



Rough Clover (*Trifolium scabrum*)



Biodiversity Action Plan | Cummey Yannoo Beiyen-Feie

Background

Found at four sites across the Isle of Man, Rough Clover is a species of conservation concern.

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



Rough Clover is a small hairy clover species with a short flowering period.

British Isles Distribution

This is a mostly coastal, southern British species but with small populations as far north as Aberdeenshire.

Isle of Man Distribution

The Isle of Man is at the northern limit of the species' western distribution along the British/Irish coasts. On the Isle of Man, the species is found at Port St Mary, Poyllvaaish Area of Special Scientific Interest, Ramsey Mooragh Park area and the Ayres.

In Port St Mary it grows in broken tarmac (kept open by summer herbicide sprays), adjacent to species-rich calcareous grassland. While regarded as abundant at Poyllvaaish by Allen, it is now less common, presumably as grazing no longer takes place. It's regarded as native by Allen and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland.

Habitat and Ecology

Rough Clover is a winter annual of poor, summer-parched mesotrophic or calcareous soils. It flowers in May and June. Habitats such as rocky outcrops and very parched infertile sands are its main habitats. It is uncompetitive and only thrives after severe summer drought or where it can colonise open ground. It requires low fertility and good drainage and is mostly coastal. It has a long-lived seedbank and can await optimal germination conditions.

Legal protection

Not listed on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and amber-listed under *Plants of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2022*.



Threats		
This amber-list species is likely to be in gradual decline. Long term threats are repairing the footpaths at Port St Mary; the extension of development near the Park Hotel at Mooragh Park; sea-level rise and coastal erosion at the Ayres; and lack of grazing management and the spread of invasive non-native species at Poyll Vaaish.		
Reason for BAP		
Restricted Distribution.		
Aims		
To collect seeds and spread at MWT Billown Nature Reserve, which has a good likelihood of success as a receptor site. The microclimate and extreme summer drought niche conditions that are created here, should be perfect for this species. These conditions will mirror those of the Poyll Vaaish rocky outcrops. However, sheep grazing should extend the ecological suitability of this habitat by removing competitive weeds. It is likely to spread to Rosehill Area of Special Scientific Interest.		
Linked BAPS		
Limestone Grassland Biodiversity Action Plan.		
Delivery Options	Active	Challenges
Delivery Plan		
Strategy		Lead
Action	Timing	Responsibility
Collect seed from Port St Mary.	2022/23/24	Manx Wildlife Trust
Direct sow into MWT Billown Nature Reserve.	2022/23/24	Manx Wildlife Trust
Evaluate success/failures at MWT Billown Nature Reserve and adjust management where possible.	2023-25	Manx Wildlife Trust WT
Assess and review plan.	2027	Manx Wildlife Trust
Annual Updates		
Year		
2022	Seed very abundant at Port St Mary in broken pavement, with ample collection options. Lots of seed sown at MWT Billown Nature Reserve.	
2023	No plants recorded.	

