

Gloucestershire Recording Areas

Green lines on the map are VC boundaries. Red lines are boundaries of modern administrative areas where they deviate from VC boundaries.

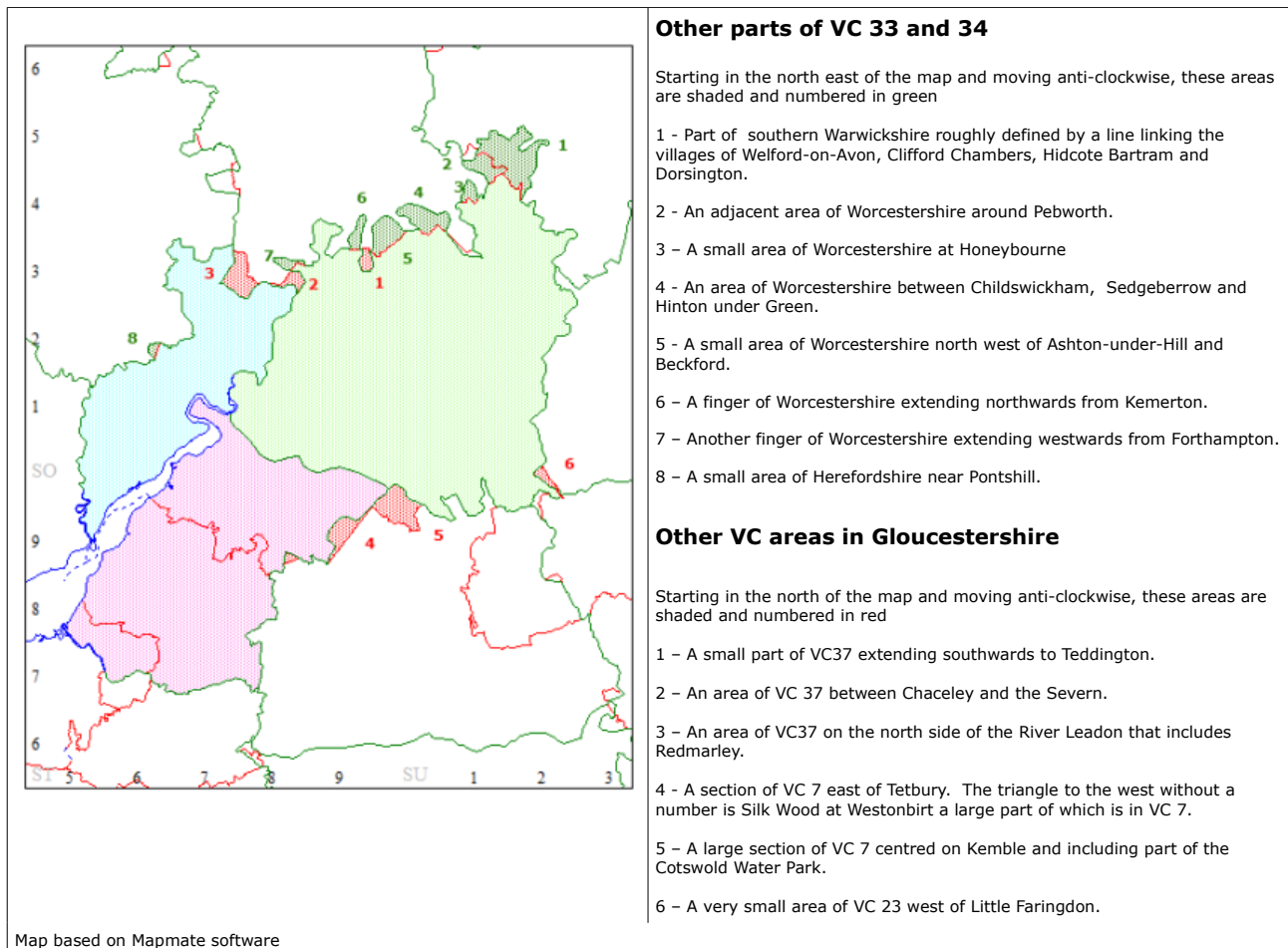
“Gloucestershire”

The map below shows the various recording areas which constitute “Gloucestershire”. The main elements are the two vice-counties. The use of vice-counties ensures a degree of continuity in the boundaries of large scale recording areas. If, for example, a species is said to be newly recorded in a vice county then it is probably safe to say that the moth has been found here for the first time, rather than the boundary has changed to include part of the species' old “home area”. There are two Gloucestershire vice-counties, VC 33 – East Gloucestershire and VC 34 West Gloucestershire.

On the map VC 33 is shaded light green; VC 34 (eastern section) is shaded pink and VC 34 (western section) is shaded turquoise.

For the most part the boundary between VC 33 and VC 34 (E) follows the line of the Stroudwater and Thames and Severn Canals, i.e. starting at Framilode on the Severn and finishing near Thames Head on the Foss Way (A 433). The southern boundary of VC 34 mainly follows the River Avon, but it deviates southwards in Bristol to include some of the city's inner southern suburbs (Ashton Gate, Bedminster and Windmill Hill). The modern boundary of Bristol City Council extends even further south as shown by the red line on the map.

In addition to these large regions, there are also several significant areas where the VC boundaries do not coincide with modern administrative boundaries. These are of two types; in dark green on the map are sections of VC33/34 that are no longer in modern Gloucestershire and in red are areas of modern Gloucestershire which lie in other VCs.



To add yet more complexity there are other smaller areas where the boundaries do not coincide and these have been identified by Guy Meredith. They are either missing from the Mapmate database or are too small to map at the scale used here.

Areas in Glos., but not VC33/34

SP13 (Near Broadway)

Spring Hill, Seven Wells , Heath Farm and Peter's Farm i.e. parts of SP 1134, 1234, 1135, 1235, 1136 and 1236.

The VC boundary follows the line of Ryknild Street whereas the county boundary follows a minor road approximately 3 fields to the west. The area west of Ryknild Street is in VC 37 and Glos.. VC 33 lies to the east.

SO62 (Near Kempley)

At Fishpool SO6629 and between Kempley Green and the northern edge of Queen's Wood SO6728, so that the road between the two is in Glos., but not in VC 34.

SO61 (Near Drybrook)

SO 6418 Puddlebrook, just north of Drybook

ST77 (Near Tormarton)

An area around Rownham Farm ST 7776 and parts of adjacent squares. While county boundary follows the Tormarton - Marshfield road, the VC boundary is to the west, so that Rownham Farm is in Glos.. There is also a small area on the north side of the M4 in ST7979, including Brotton Hill Wood. There seems to be no public access to this area.

Areas in VC33/34, but not in Glos..

SO 62 (Near Lea Line)

SO 6620, the area between Lea Line and East Dean is in VC 34, but not in Glos..

South Bristol

Attention is again drawn to the area of VC 34 which extends south of the Avon. Because of the chopping and changing in modern admin. boundaries in the Bristol area, the position of the VC 34 boundary does not coincide with any modern areas.

VC Boundary Sources

Printed sources are few and far between, although there is a very useful map in the Flora of Gloucestershire, published in 1948 (copy in the GNS Library at Hartpury). This was used for much of the locational information above.

Online sources include:

<http://herbariaunited.org/gridrefVC/> - thanks to Jon Brock for this one. The site provides an input box for a grid reference and will return the VC and a relevant location map.

NBN Gateway (<http://data.nbn.org.uk/>) - the "original " version of the distribution maps is best as it is based on OS maps. The new version is based on Google maps and is not so good in rural areas.

Where's the path, recorders version (<http://wtp2recorder.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>) where the text box showing a grid reference can be switched to include the relevant VC, although care is needed close to any boundaries.

R Homan, Nov 2012