



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

Species/Habitat Action Plan	<i>Zygodon gracilis</i> - Knowell's limestone moss
Lead Partner/Agency	English Nature (Contact Point - EN)
Steering Group/Other organisations	No
Work programme in existence?	No

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 populations of this species at all known sites and increase their extent where appropriate and feasible.		✓				
4.2 If desirable and feasible, establish three new colonies in the vicinity of extant populations.		✓				
4.3 Establish by 2005 <i>ex situ</i> stocks of this species to safeguard extant populations.		✓				

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.)
5.2.1 Ensure that limestone walls with colonies of Nowell's limestone moss are maintained in a way that is appropriate for the conservation of this species. Walls should not be regularly cleaned, and extreme care should be exercised when undertaking repair works.		✓				×	not started
5.2.2 Ensure that the requirements of the species are taken into account in the management of SSSIs on which this species occurs.		✓				×	not started
5.3.1 Depending on the results of 5.5.3, establish <i>ex situ</i> stocks of this species from material derived from British populations.		✓				×	not started
5.4.1 Advise landowners and managers, and relevant agencies, of the presence and importance of Nowell's limestone moss, specific management for its conservation, and any potentially damaging actions. Landowners and managers should have access to specialist advice if needed.		✓				×	not started
5.5.1 Resurvey all sites where this species has been recorded in order to confirm the current status of Nowell's limestone moss at each. Extend the survey to cover suitable habitat in the vicinity of these sites which may support Nowell's limestone moss. An assessment of current threats to each site should also be made and used to inform site management and protection measures.		✓				×	not started
5.5.2 Undertake regular monitoring at all extant site sin order to identify changes in the population of Nowell's limestone moss and to maintain a close understanding of threats to its conservation.		✓				×	not started
5.5.3 Undertake pilot studies to develop and refine <i>ex situ</i> conservation techniques for this species and other threatened		✓				×	Ex situ bryophyte conservation project with Kew on target 2000-2003

	bryophytes.						
5.6.1	Encourage bryologists to pass all records of Nowell's limestone moss, including ecological information, to a national database.		✓				✘ not started
5.6.2	Liaise with specialist societies to increase the awareness and identification skills of bryologists and other naturalists in relation to this species, through publishing articles or holding identification workshops.		✓				✘ not started
5.6.3	Coordinate the conservation programme for Nowell's limestone moss with initiatives that encourage the conservation of dry limestone walls in areas where this species occurs.		✓				✘ not started

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						
<p>Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)</p> <p>Lack of good baseline data means it is difficult to say whether declining, stable or increasing. Recent records are from man-made walls, very few if any on natural rock exposures although old records are from this habitat.</p>							

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.

Work on this species has not begun, but there is someone (connected to a University) looking into the question of the effects of eutrophication on this moss. (I do not have the contact details but person is likely to make contact again in the future).

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	Ron Porley	Dave Stone (species co-ordinator)
Organisation	English Nature	English Nature
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	21 Sept 1999	29 September 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.

Objective/target			4.1		
<i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>			Maintain populations of this species at all known sites and increase their extent where appropriate and feasible.		
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					
England				✓	
Northern Ireland	✗				
Scotland	✗				
Wales	✗				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
Further survey work is needed to locate known sites.					

Objective/target			4.2		
<i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>			If desirable and feasible, establish three new colonies in the vicinity of extant populations.		
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					

<i>England</i>				✓	
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	X				
<i>Scotland</i>	X				
<i>Wales</i>	X				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
Not appropriate to begin this until we have knowledge of extant sites.					

Objective/target <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>		4.3 Establish by 2005 <i>ex situ</i> stocks of this species to safeguard extant populations.			
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>					
<i>England</i>				✓	
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	X				
<i>Scotland</i>	X				
<i>Wales</i>	X				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
Ex situ conservation of bryophytes joint project with Kew and Country Agencies due to begin 2000-2003 and this species a priority to place in culture, but will depend on outcome of project and opportunity to collect material.					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

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

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.3 Undertake pilot studies to develop and refine <i>ex situ</i> conservation techniques for this species and other threatened bryophytes.
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	A MoA has been drawn up between Kew & the Country Agencies to proceed with a 3 year pilot project to investigate <i>ex situ</i> techniques for bryophytes, to run 2000-2003.
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes
Description of work taken and organisation responsible.	Investigate techniques for <i>ex situ</i> bryophyte conservation carried out by Kew

<p>Output and timescale</p>	<p>Threatened bryophytes held ex situ as an insurance against loss in the wild and to provide material for translocation if appropriate.</p>	<p><i>Action by Kew/Country Agencies</i></p>
<p>Constraints to action <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>Funding for 3 yaers has been secured.</p>	
<p>Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Agencies will review project progress and organise collection of threatened species</p>	
<p>Output and timescale</p>	<p>This species will be a candidate for ex situ, but timescale depends on outcome of pilot project.</p>	<p><i>Action by Kew/Country Agencies</i></p>