



## Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*)



### Biodiversity Action Plan | Cummey Yannoo Beiyen-Feie

#### Background

A formerly uncommon orchid which has greatly increased in recent decades on the Ayres, but declined across the rest of 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



A distinctive pink flowered orchid of dry grassland.

#### British Isles Distribution

The orchid is common in the south-east of the British Isles, but is restricted to more coastal areas in Manx latitudes.

#### Isle of Man Distribution

On the Isle of Man, the species was first recorded in the 1920s at Rue Point. The Ayres remains a stronghold where populations continue to increase. On the remainder of the Island, the populations once established on the Central Valley Heritage Trail, Langness, Orrisdale, Billown Quarries, Rushen Abbey are all gone.

The species did persist on Ronaldsway Airport until around 2008 but were not subsequently recorded (a report of one spike in an unspecified location has been made around 2015). It would appear that the species is now almost confined to its northern dune stronghold, where it is thriving.

#### Habitat and Ecology

Pyramidal Orchid is species of dry, normally basic habitats such as yellow dunes and calcareous grassland. The species is very distinctive with its deep pink pyramidal flowers in mid-summer. It is often a pioneer species in these habitats, occurring in larger numbers on somewhat bare areas, and subsiding in abundance in more close tall vegetation. It can rapidly form large colonies.

The species spreads by seed that is unusual for an orchid, in that it is most frequently pollinated by butterflies.



<b>Legal protection</b>		
Listed on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and green-listed under <i>Plants of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2022</i> .		
<b>Threats</b>		
The expected reason for the decline in most southern populations, is most likely due to less managed, rougher vegetation and scrub encroachment. Around Orrisdale, the species may well have been lost to coastal erosion.		
<b>Reason for BAP</b>		
To restore Island-wide distribution.		
<b>Aims</b>		
<p>The species does not appear to be in danger of extinction on the Isle of Man - indeed a continued growth in the Ayres populations is anticipated. The loss from the remainder of the Island is nearly complete however, and measures should be taken to reverse this.</p> <p>The establishment of a strong southern population of Pyramidal Orchids at MWT Billown Nature Reserve could help create an active seed source that could generate satellite populations over time.</p>		
<b>Linked BAPS</b>		
Limestone Grassland Biodiversity Action Plans and Shaking Frass Action for Wildlife.		
<b>Delivery Options</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<p>Introductions of fresh seed to newly created, dry, calcareous habitat in late summer will be the main translocation method.</p> <p>This will be repeated in the second year. The preparation and management of the site will be carried out in accordance with the Billown Quarries Management Plan 2020-2026 (Dubbeldam A, 2019).</p>		<p>The downside of this will be a 5 or more year wait to measure success of the first generation and a subsequent wait for second generation plants. The site will be a potential receptor site for mature plants should for some reason plants in the north be threatened and sanctioned translocations needed.</p>
<p>If, after 7 years, the species clearly has not spread, a review of the introduction will be undertaken with DEFA to see if the plan is discontinued, or a mature plant translocation is carried out.</p>		
<b>Delivery Plan</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>		<b>Lead</b>
Establish at MWT Billown Nature Reserve		Manx Wildlife Trust



Action	Timing	Responsibility
Sow fresh seed at MWT Billown Nature Reserve extension site	2021/22	Wildflowers of Mann
Monitor.	2024 Onwards	Wildflowers of Mann
Review.	2028	Wildflowers of Mann /Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
<b>Annual Updates</b>		
Year		
2022	Seed sown at Billown (with results not to be known for next 6-10 years).	

