

Sussex Botanical Recording Society

Newsletter

No. 56

May 2003

Chairman's Message

by Rod Stern

Most if not all of our members will now be aware of our major recording effort for this year and the next for the BSBI Local Change project. In recent years we have tended to concentrate on site visits and some of our members will not be familiar with tetrad recording, which was the principle activity of our predecessor the Sussex Flora Society, and which was the basis for the *Sussex Plant Atlas*. Some of us worked on selected tetrads A, J and W in the BSBI Monitoring Scheme organised by Tim Rich in 1987 and 1988. I was responsible for a tetrad in east Hampshire as there was a shortage of botanists in Hampshire at that time, whereas in Sussex we were well off in that respect. In the following year, the Hampshire Flora Group was established and that body is now thriving, with enough members to record in their allocated tetrads.

I should mention that I much enjoyed recording for the BSBI Monitoring Scheme and it is very satisfying to pay visits at different times of the year and over two years to achieve an intensity of recording which we cannot do normally. I sincerely hope that our members will really enjoy this challenge. There will be a few difficulties, as we found on our first field meeting on 30th March. Do not be put off by trying to decide for example whether a shrub is inside or outside a garden, or what sort of Cypress it is. Incidentally, in my note on Alien Conifers in the last newsletter, I said that planted conifers should not be recorded. This still applies to all our usual recording activities, but we have to include them for the BSBI Local Change project.

At the Slinfold meeting on 30th March, I said I found two books of particular use for alien trees and shrubs. For trees, I recommend Alan Mitchell's *A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe*. For shrubs as well as trees, a useful book is *The Identification of Trees and Shrubs* by F.K.Makins; this is over 50 years old, but sometimes can be obtained from second-hand booksellers. Makins also published *Concise Flora of Britain* with user-friendly keys and without which I am not sure whether I would have taken up botany.

Best of luck in your efforts for BSBI Local Change.

Secretary's Note

The Autumn Get-together will be held at Staplefield Village Hall on Saturday 15th November 2003. The hall will be open at 10.00 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10.30 a.m. Soup and jacket potatoes will be available for lunch with tea and cakes later in the afternoon. Trevor Lording will be showing slides of *Plants of The Lizard*. Members are invited to bring books and plants for sale and any items of interest or specimens for display. We look forward to meeting any new members, who will be especially welcome at the Get-together.

The Staplefield Conservation Group has asked for further help in their surveys of the Staplefield Commons and would be delighted and extremely grateful if any of our members could help. The dates are 26th April, 5th July and 30th August. All meetings start at 10.00 a.m. from the bus shelter by the Victory public house.

Rita Hemsley

Treasurer's Note

Subscriptions for 2003 are now due for payment. The rates remain the same: £3.00 for an individual member, and £4.50 for joint members at the same address. Subscriptions can be paid at the Autumn Get-together, or sent to me: Trevor Lording, 17 Hill Rise, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2DH.

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Betty Bishop, Hon. Member of SBRS

Members who were present at the AGM in March will already know that Betty has been made an Honorary Member of our Society, in recognition of her enormous contribution to our knowledge of Sussex botany over many years. Congratulations, Betty! And Mary Briggs adds:

As well as being honoured by SBRS, Betty tells me that now she is no longer as mobile for field work, she is recording phenology for the Woodland Trust. For her records of the first sightings of birds, insects and of plants in flower each year for over 40 years, The Woodland Trust has recognized her as their oldest recorder (83). From this she has had a mention in the Daily Mail and in The Guardian, and also a telephone interview for a BBC 7 children's programme. Again, well done, Betty!

Botanical Survey of Arlington Reservoir

I have agreed to coordinate a survey of the areas surrounding Arlington Reservoir, for South-East Water. The area includes planted woodland, grassland, marshy areas, riverside and a pond with some aquatic plants. Members are invited to help with the survey on the following dates:

Thursday 22nd May, 7pm
Thursday 19th June, 7pm
Friday 4th July, 10.30am

We will be able to park and meet in the Fishing Lodge Car Park. The entrance is via the lower road, below the public car park, at approximately TQ528074.

Please let me know if you will be coming, in case there is a change to the parking arrangements.

Helen Proctor Tel: 01323-844680

Shingle Survey of Shoreham Beach

by Beryl Clough

In 2002 Betty Bishop was approached by one of the residents of Shoreham Beach concerning the local flora and fauna - he was keen that the local people should be aware of the special habitat they have on their doorsteps. In response to this Betty recruited Jean Clunes, Judy Wilson and me, who of course were all very happy to join her once a month through the season to record the local flora.

I know most of our members are familiar with Shoreham Beach and know the special plants that grow there, but I will mention a few of the most important ones: *Cochlearia danica*, an abundance of *Crambe maritima*, the delightful *Diplotaxis muralis*, *Glaucium flavum*, *Lavatera arborea*, *Lycium barbarum*, *Melilotus indica*, *Ornithogalum umbellatum* and *Poa bulbosa*, to name but a few. We also found *Senecio x*

baxteri, a hybrid between *S. squalidus* and *S. vulgaris*. The fact that many of the gardens run on to the beach results in lots of garden escapes like *Althea rosea* (Hollyhocks), *Briza maxima* (Greater Quaking-grass), *Calendula officinalis* (Pot Marigold) and *Erigeron glaucus* (Seaside Daisy). *Trifolium stellatum* is still widespread at the eastern end of the beach, growing in large patches on the shingle, and in people's gardens. First recorded here in 1806 (see Wolley-Dod's *Flora of Sussex* 1937), Betty says that it was thought to have originally been brought in ships' ballast. We recorded 180 species in all - a very enjoyable survey in spite of being told to **** off by one of the local people who thought we should look at the plants in our own back yards!

A real delight was to see the European wall lizard which lives on and around the walls of the old fort. They only seem to appear on warm sunny days, so you have to be lucky.

Should anyone like a list of the plants we found I would be happy to supply one.

Guizotia abyssinica (L. fil.) Cas.. in Sussex

by Mary Briggs

Since 1990 Alan has received seven records of *Guizotia abyssinica* for our Database, all but one from the central coastal area and mostly from flower beds on Brighton seafront sent in by Tony Spiers and Paul, but one of Paul's from a Parcel Force car park by Hove station. Those which are not coastal are from a muddy pond margin at Falmer, found by Tony, and one from Ferring as a spontaneous garden weed sent in by Martin Ford.

When this plant was first noticed in 1990 we thought of it as a new record for Sussex: there is no mention of it in *Sussex Plant Atlas* (1980) or the *SPA Supplement* (1990), nor, we thought, in earlier Floras of Sussex. However, browsing through Wolley-Dod's *Flora of Sussex* (1937), I came across *Guizotia abyssinica* in the 'List of casual Aliens in Sussex' - not in the main body of the *Flora*, but in the Introduction. Two records for *G. abyssinica* are cited: 'Brighton T.H.' and 'Whitehawk Valley E.E.'. T.H. is identified in the *Flora* in 'Sussex Botanologia', and also in the Introduction, as 'T. Hilton of Brighton (circ. 1890-1909)' with the comment 'perhaps the collector of the greater number of Sussex plants than any other botanist, unless it was Roper'. Wolley-Dod then describes 'three large herbaria', adding 'His names are very reliable, only a little excusable weakness being observable in one or two critical genera' - (botanical comment does not change much through the years!). Britten and Boulger's *British and Irish Botanists* (1931) gives Thomas Hilton's dates as 1833-1912, that he was Hon. Curator of Brighton Museum, and that a hybrid aquatic *Ranunculus* was named after him as *R. x hiltoni*. E.E. in Wolley-Dod is Rev. E. Ellman (c. 1877-1929), described as an extensive collector in Sussex. He is

said 'not to have formed a herbarium', but kept 'a large note-book', listing all the species he had seen in the county, most when visiting his father, who was rector of Berwick. His Sussex records are described as being 'mixed-up' with others from England, and also from France, Switzerland and Italy.

Guizotia abyssinica is a yellow-flowered composite, to 2m., but often smaller, with simple leaves and glandular above. The many flower heads are fleabane-like, but often larger. It is native to E. Africa, but cultivated especially in India for oilseed fed to cage-birds, and oil used for cooking and for paint. It is known as Niger seed or ramtil.

Further investigation may provide more detail on those records from early last century - possibly a dated herbarium specimen, or maybe we can find a reference in the large note-book? Meanwhile we may also record more plants now in this century.

Postscript

Since writing the above, Dr Gerald Legg has found for us the details of the Thomas Hilton specimen in his database at the Booth Museum of Natural History at Brighton. The label on the herbarium sheet reads '*Guizotia abyssinica*. Land formerly market gardens, Hove, August 1908'. MB

Sussex Wildflowers

A preview by Henri Brocklebank of Mary's forthcoming book:

The carnivorous tendencies of bladderwort, the history of the marsh mallow, the local legends of lily-of-the-valley, and the introduction of the starry clover on a Greek cargo boat are just a few of the mysteries revealed in Mary Briggs '*Sussex Wildflowers*'. Rather unusually this is not a botanical book aimed at botanists. It is aimed specifically at those with a general interest in flowers, but no in-depth knowledge. Often amusing and always engaging, this book takes its readers on a journey through little known nature reserves across the county encouraging readers to get out and about, and experience at first hand the excitement of discovering and identifying a plant within its natural habitat.

Mary, well known to you as president of SBRS, has been botanising in Sussex for many years, and writing this book has called on her extensive knowledge of the Sussex Flora, and her naturally charming writing style. Mary's skills have been paired up with the publishing and layout expertise of Richard Cobden at the Sussex Wildlife Trust. He is presenting the text as a stylish, modern, glossy book, which will hopefully have a wide appeal.

Of course no book on flowers is complete without stunning photographs and Sussex is lucky to have a wealth of local talent within SBRS itself. Over 200 pictures have been selected for the book, including some beautiful close-ups of the individual flower

heads of several species. This brings the 'botanist's view', through a x10 hand lens, into a more public domain!

The book is currently at the editing stage, which is being co-ordinated by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre. We hope that it will be available some time this Summer.

Plantlife Juniper Survey Update

by Frances Abraham

As reported in the Newsletter of May 2002, Plantlife has been conducting a nationwide survey of juniper. Several SBRS members have contributed data on the Sussex populations - following up old records, and completing survey forms. The survey has now been virtually completed and, sadly, it is apparent that many colonies have gone. One of the major causes of decline is the increase of scrub and woodland on the Downs, with which juniper cannot compete. On the plus side, the large population on Harting Down is one of the very few in southern England where there is still regeneration, with numerous young plants.

Obituaries

We are sorry to report the deaths of Mrs Kathleen Amore and Dr Margaret Curtis. Dr Curtis had not been a member of the SBRS for very long, but she attended several of our meetings. Mrs Amore was the Secretary of the SBRS for many years, and we will include a fuller Obituary in the next Newsletter.

News from Ashdown Forest

by M. E. Reader

After almost three decades of ex-servicemen holding the joint posts of Forest Superintendent and Clerk to the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest, a botany graduate has now been appointed! Dr Hew Prendergast has been Leader of the Centre for Economic Botany at Kew for the last eight and a half years. Previously he was a full-time collector for the Seed Bank at Wakehurst. Hew comes as an all-round naturalist with additional interests in birds and dragonflies. Already living on the Forest, he co-authored an illustrated guide to the Forest in 1995. My aim is to welcome him soon, perhaps as a member of our society.

Garmin *etrex* GPS systems

By Alan Knapp

Garmin ***etrex*** GPS systems are popular and work well but a number of people have encountered a few problems when first using them. This note aims to help with some of these problems. Note: words or phrases in *italic* are things which appear on the display on the system.

1. Setting up

It is **vital** to set up the Units correctly otherwise you get an apparently accurate but wrong grid reference.

In the *Setup* menu select the *Units* option. You need to set **2 things** - *Position frmt* and *Map datum*.

1) Select *Position frmt* and cycle through until you get to *British grid*. Select this.

2) Select *Map datum* and cycle through until you get to *Ord svy GB*. Select this.

Having done this check all is OK by taking a grid reference of somewhere you know.

2. Getting a continuously updated grid reference

It is not at all obvious how to achieve this function at first. Turn the system on and wait until it has located enough satellites and is showing a message *READY TO NAVIGATE ACCURACY: XXm* (where XX is a number such as 15). Press the menu button (top right) a few times until you reach a screen showing a compass rose with rectangular box below it labelled *Speed*. Now keep pressing the lower of the two selection buttons at the top left until the contents of this box changes to something like:

Location
TQ 12345
BNG 01234

This is the 10 figure grid reference. The top line shows the 100km square code (SU, TQ etc.) plus the East - West part of the grid ref. and the lower line shows the North - South part of the grid ref. (ignore *BNG* on the lower line). In this case the grid reference would be TQ1234501234 and it should change as you wander around, tracking exactly where you are. (Note: hopefully you will not see this exact grid reference as it is several 100 metres out to sea off Worthing!). If you accidentally move past this setting just press the upper button at the top left to go back.

3. Accuracy

The system gives a 10 figure grid reference which implies an accuracy of one metre. The accuracy is generally rather less (probably around 5m in good conditions) and can be worse if you are not careful. The most important point is to wait a while before noting the grid reference if you have just switched the system on, especially if you have moved a long way since you last used it. One clue to an inaccurate value is if the EW and/or the NS part of the grid reference continuously changes in one direction even though you are standing still. Watch the value and wait until it settles down or starts to oscillate up and down before taking a reading. This can take several minutes after it says it is *Ready to Navigate*. Even when it has stabilised the last figures in the two lines of numbers of the indicated grid reference may still change a bit (e.g. in the example above 12345 might oscillate between 12347 & 12343 and 01234 between 01232 & 01236). This is normal - the amount of oscillation will depend on how good the signal is

and how many satellites are "visible". If you want an accurate figure wait for the figures to oscillate up and down a few times and select a value in the middle of the range of oscillation. NB - if the value is oscillating a lot when you take a grid reference then please note that the GPS grid ref. may be a bit inaccurate, when you send in the record,. This can happen if the signal is weak (e.g. if you are in a wood). However it will almost always be a lot more accurate than a grid reference estimated from a map!

Toothwort records wanted

By Alan Knapp

If anyone has any recent (<10 years old) records for *Lathraea squamaria* for anywhere in Sussex could you let me have them with as much detail as possible (e.g. 6 fig. grid ref., date, no. of plants, habitat). Any information on changes such as significant changes in numbers or sites where it has apparently disappeared would be most welcome. This request was catalysed by my observation that, in some sites near Horsham, numbers seem to be declining and by the fact that, while the Sussex Plant Atlas shows it as present in 13 tetrads in W.Sussex, we have recent detailed records for only 6 W.Sussex sites. It appears to be still present in the single known E.Sussex site.

Alien News

By Arthur G. Hoare

Cochlearia danica Danish Scurvygrass continues it's silent invasion with its march along our inland road verges and central reservations. It has now been sited along the A24 just north of Horsham.

Other noteworthy alien plants are included in the reports on interesting records on pages 5&6.

It might be worth reminding members of the definition of an alien. An Alien is an introduced species which was brought to the study area by Man, either intentionally or unintentionally, even if native to the source area or one which has come into the area without Man's intervention, but from an area in which it is present as an introduction.

There has been a recent change in the classification of aliens. They are now known as; Archaeophytes, Neophytes or Casuals. Both Archaeophytes and Neophytes are introduced species which are present in the wild as naturalised populations. Archaeophytes, since the retreat of the ice c10,000 years ago and Neophytes since botanical recording began at c1500. Casuals are as the name suggests here for a short while and not becoming established.

We still want more records of these new arrivals that are changing the look of the flora of our countryside.

VC13: W. Sussex notable plant records 2002

Species	Location/comments	Recorder
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	W. of Billingshurst, on roadside mound of dumped earth.	SMS
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	North Mundham, playing fields	JAW
<i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>	Shoreham. 1 st VC13 record.	AS
<i>Atriplex x gustafssoniana</i>	Fishbourne. 3 sites. 1 st VC13 records.	SBRS
<i>Atriplex x gustafssoniana</i>	Itchenor	AGK
<i>Atriplex x gustafssoniana</i>	Widewater Lagoon	AS
<i>Bromus racemosus</i>	Ebernoe	FA
<i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>	Thorney Island	BL
<i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>	Prinsted - 2 sites	AGK & N&ES
<i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>	Sidlesham, Millpond Marsh	RCS
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Goring	BC
<i>Calystegia x lucana</i>	Pagham	ACL
<i>Carex pulicaria</i>	3 sites on Heyshott Down	N&ES
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Barley field nr. Burton Mill (RDB Endangered)	BMI
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Hove. 1 plant in kerbstones. 1 st VC13 record.	AS
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	Lancing Ring in chalk grassland.	BRE
<i>Digitaria ischaemum</i>	1 st VC13 record	BMI
<i>Euphorbia platyphyllos</i>	Ebernoe, arable margins	FA
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Mile Oak	PW/AGH/AGK
<i>Legousia pentagonica</i>	N. of Pagham. 1 st VC13 record	MMS
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	N. of Pagham. 1 st VC13 record. Pheasant feed?	MMS
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Balls Cross	S. Carr
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	E. of Billingshurst	SMS
<i>Limonium hyblaenum</i>	Hove. 1 st VC13 record.	AS
<i>Limonium x neumanii</i>	Bosham & East Head	PAH/AS
<i>Lythrum hyssopifolium</i>	Itchenor, 4 fields	ADP
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Goring	Martin Ford
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Pulborough. 60 spikes	DCL
<i>Phacelia cf. Divaricata</i>	N. of Pagham. 1 st VC13 record	MMS
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Hurston Warren	SBRS
<i>Rorippa x anceps</i>	By Arun at New Bridge	AGK
<i>Sasaella ramosa</i>	Bepton, by small stream. 1 st VC13 record.	AGK
<i>Solanum physalifolium</i>	Emsworth	JRWH
<i>Symphytum caucasicum</i>	Ebernoe	FA
<i>Viola canina</i>	Parham, 2 localities.	SBRS
<i>Zizania latifolia</i>	Parham Park.	O&MH/SBRS

Recorders' Initials

ACL	Alan Leslie	JRWH	R. Hollins
ADP	Anne de Potier	MMS	Mike Shaw
AGH	Arthur Hoare	N&ES	Nick & Elizabeth Sturt
AGK	Alan Knapp	O&MH	Olwen & Mike Hollings
AS	Tony Spiers	PAH	Paul Harnes
BC	Beryl Clough	PGM	Pam Marchant
BJY	Barry Yates	PMD	Pat Donovan
BL	Brian Laney	PW	Peter Whitcomb
BMI	Bruce Middleton	RCS	Rod Stern
BRE	Mrs B. Reeve	RIH	Rita Hemsley
DCL	David Lang	SBRS	Sussex Botanical Recording Society
EAP	Ted Pratt	SMS	Silvia Simkin
FA	Frances Abraham	TAL	Trevor Lording
JAW	Judy Wilson		

VC14: E. Sussex notable plant records 2002

Species	Locality/comments	Recorder
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	Gally Hill, Bexhill. Extreme edge of low earthy cliff, 2 sites.	PAH/AS
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	Tide Mills, Newhaven. Small Patch on stable shingle bank	PMD
<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i> var. <i>babbingtonii</i>	Madeira Drive, Brighton. Shingle by Aquarium Stn, Volks Railway. Also 2 further sites by Railway.	AS
<i>Atriplex laciniata</i>	Bexhill. Shingle at rear of Promenade	PAH/AS
<i>Atriplex x gustafssoniana</i>	Preston Park, Brighton. Waste ground by cycle track.	AS
<i>Atriplex x gustafssoniana</i>	Bevendean, Brighton. Setaside.	AS
<i>Atriplex x gustafssoniana</i>	Rye Harbour NR. 3 sites, brackish hollows.	SBRS
<i>Atriplex x gustafssoniana</i>	Charleston, Cuckmere Haven. S sites on tidal river bank & ditch bank.	PAH/AS
<i>Atriplex x taschereaui</i>	Black Rock, Brighton. Shingle.	AS
<i>Centaurium scilloides</i>	Maple Walk, Cooden. Verge bank	PAH/AS
<i>Chenopodium chenopodioides</i>	Fairlight. Wet mud by Col.Body Memorial lakes, Pett Level.	PAH/AS
<i>Chenopodium chenopodioides</i>	Rye Harbour NR. Saltmarsh margin, 2 sites.	SBRS
<i>Chenopodium chenopodioides</i>	Rye Harbour NR. Beach Reserve, 2 sites.	BJY
<i>Chenopodium chenopodioides</i>	Rye Harbour NR. Stable shingle/saline pool, by Ternery Pool.	SBRS
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Newhaven. Creek bank by Mill Creek.	PAH/AS
<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>	Hollingdean, Brighton. Rough bank by f/path.	PW
<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>	By Brighton Bypass, Patcham. Arable margin.	AS
<i>Fumaria viallantii</i>	Hollingdean, Brighton. Rough bank by f/path.	AS
<i>Hymenophyllum tunbrigense</i>	Eridge Rocks	TAL
<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	Wych Cross. Bare peat on wet heath.	AGK
<i>Moenchia erecta</i>	Lodge Hill, Ditchling. Sandy bank.	RIH
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Maplehurst Wood, Hastings	PGM
<i>Potamogeton obtusifolius</i>	S. of Herstmonceux. Ditch S. of track crossing.	AGK
<i>Potamogeton obtusifolius</i>	S. of Herstmonceux. Ditch N. of track crossing	AGK
<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	Falmer Road, Ovingdean. Field edge.	PAH/EAP
<i>Prunella x hybrida</i>	Falmer Road, Ovingdean. Field edge.	PAH/EAP
<i>Ruchia caroli</i>	Bexhill. Low cliff, 2 sites.	PAH/AS
<i>S. ramosissima</i> x <i>S. pusilla</i>	Rye Harbour NR. Dryish upper saltmarsh (Conf'd Dr. I.K. Fergusson)	SBRS
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	Litlington. Ditch, S. of New Bridge.	AGK

Newsletter Editor:-

Frances Abraham, The Old School, Ebernoe, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 9LD

Produced by:-

Arthur G. Hoare, 159 St Mary's Drive, Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 3G

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BSBI “Local Change” Recording Instructions

Please read these notes before you start recording

This note is for all recorders who are going to participate in the BSBI local change survey. Please read it in conjunction with the introduction in the January 2003 SBRs Newsletter which gives the background, specifies which tetrads are to be recorded and gives instructions on the submission of records. We have now received further information from the BSBI about the actual recording. These notes give the key points which need to be observed while recording.

Items in bold are particularly important. Underlined sections indicate aspects which are new requests by the BSBI for this survey.

- Use our standard recording cards. **The BSBI specifically request the use of a different card for each separate visit** to a tetrad. In this context separate visits can be defined as visits on significantly different dates or to clearly distinct areas. If you record one day and return a week later to continue recording the same area then use the same card but if you go back a couple of months later use a different card.
- **Make sure you stick strictly to the selected tetrads – stop recording at the edge of the tetrad.** If you see something wonderful just beyond the edge of the tetrad please note it separately and, when submitting records, make it clear that it was not in the tetrad.
- Common species can be recorded by crossing off on the card but **please give full details (grid reference, locality, population, status etc.) for any scarce or rare species** (defined as always as those not on our record card or marked with a + symbol on the card). For species you cross off on the card please write a status letter (given at the bottom of the front of the 2002 record cards) after the name if there is any possible ambiguity. For example, for *Acer pseudoplatanus* - note if it is planted rather than established.
- If the tetrad contains an especially rich area or special habitat (e.g. a chunk of ancient woodland) then it would be very useful to record this on a separate card. However, if the area crosses the tetrad boundary please be very careful to keep separate records for that part within the selected tetrad.
- **Note down how long (to the nearest quarter hour) you spent recording and also the exact dates when you did the recording. Send us this information when you submit your records.**
- **Make a record of the route you took. The BSBI suggest the best way is to make a photocopy of the OS map (preferably a 1:25,000 Explorer map) and mark your route (or routes) on it.** Note that you can make a copy of maps which you own for your own use. However, you must not make a copy of an OS map and give it to others - to do so would infringe copyright. If you can't make a copy of the OS map then make a sketch of your route marking important landmarks so that the route could be identified by someone else at a later date.
- Try to visit the area several times during the year - ideally spring, early summer and late summer/early autumn. A very early visit (February/early March) may prove useful for things like Snowdrops and *Prunus cerasifera*.
- Try to visit all different habitats present, not forgetting the less attractive ones like urban roads.
- **Record all species not in gardens. This includes planted trees and field crops.** For many people this is a new request which has been specifically made by the BSBI. Remember to distinguish planted species from those that are self seeding or casual introductions by giving the appropriate code (P for planted, C for casual and E for established plants).
- Recording cards are available from Paul Harmes & Alan Knapp at field meetings or by sending an A4 SAE.
- If you participated in the 1987 survey or know of changes in the area since then please send us any information you have about significant changes in the habitats present in the tetrad. For example TQ13W has changed since 1987 due to the building of the A264 Horsham by-pass and building a housing estate on the farmland between the road and the former edge of Horsham.
- **Always give the highest priority to your safety and that of others - never take risks.** Remember that in participating in this survey you do so entirely at your own risk.

If you are **unsure about anything** please ask one of us or come along to the first field meeting on March 30th at Slinfold when we will be demonstrating what is wanted.

Alan Knapp, Arthur Hoare, Mary Briggs & Paul Harmes.