## Validation of Banffshire data using the BSBI DDb

Andy Amphlett, BSBI Recorder for Banffshire, vc94



#### Where do you start? Which datasets hold records?

It is very useful to find out what data sources and data sets hold records for your vc on the DDb. It is very unlikely that you will be aware of all of them. Run this query, adapted for your vc.

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#### Where do you start? Which datasets hold records?

There are 89 data source / data set combinations for vc94. Records from individual data sources / data sets can easily be investigated using the DDb.

results table download help		
89 groups matched your query.		
<< first < prev 1 2 <u>next &gt; last</u>	<u>&gt;&gt;</u>	
data source	data set	total freq 👻
MapMate	MapMateCentre:2dd	81152
MapMate	MapMateCentre:5gf	16840
MapMate	MapMateCentre:8n1	9059
BRC Vascular Plants Database	Plants	6414
MapMate	MapMateCentre:2b6	2645
BRC Vascular Plants Database	Atlas2000 - updated records from December 1995 onwards	2319
BRC Vascular Plants Database	Monitoring Scheme	1700
BRC Vascular Plants Database	Records from the BSBI Local Change database (2002-2004)	1230
BRC Vascular Plants Database	Atlas2000 master cards	1127
BSBI MapsScheme	BSBI Maps Scheme HECTADS	835
MapMate	MapMateCentre:4qq	653
BRC Vascular Plants Database	Atlas of the British Flora (Monitoring Scheme squares)	595
BRC Vascular Plants Database	Hybrid vascular plant records from Alex Lockton as EXCEL spreadsheet	530
BRC Vascular Plants Database	Scarce Plant Project	441
BRC Vascular Plants Database	SNH Site Condition Monitoring Vascular Plants (2000-2006)	403



#### Where do you start? Known issues

Start with obvious errors, e.g. those errors that you are already aware of, that had slipped through previous checking systems into the 'New Atlas'. :-

e.g. Lycopodium annotinum (Interrupted Clubmoss) – a spurious record from NJ56.





#### Where do you start? Known issues

Earlier computerisation of vc94 records had shown that several data entry errors had been as a result of keying in the wrong BRC code. Records of several rare species had therefore been incorrectly attributed to vc94, e.g.

BRC code	Taxon
35.2	Agrostis canina
352	Carex buxbaumii
35.1	Agrostis vinealis
351	Carex x boenninghauseniana
194.1	Asplenium trichomanes subsp. quadrivalens
1941	Sisymbrium strictissimum



#### Where do you start? Known issues

Look for records at hectad precision that may have been misallocated to your vice-county. Be suspicious of hectad records where only an extremely small area is within your vc. For example some hectad records for NJ02 had been misallocated to vc94.







<b><u>GR / VC mismatches (G</u></b>	3 + Ireland) – 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
<ul> <li>Mismatches in DDb</li> <li>VPDR</li> </ul>	197,530 (0.53%)
• MapMate	75,267 (0.52%)

Overall frequency of grid reference / vc mismatches in MapMate records is similar to the overall average, but slightly better than records from the Vascular Plant Database.

A priority is to get such errors in MapMate as close to zero as possible.



county/regi	ion @ Banffshire,		X 🕄	
mapmate cen	ntre 🕜 2dd	exclude		
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It can be done!

To find all sites, created in MapMate, with records for your vc where there is a mismatch between the grid reference and the vc, run this query:

county/region 🥥	East Perthshire,	×
data source 🕢	MapMate	exclude
precision @	hectad (10km) or better 🔻 🔀 📑	
grid-ref and vc validation 🧑	records where grid-reference and county do not match	• 🗷 🖬
	data set 👻 🔀 💽	
group by 🧭	site name 👻 🔝 💽	
	grid-reference -	



irch for 🕜 Records (	specimens or observations)			
	county/region 🕜 East Pert	hshire,		
	data source 🕑 MapMate			exclude 🗷 📑
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You can also search for records / MapMate sites, where the record / site refers to another vc, but whose grid reference is within your own vc. This uses a spatial query, e.g.

county/region @	VC.	×
bounded area 🧭	East Perthshire (VC89)	include this area 🔻 include intersections 🔻
data source 🕡	MapMate	exclude
precision 🥥	hectad (10km) or better VIII	
group by 🥑	site name ▼ 2010 grid-reference ▼ 2010	
	I see the second s	

36 MapMate sites: 254 GR / VC mismatches

Such records need to be investigated in consultation with the VCR whose vc the records nominally belong to.



#### Where do you start? Prioritising...

Once you have dealt with all known issues and grid reference / vc mismatches you will need to prioritise validation effort further.

There are many ways to prioritise when validating records e.g.

- Start with your own records (e.g. those in MapMate)
- Start with post 2000 records
- Start with Rare Plant Register taxa, or if you don't have an RPR
- Start with nationally important taxa (e.g. Nationally Rare & Scarce, Red List)



### Correcting Records in MapMate

Although the DDb is great at identifying records from MapMate sources that require correction:-

- Always make corrections in MapMate and synch them through to the hub / DDb.
- **Do not** correct MapMate records on the DDb.
- Only contemplate correcting MapMate records in the DDb if you cannot get the original MapMate centre to make the corrections.
- Note that MapMate deletions will synch through and appear as "external rejections" in the DDb. Do not worry about this. They are not normally listed and no-one will see them unless searching specifically for rejected records.

#### Where do you start? Prioritising...

For vc94, I set about checking all records, previously validated or not, starting with the taxa with single records, moving on to more widespread species.

Run a DDb query to create a list of all taxa for your vc, export to Excel, and sort on ascending number of records.

I arranged this Excel file and the DDb query screen in two windows on my PC monitor. I found this an efficient way to work, highlighting each taxon as it was dealt with. (See next slide).



Taxa list for vc94 fr	rom DDb 27 Dec 2013 - Micri	osoft Excel non-	commercial use			10								
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CONFIRMED – "Record is thought to be accurate"

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### Looking for patterns

Erroneous records may be one-offs, but be alert to the possibility that there may be a consistent pattern of errors in the data.

Use the DDb to look for similar records to ones known to be incorrect.

In the vc94 records, I found that many errors were associated with a specific Atlas 2000 data set. Knowing that the correct records within this data set were duplicated in my MapMate database, I marked the whole data set containing the errors as 'Duplicate'; (they were a mix of correct and errors). See next slide.

I consulted with Tom and Quentin at BSBI, and added a detailed explanation as to why the records were not accepted as 'Confirmed'.

Marking these records as 'Duplicate' hid them from default DDb queries and maps. Once these records had been dealt with, validation became a much easier process, as there were so many fewer errors.



Record (field observation)	
taxon	Eleocharis quinqueflora (Hartmann) O.Schwarz "Few-flowered Spike-rush"
date	1974
locality	Dalnashaugh VC94 NJ1833 56 8
recorder	M.McC. Webster (compiler) J. Edelsten
	confirmed externally, assessed by external VPDB user
validity	duplicate: This record belongs to a dataset (part of the Atlas 2000 records for vc94), which is thoroughly corrupted, probably stemming from errors when the data were entered into the original (Biobase) database. All valid records are duplicates of records entered via the VCR's copy of MapMate (CUK 2dd); the MapMate version of the records often have more complete details, and have been thoroughly checked against source. The remainder of the records (and it may be 10% or more), are records allocated to the wrong site / grid ref, and sometimes the wrong species. There will be the possibility that a small number of correct records, not duplicated in other data sets, have been rejected, but after much checking I have found none. 2014-03-25 by Andy Amphlett
source data set	Atlas2000 records on disc via Trevor Dines (VPDB:dataset:169)
status	native
external id	BSBI:VPDB:record:8431612
ddb row id	2cd4p9h.1htz81#2cd4p9h.50h1zq
data source	BRC Vascular Plants Database (via provider The Botanical Society of the British Isles)
last modified	Thu, 17 Mar 11 10:24:20 +0000



# Examples of errors detected while validating records

taxon	Catapodium marinum (L.) C.E.Hubb. "Sea Fern-grass"
date	1987-1999
locality	VC94 Banffshire VC94 NJ11 58 8
recorder	(compiler) <u>J. Edelsten</u>
	confirmed externally, assessed by external VPDB user
validity	rejected: No detailed localised record from this hectad. Highly unlikely to be correct. 2014-03-26 by Andy Amphlett 🔀
source data set	Atlas2000 master cards (VPDB:dataset:178)
status	unknown
external id	BSBI:VPDB:record:8586099
ddb row id	2cd4p9h.1k5q5a#2cd4p9h.50h3zv
data source	BRC Vascular Plants Database (via provider The Botanical Society of the British Isles)
last modified	Thu, 17 Mar 11 10:24:20 +0000





resu	ts table	download	printable map	zoomable n	nap help			
2 rec	ords match	ed your query	l					
0	@rec ord	taxon	recor	der @vc	locality	grid ref	date	Østatus
	10	Goodyera	repens	VC94	Balmoral Estate	NJ22	24/7/1975	•
	12	Goodyera	repens	VC94	Abovne	NJ22	24/7/1975	0

Both records are from the 'Atlas 2000 - updated records from December 1995 onwards' dataset, from BRC (the VPDB). These are the only records for this species in this hectad. The grid reference and the vc match. But both site names are in vc92, not vc94. Balmoral is in NO29 and Aboyne in NO59. If the site names are correct, the Balmoral record would be a new hectad record, while the Aboyne record would be a new date class record for the hectad.

There are no other records for this date in vc94 or vc92 in the DDb, and the records have no details of the recorder.

Conclusion. The records are unreliable, as there is no way of knowing whether the vc and grid reference are correct (and site name wrong), or the site names are correct, but the vc and grid reference are wrong. The records are therefore marked as Rejected.

Record (field observation)	
taxon	Goodyera repens (L.) R.Br. "Creeping Lady's-tresses"
date	24/7/1975
locality	Balmoral Estate VC94 NJ22 56 8
	confirmed externally, assessed by external VPDB user
∨alidity	rejected: The site name is in vc92. The record is unreliable, as there is no way of knowing whether the vc and grid reference are correct (and site name wrong), or the site name is correct, but the vc and grid reference are wrong. 2015-01-12 by Andy Amphlett
source data set	Atlas2000 - updated records from December 1995 onwards (VPDB:dataset:158)
status	native
external id	BSBI:VPDB:record:44413
ddb row id	2cd4p9h.1h5t9#2cd4p9h.50emwd
data source	BRC Vascular Plants Database (via provider The Botanical Society of the British Isles)
last modified	Thu, 17 Mar 11 10:24:20 +0000



resu	Its table	download prin	ntable map	zoomable map	help					
29 re	cords matc	hed your query.								
0	@record	taxon	recorder	r		Øvc	locality	grid ref	date	• @status
	ø 💋	Juncus balticu	15			VC94	Bellie	NJ35	-1995	0
Q	20	Juncus balticu	us Craib. V	V.G.		VC94	Bellie Parish	NJ36	1912	0



d (field observation)	
taxon	Juncus balticus Willd. "Baltic Rush"
date	-1995
locality	<u>Bellie' VC94 NJ35 52 8</u>
attributes	VPDBdatequery
	confirmed externally, assessed by external VPDB user
validity	rejected: Record almost certainly refers to Bellie Parish, and is a record from Craib's 1912 Flora. All records for this parish have been allocated to NJ36. 2014-11-26 by Andy Amphlett
source data set	Scarce Plant Project (VPDB:dataset:39)
status	native
external id	BSBI:VPDB:record:3796879
ddb row id	2cd4p9h.5dhb9#2cd4p9h.50ftew
data source	BRC Vascular Plants Database (via provider The Botanical Society of the British Isles)
last modified	Thu, 17 Mar 11 10:24:20 +0000





# Getting further help with validation

- Post your queries on validation on the <u>DDb</u> <u>Message Board</u>.
- See the <u>BSBI Guidelines for Data Management on</u> <u>the DDb</u> on the DDb Message Board.
- Good luck!

