



Ymddiriedolaeth
Natur
Gwent
Wildlife Trust

Pink Waxcap

Porpolomopsis calyptriformis

Species
Action
Plan



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The pink waxcap, also known as the “Pink Ballerina” is one of the most iconic and readily identifiable of a suite of grassland fungi species that thrive in unimproved pasture, meadows and churchyards. The pink waxcap is listed as a ‘high diversity indicator’ in the JNCC *Guidelines for the Selection of Biological SSSIs* as it tends to occur in only the most diverse grassland fungi sites and its presence warrants more thorough survey for other species. Wales is recognised as being one of the best areas in the world for these colourful grassland fungi assemblages. Identifying grassland fungi sites is challenging, as fruiting bodies are ephemeral, only visible for a few weeks a year, however eDNA techniques are opening up new avenues of survey work year-round.

Status

- ❖ Priority Species - UK Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)
- ❖ Vulnerable - Global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2018)

Threats

- ❖ Habitat mis- or under-management:
 - Insufficient grazing/mowing to maintain short sward;
 - Ploughing or reseeding;
 - Natural succession leading to scrub and woodland development
- ❖ Fertiliser/lime application detrimental to fruiting
- ❖ Trampling and compaction
- ❖ Under-recording, not included in usual site surveys for development
- ❖ Afforestation – tree planting schemes
- ❖ Use of fungicides and moss killer in lawns

Current Action

- ❖ Specifically covered by a Glastir farm prescription
- ❖ Waxcaps are one of the best studied Fungi groups
- ❖ Grassland Fungi book has been published by local experts
- ❖ Plantlife’s “Waxcap Watch” – Citizen Science

	Objectives	Action
A	No net loss of occupied area for existing populations	1,2,3,5
B	Populations increasing in occupied area, abundance and viability	1,2,3,5
C	Pink waxcap habitats increased in size, quality, resilience and connectivity	2,3,5
D	Knowledge and understanding of the species increased, leading to appreciation, sense of responsibility and action	1,2,4

	Key Actions	Target
1	Establish surveys on GWT reserves, signpost volunteers towards public surveys (Waxcap Watch) to monitor existing colonies and find new sites	2024
2	Produce/distribute advice booklet and work with key stakeholders to ensure appropriate habitat management	2025
3	Undertake survey and mapping to identify populations, key areas and opportunities to build connectivity	2027
4	Increase awareness through media and publishing platforms, talks, events, training	2030
5	Respond to potentially damaging developments through the planning process; campaign for better protection of sites including tree planting schemes. Ensure appropriate surveys are undertaken	2030

Lead: Gwent Wildlife Trust

Key partners: TBC