

BSBI Threatened Plants Project 2012 – guidance on surveying sample populations



Species covered in 2012

Alchemilla wichurae
Anacamptis morio
Bupleurum tenuissimum
Fumaria parviflora
Hypochaeris glabra
Orchis anthropophora
Persicaria minor
Ranunculus arvensis
Tephrosieris integrifolia subsp. *integrifolia*
Vicia parviflora

Pre-selected sites to survey

By now you should have received the pre-selected sites for survey in your vice-county. If not then these can be downloaded from the BSBI website. Note that in 2012 no populations have been selected for VCs 2, 21, 68, 77, 78, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 91, 92, 93, 97, 100, 101, 102, 109, 110, 111, 112, H1, H2, H5, H8, H10, H13, H14, H19, H20, H22, H25, H27, H30, H31, H34, H35, H36 but please feel free to survey any populations you know within these counties.

Please survey as many of the sites as possible using the recording form supplied. If sites are impractical to survey then please feel free to substitute them with populations of your own choosing. In addition, please feel free to survey additional sites and send us the 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

As in previous years most sites should have 100m grid references but some will only have monad or tetrad details. However, we suspect you hold site details for them. If not then please feel free to substitute them with sites in a different square.

What to record

Please use the TPP recording form supplied. A pdf copy of this form is available on the TPP webpage <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/tpp.html>.

Alchemilla wichurae

When recording *Alchemilla wichurae* it may be useful to refer to the ID sheet that has been produced for this survey. This is available on the webpage given above. Dr Margaret Bradshaw would also welcome specimens of this species in order to determine material and check morphological characters as part of her own research. See the ID sheet for details.

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 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 if regeneration is taking place (i.e. if seedlings/flower/fruits, etc. are present).

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 (e.g. 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 is important as it will provide a baseline from which to relocate the population in the future.

Habitat details

Please give a brief description of the habitat(s) in which the species occurs. As a minimum just indicate the broad habitat (e.g. acid grassland, heathland, etc.). Further information on soil type, geology, NVC type, etc. is useful but not essential.

Management and habitat condition

Please note any obvious management at the time of the survey. For arable sites please note the crop type and regime (e.g. spring barley). Additional information would be useful but 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 there are also separate boxes for information on aquatic species which might be relevant to *Persicaria minor* on some sites.

Threats and reasons for 'null' records

Any perceived threats should be entered on the form. Please fill these in for null returns as they are vital in helping us interpret the main reasons for decline.

Site history

Site history should detail factors that 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. Also please add the conservation designation of the site, if known (e.g. SSSI, NNR, etc.).

Associated species

Associated species should be recorded as follows:

- Select an area where the target species is abundant avoiding areas that include other habitats from which the target species is absent
- Select an individual of the target species and record all species **only within a 1m radius**
- Record the abundance of all species **including the target species** in this area using the DAFOR scale (D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare)
- Record extra quadrats where the species occurs over a large area or occurs in more than one vegetation type
- Record a grid reference for each quadrat location, preferably to 1m using a GPS.

Please return completed forms in the SAE provided or email them to kevinwalker@bsbi.org.uk by the end of November 2012.