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Alpine Rock-cress *Arabis alpina*

This rare arctic alpine was discovered new to Britain in 1887 by Henry Hart, an Irish botanist and mountaineer. It is restricted to a small number of rocky ledges high up in the Cullin Mountains on the Isle of Skye.

Bristol Rock-cress *Arabis scabra*

This famous rarity grows on exposed south facing limestone rocks in the Avon Gorge near Bristol. It is extremely drought tolerant and will sit out desiccating summer droughts as a small compact tuft of leaves. It was first documented by the pioneering botanist John Ray who found it growing in the gorge at St. Vincent's Rock in 1686. It is gratifying that over three hundred years later it can still be found in the same location.

Lamb's Succory *Arnoseris minima*

This annual weed of cornfields in eastern and south-eastern England was once quite widespread. The increased use of fertilisers and herbicides caused a swift decline and it became extinct in 1971. The Rare British Plants Nursery is working with Natural England on a recovery project in Norfolk that will return Lamb's Succory to sympathetically managed arable farmland.

Upright Apple Moss *Bartramia stricta*

In the British Isles Upright Apple-moss is only known from Stanner Rocks in Radnorshire where it grows on steep south facing dolerite rocks.

Small Hare's-ear *Bupleurum baldense*

This diminutive annual flower grows on rabbit grazed coastal grassland. It has been lost from many sites as a result of coastal developments and the growth of more competitive vegetation. It is now restricted to just two locations, Berry Head in Devon and coastal grassland near Beachy Head in East Sussex.

Fingered Sedge *Carex digitata*

This nationally scarce sedge grows in open woods, scree and hedge banks. It favours damp, slightly shaded sites with a high calcium content and good drainage.

Grey Mouse-ear *Cerastium brachypetalum*

This annual plant of grassy banks and tracksides has only ever been recorded in Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Kent. It was first recorded at Wymington in Bedfordshire in 1947.

Glabrous Sea Mouse-ear *Cerastium diffusum* var. *glabrum*

This very rare and distinctive variety of Sea Mouse-ear is completely hairless (Sea Mouse-ear is usually very hairy). In the British Isles it has only been recorded from a small scattering of sites in Cardiganshire, notably Ynyslas dunes. The only record of it outside of Britain is from Châtelailon, Charente Maritime, in south-west France where it was found growing on shingle by the sea in 1889.

Strapwort *Corrigiola litoralis*

This annual of bare ground around the edges of lakes and pools is only known from two sites in Britain, Slapton Ley in Devon and Loe Pool in Cornwall.

Stinking Hawksbeard *Crepis foetida*

In Britain Stinking Hawksbeard has only ever been known from the Dungeness Peninsula in Kent where it grew on bare shingle close to the sea. It was declared extinct in the 1980s and has subsequently been the subject of a number of species recovery projects. After a number of failed attempts, new populations have successfully established and the Hawksbeard population now numbers thousands of plants.

Red-tipped Cudweed *Filago lutescens*

This annual plant favours arable field margins and open sandy ground such as that found on commons and heathland. Like many other annual weeds, it declined following agricultural intensification.

Beacons Hawkweed *Hieracium breconicola*

This is one of the rarest plants on the planet. Prior to a species recovery project undertaken by The Rare British Plants Nursery, the total world population comprised a single lonely plant. This last remaining plant maintained a tenuous foothold on a windswept mountain ledge in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Fortunately, Kew Gardens had seeds in storage at the Millennium Seed Bank and this allowed us to take up the challenge of saving Beacons Hawkweed from extinction. Following consultation with Kew, seeds were taken out of cold storage and sent to our rare plants nursery. We successfully germinated the seeds and created a backup population in cultivation. We began to return plants to the wild in 2021. It is hoped that by restocking areas that are beyond the reach of hungry sheep a new self-sustaining population will become established on inaccessible cliff ledges. Initial indications are very encouraging, many of the introduced plants have successfully established and are now flowering.

Toadflax-leaved St John's-wort *Hypericum linariifolium*

This globally rare St. John's-wort is restricted to the western coasts of mainland Europe and has reached its northern limit in North Wales. It is a short-lived perennial of steep, south facing rocky slopes that are prone to summer droughts. In Britain it is now restricted to Cornwall, Devon and Caernarvonshire. It has been lost from some sites as a result of scrub encroachment. It hybridises with Trailing St. John's-wort *H. humifusum* and this has resulted in the loss of Toadflax-leaved St. John's-wort in some regions.

Dwarf Rush *Juncus capitatus*

The Dwarf Rush is a tiny annual that is restricted to one site in North Wales and a scattering of sites in Cornwall. It grows on exposed mud around seasonal ponds and on open cliff-top grassland that is seasonally droughted.

Prostrate Juniper *Juniperus communis* ssp. *hemisphaerica*

In the British Isles this rare subspecies of Juniper is only known from Pembrokeshire and the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall. All existing populations are extremely small. The Lizard population was first recorded in 1871 and was described as occurring 'in abundance' but the population is now down to just ten wild plants.

Least Lettuce *Lactuca saligna*

Least Lettuce is an autumn or spring germinating annual that occurs on sandy shingle and old sea walls. It was once known from many sites in south east England but it is now known from five locations. Its dramatic decline is attributable to sea-wall refurbishment and river engineering works.

Slender Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus angustissimus*

This is an annual plant of drought-prone soils on sea-cliffs and sunny exposed banks. It is predominantly a plant of southern England and has declined as a result of scrub encroachment and changes in land management.

Fen Woodrush *Luzula pallescens*

This incredibly rare plant is found at just two sites in Britain; Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen, both in Huntingdonshire. Populations fluctuate and it has been declared extinct on a number of occasions, only to reappear from the seed bank. The Rare British Plants Nursery is working in partnership with Natural England on a recovery project that will see the establishment of new Fen Woodrush populations.

Heath Cudweed *Omalotheca sylvatica*

Heath Cudweed is a short-lived perennial of open habitats. It is associated with various habitat types including heathland, sand dunes, and forestry rides. Once widespread throughout the British Isles it has declined substantially since the 1960s. The reasons for this decline are long and varied but most likely relate to changes in land management and an absence of open ground that is required for seedling establishment.

Shetland Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella peleteriana* ssp. *subpeleteriana*

This very special plant is endemic to the Shetlands and is found nowhere else in the world. There are three separate populations, two of which are grazed by sheep which prevents flowering.

Sea Knotgrass *Polygonum maritimum*

Sea Knotgrass is a perennial plant of sand and shingle beaches where it is found growing just above the limit of the highest tides. It is found along the southern coast of England and may benefit from a warming climate.

Drooping Saxifrage *Saxifraga cernua*

This rare alpine Saxifrage is known from a handful of mountain tops in the Scottish Highlands where it grows in sheltered rocky crevices. Detailed monitoring over the last two decades has shown significant declines which are probably attributable to a changing climate.

York Groundsel *Senecio eboracensis*

York Groundsel is an English endemic that was once known from many locations around the City of York. It typically grew on disturbed ground next to railway lines, carparks and pavements. The redevelopment of brownfield sites and the increased usage of herbicide by the city council caused a swift decline and the species became globally extinct in 2003. No plants were held in cultivation and the species only survived as seeds that were being held in long-term cold storage at Kew's Millennium Seed Bank. In 2022 The Rare British Plants Nursery obtained seeds from the Millennium Seed Bank and established York Groundsel in cultivation. The following year we returned seeds to various locations around York city centre. The project has been a success. In summer 2023 York Groundsel flowered in the City of York for the first time in over twenty years.

Shepherd's Needle *Scandix pecten-veneris*

This arable weed was once so abundant that it impeded mechanical harvesters. The widespread use of chemical herbicides initiated a catastrophic decline. It is now a nationally scarce species and continues to decline. The material on display here at the Chelsea Flower Show originates from an arable field in Northamptonshire. Shortly after seeds were collected the crop was sprayed with herbicide and the Shepherd's Needle has not been seen since.

Annual knawel *Scleranthus annuus*

The Annual Knawel occurs in a range of habitat types including; soil pockets on summer droughted rock outcrops, tracksides on heathlands and commons, and arable field margins. It has declined significantly throughout its range as a result of intensive agricultural practices and the loss of heathlands and commons.

Spanish Catchfly *Silene otites*

In Britain Spanish Catchfly is restricted to Breckland where it can be found on well-drained shallow soils that are associated with heaths, tracks and roadsides. It declined significantly in the 20th century as a result of agricultural intensification.

Brecon Dandelion *Taraxacum breconense*

Brecon Dandelion is endemic to Wales and is found nowhere else in the world. It was once known from a dozen sites in Monmouthshire and Breconshire but has been lost from most of these as a result of changes in land management, agricultural pollution and overgrazing by sheep. It is now critically endangered and threatened with extinction. The Rare British Plants Nursery has just commenced work on a species recovery project that will establish new populations of Brecon Dandelion in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Kew's Millennium Seed Bank supplied us with seeds and we now have a back-up population of the Brecon Dandelion in cultivation. A number of sites have been identified that could support this special Dandelion and we will be introducing cultivated plants to these locations early next year.

Honewort *Trinia glauca*

Honewort is a rare plant of dry stony limestone turf. It is dioecious and behaves either as a biennial or a monocarpic perennial. It is restricted to a scattering of sites in North Somerset, Gloucestershire, and South Devon. It was first recorded in Britain from St. Vincent's Rock in the Avon Gorge by William Turner in 1562. It has been lost from a number of sites as a result of scrub encroachment.

Spotted Rock-rose *Tuberaria guttata*

This beautiful little annual flower grows on bare patches of thin dry soil that can be found within coastal heaths. There are a small handful of sites in North Wales and it was recently discovered for the first time in Scotland. It is also known from coastal locations in western Ireland. The flowers open in the morning but the petals have usually fallen by lunchtime.

Yellow vetch *Vicia lutea*

This nationally scarce annual vetch is associated with a range of coastal habitats including; scrubby grassland, shingle at the top of the high tide mark and sea-cliffs. It is the only yellow flowered *Vicia* in the British Isles.

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