

Abstracts of two reports, copies of which have been presented to the Society by Dr. R.S. Key.

Compton, S.G.A., Key, R.S., Key, R.J.D. & Parkes, E. (1998)

Control of *Rhododendron ponticum* on Lundy in relation to the conservation of the endemic plant Lundy cabbage *Coincya wrightii*.

English Nature Research Reports: No. 263. (pp iv + 67).

Coincya wrightii and one of its specific beetle plant feeders, *Psylliodes luridipennis*, are listed on the U.K. Biodiversity Action Plan. The U.K. government has therefore committed itself to the conservation of these two species.

Rhododendron ponticum poses a threat to the survival of *Coincya wrightii*, to its associated insect fauna and to the plant communities on the eastern side of Lundy. Archaeological features are also threatened.

The origin, history and distribution of *Rhododendron ponticum* on Lundy are described together with an account of control measures applied to date.

A strategy for the control and eventual eradication of *Rhododendron ponticum* is suggested. The ultimate objective of *Rhododendron* control should be total elimination of the plant from Lundy. Although this may be unrealistic in the short term, *Rhododendron* on Lundy will remain a constant threat and drain on resources. Short and medium term goals should be to remove *Rhododendron* from the areas of greatest ecological and archaeological concern and to halt the spread of the plant elsewhere. Within the constraints of labour, finance and accessibility, *Rhododendron* thickets should be removed in sequence, in accordance with their priority ratings. Monitoring of *Rhododendron* should be carried out at regular intervals and accurate records of control activity should be kept. A revised and costed control plan can then determine what can be achieved in the future with different levels of resources. Cliff-side *Rhododendron* clearance should be undertaken, initially as a pilot, and biological control options might be considered.

Maps of the distribution of *Rhododendron ponticum* and *Coincya wrightii* are the most detailed produced, to date. A list of references is followed by appendices giving site descriptions for *Rhododendron*, the threat to Lundy Cabbage, priorities for control and hazard assessments and proposed notes for visitors and work parties.

Compton, S.G.A. & Key, R.S. (1998)

Lundy Cabbage (*Coincya wrightii*) and its associated insects.

Species Action Plan. English Nature. (pp11).

The overall aim of this action plan is to remove long-term threats to *Coincya wrightii* and its associated animals and to facilitate re-establishment of the plant throughout as much as possible of its natural range.

A biological assessment is given of *Coincya wrightii* and its associated animals (the endemic *Psylliodes luridipennis*, the flightless, island form of *Psylliodes ?napi* and the endemic island sub-species or form *Ceutorhynchus contractus* var. *pallipes*), including the ecology and distribution of the species.

Considerations include: factors leading to loss or decline or limiting recovery of *Coincya wrightii*, including grazing and the spread of *Rhododendron ponticum*; current conservation action including site protection and species protection; proposed action, particularly relating to elimination of *Rhododendron*, and future research and monitoring. A list of references is provided.