

Western Ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria occidentalis*)

This rare plant is endemic to the UK, and is found only in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. It is a mobile, annual species usually associated with arable land, hedgebanks, walls, waste and disturbed ground.

Current status

National status

Western Ramping-fumitory is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and is a UKBAP Priority Species. A survey is currently being undertaken to assess its status in Cornwall.

Status on the network

This species is known to occur on at least three sites on the road verges of the A30 and A39 in Cornwall, but may be more widespread on the soft estate. Wherever it is found, it should be protected and, where possible, enhanced through management.

Current factors affecting the species

Loss/fragmentation of habitat

New road developments and road improvement schemes may lead to the direct loss or fragmentation of habitat of value to this species.

Inappropriate management/deterioration of existing habitat

Insensitive management of roadside verge habitats such as over-tidying and application of herbicides may result in the loss of this species.

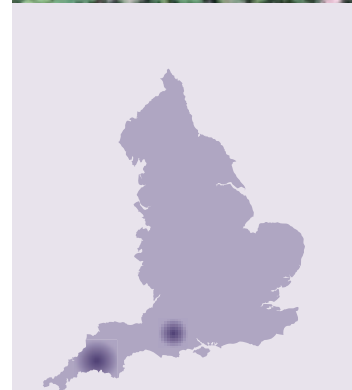
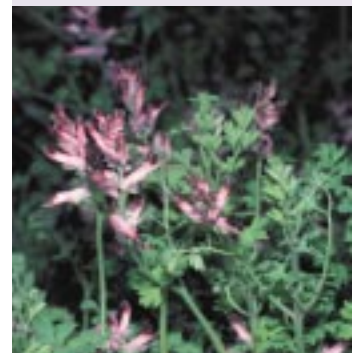
Current action

This species is monitored periodically by local botanical recorders in the south-west.

A survey is currently being undertaken in order to assess the status of the species in Cornwall.

Objectives

The aim of the Highways Agency Species Action Plan for the Western Ramping-fumitory is to implement appropriate management where this species occurs and to ensure that new road developments avoid or adequately mitigate any potential impacts on this species and its habitat.



	Objective	Proposed actions
A	To avoid impacts of new road schemes or improvements on Western Ramping-fumitory.	4
B	To mitigate unavoidable impacts on Western Ramping-fumitory and its habitat and to consider options for habitat management and enhancement.	4, 5
C	To identify and monitor all sites in network area 1 where this species is known to occur and safeguard through appropriate management.	2, 3, 5, 6
D	To raise the awareness of the Managing Agents and Term Maintenance Contractors in network area 1 regarding the significance of Western Ramping-fumitory on the soft estate.	1, 7
E	To review the results of the recent Cornish survey and take into account any implications for management in network area 1.	3, 5, 6

Proposed action

The following table lists the actions required to achieve the objectives set out in this Plan. For some of the actions, potential partners have

been assigned as likely sources of cooperation. Targets are provided to give an indication of the timescale for the proposed action.

	Action	Potential partners	Target
	<i>Policy, guidance and advice</i>		
1	Provide detailed information to HA staff and contractors within network area 1 on the management of roadside verges for the benefit of Western Ramping-fumitory.	-	By 2003
	<i>Surveying</i>		
2	Survey all areas of suitable verge habitat for Western Ramping-fumitory and record results on the Environmental Database.	-	By 2007
3	Liaise with relevant organisations regarding results of surveys and best management practice.	Cornwall Wildlife Trust, EN	By 2004
	<i>Mitigation</i>		
4	For all new road schemes and road improvements in network area 1 include search for records of Western Ramping-fumitory in desk study at stage 1 and in surveys at stage 2 and avoid impacts where possible.	-	Ongoing
5	Ensure that existing sites are managed appropriately to maintain and enhance their value for the species, in particular by avoiding disturbance of plants during the growing season.	-	Ongoing
6	Consider creation of suitable habitat at five sites near to known populations to allow for natural colonisation of new areas by implementation of an appropriate management regime, for example, disturbance of plots on a two to three year rotation.	EN	By 2012
	<i>Communications and publicity</i>		
7	Information on Western Ramping-fumitory should be included in environmental training for HA staff and contractors in network area 1.	-	From 2002

Links with other plans

Although endemic to Cornwall, this species does not currently have an individual action plan within the Cornwall LBAP or the South West Regional BAP.

Lead partner

English Nature is the lead partner for Western Ramping-fumitory in the UKBAP.