

NORFOLK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

NARROW-MOUTH WHORL SNAIL

(*Vertigo angustior*)

This tiny snail, less than 2mm in size, favours the tall vegetation growing on wetland habitats, but is not an aquatic species. It also occurs in damp, short grass and moss on marshes, including salt marshes, or among flood debris.

Ref 1/S16	Tranche 1	Species Action Plan 16
Plan Author:		Dr Roy Baker
Plan Co-ordinator:		English Nature
Plan Leader:		Waterbodies Group
Date:		Stage:
31 December 1998		Final Draft
December 2000		Under Review

1. CURRENT STATUS

National Status

- This localised European species is known in the UK from only eight sites in England and Wales, and one in Scotland. It is also known from a further 15 sites in the Republic of Ireland. The snail is nationally and globally threatened and is included on Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive. It is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN/WCMC red list and endangered on the GB Red List.

Norfolk Status

- Found at three sites within the Broads and East Anglian Plain Natural Areas.

2. CURRENT FACTORS CAUSING LOSS OR DECLINE IN NORFOLK

- The habitat of this snail is very vulnerable to changes in hydrological conditions, reduced grazing pressure and physical disturbance.

3. CURRENT ACTION IN NORFOLK

- None.

4. ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

National

- Ensure that all remaining populations are maintained, protected and, if possible, enhanced.
- Undertake further surveys of former sites and likely sites to determine the current distribution of this species by the year 2000.

Norfolk

- Ensure that the populations of snails at Fritton and Flordon Common are maintained and enhanced.
- Undertake survey of former and likely sites to determine distribution by the year 2000.

Narrow-mouth Whorl Snail - Norfolk Action Plan

NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.1	Policy and Legislation			
5.1.1	Seek to ensure that appropriate catchment management plans, flood defence activities, Water Level Management Plans, sea defence strategies and structures take account of the requirements of this species.	Seek to ensure that appropriate catchment management plans, flood defence activities, Water Level Management Plans, sea defence strategies and structures take account of the requirements of this species.	EA, IDBs	*CMP or LEAPs?
5.2	Site Safeguard and Management			
5.2.1	Seek to ensure appropriate management of all known sites for this species.	Seek to ensure appropriate management of all known sites for this species.	DEFRA (RDS), EN, IDBs	
5.2.2	Seek to ensure that all relevant Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves management plans take into account the needs of this species.	Seek to ensure that all Norfolk Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves with this snail have management plans that take into account the needs of this species.	EN, IDBs, EA	
5.2.3	Consider the need for further sites to be notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Consider the need for further sites to be notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	EN	
5.2.4		Seek to ensure that local water abstraction policies take account of the need to protect the snail. Of particular relevance is the Environment Agency's review of existing consents that could be affecting sites of European importance (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas).	EA	

Narrow-mouth Whorl Snail - Norfolk Action Plan

NATIONAL ACTION		NORFOLK ACTION	ACTION BY:	PARTNERS:
5.3	Species Management and Protection			
5.3.1	Ensure that all remaining populations are maintained and enhanced, if possible, particularly, the East Anglian sites.	Ensure that the remaining populations are maintained and enhanced.	DEFRA (RDS), EN	
5.4	Advisory			
5.4.1	Ensure that landowners and managers are aware of the presence and importance of conserving this species and, following further research to identify the requirements of this species, provide advice on appropriate methods of management for its conservation.	Ensure that landowners and managers whose land supports this snail are aware of its presence and the importance of conserving this species. Following further research to identify the requirements of this species, provide advice on appropriate management.	EA, DEFRA (RDS), EN, IDBs, FWAG, BA	
5.5	Future Research and Monitoring			
5.5.1	Survey all known historic locations by the year 2000 to discover whether species is still present at any of them.	Survey all known historic locations by the year 2000 to discover whether species is still present at any of them.	EN	
		Collate all known distribution data.	EN	
5.5.2	Ensure all known colonies are mapped in detail to assist with management, and encourage regular monitoring to help identify any further threats to the species.	Ensure all known colonies in Norfolk are mapped in detail to assist with management, and encourage regular monitoring to help identify any further threats to the species.	EN	
5.5.3	Survey other areas in the UK to determine if the species occurs elsewhere.	Survey other areas in Norfolk to determine if the species occurs elsewhere.	EN	

NORFOLK DISTRIBUTION

Three sites: Fritton, Flordon Common and Smockhill in the Tas and Waveney Valleys.

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

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

Maintenance of short vegetation of grasses, mosses or low herbs with an avoidance of desiccation or flooding.

It is crucial that sites have areas of fen or reed on higher ground to provide refuges when rivers are in flood. Adults floated out of riparian hover during winter flooding do not survive.

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REFERENCES

Kerney (1999), Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland. Harley Books.

Killeen, I J (1997). Survey for the terrestrial snail *Vertigo angustior* at three sites in England (Gait Barrows NNR, Flordon Common and Martlesham Creek). English Nature Research Report 228.

Baker *et al* (undated), *Vertigo angustior* Jeffreys. A Survey of Norfolk Sites. Unpublished.

PROGRESS ON PLAN ACTIONS (as at 27/02/01)

	Norfolk Action	Comments
5.1.1	Seek to ensure that appropriate catchment management plans, flood defence activities, Water Level Management Plans, sea defence strategies and structures take account of the requirements of this species.	Generally, there is greater awareness of the requirements of invertebrates when writing management plans.
5.2.1	Seek to ensure appropriate management of all known sites for this species.	Management Plan agreed for Fritton.
5.2.2	Seek to ensure that all Norfolk Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves with this snail have management plans that take into account the needs of this species.	EN have produced Conservation Objectives for the <i>Vertigo angustior</i> population at Flordon Common SSSI (part of Norfolk Valley Fens cSAC).
5.2.3	Consider the need for further sites to be notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	
5.2.4	Seek to ensure that local water abstraction policies take account of the need to protect the snail. Of particular relevance is the Environment Agency's review of existing consents that could be affecting sites of European importance (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas).	Ongoing.
5.3.1	Ensure that the remaining populations are maintained and enhanced.	
5.4.1	Ensure that landowners and managers whose land supports this snail are aware of its presence and the importance of conserving this species. Following further research to identify the requirements of this species, provide advice on appropriate management.	
5.5.1	Survey all known historic locations by the year 2000 to discover whether species is still present at any of them. Collate all known distribution data.	
5.5.2	Ensure all known colonies in Norfolk are mapped in detail to assist with management, and encourage regular monitoring to help identify any further threats to the species.	

5.5.3	Survey other areas in Norfolk to determine if the species occurs elsewhere.	Additional sites surveyed in Baker <i>et al</i> (undated).
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PROGRESS ON PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS