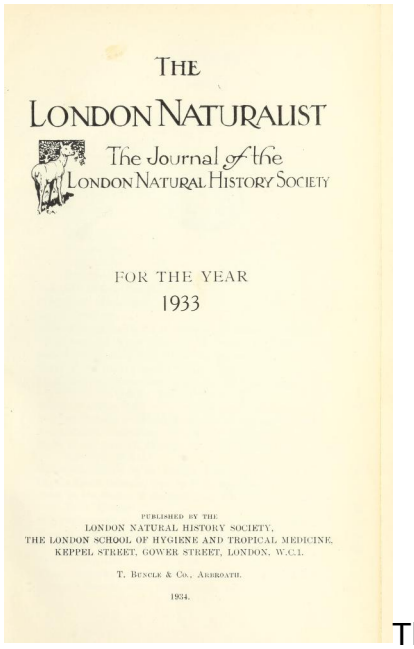
Today, biological records are usually stored in digital form in databases. These databases can be accessed and shared for use in conservation, research and planning. One such use is in the compilation of distribution atlases, and in the case of botanical records producing a flora. Work is currently underway to generate new records and gather existing records to create a new London Flora - and the London Natural History Society (LNHS) are now looking at how we can unlock past plant records from publications and convert them into digital records.


THE
LONDON NATURALIST
The Journal of the
LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR
1933
PUBLISHED BY THE
LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
THE LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE,
KEPPEL STREET, GOWER STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.
T. BUNCLE & CO., ABERDEEN.
1934.

The London Naturalist is the journal of the LNHS and contains articles covering a wide range of natural history subjects. This publication has been produced annually since 1921 and its predecessors date back all the way to 1898! Within them is a treasure trove of information, including many botanical biological records that would be of great value to the London Flora Project.

These records are important as they provide snapshots from days gone by and allows us to compare the current distribution of a plant species with past occurences - allowing us to see if plant distributions have contracted, stayed the same or expanded.

The LNHS is now looking for volunteers that are able to help us search through our archives and mine these invaluable records, opening them up for the London Flora Project and other uses. All records will also be shared with both Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI).

How to get involved

This project is managed by LNHS Vascular Plant Recorder and BSBI Middlesex Recorder, Mark Spencer. In order to take part in this record mining project of historic records, you need to register your interest with the LNHS Vascular Plant Recorder by email and wait to be assigned specific issues of the London Naturalist (which will be accessed online via the Biodiversity

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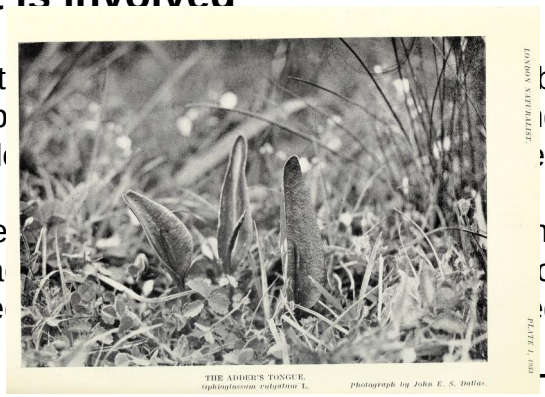
Heritage Library).

[Click here to email the LNHS Vascular Plant Recorder]

We hosted a 'Plants of London's Past Volunteer Training Workshop' on 17th February 2021 and recorded the session (see below). We advise anyone that would like to take part in this project to first watch this video and then contact the LNHS Vascualr Plant Recorder via the link above.

[Check out the GiGLer for A Sense of Place: The history of the geographical information in the London Natural History Society records]

What is involved



In a nut botanical species occurrence records located within p d submitting these to the LNHS Vascular Plant Record limited Text file).

Volunte g information for any biological records that they come a ctions for recording each of these fields will be provide d publications):

- **Taxon** - the full scientific name of the species recorded
- **Site** - the name of the site where the species was recorded
- **Grid reference** - the OS grid reference of the site
- **Vice county** - the vice county reference number
- **Recorder** - the name of individual(s) that made the observation/collected the specimen
- **Determiner** - the name of the individual(s) that the identified the species
- **Date** - the date on which the plant was recorded
- **Quantity** - the number of individuals recorded
- **Method** - the method of recording (usually "field record/observation)
- **Sex** - the sex of the recorded plant
- **Stage** - the life stage of the recorded plant
- **Status** - the status of the recorded plant (i.e. native, non-native, planted, unknown, not recorded)
- **Comment** - any additional information, including comments on the perceived accuracy of the record

Hopefully, having followed the guidance provided by the LNHS Vascular Plant Recorder, the data should look something like this:

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Taxon	Site	Gridref	VC	Recorder	Determiner	Date	Quantity	Method	Sex	Stage	Status	Comment
Lapsana communis subsp. communis	L.B. Islington: Wipstead Heath, West	TQ123123	21	Bridges, S.M. & Spencer, M.A.	Spencer, M.A.	04/06/2018	1	Field record / observation	u	not recorded	native	Determination doubtful, due to unusually hairy stamens for this species, third field SW of main road, near mature hornbeam, chalk grassland, site poorly managed & overgrazed

Click here to email the LNHS Vascular Plant Recorder

Click here to download the Plants of London's Past Volunteer Instructions

Author: Keiron Derek Brown

Date published: 23/01/2021

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