

Trafford's Biodiversity Action Plan



Species Action Plan

Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

Current Status.

The UK is estimated to have 20 – 30% of the world population. It is very important that this native British Species is conserved as elsewhere in Europe it is in decline. Bluebells are typically found in deciduous woodland which is a UKBAP priority habitat.

National

There is no specific national BAP for bluebells, although they were included in the 1995 “Long List” which preceded it.

Local

There is no specific plan for bluebells in Trafford. Regionally, a number of bodies are involved, including the Landlife and Mersey Forest Action Team, “Bluebell Recovery Project”

Planning Policy and Legislation

The native bluebell is protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Section 13(2). It is specifically protected against commercial digging.

The national Plantlife survey (2004) addressed threats to local species and proposed certain measures. These are: taking care not to plant Spanish or hybrid species near native populations; the accurate labelling of horticultural bulbs; prevention of uprooting of wild populations, licenses to allow collection of seed, and further research into the threat posed by non-native species.

Associated Species Action Plans

Associated Habitat Action Plans

Semi Natural Broadleaved Woodland

Hedgerows

Character sites in Trafford

Rossmill Woods
Coroners Wood

Notable Habitat

Current factors causing loss or decline in Trafford.

- Loss of habitat, especially broadleaved woodland.
- Damage through trampling by walkers, bikers, and animals.
- Hybridisation with Spanish bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*).
- Possible exploitation for commercial purposes.

Links to other BAPs for further information

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

Cheshire Countdown

UK BAP

Objectives

- Establish current status in Trafford. Maintain and enhance current population.
- Establish a programme of new bluebell planting in appropriate areas.

Local Target

- Link with semi-natural woodland action plan, to maintain and enhance habitat for bluebells.

Current Action

- Establishment of woodland wildflower nursery at Trafford Ecology Park.
- Bluebell planting 2002 and 2003 at Gleneagles Rest Garden, Flixton
- Bluebell planting of 2000 bulbs in Broomwood Woods and along Brooks Drive 2004.
- Bluebell seeds sown in Woodland Wildflower Nursery September 2004 and spring 2005, seedlings being nurtured over the next 5 years. Planting out planned for 2010.
- Survey and mapping of occurrence of Spanish Bluebell in Traffords Woodlands- April to June 2005

Future Action

- Monitor the success of habitat improvement initiatives
- Monitor and assess new planting of bluebell bulbs.
- Promote education and awareness of this flagship species throughout Trafford.

LBAP Implementers

National Trust
Trafford MBC
Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Local Conservation Groups
Friends Groups and members of the public
Landowners and managers
ReCORd

Key Contact

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