

## BSBI COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND

Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 1.45pm c/o Lynne Farrell, Blairgowrie

### 1a. Present

Richard Pankhurst (chair) Stephen Bungard, Alistair Godfrey, Ian Green, Jim McIntosh, Heather McHaffie (minutes for this meeting), Lynne Farrell, Edna Stewart

### 1b. Apologies

Jeff Waddell, Jane Squirrell, Deborah Long

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting (7<sup>th</sup> May 2006)

The Minutes were agreed as correct.

### 3. Matters arising

Current Scottish membership list has been circulated to the VC Recorders

Meeting planned between Jim and Jeff has not yet taken place, due to Jeff being off work.

Jim had sent a list to Jeff of VCRs who could undertake survey work for the Forestry Commission these were invited to tender for this summers FC habitat survey work.

Jim has planned the programme for the November exhibition meeting with help from Edna Stuart and Douglas McKean

Jeff Waddell had circulated suggestions about recruiting new BSBI members.

*AP 1 Jim to check if they had been forwarded to the Education committee*

### 4. Chairman's Report

Richard reported on the Welsh AGM meeting attended by 48 people. Trevor Dines spoke on *Equisetum* species and hybrids, Ken Trewren on the *Dryopteris affinis* aggregate which are soon to become three species. (Ken's full colour handout on the different taxa is available electronically from Heather). Frey Rumsey spoke on *Asplenium*. Richard was invited to attend the Welsh committee meeting.

There was discussion on the timing of the Scottish meeting in November and views are to be sought on the desirability on changing it to a different time of the year.

*AP 2 Jim was to raise this at the Annual meeting on 4 Nov 2006*

Richard also attended the VCRs meeting in Shrewsbury on re-introductions, Euphrasias, water crowfoot populations and the hybrid project. A scheme called Herbaria United set up by Manchester

herbarium invited people to type herbarium label text from photographs of herbarium labels posted on the internet. It has met with considerable success in helping to database the specimens.

The island of Fuday and Sandray in Richard's VC 110 are short-listed for nuclear waste sites  
*AP 3 Richard to type up a note and send to Deborah Long for discussion at the next PLINKS meeting on 19 Oct. 2006*

It was suggested a BSBI service could be provided to the public in identifying photographs of plants that people send in. This is also connected with the new BSBI beginners referees.

*AP 4 This was to be discussed further and may be raised at the Annual meeting*

## 5. Secretary/Treasurer

Jeanette Hall had resigned so there was no report

Jane Squirrell has agreed to take on both these roles. This was accepted by the Committee and will be proposed at the Annual meeting on 4 Nov 2006.

*AP 5 JS sets up a bank account before the November AGM, if at all possible*

## 6. Scottish Officer's Report

Full report attached, additional points:

The Esmée Fairbairn application was successful and 3 further sets of VC records will be covered by contactors and 2 more by the VCRs themselves.

Jim will help BRISC and Plantlife with basic plant ID courses in 2007

Jim recommended that in future SNH are asked to appoint a contractor to write the report on SCM fieldwork work done by volunteers. The contractor would lead the fieldwork but benefit from the expertise available.

The VCRs workshop at Kindrogan Field Centre next summer is planned for the mid to end of August, the content of the programme remains to be agreed.

## 7. Scottish Annual Meeting

The programme and arrangements were discussed.

*AP 6 Jim to send a list of jobs that the Committee members could help with at the meeting*

## 8. Election of Officers

Suggestion for nominations for vacancies on Scottish Committee were discussed

AP 7 Richard Pankhurst to contact the people in order of above and ascertain their willingness to serve.

### 9. Liaison with other groups

Report received from Deborah Long for **Plantlife** (attached)

**BSS Council** Heather reported the appointment of a new president, Richard Abbott and a new Journal editor Lazlo Nagy who has ideas to improve the Journal. Two small grants were made to student projects. A conference is planned for June 2007 on Arctic/alpine refugia

**SNH** Report from Lynne Farrell (attached)

**Forestry Commission** Scottish Report from Jeff Waddell (attached)

A short report from **Scottish Environmental Link** was included in Deborah Long's note

### 10. Reports from BSBI Council and other Committees

a) There has not been another BSBI Council meeting since the last Scottish Committee meeting was held. The BSBI Development Officer post still has to be filled.

b) Lynne reported from **Executive** about the proposals for the Plant Unit and the bid to JNCC for funding for this which totalled £350,000 for the period 2006-2009. This was to be finalised at the Council meeting on 25 Oct 2006, when there would also be a discussion on the Scottish Officer post.

### 11. Field meetings

Stephen reported on a successful season in 2006 and on 6 dates already arranged for 2007.

Lynne suggested that she and David Pearman might run a meeting on Coll in 2008.

### 12. Vice-county Recorders

Neale Taylor VC87, has sent a letter of resignation and both Margaret Barron, VC96, and Alison Rutherford, VC99, have said they should like to retire (on more than one occasion). Possible candidates were Alistair Ross and Sarah Smyth.

AP 8 Jim was to approach possible candidates and advertise in the BSBI news.

### 13. Scottish Newsletter

Copy was requested

### 14. Date of next meeting

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 15.45 in the RBGE boardroom during tea time at the Scottish Annual Meeting

Heather McHaffie

## **BSBI Scottish Officer Report to the BSBI Scottish Committee on 23 Sep 2006.**

### **Scottish BSBI VCR Workshop Report, Kindrogan**

I asked speakers and facilitators at the BSBI VCR Workshop in April to write a short report covering key points and 'take-home' messages, and to send me photographs, maps, tables, etc to illustrate. These were compiled in a glossy workshop report which was sent to all Scottish VCRs, and a number of BSBI officers and key contacts in partner organisations.

A CD rom of information useful to VCRs was prepared and distributed with the Workshop report. It contained (*inter alia*) BSBI contact details, BSBI stationary and logos, BSBI guidance, Rare Plant Registers examples and guidance, SCM results, etc.

### **BSBI Site Condition Monitoring Survey Work**

We have undertaken 5 SCM sites this year – just to keep momentum going, and to ensure that we don't leave too big a backlog to later in the new SCM 6 year cycle. The sites were:

- Dalcroy Promontory, vc88
- Rescobie and Balgavies Lochs, vc90
- Glen Tanar, vc92
- Keltneyburn, vc88
- Ben Chonzie, vc88

I led on the last two and volunteers led on the first three sites.

### **BSBI Species Monitoring Survey Work**

Work has continued with *Carex maritima* following on from last year. An updated records spreadsheet was sent to all involved VCRs. David Pearman is collating results of this year's work, but to summarise: multiple populations were recorded in various places on Harris, vc112, it was rediscovered near Lossie Forrest in vc95, after 95 years, a single fruiting spike was found at Tarbat Ness, Easter Ross, vc106 (but no plants were found at Morrigh More, despite further searching), and there were additional records on Shetland, vc112.

*Platanthera bifolia* – I helped SNH develop and promote this joint project. Lynne has received the records.

*Melampyrum sylvaticum* – Records spreadsheet and report, included in the CD rom sent to VCRs, along with a request to do fieldwork in accompanying letter. Little feedback yet.

### **Educational Field Meeting work**

- The BSBI helped BRISC with their four Wildlife Counts Wildflower Identification one day courses, which a total 65 people attended. I attended one myself, and arranged local VCRs to attend others. Gave a short talk and prepared an information sheet for participants.
- I helped run a 2 day NTS-organized wildflower identification course attended by 22 rangers, and presented a short talk on the work of the BSBI.

- Organized and lead two one day BSBI educational field meetings to with help from other VCRs and Dot Dahl.
- I led an informal 2 day field meeting on Kintyre for local botanists, and presented a short talk about the BSBI.

### **Current BSBI Computerisation Project**

105,000 BSBI records from 4 Scottish VCRs have been computerised by 4 contractors (selected from BSBI ranks). Completion has been delayed by contractor illness, however it is hoped that the final dataset - that of vc84, West Lothian - will be handed over to the VCR on the weekend of the Scottish Annual Meeting. The three completed datasets will be sent to the BRC, and are on a list of datasets that we have agreed with them will be uploaded onto the NBN Gateway by the end of October. A Final Report about the project has been compiled for SNH, and circulated to all VCRs and contractors involved. If you would like a copy, please let me know.

### **Future BSBI Computerisation Projects**

I am planning a further two computerisation projects:

- A one year project, commencing autumn 2006, to computerise 135,000 records in 5 VCs: 95, 96, 97, 104 & 106. Total Project Value £35k, of which we are seeking £17k5 from Esmee Fairbairn. Their Environmental Programme Director is recommending approval at the meeting which will finally decide on 19 September. Assuming successful, work should commence shortly thereafter. Although it is going to run along similar lines to the previous project, there are some novel features. For example, VCRs may be paid to computerise their own records in some instances and experimentally I'm aiming to computerise one VCR's paper records completely and to improve on Atlas data which has already been partially computerised.
- A three year project, commencing in 2007 to computerise 450,000 records in 15 (or so) VCs. The list will take some time to finalise but includes datasets from 78, 79, 82, 83, 84, 94, 95, 97 & 103. Total Project Value £125k of which 82k is being sought from SNH. A Grant application has been prepared, consulted on and submitted to SNH. SNH have promised a decision by 31 October. The main novel feature of this project is that data checking contractors may be employed to assist those VCRs who said they would require help to check computerised data. Also we are hoping to fully computerise the data which was collected, but only partially computerised to produce the Flora of the Lothians.

Jim McIntosh  
September 2006

Report from Plantlife Scotland for BSBI meeting on 23 September 2006.

March - September 2006

Policy

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy: No new news

Non native invasive species: The UK programme board set up by DEFRA has had 3 meetings. One relevant action has been to employ a secretariat – 2 members of staff, based at CSL in York. They have also set up a GB strategy working group who have been tasked with producing a GB strategy on non native invasive species, due for consultation in March 2007. Scottish Environment Link have a representative on this working group.

Plant Link UK: The former Plantlife Link met in London on 12 September and have agreed to re configure into a Plantlife Link UK. The BSBI representative was unable to attend. They also agreed to set up Plant Links England and Wales to mirror the successful Plantlife Link Scotland. Plant Link UK meetings will take place once a year, probably in London and all Plantlife Link Scotland members are welcome to attend. Meeting notes will be sent shortly to all Plantlife Link representatives, including David Pearman as BSBI rep.

Species recovery through Back from the Brink

Plantlife Scotland is supporting a number of projects through our BfB programmes. These include:

Detailed e –dossiers to be published as part of the series on our website: *Cicerbita alpina* and *Epipactis youngiana* are online. We are still working on 4 more species.

Research on *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* has found seed in Scottish populations. Its viability is now being tested.

Management trials for *Linnaea borealis*: setting up of timber operation trials has been postponed to Spring 2007, owing to the dry summer. Monitoring of felling trials set up in 2000 is due to continue this year. A report on the last 3 years will be produced over the winter.

Management advice: we are to publish management leaflets for pillwort and *Ascophyllum nodosum* *ecad mackaii* later this year.

Scientific papers: still working on a pillwort paper.

Plantlife surveys & campaigns

Juniper survey:

We are analysing the data from the juniper survey and hope to publish the results in February 2007.

### The Harebell Hunt:

An article was published in Plantlife's Plants and people newsletter in summer 2006.

### Plant invaders:

Plantlife's species survey this year asked people to look out for *Fallopia japonica*, *Impatiens glandulifera* and *Crassula helmsii*. The deadline for survey forms to be returned is 1 November 2006.

Common Plant survey: was launched again on 20 March 2006. We have promoted this through our new volunteer programme in Scotland and have succeeded in attracting more volunteer surveyors in Scotland.

Important Plant Areas: there will be an update on progress with UK IPAs at the Scottish BSBI AGM plus a map with Scottish IPAs (as they stand currently) available.

### **Operational updates:**

Plantlife international: Plantlife is currently drawing up a new strategic business plan for 2007 – 2010.

Plantlife Scotland: our new volunteer programme in Scotland, run by Su Cooper, launched Pond Alert at Gardening Scotland this year and the new Flora Guardian programme in July. More information on Plantlife Scotland is on our new website pages at <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/plantlife-scotland.html> .

### **PLINKS:**

The main PLINKS project at the moment is to fill the funding gap for a new post to take forward the Strategy for the conservation of lower plants & fungi in Scotland. The next meeting is on 19 October in Edinburgh.

### **Scottish Environment Link:**

See newsletter summer 2006. Also available at

[http://www.scotlink.org/LINK\\_information/newsletter.php](http://www.scotlink.org/LINK_information/newsletter.php)

Deborah Long  
Plantlife Scotland  
21 September 2006

**Report for BSBI Committee Sep. 2006 from SNH**

**1. New Chairman** – Andrew Thin was appointed in the summer. He was previously convenor of the The Cairngorms partnership. Further details about his background and the SNH Board members can be found on the SNH website [www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)

**2. Further bid from BSBI to SNH for grant to computerize more records in Scotland-** Jim McIntosh has been developing this 3-year bid starting in 2007/08 financial year with Claire ? .This follows on from this year's bid to Esmee Fairburn Trust.

**3. UKBAP** – Stage 1 has been completed by all the different habitat and species groups and the final list is due to be released by JNCC in Nov 2006.

**4. Species Framework** – Many useful responses have been received by SNH, they have been collated, and a final list is now being considered. SNH Board will make a decision in the autumn and announce this probably before Christmas.

**5. SCM** – BSBI was asked to survey 5 sites this year- the reports are awaited. There have been 2 national contracts for vascular plant survey also- The Cairngorms and Glen Callater. Lynne has developed a fully costed 5-year programme for the next 6-year cycle ( which commenced in 2006 but no work has been done for the second cycle this year, as all the SCM work done in the first cycle was being collated and analysed).

**6. SSSI citations** – These are being reviewed as a requirement arising from the NCS Act. The work is to be completed by 2010.

Lynne Farrell

SNH representative to BSBI Committee

20 Sep 2006

**Forestry Commission Scotland**

**BSBI Scottish Committee Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.**

### UKBAP Habitat Survey

Eleven habitat survey contracts are currently underway to survey the UKBAP habitats at a number of Forest Blocks throughout Scotland including: Inshriach (vc96), Longart (vc106), Several peatland blocks in vc109 (Rumster & Gorticlay, Toftgun & Campster, Achairn & Rowens, Braehour and others), Gala Lane (vc73/74?), North and South Kyle (vc75?), Pendreich, Kepranich and Boreland (vc88?), Glen Doll (vc90), Lochdon & Triroran (vc103), Loch Avich & Inverneil (vc101), Glenachullish (vc98), Loch Duich & Strome (vc105/97?), West Glen Garry and Gairloch (vc97).

A further contract with NESBREC is also planned this year to survey the habitats in several forest blocks in vc91, 92, 93, 94 & 95 using the IHS survey method, this will be translated into the UKBAP categories.

It is planned that all of the habitat data collected above will be digitised into the FCS GIS system.

At a rough estimate (without the figures to hand) I think FCS will probably be surveying about 15,000ha of habitat this financial year. A similar amount of habitat survey work is likely to be planned for next year as part of an ongoing programme.

### *Carex maritima* at Lossie Forest

I was pleased to hear that Ian had discovered *Carex maritima* on the coastal fringe at Lossie Forest. I asked staff at Moray forest district to confirm if the sedge was on FCS managed land, and although near the edge they confirmed it is on land managed by FCS.

I would be interested to ask the BSBI Scottish Committee and Heather in particular (with her experience of ex situ rare plant conservation) if it would be worthwhile establishing a conservation project to manage the *Carex maritima* at this location? What I had in mind was some collection of wild material (rhizomes?) for ex situ cultivation (perhaps at RBGE?) with a view to increasing the population on site by planting cultivated material. It would also be useful to have some in cultivation as the population is only 2 or 3 metres above sea level and may soon be threatened by sea level rise. Perhaps as part of the project some research could be done on the autecology of the species? If there is interest in these initial ideas, I could investigate if funding could be made available.

Jeff Waddell, Biodiversity Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland, 13/09/06.