



HAMPSHIRE RARE PLANT REGISTER

SCHEME FOR THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF NOTABLE SPECIES IN HAMPSHIRE

Introduction

The scheme has been drawn up taking into account the BSBI principles and criteria for production of a County Rare Plant Register. It also recognises the importance of having consistency with the approach to defining notable species in relation to 6A SINC (Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation) Criteria for a wide range of taxonomic groups. However it excludes some species that are of value to Hampshire County Council as indicators of good habitat or considered intrinsically important to conserve within the county. These are the subject of a supplementary list currently being drawn up by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC).

Maintaining simplicity within the scheme is important for ease of understanding, for comparison between different taxonomic groups and for communication with non-specialists such as those involved in the planning process. To this end it is proposed that there is a basic two-fold subdivision into **Nationally Notable** and **County Notable**, and that within these broad sub-divisions the notable species are further subdivided into three groups: **Rare**, **Scarce** and **Of Other Interest**. The “Rare” category is determined by national distribution (dot-map) criteria, or by inclusion in either of the vascular plant Red Lists for Great Britain or England with a threat status of “Vulnerable” or above. “Scarce” categories are distribution (dot-map) determined only, whereas the “Of Other Interest” category is an umbrella group to cover those species defined as notable on criteria other than rarity/scarcity. This would include species that are:

- Rapidly Declining,
- Hants Responsibility (>10% of UK Resource),
- Long Extinct,
- Endemic,
- Defined as ‘Near Threatened’ on the Red List for either Great Britain or England,
- Protected,
- Internationally Listed,
- HBAP Listed,
- Alien of Interest

etc.

The simplicity of the six-fold subdivision is vital for the work of HBIC in coding notable species within the Recorder database across a wide range of taxonomic groups. The abbreviations NR, NS, NI, CR, CS, CI are suggested as the shorthand root notations for each of the six categories for all taxonomic groups. Lower case suffixes could be used to further denote specific classifications within a broad grouping as required (see tabulation below).

Under the scheme outlined, some species may fall into two categories: for example, County Scarce + Nationally Vulnerable, or Nationally Rare + County of Other Interest (Hants Responsibility species). The category that is listed in documentation will normally be that appearing highest in the table given below.

The Criteria

Bracketed () = suggested short codes for HBIC Recorder Database and general usage.

General Category	Common Criteria	SINC Refinements
Nationally Rare (NR) ⁽¹⁾	IUCN Extinct (NRx) IUCN Extinct in Wild (NRx) IUCN Critically Endangered (NRa) IUCN Endangered (NRb) IUCN Vulnerable (NRc) Nationally rare, unlisted in IUCN (NRu): not meeting other IUCN criteria but recorded in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain	RDB1 (NR1) ¶ RDB2 (NR2) ¶ ≤ 15 hectads RDB3 (NR3) ¶
Nationally Scarce (NS) ⁽²⁾	Nationally Scarce (NS): recorded in 16-100 hectads (10km x 10km) in Great Britain	Nationally Scarce A (NSa) 16-30 hectads Nationally Scarce B (NSb) 31-100 hectads
Nationally of Other Interest (NI)	IUCN Conservation Dependent (NI ^d) ⁽³⁾ IUCN Near Threatened (NI ^t) Endemic Species (NI ^e) Internationally Listed (NI ⁱ) Legally Protected Species (NI ^p)	RDBK (NIk)
General Category	BSBI Criteria	SINC Criteria
County Rare (CR)	3 or fewer 1km ² in vice-county (CR1) 10 or fewer 1km ² in vice-county (CR2)	BSBI Criteria, or: (i) 10 or fewer tetrads in administrative county (i.e. excluding parts of VC11 but including parts of VC8, and with other minor boundary variations) (CR)
County Scarce (CS)	No more than 22 tetrads in vice-county (CS1)	No more than 42 tetrads for: (i) combined vc11 + vc12, or (ii) administrative county (CS)
County of Other Interest (CI)	Alien of Interest (CIa) ⁽⁴⁾ Long-extinct Hants Species (CIx) ⁽⁵⁾	Hampshire Declining (CI ^d) ⁽⁶⁾ Hampshire Responsibility (CI ^r) ⁽⁷⁾ HBAP Species (CI ^b)

Notes

- (1) The Hampshire Rare Plant Register will use only the Common Criteria under 'Nationally Rare', since the national list of higher plant taxa is broken down by IUCN category and not by Red Data Book (RDB) criteria.

- (2) The Hampshire Rare Plant Register will not use the SINC subdivisions, since these distinctions have not been made in the national list of higher plant taxa.
- (3) Not currently used for vascular plants in Britain.
- (4) 'Alien of Interest' is defined by the BSBI as a non-native taxon long-established in 3 or fewer 1km² sites, having local cultural, historic or scientific interest. This criterion is clearly subjective, and a list of candidates forms part of the Hampshire Notables list..
- (5) 'Long-extinct' implies 'known to have been extinct in the area since before 1950'.
- (6) The definition of 'Hampshire Declining' is: 'when recorded over two recording periods, appears in 50% or fewer tetrads in the second period compared with the first'. The recording period may vary for different species groups but the norm is 10 years, and this will be used for the Rare Plant Register. The period of separation between recording periods may also vary between species groups, but for the Rare Plant Register initially, two consecutive 10-year periods will be used (1986-1995 and 1996-2005).
- (7) 'Hampshire Responsibility' taxa are those for which the county holds at least 10% of the UK population.

The lists for Nationally Rare and Nationally Scarce vascular plant taxa are those published in *BSBI News* Issue 95 (January 2004) and on the JNCC web site (<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/species/Plants/threatened/>).

County Rare Plant Register Usage

The Hampshire Notables List gives a Status for each taxon of:

- Vice-county 11
- Vice-county 12
- County

for each taxon catalogued. The Status shown for vice-counties 11 and 12 will be the highest category that applies from column 2 of the table shown above under the 'County' categories. The Status shown for the County will be the highest category from either Column 2 (Common Criteria) or Column 3 (SINC Criteria) under the 'County' categories. As well as the categories shown, there are '--' (not found in area) and '**' (not qualifying on any criteria in area).

The CRPR also lists a Reason for Inclusion for each taxon, which will be the highest category that applies from column 1 matching any of the three status assessments.

Examples

Taxon	Reason for Inclusion	VC11 Status	VC12 Status	County Status
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Nationally Scarce	CR2	CR1	CR
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	County Scarce	**	--	CS
<i>Arabis glabra</i>	Nationally Rare	--	CR1	CR
<i>Carex humilis</i>	Nationally Scarce	CR1	--	CR
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	County of Other Interest	**	**	CI _d
<i>Salix aurita</i>	County Scarce	**	CS1	**

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