



Field Rose (*Rosa arvensis*)



Biodiversity Action Plan | Cummey Yanno Beiy-Feie

Background

Rediscovered on the Isle of Man in 2022. Subsequent research has shown this plant to have some Dog-rose introgression, so our native plant has small hybrid qualities.

This is a rose typical of ancient woodland, and old hedgerows, but it grows on a sandy coastal broogh on the Isle of Man.

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been reformatted from a Rare Species Action Plan, produced by Wildflowers of Mann in 2004, and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the same year.

Description



A rambling, spindly, climbing rose with white flowers.

British Isles Distribution

Field rose is mostly a species of England, Wales and Ireland. It is rare as a native in Scotland. The Field/Dog Rose hybrid, has a similar distribution to the Field Rose. See:

[Rosa arvensis x canina \(R. x verticillacantha\) | Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora \(brc.ac.uk\)](http://brc.ac.uk)

Isle of Man Distribution

On the Isle of Man, it was formally found in Groudle Glen and a hedge south of Ballabeg (Arbory). It was gone extinct on the Island by 1910, although it was in cultivation as a garden plant in Union Mills until recently.

While David Allen (1984) considered this species to be introduced to the Island, its presence in what was later determined as an ancient woodland, would lead us to believe this was native to the Island.

Its discovery (although with hybrid features) near Cain's Strand, is in semi-natural vegetation, where it forms a low, wind-pruned thicket some 20-30m², indicating it has been present here for a long time. Field Rose is a somewhat non-descript shrub/climber, thus being overlooked for a very long-time is not surprising.

The semi-natural coastal grassland/scrub, forms a continuous 7km habitat from Peel to Kirk Michael. Most of this habitat is barely accessible and largely private, thus there remains the possibility that the parent of this hybrid occurs nearby. The chances of finding such a plant, however, are very slim.



Habitat and Ecology

Field Rose is a British native rose species. Of the wild roses found on the Isle of Man, this is the only species that is not able to grow upright without support. Its main growth habit is as a rambling rose in woodland edge and hedgerow conditions, and as scrambling plant in shaded woodland floor conditions. It is an ancient woodland indicator species but is also common in old hedgerows and some scrub. It prefers heavy mesotrophic soils. It does not occur in strongly acid conditions but can be found on limestone.

Field Rose is known to commonly hybridise with Dog Rose, with *Rosa squarrosa* - part of the Dog Rose (*Rosa canina* agg.) group of species. Dog Rose is a ubiquitous species, readily colonising scrub, woodland edge and hedgerows. It has wide soil tolerances, but with a somewhat low shade tolerance.

The hybrid rose at Cain's Strand, shows strong phenotypic similarities with Field Rose and has no distinctive Dog Rose traits. Its hybrid determination was from the variable sized hips, and some elements of hip morphology. As this plant was growing in full sun conditions, its shade tolerance is unproven, but the assumption is towards shade tolerance.

Native roses host a wide range of wildlife, and it assumed that this hybrid does also.

Legal protection

Not listed on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and black-listed under *Plants of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2022* (review required).

Threats

A single plant is vulnerable to extinction events.

Reason for BAP

To ensure field rose (or close to field rose hybrids) remain as a native Island plant.

Aims

In the absence of a full species, this phenotypic Field Rose hybrid is as close as the Island has to the lost species, thus half a species is better than none. It grows readily from hardwood cuttings (taken and rooted), and seed has been collected and sown. The seed looked plump and hard, thus probably fertile.

Ongoing propagation of the plant via hardwood cuttings or layers, should be fairly simple, once a stock plant is established.

Seed has been sown, and is likely to germinate, after 1 or 2 winters. Assessment of seedlings will show how stable this hybrid is. If seedlings show strong Dog Rose character, this would indicate the seedlings are back-crossing with Dog Rose. While if they are show Field Rose characters, this would indicate self-pollination. Seedlings that provide stable offspring would clearly be desirable as over time the population will breed back closer to Field Rose.

Linked BAPS

Woodlands for Wildflowers related BAPs.

Delivery Options

Active

Challenges

In wildlife gardening, and on farms, the addition of Field Rose in mixed



<p>hedgerows, will add a woody rambling climber element that is currently largely only found with bittersweet (<i>Solanium dulcamara</i>) as a native on the Island (and then only rarely).</p> <p>It is a good plant to include in public-facing and educational projects to showcase this rare native plant.</p>		
<p>In scrub and woodland edge, Field Rose makes a very good ecotone between woody vegetation and grassland - particularly in a rough grazing situation (mesotrophic only).</p>		
<p>In semi-natural mesotrophic woodland (NVC habitats W8, W9) Field Rose can be introduced as woodland flora.</p>		

Delivery Plan

Strategy

The short term, overall strategy will be to introduce this plant to Billown, as a woodland edge species and Hairpin Woodland Park as a woodland interior and hedgerow species. The opportunistic introduction into public facing projects should also be allowed for.

Lead

Manx Wildlife Trust

Propagating bias for 'Field Rose' types to bring the species ever closer to species type.

Manx Wildlife Trust

Action

Timing

Responsibility

Grow 5 plants from cuttings.

2022/23

Manx Wildlife Trust

Grow 20 plants from cuttings.

2023/24

Manx Wildlife Trust

Grow +/-20 plants from seed.

2023/24

Manx Wildlife Trust

Introduce 5 plants to MWT Billow Nature Reserve, Hairpin Woodland Park and University College Man.

2023

Manx Wildlife Trust

Assess seedling morphology.

2023 onwards

Manx Wildlife Trust

Introduce 40 plants to Billown and Hairpin Woodland Park.

2024 onwards

Manx Wildlife Trust

Investigate the reported roadside plant at Ballahutchin Hill, Union Mills (A. Cauldwell)

2025

Manx Wildlife Trust

Assess and review plan.

2027

Manx Wildlife Trust

Annual Updates



Year	
2022	Cuttings taken and rooted. Seeds sown.
2023	3 seeds germinated and growing well, 4 cuttings survived. 1 plant planted at Hairpin WP.

