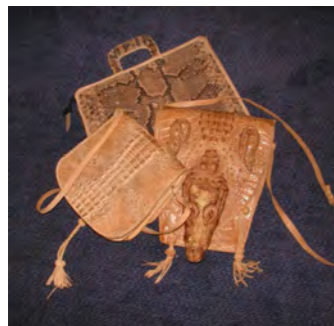
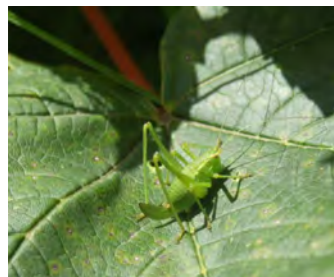




Zebra skin



African handbags made of python and crocodile skins



A new site for speckled bush crickets was discovered by Joyce Quilliam and Gail Jeffcoate at Glen Maye ASSI. There is only one other known site on the Island for this protected species.

(Photo: Wildflowers of Mann)

Endangered Species Bill 2009

The Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act 1981 provides controls on the movement of specimens such as live parrots, orchids, rare hardwoods and ivory products and other specimens regulated in a system set up under the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, or CITES.

A Bill has been drafted to replace this Act and this has now been accepted for a second reading in the House of Keys. The Department intends to replace the current legislation with updated legislation that brings it up to date with the requirements of CITES, which is binding on the Isle of Man.

The review project started by updating the lists of regulated species in 2004, introducing a standardised, internationally recognised permit and enacting legislation that allows the adoption of lists used elsewhere. As a result, the regulated list of specimens is Annexes A, B and C of EU Regulation 338/97 which is updated approximately every two years, following changes to the lists at the conference of the parties to the Convention.

A consultation on the Bill was undertaken at the end of 2008 and a summary of the responses can now be found on the Consultations page of the Department's website <http://www.gov.im/daff/ConsultationDetail.gov?id=47>.

The Bill would introduce clearer procedures, standardised definitions, better enforcement and options for simpler processes, such as the provision of pet ownership certificates allowing multiple movements and reducing administration. The Department hopes that Royal Assent can be provided early in 2010.

Dr Richard Selman

New Manx species!

2009 saw the welcome return of Prof Garth Foster, the water beetle expert, who has visited the Isle of Man before and this year returned with his wife Susan and Dutch colleagues, Jan Cuppen and Arja Span, targeting some habitats that have not been worked adequately. The result was a very impressive 10 species added to the list for the Isle of Man. These included species that seem to be extending their ranges north, as a result of warmer conditions, such as the squeak beetle *Hygrobia hermanni*, a living fossil that is also the noisiest water beetle, when handled. Some of the 'new' species may have been overlooked but actually present for a long time, such as the mudslinger *Georissus crenulatus*. In addition, six species were recorded that have not been seen here for about a hundred years.

Dr Richard Selman

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Biodiversity Matters



Issue 2 Newsletter of the DAFF Wildlife and Conservation Division July 2009

Areas of Special Scientific Interest

The Isle of Man contains many areas of particular interest for their wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. The best examples of this natural heritage are given legal protection as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs).

There are currently 14 sites designated and, in total, they cover 2,125.84 hectares (= 5,252.95 acres). The designation documents for each site will soon be available on the DAFF website see: www.gov.im/daff

Currently 3.55% of Island is designated and we aim to designate at least 10% of the land area of the Island (to be in line with equivalent levels of protection elsewhere in the British Isles). In the current financial year DAFF has a target for a minimum of an additional four sites, or 200ha, to be designated as Areas of Special Scientific Interest by March 2010.

Once designated, we work with the landowners to agree, and in some cases pay for, appropriate management to be undertaken. However, often the current management is ideal.

If you are an owner or tenant of land within an ASSI and would like to know more about the **Management Agreements** on offer in addition to your Countryside Care Scheme payments then please contact us.

A leaflet is available if you would like to know more about ASSI designation.

Aline Thomas

Last chance to book for international conference

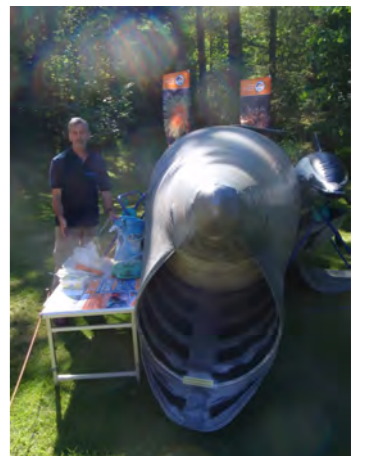
'**Basking Sharks: A Global Perspective**' is the international basking shark workshop which DAFF and Manx Basking Shark Watch are hosting on the Isle of Man from 2nd to 5th August. Pre-conference activities start on 31st July.

Contact us for a programme and to book a place.

Dr Fiona Gell and Laura Hanley

The Island's ASSIs:

1. Central Ayres
2. Langness, Derbyhaven and Sandwick
3. Jurby Airfield
4. Ballaugh Curragh
5. Ballacrye Meadow
6. Rosehill Quarry, Billown
7. Ramsey Mooragh Shore
8. Cronk y Bing
9. Dhoon Glen
10. Eary Vane
11. Glen Rushen
12. Poyll Vaaish
13. Glen Maye
14. Greeba Mountain and the Central Hills



Cool Seas Road Show on Tynwald Day





Sea anemones and hydroids
Photo: Chris Wood, Seasearch

Marine planning for sustainable use

Government is committed to sustainable multiple uses of the sea and to do this it has set up a Marine Spatial Planning Group in which DAFF plays a leading role.

The other government departments involved are the Department of Transport (the seabed owners, as well as being responsible for shipping), the Department of Local Government and the Environment (responsible for spatial planning on land) and the Department of Trade and Industry (responsible for minerals and other marine developments).

The project will employ a project officer for three years to draw up draft planning documents and to consult all interest groups in a similar way to the planning system on land.

Liz Charter

Bat and buildings



Brown-long eared bat found in a barn during renovation works

The Division is frequently called on to advise on works where bats are found, for the benefit of both the property owner and the bats.

This year the work so far has involved saving hibernating bats during window replacements in dwellings and retaining suitable crevices in the exterior walls at weatherproof points, advising a local authority on refurbishments affecting a building with a large bat roost, advising on chapel and barn conversions with bats, and surveying a ruin and a not quite so ancient Old Nobles for another department (bats were found in the former but not the latter).

Welcome news is that a check of the old St John's Mill found signs of bat use by a couple of bats. Bat access had been designed in when this building was rebuilt and the bats resident had to be removed. It had been deteriorating greatly and would have been lost to the bats too without refurbishment. Previous observations of bat activity in the Mill had not recorded use of the new bat access, but it has now been given a thumbs up by the bats.

Dr Richard Selman

Manx Marine Nature Reserve Project

DAFF have a project to establish the Island's first Marine Nature Reserve by 2011. This exciting project aims to bring together all users of the sea to identify the best possible site for a Marine Protected Area that will safeguard some of our very special marine life while bringing opportunities for education, recreation and tourism and also promoting sustainable fisheries and healthier seas around the Isle of Man. Since October 2008 we have been holding public meetings and consulting with fishermen, other users of the sea and the general public on the idea of a Marine Nature Reserve. The next stage will be to set up a stakeholder advisory group and then to work closely with users of the sea to choose the best possible place for the Marine Nature Reserve. For this project to be a success we are relying on the local knowledge of fishermen, divers and other users of the sea and we want as many people as possible to get involved in the project.

If you are not already on our stakeholder list please get in touch with us and we will keep you updated.

Dr Fiona Gell and Laura Hanley

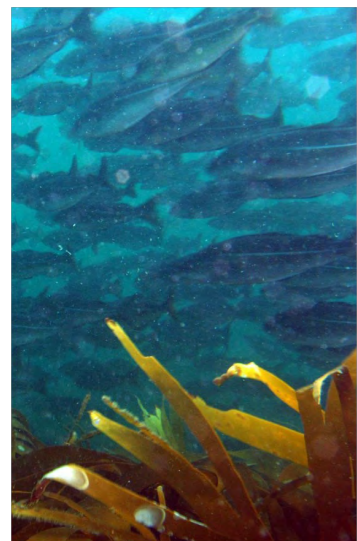


Photo: Phil Roriston

The Rio Convention

The Rio Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), apart from being a bit of a mouthful, is an important international agreement to conserve wild plants and animals, ecosystems, the genetic variety of living things and the life processes which support us. It was drawn up in 1992 and has been signed by nearly every country in the world.

The Island is signatory to a number of these international agreements through the UK but not yet signed up to this Convention. DAFF is starting a consultation process this autumn to tell people about the convention and why its important and what it would mean for us.

We know that we are well on the way to meeting many of the requirements, to have a network of protected areas, to ensure government plans, policies and programmes take account of biodiversity, to keep up to date records of species and habitats and to offer incentives to land managers for managing biodiversity on their land.

Liz Charter

Conservation, Communication and Consultation

Come and hear about the work being done to conserve wildlife by joining the **Manx Nature Conservation Forum**.

The Forum was launched on World Wetlands Day—2nd February—when local wildlife groups, individuals and the Wildlife and Conservation Division came together to discuss the priorities for nature conservation on the Island.

The Forum is chaired by Dudley Butt MLC, Member for Wildlife and Conservation and meets regularly for Open Forum Meetings which everyone is welcome to attend and Forum Core Group Meetings, which are meetings on key topics that are attended by one representative of each voluntary group. A very successful open meeting was held on 8th July when Dr Bob Brown gave a presentation on the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland and the benefits of signing up to the CBD.

If you would like further information and to add your details to the mailing list for future Forum events, please contact me.

Aline Thomas

Manx Flora Atlas

In Autumn 2008 the Island's wildflower experts (from the Manx Wildlife Trust, the Wildflowers of Mann, Manx National Heritage, DAFF, the Centre for Manx Studies and Botanical Society of the British Isles) formed the Manx Flora Working Group with the aim of publishing a book detailing the rarity and distribution of the Island's flora in 2013.

Over the winter, a team of willing volunteers (including Division staff) were recruited and trained up and this year have begun surveying 70 of the 172 2x2km grid squares (tetrads) that divide up the Island. We are now half-way through the first survey season and there have already been a number of exciting finds, with the most notable being the re-discovery of lesser twayblade, last recorded in the Isle of Man in 1881! If you would like to get involved in this exciting project, contact the Wildlife Division of DAFF. You **can jump right in with surveying this year or sign up for next year's training and survey programme.**

Dr Peter McEvoy

Some interesting heath land plants:



Crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* growing within the Greeba Mountain and Central Hills ASSI



Round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* just coming into flower



Lesser twayblade orchid *Neottia cordata* (was *Listera cordata*) on a bed of sphagnum moss