

## LANCASHIRE BAP SPECIES ACTION PLAN

### SEA BINDWEED (*Calystegia soldanella*)

#### Summary

*Sea Bindweed is a conspicuous coastal flower that survives in Lancashire at a few sites between Blackpool and Fleetwood. It is vulnerable to both coastal development and habitat change. Although still generally widespread along the coasts of England and Wales in suitable habitats, this is an endangered species in Lancashire.*

*The purpose of this Action Plan is to protect as many of its present and future colonies from destruction as possible and, where feasible, to achieve beneficial management of its habitat. Awareness of the species' presence by those responsible for coastal development and management will be important for its survival.*

#### Action Plan Aim-

***So far as is practicable, to protect present and future colonies of Sea Bindweed from damaging development or habitat change.***

#### Species Description

Sea Bindweed is a trailing perennial herb with trumpet shaped flowers, 3.5 – 5cm long coloured pink with white stripes. It flowers from June to August and is one of the most attractive of species.

#### Main Habitats

This species is found mainly on coastal shingle, sand dunes and above the strand line on sand and shingle beaches, often with Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*). It is also found occasionally in other sandy places on the coast, and colonises 'simulated' shingle formed by tipped rubble.

#### National Status

Sea Bindweed is found in suitable habitats around the coast of the British Isles except northern Scotland. It belongs to the Mediterranean-Atlantic element of the British flora and also occurs in western North America. It is widely naturalized outside its native range. The 'New Atlas' (Preston *et al.*, 2002) refers to losses throughout its range since 1970, especially in southern and eastern England.

The species receives only general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

## **Regional Status**

In north-west England Sea Bindweed formerly occurred in suitable habitats along all the coast from Wirral to the Solway Firth. It is still relatively common on the Cumbrian coast, except for Morecambe Bay, but much more localised on the Lancashire and Sefton coasts. It has gone from many of its former localities, and had disappeared from Cheshire by 1924.

## **Local Status**

Apparently never common in Lancashire, a century ago Sea Bindweed occurred at several localities on sand dunes and stabilised shingle from Lytham to Fleetwood and on the Wyre Estuary. Even then, it was described as 'very rare - and rapidly decreasing' (Wheldon and Wilson, 1907). Sites on the Lytham St Anne's sand dunes were lost to development, although the last colony was probably only lost as a result of disturbance of the habitat in the 1970s.

Between Blackpool and Fleetwood colonies have been lost to housing development and the building of promenades and sea walls. However in this area it has proved remarkably resilient and survives in a few places in almost or totally artificially created habitats, including the Blackpool – Fleetwood tram track. A number of these sites are highly vulnerable.

## **Current factors affecting the Species**

Nationally, decline of the species is attributed to habitat disturbance and loss of habitat (Preston *et al.*, 2002). Although the species is susceptible to loss through further development, the 'New Atlas' suggests that it is relatively resistant to trampling, and it is likely that some disturbance of the habitat is required.

## **Current Action / Mechanisms**

- *Policy*  
There are no specific conservation measures in place for this species
- *Site Safeguard*  
Most of the sites fall within existing Biological Heritage Sites.
- *Land Management*  
No positive conservation management is currently undertaken.
- *Advisory*  
Landowners, tenants and managers of land where the plants grow have not been informed of their existence.
- *Research and Monitoring*  
Many of the extant sites are known to the BSBI vice-county recorder but no systematic search or monitoring of populations is undertaken.

- *Public Relations*  
Not attempted.

## Species Targets

Target	Area	Measure	Timescale
<i>To stabilise or increase the size of all existing populations</i>	Blackpool and Wyre	Colony dimensions/ no. of flowering shoots	2015
<i>Increase no. of colonies by 2 within its historic distribution in Lancashire</i>	Fylde, Blackpool and Wyre	No. of new post-2004/ total number of colonies	2010

## Proposed Actions

Action (priority: H,M,L)	Area	Milestone/ Measure	Partners	Timescale
<b>Research and Monitoring</b>				
Identify all populations and key sites* (H) (*sites where beneficial management is possible)	Blackpool and Wyre	No. of sites and key sites	BSBI, LWT	2007
Monitor populations at key sites (M)	Blackpool and Wyre	Extent of colonies/ no. of flowering shoots	Local group, BSBI, LWT	Ongoing
<b>Advisory</b>				
Inform site owners, managers, agencies and local authorities of species' presence and management needs (H)	Blackpool and Wyre		LCC, LWT, Blackpool & Wyre BCs, EA, NE	2008

<b>Site safeguard and management</b>				
Seek to protect populations from damaging development/ land-use change (H)	Blackpool and Wyre	No. of populations lost or damaged	LCC, Blackpool & Wyre BCs, NE, EA, Utilities	Ongoing
Seek to achieve beneficial habitat management at key sites (M)	Blackpool and Wyre	No. of key sites with positive provisions for management	EN, LCC, EA, Utilities, site owners	2008
Ensure key sites protected in local authority/ utilities planning and environmental policies (H)	Blackpool and Wyre	Inclusion in relevant planning and environmental policies	LCC, Blackpool & Wyre BCs, EA, utilities	2010
<b>Publicity</b>				
Publicise Sea Bindweed as a flagship species for Blackpool coast (M)	Blackpool	No. of appearances in publications/ media	LWT, LCC	Ongoing

## Related Action Plans

### *Habitat Action Plans*

- Sand Dunes

### *Species Action Plans*

none

## References

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