



Marsh Hawk's-beard (*Crepis paludosa*)



Biodiversity Action Plan | Cummey Yannoo Beiyen-Feie

Background

A rare and threatened Manx plant of woodland and marsh.

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



Marsh Hawk's-beard is a somewhat non-descript dandelion relative that is tolerant of wet and shaded conditions.

It is particularly well known as a woodland plant in northern and upland river corridors.

British Isles Distribution

A northern European species that occurs throughout the northwest of the British Isles but is completely absent from the south of England and East Anglia. In Ireland, it only becomes common in the north.

Isle of Man Distribution

On the Isle of Man, Marsh Hawk's-beard has long been found in a small part of the Central Curragh in Alder carr (a habitat for which it is not listed in Rodwell's 1991 National Vegetation Classification (NVC)). This population has not been re-found for the past ten years.

In 2000, it was found around the Glen Roy reservoir in a *Juncus* mire, again not a habitat listed in Rodwell's NVC. This was re-found in 2009 with about 10 plants. Some seed was collected which germinated but did not overwinter. The Isle of Man offers plenty of suitable habitat, particularly un-grazed NVC W9 ravine woodland sites, but Marsh Hawk's-beard has never been found in this habitat on the Island.

Habitat and Ecology

Marsh Hawk's-beard is a perennial wetland species that grows in a range of upland wetland and woodland sites. Its main mire sites are often with some base enrichment, although its tolerances are fairly wide.

Woodland sites vary between willow carr and upland ash/hazel (NVC W9) sites, where it often grows on wet rocks by rivers. A constant factor throughout, is a preference for un-grazed sites. While similar to other dandelion like flowers, and up to 90cm tall, it is generally the only one that flowers in wetlands late in the season -flowering starts in June and fruiting from July to September. The species spreads exclusively by wind-borne seed.



Legal protection		
Listed on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and amber-listed under <i>Plants of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2022</i> .		
Threats		
The scarcity of the species on the Isle of Man is difficult to explain, but a known history of extensive grazing, coupled with generally base-poor soils, would be likely factors. In grazed areas, populations may well exist in a non-flowering capacity. Indeed, the uplands of the Island are still far from combed over for the species, thus it could well be more common than thought. That said, with a known population of about ten plants on one site, this is a species that should be considered highly threatened until proven otherwise.		
Reason for BAP		
To protect Marsh Hawk's-beard from local extinction.		
Aims		
Grow a population for introduction to favoured habitats across the Island.		
Linked BAPS		
Woodland Biodiversity Action Plan and Woodlands for Wildflowers Action for Wildlife Project		
Delivery Options	Active	Challenges
Delivery Plan		
Strategy		Lead
An initial recovery strategy will be to establish an ex-situ nursery population, as a backstop against extinction. This can be used for a reintroduction to the Ohio receptor site, which will include areas of suitable habitat.		Manx Wildlife Trust
Action	Timing	Responsibility
Establish at MWT Mullen e Cloie Nature Reserve	2011	Wildflowers of Mann
Introduce to Ohio Plantation	2013 Onwards	Wildflowers of Mann
Monitor	2014 Onwards	Wildflowers of Mann
Review	2014 Onwards	Wildflowers of Mann, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Annual Updates		
Year		
2011	Additional Population found at Ballawilleykilley Phase 2 site (just a few plants).	
2013	Additional population discovered at Brookdale.	



2017	Plants established in cultivation from seed from Brookdale.
2018	Further survey of Glen Roy showed the plant to be much more widespread, with continuous population from reservoir to old plantation, and scattered population along the streamside in old plantation. Introduction of plants to Hairpin Woodland Park.
2019	Further planting at Hairpin Woodland Park (waterfall area and quarry).
2021	Further planting at Hairpin Woodland Park Quarry. (No seedlings yet seen).
2022	Further planting at Hairpin Woodland Park Quarry. (No seedlings yet seen).

