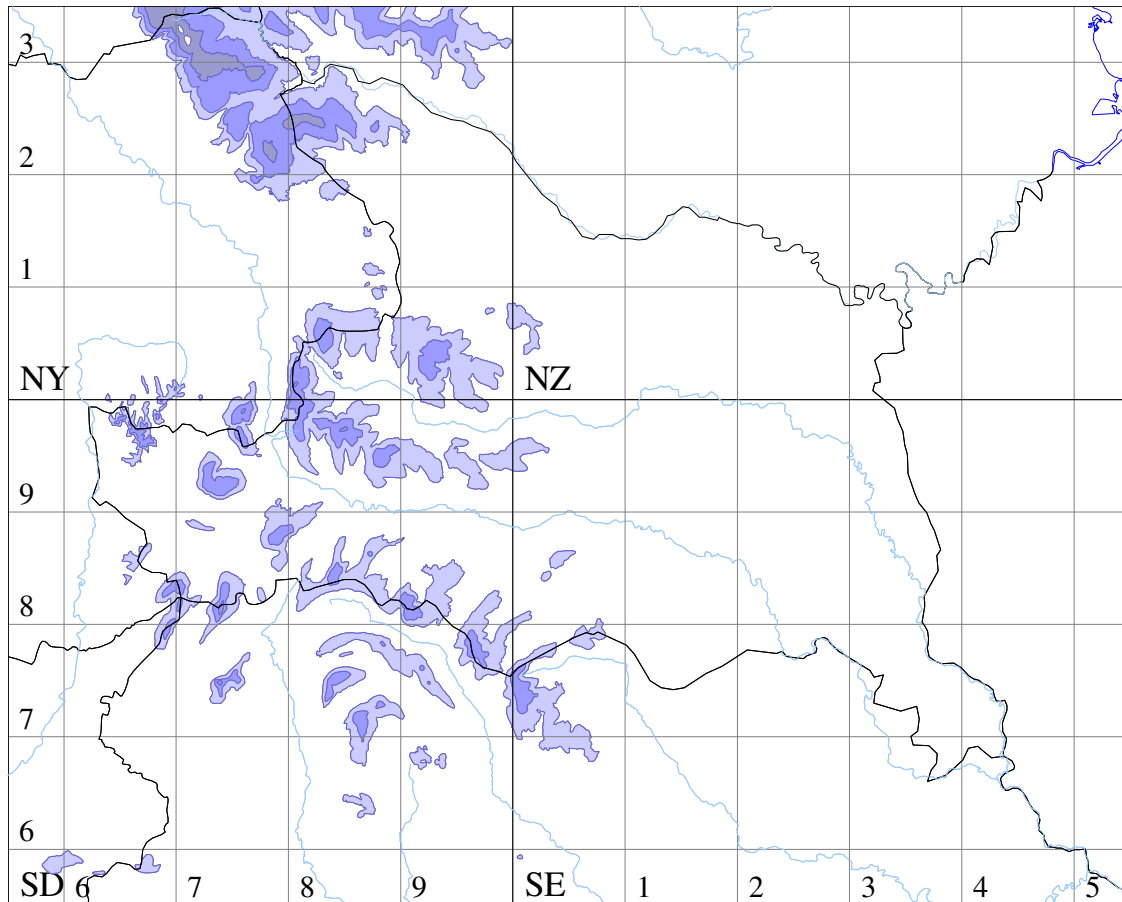


A brief tour of v.c.65 North Yorkshire

Many of you are probably not familiar with the county so here is brief botanical tour of its boundary. VC 65 is a relatively big county by British standards covering 24,081 km² (the 39th largest in GB). It encompasses 39 hectads including 11 which are entirely within the VC (see map opposite) - these are given in bold in the following list: SE36, SE46, SD97, SE07, SE17, SE27, SE37, SE47, SD68, SD78, SD88, SD98, **SE08, SE18, SE28**, SE38, SD69, SD79, SD89, **SD99, SE09, SE19, SE29**, SE39, NY80, **NY90, NZ00, NZ10**, NZ20, NZ30, NY81, **NY91**, NZ01, NZ11, NZ21, NY72, NY82, NY92, NZ02. We start our tour on the summit of Crag Hill in the SE corner of the county where VC65 meets three other counties (VCs 64, 60 and 69). From here the boundary runs over the NE slopes of Wharfedale and crosses the northern edge of Upper Wharfedale above Oughtershaw crossing the B6160 north of Cray to the summit of Buckden Pike.



Botanical vice-county 65 (land above 500m in blue)

From here it follows the northern watershed of Nidderdale meeting the River Ure near to West Tanfield north of Ripon. The Ure then forms a natural southern boundary as far as Boroughbridge (although there are complications where the river has been re-aligned) where it meets the River Swale just north of the confluence.

The Rivers Swale and Wiske form the eastern boundary of the county as far north as the Tees at Stockburn. It then runs west along the south bank of the Tees as far as Maize Beck, taking in the botanical delights of High and Low Force, Holwick Meadows and Cronkley Fell. The western boundary is very indistinct crossing a remote area of moorland via Mickle Fell, the Stainmore Gap (and the A66) and the head of Swaledale. From here it follows the watershed on the Mallerstang ridge before crossing the upper Eden Valley and the southern half of the Howgill Fells. The final stretch runs south along the Lune Valley to the south of Sedbergh and across the south of Dentdale to Crag Hill.