

VC 106 EAST ROSS 2015

Atlas work has continued this year with visits to many places in VC106. There are recent records for the majority of tetrads but a lot of work remains to be done. Once more I am very grateful to Peter Wortham for his major contribution, especially in the more remote areas. Others have also contributed, both individuals and various societies including the Inverness Botany Group.

This year Mary Dean, Peter Wortham and I undertook the Site Condition Monitoring of the Kyle of Sutherland marshes SSSI. The *Carex recta* (Estuarine Sedge) is doing well in many places, but the *Pilularia globulifera* (Pillwort) proved a major challenge, because of very high water levels and quantities of mud. Some sites were not refound until October when the water level had finally fallen.

In the autumn another new population of *Linnaea borealis* (Twinflower) was found at Cnoc Navie whilst on a routine recording outing. This is the third site for this species, previously thought to be extinct in East Ross, to be found in the last 10 years.

A few plants of *Galium sternerii* (Limestone Bedstraw), for which there were no recent or localised records, were found in Benmore forest.

On the negative side no plants of *Mertensia maritima* (Oysterplant) were to be seen at its only site in the Vice-county at Hilton, perhaps a victim of winter storms.

In 2016 recording work continues and a joint outing with the Botanical Society of Scotland is planned at Dingwall.

Brian Ballinger