

## Introduction

This is the second mid-winter Newsletter, which will provide details of the activities and events of 2013. The 2013 recording year proved to be as exciting and productive as previous years. The highlight of the year (for me) was the completion of the Rare Plant Register (RPR), which coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of the last County Flora, Howitt & Howitt (1963)<sup>1</sup>. The RPR provides a platform for the next stage, which is the publication of a new county flora, but there are a few years of work that are still required.

As stated last year, articles for this Newsletter 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 2013

For 2013, a total of 13,721 records (1099 species) have been, to date, 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. I am still waiting for a further tranche of records and anticipate several thousand records will be added to the final total.

The Nottinghamshire Biological Records Centre (NBGRC) has supplied approximately 25,000+ records that have been collected between 2010 and 2013 from surveys of Local Wildlife Sites throughout the county. The records have made a significant contribution to the 127,266 records contained with the database and originate from sites throughout the county.

Dave Wood has continued with his weekly field work and throughout 2013 he visited numerous sites and areas throughout the country including West Bridgford, Edwalton, Tollerton, Holme Pierrepont, Hickling, Kinoulton, Upper Broughton, Bothamsall, Kirton, Bevercotes, Walesby, Elkesley, Epperstone, Calverton, Farndon, East Stoke, Flintham, Farndon, Thorpe, Elston, Gonalston, Bunny, Costock, Rempstone, Wysall, Screveton, Gotham, East Leake, Stanford, Nottingham (City), Newark-on-Trent, Staythorpe, Averham, Rolleston, Kelham, Holbeck, Portland Park, Kirkby-Bentinck, Cotgrave (former colliery and country park), Cuckney, Nether Langwith, Netherfield, Stoke Bardolph, Worksop, Shireoaks, Rhodesia, Mansfield, Gedling, Eastwood, Brinsley, Newstead, Annesley, Huthwaite, Clifton, Retford, Asham, Eaton, East Markham, Gamston (north), Strelley, Thurgarton, Lowdham, Hoveringham, Watnall, Greasley, Ruddington, Gunthorpe, Bulcote, Burton Joyce, West Stockwith, Awsworth, Keyworth, Stanton, Misterton, Sutton-on-Trent, Grassthorpe, Normanton-on-Trent, Trowell, Cossall, Marnham, Gringley-on-the-Hill, Langford, North Muskham, Collingham, Holme-on-Trent, Papplewick, Hucknall, Pleasley, Balderton,

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<sup>1</sup> Howitt, R.C.L. & Howitt, B.M. (1963). A Flora of Nottinghamshire. Derry & Sons, Nottinghamshire.

Dave and I also did numerous recording trips around the county including Lound, Babworth, Wellow Park, Elkesley, Teversal, Retford, Warsop, Screveton, West Drayton, Meering, Besthorpe, Sutton-on-Trent, Rampton, Laneham, Dunham-on-Trent, South Clifton, Girton, North Clifton and Carlton-on-Trent.

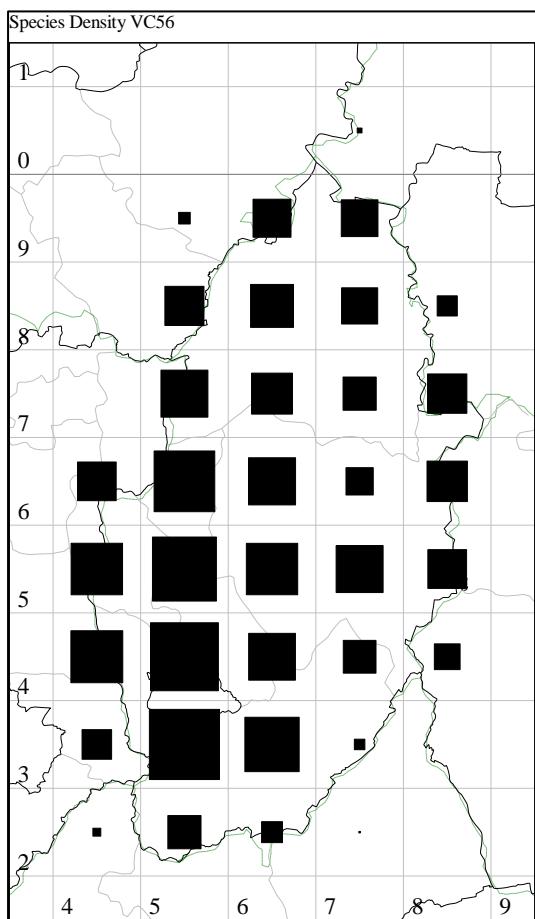
Individually, I carried out recording at a variety of sites and Monads including Caudwell Wood, Stonepit Plantation, Coxmoor Plantation, Bestwood Sand Pit, Annesley Park, Boughton Brake, Park House Plantation, Ruddington, Brierley Forest, Newstead, Rufford Forest, Lower Oakham, Erewash Canal, Mansfield Woodhouse (Millennium Business Park), King's Mill Reservoir & Hermitage Lane (Mansfield), Maun Valley, Mansfield, Shirebrook, Cossall Pit Tip, Gedling Colliery, Quarry Lane Mansfield, Collingham, Clipstone, Edwinstowe and Papplewick Moor.

Mary and Claire Smith carried out Monad recording in SK4744, SK4840, SK4740, SK4549, SK4449, SK4748, SK4747 and SK4745.

Ken Balkow carried out Monad recording in SK4761, SK4861, SK4961, SK4962, SK4963, SK5360, SK5063, SK5163, SK6181 and SK6182.

There were welcome contributions from other recorders, which were largely site-based records including Sandy Aitken (Attenborough Gravel Pits records), Richard Penson, Chris and Reva Smith and Andrew Burroughs.

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 please note that I am planning on submitting the 2013 batch to the BSBI database sometime in January 2014 so I would be grateful for receipt of records no later than mid-January.



The outcome of all of the 2013 (and previous years) recording activity is summarised in the adjacent map, which shows the density of records for each 10km square in Nottinghamshire. The map shows the records I have in my database, which also includes a sizeable chunk of records from the NBGRC, which has provided a much greater and more even spread of records compared with the 2012 map. Next year 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.

## **NBRG Field Trips 2013**

The Conifer Training Day at Stapleford Wood in February 2013 was very well attended and a good range of specimens were identified and recorded. By the end of the session, all of the participants were able to use the keys and I hope that the new skills were put to good use during the summer. A willow identification course at Farndon Willow Holt attracted smaller numbers; participants were given a taste of some of the difficulties associated with willow identification. It is not possible in a short time to be able to confidently identify all willow species, but the course allowed participants to observe all of the vegetative features that are used to identify lowland willow species.

## **NBRG Field Trips 2014**

Dave and I visited the landscaped colliery spoil tip at Bevercotes during 2013 and we were astonished at the diversity and abundance of the orchid species that are present, on the banks of, or in close proximity to a small lake, located near to the A1 road. A field trip to the site will provide attendees with an opportunity to observe the differences between southern and northern marsh orchids, view what is probably the largest colony of early marsh orchid in the county and search for *Dactylorhiza* hybrids. Twayblade, pyramidal, bee and greater butterfly orchids are also present. We visited on 15 June 2012, so the same time next year would be suitable to coincide with peak flowering for most species.

Notts Wildlife Trust are keen to update their reserve records, so if the group or individuals have any suggestions for nature reserves (or other sites) that are accessible and suitable for group gatherings, then please let me know and we can organise an event. Similarly if people want specific training on any particular plant families and/or genera, then please let us know and we will make the appropriate arrangements.

## **Rare Plant Register (RPR)**

As most of you will know, the Nottinghamshire Rare Plant Register was completed and posted onto the BSBI website [http://www.bsbi.org.uk/rare\\_plants.html](http://www.bsbi.org.uk/rare_plants.html). It is our intention to review the document and update every three years. This will be difficult to achieve without your help as there are numerous populations to re-visit. If you are able to get involved and carry out routine checks (eg population counts) of specific species or individual populations, it would be greatly appreciated. Check the register to see which plants are located in your local area.

## **Rare Plants Recorded in 2013**

2013 provided more records of note including some 'firsts' for the county. Those records of particular note include:

1. *Anemone blanda* – 4<sup>th</sup> VC record: casual on soils, dumped on the verge of the A609 trunk road at SK477405(M Smith & C Smith).

2. *Anthemis punctata* – rare neophyte, 2<sup>nd</sup> VC record since 1970; recorded on south-facing slope of Calverton Pit Tip (SK605509) in rough grassland (M Woods).
3. *Berberis glaucocarpa*- a rare neophyte recorded in dense scrub at a disused limestone quarry in Mansfield (SK534600): 1<sup>st</sup> VC record? (M Woods).
4. *Cirsium x celakovskianum*– 1<sup>st</sup> VC record for this hybrid, but it is probably under-recorded. A few plants found at Freckland Wood (SK528524) with both parents on an east-facing, flushed slope(M Woods).
5. *Cucurbito peplo* – 4<sup>th</sup> VC record for this neophyte recorded at Girton (SK813617) in a midden heap on the edge of an arable field (M Woods).
6. *Echinochloa colona*– a rare neophyte recorded in 2009 at Park Lane, Lenton (SK559392): 3<sup>rd</sup> VC record (W Martin).
7. *Fumaria capreolata* – a rare neophyte recorded on the site of demolished housing at Pleasley (SK5063): 1<sup>st</sup> confirmed VC record (K Balkow).
8. *Linaria purpurea x vulgaris*– if confirmed, this will be a new hybrid. Found in close proximity to both parents at Nottingham Boots Island site (SK579396) in open ruderal grassland on the site of demolished buildings (DC Wood).
9. *Nicotiana sylvestris*– 1<sup>st</sup> VC record for this neophyte. Recorded on a Balderton Track (SK824498) in tall ruderals on dumped materials (DC Wood, det.RA Johnson).
10. *Potamogeton trichoides*- a rare native, 2<sup>nd</sup> confirmed record in modern times (post 1970) recorded near Thorne (J Carruthers).
11. *Potamogeton compressus*– a rare native, not recorded since 1970. A population is present in the Erewash Canal in Monads SK4545, SK4546 and SK4645.
12. *Reseda alba* – 1<sup>st</sup> modern VC record - a rare neophyte recorded at Thurgarton Recycling Centre (SK707479 and SK707480) on dumped materials (DC Wood). There is an early 19<sup>th</sup> Century record in Howitt & Howitt (1963).
13. *Triteleia laxa* – 3<sup>rd</sup> VC record for this neophyte, located at Kirkby Bentinck Pit Tip (SK478540) on a lagoon bank (DC Wood).

If anybody has any records that they want checking or if anyone has recorded any rare plant (any species) then please let us (Dave and I) know.

## **Website**

During 2014, a dedicated page for Nottinghamshire on the web-site will be established. Apart from contact details for the VC recorders, it will include the Newsletters, a link to the Nottinghamshire Flikr page and a list of the species recorded in any given year since 2010. I am happy to consider any other items that people may want to include, but note that I do not have the time to regularly revise a web-site.

## **Photographs**

Please visit the Flikr site (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/2181996@N22/>) and if you have good quality photographs, then please submit them for inclusion on the site – the more the better. I note that Ken and Phil have added more photographs to the site, which are excellent.

## **Working Party**

Following conversations with Nick Crouch (Notts County Council Ecologist) I emailed you all earlier in the year to scope people's interest with regards to forming a working party; the aim being to carry out practical tasks that will conserve declining or threatened populations of our rarer species. A sufficient number of people expressed an interest to make the project viable. There are logistical and legal considerations with regards to co-ordinating and carrying out such activities, but these are not insurmountable and there are other county-based groups who do such work. If a working party is established I would like it to be co-ordinated with a programme of monitoring, which can be done by the same people. Simple monitoring will provide evidence of the effectiveness of the practical work.

If you are still interested, then please contact Nick ([nick.crouch@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:nick.crouch@nottsc.gov.uk)). If the project gets started I will gladly lend my support and assist with any activities. I can also investigate sources of collaboration such as Notts Wildlife Trust (and private landowners) and support from student conservation volunteers at Nottingham Trent University.

Happy New Year to everyone

Mark Woods (Joint BSBI recorder for Nottinghamshire)

02/01/2014