



**M8 BAILLIESTON TO NEWHOUSE
UPDATED 2007**

**YOUNG'S HELLEBORINE
SURVEY REPORT 2006**

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INTRODUCTION

- 1 This short report describes a study in July 2006 into the recorded presence of the specially-protected plant species, Young's Helleborine (*Epipactis youngiana*) that lies within the 'footprint' of the M8 Baillieston to Newhouse scheme in North Lanarkshire. The study was required to prevent any loss or disruption to the site of Young's Helleborine during future proposed works.
- 2 Detailed, recent consultations with the local biological recorder (the recorder for the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)) determined the previously recorded location of Young's Helleborine that lies about 50m south of the A8 (shown on Figure 1). Consultation clarified the location of Young's helleborine by the A8 (at NS727628) at the western edge of a line of goat willow scrub on an east-west embankment (about 50m south of the A8). The most recent monitoring of the site was in 2001 when about 14 plants of Young's helleborine were recorded at the locality. The site has not been subject to monitoring by the BSBI since then. The consultee also noted that no other localities for the species were known by the A8 corridor and that the above-mentioned locality was the only known locality by the A8 corridor.

SURVEY

- 3 Woodland and scrub habitat that lies within the potentially affected vicinity of the road scheme (along the line of the proposed route and land north to the A8 as shown on Figure 1), was carefully surveyed on the 21st July 2006 by an experienced botanist for the presence of Young's helleborine and other helleborine species, e.g. broad-leaved helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) and narrow-lipped helleborine (*Epipactis leptochila*). The survey focussed particularly on woodland and scrub habitats that have developed on the site of spoil heaps, of which the main area is the 'rectangular-shaped' area of woodland and scrub habitat through which the road scheme is located. This area of woodland is also bisected by a powerline with pylons.
- 4 No plants of Young's helleborine were found to be present within the area surveyed, although approximately 100 narrow-lipped and 12 broad-leaved helleborines were found within the 'rectangular-shaped' woodland and scrub that lies close to the road improvement scheme and the powerline and to the south of the record site of Young's helleborine.

REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES

- 5 Reasonable avoidance measures will be required to protect the recorded site of Young's helleborine (see Figure 1) especially as the site lies close to a logical access route to the road scheme and powerline from the A8.
- 6 These should include the following:
 - An exclusion area (about 50m across in each direction), clearly marked with the location of the Young's helleborine at its centre (based on BSBI Grid reference). Post and wire fencing should be installed to demarcate the edge of this exclusion area. The use of barbed wire on the fence is probably not necessary as adjacent farmland has not been used for livestock grazing for some years.

- Briefing of site managers and/or Contractors to ensure those working in the area are aware of the exclusion area, its purpose, and the legal requirement to protect Young's helleborine. Signage on the fencing itself would also be useful.
- Regular monitoring of the exclusion area to ensure that no accidental incursion has occurred and to ensure that any damaged fencing is repaired in a timely manner.

