



## Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

### Field 1: Action Plan details

<b>Species/Habitat Action Plan</b>	<b><i>Buellia asterella</i> - Starry Breck-lichen</b>
<b>Lead Partner/Agency</b>	<b>English Nature (Contact Point - EN)</b>
<b>Steering Group/Other organisations</b>	<i>No. However the following organisations have assisted with the plan implementation: English Nature, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the Elveden Estate..</i>
<b>Work programme in existence?</b>	<i>Yes, there is a document with a set of proposals for further action.</i>

### Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Maintain and protect the population at its current site.		✓				Conservation work has taken place on the current site including pine seedling removal, felling of larger trees, turf stripping.
4.2 If feasible, re-introduce to four formerly occupied sites by 2005.		✓				Attempts have been made to re-introduce to two other sites but have not worked for reasons which are unclear. Further attempts are hampered by the lack of sufficient material on the current site.

### Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1.1 Continue to encourage the uptake of ESA agreements in the Brecklands which promote the use of grazing and trampling, and seek to prevent the establishment of seedlings, and seek to enhance these further through more closely tailoring these to individual cases.		✓				No	Lakenheath and other heaths on the Elveden estate are now in the ESA and are being grazed. At present grazing has not been introduced onto the current site as there is some uncertainty over its appropriateness. Rabbits do graze it at present.
5.2.1 Encourage habitat management, techniques to control coarse vegetation, encroachment by scrub and conifer seedlings and the maintenance of lichen-dominated communities.		✓				Yes	Pines have been pulled by volunteers. Turf was stripped from three plots on the current site to try and re-create conditions suitable for the development of an open sward.
5.2.2 Consider notifying the sites as an SSSI.		✓				No	Complete - the current and previous sites are already SSSIs.
5.3.1 Following feasibility assessment and identification of suitable sites, seek to re-introduce populations to five sites within the former range of this species.		✓				Yes	Attempts were made to introduce this species to two previous sites in 1992 as part of the species recovery plan none have been successful
5.4.1 Ensure relevant local landowners, naturalists, Wildlife Trusts and LAs are aware of the presence, legal status and importance of conserving of this species.		✓				No	The owner of the current site is aware of the interest and has co-operated by undertaking the turf stripping at no cost
5.4.2 Provide advice to land managers on appropriate methods of management for this species.		✓				No	The two Naturalists Trusts and English Nature staff have been shown the site and its broad habitat requirements explained.
5.5.1 Survey potential present and former sites to ascertain their suitability for re-introduction.		✓				No	This has been undertaken in 1992 a 1995
5.5.2 If suitable habitat remains, undertake research to identify the most appropriate methods and carry out re-introductions of the species to five suitable, unoccupied sites.		✓				No	There is insufficient material remaining to try further transplants at present.
5.5.3 Continue to monitor all extant sites on a regular basis.		✓				No	Ongoing - Last full monitoring 1997
5.5.4 Encourage research into the ecological requirements of this species at other European sites and use the information gained to enhance the opportunities for the survival of the species in the UK.		✓				No	No work on this at present

<p><b>5.5.5</b> Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC or BRC so that it can be incorporated in national databases.</p>		✓				No	Not undertaken at present
<p><b>5.5.6</b> 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.</p>	✓					No	Not undertaken at present

**Field 4: Assessment of status**

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>							
<i>England</i>					✓		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	X						
<i>Scotland</i>	X						
<i>Wales</i>	X						
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)							
Always confined to England and Breckland in particular. Lost from 3 sites between 1980 and 1990. Appears to be still declining on its current site. Last full survey 1997 but visit in 1999 indicates that decline continues.							

**Field 5: Summary statement**

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

We still have very little information on the autecology of the species and possible reasons for its continuing decline. It might have been expected that the removal of pine seedlings from the site and the felling of larger trees would have favoured the species, as might have the run of hot dry summers. The suspicion remains that the decline may be linked either directly with airborne deposition of nitrogen or indirectly through increasing the vigour and therefore the competition from vascular plants

**Field 6: Signing off**

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	Peter Lambley	Dave Stone (species co-ordinator)
Organisation	English Nature	English Nature
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)		16/9/1999

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service  
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
 Monkstone House  
 City Road  
 Peterborough PE1 1JY  
 Tel: 01733 562626  
 Fax: 01733 555948  
 E-mail: lpr99@jncc.gov.uk

**Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)**

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

<b>Objective/target</b> <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>			<b>4.1</b> Maintain and protect the population at its current site.		
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<i>UK</i>				✓	
<i>England</i>				✓	
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	✓				
<i>Scotland</i>	✓				
<i>Wales</i>	✓				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
<p>England: Surveys carried out over the last 5 years. Now believed to be present on Lakenheath Warren, Suffolk. Extinct on Deadman's Grave, Thetford Heath (both in Suffolk) post 1980 and Weeting Heath (Norfolk) post 1980. Conservation work involving the removal of pine seedlings and the felling of larger pines has taken place. Three plots have been selected and turf stripped to try and re-create the open sward that this species requires. The area is fenced but not grazed at present because of uncertainty about possible impacts, rabbits are however present.</p> <p>No records from Scotland or Wales.</p>					

<b>Objective/target</b> <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>			<b>4.2</b> If feasible, re-introduce to four formerly occupied sites by 2005.		
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<i>UK</i>				✓	
<i>England</i>				✓	
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	✓				
<i>Scotland</i>	✓				
<i>Wales</i>	✓				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
<p>Transplants were tried on two former sites in 1992 but had failed by 1995. No further attempts are planned as there is insufficient material at the donor site.</p>					

**Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)**

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<b>5.2.1</b> Encourage habitat management, techniques to control coarse vegetation, encroachment by scrub and conifer seedlings and the maintenance of lichen-dominated communities.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	English Nature with co-operation of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Elveden Estate	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</b>	Clearance of pine seedlings on going, felling of larger pines on going. Turf stripping undertaken by Elveden Estate with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and English Nature February 1999.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	On going . Monitoring of the turf stripped plots to start autumn 1999	<i>Action by</i> EN
<b>Constraints to action</b> <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	There is still a fundamental problem in understanding the causes of the observed decline. Little detailed autecological work has been carried out on any lichen including this species. The lack of material at the donor site is hampering further investigations.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On going	
<b>Next steps</b>	Difficult to judge at present some evidence from other sites that colonisation of scrapes may take 20 + years. To be reviewed 1999-2000.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	To be reviewed	<i>Action by</i> EN
<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<b>5.3.1</b> Following feasibility assessment and identification of suitable sites, seek to re-introduce populations to five sites within the former range of this species.	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	EN under Species Recovery Programme	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</b>	Re-introduction has been attempted under EN Species Recovery Programme 1992	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	All transplants were lost by 1995	<i>Action by</i> EN
<b>Constraints to action</b>	There is still a fundamental problem in understanding the causes of the	

<p><i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i></p>	<p>observed decline. Little detailed autecological work has been carried out on any lichen including this species. The lack of material at the donor site is hampering further investigations and transplant attempts.</p>	
<p><b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i></p>	<p>On going to be reviewed</p>	
<p><b>Next steps</b></p>	<p>Review of reasons for failure .</p>	
<p><b>Output and timescale</b></p>	<p>1999-2000</p>	<p><i>Action by</i> <i>EN</i></p>