

Round-leaved Sundew Action Plan

Current Status

Round-leaved sundew occurs on wet acid peat on heaths and amongst sphagnum moss in bogs. It has been recently recorded on over 20 of the peat bogs in the Falkirk area including Barleyside, Blackhill Moss, Candie mire, Drumbroider moss, Dunmore moss, Howierig Muir SSSI, Shielknowes and Grangeneuk moss. It has also been recorded on several heath sites and in woodlands near mire habitats.

The UK distribution of this species is very patchy because of its dependence on peat habitats. Its distribution is mainly focused in northern England, parts of Wales and Scotland. In Scotland this species is most frequent in the north and west with a much lower occurrence through central Scotland and along the east coast.

This species is declining generally as a result of the destruction or modification of the peat habitats on which it survives. Local population trends are unknown, however several large peat bogs have been destroyed by peat extraction activities over the last 30 years with the possible loss of round-leaved sundew. Any further modification or loss of peat bogs in this area is likely to have a negative impact on the local population of this species.

Ecology

The sundew is specially adapted to survive in nutrient-poor peatland conditions. It can release a sticky fluid from long hairs all over its leaves to trap and digest insects, and thus secure the nutrition that it requires. Because it is so specialised the round-leaved sundew is found in few other habitats.

Because of its dependence on wet, peaty habitats this species is a good indicator of the extent and health of peat bog habitats in the Falkirk area. A healthy distribution of this species would indicate a good distribution of relatively intact raised bogs, while a reduction in the number or range of this species would suggest that the quality or extent of raised bog habitat was in decline.

SPECIES PROFILE



Emma Stewart, Forest Enterprise

Common name: Round-leaved Sundew

Scientific name: *Drosera rotundifolia*

Status: Locally Important

Protection:

There is no special protection for this species. However, no wild plants can be picked or dug up without the permission of the landowner.

Associated Habitat and Species Action Plans

Habitats:

Intermediate and Raised Bogs
Heath

Species:

Large heath *Coenonympha tullia*
Liverwort *Lepidozia pearsonii*

Current Factors Affecting the Species

The key factor affecting this species is loss or degradation of the raised and intermediate bog habitat, which it largely depends on in this area.

(See raised and intermediate bog action plan for more details.)

Current Action and Opportunities

A raised and intermediate bog action plan has been produced and is currently being implemented. This should do much to protect the habitat on which this species depends.

Most raised and intermediate bogs in the Falkirk area have been surveyed relatively recently and as such we have a reasonably good picture of the local extent and distribution of this species.

Objectives and Targets

Objective 1

Maintain and where possible increase the current population and distribution of round-leaved sundew.

Target 1.1

- Protect bog sites known to support round-leaved sundew.

Target 1.2

- Enhance degraded raised and intermediate bog sites to at least restore them to a condition where they can support round-leaved sundew.

Target 1.3

- Monitor the distribution and extent of the local round-leaved sundew population.

Habitat Action Plans Implementation of Which Will Contribute to this Target

Habitat Action Plan	Key Actions in that Plan	Helps to Achieve Target(s)
Lowland raised and intermediate bogs	A1-2, B1-8, C1, D4, E1, E3 (These actions are linked to objectives to achieve: “No further reduction in area of raised bog” and to “work towards gaining favourable conservation status for all raised bog sites”)	1

Action	Potential Deliverers		Year to be completed or in place						Meets objective
	Lead	Partners	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2012	
A. Policy and Legislation									
1. Ensure this species, as an indicator of raised and intermediate bogs, is afforded adequate consideration and where possible it and its associated habitats are protected from damaging development through the planing process by: a) Developing appropriate policies within local and structure plans and other strategies as they are written or reviewed. (Ongoing).	Falk C (DS)	HBAG	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
2. Ensure this species, as an indicator of raised and intermediate bogs, is afforded adequate consideration and where possible it and its associated habitats are protected from damaging development through the planing process by: b) Production of supplementary planning guidance. (By 2003).	Falk C (DS)	HBAG	✓						1
B. Site Safeguard and Management									
1. As per lowland raised and intermediate bog action plan.									
C. Species Management and Protection									
D. Advisory									
1. Where possible ensure that training and advisory provision associated with raised bogs includes information about the sundew, its requirements, and its role as an indicator species. (See Action C1, Raised bog plan).	SWT	HBAG, FWAG, SAC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
E. Research and Monitoring									
1. Encourage the reporting of round-leaved sundew by highlighting this plan to bog site owners/managers and requesting records.	HBAG	SWT		✓	✓				1
2. Ensure that recording of sundew is included in any other vegetation survey work undertaken on intermediate and raised bog sites.	HBAG	SWT, SNH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
F. Communication and Publicity									
1. Where possible include this species in awareness raising and education initiatives, in particular highlighting its role as an indicator species for raised bogs.	EARAG	SWT, SNH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
2. Ensure that those implementing the raised bog action plan are aware of its role in achieving the objectives of this plan and take full account of the requirements of round-leaved sundew in their activities.	HBAG		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1

Action	Potential Deliverers		Year to be completed or in place						Meets objective
	Lead	Partners	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2012	
G. Plan Monitoring and Review									
1. Monitor the implementation of actions in this plan annually.	HBAG	All partners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
2. Monitor the completion and effectiveness of the actions in detail and review this plan every 5 years to ensure continued effectiveness, starting in 2007.	HBAG	All partners					✓	✓	All

Abbreviations

EARAG	- Education and Awareness Raising Action Group	SAC	- Scottish Agricultural College
Falk C (DS)	- Falkirk Council Development Services	SNH	- Scottish Natural Heritage
FWAG	- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	SWT	- Scottish Wildlife Trust
HBAG	- Heath and Bog Action Group		

Key contacts

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