



Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*)



Biodiversity Action Plan | Cummey Yanno Beiy-Feie

Background

A rare wetland plant that is threatened with extinction on the Island.

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



An inconspicuous creeping plant of acid wetlands.

British Isles Distribution

This species often grows on the less severely acid heathland, thus the first to be agriculturally improved. This will have been the cause of much of the reduction of the species distribution.

It grows across the British Isles, although is considered rare everywhere, apart from the southwest and Wales, where it is locally common.

Isle of Man Distribution

The Manx records are historically numerous, and across much of the north and west of the Island. However, this has reduced markedly and there are few in the past few decades, with only two known populations at MWT Close Sartfield Nature Reserve and MWT Glen Dhoo Nature Reserve.

Habitat and Ecology

A short growing perennial herb of damp acid habitats. Normally found in open heathland, where grass and heather grow together. Related to the Common Harebell (with very similar flowers), the Ivy-leaved Bellflower occupies a similar niche to it on damper ground. However, it has never been as common as its larger relative.

Through its European range, the species is associated with many wet acid habitats, including raised bog, wood heath, wet acid grassland and acid woodland rides. It can become a lawn weed in damp infertile conditions. Flowering is in mid-summer. Local propagation is mainly by creeping runners, allowing the plant to form large clumps. It also produces small seed.

Legal protection

Listed on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and red-listed under *Plants of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2022*.



Threats		
Habitat loss through agricultural drainage.		
Reason for BAP		
To find and safeguard this species on the Isle of Man.		
Aims		
The establishment of a few healthy colonies would be the ideal outcome.		
Linked BAPS		
Marshy Grassland BAP		
Delivery Options	Active	Challenges
Potential sites could be found along the southwest coast, where heathy grassland is still common and often managed under the stewardship of Manx National Heritage.		
Delivery Plan		
Strategy		Lead
<p>Given the plant's pessimistic status on the Island, the first priority is to search in its former locations, to determine if it is still resident. If this is the case, seed should be taken and the plant grown and cultivated for introduction.</p> <p>While many sites with damp acid grass and heath are fairly common, the species would seem to be exacting as to its requirements. Further research may have to be done to avoid failure.</p>		Manx Wildlife Trust
Action	Timing	Responsibility
Collect seed.	Summer 2007	Manx Wildlife Trust
Sow/grow seed.	Spring 2008	Manx Wildlife Trust
Identify receptor sites.	Summer 2009	Manx Wildlife Trust, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Plant out.	Summer 2010	Manx Wildlife Trust
Review.	Summer 2012	Manx Wildlife Trust, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Annual Updates		
Year		
2005-2008	Species not found in the wild.	



2009	Small population found at MWT Close Sartfield Nature Reserve.
2010	Larger population found at Glen Dhoo (south of Manx Wildlife Trust reserve).
2010-2023	No action taken for this species (periodic monitoring of two known populations).
2023 & 2024	Single plant found on MWT Glen Dhoo Nature Reserve. The population to the south of the Manx Wildlife Trust reserve no longer found (T. Sayle).

