

## Easter Ross (VC 106) Botanical Recording 2012

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All 10km squares in Easter Ross including the shared ones have now been visited, at least briefly, since 2010 for atlas updating. I am particularly grateful to Peter Wortham for making the long journey to the VC106 section of NH02.

Peter, Mary Dean and I undertook the Site Condition Monitoring for vascular plants at the Morrish More SSSI, which includes the weapons range and forestry area. All target species appeared to be making satisfactory progress, although once more we did not refind the old location of *Carex maritima* (curved sedge). New species added to the survey list this time included *Corallorhiza trifida* (coralroot orchid) and *Gentianella amarella ssp septentrionalis* (a subspecies of autumn gentian). Useful new finds included the small blue butterfly in the cleared forestry site and *Coeloglossum (Dactylorhiza) viride* (frog orchid) on the bombing range.

The BSBI Threatened Plants project was less successful this year and we failed to relocate *Alchemilla wichurae* (rock lady's-mantle) in Coire Ghranda by Beinn Dearg.

The Inverness Botany Group made five useful forays into the territory during the year and the Tain and Dingwall Field Clubs also contributed.

New records in 2012 included *Ceratophyllum demersum* (rigid hornwort) at Tain where it may have been introduced. Ian Green found a second recent vice-county site for *Linnaea borealis* (twinline) at Strath Vaich, confirming a very old record. Two sites for *Ranunculus auricomus* (goldilocks buttercup) were reported and this had not been seen in VC106 for 40 years.

I undertook two small surveys of vascular plant epiphytes, one on urban walls and the other on tree trunks and summaries of the findings are on the Easter Ross hosted web-page of the BSBI website.

Once again I am very grateful to all the individuals and groups who contributed records in 2012.