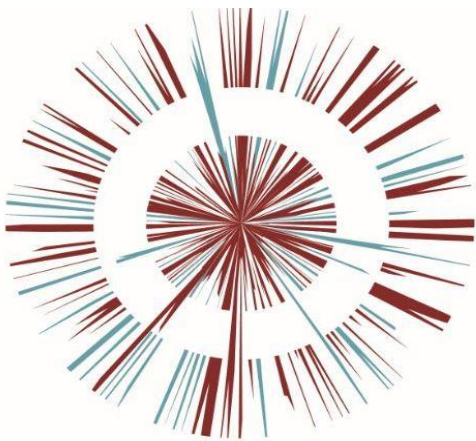




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ES Vol. 2 Appendix 9.10-9.11 Purple
Ramping-Fumitory BAP and
Location and Identity
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North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan

Purple Ramping-fumitory

Fumaria purpurea

<p>Last reviewed: July 2008 Lead reviewer: Jon Hickling</p>

1 Current status

1.1 National

Purple Ramping-fumitory is a nationally scarce, endemic annual plant which used to be widespread in the mixed farming and arable areas of Britain. However, during the last 50 years it has undergone a drastic decline throughout its former range due to agricultural intensification. Recent records of the plant are mainly concentrated in the west of the country, near the coasts of Cornwall and Lancashire, notably north Lancashire, the Fylde, West Lancashire and north Merseyside. However, it rarely seems to persist at any given locality.

Purple Ramping-fumitory is a Priority Species within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan on account of its endemic status and the threat to its populations.

1.2 Local

Since 1995, small, transient populations of Purple Ramping-fumitory have been located in north Merseyside at Southport, Churchtown, Crossens, Ainsdale, Formby, Little Crosby, Rainford Junction, Garston Gasworks, Lydiate, Maghull and Anfield Cemetery. The records were from disturbed ground or the edges of arable fields. In many cases, return visits to the sites did not rediscover plants. It is often the case that Purple Ramping-fumitory often does not persist at any given location although it will often re-occur in the general area provided suitable habitats exist.

1.3 Legal

Apart from the general provisions of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Purple Ramping-fumitory is not specially protected by European or British legislation.

2 Current factors causing loss or decline

2.1 National

National declines are linked with increasing use of weed-killers in arable crops.

Annual disturbance of top soil is needed for seed germination, growth of plants and subsequent flowering and seed production.

Fumaria species are difficult to identify so Purple Ramping-fumitory may have been overlooked and under-recorded.

2.2 Local

Due to the sporadic nature of its occurrence, it is difficult to assess whether Purple Ramping-fumitory is actually declining in the region. There are documented records from 1803 to the present day. The problem is exacerbated because it is difficult to distinguish *Fumaria* species from each other and therefore Purple Ramping-fumitory is frequently overlooked and under-recorded.

Due to agricultural intensification, Purple Ramping-fumitory in Merseyside may be increasingly restricted to recently disturbed ground rather than arable fields.

3 Current action

3.1 Local

English Nature commissioned survey work in 2004 & 2005 and, as a result, in 2005 a dozen records were verified by Dr Tim Rich. A data-base of field records has been maintained by Dave Earl. This contains a further 25 or so post-2000 records of *Fumaria purpurea* for North Merseyside and West Lancashire District.

Local material has been grown from seed at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust centre, Martin Mere.

4 Key habitats

Recently disturbed, often sandy, ground, such as ditch sides, hedge banks and roadside verges.

Arable fields, particularly those supporting crops not usually sprayed with weed-killers, e.g. potatoes, cabbages, leeks, celery.

Allotments, nurseries and cultivated borders on housing estates.

5 SMART targets

Purple Ramping-fumitory tends to exist in small, widely separated and, seemingly, transient populations. The distinction between range and population level for a plant with these characteristics is blurred, so the targets below are framed in terms of population. However the population size is expressed as the number of occupied sites rather than individual plants.

Number	Type	Text	Date	Quantity	Units
PRF1	Population	Maintain the size of the existing known population at 2004/5 baseline levels.	2010	12	Occupied sites
PRF2	Population	Restore to former population levels of the 1990's, where possible on historic sites or in areas close by.*	2015	14	Former sites
PRF3	Population	Where possible, expand the population to pre-1990s historic sites within the species former range.**	2020	8	Former pre-1990s sites

PRF4	New target type	Monitor existing and restored populations at least once every 5 years. ***	2010	12	Sites
			2015	26	Sites
			2020	34	Sites

* The 1990's was selected because this is when recent baseline information became available for which targets should be both achievable and measurable.

** A target of 8 sites has been chosen since this not only represents an increase of 20% of all known sites but should also be achievable over the time period allocated. It is acknowledged that it might not be possible to re-establish populations on old historic sites but these should be established close by in areas where restored populations can be maintained in a sustainable way.

*** Following the methodology recommended for monitoring national targets, when a site is visited for the purposes of monitoring and the plant is not present, but the overall habitat is in a good condition (i.e. species rich), then the population is deemed to be extant (reflecting the fluctuating nature of the populations of this species).

6 Proposed actions

6.1 Site safeguard

Promote environmental friendly farming practices such as organic farming and special provisions for field margins and headlands through Environmental Stewardship options. (Action: NE; DEFRA; NFU; CLA) (Priority: High)

6.2 Site safeguard

Identify and map sites supporting populations of Purple Ramping-fumitory and revisit previously known sites on a regular basis as part of the ongoing monitoring identified in target PRF4. Where extant populations are found, landowners should be notified. (Action: NE; LBS; BSBI; LRCs) (Priority: High)

6.3 Land management

Target appropriate Environment Stewardship options on sites supporting populations of Purple Ramping-fumitory or where the plant has been known from the recent past. (Action: NE; DEFRA; NFU; CLA; LAs) (Priority: Medium)

6.4 Species protection and management

Collect seed from populations of Purple Ramping-fumitory in north Merseyside. Maintain a seed-bank of locally-grown stock with a view to introducing plants to suitably managed habitat in the region. (Action: NE; LBS; BSBI, Universities) (Priority: Medium)

Donate locally collected seed to the Royal Botanic Garden's Millennium Seed Bank. (Action: NE; LBS; BSBI; RBG) (Priority: Medium)

6.5 Advice

Ensure that relevant local authorities, land-owners and managers of sites supporting Purple Ramping-fumitory are aware of its presence and needs. Provide advice on the plant's management as appropriate. (Action: NE; LBS; BSBI) (Priority: High)

6.6 Future research and monitoring

Encourage further field survey to find populations of Purple Ramping-fumitory at known and other localities in order to pursue target PRF4. (Action: NE; LBS; BSBI, Universities) (Priority: High)

Maintain a data-base of records of Purple Ramping-fumitory. (Action: NE; LBS; BSBI; LRCs) (Priority: High)

6.7 Communications and publicity

Distribute reports of survey to appropriate bodies. (Action: NE; LBS; BSBI) (Priority: Medium)

Raise public awareness of the region's importance for Purple Ramping-fumitory and the threats it faces through appropriate publicity. (Action: NE; LBS; BSBI) (Priority: Low)

7 Links to other action plans

7.1 UK BAP

Purple Ramping-fumitory SAP.

7.2 NM BAP

Grey Partridge SAP, Song Thrush SAP, Skylark SAP, Brown Hare SAP, Sand-dune HAP.

8 Contact points

Natural England, Pier House, Wallgate, Wigan WN3 4AL.

Liverpool Botanical Society, c/o National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside, William Brown St, Liverpool L3 8EN. (Survey)

Botanical Society of the British Isles (VC59): David Earl, 2A Ash Street, Southport PR8 6JH. (Survey)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Wakehurst Place. (S. Alton)

9 Partners

BSBI: Botanical Society of the British Isles

CLA: Countryside Landowners Association

DEFRA: Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

LAs: Local Authorities

LBS: Liverpool Botanical Society

LRCs: Local Record Centres

MEAS: Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

NE: Natural England

NFU: National Farmers Union

RBG: Royal Botanic Garden

Universities

Purple Ramping-Fumitory *Fumaria purpurea*

Flowers: ~10mm. Between 10-15 on raceme. Mostly purple-tinged corollas.

Peduncle: Approx.. equal to raceme

Pedicles: Downward pointing

Sepals: variable. Approx. 3x2mm (if not a little larger). Distinctive oval shaped and large.

Lightly dentate, usually entire towards narrowest point. Approx. half the length of corolla.

No fruit present.

Habitat: within arable field margin, likely prone to disturbance. Exists within a ~1m wide stretch of poor semi-improved grassland. Plant covers an approx. area of no more than 2-3m² in length. Located at TN32 on Phase 1 Map

Status: S41, local BAP, vulnerable in England and endemic.

(identification confirmed by local county recorder – Joshua Styles

