

Investigating the distribution & spread of *Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent)



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Aim

The aim of this project is to improve our understanding of the distribution and spread of *Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent) in Britain. We believe this alien grass can tell us much about the way plants colonise new regions, and about how recording schemes monitor colonisations.



Data Collection

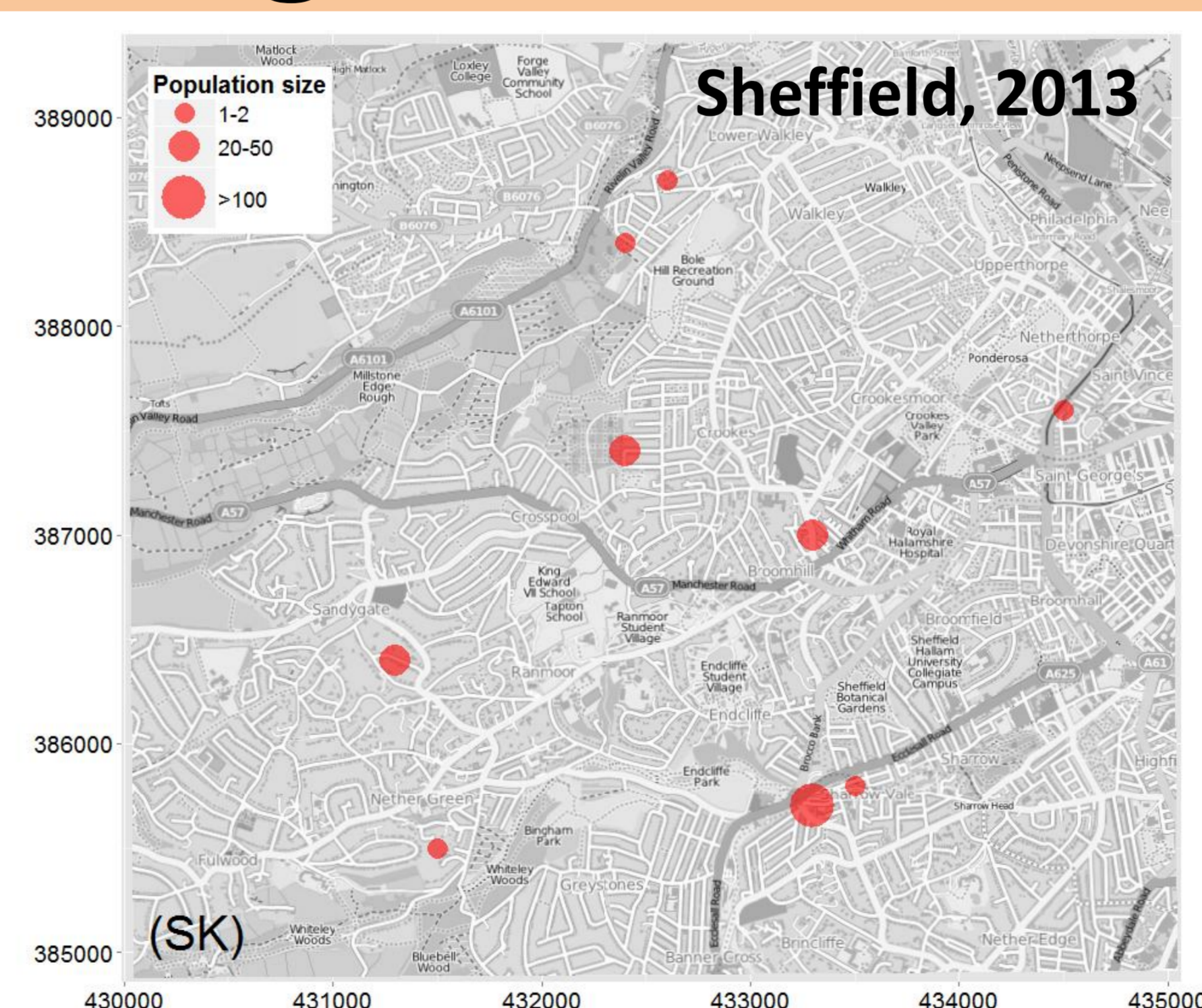
In addition to the information available from the BSBI DDb, we plan to collect data in two stages:

Stage 1: Questionnaires about the presence and absence of *Polypogon viridis* in the local area of BSBI members (2013 and 2015).

Stage 2: Field survey with a nested design in order to determine the environmental drivers of spread and establishment in urban and natural habitats (2014-2016).

Background

Our interest was piqued by recording *P. viridis* new to Sheffield and South Yorkshire this year. The grass must have been overlooked for some time: we found 9 populations, some of considerable size. AB had a similar experience in Berkshire in 2007.



Polypogon viridis is one of the fastest spreading plants in the British Isles, especially in urban habitats. However, we do not know the reasons for this sudden increase, or the real extent of its spread, because there may be a time lag between colonisation and recording.

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