

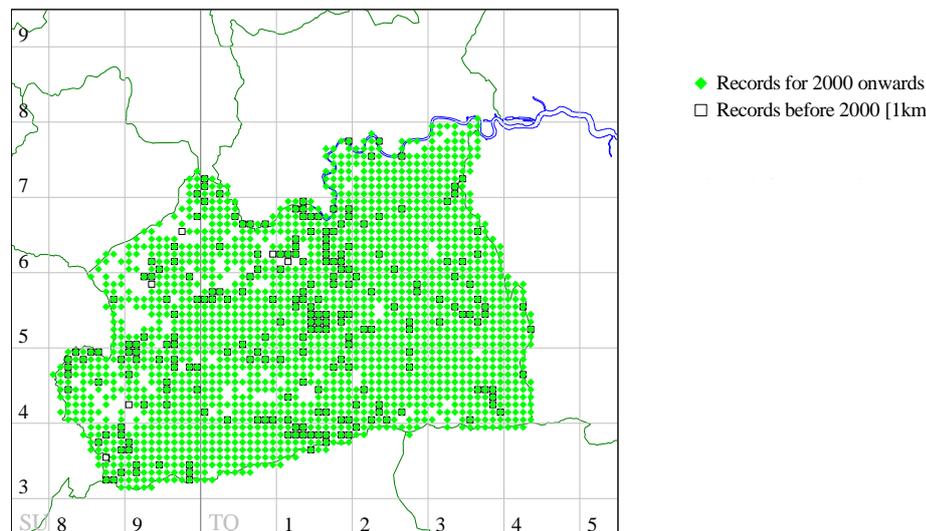
## Recording in 2020 and beyond

Sadly, as I write this at the end of March, our recording plans for at least the first part of 2020 have had to be considerably restricted due to the virus COVID-19 pandemic. None of the arranged Field Meetings nor any of the informal meetings I was planning will now take place, for the first half of the year at least. This does not mean that we cannot record. Just that we have to follow Government guidelines on where and how we are permitted to be outside. Within in these parameters, it is surprising what can be done. How many of you have made a species list of the weeds in your garden or other local area? Now is a really good time to identify all of your local weeds, to sort out the differences between *Veronica hederifolia* subsp. *hederifolia* (Ivy-leaved Speedwell) and *Veronica hederifolia* subsp. *lucorum* (Ivy-leaved Speedwell) – see Plant Crib, or to note carefully whether the *Cardamine* you are pulling up, either to eat or consign to the compost heap, is *Cardamine flexuosa* (Wavy Bitter-cress) or *Cardamine hirsuta* (Hairy Bitter-cress).

Longer term, I hope we can continue with recording for the *New Flora of Surrey*. As per our Recording Strategy [http://www.surreyflora.org.uk/mbr\\_docs/00000051.pdf](http://www.surreyflora.org.uk/mbr_docs/00000051.pdf) we will continue to record defined sites within monads, 1km squares. We are now in a new BSBI Date Class, DC6 2020 – 2029 and the Excel ‘maps’, sent to all members and available on our website, show the number of taxa per 1km square for DC5 + 6. Although this might seem like starting again, there will be some sites that have not been recorded since 2000. Twenty years can be a long time botanically and there will be many changes in some sites.

One of the habitats I had been suggesting we concentrate on is woodland. This is because of Ash Dieback. Next year it may not be safe to go in woods where there is a lot of *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash). With this disease, the wood becomes very brittle and trees can just collapse. Before this stage, the trees are prone to fall in windy conditions. Please do not go in woods when it is windy. The map below shows just how widespread is this tree. It cannot show whether there is one tree or many but it does show how VC17 could be changed if we lost a lot of the trees to Ash Dieback.

*Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash)



If submitting records using our Recording Form, please do complete each column accurately. It is important to give Quantity, in the form of DAFOR, to give the Stage and to note if the taxon is Native, Casual, Established or Planted. Do not assume we know these things – we were not with you. Interesting records should be given an 8fig grid reference, together with additional information. This gives useful knowledge about the record and will aid the taxon being found again in later years. What to record? We record everything growing in the wild and in gardens and similar, species that

have arrived of their own accord, not spreading garden plants. We need to be careful about subspecies. As a basic rule, if two subspecies of a species occur generally in VC17, then we record to subspecies level. If there is only one subspecies that grows here, then record to species level. Until notified, please use Stace 3, 2010, names. This is because MapMate has not yet changed to Stace 4, 2019, names due to the ongoing checking of taxa and records for BSBI Atlas 2020.