

Recording in the Cairngorms National Park by the BSBI in 2014

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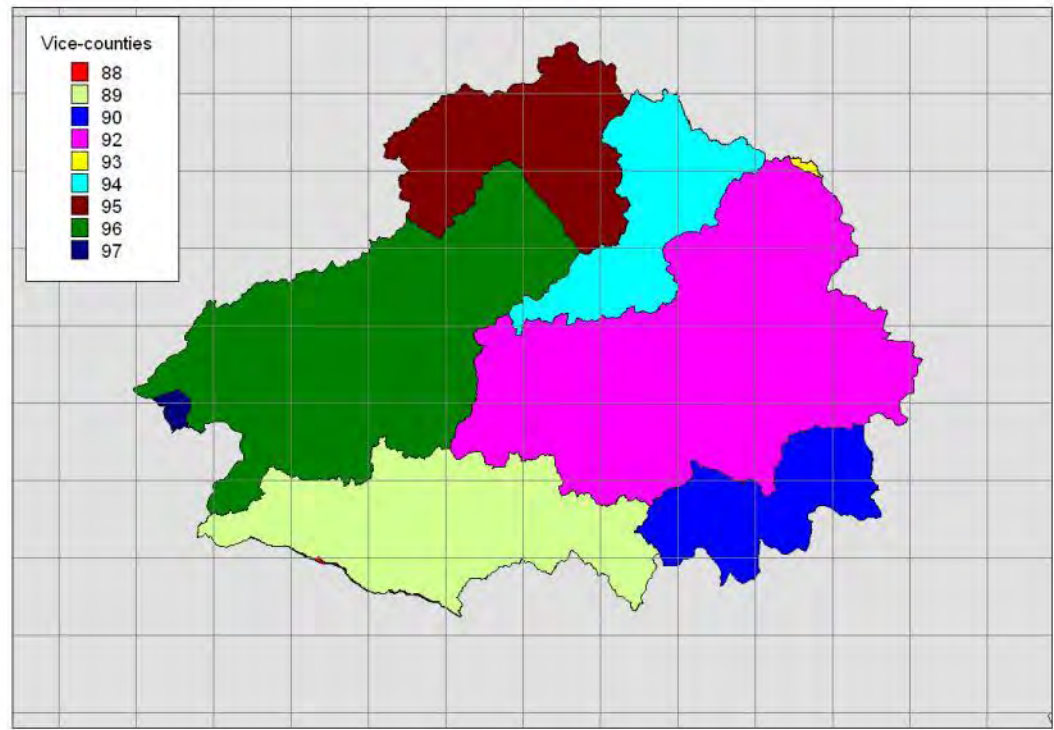


BSBI Atlas 2020

Map of the Cairngorms National Park



Cairngorms National Park location & vital statistics



- Land Area: 4528km² (If it were a VC in would be the second biggest in Bl.)
- Number of overlapping vice-counties: 9 (but 3 very marginally)
- Number of hectads: 65
- Altitudinal range: 100 to 1309m AOD (only 12% of land area below 300m)
- Precipitation: 800 to 1500mm annually
- Temperature: More than 100 days with air frost per year
- Number of taxa recorded: 1,700
- Rare Plant Register qualifying taxa: 736, including 125 GB Endemics & 146 GB Red List species

Cairngorms National Park some typical habitats

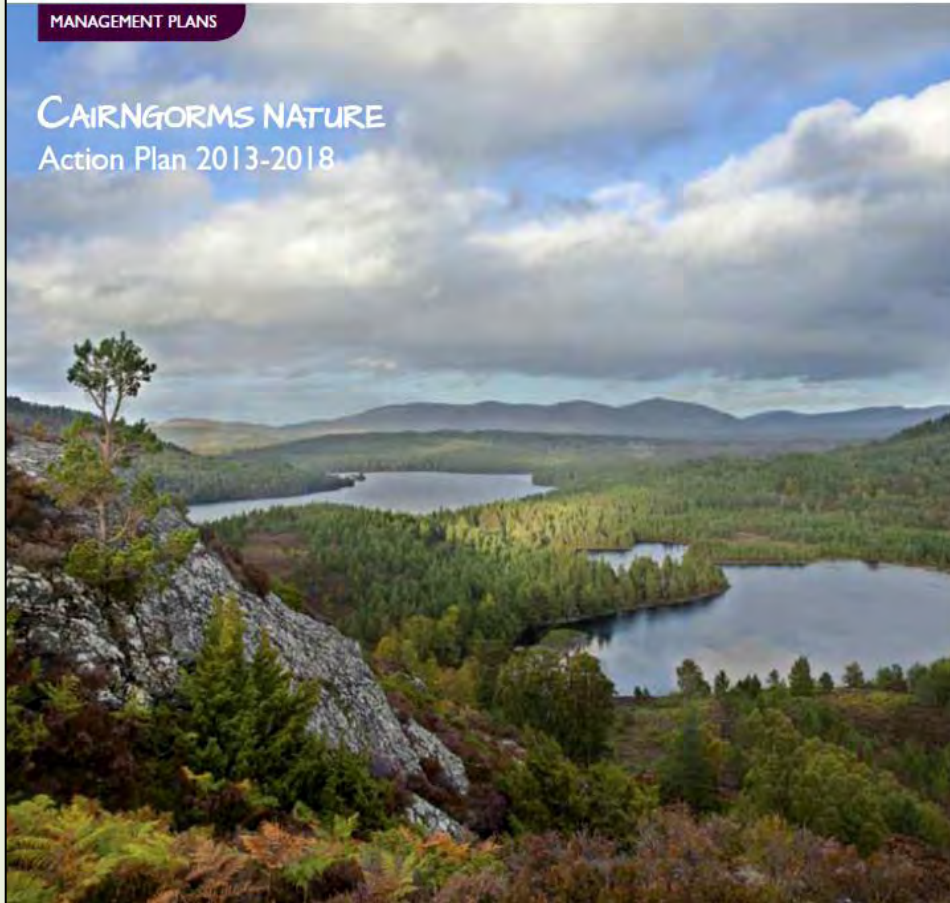


From the CNP Nature Action Plan:



MANAGEMENT PLANS

CAIRNGORMS NATURE Action Plan 2013-2018



“Species mapping and monitoring will be even more comprehensive and up to date.”

“Policy makers, practitioners and people working in the CNP will have easy access to the latest knowledge via a centralised database.”

“A CNP rare species dataset to inform land management.”

“Paid and un-paid researchers, recorders and enthusiasts already do a huge amount of good work. ***We would like to see this supported and developed,*** complementing a wide range of opportunities for people to contribute.”

“Highlight and *encourage volunteer participation in biological recording schemes.*”

“*Support local and regional naturalist groups and biological recording schemes* with training and advice.”

Proposed BSBI Survey

Objectives were to:

- Update hectad (10 x 10km square) distributions to post 2000.
- Improve tetrad (2 x 2km square) scale coverage of the CNP by targeted recording in tetrads with:
 - a) few or no records in any date class, and
 - b) with few or no records post 1987.
- Demonstrate the ability of BSBI to collect and collate high quality botanical records from the CNP area, so as to benefit plant conservation in the CNP.
- Precision of recording to follow BSBI guidelines.
- All 2014 records to be supplied to BSBI via MapMate sync file.
- Validate records once on the BSBI Distribution database (DDb).

Support:

Cairngorms National Park - grant offer of £1896 for T&S (allowance for c.4500 miles car travel)

BSBI Survey Outcomes

- **19,834 records** (20,640 final tally) were made.
- All checked and validated on DDb
- This exceptional number of records made in 2014 exceeds the number of records made in any single previous year in the CNP.
- Records were made within 45 hectads, 236 tetrads and 396 monads.
- All records were made at tetrad precision or better, and overall 60% of records were made at 100m precision or better.
- 632 species and hybrids were recorded.
- 624 new hectad records of 368 taxa were made.
- 11,073 new tetrad records of 649 taxa were made.
- Four new alien taxa were recorded for the CNP and two new native hybrids.

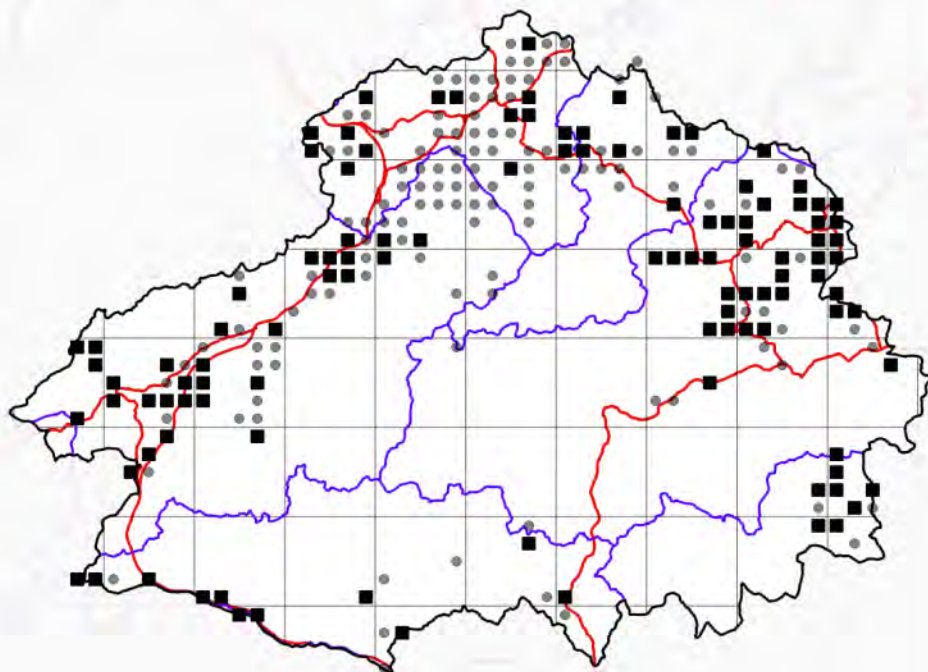
BSBI Survey Outcomes: CNP Rare plant Register taxa

- 994 records of 117 taxa included in the CNP RPR
- 98 new hectad records of 71 taxa included in the CNP RPR
- 405 new tetrad records of 98 taxa included in the CNP RPR

BSBI Survey Outcomes: Costs and grant

- Eleven recorders claimed expenses
- Mean mileage claim was 487 miles (range 208 to 995 miles)
- Accommodation costs totalled £144
- Whole grant claimed (£1896)

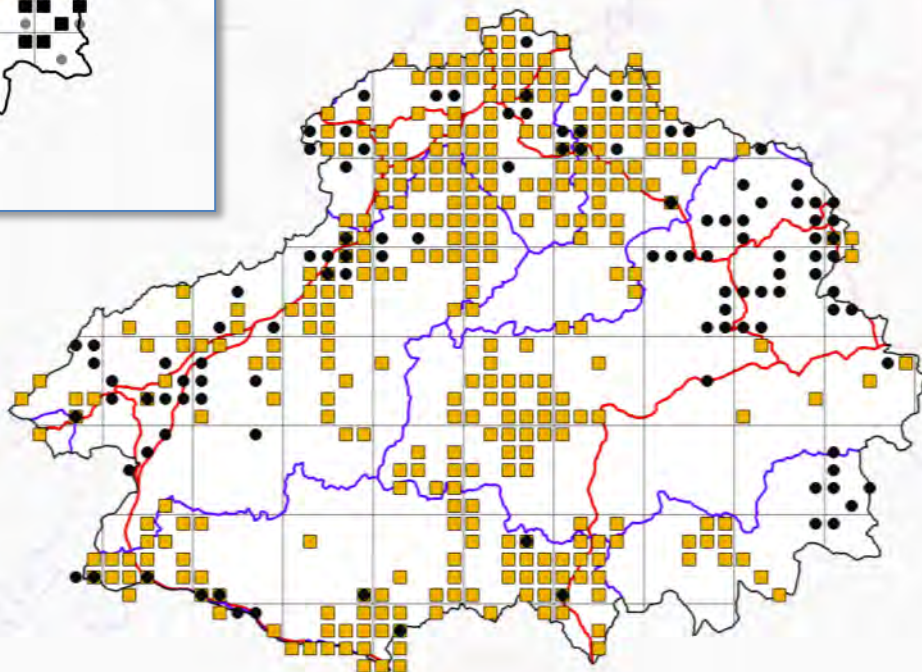
BSBI Survey Coverage of the CNP area in 2014



Recording in 2014.

Black squares - 50+ taxa per tetrad

Grey circles - 1-49 taxa per tetrad.

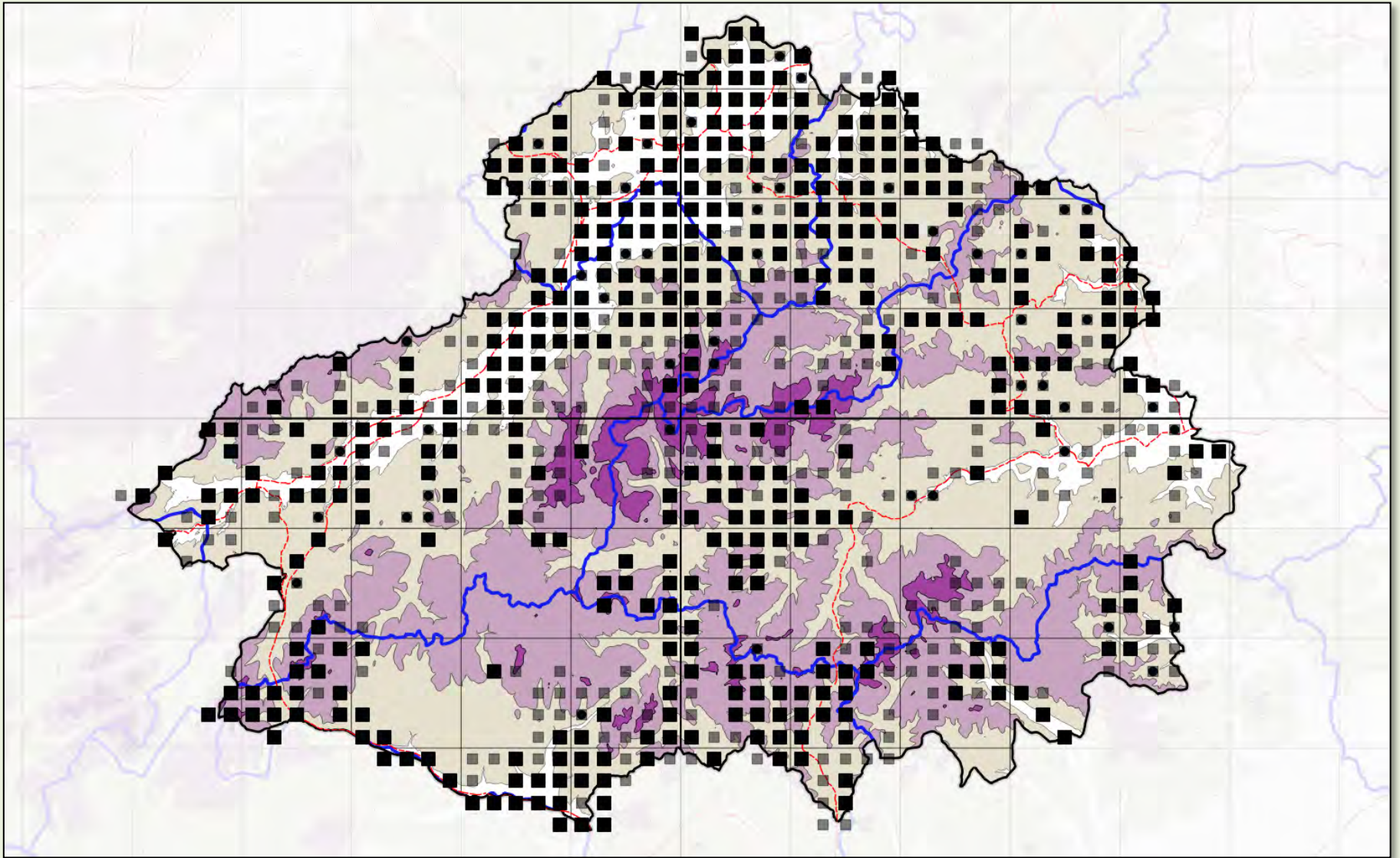


Recording in 2014 cf recording 2000 to 2013.

Orange squares - 50+ taxa per tetrad, 2000 to 2013

Black circles - 50+ taxa in 2014.

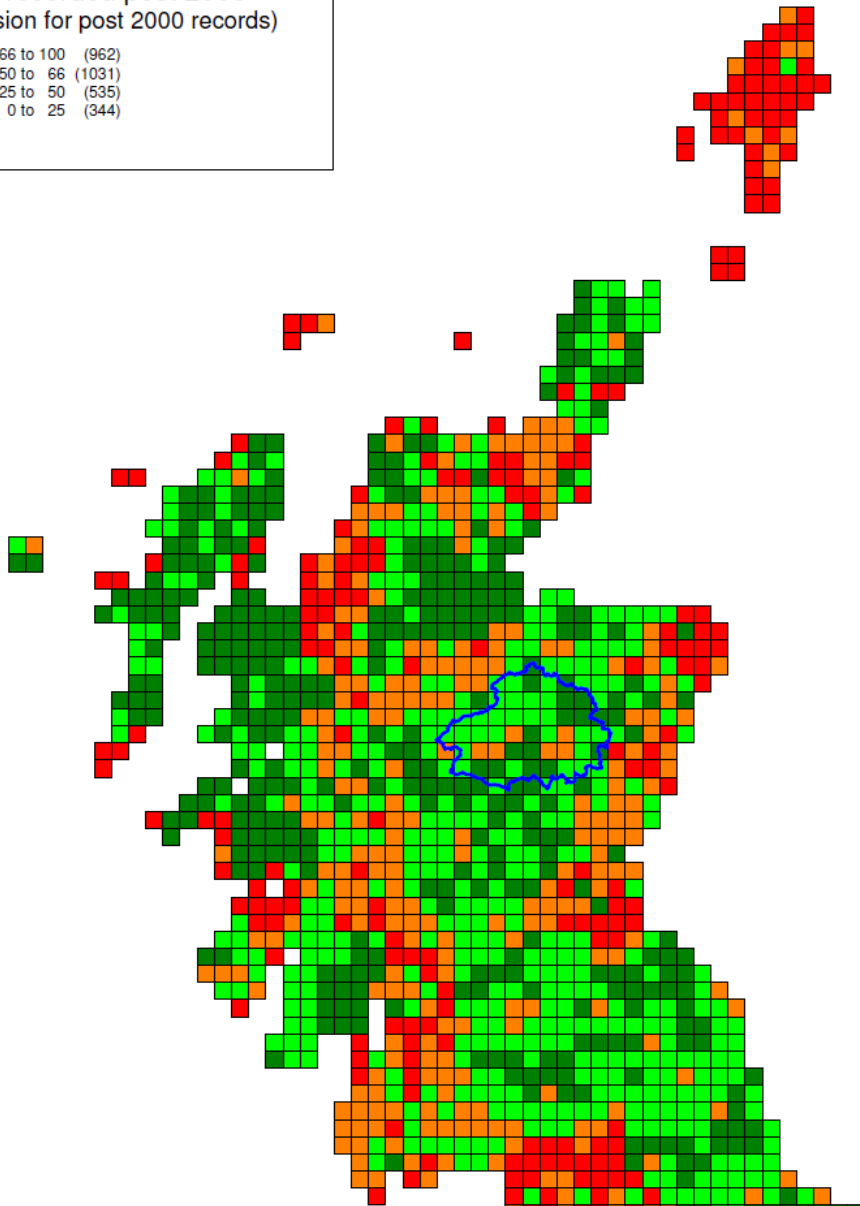
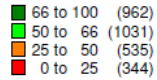
Post 2000 Recording in CNP area



Post 2000 recording. Black squares - 50+ taxa per tetrad, 2000 to 2014; grey squares - 1 to 49 taxa per tetrad, 2000 to 2014. Altitude zones: >300m, >600m, >900m AOD.

How well recorded is CNP compared with rest of Scotland?

% total taxa recorded post 2000
(min tetrad precision for post 2000 records)

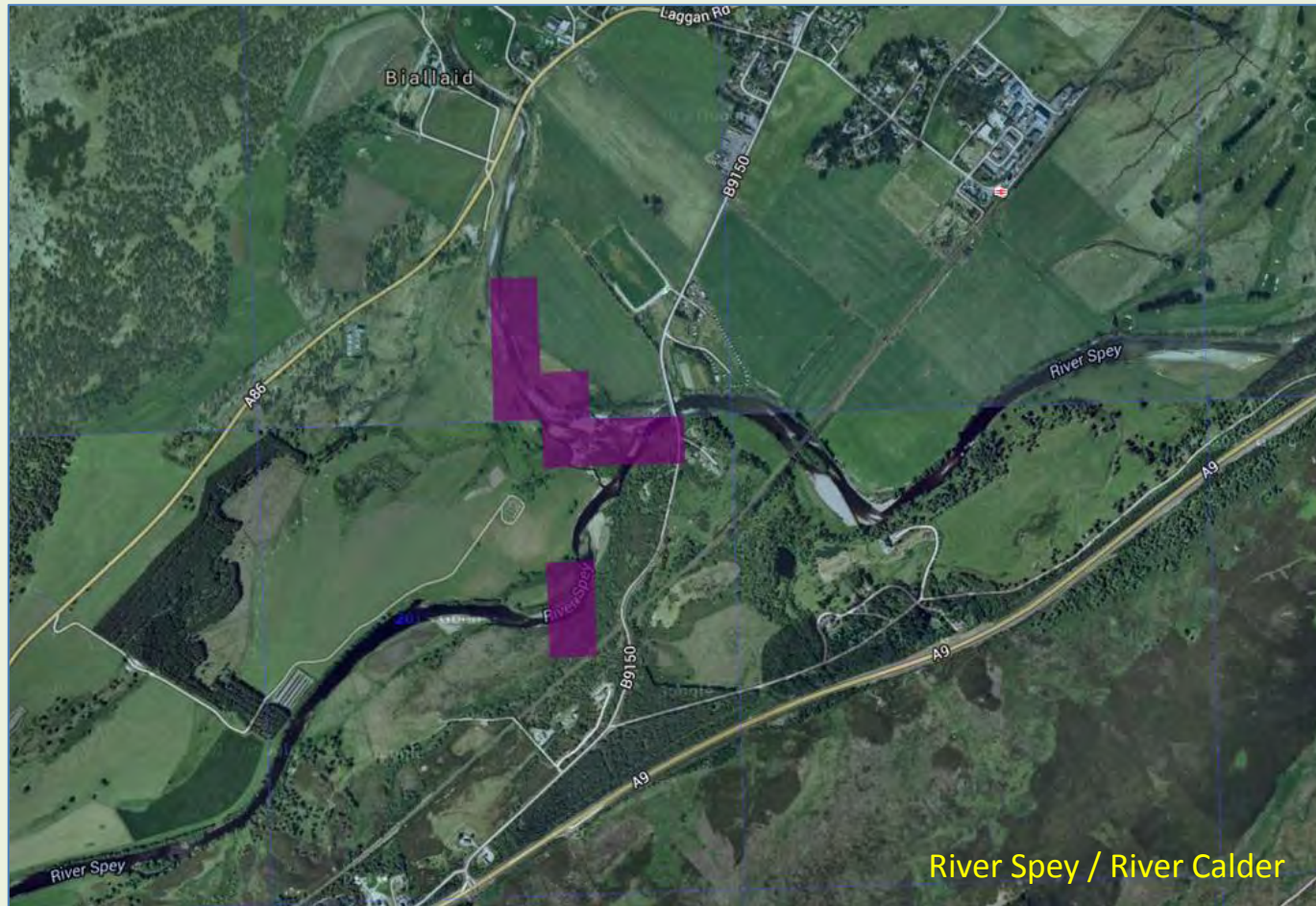


Not bad as it turns out!
Except that there are some gaps in the remote interior – such as along the county boundaries between East Perths / Easternness and Easternness / South Aberdeen that are more obvious on previous slide.

Some Detailed Recording....

Example of detailed species recording: *Teesdalia nudicaulis*

- GB Red List – Near Threatened
- CNP Status – Rare



38 records from river shingle; all records at 100m precision or better. Min. 2064 plants.

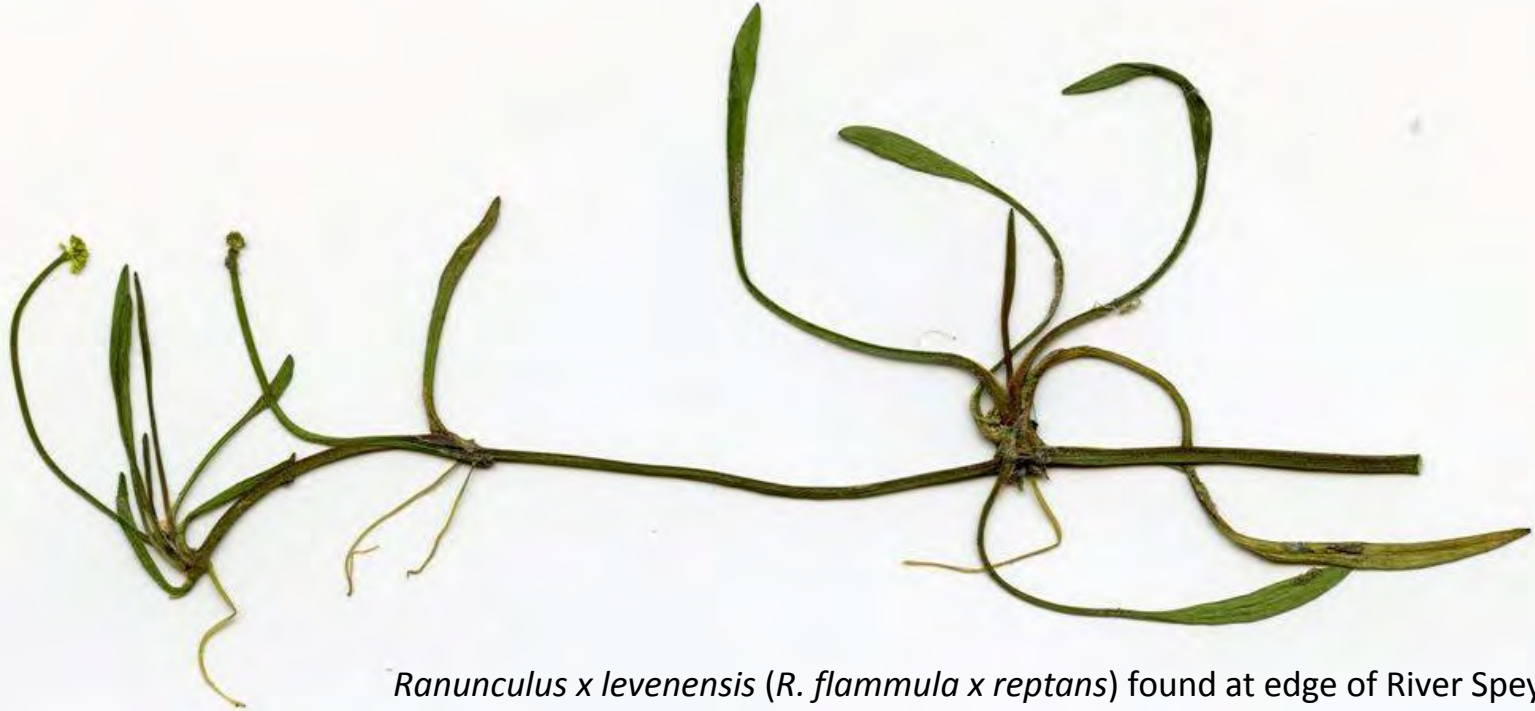
Some interesting finds....



Diphasiastrum complanatum (Issler's Clubmoss)



Diphasiastrum complanatum – showing diagnostic shape of underleaves



Ranunculus x levenensis (*R. flammula* x *reptans*) found at edge of River Spey



Circaea alpina (Alpine Enchanter's-nightshade) (l),
cf *C. x intermedia* (*C. alpina* x *lutetiana*) (r).

Circaea alpina – a single CNP site, growing
under juniper





Viola x intersita (V. canina x riviniana)



Crataegus x media (*C. monogyna* x *laevigata*)



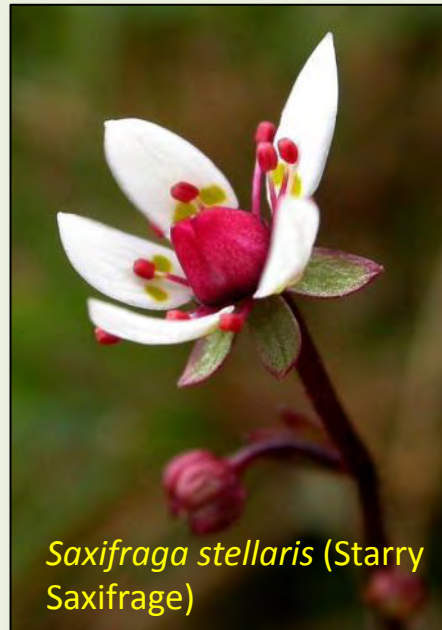
Carex x hibernica (*C. aquatilis* x *nigra*)



Vicia sylvatica (Wood Vetch)



Arctostaphylos alpinus (Alpine Bearberry)



Saxifraga stellaris (Starry Saxifrage)



Cornus suecica (Dwarf Cornel)

Thanks to CNP for their support and to all the BSBI volunteers who contributed.