

BRIEF REPORT FOR 2013: Botanical Recording in Easter Ross VC106

2013 was another busy year with many visits being paid to under-recorded tetrads in various parts of the Vice-county, some a long way from the public roads. Once more Peter Wortham made a major contribution to this, particularly in the west of the area. Several valuable visits were made by the Inverness Botany Group and I am also grateful to the Tain Field Club and Dingwall Field Club for their contributions. The Highland Biological Recording Group organised a bioblitz at the Evanton Community Wood.

There is continued concern about the condition of the coastal populations of *Oxytropis halleri* (the Eathie site is now lost and the position of the Nigg site is uncertain). Discussions are taking place about possible ways to improve the situation.

I paid a further visit to Coire Ghranda by Beinn Dearg and successfully refound *Sibbaldia procumbens* for the Threatened Plants project. While there I was pleased to locate new sites for *Carex saxatilis*, *Coeloglossum viride* and *Pseudorchis albida* as well as updating other records. En route *Vaccinium microcarpum* was growing under *Betula nana*.

Jeff Waddell reported a good find of *Carex vaginata* in Benmore Forest and Peter Wortham located new sites for *Coeloglossum viride* by Loch Fannich and in the Inchbae Forest. There were several new locations for *Lycopodium annotinum* over the year, including a new hectad record at NH49 by Beinn Ulbhain. Several new sites for *Platanthera bifolia* were found, although it was not always seen again in all its old locations.

In July 2014 Mary Dean and I are planning a BSBI field trip Tain and Dornoch Firth areas.