

NORFOLK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Ref 1/S21	Tranche 1	Species Action Plan 21
Plan Author:	English Nature	
Plan Co-ordinator:	English Nature	
Plan Leader:		
Date:	Stage:	
31 December 1998	Final Draft	
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NAIL FUNGUS

(*Poronia punctata*)

The nail fungus is a rare fungus, but just how rare is not clear. There are over 200 records on the British Mycological Society's Database but some of these will be duplicated. Like a number of other 'high profile' fungi it is likely to be over-represented in the database. There is also reference to the occurrence in Britain of *Poronia erici*. This species is smaller but has larger spores. The two have probably been confused and may indeed not be distinct.

1. CURRENT STATUS

National Status

- Nail fungus is possibly the rarest fungus in Europe. Formerly widespread in the UK, it is now confined to the New Forest, and is otherwise found only in a few places in south-east Europe. The fungus is listed on the GB Red List as endangered and in the IUCN/WCMC Red Data List as undetermined.
- The vast majority of records (and all recent ones) are from Hampshire but a few of the older records are from other regions of England.

Norfolk Status

- Possibly a single extant site at Holme within the North Norfolk Natural Area. (Report of it occurring at Holme in the 1960s.)
- The publicly accessible BMS Database does not usually include exact localities but the following Norfolk records for *Poronia punctata* appear on the database:

1873	Hunstanton
1874	Yarmouth
1941	vc 27
1944	vc27

2. CURRENT FACTORS CAUSING LOSS OR DECLINE IN NORFOLK

- Changes in agricultural practices, particularly the decline in the use of horses and the loss of unimproved grasslands (particularly hay meadows).

3. CURRENT ACTION IN NORFOLK

- None.

4. ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

National

- Survey to confirm the status of the species in the UK.
- Maintain the population at viable levels in the New Forest.

- If feasible, restore to ten former sites by 2004.
- Investigate ecological requirements to aid more effective conservation management.

Norfolk

- Survey to confirm the status of the species in Norfolk.
- Maintain the population at viable levels at any extant sites.

Nail Fungus - Norfolk Action Plan

NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.2	Site Safeguard and Management			
5.2.1	Encourage positive management for this species at remaining sites especially the traditional practice of pony grazing in the New Forest and the maintenance of improved grassland particularly hay meadows.	Encourage positive management for this species at Holme if it occurs.	NWT	
5.2.2	Seek to ensure the needs of this species are taken into account for any SSSI management plan where it occurs.	Ensure the needs of this species are taken into account in the management plan of the Holme site.	EN, NWT	
5.3	Species Management and Protection			
5.3.1	If feasible restore to ten former sites by 2004.	<p>Collect specimens of horse and donkey dung from sites, culture them in 'lab' and examine for <i>Poronia</i> fruiting bodies. Many dung fungi are much more frequently observed on cultured dung which can be kept moist.</p> <p>Collect and culture rabbit (and hare) dung from coastal sites and examine for <i>Poronia</i> fruiting bodies.</p>	<p>Norfolk Fungus Study Group</p> <p>Norfolk Fungus Study Group</p>	
5.4	Advisory			
5.4.1	Ensure landowners and managers of re-discovered sites are aware of the presence and importance of this species and appropriate methods of habitat management for its conservation.	Ensure landowners and managers of re-discovered sites are aware of the presence and importance of this species and appropriate methods of habitat management for its conservation.	NWT, DEFRA (RDS), EN	

Nail Fungus - Norfolk Action Plan

NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.5	Future Research and Monitoring			
5.5.1	Carry out a survey in the New Forest to establish current status of this species.	Carry out a survey at Holme to establish current status of this species.	NWT	
		Attempt to contact as many owners as possible of horses (and donkeys) kept on pastures within 2-3km of the Norfolk coast and to examine dung in situ. Although not restricted to coastal pastures, several Norfolk records are coastal and <i>Poronia erici</i> (which may be the same species) is coastal in Europe.	Norfolk Fungus Study Group	
5.5.2	Consider research into the ecological requirements of this species to assess whether it is a suitable candidate for re-introduction or translocation.	Literature search to provide maximum information about Norfolk records of species (and <i>Poronia erici</i>).	Norfolk Fungus Study Group	
5.5.3	Promote research on the effects of veterinary products used for horses on the ecology of this species.			
5.5.4	Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC or BRC so that it can be incorporated in national databases.	Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC or BRC and local BRC so that it can be incorporated in national databases.	NWT	
5.5.5	Provide information annually to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre on the UK status of the species to contribute to maintenance of an up-to-date global Red Data List.			

NORFOLK DISTRIBUTION

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

(This guidance is a general summary; for detailed information or advice consult the references or contacts below.)

REFERENCES AND CONTACTS

Norfolk Fungus Study Group
Dr A R Leech
3 Eccles Road
Holt
Norfolk
NR25 6HJ

PLAN PROGRESS

	Norfolk Action	Comments
5.2.1	Encourage positive management for this species at Holme if it occurs.	
5.2.2	Ensure the needs of this species are taken into account in the management plan of the Holme site.	
5.3.1	<p>Collect specimens of horse and donkey dung from sites, culture them in 'lab' and examine for <i>Poronia</i> fruiting bodies. Many dung fungi are much more frequently observed on cultured dung which can be kept moist.</p> <p>Collect and culture rabbit (and hare) dung from coastal sites and examine for <i>Poronia</i> fruiting bodies.</p>	
5.4.1	Ensure landowners and managers of re-discovered sites are aware of the presence and importance of this species and appropriate methods of habitat management for its conservation.	
5.5.1	<p>Carry out a survey at Holme to establish current status of this species.</p> <p>Attempt to contact as many owners as possible of horses (and donkeys) kept on pastures within 2-3km of the Norfolk coast and to examine dung in situ. Although not restricted to coastal pastures, several Norfolk records are coastal and <i>Poronia erici</i> (which may be the same species) is coastal in Europe.</p>	
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