



## **Statement of intent: Manx Biological Recording Partnership**

The purpose of this partnership document is to record our commitment to:

- our shared vision
- our agreed Principles and the Scope of our Partnership
- our continued development of a biological records system

### **Vision:**

To hold biological information to support the data gathering network, in a well-managed database and mapping system, which is comprehensive, dynamic, adequately resourced and widely accessible with appropriately controlled access.

The continued development of the Isle of Man's biological records system, facilitated by the Manx Biological Recording Partnership (MBRP), is essential to sustain and enhance the rich biological diversity of the Isle of Man and its waters and understand it in a wider international context. It is a requirement of Objective 3 of the Biodiversity Strategy. It also helps to fulfil many of the needs and ambitions of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man. It will assist in understanding and raising awareness of the Manx inheritance of wild plants and animals, enabling better engagement with the public and the education of all. Without an understanding of the distribution and abundance of species and habitats it is impossible to make informed decisions for the protection of the Island's wildlife, or to facilitate research and survey to fill the gaps in our knowledge. This is important for monitoring the arrival and spread of invasive non-native species. It is vital to maintain such a system to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio Convention, 1992), to which the Isle of Man is a signatory

### **Principles of our partnership:**

1. To encourage openness and the sharing of information, concerns, ideas and, where possible, resources.
2. To do what is best for the conservation of our biological diversity and to engage the public with our wildlife heritage.
3. To establish the best working methods for biological data flows for the Island.
4. To support the Isle of Man Biodiversity Strategy and the international drive for conservation of biological diversity.
5. To continue to use the NBN Atlas Isle of Man as the primary means of providing publicly available information about the distribution of Manx flora and fauna.

### **Our Partnership will:**

1. be managed by a Steering Group made up of at least the three Core Partners (DEFA, MNH, MWT) and any of their officers responsible for the Biological Records System.
2. include relevant government bodies, relevant non-government organisations and

voluntary recorders; others may be added as appropriate. They will engage with the partnership through relevant meetings.

3. look at options for funding and seek the resources to maintain a fully operating Biological Records System and to meet partnership needs.

### **The Partnership's objectives:**

The Partnership will work towards maintaining a Biological Records System which will:

1. cover the Isle of Man and its territorial sea.
2. meet the biological information needs of all its partners and the wider community.
3. work towards having the functions and providing the services set out by the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) for biological records centres and aim for Accreditation with the [Association of Local Environmental Records Centres](#). These functions and services include holding species and habitat data, combining or linking with existing databases and having maps, collections, archives, aerial photographs and other biological information, primarily in digital format.
4. work towards the highest achievable current standards of data validity, verification, and completeness.
5. support the needs of the biological recording community on the Island in terms of communication, skills and long-term sustainability for continued dataflow and expertise.
6. encourage the sharing of data, and participation, at a wider British Isles scale, through membership of communities of practice such as the NBN, ALERC and NFBR.

### **Signatories:**

Botanical Society of British Isles

Butterfly Conservation UK

Department of Environment Food and Agriculture

Isle of Man Fungus Group

Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society

Manx Bat Group

Manx BirdLife

Manx National Heritage

Manx Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch

Manx Wildlife Trust

Sea Search

