

## Introduction

This is the third mid-winter Newsletter, which will provide details of the activities and events of 2014. The 2014 recording year was relatively quiet compared with previous years, but there were still plenty of activities. Highlights this year include the near completion of digitising thousands of card-based records has been very satisfying (more below) and the second modern record for grey sedge *Carex divulsa*.

Despite requests, I have yet to receive any articles for this Newsletter from members of the group that are Nottinghamshire related. It would be great to hear any news about activities, observations and records, so please put pen to paper or email. 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 2014

For 2014, a total of 6306 records have been, to date, uploaded onto the mapmate database. I am, however, awaiting records from NBGRC staff so the total number of records for 2014 should significantly increase. Records continue to be submitted by a number of recorders (see below) and I would like to thank all of those people who contributed to this effort.

A total of 215,022 VC56 records are now located on the mapmate database, a significant increase from the total of 127,266 records at the end of 2013. The increase can be attributed to field recording during 2014, the receipt of historical data-sets from NBGRC and individual recorders, but the largest proportion of the increase can be attributed to the digitisation of Dave Wood's card index. This work was started in early 2014 and is on-going, with an estimated completion date being March 2015. To date, the work has digitised 63,517 records and species beginning with R to Z are yet to be digitised; I estimate a total of 80,000 records when complete. It is probably worth noting that the data-set only includes those records recorded at six-figure grid reference level. Species recorded at 1km and 10km levels are yet to be digitised, so there is plenty of work still to do. For any of you that regularly record, you will have some idea of how much work has been required by Dave to collect such a large number of records; an enormous and praiseworthy effort!

Dave Wood has had one of his quieter years with regards to field recording, but has still managed to visit a wide variety of sites. Records were obtained for Awsworth, Besthorpe, Bothamsall, Bradmore, Brinsley, Bunny, Clumber and Hardwick, Collingham, Gotham, Gunthorpe, Holme Pierrepont, Hoveringham, Kimberley, Laxton, Lowdham, Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottingham, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Ruddington, Spalford, Thrumpton, Thurgarton, Warsop and West Bridgford.

Dave and I also did several recording trips around the county including Beckingham, Clipstone, Clumber and Hardwick, East Bridgford, Farnsfield, Fiskerton, Lound, Holbeck, Huthwaite, Kirton,

Boughton, Kneeton, Nether Langwith, Norwell, Shelford, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Walkeringham, West Drayton, West Stockwith.

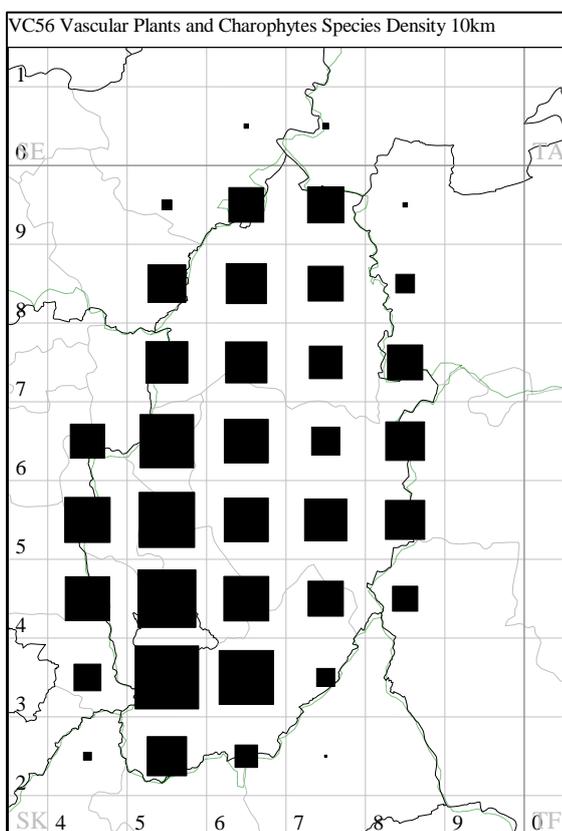
Individually, I carried out recording at a variety of sites and Monads including Hazel Gap, Hucknall, Newstead Park, Mansfield Colliery, Mansfield, Annesley Forest, Lindhurst, Watnall, Broomhill, Southwell Trail, Kirkby Park / Langton, Ollerton, Budby, Ransom Wood, Hungerhill Allotments, Rainworth and Lound.

Mary and Claire Smith carried out Monad recording in SK4546, SK4843, SK4645 and SK4844.

Ken Balkow carried out Monad recording in SK4760, SK4763, SK4863, SK5265, SK5784, SK6470, SK6471 and SK6477.

Graeme Coles submitted his final set of Monad records for the Worksop area and this now completes the coverage for the entire area over the last five years. Please check with me, if you are intending to record in the Worksop area, because there is now a risk of duplication, which should be avoided.

There were welcome contributions from other recorders including Margaret Crittenden, Sally Peacock, John Osborne, Richard Penson, Chris and Reva Smith and Andrew Burroughs, which were largely site-based records. Several hundred records were obtained from NBGRC who have received the results of national schemes such as garden watch. It is not too late to submit to me or Dave Wood (via the NBGRC) any historical records that you may have in your possession, but please note that I am planning on submitting the 2014 batch to the BSBI database sometime in February 2015 so I would be grateful for receipt of records no later than the end of January.



An interesting study was carried out earlier this year by John Osborne in the Burton Joyce – Lowdham area. John carried out a survey of trees in search of mistletoe *Viscum album*. The survey identified common lime *Tilia x europaea* as the most common host, but pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, cherry *Prunus* sp., false acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia*, poplar *Populus* spp., ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, were also hosts. If you record mistletoe, please try and record the host, because it would be interesting to determine whether John's results are indicative of the county-wide situation.

The outcome of all of the 2014 (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 includes Dave's digitised card records (excluding species R to Z). Although the coverage is somewhat more even than in previous years, there is still a lot of work to do

with regards to the coverage of species that are recorded at monad and hectad level and hence the smaller black squares in some hectads. I will be interrogating the NBGRC historical survey records for Local Wildlife Sites over the next couple of years and this will hopefully make a significant contribution to producing a more even and comprehensive spread of records. I was hoping to prepare a tetrad coverage map, but mapmate does not provide this facility. That aside, it is obvious where recording effort is needed, so please check the map and get in contact if you are willing to do any monad recording. Please note that records for common species, if recorded at Monad or Tetrad level, would be very welcome.

### **NBRG Field Trips 2014**

Only one trip was arranged during 2014. I apologise for the lack of activity and can attribute this to other priorities and lack of availability at weekends. A small party of people spent a very wet half day at Bevercotes Country Park (7 June 2014) investigating the taxonomic differences between the *Dactylorhiza* orchids that occur in Nottinghamshire. A student at Nottingham Trent University, who attended the training event, will be undertaking a post-graduate dissertation study of the taxonomy and distribution of northern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella* in Nottinghamshire. We are not certain if the species has been overlooked and is more common than the existing records suggest; if the species shows any signs of hybridisation in the county and what are the ecological preferences of the species in the county? The little that is known at present is included in the Nottinghamshire Rare Plant Register.

I attended a 'Bioblitz' event at Hungerhill Allotments (19 July 2014) and carried out a field survey with Chris Kennedy (Notts. Wildlife Trust) in appalling weather. Despite the weather over 200 species were recorded.

### **NBRG Field Trips 2015**

As I said last year, 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 Plants Recorded in 2014**

2014 provided several records of note including:

1. *Allium christophii* 'Star of Persia' – 1<sup>st</sup> VC record: garden throw-out alongside track in Worksop at SK58548085 (Graeme Coles).
2. *Allium christophii* – 2<sup>nd</sup> VC record: In deciduous woodland, small clearing by path, presumed planted at Pleasley Vale, SK514648 (Dave Wood).
3. *Allium subhirsutum* – 2<sup>nd</sup> VC record: garden throw-out alongside track in Worksop at

- SK58548085 (Graeme Coles).
4. *Carex divulsa* ssp *divulsa* – 2<sup>nd</sup> modern VC record: in shade at Norwell Churchyard at SK7754 6173 (Margaret Crittenden).
  5. *Cerintho major* – 3<sup>rd</sup> VC record: at Littlewood Lane Limestone Quarry, Mansfield Woodhouse.
  6. *Dryopteris* x *complexa* agg. (*Dryopteris affinis* agg. x *D. filix-mas*) – 1<sup>st</sup> VC record: single large plant at Lawn Covert conifer plantation with parents nearby – unconfirmed to date (need to check spores) at SK6957473650 (Dave Wood & Mark Woods).
  7. *Epilobium* x *fossicola* – 1<sup>st</sup> VC record: at Huthwaite in tall-herb fen at SK46325806. More abundant than both parents, which are present in close proximity (Dave Wood & Mark Woods)
  8. *Lonicera tartarica* – 2<sup>nd</sup> VC record: Clipstone Forest ride verge at SK591615 (Mark Woods)
  9. *Primula* x *pruhonicensis* 1<sup>st</sup> VC record: garden throw-out on dumped spoil, Eakring Road Mansfield. Some of the *Primula vulgaris* cultivars are likely to be this species, so this record is unlikely to be the only site in the county for this species (Mark Woods).
  10. *Sedum spathulifolium* – 1<sup>st</sup> VC record: West side of Forest Lane, Manton at SK60237805 - 2 patches - Usual green leaved form (Graeme Coles).
  11. *Veronica* x *franciscana* – 1<sup>st</sup> VC record: mortar of old, north-facing, limestone wall, Wood Lane, Hucknall at SK530494 (Mark Woods).
  12. *Viola* x *intersita* – 1<sup>st</sup> VC record for this hybrid (*V. riviniana* x *canina*): Apleyhead Roadside Verges at Clumber Park, SK643773 (Dave 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

Still to do! The BSBI are hassling me to provide the appropriate information – now a top priority. There is a need for a front cover photograph(s), so suggestions with regards to species would be welcome. If you wish to contribute, please respond urgently and let me know why you have selected the particular species.

## Photographs

Ken has re-formatted the Flickr site (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/2181996@N22/>), which looks great. If you have good quality photographs of any species that are present in Nottinghamshire, then please submit them for inclusion on the site. Some photographs of plant communities and sites of botanical interest would be a most welcome addition.

## Other Activities

*Viola persicifolia* – Owen Mountford from Centre for Ecology & Hydrology corresponded regarding historical information for this species and the state of sites, which formerly supported populations. Owen was able to update our county records by providing details of the last record, single plant growing in a drain at Misson (SK705957), M. Miller (det. by S.M. Walters) in 1982. Owen has been

investigating the feasibility of re-introductions to historic locations and there is a strong possibility of re-introduction to Nottinghamshire.

*Crocus verna* and *Crocus nudiflorus* – At the University of Nottingham, Highfields Campus, counts of the two largest populations of *Crocus verna* were undertaken during Spring 2014. Approximately 8.700 flowering spikes were counted, which is lower than the 2013 count. This could have been caused by a utilities company who disturbed part of the population at Florence Boot Close during Spring 2013. Further counts in the coming years will give a more reliable indication as to any population trends.

At the request of Nottingham City Council, I delivered a short talk during June 2014 to Horticultural and Ecology staff about methods for translocating *Crocus* corms and the ecological and historical importance of increasing the population size and distribution of both *Crocus* species. *C. verna* and *C. nudiflorus* are Local Biodiversity Action Plan species with action plans that aim to further the conservation of both species in Nottinghamshire. The BSBI Atlas states that both species are Neophytes in the UK, but historical evidence is available to confirm that both species are archaeophytes, which were introduced after the Norman Conquest, but well before the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.

*Anchusa ochroleucon* – If anybody is walking around Bunny village during 2014, please keep your eyes open for a small low-growing patch of *A. ochroleucon*, which is growing as a pavement weed – this is the first known county record for the species. I was given a specimen by a lady who attended a guided walk at University of Nottingham Jubilee Campus. She provided me with an email address and some scant details regarding location, but she has failed to respond to my email request for further information including her full name, record location and date of first observation. It is a perennial species so it will persist unless herbicide has been applied to the streets.

*Salix* – Norman Lewis (ex-Conservation Officer for Notts Wildlife Trust) and I visited Farndon Willow Holt Reserve to check the willow collection during September 2014. The collection is maturing and becoming of scientific and aesthetic interest. It is perhaps worth noting that there are a few errors with regards to the species labels, which will be corrected at the earliest opportunity. Please let me know if you have any queries.

On the same day, Norman and I reviewed a line of mature crack willows that are present between the River Trent and the Delta Pond at Attenborough Gravel Pits. I am satisfied that having compared leaf size and shape with specimens of other crack willows, that these specimens are the relatively rare *Salix fragilis* var. *fragilis* (now *Salix x fragilis* ‘*fragilis*’) as opposed to the much more commonplace *Salix fragilis* var ‘*russelliana*’ (now *Salix x fragilis* ‘*russelliana*’).

I think that is all my relevant news for now so it just remains to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you can contribute to the activities of the recording group / BSBI in Nottinghamshire during 2015

Mark Woods (Joint BSBI recorder for Nottinghamshire)

04/01/2015