium pratense (2006) 0 2 Trifolium repens (2006) 0 1 Umbilicus rupestris (2019) 0 1 Urtica dioica (2006) 0 1 Veronica chamaedrys (2006) 0 2 Veronica officinalis (2006) 0 1 Veronica serpyllifolia (2006) 0 1 Viburnum opulus (2006) 0 2 Viola riviniana (2008) 0 1

Not syr

Total of 138 species

(year) year of most recent record



Summary

- What is needed for a complete record? Who, Where, When, What
- What to record? Native and naturalised plants
- Where to record? Anywhere it doesn't have to be a 'good' habitat!
- Submitting records is important! Make use of the BSBI and/or your national data centres
- How to get started? Taking part in a monitoring scheme like the Garden Wildflower Hunt is a great way to begin your botanical recording journey
- Help is available! The BSBI website is full of useful resources





Where to find more information about recording?

- BSBI Resources page: taxon lists, code of conduct, recording strategy, etc
- BSBI Beginners Guide To Recording
- Videos from CEH & FSC on the BSBI Biological Recording Playlist
- Safety in the field, Recording cards, Spreadsheets for records





How else to get involved?

- <u>Join BSBI</u> field meetings, training courses, and more!
- Join a local group
 - BSBI <u>Local Groups</u>: Clare, Cork, Dublin/East Coast, Galway, Kerry, Leitrim, Ulster and "Rough Crew"
 - Natural History Societies: <u>Dublin Naturalists</u>
 <u>Field Club</u>, <u>Belfast Naturalists Field Club</u>
 - Other nature/environment groups: <u>Irish</u>
 <u>Wildlife Trust</u>, <u>Cork Nature Network</u>
- Follow BSBI on <u>Facebook</u> & <u>Twitter</u>
- #wildflowerhour



The BSBI Rough Crew, Galtee Mountains

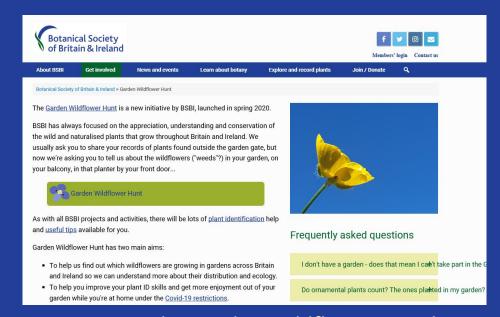
Ready, steady, record!





Give it a Go!

- 1. Work out a grid reference for your home area (online or using instructions on your map).
- 2. Enter that into the <u>BSBI Database's</u> Grid Reference Lookup Tool (Tools> Grid Reference Lookup).
- 3. It should tell you which Vice-County you are in and bring up a little map showing the tetrad (2x2km) square in which you live.
- 4. Then click the "View Taxon List for tetrad...." link to bring up a list of all the species in your home square. (If there are none listed you might want to choose an adjacent tetrad by working out and entering a grid reference 2km away.)
- Download a customised <u>recording card</u> for the Vice-County you live in and print it off. See
- 6. Go out see what you can find! Complete the recording card following the Guidance.
- 7. Finally, scan and send it to your Vice-County Recorder (Contact details on the <u>Local Botany page</u>) or to Sarah, the <u>BSBI Ireland Officer</u>.



Or try out the <u>Garden Wildflower Hunt!</u>