

BSBI Scottish Officer Project Report for November, December & January 2008

Scottish Annual Meeting

Helped Scottish Committee organise redesigned BSBI/BSS Scottish Annual Meeting, which attracted some 120 botanists from across Scotland.

Computerisation Project

Phase 2: Work to upload 140,000 BSBI records onto NBN

140,000 BSBI plant records computerised by a project funded by £18.7k from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation are now uploaded onto the BRC Vascular Plant Database and are currently being uploaded onto the NBN Gateway.

Phase 3: Project launched to capture 150,000 BSBI records

Work in the first year of this three year SNH grant-aided project was launched. Datasets were assessed and the work programme costed. Suitable and available contractors were selected and invitations to quote sent out. Based on the response, contracts were offered and accepted and work finally commenced in December.

Contractor	VC Name	VC	VCR	Contract	Format
Ian Green	Selkirk	79	Rod Corner	4000	SCI
Kim Harding	Midlothian	83	Douglas McKean	10500	SCI
David Welch	Kincardine	93	David Welch	3500	SCI
Angus Hannah	Dumbarton	99	Alison Rutherford	100000	RC
Malcolm Ogilvie	Dumbarton	99	Alison Rutherford	8500	SCI
Andy Amphlett	Mid Ebudes	103	Lynne Farrell	18500	RC
Total				145000	

SCI = Species Card Index; RC = Record Card

In addition a wide number of experts both internally and externally were consulted on our Data Entry Guidance for contractors and this was revised accordingly. We also sought and received agreement from VCRs on how the BSBI will use BSBI their data – this reflecting SNH's grant conditions. A detailed report was prepared and accompanied the first grant claim (available on request).

Flora of the Lothians Dataset (c 150,000 records)

Am currently in discussion with Edinburgh & the Lothians Information Centre about the completion and mobilisation of this dataset. Raw data sheets and electronic data have been handed over to the LRC who are currently assessing it to identify how much work is involved.

Preparations begun to upload 230,000 records from SNH onto NBN

Previously we were kindly given SNH T&C's 230,000 vascular plant database for Perthshire, Angus & Fife on condition that they are made publically available on the NBN, and that we hand them back to the Recorders in such a way that we retain editorial control – and no duplicates arise. SNH's GIS department are currently working on this to resolve a site centroid issue before dissemination.

Supporting BSBI Vice-County Recorders

Met potential joint recorder with current recorder for Argyll, vc98 to discuss issues and in particular how partnership might work. Made nomination to the Scottish Committee. Also met a further two Recorders in programme to meet all Scottish Recorders, and find out what they are currently involved with and how I can help.

Talks & Lectures

Gave three talks on the BSBI's work in Scotland – to over 100 people in Natural History Societies in Lochaber and on Bute and to Stirling SWT group. Also delivered two one hour lectures to 20 RBGE MSc students, on *How Conservation works in Scotland* & the *BSBI in Scotland*.

Jim McIntosh,
BSBI Scottish Officer