BSBI Scottish Field Meeting Programme 2018

Friday 8 to Sunday 10 June (Recording)
Haddington, East Lothian (v.c.82)
Leaders: Jim McIntosh & Helen Jackson

This long weekend meeting (starting on Friday morning) aims to help the Recorder improve Atlas 2020 coverage in East Lothian. We will be based in the old county town of Haddington, which is a conveniently central base. East Lothian is one of the smallest vice-counties and has a rich and varied coastline – with dune systems, marshes, scrub and grassland to the west of North Berwick – and a rockier coastline to the east. The hinterland is largely farmland, with small woodlands, and scattered settlements and gently rises to moorland of The Lammermuir Hills. So, there will be a good variety of habitats to visit and record. To book please contact Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer

Saturday 9 to Saturday 16 June (Recording)
Carrick Castle, Loch Goil, Argyll (v.c.98)
Leader: Angus Hannah

South Scotland recording week 2018 will be based in a mountainous area of East Cowal, at Carrick Castle on the shores of Loch Goil, NS1994 (OS Explorer sheet 363). The terrain consists largely of steep afforested slopes with some natural woodland, rough hill ground, crags, gorges and rocky shorelines. There are also opportunities for recording along minor roads, forest tracks and paths. The area has been little recorded since 2000 and records are needed for Atlas 2020. Accommodation is available nearby, but places may be limited, and anyone wishing to attend for all or part of the time should contact Angus Hannah.

Saturday 23 June (General)
Strathpeffer, Easter Ross (v.c.106)
Joint with the Botanical Society of Scotland
Leaders: Brian Ballinger and Mary Dean
Strathpeffer is an attractive small spa town still popular with visitors. We will explore part of the urban centre, providing records for the Botanical Society of Scotland's urban flora project, but will also venture into the adjoining areas of lochs and woodland, contributing to BSBI records. We will seek to update records for *Corallorhiza trifid*a (Coralroot Orchid) and *Pyrola* and *Orthilia* species (Wintergreens). We will also look for some species recorded in the urban area in the past, such as *Thalictrum minus* (Lesser Meadow-rue), *Dactylorhiza maculata* (Heath Spotted-orchid) and various neophytes. Walking should not be arduous and will be mainly on good paths, although we may venture onto rougher ground to seek particular species. Bookings to Brian Ballinger

Saturday 23 to Saturday 30 June (Recording)
Wigtownshire Atlas 2020 Recording Week (v.c.74)
Leaders: Jim McIntosh & Alan Silverside

The meeting aims to help Recorders improve Atlas 2020 coverage. Though our accommodation is in Ayrshire, all (metalled) roads lead south into Wigtownshire. While the local Ayrshire hectads need attention, our main target will be Wigtownshire. It is quite a small county encompassing just 24 whole or part hectads including the Mull of Galloway - Scotland's most southerly point. The meeting will also provide a great opportunity to help improve field identification skills and to see nice plants in nice places and have a lot of fun in the process! A reasonable level of fitness is required as some of the ground will be rough and trackless but we will aim to offer a range of routes every day. At some point during the week we will take time off, to give you a chance to explore on your own. We will be based at the Lagafater Lodge. The Lodge is 13 miles by single track road from Stranraer and accommodates 16 in total, variously in double, twin and (a few) single rooms, so participants should expect to share. Hilary Hawker has kindly agreed to cater for us, so expect delicious home-cooking! For further details and to note your interest please contact Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer.

Saturday 30 June (Recording)
Doune, Stirlingshire (v.c.87)
Leaders: Jane Jones and Liz Lavery

We shall be exploring the area recording for Atlas 2020, beginners are welcome. Meet in Doune Ponds Car Park, NN725018 at 10.00. Joint vice-county recorders Jane Jones and Liz Lavery will be leading the excursion. Booking is essential, please contact Jane Jones.

Sunday 8 to Sunday 15 July (Recording)
Invergarry, Westerness Atlas 2020 Recording Week (v.c.97)
Leaders: Jim McIntosh & Ian Strachan

Westerness is one of the biggest, most mountainous and remote Vice-counties. This meeting aims to help the Recorder with Atlas 2020 in the area to the west of Invergarry. The meeting will also provide a great opportunity to help improve field identification skills and to see nice plants in nice places and have a lot of fun in the process! As the area is mountainous, a good level of fitness is required but we will aim to offer a range of different ability routes every day. At some point during the week we will take time off, to give you a chance to explore on your own. We will be based at the Kingie Lodge on Kingie Estate. The Lodge is 40 miles from Fort William and 54 from Inverness. It accommodates 14 in total but all in two bedded rooms, so participants should expect to share. Hilary Hawker has

kindly agreed to cater for us again, so expect delicious home-cooking! For further details and to note your interest please contact Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer.

Thursday 19 to Saturday 21 July (Recording)
Kelso (v.c.80)
Leader: Jeff Waddell
Following on the success of the two previous Atlas 2020 recording field trips based at Hawick and Selkirk, a similar recording meeting is being arranged in late July based in the market town of Kelso. Kelso is a good base to explore the Scottish counties in the middle Tweed Valley with Roxburghshire to the south and Berwickshire to the north. The focus of the meeting will be recording tetrads with few or no recent records, but promising habitats. It is therefore difficult to predict what the highlights may be, but in the area choice habitats include dry acid grassland with *Scleranthus annuus* (Annual Knawel) and lowland agricultural habitats with a good diversity of arable weeds. The terrain will be flat, and groups will be arranged according to physical ability, with smaller monad recording units on offer for those who cannot walk far. We would particularly welcome participation from recorders with expertise in critical groups to improve the recording coverage and beginner and improver botanists are also very welcome. To book a place and for enquiries contact: jeffwaddell11@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday 28 July (Training)
St Cyrus NNR (v.c.91)
Especially for beginners & improvers
Leaders: Faith Anstey and Aileen Meek

Last year's meeting based on the concept of 'finding the family first' was a great success, so we are holding two of these meetings in 2018. They are designed to help beginners and improvers, especially participants of BSBI/Plantlilfe Plant Families Workshops; anyone is welcome to attend. but experienced botanists may find themselves pressed into service to help beginners! The emphasis will be on learning how to pursue identifications in the field, by means of plant families. It will be an advantage to have a copy of the Pocket Guide to Wildflower Families – which will be available on the day – as well as your favourite field guide. The area chosen for this more northern meeting (the other being in Perthshire on 4th August) is a National Nature Reserve, rich in species from common families and also in rare specialities of sand dune and saltmarsh, so there will be more than enough for us to study and identify. Meeting place is at the St Cyrus NNR car park at 10.30am. Further details from faithanstey@gmail.com.

Saturday 4 August (Training)
Ballinluig (v.c.89)
Joint with PSNS, for beginners & improvers
Leader: Faith Anstey

Last year's meeting based on the concept of 'finding the family first' was a great success, so we are holding two of these meetings in 2018. They are especially for beginners and improvers, including participants of BSBI/Plantlilfe Plant Families Workshops and members of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science, but anyone is welcome to attend. The emphasis will be on learning how to pursue identifications in the field, by means of plant families. It will be an advantage to have a copy of the Pocket Guide to Wildflower Families – which will be available on the day – as well as your favourite field guide. The area chosen is rich in examples of common species from many different families, with one or two rarities thrown in for extra interest, besides being a very pleasant botanising locality beside the silvery Tay. Meeting place is at NN978520, just off the A9, at 10.30am. Further details from faithanstey@gmail.com.

Friday 10 to Sunday 12 August (Training)
Western Scottish Brambles for beginners/improvers
Ballachulish/Glencoe (v.cc.97,98)
Leaders: Marion Moir, Angus Hannah

This meeting offers an introduction to brambles for beginners and an opportunity for improvers who attended last year's Bute meeting to extend their skills. We hope to update bramble records on both sides of Loch Leven in v.cc. 98 and 97. Evening sessions will be devoted to studying specimens and photos and trying to resolve identification problems. Booking is essential as numbers will be limited. For details and to book please contact Marion Moir.

Saturday 11 August (Recording)
Braco, Perthshire (v.c.87 West Perth),
Jointly with the Botanical Section, PSNS (Perthshire Society of Natural Science**)**
Leader: Liz Lavery

We shall be exploring the area recording for Atlas 2020. Meet in Braco village, NN837097 at 10.00. Joint vice-county recorders Jane Jones and Liz Lavery will be leading the excursion. Booking is essential, please contact Liz Lavery. Everyone is welcome from beginners to experts.

Friday 17 to Sunday 19 August (Recording)
Drymen, Stirling (v.c.86)
Leaders: Jim McIntosh & Phil Sansum

This long weekend meeting (starting on Friday morning) aims to help the Recorder improve Atlas 2020 coverage in Stirlingshire. We will be based in Drymen which is an ideal base for accessing the west and north of Stirlingshire, including the hills to the east of Loch Lomond and around Loch Arklet. So, lots of interesting montane, moorland, woodland and aquatic species to record! To book please contact Phil Sansum.