

# BSBI Threatened Plants Project

## Instructions 2009



### 1. Surveying sample populations

#### Sample sites to survey

The sites selected for survey in your vice-county should be enclosed with these instructions. Alternatively it is available for download on the BSBI website. Note that in 2009 no populations have been selected for VCs 74, 76, 84, 85, 107, 113, H4, H5, H10, H15, H16, H18, H20, H22, H26, H29, H31, H32, H34, H35, H37 but please feel free to survey populations you know within these counties.

Please survey as many of these sites from the list as possible using the recording form supplied. If any sites are impractical to survey, because they are remote, located on inaccessible islands, have restricted access, etc. please feel free to substitute them with populations of your own choosing.

We welcome information from any additional sites you survey as well as details of any 'null records' – i.e. if you fail to find a species or know that it is no longer present please fill in a form and send it to us.

#### Recording the sample population

In 2009 the vast majority of sites have 100 m resolution grid references. We have also included additional site details where available. This should make relocation easier. A few sites have only monad or tetrad details but we suspect you hold site details for them. In these cases please select a site for survey. If you have no details for the selected tetrad/monads but you have site details for a different square then please survey one from there.

#### What to record

Please use the TPP recording form supplied. Further copies can be obtained from Mark Duffell, The Gateway Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB (duffell@bsbi.org.uk) or by printing out the pdf version available on the website.

#### Site details

When filling-in the site-name please indicate whether the site was pre-selected or chosen by you and give the 'VC site number' given on the list of sites to survey.

#### Population size

The size of the population should be estimated using the size categories on the recording form. Please give the actual number if known. In recording size please indicate the unit counted (e.g. clumps, rosettes, flowering spikes, etc.). If you have time it would also be useful to know proportion of the population that is flowering, in fruit or immature.

#### Population extent

Extent should be recorded as the number of 10m (for small populations) or 100m (for larger populations) grid cells that the plant is recorded in, preferably using a handheld GPS. If this is not practical then a GR for the population centroid should suffice. We would also like an estimate of how far the population extends (ignoring outliers) as well as the density and pattern of plants across the site (i.e. a few plants widely scattered, high density across the whole site).

#### Sketch map

The sketch map should provide an unambiguous record of the location and extent of the population (or sub-populations) in relation to permanent features such as roads, tracks, watercourses, walls, etc. This will provide a baseline from which to record future changes so please use permanent features and directions that are easily understood by others.

#### Habitat details

Please give a description of the habitat(s) in which the species occurs. At the very least this should include broad habitat (e.g. acid grassland, heathland, etc.) but it would be useful to have some indication of soil type, geology, base status and NVC type where known.

#### Management and habitat condition

Please note management at the time of the survey (e.g. grazing, cutting, burning, forestry activities, drainage, etc.). For arable sites please note the crop type and regime (e.g. spring barley). Additional information gleaned from discussions with landowners, conservation managers, etc. would be useful but is not essential. Sward height and levels of grazing, shading and disturbance should be scored as 'high', 'moderate', 'low' or 'none' in the boxes on the form. Note that this year we have also included some separate boxes for aquatic species.

#### Perceived threats and reasons for 'null' records

Any perceived threats should be entered on the form. Please fill these in for null returns as they will help us understand the reasons for decline.

#### Site history

Site history should provide any additional information on factors that are likely to have influenced the abundance of a species on the site such as changes in ownership/management, severe events such as fires, floods, etc. It can also be used to provide information on population sizes in the past or, in the case of null returns, the year of the last record.

### *Associated species*

Associated species should be recorded as follows:

- Select an individual in an area where the target species is abundant avoiding areas that include other habitat types. Where different habitats are immediately adjacent (e.g. river banks) you might modify the shape of the quadrat but record the same area;
- Record species abundance within a 1m radius of this individual (or equivalent area);
- Abundance is scored using the DAFOR scale (D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare);
- Record additional quadrats where the species occurs over a large area and/or occurs in more than one vegetation type.

## 2. Updating hectad records

A list of hectads from which the 10 species have been recorded in your VC, with the year of last record, should be included with these instructions. **Please check through these to see if you have any more recent records for a given hectad and submit them to us to us by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009.** It would be useful if you indicate whether the later record is native or alien.

A few of the columns may have categories that are unfamiliar to you:

- In the column 'DC' after 'Year' '+' is onwards (sometimes as a date range), '-' is before, 'C' is approximately [circa] and 'P' a date of publication.
- 'RES' provides the resolution of the record e.g. 1×1m, 10×10m, 100×100m, 1000×1000m, etc. Note that tetrads are usually given as a hectad followed by the tetrad letter code (unless the monad has been recorded). Similarly, 5×5km records are indicated by the quadrant (NE, SE, SW, NW) in the 'PEN' column.
- Dubious records are indicated in the 'DUBIOUS' column along with misidentifications, records referred back to the VCR and records where the GR may be incorrect due to problems in converting to the Irish Grid.

## 3. Checking all records

A spreadsheet listing all the records we hold for your VC is available for download on the BSBI website <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/html/tpp.html> (or via email). This will allow you to see if we hold more detailed older records for a given hectad. **The checking of these records is entirely optional this year and if time is short please concentrate on the surveying sample populations and updating hectad records first.**

Please submit any corrections or additional records to us. If possible corrections should be highlighted on an electronic version of the spreadsheet. Additional records

can be added to the bottom of the spreadsheet in the same manner.

**Please return all recording forms and amended records in the SAE provided or email them to me at [kevinwalker@bsbi.org.uk](mailto:kevinwalker@bsbi.org.uk) by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008.**

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