

NORFOLK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Ref 1/S22	Tranche 1	Species Action Plan 22
Plan Author:	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	
Plan Co-ordinator:	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	
Plan Leader:		
Date:	Stage:	
31 December 1998	Final Draft	
April 2004	Revised Final Draft	

STARRY BRECK-LICHEN (*Buellia asterella*)

1. CURRENT STATUS

National

- The lichen is restricted to one site in Suffolk Breckland (probably now extinct).

2. CURRENT FACTORS CAUSING LOSS OR DECLINE IN NORFOLK

- Where it formerly occurred at Weeting Heath it is thought that a lack of rabbit grazing probably resulted in the loss. Currently this area is now subject to very high rabbit grazing, which may be leading to a too loose substrate for the lichen to colonise.
- Increased atmospheric nitrogen deposition increasing higher plant vigour.

3. CURRENT ACTION IN NORFOLK

- This species is the subject of a study into translocation in Breckland. (Translocation failed – proposed turf stripping at Weeting (NWT involved.) Former sites such as Weeting Heath are now managed by a combination of rabbit and sheep grazing.
- A survey was undertaken in 2002 and is summarised in English Nature Research Report No 503: Lichen Survey of Selected Breckland SSSIs.
- A translocation study was undertaken during the 1990s where it was concluded that transplanting is not thought to be a good method of conserving the lichen.
- Turf stripping to create suitable substrate for lichen spores to colonise is proposed at Weeting Heath in winter 05/06.

4. ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

National

- If feasible re-introduce to four formerly occupied sites by 2005.

Norfolk

- Create suitable conditions for re-colonisation at Weeting Heath in winter 05/06.

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NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.1	Policy and Legislation			
5.1.1	Encourage uptake of ESA and refinement of heath management.	Ensure all former sites are under ESA agreement.	EN, Defra RDS	
5.2	Site Safeguard and Management			
5.2.1	Encourage active habitat management.	Ensure former sites are being managed optimally.	EN/NWT, Defra RDS	
5.3	Species Management and Protection			
5.3.1	Carry out feasibility study and re-establish at 5 sites.	Agree former sites in Norfolk and ensure one is considered for introduction.	EN, NWT	
5.4	Advisory			
5.4.1	Ensure key bodies and individuals are aware of species requirements and legal status.	Provide advice to landowners.	EN	
5.4.2	Provide habitat management advice.	Incorporate advice in EN Site Management Statements. See 5.2.1.	EN	
5.5	Future Research and Monitoring			
5.5.1	Survey extant and former sites to assess status.	Survey all former sites.	EN	
5.5.2	Research best methods for re-establishment.	Seek advice on requirements.	EN	
5.5.3	Monitor extant population.	Monitor extant population. Monitor all re-established populations annually for at least 5 years.	NWT	
5.5.4	Encourage research at other European sites.	Not applicable.		
5.5.5	Pass survey information to JNCC/BRC.	Pass survey data to JNCC/BRC and/or Norfolk BRC.	EN/NWT	
5.5.6	No report.			
5.6	Communications and			

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NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.6.1	Publicity None proposed.			

NORFOLK DISTRIBUTION

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

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

REFERENCES AND CONTACTS

EN Research Report No 503, O L Gilbert (pp 13-14 Weeting): Lichen Survey of Selected Breckland SSSIs.

Other references can be supplied.

PLAN PROGRESS

	Norfolk Action	Comments
5.1.1	Ensure all former sites are under ESA agreement.	
5.2.1	Ensure former sites are being managed optimally.	
5.3.1	Agree former sites in Norfolk and ensure one is considered for introduction.	Weeting only possibility.
5.4.1	Provide advice to landowners.	
5.4.2	Incorporate advice in EN Site Management Statements. See 5.2.1.	
5.5.1	Survey all former sites.	Done by Oliver Gilbert for Breckland. Suggest a one-off survey of Weeting.
5.5.2	Seek advice on requirements.	
5.5.3	Monitor extant population. Monitor all re-established populations annually for at least 5 years.	
5.5.5	Pass survey data to JNCC/BRC and/or Norfolk BRC.	