

## Wild Ridge – Environmental Studies Budget Report

### Map

With funding from ESB a securely fenced 45 hectare wildlife area has been created at Blue Beach Farm. Livestock will be permanently excluded from the area which includes a mosaic of threatened habitats and is a refuge for plants which are impacted by grazing elsewhere on the farm.



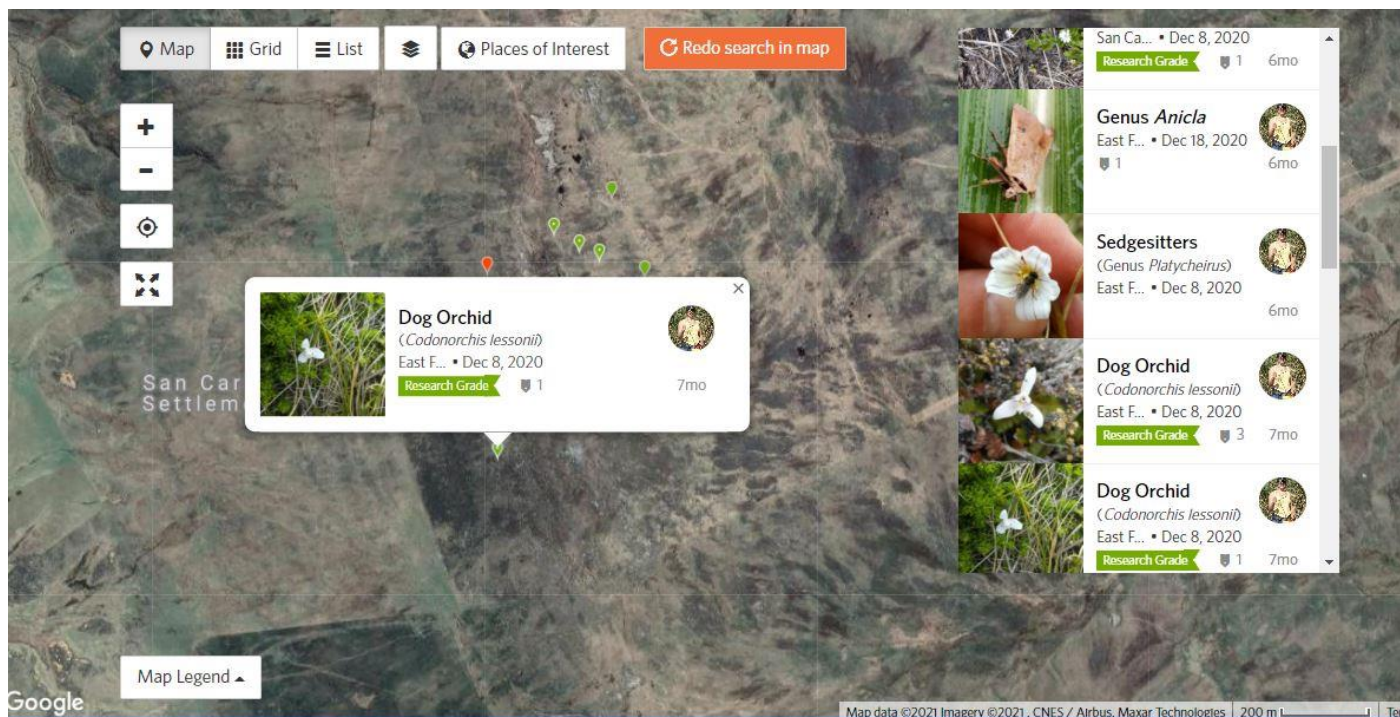
*Location of Wild Ridge*



*New fences going in*

Arrival of materials was delayed due to Covid but all materials are now site, and around two thirds of the fencing has been completed, with the final side to be finished by the end of July with ART funding. Where they existed derelict fences have been removed as the new ones have been installed.

Plant surveys did not find any invasive species in 2021 and found good numbers of dog orchids. Records of plants and invertebrates have been uploaded to iNaturalist.

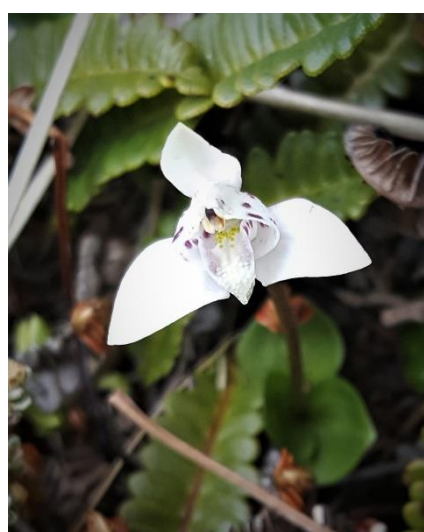


*An example of iNaturalist records for the area*

Educational visits were planned with the Watch Group and teachers from MPC. Unfortunately the weather was poor on both days and it was not possible for the groups to visit Wild Ridge which is quite exposed. However the trips were successfully held in the farm's coastal nature area which is easily accessed by vehicle. Both trips were enjoyed and the participants learned about native habitats of the Falkland Islands. We have also taken a number of *ad hoc* groups of visitors and San Carlos residents to Wild Ridge when the weather has been good.



*Watch Group visit to Nature Area – the cold did not dampen their spirits!*



*A dog orchid in Wild Ridge*

We are very grateful for ESB funding for this area and look forward to hosting visits to the area this summer.