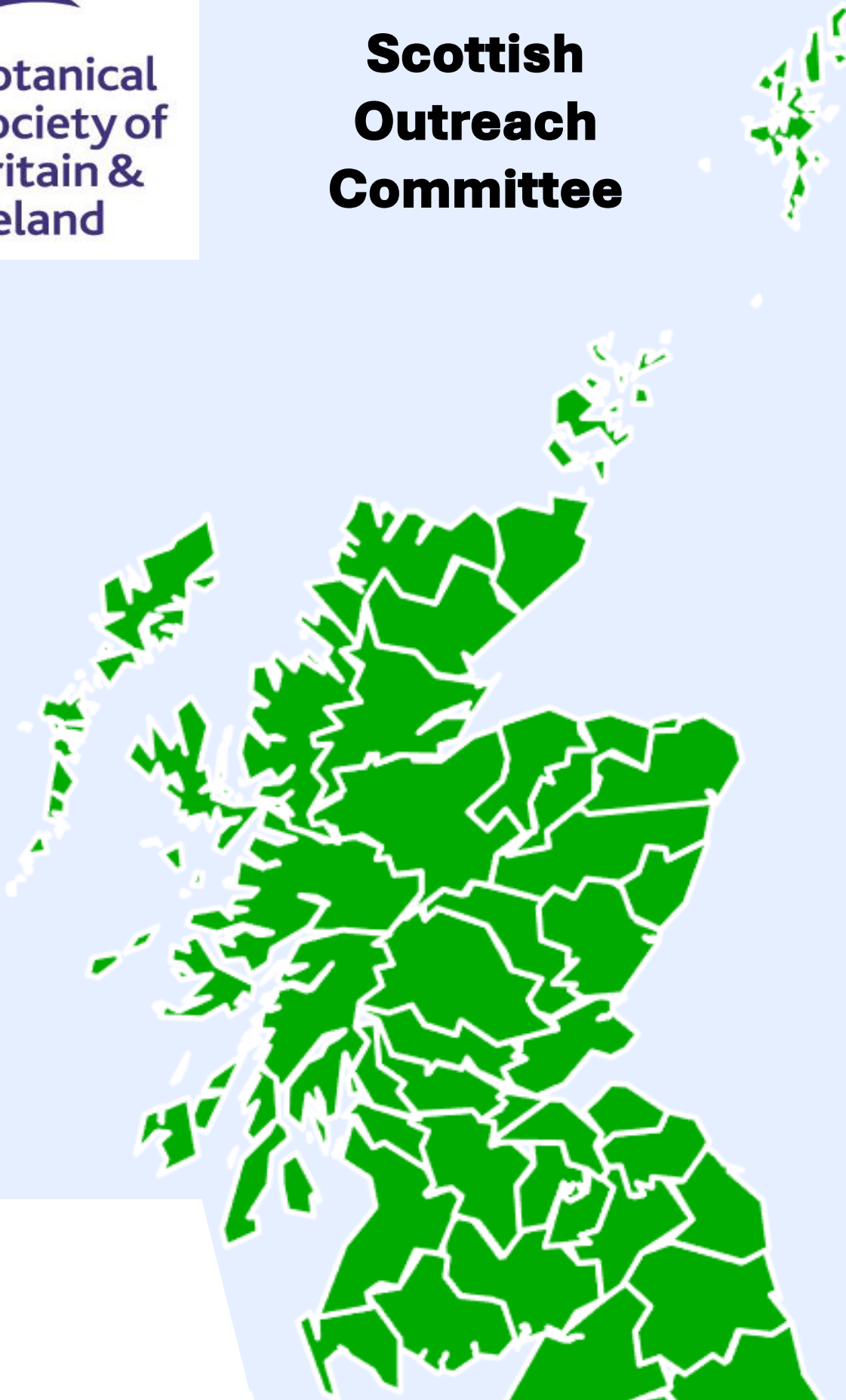


## **Scottish Outreach Committee**



### **Examples of BSBI's long-term programmes include:**

- **Outreach and Engagement:** aiming to widen our community of botanists and ensure our events and communications meet the needs of all those who are wanting to increase their understanding of wild plants.
- **Training:** delivering opportunities for learning and participation for people of all skill levels, from beginner to expert, to sustain and develop the skill base.

# Scottish Outreach 2024

Twelve Outreach Events were held in 10 vice-counties in 2024. These are designed specifically for people who are interested in plants and want to learn more. Beginners often need to find ‘a way in’ and later might benefit from the collaborative experience and support provided to develop and advance their knowledge and skills in Botany. It can be very reassuring to find that everyone has questions, and working things out together is fun.

Seven different Workshops focussed on the subjects of: Learning to Identify Plant Families; Grasses; Composites and Ferns. Training Field Meetings were based on the topics of Plant Families; Graminoids and Plant Identification for Habitat Surveys. A ‘General’ Training meeting and a Plant Families Wildflower Walk were also well attended and enjoyed.



Plant Families Training Field Meeting.  
West Inverness- shire, VC 97



NESBREc ‘Plant Identification For Students’ Workshop.  
South Aberdeenshire, VC 92 Photo: Aileen Salway



# Scottish Outreach 2024

Feedback from participants, tutors and leaders taking part in Workshops and Training Meetings in Scotland will help to shape our future actions.

We invite you to suggest training topics and locations, and you might want to volunteer to engage with new botanists, inspire, teach and encourage!

## How Useful is Attendee Feedback?

### “Aims in attending the Workshop”

- Learn more about natural inter-relationships between plants.
- Improve skills, make use of keys/field guides.
- Career enhancement. General interest, career development.
- General interest, learn to use keys.
- To learn the basics.
- Beginner, plants have been a blind spot for me!
- Career enhancement, refresh/improve skills.
- Bit of direction, struggling to get started.
- Improve skills.



Plant Families Workshop.

Fife & Kinross, VC 85 Photos: A Meek

### “Most Useful Aspects of the Workshop”

- Learning definitions, working with others. Fieldwork ID.
- Systematic approach to identification, practical aspect in morning.
- Learning the basics in a very friendly unintimidating environment.
- Practical aspects of working with keys in a systematic way.
- Learning by doing i.e. identifying actual plants as opposed to pics only.
- Utilising keys to identify species.
- Being taken through keys.
- Doing with others and support from experts.
- Familiarity in using a key.





**Charlie Ward** • 1st

Senior Ecologist at Thomson Environmental Consultants, Leeds

1w • 🌍



🌱 Just wrapped up another fantastic botanical training workshop with the **Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI)** and this one was all about my favorite plant group - ferns! 🌿

Traveled up to Scotland for the event and made a weekend adventure out of it by spending some time kayaking on Loch Lomond and botanising as we hiked to the summits of The Cobbler (Ben Arthur) and Cruach Tairbeirt. 🚣🏔️

A huge thanks to BSBI and the amazing workshop leaders who generously share their time, skills, and knowledge. Unlike most training courses, these non-profit workshops are affordable, inclusive, and packed with useful resources for all skill levels (if you can get to Scotland!) 🇬🇧

I'm excited to put my new skills to use and pass on what I've learned. 🌍 Hoping to see more courses like this in the future!

**#Botany #BSBI #Ecologist #Ecology #Learning #CPD #BotanicalAdve**





# Scottish Outreach 2024



Sedges and Rushes Workshop, Wester Parkgate, Dumfries (v.c. 72)  
Saturday 13 July. Chris Miles

“The workshop was based on the booklet Start to identify Sedges and Rushes by Faith Anstey. A copy of the booklet was included in the cost of the course.

Ten people joined the leader, and Jan Davidson, Michael Philip and Drew Davidson kindly acted as tutors.

This was an introduction to these groups of plants with the aim that participants would be more confident to separate Carex sedges from sedge relatives and from Rushes and to identify 21 common Carex by the end of the day.”

