

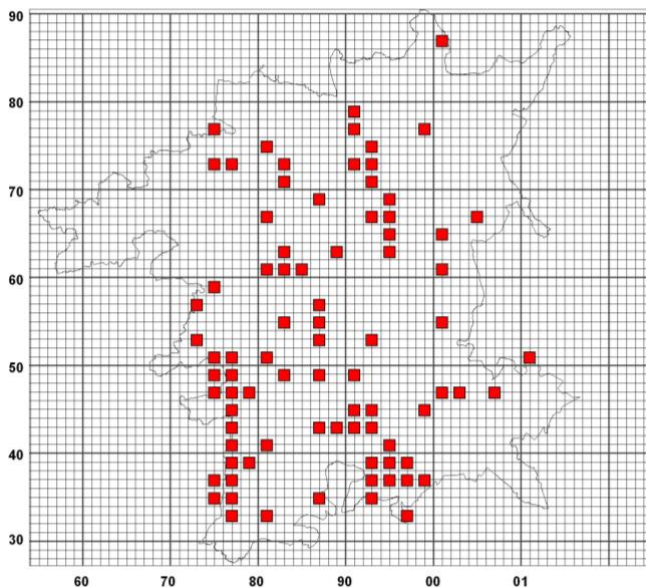
Worcestershire bumblebee atlas update spring 2016

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Maps prepared by Worcestershire Biological Records Centre.

Records are still needed for the proposed Worcestershire bumblebee atlas. The number of records held by Worcestershire Biological Record Centre (WBRC) have increased greatly over the last 15 years but there are still a few areas of the county with no records and species which remain under-recorded.

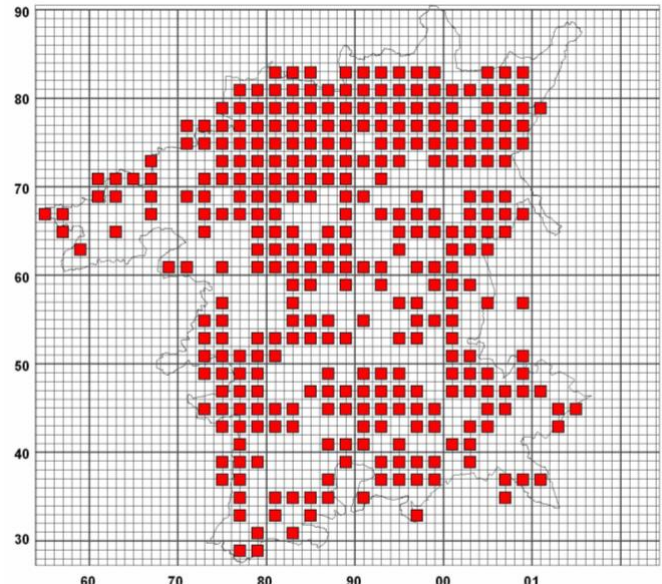
At the end of 1999 the distribution of bumblebees in Worcestershire was unknown for many species and the recorded distribution was poor to say the least for the group as a whole (see map 01). The picture was much improved during the period 2000-2010 (map 02) and by the end of 2015 following several calls for records (Green, 2013 & 2014, Farmer 2015) the county was quite well covered (see map 03), but still with some *Bombus*-free areas.



01. *Bombus* records up to 1999.



Bombus terrestris. Harry Green

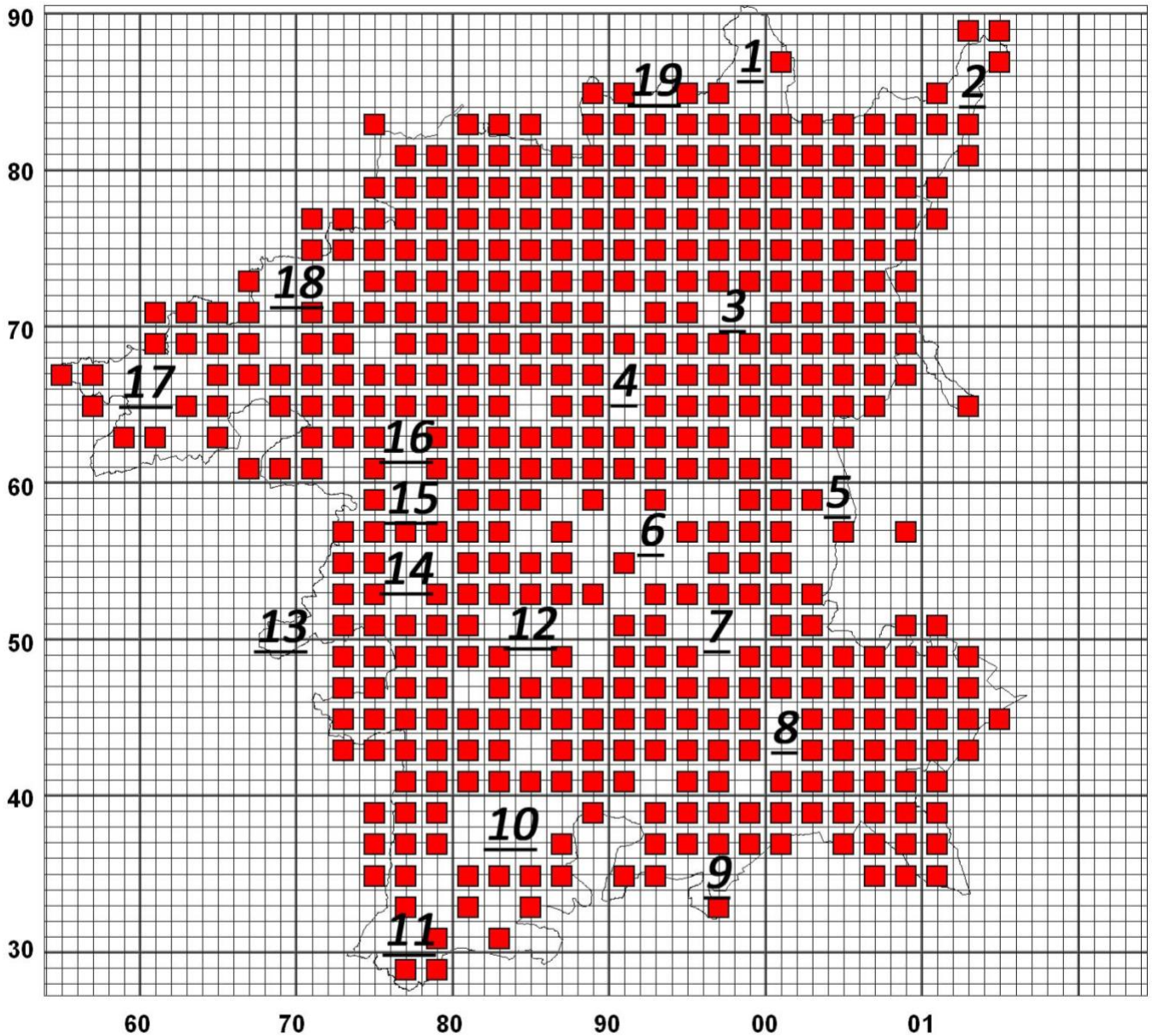


02. *Bombus* records collected 2000-2010

We are hoping that by showing these maps further records will be sent to WBRC especially for the record-free areas shown uncoloured. I have spent some time reviewing the maps and have prepared a numbered list of areas of the county where we need records to fill gaps. These are as follows and are indicated by the numbers on map 03. On the maps the red squares are each situated in the centre of a tetrad.

1. Quinton and Black Heath areas
2. Harbourne
3. North Bromsgrove
4. North Droitwich, Wychbold, Cooksey Green
5. Areas between Feckenham and Astwood Bank
6. Upton Snodsbury, Flyford Flavell, Naunton Beauchamp triangle
7. Peopleton to Throckmorton and Bishampton
8. Merry Brook from Charlton to south of Upper Haselor
9. Aston on Carrant east to Beckford and Little Beckford
10. East of Castle Morton to the river Severn at Ripple
11. Murrell's End, Red marley D'Abitot, Lowbands, Pendock, Berrow and Rye Street
12. Collett's Green and Powick east to Norton (including Kempsey)
13. Suckley, Green Hill and Evesbatch
14. Broadwas, Cotheridge and Leigh
15. Martley, Castle Hill, Wichenford
16. Areas around Ockeridge and Little Witley
17. Much of the Tenbury Wells area
18. Eardiston, Frith Common, Mamble, Bayton, Bayton Common and Pound Bank
19. Lye and Wollescote east towards Halesowen

This list is by no means exhaustive so check the distribution map for other areas. You will see from the maps just how much work has been done and how relatively little remains to fill the gaps. The more people that help, the less work there will be to fill all the gaps in the county's bumblebee map. So please pick a patch to record in this year



03. All *Bombus* records. Areas requiring records numbered

There has been some debate as to the level that recording should take place. For national distribution maps 10 × 10 km kilometre square resolution is usually sufficient but more detail is required for local atlases. The maps shown here are to 2 × 2 kilometre (or tetrad) level and this gives a good picture of the distribution of species in the county. However if we record to 1 × 1 kilometre squares (monads) this would give even more accurate distribution detail. The question still to be answered is whether this level is too detailed for such mobile insects. The recommendation is to record at monad level (with grid references) if possible and a decision will be made about how best to display the information when the final maps are produced.

Don't forget to send in all your records for all species anywhere in the county.

References:

Green, H. 2013 Bumblebees and Orthoptera: Two new atlases. *Worcestershire Record* 34:4-8
 Green, H. 2014. Worcestershire Bumblebee and Orthoptera atlases. *Worcestershire Record* 36 :4
 Farmer, G. 2015. Worcestershire Bumblebee atlas and Orthoptera atlas. Last call for records. *Worcestershire Record* 38:5-6



We need your records

Images

- 01. *Bombus* records up to 1999.
- 02. *Bombus* records collected 2000-2010
- 03. All *Bombus* records. Areas requiring records numbered