

BSBI Scottish Project Report for February, March, April 2008

Computerisation Project: 100,000 records digitised

Work in the first year of this three year SNH grant-aided project began last quarter, and much of the data entry work has been completed during this quarter. When one of the contractors finished earlier than anticipated a further dataset (a species card index for vc95) was selected, tendered, and contracted.

VC Name	VC	Contract No. Records	Actual No. Records	Current Stage
Selkirk	79	4000	2037	Complete - Given to VCR, CD just rec'd
Midlothian	83	10500	10953	Critical records being checked
Kincardine	91	3500	3900	Checking critical records
Moray	95	20000	7831	Data Entry & Checking
Dumbarton	99	100000	52479	Checking critical records
Dumbarton	99	8500	6200	Data Entry & Checking
Mid Ebudes	103	18500	19014	Complete - Given to VCR, CD awaited
		165000	102264	

A detailed report was prepared at the end of March and accompanied the second grant claim (available on request).

LWIC contracted to mobilise 78,000 *Plant Life of Edinburgh & the Lothians* records

When this flora was published in 2002 only the bare minimum was computerised to generate the maps. During this quarter, Lothians Wildlife Information Centre was contracted to complete the computerisation. This has involved adding details of recorders, dates, sites and other information missing from the electronic record but available on the raw data sheets. A meeting was held with LWIC and Lothians VCRs at the outset. The data entry phase is now complete, and checking is about to begin.

230,000 SNH T&C records uploaded onto Vascular Plant DataBase

Much work was done with the help of SNH GIS department to resolve a site centroid grid reference issue, and the corrected dataset was forwarded to BRC for uploading onto the VPDB/NBNGateway. The dataset is undergoing final validation checks, and BRC has recently consulted the BSBI on a small number of possibly erroneous records.

Invitation to tender prepared for SNH SCM Associated Species Project

A detailed investigation of work required was undertaken to complete and tidy up the SCM Target Species Records spreadsheet and to extract and digitise the associated records. An invitation to tender has been drafted and a guide price calculated. Informal talks with a potential contractor were held.

Workshop held for BSBI Site Condition Monitoring volunteers

With the help of Robin Payne & Brian Eardley, SNH, the Scottish Officer organised and lead a workshop for ten BSBI SCM volunteers in April at Battleby. Used the feedback from the event to revise and update the SCM guidance for BSBI volunteers. Also quality checked one SCM report from last summer (Glen Tanar).

BSBI Threatened Plant Project launched in Scotland

The BSBI Threatened Plant Project was launched by the BSBI Head of Research & Development. The project asks BSBI Vice-county Recorders to refine and undertake detailed surveys of up to ten populations per county of *Pyrola media*, a Scottish Action Framework species and some nine UKBAP species (seven of which occur in Scotland).

BSBI Rare Plant Registers published

Detailed work was done by the BSBI Volunteers Officer to help two Scottish Vice-county Recorders format draft Rare Plant Registers for publication. One has just been published on the BSBI website – the RPR for Outer Hebrides, vc110 - and the other is currently being prepared. See http://www.bsbi.org.uk/html/rare_plant_registers.html

Support for BSBI Vice-County Recorders

The BSBI Co-ordinator published and distributed BSBI Recorder – a support newsletter for Vice-county Recorders and referees. The Scottish Officer met a further four Recorders in his programme to meet all Scottish Recorders, and find out what they are currently involved with and what support is required.

Talks & Field Meetings

The Scottish Officer gave a talk on the BSBI's work in Scotland to 30 members of the *Dundee Naturalists*. Much work has been done to prepare this year's very full programme of five educational field meetings in Scotland, two of which, on vegetative grass identification, are being lead by Clare O'Reilly. A BSBI volunteer has helped take bookings from over 100 people for these events.

SNH Grant Application

Prepared, consulted on, finalised and submitted a Grant Application to SNH for a further (3 year) term of the BSBI Scottish Project.

Jim McIntosh,
BSBI Scottish Officer