

Vacancies for BSBI Vice-county Recorder Assistants in Scotland

A number of Scottish BSBI Vice-County Recorders need help to enter their plant records into computers. This aspect of Recorders' work is becoming increasingly important in order to make plant records more widely available to conservationists, botanists, land-managers and researchers. During the past three years the BSBI has employed contractors to help Recorders 'catch up' with the back-log of paper records. SNH funding for that project is due to finish in two years' time (2011) and we are now looking for volunteers to help with the ongoing computerisation of new field records that Recorders collect. Help is required in a number of vice-counties including Angus, the Lothians, Mid-Ebudes (Mull, Tiree & Coll) and Peebles.

Experience with computers, including e-mail, Word and Excel is essential. Although volunteers would not necessarily need to know how to use MapMate that would obviously be a great advantage. However it is easy to learn and training will be provided (if required). Experience with similar recording systems such as Recorder would help. Access to a broadband connection would be a great advantage for sending the digitised data to the Recorder and the BSBI Hub.

Attention to detail and ensuring that the records are digitised accurately would be very important. Of course to err is to be human and the Recorder would also have to check the digitised records and give feedback periodically. Knowledge of the geography and place names of the Vice-county would help, and that often comes with living in or near the area but is not essential. In addition, gazetteers can be referred to. Similarly an understanding of the flora of the Vice-county would help but is not essential as the Recorder will guide you on this.

There is scope for those starting as Assistants and keen to develop their botanical and recording interest to serve a general apprenticeship with the Vice-county Recorder, which may lead to recodership, if desired.

For further details of what being a BSBI Recorder Assistant entails please contact me. If you are interested in helping with this important work, please send me a note of your interest along with a CV detailing your relevant experience by the **1st of March**. Please include a note of which vice-county (or counties) you would be particularly interested to help with.

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