

Nottinghamshire Botanical Recording Group 2016 Newsletter



Introduction

This is the fifth mid-winter Newsletter, which will provide details of the activities and events of 2016. The past year has once again been noteworthy in terms of recording effort despite fewer contributors and fewer organised field trips (apologies for the lack of activities on my behalf). Highlights this year include the significant progress with the Atlas work, new county records and the discovery of Ann Gilbert's 1880 records at Nottingham High School.

Recording During 2016

At this stage I am not able to provide a final total for 2016, because I am awaiting records from at least two recorders who I know have been very active during 2016. As predicted in the previous newsletter, the total number of records for 2015 was significantly higher than the figure provided in the newsletter. The final figure of 56,535 records was one of the highest in the UK and a praiseworthy effort.

To date, the total number of records for 2016 is 35,547, with a total of 367,046 VC56 records in the mapmate database. I expect at least 10,000 more records to be submitted before the next recording season begins so the recording effort for 2016 will probably be similar to that of 2015. The hoped for digitisation of Dave Wood's records remains incomplete, but only because of a lack of time owing to the need to prioritise other activities.

Instead of providing details of individual efforts from the various recorders, it is easier to just summarise the efforts across the VC. Recorders who have submitted more than 500 records in 2016 include Graeme Coles, Sian Matthews, Dave Wood, Rob Johnson, Ken Balkow, Mary and Claire Smith, and Mark Woods. Numerous individuals and organisations, not mentioned above, have also provided records and collectively made a significant contribution to the 2016 total. **If anybody has any records, please submit to me at the earliest opportunity, or at least let me know when I can expect to receive the information.**

There is very little point in providing a hectad map showing the coverage of records across the county, because we have complete coverage at hectad scale. There are still 71 tetrads (out of a county total of 618) with less than 150 records and a significant number of other tetrads have an incomplete coverage of common species, but at the current rate of survey effort I am confident that we will have surveyed the county at tetrad level by 2020. For next year I will be better placed to identify tetrads lacking records of common species and will put out a request for such records. A request has been submitted to NBGRC for records from Local Wildlife Site (LWS) in specific tetrads and further requests to NBGRC will probably be necessary to achieve full coverage of the county. I hoped to have digitised some of the LWS records by now, but have prioritised field recording instead.

Of the 65 tetrads with no LWSs that required a field survey in 2015, only 29 have yet to be surveyed (Table 1) and several of those in the south of the county are likely to have been completed by Dave Wood and Neil Pinder during 2016. Dave Wood and I will continue to target the tetrads in Table 1 over the next two years. If anybody wants to take on any of these tetrads, please let me know, in

order to avoid repetition. In addition, the tetrads with few records that contain LWSs would also benefit from a survey of the land outside of the LWS so that a representative range of common species is obtained. Upon request, I can provide a spreadsheet that provides all of the records in a tetrad, the under-recorded tetrads and where relevant, details of the LWSs in the tetrad.

Table 1: Under-recorded tetrads with no LWSs

SK52R	SK68Q	SK73F	SK74G	SK74U	SK85H
SK58F	SK69B	SK73T	SK74L	SK75H	SK85I
SK66X	SK69T	SK73Y	SK74N	SK75P	SK85S
SK67T	SK69Y	SK74B	SK74S	SK85G	SK86U
SK67U	SK73B	SK74F	SK74T	SK84D	

NBRG Field Trips

I am aware of three field trips that were organised by the Facebook group including Old Moor Copse, Wellow Wood and the Idle Valley. If any of the attendees would like to summarise the event, I would be happy to provide the recording group with details. If you haven't already visited the web-site and wish to join the group then please go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/floraofnottinghamshire>. As in previous years, if people want specific training on any particular plant families and/or genera, then please let me know and I will endeavour to make the appropriate arrangements. Dave and I have not had many joint recording trips this year owing to the need to concentrate on tetrad recording, but early on in the year we had a day out reviewing the keys and taxonomy for the Scaly male-fern group *Dryopteris affinis* agg. I am now much more confident in segregating the group into individual taxon, down to subspecies level and Dave has identified a new taxon for the county (see No. 8 in the notable species list).

Rare Plants Recorded in 2016

Compared with 2015 the number of new species recorded during 2016 was slightly smaller, although there may be more new species than provided in the list below, but Dave has recorded a number of interesting new taxon including hybrids and neophytes that have yet to be included on the mapmate database list (ie very rare neophytes). Most of the new species are neophytes, but several new populations of rare and scarce plants that are included in the Rare Plant Register (RPR) have been found during 2016. As planned, the update of the RPR is in preparation and the second edition covering the period 2013 to 2015 will be re-issued onto the BSBI web-site. The 2016 information will be included in the third edition (2016 to 2018).

Three important additions to the 2015 list are the hybrid between southern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* and northern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella* at Bevercotes Country Park and grass-poly *Lythrum hyssopifolium* at Sherwood Forest Golf Course and *Umbilicus rupestris* in West Bridgford. A taxonomic study by Matt Gibbons, a post-graduate student studying for a Master's degree at Nottingham Trent University confirmed the presence of northern marsh orchid, but comparative measurements and statistical analysis identified the presence of the hybrid *Dactylorhiza x insignis*. The study also indicated that the hybrid *Dactylorhiza x venusta* between common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and northern marsh orchid is also likely to be present, but separation between *D. x venusta* and *D. x grandis* (*D. fuchsii* x *D. praetermissa*) is not

straightforward and it may require chromosome counts to confirm presence. Details of the grass-poly and navelwort are provided below and all of the above taxa are included in the second edition of the RPR.

Notable 2016 (and additional 2015) records include:

1. *Corylus colurna* Turkish hazel – 1st VC record: seedling in former walled garden at Wollaton Hall, SK530398 (Rob Johnson)
2. *Phytolaca polyandra* Chinese pokeweed – 1st VC record: road verge in Perlethorpe village, probably bird sown from a garden, SK648710 (Ken Balkow)
3. *Galanthus nivalis* x *plicatus* Hybrid snowdrop – 1st VC record: single plant on edge of a Southwell grassland, SK708532 (Rob Johnson)
4. *Festuca glauca* Blue fescue – 1st VC record: abundant in the pavement in front of flower beds and a good tuft on the opposite side of Livingstone Road, St Ann's Valley Centre, Nottingham, SK581409 (Sian Matthews)
5. *Crocsmia masoniorum* Giant montbretia – 1st VC record: garden throwout, few plants on the Harby Dismantled railway, SK877715 (Rob Johnson)
6. *Cotoneaster conspicuus* Tibetan cotoneaster – 2nd VC record: Toton Sidings, SK488353 (Rob Johnson)
7. *Clematis viticella* Purple clematis – 1st VC record: side of alleyway leading from meadows to Northwood Street, Stapleford - growing up through a hawthorn at the side of a stream (not in or near a garden), SK48773766 (Mary and Claire Smith)
8. *Dryopteris affinis* subspecies *paleaceolobata* A Scaly male fern – 1st and 2nd VC records: Stapleford Hill, locally abundant plants growing on a steep slope in a deciduous woodland that has developed in a former sand quarry, SK499388 and SK500388 (Dave Wood)
9. *Helleborus* x *hybridus* Garden hellebore – 1st VC record: 4 plants in deciduous woodland at Holly Copse, SK500423 (Dave Wood)
10. *Dipsacus laciniatus* Cut-leaved teasel – 1st VC record: Hundreds of plants on a sown grass margin of an arable field at Whatton-in-the Vale, SK758395 (Dave Wood)
11. *Dipsacus laciniatus* Cut-leaved teasel – 2nd VC record: Locally abundant on a mown grass margin of a fallow arable field at Aslockton, SK744409 (Dave Wood)
12. *Gymnocarpium robertianum* Limestone fern – 3rd VC record: single clump on NE corner of old wall at Tollerton Churchyard, SK616348 (Dave Wood)
13. *Hypochaeris glabra* x *radicata* Cat's-ear hybrid – 1st VC record: several plants in sparse sandy grassland, Spalford Warren, SK832679 (Dave Wood)
14. *Hypochaeris radicata* subsp *ericetorum* A Cat's-ear – 1st VC record: Locally abundant in sparse sandy grassland, Spalford Warren, SK832679; probably overlooked (Dave Wood)
15. *Mentha requienii* Corsican mint – 1st VC record: single patch in open vegetation on weathered tarmac at abandoned garages, Edwalton, SK598355 (Dave Wood)
16. *Scutellaria altissima* Somerset skullcap – 1st VC record: single plant on dumped material off Soar Lane, Sutton Bonnington, SK498258 (Dave Wood)
17. *Teucrium hircanicum* Iranian wood sage – 1st VC record: 1 plant, possibly planted on a pond bank at Whatton-in-the-Vale, SK736393 (Dave Wood)
18. *Trachyspermum ammi* Ajowan – 2nd VC record: 2 plants at a bus shelter on Gordon Road, West Bridgford in pavement cracks, SK591367 (Dave Wood)
19. *Umbilicus rupestris* Navelwort - 1st and 2nd VC records: Sian Matthews recorded the first plant at the base of a garden wall on the Melton Road, West Bridgford, SK5876436765 (22/09/2015), but the plant was not flowering. Further checks by Sian



(10/01/2016) resulted in a larger population being found on Tavistock Road, West Bridgford, SK5870936747. Flowering plants were recorded on the 18/06/2016 (see photograph), which confirmed the identity of the species.

20. *Lythrum hyssopifolium* Grass-poly – 2nd modern VC record: plants recorded in a damp, unused part of Sherwood Forest Golf Course, SK576613 (Jane carruthers)

Other notable finds include three new records of *Cyrtomium falcatum* House holly-fern; a third record for X *Schedolium braunii* (Tall fescue *Schedonorus arundinaceus* x Italian rye-grass *Lolium multiflorum*); seven new records of *Torilis nodosa* knotted hedge parsley; third and fourth records of *Papaver lecoquii* Yellow-juiced poppy, a third site for *Allium roseum* rosy garlic; two new sites for *Acaena novae-zelandiae* Pirri pirri-bur; a fourth site for *Oxali dillenii* Sussex yellow-sorrel; a third site for *Artemisia verlotiorum* Chinese mugwort; a sixth site for *Carex divulsa* subsp. *divulsa* grey sedge, and three new records of *Erodium moschatum* musk stork's-bill .

With regards to *Erodium moschatum*, Sian Matthews has kindly provided the following text:

Erodium moschatum is scarce in Nottinghamshire but reappeared here and in Leicestershire¹ in 2015 after a long absence. It has been recorded in four locations in Nottinghamshire in 2016 and is generally on the increase all over England. Long-established on our coastline, it was a wool alien and the most likely explanation I have seen for its appearance is being imported with grass seed. It grows in similar places to the more familiar *E. cicutarium*, on waste ground and under street trees, and when in flower or fruit looks similar, but its leaves are much less divided – less than ¾ of the way to the midrib². The distinctive basal rosette of *E. moschatum* is pictured below. The plants I have recorded have been as clear as this but the leaves of both do vary a great deal³ and a couple of plants with atypical leaves and no fruit present went unrecorded in 2015. The clear distinguishing characteristic of *E. moschatum* is the glandular pits in its mericarps – there are excellent photographs of these and the pits of its relatives in Stace. The only other member of the family which has been seen in Nottinghamshire is *E. maritimum*, which is rare.



¹ <http://www.naturespot.org.uk/species/musk-storks-bill>

² <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/WEEDS/filarees.html>

³ http://bsbi.org/Erodium_Crib.pdf

The picture above, which was taken by Sian, is the third record in West Bridgford; observed at a bus stop near the cricket ground – SK583380. Some additional information, which will eventually be added to the RPR; *E. maritimum* has not been seen for some time and may be extinct and the information for *E. moschatum* will be included in the RPR, because it is an archaeophyte.

As always, 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. I am terrible at identification from photographs but Dave is better, and Rob Johnson and Pete Acton at the Biological Records Centre are excellent.

Website

Philien Duchemin has kindly offered to take on the responsibility for the development of a Nottinghamshire web-page, which will be part of the BSBI web-site. I will pass on the suggestions regarding the cover photograph and I will provide the previous newsletters, rare plant registers and any other local information of interest. Links to the Flickr and Facebook web-pages will also be included. Any other suggestions for further content will be considered.

Photographs

Thank you to the contributors to the Flickr site (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/2181996@N22/>) which continues to expand in terms of the species. If you have good quality photographs of any species that are present in Nottinghamshire, please submit them to the editor, Ken Balkow, for inclusion on the site.

Other Activities

A special thank you to Sally Peacock who has provided Ann Gilbert's 19th century botanical records (A to P) from the archives of Nottingham High School library. Howitt's 1963 Flora of Nottinghamshire states the importance of Ann Gilbert's contribution to recording in Nottinghamshire up to 1880. It is hoped that the remaining records (P to Z) will be found in due course so they can also be digitised and submitted to the BSBI database. A further thank you is due to Tom Humphrey (BSBI) for guidance regarding the digitisation of Ann Gilbert's records. A spreadsheet has been submitted in the format suggested by Tom and he will input to the BSBI big database.

There are other historical datasets held by the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre such as a county survey in the late 1970s, which would be useful in digital form for the preparation of a county flora and for conservation purposes. If anybody can help with such work then please get in contact to discuss.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has initiated a working group to investigate and implement targeted species re-introductions. A list of plant species that have been lost in modern times from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Reserves has been compiled (such as the loss of herb-paris *Paris quadrifolia* and greater wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica* from Treswell Wood) and it will now be necessary to carry out an assessment according to the IUCN guidelines for species re-introductions. If the assessment supports a re-introduction, then seed collection from suitable sites, propagation, re-introduction, management and monitoring will be required and it is hoped that some of you may be interested in getting involved with some elements of the work.

And finally, congratulations to Margaret Crittenden, who has recently taken over as county recorder for the British Bryophyte Society. If you have any bryophyte records to pass on, or wish to discuss any related issues, Margaret can be contacted through the Nottinghamshire Botanical Recording Group Facebook page.

Happy New Year to you all and I hope that you can contribute to the activities of the recording group / BSBI in Nottinghamshire during 2017.

Mark Woods (Joint BSBI recorder for Nottinghamshire)

04/01/2017