

Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* Action Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* is a perennial herb belonging to the Lily family and is widely distributed and common throughout the United Kingdom. The drooping, blue bell shaped flowers that give the plant its name appear from April to June. The bluebell is abundant in broadleaved woodlands and hedgerows, particularly in damp, shaded environments.
- 1.2 The bluebell seeds profusely and also multiplies by offshoots from its bulbs, so usually occurs in masses and is often found carpeting the woodland floor in the spring.

2. Current Status

- 2.1 It is estimated that 25 to 49% of the world bluebell population is found in the UK. Factors causing the bluebell's decline include:
 - Habitat loss, particularly woodland and hedgerows
 - Lack of management and leading to deep shade or competition with vigorous species such as brambles
 - Inappropriate management such as grazing
 - Waterlogging
 - Trampling
 - Competition and hybridisation with Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*. The Spanish bluebell is widely planted and the two species may hybridise where the parent species grow together to form *Hyacinthoides hispanica x non-scripta*.
 - Picking, uprooting and bulb removal, mainly for gardens
- 2.2 Bluebells are protected through provisions in the Wildlife and Countryside 1981 which makes it illegal to intentionally uproot a wild plant and illegal to sell or offer bluebells for sale.

3. Key Sites

- 3.1 Bluebells are particularly prominent at Studley Grange landfill site in Wiltshire and Himley Wood landfill site in the West Midlands.

4. Objectives & Targets

No	Objectives	Targets
4.1	Increase knowledge of the status and distribution of bluebells on all Biffa Waste Services sites and ensure information is recorded appropriately.	Action to be in place by 2005.
4.2	Ensure appropriate conservation and enhancement measures are implemented on sites where bluebells have been recorded and protect existing sites from damage and destruction.	Ongoing.
4.3	Ensure knowledge of the status and distribution of bluebells on Biffa Waste Services sites, and the implementation of the bluebell SAP, is kept up-to-date and revised as appropriate.	Action to be in place by 2007.
4.4	Increase awareness of the bluebell and its conservation on Biffa sites.	Ongoing.

5. Action Plan

There are generic actions for Data Collection & Information Management, Site Management, Monitoring & Audit and Biodiversity Awareness that apply to all Species Action Plans. These are located in a separate 'Generic Action Plans' section that should be read in conjunction with this document.

Please note that the partners identified in the Bluebell Action Plan are not an exclusive list and new partners are both welcome and needed.

Action	Potential Partners	Year						Meets Objective No.
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2013	
5.1 Data Collection & Information Management								
5.1.1 Identify and map the locations of both native and non-native bluebell populations on all Biffa sites through an ecological survey programme.	WT	•	•	•				4.1
5.1.2 Develop a procedure to record and manage bluebell data (as part of a wider BAP information management system).	WT	•						4.1
5.1.3 Implement data management system, recording bluebell data and keeping up-to-date as appropriate.	WT		•	•	•	•	•	4.1
5.1.4 Support research into the impact of Spanish bluebell on populations of native bluebell.	WT, UNI	•	•	•	•	•	•	4.1
5.2 Site Management								
5.2.1 Based on the results of the ecological survey, protect existing bluebell populations.	WT	•	•	•	•			4.2
5.2.2 Undertake a comprehensive programme of bluebell planting and Spanish bluebell removal in appropriate woodlands and other key sites.	WT	•	•	•	•	•	•	4.2
5.2.3 Develop generic management prescriptions to improve sites for bluebells.	WT	•						4.2
5.2.4 Ensure that bluebell management prescriptions are included in Biodiversity Management Modules for sites where the species occurs.	WT	•	•	•				4.2

Action	Potential Partners	Year						Meets Objective No.
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2013	
5.3 Monitoring & Audit								
5.3.1 Develop a monitoring protocol for bluebells on Biffa sites.	WT	•						4.3
5.3.2 Implement a monitoring protocol for bluebells on Biffa sites.	WT		•	•	•	•	•	4.3
5.3.3 Develop an auditing procedure for the bluebell species action plan.	WT, LA	•						4.3
5.3.4 Implement an auditing procedure for the bluebell species action plan.	WT		•	•	•	•	•	4.3
5.3.5 Ensure the bluebell species action plan is reviewed and updated.	WT, LA					•	•	4.3
5.4 Awareness								
5.4.1 Inform relevant site managers of their responsibilities for conserving the bluebell and provide management advice.	WT	•	•	•				4.4
5.4.2 Produce education and interpretive material for relevant Biffa Waste Services stakeholders on the bluebell and its action plan.	LA, WT	•	•	•	•	•	•	4.4
5.4.3 Publish results of the bluebell SAP.	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	4.4

6. Partners

- LA - Local Authority
UNI - Universities
WT - Wildlife Trust