

Society business

Future meetings of the Society

Members are reminded to read the BBS Safety Code, which was published in *Bulletin* 43 and is available from local secretaries for inspection during BBS meetings. Please inform local secretaries well in advance if you intend to join a meeting, even if you are not staying at the headquarters accommodation.

Field meeting in southern Italy, 22 February – 1 March 2006

Local secretary: Professor J.G. Duckett, School of Biological Sciences, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS; tel: 0207 882 3294; e-mail: j.g.duckett@qmul.ac.uk.

Please inform Jeff Duckett by 9 January 2006 at the latest if you wish to attend this meeting, so that a block booking with maximum discount can be made at a hotel in Salerno. Flights to and from Italy will also be cheaper if booked early.

We will fly to Naples either from Stansted (the cheaper option) or Gatwick, and we can share transport from the airport to the hotel if everyone travels on the same flight.

During the week we will:

- take a leisurely stroll around the rim of Vesuvio (steam vents, lava flows and tropical taxa), and Pompeii if time allows;
- explore the volcanic island of Ischia;
- enjoy an easy walk into the beautiful wooded valley of the Amalfi gorge (very wet, literally dripping with bryophytes, and with *Cyatodium*), with many Mediterranean Marchantiales *en route* to the valley;
- visit the coastline south of Agropoli (many uncommon species on acidic rocks), followed by the Doric temples at Paestum;
- spend two days in the mountains. Sites selected will depend on weather and snow-lie. Possibilities include Monti Alburni (dolines and wolves around the 1742 m summit) and Monti Terminio (with a gentle path, and *Timmia megapolitana* and *Hypnum vaucheri* on cliffs around the 1806 m summit).

BBS workshop 2006, Ascot, 11-12 March: inaugural meeting of the BBS Bryophyte Ecology Group (BRECOCG)

Local secretary: Dr Jeff Bates, Division of Biology, Imperial College London, Silwood Park Campus, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7PY; e-mail: j.bates@imperial.ac.uk.

This meeting is entitled 'Towards an understanding of the lives of common bryophytes'. On the Saturday there will be a series of talks from invited speakers whose brief is to suggest a suite of ecological, biological and physiological properties that may be realistically investigated by the group. The long-term goal is to produce an *Ecological Compendium* of comparative data for our common species that may be used alongside the *Atlas*. The Saturday session will conclude with a discussion about the feasibility of the suggested projects and organisation of the group. The Sunday morning will be used to launch a 'Bryophyte Habitats Survey' which, it is hoped, will be adopted as one of the main projects of the BBS, and the results from which will form the backbone of the *Compendium*.

A limited number of rooms will be available in student hostels at Silwood Park on a first-come-first-served basis. Otherwise accommodation is available in a range of guest houses and hotels in the Ascot area. Contact the local secretary for further details.

Spring field meeting 2006, Staffordshire, 6-10 April

Local secretary: Martin Godfrey, 6 Darnford Close, Parkside, Stafford, ST16 1LR; e-mail: MartinandRosie@AOL.com.

Staffordshire is one of Britain's most under-recorded counties and so, unlike many of these field meeting notices, I cannot provide a list of current rarities for your delectation. Instead I can offer some outstanding habitats and let your skill and expertise do the rest.

The county is often thought of as pretty much industrial but this is far from being the case. We will visit the Staffordshire moorlands at Knotbury, with hard acid rock dissected by rivers and capped by bogs; this area is on the borders of Cheshire and Derbyshire for those who wish to record those counties too. For a complete

change of scene, the area of the Hamps and Manifold valleys is karst country with excellent limestone woods and grassland; the rocky rivers themselves are also of great interest. Consall woods and the Churnet valley is an area of hilly country dominated by ancient broadleaved woodland with both acid and neutral grasslands and some carr. This area also has one of Staffordshire's many canals, the Caldon, which is little navigated and has some excellent old locks and stonework as well as two abandoned limekilns. In the centre of the county is the vast area of Cannock Chase. This has heathland, mires, alder carr and coppiced oak woodland as well as the rather more common birch woodland and plantation conifer. One site on the Chase is a rather unusual mire with a mineral-rich flush. Like Shropshire, Staffordshire has its share of meres and mosses and we will visit one of these, probably Loynton Moss with its extensive area of willow/alder carr bounded on its eastern side with woodland on base-rich soil excavated to make the nearby canal. In addition to all of this fine natural habitat we have plenty of old industrial sites in Staffordshire and we will visit one of these, hopefully an old pottery site in the Five Towns area around Stoke, to see what we can find.

The meeting will be based in Stafford, in the centre of the county, at the Swan Hotel. The area has several hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs and the town centre has plenty of pubs and restaurants to suit all tastes. Accommodation details can be obtained from the Tourist Information Office on 01785 619619 or e-mail tic@staffordbc.gov.uk. The town is served by coach and rail and is convenient for the M6.

Summer field meeting 2006, East Sutherland and Orkney, 1-13 July

Local secretaries:

- East Sutherland (1-8 July): Mark Lawley, 12A Castleview Terrace, Ludlow, SY8 2NG; e-mail: m.lawley@virgin.net.
- Orkney (8-13 July): Rosemary McCance, West End House, Burray, Orkney, KW17 2SS; e-mail: arMcCance@beeb.net.

East Sutherland (v.-c. 107) has been little explored bryologically. We shall aim to redress this deficiency in advance of a new edition of the *Atlas*, while exploring a variety of habitats at sites which promise pleasurable bryodiversity. The vast peatlands of the Flow Country beckon, with *Sphagnum imbricatum*, *S. pulchrum* and uncommon liverworts. Hills include Ben Armine and Ben Hee, and Ben Griaam Mor's calcareous Old Red

Sandstone should be chock-full of choice calcicoles. And then there are woods and small coastal ravines to explore as well. Some of us will lodge at a guest house in the small coastal town of Golspie.

The meeting on Orkney (v.-c. 111) follows on immediately after the week in Sutherland, so that members who wish to do so can attend both parts of the meeting. On Orkney the base has been changed to Kirkwall as the parking is better there. It has several hotels and guesthouses, and plenty of self-catering accommodation. Members will visit the island of Hoy on two days, where there are many interesting oceanic liverworts. A further two days will be spent on Mainland, visiting a variety of sites including dune slacks, raised bog and woodland, as well as one of the sites for *Sanionia orthotbecioides*. Like East Sutherland, Orkney is very under-recorded.

Please contact the relevant local secretary in order to register interest and receive a programme for that part of the meeting.

Annual General Meeting and Bryological Symposium 2006, Hatfield, 8-9 September

Local secretary: Dr M.A.S. Burton, School of Life Sciences, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 9AB; tel: 01707 284517; e-mail: m.a.burton@herts.ac.uk.

The 2006 AGM and Bryological Symposium will be held in Hatfield, Hertfordshire at the De Havilland Campus, University of Hertfordshire. Accommodation will, as usual, be available from Friday night. Hatfield has a mainline rail service. For those travelling from further afield, Luton and Stansted airports are within reach: airport coaches link the University campus with them and with Heathrow.

Spring field meeting 2007, Northamptonshire

Local secretaries: Rachel Carter and Joan James.

The dates of this meeting are not yet finalised but will include the weekend of 14-15 April. The venue will be Moulton College, Northampton.

Details will follow in future issues of *Field Bryology* but in the meantime please send enquiries to Joan James, 3 Finedon Hall, Mackworth Drive, Wellingborough, NN9 5NL; e-mail: joan.james1@virgin.net, cc RHCarter@6cvw.freemove.co.uk.

Other bryological meetings and courses in 2006

Field Studies Council Courses

- 10-12 February: **Mosses and Liverworts under the Microscope**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1DX. A weekend course devoted to getting the best out of a microscope through close examination and dissection of material. Details from the Centre Director, Ms S. Townsend; tel: 01743 852040; e-mail: enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org.
- 10-12 March: **Introduction to Mosses and Liverworts**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Rhyd-y-creuau, The Drapers' Field Centre, Betws-y-coed, Conwy, LL24 0HB. Especially for beginners, but others welcome, too. Details from the Centre Director, Mr A. Pratt; tel: 01690 710494; e-mail: enquiries.rc@field-studies-council.org.
- 1-5 April: **Sphagnum Mosses**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 7PG. Three days to practise field identification of most species of this ecologically important genus. Details from the Centre Director, Mr A. Williams; tel: 01250 870150; e-mail: enquiries.kd@field-studies-council.org.
- 21-26 April: **Bryophytes: an Advanced Laboratory Course**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1DX. An opportunity for experienced enthusiasts to explore special techniques, critical species and new developments. Details from the Centre Director, Ms S. Townsend; tel: 01743 852040; e-mail: enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org.
- 28-30 April: **Sphagnum Weekend**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Rhyd-y-creuau, The Drapers' Field Centre, Betws-y-coed, Conwy, LL24 0HB. A chance to learn how to recognise most of the British species in the field, and to study them alongside keys. Details from the Centre Director, Mr A. Pratt; tel: 01690 710494; e-mail: enquiries.rc@field-studies-council.org.
- 24-31 May: **Mosses and Liverworts**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Orierton Field Centre, Pembroke, Pembrokeshire, SA71 5EZ. Offering individual guidance in identification and ecology at all levels. Details from the Centre Director, Ms C. Millican; tel: 01646 623920; e-mail: enquiries.or@field-studies-council.org.
- 24-28 July: **The Biology of Mosses and Liverworts**. Tutor: Prof. J.G. Duckett, Nettlecombe Court, The Leonard Wills Field Centre, Williton, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 4HT. This course covers wide-ranging aspects of bryophyte biology, including life cycles, reproductive biology, ecology, conservation biology, physiology and evolution, in addition to identification and taxonomy. Details from the Head of Centre, Mark Bolland; tel: 01984 640320; e-mail: enquiries.nc@field-studies-council.org.
- 24-28 July: **Mosses and Liverworts of Wetland Habitats**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 9PU. An opportunity to examine many of the significant ecological indicator species of these valuable and intriguing habitats. Details from the Centre Director, Mr A. Pickles; tel: 01729 830331; e-mail: fsc.malham@ukonline.co.uk.
- 11-18 August: **Mosses and Liverworts**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1DX. Offering individual guidance in identification and ecology at all levels. Details from the Centre Director, Ms S. Townsend; tel: 01743 852040; e-mail: enquiries.pm@field-studies-council.org.
- 19-26 August: **Mosses and Liverworts**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Blencathra Field Centre, Threlkeld, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4SG. Offering individual guidance in identification and ecology at all levels. Details from the Centre Director, Mr T. Foster; tel: 017687 79601; e-mail: enquiries.bl@field-studies-council.org.
- 5-6 September: **National Vegetation Classification: Bryophytes**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Rhyd-y-creuau, The Drapers' Field Centre, Betws-y-coed, Conwy, LL24 0HB. For everyone with a professional or amateur interest in bryophytes and their role in identifying types of plant communities. Details from the Centre Director, Mr A. Pratt; tel: 01690 710494; e-mail: enquiries.rc@field-studies-council.org.
- 23-30 October: **Mosses and Liverworts**. Tutor: Dr Martha Newton, Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 7PG. Offering individual guidance in identification and ecology at all levels. Details from the Centre Director, Mr A. Williams; tel: 01250 870150; e-mail: enquiries.kd@field-studies-council.org.

Referees (December 2005)

The refereeing service is intended to provide assistance to members who have genuine difficulty in naming their collections. **It is not intended as a 'free-for-all' identification facility**, least of all for bulk collections. Please therefore respect the following guidelines when submitting material.

- If possible, avoid sending large quantities at any one time. Do not send material if you are not prepared to examine it yourself in advance.
- Please ensure that fragile specimens are adequately protected in the post. This applies particularly to material with lumps of soil attached. It is dispiriting to open a packet and find nothing but a pile of dust inside! Small boxes or tins are ideal for protection from crushing.
- Please label all packets clearly with full collection details, including habitat, locality, altitude and at least a 10-km grid reference.
- Always enclose a stamped addressed envelope (or label), even if material is sent to universities or institutions. Otherwise you may not receive a reply.

The General Referee will help beginners who are having difficulty in placing their material in a genus. If you encounter any other problems, send the material to the appropriate Recorder: Tim Blackstock for hepatics (Countryside Council for Wales, Plas Penrhos, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2LQ) or Gordon Rothero for mosses (Stronlonag, Glenmassan, By Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8RA).

The numbers below refer to genera in *A check-list and census catalogue of British and Irish bryophytes* by T.L. Blockeel & D.G. Long (1998).

Martin Corley has resigned as a hepatic referee and his genera have been taken on by Sam Bosanquet. Many thanks are due to Martin for his years of service as a referee.

General referee

H.W. Matcham, 21 Temple Bar, Strettington, near Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0LB.

Hepatic referees

- 1, 64-69, 75-82:** Dr M.E. Newton, c/o Department of Botany, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN. (All mail to be marked 'Private').
- 2-5, 9, 11-17, 52:** T.H. Blackstock, Countryside Council for Wales, Plas Penrhos, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2LQ.
- 6-8, 10, 18, 19, 32, 36-38, 50, 51, 53, 83-86:** D.G. Long, Royal Botanic Garden, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR.
- 20-29, 39, 45, 46:** S.D.S. Bosanquet, Dingestow Court, Monmouth, Monmouthshire, NP25 4DY.
- 30, 31, 33-35, 47-49, 70-74:** G.P. Rothero, Stronlonag, Glenmassan, By Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8RA.
- 40-44, 54-63:** N.G. Hodgetts, 55 Norton Street, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 6BX.

Moss referees

- 1-10, 156-160:** Dr M.O. Hill, CEH Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE28 2LS.
- 11-33:** G.P. Rothero, Stronlonag, Glenmassan, By Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8RA.
- 34, 35, 67-70, 187-195:** Dr A.J.E. Smith, 5 Queens Gardens, Craig-y-Don, Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 1RU.
- 36, 71-89, 104-111:** N.G. Hodgetts, 55 Norton Street, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 6BX.
- 37-66:** Dr D.F. Chamberlain, Royal Botanic Garden, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR.
- 68:** S.D.S. Bosanquet, Dingestow Court, Monmouth, Monmouthshire, NP25 4DY.
- 90-98, 112, 175-186:** Dr D.T. Holyoak, 8 Edward Street, Tuckingmill, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 8PA.
- 99-103:** A. Orange, Department of Biodiversity & Systematic Biology, National Museum & Gallery Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NP.
- 113-146:** R.D. Porley, English Nature, Foxhold House, Crookham Common, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG15 8EL.
- 147-155, 161-174:** T.L. Blockeel, 9 Ashfurlong Close, Dore, Sheffield, S17 3NN.

Council Newsletter Number 22

The president's report as given to the 2005 AGM on the work of Council since October 2004

I described last year in this report as 'replete with good things'. This has perhaps been a more ordinary year in the life of the Society, but there is nevertheless plenty on which to report.

The publication of the *Journal of Bryology* is central to our activities as a learned Society, and Council has been considering its future management in view of Jeff Bates' intention to resign as Editor at the end of next year. Council agreed last night, subject to the approval of the 2006 AGM, to replace the current single Editor with a Managing Editor responsible for the submission of copy to our publisher, Maney Publishing, and a team of five scientific editors who would edit the papers within their areas of expertise. We hope that this will reduce the burden on a single officer, and make for a more sustainable arrangement. We greatly appreciate the advance notice Jeff has given us of his desire to resign, which has given us this opportunity to consider our future plans. At the same time, the *Journal* will be changing to a more electronic system for the submission and refereeing of papers, another move which should ease the burden of editorial administration.

At its Spring meeting, Council agreed to establish a Nomenclature Committee which would be responsible for maintaining the list of bryophytes of Britain and Ireland. In the past we have published our approved nomenclature periodically in the *Census Catalogues*, but this new Committee, under the auspices of the Recorders for Mosses and Liverworts, will enable us to maintain a current list between editions. Members of the Committee will help the Recorders assess the never-ending stream of suggested nomenclatural changes, and the claims for inclusion of the apparently increasing number of bryophytes introduced with garden plants such as tree ferns.

As those who attended the Symposium meeting earlier today will have heard, the Survey of the Bryophytes of Arable Land (SBAL) was completed in May, and the data are currently being analysed and prepared for publication. Thanks are due to all those who took part in this unique survey. The Conservation and Recording Committee have now moved on to consider the next major recording project, an update to the *Atlas of Bryophytes*, and have established a Steering Group to carry this forward. Turning to the more bureaucratic aspects of recording, Council approved a data access policy for the Society at its Spring meeting. Particular

thanks are due to Mark Hill, our Recording Secretary, for steering us cheerfully through these somewhat dismal waters. The Policy has now been published on the BBS website.

An enjoyable and productive series of meetings has been held during the year. We were privileged to have the guidance of Dr Lars Hedenäs at our taxonomic workshop on Amblystegiaceae, held in February. The spring meeting was held in Aberystwyth and to me the most memorable day was that spent in the Rheidol oakwoods. Ray Woods pointed out that this was one of a sequence of oceanic woodlands preserved as nature reserves by the influence of Derek Ratcliffe, who died later in the summer. The summer field meeting took us to Derrygonnelly and some superb habitats on the upland limestone of Fermanagh and Leitrim, with some incursions into less distinguished but almost unrecorded terrain nearby. We must again thank Mark Lawley for arranging such an interesting series of meetings, and the local secretaries who do so much to make them a success.

As I mentioned last year, a Council Working Group has been considering the future of the Library. Last night Council agreed in principle to support a proposal to house the library at Preston Montford Field Centre, subject to the details of an agreement being settled with the Field Studies Council. Detailed proposals will be published in *Field Bryology* and members will be asked to approve them at next year's AGM.

Last year I mentioned two books which were not produced as a result of the Society's official activities but were nevertheless notable additions to bryological literature produced by our members. This week we celebrate the publication of another such work, the *New Naturalist* volume *Mosses and liverworts* by Ron Porley and Nick Hodgetts. I hope that members will remain here after the AGM for a small celebration.

C. D. Preston

The publication of this report gives me the opportunity to thank all officers and members of the BBS for their support during my two years as President. I would like in particular to thank David Rycroft and Mike Walton for their work as Treasurer and Secretary respectively: the exemplary efficiency with which they conduct the business of the Society and their unfailing help make the job of the President very much easier than it might otherwise be. C.D.P.

BBS library sales and service, 2006

For loan (UK Members only)

Members wishing to borrow books or papers are advised to consider whether a photocopy of the appropriate pages would suffice instead of the original in those cases where copyright has expired. Charge 10p per exposure. Limit 50. The weight in grammes is given in the library catalogue for calculating approximate postage.

- Approximately 850 bryological books, and larger separates and runs of the *Bryologist*, *Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory*, *Annales Botanici Fennici*, *Lindbergia*, *Cryptogamie*, *Meylania* and *Muscillanea*. Library catalogue: price £2.00.
- Transparency collection, list available (s.a.e.). Only 50 slides may be borrowed in one batch to avoid potential postal loss.
- Microscope stage-micrometer slide for calibration of eyepiece graticules. 10 µm divisions. Loan deposit £45.00 (cheque payable to BBS). Please state when ordering if instructions are required.

For sale

Bulletins and journals

British Bryological Society *Bulletins/Field Bryology*: back numbers from no 23 (£1.00 each) and no 82 (£2.00 each).

Transactions of the British Bryological Society/ Journal of Bryology:

Stocks of Vols 2-15 are getting very low. Note that the library sometimes receives copies from members for recycling, hence changes in stock numbers.

Vol. 1: parts 1-5	out of print
Vol. 2: parts 1-3	£3.00 each; part 4 out of print
Vol. 3: parts 1-4	£2.40 each; part 5 out of print
Vol. 4: parts 3, 4	£2.40 each; parts 1, 2, 5 out of print
Vol. 5: parts 1, 3, 4	£3.00 each; part 2 out of print
Vol. 6: part 2	£6.00 each; part 1 out of print; ends series of <i>Transactions</i>
Vol. 7: parts 1, 2, 4	£5.00 each; part 3 out of print; renamed <i>Journal of Bryology</i>
Vol. 8: parts 1-4	£5.00 each
Vol. 9: parts 1-4	out of print
Vol. 10: parts 1-4	out of print
Vol. 11: parts 1-4	£10.00 each
Vol. 12: parts 1-3	£11.50 each; part 4 out of print

Vol. 13: parts 1-4	£15.50 each
Vol. 14: parts 1-4	£18.00 each
Vol. 15: parts 1-4	£22.50 each
Vol. 16: parts 1-4	£29.75 each
Vol. 17: parts 1-4	£39.50 each
Vol. 18: parts 1-4	£42.25 each
Vol. 19: parts 1-4	£47.25 each
Vol. 20: parts 1-2	£49.50 each (only 2 parts)

As from *Journal of Bryology* Vol. 21 inclusive, back issues are only available from our publisher, Maney Publishing, Hudson Road, Leeds, LS9 7DL, UK.

BBS Special Volumes

Volume 1. Longton RE, Perry AR. 1985. <i>Proceedings of the Jubilee Meeting 1983</i> , 89 pp.	£6.00
Volume 2. Newton ME. 1989. <i>A practical guide to bryophyte chromosomes</i> , 19 pp.	£2.50
Volume 3. O'Shea BJ. 1989. <i>A guide to collecting bryophytes in the Tropics</i> , 28 pp.	£3.50
Volume 4. Edwards SR. 1992. <i>Mosses in English literature</i> , 44 pp.	£2.50
Volume 5. Edwards SR. 2003. <i>English names for British bryophytes</i> , 3 rd edition.	£3.50

Census Catalogues

All Census Catalogues are now out of print except for:

Warburg EF. 1963. <i>Census catalogue of British mosses</i> , 3 rd edition.	£1.00
Blockeel TL, Long DG. 1998. <i>A check-list and census catalogue of British and Irish bryophytes</i> .	£7.50

Other items

Adams KJ. <i>Microscope techniques for the bryologist. Part 1. A beginner's guide</i> . [Part 2 not yet available]	£1.00
Evans DE, Perry AR. 1987. <i>Moss Wall Chart</i> .	£2.80
Grolle R, Long DG. 2000. <i>An annotated check-list of the Hepaticae and Anthocerotae of Europe and Macaronesia</i> .	£3.00
Newton ME <i>et al.</i> , eds. 1988. <i>Bryology: modern research and the ways forward</i> .	£5.50
Pearman MA. 1979. <i>A short German-English bryological glossary</i> .	50p
Perry AR. 1992. <i>Mosses and liverworts of woodland</i> , 41 pp.	£4.00

BBS tie, claret with single BBS logo £4.95
Japanese x20 handlens and case £20.00
Apollo no 3 stainless steel forceps £7.25
BBS car sticker £1.00 & SAE

postage and packing. A legibly printed address label would be appreciated. All the above are available from the BBS librarian (address below).

Please do not send payment with orders. Customers will be invoiced for the correct amount including

Ken Adams, School of Health and Biosciences, University of East London, Romford Road, Stratford, London, E15 4LZ, UK; e-mail: ken.adams@virgin.net.



Bryophyte contract: English Nature, Cornwall

English Nature's Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team are in the process of tendering a contract to provide specialist bryophyte support.

We are inviting 'Expressions of Interest' from anyone wishing to receive tender documents for a contract which will initially run for a six month period from April to September 2006, with a possible extension to March 2007 or beyond.

The contract will involve the following areas of work: field surveys and monitoring of bryophyte populations (particularly Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species); small-scale site management work, including scrub control using hand-tools and herbicides; writing reports and monitoring documents and possibly producing interpretation material; and provision of specialist bryophyte advice to English Nature staff (and possibly its successor body Natural England), including assistance with liaison, casework and enforcement in relation to statutory sites.

The successful contractor should have appropriate qualifications and previous experience in this field of

work, including detailed knowledge of the identification of the bryophyte flora associated with Cornwall (including species which are endemic). They should also have experience of survey, monitoring, site management and conservation techniques for bryophytes and the use of NVC methodology, together with expertise in report writing. Requirements for the provision of data will include the use of fixed point photography, GPS and digital images.

An understanding of JNCC Common Standards Monitoring techniques and previous experience of the BAP reporting process would be an advantage.

For further details please contact the project officer Beth Tonkin at the Cornwall English Nature office (address below); tel: 01872 265719; e-mail beth.tonkin@english-nature.org.uk.

Expressions of Interest, including a CV and examples of similar work, should be sent to Beth Tonkin, English Nature, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team, Trevint House, Strangways Villas, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 2PA by **Friday 27 January 2006**.

Data access policy for the British Bryological Society

This data access policy was approved by the BBS Council in April 2005. Comments or queries should be directed to Mark Hill, CEH Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE28 2LS; e-mail: moh@ceh.ac.uk.

1. BBS data acquisition and dissemination

1.1. The British Bryological Society (BBS) is a charity registered in England and Wales, whose aims are to promote bryology, to facilitate exchange of information among bryologists and to promote the conservation of bryophytes. The BBS collates and manages data through mapping schemes, targeted surveys and its vice-county recording scheme. The BBS will comply with the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998, the Environmental Information Regulations 1992, and forthcoming Environmental Information Regulations, to be published in 2005.

1.2. The BBS owns and generates data on the distribution of bryophytes in the British Isles. It maintains substantial datasets relating to Great Britain, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands. The BBS through its Conservation and Recording Committee co-ordinates bryophyte recording, helping local groups and regional recorders to collect and manage data on bryophytes, so that they can form part of larger collated datasets relating to all the British Isles.

1.3. Most BBS data were collected by volunteers and are held in trust on behalf of data providers. The BBS owns or jointly owns some of its data holdings, but many of them remain the property of individual recorders.

1.4. The BBS will disseminate data for environmental decision-making, education and research in accordance with this data access policy. Electronic data entered from cards or submitted directly to the Biological Records Centre (BRC) at Monks Wood are held in the BRC database and transferred to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) database.

2. BBS access to data policy

2.1. The BBS will strive to make data as widely available as possible, subject to the wishes of

data providers and, for potentially threatened species, of conservation agencies in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

2.1.1. Data may be supplied directly by the BBS Recording Secretary or by Regional Recorders, either as paper copies of recording cards or as data sheets, or electronically by e-mail or by other media as convenient. Data may also be supplied in a controlled way through the internet using the NBN Gateway. Access to the NBN Gateway is controlled by the BBS Recording Secretary.

2.1.2. In determining the level of access on the NBN Gateway, the BBS will take account of the wishes of data providers. The standard access controls for data uploaded to the Gateway are as follows, but will be varied if a data provider requests a variation.

- a) Public – access to view and download all records at the 100 km² level of resolution.
- b) Registered users – access to view and download all except confidential records at the 1 km² level of resolution.
- c) Conservation organisations – access to view and download all except confidential records at full resolution with attributes (which will ordinarily include names of recorders, subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998).
- d) Statutory conservation agencies in the UK and Republic of Ireland – access to view and download all records, including confidential records at full resolution with attributes (which will ordinarily include names of recorders).

2.1.3. Subject to constraints of time in extracting information, data will be made available to those who have originally supplied them. Except for results of ongoing projects, data will normally be made available to government bodies, research workers in British and Irish universities and research councils, local record centres and NGOs concerned with wildlife. However, the

wishes of data providers will be taken into account.

- 2.2. **The BBS will provide metadata, following the NGDF standard or ISO 19115.** When bryological datasets are supplied, accompanying information (metadata) on methods, time and scale of collection and limitations of quality will be provided, along with a statement of intended access.
- 2.3. **Except when data providers wish to retain control, a transfer of authority will be made when a bryological dataset is compiled,** to allow the BBS to act on behalf of the data providers without referring back to them. It is planned that in future, BBS recording cards will carry a disclaimer making this transfer of authority apparent to any person entering data on a card.
- 2.4. **The BBS will publish its procedures for data management,** allowing data providers to have confidence that control will be exercised in the management and use of their data.
- 2.5. **Personal data will be managed in accordance with the principles of the UK Data Protection Act 1998 and/or any subsequent legal provisions.** Contact details of BBS Regional Recorders and its Recording Secretary are posted on the BBS website. The BBS maintains mailing lists for some recording schemes. Contact details of a person on a mailing list will not be passed to other parties without the consent of that person. Names of recorders and determiners will be used for administration and verification purposes only.
- 2.6. **Names of recorders are an essential part of the BBS data.** Subject to the provisions set out in 2.5. above, they will be supplied to those who need them, notably experts doing critical revisions and compilers of local Floras. The BBS will use its discretion in supplying names of recorders to other enquirers, unless the data provider has specifically requested that they should be made generally available, in which case there will be no restriction on access.
- 2.7. **The BBS will not ordinarily charge for supplying data for *bona fide* research,** except for reasonable handling charges where data supply

requires a large amount of work. Commercial users may be charged for data supplied by Regional Recorders or the Recording Secretary. The scale of such charges is at the discretion of Regional Recorders or the Recording Secretary, but will not ordinarily exceed a reasonable handling charge for data supply unless the commercial user intends to offer BBS data for resale.

3. Restrictions to data access

- 3.1. **The BBS will work closely with data providers and statutory conservation agencies to identify and manage confidential data.** Data whose publication could present a significant threat to a bryophyte species or habitat will be treated as confidential. Any data that are identified as confidential will be marked in BBS databases and be subject to special security procedures. Access to confidential data will ordinarily include the data provider, BBS officers, and members of statutory conservation agencies. The standard provisions for access to such data on the NBN Gateway are specified above (item 2.1.2.). Declassification of confidential data will be subject to the wishes of the BBS Council or the BBS Conservation and Recording Committee, taking the advice of conservation agencies. There is no time limit on confidentiality.
- 3.2. **The BBS will hold datasets that are incomplete and which have not been signed off for dissemination.** Datasets relating to work in progress will not ordinarily be passed to other parties. Any records that have been identified as confidential will not have their security status changed without the permission of the BBS Council or BBS Conservation and Recording Committee and/or the statutory conservation agencies.
- 3.3. **The BBS will, if required, hold proprietary subsets of data.** Proprietary subsets of data are sometimes supplied to the BBS as part of an atlas project. These will be marked in the database and will be supplied to third parties at 100 km² resolution. Except in special circumstances, the BBS will, after a period of 10 years, presume that a full transfer of authority to disseminate data has been made.

List of paid contractors/consultants

I receive requests, albeit infrequently, for details of bryologists who are prepared to carry out work as paid contractors/consultants. When asked to supply details, I send a list without comment about whether any one person on it would be more appropriate for the contract in question than another.

The list that I hold was last updated in 2003. I intend to discard the existing list and to start a new one to ensure that it is fully up to date. If you want to be included on the list please send your name and contact details (as you wish them to be included in the list) to me (address inside front cover).

Mike Walton, General Secretary

Microscope for sale

Rod Stern has kindly donated a Watson 'Service' microscope, formerly the property of Alan Crundwell, to the Society for sale. The proceeds will be added to the Bequest Fund.

The microscope, which is offered for £20, is well used but would be useful as a 'first microscope' for a member who does not yet have one. The optics comprise x6 and x10 eyepieces and x4, x10, x40 and x100 (oil immersion) objectives. The wooden carrying case needs some repair and the mechanical stage needs adjustment.

Those who are interested should write to the General Secretary (address inside front cover), marking the envelope on the reverse with the word 'microscope'. The successful purchaser will be determined by drawing lots and will be responsible for delivery arrangements and costs. Alternatively, he/she may collect it from the General Secretary's home or at a spring or autumn BBS meeting.

Mike Walton, General Secretary

Subscriptions for 2005

At the time of writing (5 October) there are still about 40 members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 2005. Please could I ask any member whose payment is still outstanding to put this matter in hand as soon as possible. Full payment instructions are available

on the BBS website or can be obtained from me at the address below.

Mark Pool (Membership Secretary), 91 Warbro Road, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 3PS; e-mail: Mark.Pool@care4free.net.

Can you sponsor a foreign member?

We currently have three members (two Ordinary, one Student, all living abroad) who are unable to pay their own subscriptions; this is basically due to foreign exchange problems. Their memberships so far have been paid for by another member, but this arrangement will have to end after 2005. If anyone is willing to help

out, or would like further details, please contact me at the address below. All offers of help will be gratefully received.

Mark Pool (Membership Secretary), 91 Warbro Road, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 3PS; e-mail: Mark.Pool@care4free.net.

South London Botanical Institute

The bryophyte herbarium at the South London Botanical Institute (SLBI) may be of interest to BBS members. For many years the bryophyte specialist William R. Sherrin (President of the BBS from 1945 to 1947) was the curator at the SLBI. J.C. Gardiner also consulted the SLBI herbarium prior to the publication of his 'Bryophyte Flora of Surrey'.

In the recent past the SLBI has hosted identification

classes and field trips. Their library and long runs of journals might also be of some interest to BBS members.

Contact details are given below.

The South London Botanical Institute, 323 Norwood Road, Tulse Hill, SE24 9AQ; tel: 020 8674 5787; e-mail: slbi.info1@btinternet.com; website: www.slbi.org.uk.

Changes to the membership list (October 2005)

Changes of address and amendments

Banwell, Mr A.D., 21 Boundary Point, Coldstream Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 5DU, UK, (O), (1939)

Belyea, Dr Lisa R., Department of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS, UK, (O), (1993); e-mail: L.Belyea@qmul.ac.uk

Buchbender, Volker, Clara-Viebig-Strasse 5, D-01159 Dresden, Germany, (S), (1999)

Callaghan, Mr Des, 51 Bishopdale Drive, Rainhill, Prescot, Merseyside, L35 4QQ, UK, (O), (2004)

Carrick, Mrs T., 29 Malvern Road, The Forelands, Bromsgrove, Worcs, B61 7HE, UK, (O), (1999)

Casdorff, David G., PO Box 419, Middlesex, NJ 08846, USA, (O), (2004)

Crosby, Marshall R., Sweetwater Farm, 293 Will Glenn Road, Sugar Grove, NC 28679, USA, (O), (1973); e-mail: (1) mard1230@aol.com, (2) Marshall.Crosby@mobot.org

Duckworth, Dr Jenny, 57 Wick Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 9DN, UK, (O), (2000)

Greenaway, Mrs T.E., Woodcote, Chalk Road, Ifold, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 0UE, UK, (O), (2003)

Hueber, Nathalie, 41 Hunter Street, Northampton, NN1 3DQ, UK, (O), (2004)

Jolley, Mrs H., 6 Crossman St, Doncaster East, Victoria 3109, Australia, (O), (1999)

Lake, Mr H., 11 Rimini Rise, Darfield, Barnsley, Yorkshire, S73 9PU, UK, (O), (1999)

Nicholson, Mr B., Felindre, Mill Road, Little Melton, Norwich, NR9 3NX, UK, (O), (2002)

Sleath, Dr J.D., The Villa, Kingstone, Hereford, HR2

9ET, UK, (O), (1978); e-mail: jonathan.sleath@btinternet.com

Swettenham, Mrs P.S., Crammag, 30 Stair Street, Drummore, Stranraer, DG9 9PT, UK, (O), (2002)

Walton, Mr M.A., Ivy House, Wheelock Street, Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 9AB, UK, (O), (1991); e-mail: roseblade@one-name.org

Ward, Dr S.D., 14 Green Road, Ballyvaghan, County Clare, Irish Republic, (O), (2000)

Wright, Mrs J.A., 15 Blenheim Way, Horspath, Oxford, OX33 1SB, UK, (O), (1999); e-mail: ivan@shotover-wildlife.fsnet.co.uk

New members

Casey, Nora M., Filley Park Lodge, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, Irish Republic, (S), (2005)

Girvan, Dr Martina, Flat 28/4 Broughton Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4ED, UK, (O), (2005)

Murphy, Matt, Sherkin Island Marine Station, Sherkin Island, Co. Cork, Irish Republic, (O), (2005)

Muscat, Mrs D.A., East Farm, Edderside, Maryport, Cumbria, CA15 6RA, UK, (O), (2005)

Soames, Mr B., 31 Kinder Road, Hayfield, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 2HJ, UK, (O), (2005)

Tipper, Mr C., 48 Cotterells, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1JE, UK, (O), (2005)

Wells, Mr J., 3 Altenburg Avenue, Northfields, West Ealing, London, W13 9RN, UK, (O), (2005)

Deceased

Chamberlain, Mr P.J., The Schoolhouse, Bowden, Melrose, Roxburghshire, UK, (O), (1948)