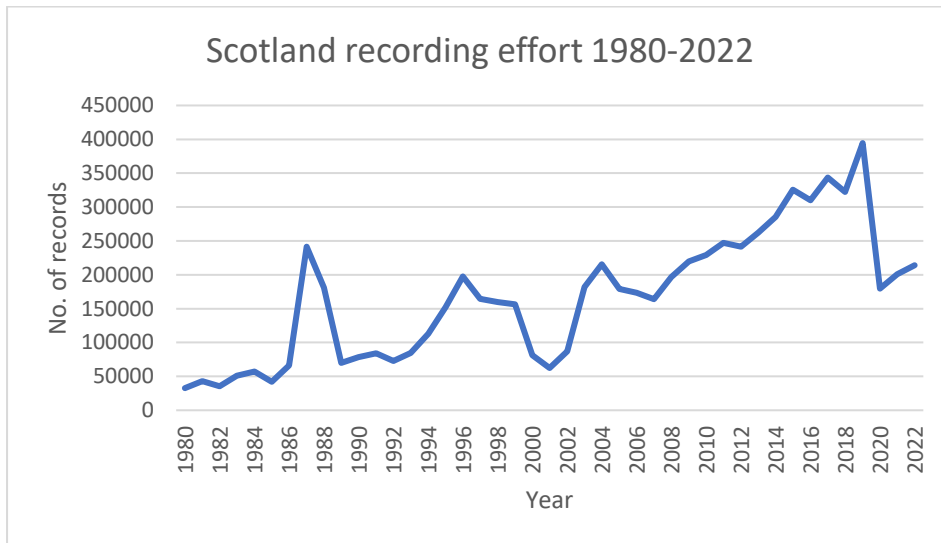


Scotland Officer's Report for 2022

General recording

A total of 197,254 plant records have been submitted to the BSBI Distribution Database for Scotland for 2022, as of 11th February 2023. This represents 27% of the total records submitted for 2022 across the whole of Britain and Ireland, an impressive return. An additional c.17,000 records are known to be awaiting upload, so the final total will be well over 200,000 records. Plotting recording effort in Scotland year by year from 1980 to the present is an interesting exercise and shows just what a game-changer the Atlas 2020 recording period has been – the dip in recording effort post-Atlas 2020 is still around the peak annual recording effort for Atlas 2000.



Eight vice-counties have submitted over 10,000 records to the Database for 2022 so far, with the highest vice-county total a remarkable 24,307 records. A huge thanks to **all** the recorders who have contributed over the course of the year, and with over 1,000 records already on the Database for 2023 it has been a great start to the new year.

Projects

About 20 vice-county recorders participated in the [Scottish HectAd Rare Plant Project](#) (SHARPP) in 2021, which aims to gather detailed records of rare plant populations not recorded since before 2000 (despite Atlas recording). Details on recording effort in 2022 are still being collated, but several recorders have shared stories of particularly satisfying re-finds! Anecdotally, the successful re-find rate has been around or below 50%, but even when the target species weren't found, plenty of other useful records were made in lovely habitats. Null recording for rare species populations is also very valuable from a monitoring and conservation perspective.

Recording outings were held in several vice-counties for the [Urban Flora of Scotland Project](#), developed by our sister society the Botanical Society of Scotland, and 122 lists were submitted from Scotland for the [BSBI New Year Plant Hunt 2022](#).

Field meetings and training workshops

Fifteen meetings and workshops were held in Scotland in 2022, ranging from beginners' training workshops to a search for one of Scotland's rarest montane plants. The 2022 BSBI Recording Week was based at Corrour in July. Eighteen botanists attended, with a great mix of young and older botanists, and a huge amount of recording and learning took place. A week was also spent in Torridon

in August with the National Trust for Scotland, with the highlights recording rarities on Liathach and Beinn Dearg.

A long weekend field meeting in June to Mullach Coire Mhic Fhearchair and Sgurr Dubh was held to re-record remote, botanically rich cliffs last visited 25 years ago. Despite challenging weather, a great haul of new and re-finds were made. Another June field meeting was held at Sithean Mor near Arisaig, to try and re-find *Diapensia lapponica* (Diapensia), photographed hereabouts in 2006. Despite organising forensic sweeps of the summit area, the plant sadly eluded the team, but other great species were found and lots of valuable recording done.

Introductory training workshops were held on Sedges and Rushes (Chris Miles), Grasses (Michael Philip) and Composites (Faith Anstey), and four beginners/training field days were led by Jim McIntosh, Faith Anstey, Dan Watson and Lindsay Mackinlay. Huge thanks are due to all trainers and supporting tutors – their work to encourage and develop new botanists is essential to the continuing rude health of the Scottish botanical community. For the more advanced botanist, a Covid-delayed workshop on *Taraxacum* (Dandelion) identification was held in Wigtownshire by John Richards and Caspian Richards, and Angus Hannah continued his programme of *Rubus* (Bramble) training and recording.

Conferences

A BSBI-wide Spring Conference was held on 26th March. This included items of particular interest to Scottish botanists, notably talks on BSBI Recording projects including SHARPP, producing Floras, Checklists and Rare Plant Registers, the conservation of *Woodsia ilvensis* (Oblong Woodsia), and a workshop on *Erophila* (Whitlowgrass) identification. All the talks are available on the [BSBI YouTube](#) page.

The 2022 Scottish Botanists' Conference was held on 5th November at RBGE, with 146 attendees on the day, and marked a return to an in-person event after two years of online conferences. A farewell dinner to mark Jim McIntosh's retirement as Scottish Officer was also held in the evening. There was a real buzz of enjoyment on the day as people were reunited after lockdown, and it felt like a fitting tribute to Jim's phenomenal work. Again, all the talks are available on the [BSBI YouTube](#) page.

Annual Reports

Annual reports for 2022 have been submitted for 36 vice-counties, showcasing a brilliant range of activities and botanical discoveries. Themes include Local Wildlife Site surveying, Rare Plant Register fieldwork, SHARPP searches, Urban Flora recording, local botany group meets, guided walks, providing botanical training and advice, scientific research and publications, verifying iRecord records, and of course, filling recording gaps.

Thanks, and a fond farewell

Thanks are due to all the BSBI recorders, members, volunteers and supporters who contributed to the BSBI's work in Scotland in 2022. We are particularly grateful to NatureScot, RBGE and the MacRobert Trust who supported the BSBI in Scotland over the last year.

After a remarkable 18 years as BSBI Scottish Officer, Jim McIntosh retired at the start of December. Jim has worked tirelessly to support and develop the botanical community in Scotland, from helping people take their first steps as botanists to training vice-county recorders to use MapMate and the Database. His work has been integral to the [Plant Atlas 2020](#) project in Scotland – supporting recorders, organising and leading field meetings and conferences, sourcing and integrating third-party datasets, and even recording the odd plant along the way (a quarter of a million records and

counting!). Jim continues as vice-county recorder for Mid-Perthshire and has joined RBGE as a Research Associate, and we wish him an enjoyable, fulfilling and no doubt busy retirement!

Matt Harding, BSBI Scotland Officer, February 2023