

Complete action plan

SAP Grassland Fungi

Vision statement

Introduction

Grassland fungi are one of the lesser-known aspects of biodiversity in Pembrokeshire. This is a reflection of some of the difficulties that are associated with grassland fungi, in particular their unpredictable nature (it is very difficult to predict if and when fruiting bodies will appear each year making them difficult to observe and record), unresolved taxonomic problems and difficulties of identification in the field. Relatively little is known about their ecology, although more is becoming known about some of the basic habitat requirements of grassland fungi.

In Pembrokeshire, grassland fungi occur in a range of semi-natural and semi-improved grasslands on acidic, base-rich and neutral substrates. They also occur in sand dunes and dune grassland, as well as in lowland grassy heath and heath land. Key features of grassland fungi sites include:

- Grassland or grassy heath that is long-established and undisturbed;
- Sites where there has been little or no use of fertilisers;
- Sites where there has been no use of herbicides.

Individual grassland fungi sites range from sea-cliff grassland on exposed coastal slopes and cliff tops to semi-natural acidic and calcareous grasslands. During the past few years, the importance of church and chapel yards, private lawns and cemeteries, which generally comprise semi-improved neutral grassland has become apparent. These sites are vitally important refugia for grassland fungi, especially in those parts of the county that are dominated by intensive agriculture, or are urbanised.

Grassland fungi sites tend to be managed by one or both of the following:

- Grazing by livestock;
- Mowing/cutting (and removal of grass cuttings).

Records gathered since 2003 have shown that Pembrokeshire is important for grassland fungi. The assemblage of species that is known to occur in the county includes several species that are threatened at UK and European levels, e.g. by habitat loss; intensification of grassland management; scrub encroachment and disturbance of soils.

Plan targets

<i>Code</i>	<i>Target</i>
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GrFung01ME Maintain the extent and range of grasslands and associated habitats which are capable of supporting the full range of grassland fungi in Pembrokeshire.

Goal: For *Clavaria zollingeri* (Violet Coral): Range 7 Site(s) / population(s) by 01/01/2020

Total achieved so far: 8 Site(s) / population(s)

Goal: For *Entoloma bloxamii* (Big Blue Pinkgill): Range 6 Site(s) / population(s) by 01/01/2020

Total achieved so far: 6 Site(s) / population(s)

Goal: For *Hygrocybe calyptriformis* var. *calyptriformis* (Pink Waxcap): Range 1 Site(s) / population(s) by 01/01/2010

Total achieved so far: 51 Site(s) / population(s)

Goal: For *Hygrocybe spadicea* (Date-coloured Waxcap): Population size 3 Site(s) / population(s) by 01/01/2020

Total achieved so far: 3 Site(s) / population(s)

Goal: For *Microglossum olivaceum* (Earth-tongue): Range 13 Site(s) / population(s) by 01/01/2020

Total achieved so far: 12 Site(s) / population(s)

Plan actions

Code	Action
GrFungi01DC01	<p>Record the distribution and species diversity of grassland fungi, and report on the status of grassland fungi in Pembrokeshire, as appropriate.</p> <p>Status: Underway (on schedule)</p> <p>Dates: 01/01/2010 - Ongoing</p> <p>Organisation(s)</p> <p>Lead Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network role:</p> <p>Location(s)</p> <p>Pembrokeshire (County)</p> <p>Most recent progress reports by each reporting organisation:</p> <p>Reporting organisation: Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network</p> <p>Contact name: David Harries</p> <p>Report period: 01/01/2003 - 01/07/2010</p> <p>Progress:</p> <p>A report has been prepared by the Pembrokeshire Fungus</p>

Recording Network to provide an overview of the distribution of fungal Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC) in Pembrokeshire (Vice County 45).

The majority of species identified in this report are associated with semi-natural and semiimproved grassland: an assemblage often known as “ waxcap-grassland” fungi. Their conservation value has been recognised in the local Biodiversity Action Plan which specifically addresses the need to maintain the extent and range of grasslands and associated habitats which support these species.

A species of conservation concern is defined in this report as any species which appears on one or more of the following:

- Red List for Threatened British Fungi - Preliminary Assessment (Evans, 2006).
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species list (2007).
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Section 42 Biodiversity lists and action (Wales).

Code	Action
GrFungi02DC02	<p>Provide training in identification and recording skills within the Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network and for other interested individuals and organizations.</p> <p>Status: Underway (on schedule)</p> <p>Dates: 01/01/2006 - Ongoing</p> <p>Organisation(s)</p> <p>Lead Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network role:</p> <p>Location(s)</p> <p>Pembrokeshire (County)</p>

Code	Action
GrFungi03Aw01	<p>Implement a programme to raise awareness and understanding of grassland fungi conservation issues and requirements in the wider community.</p> <p>Status: Underway (on schedule)</p> <p>Dates: 01/01/2006 - Ongoing</p> <p>Organisation(s)</p> <p>Lead Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network role:</p>

Location(s)

Pembrokeshire (County)

Code

Action

Grfungi04Aw02 Provide advice to landowners and managers of grassland fungi sites as appropriate.

Status: Underway (on schedule)

Dates: 01/01/2006 - Ongoing

Organisation(s)

Lead Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network
role:

Location(s)

Pembrokeshire (County)

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