



MACHAIR DISCOVERY WALKS – FREE

BUGS (HEMIPTERA) Lionacleit machair 2pm, Monday 29 July 2013

Dr Michael R Wilson, National Museum of Wales and Professor Alan Stewart, University of Sussex

The leafhoppers, planthoppers and spittlebugs (Auchenorrhyncha) and the true bugs (Heteroptera) are a group of sap-sucking insects that may be very common in grassland. They are an excellent group to investigate differences between cultivated machair plots. Along with aphids and scales insects they comprise the Hemiptera. Come and learn about these interesting bugs, the work being carried out here, what they can tell us and see some of the species for yourself.

Where: Meet at the southern end of Lionacleit machair, Benbecula. There is no formal parking on the machair so it is best to park at the school and walk onto the machair from there (10 minutes).

MACHAIR FLORA Balranald machair 2pm, Wednesday 31 July 2013

Rick Goater, Applied Ecology Ltd

A number of species groups, including flora, soil invertebrates and pollinators are being used to monitor the response of biodiversity to changes in agricultural land management practices carried out through the Machair LIFE+ project. Come along and learn about this work – with the long cold spring this year the machair should still be very floriferous, so you will see many of these species for yourself.

Where: Meet at the RSPB Balranald Visitor Centre where parking is available. This will be a busy time of year with tourists visiting so please car-share where possible.

Explore the machair and the special wildlife to be found there. These **FREE** events include a talk/discussion with members of the Machair LIFE+ survey team to learn about the scientific monitoring work they are undertaking on behalf of the project; and a gentle walk across the machair and adjacent habitats to explore and identify the wider natural history interest of these sites. Records will be submitted to Outer Hebrides Biological Recording (OHBR).

The events are weather dependant. If in doubt, please check on the morning of the event via the 'Announcements and Events' page on the Curragag forum (www.curragag-wildlifeneeds.org.uk); our Facebook pages (www.facebook.com/CurragagUist or www.facebook.com/MachairLife); or contact the Machair LIFE+ project office on 01870 603361.

These events are jointly organised by Curragag and Conserving Scottish Machair LIFE+ project. For more information, contact: Matthew Topsfield, Machair LIFE+ Project Advisory Officer on **01870 603361** or matthew.topsfield@rspb.org.uk