

Funding for volunteer recording activities

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) have offered £3000 for 2 Sept to 1 Feb 2009, and £5000 from 2 Feb 2009 to 2010, to support volunteer biological recording in Highland. This will need to be backed by claims and a brief report, and they will pay 30p/mile and a flat rate of £25 per night.

The commitments agreed are

- The activities will concentrate on lesser-known groups, taxa of conservation significance, and poorly recorded areas;
- The activities funded will be restricted to those where no other financial support exists;
- All taxa records obtained will be entered in the HBRG taxon database.

The qualifying area will be the Highland Council area, excluding the part covered by the Cairngorms National Park.

The work will

- identify and survey species of local importance;
- cover areas where there is little biological recording;
- cover taxa which are poorly recorded;
- cover taxa in official conservation lists.

Qualifying taxa will normally exclude mammals, birds, vascular plants, butterflies & moths, and dragonflies. Attention will be concentrated on lower plants, the less popular invertebrates, taxa of local importance or interest, and taxa on official conservation lists. Some of these last will not normally be included because of existing national initiatives (e.g. Red Squirrel, Capercaillie, Black Grouse).

All records arising from the activities must be provided to the standards required by HBRG for inclusion in the taxon database.

The funding is open to any volunteer biological recorders in Highland, not just to HBRG members.

Please direct any queries to records @ hbrg.org.uk (remove spaces around the '@').