

Introduction

This is the first mid-winter Newsletter, which will be supplemented, starting in 2013, by a second newsletter during mid-summer. The purpose of the newsletters will be to keep people informed of activities and news related to botanical recording within the county. One of the duties of a County Recorder is to submit to the BSBI Co-ordinator (Alex Lockton) an annual summary of the activities within the county. It seems reasonable to assume that the participants of the Nottinghamshire Botanical Recording Group (NBRG) would be interested in such details and hence, the preparation of the newsletter.

During 2012 progress with some of the activities that were proposed at the NBRG start-up meetings has been slower than anticipated and for some activities has yet to get started. I apologise for this situation, but as explained in an earlier email to you all, my circumstances with regards to workloads were not as expected. It is hoped that during 2013 I will have to spend less time away from home during the working week and less time on re-writing teaching materials for my lecturing work at Nottingham Trent University. That being the case I can devote more time to the administration and management of BSBI related activities.

For future issues of this newsletter, articles by members of the group that are Nottinghamshire related would be most welcome. Issues or news items that extend beyond the county or are of national interest (or significance) should be submitted to BSBI News (check the BSBI website for further details).

Recording During 2012

For 2012, a total of 22,656 records (1103 species) have been uploaded onto the mapmate database. The records have been submitted by a number of recorders and I would like to thank all of those people who contributed to this effort.

Apart from Dave Wood's (and colleagues – Pete Acton, Jane Carruthers and Rob Johnson) recording work with the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (which resulted in over 7,000 records), he also continued with field work nearly every weekend, concentrating on areas to the north of Nottingham and south of Worksop, extending right across the county from the west to the east boundaries. Dave and I also did numerous recording trips around the county including some of the more remote areas such as the extreme northern tip near Misson and southeast boundary at Balderfield and Staunton. We also visited Castle Grove, Tranker Wood (and adjacent land), Cutts Wood, Beech Hill Wood, Newark Station, Girton sites, Attenborough Floodbank, Carlton-in-Lindrick sites, Styrrup sites and Lound.

I carried out Monad recording mostly closer to home (coinciding with dog walking on many occasions). Squares included SK4657, SK4658, SK5152, SK5355, SK5356, SK5455, SK5456, SK5457, SK5448, SK5549, SK5550, SK5552, SK5650, SK5653, SK5751, SK5759, SK5849, SK5851, SK5852,

SK5853, SK5854, SK5859, SK5949, SK5950, SK5951, SK5952, SK5953, SK5954, SK5955, SK5957, SK5958, SK5959, SK5960, SK5969, SK5970, SK5971, SK6050, SK6051, SK6054, SK6055, SK6059, SK6060, SK6069, SK6070, SK6150, SK6151 and SK617. The dogs have got sore feet!

Mary and Claire Smith carried out Monad recording in SK4741, SK4841, SK4941, SK4942, SK4648, SK4649 and SK4946.

Ken Balkow carried out Monad recording in SK5064, SK5164, SK5371, SK5470, SK5471, SK5473, SK5671, SK5672, SK6069 and SK6070.

Wendy English carried out recording in SK5023 and Graeme Coles recorded in SK5879 and SK5878 (Graeme also sent me several records of notable species in the Worksop area – more below).

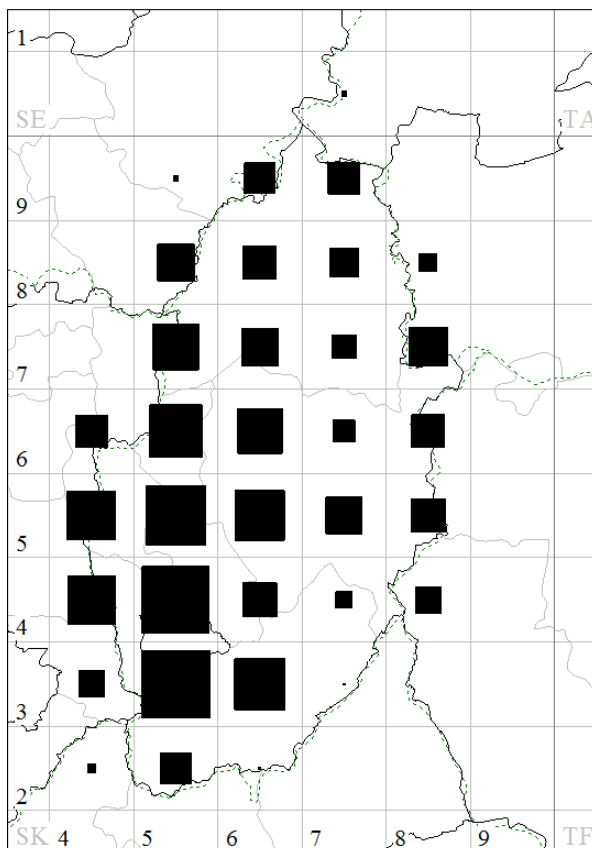
There were numerous contributions from other recorders, which were largely site-based records including Richard Penson, Chris and Reva Smith, Sarah Love, Andrew Burroughs and Nick Crouch. Apologies if I have missed anybody.

A special mention for Wendy Martin, who has in recent years, been collecting Monad records across the City of Nottingham. Wendy has provided more than 4000 records; a significant contribution to the county records.

It is not too late to submit to me or Dave Wood (via the NBGRC) any records that you may have in your possession, but I am planning on submitting the 2012 batch to the BSBI database sometime in January 2013 so I would be grateful if you could supply the records no later than mid-January.

The outcome of all of the 2012 (and previous years) recording activity is summarised in the adjacent

VC56 Vascular Plants and Charophytes Species Density 10km



map, which shows the density of records for each 10km square in Nottinghamshire. Obviously, the map only shows the records I have in my database and I suspect that similar analysis by the Notts. Biological Records Centre and Dave Wood would provide a more representative set of squares, but I think it shows quite well, the better recorded areas in the county. Over the next few years I will provide a more detailed map at 2km square resolution that shows where the most recording effort is needed (the smallest squares). If you require any more detailed information of this type, please get in contact and I will see what other analysis tools are available on Mapmate. For example, I can easily provide species lists for 10km, 2km and 1km squares. A note of caution – I have approximately 75,000 records for VC56, the NBRC has probably got 10x that number and will therefore be able to provide much more detailed and accurate distribution data.

NBRG Field Trips 2012

Trips to Calverton Pit Tip (May 2012) and Langold area (Sept 2012) were attended by small numbers of people, but the trip to Attenborough Gravel Pits (Sept 2012) was much better attended. The trips to Calverton and Attenborough were treated as an opportunity to get to know each other better and to share knowledge and as such, proved to be very successful. The Langold trip was sparsely attended, but botanically was of the greatest interest, because of the number of notable species that were recorded (more below).

NBRG Field Trips 2013

I intend to organise at least four trips during 2013 and propose to start early in the year with a conifer identification training day in February. There are two potential venues (could do both at a push); Wollaton Park (Nottingham) and Stapleford Wood (nr Newark). Wollaton has better parking facilities and amenities, but it is usually busy at weekends and is largely a municipal park (a more formal environment). Stapleford is a large Forestry Commission site planted on peat and supports a wide variety of conifer species along with numerous other species of interest. Please let me know who would be interested in attending as numbers and location of participants will inevitably influence the choice of venue. The other training event I propose for 2013 will be willows identification at Farndon Willow Holt or Brackenhurst Campus of Nottingham Trent University. Changes to the nomenclature for willows will also be discussed during the event.

I would like suggestions from the group with regards to other venues for the summer months. My preference this year would be sites that are poorly recorded because of geographical location, but I am keen to hear from you before proposing my own preferences. I recognise that considerations such as transport, parking and facilities have to be accounted for.

It is perhaps worthwhile reminding everyone that there is nothing to stop small sub-groups organising field trips. You all have access to my mailing list, so feel free to organise events and please let me have your records.

I have had several enquiries about bryophyte field trips during winter. Whilst I am interested in participating in such activities, I do not have the spare time to organise such events (or the knowledge to suggest interesting sites). Sue Knight (BBS County Recorder is on the Mailing list for the NBRG, so if you would like to organise bryophyte recording days, please contact Sue and keep me informed (I am keen to learn if I am available to attend).

Dave and I have discussed potential Nottinghamshire venues for field trips that will be open to all BSBI members. The last field trip that Dave organised was at Sutton-cum-Lound, which was well attended by members from all over the country. Any national meetings will be announced by way of BSBI News, so keep an eye on future editions of the magazine.

Rare Plant Register (RPR)

Following Dave's decision to extend the recording period for the RPR to the end of 2012, there are hundreds of new, amended or updated records and a few new species that have been added to the NBGRC spreadsheet. In addition, Dave has interrogated the Vascular Plant Database of the BSBI and has found a significant number of records of plants that also need to be included in the register. Most of the database records originate from the period 1970 to 1987 and may not be extant, but there is a strong possibility that some populations are still present and future survey work will include checks of the relevant locations.

I am now steadily working my way through the NBGRC spreadsheet and modifying the records into formats for inclusion in the text version of the register and a version that can be uploaded onto the Mapmate database. Once the mapmate work is complete, I will synchronise the database with the BSBI hub and all new records will be automatically added to the national database. Thereafter, I anticipate that the register will be completed in its entirety by mid to late February 2013.

Upon completion, a PDF version will be available for download from the BSBI website. If members of the recording group require more detailed information for a particular species or record, this can be made available upon request, but on the understanding that the information will be used with discretion and not put into the public domain without the permission of the recorder (and the landowner).

Rare Plants Recorded in 2012

2012 provided some memorable records including some 'firsts' for the county. Those records of particular note include:

1. *Agrostis scabra* – a rare neophyte recorded at Toton: 1st VC record? (DC Wood)
2. *Armeria maritima* – 1st VC record: casual on A46 roadside verge (R Penson)
3. *Circaea x intermedia* – a rare native hybrid recorded at Clifton: 1st VC record (DC Wood)
4. *Gnaphalium luteoalbum* – a very rare casual recorded at Worksop, recorded only a couple of times in the county in the 20th Century (G Coles – source of photograph below)
5. *Guizotia abyssinica* - a rare neophyte recorded at Brinsley: 1st VC record? (DC Wood)
6. *Jasminum beesianum* – a rare neophyte recorded at Warsop: 1st VC record? (DC Wood)
7. *Lavatera x clementii* – a rare neophyte recorded north of Nether Langwith: 1st VC record? (K Balkow)
8. *Lonicera xylosteum* – a rare neophyte recorded at Wallingwells in 2011: 1st VC record (M Woods, DC Wood)
9. *Lychnis chalconica* – a rare neophyte recorded at Eastwood Hall: 1st VC record? (DC Wood)
10. *Prunella laciniata x grandiflora* – a rare hybrid recorded at Hucknall: 1st UK record confirmed by Dr R Harley at Kew, Dave thinks it is planted, I am not convinced! (M Woods)
11. *Pyrola rotundifolia* subsp. *rotundifolia* – confirmed J Szczur's 2011 record at Lound: 1st VC record (M Woods & DC Wood found 2 populations within 100m of each other and a further population was found nearby by J Simpson of NWT)
12. *Salix x fruticosa* – a rare hybrid that has only been previously recorded as a cultivated species or in collections. Recorded in a hedge at Greasley (DC Wood)
13. *Silene coeli-rosa* - a rare neophyte recorded near Newark station (1st VC record) – possibly sown (P Acton, RA Johnson, DC Wood, M Wood)

14. *Silene gallica* – a rare archaeophyte recorded at Calverton Pit Tip by M Woods (2nd VC record in last 100 years and likely to persist unlike Hucknall population, which was destroyed)
15. *Sisymbrium polyceratium* – a rare neophyte recorded at West Bridgford by DC Wood (1st VC record)
16. *Viola x bavarica* – 1st record for the hybrid in the VC, recorded at Ruddington (DC Wood)
17. *Cardamine uniflora* (element of *Cardamine corymbosa* s.l.), growing as a weed of cultivation in Selston – 1st VC record (J Shaw).



Gnaphalium luteoalbum – Worksop 2012 (Source Graeme Coles)

Alnus hybrids

Dave and I were contacted by Clive Stace during October 2012 with regards to the presence of *Alnus* hybrids in Nottinghamshire. A few years ago Dave provided Alan Leslie (VC recorder for Cambridgeshire) with information about records of *Alnus* hybrids he had found in Nottinghamshire. Alan informed Clive about the Nottinghamshire records and he subsequently contacted us for more information, because Dave's records superseded records from Cambridgeshire and Cheshire.

There are now three known hybrids in Nottinghamshire, two of which were recorded for the first time in Nottinghamshire and as far we aware, are new to science. Dave and I took samples of the relevant hybrids to the BSBI Annual Exhibition in Cambridge, where we met Clive Stace and provided him with the samples.

Alnus x hybrida (*A. glutinosa* x *incana*) is a fairly common hybrid that occurs wherever the parents meet and has been recorded on numerous pit tips in Nottinghamshire.

Alnus cordata x *incana* has been recorded at the following sites in Notts:

- Bentinck Colliery, Kirkby Bentinck, SK490548, Wood, D.C., 07/09/2002
- Harworth Colliery, Styrrup, SK615901, Wood, D.C., 10/07/2004
- Gedling Colliery, SK613437, Wood, D.C., 19/09/2005
- Bentinck Colliery, Kirkby Bentinck, SK490548, Wood, D.C., 07/09/2002
- Freckland Wood, SK527521, Woods, M., 04/11/2012

It has also been recorded in Cambridgeshire (2007) by Alan Leslie.

Alnus cordata x *glutinosa* has been recorded at Hoveringham, SK717478, Wood, D.C., 06/09/2006.

It has been more recently recorded near Manchester Airport by Graeme Kay (VC Recorder for Cheshire) in 2011.

Given the importance of these records I would urge you to check for what look like intermediate plants wherever you encounter any or all of the three species growing together. Pit tips are the most common situation, but other places such as gravel pits are also likely to provide potential sites. Dave and I would be happy to provide details of the hybrid (taxonomic information) if you wish to do detailed searches. During late-summer 2013, we will be renewing our search for these rare hybrids. As a footnote, if anyone records regenerating *Alnus viridis* (planted on a few colliery pit tips in Nottinghamshire such as Manton and Kirkby-Bentinck), I would be interested to know

Website

I am keen to get a dedicated web-site established during 2013 and Alex Lockton is available to help with the work. Ken Balkow kindly provided some suggestions as to what should be included on the site and I have a few ideas, but that is as far as I am able to progress the project. I hope that Sally's offer of helping with the project still stands and that being the case I was hoping that a small sub-group could be formed. If volunteers are forthcoming I would like to propose a meeting early in the year to discuss the project and getting started. Anyone interested should respond as soon as possible.

Botanical Illustrations and Photographs

It was my intention to try and arrange some activities, such as botanical illustration workshops, but this is one of the items that I have not had time to arrange. In due course I will try and arrange something during 2013, depending on what people in the group require and the availability of tutors and facilities.

With regards to photographs and illustrations carried out by the group, I have had some high quality photographs from Graeme Coles, Ken Balkow, Chris & Reva Smith and Phil Bych (see his Flickr page for the willow photographs), which are excellent and very useful. In addition, I have discussed using

some of Steve Hammond's photographs for the rare plant register, which can be seen on his Flickr page.

Ken has suggested setting up a Flickr account specifically for photographs of Nottinghamshire plants. I agree that this would probably be the best way of establishing a library for use in a flora (and the rare plant register) and it could be linked to the Nottinghamshire web-site we are proposing. I would also welcome uploading high quality photographs of any Nottinghamshire botanical illustrations on the site – this could serve as a shop window as well as providing access to observe some very high quality work. Obviously there is no obligation with regards to any of the above suggestions and I would also be happy to consider any other proposals.

The creation of the Flickr account and populating the site is work that needs to be carried out by people who are familiar with such activities and I am asking for a small group of people to volunteer some time to the work. Please let me know if you are interested.

Happy New Year to everyone

Mark Woods (Joint BSBI recorder for Nottinghamshire)

01/01/2013