

## THE ALTANOUR ENCLOSURES - First Botanical Survey

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Willie Robb's bequest to the Club in 2012 stimulated discussion on the most appropriate use of these funds in his memory, and one suggestion was the creation of a further enclosure, some 4 km further up Glen Ey from Piper's Wood. Altanour Lodge, (NO 082 824), was built in 1838 for the Earl of Fife, with a plantation of pine trees around it to provide shelter. Graham Ewen's history of Glen Ey (*Cairngorm Club Journal*, 103,1994, pp. 86-94) indicates that this building was listed as uninhabited in every census between 1841 and 1891, so it was probably only used during the shooting season. The roof was removed around 1960, and little now remains to shelter passing walkers. Most of the original trees surrounding the Lodge have been felled by gales and left to rot.

To preserve and regenerate trees at Altanour, the Club erected 950m of 2m-high deer (but not rabbit) fencing in September 2015 on either side of the land rover track at the Lodge, at a cost of around £11,000 again with permission from Mar Estate. There is an access stile for each enclosure (see colour photograph No 2). The enclosed areas include mature larch trees, particularly in the lower southeast section, and some marshy ground between raised, turfed hillocks. The upper northwest section includes the ruined building, a grassy slope, a small marsh and several rotting tree trunks. Each includes a little burn and old dykes which harbour well-established plants.

During the weekend of 23 - 25 July 2016, Eric Jensen, Lydia Thomson and Hazel Witte carried out a baseline botanical survey of the two Altanour enclosures, so that the results can be used to assess future changes. In the above variety of habitats, the following plants were identified:

List of the species recorded in the Altanour Enclosure after the erection of the fences, 25 July 2016. The 'DAFOR' scale is used below (not for grasses, sedges and rushes) – a subjective assessment of the relative abundance of the different species in the area:

D = Dominant; A = Abundant; F = Frequent; O = Occasional; R = Rare

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Millfoil / Yarrow	F
<i>Agrostis canina sens. lat.</i>	Velvet bent grass	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent grass	
<i>Agrostis vinealis</i>	Brown bent grass	
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine lady's mantle	D
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood anemone	F
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Mountain everlasting	R
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	O
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass	O
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	F
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	R
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	O
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckoo flower	O
<i>Carex binervis</i>	Green ribbed sedge	
<i>Carex capillaris</i>	Hair sedge	
<i>Carex caryophyllea</i>	Spring sedge	
<i>Carex dioica</i>	Dioecious sedge	
<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star sedge	
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous sedge	
<i>Carex hostiana</i>	Tawny sedge	
<i>Carex leporina</i>	Oval sedge	
<i>Carex nigra</i>	Common sedge	
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation sedge	
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Pill sedge	
<i>Carex pulicaris</i>	Flea sedge	
<i>Carex viridula sp. oedocarpa</i>	Common yellow sedge	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear	R
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh thistle	F
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	O

<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's tail	
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath spotted orchid	R
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	Heath grass	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted hair grass	
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	Wavy hair grass	
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	F
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round leaved sundew	O
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Marsh willowherb	O
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell heather	F
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross leaved heath	O
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common cotton grass	O
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Hare's tail cotton grass	
<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg.	Eyebright	F
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	O
<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	Wood horsetail	O
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's fescue grass	
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue grass	
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	Viviparous fescue grass	
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild strawberry	
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern bedstraw	
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath bedstraw	A
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	O
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	Field gentian	R
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water avens	O
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating sweet grass	
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	Heath cudweed	R
<i>Hieracium anglicum</i>	Hawkweed	O
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping soft grass	
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Beautiful St John's wort	O
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's ear	O
<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	Sharp-flowered rush	
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed rush	
<i>Juncus bufonius</i> sens. lat.	Toad rush	
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact rush	
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush	
<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>	Heath rush	

<i>Larix europea</i>	European larch	F
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter vetch	R
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Purging (fairy) flax	O
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil	R
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Heath wood-rush	
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple moor-grass	
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat grass	
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog asphodel	F
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood sorrel	O
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort	R
<i>Persicaria vivipara</i>	Alpine bistort	R
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-eared hawkweed	R
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common butterwort	O
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	O
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth meadow grass	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough meadow grass	
<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	Heath milkwort	O
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	A
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	F
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	F
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser spearwort	F
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	O
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	O
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel	O
<i>Rumex longifolius</i>	Northern dock	O
<i>Salix repens</i>	Creeping willow	R
<i>Saxifraga azoides</i>	Yellow mountain saxifrage	R
<i>Scorzoneroïdes autumnalis</i>	Autumn hawkbit	
<i>Selaginella selaginoides</i>	Lesser clubmoss	O
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Goldenrod	O
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	R
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser stitchwort	R
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devils-bit scabious	O
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	O
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild thyme	F
<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>	Deer sedge	
<i>Trientalis europaea</i>	Chickweed wintergreen	O

<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	F
<i>Triglochin palustris</i>	Marsh arrow grass	R
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle	O
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Blaeberry / bilberry	A
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath speedwell	A
<i>Veronica chamaedris</i>	Germander speedwell	O
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Cowberry	F
<i>Viola palustris</i>	Marsh violet	F
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Dog violet	F

**Author's Note:** Club members are encouraged to photograph any plants they are unable to identify at Altanour, particularly if not on this preliminary list. Repeat surveys will be done in future – you are welcome join us.