

7.5 White rock-rose (*Helianthemum apenninum*) – Lead Partner BSBI

Main Objectives & Key Actions:

- 1) **Maintain and expand the current populations of white rock-rose through favourable management.**
 - Bring Wall's Hill, Daddy Hole and Berry Head into favourable status for the species by 2012.
- 2) **Increase the amount of research and monitoring of the current population.**
 - Establish yearly monitoring programme at known sites – ongoing.
- 3) **Investigate expansion of the current population and re-establish at other historical/suitable sites.**
 - Ongoing.
- 4) **Raise awareness of the importance of the white rock-rose with the community and land managers.**
 - Highlight the importance of the white rock-rose and limestone in Torbay through media, events and communication with land managers by 2012.

7.5.1 Background & Current Status

The white rock-rose grows on limestone seacliffs and has small silvery downy leaves and white petals, flowering between April and July. In Torbay it is currently located at three sites and these are Berry Head, Wall's Hill and Daddyhole (see Figure 12).

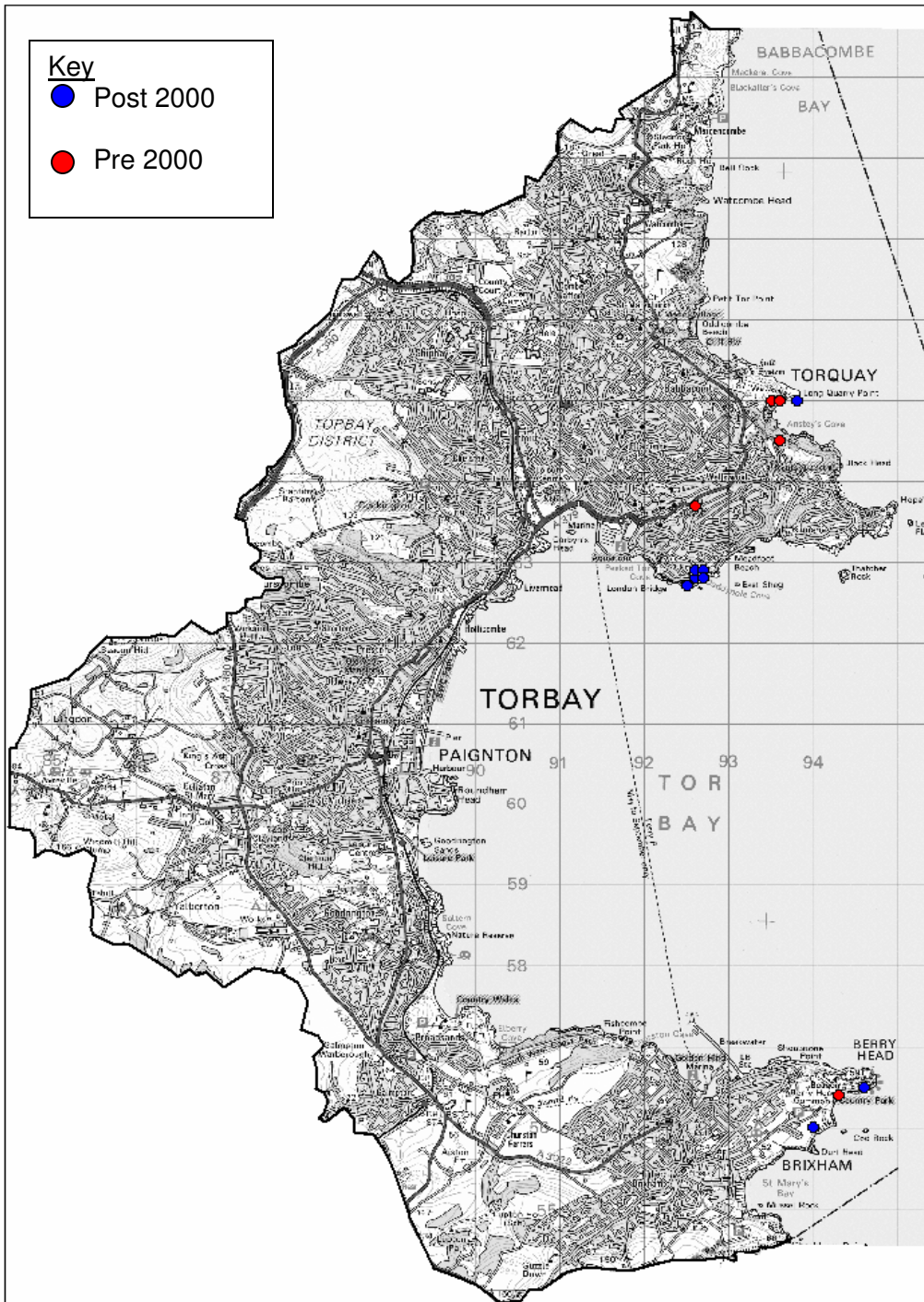
The white rock-rose is confined to carboniferous limestone around Brean Down in Somerset and Devonian limestone in Torbay. It occurs on dry, rocky limestone grassland on south facing slopes. In the UK it is at its northern-most European limit and in the UK it has Nationally Rare Status.

Current species and associated Habitat Protection:

Berry Head, Wall's Hill and Daddyhole have SSSI status.

7.5.2 Current problems/threats to this species:

- Scrub invasion – needs open limestone grassland to survive.
- Lack of up to date knowledge of current status of the white rock-rose.
- Lack of suitable management at current sites.
- Coastal developments and increase in trampling.
- Dog fouling



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Figure 12: Map to show pre and post 2000 White Rock-Rose records. Data was kindly provided by Botanical Society of the British Isles and Devon Biodiversity Records Centre.

Table 17: White Rock-rose Action Plan. Actions that require further funding are shaded in grey.

High priority actions are proposed for completion within the next 3 years (to end of 2009).

Medium priority actions are proposed for completion within the next 6 years (to end of 2012).

Low priority actions are proposed for completion within the next 10 years (to end 2016).

Actions for White Rock-rose Priority Action Plan	Priority (High, Medium and Low)	Objective	Partners	Ongoing Action
Policy & Legislation				
WR1 - Safeguard existing sites and new sites against development through planning control.	H	1	TC, NE	✓
WR2 - Seek to ensure existing and new sites are within SSSIs and CWS.	H	1,2	TC, NE	✓
Species & Site Protection & Management				
WR3 - Look to re-establish populations at identified sites	M	3,4	BSBI, TCCT	✓
WR4 - Maintain populations at new and existing sites through scrub control etc.	H	1,2	TCCT, TC	✓
WR5 - Ensure ecological requirements are taken into account in appropriate management plans.	H	1,2	TC, BSBI, NE, TCCT	✓
Communication & Publicity				
WR6 - Raise the importance of the white rock-rose and limestone grassland with community, land managers, developers etc.	M	5	TCCT, TC, BSBI	✓
Advisory				
WR7 - Advice land managers on current locations of white rock-rose and advise on suitable management regimes.	M	2, 5	TCCT, BSBI	
Research & Monitoring				
WR8 - Look at historical data to identify suitable sites for recolonisation.	L	3	BSBI	
WR9 - Establish annual monitoring of existing sites and research into	M	3	TCCT, BSBI	✓ (Yearly)

expansion of existing population.				
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Abbreviations: Torbay Coast & Countryside (TCCT), Torbay Council (TC), Natural England (NE), Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI).