

Maidenhair Fern is one of our rarest ferns which occurs infrequently in the UK. In NW England it only grows in a few places round Morecambe Bay. It likes calcareous cliffs where its roots are protected. It can be found in grykes on Limestone Pavement in places like the Burren. It was found growing naturally by the Coastguard Station and in the Quarry at Arnside, (sites 1 and 2). With agreement from the land owner some seedlings were removed and grown on in 2018. 2 plants were planted out in Ashmeadow and the rest were grown on to produce spores and also for use by the BOOM project. They planted 3 colony sites here (Woodwell and 2 at Storth Cutting). Adiantum is frost hardy and some fronds stay green all winter. However it can not tolerate drought and prefers tufa rock where the water drips down the rock face. After unsuccessful attempts with plug plants at Woodwell in 2018, spores were blown onto the tufa in 2019 and 2021 and by 2023 new seedlings were growing. Additional plug plants were added by BOOM in 2023. These are doing well.



Above: seedlings at Woodwell.2023  
Right: fronds by the Coastguard's Station with icicles.

#### Adiantum capillus-veneris 2024

4 figure	Site	Grid Ref	Recorder	Date	Number	Comments
4578	1: Quarry wall native site	SD4513678412	AK	09/06/23	around 12	12 plus plants on rock face. All showing damage from Dec 2022 freeze. <b>June 2024:</b> At least 39 plants including seedlings.
4578	2: rock by coastguard donor site	SD4515678455	AK	09/06/23	lots	lots of plants in the cracks on rock face. All showing damage from Dec 2022 freeze. <b>June 2024</b> , plants recovering with a few new seedlings
4578	3: Ashmeadow	SD4525778499	AK	09/06/23	2 plants	2 plants were put in in 2019. Both doing OK in <b>June 2024</b> with possible new seedling.
4674	4: Woodwell	SD4648574402	LF	08/06/23	23 plus 3 young	The plants were 2 years old plants put in in April 2023 The seedlings were from spores blown onto the rock in 2021. <b>June 2024:</b> 7adults and 3 seedlings doing well.
4780	5: Storth cutting	SD4740080354	AK/HM	05/09/23	10 plugs	planted in tufa streak on rock side across ditch. <b>June 2024:</b> 3 plants doing well
4780	6: Storth cutting	SD4742880390	AK/HM	05/09/23	11 plugs	11 seedlings planted on cliff by path across ditch by bridge plus 2 a bit further on <b>June 2024:</b> Only 1 plant found but mud too deep to get close so may be more.

