

SUFFOLK LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Man Orchid

(*Aceras
anthropophorum*)



Plan Lead Suffolk County Council

1 Definition of habitat or species

Man orchid is a tuberous perennial herb found in old chalk pits and limestone quarries, calcareous grassland and road verges in lowland Britain.

2 Current status: national, regional, and local (including trends and losses)

Recent records for Man orchid show that it is found in only 48 ten km squares and largely confined to south east of a line running from the Humber to the Bristol Channel. It is nationally scarce. In East Anglia most of the populations had been destroyed by ploughing by 1930. There are a few remaining small populations in Suffolk, all but one of which are on roadside verges where chalk is near the surface in the Gipping valley and hinterland. A single plant was recorded at Sizewell in 2005.

3 Current factors affecting the species or habitats

Habitat loss and fragmentation largely due to agricultural intensification

Encroachment by scrub due to lack of appropriate grazing/hay cutting management

Vehicle Erosion – Road verge sites

Eutrophication due to road traffic pollution – Roadside verge sites

Land fill resulting in loss of quarry/pit locations

4 Current action

With the exception of the recent record at Sizewell, all existent sites are currently covered by County Wildlife Site designation (and protected under Road side nature reserve scheme RNR) or SSSI status.

Roadside nature reserve review has resulted in specific management prescriptions for each RNR site including necessary restorative management.

Green hay from SSSI site has been used for grassland creation project on former Man orchid Site (Bloodhill, Little Blakenham)

5 Targets

Maintain and monitor all known populations of man orchid in Suffolk and ensure their appropriate management

Endeavour to expand the range of man orchid to new sites.

Baseline 2005, targets for 2010, and identify targets for long term species or habitat viability for 2015 and 2020 and longer term (if desired)

6 Actions

Action (apply SMART approach and include locations where relevant).	Achieve by date	Delivery partners (identify lead and support partners)
Policy & Legislation		
Be aware of and allow opportunities for natural regeneration of man orchid and other associated species that may arise by chance (e.g. works specifications) through operations that create bare ground in suitable locations e.g. road works, cable installations etc. (Not applicable to SSSI)	2006-2010	SCC, SBRC, SWT
Site safeguard and management Or species protection/management		
Seek opportunities to buffer existing populations from threats e.g. spray drift, erosion including where appropriate, promote take up of Environmental Stewardship options that protect and buffer orchid e.g. buffering grass margins to protect form spray drift	2006-2010	FWAG, SWT, NE
Ensure that appropriate management of all	2006-2010	SCC, SBRC, SWT, NE

existing sites continues including restorative management and protection against erosion as required		
Ensure landowners of existing sites and adjacent landowners are aware of importance of man orchid	2006-2010	SCC, SBRC, SWT, NE
Endeavour to create new populations at suitable locations that are less vulnerable (e.g. away from RNRs) and where they can be sustainably managed.	2006-2010	SCC, SBRC, SWT, NE
Identify suitable recipient sites for seed/green hay to establish new populations of man orchid (preference to sites away from road verges)	2006-2010	SWT, SCC, SBRC.
Research and monitoring		
Research optimal management for Man orchid	2007	SBRC
Research appropriate propagation techniques for Man orchid with the aim of boosting existing populations and establishing new populations in suitable locations	2007	SBRC, SWT, SCC.
Identify historic and potential sites and carry surveys to establish whether man orchid is still present or could be re-established e.g. road verges of A14 at Creting	2007	SBRC, SWT, SCC.
Advisory		
Ensure landowners and managers in Gipping valley and hinterland are alert to its appearance and management requirements	2007	SCC, SBRC, SWT, NE, MSDC
Support and advise on Environmental Stewardship applications and options that benefit man orchid e.g. grass margin buffers	2006-2010	SWT, SBRC, SCC, NE, FWAG
Communications and publicity		
Raise awareness of the species amongst farmers, landowners and managers (raise profile through publicity) and the general public and the need to notify conservation bodies of new sites E.g. partnership with Little Chef and conservation organisations at the A14 /A140 interchange	2007	SCC, SBRC, SWT, NE

NB Most of the action achieve by dates are 2006-2010 this means they need to be achieved or worked towards by 2006 and annually renewed until 2010.

Objectives currently not achievable by the plan partners:

This section should include objectives that the working group relevant to this plan would like to fund and achieve but due to constraints can't currently. By recognising these in the plan, means they aren't lost from the BAP : A list of bullet points

Investigate feasibility of micropropagation possibilities for man orchid and see whether Muntton and Fison at Stowmarket still have facilities as they are in the heart of man orchid country

Monitoring of progress:

Reported annually on the UK BAP reporting system BARS Biodiversity Action Reporting system.

List of organisations that have been consulted regarding this plan and have agreed to aim to deliver their organisations commitments: A list of organisations.

SWT Susan Stone and Dorothy Casey
NE Monica O'Donnell and Alison Collins
All District Council SBP Representatives
Suffolk County Council Andrew Murray-Wood
SBRC Martin Sanford
Suffolk biodiversity partnership officer Mary Norden
FWAG Phil Watson
RSPB Kirsty Coutts
SOG Steve Piotrowski

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