

NORFOLK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

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Plan Author:	English Nature	
Plan Co-ordinator:	English Nature	
Plan Leader:	Peter Lambley	
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ORANGE-FRUITED ELM-LICHEN

(*Caloplaca luteoalba*)

Orange-fruited elm-lichen was once widespread in central and south-eastern England and parts of eastern Scotland and unlike many lichens, it is relatively rare in the western oceanic areas. It is a characteristic species of old elm trees in parklands, pastures and along roadsides, sometimes found with other elm specialists like *Bacidia incompta* and *Collema fragrans*, often associated with wounds from cut branches. By the start of the Dutch elm disease epidemic it had already declined through the loss of hedgerows and atmospheric pollution due to sulphur dioxide, but between 1960 and 1980 it underwent a dramatic decline.

1. CURRENT STATUS

National Status

- The lichen has suffered a severe decline in Britain and is largely confined to the dry bark of mature elm trees in areas of parkland, old pasture or roadside locations.
- The species is listed as vulnerable on the GB Red List and is protected under Schedule 8 of the WCA 1981.
- There are only 3 extant sites in England on trees. The lichen may also still possibly occur on chalk pebbles in chalk grassland at a few sites.

Norfolk Status

- Now rare. On parkland and roadside trees. Recorded from 6 sites. Only one extant site in 2005 (a roadside horse chestnut in south Norfolk).

2. CURRENT FACTORS CAUSING LOSS OR DECLINE IN NORFOLK

- Loss of elm trees.

3. CURRENT ACTION IN NORFOLK

- Site monitored every 3 years.

4. ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

National

- Restore five populations by 2005.

Norfolk

- Establish current status.
- Maintain extant population(s).

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NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.1	Policy and Legislation			
5.1.1	None proposed.			
5.2	Site Safeguard and Management			
5.2.1	Establish favourable management for all sites including SSSIs.	Agree and provide management advice to all owners.	EN	
5.2.2	Consider SSSI notification to protect sites.	Not applicable.		
5.2.3	Develop a scheme to restore disease resistant elms.	Identify clones.	NCC	
5.3	Species Management and Protection			
5.3.1	Ensure that host trees are not felled.	Investigate use of TPOs where appropriate.	LAs/EN	
5.3.2	Restore five populations once suitable methods and sites identified.	Identify potential sites for re-establishment as part of any national plan.	EN	
5.3.3	Provide mechanism to reduce impact of agro-chemicals.	Not applicable.		
		Seek to reduce agro-chemical inputs adjacent to sites. See 5.2.1.	EN, FWAG	
5.4	Advisory			
5.4.1	Ensure key bodies and individuals are aware of legal protection and management needs.	Contact adjacent landowners. Provide advice to local authorities via Norfolk protected species handbook.	EN	
		Provide photograph and details to agents who deal with trees.	EN	
5.5	Future Research and Monitoring			
5.5.1	Survey all known and potential sites.	Take part in any national survey and collate known distribution.	EN	

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NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.5.2	Promote ecological research.	Not applicable.		
5.5.3	Investigate effects of SO2 and agro-chemicals.	Not applicable.		
5.5.4	Encourage research in Europe.	Not applicable.		
5.5.5	Periodically monitor sites.	Establish a monitoring programme and identify individuals.	EN	
5.5.6	Pass data to JNCC/BRC.	Pass data to JNCC/BRC and Norfolk BRC.	EN	
5.5.7	Provide information annually to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre on the UK status of the species	Not applicable.		

NORFOLK DISTRIBUTION

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

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

KEY REFERENCES

CONTACTS

Peter Lambley (Norfolk Team)

English Nature

60 Bracondale

NORWICH

Norfolk

NR1 2BE

Tel: 01603-598400 / Fax: 01603-762552 / Email: peter.lambley@english-nature.org.uk.