Recording in the Cairngorms National Park by the BSBI in 2014

Andy Amphlett, BSBI Recorder for Banffshire
Map of the Cairngorms National Park
• Land Area: 4528km$^2$ (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

Glen Builg

Ailnack Gorge

River Spey

Ben Macdui
From the CNP Nature Action Plan:

“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.”
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)
• **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.

Orange squares - 50+ taxa per tetrad, 2000 to 2013
Black circles - 50+ taxa in 2014.
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?

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 / Easterness and Easternness / South Aberdeen that are more obvious on previous slide.
38 records from river shingle; all records at 100m precision or better. Min. 2064 plants.

Example of detailed species recording: *Teesdalia nudicaulis*

- GB Red List — Near Threatened
- CNP Status — Rare
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)
Thanks to CNP for their support and to all the BSBI volunteers who contributed.

*Vicia sylvatica* (Wood Vetch)

*Arctostaphylos alpinus* (Alpine Bearberry)

*Saxifraga stellaris* (Starry Saxifrage)

*Cornus suecica* (Dwarf Cornel)