# Plymouth Hoe and Madeira Road County Wildlife Site Management Statement September 2009

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**Area:** 4.9 hectares



**Location:** Plymouth's waterfront overlooking Plymouth Sound

**Habitats present:** Limestone grassland, limestone cliffs and scrub

**Reasons for designation:** The site has 10 Devon Notable Species present including knotted hedge parsley, ivy broomrape, wild clary, sea couch grass, long-bracted sedge, toothed medick, Plymouth thistle and round-leaved cranesbill. The Plymouth thistle *Carduus pycnocephalus* and Plymouth bladder campion *Silene vulgaris spp. macrocarpa* have their only British sites in Plymouth.

**Ownership:** The site is owned by Plymouth City Council and managed by Parks Services.

**Other information:** The site is adjacent to Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site designated for its estuaries, inlets, bays, reefs, atlantic salt meadows, sandbanks and wintering birds.

The site is of also of historical importance, abuts the Plymouth Citadel (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) and has huge landscape value.

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**Introduction**

The site has not been formally in positive management for wildlife prior to this date. This statement aims to set out management principles and actions with a view to achieving positive wildlife management and should be reviewed on a biennial basis.

**Constraints to wildlife**

Recreational pressure on this site is intense because spectacular views it affords over Plymouth Sound. As a consequence, the site is mostly intensively managed by frequent mowing.

The cliffs are generally scrubbed up with ivy, silver ragwort and other species including a patch of Hottentot fig. Partial clearance of these species should be undertaken to expose the geology beneath and to allow wild flowers to thrive.

Current intensive management of the grasslands may endanger some of the important plant species present such as the Plymouth bladder campion and wild clary.

Japanese knotweed is present in a patch on the foreshore.

The site currently has a well managed litter collection regime.

**Management Principles**

- Vegetation removal to be conducted outside the bird nesting season
- Herbicides and pesticides will not be used unless absolutely necessary
- Specifying and using environmentally friendly products
- Recycling the green waste products by composting and chipping
- The Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG5) should be complied with at all times when working near water: http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/PMHO1107BNKG-e-e.pdf?lang=_e

Any proposed departures from the above should be discussed with the PCC Nature Conservation Officer prior to implementation.

**Seeking Environmental Excellence**

This site is one in a network of sites across the city managed by Plymouth City Council which provide ecological connectivity, robustness and resilience against Climate Change. This network also contributes to flood attenuation, enhanced water and air quality and carbon sequestration. As such it contributes to the aims of Plymouth City Council's Environment Policy and Forward Plan 2009-2012, Adopted on 11 August 2009 which seeks Environmental Excellence by 2012.

**Actions**

- Locate Plymouth bladder campion, Plymouth thistle and wild clary by contacting RMH Hodgson, the CWS surveyor for the site
- Implement measures to protect Plymouth bladder campion, Plymouth thistle and wild clary (refer to appendix) by informing maintenance staff of its location and agreeing a less intensive mowing regime.
- Implement measures to protect knotted field parsley (refer to appendix) by informing maintenance staff of its location and avoiding the use of chemicals
- Treatment of Japanese knotweed in 2009, 2010 and 2011. For treatment guidelines refer to: www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/natural_environment/biodiversity/japanese_knotweed/control_of_knotweed.htm
- Report notable species sightings to Devon Biodiversity Records Centre
- Litter picking/strandline clearance after storm events
- Scrub clearance. Care should be taken to check for ivy broomrape (a Devon Notable species, refer to appendix) before cutting back ivy.
- Maintain the area currently managed for limestone grassland (adjacent to the Dome) and add two others. One situated immediately south of the Citadel to be managed by a single annual cut and removal of arisings between late July and August and another south of Madeira Road to be managed by a 10 weekly strim (refer to map below)
- Monitor the success of management by September 2010
- Review this management statement in September 2011

**Appendix**



**Knotted Hedge Parsley**



**Wild Clary**



**Ivy Broomrape**



**Plymouth Bladder Campion**



**Plymouth Thistle**

**Aerial Photograph**



**Site Features Map**

