

ATLAS 2020: THE FINAL YEAR FOR RECORDING

Notes for workshop 24th February 2019

Recording so far

We now have good coverage generally for Hampshire at the tetrad and hectad levels, and the latest statistics are available in the usual place from the Hants plants web site under 'Atlas 2020 in Hampshire' (<https://www.hantsplants.org.uk/aupvisitfront.php>). After consideration we've set the threshold for well-recorded squares at 75% of taxa for a tetrad recorded in the period since 2000. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this effort. Since we started deliberately collecting data for the next national atlas in 2011, we've accumulated well over half a million records for the two vice-counties. If you want to compare how we are doing with other parts of Britain, there is a set of maps, one for each vice-county, for the UK without Northern Ireland at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BxBpE4q2GcleczJKZWhFOTFKckk>. Note that these maps show absolute counts of taxa recorded since 2000 in each square, rather than proportions of the total flora recorded in the period.

Under-recorded tetrads

For this last year I'm keen to change the strategy and emphasis somewhat, as explained below. However, some of you may want to continue "square bashing", and there are certainly tetrads that have low species counts at present and would benefit from attention. Tony will have his own priorities in North Hampshire, and he will publicise his plans soon. I have a shortlist of squares that I would like to see tackled, as follows.

All maps in the following section contain OS OpenData data © Crown copyright and database right (2019).

(Use the OS 1:25000 maps for better mapping. If you don't have the requisite paper maps or a personal electronic map license, a good way to get map imagery is through the Cucaera web site:

<https://www.cucaera.co.uk/grp/>. Type the tetrad reference into the search box, and choose the **Ordnance Survey** option at the bottom left.) Rights of way information is provided by Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset County Councils and contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Rights of way are shown as pecked lines on a green background.

SU11A (VCs 9 and 11): Cranborne and Alderholt Commons

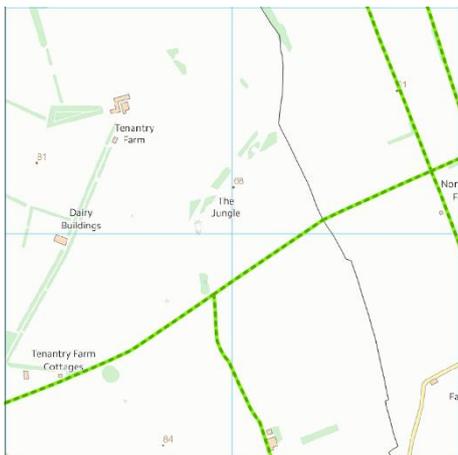


This is one of the more complicated tetrads, as it straddles the Dorset (VC9) and South Hants (VC11) boundary. Neither side has been well recorded, and both parts need to be recorded separately. The boundary is the thin black line shown in the SE quadrant of the map.

Cranborne Common is a nature reserve (open access land) accessible from Alderholt. Alderholt Common no longer exists but there is a private track across its former site which may be accessible from Ringwood Road at Alderholt if permission can be obtained. Much of the tetrad is Forestry Commission land and should be accessible. Some has been recently cleared. Access to the Hampshire sections is probably best along the right of way from Harbridge Drove to the

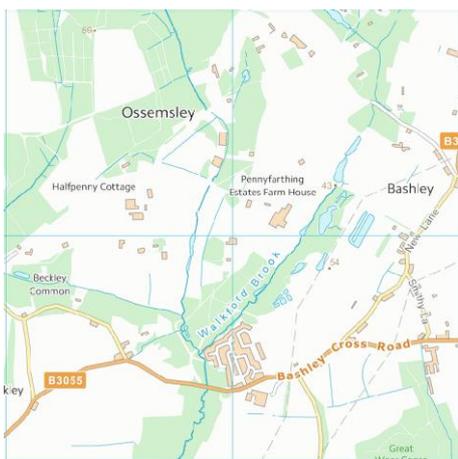
east.

SU12A (VCs 8 and 11): Rockbourne and Whitsbury Downs



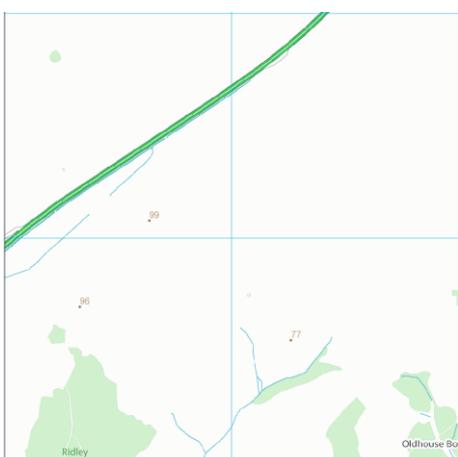
Another awkward area straddling South Wiltshire (VC8) and South Hants (VC11). Again, both sides need recording. The VC11 part lies on the west side of the roughly N-S line. Access is by the road from Rockbourne going N to the A354, or the lane N from Whitsbury that terminates at the S end of Whitsbury Down (both just off map). All is enclosed farmland, and the only public access is along the roads and rights of way shown. It may be possible to negotiate something with Tenantry Farm, as the area marked as “The Jungle” on the map holds a chalk spring and pond.

SZ29I: Beckley and Bashley



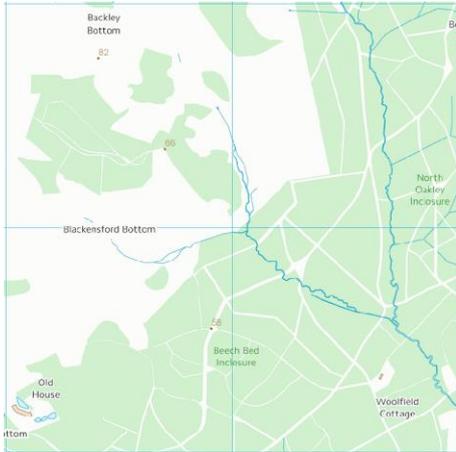
The only public access here is along the roads, except for a small remnant of Beckley Common in the SW. Mike Rowe has already done some recording there. I shall try to negotiate access to other areas with the Pennyfarthing Estates manager this year.

SU20D: Backley Plain and Ridley Plain



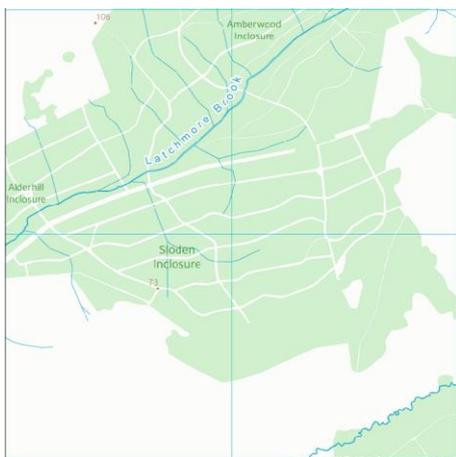
Split by the A31. The area to the S of the A31 has a good variety of Beech woodland, heath, acid grassland and mire. Best accessed from the FC car park at Picket Post. The area to the N has a long walk in from Linford Bottom but may have a few mire species not found elsewhere.

SU20I: Blackensford



A lot of Inclosure woodland (broadleaf and coniferous), heathland and some smallish mires. A long walk in from the nearest FC car parks at Mogshade and Canadian Cross. Rather shorter is a layby on the eastbound (northern) side of the A31 at SU217 083, from where a path leads via underpass under the A31 towards the NW corner of the tetrad. I shall arrange at least one visit during the season, which will make it possible to drive down one of the main forestry tracks into the tetrad.

SU21B: Sloden



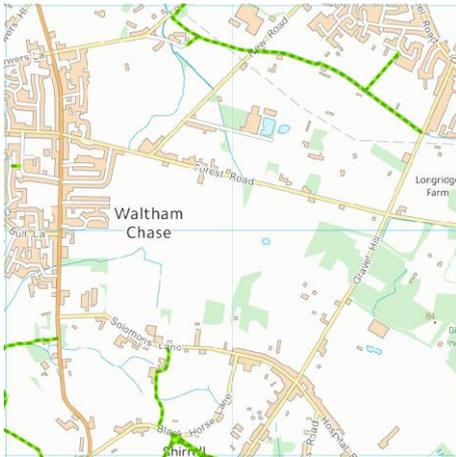
A lot of inclosure woodland, some heath and acid grassland, some mire, and stream banks both open and shaded. Best accessed either from car parks at Fritham (to the NE) or from the car park at Cadman's Pool (to the SE).

SU21D: Deadman Bottom and Black Gutter Bottom



Two extensive stretches of base-poor valley mire, heath, scrub, acid grassland, and some interesting road sides. Accessible from FC car parks at Rushy Flat (N) and Deadman Hill a little way to the west (S).

SU51S: Waltham Chase



A rather dull stretch with little access away from roadsides. If ownership can be found, the private woodland at Bishop's Inclosure might be worth a look.

SU52X: Kilmeston



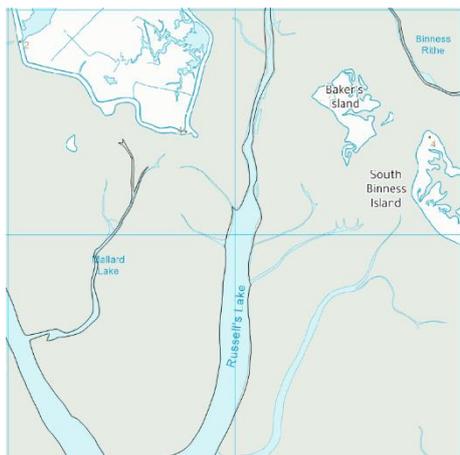
Much of the lower half of this tetrad is rather dull arable and re-sown pasture, but there will be interest along the Warnford road in the S of the tetrad, around Kilmeston village, and in West Wood (permission needed off footpath). Parking is possible near Kilmeston church a little N of the tetrad, and at various points along the Warnford road in the S.

SZ69P: Southsea



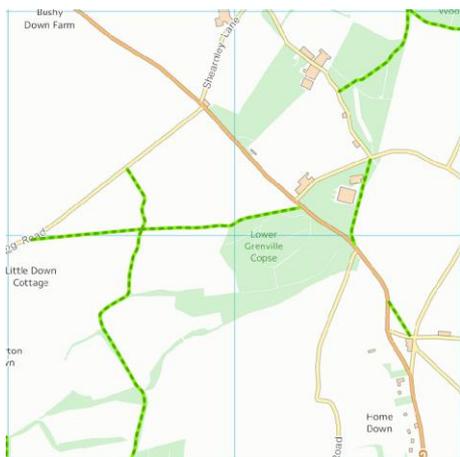
An intensely urbanised tetrad, although it does include some bits of improved coastal grassland, some heavily used shingle, half a cemetery and one or two fragments of greenway. Off-road parking at several points, and public transport links are good. The minute area in SZ69N by Southsea Castle can be treated as 'honorary' SZ69P.

SU60W: Farlington Marshes



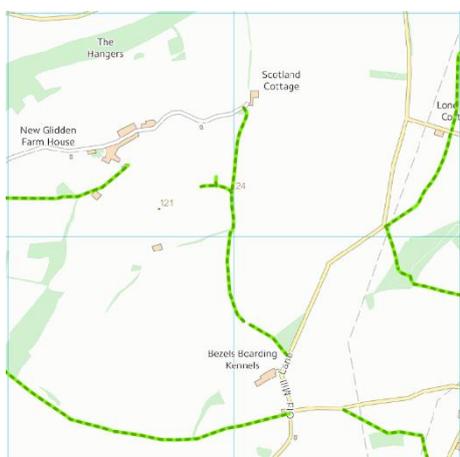
Just the southern tip of Farlington Marshes. Anyone planning to do a survey here should go prepared to grapnel and identify aquatic plants (make arrangements with the Wildlife Trust for this). No need to worry about the two islands (Baker's and South Binness) – we had a boat trip to record there a few years ago, courtesy of the RSPB. Parking at the normal spots for the reserve near the A27: do not leave anything of value in your car.

SU61I: East of Soberton



Several ancient woodlands (partially replanted) with access along rights of way. Green lanes and lane sides are likely to be of interest, and the margins of arable fields will be worth looking at. No formal parking spots, but roadside parking is possible in several places.

SU61S: East of Hambleton



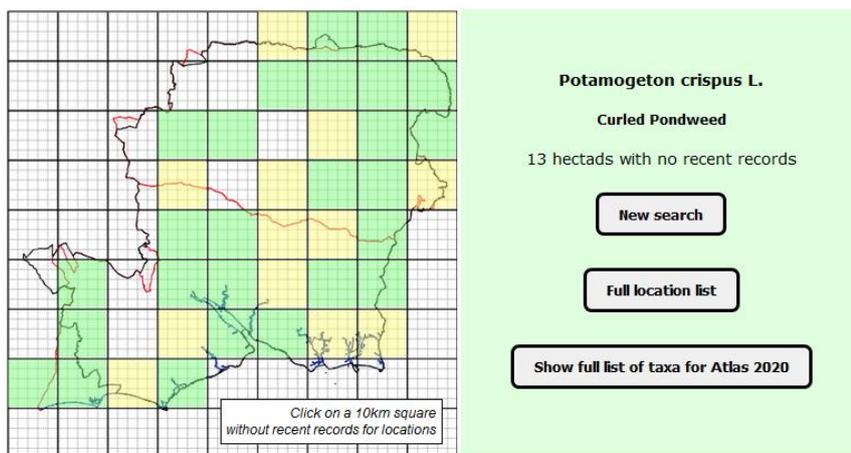
An attractive area with a maze of tracks and green lanes. Many are not shown on this map: see the OS 1:25000 map for all accessible routes. Copses and hangers will be worth looking at, as well as those lanes. Parking anywhere within the tetrad may be awkward, but near the bend at SU674 148 looks possible.

Under-recorded species

It's now clear that in terms of numbers, coverage for the county is fairly even, but quite a few species are under-represented even at the hectad (10km x 10km) level, which is the resolution at which Atlas 2020 will supply information reasonably unbiased by recording effort nationwide. This year I shall be devoting much of my own effort to trying to get at least one re-record in a hectad for recently unrecorded taxa, and I hope I can encourage lots of you to do the same. You might think that most of these old records are of difficult or

critical species, but in fact many very common and easily recognised plants are “missing” from at least a few hectads. It also doesn’t always require a major expedition to go looking for them, especially if they have an old location that can be easily followed up: it may only entail a short stop-over on your way to somewhere else.

To help you find out and track down these records, there are new facilities on the Hants Plants web site, which you can access via the main menu at **Atlas 2020 in Hampshire / Species Recording** (or go there directly at <https://www.hantsplants.org.uk/aupspeciesfront.php>).



From the front page you can search for a taxon by entering any part of its scientific or English name, and you will then see a distribution map at hectad level. Hectads with records since 1999 are shown in green: those in yellow have records since 1970 but none later than 1999; white squares have no records later than 1969.

If you want to see the recorded localities for a yellow hectad, simply click on it. If you want the localities for all yellow hectads in the county, use the **Full location list** button.

Alternatively, you can browse a full checklist of all taxa of interest for Atlas 2020 in Hampshire by clicking on **Show full list of taxa for Atlas 2020**. If any of the taxa had a complete up to date county record at the beginning of 2019, it won’t be on this list. Click on an entry in the checklist to get to the same map and facilities for the taxon.

I intend to add a facility for printing the full list as a PDF, so watch out for this to appear.

Species and subspecies (and varieties...)

You’ll see that Atlas 2020 plans to map quite a few taxa at both the species level and the subspecies level. If you ask for the data on Hants Plants for a species and there are also records for infraspecific ranks, you will get the result of aggregating these (which is what the BSBI’s Distribution Database will do by default, too). It’s always worth checking a species and any subspecies it has, as recording coverage is often seriously out of kilter between the two, and in many cases can be easily remedied.

| SUBSID | 274 total taxa | 213 taxa since 1999 | Latest: 274/213 (78%) |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> SU61Q | Priority: Medium | Species richness: Medium | Need to re-record: Medium |
| SU610 | 371 total taxa | 269 taxa since 1999 | Latest: 371/270 (72%) |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> SU61S | Priority: Medium | Species richness: Medium | Need to re-record: Medium |
| SU614 | 323 total taxa | 210 taxa since 1999 | Latest: 323/210 (65%) |
| <input type="radio"/> SU61T | Priority: Medium | Species richness: Medium | Need to re-record: Medium |
| SU616 | 359 total taxa | 252 taxa since 1999 | Latest: 359/252 (70%) |
| <input type="radio"/> SU61U | Priority: Medium | Species richness: High | Need to re-record: Medium |
| SU618 | 441 total taxa | 319 taxa since 1999 | Latest: 441/319 (72%) |
| <input type="radio"/> SU61V | Priority: Medium | Species richness: Medium | Need to re-record: Medium |
| SU610 | 379 total taxa | 257 taxa since 1999 | Latest: 379/257 (67%) |

Making the most of chase-up visits

If you have targeted a location or two for a recently unrecorded species, you will probably want to know what else is worth following up in the area. Don’t forget that you can use the **Tetrad Recording** facility to do this. Select a hectad from the map, then select a tetrad. Check the option as shown and click the **Printable locality list** button.

Recording sheets / checklists

| Common Species List | Checklist Format |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> New Forest list | <input type="radio"/> Short scientific names |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> South Hants (other) list | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Scientific names |
| <input type="radio"/> North Hants Heaths list | <input type="radio"/> English names |
| <input type="radio"/> North Hants (other) list | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Old records and unrecorded common species only | Printable recording form - select required tetrad / options above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uncommon and notable species only | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Species with no recent tetrad records only | Printable locality list - select required tetrad / options above |

Access to the BSBI's Distribution Database

Everyone has access to the BSBI's Distribution Database (DDb) for mapping down to the tetrad level (<https://database.bsbi.org/>). The DDb does hold some data for the county that isn't on our local databases, and of course it holds data for the whole of Britain and Ireland if you are thinking of recording in other areas.

For approved users it also provides customised mapping, mapping down to finer resolutions, and a powerful querying system for getting reports and checklists. If you are a BSBI member and you're contributing to Atlas 2020, you can ask for full access to the DDb: there's a form at <https://database.bsbi.org/createuser.php>. I will then approve you. Below is an example of the sort of report you can get for a tetrad (or indeed a grid square at any resolution), showing taxa recently recorded and not recently recorded listed separately.

Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland
of Britain & Ireland

Distribution Database > taxon list [my mapmate records](#) | [my county](#) | [u](#)

Tools New maps search search history

grid reference SU57H

exclude taxa with fewer than 0 records.

earliest year 1970

recent record boundary year 2000

include taxon list from the whole county
 sort recent records separately
 include infra-specific taxa

show taxon list

Taxon list for **SU57H**.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Acer campestre (1995) 5 0 | Geranium molle (1994) 1 0 | Rumex crispus (1995) 1 0 | Anthriscus sylvestris (2013) 7 1 |
| Acer platanoides (1995) 2 0 | Geranium pratense (1995) 1 0 | Salix caprea subsp. caprea (1994) 1 0 | Arctium nemorosum (2012) 0 1 |
| Achillea millefolium (1995) 8 0 | Geranium pyrenaicum (1995) 3 0 | Salix × reichardtii (1994) 1 0 | Arrhenatherum elatius (2013) 0 1 |
| Agrimonia eupatoria (1995) 2 0 | Hedera helix subsp. helix (1995) 2 0 | Sambucus nigra (1996) 2 0 | Arum maculatum (2013) 4 4 |
| Anagallis arvensis subsp. arvensis (1996) 1 0 | Helleborus viridis (1994) 2 0 | Saxifraga granulata (1995) 1 0 | Betula pendula (2012) 2 3 |
| Anisantha sterilis (1995) 5 0 | Hordeum murinum subsp. murinum (1995) 1 0 | Schedonorus arundinaceus (1995) 1 0 | Brachypodium sylvaticum (2012) 2 1 |
| Artemisia vulgaris (1995) 5 0 | Hordeum secalinum (1995) 1 0 | Senecio jacobaea (1995) 1 0 | Brassica napus subsp. oleifera (2012) 0 3 |
| Atriplex prostrata s.s. (1996) 2 0 | Humulus lupulus (1995) 1 0 | Senecio vulgaris (1995) 1 0 | Carex divulsa subsp. divulsa (2012) 0 2 |
| Bellis perennis (1995) 8 0 | Hypericum pulchrum (1995) 1 0 | Silene latifolia (1995) 4 0 | Carex sylvatica (2012) 5 2 |
| Betula pubescens (1995) 1 0 | Hypochaeris radicata (1995) 5 0 | Silene vulgaris subsp. vulgaris (1995) 3 0 | Carpinus betulus (2012) 4 3 |
| Bromus hordeaceus subsp. hordeaceus (1995) 6 0 | Knautia arvensis (1995) 1 0 | Solanum dulcamara (1995) 1 0 | Castanea sativa (2012) 0 1 |
| Bryonia dioica (1995) 2 0 | Lamiasstrum galeobdolon (1995) 1 0 | Sonchus arvensis (1995) 3 0 | Cerastium glomeratum (2012) 2 1 |
| Buddleia davidii (1994) 1 0 | Lamium album (1995) 8 0 | Sonchus asper (1995) 3 0 | Circaea lutetiana (2012) 0 2 |
| Buxus sempervirens (1995) 1 0 | Lamium purpureum (1995) 1 0 | Sonchus oleraceus (1995) 1 0 | Cirsium arvense (2012) 8 1 |
| Caltha palustris (1995) 1 0 | Lapsana communis subsp. communis (1995) 4 0 | Sorbus aria (1995) 1 0 | Cirsium palustre (2012) 0 1 |
| Campanula trachelium (1996) 1 0 | Leontodon saxatilis (1995) 1 0 | Sorbus aria agg. (1995) 1 0 | Cirsium vulgare (2012) 5 1 |
| Cardamine pratensis (1994) 1 0 | Ligustrum vulgare (1995) 2 0 | Spergularia marina (1995) 1 0 | Clematis vitalba (2013) 2 4 |
| Carex flacca (1995) 2 0 | Lolium perenne (1995) 3 0 | Succisa pratensis (1995) 1 0 | Cochlearia danica (2012) 0 2 |
| Carex spicata (1995) 1 0 | Lotus pedunculatus (1995) 1 0 | Symphytum × uplandicum (1994) 1 0 | Conium maculatum (2012) 4 2 |
| Centaurea nigra s.s. (1995) 1 0 | Luzula campestris (1995) 2 0 | Tanus communis (1995) 2 0 | Conopodium majus (2012) 0 2 |
| Centaurea scabiosa (1995) 3 0 | Malus pumila (1994) 1 0 | Torilis japonica (1995) 2 0 | Conyza sumatrensis (2012) 0 1 |
| Centaurium erythraea (1995) 3 0 | Malva moschata (1995) 2 0 | Traoocodon pratensis (1995) 5 0 | Corylus avellana (2012) 3 2 |

Help with ID and recording

Don't forget that if you're in pursuit of one of the trickier species or plant groups, as well as the standard books there is a lot of information in the BSBI Plant Crib, online at <https://bsbi.org/plant-crib>. And of course, Tony and I are always willing to help (or to point you in the direction of someone who can, where possible).

We shall still be doing several tetrad visits in 2019, and these will get posted on Hants Plants in the coming weeks. You are welcome to join us, although we'll normally limit numbers to a small group for these occasions.

Good hunting!

Martin Rand

March 2019